

# History Lesson

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Vienna resident and aspiring drummer boy  
Eryn Owen receives some guidance from Capt.  
Chris Hoehne during the 10th Fairfax Civil  
War Day at the Historic Blenheim House.



New Fire  
Chief Hired

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David Rohr

## Right Man for The Job

City appoints David Rohr as new fire chief.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

The City of Fairfax takes great pride in its public services, and providing a top-notch fire department is always at the top of its priority list. So, when a new fire chief was needed to take the reins of the career fire department, city administrators knew they had their work cut out for them.

After a lengthy search to find the most qualified replacement that included many candidates, both internal and external, the City Manager and City Council are confident that they have found their man.

David "Dave" Rohr, currently the assistant chief of operations for the Fairfax County Fire Department, was selected for the position by City Manager Robert Sisson and approved by City Council March 30. The 31-year fire services veteran will begin serving as Fire Chief May 17.

"I am ecstatic," Rohr said. "The more I think about it, the more excited I get. I've been [working for the county] for 31 years and change is always good. I think it will give me a new energy."

Rohr, 50, has been a firefighter for most of his life. He was born and raised in Vienna and attended Oakton High School. At a time when most of his peers were going to for the football team or running for student government, the

SEE ROHR, PAGE 7

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## Pair Gives Healing Gift

**Tribute to lost daughter aids in grieving process for two parents.**

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

**J**oe Thelin and Tara Mooney needed to grieve like any parents do after losing a child, but instead of turning their pain inward, they gave a gift to the community that honored their child.

The gift was received Saturday, May 1, as Katie's Playground opened at Royal Lake Park in a ribbon-cutting event attended by several local dignitaries. The swing set and school-age composite structure promises to not only add to the park experience for Kings Park West's children, but serve as a reminder of how a tragedy can be turned into a triumph as well.

"This has been more than a project, it's been a journey of recovery, a journey of finding ways to cope with the sadness we had," Thelin said. "The greatest part about this is that it has been a healing process and through this process we got closer to so many people we never knew."

The journey began for Thelin and Mooney on

March 18, 2008, when their daughter, Katherine Rose Thelin, was stillborn. She was born full-term but died the day before her birth and though autopsies were performed, the cause of death was never determined. The couple's pain felt overwhelming at times, but with the support of family and friends, they decided that the best way to ease it was to preserve and honor her memory and the solution was to found the Katie Thelin Children's Charity in 2009.

The foundation, which was created with the aim to perform charitable works and raise money for projects that would enhance community life, helped fund the playground for its first project. According to Fairfax County Park Foundation Executive Director Paul Baldino, Thelin and Mooney first reached out to him through an e-mail telling him that they wanted to build a playground as a tribute to their daughter. The idea was perfect, Baldino said, as a new playground had been on the park's master plan since 1973, but he was not sure that they understood the cost to build one.

"I told [Mooney] how expensive it would be and I tried to tell her to do other things," Baldino said. "But Tara made up her mind that her and Joe were going to build a playground for Katie."

Thelin and Mooney reached out to everyone they knew for donations to help fund the purchase and

**"This has been more than a project, it's been a journey of recovery."**

— Joseph Thelin



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

**Fairfax County Park Authority Board member Winnie Shapiro, Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), Tara Mooney, Joe Thelin and Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large).**

SEE COUPLE, PAGE 14

## Familiar Faces on New Council

**City Council, School Board elections bring many familiar faces back into fold.**

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

**R**esidents of the City of Fairfax cast their ballots choosing the men and women who will lead them for the next two years and based on the results, the residents are pleased with the way things have been run the previous two.

The city conducted its biannual City Council and School Board elections Tuesday, May 4, and every incumbent running in both races was reelected. This result, several City Council members said, is a vote of confidence that the city is on the right track and well-equipped for the future.

"The city has done the right thing and will be well-served with the group of leaders they have chosen," said Council Member Jeffrey Greenfield. "It was, across the board, a positive campaign, and we all only talked about the issues. We've got a lot to focus

on as we move the city forward and we've got a great group of leaders to serve the people."

Mayor Robert Lederer ran for reelection unopposed this year and will be joined on the council again by Joan Cross, Dan Drummond, Steven Stombres, Greenfield and David Meyer. Stombres, who was elected to his second term, received the most votes with 1,778. Cardinal Bank Executive Vice President Ellie Schmidt, who was running for the first time on a platform of lower taxes and spending, filled former Council Member Gary Rasmussen's empty seat.

"It's truly a thrill and an honor to be elected to the council," Schmidt said. "I am looking forward to continuing my service to the community and I'm just so thankful for all of the people who made that possible."

Michael DeMarco, chairman of the city's Economic Development Authority, fared the best of the three first-time challengers, garnering 1,363 votes, which fell 154 votes short of Drummond, the sixth and final winner. Mosby Woods resident Chris Gaines and armed forces veteran Jerry O'Dell received 528 and 392 votes, respectively to round out the candidates. Though DeMarco was disappointed with the results, he hinted at another run for council in the next election.

"I had a great time over the last couple of months,"

**"We've got a great group of leaders to serve the people."**

— Council member  
Jeffrey Greenfield

SEE CITY, PAGE 14



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

**The new City Council, from left, David Meyer, Steve Stombres, Dan Drummond, Mayor Robert Lederer, Joan Cross, Jeffrey Greenfield and Ellie Schmidt.**

## Credit Card Crimes Garners Three Years in Prison

A 40-year-old Philadelphia man who went on a post-Christmas shopping spree in Fair Oaks Mall with fraudulent credit cards has been sentenced to three years in prison. He is Warren Thomas Wilkerson of 1000 block of St.

Fairfax County Police Officer Ronald Haas detailed the case against him in a Jan. 19 affidavit for a warrant to search the Blackberry cell phone Wilkerson had in his possession when he was arrested.

Haas was working in the mall, Dec. 29, 2009, in plain clothes, as part of the police department's Retail Anti-Theft Team. While there, he was advised that a man had tried to purchase gift cards and merchandise with credit cards believed to be fraudulent or stolen.

Using the description of the man provided by the person who'd reported him, police located him in the mall. "He was followed into four stores and observed by officers attempting the transactions," wrote Haas. "The subject, later identified as Wilkerson, was observed producing the cards from a stack held together by a rubber band. If a card was declined, [he] merely produced another card from the stack, without question, and continued the transaction."

Throughout the surveillance, officers watched Wilkerson make several calls on his Blackberry. Police approached him and asked about the purchases and, eventually, Haas determined that Wilkerson had numerous credit cards and a New York driver's license with his photo.

"The driver's license and all the credit cards were in the name of James Caan," wrote the officer. "It was immediately apparent, upon physical inspection, that neither the driver's license or the credit cards were genuine."

Haas then arrested Wilkerson and seized his Blackberry, plus "merchandise in [his] car that had been acquired during the day's transactions." Wilkerson later admitted using fraudulent cards he'd purchased from an unnamed source, along with the driver's license.

On March 9 in Circuit Court, he pleaded guilty to two counts of credit-card conspiracy, returning April 23 for sentencing. At that time, Judge Brett Kassabian sentenced him to five years in prison, with 3 1/2 years suspended, on each count.

He then ran the sentences consecutively, leaving Wilkerson with three years total to serve. Kassabian also placed him on five years supervised probation, following his release.

— BONNIE HOBBS

## Rabid Raccoon Is Found

On Friday, April 30, City of Fairfax Animal Control was called to the 4200 Block of Allison Circle for a report of a raccoon in a homeowner's back yard. Animal Control observed the deceased animal in the driveway. The raccoon was taken to Town and Country Animal Hospital for examination, and a test confirmed that the animal tested positive for the rabies virus.

To prevent the spread of rabies, police advise residents to vaccinate all pet dogs and cats, keep pets under control at all times and do not approach stray cats or dogs, or any wildlife, especially raccoons or foxes. Signs in an animal that might indicate rabies are: Snarling, biting himself, growling, hissing and approaching people. For more information, call the Animal Control Office at 703-385-7919.

## Farmer's Market Opens

Fresh fruit and vegetables and lots more – it's all at the Fairfax Farmer's Market. It just returned May 1 and will be open Saturdays, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., until Oct. 30. It's at 10500 Main St. (Route 236) in the City of Fairfax.



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

**Capt. Chris Hoehne demonstrates the proper way to hold a rifle. Hoehne is a lifetime City of Fairfax resident.**

# Blue and Gray Day

## Civil War Day returns to Historic Blenheim House.

On Saturday May 1, the City of Fairfax, Historic Fairfax City Inc. and the 17th Virginia Infantry Co. D "Fairfax Rifles" celebrated the 10th Fairfax Civil War Day at the Historic Blenheim House in Fairfax. Music, hayrides, living history, camp demonstrations and activities provided a fun family event steeped in history. The event also showcased the award-winning Civil War Interpretive Center.



**Judith Pfeiffer demonstrates wool spinning to Joshua and Jonathan Kunkel.**



**Capt. Kyle Printz shouts 'fire,' and the 12-pound mountain howitzer spews forth.**



**The 17th Virginia Infantry Co. D 'Fairfax Rifles' conducts Beginners Boot Camp.**

## Lyme Disease Town Meeting

Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) and Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence) will host a town meeting on Lyme disease, along with special guest, Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), Saturday, May 15, at 10 a.m., at the Government Center. A panel of experts will present information and answer questions.

## Seminar on Disabilities Act

Breaking Down Barriers is a free seminar on the updated, Americans with Disabilities Act and other employment-related laws affecting persons with disabilities. It will be on Monday, May 17, from 9 a.m.- 12 p.m., at the Fairfax County Government Center.

The Fairfax County Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs (OHREP) is hosting it in partnership with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission - Washington Field Office (EEOC) and the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia.

The seminar will feature an overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, an overview of the new Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act of 2008, plus information on filing a complaint and navigating the EEOC and OHREP investigative processes. There'll also be a question-and-answer session.

Obtain information on the rights of persons with disabilities and the responsibilities of employers. Service providers, nonprofit organizations, employers, advocacy groups and individuals interested in the rights of persons with disabilities are encouraged to attend.

Further information and registration is available by contacting Nicole Rawlings at 703-324-2953, TTY 703-324-2900.

## Helping Keep Children Safe

City of Fairfax Police, in conjunction with the Optimist Club, will be offering Safe Assured identification kits Wednesday, May 19, from 12-6 p.m., at the City of Fairfax Police Department, 3730 Old Lee Highway. Parents will receive a full-color photo ID and a mini-CD containing digital fingerprints, a digital photo, video showing movement and mannerisms, a general physical description, vital personal information and a family code word. Private information is encrypted and accessible only by law enforcement.

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

### COLLEGE NOTES

**Michael J. Desroches** from Fairfax was named to the dean's list at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, for the fall 2009 semester. Desroches is studying business. Penn State Behrend's dean's list recipients must earn at least a 3.5 grade point average for the semester in which they are awarded.

**Carla Burrus** and **Michael Weiler** of Fairfax earned the distinction of faculty honors at the Georgia Institute of

Technology. Undergraduate students earning a 4.00 academic average for the semester gain the distinction of faculty honors at Georgia Tech.

**Alexandra Lee** and **Ken Mai** of Fairfax made the dean's list for fall 2009 at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Undergraduate students earning a 3.00 or higher academic average for the semester gain the distinction of being named to the dean's list at Georgia Tech.

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## COLLEGE

**Kathleen Baugh** is the recipient of the 2010 Pamplin Leader Award at Fairfax High School. The Pamplin Leader is a one-year, \$1,000 tuition scholarship to Virginia Tech. It is presented annually to a top student from each public high school in Virginia. It was established by Robert B. Pamplin, Sr. (VT, Class of '33) and Robert B. Pamplin Jr., to acknowledge students with a record of outstanding academic achievement that is balanced with a commitment to community service and leadership experience.



**Kathleen Baugh**

Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne who were named to the dean's list for the fall semester, which ended in December. Brockway is an astronomy and astrophysics major. To be included on the dean's list, a student must complete 12 or more graded credits in a semester with a semester grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.4.

**Kirsten Manville**, class of 2013 at Connecticut College and a resident of Fairfax, has been named to the dean's high honors for the 2009 fall semester. Dean's honors is a recognition for students who have earned a grade point average of at least 3.3, and dean's high honors is a recognition for students who have earned a grade point average of at least 3.7.

**Melissa DiDonato** of Fairfax qualified for the fall 2009 dean's list at Belmont University. Eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C. DiDonato is a 2009 graduate of Robinson Secondary. She is a music business major at Belmont and is a member of the guitar ensemble and participates in intramural sports.

**Erin P. O'Donnell** of Fairfax was named to Coastal Carolina University dean's list for fall 2009. To qualify for the dean's list, freshmen must earn a 3.25 grade point average, and upper-classmen must earn a 3.5 grade point average; students must be enrolled full time.

**Mitchell Baer** of Fairfax, son of David T. Baer and Karen Baer, was named to the dean's list of Emory College, the undergraduate, liberal arts college of Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., for the 2009 fall semester. Students must be in the top 20 percent of Emory College or have approximately a 3.850 grade point average or higher to be named to the dean's list.

**Demir Dogrul**, an English major at Davis & Elkins College in Elkins, W.Va. has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list. Demir is the son of Hasan and Debbie Dogrul of Fairfax. Students on the Davis & Elkins dean's list must earn a 3.6 G.P.A. on a 4.0 scale while taking a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Emory & Henry College has named **Cassandra Harden** of Fairfax to the dean's list for the fall 2009 semester. To qualify for the dean's list, students must achieve at least a 3.6 G.P.A.

**Krista N. Yancey**, daughter of John Yancey of San Diego, Calif. and Carol and Richard Bryan of Fairfax and a graduate of W.T. Woodson High was named to the dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2009-10 academic year at Bucknell University. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition.

**Diana S. Ricciardi** of Fairfax, a sophomore in communication studies, was named to the dean's list for the fall 2009 semester at Rowan University. To be named to the dean's list, a student must have earned a 3.45 grade point average or above.

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

**Kristen Brockway**, a resident of Fairfax, was among the students from



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# David Rohr New Fire Chief

FROM PAGE 2

16-year-old Rohr joined the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. This curiosity, he found, quickly turned into a passion, and he knew instantly that his career path was set.

"Firefighting was something that I always had an interest in since I was a teenager," Rohr said. "My older brother Mark was a volunteer at Vienna [Volunteer Fire Department], so when I turned 16 I followed his lead and joined."

Rohr began his professional firefighting career immediately after graduation, getting a job at the Annandale station in 1979 while taking classes at Northern Virginia Community College concurrently. He worked at the station for approximately four years until he was promoted to driver and was transferred to the Burke Centre Fire Station followed by additional transfers to the Oakton and Edsall Road stations.

Rohr was eventually promoted to sergeant and was transferred to the McLean station where he worked on the Heavy Rescue Squad performing car extractions and handled hazardous materials, among many other responsibilities. This promotion kicked off a series of promotions and transfers over the next 18 years in which he moved up the ladder from lieutenant to his current position, assistant chief of operations and saw him serve everywhere from Tysons Corner to the county's training academy to an office job leading the department's human resources division.

**ROHR'S ROAD** to the City of Fairfax was paved in January, as the city's fire chief, Tom Owens, announced his retirement. Owens left to be the director of the Division of Fire and Rescue Services of the Frederick, Md. Fire Department. Rohr said that when he heard the news, his interest was piqued, as he said he had a good relationship with the city's fire department and always admired it. So, he submitted his résumé and applied for the position in early February.

"I had heard about [the opening] through the grapevine and I kind of evaluated it and knew it was something I was interested in," Rohr said. "I always thought extremely highly of the department and the city. I have a very strong relationship with the volunteer firefighting community, which is very important to City Council."

Rohr said that he had an initial interview

with members of the city's fire department, and then had a follow up interview with Sisson and City Council. Rohr said that the second interview consisted of an in-depth review of his résumé followed by several rounds of questions. After this interview, which was also given to several other candidates, Sisson decided that Rohr was the best candidate and recommended him to City Council, who subsequently approved Sisson's choice.

"It was a difficult decision to make," Sisson said. "All finalists were outstanding fire and rescue professionals of the highest caliber. However, I know Rohr's collaborative approach to leadership will serve the city's fire department well, especially with its unique and strong relationship with the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department."

**WHEN A NEW LEADER** takes the helm, a typical first instinct is to tear everything down and rebuild but in this case, the feeling is nonexistent. Rohr said that apart from a few minor improvements, the department is in such excellent shape that there is virtually nothing he would change.

He said that some equipment replacement is necessary, as are facility upgrades. He also said that staffing levels need to be maintained. In addition, he wants to build a single-family styled house at the Training Center for the Rapid Intervention Team to use for training with a larger goal of having stations from around the county come and use it to train as well. He acknowledged that these improvements would cost the city more money, something that is frowned upon in the current economic climate, but he believes that the situation will change.

"I'm really interested in getting in there and understanding how the system works and the financial challenges it is facing right now," Rohr said. "We need to make sure we get out in front of that because things are going to get better."

Though he will miss many of the friends he made and the people he served while working in the county department, Rohr is more than confident that he made the right decision. After having spent 31 years in the business, he knows a good thing when he sees it.

"I was really looking for a place where I could build a relationship with the community," Rohr said. "And I have to tell you, I am in a department that is one of the best in the world."

## MILITARY NOTES

**Army Spec. Patrick S. Weixel** has graduated from the Direct Fire Infantryman One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga. The training consists of Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training. Weixel is the son of Michael Weixel of Anvil Court, Fairfax. The specialist graduated in 2001 from W.T. Woodson High School and received a bachelor's degree in 2008 from Old Dominion University, Norfolk.

**Jason T. Oberoi** graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort

Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. The cadet is a student at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg. He is the son of Sid and Sharda Oberoi of Glen Chase Court, Fairfax. Oberoi is a 2005 graduate of Robinson Secondary School.

**Christopher X. Treyz** has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. He is the son of Fred A. and Mary T. Treyz of Chancery Park Drive, Fairfax. Treyz is a 2006 graduate of Fairfax High School.

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## Change for the 11th Congressional District

We write as concerned senior citizens of Northern Virginia. The "we" is a loose collection of seniors who have previously had little or no active role in the political process. Our concerns have been raised and discussed among us at church gatherings, business meetings, social events, etc.

What we are gravely concerned about is the future, both for our children and for this country. The recent passage of health reform legislation, with its secretive and anti-democratic process in the House of Representatives, has served as a catalyst for raising our voices. Our current congressman, Mr. Gerald Connolly, has trumpeted the Health Insurance Reform Law as an "historic achievement" that his constituents favored. We could not disagree more with this characterization. Here are just a few of the reasons why Mr. Connolly's justification for his yes vote is wrong:

- In passing the health care legislation, Mr. Connolly and others who voted in the affirmative, broke the covenant between those who govern and those of us who are governed. Mr. Connolly ignored the fact that he is a representative of his constituents and is in that position based on the consent of the governed. The majority of Americans (including those in the 11th Congressional District) is not opposed to health care reform, but does not want this specific health care bill. Regrettably, Mr. Connolly chose his own political self-interest over the majority view of his constituents.
- Mr. Connolly argues that the health insurance reform will bring down the budget deficit. This is political spin of which we have all grown weary. We know that this deliberately deceitful calculus is based on ten years of revenue and only six years of cost. We know that the \$500 billion that is to be stripped out of Medicare is a hot potato politically and will not likely be feasible to accomplish. But most of all, we know that the major entitlement programs of the U.S. Government in the past have all cost substantially more than originally claimed and have added significantly to our nation's deficit.
- We seniors are not selfishly concerned about the effect fiscal irresponsibility will have on us. It is our children that will bear the burden of health care legislation, the stimulus package, cap and trade, etc.; all pieces of legislation that Mr. Connolly has voted for. As Americans, we face unprecedented increases in our federal deficit. This year the federal budget deficit will exceed \$1.4 trillion, representing some 10% of our nation's entire GDP. Moody's credit rating service has begun to call into question the AAA rating for our country. Our children are facing the prospect of a lower standard of living as a result of higher and higher taxes tied to increasing growth in government and entitlements. What was once an unquestioned principle and goal for our country, "equality of opportunity," has now been repackaged by Mr. Connolly and others as "equality of income."
- Mr. Connolly states that health care reform will improve Americans' access to care. On the face of it, this is counterintuitive. The legislation is to add thirty million new people to the health insurance rolls without a commensurately proportional growth in physicians and health care facilities. The effect of this can only mean less access to care not more.
- Mr. Connolly believes that Medicare will be improved and protected. As seniors, we know that this is but another political ruse. The health care law reduces Medicare by half a trillion dollars. How can that be a good thing for all of us who have paid into Medicare all these years and are now told that we won't be getting what we thought we had paid for? Moreover, the changes imposed on what physicians can charge and how they must account for these charges, will lead to a much smaller number of doctors willing to accept Medicare payments for their patients. No doubt other unintended consequences will be a reduction in the number of those choosing to pursue a medical career and a dilution of the talent pool among those who do.
- Finally, Mr. Connolly is certain that the new health care law will bring down premium costs for families and small businesses. Presumably he is basing this on the Congressional Budget Office review. Sadly, however, this too is just so much political window dressing. During the debate surrounding passage of the health reform legislation, in-depth studies were done that showed that the bill would drive up premium costs. WellPoint, parent company to Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, did analyses that showed significant increases in cost for families, seniors and the young. As for small businesses, increases could occur depending upon the size of the company's employee population.

We believe it is time for change in the 11th Congressional District. We want to see more political balance in the U.S. Congress so that what happened with health care does not occur again. We want a representative who is more interested in supporting his constituents rather than supporting his political party.

No one political party should unilaterally wield power sufficient to subvert our democratic process. Our forefathers understood this and were wise enough to design a system of checks and balances. Mr. Connolly is a professional politician who has voted consistently in favor of large, costly and inefficient government programs that have contributed substantially to our country's huge and growing budget deficit. We believe he is out of step with his constituents. In November he should be "one and done."

Seniors for Change in the 11th Congressional District

P.O. Box 164  
Dunn Loring, Virginia 22027

# OPINION

## Police Power Demands Transparency

Local police departments should open their books, release original documents, welcome public scrutiny and involvement.

First, we should say that we appreciate and support the police officers who serve and protect our communities. These are remarkable men and women who have dedicated themselves to community service even in the face of danger. They are entitled to a special level of respect. Police in all communities also wield power unlike any other entity — the power to detain and question, the power to arrest, the power to respond with force when necessary, sometimes deadly force.

With that power, comes responsibility — the responsibility to operate openly and with transparency, the responsibility to make available the greatest possible amount of information, especially the responsibility to provide the public with a full picture of what happened when something goes wrong.

Somewhere along the way, police leaders in Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax have gone astray in their control of information.

The first paragraph of Virginia Freedom of Information Act, passed by the General Assembly in the 1968, states that all public records “shall be presumed open.” But the legislation includes an exception that allows police to withhold “complaints, memoranda, correspondence, case files or reports, witness statements and evidence.”

Police officials in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria have adopted what they call a “blanket” approach to using their exemption. That means they have decided to withhold any document they can. The actual reports filed by police officers about any incident, available to the public and the press in almost every juris-

diction in America, are never released in Northern Virginia.

“I don’t think we have to justify it,” said Alexandria Police Chief Earl Cook.

A Fairfax County spokesperson asserted that it was only a few “individual reporters” who were interested in more information from the police.

“Conscientious and dedicated judges, prosecutors, public defenders, and law enforcement officers work in a system which is as transparent as it needs to be,” wrote Alexandria Commonwealth’s Attorney Randolph Sengel.

Sengel is mistaken.

“Incident reports like the ones the Virginia law enforcement authorities are saying can’t possibly be released across the country are being released across the country every waking minute of every day,” Charles Davis, director of the National Freedom of Information Coalition, told reporter Michael Pope.

“In Florida, with the transparency level that we have, it helps law enforcement,” said Gerald Bailey, commissioner of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. “It’s made us better agencies simply because we proceed knowing that our work product is going to be reviewed by the press, by the public and by the people who are actually involved in the cases we are working.”

This isn’t an academic exercise.

In the extreme example, Fairfax County police shot and killed an unarmed motorist in November, and have said that the shooting was justified. But they have refused to release the

move that can only be termed the Nazification of the Confederacy.” (page 207)

On page 211 of the book, Webb wrote: “Slavery was emphatically not the reason that most individual Southerners fought so long and hard, and at such overwhelming cost. Slavery may have been the catalyst issue from a governmental perspective ... but other factors, some cultural and some historical, brought most of the Confederate soldiers to the battlefield.”

According to Webb (page 223): “In virtually every major battle of the Civil War, Confederate soldiers who did not own slaves were fighting against a proportion of Union Army soldiers who had not been asked to give theirs up.” The Scots-Irish of the Confederacy fought, according to Webb, not for slavery; they fought: 1. Because they were “provoked, intimidated and ultimately invaded,” and 2. because they believed “this was a War of Independence in the same sense

as the Revolutionary War.”

For other interesting quotes related to slavery and the Civil War, consider that on Oct. 16, 1854, Abraham Lincoln opined the North was just as responsible for slavery as the South (Exact quote: “When southern people tell us they are no more responsible for the origin of slavery than we; I acknowledge the fact.” (Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln, edited by Roy Basler, Volume 2, page 255). On Jan. 12, 1848, then U.S. Rep. Abraham Lincoln said: “Any people anywhere, being inclined and having the power, have the right to rise up, and shake off the existing government, and form a new one that suits them better. This is a most valuable — a most sacred right — a right, which we hope and believe, is to liberate the world. Nor is the right confined to cases in which the whole people of an existing government, may choose to exercise it. Any portion of such people that can, may revo-

lutionize, and make their own, of so much of the territory as they inhabit. (CW of AL, Volume 1, page 438).

**Paul Herbert**

President

The Historical Society of Fairfax County and author of “God Knows All Your Names”

### Arizona Law

To the Editor:

Although we live far away from the Mexican-American border, there’s no doubt that illegal immigration is a growing concern among American citizens. While it’s an issue we should deal with in good time, one state is trying to solve the issue in a completely inappropriate manner.

Last Friday, April 23, Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer signed the strictest illegal immigration bill to date

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

### Historical Perspective

To the Editor:

On the topic of what current Virginia politicians think of slavery and the Civil War, please consider Sen. Jim Webb’s (D-Va.) views, from his book, “Born Fighting: How The Scots-Irish Shaped America”:

“Recent years, however, have seen a new kind of nastiness emerge in these disputes. Even the venerable Robert E. Lee has taken some vicious hits, as dishonest or misinformed advocates among political interest groups and in academia attempt to twist yesterday’s America into a fantasy that might better serve the political issues of today. The greatest disservice ... has been the attempt by these revisionist politicians and academics to defame the entire Confederate Army in a

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## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

that aims to “identify, prosecute and deport illegal immigrants,” according to the New York Times. The bill will grant police officers the ability to demand immigration documents from anyone suspected of being in the country illegally come August. The bill will also allow the police to detain anyone who fails to carry such documentation.

While simply asking for legal documents doesn't seem like a big deal to some, think back to the World War II era when Jews were forced to wear yellow stars. How is demanding to see a person's immigration papers on a whim any different than demanding to see someone's yellow star declaring what religion or ethnicity they are? Clearly, this worked so well in the past, why not let history repeat itself? Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony got it right when he said the bill resembled “Nazism.”

The fact that police officers can kick illegal immigrants out of the country isn't what's really bothersome about this bill; it's the fact that they can demand to see papers from whomever they want, whenever they want. No longer are they restricted to logical locations such as train stations, airports and highway checkpoints, but wherever they feel like it.

Although Brewer said that racial profiling wouldn't be tolerated, does anyone believe it really won't happen? Give me a break. How many immigration papers will the police collect from Caucasians? I guess I'll just take Brewer's word for it when she says, “We have to trust our law enforcement.”

I hope the police officers enforcing this law only do so “when practicable” and don't abuse their power. I hope when this issue eventually reaches the steps of the Capitol that our Congress deals with it in a civil and bipartisan manner. But most importantly, I hope the rest of our nation has enough respect for our fellow human beings to not follow in Arizona's footsteps.

**Arielle Retting**  
Fairfax

### 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

### Asking for Truth

To the Editor:

I am very concerned about the deceptive practices of so-called crisis-pregnancy centers. These organizations purport themselves as medical facilities with resources for women facing unintended pregnancies, but they deceive clients and prevent them from making informed decisions about their own health.

A recent report by NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia shows that most of these centers lie to women, telling them “facts” that peer-reviewed medical authorities have de-

bunked. That any person or group would be so invested in their political motivations to prey on women disgusts me. If any other group made up stories about cancer, infertility, depression and suicide attempts to prevent a person from making basic healthcare decisions, it would be exposed for what it is: fear mongering and political propaganda.

Asking for truth is too much for Virginia, though. As of this summer, the state helps fund these centers with absolutely no regulations on what they do or say. Since July 2009, these facilities have already received more than \$10,000 worth of state-regulated funds from the “Choose Life” license plate. I find this totally unacceptable and am horrified by this every time I see one of these license plates, knowing the truth behind what they self-righteously support.

Our citizens need real information to be able to make informed decisions about their health. Not misleading myths. Women deserve to have medically sound, factual information when making one of the biggest decisions of their lives. To allow these centers to continue operating the way have been is unthinkable and nothing short of a one sided ideologically, politically motivated decision.

Those of us who care and know the truth will not be silent.

**Jennifer Shorr**  
Fairfax

### Time To Change

To the Editor:

On Sunday, April 25, I joined thousands of people on the Mall in Washington, D.C. to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. But this year, Earth Day isn't just about celebrating and planting trees. Our country is facing a historic energy crisis, and it's time to take action.

We spend about a billion dollars a day on foreign oil. Dirty, old-fashioned fossil fuels are polluting the environment and threatening our planet. Our national security is threatened when we fail to produce energy here at home.

That is why three fellow students and I did more this year for Earth Day. Last week, we paid a visit to both our senator's offices on Capitol Hill to urge them to invest in clean, renewable energy technologies that are available today. Clean energy is one of the world's fastest growing industries. By investing in the technology of the future, we can build new factories and businesses, which could create thousands of jobs right here in Fairfax. It is time for a clean energy revolution.

**Jason Von Kundra**  
Fairfax

### Write

Letters to the Editor  
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# CALENDAR

To have community events listed, send to [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416 with questions. Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks prior to event.

## FRIDAY/MAY 7

**Hunks with Heart Auction for Ladies.** 7 p.m. at Historic Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Wine, food, live jazz, 'Hunk' auction and a scavenger hunt to find 'The Perfect Man'. Proceeds benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities. [www.rmhc.greaterdc.org](http://www.rmhc.greaterdc.org) or 703-698-7080.

**Michelle Shocked and The Roadworks All-Stars.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20 advance, \$25 at the door. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Friends of the Library Book Sale.** 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Great books at great prices. 703-978-5600.

**"The Little Mermaid."** 7:30 p.m. at the Northern Virginia Community College Ernst Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Presented by the Joan Izzo Academy of Dance. Adults \$15, children and groups of 10 or more \$10 each. Reserve at 703-815-7558 or [kostickets@gmail.com](mailto:kostickets@gmail.com).

## SATURDAY/MAY 8

**Olympia Dukakis performs a concert version 'Rose.'** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Playwright Martin Sherman's portrait of an 80-year-old Jewish woman on a park bench. Pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, on the Center's Grand Tier III at 7:45 p.m. Tickets are \$22-\$44,

available at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**Boys Will Be Boys, The Love Light and The Five One.** 5:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Fairfax County Master Gardeners.** 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice to home gardeners. Adults. 703-293-6227.

**Virginia Land To Sea.** 2:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. A tour of Virginia through song and story with CShells music. All ages. 703-293-6227.

**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.

**How to Find a Job in Today's Troubled Economy.** 1 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Advice from an experienced HR recruiter on all aspects of finding and keeping a good job. Bring a copy of your resume. Adults. 703-249-1520.

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**Lake Braddock Secondary School Choral Concert.** 1 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School Little Theatre, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Featuring a medley of songs



## Art on Display

Visit the Pohick Regional Library during the month of May to see art work of Carol Zeitlin's art students. Classes and Art Camp meet in Burke. Registration is open now for Art Camp. To register, call Zeitlin at 703-250-6930.

from Disney's "The Princess and the Frog." Admission is two cans of food or \$2 per person, benefitting ECHO, serving families in need in Springfield and Burke. [www.lakebraddockchorus.org](http://www.lakebraddockchorus.org).

## SUNDAY/MAY 9

**Fairfax Museum Mother's Day Program.** 2 p.m. at 10386 Main St., Fairfax. Treat Mom to music and light refreshments on the patio of historic Ratcliffe-Allison House and a guided tour of the adjacent Kitty Pozer Garden. Free. 703-385-8414.

**Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel.** 7 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for

the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A free Young Artists Musicales will be at 6 p.m. in the Concert Hall lobby, with piano students grades 3-12, and winners of the Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association Honors Recitals, performing short pieces. \$19-\$38. Youth through grade 12, half price when accompanied by an adult. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or at [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**Aqualung and Krista Polvere.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Neighborhood Plant Clinic.** 1 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and advice.

Adults. 703-644-7333.

## MONDAY/MAY 10

**Open Mic Showcase hosted by Ron Goad.** 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$2. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**PAL Reading Visits.** 4:30-5:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice reading with a trained therapy dog. Call to register. 703-249-1520.

**How To Draw Great Big Faces.** 3:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Artist Paul Merklein shows how to draw big faces. Ages 6-12. 703-978-5600.

**Calling All Guys.** 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Book discussion group for boys. Code Talker by Joseph Bruchac. Age 9-12 with adult. 703-978-5600.

**Friends of the Library Meeting.** 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Monthly meeting. Adults. 703-978-5600.

**The Frog Prince.** 2:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Bob Brown Puppets presents the story of the prince turned into a frog. Age 3-9 with adult. 703-644-7333.

## TUESDAY/MAY 11

**Encore Chorale Spring Concert.** 12:30 at The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Free event, seating is limited. Reserve at 703-667-9801. **Encore Chorale Spring Concert.** 12:30 at The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Free event, seating is limited. Reserve at 703-667-9801.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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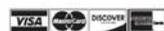
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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

**Joey Ryan, Ian Axel and Matt Duke. 7:30 p.m.** Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance, \$13 at the door. jamminjava.com.

**Fairfax Bibliophiles Book Collecting Group. 7:15 p.m.** City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Topic to be announced. 703-293-6227.

**Let's Hear It for the Girls. 7 p.m.** Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Mother-daughter book discussion group. Reader's choice of the Sammy Keyes Mysteries by Wendelin Van Draanen. Age 9-11 with adult. 703-978-5600.

**Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m.** Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and advice. Adults. 703-644-7333.

**Daytime Book Discussion Group. 1 p.m.** Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. "The Unbearable Lightness of Being" by Milan Kundera. Adults. 703-644-7333.

**Bedtime Stories: Hug a Bug. 7 p.m.** Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Stories, activities and a friendly look at insects. Pajamas optional. Age 3-6 with adult. 703-644-7333.

## WEDNESDAY/MAY 12

**Local author Chuck Mauro. 7:30 p.m.** at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Mauro will discuss "A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia: The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliffe", concerning an album containing signatures and poems that Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart gave to Laura in 1862. Copies will be available for purchase and autographing. Free, donations accepted. 703-425-9225.

**The Mick Taylor Band. 7:30 p.m.** Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$25 advance, \$30 at the door. jamminjava.com.

**My Big Backyard. 10:30 a.m.** City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-293-6227.

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

## THURSDAY/MAY 13

**Swing Dance with DeJa Blue Blues Band. 7:30** at The Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-424-1745.

Jason Castro. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. jamminjava.com.

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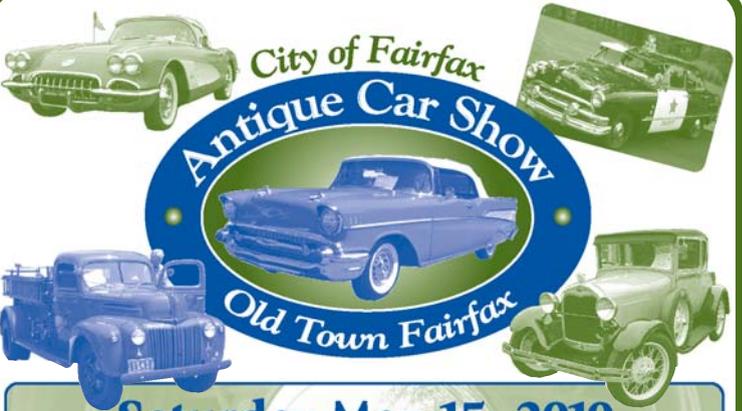
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# Robinson Focuses on Playoffs

Baseball team looks to turn around season with strong postseason play.

BY REED S. ALBERS  
THE CONNECTION

Ask Robinson boys' baseball team coach Jeff Ferrell how the season is going and he ticks off a laundry list of issues.

"All three aspects of the game, we're not doing well," he said. "We're not playing good defense, we're not getting runners in and our pitching has been OK at times."

But Ferrell isn't letting the team's 4-9 record and struggle to turn in a full, three-dimensional game take away the opportunity his team has at hand.

"We're just struggling," he said. "We're trying to get it figured out before the district tournament."

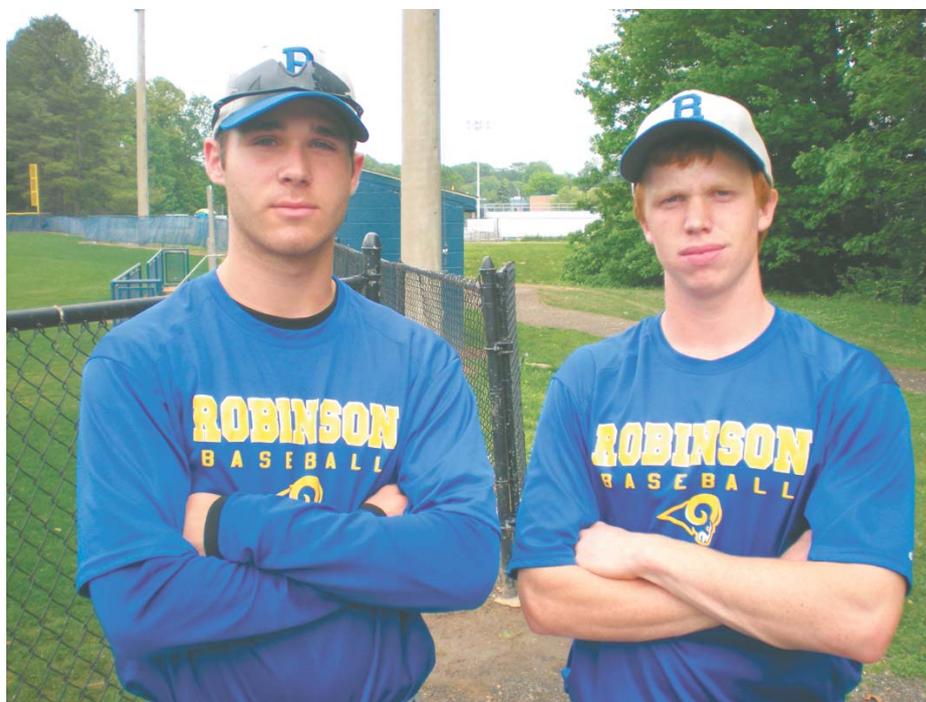
With six games left in the season, the Rams are eager to embark on a string of baseball that will rejuvenate the team and their spirits.

The players realize the gravity of the situation. Senior Brad Williams said that his team hasn't lived up to expectations but can turn the season around.

"We worked incredibly hard in the offseason," he said. "It's just a bit frustrating."

That turnaround is starting in practice, where Ferrell is attempting to turn menial practice drills into ways to evaluate his players' abilities in tough situations.

"We have guys competing for positions," he said. "We're competing in that aspect."



Seniors Rutger Floyd and Brad Williams said the Rams are looking to emulate last season's playoff success after a trying year against Concorde District opponents.

We've also focused our practice on putting the kids in more pressure situations."

In addition to increased intensity in practice, senior Rutger Floyd said his team is trying its best to forget and move past the early season struggles.

"You have to have a lack of memory," Floyd said. "You have to just forget it and move on."

It was that mindset that helped the Rams break out of a slump last season and come

close to a district title.

"Last year, we struggled throughout the season," Floyd said. "But we had a run to the [Concorde] District championship and made it to regionals."

The team isn't just focused on the immediate future.

With a balanced team of senior veterans and under-

classmen returning for the 2011 season,

SEE STRUGGLING, PAGE 13

**"We're trying to get it figured out before the district tournament."**

— Jeff Ferrell



Jared Velasquez

## 5 Qs With Robinson Athlete Jared Velasquez

**Q: So between baseball and football, which one is your passion?**

A: Football. I just love to hit and in baseball there is no hitting. But baseball is more of a mental sport.

**Q: What's your walk-up music?**

A: It's "Big Poppa" by Notorious B.I.G. It just gets me in the mood and I relax.

**Q: If you could be any athlete for a day, who would you want to be?**

A: I don't know. I think I'd want to try being a catcher though. I've always been an outfielder, so maybe play catcher.

**Q: Have you ever played catcher before?**

A: Once in a blowout game when I was kid. We were really killing the other team so I got to do it.

**Q: It's been a few months since the football team's loss to Lake Braddock in the region semifinals. How has that driven you this offseason?**

A: Everyone knows how it feels. At the end of the game I had my arm in a sling. I told the team "you see how they're celebrating on our field? Keep this in memory. When you don't want to work, remember this." We haven't had any trouble with getting people to work harder.

— REED S. ALBERS

## SYA Storm Wins Ohio Tourney

The Southwestern Youth Association U-11 girls' soccer team, the Storm, brought home a tournament title on May 1 with their victory in the 2010 Bowling Green Spring Soccer Challenge in Bowling Green, Ohio.

The team features girls from Fairfax, Burke, Laurel Hill, Centreville and Reston.

The Storm went undefeated in the tournament and scored 19 goals in four games and allowed only two goals against.

The only two goals scored against them came in the championship game with the Anthony Wayne Club team from Ohio. The Storm won the match 4-2 to claim the title.



The SYA Storm girls' U-11 team, coached by Kurt Gordon and Ray Motha, pose with the Bowling Green Spring Soccer Challenge championship trophy.

## Lady Tarheels AAU Team Seeks Players

The Lady Tarheels Amateur Athletic Union basketball team is seeking players between the ages of 15 and 17 for their travel teams. For more information, call Edwards at 571-490-2147 or Watson at 571-243-4142.



PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

On April 30, Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) presented the Robinson girls' swim team with a resolution honoring the team's state championship this season.

## State Resolution for Rams

Delegate spearheads resolution honoring girls' swim team's state title.

BY REED S. ALBERS  
THE CONNECTION

Members of the Robinson girls' swim team often joke that their trophy case is so full that opening the case might cause some of the trophies to fall out.

So as Assistant Director of Student Activities Jeff Ferrell opened the case to add yet another award to the Rams' cache, the girls helped guide him in arranging the trophies in a "safer" manner.

On April 30, the Rams added a new award, and a program first, to that trophy case. Sponsored by Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), the new award honored the Rams' 2009-10 state swimming championship.

"I know the importance of sports and training and competing," Filler-Corn said.

**"It's one of the best honors I could have ever gotten."**

— Becca Bott

While the award is a first for the swim team, the resolution is also a first for Filler-Corn.

"Having just been elected, this was my first opportunity for a resolution," she said. "I'm very proud of the Robinson swim team and their accomplishment."

Head coach Clayton Joyner, whose team won the state title in dominating fashion, said that the award comes as a surprise.

"This is a huge honor," Joyner said. "I didn't expect it at all. It's an honor that it comes from outside the sports spectrum."

To Joyner, the award isn't so much about winning a state title, but honoring his girls' work ethic throughout their swimming careers.

"These girls do work hard," he said. "Swimming is not a sport where can you win overnight. Most of these girls have been swimming for 10 to 15 years. That's what it takes to be state champions."

Senior swimmer Becca Bott is used to winning ribbons, medals and trophies, but when she heard

about the resolution, the honor puzzled her.

"When [Joyner] called me and told me what we had won, I didn't really know what it was," she said. "But now that I've seen it, it's one of the best honors I could have ever gotten."

## Struggling Rams Prep for Playoffs

FROM PAGE 12

Ferrell hasn't been shy about developing future players.

"We've given kids some opportunities," he said. "I wouldn't say it's a learning experience. We've got kids who didn't have a lot of varsity experience last year and they're getting it now."

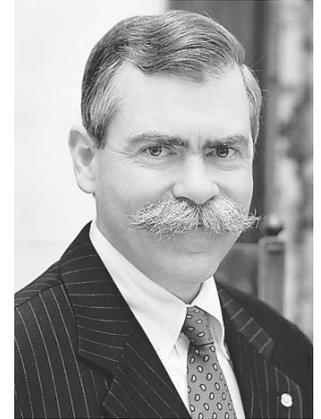
With only a limited amount of time to fix their issues and set the season back on course, Williams said the path to postseason success goes beyond practice and forgetting about missed chances.

"It comes down to being a team and picking one another up," he said. "If we understand it's a seven-inning game and 21 guys work for one goal, we can do it."

## Bank Elects New Chairman

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."

Burke was born and raised in Alexandria, attended Episcopal High School and the University of Richmond. He received his B.A. from George Mason University while working full time at Burke & Herbert Bank. He graduated with honors from the Graduate School of Bank Management at the University of Virginia. He and his wife of 26 years, Molly, reside in Alexandria with their four daughters.

## Cooley Camp June 5-6

Washington Redskins tight-end Chris Cooley will offer his annual Old Spice Chris Cooley Football Camp on June 5 and June 6, from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., at Fairfax High School.

The camp is open to all boys and girls from ages 7-14.

Cooley will be on site to direct the activities and provide instruction to campers. The camp also features a selection of the top prep and collegiate coaches in the Washington, D.C. area.

The cost of the camp is \$199. Additional information can be found at [www.chriscooleycamp.com](http://www.chriscooleycamp.com) or by calling 513-793-CAMP.



Mom & Me

Fairfax residents Agraja and Anuj Sharma at the pyramids in Egypt with their Mom.

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## NEWS

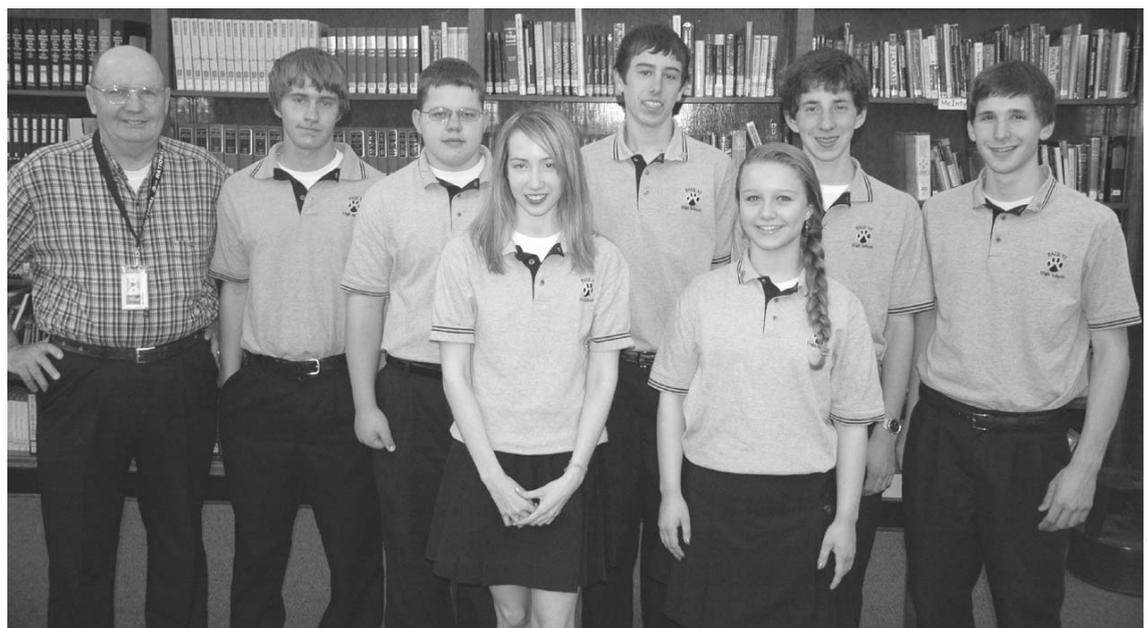


PHOTO COURTESY OF EILEEN KILEY/PAUL VI

From left are Col. Joe Gesker, Matthew Madigan, James Stegmaier, Michaela Locke, Billy Roll, Anastasia Richter, Mark Schierling and James Bonaffini. Gesker is an AP History teacher and the PVI moderator of the Boys and Girls State process.

## PVI Juniors Selected for Boys and Girls State

Seven juniors at Paul VI Catholic High School were recently selected by the American Legion, Fairfax Post 177 and American Legion Fairfax Auxiliary Post 177 to the 2010 Virginia Boys and Girls States conferences. James Bonaffini, Matthew Madigan, Billy Roll, Mark Schierling and James Stegmaier were chosen for Boys State at Liberty Uni-

versity. Michaela Locke and Anastasia Richter were chosen to attend Girls State at Longwood University. Boys State and Girls State are selective programs for motivated students between their junior and senior year of high school. The program teaches attendees how government works and develops leadership skills and an appreciation for the rights of citizens.

## City Elects Mayor, New Council

FROM PAGE 3

DeMarco said. "I got to meet a lot of new people and find out what's important to them. Thanks to the people who supported me, and for you that didn't, I will work hard over the next two years to gain your support."

**CURRENT CHAIRMAN** Janice Miller paced the School Board voting, receiving 1,736 votes and will be returning to the position flanked by familiar faces Jon Buttram and Toby Sorensen. Newcomers Mitch Sutterfield and Carolyn secured the final two seats, filling the vacancy left by former board members Julie Knight and Elisa Lueck.

"The city has some of the finest schools in the area and it's because of the support we've received and

because of that reason we should all be proud," Miller said. "We've got a great team that will do great things for the children of this community."

While all of the members of the new City Council and School Board acknowledged that a significant amount of work awaits them in the next two years, especially with the lean economy and scaled-back budgets. For one night, however, they could bask in the glow of an election that they felt was not only successful for themselves, but a victory for the entire city as well.

"Living in this city is a chance to practice democracy in its basic form," Meyer said. "[The voters] did [their] part to show that this is the best way for communities to govern themselves. Ultimately, the best history of this place has yet to be written, and we have a very bright future."

## Couple Donates Playground

FROM PAGE 3

installation of the park equipment. The couple ended up raising \$20,000 from more than 200 donors, including receipt percentages donated by Hard Times Café and others who gave what they could at Braddock Nights festivals. In turn, the Park Authority awarded the project a \$10,000 Mastenbrook Grant, a matching grant awarded with the goal of assisting volunteers in proving county parks and GameTime gave a \$9,200 matching grant as well. These donations, nearly \$40,000 in total, completely covered the cost of the playground.

"We feel that it is important to do this work to keep her memory alive and be parents that she would be proud of," Mooney said.

Following speech by Board of Supervisors Chair-

man Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), Baldino, Dr. Carrie Lawson from Women's Health Corp and Jeannie McGrath a nurse at Holy Cross Hospital, Thelin and Mooney gathered with the special guests and all of the young children in attendance and cut the ribbon to the playground. After the ceremony, all of the guests enjoyed refreshments while the children gave the new playground a test run. The smiles signified positive reviews, and put the final seal of approval on the dream that Thelin and Mooney shared.

"Today, a dream came true for us and a dream we had for our daughter," Mooney said. "Not the dream of seeing her first steps or riding a bike, because those dreams are gone and this is a dream of remembrance. I just pray that she will dwell among this place, watching over the little ones with a smile."

# MOTHER'S DAY GALLERY



This picture of my mother, my four daughters, my granddaughter and my daughter's mother-in-law was taken December 2008 at our holiday baking party at my home in Fairfax. Pictured from left are: Alexia Kathleen Kallini Small; Aliza Kathleen Small; Kristinia Marie Kallini; me; Kaitlin Nicole Kallini; Helen North; Michelle Katherine Kallini and Armen Aslanian Gamble. — Sharon Kathleen Gamble Kallini



From the Delahunty Family of Fairfax: first communion of Liam (front), Steve (dad) in the back, Celeste (mom) in the middle, Jim Reilly (dad's father) on the left, Ruth Van Liere (mom's mother) on the right, Celia on the right, Ethan in the middle.

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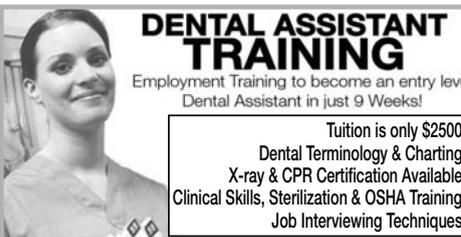
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**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

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-Ethiopian Proverb

**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS' SALE**  
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Pursuant to Decree of the Circuit Court of King George  
County, Virginia, dated July 16, 2009, entered in the Chancery  
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182.

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Alexander P. Steil, by deed dated September 27, 2001 and re-  
corded in Deed Book 12258, page 353.

shall be sold to the highest bidder; however, subject to confir-  
mation 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  
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der shall be required to deposit 10% of the bid price by Certi-  
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-William Van Horne

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## COMMUNITY

# Locals Are Ready for Relay for Life

**May 22 event raises money, awareness of cancer treatment.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**A**s the 20-year anniversary of her mother's death approached in 2009, Marion Rantis wanted to do something productive in her memory.

"I'd never heard of the Relay for Life but, when I found it on the American Cancer Society Web site, it seemed like just the thing I was looking for," she said. "Not only could I remember and honor her by getting involved, but so many friends and family members with their own experiences with cancer could participate in a way meaningful for them, too."

So Rantis, of Little Rocky Run, participated in her first Relay last spring. "We had thunderstorms, but what impressed me was everyone's spirit," she said. "No one complained. We walked with our umbrellas and candles in the rain. There were all ages, from kids to grandparents, and it was moving to see everyone stick with it."

Now she's Planning Committee chairman of this year's Relay for Life at Centreville High. Nationwide, it's the 25th annual, and the fourth time Centreville has hosted. Rain

or shine, it'll be held Saturday-Sunday, May 22-23. It begins at 2:30 p.m. with a reception in the cafeteria for cancer survivors; opening ceremony is at 4 p.m. on the Wildcat football field — the site of the relay.

So far, 30 teams of about 15 people each — mostly from Centreville, Chantilly and Clifton — have signed up. Since the event raises money for the American Cancer Society, each person contributes \$100, and Rantis hopes it'll raise \$60,000 total.

Since participants just walk, they needn't be athletic. "The relay aspect is that team members take turns walking, so anyone of any ability can participate," said Rantis. "If people can only walk 15 minutes at a time, that's fine. Then they can hang out with their friends at the campsite. Although the relay runs until Sunday 6 a.m., not everyone on the team has to spend the night."

For children, the event will include face painting and a clown. Passion4Community/New Life Christian Church is sponsoring the children's area, open that Saturday from 4:30-8:30p.m. Planned are moonbounces; games such as water-balloon toss and a hula-hoop contest, plus free popcorn and cotton candy. Furthermore, children may

play there without their parents being on a team.

Survivors, those in remission and those still fighting, will walk the first lap.

Caregivers, and those they cared for, walk the next lap. Then teams start walking, with as many members walking at a time as they want. The only rule is that someone from each team must walk at all times.

Meanwhile, live bands — Flock of Eagles and New Life's band — will perform. Jump-roping teams from Willow Springs Elementary and Lanier Middle will display their moves, ATA Martial Arts Studio will give a karate demonstration, and Ohana of Polynesia will do Hawaiian dances. Jarrod Wronski, a deejay from SportsAnnouncing.com, will play music and run karaoke.

The highlight is the Saturday 9:30 p.m. luminaria ceremony, open to the public. Luminaria bags are placed around the track, and some are in the stands, spelling out the word, "Hope." Then, by the ceremony's end, volunteers will have changed that batch to say, "Cure." The names written on each luminaria bag are read aloud, and then everyone does a couple laps together, holding candles.

Clifton's Lisa Desman is captain of the Purple Powerhouse team and is also involved with the luminaria ceremony and sales. Anyone wanting to buy a luminaria, in honor of a survivor, someone still battling cancer or in memory of someone who died of it, may do so at [www.CentrevilleRelay.org](http://www.CentrevilleRelay.org). Participant sign-ups and donations may also be done there.

At the luminaria ceremony, said Desman, "You realize this is why we're here. I had

### Quick Facts about Relay:

- ❖ Community fund raiser for American Cancer Society.
- ❖ Registration is \$10 at [www.CentrevilleRelay.org](http://www.CentrevilleRelay.org).
- ❖ Walk as little as an hour or stay the whole night.
- ❖ Family-friendly, with music and children's games.
- ❖ All ages participate.
- ❖ Teams vary in size, but people may also walk individually.
- ❖ Attendees may simply cheer on survivors or remember loved ones at the luminaria ceremony.

thyroid cancer, five years ago, and am a survivor. I had a cancer that could be treated successfully, so I wanted to get involved."

Besides that, she said, "My father-in-law was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer." So now, she and the other walkers, said Desman, "want to create awareness that it happens to people of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds. None of us are exempt."

Little Rocky Run's Stacey Robinette, walking with the Cancer Crushers, joined the Relay after her father died of melanoma. "I saw the suffering he went through," she said. "But he never complained; and I thought, 'If he can be that brave and strong, I'll carry on the fight for him.' You never know when cancer will hit you or your loved ones. And if we can do something, even small, then someday we can prevent all this pain and heartache from happening."

**"The relay aspect is that team members take turns walking, so anyone of any ability can participate."**

— Marion Rantis



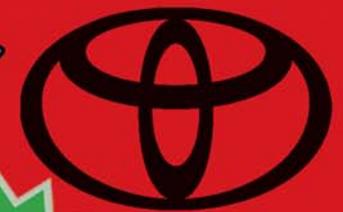
### Spring Fun

Fairfax Corner hosted a Spring Festival on Saturday, April 24, where families and children enjoyed watching the Unicycle Lady's (Lisa Polinori) antics. Here, Polinori includes Centreville's Jhossette Pinaya, 7, in one of her routines.

Children in the crowd delight in the Unicycle Lady's tricks.

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