

Young Artist

COMMUNITY, PAGE 7

City
Agencies
Present
Budgets
NEWS, PAGE 3

Fourth grader Camryn
Norwood paints an
astronaut for her
contribution to the
new wall mural
painted by students
of Mosby Woods
Elementary School.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
CALENDAR, PAGE 10 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 14 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 19

Learning from
Record Storms
NEWS, PAGE 4

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Uncertainty Over City School Budget

City agencies meet with City Council to present their budgets for Fiscal Year 2011.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Representatives from city agencies appeared before City Council Tuesday, March 16 for the first of two worksessions to present their respective budgets. While the purpose of the meeting was for City Council to discuss each agency's budget, the representatives were also given the chance to project the impact of the proposed cuts on their services to the city.

The city's school system was tabbed to start the meeting, and was represented by City School Board Chairman Janice Miller and City Schools Superintendent Ann Monday. Outside of raw data pertaining to the city schools' demographics and academic performance, Miller and Monday were able to give little insight on the actual financial



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

Deputy Chief of Police Maj. Bill Klugh, left, and Police Chief Richard Rappoport discuss the police department's budget with City Council.

figures within the budget because of uncertainty at the state and county levels.

According to Monday, Fairfax County Public Schools found out Sunday, March 14 that the Local Composite Index (LCI), a formula used to determine how much education

funding a locality receives from the state, is officially unfrozen, giving FCPS \$61 million more in funding. However, Monday said that FCPS has not decided what to do with the extra money yet, as it may decide to add it to its budget for Fiscal Year 2011

"We've had a real good run of luck the last 18 months, but luck can change."

— Police Chief Richard Rappoport

to restore programs and services that were slated to be cut, or save it for future use. As a result, FCPS' operating costs are not yet known, and because the city has a tuition agreement with the county to pay for its students' educational costs, the city's tuition bill is up in the air.

"As of Sunday, Fairfax County received an increase in their LCI and got \$61 million," Monday said. "It could mean that the budget is fully funded. We don't know exactly where we will land with operating costs."

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS are also having an effect on the city school system's revenue stream. Monday said that the school's Annual Daily Membership, or school enrollment, is changing and since the member

SEE CITY, PAGE 21

Local Man Pleads Guilty To Conspiracy

Feds accuse Fairfax Man of hiring a hitman.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Xing "Andy" Xiao, 32, of Fairfax pleaded guilty Tuesday, March 9, in federal court to conspiring to hire a hitman to murder someone. Authorities say he believed the intended victim had stolen more than 15,000 cartons of contraband cigarettes from him. He now faces at least 15 years in prison – and possibly as much as life – when he's sentenced in May.

Xiao was the last of 14 people charged as the result of a 14-month investigation begun by the Stafford County Sheriff's Office. It involved individuals paying or trading more than \$8 million, nearly 40 firearms and drugs to purchase 388,000 cartons – totalling more than 77 million contraband cigarettes – to sell in New York.

"The defendants admitted that they sold illegal cigarettes, dealt drugs, guns and even hired someone for murder," said U.S. Attorney MacBride. "The work of these dedicated law-enforcement officers has made our community safer."

"This investigation highlights the illicit profits and potential violence associated with those who illegally traffic in contraband cigarettes," said ATF Acting Special Agent in Charge

SEE GUILTY, PAGE 5



DONATED PHOTO

From left are Danielle Cameron, Stephanie Wright, Jill Flynn, Catherine Keightley, Del. David Bulova (D-37), Catherine Gergely, Kendra Morrison and Karyn Moran.

Girls on the Run in Richmond

On Feb. 20, Girls on the Run of NOVA team traveled to the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond to meet the 37 members of the Northern Virginia Delegation. Their aim was to raise awareness of Girls on the Run. GOTR NOVA was honored on both the House and Senate floors for its work serving girls in Northern Virginia.

The mission of the non-profit organization is to educate and prepare girls ages 8-13 for a lifetime of

self-respect and healthy living. The program blends training for a 5k running event, with self-esteem enhancing lessons that encourage positive emotional, social, mental, spiritual and physical development.

More than 3,000 girls in more than 200 schools in Northern Virginia participate in the program, the largest chapter of Girls on the Run in the country.

For more information about Girls on the Run, go to www.gotrnova.org.

3 Years for Fairfax Woman

A 24-year-old Fairfax woman has been sentenced to three years in prison in connection with bank robberies in Fair Oaks and McLean. She is Stephanie Marie Nightingale of the 4400 block of Holly Ave.

On June 5, 2009, a woman entered the M&T Bank, at 11721 Lee Highway in Fair Oaks, around 11:12 a.m., with her face covered. Armed with a handgun, she demanded money and was given an undisclosed amount of cash before fleeing.

Then on July 1, 2009, a woman entered Cardinal Bank at 8270 Greensboro Drive in McLean, around 4:05 p.m. She then approached two female tellers, ages 20 and 42, at the counter, brandished a handgun and demanded money. The tellers complied, and the robber fled.

After an investigation, Fairfax County Police detectives developed Nightingale as a suspect in those two robberies and arrested her in the early morning hours of July 2, 2009. They charged her with two counts each of robbery and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

One firearm charge was dropped, Oct. 7, in General District Court. Judge Ian O'Flaherty certified everything else to the grand jury. On Oct. 19, the grand jury indicted Nightingale on all three charges, and on Dec. 10 in Circuit Court, she pleaded guilty to all three.

She returned for sentencing Friday, March 5, and at that time, Judge David Schell sentenced her to five years in prison for each robbery, suspending three years of each sentence. He also placed Nightingale on two years probation following her release.

In addition, Schell gave her a mandatory three years in prison on the firearm charge and ran all three sentences concurrent with each other. That left Nightingale with three years total to serve.

— BONNIE HOBBS

Children's ID Kits Offered

City of Fairfax Police, in conjunction with the Optimist Club, will offer Safe Assured identification kits on Tuesday, March 30 and Friday, April 2, between 10 a.m.-3:30 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. Private 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. These identifications kits can also be used as a valuable aid for adults with special needs. The Safe Assured ID kits are free and an appointment is necessary. Call. Sgt. Pam Nevlud at 703 385-7966 for more information.

Clarification

The article "Meeting 'Good Start' on Budget Review" [Connection, March 11-17, 2010] gave an incorrect amount for the per pupil cost for Fairfax County Public Schools. The per pupil cost is about \$13,000.

Indoor Farmers Market Open

An indoor farmers market is open 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's open for business every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.

A wide selection of products is offered, including winter fruits and vegetables, meats, dairy products, baked goods, gluten-free products and a large variety of prepared foods.

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 5



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

The Board of Supervisors listen to presentations from VDOT representatives Morteza Salehi and Branco Vlacich at the Snow Summit Tuesday, March 16.

Snow Lessons Learned

Supervisors host Snow Summit to analyze VDOT snowstorm response.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Snowstorms that dumped more than 40 inches of snow on the region in February left more questions than answers in their wake. Impassable roads, snow-covered sidewalks and slow response times from Virginia Department of Transportation plows frustrated local officials and residents, and on Tuesday, March 16, they finally got their chance to voice their displeasure.

The Board of Supervisors hosted its second-ever "Snow Summit" at the Fairfax County Government Center, bringing VDOT officials in to discuss their actions during the snowstorms and the lessons learned from it.

"I'm proud to say that we received a lot of positive feedback from our customers and elected officials," said Morteza Salehi, VDOT's Northern Virginia District administrator. "But in addition, we also received a lot of feedback on the lessons learned from the storm."

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), chair of the Board's Transportation Committee, led the summit, which attracted elected state officials such as Del. David Bulova (D-37) and Sen. David Marsden (D-37). Salehi and Assistant District Maintenance Coordinator Branco Vlacich each gave presentations to the Board detailing their preparations and response to the storm and areas in which they felt VDOT could have performed more effectively.

Salehi gave the first presentation and countered a

common argument that VDOT failed to prepare for the storm and instead reacted after it was too late. Salehi said that VDOT has a statewide contract with the National Weather Service to provide weather forecasts and alerts, and that VDOT was notified of the storm days in advance. After getting the report, he said, VDOT used its "utilization plan" that helps them to deploy the exact number and type of trucks and other removal equipment needed. Then, he said, special trucks were sent to priority areas to pre-treat roads with anti-icing chemicals.

"The most important improvement [we've made over the last several years] is on the issue of anti-icing and pre-treating, applying and spraying chemicals on the pavement before snow or ice," Salehi said. "It has been well-received by our district managers and those out in the field."

According to Salehi, with no snow or incidents, the VDOT customer service team receives approximately 135 calls a day, and with 6 inches of snow, it gets about 300 calls a day. During the week of the storms, however, more than 34,000 calls were placed. Many of the calls, he said, were to complain about plowing priorities and to report unplowed streets. Salehi stressed that VDOT deployed 2,200 pieces of equipment across the state. Not having enough equipment was not the problem, he said, it was the fact that VDOT had 17,000 miles of roadway to plow and that the storms were followed by prolonged low temperatures, which slowed melting.

"The most important factor was that snow was combined with low temperatures," Salehi said. "After the blizzard of '96 we had sunshine and heat. After this, we had days of low temperatures."

Vlacich followed and gave more insight on VDOT's actions during the storm, and what it could have done better in terms of removal and recovery. He said that

"We don't have all the answers, but we're constantly trying to improve."

— Branco Vlacich, Assistant District Maintenance Coordinator

SEE VDOT, PAGE 16

Guilty Plea in Murder Conspiracy

FROM PAGE 3

Brownlee. "Thanks to the outstanding partnership between ATF, the Stafford County Sheriff's Department and the Fairfax County Police Department, 14 people are behind bars and a murder plot was disrupted."

According to court records, in May 2009 Xiao purchased or traded for 15,000 cartons of contraband cigarettes, which undercover law enforcement had placed in a rented storage facility in Stafford County, Va. Later, Xiao informed the agents that someone had stolen the contraband from the storage facility and, through a series of discussions, Xiao contracted with the undercover agents to hire a hitman to kill the man suspected of the theft along with the man's wife.

Xiao was incarcerated from June to September 2009, and a co-conspirator - Chen X. Jiang, 21, of Brooklyn, N.Y., - admitted in court that he continued to work with the undercover agents in identifying the intended targets. He met with the agents in New York to provide information about the targets' residence, vehicle and daily routines. In October 2009, on Xiao's behalf, Jiang paid \$7,000 to the undercover agent posing as a hitman, with a promise of \$8,000 to come in the future.

Last week, in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, before Judge Gerald Bruce Lee, Xiao entered his pleas. He pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit murder-for-hire, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison; distributing 50 grams or more of cocaine base, which has a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years and a maximum of life in prison;

and carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking offense, which has a mandatory minimum penalty of 5 years and a maximum of life and runs consecutive to any other sentence. He's scheduled for sentencing on May 21.

Also in connection with this case, since being charged in November 2009, a Fairfax woman pleaded guilty Feb. 23 to conspiring to traffic in contraband cigarettes. She is Ada Mei Lam, aka Mei, 46, and she faces a maximum punishment of five years in prison when she's sentenced on May 7, also before Judge Lee. According to the statement of facts accompanying her plea, from August 2008 to Nov. 5, 2009, she "knowingly conspired with others to unlawfully ship, transport, receive, possess, sell, distribute and purchase contraband cigarettes."

The document details several occasions on which she met with Xiao and other people and purchased huge quantities of these cigarettes. However, unbeknownst to them, the sellers were undercover, law-enforcement agents.

On Oct. 29, 2008, Lam met with co-conspirators Xiao and Ting Seng Lin, and they purchased and transported approximately 732,000 contraband cigarettes for about \$69,660 in cash from the agents.

All the contraband cigarettes bore no stamps, nor any other evidence of the payment of applicable state or local taxes, and none of the co-conspirators had any legal right to buy and sell them. Lam's statement of facts says she was "personally involved in unlawful conduct relating to contraband cigarettes resulting in a tax loss of more than \$200,000 and less than \$400,000."

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 4

It's 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.

Seeking Young Orators

The Optimist Club of Central Fairfax invites local students to speak their minds about the topic: "Cyber Communication — Progress or Problem?" as part of the 2010 Optimist Oratorical Contest. Open to students up to 16 years of age as of Dec. 31, 2009, the contest challenges them to express their thoughts and opinions to an audience, and offers an opportunity for scholarships. The entry deadline is Friday, April 2 with the actual presentation to be given at the club's dinner meeting on Tuesday April 27. For applications and information on the contest, please contact Kim Moden at modenrk@cox.net.

Spring Break Drop-In Program

When public schools break during the spring, RECQuest will operate a drop-in program is for children in grades 1-6. The program offers fun activities, field trips and games. Snacks are provided. Participants must bring a bag lunch daily and wear comfortable clothing and footwear. The cost is \$70 per week; per person. A payment scale is available. Call the community center to register. Times vary by center. For more information, go online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec or call 703-324-5555, TTY 711. Participating centers are:

❖ David R. Pinn Community Center, 10225 Zion Drive, Fairfax. 703-250-9181, TTY 711. Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

❖ Mott Community Center, 12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax. 703-278-8605, TTY 711. Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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PEOPLE



Pam Charim with U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) and his wife Cathy Smith.

A Gala Evening

Hundreds turn out for Valentine Pops Gala delayed by snow.

More than 300 people turned out for the arts on Friday, March 5 at for the Fairfax Symphony Valentine Pops Gala.

In addition, the Fairfax Symphony will perform as part of its 2009-2010 Season: "Great Expectations," at George Mason University's Center for the Arts on Saturday, March 13, at 8 p.m. The program includes Borodin's "In the Steppes of Central Asia," Dorman's "Lost Souls, a Piano Concerto for its East Coast Premiere," and Sibelius' "Four Legends from the Kalevala, op. 22." See www.FairfaxSymphony.org.



Oakton resident Thomas Brownwell joins former Fairfax City Mayor John Mason and his wife Jeanette.



Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class Kadisha L. Fields graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. She is the daughter of Nettie Fields of McLean Avenue, Fairfax. Fields is a 2009 graduate of Fairfax High School.

MILITARY NOTES

John R. Neatrou has received a four-year Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) scholarship to attend Virginia Military Institute, Lexington. The cadet will study military science, management development, and experience adventure training while pursuing a bachelor's degree. The cadet is pursuing a degree in economics and business. He is the son of Robert E. and Valerie M. Neatrou of Bayard Place, Fairfax.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

From left are Capt. Leo Burt, Basil Mossaidis, Deputy Chief Garrett Dyer, Battalion Chief Bob Zoldos, Deputy Chief John Burke, Nicholas Karacostas, Col. Nick Vamvakias, Technician Luis Mata and Lt. David Wright.

\$10,000 Check for VA Task Force #1

On Monday, March 8, the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) presented a check for \$10,000 to the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team. Battalion Chief Bob Zoldos, USAR team representative, accepted the donation on behalf of the team during a ceremony at Franconia Fire Station #5.

AHEPA is the leading membership-based association for the nation's 3 million American citizens of Greek heritage and countless Philhellenes. The USAR Team, or VA Task Force #1, is a domestic and international disaster response resource sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Connection Salutes Its Carriers

Delivering the Fairfax Connection isn't the only job for **Sarah Lannon**. Although she's only 14, she volunteers as a preschool teacher every Wednesday. Born in Fairfax, but dreaming of her next California vacation, this home-schooled ninth grader won praise from subscribers for her deliveries in spite of the recent snowstorms. Sarah enjoys her pets — a dog, two guinea pigs and two gerbils — at home, volleyball and dance when she's out, and the anticipation of getting her driver's license when she's on the road.

Elisabeth Simmons has delivered 266 copies of the Fairfax Connection weekly for four years. The freshman at Trinity Christian School is an avid reader and music love, who also enjoys sports, such as softball, running and swimming. Her paychecks have generally been banked to support her travel ambi-



Sarah Lannon



Elisabeth Simmons

CARRIERS OF THE YEAR

tions. Elisabeth hopes to work as a camp counselor in upcoming years, although she will miss her golden retriever Conan while she's away.

Timothy White has been a carrier since 2005. He delivers 197 Fairfax newspapers each week in George Mason Forest.

Connection Carriers of the Year receive a bonus paycheck, passes from University Mall Theatres and a Popeye's meal coupon.

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

Coming To Our Census: Population Growth

Will Fairfax County's million-plus residents be enough?

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

This is one of three articles about the upcoming 2010 census and what to expect in Fairfax County. To see other articles, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

In a little more than a month, the United States will count its residents and update demographic information for the first time since 2000.

Fairfax County residents will receive their census forms through the mail or by hand delivery in the middle of March. The completed forms are due April 1.

The U.S. Constitution calls for each state's apportionment of seats in the House of Representatives to be based on the results of the census that is taken every 10 years. The information gathered during the census is also used to redraw political boundaries at the state and local level.

Fairfax County officials are encouraging all citizens to participate in the census since an increase the county's population could lead to, among other things, a greater num-

ber of representatives in Richmond or on Capitol Hill.

"Political representation is based on our population so we want to make sure we are accurately counted. Our numbers provide us representation in congress. It is also important that we have adequate representation at the General Assembly level," said Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large).

OVER THE PAST few decades, Fairfax has gained political clout as a result of population counts taken during the 10-year census.

Fairfax acquired a new congressional seat, Virginia's 11th District, when the 1990 census reflected the locality's significant population growth. The Virginia General Assembly also opted to move the 86th District delegate seat from Southwest Virginia to the Herndon area after the 2000 census showed

Growth in Northern Virginia 2000-08

Locality	Additional Residents	Percent of Growth
Fairfax	36,231	4 percent
Arlington	20,500	11 percent
Alexandria	15,600	12.6 percent
Loudoun	120,400	71 percent
Prince William	84,000	30 percent
Virginia	620,228	10 percent

decade.

The county is still, by far, the largest locality in Virginia, claiming one in every seven or eight residents of the commonwealth. Virginia's second largest locality, Virginia Beach City, is less than half the size of Fairfax, with approximately 470,000 residents.

From 2000 to 2008, Fairfax's population is estimated to have grown a little more than 4 per-

cent. During the same time period, Virginia's population grew by about 10 percent.

Following the 1990 head count, local officials also added a new seat, the Sully District, to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

But it is not clear that Fairfax would gain representatives or create new political seats as a result of the 2010 census, even though the number of Fairfax residents has continued to climb over the last decade.

ACCORDING TO ESTIMATES from the census bureau, approximately 1.01 million people called Fairfax County home in 2008, up from 979,000 at the beginning of the

cent. During the same time period, Virginia's population grew by about 10 percent.

If the 2008 census estimates prove true, Fairfax went from accounting for 13.7 percent of Virginia's population in 2000 to 12.9 percent in 2008. And one percentage point is equal to approximately one seat in the 100-person House of Delegates.

If anything, Fairfax's Northern Virginia neighbors appear more likely to gain political seats or extra representatives in Richmond and on Capitol Hill, given that they have grown at a faster rate than the rest of the state as a whole.

SEE NUMBERS. PAGE 18

Albert Einstein and Jackie Robinson are just two of the famous Americans whose portrait Mosby Woods students painted in a wall mural at the school.



DONATED PHOTOS



Students at Mosby Woods Elementary paint a wall mural of famous Americans in their school.

Mosby Woods Students Unveil Wall Mural

Mosby Woods Elementary School unveiled a portrait wall mural painted entirely by its students Tuesday, March 16.

The mural depicts many famous Americans in various fields of work.

Following the mural showing, Shara Carter's fifth grade class gave a Readers'

Theatre performance of "Kingdoms of Living Things."

The performance was an example of one of the school's "Changing Education Through the Arts" lessons, which teach students everyday subjects in interesting ways to help them retain and understand curriculum objectives.

Shara Carter's fifth grade class performs 'Kingdoms of Living Things.'

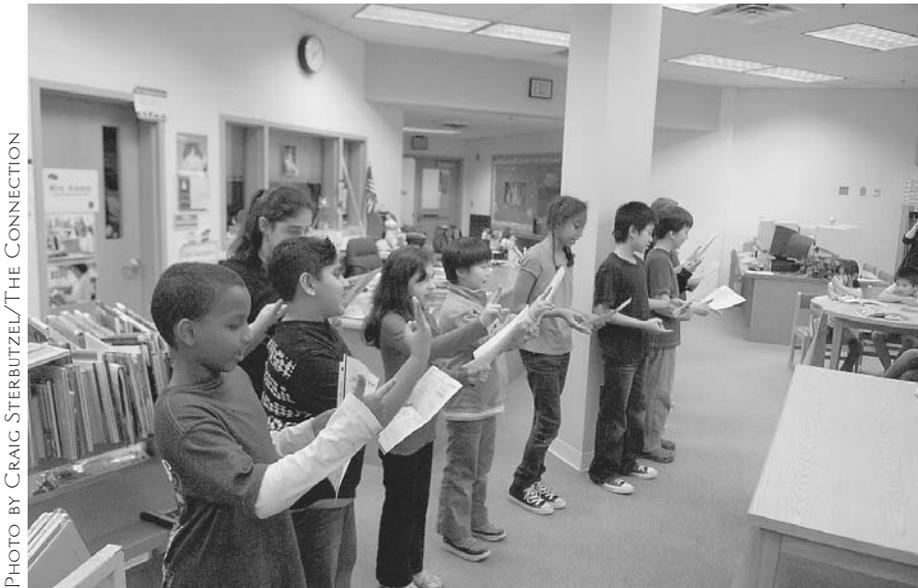


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

OPINION

The Transportation Fix

No help on congestion just a small part of spreading pain from budget.

The Virginia General Assembly has adjourned. If for some reason your attention lapsed between the campaign for Governor (Gov. Bob McDonnell took office just two months ago) and now, you might expect a transportation plan as one of the outcomes of this assembly session.

Here is the transportation relief proposed and passed and likely to be signed: the maximum speed limit on some roads will increase to 70 miles-per-hour.

This seems like it might violate equal protection standards, since there are very few hours of the day on any Northern Virginia's roads that getting above 55 is possible. Heck, most of us are really happy if traffic on the Beltway or 66 or 95 or Toll Road moves along at 30 mph without frequent stops.

So in other parts of the state not dominated by congestion, vehicles will be moving faster.

In Northern Virginia, there will be even less

money for even fewer efforts at relieving congestion.

The governor's commitment to fixing transportation, the center of his campaign that boosted him to an election victory even in Fairfax County (not Arlington or Alexandria) turned out to be far weaker than his commitment to eschew any new forms of revenue that might be needed to pay for such a fix.

Seriously, the Governor made no major proposal to the General Assembly on transportation.

EDITORIAL

Many, many people will face hardships that the rest of us can barely imagine because of the greatly pared down budget just passed in the General Assembly, especially people with disabilities of all kinds, working poor families, people who need mental health care, people who are struggling with addictions, families who can't afford health insurance whose incomes are just enough to keep them from getting assistance,

etc.

Localities will press to raise property taxes so they can buffer some of the cuts to education, health care and the safety net passed along from the state.

Parents and students and teachers will feel the pain as school districts struggle to adjust priorities in ways that won't sit well.

And everyone who needs to get anywhere will sit in traffic, wait longer for buses, pay more for rides on public transportation of all kinds.

But don't forget that if you are lucky enough to drive through some of rural Virginia on an interstate, you'll probably get to go 70 miles-per-hour. That should compensate for some of the pain.

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It's a work in progress, but the Connection and sister papers Centre View, Alexandria Gazette Packet and Mount Vernon Gazette are now on Facebook at www.facebook.com/connectionnewspapers. Please become a fan.

— MARY KIMM

Teen Cough Medicine Abuse

Adults need to be aware of new drug problem.

BY ANA BURNS

The latest and among the most dangerous drug abuse problems has arisen among teens and is creeping across America, affecting many communities. There are codenames for it: *Skittles*, *Robo*, *Triple Cs*, *Dex*, *Tussin* and *Vitamin D*, to mention a few. This is the practice of getting high by taking excessive doses of over-the-counter (OTC) cough medications. These are the same medicinal remedies that we commonly stock in our medicine cabinets and are readily available in drugstores and supermarkets everywhere.

The "high" is caused by dextromethorphan, known familiarly as DXM, and is an active ingredient in more than 100 nonprescription cough syrups, tablets and gel caps like Dimetapp DM, Robitussin, Sudafed and Vicks 44. A normal dose of cough medicine is 15-30 milligrams. Surprisingly, children are sometimes ingesting 25-50 times the recommended doses.

DXM, when used as directed, has a long history of being safe and effective. However, when taken in large doses, it can produce a hallucinogenic high, along with dangerous side effects, caused by the DXM itself or other active ingredients in the medicine. Among them are stomach pain and heart problems, as well as delusions, depression, high blood pressure, loss of consciousness, nausea and vomiting, numbness, rashes and seizures.

Certainly, as a community, we would want to ensure that OTC cough and cold medicines containing DXM remain accessible to those who need them. However, the potential for

abuse among youth, demands immediate attention. Local organizations and concerned individuals should join together to mobilize the community to fight against this growing epidemic.

Authorities tell us that DXM overdoses typically occur in clusters, as word about the "high" spreads in a community's middle and high schools. According to a recent study, it's estimated that one out of 10 people aged 12 to 17, or 2.4 million children from all backgrounds and geographic areas have said they have taken cough remedies to get high.

COMMENTARY

It is vital that adults, particularly parents be aware of the possible signs of abuse. A red flag should be raised if you see your child making frequent purchases of OTC cough preparations from the same or different stores, or from the Internet, hides cough medicine bottles in his/her bedroom, is exhibiting odd behavior; has declining grades; a loss of interest in friends and activities; or is experiencing hallucinations and/or any of the side effects mentioned above.

Be cautious about your medicine cabinets. You should know what is in there, keep track of your medicines, and discard OTC and prescription medications that you don't need. If you suspect a problem, immediately contact a local substance abuse prevention/intervention professional, such as your pediatrician or family doctor. The time to educate and act is now.

Ana Burns has a B.S. in health policy and administration and is an epidemiology program assistant. She is pursuing her masters degree in public health and grew up in the Fairfax area.

Higher Standard

To the Editor:

I have been an admirer and supporter of State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) for many years, but I was deeply disappointed when he chose to vote "Yes" on SB334, which allows concealed weapons into restaurants that serve alcohol. I do not believe that this vote is in line with the interests of his constituents or his community.

As Sen. Petersen notes, a restaurant owner is free to exclude CCWP (concealed carry weapon permit) holders by posting or policy. Fair enough. But have you ever been about to enter a restaurant and suddenly noticed a sign that says "no guns allowed?"

LETTERS

Would that make you (and your family) more or less likely to enter that establishment? Fairfax County welcomes many out-of-state and foreign visitors each year and they all eat at our local restaurants. How do you think these visitors would react at seeing such a sign? Sen. Petersen's "Yes" vote was a blow to our commonwealth's hospitality industry, which is why they fought against it for so many years.

Sen. Petersen also notes that it is illegal for someone carrying a concealed weapon to drink alcohol. How a restaurant owner is supposed to know that the person who is drinking is also carrying a concealed weapon? He does not say. I assume we have to rely upon the CCWP holders' character and their training. But

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

THE CONNECTION

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

the training that CCWP holders are required to have is a joke. Any applicant can watch an online video for about an hour and take a short — 20 easy questions — quiz and receive the so-called “certificate of proficiency.” You don’t even have to touch a gun, much less fire one.

Gun-rights politicians assert that CCWP holders are all responsible, levelheaded, law-abiding citizens and that they would only use their guns to protect themselves against a serious threat to their lives. This

is a fantasy. Consider the high-profile cases involving mentally imbalanced and trigger-happy Virginia CCWP holders we have had just in the last few weeks:

Christopher Bryan Speight, a concealed carry weapons permit holder since 1999, whose permit was renewed as recently as 2009, who amassed an arsenal of weapons in spite of the “restrictive” one-gun-a-month rule and in spite of his obvious and ever-increasing mental problems, whose “high-powered rifle” had enough firepower to nearly bring down a helicopter, killed eight people, including two children, in

Appomattox, Va. on Jan. 19.

On Jan. 18, Gerald Ung, 28, a Temple University grad student and a Virginia CHP holder, shot an unarmed Villanova college student five times in Philadelphia. The two had been arguing and what might have become a regular fistfight among testosterone-overloaded young men became something much more lethal.

Over the last few weeks, there has been a rapid-fire volley of bills proposed in the Richmond that seek to expand the privileges of CCWP holders while, at the same time, removing any burden of responsibility.

Members of the various gun groups (and the politicians who support them) tout SB334 as a victory of their rights. But on the subject of their responsibilities they are deathly quiet. Instead, they actively seek to do away with any inconvenience or requirement for training put upon CCWP holders. This is madness. Shouldn’t we and our elected leaders be holding armed citizens to a higher standard, rather than continuing to lower them?

Laura Austin (Sonnenmark)
Alexandria

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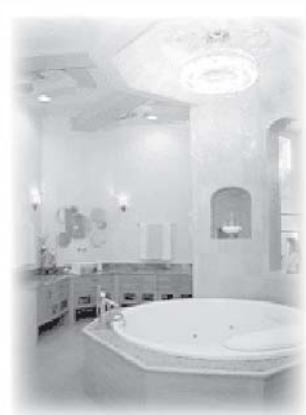


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CALENDAR

THURSDAY/MARCH 18

Fairfax Antique Arts Association: Keep Respect Alive. 10:15 a.m. at the City of Fairfax Senior Center Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Mary Lipsey, president of the Fairfax County Preservation Association, will talk about the threat to hundreds of Fairfax County family cemeteries. Free, annual membership fee required to attend subsequent meetings; \$15 per person, \$25 couple. 703-359-2487.

Gesher Used Book Sale. 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. at Gesher Jewish Day School, 4800 Mattie Moore Court, Fairfax. Books, DVDs, CDs and video tapes. 703-978-9789.

Afternoon Reading Group. 1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. The House of the Spirits by Isabel Allende. Adults. 703-293-6227.

The Ataris, Set Phasers To Stun, The Automatics, Wings Of Apollo, Cerca Trova and John Wayne Hero. 6:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance. \$15 at the door. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Preemies Today: A Complementary Medicine Approach to Healing Developmental Delays. 7:30 p.m. at the Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. With speakers Patricia Lemer, M.Ed., NCC and Ambika Wauters, MFA, Homeopath. 703-229-0835.

FRIDAY/MARCH 19

Gesher Used Book Sale. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gesher Jewish Day School, 4800 Mattie Moore Court, Fairfax. Books, DVDs, CDs and video tapes. 703-978-9789.

Book Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. New and used books and more. 703-293-6227.

Steve Forbert. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

The Chuck Shaffer Picture Show, Earth Note Syndicate, Dreaming of Eden and Those Passing By. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Spring Scrapbooking Event. 6:30-11:30 p.m. at The Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, 2148 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. Paper crafting professionals available to help. Ground level cropping space, free massages, access to a tool table and more. \$25. All proceeds go to the Dunn Loring Fire and Rescue Dept. Register at www.dlvfrd.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 20

Tuskegee Airmen Group Honored. 4-9 p.m. at Mott Community Center, 12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax. The movie about the lives of the Tuskegee Airmen will be shown, followed by refreshments and a meet and greet with the Airmen. Free, the public is invited. Contact Patricia L. McClenic, 703-324-5641, TTY 711.

Civil War Defenses of Washington, D.C. 2 p.m. at The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Illustrated talk and book signing by Walton H. Owen, Curator and Assistant Director of Fort Ward Museum and co-author of "Mr. Lincoln's Forts: A Guide to the Civil War Defenses of Washington." Free and open to the public. Books will be for sale for \$50. 703-591-0560.

Japanese Taiko Drum Ensemble Tao: The Martial Art of Drumming. 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts,

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- Reduce services for children and teens
- Cut the library budget by nearly 1/3 over two years
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Contact the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

- **Chairman, At-Large** — Sharon Bulova 703-324-2321 chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov
- **Braddock** — John C. Cook 703-425-9300 braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov
- **Dranesville** — John W. Foust 703-356-0551 dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov
- **Hunter Mill** — Catherine M. Hudgins 703-478-0283 hntmill@fairfaxcounty.gov
- **Lee** — Jeff C. McKay 703-971-6262 leedist@fairfaxcounty.gov
- **Mason** — Penelope A. Gross, Vice Chairman 703-256-7717 mason@fairfaxcounty.gov
- **Mount Vernon** — Gerald W. Hyland 703-780-7518 mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov
- **Providence** — Linda Q. Smyth 703-560-6946 provdist@fairfaxcounty.gov
- **Springfield** — Pat Herrity 703-451-8873 springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov
- **Sully** — Michael R. Frey 703-814-7100 sully@fairfaxcounty.gov

Residents of Fairfax City contact the Mayor and City Council mayor&council@fairfaxva.gov

Friends of Fairfax County Public Libraries

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

THINGS TO DO



FILE PHOTOS

More than 200 cakes and other confectionery foods were on display at the 2009 National Capital Area Cake Show.

Something's in the Oven

National Capital Area Cake Show comes to Woodson High School this weekend.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Cake lovers from far and wide will flock to Woodson High this weekend for the second annual National Capital Area Cake Show. World-class sugar artists will display their cake-decorating skills, while showing off their creativity and ingenuity.

Innovative wedding-cake art, hot trends in decorating, live challenges, classes and demonstrations by many of the top names in the world of cake decoration are just a few of the many treats in store for attendees.

Show times are Saturday, March 20, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, March 21, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and various ticket options are available. A \$35 ticket is good for both days, including Saturday's and Sunday's challenges. Or a \$15 ticket may be purchased for either day and includes that day's challenge. For more information, plus a schedule of classes, see www.cakeshow.org.

During Saturday's live challenge from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., famous sugar artists from TV will compete to see who can create the best, 3-foot-tall, circus-themed cake. Sunday's two, live challenges will be "What's in This Box?" from 1:30-2:30 p.m., and the "Haunted Castle Competition" from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

In Sunday's first competition, Norm Smith and Zane Beg, co-owners of The Sweet Life Cakery in Fairfax, will vie against each other and everyone else participating. They'll open up a box and will have to decorate a cake with whatever items they find inside, such as fondant, flowers, icing, etc. In the second challenge that day, participants will assemble elements they've been given in advance to create a haunted castle.

"It's the second-largest cake show in the



Sandy Sheppard of Lorton, owner of Confectioner's Art, explains the technique that was used to make a cake at last year's show.

U.S.," said Smith. "People travel for this event from as far away as Texas, Arizona, Florida and Canada. The show has over 250 cake entries in various categories and features 19 big names in the cake industry. Many stars seen on the Food Network and TLC's 'Ultimate Cake Off' will be at this event."

There's also a wedding cake competition, plus contests for decorations illustrating nursery rhymes. Pound, chocolate and fruit-and-nut cakes will vie in the tasting division, along with cheesecakes; and on Sunday, the cakes in the challenges will be sold by the slice.

In addition, a portion of the cake show's proceeds will benefit two, local charities — Shelter House Inc. and Kristi's Christmas.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes before performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. \$22-\$44. Youth through grade 12 half price when accompanied by an adult. Tickets available at 888-945-2468 or visit cfa.gmu.edu.

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn to use a computer and navigate the Internet. Call for an appointment. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Celtic rock band Mythica. 7 p.m. at Accotink United Unitarian Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. \$12 adv., \$15 at door, under age 12 free. Proceeds benefit the non-profit VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) 703-503-4579 or www.MythicaMusic.com.

Potluck Dinner. 5-9 p.m., at Ravensworth Elementary School, 5411 Nutting Drive, Springfield. Celebrate 50th anniversary of Ravensworth Farm.

Spring Scrapbooking Event. 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at The Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, 2148 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. Paper crafting professionals available to help. Ground level cropping space, free massages, access to a tool table and more. \$30. All proceeds go to the Dunn Loring Fire and Rescue Dept. Register at www.dlvfrd.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 21

Lecture by local author Chuck Mauro, "A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia: The Civil



TAO ENTERTAINMENT

War Album of Laura Ratcliffe. 6 p.m. at Panera Bread, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Hosted by Frank Stringfellow Camp #822 Sons of Confederate Veterans. Open to the public. \$5. 703-250-8705 or stringfellowbuva@worldnet.att.net.

N Scale Model Trains will be running from 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK model train club will host its monthly layout. Trains will be running in the caboose as well. \$2 adults, \$1 ages 4-10. 703-425-9225.

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.

Community Family Fun Day. 1-4 p.m. at Geshner Jewish Day School, 4700 Mattie Moore Court Fairfax. Magic show and balloons by Mr. Twister, moonbounce, make your own matzah, face painting, used book sale, Passover fun and nature activities and crafts. 703-962-9612 or Dmendelson@gesher-jds.org.

Au Pair in America Cultural Fair. 1-3 p.m. at Ernst Cultural Center

Gym, Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike Annandale. Au pairs will share their cultures through visual displays, food samples, games and performances. Around the World Scavenger Hunt with prizes for children. Terry Bellus, tbaupair@cox.net.

Japanese Taiko Drum Ensemble Tao: The Martial Art of Drumming. 4 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes before performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. \$22-\$44. Youth through

DRUM SHOW

Japanese Taiko Drum Ensemble Tao presents The Martial Art of Drumming this Saturday and Sunday at the George Mason University Center for the Arts.

grade 12 half price when accompanied by an adult. Tickets available at 888-945-2468 or visit cfa.gmu.edu.

Geshner Used Book Sale. 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at Geshner Jewish Day School, 4800 Mattie Moore Court, Fairfax. Books, DVDs, CDs and video tapes. This is also Geshner's Community Family Day, 1-4 p.m. for all ages. 703-978-9789.

The IBIS Chamber Music Society. 7 p.m. at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Dohnanyi's trio for strings, Jean Francaix's Quintet #2, Ravel's duo for violin and cello and more. Complimentary food/beverages at Meet The Artists reception. \$20 in advance/\$25 at door, seniors and students \$10/\$15.

www.providencechurch.org/music.
Book Sale. 1-4 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. New and used books and more. 703-293-6227.

Bluegrass Brunch with Dead Men's Hollow and Lisa Kay Band. 1:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$8. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

An Evening with Al Petteway and Amy White. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

MONDAY/MARCH 22

Jonathan Austin: Magic and Juggling. 2:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Magic, juggling and unicycling fun. Age 6-12. 703-644-7333.

Open Mic Showcase hosted by Ron Goad. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$2 cover. www.jamminjava.com.

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FAITH

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

The Cranford United Methodist Women's 110th Annual Ham & Oyster Dinner will be on Saturday, March 20, 4-7 p.m., at Cranford United Methodist Church, 9912 Old Colchester Road in Lorton. The menu includes fried oysters, baked ham, potato salad, cole slaw, deviled eggs, green beans, applesauce, rolls, beverages and desserts. All proceeds from this dinner go to mission work with women, children, and youth. Contact 703-339- 5382.

The Institute of Catholic Culture presents a program that focuses on the disintegration of both the Christian secular cultures in the modern world. The featured speaker is Father Paul Scalia, pastor of St. John the Beloved Catholic Church in McLean. The program takes place on Saturday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Free. For more, visit www.InstituteofCatholicCulture.org or call 703-504-8733.

Help pack meals. Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria, needs volunteers to help prepare meals for the

homeless along the Route 1 corridor in Alexandria on Thursday, March 25, at 6:30 p.m., and deliver the bags on Friday, March 26, at 6 p.m. If interested, call 703-971-5151 or e-mail admin@franconiaumc.org.

Bring the children to meet the Easter Bunny and hunt for eggs on Saturday, March 27, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m., at Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hooes Road in Springfield. Crafts, cakewalks, games, cookie decorating, and face painting. Open to the public. www.sumcdisciples.org or 703-451-8223.

Palm Sunday Service. Franconia

United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria, invites the public to worship on Palm Sunday, March 28, 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services to celebrate the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem in the days before his Passion and Crucifixion. Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall are handicapped accessible and assisted listening devices are available. Childcare is available for infants to 3. Contact 793 971-5151, admin@franconiaumc.org, <http://www.franconiaumc.org>.

Springfield United Methodist, 7047 Old Keene Mill Road in Springfield, presents a **Community Spring Festival and Egg Hunt** on April 3, at 1-3 p.m.,

with crafts, games, face painting, cotton candy, popcorn, a moonbounce and an Easter Egg Hunt.

The church will have Maundy Thursday Services at 7:30 p.m. on April 1, at 7:30 p.m., and a Good Friday Service and free luncheon on April 2, at 12 p.m.

The Sanctuary and Youth Choirs are preparing special Easter music for the 10:30 a.m. April 4 worship service, with brass instrumentalists, timpani, organ, and congregational hymns.

Free childcare is available for the Maundy Thursday and Easter Morning services.

For more information, call the church at 703-451-2375 or visit www.sumc-cares.org.

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Determination Leads to Dream School

Robinson's Mickey Bennett chases his dream of wrestling for West Virginia University.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

Mickey Bennett, a 145-pound wrestler for Robinson, had just about everything squared away to begin his transition to West Virginia University next fall.

He had paid his first-year tuition deposit and had a roommate and dorm assignment lined up, but a spot on the team's NCAA Division 1 wrestling team was still in limbo.

"West Virginia was my top pick for college," the senior said. "I had been looking at West Virginia for a while. I went to a camp there and hoped they would notice me."

Through various camps and fund raisers at West Virginia, Mickey had attempted to draw attention to his wrestling.

Mickey hoped his first-place finish at the Northern Region wrestling tournament would earn him a spot on Mountaineer's wrestling team.

No offer came.

His third-place finish in 145-pound class at the Virginia AAA state wrestling tourna-

ment didn't yield any news.

"It was getting upsetting," said Marcia Bennett, Mickey's mother. "We hadn't heard anything [about Mickey's recruitment]. We knew they had just recruited two other kids in his weight class. We were like 'What now?'"

Mickey Bennett faced a grim situation. It appeared he would have to walk on to the wrestling team and try to earn a spot over wrestlers who had been recruited — some of them national and state cham-

pions.

"If I had to walk on, then that's how it was going to be," Mickey Bennett said.

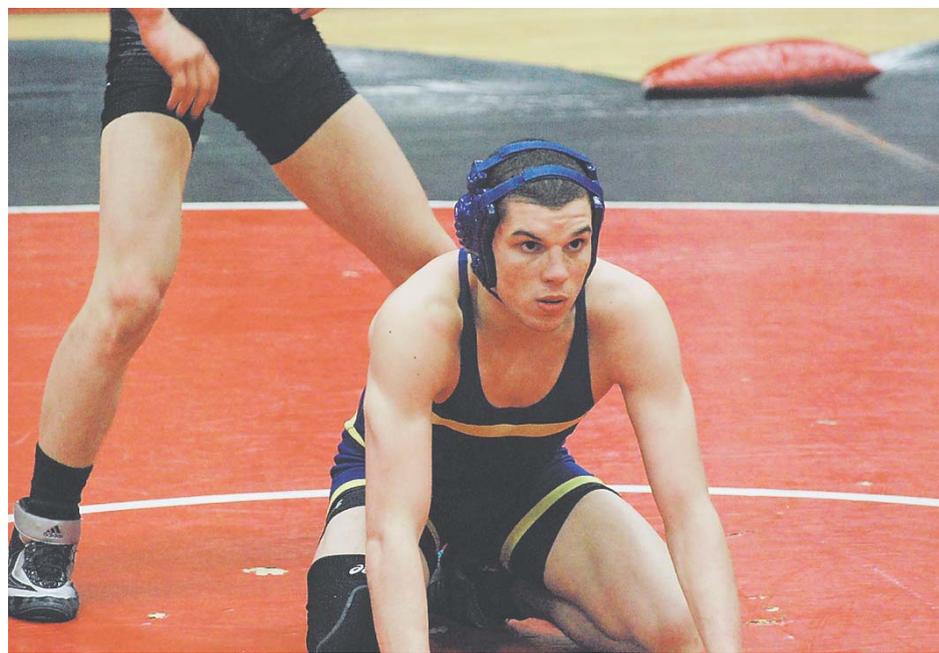
As it turned out, Mickey Bennett had been a Mountaineer all along. His family's worried frenzy over his wrestling career had kept them from performing a simple task.

"I didn't check the mail during the entire week of regionals and states," Marcia Bennett said. "I pulled out the mail and there was a 3-inch packet from West Virginia saying they would like him to wrestle for them."

Mickey Bennett's dream of becoming a

"He was going to make them want him."

— **Marcia Bennett**



COURTESY PHOTO

Setting his sights on joining West Virginia University's wrestling team, Bennett put in hours of extra work at camps during the summer to better his chances.

Mountaineer goes back to his first day with the Robinson wrestling team.

Mickey, who played defense in football, wanted something to do during the off-season.

"For 10 years, I played football," he said. "After the season I wanted to try something new."

With no wrestling experience or any un-

derstanding of the sport, Mickey Bennett joined the Robinson wrestling team — one of the region's premier wrestling programs — as a freshman.

"When he came into the room, we didn't know what to expect," Robinson head wrestling coach Bryan Hazard said. "He was a

SEE BENNETT, PAGE 15

Lady Rebels Ready for Liberty

Fairfax softball team ready to start first season in Liberty District.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

It's 4 p.m. and Fairfax varsity softball head coach Corey Stokes is running a few minutes late. It's a moment when some teams might fall into chaos, waiting for their coach to give them direction, but Senior Ashley Rollins takes charge.

She leads the Lady Rebels in some stretches and laps around the field. She knows her team can't afford to waste valuable practice time. This season they've moved to the big leagues — the Liberty District.

"It's going to be a challenge this year," Rollins said. "We've had a lot of success for softball in the past year and our biggest struggle will be learning the

Ashley Rollins practices a fielding drill during her team's workout. Rollins is expected to be one of the team's top performers in 2010.

girls and teams we'll face."

While some consider the Liberty District a less competitive district, that's not the case for softball. According to Stokes, it's actually a step up. The Lady Rebels now must face Langley and McLean, two of the area's top softball teams, in the regular season.

"We've played a few out-of-district games against [the Liberty District]," Stokes said. "They always seem to have good teams."

While most Fairfax High School sports teams have benefitted from the move from the Concorde District to the Liberty District, the softball team is expecting a tougher schedule.

"I kind of wish we were still in the Concorde," senior Kelly Spong joked. "I think we're ready [for the Liberty District] though."

The Lady Rebels hope to build on the momentum from a 14-8 record in the 2009 season in which they reached the Concorde District finals, losing 5-1 to Chantilly. The season ended with a first-round loss to McLean in the Northern Region tournament.

Graduation took its toll and now younger girls from the junior varsity team and depth players from 2009 are playing new roles.

"We have a brand new infield and only some returners," Rollins said. "But we all have open minds

SEE FAIRFAX, PAGE 15

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PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION



COURTESY PHOTO

Bennett stands atop the winners' podium at the Northern Region championship. Bennett hoped his performance at the meet would catch the eyes of the West Virginia University wrestling coaches.

Bennett Climbs to Mountaintop

FROM PAGE 14

tough kid to deal with, but as he started to gain experience and confidence, he shattered our expectations."

Marcia Bennett didn't know what to expect either. "I remember picking him up and he was soaking wet. He came out and said, 'This is sweat,'" she said. "I thought he had gotten in a water fight. The next practice I picked him up and he was all wet again. After two or three more days, I realized he wasn't getting in a water fight."

Mickey Bennett spent a season on the junior varsity team where he found such early success that it prompted him to make a drastic change in his sporting life.

"I decided to quit football so I could focus on my wrestling," he said.

WITH A renewed focus, Mickey Bennett earned a few matches on the varsity roster in his sophomore year before earning a full-time spot as a junior.

When the season ended and other wrestlers played other sports or took time off, Mickey Bennett toiled on the mats, chasing his dream.

Mickey Bennett started going to as many wrestling camps as he could, finding any way to improve his skills.

"For two summers in a row, he went to over 30 days of camps," Marcia Bennett said. "He just did a lot of work while everyone else was going to the pool."

Hazard said it's uncommon for a wrestler to enter a program with no experience and reach Mickey

Bennett's potential.

"There are people who have been national champions who did not start wrestling until their freshman or sophomore year," he said. But without prior experience, he admitted it can be difficult to achieve Mickey Bennett's success."

With a resumé of impressive victories, Mickey Bennett embarked on his quest to gain the eyes of the West Virginia coaches.

He sent letters of recommendation, visited coaches at the school, attended fund raisers at WVU and wrestled at events where he might be seen by the coaches.

"You have to make yourself known to the coaches and Mickey did that," Marcia Bennett said. "He was going to make them want him."

Mickey Bennett said there was never a second school, there was only West Virginia. Hazard knew wrestling for WVU was a lofty goal.

"Up until the end of this year, I never would have expected him to wrestle at the Division 1 level," he said. "He didn't really have the awards, but he put in a lot of time and bought into what we were [teaching]."

The news that Mickey Bennett had earned a spot on the team righted some past disappointments in his young life.

"He's kind of come up short on things he wants," Marcia Bennett said. "It's nice that he finally got it. He worked hard for it."

Hazard said Mickey Bennett's chance to wrestle for West Virginia is just one result of his hard work and dedication to the sport. "Wrestling has made him a better person," Hazard said.

WEEK IN SPORTS

Captain Brian Kramer

On March 15, former W.T. Woodson baseball player Brian Kramer was named as one of Washington College's three baseball captains for the 2010 season.

Kramer, an outfielder, is a four-year player and

first time captain for Washington College. He 2009, he scored four runs, had two RBIs, stole one base and has committed zero errors in 14 attempts.

In 83 career games, he is a .228 hitter with 52 hits, 36 runs and 24 RBIs.

Five Questions with Fairfax Softball Player Kira Urano

Q: What's your favorite thing about playing softball?

A: The practices and how the team is like a family.

Q: What type of music do you like to listen to before a game?

A: I like to listen to some punk rock. We're not really allowed to have music on before a game at the stadium because of the neighborhoods nearby.

Q: So how do you guys manage to listen to warm up music?

A: Sometimes we go into the baseball room and listen to their stuff. It's mostly old music.

Q: If you weren't playing softball, what would you want to play?

A: If I had to choose, I'd probably play lacrosse.

Q: If you could trade places with any athlete in the world, who would you want to be?

A: Probably Michael Jordan because he's tall. I'm not very tall, so it would be fun to tall, be able to dunk, all that stuff.



REED S. ALBERS

— REED S. ALBERS



PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax head coach Corey Stokes said the move to the Liberty District presents new challenges for the Lady Rebels.

Fairfax High Softball

FROM PAGE 14

and we work well together. Our games blend together."

Senior Lizzie Basalyga said the addition of some new faces is "kind of a restart of our team."

"I'm looking forward to seeing what all of the new players can bring to our team."

Stokes said getting her younger players acclimated to varsity-level play will take time, but as she saw from Rollins' impromptu practice session, the team is willing to put in the work to be successful.

"It's a young group of girls," Stokes said. "But we have a lot of leadership on this team. They have a great attitude and they're a fun team. That's what matters."

HOW TO SUBMIT A SPORTS ITEM

The local youth winter sports seasons are ending and the Connection doesn't want any child's accomplishments to go unnoticed. In order to have youth sports items printed or posted on the Web, send the information to Sports Editor Reed S. Albers at ralbers@connectionnewspapers.com.

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NEWS

VDOT Snow Response Reviewed

FROM PAGE 4

VDOT employees in the field worked 12- to 16-hour days everyday for nearly two weeks, many of whom brought sleeping bags to work with them and slept in the office between shifts and ate only one meal a day.

He also said that while people in residential areas complained about slow removal, VDOT requires that roads be plowed in order of priority based on traffic volume. As a result, the first areas repeatedly plowed were Interstates 66, 395 and 495 and Routes 1, 7 and 9, followed by main roads within towns and finally, subdivisions. The subdivisions, Vlacich said, are broken down into "snow maps," which are routes assigned to each driver to plow. Because of the routes, he said that many people saw streets nearby getting plowed before their own streets, so they called to complain.

"It's important to let the crews have the chance to finish their snow maps," Vlacich said. "Getting thousands of phone calls telling us that they didn't get plowed doesn't help us. It makes it harder to identify what we have already done."

While the explanations helped to allay some concerns, the board nonetheless still had issue with several areas of VDOT's response. Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence) criticized the snow map system, saying that neighborhoods that Vlacich showed on the map in her district had some of the least cleared streets. She suggested that VDOT improve its mapping system to ensure that all streets are represented on their maps.

"I had to laugh when you showed one of my neighborhoods on the map when that's the neighborhood I got the most complaints about," Smyth said. "There are gaps in the maps between Route 50 and 29, and roads [in that area] fell through the cracks."

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) took aim at VDOT's communication system, saying that all streets would have been plowed quickly if VDOT had better communication with its plow operators. He said that he received calls from constituents complaining that

their streets were not plowed for more than a week. He added that the poor communication hindered VDOT's ability to adapt to the changing nature of the situation.

"As we saw some problems it occurred to me that the communication between you and the people in the plows is the issue," Cook said. "If you don't have a way to communicate with drivers and they're not in the office, that's not helping anyone. You have to have a management structure that allows you to change during the event."

Another area in need of change, several supervisors said, is the issue of private contractors. Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) questioned the work of the private contractors hired by VDOT to assist in plowing efforts, saying that the contractors were not held accountable for their work, and in turn, neglected to plow many streets. He called for more monitoring of their work and suggested that VDOT provide incentives for good performance.

McKay also took issue with private contractors, but in terms of contractors hired by homeowners' and civic associations. He said that many of his constituents told him that their plows were willing to plow streets outside of these neighbors and that they were willing to incur the cost to help the community. However, due to VDOT restrictions, only VDOT staff or contractors hired directly by VDOT can plow VDOT roads.

"A suggestion I heard from HOAs is that they would have been happy to do VDOT streets but they couldn't because of liability issues," McKay said.

While the summit provided answers to some of the most pressing questions that arose from the snowstorms, Salehi and Vlacich both said that even if the preparation was better and the response more efficient, the sheer volume of the snow would have hampered any efforts.

"The snow impacted residents, neighborhoods, our families and us," Vlacich said. "Our goal, first and foremost, is to do the most good in the quickest amount of time. We don't have all the answers, but we're constantly trying to improve."

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.

Christine Tran of Fairfax was among 35 rising college freshmen who spent July 2009 preparing for the rigorous study required for academic majors in science, technology, engineering and mathematics — STEM fields — at their respective schools, James Madison University, Bridgewater College, Eastern Mennonite University and Blue Ridge Community College. Tran will enter JMU as an engineering major.

Adina Rubinstein of Fairfax, a University of Denver Daniels College of Business undergraduate student, made the Hornbeck scholars list for spring quarter of the 2008 and 2009 school year. The dean's List honors those undergraduate students who have achieved a quarterly grade point average of 3.75 or above while taking at least 15 credit hours.

Michael Tannenbaum, son of Fairfax residents Jordan and Fran-Linda Tannenbaum, graduated with a bachelor of science degree from Ithaca College's School of Health Sciences and Human Performance. The degree was awarded in May 2009.

Boston University awarded academic degrees to 1,603 students in September 2009. Among the graduates was **Gary R. Boyer** of Fairfax, who received a master of criminal justice in criminal justice.

Brittany A. Hilbert of Fairfax received a bachelor of arts in political science from Boston University in January.

Alex B. Aferiat and Steven S. Kim of Fairfax were recently named to the dean's list at Boston University for the fall 2009 semester.

The following Fairfax residents were named to the spring 2009 dean's list at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg: **Tiffany Alcorn, William Ames, Nicole Brzozowski, Stephen Chi, Sara Coleman, Virginia Forstall, Rebecca Gildea, Megan Grady, Huy Ho, Dagmara Kalnins, Ksenija Kapetanovic, Michelle Kelley, Joyce Kim, Alexis Kuiper, I-Rong Lee, Denise Lenihan, Charles Liarakos, Danielle Neal, Lindsay Oakley, Andrew Pierce, Ashley Post, Julia Riso, Sarah Vogel, Rachel Walsh and Yuxin Zhang.**

Fairfax residents **Dimitrios Moustakas, Hyunsuk Yim and**

Jenny Borda graduated from Marymount University on May 10.

Fairfax residents **Katherine Flood, Lauren Havard, Karen Kratz and Rachael Shumaker** graduated cum laude from Marymount University on May 10. Shumaker graduated also received the Sister Majella Berg Service Award.

Fairfax residents **Jennifer Hughes**, a history major, and **Yolanda Forney**, a nursing major, graduated magna cum laude from Marymount University on May 10.

Marymount students **Jesenia Alonso, Anna Patricia Bermudez and Joanna Li** of Fairfax, were recently selected as national outstanding campus leaders and included in the 2009 edition of Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

The following students from Fairfax are on Marymount University's fall 2009 dean's list: **Sheryar Ahmad, Claudia Carhuaz, Carolina Cruz, Gabriela Grajeda, Devin Hanlon, Alexander Hopkins, Lily Johnson, Mary Kalpos, Joanna Li, Ngoc Anh Nguyen and Greg Shumaker.** To be

SEE COLLEGE NOTES, PAGE 21

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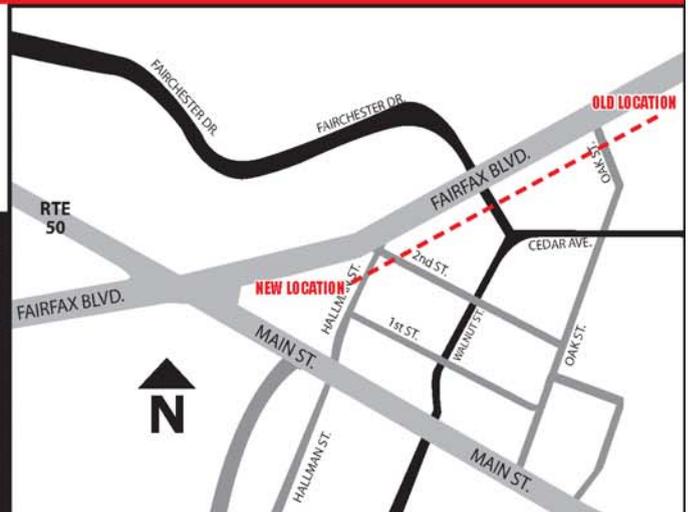
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Will the Numbers Add Up for Fairfax?

FROM PAGE 7

From 2000 to 2008, Arlington County has grown by approximately 20,500 residents, an 11 percent increase; the City of Alexandria has grown by 15,600 residents, a 12.6 percent increase; Prince William County has grown by approximately 84,000 residents, a 30 percent increase; and Loudoun County has grown by approximately 120,400 residents, about 71 percent.

"I think, with the population growth, you'll see a movement toward outer Fairfax, Prince William and Loudoun but it is hard to know until the numbers come in," said former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis (R-11), who helped orchestrate the political redistricting for federal and state seats following the 2000 census.

The number of Fairfax representatives and the state and federal level will also depend largely on which political party controls redistricting since partisans often manipulate political boundaries to their advantage, according to Davis.

If the Republicans are in control, they may try to keep more rural districts, which tend to favor their party, in the legislature.

"You may be able to do four congressional districts in Northern Virginia. It just depends on who draws them," said Davis.

WITHIN THE COUNTY LIMITS, elected officials seem divided and a little hesitant to talk about what local population growth might mean for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

The greatest amount of Fairfax's population growth has taken place in south county around Lorton in the Springfield and Mount Vernon districts. The shuttering of a federal prison and opening of a world-class arts center has led to revitalization and a boom in residential housing in the area.

"There is a lot of growth happening in my district that is not happening in other districts. Fairfax is growing because of that part of the Mount Vernon District," said Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon), who has represented the Lorton area for 23 years.

Population Growth, Household Characteristics, Commute

The year 2000 was the last time the U.S. Census did a precise survey of Fairfax County residents but the federal government also collected information through an American Community Survey from January 2006 to December 2008 in order to determine how the county has changed.

Many of the trends found when comparing the 2000 Census data to the 2008 survey estimates are likely to also show up when the 2010 Census is completed.

	Fairfax County		Virginia		USA	
	2000	2008	2000	2008	2000	2008
Population	969,749	1.01 million	7.07 million	7.8 million	281 million	307 million
Households w/ Married Couple	59.4%	56.3%	52.8%	50.7%	51.7%	9.6%
One-person Households	21.4%	25.8%	25.1%	27.4%	25.8%	27.5%
Average Household Size (People)	2.74	2.72	2.54	2.54	2.59	2.61
Average Family Size	3.2	3.29	3.04	3.1	3.14	3.2

In 2008, the Mount Vernon District was estimated to have 123,873 residents and the Springfield District came in at 126,116 compared to just 114,702 residents in the Providence District and 109,321 in the Braddock District, according to information provided by Fairfax County's demographic information.

But whether that growth warrants the creation of a 10th magisterial district and an 11th chair on the Fairfax Board of Supervisors is uncertain.

"The change in population could or would justify creating a new district. I don't think there is agreement on the board to do that but we haven't talked about it at all," said Hyland.

HYLAND'S DISTRICT is already fairly divided into two separate communities by the Fort Belvoir Army Base.

Neighborhoods to the north of the base have Alexandria mailing addresses, older housing stock and the residents tend to be

more established, having lived in the county for several years. Families in that part of the district generally attend West Potomac or Mount Vernon High School and their homeowners associations and other civic groups are organized under the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations.

But south of Fort Belvoir, especially in the Laurel Hill area, residents are more likely to be newcomers to the county and younger. Much of the housing stock was recently built and has a Lorton or Springfield mailing address.

Those living south of Fort Belvoir usually attend Hayfield and South County secondary schools. They have their own umbrella civic organization, the South County Federation, and their own regional cultural attraction, the Lorton Arts Center.

"I think Lorton, as it stands now, is pretty disconnected from the rest of the Mount Vernon District. It is a ways from there and it has its own character and own flavor that is very different from Mount Vernon," said

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), who sat on the county's political redistricting advisory committee following the 2000 census.

SINCE FAIRFAX created its last supervisor seat, Sully in 1991, the census estimates that county's overall population has increased by more than 200,000 residents, or approximately 25 percent.

But even with the large amount of population growth over the last 20 years, Bulova said she is not fond of the idea of creating another magisterial district and seat on the county board.

"We would have an awfully large board with the addition of another district and another member. My personal preference is not to make changes to our boundaries," said Bulova. Adding another supervisor seat will also lead to more operational costs for the county. Each supervisor currently has their own district office and few members of the staff that are built into the county's budget.

The following students from Fairfax were honored at Virginia Tech's spring commencement ceremony on May 15, 2009, in Lane Stadium. **Roberta Apostolakis, Kathy Mason, Patrick Cureton, Michael Fronce, Joshua Wargo, Michael Cakouros, Richard Lee.**

Shabnam Aqbal of Fairfax, a freshman majoring in business in the Pamplin College of Business at Virginia Tech, has been awarded the Presidential Scholarship Initiative for the 2009-10 academic year.

Samantha Soussan of Fairfax, a junior majoring in communication in the college of liberal arts and human sciences, was chosen to be a house supervisor at Virginia Tech for the 2009-10 academic year.

The following students from Fairfax were named to the dean's list for the fall 2009 semester at Virginia Tech: **Anisa J. Ali, Adwoa S. Baah-Dwomoh, Michael D. Brooks, Ivan, F. Bustamante, Su Young Chung, Kimberly A. Dear, Nikoleta R. Delis, Spencer C. Eagy, Lara E. Ebert, David F. Ellrod, Jessica L. Gray.** To qualify for the dean's list, students must attempt at least 12 credit hours graded on the A-F option and earn a 3.4 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) during the semester.

The following students from Fairfax were named to the dean's list for the fall 2009 semester at Virginia Tech: **Stephanie M. Gritz, Imran M. Hashmi, Drew R. Howell, Sean L. Hunt, Joshua Y. Hwang, Molly C.**

Johnson, Brett A. Jones, Ritesh K. C. Kwang W. Kim, Andy K. Krainak, Alan L. McDonald. To qualify for the dean's list, students must attempt at least 12 credit hours graded on the A-F option and earn a 3.4 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) during the semester.

The following students from Fairfax were named to the dean's list for the fall 2009 semester at Virginia Tech:

Daniel B. Mero, Kristina J. Miles, Sharan S. Othi, James T. Perkins, Mark R. Porvaznik, Matthew J. Powell, Arianna Rouhani, Nina R. Sabarre, David S. Serpati, Cassandra E. Sheehan. To qualify for the dean's list, students must attempt at least 12 credit hours graded on the A-

F option and earn a 3.4 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) during the semester.

Fairfax resident **Andrea Marie Borrelli** was named to the spring 2009 dean's list for the Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University.

John McAdams of Fairfax has been named to the dean's list for the 2009 spring semester at Villanova. McAdams is a sophomore.

The following students from Fairfax were named to the dean's list for the fall 2009 semester at Virginia Tech:

Brent R. Sullivan, Meagan E. Wray, Michael J. Yi of Fairfax, Benjamin S. Amos, Mohammad R. Bashshiti, Jeffrey A. Beyer, Sean M. Coogan, Frances L. Dear, David

J. Fulbrook, Erin K. Hall. To qualify for the dean's list, students must attempt at least 12 credit hours graded on the A-F option and earn a 3.4 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) during the semester.

The following students from Fairfax were named to the dean's list for the fall 2009 semester at Virginia Tech:

Saki Kadotani, Soo J. Kim, Peter R. Laclede, Inderpal S. Lamba, Scott I. Luxenberg, Carey A. McMillen, Christina T. Nguyen, Tram T. Nguyen, Michael M. Paleos, Jamie L. Porter, Tiffany M. Pripeton, Steven A. Ratley. To qualify for the dean's list, students must attempt at least 12 credit hours graded on the A-F option and earn a 3.4 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale).

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21 Announcements
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The Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environ-
mental Services Planning and Design Division will hold a citi-
zens information meeting to provide the public with information
regarding the proposed Noman M. Cole Jr., Water Reuse Proj-
ect in Lorton, VA. This project is a reclaimed water distribution
system designed to reuse the treated effluent from the Noman
Cole Plant for the purposes of irrigation and cooling. The pro-
posed project involves the installation of a pipeline from the
Noman M. Cole Jr., Pollution Control Plant on Route 1 to Co-
vanta Fairfax, Inc. Waste-to-Energy facility, and to Laurel Hill
Golf Course, as well as other sites and associated pumps,
storage and support facilities. The meeting will take place from
7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, Wednesday March 24, 2010 at South
County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton Vir-
ginia 22079. The purpose of the meeting will be to present in-
formation and status of the project, and provide public outreach
to the community. Project information can be found at
http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/construction/water_reuse/.
Interested citizens and property owners throughout the project
area will have the opportunity to discuss the project one-on-
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21 Announcements
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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements
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NEWS

City Department Budgets

FROM PAGE 3

ship is used to calculate the per-pupil cost that dictates the tuition bill, the total cost cannot be computed yet. In addition, changes in the state's budget, she said, mean that the city is in line to receive up to \$400,000 less in state funding.

"We have not gotten the official calculations, but I saw an unofficial projection that said we'd lose \$250,000 to \$400,000 in state funding," Monday said. "Between state funding and [an unknown] county tuition bill puts this all in flux."

The uncertainty of the school budget did not sit well with Mayor Robert Lederer, who expressed that the uncertainty has a negative impact on the city. He said that the county's hesitation on finalizing its operating costs delays the completion of the city school budget, and in turn, prevents the City Council from finalizing the city budget as a whole. In addition, the city and county are on different budget schedules, with the city slated to adopt its budget April 29 and the county on May 20. So, if the county cannot decide what to do with the money soon enough, the city runs the risk of delaying its budget for an extended period of time.

"I just don't remember a situation where we've had so much in doubt until the end of May possibly," Lederer said. "The only solution we have is to keep delaying our budget. It brings into question the entire relationship."

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT followed Miller and Monday, with Police Chief Richard Rappoport and Deputy Chief Maj. Bill Klugh giving the presentation to City Council. Rappoport said that while cuts are being proposed to the police department's budget, he supports the City Manager's decision, as he recognized that the police, like every other city agency, must deal with reductions. However, he did take issue with the proposed 30 percent cut in overtime pay. "In [Fiscal Year 2010], the police department made many cuts to our operating costs and those cuts are our baseline this year," Rappoport said. "I support the city manager's budget completely except for the 30 percent reduction to OT. Frankly, I have serious reservations that we can meet that number without drastic impacts."

Rappoport said that cuts to overtime

would affect the city in a number of ways. He said that most major crimes are solved by working overtime, and if overtime is reduced by that much, the department would not be able to fund surveillance teams that are crucial to closing those types of cases. Also, Rappoport said that his officers who work events such as the Fall Festival and the Fourth of July parade are being paid overtime to do so, and without that pay, their presence at events would be lost.

"Further cuts in overtime would affect stakeouts and surveillance and it will impact the length, timeliness and success of investigations," Rappoport said. "We don't work to the clock on criminal investigations. We don't say 'well, we're at the end of the shift' and pick it up the next day."

THE OTHER major concern Rappoport had was the proposed \$115,000 cut to capital improvement costs. Rappoport said that Ford discontinued the Crown Victoria line of police cruisers, so the department would have to find another model car to use. The budget includes \$194,000 for vehicle replacement, but Rappoport said that the car's equipment is custom made for a particular model. As a result, in addition to having to purchase new cars, the department would have to purchase new equipment, which runs about \$15,000 to \$20,000 per vehicle. As a result, he said, the proposed money for vehicle replacement might not be enough.

Councilman Dan Drummond concluded the segment by pointing out that in FY 2010, the police department was budgeted \$581,888 for overtime costs and, at the moment, it has only used \$438,000 of it. So, he questioned whether or not the 30 percent cut was actually as significant as it sounded and asked if other areas could come in under budget like overtime costs. However, Rappoport said that that issue, like many others within the department came down to sheer luck and cannot be counted on to happen again.

"We had a combination of good management and good luck last year," Rappoport said. "We've had a real good run of luck the last 18 months, but luck can change."

The City Council were set to meet with representatives from Utilities, Fire and Rescue and Parks and Recreation for their budget presentations Wednesday, March 17.

FROM PAGE 16

named to the dean's list, students must carry a full academic load that semester, be in good academic standing and have a grade point average of at least 3.4.

Andria Wallen, Daniel Crowder and **John Driessnack** from Fairfax were chosen to be a resident advisor at Virginia Tech for the 2009-10 academic year.

Ashbridge Foote, Colin Edward Jennings and **Brian Stewart Wood** of Fairfax received honors admission to Mary Washington University for fall of 2009.

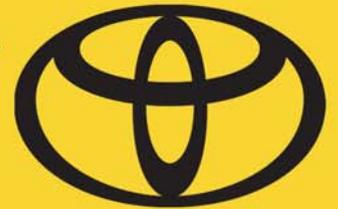
COLLEGE NOTES

Karen Ellrod of Fairfax is one of 54 students at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg named to the university's president's list for the fall semester of the 2009-10 academic year. Ellrod is a junior at the University of Mary Washington. The president's list recognizes outstanding academic achievement at the university by full-time students who attain a perfect 4.0 grade-point average.

Ju Me Park of Fairfax, a freshman majoring in animal and poultry sciences in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech, has been awarded the Presidential Scholarship Initiative for the 2009-10 academic year.

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Centreville **\$225,000**
Great 2 bedroom, 2 bath with fireplace and large balcony! Brand new carpet and fresh paint throughout! Washer & dryer. Storage room. Convenient to I66 and shopping. Pool, tennis courts, exercise/club room/raquet ball court.
Pam Boe 703-909-1663



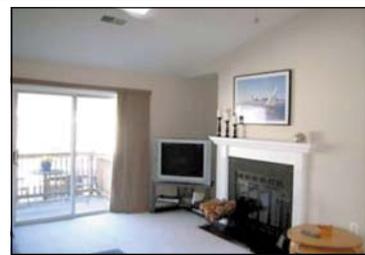
Clifton **\$899,000**
NEWLY RENOVATED!
Tons of charm! 5 private acres in one of the prettiest neighborhoods in Clifton! 4 BR, 4.5 BA, with new kitchen, 2 story foyer, family room with cathedral ceiling, fireplace, main level MBR w/private sitting room & library, plus 2nd MBR on upper level (perfect for in-law suite), 9' ceilings, large dining room, hardwood floors, new rec room, natural gas heat!
Nancy Basham 703-772-2066



Alexandria **\$359,900**
Fantastic Location, Fantastic Home!
Located on King Street, this home is a commuter's dream! Minutes to I395, Metro, and the Pentagon. Gorgeous 2bd, 1.5 ba townhome includes all new appliances, remodeled bath, private slate patio, large bedrooms and plenty of storage. This is a must see!
Diana Khoury 703-401-7549



Woodbridge **\$199,000**
End unit home ready to move in. Has den in the basement that can be used as another room. Close to major roads. Just painted. **READY TO MOVE IN.**
Jorge Reyna 703-677-5336



Springfield **\$220,000**
Top floor 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath unit w/vaulted ceiling & skylite. Fireplace, updated carpet and paint! Washer/Dryer. Community pool/tennis/trails. Great for commuters - convenient to I95/Springfield metro & shopping!
Pam Boe 703-909-1663



Burke **\$539,900**
Terrific Buy!
Lovely, well-kept, 4BR, 3.5 BA, Center Hall Colonial features insulated windows, formal LR, sep. DR, walk in closets, great Family room, walkout finished Rec. room in well sough after Lake Braddock Schools area, on a large corner lot with great landscaping.
Mary FitzHenry 703-503-1825



Springfield **\$307,000**
Newington Station
Large 3BR, 2.55 Bath TH + den. Spacious Eat-in FR/Kitchen. 21x11 MBR. Large fenced Deck backs to trees. Cul-de-sac. Covered Entry. 2 parking spaces. Near Ft Belvoir.
Joel Lutkenhouse 703-969-6442



Fairfax Station **\$775,000**
Gorgeous Waterfront Colonial on 5+ wooded acres. Charming interior with all modern conveniences. Updated Kitchen, Baths, Pella windows, Hardiplank exterior, Landscaping & new HVAC. Picturesque view of lake, tiered deck, foot bridges, creek and in-ground pool. Private location.
Ngoc Do & Associates 703-798-2899



Fairfax **\$560,000**
This home is a 10+! Owners planned on retiring here & put over \$270k in improvements. You name it, the home has it. All improvements are well thought out & extremely tasteful. Located in wonderful neighborhood close to VRE & metrobus as well as community schools & pools.
Mary Hovland 703-946-1775
Cathy DeLoach 703-276-9421



Fairfax **\$475,000**
This is the one you've been waiting for! 5 BR, 3FB, 1/3 acre lot. Large rooms, refinished hardwood floors, just painted. Two fireplaces and dual zone heating make sure of your comfort. Wired for FIOS. Covered patio and large deck make it easy to enjoy the large fenced yard. Close to I66, Rt. 50, Rt. 236, Rt. 123, shopping and transportation. Not a foreclosure or short sale, no mortgage on property, no bank but yours!
Janice Clark 703-400-1995



OAKTON **\$525,000**
STATELY SPLIT FOYER on large wooded lot fronting & siding to pkld. Generous rm sizes. 4BR; 3 BA. 2 fireplaces. Hardwood floors; Huge rec rm with wood stove insert & built-ins. SGD leads to patio and fishpond. Garage with large workshop.
Claudia Callis 703-620-2790



Lake Anna **\$418,900**
Gorgeous Log Home
Perfect retreat or full time home on wooded 3.79/Acres. Main level offers the convenience of a Master suite, Gourmet kitchen Dbl sided f/p, Open floor plan, Cathedral ceilings & Loft Overlook for the great room. Over size garage and 12x40 RVer's pad with full hook up. Boat slip conveys.
Paul Wesche 540-847-3848



Alexandria **\$275,000**
Terrific 2 bedroom, 2 bath unit with large rooms, lots of windows overlooking trees! Fireplace, brand new carpet, fresh paint and washer/dryer. Community pool/tennis and super convenient to transportation/shopping!
Pam Boe 703-909-1663



Lake Anna Lot **\$89,900**
Build your Lake Anna Dream Home.
Almost 2 Acre Wooded Lot with Assigned Boat Slip.
David or Janet Lewis 703-980-3090



Manassas **\$529,000**
Beautiful and spacious home w/3 finished levels, hardwood floors on main level. Study, 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, w/3 car side-loan garage! Situated on 1.53 acres in beautiful Hunters Ridge.
Pam Boe 703-909-1663



Fairfax \$385,000
Style and Convenience
This 3 BR, 2.55BA, 3 Lvl TH with garage is located in Fair Ridge. Step down LR w/ bay window, sep DR, country kitchen, vaulted ceilings, large MBR w/ full MBA are just a few of the features offered. LL is fully finished w/ fireplace, 1/2 BA, & walk-out to brick patio w/ fountain. Close to Rt 50, shopping, Metro.
Gerry Staudte 703-309-8948



Fairfax Station **\$850,000**
Country Living, Close In
This lovely Colonial is sited on a wooded paradise, 6+ acres. 4 BRs, 3 1/2 Baths, Updated Kitchen w/Granite Counters, Center Island, Updated appliances, Huge Fam. Rm & Sun Rm w/wall to wall windows, Formal LR & DR, Brazilian Cherry Flooring on Main level, Stairs, Hall & MBR, Finished LL Level is fun filled and ready for entertaining. All this plus a Inground Pool & Hot Tub.
Sheila Adams 703-503-1895



Burke \$735,000
NEED MORE SPACE??
Quality and elegance abound in this spectacular home. Spectacular ceilings & light-filled rooms highlight approx 4400 sq ft on three finished levels. Wooded lot for privacy. Granite counter-tops plus island Jenn-air cooktop in renovated kitchen. Step-down family room and door to deck and hot tub. Luxury master bedroom suite with cathedral ceiling and jazzy bath. Fully finished walk-out basement could be separate apartment. Check out photos at www.longandfooster.com. Superb location for commuters; students walk to Lake Braddock School. This home is just perfect and ready for you. Contact Beth today. Your search is over!!
Beth Jones 703-503-1869



Fairfax City \$895,000
Main Level Bedroom
Spacious 4 BR/3.5 BA plus loft, 2 story family room with gas fpl, spacious 1st floor MBR with 2 walk-in closets, luxury MBA, hwd floors, gourmet kitchen with maple cabinets & granite, 3 sides brick, beautifully landscaped yard with fountain, premium lots backs to trees. Farrcroft community w/pool in the heart of Old Town Fairfax.
Nancy Basham 703-772-2066

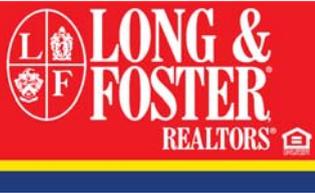


Bristow \$214,900
Immaculate 3 Level townhome with 3 BRs, 2 Full BAs & 2 Half BAs. Gleaming hardwood floors, Living & Dining rooms, large Kitchen with Dining area; walks out to large deck. Upper level Master Suite w/Luxury Bath & walk-in Closet, 2 other Bedrooms & a Full Bath. Finished walk out lower level.
Ngoc Do & Associates 703-798-2899



Mason Neck **\$469,900**
Immaculate 5 BR, 3 BA home on Mason Neck on 1/2 Acre Lot with upgraded baths & new roof in '09. Gorgeous hwd floors. Master BR w/full BA, large living room, kitchen walks out to deck. LL with two more BRs, large upgraded BA & huge family room; walks out to patio. Harborview Membership included: \$5K Value!
Ngoc Do & Associates 703-798-2899

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Centreville \$839,000

Gorgeous Brick Colonial sited on 5+ acres off secluded cul-de-sac in Fairfax National Golf Course Community. Features include in-ground pool w/waterfall, a gourmet Kit w/ stunning Sunroom overlooking pool & deck, & spacious BRs including the over-sized MBA w/ luxurious MBA! LL offers fully finished Rec Room w/ wet bar, Exercise Room, Den/5th Bedroom and a full BA.



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Fairfax Station \$685,000

4 bdrms, 3 1/2 baths. Totally remodeled kitchen with granite, new cabinets & stainless steel appliances! Bay windows, skylights & MBR cathedral ceiling. Spacious rec rm with bar area & large storage rm. Raised hearth FP in family rm with French doors to deck. Wonderful pond & patio in private flat rear yard.



Lorton/Laurel Hill \$689,900

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Exceptional 5BR, 3.5BA, luxury home with many upgrades. Two master suites including one on the main level.
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Please contact Mary Ann Plonka at 703-503-1898 or maryann.plonka@longandfooster.com

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VIRGINIA RUN \$669,900

Gorgeous 4 BR/4BA home! Hardwood on most of main and upper levels. Bright, open floor plan. Eat-in kitchen with center island and granite countertops. Lovely screened porch and deck. Finished walkout basement with plenty of daylight. Wet bar, ballet area, too. Large fenced yard. Call Diane at 703-615-4626 and find out how you can become a part of this great community.



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Springfield \$420,000

Move-in Condition
Spacious & comfortable. Updated appliances, windows & deck. Wood laminate floors. MBR bath w/tub & shower. Gas fireplace, recessed lights. Adjacent to Cross County Trail. Near to Ft Belvoir EPG & Springfield Metrorail.
Call Joel @ 703-969-6442.

JOHN MOMM

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Springfield \$1950

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Burke Centre Townhouse \$285,000

Unique opportunity to own 3 level 3 Bedrm TH in sought after Burke Centre with hardwood floors main level, upper level w/w carpeting, Maytag kitchen appliances, remodeled baths, walkout liv rm to deck, fully fin w/o basement, close to Burke Centre pools, plenty of street parking, close to shopping, transportation, and main roads. Call or email me for price and details.



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Fairfax Station/English Hills \$1,049,900

English Countryside Brick Custom Cape Cod in great equestrian community on spectacular 5+ acres with inground pool & spa. Private yet close-in. 3BR, 3.5BA, 3 fin lvls, fine craftsmanship & detailing, spacious rooms, hdwd floors, custom garage, recent updates. 60' porch overlooking pool. What a Find!
See this property at www.GraingerTeam.com.



Judy McGuire

703-581-7679

Susana Vargas
571-217-2740



Woodbridge For Rent \$1,550 COMING SOON

Super convenient location!!! End-unit former model townhouse. 3 Bedrooms, 2 Master B. with own baths. kitchen island with breakfast bar. Large deck of dining room. Fireplace, walkout basement to large fenced backyard. Hardwood floors on main level. Please call agents with any inquiries.



Sheila Adams

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Fairfax Station \$850,000

Country Living, Close In
This lovely Colonial is sited on a wooded paradise, 6+ acres. 4 BRs, 3 1/2 Baths, Updated Kitchen w/Granite Counters, Center Island, Updated appliances, Huge Fam. Rm & Sun Rm w/wall to wall windows, Formal LR & DR, Brazilian Cherry Flooring on Main level, Stairs, Hall & MBR, Finished LL Level is fun filled and ready for entertaining. All this plus a Inground Pool & Hot Tub.
Sheila Adams 703-503-1895

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Reston \$525,000

Rarely Available in Reston
Well maintained 4 BR, 3 BA, 1-Car Gar split level on half acre lot in park-like setting. Vaulted ceiling in LR/DR & SGD to screened porch. Expansion provides huge Kit & MBR. Call Barbara at 703-473-1803.

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