

South County Singer

NEWS, PAGE 3

Sophomore Emily Sargeant sings during rehearsal of 'Anything Goes' at South County Secondary.

New Faces, New Council

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Mom And Me

MOTHER'S DAY
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PHOTO CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION SPORTS, PAGE 13 ❖ CALENDAR, PAGE 10 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 16

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Democracy In Action

New faces join Clifton's Town Council.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

The night may not have had much suspense, but it could not have been more important for the Town of Clifton.

The town officially ended one chapter and began the next Tuesday, May 4, as the town's residents cast their ballots for Town Council. More than half of the town's registered voters turned out to elect a new mayor and two new council members, bringing a mix of new ideas and vast experience to the town's governing body.

"There are some new faces which will hopefully provide fresh insight and there are some with experience and that experience will be very helpful," said John Powell, one of the two new members of Town Council. "It's a nice mix. We have people wanting to come in and help Clifton, and we have people who have done it for some time. It's going to be a very positive thing for Clifton."

The five Town Council seats were decided before election night, as only three of the five incumbents decided to run again, while only two others entered the race as write-in candidates. The three incumbents, Deborah Dillard, Wayne Nickum and Chuck Rusnak, received 66, 77 and 70 votes, respectively. The two will be joined by Nitz, who served as a member of the council's Town Parks and Traffic, Parking and Safety Committees prior to the election, and Powell, the sole owner of Capitol Alliances, a media services firm based in town. The two write-ins actually garnered the most votes of all the candidates, with Nitz tallying 90 and Powell 78.

"I'm very excited," Nitz said. "I've lived in Clifton for a long time and it's a great place to live. It's nice to serve your neighbors and community when you love it as much as we all do."

While the Town Council was locked in place before voting even began, the race to replace former Mayor Tom Peterson, who retired to focus on his ice cream shop and

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The cast of South County's 'Anything Goes' ends the first act singing.

After weeks of rehearsals, the cast of South County Secondary's musical 'Anything Goes' is ready to entertain. The show runs Fridays, May 7 and 14;

and Saturdays May 8 and 15, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door for general admission and \$9 for senior adults. To learn more about the show, also visit www.southcountytheatre.org.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Reno and the Angels star in South County Secondary's production of 'Anything Goes,' from left, senior Shannon Clark, junior Angie Vergri de Dios, sophomore Ally Barrale (Reno Sweeny) plays Reno Sweeny, sophomore Rose Bainwol and sophomore Andrea Mangulabran.

Locals Are Ready for Relay for Life

May 22 event raises money, awareness of cancer treatment.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

As 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."

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

— Marion Rantis

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 4:30-8:30 p.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

Quick Facts about Relay:

- ❖ Community fund raiser for American Cancer Society.
- ❖ Registration is \$10 at 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.

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. Participant sign-ups and donations may also be done there.

At the luminaria ceremony, said Desman,

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PHOTO BY CHUCK EPES/CBF

Volunteers Carol Sottili, Alice Weisz, Mary Clock-Rust, Elizabeth Skelton, Amy Angel, Jim Angel, William Angel, David Angel, Paul Angel, Dorothy Acosta, Kasha Helget, Kirk Comer, Teresa Comer, Marina Comer, Christopher Ros, Ava Scott, Charlotte Simmons and Elliott Turley planted wild celery grass shoots in Belmont Bay last Thursday and Friday afternoon.

Planting Grasses In Belmont Bay

More good news: CBF's 'Grasses for the Masses.'

BY CHUCK EPES
CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Volunteer grass restoration program in Virginia continues to grow in popularity. This year, some 200 volunteers participated, growing wild celery, a freshwater Chesapeake Bay grass, from seeds planted in water-filled plastic tubs in their homes, schools or offices. The volunteers have been nurturing their underwater grass babies since the winter, and now that it's springtime, their leafy green sprouts are ready for transplanting into the Potomac and James rivers.

On Thursday, April 29, more than a dozen volunteers waded into the low-tide shallows of Belmont Bay at Mason Neck State Park to plant their wild celery in the river bottom. As they scooped out handfuls of roots and leaves and put them in the water, they were watched from above by circling bald eagles and ospreys.

Some of the volunteers were first-time grass growers. Chris Ros, a biology teacher at Alexandria Country Day School, began the project with students this year as a service-learning activity and a way to reinforce concepts he teaches in seventh- and eighth-grade science classes.

"It's a great project," he said, noting it ties in with his existing curriculum and enables students to make a difference "right in their own back yard." He stationed two grass-growing tubs in classrooms and two in a school hallway so more students and teachers could see the project.

Seventh-graders Ava Scott and Charlotte Simmons accompanied Ros Thursday to help plant. They said they enjoyed setting up the tub systems at school, planting the seeds, and watching them grow, but missing school on a warm spring day to transplant them in the river certainly was another plus.

This was the second year for Grasses for the Masses volunteer Mary Clock-Rust, an EPA biologist who was taking a day off to plant her grasses in the river. Perhaps her veteran experience paid off. Her trays spilled over with long, lush leaves of wild celery. A long-time CBF member, Clock-Rust said she would grow grasses again next year, too.



PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

The Lake Braddock girls' lacrosse team head coach Victor Chen had been trying to instill a 'family' mentality in the team. The diabetes walk was a sign the girls have embraced the concept.

Marching Against Diabetes

Lake Braddock girls' lacrosse team supports one of their own.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock girls' lacrosse team has followed a simple creed throughout their 2010 season. "We are a family."

OK, so that's the motto for a lot of sports team, but when the Bruins' freshman midfielder Taylor Livick was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes last June, the team decided to stand with her and fight it.

"Everyone thing we've been talking about this season is that we're a family," team captain Alex Kelly said. "Taylor is a part of this team and I love her to death. Diabetes is a part of her life, so we thought we'd fight it with her."

On May 2, the team lived up to their motto by supporting Livick at the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) walk at Nationals Park in Washington D.C.

The walk, which circles Nationals Park twice before heading into the stadium for a victory march over home plate, is designed to raise awareness for childhood diabetes. Participants also raise money for childhood diabetes research.

In June 2009, Taylor was diagnosed with diabetes. Although doctors said only her eating habits and lifestyle would change, she wanted to prove it wouldn't set her back athletically.

"I didn't think I would be able to do any of the

sports I do now," she said. "But it's made me better at sports and I work harder to prove that it couldn't stop me."

But that doesn't mean she doesn't have to take precautions. Taylor's mother, Andrea Livick, said her daughter has to take insulin shots four times a day, and timing her treatments between practices can be tough.

"It's not as easy as 'Go to practice honey, see you later,'" Andrea Livick said.

After hearing about the JDRF walk at Nationals Park, Taylor Livick decided to get involved and formed "Taylor's Troop," which at its roots consisted of her family members.

"I wanted to get involved and start making a difference," she said.

When her lacrosse team learned about her illness and the walk, Kelly decided to take action on her own and follow through on the creed that head coach Victor Chen had been promoting.

"From the very on-set of the season, a philosophy I had been trying to instill was to be more of a

family off the field," Chen said. "The support for Taylor shows they took it to heart."

THE FIRST indication that the family-first mentality had sunk in came in an e-mail from Kelly to Andrea Livick and her teammates. In the e-mail, Kelly asked her teammates to join Taylor Livick's cause and walk with her on May 2.

"The e-mail almost made me cry," Andrea Livick said. "It made me feel like my kid was special."

Every member of the Lake Braddock girls' lacrosse

"It's just great to know she has a family that is looking out for her."
—Andrea Livick

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Bruins March Against Diabetes

FROM PAGE 4

team took part in the walk with the Livicks. The final total for the event reached 70 friends, lacrosse players and relatives.

"Family members support each other on and off the field," co-captain Colleen Garrott said. "Not a single person hesitated to come out here and do this for her."

Attending the walk wasn't the only way the team and Taylor Livick's friends helped her. Andrea Livick said her cousins helped raise money through a lemonade stand and Taylor Livick's friends held a car wash as well.

Andrea Livick said the unofficial amount of money raised neared \$3,000 by the time of the walk.

"It's just great to know she has a family that is looking out for her," Andrea Livick said.



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NEWS

Town Elects New Mayor, Council

FROM PAGE 2

family, was very much up in the air. The former vice mayor, Michael Anton, originally submitted his name in the mayoral race but withdrew in mid-April after deciding that he needed to spend more time with his wife and three young children, leaving no official candidates. So, two write-in candidates, Bill Hollaway and Judy McNamara, filled the void, and after outpacing McNamara 80 to 32, Hollaway won the seat.

Hollaway served two terms on Town Council in the past, with one term as vice mayor. He also served eight years on the Planning Commission, including time as chair of the commission. Hollaway received valuable endorsements from some of the town's most well-known residents, including Peterson, former Mayor Jim Chesley, Nickum and Clifton Betterment

"It's nice to serve your neighbors and community when you love it as much as we all do."

— Dwayne Nitz

Association President Michelle Stein.

"I firmly believe that that town government should be open and all voices should be heard," Hollaway said. "I will be open to all points of view, and unifying. My interest is what is best for the Town of Clifton as a whole."

Though the members of the new installment of Town Council were celebrating a victory Tuesday night, they acknowledged that there is significant work to be done over the next two years. Issues such as fighting to save Clifton Elementary School, continuing the growth of commercial offerings and the improvement of Main Street are sure to dominate the agenda, but the council members are more than confident that they will get the job done.

"We have a small municipality but we have rather large issues that are out of proportion to a community of our size," Nitz said. "It'll be a busy two years, but we have the right group of people [in place]."

MILITARY NOTES

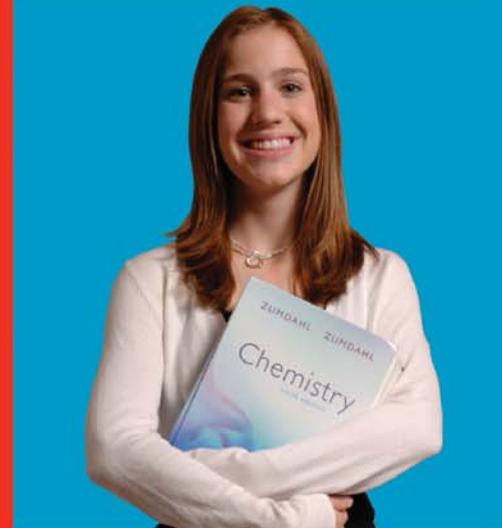
Army Pvt. Johnathan K. Hudson has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla. He is the son of John Hudson of Station House Court, Lorton.

Adrien M. Hebert has been awarded an Air Force ROTC scholarship

to attend a host college or university. High school seniors from across the United States are selected after a competitive application process based on comprehensive tests scores, scholastic achievement, school officials' evaluations, extra-curricular activities, and community involvement. He is the son

of Monica L. and stepson of Carlton Myles of Ashland Ave., Camden, Del., and grandson of Gregory L. Hebert of Tanyard Lane, Lorton. His grandparents, Mike and Brendel Mire, reside on W. Third Street, Kaplan, La. Hebert currently attends Polytech High School, Woodside, Del.

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Holding original paintings of their homes and garden on tour are, from left, Mosako and Dick Nanto, Jane Elizabeth and Richard Braun, Cari and Steve Britt, and Peggy Cranston. (Not pictured are Stu Cranston and Arlene and Paul Posner). Fairfax Station's Trudi Arnold did the paintings, which were presented during the May 2 homeowners reception at the home of Sharon and Mark Gottlieb in Fairfax Station.

Homes Tour on Horizon

Clifton Homes Tour is set for May 20.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

It's almost time for the 38th Annual Clifton Homes Tour and Marketplace, and something different is in store for everyone attending.

"This year, besides the houses, we have a garden, so it's a change for us," said Homes Tour Chairman Linda Beckman. "Mosako and Dick Nanto have a Japanese garden, and we thought it would be a lovely addition."

Presented by the Clifton Community Woman's Club, the event will be Thursday, May 20, from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 on tour day; single home admission is \$10.

Visitors will enjoy seeing the small, quaint home on Main Street where the screenplay for the movie, "Sleepless in Seattle," was written, as well as a large house with a pre-Revolutionary War cabin on the grounds. In addition, a designer home is on a property where a horse farm once operated, and another house is an exact replica of the governor's mansion in North Carolina.

The day's Marketplace activities include an art show and sale, silent auction and boutique which run from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. The boutique features fiber-art necklaces and scarves, clothing, glassware, designer jewelry, chocolates, herb mixes and clothing accessories.

The art show is in the fellowship hall of Clifton Presbyterian Church and, unlike previous years when only women artists' work was displayed, this time, artwork by men is also included. There's even a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate for a local res-

taurant.

At the Clifton Town Meeting Hall on Chapel Road, attendees may browse and bid on a variety of silent-auction items such as theater tickets, themed baskets and gift certificates from area merchants and purchase gifts from vendors at the boutiques. Admission is free to the activities at the church and town hall. For more information, see www.cliftoncwc.org or call contact Linda Beckman at 703-266-0213.

Homes tour tickets are available at The Clifton Store and Cottage Art, in the Town of Clifton; Adler's Art & Frame, in the Colonnade Shopping Center; Judy Ryan, in the Twinbrooke Shopping Center in Fairfax; Banner's Hallmark in the Centreville Plaza in Centreville; and Five Star Hair, The Picket Fence and Yarn Barn in Burke.

Tickets may also be purchased on tour day, at any of the tour homes, or at the town hall at 12641 Chapel Road in Clifton. Or order them by mailing a check or money order payable to CCWC to: Clifton Community Woman's Club, P. O. Box 229, Clifton, VA 20124. Include a phone number or e-mail address to receive verification of receipt. Tickets will be held for pick-up at the town hall on tour day.

This event normally attracts some 600 people from throughout the Washington Metropolitan area and is the woman's club's primary fund-raiser. All net proceeds go to its Charitable Trust which, over the past five years, has distributed more than \$100,000 to local charities and student scholarships.

"We're hoping word will get out and more and more people will come," said Beckman. "We encourage people to buy their tickets in advance."

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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

spirit, job-creating record and sense of accountability that is needed in Congress to force it to tighten its belt.

He’s also the one that shows the determination necessary to rein in spending, provide perspective in Congress to foster small business and job creation, and has vowed to lead the charge against earmarks.

When an individual has had his savings, his patrimony everything on the line at one point or another in order to keep a business afloat, in order to fulfill his responsibility to hundreds of employees and exercises sound management, he becomes the best advocate to represent us in Congress. And the icing on the cake, he’s not a career politician or an insider with behind-close-door deals that bind him. On June 8, we’ll be voting Keith Fimian for Congress.

Lin-Dai and Tim Kendall
Fairfax Station

Choose Herryty

To the Editor:

Recently, Supervisor Pat Herryty (R-Springfield) announced his candidacy for the 11th District Congressional seat in Virginia currently being held by U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11). Even though the primary race is not until June 8, like so many other citizens in Northern Virginia, I am hoping that we once again have someone represent us in Congress who has a strong record of conservative, fiscally responsible and common sense style of leadership that is obviously missing now. It is not too early to raise awareness that we need someone in Congress who will actually listen to the majority of citizens in the Northern Virginia who are alarmed and opposed to the rapid shift to the far left and the gathering storm of government control almost every aspect of our lives from health care choices to federal control over our

Join the Debate

- ♦ Read Michael Pope’s story, “Transparency Blackout: Police departments in Northern Virginia refuse to release public documents,” at <http://connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=338832&paper=59&cat=104>
- ♦ Read Alexandria Commonwealth’s Attorney Randolph Sengel’s response, “Confidentiality Trumps Disclosure” at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=339154&paper=59&cat=110>
- ♦ Read an excellent rebuttal to Sengel’s letter, “Citizens Have Right to Know Details of Crimes,” by Ryan J. Donmoyer <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=339781&paper=59&cat=110>
E-mail your thoughts to mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com, and watch this space next week to find out how to request information about crime and police activities in your neighborhood.

name of the officer who did the shooting, refused to release video from the patrol car near the shooting, refused to release any document at all that might shed light on what happened or why.

In everyday examples, a scan of police incidents within a mile of a Tysons Corner address reveals multiple drug offenses and sex offenses. But that’s all the information that is available — the label of the offense, the time, date and block where it occurred. If you as a resident want information on crimes like this near you, you should be able to see for yourself if these are minor or isolated incidents or part of a more serious pattern.

Police should not use a “blanket exemption” from public information laws to refuse to provide specific information about any crime or police activity from the public.

Next week in this space, you’ll learn how to find incidents occurred in your neighborhood, and how to ask the police for more information.

schools.

Herryty brings a lifetime of successful business experience and responsible public service to this race and, more importantly, a pledge to return control of government to the people who pay for it. He is the best candidate from either party who will be able to engage people on both sides of the aisle in order to reverse the radical and fiscally dangerous agenda supported so enthusiastically by Connolly. Herryty was elected as the Springfield District supervisor in November 2007 after more than 25 years of active business, sports and civic leadership. When he joined the Board of Supervisors in 2008, spending and taxes in Fairfax County, under the leadership then of Gerry Connolly, were clearly out of control. Worse yet, property taxes had doubled in the previous seven years and spending had increased \$1 billion over

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THE CONNECTION

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Vote for Fimian

To the Editor:

I am one of your neighbors. I have a small business and live with my family in this county. My husband and I are homeowners and have raised our children to attend public schools. We pay taxes and fees that maintain fields and sports complexes, (and we have nothing but blessings and gratitude for all the volunteers that run the hundreds of sports clubs for our kids.) This demonstrates that we have skin in the game in terms of unseating the entrenched Democrat incumbent non-representing U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11)

Both my husband and I strongly endorse one man in the Virginia 11th District primary race. That man is Keith Fimian (R). The reasons are quite simple. Of the two candidates running, he’s the only one with the entrepreneurial

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

inflation and population growth. Herrity began fighting to reverse Connolly's fiscally irresponsible policies and led the charge to reign in the out of control spending — something I trust him to do in Washington at a time when we need it the most.

We need a leader who will oppose the higher taxes supported by Connolly and those in the White House that will disproportionately affect individuals and small businesses in the 11th District. We need a congressman in the 11th District who will not just be a compliant rubber stamp for an administration that is out of touch and pushing an increasingly radical liberal agenda. We need a congressman who understands that the federal government was never designed by our Founding Fathers to be the nanny state they are making it into with every vote. We need a congressman who understands that we must reign in the federal government's out of control spending so that we do not saddle our children and grandchildren with a mountain of debt that will limit their opportunities and prosperity. Looking at his proven track record of service to the citizens of Northern Virginia, Pat Herrity is the only candidate in the primary race in June with a demonstrated record of fiscal responsibility, vision, and common sense solutions.

Thomas G. Bognanno
Springfield

Untrue Statement

To the Editor:

As a veteran, I am upset that Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), in his recent letter to the editor [Connection, March 25-31, 2010], would assert that health care reform will "destroy the military's TRICARE system." His statement is simply not true. Military leaders, including Defense Secretary Robert Gates, and every major veterans' organization have put out statements to quash this false rumor, and Mr. Herrity should know better.

The families of the men and women serving our country in Afghanistan and Iraq have enough stresses and pressures on them, as they worry about their loved ones. They don't need Herrity or anyone else fomenting unnecessary fear about their health care coverage when that fear is not warranted.

Mr. Herrity should not try to use the families of our active military, and our veterans, as political pawns.

Joseph Harmon
Fairfax

Write

Letters to the Editor
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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/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.

Zoo Tales. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories about animals. Ages 13-23 months with adult. 703-249-1520.

Daytime Book Discussion Group. 12:15 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Peace Like a River by Leif Enger. Adults. 703-339-4610.

FRIDAY/MAY 7

"Anything Goes." 7:30 p.m. at South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Cole Porter's classic musical with a cast of 50 students, by the South County Theatre Department. \$10, seniors \$9. 703-446-1591 or www.southcountytheatre.org.

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

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

SATURDAY/MAY 8

"Anything Goes." 7:30 p.m. at South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Cole Porter's classic musical with a cast of 50 students, by the South County Theatre Department. \$10, seniors \$9. 703-446-1591 or www.southcountytheatre.org.

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

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn to use a computer. 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.

Friends of the Library Book Sale. 10 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

Virginia Land To Sea. 10:30 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Take a tour of Virginia through song and story with CShells music. Preschool. 703-339-7385.

SUNDAY/MAY 9

Picturing Mothers. 1-5 p.m. at Gunston Hall Plantation, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. View an 18th century fashion show and listen to the stories of the women who lived and worked at Gunston Hall. Have Mom's silhouette done by a professional silhouette artist 2-4 p.m., additional fee for silhouettes,



'Tomorrow's Tree' by Kelli Reidford



'Cloud Nest #1' by Sarah Porter

Exhibit Inspires Artists To Go Green

The Workhouse Arts Center recently invited artists from around the region to participate in its latest exhibition "Greenspiration," featured in Gallery W-16 from May 12-June 13. Participants have been encouraged to define, defy or deny "green" in an all media, juried exhibition that interprets the theme of green in the most creative ways. The goal of the exhibition is to provide artists with a provocative theme

that will encourage a creative response outside the color wheel. An awards reception is taking place Sunday, May 16 from 2-4 p.m. and is open to the public. Trudi Van Dyke, an independent curator and fine arts consultant, will jury the exhibition. Van Dyke was also a former director of the Torpedo Factory Arts Center in Alexandria and the Ellipse Art Center in Arlington. For more information, visit www.WorkhouseArts.org.

reservation recommended. \$9, \$8 seniors, \$5 ages 6-18, under 6 free. 703-550-9220 or www.gunstonhall.org.

Gunston Conversations. 2-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall Plantation, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Engage in conversation with members of George Mason's family. Discuss the travails of motherhood in the 18th

century or political topics of the day or the fashionable dress of 1786 or the doings of the neighborhood. \$9, \$8 seniors, \$5 ages 6-18, under 6 free. 703-550-9220 or www.gunstonhall.org.

MONDAY/MAY 10

Latin Dance Nights. 10 p.m. at Jaxx,

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

Our Daily Bread Charity Golf Tournament. 1 p.m. at South Riding Golf Club, 43237 Golf View Drive, South Riding. \$125 registration fee includes a full round of golf, driving range, golf cart, drink

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

cart, hors d'oeuvres and dinner and a silent auction. All proceeds will benefit Our daily Bread's programs to assist low-income families in Fairfax. Contact 703-273-8829 or www.our-daily-bread.org.

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.

Early Reader Book Discussion. 3:30 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Early reader book activities. Call for titles. Age 6-8 with adult. 703-971-0010.

Sunny Stories. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Stories and fun that celebrate spring. Age 24 months to 5 years with adult. 703-339-4610.

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 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.

Fun for 2's & 3's. 10:30 a.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Stories and activities. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-971-0010.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 12

Silent Sentinel Award Reception. 7 p.m. at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. This is a fund-raising event for the Turning Point Suffragist

Memorial, to be located in Occoquan Regional Park in Lorton, and will pay tribute to those who secured voting rights for women. 703-830-1355 or turningpoint@suffragistmemorial.org.

Open Irish Song Session. 8:30 p.m. at Hard Times Cafe, 6362 Springfield Plaza, Springfield. Open to anyone who would like to sing or listen to Irish songs. 703-913-5600.

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

Older Adults Book Group. 2 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. "American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House" by Jon Meacham.

Meet next door at the Kingstowne Center for Active Adults. 703-339-4610.

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

THURSDAY/MAY 13

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

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

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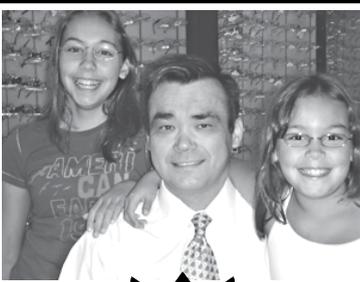
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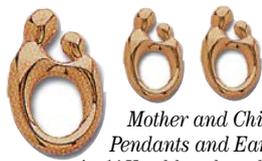
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NEWS



A variety of artwork from the elementary schools that feed into Lake Braddock Secondary School was on exhibit. Pictured at left are tessellations from Kings Park Elementary School.

Bruins On Exhibit

Lake Braddock art students compete in first Juried Art Show.

On Thursday, April 29, Lake Braddock Secondary School hosted its first Juried Art Show. Only students currently enrolled in art classes at the school were allowed to participate. Those interested submitted a portfolio of their work to be reviewed. One of the prerequisites of participation was that 60-70 percent of the displayed pieces be things the students made 'in house.'

More than 500 students from Lake Braddock had artwork displayed in the show and some students provided live entertainment. The event included a 'Pyramid Show' of artwork from elementary schools that feed into Lake Braddock.



Lake Braddock senior Amy Wu Donovan poses with her award winning work 'Puppet Show.' Donovan won a national Gold Award from the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.



Lake Braddock ninth-grader Erin Thiel is pictured with her illustration 'Collision.'



Lake Braddock senior Patrick RoDee sits in front of two logos he has designed for two local bands.

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB

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 underclassmen returning for the 2011 season,

SEE RAMS, PAGE 14

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

— Jeff Ferrell

Taking a Well-Deserved Break

After three games over three days, South County girls' lacrosse team looks to recharge.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

South County head girls' lacrosse coach Sarah King kept her post-game talk brief after a 15-10 loss to West Springfield on Thursday, April 29. Her players, expecting a lecture about a loss, instead heard some welcome words.

"We're taking the weekend off, get some rest," she said.

Normally, King wouldn't tell her players to put down their sticks and forget about lacrosse for a little bit, but after three consecutive games in three days, the Stallions needed the rest.

"It's been quite an experience playing three games in a row," she said. "A lot of emotions, personal stuff, but we had two great wins."

A postponed game was rescheduled between the Stallions' last two games of the season, creating a hectic week of lacrosse for the team.

It also didn't help that the team couldn't go through its normal practice routine due to foul weather.

"We came out on Monday, but it rained and we were stuck indoors," she said. "There was only so much we could do. It's tough."

The Stallions started the three-game

string with a 12-8 win over Patriot District rival West Potomac on April 27. On April 28, the girls followed up that win with a 19-11 victory over Concorde District foe Centreville.

The regular season then came to an end at home on April 29 with the senior night loss to West Springfield.

"West Springfield gave us a run for our money," King said, "but we were able to rally back."

In the loss, South County jetted out to an early lead, only to watch it quickly turn to West Springfield's favor. Junior Patty Rafferty said the emotions from senior night helped fuel the team.

"I think we were all excited it was senior night," Rafferty said. "Yeah, we were physically tired, but we fought [fatigue]."

SEE STALLIONS, PAGE 14



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.

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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.



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

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, Lorton, 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.

Stallions Take a Break

FROM PAGE 13

Despite the tiring schedule, King said she knew her players were giving all the energy they had left. "The girls really wanted this game," she said. "Some of them were crying at the last time out."

Senior attacker Rachel Covas said her teammates have been run ragged because of their hectic schedule, but shouldn't be too discouraged by the West Springfield loss. "We've really pulled through," Covas said. "We've had some injuries but everyone played hard."

With a week to recuperate, the Stallions' attention now turns to the Patriot District tournament which starts on Thursday, May 6.

"We started off the season lagging behind the top teams," Covas said. "But we've had some good signs for the playoffs. I think we have a chance."

For King, there is some upside to having a flurry of games before the tournament, including against one of the Northern Region's best teams.

"We've let some of our big games get away from us, but we're better prepared for them," she said. "We'll know what to do."

Rams Prep for Playoffs

FROM PAGE 13

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."

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FROM PAGE 3

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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."

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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M. Steil V. Alexander P. Steil, the undersigned Special Com-
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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.

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MOTHER'S DAY GALLERY



Fairfax Station's Kimberly Salameh and her 10-month-old son Shepherd Salameh play in their front yard. This Mother's Day will mark the first for Kimberly and Shepherd together. Kimberly's wish for Mother's day is that Shepherd will be able to say 'I love you Mommy!'

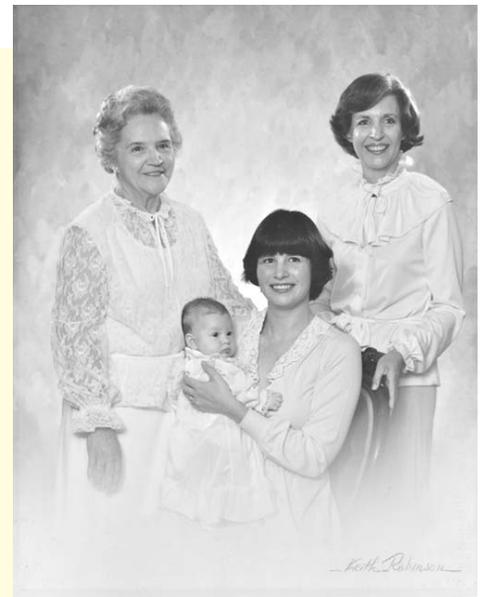
Mom And Me

Locals share photos of their moms.

Dalton Baker and Jen Baker enjoy the warm spring weather in their backyard in Fairfax Station. Now nearly 3-months old, Dalton was born in the blizzard on Feb. 10.



In a photo taken December 1953: great grandmother Ida Maass, grandmother Irma Staat; mother, Lucy Clifford; and baby Suzanne Clifford



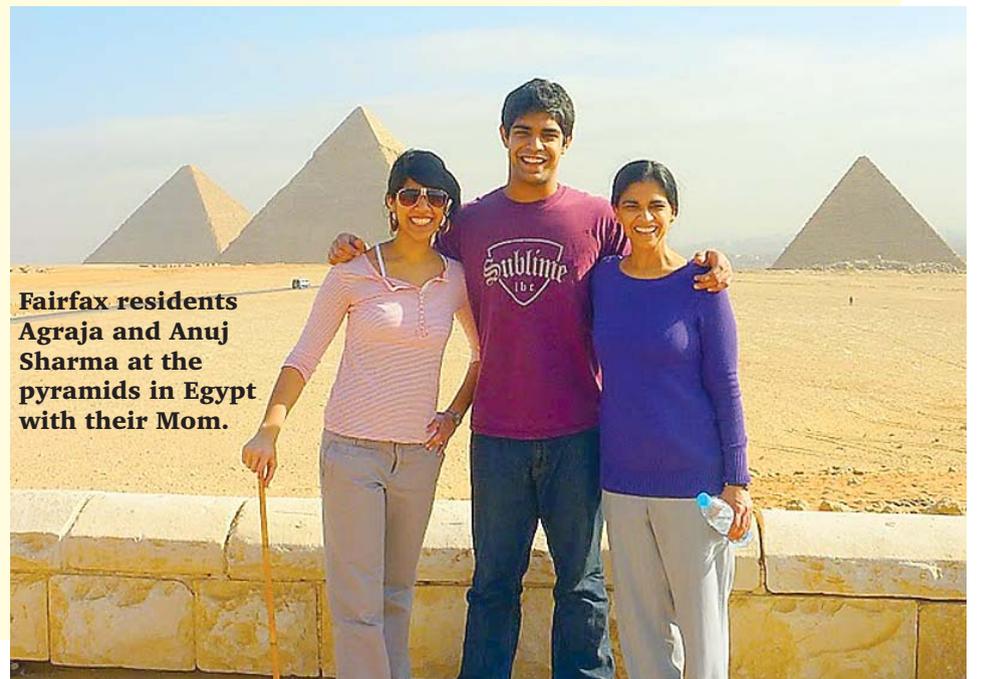
B0505-124, 15x22
In a photo taken September 1978: great grandmother Irma Staat, grandmother Lucy Clifford, mother, Suzanne Clark (Clifford) and baby Allison Clark



In a photo taken March 2008: great grandmother Lucy Clifford, grandmother Suzanne Clark (Clifford); mother Allison Reddick (Clark) and baby Olivia Reddick. Lucy Clifford and Suzanne Clark currently reside in Fairfax Station.



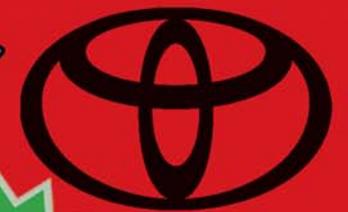
Mom Margo Osborne of Fairfax Station relaxes at the beach with, Reagan, 8, and Hudson, 5.



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

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