

Market Day

NEWS, PAGE 3

Andrea Gagnon of LynneVale Studios, an eighth generation family farm in Gainesville, finishes a bouquet for a customer at the Burke Farmers Market on Saturday, May 8.

JROTC Cleans Up

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Swimmers' State Honor

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CALENDAR, PAGE 11 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 16

PHOTO BY AMBER HEALY/THE CONNECTION

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Helping Out the Homeless

FACETS gets \$130,000 in grant money.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

FACETS, the Fairfax Area Christian Emergency and Transitional Services, strives daily to stamp out homelessness and ensure that every resident of Fairfax County has a bed to sleep in and a warm meal waiting three times a day. Its ambitious mission is often solo, so when the chance for a co-pilot arises, FACETS seizes the opportunity.

FACETS recently received two grants from the Freddie Mac Foundation and the Phillip L. Graham Fund to help further its goal to end homelessness in the county. The grants, totaling \$130,000, were especially beneficial, FACETS leaders said, given the current state of the economy.

"All of us, in this economy, are bracing for grants to be cut and just hoping to get what we got last year," said FACETS Executive Director Amanda Andere. "So, receiving extra grants shows that the community wants the organization to succeed and for those in need to get the help they need."

The gift from the Freddie Mac Foundation was just the latest in the foundation's long history of supporting FACETS, though it is substantially more than past donations. The foundation, formed in 1991, is the non-profit branch of the massive home loan mortgage corporation and strives to create stable home environments for families through a variety of means.

The foundation gave a \$100,000 grant to FACETS to enable the organization to hire additional staff to support its work to find stable housing for the estimated 1,500 homeless families in Fairfax County. According to Andere, FACETS only had one to two people working with 100 families at a time that were on the waiting list prior to receiving the grant money, making it difficult to make an impact. With the money, Andere will hire more staffers who will be able



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SEE FACETS, PAGE 18

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A Fresh Start to Saturday Mornings

Customers flock to Burke Farmers Market for fresh veggies, meats.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

Threatening clouds had evaporated early Saturday morning, May 8, by the time the Burke Farmers Market was in full swing, with at least a dozen vendors offering their mid-spring vegetables, flowers, baked goods and other delectables.

“We tell people to come on out and check out the farm if they’d like.”

— Leigh Smith, Smith Valley Farms

Phillips between customers. “This is a really good spot,” he said, motioning to the Good Humor truck chiming in the background. “We’ve got great customers.

Among their top selections on Saturday, May 8, were strawberries, but people were also looking for asparagus and salad mixes.

And everything is fresh, Phillips said: “We were out at the farm until 9 p.m. last night, picking everything.”

George Phillips, manager of Spring Valley Farms in Romney, W.Va., said the crowd was good for a sunny morning early in the season.

“We’ve been coming here for the past five years or so,” said



PHOTO BY AMBER HEALY/THE CONNECTION

Leigh Smith, center, marks off another carton of eggs while a line of customers forms in front of her booth for Smith Family Farms at the Burke Farmers Market on Saturday, May 8.

SEE BURKE, PAGE 10

Beautifying Lake Braddock

JROTC sponsors strip of Burke Lake Road via Adopt-a-Highway.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Young men and women in the Lake Braddock Secondary School JROTC stand out in school, so naturally, they want their school to stand out, too.

The school’s JROTC cadets launched their Adopt-a-Highway project Saturday, May 8, sponsoring the strip of Burke Lake Road that runs in front of the school. The venture may be just one in a long line of community service projects for the cadets, but the chance to help their community while beautifying the school gave it special meaning.

“It’s very important to keep our road clean,” said sophomore JROTC cadet Jake Sage. “It creates a sense of school pride because it shows people passing by that we care about our school.”

The JROTC’s involvement in the Adopt-a-Highway program is several months in the making, according to JROTC leader Lt. Col. Dwight Lomax. After the holiday break, Lomax said he gathered his cadets

and asked them to come up with their next community service project themselves. Though he had ideas, Lomax wanted the students to choose the project so that they would be doing something that they would enjoy, and I turn, take pride in doing it.

After a lengthy discussion, the cadets decided that they wanted to join Adopt-a-Highway and sponsor the upkeep of Burke Lake Road. So, Lomax reached out to the Virginia Department of Transportation, and after a four-month approval process, VDOT awarded the JROTC program a permit to maintain the road.

“We wanted to do something for the school so we got together with all the kids and decided that this would be a good idea,” said 1st Sgt. Craig Simmons, Lomax’s assistant. “The kids really embraced the idea.

A lot of them have other commitments but they’re out here. That says a lot about them.”

According to Simmons, JROTC’s sponsorship of the road is a two-year commitment, in which the students must clean litter and other debris from the road four times a year. VDOT provides the school with trash bags, orange

safety vests, roadside alert signs, gloves and two signs that designate the stretch of road as sponsored by the Lake Braddock JROTC. The students can only pick up trash and are not allowed to cut the grass on the median or roadside or do any other landscaping due to VDOT liability concerns.

“We want to show the school that we care.”

— Nick Laffosse, junior



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

JROTC cadets Corey Smith, Michael Fletcher and Jake Sage do their part to clean Burke Lake Road.

SEE HIGHWAY, PAGE 9

Woodson Booster Worries About Athletic Fee

Fairfax resident Charles Oppenheim worries a proposed sports team fee in Fairfax County Public Schools next year could be a barrier to student participation in local high school athletic programs next year. He spoke at the Fairfax County School Board's final hearing on the 2010-11 budget May 12.

The local School Board is considering implementing a \$100 fee per student per sports season, which Oppenheim said could add up to several hundred dollars for some families. School Board members will vote on whether to implement the new fee as part of an overall budget package May 20.

Though the school board has said students who qualify for free and reduced-priced lunch will not be required to pay the fee. But Oppenheim said the additional cost will also be burden for middle class families.

Oppenheim is president of the Woodson High School Athletic Boosters. He said several parents already drop a few hundred dollars each year to join the booster club at their local high school.

The boosters often raise money for functions critical to the success of the local athletic programs, like grass cutting and general playing field maintenance.

If parents decide not to contribute to the boosters because of the new athletic fee, many of the basic needs of high school athletes, such as a need for new uniforms or equipment, could go unmet.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Fairfax Parents Want All-Day Kindergarten in Every School

A small group of residents urged the Fairfax County School Board to find funding for a countywide full-day kindergarten program during the final hearing on the school system's 2010-11 annual budget May 12.

Thirty-seven of the Fairfax's 142 public elementary schools still have half-day kindergarten programs. The School Board has not discussed in any detail expanding the full-day kindergarten program to new sites this year, partly because of budget constraints.

"I know people who are enrolling their children in private kindergarten programs because they want a full day," said Joana Garcia, a parent at Silverbrook Elementary School.

Initially, School Board members had intended to "phase in" full-day kindergarten at all schools over a few years. But they did not add new full-day kindergarten classes to this year's calendar, arguing that the economic downturn was forcing them to make cuts to existing programs.

Several parents said denying students access to full-day kindergarten is a basic equity issue. Children in schools with only a half-day program get half the amount of enrichment and exposure to instruction as students in a full-day program.

Garcia said her child could read a little bit after attending a full-day pre-school on Fort Belvoir Army Base. He then lost considerable reading and language abilities while enrolled in the half-day kindergarten program at Silverbrook.

Those schools with the most challenging demographics — a large number of poor students and English language learners — received full-day kindergarten first. In general, the 37 schools still waiting for the program are among the most affluent in the county.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

NEWS



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."

Several local teams from Fairfax County Public Schools took home awards from the recent DECA International Career Development Conference in Louisville. **Kaylan Celestin, Adna Guled and Taryn Hayes** of Robinson Secondary School won first place

SCHOOL NOTES

for their Entrepreneurship Promotion Plan. **Charlotte Perkowski** of Robinson Secondary School finished third in the Principals of Hospitality and Tourism event. Thirteen groups of individual students or student teams made the top 10 in their competition categories; 18 groups of students were named finalists. Reaching the top

10 were the teams already mentioned plus:

❖ **Kathryn Newmeyer** of West Springfield High School for Food Marketing Series.

Reaching the level of finalist were:

❖ **Larissa Calhoun, Maya Chehab and Alyssa Dierkes** of Woodson High School for Community Service Project.

COMMUNITY



Art Camp 2010 in Burke

Registration is open for Art Camp in Burke with camp instructor Carol Zeitlin, a public school art teacher, who has been conducting art camp for more than 15 years in Burke. Register for: Fine Arts & Crafts Camp (8 and up) at 12:30 -3:15 p.m.; Crafts & Drawing Fun Camp (5-8) at 9:45-11:45 a.m.; or Drawing Camp (8 and up) at 9:30-11:45 a.m. Four weekly sessions run Monday- Friday, June 28-July 2, July 12-16, July 19-23 and Aug. 9-13. Call Zeitlin at 703-250-6930 Visit www.czartlessons.com for details and registration form.

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OPINION

Let Us Hear That Concern

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 some information.

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 information and document they can.

The actual reports filed by police officers about any incident, available to the public and the press in almost every jurisdiction in America, are never released in Northern Virginia.

Leaders in Northern Virginia's police departments continue to assert that most people aren't don't care about the level of secrecy employed by police.

"Let us hear that concern," said a Fairfax County police spokesperson. "We are not hear-

Citizens have a right to know details of crimes in their neighborhoods and activities of police.

ing it from anybody except the media, except individual reporters."

"I don't think we have to justify it," said Alexandria Police Chief Earl Cook.

It's time to let them hear the concern, and tell them that they do have to justify decisions to withhold public information. Contact your chief of police, along with your state and local elected officials. We'd appreciate receiving a copy of any letter you send.

EDITORIAL

Police should move to make as much information open to the public as possible. Should they have the right to redact some information, for example, the name of an undercover officer? Certainly. But withholding information should be a rare exception, not a blanket policy. But the process of repressing critical information undermines the contract of trust between police and community, like the name of the shooter and exact details when police shoot and kill an unarmed civilian, as in the case of David Masters.

"Citizens truly do have a right to know the details of crimes in their neighborhoods, not summary information the police choose to re-

lease," wrote Ryan Donmoyer in a letter to the Alexandria Gazette Packet. "And the press plays a pivotal role in the unfettered dissemination of such essential information."

We continue to be grateful for the service, presence, expertise and judgment of the police officers patrolling our neighborhoods. The misguided decision to abuse the ability to withhold every piece of information possible comes from the leadership level. The police officers you come into contact with in your daily activities are not at fault here.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Get Involved

Send a letter to your chief of police and your state and local elected officials to let them know that you want more information, that police should rescind their "blanket" approach to withholding information.

Disagrees with O'Brien's Vote

To the Editor:

As a young woman, I hope to eventually be a mother in the future. I just read that Jay O'Brien (R) plans to run for State Senate again, a seat he lost to Sen. George Barker (D-39) in 2007.

Although O'Brien has always touted himself as a Conservative Republican, there is one major vote he had when he was in office that disturbed me the most.

O'Brien supported mandatory HPV (Genital human papilloma virus) vaccinations for girls as young as 11, who attend public schools. There are a host of problems with this vote.

Firstly, at the time, there was no research about what the long-term results would be to girls' health and physiology after such a vaccination.

Secondly, according to the CDC, in 90 percent of cases, the body's immune system clears HPV naturally within two years [http://www.cdc.gov/STD/HPV/STDFact-HPV.htm#Whatis].

Thirdly, decisions related to behavior-related vaccinations for children should be made by par-

ents, not by the government, period.

This vote by O'Brien was a vote in favor of government intrusion into private family decisions, and as such, contradicts the values of most of his former constituents.

I hope he reconsiders his decision to run again, as he won't be getting my vote.

Corey Howell
Springfield

Unclogging Interstate 66

To the Editor:

Can anyone solve congestion on the Interstate 66? I don't know, but at least some elected officials are trying.

I'm talking about U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) and Supervisors Michael Frey (R-Sully) and Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) who hosted a town hall meeting seeking solutions to the parking lot we call Interstate 66. The trio of elected officials — Republicans all — outlined what they have done and plan to do to get traffic rolling again. To end VDOT foot-dragging, they are putting the bureaucrats' feet to the fire.

I'm encouraged. Wolf, Frey and Herrity are walking the walk,

which is faster than we sometimes travel on Interstate 66. If they can remove the asbestos from VDOT's toes, we may actually see movement on Interstate 66 in my lifetime. Who would have thought Republicans would care about the little guy? Hear that Chairwoman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) and U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11)?

Kalia Sokos
Springfield

Walking the Walk?

To the Editor:

During U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly's (D-11) tenure on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, the average property tax bill in Fairfax County nearly doubled from roughly \$2,400 to \$4,800. In true Connolly tradition, the tax happy Democrat-led board in April raised county property taxes and fees again, costing the average homeowner in the county (with a home valued at \$432,439) an additional \$95 in taxes and fees

Republican Congressional candidate Pat Herrity stumps against Connolly's property tax increases everywhere he goes, but in 2009 with declining home values, he had a chance to give Fairfax

County taxpayers a break. Instead, Herrity voted for a 13 percent property tax rate increase, keeping virtually all of Connolly's increase in place.

This is the single largest tax rate increase in 30 years. According to the Washington Post, 150,000 households actually saw their real property tax bill increase. If Herrity is going to vote like Connolly on the Board of Supervisors, I can only assume he will vote like him in Congress.

When it comes to holding the line on taxes, Pat Herrity appears to have ignored the old adage, "Don't talk the talk, unless you can walk the walk."

Rob Paine
Middleridge

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:
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NEWS

Parents Will Have To Complete Safety Course

Starting in September, parents and guardians of minors seeking driver's licenses will have to complete a 90 minute program with their children before the students can get behind the wheel legally.

The course will emphasize parental responsibilities for juvenile driving behavior, juvenile driving restrictions, the dangers of driving while intoxicated and underage drinking.

All Fairfax County public high schools will offer the course to families once each academic quarter.

The county will provide the program at no cost for those parents of students enrolled in driver's education through a 10th grade health and physical education class.

The new requirement is the result 2009 legislation sponsored by Fairfax delegates Dave Albo (R-42), Tom Rust (R-86), Adam Ebbin (D-49) and former Fairfax Del. Margi Vanderhye (D-34).

The House of Delegates passed the legislation 74 to 25, with only one Fairfax delegate, Tim Hugo (R-40), voting against the measure. The State Senate passed the measure 37-2, with former Fairfax County senator and current Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli (R) voting against it.

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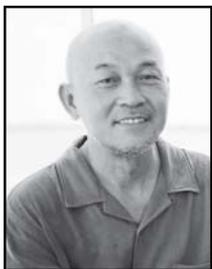
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Changes Coming for Schools with Poor Students

Many call process for changing programs for needy students flawed.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Laurie Blackburn calls the public school where her son attends first grade extraordinary. She isn't the only one.

Hollin Meadows Elementary has drawn national attention for its outdoor gardening and science program, where students grow food and learn about native plants and insects on the school site. First Lady Michelle Obama visited the Mount Vernon school to learn more about its outdoor program last fall, and Hollin Meadows students have been invited to her vegetable garden at the White House two years in a row.

Recently, the U.S. Department of Agriculture interviewed staff at and shot footage of Hollin Meadows for an instructional film they intend to distribute to other school districts around the country.

But the gardens might not survive the Fairfax County School Board vote on the annual budget May 20.

TWO PROGRAMS, Project Excel and Focus, were established more than a decade ago, in part to help elementary schools with a larger percentage of needy students. Superintendent Jack Dale now says the money used for those programs can be spent more effectively in another way.

But what Dale's new initiative entails is unclear and how much money individual schools which benefited from Project Excel and Focus will receive has not been released. The Hollin Meadows community, for example, is not sure whether they will get as much funding under Dale's new plan as they have in the past or whether the school system will let them use any of the money to maintain the gardening program.

"When you are changing from an old program to a new program, you should bring people along and not leave them in the position of not having any clear idea what kind of school their children are going to be going to in three months," said Blackburn.

During county budget deliberations last month, several members of the Board of Supervisors called the school board irresponsible and insensitive to the community when it came to the elimination of Project Excel and Focus, as well as a year-round school calendar program in place in a handful of county schools.

Several supervisors said the school board should have had a long and extensive community engagement process about eliminating such long-standing programs, especially since they affect some of the county's most vulnerable children.

"I hold three public hearings when a gas station wants to change the color of its awning. This is a policy shift of much more importance," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

Many of the details about the school

system's new initiative for at-risk students were fuzzy because the schools were not sure how much funding they would receive from the county or the Virginia government, said school board member Janie Strauss (Dranesville).

"It would have been great to let people know what was happening in February, but we didn't know how much money we were going to get and it looked pretty bad," said Strauss.

Last year, school board members voted to use federal stimulus money to fund Project Excel, which provides an extended school day on Mondays at 16 elementary schools. The supervisors should have known that the stimulus money was limited and would run out at the end of next year, said several school board members.

Dale and many school board members also pointed out that the most significant funding that elementary schools with students in poverty receive comes in the form of a lower staff-to-student ratio, which will not be changed.

Still, several members of the community said they felt "ambushed" by the change and supervisors found the timeline too condensed for such a major change.

During a public hearing in January, the Fairfax Area League of Women Voters complained about the school system's budget documents being "opaque" and said the organization had a hard time parsing out how the school system was spending money. The Fairfax Education Association and Fairfax County Council of PTAs aired concerns about responsiveness.

"There is no open dialogue. That is not how the school system works," said Arthur Lopez, incoming chair of the schools' minority student achievement oversight citizen advisory committee.

But many school board members contend that Dale's new initiative for students in poverty will reach more needy students. The superintendent plans to boost funding for students who are poor and need to learn English from \$20 million to \$30 million next year.

"Overall, we will be spending more money than we are now," said Dale.

Of the new money, about \$5.4 million will

Schools Affected

Many needy schools currently receive extra funding and support through the Project Excel, Focus and year-round calendar programs. The school board is likely to eliminate all three programs and replace them, in part, with a "priority schools" initiative.

Those campuses that would receive extra funding as a "priority school" are not the same as those who received funding under Excel, Focus and year-round calendar.

School	Excel	Focus	Year-Round	Priority School
Annandale Terrace Elementary	Yes	No	Yes	No
Beach Tree Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Brookfield Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Bucknell Elementary	Yes	No	No	Yes
Bull Run Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Cameron Elementary	Yes	No	No	No
Centre Ridge Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Clearview Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Cunningham Park Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Crestwood Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Daniels Run Elementary	No	Yes	No	No
Dogwood Elementary	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Dranesville Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Fort Belvoir Elementary	Yes	No	No	No
Fort Hunt	No	Yes	No	No
Forest Edge Elementary	No	Yes	No	No
Franconia Elementary	No	No	Yes	No
Glen Forest Elementary	Yes	No	Yes	No
Graham Road Elementary	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Groveton Elementary	Yes	No	No	No
Halley Elementary	Yes	No	No	No
Herndon Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Hollin Meadows Elementary	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Hutchinson Elementary	Yes	No	No	No
Hunter Woods Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Hybla Valley Elementary	Yes	No	No	Yes
Kent Gardens Elementary	No	Yes	No	No
King's Glen Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Lake Anne Elementary	No	Yes	No	No
London Towne Elementary	Yes	No	No	Yes
Mount Eagle Elementary	Yes	No	No	No
Mt. Vernon Woods Elementary	Yes	No	No	Yes
Parklawn Elementary	Yes	No	Yes	No
Pine Spring Elementary	Yes	Yes	No	No
Providence Elementary	No	Yes	No	No
Riverside Elementary	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Rose Hill Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Timber Lane Elementary	No	No	Yes	No
Sleepy Hollow Elementary	No	Yes	No	No
Stenwood Elementary	No	Yes	No	No
Washington Mill Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Westlawn Elementary	Yes	No	No	No
Woodlawn Elementary	Yes	No	No	Yes
Weyanoke Elementary	Yes	No	No	No
Woodley Hills Elementary	Yes	Yes	No	No
Woodburn Elementary	No	Yes	No	No
Hughes Middle*	No	No	No	Yes
Sanburg Middle*	No	No	No	Yes
Whitman Middle*	No	No	No	Yes
Glasgow Middle*	No	No	No	Yes
Twain Middle*	No	No	No	Yes
Herndon Middle*	No	No	No	Yes

*Project Excel, Focus and the year-round calendar program does not exist at the middle school level but middle schools are included under the "priority school" plan.

students and other minorities.

According to a written proposal, extra funding could be provided for literacy coaches and instructional coaches and to enroll all eligible 4-year olds in the Head Start program. Instead of providing an extended day or year-round school year to all students attending a particular school, individual pupils could also be asked to start school early in August if their academic achievement is lacking.

DALE and several school board members said the three current programs are static and limited. Those schools that were initially enrolled in the Excel, Focus and year-round calendar programs a decade ago are still the only ones receiving the services.

Demographic changes over the last few years have also meant that those schools with largest number of poor students and the lowest achievement rates now are not necessarily the ones where Excel and year-round calendar are in place.

"Once a school was in the program, the school was always in the program. And no one else could get into the program," said School Board member Stu Gibson (Hunter Mill).

The Excel, Focus and year-round calendar programs were also only in place in elementary schools. Dale's new plan would give extra funding to middle schools – Hughes, Sandburg, Whitman, Glasgow, Herndon and Poe – because they have high levels of poverty.

Finally, Dale said there was no compelling evidence that Excel, Focus or a year-round

calendar was boosting achievement. When comparing schools that had those three programs with similar schools that didn't, the school system saw no difference in academic achievement, said Dale.

BUT some individual schools have seen tremendous results, said school board members and parents.

In addition to Hollin Meadows, Graham Road – which has the Excel, Focus and year-round calendar programs – has been nationally recognized.

And even though Hollin Meadows is listed a "priority school," it isn't clear that it will receive the same level of extra funding it does now, said Blackburn.

"My concern is that it is May and all we have seen is an outline of an outline," said Blackburn.



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

The sign designating Lake Braddock JROTC's sponsorship.

Highway

FROM PAGE 3

At the first pickup last Saturday, nearly 40 JROTC members met up with another couple dozen Lake Braddock students who came out to volunteer at 10 a.m. in front of the flag pole, where they were given the vests, gloves and trash bags. The students then divided into two separate groups and each group worked on one side of the road. It took slightly more than an hour to complete the work, and after, the students were treated to lunch and refreshments in the school cafeteria.

"It's great to be out here because it sets a good example for our community that it's good to get out and do things like this," said junior cadet Michael Fletcher. "We talked about doing it more because it's just good to get out and make sure this place stays clean."

Lomax said that he plans to have another cleanup before the end of the school year, and then two more next fall to complete the requirement of four cleanups per academic year. This year, Lomax had 60 cadets to help him clean Burke Lake Road, but next year, he anticipates a surge in available volunteers as the JROTC moves into its second year at the school. The JROTC program has been so successful in its first year, Lomax said, that at the school's Curriculum Night, 120 students signed up to take JROTC next school year as an elective. This growth not only pleases him, but also gives validation to all of the efforts of his cadets.

"This is our first year and we've had the opportunity to show the community what we're trying to do, which is to become better citizens," said junior Nick Laffosse. "We want to show the school that we care and that we want to make it a better place for everyone, not just us."

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BURKE CONNECTION ♦ MAY 13-19, 2010 ♦ 9

Burke Farmers Market Opens for 2010

FROM PAGE 3

A few parking spaces down, past the fresh bison meat and free-range chicken, just beyond two more flower and produce stands, Leigh Smith of Smith Family Farms was welcoming familiar faces, customers who have been buying her eggs and fresh meat for years.

"We've been coming here about five years, but we're at several of the farmers markets in the area," said Smith, who runs the farm with her husband. A photo of their two little girls waits inside a brochure detailing how the farm is operated, showing cows grazing on grass, pigs walking in an open pasture and chickens in a large, cage-free coop.

"We tell people to come on out and check out the farm if they'd like," Smith said. "We just ask that they call ahead to make sure someone's free to show them around. We have no trade secrets."

Customers were lining up to buy fresh brown eggs, taking their time walking through her open delivery truck, walls lined with freezers filled with freshly butchered steaks, pork and poultry.

Both Smith and Phillips said they've seen more customers in recent years and been asked more questions about how their wares are raised and grown, possibly in response to movies like "Food Inc.," a documentary showing the less-than-ideal conditions in which animals raised on feedlots for mass production are kept.

"People want to know where their food comes from and how it was treated," Smith said. "They have a broad idea now of what things should be like."

"Food Inc.," she said, was "an eye opener for so many people. If people are skeptical about the difference in quality between



Fresh vegetables were plentiful at the Burke Farmers Market, in the VRE parking lot, on Saturday, May 8.

large farms and us, we tell them to try some ground beef. This way they're starting with a small product but they can taste the difference right away."

Phillips, who said Spring Valley Farms does not use pesticides on its produce, said he gets more questions about the way lettuce, spring onions and garlic are grown.

"People want to know what their food goes through" before they serve it to their families, he said.

TWO OF those customers, Maura Nicastle of Burke and Katherine Murphy of Fairfax,



PHOTOS BY AMBER HEALY/THE CONNECTION

With a long list of freshly baked breads, pastries and other treats, Jesus Savcedo of Quail Creek Farms in West Virginia helps a customer with his selection at the Burke Farmers Market on Saturday, May 8.

are regulars at the Burke Farmers Market, and said they enjoy coming to the market every weekend because for just that reason — there's a face associated with their food.

Looking for onions, strawberries and plants for their new garden, Nicastle said she likes the convenience of picking up most of her food for the week from local farmers.

"It's just fresher here," she said, watching over her four small children with her husband. "We come here because we live in the area. There's a good selection, but we do miss the kettle corn cart. That was

good."

Murphy said she's at the market every Saturday morning it's available.

"The fresh food here is fantastic," she said, looking over her weekly shopping list. Among her favorite vendors are a small dairy, based near the Blue Ridge mountains, that makes specialty cheeses, and Spring Valley Farms. She's also a fan of Suzy's Cookies, saying her kids "demand them" every week.

"I like to support the local farmers," she said. "I like knowing how my food is grown."



To raise money for the May 14 Relay for Life event at West Springfield High School, some local children sold cookies.

Honoring Teacher's Memory

Relay for Life event to run all night.

The Springfield-Burke community is raising money for the Springfield-Burke Relay for Life, which takes place Friday, May 14 from 7 p.m.-7 a.m., at West Springfield High School. To date, organizers have raised more than \$116,000. Seventy-eight teams and almost 800 participants will walk around the track through the night to raise money to fight cancer.

The local Relay for Life event was organized to honor Springfield resident Beth Bryan, a mother, friend, neighbor, teacher, swim coach and Boy Scout leader who died last year from melanoma at the age of 48. Bryan was a kindergarten teacher at Keene Mill Elementary, swim coach at Orange Hunt Swim Club and Curl Burke, a Boy

Scout leader and a PTA officer. She left behind a husband and three teen boys.

On Sunday, May 2, Relay for Life organizers hosted a Survivors Dinner for cancer survivors in the area, at which, a West Springfield High School mother spoke about her battle with breast cancer for the third time.

The following local businesses have contributed to the Relay for Life effort: Kay Jennings Springfield Toyota, Interstate Van Lines, Greenspring, American Disposal, R&D Sign Company, Great Harvest Bread Company, Victors Pizza, Austin Grill, Chicken Out, Modells, Spartans Restaurant, Panera, Top Golf, Creative Memories, Metro Run and Walk and Don Regan's Coffee.

To learn more, go to springfieldburkerelay.org.

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/MAY 13

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

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

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

Tiny Tots. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Very short stories, fingerplays and activities. Age 13-17 months with adult.

Small Oneders. 11:15 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Very short stories, fingerplays and activities. Age 18-23 months with adult. 703-644-7333.

FRIDAY/MAY 14

Dan Navarro and Peter Bradley Adams. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$17. jamminjava.com.

Fairfax Academy's Spring Dance Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Tickets \$10-\$15. 703-219-2385 or gwen.plummer@fcps.edu.

SATURDAY/MAY 15

Spaghetti Dinner. 5-7 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Senior Center, Green Acres Center Cafeteria, 4401 Sideburn

Road, Fairfax. Pasta, salad, garlic bread, dessert and beverage. Adults \$8, students and seniors \$7, \$6 under age 10. Children under age 2 free. Proceeds benefit the Senior Center. Open to the public, walk-ins welcome. 703-359-2487 or jormesher@fairfaxva.gov.

City of Fairfax Antique Car Show.

10 a.m.-3 p.m. at City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. Antique cars, live bluegrass music, food and more. See a Model-T Ford reassembled and running in 15 minutes at 1 p.m. A portion of the proceeds are donated to the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, D.C. www.visitfairfax.com or www.nvrg.org.

Charity Poker Run to benefit

Children's Grief Camp. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. registration at Patriot Harley Davidson, 9739 Lee Hwy, Fairfax. Last player returns by 5:30 p.m. Donate \$20/hand and ride your Harley or any other means of transportation through pre-

determined route picking up a card at each stop. Winning hand for the day gets \$300; 2nd Place \$150; 3rd place \$50. Raffle also available with a grand prize of a big screen TV. All proceeds go to Capital Hospice's Point of Hope Camp for grieving children, teens and adults offered at no charge to campers. Contact Julie Weatherington at 703-396-6199 or jweatherington@capitalhospice.org.

McLean High School and

Longfellow Middle School Big Band Jam. 2 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$8. jamminjava.com.

Sing Me Insomnia and The

Goodnight Anthem. 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. jamminjava.com.

An Evening with Charlie Mars.

10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15 advance, \$18 at the door. jamminjava.com.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association.

Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Dance demonstrations, line dance lessons at 7:30 p.m., beginners two step at 8 p.m. Open dancing 8:30-11 p.m. This is the Association's Annual Benefit Dance for Fisher House. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. www.nvcwda.org or 703-860-4941.

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.

Microsoft PowerPoint.

2:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. How to put together an attractive presentation. Age 13 and up. 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.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic.

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and strategies. 703-978-5600.

Young Hearts' Rummage Sale.

8 a.m.-2 p.m. at W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Proceeds benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Deliver donated items to Woodson H.S. from 4-6 p.m. on May 14. believeinacure@gmail.com.

"The Princess and the Pea."

1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Lake Braddock Storybook

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

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A Windy Affair for Local Crews

Virginia Scholastic Rowing Championship Finals postponed due to high winds.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

On Saturday, May 8, the 1,400 rowers at the Virginia Scholastic Rowing Championship Finals might have been from 30 different Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. schools, but they all shared one thought on the Occoquan River's race course in Lorton.

Curse this darned wind.

"It was just really rough out there on the race course," W.T. Woodson men's first eights coxswain Wade Price said.

Gusting winds from isolated rainstorms moved through the area and wreaked havoc on the race course. The winds were strong enough to break the event's starting grid and forced all races to begin with floating starts.

In addition to the floating starts, the wind gusts were headed down the course, toward the boats' helms.

"The races were slow because there was just so much wind," Robinson junior Emily Martin said.

The weather woes also forced race officials to postpone the Virginia state title races until May 22. But that didn't keep area schools from turning in strong performances during the event's preliminary heats.

In W.T. Woodson's crew history, no team has ever qualified for the national competition in Saratoga, N.Y., but the men's first eight secured a trip there with a second place finish in their heat.

"It's a big deal for us," Price said. "We've

been around for about 25 years and this is the first boat to go to nationals."

Woodson qualified with a time of 5:19.8, finishing behind St. Albans first-place time of 5:06.9.

As the boat crossed the finish line, the rowers leaned back and let out exhausted breaths. At that moment, rower Bob Ericson knew his team had accomplished something great.

"It's been a big year for Woodson," Ericson said. "This isn't what we expected at the beginning of the season."

Not only is the trip to nationals a major accomplishment for the Woodson boat, but

Alfred Hubbard said his team is considered undersized compared to their competitors.

"We're mostly smaller than the other first eights out there," Hubbard said. "We're smaller in weight. Being lighter means you're generally weaker."

Andre Payne said his team entered the race focused on advancing into the men's first eight finals, but the honor is a welcome reward for the team's hard work.

"It's just a great way to finish off a good year," Payne said.

The top six Virginia schools send boats to the nationals competition, and head coach Ashley Frese said the boys had surpassed coaches' expectations.

"They've been lifting weights before school and they come to the river every day for practice," she said. "They've pushed themselves far past our expectations."

The season isn't over for many of the Woodson rowers. Frese had a list of strong

"It's been a big year for Woodson."

— Bob Ericson



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

A Lake Braddock girls' eights boat works its way down the Occoquan River's windy course at the Virginia Scholastic Rowing Championships on May 8.

performances that qualified for the finals and petite races on May 22.

"Our men's second eight placed fourth in their heat," she said. "The women's junior four placed second in their heat and our women's first four placed fourth in their heat. Also, our women's first eight placed second in their heat."

Fairfax head crew coach Elana Baldwin was proud of the way her rowers performed at the state finals and equally pleased with how they handled the iffy weather conditions.

"The wind is nothing new around here," she said. "The coxswains haven't said much about it. I don't think it's affected us too much."

In the face of the weather and floating starts, the Fairfax team secured some major victories in the face of strong competition.

"Everything went well," she said. "Our men's first four made it to the finals, and were very excited about that. And the women's first four took second in a tough heat."

Much like other teams, wind was the word at the Robinson camp after the heat races ended.

"I'm excited about our chances [in the finals]," head coach Jon Barrett said. "But this high wind is just killing us. I've been coaching for 14 years and we've never [postponed the races]."

The Robinson girls' first eight finished first in their heat with a time of 6:39.4, and the men's first eight earned a trip to the petite race with a fourth place finish.

Emily Martin, coxswain of the girls' first eight, said her team had a little bit of luck

SEE ROWING, PAGE 13

Pull! Harder! Faster!

Winning and losing can rest with the person doing the least rowing — the coxswain.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

Emily Martin is by far the smallest person on her eight-woman boat for the Robinson crew team.

While the rowers, who dwarf her in both weight and height, grunt as they push water in unison, Martin is snug in the bottom of the boat screaming at the top of her lungs.

"I can take control," she said. "I know how to put the girls in line."

As coxswain, she won't pull a single oar over the course of the race. The only muscles she'll strain are in her throat.

Instead, she'll command her rowers to

give everything they have while she helps to guide the boat and keep track of how much distance is left in the race.

The physical strength of her rowers propels the boat, but Martin's guidance can be the difference in winning or losing.

"You definitely have to keep your girls motivated," she said. "Even if you have first place, don't let them slack off or say, 'Oh, this is fine.'"

Martin's coxswain skill has helped the Robinson women's first eight boat win four regattas.

"She's really outstanding," Robinson head

SEE MORE, PAGE 13

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



A South County coxswain on a girls' fours boat guides her rowers down the course. A coxswain doesn't just encourage rowers, but also steers the boat and keeps track of distance left.

More Than a Loud Voice

FROM PAGE 12

coach Jon Barrett said. "She has had a huge impact on our team."

Robinson might be blessed with a strong coxswain in their girls' first eight boat, but that's not the case with every school.

Finding a good coxswain isn't always easy, and the job requires more than just a loud voice, Barrett said.

"In the very beginning, you have to make sure [the coxswain] can steer straight," he said. "Most important is the way the girls interact with the coxswain. She has to be their friend, but also their leader. She has to get them to do things they don't necessarily want to do."

On top of all that is the weight factor. With some boats having weight limits, the coxswain is almost always the smallest and lightest crew member. That's the case for Martin, who had hoped to spend her time on the crew team rowing.

"I was actually going to row my freshman year," she said. "But then they realized how small I was. I liked the idea of rowing, but they asked if I wanted to be a coxswain."

Weight limitations sometimes put girls in charge of the boys' boat and vice versa.

While some might argue that a girl can't motivate boys as well as a member of their own gender, W.T. Woodson coach Ashley Frese said, it really doesn't matter on a crew boat.

As long as they want to win, they'll be fine.

"The women and the men just have to be super competitive," she said. "As long as they have that spirit, they'll be an excellent coxswain."

W.T. Woodson coxswain Wade Price said being small and a good yeller doesn't mean someone has the potential to be a top coxswain.

"[You have to] keep your composure," Price said. "Try to not stop talking to the rowers. You have to find something to say. I try to make different pitches in my voice and get really loud

when something is important."

Coxswains also must be prepared to receive limited coaching.

"I didn't have a lot of experience [when I started]," Price said. "Coxswains tend to be under coached."

In most cases, Frese said, the coxswain role hinges on one simple attribute — respect.

"The coxswain has to be well respected," Frese said. "[He] has to know his coach really well. He has to portray everything that I would do. I'm not out on the water on race day."

"I try to make different pitches in my voice and get really loud when something is important."

— W.T. Woodson coxswain
Wade Price

Rowing Event

FROM PAGE 12

avoiding a floating start.

"We had the [starting grid], but right after our race it broke," she said.

Heading into the state finals, the girls' eight had won four regattas. Senior rower Cate Oakley said the girls turned in one of their better performances in the preliminaries.

"The race felt really good," she said. "I think we'll have a lot more we can bring in the final."

Robinson rowers said the floating start format might have hurt the team's performances.

"The [coxswains] have been telling me [the floating starts] are making the races a challenge," Barrett said. "When you're up there, you want a perfect start and [officials] are having a hard time making that happen."

The Lake Braddock crew team competed at the event, earning a fourth place finish in the women's second eights heat, and a third place finish in the men's second eights heat.

The Bruins' main boats also found some success at the event. The Braddock girls' first eights boat took third in their heat and the boys' first eights crew took fifth in their heat.

More

Watch coxswains talk about their jobs and see them in action at www.connectionnewspapers.com.

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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

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Lorton					
11375 River Rd.	\$1,197,000	Sun 1-5	Ngoc Do	Long & Foster	703-495-6251

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11705 Amkin Drive	\$850,000	Sat 1-4	Courtney Sebastian	Jobin Realty	703 932 0654
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6448 Blarney Stone Ct.	\$359,900	Sun 1-4	Traci Rochon	Keller Williams	703-562-1800
5953 Queenston St.	\$375,000	Sun 1-4	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	RE/MAX	703-239-2525
8607 Langport Dr.	\$429,900	Sun 1-4	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	RE/MAX	703-239-2525
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11784 ROCKAWAY LN #62	\$349,500	Sat 2-5	Aliko Mwaisela	Prosperity	(703) 863-9218
3906 Green Look Ct.	\$478,000	Sun 1-4	Diane Lenahan	Keller Williams	703-283-7328
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4023 Werthers Court.	\$479,900	Sun 1-4	Spencer Marker	Long & Foster	703-830-6123
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To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Steve Hogan at 703-778-9418 or E-Mail the info to shogan@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Tuesday at 3 pm.

THINGS TO DO



The Cranston home



The Nanto garden



The Britt house



The Posner home

Four Houses and a Garden

Annual Clifton Homes Tour is May 20.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Antiques, folk-art carvings, a collection of Civil War sabers and a peaceful, colorful garden — all these things and more await visitors to the 38th Annual Clifton Homes Tour and Marketplace.

Presented by the Clifton Community Woman's Club, the tour takes place 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.

"We have a nice selection and variety of homes," said Homes Tour Chairman Linda Beckman. "There's also a wonderful silent auction and a marketplace with vendors."

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 features the work of local artists. A drawing will be conducted for a \$50 gift certificate for a local restaurant.

At the Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, people 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 Linda Beckman at 703-266-0213.

The event is the woman's club's primary fund raiser. "All the net proceeds go to our Charitable Trust Fund, which supports local charities," said Beckman. "We

give college scholarships and help support food banks and places such as the Kate Hanley Family Shelter and the Bethany Shelter for abused family members."

That's why she's hoping for a good turnout. "Come and enjoy the day, bring friends, support the community and local charities and fall in love with our little town," said Beckman.

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 Centrewood 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 available for pick-up at the town hall on tour day.

Below are brief descriptions of the homes and garden on tour:

Braun House

Homeowners Jane Elizabeth and Richard Braun bought their land in 2004, and along with it came a two-story log cabin that may have belonged to George Washington's half-brother. It's now a guesthouse, and the main residence is a Georgian brick house. The large, country kitchen has just been renovated, but with elements such as beams from old barns and hammered-copper sinks to give it historic character.

Art and antiques adorn this home on Robey's Meadow Lane. A 17th-century carving from a church in Spain hangs above the fireplace, and a 200-year-

SEE CLIFTON, PAGE 15

THINGS TO DO

Clifton Homes Tour May 20

FROM PAGE 14

old French chandelier lights the dining room. Outdoors are bridges, waterfalls, a pool and tennis court.

Nanto Garden

Mosako and Dick Nanto live on Wycklow Drive, and their beautifully manicured, formal garden is the first garden to ever be part of the homes tour. The idea for it germinated 10 years ago, when Dick was considering buying his wife a dozen roses. But to give her a more lasting gift, he instead planted rose bushes.

Their garden blossomed from there, and their 2-acre lot is similar to an English, country garden. And within this garden are other, special touches, such as a Japanese garden, complete with koi swimming in a pond. Visitors will also find a rose garden, rain-fall pond and vegetable garden. Whimsical decorations tucked throughout the garden add to its charm.

Cranston Home

Retired Air Force Gen. Stewart Cranston and wife Peggy designed and built their Cape Cod-style home in 2003. Displays inside include memorabilia from Stewart's career as a test pilot, plus a collection of Civil War sabers. He also made two mantles from oak and walnut trees on their property.

Peggy Cranston, an artist, decorated the home with her watercolor and oil paintings and even painted a mural of the Tuscan countryside in their wine closet.

She also created the home's elegant and unique drapery treatments. During the tour of their house, visitors may see Stewart Cranston's workroom and Peggy Cranston's art studio.

Posner Home

The Main Street home of Arlene and Paul Posner was the birthplace of two Hollywood movies. In 1962, William Barrett wrote the book, "Lilies of the Field" there; and years later, Jeff Arch wrote the story which became "Sleepless in Seattle." At Arch's request, the poster for this movie still hangs on a wall in the family room.

Clifton's first mayor, Robert Buckley, built this house for his bride in 1896. A later owner enlarged it by adding back stairs to the master bedroom, plus the current kitchen with fireplace and cabinets with cherry-blossom carvings. Also adorning the home are fanciful and whimsical folk-art carvings.

Britt House

This home on Tiffany Court is a reproduction of Hope Plantation, a North Carolina manor house built in the 18th century by that state's governor for his young bride, Hope. Adorning the exterior are Chippendale banisters and a traditional widow's walk.

Inside are period, architectural details in every room, such as wide arches, high transoms and a curved staircase. The living room is done in a deep blue, and highlighting the formal dining room is garnet, damask wallpaper and paneled wainscoting.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

Theatre, Lake Braddock Secondary School Recital Hall, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. A comedy about a prince who needs to marry before his 21st birthday. \$3. 757-373-8398.

Skin Cancer Screenings. 8:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m. at Inova Fairfax Hospital, 3300 Gallows Road, Falls Church. In recognition of National Skin Cancer Awareness Month, medical experts will screen patients and provide education, follow-up treatments and teach patients about how to perform self-exams. Call 703-750-8812 for an appointment.

Fairfax Academy's Spring Dance Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Tickets \$10-\$15. 703-219-2385 or gwen.plummer@fcps.edu.

Fair Lakes Spring Fest. 1-4 p.m. in the General Dynamics' parking lot, 12450 Fair Lakes Circle, Fairfax. Local eco-friendly businesses, including Whole Foods Market, Kane Office Shredding, Bikes for the World and the Smart Markets farmers' market. Children's inflatable fun zone, petting zoo, face painting, and more. www.FairLakes.com.

SUNDAY/MAY 16

NAACP Fairfax County Youth Council Meeting. 4 p.m. at the George Mason University Johnson Center, Robeson Room, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Meetings are open to youth ages 10-20. restonbell7@gmail.com.

Steven Gellman CD Release. 2 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12 advance,

\$15 at the door. jamminjava.com.

Crash Test Dummies and Rob Morsberger. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$17 advance, \$20 at the door. jamminjava.com.

Wakefield Chorale: Music to Raise the Spirit. 7 p.m. at Annandale High School, 4700 Medford Drive, Annandale. Show tunes, patriotic, classical, and spiritual numbers. 703-451-7917.

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 17

Leslie West and Scrapomatic. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$25 advance, \$30 at the door. jamminjava.com.

Chess Club. 3:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Learn the rules and strategy. Play the game. Age 6-14. 703-644-7333.

TUESDAY/MAY 18

Evening Book Discussion. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. The Piano Tuner by Daniel Mason. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Early Readers Book Group. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. A book group for 6-8 year olds and their parents. 703-249-1520.

Book Discussion Group. 11 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Supreme Courtship by Christopher Buckley. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Book Discussion Group. 6:30 p.m.

Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. "Far Bright Star" by Robert Olmstead. 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.

Reading Across the Centuries. 6:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. "The Plague" by Albert Camus. Adults. 703-644-7333.

Evening Book Discussion Group. 6:45 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. So Big by Edna Ferber. Adults. 703-644-7333.

NoCo, Automatics and Power Pirate. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 19

The Roller Coaster of College Admissions. 6:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. College admissions and educational consultant Julia Ross on identifying colleges that meet a child's individual needs. 703-293-6227.

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

Mother-Daughter Book Club. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Book club for girls. 703-249-1520.

The people never give up their liberties but under some delusion.

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THE CONNECTION

NEWS

Citizen Committee To Advise On Boundary Changes

The Fairfax County School Board voted to establish a new Facilities Planning Advisory Council to oversee and assist with issues pertaining like school closures, new school openings, boundary changes and facility renovations.

The new council will be made up of 13 members, including one from each Fairfax magisterial district, three at-large representatives and a City of Fairfax participant.

Each member of the Fairfax County School Board would appoint one person to the council. The City of Fairfax, which has its own School Board, would select its own member.

The School Board envisions council members serving three-year terms. Fairfax County school system employees would be barred from participating.

The School Board is establishing the council, in part, as a response to public criticism about a lack of community engagement in recent school boundary decisions. School Board member Liz Bradsher (Springfield), who has extensive experience with boundary changes as a parent, spearheaded the effort to provide more public input earlier in the facilities planning process.

Before being elected to the school board, Bradsher spent several years fighting to have new schools built in southern Fairfax ahead of the school system's official timeline. She and others said a residential development boom in Fairfax Station and Lorton warranted the school construction on accelerated schedule.

When a new South County Secondary School eventually opened, Bradsher and others were frustrated that the building was over capacity and children who lived within walking distance of the campus had to go to Hayfield Secondary School, located several miles away.

The school system also saw public outcry during another school redistricting that moved several students to South Lakes High School in western Fairfax County. Many families affected said they felt "ambushed" when they found their neighborhoods would be affected by the decision.

In the coming year, the School Board will have to tackle the redistricting of Annandale High School, which is several hundred students over capacity. They must also come up with a solution for overcrowding in elementary schools in western Fairfax County.

BULLETIN BOARD

THURSDAY/MAY 13

Training on Personal Care for Older Adults. 7 p.m. at Falls Church High School, 7521 Jaguar Trail, Falls Church. Family caregivers can learn the proper way to provide physical and emotional care to an older adult from a nurse educator including bathing, turning, assisting with movement and feeding. \$30. 703-324-5432 or caregiver@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fairfax County Independent Living Program for Older Adults. 12:15 p.m. at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall, 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Free strength and balance classes followed by health seminars. Register at 703-324-7210.

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28 Yard Sales

Kings Park West (1800 homes) comm-wide yard sale, Sat/Sun, 5/15 & 5/16, 8-12. R/S.

21 Announcements

Community Yard Sale 5/15 from 9-1 Red Fox Forest @Braddock & Rolling Rds.

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-William Van Horne

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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NEWS

\$130K Grants for FACETS

FROM PAGE 2

to provide housing solutions more quickly and in turn, shrink the wait list faster. The new staffers will also be able to negotiate with landlords regarding late rent, find families reduced rent or alternative housing options and help them to find housing subsidies.

“The Freddie Mac Foundation is committed to helping our community’s vulnerable children and families succeed. Having a place to call home is fundamental to making this a reality,” said Foundation President and CEO Ralph F. Boyd. “FACETS is helping lead the way to eliminate homelessness in Fairfax County, and we’re pleased to be supporting their tremendous work.”

The other grant, given by The Phillip L. Graham Fund, was a donation of \$30,000 to bolster FACETS’ technological infrastructure in order to operate more efficiently. Named for the late president of the Washington Post Company, the Philip L. Graham Fund devotes its resources to the betterment of the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area by awarding several million dollars in grants annually to groups providing educational, social, community, and arts programs and services in and around Washington, D.C.

According to Andere, the grant is covering the cost of purchasing two new computer databases that will more effectively track FACETS’ 5,000 clients and 3,000 volunteers. Andere said that FACETS’ volunteer corps provided nearly 39,000 hours of service last year, and while that number is

impressive, keeping track of volunteers and clients can be difficult. So, the new databases will allow FACETS’ staffers to organize volunteers more effectively so that when their service is needed, the appropriate volunteer can be called upon quickly. Also, the databases will make it easier to keep an up-to-date catalog of all of FACETS’ clients so that they when the clients are in need, FACETS staffers can pull up their information quickly and offer an expedient solution.

“Receiving extra grants shows that the community wants the organization to succeed.”

— Amanda Andere, FACETS, executive director

“With 3,000 volunteers, it’s hard to track them all on a spreadsheet,” Andere said. “Now, we will be able to instantly grab a volunteer when they are needed. For example, if we need

a volunteer that speaks Arabic to interpret for one of our clients, we can go in the database and pull him or her out. We won’t be losing time [searching for volunteers] anymore.”

Andere said that the grants were awarded at the end of 2009, but that the money is just starting to make its way into FACETS’ hands. Though FACETS’ has not had much time to put the money to work, Andere said that it is already having an impact on their efforts and has already aided in putting families in stable housing. The mission may not be close to complete, she said, but every bit helps and these two grants are just the latest example.

“Our goal is to put an end to the county’s shelter waitlist,” Andere said. “These important grants are helping us do this by dramatically changing the way we deliver services to the homeless.”

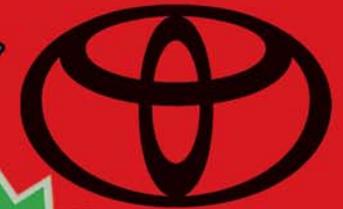


Youth Concert

The West Springfield Area Orchestra presented a concert at Keene Mill Elementary School on April 27, and 7 p.m. The orchestra is made up of kids from Orange Hunt, Cardinal Forest, Keene Mill and Kings Glen elementary schools and meets on Monday afternoons from January-April. The orchestra is conducted by Amanda Scheetz, Fairfax County orchestra teacher.

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Personalized, Efficient, Dedicated Service! Working for You!
florence.bowie@longandfoster.com



Fairfax City \$549,900
Absolutely Magnificent Garage TH A gorgeous property with every bell and whistle. 4 levels include loft & deck, 2 fireplaces, 9' + ceilings, gleaming hardwoods on main level, chef's dream gourmet kitchen, G'town brick/slate patio, and much more!! Planning on listing yours? Call Kay Hart This beauty: Under contract in 4 days. Call Kay Hart for information about others: 703-503-1860

UNDER CONTRACT IN 4 DAYS!



WOODBIDGE—PW COMMONS \$1,950
Beautifully Designed TH

Pristine Condition! 3 BR, 2 full and 2 half BATH, with Oversized 2-Car Gar., Cozy FR/Den with FP; sunny KIT w/center island and lg. eat-in area adjacent to deck * Sep. LR and DR * MBR with Cathedral ceiling & BA with spacious soaking tub * Includes Pool use! Terrific location just minutes to great shopping, transportation, restaurants. * Call Florence for details (571) 277-5099 or (703) 503-1879



CRS, Associate Broker
Life Member, NVAR Multi-Million
Dollar Sales Club

Life Member, NVAR TOP PRODUCERS

Ann Witherspoon

703-503-1836



Lake Frederick \$499,900

Immaculate Beauty in Adult Community - 3 Years Young - Shows Like a Model - 3 Large BR - 4 Large BA - 3 Finished Levels w/walk-out LL - 9 Ft Ceilings - Gas FP - Main Floor MBR - Fabulous Community Amenities.

CALL / EMAIL ANN WITHERSPOON
703.503.1836 ann@annwitherspoon.com

Sheila Adams

703-503-1895

Life Member, NVAR Multi-Million

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FAIRFAX \$589,000

Welcome to Beautiful Fairfax Club Estates, where quite neighborhood charm meets tree-lined streets and this gorgeous front porch Colonial awaits you, 4 Large BR's, 3 1/2 Baths. The interior boasts a newly redesigned and remodeled Updated Kitchen w/Granite Counter Tops, Adjoining FR w/Gas FP, Fin. LL w/Walk-Out, a lovely screened in porch to enjoy the cool summer evenings, and much more.

For a private showing call Sheila Adams 703-503-1895.



NGOC DO & ASSOCIATES

703-798-2899

www.ngocdo.com



Alexandria \$750,000

Charles Goodman Contemporary home in Hollin Hills Community. Tranquil 4 BR 2 BA home on a 1/3 Acre wooded lot backing to parkland with 2 patios & deck.

Updated with refinished hardwood floors, renovated bathrooms & brand new kitchen with granite & stainless steel. Enjoy the clean lines, open floor plan & view of nature from every room. Pool & tennis court membership available....



Mason Neck \$1,197,000

Enjoy dramatic panoramic views of the Potomac River from every room in this 4 Bedroom 3 Bath home on Mason Neck.

The main level features a cathedral ceiling and hardwood floors, open kitchen, spiral staircase & floor to ceiling windows. All three lower level bedrooms walk out to a large deck. Relax on the decks or swim off the boat dock which includes a boat lift while enjoying the sweeping views.



Richard Esposito

703-503-4035

Richard@LNF.com

Service is the difference I provide



Clifton \$545,000

This former model home has 5 bedrooms, 3 1/2 Bathrooms and 3 finished levels. Hardwood floors in the kitchen, dining room, living room, family room and on the stair case. Kitchen has granite counters, Family room has a fireplace, deck off kitchen, lower level is a walkout with a second kitchen, bedroom and a full bath.

Richard Esposito richard@lnf.com 703-503-4035

ELLIE WESTER

703-503-1880

L&F Founder's Club

Lifetime NVAR Top Producer

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Dollar Sales Club

ellie.wester@longandfoster.com



Alexandria/Potomac Yard \$575,000

Minutes to exciting Potomac Yard featuring restaurants, theaters, and shopping. One year old end unit townhome featuring hardwood floors, stainless and granite kitchen as well as a walk out recreation room for your enjoyment. Two car garage parking and convenient to Metro, Crystal City, and Reagan Airport

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