

Springfield **CONNECTION**

Franconia ♦ Kingstowne ♦ Newington

Good Behavior, Good Food

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

Sangster Elementary students from Andrea Barrett, Allison Jankovich and Nancy Rowson's classes enjoy fine dining.

Key Teacher Wins FCPS Award

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High Winds Delay Meet

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ATTENTION POSTMASTER:
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
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AUDIT PENDING
VERIFIED

NEWS

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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NEWS

SPRINGFIELD CONNECTION EDITOR MICHAEL O'CONNELL
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From left, Zachery Berchtold, Naomi Austin, Camryn Spratt, Joshua Simmers and Emily Shank, enjoy the chocolate fountain while Kendall Atkins politely awaits his turn. They are second grade students in Dixie Janker's class.



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

From left, Tarik Khan-Rafii, Finn Lee, David Blanco, Spencer Griscavage, Kurtis St. Thomas, Edward Whalen and Michael Puglisi are in Nancy Rowson's second grade and Allison Jankovich's third grade classes.



Yousof Hanifi, left, Eton Weber, Kevin Mankowski, Justin Dahl, Blake Blevins, Chris Pulwicz and Brian Lorn are students in Allison Jankovich's third grade class.

Lesson in Manners

Sangster students get a taste for fine dining.

Good behavior resulted in a fine dining extravaganza for some students at Sangster Elementary. On May 5, 6 and 7, students dined with mood lighting, tablecloths and fancy centerpieces, rewarding students

who demonstrated respectful, kind and caring behavior. The students ate in a separate dining room with soft music in the background and dessert from a chocolate fountain. These special meals are offered once every quarter at Sangster

More than Beginner's Luck

Key Center teacher Jennifer Fier wins 2010 FCPS Outstanding First Year Teacher award.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

It is one thing to build something from scratch, but it is something entirely different to build it successfully the first time out. Jennifer Fier knew this, but nonetheless proved to be the exception to the rule.

Fier, a special education teacher at the Key Center, created the music and sensory integration class at the school with nothing more than the support of her colleagues and administration. A year later, she is running a highly successful program. For her efforts, Fier was recently named Fairfax County Public Schools' 2010 Outstanding First-Year Teacher award.

"This is my first year of having a job in the real world, and I couldn't be luckier," Fier said. "I've had lots of learning experi-

ences and ups and downs, but winning this award is something that I'll never forget."

Fier, a Burke native and resident, discovered the passion to help children with special needs while attending Robinson Secondary School. Fier and a friend were performing community service through Project

Success, a school-based organization their junior year when her friend had the idea to start her own group that focused on special needs children. Fier immediately loved the idea and joined the new group, The Partner's Club, and soon she was organizing social events for chil-

dren with disabilities such as prom and homecoming. This experience, Fier said, provided the spark that would push her down the path that led her to the Key Center.

"I fell in love with the work on my first

"Winning this award is something that I'll never forget."

— Jennifer Fier



Jennifer Fier instructs a student.

day in the Partner's Club," Fier said. "I realized that these kids could give me just as much as I give them. It's fun looking past someone's disability to learn about who they really are."

Graduating from Robinson in 2004, Fier made her way to the University of Virginia,

where she participated in a five-year bachelor's and master's combined program and graduated with a bachelor's degree in environmental thought and practice and a master's degree in special education. After

SEE JENNIFER FIER, PAGE 15

Charles Riordan, 77, Dies

Maj. Charles David Riordan, USMC retired, 77, of Farmington, Conn., formally of Springfield, Va., died peacefully after a long illness on Thursday April 1. He was born May 11, 1932 in Norwich, Conn., to Charles and Mary (Canty) Riordan. "David," Riordan as he was known to his family, attended the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY. He enlisted in the Navy in 1953 and received his commission as an aviator from the Marine Corps in 1954. Riordan served in Vietnam with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron HMM-364 from October 1965 to December 1966 and HMM-161 from May 1968 to July 1969. He then joined the Presidential/VIP Marine Helicopter Squadron, HMX-1 before retiring from the Marine Corps in 1972.

OBITUARY He was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses, Purple Heart, 60 Air Medals with one Bronze Star, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Bronze Star, Republic of Vietnam Service Medal with three Bronze Stars, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Silver Star, and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960.

Riordan is survived by his two brothers and sisters-in-law, James and Virginia Riordan of Naples, Fla. and Kevin and Frances Riordan of Tariffville, Conn.; his niece, Theresa Shelton and grandniece, Emily Shelton of Tariffville and his nephew WO1 Timothy Riordan of Fort Riley, Kans.

Burial with military honors will be Tuesday, June 1, 9 a.m. in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington. Memorial donations may be made to the University of Connecticut Health Center, 10 Talcott Notch Road, Suite 100, Farmington, CT 06032. For online condolences, visit www.vincentfuneralhome.com.

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

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NEWS

Showcasing Latino Art

John Gascot launches website that strives to promote Latino artists.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Over the years, John Gascot of Springfield has wanted nothing more than to showcase his culture and heritage while providing support to others in his trade. Finally, with the online debut of the Latin Pop Shop, Gascot can take pride in knowing that he accomplished his goal.

Gascot launched the online retail store "The Latin Pop Shop" in late January as a way to provide a platform for Latino artists and Latin-themed art and merchandise. Four months later, he has assembled an international team of painters, jewelry makers and more and is enjoying the first taste of success.

"As an artist, I know that it's tough to not only produce something, but get money for doing something you love as well," Gascot said. "I want to promote and help out creative individuals in any way I can to showcase their art and make a living."

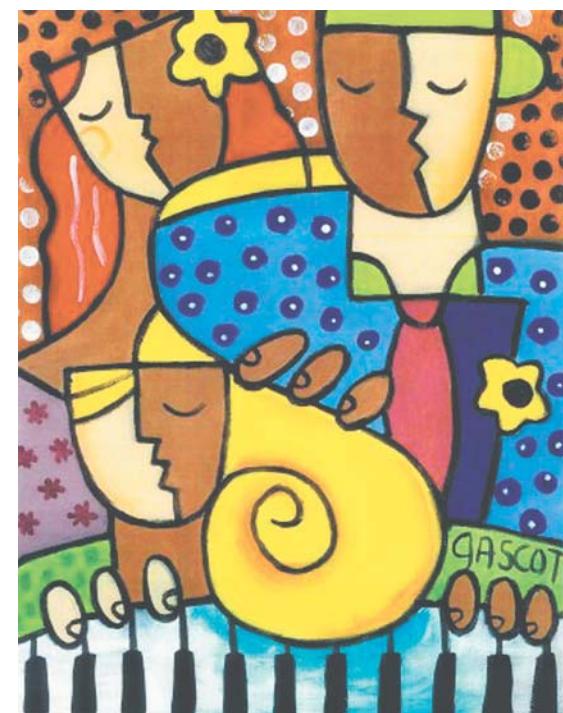
Gascot was originally born in Puerto Rico to a Puerto Rican father and a mother who was a native of New York. Gascot left Puerto Rico with his mother when he was 12 due to economic reasons and settled in southern New Jersey. Despite the drastic change in scenery, Gascot excelled, transforming his life-long love of art into a tool for his future. He got a degree in playwriting and acting from Fordham University and then set out to begin his professional career.

"I've always been interested in art and have always drawn or written or performed," Gascot said. "As an artist, your work travels with you."

After graduation, Gascot began a career that lasted for several years as a make-up artist, but during that time, continued to dabble in other areas of art. One of the hobbies he picked up on the side was painting, and over time, this hobby became a passion. So, in 1999, when Gascot and his partner moved to Milford, Pa., Gascot decided it was time for a wholesale change, and he switched his career focus to painting.

Gascot began the new chapter of his life by opening an art gallery in Milford to showcase his paintings, which typically focuses on the celebration of women and his heritage. Gascot said that he ran the gallery for more than two years, selling the majority of his art to weekend travelers but eventually made a name for himself in the New York City market and soon had celebrities like actress Tina Fey and fashion designer Betsey Johnson buying his work. His reputation even spread to other countries, leading to opportunities like a 30-painting exhibit in Belgium.

"It was a completely different environment for me," Gascot said. "It was a great experience." Gascot lived in Milford for only a couple of years before his partner was offered a job in the Washington, D.C. area that he simply could not pass up, so



A sample of John Gascot's work, a painting entitled 'Encore.'

the couple moved to Springfield, where they still reside today. Gascot continued painting after the move, exhibiting his art locally at places such as Show of Hands Gallery in Del Ray. However, in the back of his mind, he had the idea for several years to launch an online-only, one-stop art shop that would not only further his personal goals of promoting Latin culture but would help other artists with similar interests get noticed as well.

So, more than a year ago, Gascot started laying out plans to create the website. He was not sure how

he wanted everything to be, but he knew that he wanted to put together a team of artists using myriad mediums and somehow recreate the gallery feel of artist interaction that had eluded him ever since closing his gallery in Milford. Those goals led him to send out a call for artists on several different social networks to assemble his team, and began working on the layout and composition of the actual website itself.

"My husband saw the call for entries on Facebook and I thought it was a good idea to have an online gallery for Latin artists so I contacted John and sent him a link to my website," Colombian native and resident and Pop Shop artist Carolina Montejo. "He was excited about my work and invited me to be part of his new project."

Gascot recruited eight other artists in addition to Montejo, making sure to assemble a team that could offer more than just paintings and make the Pop Shop more of a retail store than art dealer. The 10-artist team that Gascot created now allowed the website to sell paintings, prints, photography, home decor and accents, jewelry, apparel and other accessories. The result, he and other team members said, is a vibrant arts community all to its own.

"It was with my family that I first learned to appreciate the importance of an artistic community," said

Latin Pop Shop

Visit the Latin Pop Shop at www.LatinPopShop.com.

SEE WEBSITE, PAGE 7

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS

FROM PAGE 4

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

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 "Quest for Adventure: A Treasure Map of Fun." ((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. Registration required at 703-324-7210 or Jennifer.edge@fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY/MAY 27

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 Hearing Aids. Registration required at 703-324-7210 or Jennifer.edge@fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY/JUNE 3

Fairfax County's Independent Living Program for Older Adults.

12:15 p.m. at Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Free. 703-324-7210 or Jennifer.edge@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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.

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'DONOCHUE

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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.

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 reconsider 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

A Little Research Required

To the Editor:

Last week's Connection [April 29-May 5, 2010] contained two letters from veterans chiding Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) for not telling the truth to military and veterans' families. I have to ask, was Mr. Herrity deliberately trying to scare them by saying that their TRICARE health benefits would be harmed when that was not the case at all? And now we see letters from a couple of Clifton residents and supporters of Mr. Herrity's campaign repeating misinformation about U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11). I feel duty-bound to write and let you know that Connection readers pay attention and expect accountabil-

ity before and after elections.

Here is my reaction to few quotes from their letters:

❖ "Gerry Connolly has voted for the federal takeover of healthcare and exempted himself from it." This is not only untrue it is nonsense. In fact, through an amendment provided by Sen. Grassley [R-Iowa], members of Congress and their staffs are the only Americans who must change their current insurance and participate in the new exchange that will be created. My source on this is Media Matters <http://mediamatters.org/research/201003250022>, which quotes the bill. Do they think Connection readers will believe everything they see in print without taking the time to do a little fact checking?

❖ "Since Gerry Connolly has been my congressman, the federal government has bailed out Wall Street, the car industry and the health insurance industry." Where do I begin? The writer conveniently ignores the fact that Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 was signed by President Bush (R) before Connolly got to Congress. In addition, on Jan. 22, 2009, Congressman Connolly, joined by 171 Republicans and 98 other Democrats, passed HJ Res 3

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THE CONNECTION

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NEWS

Website

FROM PAGE 4

team member Mia Roman Hernandez. "Being surrounded by so many creative people provides me with a nurturing artistic environment that encourages me to explore and learn without boundaries."

Though the website launched less than four months ago, Gascot said that the Pop Shop is making sales and garnering interest from not only the arts community, but from individuals simply looking to add a painting to their collections or buy gifts for friends and family. Gascot said that moving forward, he hopes that he can get more artists to join the team so that the offerings can be ever expanding, but for now, he is focused on nurturing the colleagues he has and building the brand.

"It's all been really a labor of love," Gascot said. "We don't have a huge budget, so we're just hitting the pavement and getting the word out. Eventually, I'd like to bring it to a storefront, but for now, our outlook is to be ever changing. We always want to be evolving."



Air Force Airman Jesus A. Lopez graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the nephew of Daniel Harris of Flanders Street, Springfield.

MILITARY NOTES

Mark S. Snyder has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army. Snyder, a flight test deputy, is assigned to the U.S. Army Aviation Flight Test Directorate, Fort Rucker, Daleville, Ala. The major has served in the military for 17 years. He is the son of Charles S. and Laurie Snyder of Meadowlark Drive, Lorain, Ohio, and brother of Christine and Jack Corbin of Barthwick Avenue, Henderson, Nev. His wife, Audrey, is the daughter of retired Lt. Col. Frank and Beverly Ogden of Sydenstricker Road, Springfield.

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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.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

against further bailout funding. [Go to <http://www.govtrack.us/congress> and enter "HJ Res 3" in the Bill Search field.] Gerry Connolly voted to reform Wall Street and rein in these so-called "masters of the universe" who have little regard for the health of our nation's economy. How would Mr. Herryt vote on this matter when his party is fighting right now to kill Wall Street reform legislation? As for bailing out "the health insurance industry"—really? I didn't

know they needed bailing out since they spent an estimated \$80 million opposing the health care reform legislation. I am sure this was an unintentional error on the part of the writer but this is often what comes from making sweeping statements that try to turn complex and far-reaching issues into sound bites.

❖ "He has done nothing to ease our tax burden." Congressman Connolly is one of the few Democrats who support keeping the Bush tax cuts intact; he also voted for legislation that is giving tax cuts and tax credits

to a majority of Americans this year. And when they talk about Mr. Herryt's record of voting against taxes, do they protest too much? I can't vouch for the content but his primary opponent, Keith Fimian (R), has an entire website entitled "Herryt Hikes Taxes."

Yes, I support Congressman Connolly as the 11th District's representative to Congress. He is respected on Capitol Hill as an independent voice in Congress, brings proven expertise on issues affecting local and state governments, is a strong advo-

cate for reducing the federal deficit, and he is promoting Telework to increase productivity and reduce traffic congestion in our area. Though writing this letter took time and research on the web, it was worth it to sign a letter I know is more than repeated rhetoric. If candidates and their supporters want to win elections shouldn't we expect them to campaign with existing facts instead of making up their own?

Barbara Tuset
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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, keep-

ing 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 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.

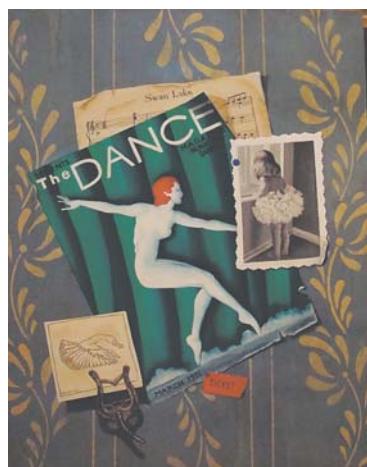
"Our goal is to put an end to the county's shelter waitlist," Andere said. "These important grants are helping us do this by dramatically changing the way we deliver services to the homeless. Already we're seeing very positive results with fewer homeless waiting."



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.

FINE ARTS



'The Dancer' by Deena Hunkler-Sanks

Hunkler-Sanks Exhibits in Occoquan

Artist Deena Hunkler-Sanks' oil paintings are on exhibit through Sunday, June 6 at The Loft Gallery in Historic Occoquan. [www.theloftgallery.org] She is on the board and active with Springfield Art Guild since 2006. She is a member of The Art League Bin Gallery and has been juried into shows there several times. An artist's reception is Saturday, May 8, from 1-4 p.m. The Loft Gallery is located at 313 Mill St.

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 Carleigh Parkway, Springfield. Sopranos Aundi Marie Moore and Jennifer Holbrook, pianist R. Timothy

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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PHOTO 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.

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 on May 8 might have been from 30 different Virginia, Maryland and 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 that broke 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.

The West Springfield crew team entered the meet with high hopes for a strong performance.

"We were expected to have a fighting chance with some of the other crews," coach Matt Petty said. "But weather may have affected how they ran."

The men's first eight finished fifth in their heat with a time of 6:00.5.

"My guys went out and said they had a good race," he said. "But the conditions weren't as good as they hoped for."

Petty, however, didn't want to put all the blame on the weather.

"There's no excuse," he said. "[The weather excuse] is slightly justified, and it may have had a little effect on their race."

Petty's rowers conceded that the windy conditions affected their performances.

"The line-ups were hard to get even," jun-

ior Dustin Danis said. "It didn't affect the races too much, but the wind factored in. Our race might have been different without the wind."

THE FLOATING starts also created an advantage for some teams.

"It took about 300 meters just to get the boats lined up," junior Hunter Briggs said. "When we did get started, it wasn't always even. It made a difference in the race."

Battling the wind isn't new to the West Springfield men's first eight. Danis said his teammates faced similar conditions during the season, but because of his team's make-up, rowing through wind is a considerable challenge.

"We're usually able to get through it," he said. "But the wind was just constantly on us. It was like a wall. We're a light crew, so it was pretty hard to get through it."

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.

"The races were slow because there was just so much wind."

— Emily Martin

WEEK IN SPORTS

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

SPORTS

Bruins, Spartans Lax Go to Regions

Lake Braddock upsets Lee, West Springfield falls in semis to Annandale.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

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.

Patriot District frontrunner West Springfield suffered a setback on May 10 then they endured a 11-8 loss to Annandale in the Patriot District tournament semi-finals.

This was the second meeting between the Spartans and Atoms this season, with West Springfield taking the first meeting by a score of 8-5 on April 4.

"It's the second time we've faced them this year," head coach Scott Settar said. "It was a close game the first time and it turned out to be another close one."

A combination of spotty offense and defense hurt the Spartans in their Patriot District tournament match with the Atoms.

"We don't feel like we brought our 'A' game," Settar said. "We had a difficult time possessing the ball on offense. It just didn't seem like our offense was in sync the whole time. We didn't play good team defense which we usually do."

The loss doesn't end the season for Settar's Spartans, but it does put his team in a challenging position. Teams from the Patriot District will be matched with teams from the Concorde District, meaning the now third-seeded Spartans will have to go through either Chantilly or Robinson if they want to win the Northern Region title.

"We have one of the most difficult pathways being the third placed team now," Settar said.

"We don't feel like we brought our 'A' game."
— Scott Settar, West Springfield coach

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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.

Local Gymnasts Qualify for National Competition

Four local gymnasts from Capitals Gymnastics in Burke recently qualified to compete at the United States Gymnastics Associations National Level meets in Dallas on May 6.

Erin Buchanan (Haymarket), Leah Slobodin (West Potomac), Katie O'Rourke (Springfield) and Lia Salzano (Centerville) will be representing Capital Gymnastics at the event.

Slobodin, O'Rourke and Buchanan also qualified for the Junior Olympic Nationals where 56 top qualifiers nationwide will compete.

West Springfield To Host Sports Physicals

On June 10, at 5:30 p.m., West Springfield High School will conduct sports physicals for the

2010-11 school year.

Pre-registration is \$40 and walk-in appointments are available for \$50. There will be limited walk-in appointments, so pre-registration is advised.

Students can register online at www.fcps.edu/supt/activities/atp/ppeoverview.htm.

Proceeds will benefit the FCPS Athletic Training Program and help pay for athletic training supplies for West Springfield.

Cooley Football Camp June 5-6 at Fairfax H.S.

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.

5 Qs With West Springfield baseball player Charlie Morgan

Q: So what's your walk-up music?

A: My walk-up song right now is "Sad but true" by Metallica. It just gets me in the zone, especially the guitar part.

Q: If you could be any athlete for a day, who?

A: Barry Bonds. To me he is the best baseball player of all time.

Q: What made you fall in love with baseball?

A: My dad was the announcer for the Prince William Cannons for 13 years, so I just grew up around the game.



REED S. ALBERS

Charlie Morgan

Q: So what do you like to do on the weekends when you're not paying baseball?

A: I play some video games. The sports games gets real competitive with the guys on the team.

Q: How "competitive"?

A: The most heated game we have going is probably MLB 2k10. It gets intense. There's broken controllers, holes in the wall, but it's all in good fun.

— REED S. ALBERS

MILITARY NOTES

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.

Army Pfc. Somsack Vongvirath has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. He is the son of Manichanh Phimphachanh of Bath Street of Springfield. Vongvirath graduated in 2003 from Robert E. Lee High School and received an associate degree in 2007 from Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale.

Air Force Airman 1st Class Kyle A. Cornelissen

graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Cornelissen earned distinction as an honor graduate. He is the son of David Cornelissen of Bellamy Avenue, Springfield. The airman is a 2005 graduate of West Springfield High School.



Cornelissen

Haiti.

Prior to departing the devastated region, the Vinson transferred much of its airlift capability, including 10 helicopters, to other units in JFT-Haiti.

USS Carl Vinson is currently taking part in Southern Seas 2010 as part of a scheduled homeport shift to San Diego, Calif. Levin joined the Navy in October 2005.

Army 2nd Lt. Michael Campbell has graduated from the Army Basic Officer Leader Course III. Campbell is an armor officer assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 16th Cavalry Regiment, Fort Knox, Ky. He is the son of James and Donna K. Campbell of James Creek Drive, Springfield. The lieutenant graduated in 2005 from West Springfield High School and earned a bachelor's degree in 2009 from the College of William and Mary.

OPEN HOUSES

SAT./SUN. MAY 15 & 16



**5216 Dunleigh Dr., Burke • \$589,000 • Open Sunday 1-4
Matthew Ingram, Weichert, 571-235-3257**

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click the Real Estate links on the right side.

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times. 

Springfield

5803-A Rexford Dr.....	\$210,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Kathy Stark.....	Weichert.....	703-201-9656
5428 Donnelly Ct.....	\$320,000.....	Sun 12-3.....	Cristina Botnari.....	Belinsky.....	703-914-0400
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.....	RE/MAX.....	703-239-2525
8607 Langport Dr.....	\$429,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski...RE/MAX.....	RE/MAX.....	703-239-2525
7283 John Ryland Way.....	\$534,500.....	Sun 1-4.....	Sylvia Jurek.....	Coldwell Banker.....	703-938-5600
7611 Paloma Ct.....	\$575,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	David Unterman.....	Keller Williams.....	703-815-5700
6452 Summerton Ct.....	\$589,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Hugo Romero.....	Coldwell Banker.....	703-518-8300
7217 Calamo St.....	\$950,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Lee Keitz.....	Libra Realty.....	240-715-1528

Kingstowne/Alexandria

6926-F Mary Caroline Cir.....	\$180,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Kathy Stark.....	Weichert.....	703-201-9656
6510 Nevitt Way.....	\$385,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Anita Mason.....	Weichert.....	703-627-6624
6250 WALKERS CROFT WAY...\$425,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Susan Maher.....	Long & Foster	703-408-51588305	
FORT HUNT RD.....	\$540,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Kelli Orford.....	Long & Foster	703-895-89705625
Governors Pond Cir.....	\$548,500.....	Sun 1-4.....	Jo Erkietian.....	McNearney.....	703-549-9292
6484 Sutcliffe Dr.....	\$589,500.....	Sun 1-4.....	Lynne Houde.....	Weichert.....	703-360-7400
6154 Old Telegraph Rd.....	\$779,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Catherine Foltz.....	Long & Foster.....	703-683-0400
5644 Glenwood Dr.....	\$799,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Phyllis Patterson.....	Coldwell Banker.....	703-408-4232
6206 Windham Hill Run.....	\$1,197,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Jennifer Tilghman.....	Long & Foster.....	703-349-3147

Burke

6110 Wilmington Dr.....	\$399,999.....	Sun 1-4.....	Bill Mackenzie.....	Weichert.....	571-309-7706
5216 Dunleigh Dr.....	\$589,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Matthew Ingram.....	Weichert.....	571-235-3257

Annandale

4917 Casimir St.....	\$345,000.....	Sun 1-3.....	Fawzia Noori.....	Long & Foster.....	703-313-6500
8607 Dora Ct.....	\$529,999.....	Sun 2-4.....	Thomas Hennerty.....	NetRealtyNow.com.....	703-286-7253
4829 Kingston Dr.....	\$539,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Charlie Mayhew.....	Weichert.....	703-821-8300
6905 Cherry La.....	\$569,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Stephanie Rush.....	Coldwell Banker.....	703-451-2500
3911 King Arthur Rd.....	\$579,000.....	Sat-Sun 12-4.....	Sharon Schoenfeld.....	Weichert.....	703-941-0100
8505 Forest St.....	\$599,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Lisa Thurston.....	Keller Williams.....	703-216-4126

Fairfax Station

6006 Captain Marr Ct.....	\$625,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Betty Barthle.....	Long & Foster.....	703-425-4466
6096 Arrington Dr.....	\$659,000.....	Sun 2-4.....	Betty Barthle.....	Long & Foster.....	703-425-4466
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 Hermendorfer.....	Long & Foster.....	703-503-1812
11107 Hampton Rd.....	\$1,890,000....	Sun 1-4.....	Fran Rudd.....	ERA.....	703-980-2572

Lorton

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

3907 Golf Tee Terrace #201.....	\$249,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Kristine Price.....	Samson Properties....	703-328-1025
12102 GREEN LEAF CT #102.....	\$249,999.....	Sun 2-4.....	Pat Stack.....	Weichert.....	(703) 597-9373
3801 RIDGE KNOLL CT #8A.....	\$257,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Pat Stack.....	Weichert.....	(703) 597-9373
11784 ROCKAWAY LN #62.....	\$349,500.....	Sat 2-5.....	Aliko Mwaisala.....	Prosperity.....	(703) 863-9218
3906 Green Look Ct.....	\$478,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Diane Lenahan.....	Keller Williams.....	703-283-7328
3900 GREEN LOOK CT.....	\$479,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Pat Stack.....	Weichert.....	(703) 597-9373
4023 Werthers Court.....	\$479,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Spencer Marker.....	Long & Foster.....	703-830-6123
10725 Moran Ave.....	\$500,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Ron Fowler.....	Weichert.....	703-691-0555
10694 JOHN AYRES DR.....	\$540,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Barbara Voorheis.....	Weichert.....	(703) 938-6070
12302 CANNONBALL RD.....	\$629,000.....	Sun 2-4.....	Donna Stoll.....	ERA.....	(703) 742-6900
13050 Blackbird Pl.....	\$689,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Charles Jackson.....	Weichert.....	703-863-9957
3522 LAUREL LEAF LN.....	\$1,125,000....	Sun 1-4.....	Carolyn Wilson.....	Long & Foster.....	(800) 603-7341
4636 VILLAGE DR.....	\$1,149,000....	Sun 1-4.....	Lisa Moffett.....	Coldwell Banker.....	(703) 938-5600

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call **Erin Peck at 703-778-9449** or E-Mail the info to **epeck@connectionnewspapers.com** All listings due by Tuesday at 3 pm.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

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/kkerhake/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. 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

COMMUNITY

Scout Blazes New Trail at Local Park

Eagle Scout project opens new path at Hidden Pond Park.

As part of an Eagle Scout project, a new path, on the east side of Hidden Pond Park, allows patrons to hike/walk/run a full circle without back tracking on the same path coming from Holford Road.

Joseph Duano of Springfield visits the park often and noticed that almost half of the east area of the park had no marked trails. He decided to make the clearing and building of a new path and the tidying of an existing path and other nearby areas his Eagle Scout project. With the permission of the Fairfax County Park Authority, he designed and implemented a project that would provide a more beautiful, inviting and enjoyable park for the community. For this project he recruited the help of friends and members of his church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

He organized them into crews, each with rakes, axes, chain saws and the muscle to accomplish the task. Only fallen trees and branches were used to delineate the 4-foot wide path that meanders through live growth so as to not disturb the existing flora. The path was raked clear of debris. Fallen trees blocking the path were sawed out of the way and reused as bridges across small ravines. He painted the Eagle Scout symbol on strategically located trees to guide people along the new path. The path is approximately two-thirds of a mile long



DONATED PHOTO

Eagle Scout Joseph Duano with his mother to the left and a friend once the path was finished.

and joins a narrower existing path. The new path runs on a slightly elevated area that allows the user to view nature and hear the alluring sound of the Pohick Creek water flowing nearby.

JOSEPH STARTED his project on March 10 and shortly thereafter had his first crew clearing and marking the path. The entire effort culminated on April 10. Joseph anticipates getting all his badges and papers in order so that by May 14, he can be eligible to achieve the Eagle Scout rank. The Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts program (BSA). The requirements include earning at least 21

merit badges and demonstrating scouting spirit. This requires a service project that the scout plans, organizes, leads, and manages. Once Joseph completes all his requirements, he will be presented with a medal and a badge that visibly acknowledge his accomplishments. The Eagle Scout rank is held for life, thus giving rise to the phrase "once an eagle, always an eagle."

His project supports the efforts of the Park Authority as it expands the recreational use of the park, and affords the community with an additional path that is a serene and lovely place to walk or run while enjoying nature. It is worth visiting alone or with family and friends.

Jennifer Fier Named Outstanding First Year Teacher

FROM PAGE 3

receiving her master's degree, Fier decided that she wanted to come back to Fairfax County and find a special education position.

Fier said that she initially looked for jobs in other school systems, but then narrowed down a list of specific schools she wanted to work at, and the Key Center was at the top. She said that she sent e-mail to the school's principal, Tom Flick, and was asked to come in for a general interview. A couple of months later, Fier spent a day at the school and after those six short hours, she knew that the Key Center was the place she wanted to be.

"[That day] was just extremely inspiring," Fier said. "I saw that the people here are a team, and I got the vibe that they work together and are extremely supportive of each other."

AFTER a second interview, Fier was asked to come on board as a substitute teacher for the last month of the 2008-09 school year and as a full-time teacher the following year. Fier said that initially, she was

slated to become the school's transitional program teacher, where she would help integrate children with behavioral problems into the school's general population.

However, Flick knew that she had therapeutic recreation experience along with her special education background, so he instead asked her to head a new program that would combine the school's existing music program into a brand new sensory class. Fier said no at first, because, as a first-year teacher, the last thing she wanted was to create a new curriculum from scratch. A couple of days of contemplation later, though, she decided to take the job.

"It was pretty intimidating because I was a first-year teacher, and I wasn't going to have a base curriculum to follow or a similar class to look at and observe," Fier said. "I said no at first but then I thought 'why not give it a try' because I realized I'd get to

make this my own."

Fier created the curriculum by using the Virginia Adapted Standards of Learning coupled with her knowledge of the students' skills and individualized education and prior experience. A main staple of her curriculum so far has been the use of themes to improve her students' sensory perception. Fier gives each week a theme, ranging from camping to Spa Week, and bases the lesson plan that week around activities that fit within the theme but also help to accomplish educational goals.

Last week, for example, Fier led "Aloha Week," and brought the beach to her students. She covered the music aspect by teaching the students traditional Hawaiian songs and hula dancing and incorporated the sensory perception by providing materials for the students to touch and feel. She brought in sand for the students to walk on, buckets of water to put their hands in,

pasta shells to mimic beach shells and fruits to taste and smell. In addition, she played a CD of ocean waves to calm the students down after the exciting activities.

"Jen finds a way to interact with each student in a way most appropriate for them," Flick said. "Students gravitate to her calm demeanor and easy, natural charm. They seem to instinctively understand that she values each of them as individuals. Her ability to develop, implement and appropriately individualize instruction is nothing short of remarkable."

Though Fier's sometimes stressful, always action-packed first year is nearly over, she cannot wait for the next year to begin so she can implement a host of ideas that have been brewing over the last year. She has more themes, new activities and more technology to bring into her classroom. Her students and the administration are excited to see what she comes up with next.

"Her ability to develop, implement and appropriately individualize instruction is nothing short of remarkable," Flick said. "She truly believes in every student's ability to learn and succeed and will go to any length to ensure their success."

COLLEGE NOTES

Juliana Buendia of Springfield received a bachelor of arts in biology from Boston University in January.

Michelle M. Prevost, a resident of Springfield, was recently named to the dean's list at Boston University for the fall 2009 semester.

Robert Wine of Springfield has been named to the dean's list at Frostburg State University, Frostburg, Md., for outstanding academic achievement for the fall 2009 semester. To be eligible for the dean's list, a student must complete a minimum of 12 credit hours and earn a cumulative semester grade point average of at least 3.4 on a 4.0 scale.

The Muhlenberg Theatre Association presented "An American Tragedy," by David Shaber, Lee Adams and Charles Strouse, in the Baker Theatre in Trexler Pavilion for Theatre and Dance, from March 24-28. Springfield resident **John Powers**, a senior at Muhlenberg College, was a member of the cast.

The following Springfield residents received degrees from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg at the December 2009 graduation: **Amanda Stephens**, bachelor of arts in communication; **Patrick Fitzgerald**, a bachelor of science in business in accounting and information systems and a bachelor of science in business in finance; **Adeel Khan**, bachelor of science in business in accounting and information systems; **Cinthya Larios**, bachelor of science in business in psychology; **Uchechukwu Mbah**, bachelor of arts in political science; **Rachael Shane-Lydon**, bachelor of science in business in psychology; **Evan Stewart**, bachelor of science in mining engineering; **Kaushik Vinjamuri**, bachelor of science in computer engineering; and **Jenny Yang**, bachelor of science in business cum laude in management and a bachelor of science in business cum laude in marketing management;

PEOPLE



Air Force Airman Aubrey N. Williams graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. She is the daughter of Ricardo Williams of Darin Drive, Byron, Ga., and Raleeta Williams of Royal Ridge Drive, Springfield. Williams is a 2006 graduate of Northside High School, Warner Robins, Ga.



Air Force Airman Jose G. Mejia graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Lucia and Jose Mejia of Ahelia Street, Springfield. Mejia is a 2009 graduate of Robert E. Lee High School.

MILITARY NOTES

Marine Corps Pvt. Jonathan G. Pana Lopez, son of Rosalia Parada of Springfield, recently completed 12 weeks of basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

Air Force Airman 1st Class Po-Han Wang graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the brother of Chia-Yun Wang of Lake Pleasant Drive, Springfield. Wang is a 2007 graduate of Robert E. Lee High School.

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PEOPLE



Mom & Me

My wife and I travelled back to Connecticut on May 1 to celebrate family birthdays and an early Mothers Day with our family and the attached picture is the result. We hope it will be useful to you. Pictured is my wife, Theodora L. Errico, 88, of Seacraft Court Springfield, surrounded by two daughters, three grand-daughters and three of her seven great-grandchildren. They are, front row, daughter Kathleen Granata with great grand-daughter Avery Granata; Theodora Errico holding the youngest great grand-daughter Emerson Rose Granata (2 months old); Daughter Laura Coppola (of Springfield) holding great grand-daughter Sophia Granata; and, back row, grand-daughters-in-law Vanessa Granata and Brandy Granata and Grand-daughter AnneMarie Granata. — Michael Errico

New Learning Methods Do Grow on Trees

Allergy symptoms aside, Neil Schneider, 10, of Springfield is learning that people have many reasons to be thankful for trees. They look good, give shade and sometimes fruit, provide a natural playground, and they help clean the air. But Neil's private school in Northern Virginia has found a way to use trees in the classroom. At Oakwood School, trees are used as part of multi-sensory teaching methods to help students learn to read, especially students with dyslexia or other learning issues.

Oakwood School in Annandale is a small private school for bright children who have learning differences. Some of the students have been diagnosed with dyslexia. One of the effects of dyslexia is that the brain does not always "capture" an image accurately, and it can make reading difficult.

Multi-sensory teaching and practice is needed to counterbalance the effects of dyslexia. The student needs to use more than just sight to learn to read and then to read independently. Oakwood specializes in providing a setting where students routinely experience multi-sensory learning in grades K-8. In a reading class, students apply this phrase to help discriminate between the letters b and d, "you know it's a d if you can make a c and grow a tree". This reminds students that the letter d is made of the letter c and a tall stick that grows up like a tree. The students practice by saying it, hearing it said, writing on many different substances such as on paper and in pudding, playing interactive games and trac-



Neil Schneider

ing letters in text to check if the students have correctly identified the letter.

When a local nursery sponsored a contest to win a tree by writing an essay about why trees are important, most entries were about how trees help our ecology. However, Neil wrote in his essay, "Trees help us learn. Trees helped me learn to point the letter d in the right direction. It works!" This novel essay won the school an oak tree.

On April 28, Neil's oak tree was planted on his Oakwood School campus and Neil helped place the tree.

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28 Yard Sales

Community Yard Sale
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28 Yard Sales

Fairfax/Greenbriar Comm Yard
Sale. Sat 5/15, 8-2. Rt 50, 1/4 mi
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28 Yard Sales

Huge Indoor Yard Sale
Fairfax Baptist Temple
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May 15 from 7am-12:30pm

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

21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

Woman Plants Spring Flowers on 18th Green After Using Thera-Gesic®

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-William Van Horne

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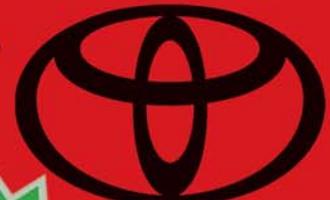
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