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CONNECTION
Clifton ❖ Lorton ❖ Lorton Valley ❖ Crosspointe

First Pitch

SPORTS, PAGE 12

Joe Ray of the Cubs throw a pitch during one of the opening day games of the South County Little League.

Trail Improvements Underway

NEWS, PAGE 3

Feedback on County Budget

NEWS, PAGE 3

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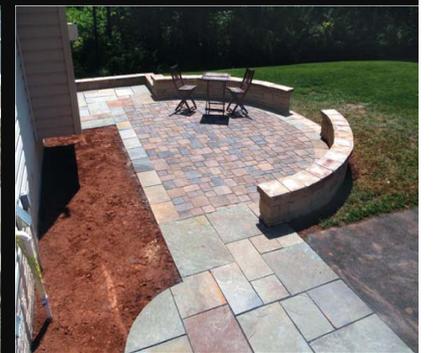
PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION SPORTS, PAGE 12 ❖ CALENDAR, PAGE 7 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 16



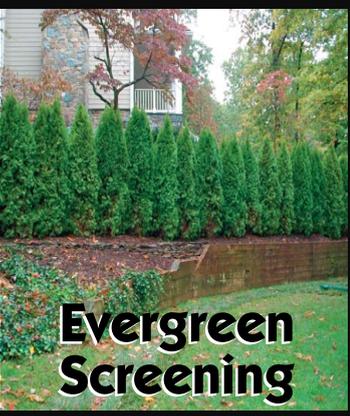
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Building for the Future

Sept. 30 target date for completion of Meadowood's trail improvements.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Mason Neck's Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area has been on a mission to improve its trail offerings and expand its user base for nearly a year now, and there is finally a light at the end of the tunnel.

Operated by the federal government's Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Meadowood is currently in the process of refurbishing existing trails and adding new ones for the area's hikers, bikers and horse riders.

"They're building for the future as well as the present."

— Gary Knipling, Friends of Meadowood member

Equipped with stimulus money and a host of volunteers, the BLM announced that the work will be completed by Sept. 30.

"The main activity we have going on right now is using stimulus money to rebuild our trail system," said BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner Jeff McCusker. "At the end of this project, we will have really improved the trails we have here to better serve the public."

According to McCusker, plans to improve the trail system began when BLM took control of the area eight years ago. Many of

SEE TRAILS, PAGE 9



DONATED PHOTO

Volunteers work on one of the new trails at Meadowood.

Citizens Sound Off on Schools, Parks and Taxes

Supervisors listen to residents' advice on Fairfax's budget for next year.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors conducted three days of public hearings on the locality's 2011 budget and spending April 6, 7 and 8. More than 300 people signed up to speak about cuts to county programs and potential tax and fee increases for the next fiscal year, which starts July 1.

The supervisors must close a projected financial shortfall of \$257.2 million in Fairfax's \$3.3 billion general fund next year. They are scheduled to formally adopt the county's 2011 budget on April 27.

To fill the funding gap, Fairfax County executive Anthony Griffin proposed raising the real estate property tax rate, though to a level where most homeowners would actually be paying about \$50 less in property taxes than they did last year. Real estate property values in Fairfax continued to fall in 2010, which means that the local real estate property tax rate could be raised without homeowners having to pay higher taxes.

Under Griffin's proposal, the Fairfax County real estate property tax rate would

go from \$1.04 to \$1.09 per \$100 of assessed value. The supervisors have the option of raising the tax rate as high as \$1.12 per \$100 of assessed value, though any increase over \$1.09 would result in a higher tax bill for the average Fairfax homeowner in 2011.

In addition to raising the tax rate, supervisors will also consider three new annual fees. The Fairfax County board may raise the average citizens sewage bill by \$60, charge a vehicle registration fee that would cost most people \$33 per car, and add a \$2 courthouse fee for people involved in a civil lawsuit.

Griffin has recommended the new fees as an alternative way of closing the county budget gap that would not add to the tax burden of homeowners. The money raised would help pay for services like Fairfax County Public Schools, which accounts for 53 percent of the county's overall budget annually.

But even if the supervisors vote to implement a higher real estate tax rate and the new fees, Fairfax will still have to make many cuts to services like the Fairfax Connector bus, public libraries, community policing and drop-in centers for people with mental illness.



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

Karen Cogan, Woodson High School Athletic Boosters member and Fairfax resident

The Fairfax County School Board would also have to consider measures like increasing the county's average public school class size.

The following is what some residents had to say about changes to the Fairfax County Budget next year:

Chief Judge Dennis Smith objected to a proposal to reduce the Fairfax County Circuit Court's law clerk staff by one third next year.

Currently, each of the 15 judges has their own law clerk but Fairfax's Clerk of Court John Frye had recommended cutting five clerk positions and making the members of the bench share. The reduction would result in a savings of \$250,000, according to county budget documents.

Smith said reducing the number of law clerks at the local court would result in fewer trial slots, since judges would have to spend more time reviewing and preparing documents than presiding over cases.

The judge said that 86 percent of civil cases that come to the Fairfax County Circuit Court now are heard within one year. But if the law clerk positions are eliminated, residents involved in most civil cases will be waiting for approximately 18 months to two years for a trial date.

"I don't believe any other court in the region, with the exception of Loudoun County, is proposing to cut law clerks and Loudoun got rid of that one position a few years ago," said Smith.

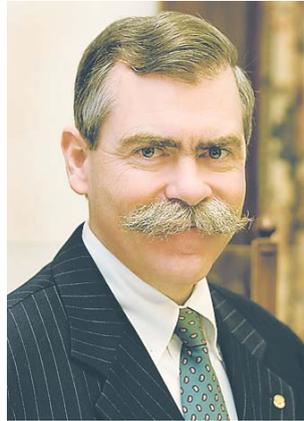
As a member of the community action advisory board, Paul Clark helps oversee the Fairfax area "safety net" for low-income

SEE SPEAKING OUT, PAGE 16

E. Hunt Burke New Chair At Burke & Herbert Bank

E. Hunt Burke, chief executive officer of the Burke & Herbert Bank & Trust Company, has been elected chairman of the board effective April 1.

Burke previously served as president and was named chief executive officer of the bank in July 2009. He succeeds Charles K. Collum, who served as chairman since 2002. As part of the executive leadership transition, W. Scott McSween joined the Bank in July 2009 as president and chief operating officer.



E. Hunt Burke

The fifth generation of his family to lead the 158-year-old Bank, Burke has worked at the Bank in a variety of roles since the age of 13 and then as a full-time staff member for 30 years.

"I am honored to assume the role of chairman of Burke & Herbert Bank," said Burke. "This is an exciting time for our Bank. We have produced record levels of growth and earnings for two consecutive years, amid challenging times for the banking industry and the economy in general. We now move forward with the next exciting chapter in our story. Our near-term future includes new and enhanced banking products and services, improved use of technology, and new branches in more Northern Virginia communities to offer even greater convenience for our customers."

Clark Honored at W&L

Michelle Clark of Clifton, a junior at Washington and Lee University, was recognized at the Celebrating Student Success (CSS) monthly reception on Wednesday, April 7.

A business administration major at W&L, Clark also has studied in China. She serves on the Virginia Foundation of Independent Colleges Career15 Student Advisory Council, the Career Services Student Project Team and the Freshman Orientation Committee.



Michelle Clark

Clark, as a recipient of the Holleman Fellowship, has worked in the Dominican Republic as an Orphanage Outreach intern. As the service chair of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, she has coordinated five major philanthropy events per year that have raised more than \$5,000 to support court-appointed special advocates (CASA). She chairs a committee for the Rockbridge County Model United Nations, and at local elementary schools, she has tutored students in math and helped with a literacy campaign.

Clark, a graduate of Centreville High School, hosts a weekly show about alternative rock on WLUR, W&L's radio station. She has been a work-study student in the Alumni Affairs Office and now works in the President's Office. Clark is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Michael Clark of Clifton.

Success Started Early

Clifton man has been developing businesses since he was a boy with a paper route.

BY JOHN BYRD
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County native David Foster, 46, has always been enterprising. As a boy, he expanded a thriving paper route by hitching a trailer to his moped. Chatting with homeowners while collecting receipts led to a parallel lawn care business. Soon, the trailer carried newspapers and weed whackers.

Then people on the route were asking for Foster's help at tasks he was really passionate about: home repair and construction.

By his junior year at Lake Braddock Secondary School, the 16-year-old had signed on for the county's groundbreaking FATE Program (Foundation for Applied Technical Education). School guidance counselors tried to nudge him away from too much "vo-tech"

— his father, Bob Foster, is after all a Harvard MBA. But the boy growing up in West Springfield and Burke knew he had a knack for the building business, and he was eager to get started.

Foster's passion bloomed when the newly enrolled college freshman applied for and received his Class

A Virginia state contractor's license. In short order, he was juggling business ownership responsibilities with a full academic load. Though not yet old enough to buy a beer, he was employing five full-time workers and executing remodeling contracts in excess of \$100,000. Foster attended NVCC Construction Management program while launching his remodeling business.

"Give people more than they expect," said Foster. "I find this sends a message that you can be trusted even ... even when you're just a kid, that you're committed to your client's long term satisfaction."

Foster, who now lives in Clifton, has often been cited as a residential remodeling industry leader, elected to Remodeling Magazine's Big 50 Hall of Fame while still in his 30s. His 27-year-old Lorton-based residential construction business, Foster Remodeling Solutions, has a loyal and growing clientele — even in

the slow times.

"Out-performance" has always been his mantra. Opening a dealer showroom so as to pass on dealer discounts helped the firm's business development



David Foster

"Give people more than they expect."

— David Foster

SEE FOSTER, PAGE 5



Happy Birthday to Town of Clifton

Residents gathered in the town park, under sunny springtime skies, Saturday afternoon, April 10, to celebrate the Town of Clifton's birthday with cake and colorful balloons at the gazebo. Dignitaries included Sen. George Barker (D-39) and Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield).

Foster

FROM PAGE 4

process. On premise, he provides CADD (computer-aided design) systems and staff architects to help people research ideas. And then, there's the handyman and home maintenance practice — a specialty niche many in the industry have tried, and abandoned.

Last fall, Foster launched www.DIYEstimator.com, an advanced online remodeling service. Like many of Foster's brainchildren, the Web portal is both a harbinger of new market possibility, and user-friendly.

DIY visitors log onto the site, enter a target room's square footage and spatial configuration, then choose finish work preferences.

The site provides clear visuals and line-item costs, and visitors can revise to their heart's content. Once choices are submitted, the homeowner receives a detailed work order; a company representative follows up by phone within 24 hours.

"The market is always looking for something better," Foster contends, "so it's important to take the lead — even when there are lots of steps, and lots of unknowns."

Foster experimented with his Web portal for five years before launching it last spring.

"We had the architecture worked-out, but weren't satisfied with online speeds. Naturally, we had to evaluate the program with all types of computers and servers. The important thing is to get it right."

Talent cultivation being the essential job of leadership, Foster also attests to an abiding faith in the importance of continued skills development.

"That's one of the reasons I chaired the FATE program, and still serve on the board," he said. "A worker's mastery of their own skills is my best assurance that our quality requirements will be delivered." Foster's two children attend Robinson Secondary School.

Several years ago Foster developed a protocol for testing entry-level carpentry skills. To demonstrate mastery of variety of construction disciplines, prospective new hires were asked to build a scaled, 10-by-8-foot playhouse from scratch.

The pay off: the company gained a realistic picture of a candidate's field strengths in a dozen areas. The playhouses were donated to local churches and pre-schools.

"It's a model that creates lots of winners," Foster said.

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From left, three Vaudevillians Jerry Hyland (Kevin Place of Arlington), George Lewis (Art Kullatti of Reston) and May Daniels (Nicole Boyd of Fairfax) decided to head for Hollywood in a scene from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology's production of 'Once in a Lifetime.'

TJ Theater Performs 'Once in a Lifetime'

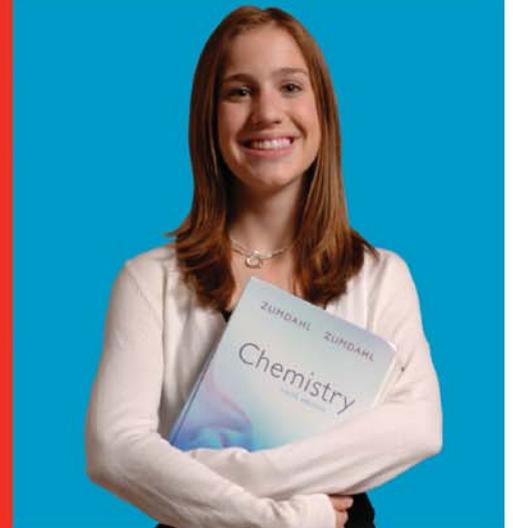
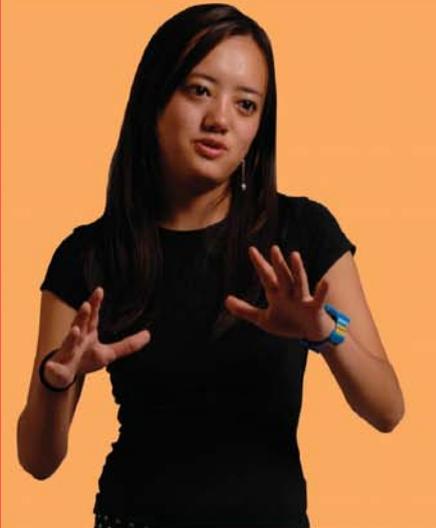
Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology proudly presents the Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman comedy "Once in a Lifetime" this weekend. Performances will be Friday and Saturday, April 16 and 17, at 7 p.m.

Thomas Jefferson is located at 6560 Braddock Road, near the intersection of Braddock Road and Little River Turnpike,

in Alexandria. Tickets will be on sale at the door.

Set in 1927 soon after the success of the first talking picture, "Once in a Lifetime" tells the story of three vaudeville actors who talk their way into big jobs in Hollywood. They present themselves as elocution experts to train actors as they transition from silent films to talkies and take hilarious advantage of the situation.

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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 15

- Latin Dance Nights.** 10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.
- Earth Day: Birthday!** 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Earth Day stories, songs and activities. Age 2-5 with Adult. 703-249-1520.
- Let's Go to the Library.** 10:30 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Stories about libraries and a tour. Age 3-5 with and adult. 703-339-7385.
- Nature Detectives: Amphibians.** 10 a.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Stories, activities and a craft. \$6 per child. Register at 703-768-2525.

FRIDAY/APRIL 16

- St. Bernadette School Art Show.** 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at St. Bernadette School, 7602 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. The centerpiece of the exhibit is a life-sized paper mache tree made by the art teacher and parents and filled with students' origami projects. 703-451-8696.
- Latin Dance Nights.** 10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.
- The First Night Hike of The Spring.** 7:30 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. For hikers 7 and older. Learn about the night life of the lake and shores. Adults should bring a flashlight. \$5 adult, \$3 child. Reservations required at 703-569-0285.
- Ponderings: Pond Life.** 4:30 p.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. For ages 6-10. \$4 per child. Reserve at 703-451-9588.

SATURDAY/APRIL 17

- Latin Dance Nights.** 10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.
- 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.
- Tickle Tales to Rattle Your Funny Bone!** 10:30 a.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Silly stories from storyteller Gary Lloyd to chase away April showers. 703-971-0010.
- PAWS to Read.** 11 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Read with Chance, a trained reading therapy dog, for a ten-minute session. Call to register. Call to reserve. 703-339-7385.
- Birding and Bagels.** 8-11 a.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Join a naturalist on a hike to search for warblers, thrushes and waterfowl. Enjoy a continental breakfast at the Visitor Center. Bring binoculars and field guides. \$8 per person. Reservations required at 703-768-2525.
- Lake Accotink Wildflower Walk.** 10 a.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Search for wildflowers in bloom with a naturalist. Register at 703-451-9588.

SUNDAY/APRIL 18

- The Clifton Lions Club Pancake Breakfast.** 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Clifton Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 12748 Richards

Lane, Clifton. 703-830-3175 or Cliftonpc.org.

MONDAY/APRIL 19

- Latin Dance Nights.** 10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.
- Read to the Dog.** 3:30 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Call or sign up online for a 15-minute session. Age 6-12. 703-971-0010.
- Nature Quest: Snakes.** 4:30 p.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. For ages 3-6. See snakes specimens up close before taking a woodland walk into their habitat. \$4 per child. Reserve at 703-451-9588.

TUESDAY/APRIL 20

- Open Mic w/Bob Gaynor of The Roadducks.** 8 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940.
- Mother-Daughter Book Group.** 7 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Call for the title. Age 9-11 with adult. 703-971-0010.
- April Showers.** 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Rainy day stories and activities. Age 13 to 23 months with adult. 703-339-4610.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 21

- Assemblage 23, Angel Theory, Ego Likeness, DJ Loss Of Signal.** All ages. Doors open at 8 p.m. show at 8:15 p.m., at Jaxx 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940. \$15 advance; \$20 at door.
- Open Irish Song Session.** 8:30 p.m. at Hard Times Cafe, 6362 Springfield Plaza, Springfield. Open to anyone who would like to sing or listen to Irish songs. 703-913-5600.
- Needlework Group.** 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Bring a project to work on in the company of other needlecrafters. Adults. 703-249-1520.
- Mother-Daughter Book Club.** 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Book club for girls. Age 9-11 and their mothers. 703-249-1520.
- Book Discussion Group.** 6:30 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Call for title. Adults. 703-971-0010.
- 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.
- Lorton Book Club.** 6:30 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. "The Women" by T.C.Boyle. Adults. 703-339-7385.
- Invasive Management Workshop.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Participants must be age 15 or older. 703-324-8681.

THURSDAY/APRIL 22

- Swing Into Spring Jazz Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at the Church of the Holy Spirit School, 8800 Braddock Road, Annandale. Vocalist Nancy Scimone, guitarist Steve Herberman and bassist Victor Dvoskin. \$10. Proceeds benefit Christ House Shelter in Alexandria. 571-232-1873 or LiveJazzConcerts@verizon.net.
- Go Together Like Peas and Carrots.** 10:30 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 6315 Backlick Road, Springfield, on the second floor of the Bank of America building. Stories and songs about friendship, trying new things and garden fun. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-451-8055.

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The laser sterilizes the tooth as it removes decay. This is very important. Because of bacterial contamination, many of you have had old fillings replaced with either new fillings, or in many cases, with crowns--and sometimes even root canals!! The reoccurrence of decay under fillings is a primary reason so many root canals are needed. Since this new laser sterilizes the tooth as it removes decay, and since many dentists now use 'bonded' filling materials enriched with fluoride, the chances of ever having recurrent decay under that new filling are much lower.

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The Waterlase® is especially great for teenagers. Sure, if the dentist is very good, shots should not really be painful. But **KNOWING** you're getting a shot is psychologically painful even if you can't feel the needle--especially for teenagers. By not getting a shot, not feeling the vibration of the drill, and by not hearing the loud drill, kids never become **afraid of the dentist**, so they don't grow up to be adults afraid of the dentist.

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Technology is something that makes life better. Better in this case is better clinical results, improved patient comfort, less use of anesthesia and antibiotics.

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OPINION

Virginia Celebrates Women in the Arts

By ELIZABETH MURPHY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Three years ago the arts and cultural community of Virginia embarked on a great adventure. The Virginia Council on the Arts convened the heads of the major arts organizations of the Commonwealth to encourage us to take more leadership on behalf of the entire cultural sector. Despite the many challenges facing our individual agencies, we all agreed that we needed a high visibility project to demonstrate the breadth, diversity, and intrinsic value of the arts to state decision-makers in Virginia.

GUEST EDITORIAL

The 23 major arts organizations of Virginia selected a theme, picked a time period, and invited all artists and cultural agencies of the state to create programs on the common theme during a defined time period with a statewide and regional marketing campaign. Thus was born our first endeavor: "Minds Wide Open: Virginia Celebrates Women in the Arts", with planning underway three years ago. The celebration began March 1, continues through June 30.

THROUGH THE regional meetings, local gatherings, email list-serves, and speeches and presentations at every possible opportunity, we invited every artist in the state, every arts organization, history museum, library, college, and university to join the statewide celebration of women in the arts. As of this writing, we have listed more than 2,000 events on our Web site www.vamindswideopen.com. (Altria, Dominion Power, SunTrust Bank, the Norfolk Southern Foundation, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the Virginia Tourism office have all made significant financial contributions to the statewide marketing campaign.)

Herrity's Distortions

To the Editor:

With his recent letter to the editor [Connection, March 25-31, 2010], Pat Herrity joined the list of politicians who distort the truth about the recently enacted health insurance reform law for personal political gains. Mr. Herrity apparently needs to draw attention to himself to stand out among the three candidates seeking the Republican nomination to run against U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) in November.

Unfortunately, Mr. Herrity's recent letter ignored facts and used misleading propaganda peddled by the insurance company lobbyists and other big-spending special interests that tried to kill the reform law.

The erroneous points he made deserve correcting and clarifying:

The non-partisan, independent Congressional Budget Office, which scores all bills in Congress, says the law will decrease premiums, and does not increase them, as Mr. Herrity wrongly suggested.

The CBO also states that the new law will cut the federal deficit by \$138 billion in the first 10 years and \$1.2 trillion in the second decade, and does not increase the deficit, as Mr. Herrity incorrectly alleged.

LETTERS

To bolster his argument, Mr. Herrity cited a bogus partisan analysis prepared by certain Republicans on the House Budget Committee with an ax to grind, but he failed to mention that every member of the Budget Committee, Republican and Democrat, voted to pass a motion offered by U.S. Rep. Connolly that required the House of Representatives to pass a reform bill reducing the budget deficit by at least \$1.1 trillion over

the next two decades.

The new law will reduce the cost of prescription drugs for retirees and companies that provide such benefits, and does not "force retirees into a Medicare plan," as Mr. Herrity erroneously asserted. Under the new law, private employers will continue getting a tax-free, government subsidy they currently receive to provide prescription drug coverage to retirees. And those who are in Medicare will see the "donut hole" eventually eliminated.

The health insurance reform bill will guarantee the solvency of Medicare for another decade, and does not put anyone "in danger of losing traditional Medicare" as Mr. Herrity incorrectly implied. He draws inaccurate conclusions about a report from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that does not even refer to the reform bill that became law.

Minds Wide Open

Northern Virginia arts organizations host many local events for statewide celebration. See www.vamindswideopen.com for more:

The Light in the Piazza, April 19, Arena Stage, Arlington, www.arenastage.org
Lucy Kaplansky, April 23, The Barns at Wolf Trap, Vienna, www.wolftrap.org
The Bobs, April 28, The Barns at Wolf Trap, Vienna, www.wolftrap.org
Exhibition: Beautiful - Virginia Women Artists and the Body, April 29, Greater Reston Arts Center, Reston, www.restonarts.org
Bonnie Rideout, April 30, The Barns at Wolf Trap, Vienna, www.wolftrap.org
Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Celebrates Women in the Arts, May 1, Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, Fairfax, www.fairfaxsymphony.org
Greater Reston Arts Center & Hub Theatre Mini-Festival, May 6, Greater Reston Arts Center & Hub Theatre, Reston, www.restonarts.org
Lindsay Mac, with Special Guest Margot MacDonald, May 16, Focus Music, Alexandria, www.focusmusic.org
Carmina Burana with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, May 22, The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and Guests, Alexandria, www.alexsym.org
Sheryl Crow with Special Guest: Colbie Caillat, June 17, The Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Vienna, www.wolftrap.org
Natalie Cole, June 24, 2010, The Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Vienna, www.wolftrap.org
Gallery Exhibit Inspired by Teresa Pollak's "Grace

Street in the Spring", April 13-May 16, Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Alexandria, www.potomaccraftsmengallery.com
Virginia Celebrates Women - Gallery Exhibit, April 13-May 16, Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Alexandria, www.potomaccraftsmengallery.com
MINDS WIDE OPEN Art Show La Femme, April 19-May 16, Arlington Artists Alliance, Arlington, www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org
The Gershwins' "Porgy and Bess", April 23-25, Virginia Opera, Fairfax, www.vaopera.org
Lady Windermere's Fan by Oscar Wilde, April 24-May 5, The Little Theatre of Alexandria, Alexandria, www.thelittletheatre.com
Cats, Jun 18-20, The Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Vienna, www.wolftrap.org
Riverdance: Farewell Tour, June 2-6, The Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Vienna, www.wolftrap.org
Female Shorts: Film and Video Showcase, June 3-6, Torpedo Factory Art Center's Target Gallery & The Art League Gallery, Alexandria, www.torpedofactory.org
Color & Body, Mar 31-April 25, Workhouse Arts Center: Karen Kozojet Ching, Traci Oberle & Eileen Olson, Lorton, www.workhousearts.org
WomanMade, May 1-30, Torpedo Factory Art Center's Target Gallery, Alexandria, www.torpedofactory.org
Miscalled Simplicity, May 21-22, Empty Chair Theatre Company, Arlington, www.emptychairtheatre.org
Curves, May 5-Jun 7, The Art League, Alexandria, www.theartleague.org

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra is pleased to participate in this initiative, with a special program planned for May 1. The FSO wanted to explore the theme of Women in the Arts within the somewhat narrow confines of symphonic repertoire, and to bring attention to the different ways in which women contribute currently to our art form. The guest artist for this concert is a woman (Julie Albers, cello), playing Elgar's Cello Concerto. Additionally, the orchestra will perform a piece (blue cathedral) by a popular, living female composer and 2010 Grammy winner, Jennifer Higdon.

What will Minds Wide Open accomplish? First and foremost, we hope to raise the visibility of the arts industry in our state. Of equal importance is building more collaboration within the Virginia arts and cultural community. We hope that "Minds Wide Open: Virginia Celebrates Women in the Arts" will lead to many more partnerships and alliances within the entire cultural sector of our state.

Plan to attend as many of our wonderful events as possible between now and the end of June. Visit our Web site at www.vamindswideopen.com.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates and other top military officials made it clear and Congress passed a separate piece of legislation to make sure that TRICARE for military personnel, veterans, and their families will be protected and not affected in any way by the new health insurance reform law. It does not "destroy" the TRICARE system as Mr. Herrity mistakenly suggested.

Ironically, most of the "bipartisan commonsense solutions to health care problems" that Mr. Herrity proposed in his letter to the editor are included in the new health insurance reform law, including:

- ❖ Prohibiting denial of coverage for pre-existing conditions.
- ❖ Allowing children to remain on their parent's health insurance until they reach the age of 26.
- ❖ Establishing tax credits to help

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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Trails

FROM PAGE 3

the area's trails, he said, were laid out poorly, resulting in soggy pathways and trail erosion that made some portions of some trails inaccessible for a period of time after rain. In addition, he said that the existing trails did not utilize the land effectively enough, as some trails did not connect to each other or did not showcase the entire property as planned.

Though BLM identified these problems years ago, McCusker said, no funding was available for the project at the time. So, over time, BLM continued to host scoping meetings and met with trail engineers and analysts to draft a full plan so that if funding materialized, work would be able to begin quickly. This long-range planning proved to be prophetic, as federal stimulus money was released and BLM's application was accepted in the amount of \$300,000.

"They wanted to do these improvements for a long time, and they finally got the stimulus money to do it and they're putting that money to very good use," said Gary Knipling, a Mason Neck resident and member of the Friends of Meadowood. "It really seems like they're building for the future as well as the present."

According to McCusker, this building is mostly on the eastern portion of the 800-acre property and is being done primarily by two workers who were hired using the stimulus money. Meadowood currently only has trails for hiking and horseback riding, so, in addition to mapping out better routes for existing and new trails, the trails are also being specially built to accommodate mountain biking. The plan calls for one main trail to be built around the western parcel and for three smaller technical trail loops to be built off the main trail, adding 4 miles total to the site. Construction is also being done to build a new trail that will connect Meadowood to Pohick Bay Regional Park.

McCusker said that the focus of the new and rerouted trails is to provide a safer but more exciting and scenic experience for all users. Gravel and crushed stone are being used to construct the trails, providing a firm yet versatile surface that will accommodate all uses while preventing erosion and other damage. The slope of the trails was also carefully chosen, he said, as BLM sought to eliminate

SEE MEADOWOOD, PAGE 10

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NEWS

Meadowood Trail Renovations

FROM PAGE 9

the steeper, more unsafe slopes, which would also save construction costs because the trails would “flow better with the landscape.”

“Some of the trails were in wet places and were never right,” Knipling said. “They’ll now have a much better tread and slope. They’re really getting into all of the nooks and crannies of the 800 acres.”

ACCORDING TO McCusker, the two men working on the trails are working five days a week and are utilizing heavy excavating equipment to speed up the process. While they are moving quickly, BLM is also reaching out to the community for extra assistance. McCusker said that volunteer workdays are scheduled every Friday and Saturday from April 10 through June 19, during which any person can come to Meadowood and help to flag trails, clear debris and other work that does not require the heavy machinery.

“We’ve had a lot of scout groups where Eagle Scouts that needed to do their eagle projects come out and help, but we still need more help,” McCusker said. “I’m hoping that the weather holds up so that we’ll be able to get more people involved.”

McCusker estimated that the work is about half-way done, and said that he expects the work to continue until the Sept. 30 deadline. If the current work is completed before then, McCusker said that the two workers will be used to work on other projects at Meadowood that were deemed lower-priority. Though the work is invasive and spread out across the property, area residents and Meadowood regulars are nonetheless excited about the construction, and applaud BLM for making it happen.

“Meadowood has been a nice addition to the Mason Neck neighborhood,” Knipling said. “I’d say that they’re the most active public agency in terms of improving public access and encouraging public use. They work hard to be a good neighbor and a good steward of the land.”

FAITH NOTES

Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hooes Road in Springfield, Spring Second Time Around Sale will be on Saturday, April 17, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. All proceeds from the sale go to UMW mission projects. Contact www.sumcdisciples.org or 703-441-8223.

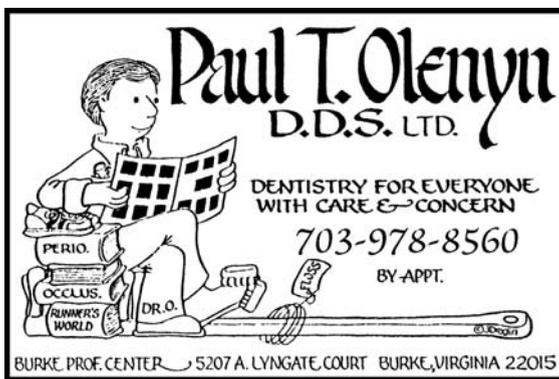
6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria, needs volunteers to help prepare meals for the homeless along the Route 1 corridor in Alexandria on Thursday, Apr 22, at 6:30 p.m., and deliver the bags on Friday, April 23, at 6 p.m. If interested, call 703-971-5151 or e-mail admin@franconiaumc.org.

cast on Saturday, April 24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Moore offers women freedom, deliverance and depth through her teaching of God’s word. \$25 per person, including lunch. www.newhope.org.

New Women’s Bible Study meets at Jubilee Christian Center on Tuesdays, 9:45 a.m.-12 p.m. The study will focus on “Spirit, Soul, and Body” by Andrew Wommack. \$10. 703-383-1170.

Phoenix Rising Meal Program. Franconia United Methodist Church,

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BULLETIN

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 15

Fimian-Herrity Debate. 1:30 p.m. at Greenspring Retirement Community, Hunters Crossing Conference Center, 7430 Spring Village Drive, Springfield. Keith Fimian and Pat Herrity will debate ahead of the June 8 primary election to choose the Republican candidate for Virginia's 11th District congressional seat. 703-923-4690.

SUNDAY/APRIL 18

Democratic Women of Clifton. 3-5 p.m. in the Clifton Community Hall, Clifton. Focusing on the environment and local energy future, the restoration of Chesapeake Bay, and the threat from invasive plants. Liz Bradsher, the Springfield District's representative on the Fairfax County School Board, will address plans for Clifton Elementary School. www.DemocraticWomenofClifton.org or 703-638-4746.

FRIDAY/APRIL 23

The Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards. 8 p.m. at Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. Volunteer Fairfax and more than 500 community members will honor 176 volunteer individuals and organizations. \$35 for individuals or nonprofits, \$50 for corporate guests. Tickets available at www.volunteerfairfax.org. Contact Samantha Watson at swatson@volunteerfairfax.org.

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Chelsey Dunham winds up a pitch during the Stallions 8-0 victory over Lake Braddock on April 7. Dunham's pitching is one of the reasons the Stallions are enjoying an 8-0 start to the year.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

South County head coach Al Thompson said Dunham's success comes from her year-round commitment to softball. 'She's got a work ethic that most pitchers don't have,' he said.

Three Strikes and They're Dunham

All-state pitcher Chelsey Dunham is driving force behind South County's stiff defense.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

South County softball pitcher Chelsey Dunham doesn't simply strike out batters, she overpowers them.

Her pitches release with such velocity that Dunham isn't the only one with a bag of ice wrapped attached to her arm after games, catcher Michelle Boynton said she has to ice her catching hand.

One-by-one, opponents come up to bat looking for their chance to put one past the

three time all-state pitcher, but with machine-like efficiency Dunham sends them back to the dugout kicking dirt in frustration.

"I like to play around with the batters," she said. "But, not too much. I want to sit them down quick."

Batters might hope fatigue would set in, removing her from the game, but the senior is accustomed to spending an entire evening on the mound.

Dunham has pitched every inning in all eight games this season.

When South County head coach Al Th-

ompson was asked if he ever worries about tiring out her arm, he laughed "Are you kidding me? No, I don't worry about it."

Dunham isn't worried either. She's used to putting her arm through complete game after complete game.

"I pitched so much over the summer with my travel team," she said. "I'd play two games in a day, and I'd pitch both of them. I'm trained for it."

The rigorous schedule hasn't slowed her down either.

Dunham's ability to strike out batters is a major reason the Stallions (8-0) are enjoying yet another dominating season.

"She is the defensive drive of this team,"

Thompson said. "She's a really good pitcher and there are eight other girls on the team who are very good, too."

What sets Dunham apart from the rest?

"She's got a work ethic that most pitchers don't have," Thompson said. "She works every day of the year, rain or shine, it doesn't matter."

There's also her life-long dedication to playing the

position.

"I started pitching when I was 8-years old," she said. "I pitch about every day. I take maybe one day off in a week."

"I want to sit them down quick."

— Chelsey Dunham

SEE PITCHING, PAGE 13

5 Qs with South County catcher Michelle Boynton

Q: I noticed you have a special handshake before an inning with pitcher Chelsey Dunham, care to explain?

A: We had to think of a handshake because we thought standing out there would be boring. And we have connection, so we added the handshake to make it stronger.

Q: What's your favorite song to listen to before you play a game?

A: My favorite song to listen to is "We Be Steady Mobbin'" by Lil' Wayne. It gets my body going.

Q: How did you become a catcher?

A: My dad made me become catcher. That's about it.

Q: Do you enjoy playing that position?

A: I love playing catcher. You're always in every play, every inning, just everything.

Q: What's your favorite thing about being on the Stallions softball team?

A: My favorite thing is that we're a family. We all get along, we all love each other. It's just the best.

— REED S. ALBERS



Michelle Boynton

REED S. ALBERS

Robinson Crew Plant Sale

The Robinson Crew team will be conducting its annual plant sale on May 1 at the Burke Nursery and Garden Center.

The Burke Nursery and Garden Center will be donating a percentage of its total sales to the club when shoppers purchase items at the school's booth on May 1 and with at least one \$10 certificate sold by members of the crew team.

The certificates can be pre-purchased from a member of the crew team at anytime leading up to the fund raiser. **WEEK IN SPORTS**

The crew team is not funded by Robinson Secondary School and all fund-raising efforts help pay for the team's coaches, boats and regatta fees.

For more information, contact Chris Veale at cv622@aol.com, Louise Lewis at lewisfamily6@verizon.net.

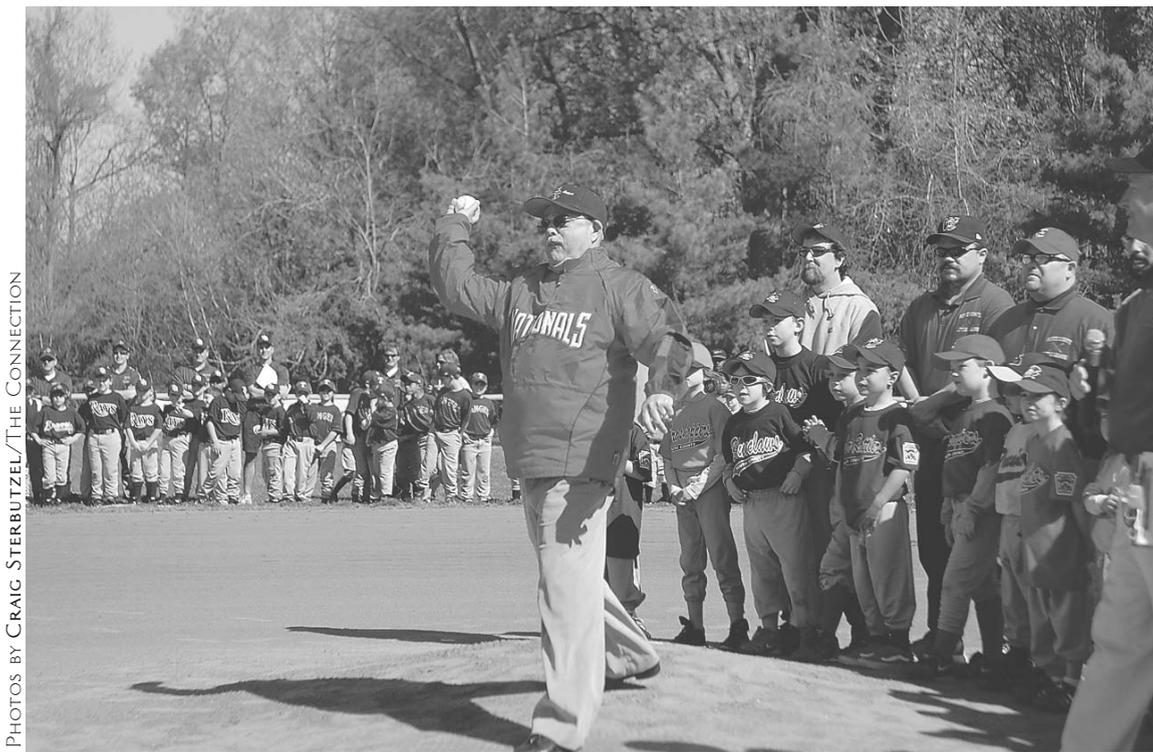
Lake Braddock Crew Fund Raiser

The Lake Braddock Crew Team is hosting its annual plant sale on Sunday, April 25, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Burke Nursery at 9401 Burke Road.

With a wide plant and gardening selection, the team is excited to be

SEE WEEK IN SPORTS, PAGE 13

SPORTS



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connelly (D-11) throws a ceremonial first pitch at the South County Little League opening day ceremony on Saturday, April 10.

Play Ball

South County Little League kicks off 2010 season.



Johnathon Spadafore of the Cardinals takes a hop onto home base after hitting his first home run of the season.



The South County Little League teams watched with their banners are several dignitaries throw out opening day pitches to kick off the season.

Pitching Power

FROM PAGE 12

All the practice and training Dunham has put in during the offseason is best displayed when the senior finds herself in a bind.

On April 7, against the Lake Braddock softball team, the Stallions were unable to produce much offense for four innings.

As the first, second and third innings rolled by, the score stood at zero apiece, but her team's inability to score right away didn't fluster Dunham.

While the South County bats began to finally warm-up, Dunham struck out 12 batters en route to an 8-0 win and never showed signs of wavering.

"The confidence [on the mound] just comes from all the experience I have," she said. "I just mix up the pitches and stay ahead of them."

But for all the noise Dunham has made in the Northern Region as a pitcher, one goal eludes the Stallions — a state championship.

So far, the 2010 season has started much as 2009 did with dominating win after dominating win. The 2009 season, however, ended with a 2-0 loss to Loudoun Valley in the state tournament.

Dunham said she doesn't think about the loss while she's on the mound, but memories creep in during classes and practice.

"I just focus on the batter and the next batter during a game," she said. "But when I leave the field, I think about [the state loss]."

It's not surprising that Dunham and her teammates have set a goal to win the Virginia state title. With the Stallions roaring through their regular season schedule, Dunham knows her team has a chance.

"I think we're well on our way to [winning the title]," she said.

WEEK IN SPORTS

FROM PAGE 12

able to offer the finest in annuals, perennials, potted plants, herbs, shrubs and trees — everything within the nursery is available for purchase.

The team is also offering free delivery on mulch orders of 25 bags or more.

On April 25, look for a satellite station at Lake Braddock Secondary to pick up a pre-sale certificate, or visit www.bruincrew.com to download a flyer. In order for a purchase to benefit the team, bring the certificate to purchase with your items.

School Physicals Offered

W.T. Woodson High School's sports medicine staff will be hosting physicals at Woodson on June 14 from 5:30-8 p.m.

Physicals will be comprehensive and complete the requirement for the Virginia High School League physical required for participation in athletics in Virginia and are good for the entire 2010-11 school year.

The cost will be \$40 per student. Athletes will need to bring their VHSL physical forms with pages one, two, and four completed and signed by a parent/guardian.

These forms can be picked up in the Activities Office or found online at www.vhsl.org. Students will also need to wear athletic clothing and running shoes. Pre-register at:

<http://www.fcps.edu/supt/activities/atp/ppoverview.htm>. The school will also be accepting walk-ins for \$50 with priority being given to those that have pre-registered. Money raised goes to support the Athletic Training Program. Contact Kelly Fickes, head athletic trainer, at kelly.fickes@fcps.edu with any questions.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

small businesses afford insurance for their employees.

❖ Adopting free market solutions through state exchanges of private insurance companies to provide affordable insurance to individuals, families, and businesses.

❖ Funding new efforts to monitor, detect and fight waste, fraud and abuse in the system and enacting tougher penalties when it is found.

❖ Creating pilot programs to reduce the cost of medical malpractice suits and to reduce medical errors.

❖ Continuing health savings accounts and flexible savings accounts for medical expenses.

❖ Ensuring that health care decisions are made by the patient and doctor.

When he talks with voters in the future, Mr. Herrity needs to know his facts before he becomes preachy about health insurance reform, or he will be called out once again.

Rex Simmons

Fairfax Station

Chairman, Fairfax County Democratic Committee

Extreme Left-Wing Editorial

To the Editor:

Your opinion is extremely slanted and out of touch with reality. It is very clear that you are an extreme left-wing liberal based on the many biased statements in this and other opinion pieces. For example, Cuccinelli's opposition to the recent healthcare legislation on constitutional grounds mirrors the views of a wide majority of Virginians. I, and I am sure a majority of Virginians, applaud his efforts and do not find what he is doing an embarrassment, but rather courageous. My congressman, Gerry Connolly (D-11), will do anything Nancy Pelosi wants, Connolly, should be unceremoniously thrown out of office in November for supporting this legislation that requires patriots like Cuccinelli to fight.

As the publisher you should at least try to be middle of the road rather than a whining liberal extremist.

Paul Barsnica

Fairfax Station

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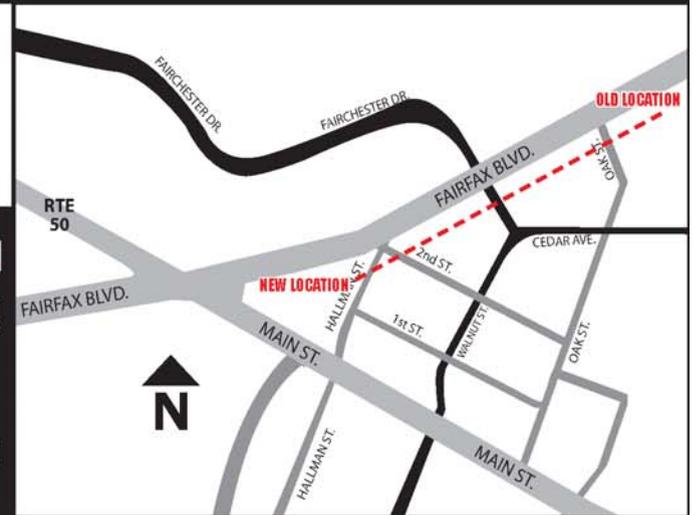
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Speaking Out

FROM PAGE 3

residents. In a tough budget year, he commended county executive Anthony Griffin for largely preserving the funding for services for people facing an economic crisis.

Fairfax's social service agencies have seen a dramatic increase in requests for help. The county's human services hotline has seen an 139 percent jump in inquiries about food stamps and 119 percent increase in calls for help with paying utility bills.

In January 2007, the average number of public assistance clients in Fairfax — people who need everything from Medicaid to help keeping the lights on — was 50,000. Three years later, that number had increased to 72,000, a jump of 45 percent.

"Clients are coming in who have never had to seek out public assistance in the past," said Clark.

As head of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs, Michelle Menapace is not only concerned about public schools funding but also the support given to other county programs that directly affect students.

Menapace is worried about the proposed reduction to staff and hours at the Fairfax's public library branches. Students, particularly those without computer access at home, rely on libraries for class assignments and research. Public libraries should be continue to open in the evening and on the weekends, when students don't have access to computers and staff at their local schools, she said.

Menapace was also worried about the proposed elimination of middle school resource officers, uniformed police who are assigned to school buildings full time. These officers are often the best source for solutions on local bullying and gang problems in schools.

In 1977, the Fairfax County Park Authority Board oversaw 90 parks with 140 staff members. Last year, the same park board oversaw 417 parks with 131 staff members.

Fairfax County Park Authority board members said the county is already doing more with less and the proposed cuts to the park system for next year go too far.

"We would like to reconsider the maintenance cuts. These are simply too large a burden to carry," said William Bowie, Fairfax County Park Authority board chairman.

Bowie is particularly concerned about budget cuts that would eliminate seeding and aeration of athletic field, both those at county park and the ones located at elementary and middle school campuses.

He also said the drop in financial support would cause the park authority to close restrooms at many of its facilities, saving the county about \$250,000.

John Niemic, president of the local fire fighters and paramedics union, said his members are prepared to "share their burden" of county budget cuts, given the tough economic situation Fairfax County faces.

The fire fighters and paramedics are willing to forego a pay increase but Niemic said cuts to the department staff proposed by

SEE FEEDBACK, PAGE 18

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements

NOTICE OF SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS' SALE OF VALUABLE FAIRFAX COUNTY REAL ESTATE

Pursuant to Decree of the Circuit Court of King George County, Virginia, dated July 16, 2009, entered in the Chancery matter now pending before the Court under the style of Adam M. Steil V. Alexander P. Steil, the undersigned Special Commissioners were authorized to sell the hereinafter described real estate at auction; and pursuant thereto, notice is hereby given that the following described real estate:

All that piece, parcel or tract of real estate with all improvements thereon, commonly known as 2101 Farrington Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22303, having Tax Map Identification Number of 83-1-14-E-1A and being more accurately described as:

Lot 1-A, Block E, Section 3, Huntington, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 549, page 182.

BEING the same property conveyed to Adam M. Steil and Alexander P. Steil, by deed dated September 27, 2001 and recorded in Deed Book 12258, page 353.

shall be sold to the highest bidder; however, subject to confirmation by the Court, on Friday, May 7, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. on site at the property. The property shall be sold AS IS and shall be conveyed by Special Warranty Deed. The successful bidder shall be required to deposit 10% of the bid price by Certified Check payable to the General Receiver of King George Circuit Court. Closing on the sale shall take place within 30 days of confirmation of sale by the Court.

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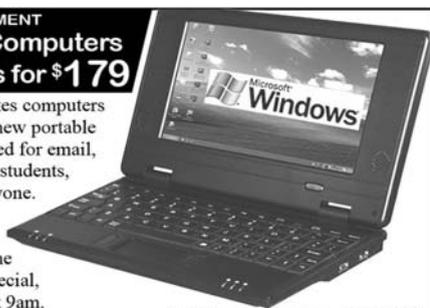
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NEWS

Feedback on the Budget

FROM PAGE 16

the county executive would result in delayed responses by emergency medical service teams and would impact the Hazardous Materials unit.

"If the HazMat Support Unit is cut from the budget, the department's ability to mitigate a chemical spill or prevent the threat of a weapon of mass destruction will be hampered considerably," said Niemic.

The union supports implementing a vehicle registration fee and raising the tax rate to its highest allowed value, \$1.12 for every \$100 of assessed property, which would result in a tax increase for the average homeowner in Fairfax. Niemic hopes these actions would help restore some of the positions and staff that the county executive has proposed cutting from Fairfax's budget.

Megan McMahon, a French horn player at Robinson Secondary School, and her two brothers are all musicians.

Megan's older brother is studying the tuba at the University of Kentucky, and she plans to study music education after she graduates from high school next year.

Her youngest brother, a Robinson freshman, plays the trumpet in the school band and is also considering music studies for college, she said.

All three siblings participated in Fairfax County elementary band and strings program, which Megan worries could be eliminated as a result of budget cuts. Without band and strings, Megan wonders if she would have taken such an interest in music or had the same opportunities.

In May, Megan will study and perform with the National Symphony Orchestra through the student youth day program.

"Would my life be different today had it not been for elementary band? I honestly don't know. But you know what? I don't want to go back and find out either," she said.

Karen Cogan wants the Fairfax supervisors to give Fairfax County Public Schools more money than it is currently slated to receive, even if that means raising local homeowners' property taxes.

Cogan, a member of the Woodson High School Athletic Boosters, said she is concerned the local school board will implement a \$100 fee on students to play high

school sports if the school system doesn't get its full funding request from the county.

She said participating in athletics not only keeps teenagers out of trouble but student athletes also perform better in school overall.

Without the fee, many parents are already contributing to the high school athletic programs. According to Cogan, boosters already pay for field maintenance and irrigation out of the money they privately raise.

"With the fee, boosters will have difficulty getting parents to raise other money," she said.

Mount Vernon resident Shawn Akard said Fairfax County's cuts to public school funding could disproportionately impact the West Potomac, Mount Vernon and Hayfield high school pyramids.

The school board has proposed cutting two programs, Project Excel and Focus, that provide extra financial support and staff to elementary schools with large numbers of low-income students. Many of these schools — often referred to as "Title I" schools because of a certain type of funding they received from the federal government — are located

in the Mount Vernon area.

"The Hayfield, Mount Vernon and West Potomac pyramid have the highest number of 'Title I' schools in the county," said Akard, a parent at Hollin Meadows Elementary School, which receives money from both Project Excel and Focus.

Burke resident Michael Colburn is not just a professional musician. As the director of the United State Marine Band, he runs the oldest professional music organization in the United States.

The Marine Band, known as "The President's Own," performs at the White House more than 300 times each year. As its director, Colburn is in good company with the likes of John Philip Sousa.

Professionally, Colburn has hired some of the country's highest quality musicians.

"I try to hire the very best musicians and the very best musicians often come from the very best music programs. The very best public school music program is in Fairfax County. It is known around the world," said Colburn.

Colburn said he chose to live in Fairfax County over other Washington suburbs specifically because of the strength of the music program in the public school system.



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Shawn Akard, Hollin Meadows Elementary School parent and Mount Vernon resident

COLLEGE NOTES

Hannah S. Sager, a resident of Fairfax Station, was recently named to the dean's list at Boston University for the fall 2009 semester.

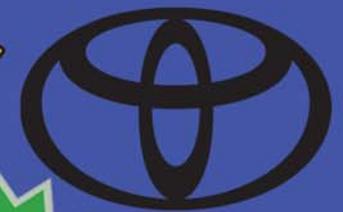
Amanda Montelongo, a sophomore from Fairfax Station, and **Peter Rechter**, a sophomore

from Clifton, were named to the dean's list in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Villanova University (Villanova, Pa.) for the fall 2009 semester. To qualify for the dean's list in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, a full-time student must earn a semester grade point average of 3.5.

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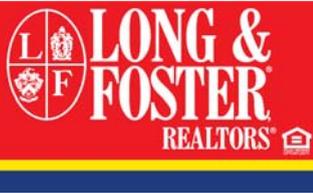


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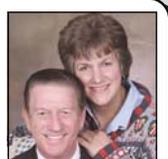
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