

# Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ❖ Kingstowne ❖ Newington

# Spring in Springfield

**Trees are flourishing and flowers are blooming on Commerce Street as the season changes in Springfield.**

## Remembering Stan Parris

NEWS, PAGE 3

## Police Station's Officer of Quarter

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CALENDAR, PAGE 9 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 10 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 12

PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

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## NEWS



Children turned out on Saturday afternoon, March 27 on the ground of the Fairfax County Government Center for Jubilee Christian Center's annual Easter Eggstravaganza.

# Of Eggs and Egg Rolls

Jubilee Christian Center hosts annual Eggstravaganza for local children.

**O**n Saturday afternoon, March 27, children from around the area enjoyed games, face painting and, of course, Egg Rolling at Jubilee Christian Center's annual

Easter Eggstravaganza.

This year's event took place on the grounds of the Fairfax County Government Center. Prizes were raffled off and participants dined on Egg Rolls.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Daniel Girquis, 3, of Fairfax has a dinosaur painted on his face.**



**Ayanna Childs, 4, of Chantilly eyes the finishing line of the Easter Egg Roll.**

## COLLEGE NOTES

Drew University student **Bryan Case** of Springfield has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2009 semester. In order to qualify for the dean's list, students must earn a grade point average of 3.4 or above, which is equivalent to a B+ or better.

**Kristen Stryker** of Springfield, a first-year student, was placed on the deans' commendation list at Gettysburg College for the fall 2009 semester. Students with a quality point average of 3.33 or higher for a semester's work are placed on the deans' commendation list.

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## Rappina Called 'Every Day' Professional

### West Springfield officer honored.

BY STEPHANIE MARTINEZ  
THE CONNECTION

For many, April 20, 1999 will be remembered as the day when two high school students committed one of the deadliest school shootings in the United State's history. For Police Officer First Class Freddie Rappina, it's also the day that inspired him to be part of the law enforcement.

"I was sitting in my college dorm room working on a paper for Plato's 'Republic' when the news on TV cut to the Columbine shootings," said Rappina. "I would have to say that was the first day I thought about the responsibility of protecting other people and especially their children."

For West Springfield's Officer of the Quarter, this wasn't always his first choice. "Before that, I was focused on being a big cooperate attorney and making a lot of money," he said.

Rappina was honored by the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) for the West Springfield District for his contributions to the prevention of sexting, a combination of



FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE

**Police Officer 1st Class Freddie Rappina**

cell phone texting and inappropriate pictures. Additionally, he was recognized for representing the department at a panel on Internet Safety where he gave the audience a current state Fairfax County's youth and their cyber behaviors.

"Sexting is a problem, but I try to take a proactive approach to enhance students'

awareness in terms and examples they would understand of all issues that can affect their lives in negative ways, particularly with the Internet," said Rappina. "This includes everything from teachers asking me to make special appearances in their classrooms to a casual conversation with a student in the hallway."

As a School Resource Officer, Rappina is in charge of providing Robinson Secondary School's students and it's staff with the resources, knowledge and expertise to create a safe environment.

A Long Island, N.Y. native, Rappina attended Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina for bachelor's degree in political science and sociology. He also has a master's degree in criminal justice from the University of New Haven in Connecticut.

One of Rappina's notable cases include one in which a 22-year-old suspect was sexting with a student and her older sister. He was able to get a confession from the

suspect as well as the details. No other comments were made since the case is currently on trial.

The Officer of the Quarter is funded by the CAC of the West Springfield's Station, which also promotes it as a way to recognize the contributions of outstanding officers of the West Springfield District Station.

The officer's supervisors make the

nominations each quarter to the CAC Executive Committee, which makes the final selection. According to Phil Panzarella, chairman of the CAC Executive Committee, Rappina was recognized "for the diligence shown in these incidents and for the professional efforts he puts forth every day."

"It is always nice to be recognized," said Rappina. "This is my second time receiving this honor, last was in 2005. It shows that the community is appreciative of the work police officers do to help keep the community safe."

**"It shows that the community is appreciative of the work police officers do to help keep the community safe."**

— Police Officer 1st Class Freddie Rappina

## Admirers Say Parris Helped Shape Region

### Former congressman, 80, dies March 27.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

When Stanford E. Parris took his first job on Capitol Hill in 1958, it wasn't glamorous work.

He ran a mimeograph machine in the basement beneath the House of Representatives. The wages helped pay his law school tuition at The George Washington University.

Fourteen years later, Parris returned to the Capitol in a far more high profile position. He served as the U.S. Representative from Virginia's 8th District from 1973 to 1974 and 1981 to 1990.

The former Republican congressman died March 27 at the age of 80 in Mathews County, Va. He is survived by his wife Martie, three daughters and grandchildren.

**AS A CONGRESSMAN**, Parris represented a far larger geographic swath of Virginia

than his successor, U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8), currently does. In the 1980s, the 8th Congressional District included the City of Alexandria, the entire southern half of Fairfax County, part of Prince William County and the tip of Stafford County.

Responsible for such a large territory, Parris had his hand in a range of regional transportation and economic development projects.

He is partly responsible for the Torpedo Factory Art Center along the Alexandria waterfront and the "high occupancy vehicle" [HOV] lanes on Interstate 95. Parris was also on the founding board of directors at George Mason University.

"Stan was involved in almost every major thing in Northern Virginia," said U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10), who first got to know Parris when they both campaigned for congressional seats in 1980.

Together, Parris and Wolf worked to get



FILE PHOTO

**Stan Parris' career as a local elected official spanned from the 1960s to the 1980s.**

Dulles International Airport transferred from the federal government to a regional authority, which allowed the airport to advertise and modernize. Dulles had been losing business to Baltimore-Washington International Airport prior to the authority change.

"It was a great deal for regional economic development," said Wolf.

Former Fairfax County Supervisor Elaine McConnell (R-Springfield) said Parris also helped secure funding for and assisted with

the upstart of the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) commuter train.

"In 1983, I went to talk to him and he was the only politician I know who really moved on it and told me it could be done," said McConnell, who spent 20 years representing southern Fairfax County.

"I didn't have many supporters for VRE in 1983," she said.

**PRIOR TO SERVING** in Congress, Parris was also a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors from 1964 to 1967. He almost won a race for Fairfax County chairman.

The former congressman also served one term in the House of Delegates and was appointed Virginia's Secretary of the Commonwealth in 1978, between his two stints in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"Stan was Fairfax. He is the only person in Fairfax's history to serve in all three levels of government," said former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis (R-11), who was a Fairfax supervisor when Parris was in Congress.

Parris acted as a booster for the business community and embraced development, which resulted in the current vibrant economy, said Davis and others.

"He came around at a time when the county was beginning to develop. He was

SEE FORMER, PAGE 9

## Springfield House Fire

A fire at a single-family home in Springfield Sunday, March 28 has displaced three adults.

According to the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, units responded at approximately 2:15 a.m. to a house fire at 6805 Jerome St. Firefighters encountered heavy fire and smoke coming from the rear of the all-brick, rambler style home upon arrival. Firefighters conducted an interior fire attack and brought the fire under control in approximately 15 minutes. One of the occupants was treated at the scene but not transported to a medical facility. All three adult occupants escaped prior to firefighters arriving. Red Cross assistance was not necessary.

According to fire investigators, the fire was accidental. Improper disposal of smoking materials in a flowerpot on the rear deck caused the fire. Damage is estimated at \$75,000.

## Police Seek Help On Cold Case

Fairfax County Crime Solvers is still seeking the public's assistance identifying the person responsible for a homicide that occurred 21 years ago.

According to Fairfax County Police, 18-year-old Amy Baker was driving southbound on Interstate 95 near Backlick Road on Wednesday, March 29, 1989, at about 9 p.m., when her car experienced difficulties. Baker abandoned her blue 1970 Volkswagen Bug and walked up the exit ramp onto Backlick Road, toward the Exxon gas station.

Detectives believe that her attacker confronted her on Backlick Road and forced her into the woods near the top of the exit ramp, where she was sexually assaulted and strangled. Her body, which was found two days later, was partially buried in some leaves.

Detectives continue to investigate her death and would like to speak with anyone who may have been in the area at the time of the attack, or who may have knowledge of the incident.

In addition to the \$1,000 cash reward offered by Crime Solvers, a \$26,000 private reward is also being offered for information that leads to an arrest and indictment in this case. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 7

## NEWS

# Hospital's 'Dream Come True'

## Inova Fairfax Hospital opens pediatric surgery center.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

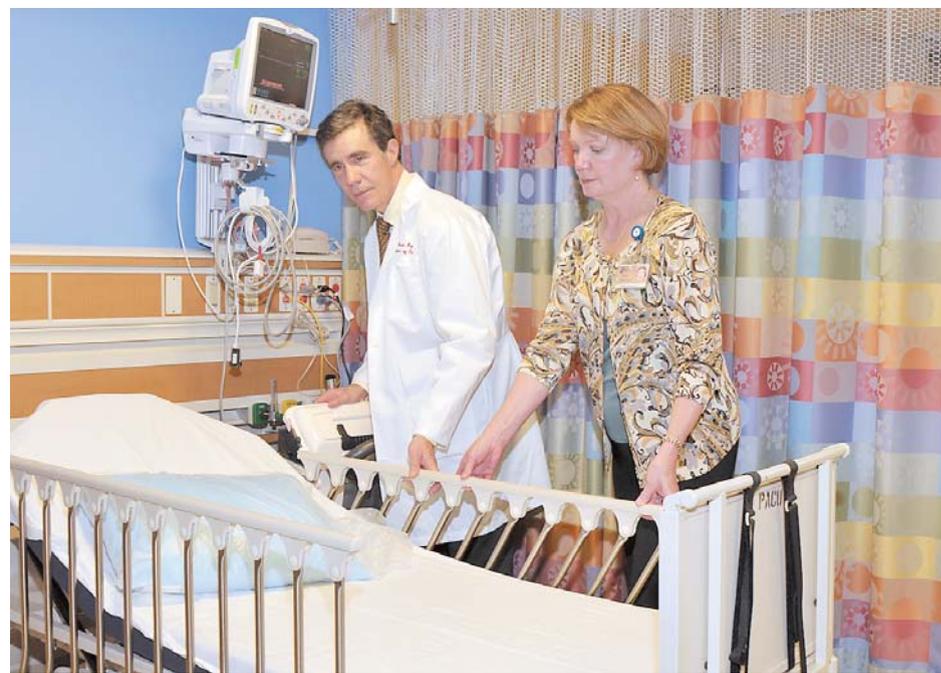
**S**urgery is a frightening prospect for a person of any age, but perhaps even more so for young children. A large, daunting hospital building gives way to long, intimidating hallways and the child is then taken from the parents and led off into the unknown.

The staff of Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children in Falls Church recognizes these problems and is leading the way in allaying fears with the opening the brand-new Pediatric Surgery Center. The center, which is the first of its kind in Northern Virginia, offers a child-friendly atmosphere that specializes in giving the best pediatric care possible while providing a comforting environment.

"This is something that the hospital has wanted for years," said Mary Urso, the center's nursing director. "No child wants to have surgery, but if they have to, we want them to have it here and be glad that they did."

**ACCORDING TO** Urso, plans for the \$3.3 million, dedicated surgery center have been in the works for more than three years. Urso said that originally, children having surgery at the hospital were being sent to the hospital's main operating room and would then be transferred to general recovery. This set up, she said, did not work for a number of reasons, most notably in pre-surgery preparations and post-surgery recovery.

Urso said that before surgery in the main unit, parents were not able to accompany their child to the operating room, and after surgery, were required to wait in a central waiting room. These logistical require-



DONATED PHOTOS

**Dr. Robert Mesrobian, pediatric anesthesiologist, and Dr. Allyson Askew, pediatric surgeon, check out the new equipment in the Pediatric Surgery Center.**

ments, Urso said, made the experience more frightening for the children as they were essentially going into the surgery alone and had to wait for parents afterwards. In addition, in post-surgery recovery, Urso said that many children are in pain and cry loudly, which disrupted the recovery room and became a nuisance for older patients who were in beds alongside the children.

"It really was not the ideal situation for children or adults," Urso said. "Children do not want to be alone before surgery, and when an adult wakes up from anesthesia after surgery, hearing is heightened and

waking up next to a screaming kid was bad."

So, after identifying the problems that the existing setup produced, Urso said that the hospital began a planning process to build

**"No child wants to have surgery, but if they have to, we want them to have it here and be glad that they did."**

— Mary Urso, nursing director

the surgery center. She said that the hospital created a building committee that identified the center's needs and then met with an architect who designed it. After nearly two years of planning, designing and construction, the center was completed.

According to Hospital Spokeswoman Jeanne Mayer, the surgery center is equipped with a slate of child-friendly rooms and features. A new pre-operation area was constructed in which Child Life Specialists will be available to comfort the child and family and offer information on exactly what will happen before, during and after the procedure. The center will also allow parents to walk with the child to the operating room and also has a surgical waiting room for parents in which they can receive continuous updates on their child.

In addition, the center has child-friendly operating rooms, procedure rooms and recovery rooms that keep the child isolated from the adult population and contain specially sized beds, tables and more. These rooms are also larger than a standard hospital room so that they can accommodate families and have child-friendly touches such as star and moons painted on the white panel above the beds. A centralized nurses' station was also constructed which allows for open communication among staff and



The waiting room at the center.

SEE PEDIATRIC, PAGE 5

# Pediatric Surgery Center

FROM PAGE 4

enables nurses to directly see all of the patients.

"We just want to make it less scary," Urso said. "Everything is child-sized and it eases concerns. Everything is bright and cheerful. It doesn't look like a hospital, except for the high-tech equipment."

Urso estimated that the new center would

handle about 15-20 patients a day, with the most common procedures performed being appendectomies, hernia surgeries and tonsillectomies. The center will have three dedicated pediatric surgeons, and according to pediatric anesthesiologist Dr. Robert Mesrobian, a team of 55 anesthesiologists, 13 of whom specialize in treating "at-risk" children who are undergoing more serious procedures. According to Mesrobian,

though the expertise was already there, the center will allow them to do their job even more efficiently and effectively than before.

"We can now put all of the children in one space dedicated to them and their families," said Mesrobian. "We already had the expertise, now it's all in one spot and it's much more efficient."

The center had its grand opening Thursday, March 25, but due to unforeseen delays with its computer systems, as of press

time, had not yet opened to the public. Urso said that the hope is for the center to open

to patients March 31, and that cases are already

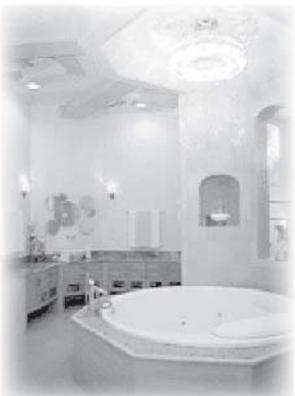
scheduled for that date. While Urso and other hospital employees are anxiously awaiting the official

opening so they can get to work, they are nonetheless basking in the satisfaction of the completion of a long-awaited project.

"This has been a dream of the hospital's for years," Urso said. "And it's finally here."

## More

Go to [www.inova.org/children](http://www.inova.org/children) for more information on the new pediatric surgery center.



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# Getting To Know ...

**Audrey Boobar, Kingstowne area artist.**

**Where did you grow up?** Homewood, Ill.  
**Family members.** Husband, Jeff Boobar.  
**Educational background.** Bachelors of fine arts from the University of Illinois in Champaign Urbana. I was first in my class of about 2,000 art students.

**PROFILE** **When did you first become interested in art?** In grammar school.

**How would you describe your artwork?** My children's art is bright and cheerful. My oil paintings are detailed, realism.

**What inspires you?** Nature, architecture, history, cartoons and looking at other artwork from modern to classical.



DONATED PHOTO

**Audrey Boobar is a member of the Kingstowne Area Artists Association. To learn more about the group, visit [www.kingstowneartists.com](http://www.kingstowneartists.com).**

**Who are your artistic influences?** For children's art, Walt Disney and Warner Bros. My oil paintings are inspired by Dutch masters like Rembrandt and Vermeer.

— MICHAEL O'CONNELL



**Asad Choudhry, Rawan Abdellatif, Savana Hadjipanteli, Alexa Orosch and Dorkhane Aryubi.**

## Students Raise \$2,000 for Haiti

Students in Tracy Foss' fifth grade class at Springfield Estates Elementary School planned, organized and hosted a bake sale for Haiti. The Student Council also conducted a coin drive. More than \$2,000 was raised by the two fund raisers.

### COLLEGE NOTES

**Derek Call** of Springfield, a junior at Gettysburg College, has been placed the deans' honor list for outstanding academic achievement in the fall 2009.

first-year student, was placed on the deans' commendation list at Gettysburg College for the fall 2009 semester. Students with a quality point average of 3.33 or higher for a semester's work are placed on the deans' commendation list.

**Kristen Stryker** of Springfield, a

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# NEWS

FROM PAGE 4

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## Arrest in Homicide

Manassas City Police arrested Caralee Cottle Monday, March 30 for the fatal shooting of an Annandale man in February.

According to Fairfax County Police, Cottle, 31, of the 9300 block of Signal Station Drive, Manassas, and was arrested and charged with the murder of 37-year-old Nathan Smiler of 8317 Little River Turnpike on Feb. 15. Police believe that Cottle and Smiler were acquaintances.

Officers were originally called to a residence in the 8300 block of Little River Turnpike on Feb. 15, around 10:30 p.m., for a report of a shot person. They found Smiler dead at the scene with head trauma from a gunshot.

## Armed Robbery in West Springfield

A Springfield-area Shell Gas Station was robbed Sunday, March 28.

According to Fairfax County Police, a man entered the station, located at 8315 Old Keene Mill Road, at

approximately 8:30 p.m. and approached a 38-year-old employee. Th suspect then displayed a handgun and demanded money. The victim handed over an undisclosed amount of cash and was not injured. The suspect fled south, on foot.

The suspect was described as black, between 5 feet 11 inches and 6 feet 2 inches tall. He weighed between 190 and 210 pounds. He was wearing a black coat, a black bandana on his head, and blue jeans.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

## NEWS BRIEFS

## NVCC Opens Summer Registration

On March 30, Registration began for the summer session at Northern Virginia Community College. Students may register 24 hours a day online at [www.nvcc.edu](http://www.nvcc.edu) or by telephone at 703-323-3770. For personal help, visit a campus in Alexandria, Annandale, Loudoun, Manassas, Springfield or Woodbridge. Students registering early can lock in their classes without paying tuition until April 30. Starting April 30, tuition is due by 5 p.m. on the next business day after enrolling.

Classes in the 12-week session begin May 17 and end Aug. 9. NOVA also offers two six-week sessions during the summer, starting May 17 and June 29.

For more information about NOVA, call 703-323-3000 or visit [www.nvcc.edu](http://www.nvcc.edu).

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*Good Friday* service "Seven Last Words from the Cross" 7:30 pm  
*Easter Sunday* Celebration "Christ the Victor" 8:00, 9:30, 11 am  
Community Easter Sunrise Service at the Springfield Golf & Country Club at 6:30 am

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Community of Faith Tabernacle... 703-455-4594  
Fellowship Baptist Church... 703-569-5151  
First Baptist Church-Hayfield... 703-971-7077  
First Baptist Church-Springfield... 703-451-1500  
Franconia Baptist Church... 703-971-4475  
South Run Baptist Church... 703-455-4521  
Westwood Baptist Church... 703-451-5120

### Bible

Immanuel Bible Church... 703-941-4124

### Catholic

St. Bernadette's Catholic Church... 703-451-8576

### Christian Science

First Church of Christ, Scientist...  
703-866-4325

### Church of Christ

Central Christian Church... 703-971-0277  
Springfield Church of Christ... 703-451-4011

### Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

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703-451-0631

### Disciples of Christ

Springfield Christian Church... 703-354-4994

### Episcopal

St. Christopher's Episcopal... 703-451-1088

### Evangelical Covenant

Community Covenant Church... 703-455-4150

### Jewish

Congregation Adat Reyim... 703-569-7577  
Ohev Yisrael Messianic Congregation...  
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### Jehovah's Witness

Springfield North Congregation... 703-971-2936

### Lutheran

Prince of Peace Lutheran... 703-451-5855  
St. John's Lutheran Church... 703-971-2210  
St. Marks Lutheran Church... 703-451-4331  
Immanuel Lutheran Church... 703-549-0155

### Methodist

Messiah United Methodist Church... 703-569-9862  
Springfield United Methodist... 703-451-2375  
St. John's United Methodist... 703-256-6655  
Sydenstricker United Methodist... 703-451-8223

### Non-Denominational

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New World Unity Church... 703-690-7925  
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### Presbyterian

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# Write Poetry in April

**A**pril is National Poetry Month according to the Academy of American Poets, and we invite our local poets to send submissions for us to print.

The National Poet Laureate serves as consultant to the Library of Congress and “seeks to raise the national consciousness to a greater appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry.”

Virginia also has a poet laureate, a position established by the General Assembly and appointed by the governor from nominees submitted by the Poetry Society of Virginia. The current poet laureate of Virginia is Claudia Emerson, [claudiaemerson.org](http://claudiaemerson.org).

Emerson won the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for her collection “Late Wife.” She is a professor of English and Poetry at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg.

But some residents are lucky enough to have local poetry as well.

On April 10, 2007, the Alexandria City Council named Mary McElveen as the city’s poet laureate for a three-year term. Her replacement for the next three years is set to be announced shortly.

Arlington sponsors poetry competitions, one open to all, one for Arlington public school students, culminating in the display of winning poems (all limited in length) on Northern Virginia Metro busses.

This is one service local government could expand even in these economic times; Fairfax

## Poem a Day for April

Go to [www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org) to sign up to receive a poem e-mailed daily.

## Moving Words

Launched in 1999 during National Poetry Month, Moving Words makes poetry a part of daily life for commuters in Northern Virginia and promotes the work of local writers. The poems of six local poets selected through an annual competition are displayed on Northern Virginia Metro buses and viewed by approximately 1.3 million Metro bus riders every month. The poems are exhibited in Metro buses that traverse Arlington County, Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax County and Fairfax City. Read the poems of the six winners and seven finalists at <http://www.arlingtonarts.org/cultural-affairs/moving-words/moving-words-2010.aspx>.

## Poetry Reading

Winners of the 2010 Poetry Competition are featured at IOTA Club & Cafe’s Second Sundays Poetry and Art Hang, on Sunday, April 11, at 8:15 p.m., at IOTA Club & Cafe 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. [www.iotaclubandcafe.com](http://www.iotaclubandcafe.com).

## For Arlington Students

Students in Arlington can enter the Moving Words Student Poetry Competition at [www.arlingtonarts.org/cultural-affairs/moving-words/student-moving-words-poetry-competition.aspx](http://www.arlingtonarts.org/cultural-affairs/moving-words/student-moving-words-poetry-competition.aspx). The deadline to submit poems for this school year is Friday, April 30.

Arlington Public Schools students in grades kindergarten through 12th are eligible to submit poems and 12 student poems will be selected for display in Northern Virginia buses from October 2010 through March 2011. See the Web site or contact Allison Gilbert at 703-228-6299 or [agilbert@arlington.k12.va.us](mailto:agilbert@arlington.k12.va.us)

and Arlington counties, the City of Fairfax, the towns of Herndon and Vienna could consider appointing their own poets laureate.

The Alexandria Poet Laureate will promote an appreciation of poetry as an art form, encourage creative writing and reading of all forms of literature and promote literacy through poetry.

Are you a poet? The Connection will print

poetry submitted by readers this spring and occasionally throughout the year. We welcome student poetry as well, please list the student’s age, grade and school on the submission.

Send poems to [springfield@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:springfield@connectionnewspapers.com).

— MARY KIMM

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## Connolly Failing His Own Test

To the Editor:

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) said he would vote for the health care reform bill only if it met these tests:

- ❖ Will it bring down premium costs for families and small businesses?
- ❖ Will it reduce the deficit?
- ❖ Will it protect their choice of plan and doctor?
- ❖ Will it improve access to care?
- ❖ Will it protect and improve Medicare?

It failed all those tests, but he voted for it anyway.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget office, Gerry Connolly’s health care plan will increase premiums by 11 to 13 percent on average, or \$2,100 a year for middle-class families.

According to an analysis by members of the House Budget Committee, it will increase the deficit by \$662 billion over the next 10 years.

The Associated Press has reported that companies are considering dropping prescription drug coverage for retirees, forcing them into a Medicare plan.

According to the Medicare Chief

Actuary, the Health Care Reform law will put 33 million people, many of them seniors, in danger of losing traditional Medicare.

It will also destroy the military’s TRICARE system, which is a disservice to our veterans, their families and those currently serving overseas.

There is no question that our health care system needs some reform.

**LETTERS** This is the only major segment of our economy where choices are not in the hands of the consumer. However, what we do not need is the health care bill that passed, which increases deficit spending, creates a whole new entitlement program, negatively impacts our job creators — small business — and results in government-run health care.

The people of America deserved an open and transparent process focused on bipartisan commonsense solutions to health care problems that lowers costs and offers greater access to affordable health care. We need a plan that fixes what is broken and keeps what is working and not a massive new government program.

Commonsense health care reform includes:

- ❖ Free-market solutions such as

health savings accounts and pooling by small businesses and cooperatives to allow all Americans access to affordable, private health care.

- ❖ Implementation of tort reform to reduce the presence of frivolous lawsuits that drive up the cost of insurance for medical practitioners.

- ❖ Eliminating restrictions on competition between health insurance companies in different states and expanding the portability of plans.

- ❖ Free-market-based insurance exchanges that individuals could access for coverage.

- ❖ Using technology to reduce the fraud and waste in the system.

- ❖ Increasing the length that children are able to stay on their parents plans.

- ❖ Options for those with pre-existing conditions to access health care.

Health care reform should not increase the federal deficit and the government should not be making health care decisions. Those choices are best left between patients and their doctors. As your representative to Congress, I would work tirelessly to repeal this bill and to bring about commonsense, real health care reform that returns health care

decisions and choices to the consumer.

**Supervisor Pat Herrity**  
R-Springfield

## Letter of Thanks

Dear U.S. Gerry Connolly:

We write to thank you for your courageous vote for healthcare reform in our nation. In a hard fought campaign for the Bill, truth and civility sometimes suffered. We are grateful for your willingness to step beyond the fray and to vote to extend healthcare to 32 million people in the United States while not changing existing law on federal funding of abortion. We affirm your courage and willingness to act for the needs of those who live without access to healthcare. We were heartened by the many faith voices who weighed in on this important issue, even though we did not all end up with the same position on the Bill itself. This vigorous dialogue demonstrated our shared core value for the sanctity of life.

**Sister Simone Campbell**  
SSS,  
NETWORK, A National  
Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
Washington, D.C.

# CALENDAR

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

## THURSDAY/APRIL 1

### Spot-LYTE Children's

**Performance: If You Give a Mouse a Cookie.** 1 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, Gallery W-16, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. \$5. 703-584-2921.

### Spot-LYTE Children's

**Performance: Mother Goose is Eaten by Werewolves.** 10 a.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, Gallery W-16, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. \$5. 703-584-2921.

### Bunny Tales.

10:45 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Bring a plush bunny for hopping fun stories. Age 13-23 months with Adult. 703-249-1520.

### Daytime Book Discussion Group.

12:15 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Marie Antoinette: the Journey by Antonia Fraser. Adults. 703-339-4610.

## FRIDAY/APRIL 2

### Spot-LYTE Children's

**Performance: If You Give a Mouse a Cookie.** 10 a.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, Gallery W-16, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. \$5. 703-584-2921.

### Spot-LYTE Children's

**Performance: Mother Goose is Eaten by Werewolves.** 1 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, Gallery W-16, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. \$5. 703-584-2921.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 3

### Spot-LYTE Children's

**Performance: If You Give a Mouse a Cookie.** 10 a.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, Gallery W-16, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. \$5. 703-584-2921.

### Spot-LYTE Children's

**Performance: Mother Goose is Eaten by Werewolves.** 1 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, Gallery W-16, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. \$5. 703-584-2921.

### One-on-One Computer Tutoring.

10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn to use a computer, navigate the Internet and work with common software applications. Call for an appointment. Adults. 703-249-1520.

### VITA Tax Assistance.

10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earned up to \$49K. Adults. 703-339-4610.

## MONDAY/APRIL 5

### Become a Friend of the Library.

7 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Hear ways to become involved the neighborhood library. 703-971-0010.

## TUESDAY/APRIL 6

### Teen Book Club.

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

Wednesday/April 7

### Needlework Group.

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

### One-on-One Genealogical

**Research Assistance.** 6 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Get started on genealogical research with the assistance of experienced volunteers. Adults. 703-249-1520.

### Practice Your English.

10:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

## THURSDAY/APRIL 8

### Latin Dance Nights.

10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.

### Afternoon Book Discussion Group.

1 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Call for title. Adults. 703-249-1520.

## FRIDAY/APRIL 9

### Rose Hill Elementary School

**presents "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves: the Musical."** 7 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. The fairy tale is brought to life with an eclectic score and is performed by kindergarten-sixth graders. Adults \$5, children \$3. Concessions available. jacquie.clark@gmail.com.

### Latin Dance Nights.

10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.

### Lunch Bunch.

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

## SATURDAY/APRIL 10

### Fairfax County Park Authority

**Watershed Cleanup.** 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Pick up everything from plastic bottles and bags to discarded mattresses,

rusting auto parts, old appliances, rubber tires and other debris illegally dumped in local waterways.

Participants are encouraged to wear boots and old clothes. Bring gloves. Trash bags will be provided. 703-569-0285 or

www.fergusonfoundation.org/.

### Snouts and Scouts.

11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Felix & Oscar's, 6671 Backlick Road, Springfield. Brownie Troop 579 will join Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League's Spring Celebration. Face painting, temporary tattoos, silent auction, games, raffles, Girl Scout cookies and bake sale. lauriezoock@gmail.com.

### Indoor Yard Sale & Vendor Fair.

7 a.m.-1 p.m. at Robert E. Lee High School, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. More than 20 yard sale participants offering a variety of items and 20 vendors/crafters with jewelry, sweets, beauty items, household, gifts and more. Free admission, refreshments available for purchase. Sponsored by the Lee Sports Boosters. 703-836-5566 ext. 101.

### Rose Hill Elementary School

**presents "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves: the Musical."** 7 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. The fairy tale is brought to life with an eclectic score and is performed by kindergarten-sixth graders. Adults \$5, children \$3. Concessions available. jacquie.clark@gmail.com.

### Latin Dance Nights.

10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.

### Davenport Community Multi-

**Vendor Charity Event.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Davenport Community Center, 7721 Painted Daisy, Springfield. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Susan G. Koman Cancer Foundation. Jewelry, handbags, food and more. 703-866-7620.

### One-on-One Computer Tutoring.

10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn to use a computer, navigate the Internet and work with common software applications. Call for an appointment. Adults. 703-249-1520.

### Friends of the Library Book Sale.

10 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Used book sale. 703-339-4610.

### VITA Tax Assistance.

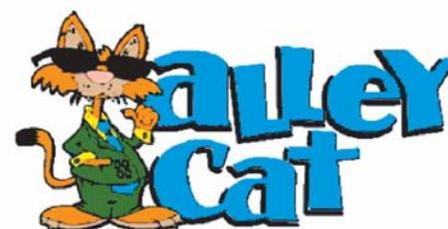
10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earned up to \$49K. Adults. 703-339-4610.

## SUNDAY/APRIL 11

### Soyfoods Cooking Class.

10 a.m. 9302 Hallston Court, Fairfax Station. Tofu, tempeh, miso, soy milk and more. \$50. 703-643-2713.

# GRAND OPENING!



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# Former Congressman Dies

FROM PAGE 3

very important in the formation and making of Fairfax County as we know it today," said Davis.

Parris was also one of the forebears of the modern Republican Party in Virginia. Virginia, including Fairfax County, was dominated by southern Democrats until the late 1970s.

He was the only Republican on the Fairfax County Board and one of nine Republicans in the 100-member House of Delegates.

"He and Jack Herrity, they were part of a small group that really started the Republican Party in Fairfax in the 1960s and 1970s. There weren't really that many Republicans in Fairfax back then," said

Wolf.

The former congressman also had a series of spirited political campaigns. Mount Vernon resident and former U.S. Rep. Herbert Harris (D-8) ousted Parris in 1974 after Parris had served just one term. It was the election directly after the Watergate scandal broke, which several people said gave Democrats an inherent advantage.

"I think he worked hard on what he believed but many of the things he believed I was opposed to," said Harris.

But Parris faced Harris in two more elections, beating the Democrat in 1980. "The Parris-Harris debates, they were like the Lincoln-Douglas debates," said Wolf of the 1980 campaign.

# Breaking Down Walls in a 'Man's Game'

Passion for football helps Springfield woman attain goal of coaching a team.

BY REED S. ALBERS  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hen news broke that Coolidge High School in Washington, D.C., had hired a woman to coach its football team, the announcement didn't faze Stevie Bridgwaters-Brown, a 47-year-old mother of two who has been a head coach for Springfield Youth Club for four years.

"I love the game, and being a coach gave me an opportunity to be with my boys," the West Springfield resident said.

While most women might be intimidated by trying to break into a "man's game," Coach Brown, as she prefers to be called, never wavered from achieving her goal to be a football coach.

With encouragement from her husband, Rick Brown, she put her name on the list for a head coaching position in 2006 after working as an assistant coach for two years.

"I had been preparing myself to be a head coach," she said. "I went to clinics, was up to date on all the rules in Fairfax County and got myself psyched up. I even had male coaches who wanted to coach with me."

Despite previous experience as an assistant coach, Bridgwaters-Brown said her application was overlooked.

"I was one of the first to turn in my coaching forms," she said. "But I was listed as seventh out of eighth in line to get a team. I couldn't understand it."

In 2006, Bridgwaters-Brown attended the SYC's combine day, where future coaches can evaluate players for the upcoming SYC draft, but wasn't awarded a team.

"It really upset me that I was that low on the list, below people who had never coached football before" she said. "But I had to stick with it."

Her perseverance paid off. One of the coaches backed out on his team before the SYC draft, thrusting Bridgwaters-Brown to the helm of her first head coaching job.

"I got a team in another weight class," she said. "It wasn't the weight I watched at the combine."

With little knowledge of the players in her new weight class, Bridgwaters-Brown drafted a team with the help of other male coaches. By searching last names, she found the siblings of players she previously coached.

While Bridgwaters-Brown might have received her team by chance, their 5-2 record was no fluke.

Since then, she has been on the sidelines calling the plays and even had the opportunity to coach her own son Trent.



**Stevie Bridgwaters-Brown has been a head coach for Springfield Youth Club boys' football for four years and is the only female head football coach in the SYC.**

"People don't believe me when I say my mom is a coach," Trent Brown said. "I have to tell it to them a couple of times."

Trent Brown said his mom's coaching style is fair and similar to his everyday life.

"It's a lot like home," he joked. "She's yelling at me and getting on me."

Bridgwaters-Brown said she hasn't encountered sexism from her players or other coaches, but the occasional referee does look past her.

"Sometimes the referee will come up to me and ask, 'Where's the head coach?'" she said. "I'll have to explain, 'It's me.'"

Only one family has ever requested that their son not be on her team, she said. SYC Deputy Commissioner of Football Pat Eckert said Bridgwaters-Brown is one of the youth program's most popular coaches.

"We never have a problem with her parents," he said. "Sometimes parents complain about the coach. With her, it's never a problem. A lot of her parents want to be on her team again, but they just can't."

Bridgwaters-Brown is also the only female head football coach in the Springfield Youth Club.

Eckert said her popularity doesn't just come from her ability to win games, but also her level-headed coaching style.

**"I've never had a problem with the kids showing me respect."**

— Stevie Bridgwaters-Brown

"She understands that they're just kids," he said. "She doesn't try to turn it into the NFL."

Bridgwaters-Brown's journey to become a SYC football coach is only half of her football story.

Her pigskin beginnings started in a place where American Football doesn't

have much of a following to this day: England.

Her father, Oliver Bridgwaters, served in the U.S. Air Force and played on the Air Force base's football team.

"We lived in England and it was the late '60s," she said. "The armed forces used to have full contact competition then, and my dad played and coached on the team."

The game enthralled Bridgwaters-Brown and sparked a curiosity in her to learn it from her dad.

"I was my dad's shadow," she said. "Anything he did, I tried to do. I'd even look at his playbook."

Bridgwaters-Brown's father encouraged her interest in the sport, and while other children played "Cowboys and Indians," Bridgwaters-Brown received a gridiron education.

"He explained the X's and O's to me," she said. "As complex as the game is, it made sense to me. If you keep it simple, it's easy to understand."

When her family moved from England to California, Bridgwaters-Brown decided to try out for her junior high school's team.

"I wanted to try out for the team," she said. "I went to the practices every day and the head coach was kind to me, but my mom didn't want me to try out."

Instead of football, Bridgwaters-Brown played fast pitch softball, field hockey and joined the cheerleading squad, but her passion for football never died.

"It was funny, I'd be on the sideline cheering, but I would stop to watch the game and would explain what was happening to the gals," she said.

Now a four-year coaching veteran, Bridgwaters-Brown is looking forward to a new challenge in the fall — coaching 12-year-olds and 13-year-olds.

The new age group consists of players who will one day be playing for local high schools such as South County, West Springfield, Lake Braddock and Robinson.

Brown admits the new age group might present some challenges, but it's nothing she hasn't conquered before.

"I've never had a problem with the kids showing me respect," she said.

While the new weight class, featuring larger and more intense competition, is a change from the ankle-biter teams she's coached in the past, her goal for the players remains the same.

"My goal is to get them to come back for next year," she said. "So far, they've all been coming back."

COURTESY PHOTO

# Schauder, Bragg Team Up for Spartans

**Attack duo helps lead West Springfield over Madison, contributes to team's offense.**

BY REED S. ALBERS  
THE CONNECTION

**W**est Springfield lacrosse player Eric Schauder has two sets of plays committed to memory.

He has ones West Springfield head lacrosse coach Scott Settar has drawn up for the team and ones he developed with longtime attack partner Hunter Bragg at the youth level.

"In eighth grade, we used to have a play we called 'taco,'" Schauder said. "We'd make up plays with funny names. We still try them, but we don't call it taco anymore."

It's not clear if "play taco" has been used in a West Springfield game, but the strong chemistry between Bragg and Schauder was evident when the team defeated Madison 9-4 on March 29.

The longtime friends provided a burst of offense for the Spartans. Bragg netted three goals. Schauder added one goal and assisted on two of Bragg's marks.

"We work together well just from playing together for so long," Bragg said. "I just know what he's going to do."

The senior duo's play is indicative of two players whose games work in cohesion. When defenders pressure Schauder behind the net, Bragg is Schauder's first look to pass the ball.

"I come up from behind the goal and I just always know Bragg is going to be there," Schauder said. "His stick will be ready to shoot. When in doubt, I just get it to him."

This type of offensive chemistry has al-



PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

**The Spartans have a team meeting after their victory over Madison. West Springfield has outscored opponents 57-11 through four games this season.**

lowed the Spartans to open their season with a roar.

After the spring break tournament opener against Madison, the Spartans record stands at 4-0. What is most impressive is their sizable goal differential.

The Spartans have scored 57 goals in four games, an average of 14.25 goals scored a game. On defense, the Spartans have been just as dominating, allowing only 11 goals so far this season.

"It's all chemistry," Settar said. "The kids have been playing together for four-plus years. Our first midfield line was all together last year. Our starting attack was all together last year. They still have that chem-

istry from 18 games last year."

Where some teams might rely on one or two players to help generate offense early in the season, Settar said his team has avoided that trap.

"We've started off the season in mid-season form as far as our offense goes," he said. "Nobody is selfish on offense. Everyone can contribute."

Despite a quick start to the season, Settar is convinced that the team still has room for improvement. "We have to start winning the turnover battles," he said. "But every day we see something new we need to work on. In no way are we ready to go to a region championship right now."

**"We work together well just from playing for so long."**

— Hunter Bragg

## 5 Qs With West Springfield Lacrosse Goalie Kevin Young

**Q: What do you do to keep focused when your team is spending most of the game on offense?**

A: I just like to jump around a little bit. Or every time there is a goal, the whole defense comes together and talks about it.

**Q: What sort of music are you listening to before games?**

A: Just some rap or whatever is on the iPod. I just press the play button and hope that it's fast.

**Q: How did you become a goaltender in lacrosse?**

A: In second grade, I started playing lacrosse. Back then, you had to play every position. I got in net and got hit a few times as was like "I like this a lot." Plus, I didn't like running.

**Q: Every few years, a goaltender is hurt during a lacrosse game from an attackers' shot. Do you worry that you're not wearing enough padding?**

A: No. My mom thinks so, but I don't worry about it. They do have thigh pads, but it restricts movement. I just use ice and Motrin.

**Q: Have any pre-game superstitions?**

A: I always touch the top of the cross bar and then look up to the sky at my grandfather and just say "come on, help me out in this game."



Kevin Young

REED S. ALBERS

## Bruins Softball Finds Their Swing

A 1-3 start to the Lake Braddock softball season hasn't fazed head coach George Rumore or changed the way he is approaching upcoming games.

With a spring break's worth of time to think about where his starting nine girls should play, Rumore is more concerned about building team chemistry than cranking out early wins over non-district opponents.

"We're a very young team," he said. "We want to work on our chemistry. We have been playing as many girls as possible so we can try and build that chemistry."

### WEEK IN SPORTS

A glimpse of that team chemistry came together on March 25 during the Bruins 10-1 victory over West Springfield. Rumore credited sophomore pitcher Anna Delaney and her seven strikeouts as the key to the game.

"We played well and we got good pitching from [Delaney]," he said. "And it was an important game because it was a Patriot District game."

The Bruins followed their victory over West Springfield with two losses during a spring break tournament at Madison to Hylton (8-1) and Centreville (7-3) on March 27.

"We're just getting our bats going," Rumore said. "I think we stranded nine runners in the Centreville game. But we have time to work on everything."

The Bruins next game is at home on April 7, at 6:30 p.m., against South County.

## Senior Softball Registration

Northern Virginia Senior Softball ([www.nvss.org](http://www.nvss.org)) seeks players, men 50 and older and women 40 and older, for fun, fitness, and fellowship.

Participants will play two slow-pitch seven-inning softball games Tuesday and Thursday mornings, April 13-Aug. 12, on Fairfax County fields.

NVSS fields 26 teams, average age 65, organized into three skill-level Conferences.

Players are assigned to a team at their skill level by skill assessment, not a try-out. Eleven play defense. Everyone present bats.

NVSS runs an Indoor Conditioning Program until April 8.

Those interested in player should contact Dave Scheele at 703-524-5576.

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Join the team of professionals at a progressive eye care practice in Burke, VA. Position includes: preliminary testing, working closely with the Doctors and patients and general administrative tasks. Training is available. Saturdays will be required. Benefits are available. Pls fax your resume to 703-451-9291 or email it to [business@virginiaeyecare.com](mailto:business@virginiaeyecare.com).

## Hair Stylists



Salon and Spa in Fairfax seeking experienced Stylists with following. Great commission or booth rental. Friendly atmosphere and great environment. Call Kim: 703-591-1131 or 703-868-1193

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Non-profit serving the needs of individuals with mental illness and their families is seeking a F/T Program Director to coordinate educational and support programs in the No Va area. The position requires leadership, people and computer skills. Must have own car and ability to work from home. Please send letter, resume and three references to [naminorthernva@gmail.com](mailto:naminorthernva@gmail.com).

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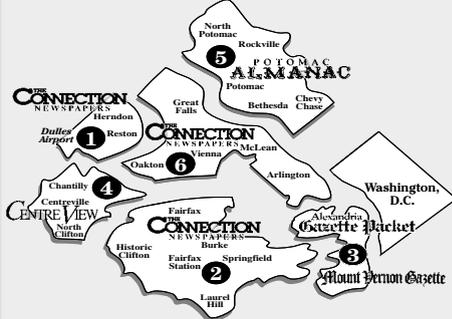
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21 Announcements

**ABC LICENSE**  
Pizzacoli, Inc trading as Angelicos La Pizzeria, 10869 Fairfax Blvd, Fairfax, VA 22030. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Damla Mehtap Kamis, president

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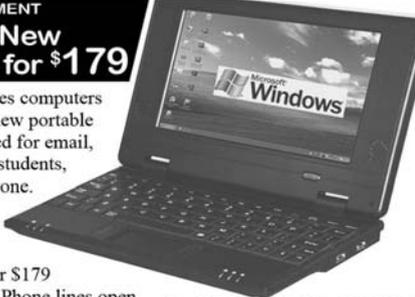
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21 Announcements

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DONATED PHOTO

The Marine Corps Marathon and Sodexo presented Lynbrook Elementary students that took part in the 2009 Healthy Kids Fun Run with the 2009 Healthy School Award.

Marine Corps Fun Run and Healthy Living

The Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) and sponsor Sodexo kicked off the expansion of its Healthy School program during the presentation of the 2009 Healthy School Award at Lynbrook Elementary School in Springfield. The program aims to encourage students to make healthy, active lifestyle choices and to participate in the annual Healthy Kids Fun Run, which takes place each October during MCM Weekend. Each year, The Healthy School Award has

been presented to the top three schools with largest number of student participants in the Healthy Kids Fun Run. The 2009 awards were presented to Lynbrook and Eagle View Elementary of Fairfax and George Mason Elementary of Alexandria. In the future, the \$1,000 awards will be presented to the top five teams participating. This year's fun run is Oct. 30 in Arlington and online registration begins May 5 at [www.marinemarathon.com](http://www.marinemarathon.com).



Jason, Stacey, Patrick and Grace are in a scene re-enacting when the Roosevelt children snuck a pet pony up into the bedrooms to visit the sick brother.

History Comes Alive for Local Students

Kindergarten students at Springfield Estates Elementary School participated in the First Kid for a Day program sponsored by the White House Historical Association.

The students learned about life in the White House and about the children of the presidents. They participated in four different scenarios with the coordinator.

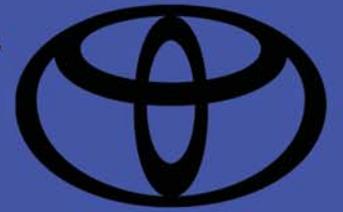
COLLEGE NOTES

**Alyssa M Roman**, a senior majoring in early childhood education from Springfield, has been named to the president's list for the fall 2009 term

at Georgia Southern University. To be eligible for the president's list, a student must have at least a 4.0 grade point average.

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