

Fairfax Station ❖ Clifton ❖ Lorton
CONNECTION

Under the Mt. Olympus Farm tent at the Lorton Farmers Market, Penny Potter of Mason Neck picks out an basket of strawberries.

Laurel Hill Plan Approved

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Heavy Winds Halt Meet

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To Market, To Market

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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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Tim Baker looks on as his son Henry, 4, picks out the pumpkin chocolate chip muffin he will scarf down later from the PattyBakes tent.



Megan, Jamie and Jim Kim of Lorton page through a picture book of Cibola Farms before Jamie purchases a piece of buffalo jerky.

Kyle Adams looks on as Hilary Adams sells Jiri Otmar of Springfield a loaf of specialty bread from The Swiss Bakery.

PHOTOS BY
CRAIG
STERBUTZEL



A Fresh Start

Sunday Farmers Market returns to Lorton.

Shoppers seeking fresh produce, locally raised meat products or baked goods have reason to rejoice. The Lorton Farmers Market has returned for a new season. Located at 8990 Lorton Station Blvd, in Lorton, the market

is open every Sunday through Oct. 31, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Ten vendors sell their wares at the market, which also includes a Master Gardener Plant Clinic to answer questions about plants and landscaping.

New Chapter Begins for Laurel Hill Plan

Supervisors OK Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Plan, negotiations begin with developer.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Eight years, dozens of public hearings, multiple committee meetings and many trials and tribulations later, the residents of Lorton can finally look to the future on one of the community's most long-awaited projects.

The Board of Supervisors approved the Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Master Plan at its Tuesday, May 11 meeting and also authorized county staff to begin negotiations with the project developer, Wisconsin-based Alexandria Company. The vote closed the chapter on the lengthy planning process and pushed the project further down the road to completion.

"It's an exciting time for the community because this is the last large piece of land we have that is ripe for development," said Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon). "The plan gives us an incredible

opportunity to make Fairfax County better than it already is."

The final plan that the board approved was drafted by the Alexander Company and augmented based on 15 recommendations made by the Laurel Hill Project Advisory Committee. The Alexander Company's plan calls for a mixed-use approach that would preserve the historical core of the site and is slated for 41,400 square feet of neighborhood retail stores, including a small grocery store, pharmacy, bank, restaurants and a daycare center.

In addition, plan call for 50,000 square feet of office space and a 20,000 square foot chapel. Within the site, 171 residential rental units, composed of 127 market-rate units and 44 affordable units, and 181 resident-owned and occupied units are also

slated for construction. A "community green" will also be created that will be an open, green space for a variety of uses.

"Our assignment from the Board of Supervisors was to make recommendations on the project and we have been working on it for a while," Planning Commissioner Timothy Sargeant (At-large) said. "Compromise is a challenging thing, but we've done it and we think that this is the best plan moving forward."

"The plan gives us an incredible opportunity to make Fairfax County better than it already is."

— Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon)

The recommendations, on the other hand, came from an examination of the logistical and financial aspects of the Alexander Company's plan, and as a result of an approved motion by Hyland, the company must abide by them. The major recommendations called for a limit to the number of

residential units to the total already established within the plan and an updated financial analysis of the site to reflect the changes in the economy that have taken place since the figures were estimated. Other recommendations called for the orientation of as much traffic from the site as possible onto Lorton Road instead of Silverbrook Road and the creation of a workforce-housing program.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the project at this point, the cost, is still very fluid. According to Sargeant, an estimated \$9 million-\$13 million gap exists in the project budget, which while high, is significantly lower than the \$30 million gap initially hinted at by the Alexander Company. Sargeant said that deficit would be the main issue in the negotiation phase, as both sides try to figure out ways to close the gap. Several methods exist to maintain the current deficit and even lower it, Sargeant said, including the acquisition of historic tax credits from Na

SEE LAUREL HILL, PAGE 16

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.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Correction

The cover of the May 6-12, 2010 edition of the Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection misidentified South County Secondary student Emily Sargeant's grade. She is a senior.

Parents of Teen Drivers Must 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.

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NEWS



PHOTO BY BETTY BOSANKO

The Cranston home



PHOTO DICK NANTO

The Nanto garden



PHOTO BY GINNY AX

The Britt house



PHOTO BY GINNY AX

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 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 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 10

NEWS

FROM PAGE 4

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.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

New Wine Shop Opens in Clifton

On Saturday, May 15, Town of Clifton residents Julie and Randy Thompson will be fulfilling a long time dream of opening a wine shop and wine tasting room. The shop is located on 7145C Main St. in Clifton on the side of the Heart & Hand building facing the railroad tracks. A May 15 grand opening will feature multiple wine tastings and a performance by a five-piece jazz band.



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BULLETIN BOARD

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 13

Fairfax County's 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 a health seminar on Services for Older Adults. Registration required at 703-324-7210 or Jennifer.edge@fairfaxcounty.gov.

SATURDAY/MAY 15

Grandparent Respite Day. Grandparents and other relatives raising children can take part in a respite day from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at Gum Springs Community Center, 8100 Fordson Road in the Alexandria area of Fairfax County; and Mott Community Center, 12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Children aged 3-12 can be dropped off at one of the sites for a day of activities; lunch and snacks will be provided for the children at no cost to caregivers. Activities will be based on the theme Respite day is for residents of Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. Call 703-324-3517 (TTY 703-449-1186) to register.

THURSDAY/MAY 20

Fairfax County's 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 a health seminar on Fall and Fire Prevention. 703-324-7210.



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THE COUNTY LINE

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.

NEWS

Woodson High Sports 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



Charles Oppenheim

Parents Want All-Day Kindergarten

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



Joana Garcia

COLLEGE NOTES

Kia Sedghi of Fairfax Station, a senior majoring in biology in the College of Science at Virginia Tech, has been named to the national list of Who's Who Among Students in

American Universities and Colleges this year. Sedghi, is one of 91 Virginia Tech students that have been named to the Who's Who national list this year.

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What are the benefits of Waterlase® dentistry?

■ Patient Comfort

Heat, vibration and pressure are the primary causes of pain associated with the use of the traditional dental drill. Since cutting both hard and soft tissues (teeth and gums) with the Waterlase® does not generate heat, vibration or pressure, many dental procedures can be performed with fewer shots, less need for anesthesia, less use of the drill and fewer numb lips!

The Waterlase® allows us to prepare teeth with less trauma which results in significantly less tooth sensitivity after new fillings.

Additionally, using the Waterlase® for gum procedures reduces bleeding, post-operative pain, swelling and the need for pain medication in many cases. That means a new level of comfort and satisfaction for your entire family.

■ Sterilization

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

■ Great for Teenagers

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

By incorporating laser technology into our dental practice, we are changing dentistry. It is no longer yesterday's world of painful shots, large silver mercury fillings, and fearful patients. Lasers have improved the lives of patients and their dentists.

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

We are proud to be one of the first dentists in Fairfax County to offer this revolutionary technology. Since August 2003, Dr. Fox has completed over 3,000 laser fillings with no needle/no pain/no numbness. If you've been putting off going to the dentist because you were nervous about the drill and needle, you don't have to put it off any longer!

For more information about our dental practice please visit our website at

www.larryfoxdds.com



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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:
Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
south@connectionnewspapers.com

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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 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.

FRIDAY/MAY 14

"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.
Springfield Burke Relay for Life. 7:30 p.m. at 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. A fund-raising event for the American Cancer Society. www.SpringfieldBurkeRelay.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 15

Concerts from Kirkwood: the

Vocal Arts Society 2009 Winners. 3 p.m. at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. Sopranos Aundi Marie Moore and Jennifer Holbrook, pianist R. Timothy McReynolds and commentator Elizabeth Daniels. Refreshments and an opportunity to meet the artists after the concert. Free and open to the public. 703-923-9365 or web.me.com/kkerhack/Concerts_from_Kirkwood.

Latin Dance Nights. 10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.
Lake Accotink 5K Walk to Benefit Children in Foster Care. Registration begins 8:30 a.m. at Lake

Accotink Park, 5660 Heming Ave., Springfield. Participate in a 5K walk to honor foster families and the approximately 370 children in foster care in Fairfax County. To register or help sponsor the event, visit www.fairfaxyouth.org.

Jubilee Christian Center Yard Sale. 7 a.m.-1 p.m. at the church at 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. Proceeds will help raise funds for a Youth Missions trip to Appalachia this summer. Donated items for the Yard Sale may be dropped off at the church beginning May 10. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

"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.

Herb Festival. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Heather Hill Gardens, 8111 Ox Rd., Fairfax Station. With magazine editor and author Barbara Jacksier and cooking and planting demonstrations at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Free admission. 703-690-6060 or www.heatherhillgardens.com.

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

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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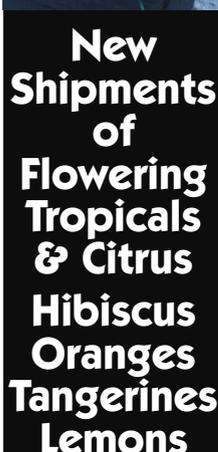
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THINGS TO DO

Clifton Homes Tour May 20

FROM PAGE 4

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.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

Adults. 703-249-1520.

PAWS to Read. 11 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Read with Chance, a trained reading therapy dog, for a 10-minute session. Call to register. Arrive early to check in. 703-339-7385.

Sew Drawstring Bags for Our Soldiers. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Community Service Sewing Day event hosted by the Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Sewing Guild. Fabric and supplies will be provided. Free and open to public. Contact carl-kathie@verizon.net or 703-522-6952. www.asg.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 16

Thomas Pandolfi Piano Recital. 7 p.m. at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Music & Arts at Providence Concert Series. Complimentary refreshments at Meet the Artist reception following the concert. \$20 in advance, \$25 at door; seniors and students \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. 703-978-3934 or www.providencechurch.org/music_arts/.

Vegetable Sushi & Sea Vegetables Cooking Class. 10 a.m. 9302 Hallston Court, Fairfax Station. \$50 per person. Vegetarian sushi-making demonstrated. Registration required at 703-643-2713.

Celebrate Clifton. 7-10 p.m. at Trummer's on Main, 7134 Main St., Clifton. Music provided by one of New York City's top DJ's. Bid in a silent auction featuring such items as beach house rentals, wines, chef dinner, golf packages and gift

certificates to local businesses. Event benefits the Town of Clifton. Hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer will be served throughout the entire event. \$75/person; \$100/person includes access to the VIP Cocktail hour, open from 6-7 p.m., and includes a Special "Celebrate Clifton" cocktail designed by Stefan Trummer and first access to preview the silent auction. Purchase tickets at Trummer's on Main, The Main Street Pub or the Clifton Café or by contacting celebrateclifton@gmail.com.

MONDAY/MAY 17

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

Read to the Dog. 3:30 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Call or sign up online for a 15-minute session. Age 6-12. 703-971-0010.

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 18

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.

Mother-Daughter Book Group. 7 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Call for the title. Age 9-11 with adult. 703-971-0010.

One, Two, Three - Let's Go. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500

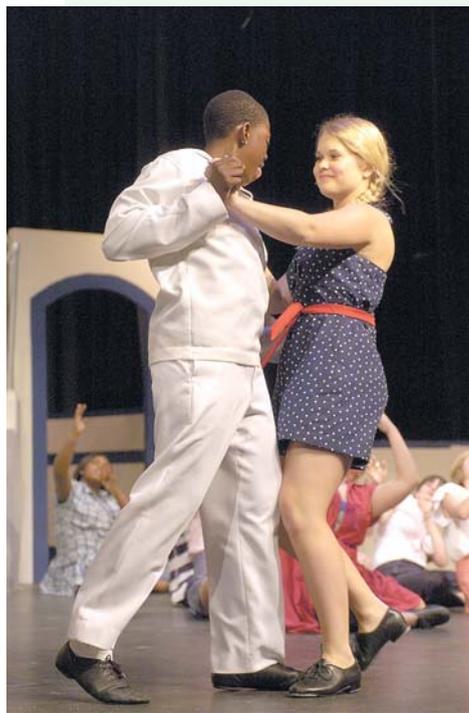


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

'Anything Goes'

South County Secondary's musical 'Anything Goes' continues this weekend on Friday, May 14 and Saturday, May 15, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door for general admission and \$9 for senior adults. Here, Xavier Shepard (Sailor) and Lindsay Dillard (Bonnie) cut the rug.

Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Number stories and activities. Age 13 to 23 months with adult. 703-339-4610.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 19

Fifth Annual Clifton Cup Golf Tournament. 1:30 p.m. at Westfields Golf Course, 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave., Clifton. All proceeds will benefit the renovation of the Clifton Primitive Baptist Church, one of the oldest structures in Clifton. \$150 per golfer early

registration fee. \$175 per golfer after April 16. <http://cba.cliftonva.us/cliftoncup5>.

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

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

One-on-One Genealogical

Research Assistance. 6-7:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Get started on personal genealogical research with the assistance of experienced volunteers. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Mother-Daughter Book Club. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Book club for girls. Age 9-11 and their mothers. 703-249-1520.

Book Discussion Group. 6:30 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. "Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation" by Cokie Roberts. Adults. 703-971-0010.

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

Lorton Book Club. 6:30 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. "The World is Flat: a Brief History of the 21st Century" by Thomas Friedman. Adults. 703-339-7385.

THURSDAY/MAY 20

"All That Jazz." 7 p.m. in the West Springfield High School Auditorium. The West Springfield High School Personality Show Choir, directed by Erin Huss, presents pop tunes and a tribute to the late Michael Jackson, choreography, solos, duets and full choir performances. Tickets \$6. 703-869-9671.

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

Sports Stories. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Storytime about sports. Ages 2-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

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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."

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 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 [offi

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



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.

SPORTS

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.”

Rowing Event

FROM PAGE 12

avoiding a floating start.

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“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.

WEEK IN SPORTS

Bruins Advance To Regions, Cavs In District Finals

The Lake Braddock boys’ lacrosse team secured a berth in the Northern Region lacrosse playoffs next week with an overtime win over district rival Lee on May 6.

During the overtime period, forward Kirk Tobias scored after defender Steven Puffenbarger cleared a Lee attacking attempt.

The Bruins’ 9-8 victory avenges an earlier loss in the season to Lee.

“We were much better offensively than last time,” head coach Steve Price said. “We controlled the ball much better and had about six or seven minutes more time of possession. That was the difference.”

Lake Braddock’s run in the Patriot District tournament ended with a 12-7 loss to W.T. Woodson on May 10.

Woodson junior attacker Neal Cormier led the Cavaliers with five goals and one assist in the game.

Price said the Bruins’ performance in their match with Woodson isn’t necessarily reflected by the final score.

“It was a 2-1 ball game after the first quarter,” he said. “It was 5-3 at the half. It was very close. We schemed up some defensive stuff where we were shutting their best player off.”

W.T. Woodson will play Annandale on May 14 for the Patriot District

Championship at Lee High School. The Bruins will play the winner of the Concorde District tournament final on May 14 between Chantilly and Robinson.

Despite the tournament exit, Price said he likes what he sees from his team in the final leg of the season.

“The region tournaments are different,” he said. “It’s like a whole new season.”

Drechsel Leads Hawks to Victory

Hayfield pitcher Justin Drechsel made the first six innings a struggle for the Yorktown baseball team and entered the bottom of the seventh with a 5-1 lead. Drechsel had allowed just five hits while striking out six during the May 7 contest at Greenbrier Park, but his pitch count had crossed into triple digits.

After a leadoff walk, Hayfield head coach Jimmy Linza approached the mound to talk to his junior right-hander. Drechsel responded by retiring the next two Patriot batters and was one strike away from ending the game against Yorktown’s James Overbeek. But Overbeek kept the Patriots alive with a run-scoring double, setting the table for slugger Shaun Wood.

The left-handed-hitting Wood had hit an opposite-field home run in the fourth inning and flew out to the warning track in left field during the fifth. With Yorktown fighting to stay alive, Wood once again showed off his prodigious power, belting Drechsel’s 142nd pitch of the evening into the parking lot beyond the right-field wall. Hayfield hung on, however, as reliever Cory Spera came on to get the final out of a 5-4

Hawks victory.

Drechsel picked up the win, allowing four earned runs and seven hits over 6 2/3 innings.

“He’s a bulldog and when he wants it, he’s got the talent to do it,” Linza said. “He’s very competitive. It was as close as it was because of his coach, not because of him.”

Linza said he should have pulled Drechsel earlier.

“He talked me out of it and I will learn my lesson from that,” Linza said.

Yorktown defeated Hayfield 10-5 during the teams’ earlier meeting on April 14. The first time the teams played, Hayfield took an early lead and then “kind of blew apart defensively and on the mound,” Linza said. “We knew we can’t give a good team like that extra anything — strikes or outs. We worked hard to tighten things up and I think our defense and our pitching was outstanding tonight.”

Hayfield’s Brandon Bender hit a solo home run in the second inning, putting the Hawks ahead 3-0.

The win improved Hayfield’s record to 13-6. The Hawks are 4-6 since their school-record 9-0 start.

— JON ROETMAN

Cooley Football Camp At Fairfax June 5-6

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

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

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

The cost of the camp is \$199. Additional information can be found at www.chriscooleycamp.com or by calling 513-793-CAMP.

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 coach Edwards at 571-490-2147 or coach Watson at 571-243-4142.

Clifton Cup Golf Tournament

The Clifton Cup Golf Tournament takes places Wednesday, May 19 at Westfields Golf Course.

All proceeds from the tournament will be dedicated to the renovation of the Clifton Primitive Baptists Church. Registration will be limited to 100 golfers and is quickly filling up.

The cost to register is \$175 per golfer.

For more information, visit <http://cba.cliftonva.us/cliftoncup5>.

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

NEWS

FACETS Gets \$130K in Grants

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.

"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. Already we're seeing very positive results with fewer homeless waiting."

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THE CONNECTION

VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

Fairfax County Parkway (Route 7100) Interchange Improvements

Fairfax County Design Public Hearing

Wednesday, June 16, 2010, 6 – 8 p.m.
Greater Springfield Volunteer Fire Department Meeting Hall
7011 Backlick Road, Springfield, VA 22150

Find out about proposed improvements to two interchanges on the Fairfax County Parkway (Route 7100) in Fairfax County. The project proposes a flyover ramp from northbound I-95 to northbound Fairfax County Parkway (Exit 166) and widening the existing ramp from Rolling Road (Route 638) to northbound Fairfax County Parkway to two lanes. The project will help meet traffic demands expected to increase over the next 20 years, due to extension of the Fairfax County Parkway, ongoing regional population and employment growth, and the relocation of 8,500 employees to the Fort Belvoir North Area under Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) efforts.

Review the Environmental Assessment and project information at the public hearing or at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 14685 Avion Parkway in Chantilly. To view at the District, please call 804-371-6785, 703-383-8368 or TTY/TDD 711 in advance to ensure availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions. Property impact information and relocation assistance policies will also be available at the above address and at the public hearing.

In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed improvements on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is included in the environmental document.

Give your written or oral comments at the hearing or submit them by **June 26, 2010** to Mr. Jeff Rodgers, Consultant Services Program Manager, Virginia Department of Transportation, 1401 E. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219. You may also e-mail comments to Meeting_Comments@VDOT.Virginia.gov. Please reference "Fairfax County Parkway Interchange Improvements" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights Division at 703-383-2341 or TTY/TDD 711.

State Project: BRAC-96A-101,P101,N501 Federal Project: NH-000S(218) UPC: 81738

CAMPS & SCHOOLS

Stonewallers?

As part of Virginia studies, all fourth grade classes at Clifton Elementary visited the Manassas Battlefield. They learned about how the fields, streams and roads so near their homes played an important role in the history of this country. Here, Katie Talbot's fourth grade class gather at the base of the Stonewall Jackson monument.



PHOTO BY SYDNEY SAWYER

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6542 Little Ox Rd.	\$749,900	Sun 1-4	Debbie Mesen Weichert 703-201-7723
11508 Clara Barton Dr.	\$750,000	Sun 1-4	Vicki Stottlemeyer Long & Foster 703-873-5111
7407 South Reach Dr.	\$829,995	Sun 1-4	Kathleen Quintarelli Weichert 703-862-8808
7951 Kelly Ann Ct.	\$1,200,000	Sun 1-4	Carol Hermandorfer Long & Foster 703-503-1812
11107 Hampton Rd.	\$1,890,000	Sun 1-4	Fran Rudd ERA 703-980-2572

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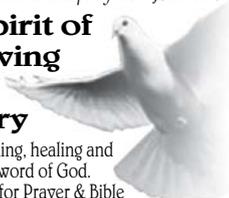
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Laurel Hill

FROM PAGE 3

tional Park Service and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and potential tax increases in small increments.

"The [budget] gap will be resolved in this next step," Sargeant said. "It's a complex and expensive project and the county will make sure that the firm has the financial wherewithal to carry it out."

Though the vote represented a significant step forward for a project that has been in the works for nearly eight years, Sargeant pointed out that it will still be some time before the negotiation phase is completed and ground is broken. He said that in addition to reducing a large deficit, changes in zoning and to the Laurel Hill Comprehensive Plan must be made. That means more public outreach for the county. These tasks, combined with the time needed for the Board of Supervisors to review the financial details and then vote, will most likely take two years to finish. Nevertheless, Sargeant, Hyland and the others involved in this project could not be happier with the progress made.

"There is a congratulatory feeling [among us]," Sargeant said. "This was a major effort to get us to this point where we have a plan to move forward with and we are looking forward to the next phase."

Adaptive Reuse Plan

Go to http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/laurelhill/master_plan.htm for more information on the Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Master Plan.

MILITARY NOTES



Air Force Airman Brandin T. Samuel graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Lashawn Samuel of Tanyard Lane, Lorton. Brandin Samuel is a 2008 graduate of South County Secondary School.

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Pictured from left are Isabel Long, Sierra Club; Juan Palma, BLM; Paul Elliott, Sierra Club; and Richard Roybal, League of United Latin American Citizens.

New Partners at Meadowood

On Wednesday, April 21, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Eastern States partnered with the Sierra Club, Cesar Chavez Schools, LULAC National Educational Service Centers, National Latino Coalition on Climate Change, Executive Office of the Mayor-Office on Latino Affairs and National Hispanic Environmental Council to launch an environmental education program for Latino youth in a ceremony at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area in Lorton. The

steady rain could not dampen the spirits of the partners who came together to sign a Memorandum of Understanding, which confirmed their commitment to provide opportunities for Latino youth to experience their natural world.

The environmental education program features weekend outings at Meadowood for local youth, who must first write an essay about what they hope to learn from their camping weekend. Following the signing ceremony, the partners planted a red bud tree.



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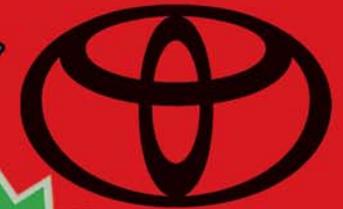
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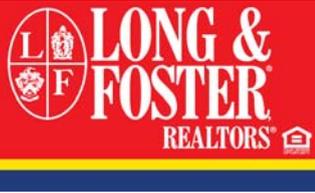


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Save A Date To Attend Long & Foster's FREE Real Estate Career Seminar

DATES IN 2010: **TIME:**
June 2 7:00-9:00 PM

June 30 LOCATION:
Long & Foster's Northern Virginia Training Center
3069 Nutley St.
Fairfax, VA 22031

From the Beltway (495), take Rte. 66 West to the Nutley St. South Exit (exit 62) towards Fairfax. Go through the intersection of Lee Highway and Nutley Street. The training center is located in the Pan Am Shopping Center on the left.

TO REGISTER:

Please contact Mary Ann Plonka at 703-503-1898 or maryann.plonka@longandfoster.com



Clifton Low 600's
Vacation at home? European inspired design on 2 1/2 acres. Decks on both front & rear overlooking nature at its best. 4 Br/3.5 BA includes a Main-level master & charming loft bedroom. Recent kitchen remodel for top of line living. Great room will take your breath away. Call for an early showing.

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Cell: 703-618-4397



Fairfax \$549,950
Gorgeous Calif style home with walls of windows! Newly refinished hardwoods on 2 levels, vaulted ceilings, 4 BRs, 2.5 updated BAs, open kitchen/family room! Main level office/den, master suite w/sitting area & private balcony! Wonderful deck & patio, fenced back yard, walk to Wooded Glen lake! Move right in! Bonnie Brae ES, Robinson SS! More info at www.marshawolber.com

www.5838WaterdaleCt.com

Great 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath town-home located in sought-after community of Little Rocky Run. Visit property website for more info!



Christine Zinser, REALTOR®
703.503.1861
www.ListWithChristine.com



Come to the Heart of Real Estate
KAY HART
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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!



WOODBRIDGE—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



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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



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

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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

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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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