

Diverse Faces

EDUCATION, PAGE 11

Second-grader
Ojasbi
Bishwakarma,
8, dressed in a
traditional
outfit from
Nepal as part
of Halley
Elementary's
Cultural
Celebration.



Nature's Gem On Mason Neck

NEWS, PAGE 3

County Raises Tax Rate

NEWS, PAGE 3

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NEWS

Clifton's Next Chapter

May 4 election to bring new leadership.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Over the last two years, the Clifton Town Council accomplished a great, priding itself on attracting new business and stimulating revenue growth. All good things must come to an end, however, and the upcoming elections signal the start of a new chapter in the Town of Clifton.

The Town of Clifton will have its biannual election for mayor and Town Council Tuesday, May 4, and significant turnover is expected, as Mayor Tom Peterson and two of the five council members are not seeking reelection. With only three incumbents running with two write-in candidates for the five seats on the council, though, it appears as if the next group is set.

"Since no one else has come out and declared that they are running, I think we have our next council," said Mayor Tom Peterson. "We have experience returning, and the new people coming in are qualified. They certainly will have my support."

The three incumbents running for reelection, Deborah Dillard, Wayne Nickum and Chuck Rusnak, all served the previous term as council members along with Patrick Layden and Vice Mayor Michael Anton. The newcomers, barring any late write-in entrants to the race, will be Dwayne Nitz and John Powell. Nitz is currently active in the town government, serving as a member of the council's Town Parks and Traffic, Parking and Safety Committees. Nitz also is a member of Clifton Red, the group dedicated to keeping Clifton Elementary School open. Powell, on the other hand, has been a Clifton resident since 2007 and is the sole owner of Capitol Alliances, a media services firm based in the town.

"I had the desire to run last elec

SEE CLIFTON, PAGE 6

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PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

Harit Patel, 7, takes part in 'nature weaving' and plant rubbing at the Prince William Park Authority's booth at the Elizabeth Hartwell Eagle Festival.

Celebrating a 'Hidden Gem'

Elizabeth Hartwell Eagle Festival spreads message of stewardship.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Earth Day is a day to inspire awareness and appreciation of the environment, and for many area residents, there was no better way to celebrate the occasion than to gather at one of the region's most picturesque locations.

The ninth annual Elizabeth Hartwell Eagle Festival drew thousands of visitors to Mason Neck State Park Saturday, April 24 for a day of educational activities and entertainment designed to promote the Hartwell's mission of protecting the peninsula. The event, sponsored by the Elizabeth Hartwell Environmental Education Fund, gave attendees the chance to learn about the wildlife in the area and ways to help preserve the pristine condition of the park.

"We have had thousands of kids come to this festival every year for the last nine years," said Robert Hartwell, Elizabeth's son. "The looks on their faces when they see that there's a different world away from their television sets and computers makes it worthwhile every year."

The event, started in 2001, was created by Rob Hartwell not only to honor his late mother but also to keep her mission to protect Mason Neck alive. Elizabeth Hartwell was one of the area's leading environmental

activists, and according to Rob Hartwell, her main goal was to protect Mason Neck for the preservation of the American Bald Eagle, which is a natural inhabitant of the park.

Rob Hartwell said that her work began in 1960, when she moved to the area and almost immediately discovered that corporate interests had targeted the peninsula for development. He said that a company wanted to turn the large island in Belmont Bay into a casino and that the Army Corp of Engineers expressed a desire to use the bay to test deep sea vessels. This potential development, combined with the existing scarcity of the bald eagle population on the peninsula, spurred Elizabeth Hartwell to rally her fellow Mason Neck residents and fight back against the potentially damaging changes.

These efforts, combined with other battles that resulted in the preserve more than 5,000 acres of the peninsula, resulted in the creation of the 2,277-acre Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge, 1,804-acre Mason Neck State Park and the 1,003-acre Pohick Bay Regional Park. In addition, Rob Hartwell said, over the course of her advocacy, the bald eagle population on Mason Neck went from five when she started to a current total of 280.

"Mom started her crusade to preserve the land and protect the bald eagle in the 60s, and she never lost a battle," Rob Hartwell said. "She went up against all of the biggest developers and they made fun of her but then walked away with their heads down after they lost."

This year, the festival's theme was "Nature is the

SEE HARTWELL, PAGE 7

Higher Property Tax Rate, Car Fee To Fund Services

Even with more money, schools, libraries and parks will still make program cuts.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved a higher real estate property tax rate, new vehicle registration fee and increase in the quarterly sewer service charges in order to avoid deep cuts to services next year.

The supervisors voted 7-3 on a final version of the budget at an April 27 board meeting.

The county spending plan will restore several programs that were initially cut by Fairfax County executive Anthony Griffin. The supervisors have added money back in to keep bathrooms open at several county parks and athletic fields for example.

The Board of Supervisors was able to avoid some of the more drastic budget reductions proposed by Griffin because Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) and the Virginia General Assembly restored \$61 million in funding to Fairfax County Public Schools, ac-

ording to county Chairwoman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large).

"The process was helped tremendously by that additional state funding," she said.

But the supervisors were not able to restore all funding to county programs. Fairfax residents will still have to cope with some reductions to services, such as public libraries operating on a limited schedule.

ALL THREE SUPERVISORS who voted against the county budget were members of the Republican Party. They primarily object to the vehicle registration fee, which they said would increase the overall county tax burden on the average Fairfax resident.

And though all seven Democratic supervisors ended up supporting the budget, at least two considered voting against it because of disagreement with the school system over spending priorities.

Supervisors Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) and Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) were upset with FCPS Superintendent Jack

Dale and the Fairfax County School Board's plan to eliminate Project Excel, Focus and the year-round school calendar from several elementary schools. The three programs provide extra funding, instructional time and staff to schools with large minority and low-income student populations that traditionally struggle with academic achievement.

Dale has said he intends to replace the current programs with another initiative aimed at improving academic

achievement among at-risk students but he could not provide Hudgins or Hyland with many details about what the program might look like. Several supervisors were also unable to confirm whether the challenged schools that currently received extra funding would get assistance through the new program designed by Dale.

"In all my years on the board, this was the first time I was prepared not to vote for the budget," said Hyland, who wanted more details about how challenged schools were being assisted after the programs were elimi-

nated.

At the request of Hyland and Hudgins, the supervisors passed a resolution April 27 indicating that the county might be willing to give the school system more money to help cushion the impact of losing Excel, focus and the year-round calendar. The supervisors and School Board members will discuss why the School Board chose to

eliminate the programs at a joint meeting in May.

"These programs or an alternative should have been the school board's first priority, not its last priority. These are core programs," said Hudgins.

AS PART OF the overall budget package, the Fairfax supervisors voted in favor of an increase of the local real estate property tax rate from \$1.05 per \$100 of assessed property value to \$1.09.5 per \$100 of assessed property value.

The rate increase will be offset in a de

SEE BOARD, PAGE 18

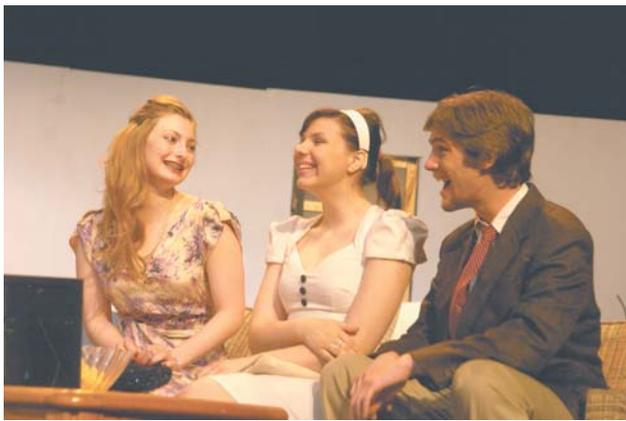


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL

Gwendolyn Pigeon played by junior Ilana Naidamast and Cecily Pigeon played by junior Kate Bongiorno share a moment with Felix, played by junior Luke Esper.

Bruin Thespians Present Two Versions of 'Odd Couple'

One of theater's strengths, compared to television and film, is that each performance is different. The Lake Braddock Secondary School Theatre has taken that to heart, presenting two versions of Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple," on with an all-male cast and the other with an all-female cast.

Performances are Thursday, April 29-Saturday May 1, at Lake Braddock Secondary School Theatre, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets are \$10, and can be purchased via 703-426-1070 or www.lbtheatre.com.

The male cast performs Thursday, April 29, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 1, at 8 p.m. The female cast performs Friday, April 30, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 1, at 2:30 p.m.



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Meeting the Mad Hatter

Clifton's Emily Dillard, 11, mingles with the Mad Hatter (Ian Lyons), Sunday, April 25, during the Mad Hatter's tea party before Centreville High's production of 'Alice in Wonderland.' The show runs this weekend, too, Friday-Saturday, April 30-May 1, at 7:30 p.m.

Walking in Granddad's Honor

Local woman completes Bataan Memorial March.

BY GRACE TOPPING

Laura Topping, 24, of Fairfax Station, recently completed the 21st Bataan Memorial Death March at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico.

The march, which takes place each spring, honors American servicemen and others who were captured by the Japanese in the Philippines at the beginning of World War II. The prisoners were forced to march more than 90 miles to Camp O'Donnell, where many were transported to prisoner of war camps in Japan. Of the approximately 79,000 who began the Bataan Death March, only 56,000 arrived alive at the camp.

Topping participated in memory of her late grandfather, Louis Marchetti, of Altoona, Pa., who survived the Bataan Death March and years of captivity as a Japanese prisoner of war before being freed at the end of WWII.

"I never got to know my grandfather, who died in 1971 from the long-term effects of the Death March and years in a Japanese prisoner of war camp," said Topping. "As soon as I heard of this march, I wanted to do it in his memory and for all of the soldiers who were in the march but didn't make it back." Topping, a December graduate of George Mason University,



On the back of her rucksack, Laura Topping of Fairfax Station wore a photo of her late grandfather, Louis Marchetti, of Altoona, Pa., a survivor of the Bataan Death March.

wrote her last college research paper about Bataan.

The Bataan Memorial Death March course in New Mexico is a combination of rough terrain, dirt trails, deep sandpits, and 6-mile portion that took participants from an elevation of 1,250 feet to 1,650 feet and back again. More than 5,000 military personnel and civilians from several countries participated. Like Topping, who wore a picture of her grandfather on her rucksack, many were descendants or family members of the captive soldiers. Some were disabled veterans who had lost limbs serving in the Middle East. All were there to help keep the memory of the Bataan Death March alive.

Topping completed the grueling 26.2-mile march in just over seven hours, carrying a 41-pound rucksack. "It was the hardest thing I've done in my life," she said, who is no stranger to hard physical training, having completed Army airborne parachute training and air assault helicopter training. "Our march was nothing compared with the horrors my grandfather endured during the Bataan Death March: dysentery, malaria, starvation and the threat of death at



DONATED PHOTOS

Laura Topping, 24, of Fairfax Station, stands at the Bataan Memorial at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico.

any moment."

Participants entered in two categories: light and heavy. The heavy group carried 35-pound rucksacks, which were weighed at the end of the march. "I discovered that I had been carrying six extra pounds and had made it more challenging than I needed to," Topping laughed. Among the women in the heavy category, she placed 10th.

At the end of the march, Topping met a number of the Bataan Death March survivors, who greeted the participants as they came off the course. "There are fewer and fewer survivors," she said. "They read the names of 15 survivors who died since the last march."

Topping's grandfather was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and other service medals. "As a former POW, he worked tirelessly during the Vietnam War to help raise awareness of the plight of American POWs, speaking to various organizations and collecting thousands of signatures petitioning their release," said Topping.

A long-time member of the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, Louis Marchetti returned to the Philippines in 1967 with the group to mark the 25th anniversary of the Bataan Death March. At that time, he was quoted as saying how much the soldiers owed to the Filipino people, who smuggled food to them along the route, at great risk to themselves and their families.

Topping is the daughter of John and Grace Topping of Fairfax Station. She and her sister, Lesley are graduates of Hayfield Secondary School and George Mason University. "We're really proud of Laura doing this march in my father's memory," said Grace Topping, a Navy veteran. "He would have been so proud of her and our daughter Lesley." Laura Topping's father is a former Royal Marine.

The day following the race, Laura Topping, an ROTC graduate and newly commissioned second lieutenant, drove to Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and reported for active duty in the Army.

COLLEGE

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.

Clifton residents **Nicholas Custis** and **Jacob Lawrence** were named to the dean's list at Berklee College of Music for the fall semester of the 2009 academic year. To be eligible for this honor, a full-time student must achieve a grade point average of 3.4 or above; a part-time student must achieve a grade point average of 3.6 or above.

Four Fairfax Station residents graduated from Radford University at the end

of the fall semester. Earning bachelor of science degrees were **Daniel Steven Mannino**, physics; and **John Colin Moore**, sociology. Earning bachelor of business degrees were **Christopher Halsey Harr**, marketing; and **Daniel Casey Lynch**, management.

Hayley Berger, daughter of Rich and Sally Berger of Clifton, was named the recipient of the Gray-Lafferty endowed scholarship for student athletes at George Mason University for 2009-10. This scholarship is made possible by the Fair Oaks Rotary Club of Fairfax County and is awarded to a student athlete from Fairfax County. Berger is a junior at George Mason

majoring in communications with a minor in business. She is a third year starting player on the women's lacrosse team and graduated from Centreville High School in 2007. A reception to honor athletic scholarship recipients took place Jan. 28 at George Mason.

Kristin White, a senior religion and culture major from Fairfax Station, submitted "Identity Politics as a Site of Women's Historical and Migratory Struggles: The Case of Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Mexico" to volume 2 of *Philologia*, an undergraduate research journal in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Science. White examines how the transnational historical contexts of

these countries fuel the centrality that women give to identity as they find themselves and their communities migrating to the United States.

Jennifer Hicks of Clifton, a junior majoring in finance, has been chosen to be a student ambassador for the Pamplin College of Business at Virginia Tech. Students must be a rising sophomore, junior, or senior in the Pamplin College of Business and have at least a 3.0 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) to be eligible.

Anna Nguyen, a member of the class of 2012 from Clifton, was named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Loyola

University, Md. In order to qualify for the dean's list at Loyola, a student must have a GPA of at least 3.5 with a minimum of 15 credits.

Angela Dean of Lorton is the recipient of a full-tuition scholarship, to pursue her online degree at Ashworth College. Dean's essay, in which she shared her personal story and aspiration to attain a higher education to improve her life, was chosen from approximately 300,000 applicants applying for an eLearners.com Career Stimulus Package Scholarship. Dean, a wife and mother to six children, plans to pursue a Professional Physical Therapy Aide Program at Ashworth College.

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Clifton To Elect Council

FROM PAGE 2

tion cycle but felt time was a constraint and I was too new to the town,” Powell said. “Since then, many residents, business owners, current and former town officeholders have encouraged me to run for Town Council. I have no agenda other than to help Clifton grow responsibly as a community while preserving our rich historical heritage.”

While the next Town Council may already be decided, the race for mayor is still wide open. The two logical candidates, Peterson and Vice Mayor Michael Anton, have both decided to step down to spend more time with their families. Peterson said that he intends to dedicate more time to his wife and their burgeoning business, Peterson’s Ice Cream Depot. Anton, on the other hand, initially entered the race as a mayoral candidate, but after much deliberation, decided that he needed more family time, as he and his wife have three children ages 7, 9 and 12.

“I wanted to focus more on my family, because the job is so time-consuming,” Anton said. “I have three little kids and I need to focus on them more.”

While Anton’s withdrawal left the town with no official candidates for mayor, two write-in candidates, Judy McNamara and Bill Hollaway, stepped in to fill the void. McNamara is currently a member of the town’s Planning Commission and also serves on the council’s Commercial District Committee that was devoted to attracting new businesses to the town and developing its commercial sector. In addition, she owns her own Clifton-based florist shop, A Flower

Tuesday, May 4 Election

The election for the Town of Clifton Mayor and Council will be Tuesday, May 4. Voting will be conducted at Clifton Town Meeting Hall, located at 12641 Chapel Road. Absentee voting is also available for those who will be out of town or unable to vote on May 4. The deadline for mail-in absentee ballots has passed, but in-person absentee voting can be done Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, located at 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax until Saturday, May 1.

Blooms.

Hollaway, like McNamara, is a veteran of town government, having served two terms on town council in the past, with one term as vice mayor. Hollaway also served eight years on the Planning Commission, including time as chair of the commission. “As mayor, I will be open to all points of view,” he said. “My interest is what is best for the Town of Clifton as a whole.”

While the new mayor and council have big shoes to fill after the success of the previous leaders, the potential candidates are confident in their ability to lead the town for the next two years. Perhaps more importantly, each of the candidates has the seal of approval from Peterson, who has no doubts that the future of the town is secure. “All of the candidates are very good,” Peterson said. “They are all great candidates and they will do a wonderful job for Clifton. The town will be left in good hands.”

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Hartwell Eagle Fest

FROM PAGE 3

Key for Healthy Children,” and Robert Hartwell and his fellow event organizers made sure to provide a slate of activities that lived up to the theme. The day began at 9 a.m. with the eighth annual David Klinghard 5K Run/Walk, which was open to all ages. Children were encouraged to participate and received awards for completing the race, while adults received awards based on gender and age group.

Following the race, children were offered the opportunity to participate in a number of activities, including nature hikes, canoe tours and pony, bicycle and hay rides. In addition, park employee Jessica Uriutta hosted several live reptile shows throughout the day in which children could see and touch snakes, lizards, frogs and more. Other assorted activities included bird watching, an educational program about the marine life found in the water surrounding Mason Neck capped off by an introduction to astronomy at dusk.

“It’s such a fun event,” said Tarla Patel, who attended the event with her husband and two young children. “My children love parks and love to be outside, and this event especially brings out of a lot of curiosity in them, so it’s just a great event to go to.”

While the myriad activities were the highlight for most of the attendees, local recreational companies and civic organizations had tents set up at the festival to provide parents with information on more ways to educate their children on living an environmentally-friendly lifestyle. Groups such as the Prince William Park Authority, Ducks Unlimited, the Laurel Hill House, Recreational Equipment, Inc. and more were on hand to promote their products and programs, and many of the parents were excited to learn about all that the groups had to offer.

“I work in the recycling industry, so I was looking to take my son to something for Earth Day to help him learn about how recycling and things like that help our environment,” said Robert McCroskey Jr., who brought his 6-year-old son, Robert III to the event. “He’s learned a lot today, and he is having a great time.”



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OPINION

Outstanding Sales Professional of Year

Virginia Press Association honors
Kenneth B. Lourie, Connection sales
representative, columnist.

Kenneth B. Lourie, award-winning columnist and sales representative with the Connection Newspapers and Potomac Almanac, was named Virginia Outstanding Sales Professional of the Year, receiving his award on Saturday, April 24, at the annual advertising conference of the Virginia Press Association in Portsmouth.

EDITORIAL

It's a bit unusual to use editorial space to tout sales awards, but this is an unusual case.

Many of our readers are familiar with Lourie's longstanding weekly humor column, *The Daze of my Life*, which runs in many of our papers and on our web site.

In the past year, Lourie has tackled the more serious topic of his diagnosis and treatment for stage IV lung cancer in his columns, but with the same pointed humor of his previous columns. Meanwhile, despite these challenges, he remains one of our top sales performers.

Lourie's award was presented by Carol Taylor, chairman of VPA's Advertising Committee and a sales executive with Richmond Times Dispatch. "This year's Outstanding Sales Professional of the Year award honors the kind of

sales professional who is a role model, someone whose qualities have led to great success in the newspaper advertising profession," Taylor said in giving the award.

Taylor continued: "Among other important attributes, this award recognizes

leadership and tenacity. ... It celebrates extraordinary customer service and an attitude that embraces the unprecedented change we're seeing inside and outside of our industry. ... Our recipient is well known for his cold calling prowess and his reliance on old-school technology, like note cards. His customers rave about his flexibility, his patience, his attention to detail and his ability to find a Boston Red Sox fan anywhere he goes. And he's an award-winning columnist who isn't afraid to write about his need for new underwear."

For more than 12 years, Lourie has been our most organized and creative sales professional. Disciplined, committed and tenacious, he has



Kenneth B. Lourie

always been among the top performers in our sales staff. His medical condition is relevant only as to the timing of this award and the recognition it provides and as proof of his unbelievable tenacity, commitment and good humor.

Lourie's column, *The Daze of my Life*, has developed a loyal following and addresses some of the quirks and milestones of every day life, but also tackling more serious topics. An excerpt from a recent letter he received from a reader exemplifies the effect his writing has had:

"While we have not met, I want to let you know how much your newspaper columns related to your cancer mean to me; I have saved them all. I can relate to many of the feelings you write about from experience. ... It is impressive to see how you approach your situation with grace and honesty; that is the best one can ask of oneself. You are doing a lot by your writing to help other people learn and go through this experience with you. None of us really knows what is ahead of one in life, and you provide a good example of the value of approaching each day with love and hope.

You can read Lourie's columns by going to www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and typing "Lourie" into the search field.

A Name Can Be a Funny Thing

Paper renamed to reflect history, future of Lorton.

If you haven't noticed, this edition of the Connection has a new name: the Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection.

When we expanded into the South County area in October 2005, this edition of the paper debuted under the Fairfax Station/Clifton/Laurel Hill banner. At that time, for many people, the word "Lorton" conjured up two images — the former D.C. Department of Corrections prison and the Fairfax County Landfill on Furnace Road. Lorton was where Washington, D.C. sent its prisoners and the county sent its trash.

However, in 2005, the Connection Newspapers recognized that the face of Lorton was changing. The county had purchased the vacant prison land and was in the process of remaking it as the Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Area. A new high school, South County Secondary, had just opened its doors, alleviating overcrowding at Hayfield Secondary and serving the new neighborhoods that were sprouting up west of Interstate 95. Lorton was on the move.

When we decided to expand the Fairfax Station edition of the Connection to include residents of the 22079 (Lorton) Zip code, we adopted the Laurel Hill name from the county redevelopment project as a way to honor the area's forward movement, while avoiding the negative association that Lorton had for some.

A name, though, can be a funny thing.

While most residents welcomed us and appreciated the coverage that we were bringing to their forgotten corner of the county, some expressed dismay

as to why we weren't called the Lorton Connection?

A few long-time residents and some newer ones were proud to call Lorton their home, pointing to its rich history beyond the shadow of the prison walls and the bright future that was on the horizon.

As the Fairfax Station/Clifton/Laurel Hill Connection staff continued to cover the community, we witnessed the arrival of many wonderful things. Golfweek Magazine chose the newly opened Laurel Hill Golf Club as one of the top municipal courses in the country. In July 2008, Turning Point Plaza debuted at Occoquan Regional Park, honoring the sacrifices of the Suffragists who had been imprisoned at the Lorton Workhouse in 1917. Their actions eventually led to the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. A few months later, Phase I of the Workhouse Arts Center opened, bringing a world-class arts venue in a renovated section of the former prison. Just last September, Laurel Hill Elementary opened its doors, teaching Lorton's youngest students.

Lorton has changed, and it's time we changed too.

From the first day that we planned the Fairfax Station/Clifton/Laurel Hill Connection, we have always considered that the community that we served was Lorton. Changing the name of the paper is just an overdue acknowledgement of that fact. The Connection staff looks forward to serving the new Lorton and documenting its bright future.

— MICHAEL O'CONNELL

MOCONNELL@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

In Response

To the Editor:

Perhaps Dr. Matthew Brooks' view that my letter to the editor, "Dismayed Reader" [Connection, April 15, 2010] was a "litany of simplistic misrepresentations" was due to the fact that he did not address the substance of what I had written. The most important part of my commentary was how the new healthcare legislation abrogates the rights of individual Americans. Government

LETTERS

regulatory bodies being established by the healthcare legislation will be the ultimate decision-makers on medical matters, not doctors and patients. Plus, ObamaCare takes away our freedom by forcing people to buy health insurance.

Another concern of Brooks was that my calling the new healthcare legislation "ObamaCare" is pejorative and used by right wing

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

THE CONNECTION

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

media outlets. When searching the New York Times online for the term, the website came back with 2,960 results. I don't think most people consider that publication a bastion of right-wing thought

As to Medicare, its solvency may be guaranteed for another decade by the healthcare legislation even though more than \$500 billion was cut from the program just when the baby boomers are entering it in droves. Unless 2 + 2 no

longer equals 4, the only way to keep Medicare solvent is by providing fewer benefits. Yes, a clampdown on waste, fraud and abuse could save some money, but that should have been done all along.

Susan Lider Hutson
Clifton

Zero Down

To the Editor:
How much money did the banks

get of our money? How much did they lend me to put a new roof on my house? Answer: \$0.

Eugene Ransom
Fairfax

Herrity's False Assertion

To the Editor:
In last week's Connection [March 25-31, 2010], Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), speak-

ing as a candidate for Congressional office, asserted that the recently passed health care reform legislation would "destroy" TRICARE.

As an active member of the veteran community in Northern Virginia, I take strong objection to his comment because it is false. Secretary of Defense Gates and John Rowan, the National President of Vietnam Veterans of America, among others, have gone on record to state that health care reform will not adversely impact

TRICARE or medical services provided to veterans through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Bruce I. Waxman
Vice President
Vietnam Veterans of America,
Chapter 227

Write

Letters to the Editor
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Meeting regarding the NGA Campus East project:

Monday, May 17, 2010
Saratoga Elementary School
8111 Northumberland Road
Springfield, VA 22153

The meetings will be held in the cafeteria from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The presentations will begin at 7:30 p.m.

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Or to mail photo prints, send to:
The Fairfax Station Connection, "Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,"
1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

Make College Selections

After months of searching, students find the dream schools they were looking for.

By Reed S. Albers
The Connection

Robinson Secondary School senior soccer player J.H. Musick took time to analyze his options when choosing the university he wanted to attend, just as many of his peers did this spring.

It's not just about picking a school to go, but picking the absolute best school to attend and spend the next four (or five) years of their life.

For many, the decision can come down to what academic programs are offered, tuition prices, student body size or the distance from home.

But the school Musick's chose, Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Meyers, Fla., had an ace up its sleeve.

"I chose that school because I have a lot of family that live near it," he said. "And there's also a beach right behind the dorm. You can't get much better than that."

The sandy study halls of Florida Gulf

Coast University may have won his heart, but there was more to his decision than a prime dorm location.

The prospective physical education major said he wanted to play soccer in college, but when he learned his four years of athletic eligibility might be spent on the bench, he decided to focus on academics.

"All the schools I looked at for soccer were Division I schools," he said. "But I knew I wasn't going to play much on those teams. So I had to make a decision whether I wanted to sit on the bench or enjoy my time at college."

Musick's teammate, Kevin Murphy also recently made his decision on the school he will attend.

"I chose to go to the [University of] Mary Washington [in Fredericksburg, Va.]," he said. "I was looking at Lynchburg University, Christopher Newport University and Roanoke College."



Photos by Reed S. Albers

Robinson's J.H. Musick and Kevin Murphy have both finalized plans to attend four-year universities next year. Musick will be attending Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Meyers, Fla., and Murphy will attend the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Va.

While location served as a motivator in Musick's decision, the size of Mary Washington's student body helped Murphy lean to the school.

"I liked the size of the school," he said. "It's only about 4,000 or 5,000 students. That was a big factor for me."

As for what the Murphy plans to major in, he's taking the most popular academic path students follow as freshmen — the undecided route. "I have no idea what I'll major in," he said. "I'll figure it out when I'm there."



South County's John Harasin will be attending Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pa.

Q: What made you choose Moravian College and what other schools did you look at?

A: I love the education program there. I am going there to play baseball, but even if I didn't play baseball I would have gone there for an education. It was the only school I applied to as well.



South County's Emma O'Reilly will be attending Christopher Newport University next year.

Q: What made you choose CNU and what other schools did you look at?

A: When I visited CNU, I really liked the campus and it was by the beach. I looked at [the University of Mary Washington], but I didn't really like the campus.

Megan Wears of South County Secondary School signed

her letter of intent to James Madison University during on April 14. Wears will attend JMU to play for the school's field hockey team. "[JMU] is the school I've always wanted to go to," she said. "It's not just about playing field hockey there. I just wanted to go there."

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Sharing Their Differences

Cultural Celebration highlights diversity at Halley Elementary school.

Photos by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection

Families from Halley Elementary School had a chance to celebrate their diversity and share their cultures with fellow students at the April 22 Cultural Celebration.

Currently, Halley's student body speaks approximately 32 different primary languages and represent 28 countries. On Thursday night, students presented cultural displays and performances, ethnic food, music, cultural dress, artifacts and more.



Second-grader An Lo, 8, wears a traditional dress from Vietnam.



The third grade chorus performs Japanese folk song 'Sakura' on recorder.



Third-grader Neha Agarwal, 9, performs a native dance from India.



Fourth-grader John Muamge, 10, plays African drums for his father's native country of Congo (Zaire).



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AT THE WORKHOUSE

The following events and exhibits are open at the Workhouse Arts Center, which is located at 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. For more information, call 703-495-0001 or visit www.workhousearts.org.

Michele Norris will present INSECTA: collage and mixed media paintings, from May 5-June 6 in Building W-4. The exhibition will feature work from a series of abstract collage paintings inspired by the wonders of nature. The dynamic paintings are created using hand pulled prints, elaborate drawings on filmy thin papers, charcoal and paint.

Born and raised in rural New Hampshire, Norris began painting as a young child. She attended the University of New Hampshire and graduated with a B.A. in fine arts. Norris then completed advanced studies in graphic design. She realized success as an art director in the fashion industry and as a freelance designer. For the past 10 years, Norris has been painting commissioned work for private clients and participating in exhibitions. Her work is currently displayed with various collectors in Arizona, California, North Carolina, Virginia and New Hampshire.

Building W-5 Featured Artists. The exhibition entitled Positively Negative, will feature original relief prints by Norma Pfaff and scratchboard by Tuula Rissanen Ross. It will be on display in Building W-5 from April 28-May 30.

Pfaff's interest in working on paper brought her to printmaking, and the process of creating a print has kept her working in this media.

Tuula Rissanen Ross' great uncle, Juho Rissanen, is a renowned Finnish artist. Her father, Kauko, was a master woodcarver who carved more than 5,000 portraits in his lifetime, and her mother is a gifted fiber artist. Rissanen Ross grew up in a household full of art works that inspired her to draw and paint from an early age. She has an A.S. degree in illustration and has worked as a technical illustrator and freelance artist.

Building W-6 Featured Artist. Laura Markish's goal as a mixed media artist is simply to continue to enjoy and explore the process. She strives each day to adorn her studio walls with new landscapes, fun abstracts and attention-grabbing "characters" from our surrounding community.

Building W-8 Studio Exhibition. The Ceramics Building has a regular recurring group exhibit of Ceramic Resident Artists work.

Building W-7 Featured Artist. The GlassHouse featured artist is Lisa St. Martin, a nationally known flamework



'Branch Lace' by Norma Pfaff



'Lepidoptera' by Michele Norris



'Box Turtle' by Tuula Rissanen Ross

artist and teacher. She is famous for her colorful and intricate flower and landscape beads, which she incorporates into pendants and necklaces.

Building W-10 Featured Artist. Suzanne Clifford-Clark's art work will be on display from May 8-June 12. Inspired by antique works of art, Clifford-Clark found a way to produce that quality in her own works of art. Using the same materials and techniques that have been used for centuries, she creates present day works that refer to the past. Clifford-Clark is a noted equestrian artist with works being featured at the Lexington, Kentucky History Museum in a special exhibit A Salute to the World Equestrian Games.

Associate Artist for the Month. Claudia Cappelle, will present her works in the exhibition From Nature in Building W-16. Exuberant and colorful, Cappelle's abstract paintings celebrate her vision of seeing inward to express the spiritual essence imbued in nature. Her nature inspired work brings together spontaneous, expressive brush strokes, skimming the surface with calligraphic scribbles and areas of vibrant color. Her intention is an intuitive expression of nature's qualities, not its imitation. Her work has been exhibited at the Studio Gallery in Washington, D.C., the White Canvas Gallery in Richmond, the Art League in Alexandria and in group shows throughout the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

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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 29

Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple" Male Cast. 7:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School Theatre, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets \$10. 703-426-1070 or www.lbtheatre.com.

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

FRIDAY/APRIL 30

"Father of the Bride." 7:30 p.m. at Robert E. Lee High School Lancer Theater, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students. 703-924-8438.

Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple" Female Cast. 8 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School Theatre, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets \$10. 703-426-1070 or www.lbtheatre.com.

Audubon Bird Walk. 8 a.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Beginners welcome. Check the woods and the lake for spring migrants. Meet at the carousel parking lot, first left after entering the park. Register at info@audubonva.org or 703-256-

6895.

Ponderings: Creatures of the Swamp. 4:30 p.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. For ages 6-10. Catch and identify swamp creatures. \$5 per child. Reserve at 703-451-9588.

SATURDAY/MAY 1

Robinson Secondary School Crew Club Plant Sale. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. at Burke Nursery and Garden Center, 9401 Burke Road, Burke. All Crew Club boats, coaches and fees are paid solely through fundraising.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

Burke Nursery donates a percentage of total sales when purchased at the Crew Club Booth with at least one Certificate. Pre-purchase \$10 certificates at cv622@aol.com or lewisfamily6@verizon.net. www.robinsoncrew.com or www.burkenursery.com.

Both Sides Battlefield Tour. Meet at the Franconia Museum at Franconia Governmental Center, 6121 Franconia Road. Museum tour, coffee and donuts at 8 a.m. Bus leaves at 8:15 a.m. See where Stonewall Jackson was mortally wounded at Chancellorsville, hear about the Franconia connection to Spotsylvania and view the stone wall at Fredericksburg where the Union attack was thwarted. Visit the plantation house where Robert E. Lee courted Mary Custis. \$100 includes bus, lunch, and a fast-food value card for the return trip. Contact Don Hakenson at 703-971-4984 or dhakenson@cox.net or Gregg Dudding at 703-971-4860 or wdudding@cox.net.

"Father of the Bride." 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Robert E. Lee High School Lancer Theater, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students. 703-924-8438.

Latin Dance Nights. 10 p.m.-2 a.m.; at Jaxx 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940. Ladies free, men \$10.

Homeschool Theater Spring Show. 12 p.m. at Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Dr. Seuss characters, including Horton the Elephant, Gertrude McFuzz, Lazy Mayzie, and more. Show and bag lunch \$15, show only \$12. Additional \$2 at the door.

Reserve at 703-866-3546 or www.yptnva.com/Groups.htm.
Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple." Female cast at 2:30 p.m. and male cast at 8 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School Theatre, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets \$10. 703-426-1070 or www.lbtheatre.com.

Container Garden Workshop. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Heather Hill Gardens, 8111 Ox Rd, Fairfax Station. Bring a container or purchase one. Soil, fertilizer, and refreshments provided. 703-690-6060 or www.heatherhillgardens.com.

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

St. Mary's Mothers' Group Kids' Stuff Sale. 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church, 5222 Sideburn Road, Springfield. Proceeds benefit the St. Mary's Mothers' Group, local charities, and individuals in need. Donations welcome. Contact Jenny Weston, 703-424-3396.

SUNDAY/MAY 2

Homeschool Theater Spring Show. 12 p.m. at Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Dr. Seuss characters, including Horton the Elephant, Gertrude McFuzz, Lazy Mayzie, and more. Show and bag lunch \$15, show only \$12. Additional \$2 at the door. Reserve at 703-866-3546 or www.yptnva.com/Groups.htm.

MONDAY/MAY 3

Latin Dance Nights. 10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield.

Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.
Read to the Dog. 4:30-5:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Read to a Reading Therapy Dog. Call to register for one 15 minute slot. Age 6 to 12 with adult. 703-339-4610.

TUESDAY/MAY 4

Dine Out for Koinonia. Chili's Restaurant, at the corner of Manchester Blvd. and Beulah Road, Alexandria. The Koinonia Foundation, a local social services organization, will receive 20 percent of every restaurant check all day long. Diners must mention "Koinonia" to their server. 703-971-1991 or www.koinoniacares.org.

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/MAY 5

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.

THURSDAY/MAY 6

Celebration of Song: Hale/Davis UCM Benefit Concert. 7 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Meet the Artists reception follows. \$25 adults, \$20 seniors, \$10 students. Charge tickets at 703-360-9546.

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

The only way some of us exercise our minds is by jumping to conclusions.
—Cullen Hightower

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Stickford Picks Up Lacrosse

Lake Braddock football player takes up lacrosse as way to train for football.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock defensive back Thomas Stickford isn't afraid to show off a bit of style and swagger on the field or with reporters.

His play with the varsity football team helped drive the Bruins to their first-ever state finals appearance in 2009.

Now, he's brought his athleticism to the Lake Braddock boys' lacrosse team.

During a pre-season practice with the lacrosse team, he displayed his confident attitude when asked about his future as a lacrosse player.

"I'm Thomas Stickford. All-region defensive back," he joked. "And future all-region midfielder."

His voice is calm and cool, which might make some believe his claim. Except for one little problem: It's his first year on the lacrosse team and first time ever holding a lacrosse stick.

So, about that all-region team? "Yeah, it's not going so well," Stickford said with a laugh. "It's a difficult sport really. My stick skills are improved, but not at the point where I'm confident in them."

Stickford is a football player looking for a home in the spring sport of lacrosse. It will be months before he heads to James Madison University where he will play football. To keep in shape and stay active, he joined the lacrosse team.

"With football, I had four years to learn the concepts in my freshman year," he said. "In lacrosse, I guess I'm as good as I am at freshman football."

Head lacrosse coach Steve Price, an as-

sistant coach with the football team, recruited Stickford to play for the lacrosse team while he was on the junior varsity baseball team.

"He didn't look happy on the [baseball] team," he said. "He wasn't playing very much."

With an opportunity to mold his defensive back into a defensive midfielder, Price helped Stickford get started in the sport. Now he's a go-to-guy for defensive play on the field.

"He's a great defensive midfielder," Price said. "He can get the ball up the field, and he's just got great speed. He's great at covering players."

Stickford's marriage of lacrosse with football training is starting pay off. At a recent JMU football workout session, Stickford said he noticed that lacrosse had improved his football skills.

"My footwork is so much quicker than everyone," he said. "I just feel great. All the running helps me out."

He's also found that while the sports are completely different in concept, there are similarities between a defensive back and a defensive midfielder.

"When we have a shutoff play, it's almost exactly like playing defensive back," he said. "It feels exactly the same. It's just like man-to-man defense in football."

Senior attacker Brandon Johnson, who also is a wide receiver on the football team, said the learning curve for lacrosse is the most difficult step for a football player to overcome.

"It's just learning how to play with the stick," he said. "Yeah, there's hitting and you need quickness, but learning how to throw

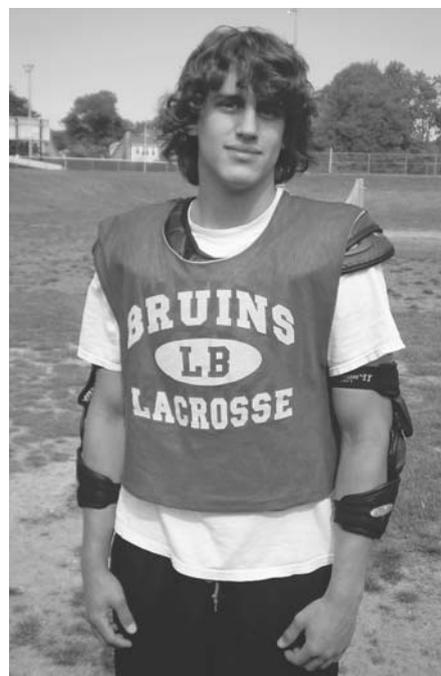


PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock defensive back Thomas Stickford is most known for his stellar play on the football team, but he's also helped add a defensive presence on the lacrosse field this spring.

and catch is the most difficult part of the transition."

Johnson has had a first-hand look at Stickford's development and has served as a mentor to his football teammate.

"He has gotten a lot better," Johnson said. "The first scrimmage we had he came out and just laid some kid out. He's learning the game."

Johnson is hoping that he might get the chance to assist on Stickford's first career goal.

"No goals yet this season [for Stickford], but he's had some pretty sick plays," he said. "He's had a bit of a dry spell, but I think he's going to break out of shell."

So maybe Stickford isn't all-region, but he's definitely earning his playing time with the Bruins.

"He's a great defensive midfielder."

— Steve Price

5 Qs With Nathan Taylor, Lake Braddock lacrosse player

Q: So tell me a bit about your green stick head. Did you dye it?

A: No I bought it green. My freshman year everyone had white heads and now they sell them in colors. When I got it, no one had it.

Q: It really sticks out on the field. Do you ever get any comments about it?

A: A coach kept telling me 'Oh you must be good because you have that money colored head.'

Q: So if you could be any athlete for a day, who would you be?

A: Probably Alexander Ovechkin. He's just so good at hockey.

Q: So are you a big Caps fan?

A: Yeah. We used to go when the team [wasn't very good], but now we can't get a ticket.

Q: The Lake Braddock lacrosse team's record is at 5-5, what do you guys need to do to improve?

A: We just need to play better. We're all great players, but we need to focus on meshing as a team.

— REED S. ALBERS

The Tao Of Al

Junior Danielle King uses Al Pacino speech to inspire Cavs.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

W.T. Woodson girls' soccer captain Danielle King needed something to motivate her team after a string of draws and a stunning 2-1 upset loss to South County on April 16.

At that point in the season, the Cavaliers had a 2-2-3 record, but King thought her team could be better than what the record showed.

"I decided we needed some team unity, something to pump us up," she said.

As a captain, it's her job to rally the girls, but instead of composing a rousing speech of her own, she turned to Al Pacino for help.

In the film "Any Given Sunday", Pacino plays Tony D'Amato, the fictional head coach of a struggling Miami-based football franchise. During halftime of a game, Pacino explained to his ego-dominated team that "life is a game of inches," and those inches are "the difference between winning and losing, and living and dying."

While egos aren't a problem in the Cavs' locker room, the fight-or-die message resonated with the junior. King took the initiative and decided to show her teammates the video during a team meeting called by the captains.

"I knew it was going to hit them hard — especially our seniors," King said. "This is our last couple games of soccer together. It was worth showing to them to try and push for those inches."

King, who has used the speech before to motivate her club teams, thought it was just what the Cavs needed to rile up some emotions on the team.

Pacino's speech did more than energize the Cavs' locker room, it's now the girls' rallying cry.

"It's our slogan," senior midfielder Courtney Owen said. "We listen to it before every game. It's all about fighting for each other and fighting

SEE KING, PAGE 15

PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION



Nathan Taylor

SPORTS

King's Season of Inches

FROM PAGE 14

for the inches in games.”
On top of lifting the team's spirits, it also re-focused the girls — allowing them to set new team goals together.

“It was great to get everyone together and set our eyes on one big goal,” junior midfielder Marlee Stynchula said. “We lost some key personalities last year, so to get the spirit back in everyone was important.”

Since the screening of the speech, the Cavs have been on a furious winning tear, holding their opponents off the score sheet in a 1-0 victory over Annandale and a 3-0 victory over Yorktown.

The battle for inches hasn't gone unnoticed by head coach Warren Williams.

Williams said he's aware of the team's renewed spirit and desire to fight on the field, but noted a bit of irony in their speech selection.

“It's sort of funny they picked the inches speech because it's been inches all year that have hurt us,” he said. “We have been hitting posts all season long, or just missing our shots. Just little things that held us back.”

Those inches now are working for the Cavs, not against them. One example is in the team plays that the group had trouble executing earlier in the season. Now they convert on corners and set pieces with ease.

During the 3-0 victory over Yorktown on April 22, all three goals scored came from corner kick set pieces finished with headers, an aberration for a team that hasn't always relied on corners for offense this year.

“It was clicking,” Warren said. “I wish we could have bottled them up for later. We've been focusing on [headers], but it's not something we do the best.”

Owen, who is smaller than most girls on the pitch,



PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

Marlee Stynchula, Danielle King and Courtney Owen have been at the forefront of Woodson's recent strong play. King also introduced the 'inches' speech to the team before games.

“I knew it was going to hit them hard.”

— Danielle King

embodied the inches speech when she scored two goals with her head in the Yorktown match.

“I'm only 5-foot 3-inches,” Owen said. “But it's my third [header goal] this year. It's not expected that I [score with my head], but I've just been feeling it and fighting for it.”

Only three games remain in the girls' soccer team's schedule, but with his team playing their best soccer of the season, Williams said the team meeting and Pacino speech could be the engine fueling a long playoff run.

“They wanted what's best for each other,” he said. “They didn't want any regrets for this season.”

View the Video

Watch Woodson's three goals and other game highlights on the Connection website, www.connectionnewspapers.com.

FAITH NOTES

Community Prayer Walk and Benefit Concert presented by the GRACE Youth Group of Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main St., Fairfax, on Saturday, May 1. Join them during the final two hours of their 20 hour, 10 minute prayer walk around the City of Fairfax, beginning in the church parking lot on Saturday, May 1, at 2 p.m., and concluding on the church lawn with a

benefit concert at 4 p.m. The walk is \$25, including a T-shirt and concert admission. Concert tickets \$10, age 10 and under free. All proceeds benefit Hearts with Haiti, a non-profit organization bringing boys off the streets of Port-au-Prince, whose facility was completely destroyed in the recent earthquake. Register at www.fairfaxpresbyterian.org or 571-244-0753.

The St. George United Methodist Church's Pig Pull will be Saturday, May 1, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at the church at 4550 Ox Road, Fairfax. The traditional pork or chicken barbeque plate will be \$8 for adults and \$5 for children, eat in or take out. 703-385-4550 or www.stgumc.org.

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LEGAL NOTICE
The following store will be holding a public auction on 05-13-10
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11325 Lee Highway
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Unit 3120- Alaina Flynn- boxes, toys, electronics

21 Announcements 21 Announcements

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that M.A. Bongiovanni, Inc. is request-
ing a permit from Virginia Marine Resources Commission to in-
stall 61 linear feet of water reuse pipeline beneath Pohick
Creek and encase the pipe with compacted stone as part of
the Norman M. Cole Jr. Pollution Control Plant Water Reuse
Project in Fairfax County.
Send comments/inquiries within 15 days to: Marine
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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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Board OKs Tax Rate Hike

FROM PAGE 3

cline in home values for many Fairfax residents. The average property tax bill in the county is expected to be \$26.93 less than it was last year.

A half cent of the proposed increase on property taxes will be dedicated to county stormwater services. Currently, 1 cent of the property tax rate is used for the stormwater program.

As part of the budget likely to pass, Fairfax would also charge a new vehicle registration fee, \$33 for most cars annually. County residents would also pay an increase on sewer service fees from \$4.50 to \$5.27 per 1,000 gallons used, raising the average sewer bill by \$60.

According to Bulova, the increase in the sewer service charge is largely to help the county come into compliance with federal government mandates regarding clean water.

In general, people and organizations have not objected to the increase in the property tax rate, especially since the average Fairfax taxpayer would owe less than they did last year. Even Republican supervisors supported a hike in the rate, though Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield) has objected to the amount of money dedicated to stormwater management in the past.

Where critics of the budget have focused their energy is the vehicle registration fee. "At the bottom of a recession, you hold the line on taxes and you reduce what you need to reduce," said Cook.

Most Fairfax residents have at least one vehicle, the new \$33 fee will offset the \$26.93 savings the average homeowner will see on their property tax bill, according to Cook.

The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce also objected to the vehicle registration fee, saying it would hurt local businesses.

"It will have a huge impact on businesses that have a large fleet," said chamber chairman Stuart Mendelsohn, a Republican who used to represent the Dranesville District on the Board of Supervisors.

Democrats who supported the new fee said the county needs to diversify its tax base. Real estate taxes generate 62.1 percent of the funding for Fairfax's budget and several supervisors said renters and other residents should have to share the local tax burden with property owners.

"I don't think all of our revenue should be derived from property taxes. Cars are also an expense to the county. For example, police have to take time to deal with car accidents and car-related thefts," said Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence).

But at least one Democrat, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), also criticized his former colleagues on the Board of Supervisors for bringing back the vehicle registration fee. As county chairman, the congressman led the effort to abolish the fee a few years ago.

Fairfax County does not intend to bring back the decal that was attached to the vehicle registration fee, so there is no justification for the payment, said Connolly.

"There is no rational for this fee. Without the decal, it is a fee on nothing. Why not tax us for the air that we breathe?" said Connolly, who is running for re-election this fall.

In public meetings and through e-mails, Bulova said Fairfax residents were overwhelmingly interested in expanding the county's sources of tax revenue.

"We heard from the public and they expressed support for bringing back the vehicle registration fee," said Bulova.

PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENTS may need to brace themselves for more out of pocket expenses.

The supervisors allocated approximately 53 percent of its \$3.3 billion general fund to Fairfax County Public Schools leaving the school system with about \$16 million less from the county that it received last year.

"It would have been my preference to at least get level funding, especially when we have seen an increase of 1,000 students this year," said Fairfax School Board President Kathy Smith (Sully).

The School Board is likely to vote to keep the elementary band and strings programs and not to increase the average class size at a time when some elementary school teachers are coping with groups of 30 or more children.

But the School Board, which will finalize the schools' budget in May, is also likely to implement a \$100 athletic fee per student per sport in high schools and a \$75 fee for each Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exam a student takes. An exception will be made for low-income families who cannot afford the extra charges, said Smith.

Parents who choose to enroll children in elementary school gifted and talented centers, when they have classes for gifted students — called "local level IV services" — offered at their base school may also lose transportation services, said Smith.

THOUGH FAIRFAX received an unexpected \$61 million in extra funding from Virginia, the money can largely not be used to cover school programs that are facing reductions this year.

Smith said \$45 million of the extra funding from the Commonwealth will have to be put aside to address future payments into the Virginia Retirement System for teachers and staff. McDonnell and the Virginia General Assembly managed to balance the state budget — and allocated Fairfax schools the extra \$61 million — largely by foregoing payments to the public employees' retirement fund over the next two years.

The governor has said the Commonwealth, as well as Fairfax County Public Schools, should expect to "make up" for the two years of missed payments by paying the owed money back into the system over the next decade.

"We have to put that money in a reserve because we get the great opportunity to pay that money back over the next 10 years at 7.5 percent interest. We are going to need the revenue to pay for that," said Smith.

28 Yard Sales

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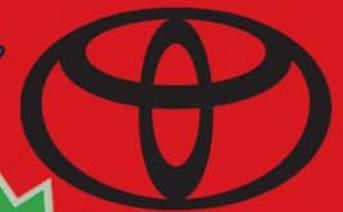
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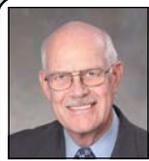
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