

Parade Ready

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Healthplex Inches Along

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**Mason
Hencken,
'Captain
America' is
ready to ride in
the parade.**

PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Tea Party Throws Party

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From left: Jenny Della Santana, Sydney Bryant, Lily Howell, William Bryant and Brylan Noonan dressed up and decorated their bikes (and scooter) for the parade.



Carter Wyant's shirt says it all: Clifton: A way of life.

Smalltown Fourth

Town of Clifton honors holiday with parade, patriotic ceremony.

Decorated wagons, scooters, bicycles, motorcycles, cars, campaign signs, floats — and even a home made M1 Abrams tank made their way through the streets during the Annual Town of Clifton Independence Day Parade on Sunday.

After the parade, town members gathered to sing the national anthem, say the Pledge of Allegiance and hear some words from several of their elected officials. Then, everyone headed over to the children's park for a pot-luck-picnic, music and fun and games.

— DEB COBB



Steve Bittner grills up masses of hotdogs for the potluck picnic.



John Kinter unloads the M1 Abrams tank that he and his son Sammy built. Kinter built the tank to raise awareness of the War in Iraq. The tank was a crowd favorite.



The Clifton Elementary School Cub Scout Pack 1861 rides on its float 'Happy Campers.'



Leah Ban Blaricom of Fairfax Station enjoys the parade.



From left, Deja Love Smith, 3, visiting from Camp Hill, Pa.; Robert Root, 6, and Sterling Root, 4, from Fairfax Station; and Marie Repczynski, 7, make arts and crafts at the Kid Zone table the Patriotic Picnic on July 3 at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.



Marie Repczynski, 7, holds up her drawings.

Inching Forward

Federation, Inova fail to see eye-to-eye on Healthplex plan.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

The five-year-old plan to build an Inova Healthplex in Lorton may be inching toward fruition, but that does not mean that all area residents are content with the news.

The South County Federation hosted representatives from Inova at its monthly meeting Tuesday, July 6 to discuss the latest changes to the plan amendment that would allow the facility to be built. While the Federation unanimously passed a resolution, 41-0, stating that it is not opposed to the facility under certain construction conditions, Inova's lawyers said that the company is unwilling to accept a portion of those proffers at this time.

“What we’ve got here is the very best plan we can have on this site.”

— Sarah Hall, Inova attorney

“Inova wants to increase the flexibility on this site, and with the plan we have now, we’re going in with more of it,” said Sarah Hall, a lawyer representing Inova. “What we’ve got here is the very best plan we can have on this site and what will get this up and running quicker.”

The proposal, which is an amendment to Lorton’s Comprehensive Plan, calls for the construction of a new Inova Healthplex medical facility on a 14.5-acre plot of land south of Lorton Road between Interstate 95 and Sanger Street. The Healthplex has been discussed in several incarnations, with the earliest talks occurring in 2005 when the Board of Supervisors authorized an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan to consider using the parcel for offices with medical use.

The plan was delayed several times because of differences over logistics and was even suspended in January 2009 by Inova due to budgetary constraints. However, in June 2009, the Board of Supervisors authorized a plan amendment to consider recommendations for development of office use on the parcel, and the Healthplex plans were put into motion once again.

The concerns voiced by the Federation at Tuesday night’s meeting echoed the same worries the group has shared for some time. The primary concern focused on the trans



Artist Mary Ellen Mogee mixes paint in her studio.



Thrive, an acoustic duo, perform at the July 3 Patriotic Picnic at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.

Red, White and Blue Picnic

Picnic celebrates independence and local art.

On Saturday, July 3, local residents celebrated Independence Day weekend at the Patriotic Picnic hosted by The Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton. The picnic was catered by American B-B-Q and featured musical performances, the Kid Zone and al fresco art demos. U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) gave the official welcome at 3 p.m. The main focus of the picnic was to bring the community together while giving people a chance to experience artists working first-hand.

Musical performances showcased local artists of different genres described by Andrea Cordray, a public relations associate at the Workhouse as, “live music with a patriotic twist.” Thrive, an acoustic duo, played at 2 p.m. followed by the Dominion Choraliers at 6 p.m. The final set featured a blue grass band called The Rebel Run Dixieland Band at 7 p.m.

The Kid Zone offered art projects and board games for children.

“This is awesome because I can do crafts,” said Marie Repczynski, 7, of Fairfax Station, holding up her drawings of a treasure chest and a tulip.

Allie Watson from Lake Ridge runs the Kids Club at the Workhouse year-round, providing children with the opportunity to create their own art.

“The Kid Zone is a great way of getting kids interested in the Kids Club,” said Watson. “[They] love it.” Starting in early September, the Kids Club will meet every Monday, from 1-5 p.m., at the Workhouse.

Three art buildings were open to the public during the Patriotic Picnic. Inside the buildings are art studios operated by local artists, with one chosen artist’s work featured in the front of the building every month. Anyone is welcome to walk in whether they want to watch the artists

working, look at art or purchase art. “We want to showcase our artists and give people a chance to experience them working first hand,” said Cordray. “We have all mediums, glass house, ceramics, there is a wide range of talent.”

Mary Ellen Mogee of Great Falls has had a studio in building W6 at the Workhouse since last October. She has been painting for five years since she retired from a career as a public policy analyst. She described her artistic style as abstract to stylistic, using bright colors to cheer people up. “The picnic is different because we have a lot more people coming through the galleries,” Mogee said. “It’s a good way to introduce them to the art that’s here.” Mogee will be the featured artist of building W6 from July 7 through Aug. 8.

More information on the Workhouse Arts Center and upcoming events can be accessed at www.workhousearts.org.

— ELISE AMYX

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Speed May Be Factor In Fairfax Station Crash

A 31-year-old Woodbridge man died in a single vehicle crash in Fairfax Station Monday, July 5. According to the Fairfax County Police Department, officers responded to a report of a single vehicle crash on Chapel Road near Glencove Drive shortly after 1 a.m. Crash reconstruction detectives determined that the 2000 Ford Explorer was traveling south on Chapel Road at a high rate of speed and crested a hill. The driver, 20, lost control and the vehicle ran off the left side of the roadway and struck a tree with the passenger side.

Myron Day of Longwood Court in Woodbridge was ejected from the vehicle and was pronounced dead at the scene. Four additional occupants, aged 14, 15, 17, were transported to a local hospital with non life-threatening injuries. The driver was uninjured and remained on the scene.

The investigation continues and charges are pending. Speed appears to have been a factor; alcohol does not.

Industrial-To-Office Building Conversions On the Rise

The Fairfax County Economic Development Authority expects many large-scale warehouses and other industrial buildings to be priced out of the local commercial real estate market over the next few years.

"It is inevitable. Look at Arlington County and the City of Alexandria. The land just gets too expensive in urban areas. Those types of uses will eventually go away in Fairfax," said Gerald Gordon, president and chief executive officer of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority.

The amount of industrial and flexible commercial space in Fairfax already declined in 2009, in part because industrial facilities were demolished and replaced with new office or retail developments. Redevelopment projects in Merrifield alone claimed more than 150,000 square feet of industrial space last year, according to the authority's 2009 real estate report. But Gordon anticipates that many warehouse-to-office conversions will take place in Springfield and Lorton area, where more than half of the county's industrial buildings are located. Government contractors will want to be nearby when several military operations move to Fort Belvoir and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency moves to Springfield in 2011.

"The overall inventory is expected to take some serious hits over the next 10 years as older industrial/flex is redeveloped into high-end office space to meet new demands in traditionally industrial areas along I-95," stated the economic development authority's report.

Most of the companies that currently occupy industrial space in Fairfax are small employers that provide functions like printing, auto repair and storage. Some are delivery services with large fleets of trucks or other vehicles that are parked on the property, said Gordon.

"These are all the kinds of uses that could move further west or south," he said.

According to the report, Fairfax is already seeing a surge of interest in industrial and flexible commercial property along Interstate 95. Ten of the county's 14 largest industrial leases signed in 2009 were for space in Springfield (three), Franconia (three), Newington (two) and Lorton (two).

"They won't do it now. ... But absolutely, we will see Class A office space on Richmond Highway," said Gordon.

Fairfax had already seen a shift away from traditional industrial use in its commercial market. Over the past

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Northern Virginia Tea Party organizer Ron Wilcox speaks at Monday's event.

Tea and Independence

Northern Virginia Tea Party hosts Independence Weekend Wrap-up Picnic.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

It is every American's constitutionally guaranteed right to oppose the government, and while most people are content to simply voice their displeasure, Northern Virginia has more than a few who will not sit idly by.

The Northern Virginia Tea Party, with its quickly growing ranks, began spreading its message of devout Constitutional adherence only a year ago. However, as evidenced by the large crowd gathered Monday, July 5 at Davis General Store in Fairfax Station for the group's Independence Weekend Wrap-up Picnic, the relatively new chapter of the nationwide movement has gained a foothold in the area.

"We're double what we were six months ago," said group organizer Ron Wilcox. "First of all, we continue to organize, and we are fairly aggressive in recruiting people. They are realizing that federal

government is only part of the problem, and we need to affect things at a local level."

The Northern Virginia Tea Party, according to Wilcox, formed in late March 2009. Wilcox said that in response to the election of President Barack Obama (D) and the policies that his administration implemented, he and a few like-minded friends began their own Tea Party-style group to rally local citizens. However, he soon found out that another, similar group was also established around the same time, and realized that the message his group wanted to spread could reach more people if the two groups joined forces. So, on March 26, 2009, Wilcox reached out to the other group, the two merged, and the Northern Virginia Tea Party was born.

"We're double what we were six months ago."

— Ron Wilcox, Northern Virginia Tea Party organizer

Join the Movement

E-mail the Northern Virginia Tea Party at Organizer@NorthernVirginiaTeaParty.com for information on future events and how to join.

"There were two separate groups who felt that it was important to organize locally because we realized that we had no constituency in D.C.," Wilcox said. "Plus, we shared the same vision that we needed to affect local politics."

The first official events, Wilcox said, took place in February, and the group has had 12 biweekly meetings to date. The meetings provide a networking opportunity for area residents sharing the same ideals, and also bring in speakers to lecture on what it means to be a member of the Tea Party movement and how to recruit others using grassroots techniques. This format was followed at Monday's wrap up picnic, with a few special speakers added in for the occasion.

Eric Cary, a candidate for the Maryland State Senate, began the proceedings with an impassioned speech on Tea Party ideals. He started by explaining to the 60 or so in attendance that their participation in the movement is crucial, as the things the Tea Party is fighting for now, such as the repealing of Obama's health care plan, fiscal conservatism and the reduction of dependency of foreign oil, will have drastic impacts on their children. In addition, Cary also warned potential political candidates not to use the movement as a springboard to election and instructed the crowd to ask specific questions of their candidates to see how dedicated they are to the movement.

"If a candidate wants to bring reform and become a representative of us, they must understand that we're going to be looking at them with a close eye," Cary said. "Our responsibility as Tea Party members

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decade, speculative industrial development was more likely to be built as “flexible space” that was easily adaptable to a number of different uses. Small and new businesses often choose to lease flexible industrial space over traditional offices because it is cheaper, according to the report.

There is a down side to losing true industrial uses in Fairfax, according to Gordon. Residents and companies will have to travel longer to get to their storage units for example, he said.

Fairfax Seeks Input On Deer

Fairfax County is soliciting public input on deer management through an online survey available at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/survey/deermanagement.htm>.

Residents are encouraged to share their thoughts on the prevalence of deer and how the county should address the issues surrounding them. Officials will post the results of the survey on the Fairfax government website Aug. 1.

To learn more about deer management in Fairfax County, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals/wildlife/management/deermanagement.htm> or contact Fairfax County wildlife biologist Vicky Monroe at 703-324-0240.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

VOLUNTEERS

Help support the Lorton Farmers Market by volunteering to be an Assistant Market Manager one Sunday a month between 7 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. For more information contact Phyllis Ingram at 703-642-0128 or phyllis.ingram@verizon.net.

Fairfax County's Volunteer Solutions program needs volunteers to help older adults with transportation to medical appointments. Contact 703-324-5406 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices and link to Volunteers. Volunteer Solutions is part of the Department of Family Services' Division of Adult and Aging Services.

Help residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities advocate for their rights, resolve conflicts and improve the quality of their lives. The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteers who can commit four hours a week for one year. 703-324-5861, TTY 703-449-1186 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ltombudsman.

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke needs drivers in order to launch a Companion Shopping Program for seniors in our area. Volunteers will drive seniors twice each month to grocery stores and banks, on Tuesdays 1-4 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Contact 703-359-2918, aowbrw@verizon.net.

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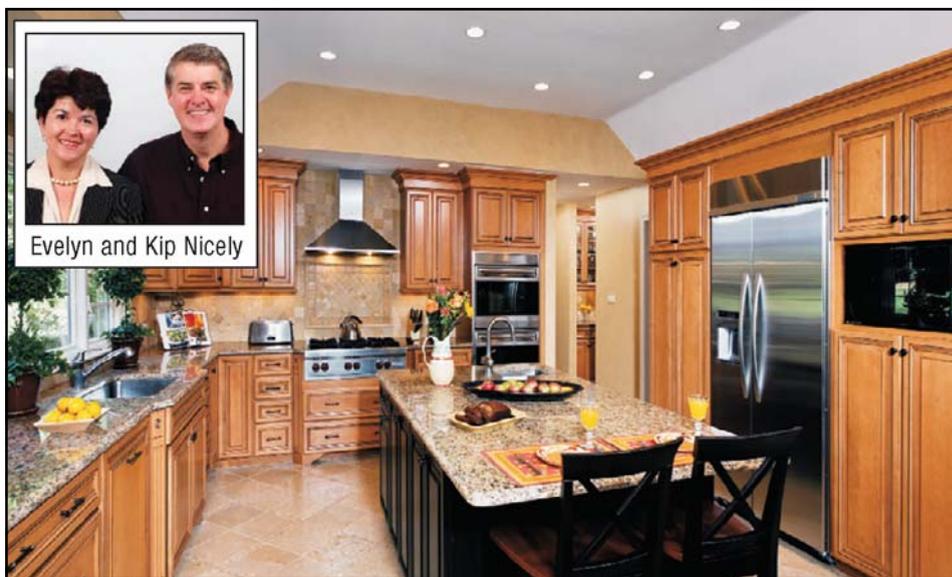
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School Board Could Learn To Share

Too many decisions made with tone of 'we know best,' not enough sharing of data.

The possible closing of Clifton Elementary, apparently because it "is going to be a very expensive school to renovate," is causing outrage amongst people with and without school-aged children in the Clifton area.

More expensive than what? The specifics of alternatives, in this case and others, are often unavailable to the people who will be affected by such actions by Fairfax County Public Schools.

Small community-based elementary schools serve many purposes, benefit children and families and do in fact foster a sense of community. The pushback isn't surprising, and is probably inevitable.

But what makes the proposed closing of Clifton Elementary similar to the ending of other programs and closing of other facilities is the lack of hard information shared with the public about the benefits and alternatives in Fairfax County.

Consider the closing of Pimmit Alternative School, which will ostensibly save \$1 million annually in a \$2 billion budget. What will the costs be of having the students served by Pimmit go elsewhere? What of those adult students who will not be able to travel to one of the other alternative schools and conse-

quently might go without a high school diploma? Are some of these people more likely to need public assistance? Less likely to make a good salary that allows them to contribute to the local economy?

Or the elimination of Project Excel to be sure that all the schools with a large population of poor students get something, but now no one seems to be sure exactly who will be getting what.

EDITORIAL Or the elimination of a "modified calendar" (year-round school) in several elementary schools that has been associated with better student performance. Exactly what will that save? Enough to offset the fact that the schools with a modified calendar tend to have a higher population of students who will need services over the summer in any event?

And now it turns out that the plan for closing Clifton Elementary that has been the underlying assumption for more than a year (building a new, bigger school on the Liberty Middle School site) is being scrapped, meaning that students might be divided up amongst several different elementary schools. What will that cost? Will those schools need additions? We don't know.

As a result it's hard to have confidence in

ing is to build a new school within the Southwestern Region. One of the challenges the board faces with the construction of a new school is site selection. One site that has been deemed highly desirable by the board is a large plot of land at Liberty Middle School.

It seems that this site meets many of the requirements for a new elementary school and is of particular interest to the board because it is a plot of land already owned by the Fairfax County Public School system — a "bird in hand." This location is not without issues. First and foremost, the Liberty Middle School site is not near the anticipated overcrowding. If a new elementary school is built at this location, a massive boundary study will be required — one that may include up to 28 elementary schools. Secondly, the location will add more congestion onto Union Mill Road, a high traffic area that already supports the community of Little Rocky Run, a shopping mall, a middle school, and a high school. Finally, it has recently come to light that there is naturally occurring asbestos at the planned site. The containment and treatment of the construction site could add more than \$1 mil-

LETTERS

lion to the cost of the school, which was not included in any initial estimates. Finally, the implications of undertaking such an endeavor in close proximity to an existing middle school has been neither explored by the board nor open for public discussion.

How could the board justify the construction of a new school at such a site given these limitations without seriously exploring other options (e.g., another location or additions to existing schools)?

The impact of closing CES cannot be fully appreciated until after it is too late. I doubt that the residents of the Union Mill, Willow Springs, Fairfax Villa and Oakview elementary school systems even know decisions are being discussed that will have a significant impact on where their children will attend school in the coming years.



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

Approximately 85 people showed up to the June 10 meeting of the Fairfax County School Board to oppose the closing of Clifton Elementary School.

the pronouncement that keeping the school open is too expensive. That might be true, but more expensive than what? If staff and school board can't answer that question, how did they consider the alternatives and costs?

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Tip of the Iceberg

To the Editor:

The current deliberation about closing Clifton Elementary School has been broadly painted as a struggle for a small community to save its identity, with the focus on how a decision will impact Clifton. However, the closure of CES will be felt by communities from Lee's Corner to Silverbrook and most of those communities do not know about the very real potential of closing CES or why it is relevant to them. The closure of CES is the tip of the proverbial iceberg and the real mass of the issue lies below the surface — the disruption of elementary, middle and high school attendance areas for thousands of families. That redistricting plan is to be addressed only when the decision to close Clifton is made — too late to use CES as part of a broader solution.

The Fairfax County School Board anticipates overcrowding in Lees Corner, Waples Mill, Providence, Greenbriar East, Greenbriar West, Eagle View, Powell, Bull Run and London Towne elementary schools by the 2015-16 school year. The board's preferred strategy for addressing this overcrowd-

Ken Coon
Clifton

Don't Close Clifton E.S.

The following is an excerpt from a letter sent to the Fairfax County School Board.

Dear School Board Members:

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

ducted, so it is unclear at this time. A boundary study should be conducted before the school board is asked to make a decision whether to close Clifton Elementary.

The solution proposed by FCPS to build a new elementary school on the site of Liberty Middle School does not effectively solve the overcrowding problem because it is too far from the schools in along Route 29 and Interstate 66 corridor that are suffering from overcrowding. In a School Board work session held on June 29, Dean Tistadt, chief operating officer for FCPS, admitted that the Liberty site is not ideally located to solve the problem. The challenges of renovation of Clifton and overcrowding at schools in other parts of the county are two distinctly different problems that happen to be arising at the same time. FCPS needs to find a solution to the overcrowding problem in the area of the county where it exists — not Clifton.

Cindy Gugino
Fairfax

This Place Matters

To the Editor:

After six plus hours of factual, rational, well documented testimonies — and, yes, a little emotional participation from the students — the School Board not only appears unfazed and undeterred from their ignoble intent. There is no insurmountable obstacle to impede keeping the doors of Clifton Elementary open. One by one, through the course of a year, the community has taken off the table every single issue raised. Some had merit, many were unfounded, others irrelevant while plenty were based on data pulled out of thin air. The taxpayers should know that the studies on which the School Board's recommendations shall be based, cost us \$2 million.

This is how bad this study is. It apparently never included fundamental urban planning parameters to consider from the soils, road use and environmental impact to the most basic of aspects, the surplus existent in terms of student seats in this area (400+). It never mentioned that the site where Liberty Middle School sits and where very likely a new school to house Clifton Elementary students would also be located, is a field with naturally occurring asbestos. No mitigation, remediation measures, no environmental impact — you decide taxpayers.

In the very articulate and accurate words of a Clifton Community Parent & Leader, Elizabeth Schultz:

"There is no documentation through this entire study by the [Southwestern Regional Planning Committee], staff or School Board on impact of not building at Union Mill and Compton Roads [aka 'Liberty,' just more historically accurate to say former and more palatable] and still closing Clifton. Busing nearly 400 Clifton Elementary students into other existing schools will clearly have an impact. ... What, we do not know. So, how can there be a vote on something about which we have no data?"

"So we have spent \$2 million to determine we should: Build a school for nowhere — none of Clifton, Union Mills, Willow Springs or Centre Ridge elementary schools are, or are predicted to be, overcrowded — on 80.49 acres of asbestos and close a school at 98 percent capacity, with no fewer than 366 students enrolled in over 15 years and put those students into existing schools. This is an answer for which there is no problem."

The community of Clifton should make history by making their voices heard and by nominating their school to the same registry of historic buildings/places/monuments to which the town belongs. The National Trust for Historic Preservation as well as the APVA and VDHR offer a myriad of solutions and resources under a very sound axiom:

"It pays to preserve." We would be saving Clifton's history, the taxpayers' money and our children's beloved and still totally functional school. This place matters.

Lin-Dai Kendall
Fairfax Station

Clifton a 'Most Unique School'

To the Editor:

Several years ago, I attended Clifton Elementary School from kindergarten through sixth grade, and I must say that when I discovered

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 7

that this school may be closed down, I was completely devastated.

Most of my childhood memories come from this school and who I have become began to take shape when I attended this school.

Clifton Elementary School is the most unique school I have ever known and was the one place where I not only felt that I was receiving the best education, but one of the few places I have ever been in my life where I could unleash the full potential of my imagination and creativity.

I do not know of any other schools that are so special and magical for a child to experience these crucial years of their lives.

The school bus would take me and my neighbors to school every morning and the feeling of crossing the railroad tracks through old Town Clifton and climbing up that hill to this wonderful, warm, welcoming place is a feeling I will never forget.

A small school, with faculty and staff that have always been warm, everyone knows you, and you can always find a helping hand.

The only place I know where students can take daily adventures, picnics, down the hill into town and be in the middle of nature while socializing with teachers and other students in Clifton park. I remember the science trips out into the woods and down to the creek to study different species of birds, tadpoles/other amphibians and bugs.

I always loved hearing the music from [music teacher Beth] Lytle's class that would echo down the hallways. I could bring out my full potential in art and science class and will never forget painting murals in the hallways, which are still there till this day, I see my mural every time I go to vote in my lovely little school. This is just an example of the heart of this tiny little school, even after 20 years, they kept my mural on the wall, untouched so future students could be inspired by the spirit of this great school.

I remember growing crystals in science class, making pyramids out of sugar cubes in history class, celebrating Colonial Day, Thanksgiving, Medieval Day, Field Day, following leprechaun footprints in the halls on St. Paddy's Day, flying my kite on the field, rolling down the grassy hills with friends, the egg drop contest and a million other memories.

Please do not take this away from us, I am speaking for my generation, past generations, present and future generations of Clifton kids.

This school helped me become who I am now. I am a research scientist working towards my Ph.D. in biosciences, studying cancer, schizophrenia and the environment. I also work with several non-profits in animal rescue/rehabilitation and nature/wildlife conservation.

I am an artist and a writer. I am currently writing a children's book, and I remember the endless books that my teachers would read to me back at Clifton elementary

school which are now my inspiration. I will never forget Mrs. McPhee, my favorite teacher of all time, my third grade teacher who supported me and told me to stick to my dreams of being an artists and scientist.

I am also a counselor for disabled individuals that has helped me pay my tuition in my Ph.D. program, I remember the wonderful program Clifton Elementary had that assisted disabled students.

Please help the Fairfax County School Board consider alternative, more affordable renovations to keep Clifton Elementary School open, the community is working together to make this happen and we need those making the final decisions to pay attention.

Clifton is not Clifton without this remarkable school. If you take this away from our community you will take away a light that exists at the top of that hill. Please do not take that away from us.

Michelle Raiszadeh
Clifton

High School Boundaries

To the Editor:

As a resident of Clifton/Fairfax Station, I have been following the debate over closing Clifton Elementary. I would strongly like to see it remain open. Many of our homes are spread out with a more rural feel, a

unique setting for Fairfax County. But with all the beauty of our setting, there are downsides for families with children. The young children of this community are isolated. We do not have sidewalks or bike paths that connect us, only winding roads that are not safe for walking or biking. It was not until my children attended Clifton Elementary that we felt a sense of community and discovered where the children live around here.

I have children at Clifton and Robinson Secondary, from sixth through 12th grade. An even more disruptive issue, possibly resulting in a more heated discussion, seems to lack detail in the debate. What will happen with high school redistricting? All of Clifton Elementary currently feeds Robinson Secondary with seventh-12th grades. I have searched for information about how our high school assignments will work. Will current high school students have a choice of remaining at Robinson? Will middle schoolers? With children spanning six years at Robinson, not only will our children be separated from established friends, sports teams and academic programs, many families will be faced with splitting themselves between schools for years. I am concerned about the lack of information on what the School Board plans to do with high school redistricting and options for current Robinson students and their families.

Carolyn Rathburn
Clifton



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LETTERS

Keep Clifton School Open

To the Editor:

I cannot help on this Fourth of July weekend but to draw a parallel to our founding fathers and colonists fight for independence and Clifton Red's fight to preserve our school, Clifton Elementary. The colonists mobilized to protect their freedoms from a ruler that lived across the ocean. A ruler that never stepped upon their soil, lived their life, or shared their vision for the future. We, Clifton Red, are striving to protect our precious school, our way of life, our community's heart. Life as we know it is threatened by a single vote next July 8 by the Fairfax County School Board. The board, an entity disengaged from the reality of Clifton Elementary, is basing this critical vote on erroneous statistics, manipulation of data and hidden agendas.

We, Clifton Red, have worked tirelessly that last year to present accurate data to the School Board. For example, we have illustrated how we can cost effectively provide safe drinking water, we have repeatedly stated that we will happily forego a full scale renovation, we have proposed plans to expand our school to 550 students, we have provided demographic projects based on current trends. We have reached out to the School Board to find a win-win. Clifton Red wants to be a part of a solution. We ask that the Fairfax County School Board open its eyes to the facts and its ears to the words of its constituents.

Board members, now it is your time to do the right thing, do the only thing grounded in fiscal responsibility and common sense. Vote to keep Clifton Elementary open.

Lanette Shea Waite
Clifton

Save Clifton E.S.

To the Editor:

I would like to add to your coverage of the possible closure of Clifton Elementary School. The Clifton population is more than 200 people within the town limits. The school serves more than 200 families and has one of the largest geographic boundaries in Fairfax County. Clifton has many middle class families in the area, and many families that have lived in the area for generations. Clifton is no more affluent than other areas in Fairfax County, such as McLean, Vienna and Great Falls.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

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Town Hall Meeting

On July 8, Governor McDonnell's Commission on Government Reform & Restructuring will be holding a public town hall in McLean. The public is invited to share suggestions about what state government is doing well and how Virginia can improve its services to taxpayers. Members from the commission, as well as Administration staff, will be on hand to take comments and answer questions from the public. They will then report back on their findings to the Governor. July 8, 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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Let's Get Fit

BY ARIELLE RETTING
THE CONNECTION



DONATED PHOTO

After 17 years of climbing the corporate ladder, 30-year-old Sherry Nicely noticed she was getting winded — both metaphorically and physically.

“I was just never really satisfied or fulfilled, and sitting behind a desk doing accounting I realized that my health wasn’t as good as it could be,” Nicely said. “You know, that sick and tired of being sick and tired kind of feeling? I thought I was way too young to feel that way.”

So Nicely did what most people do: she joined a gym.

“I couldn’t wait to come home from a stressful day at work and go to the gym to work out my frustration,” Nicely said.

But a gym membership didn’t quench her craving for fitness. She immediately got a personal trainer for a few sessions to take her fitness to the next level.

“It was my passion and my hobby,” Nicely said. “I constantly had my head buried in a fitness or nutrition book or magazine.”

While visiting her family on vacation four years ago, her mother found an article about becoming a personal trainer in one of those very fitness magazines. She asked her daughter, “Why don’t you do this?”

For the first time Nicely began thinking about turning her passion into a career. “It never occurred to me to do what I love for a living,” Nicely said.

After eight months of hard thinking and

Local woman, 40, trains as body-builder.

tough training, she became a certified personal trainer, quit corporate America and took a job as a personal trainer at Fitness Together in Alexandria. She felt right at home at the Fitness Together franchise, saying, “I knew that was the right place for me.”

After a few months working in Alexandria, Nicely took the plunge and opened a franchise in Fairfax. She believed the private, one-on-one personal training was something she could offer to Fairfax-suburban neighborhoods that no other franchise could.

“I truly feel that we put the personal back in personal training,” Nicely said. “I could actually see changes and positive results I was making in my clients’ lives. Two of my clients have changed so much that they became personal trainers themselves.”

Fast forward a year and the Fitness Together franchise in Fairfax was a success. Everything finally fell into place, and her world began to calm down. That is, until friend and employee Fernanda Winchester asked Nicely if she had ever entered a body-building competition. Now she was ready for another adventure.

Now 40, Nicely began training for her first figure competition, a division of bodybuilding meant for “very fit, well-toned but a softer body type” than what most people envision when they hear the word ‘bodybuilder.’ The competition is drug and steroid-free, usually requiring drug tests or polygraphs beforehand.

“My only goal was at the age of 40 to

step on stage and look like I belonged there,” Nicely said. “I didn’t go in thinking, ‘I’m going to win this.’ It was just, ‘What am I made of?’ ‘Do I have the discipline?’”

Nicely proved she had the discipline when she completed the Mount Rogers figure competition, but had a hard time sticking to her strict diet due to cravings when she began training for her second figure competition, the Natural North American last May.

“I’m human,” Nicely said of her struggle. “I’m like any other woman. I don’t pretend that I’m not. When I’m in training it’s very disciplined and strict, but it’s worth every minute.”

Difficult as it may be, the

training and experience don’t just help Nicely, but aid her in becoming the best trainer she can be.

“The discipline that the body figure competition requires has caused her to have more sympathy and offer more inspiration to her clients,” said Nicely’s friend Dave Sutton. He described her new-found interest in competing “a full-blown passion for fitness and nutrition.”

But Nicely is so much more than just a trainer to her clients; she’s living proof that hard work, discipline and goals are all a person needs to change his or her life.

“A lot of women have a myth that they’re just going to look a certain way when they get beyond 40, and I’m here to teach them and prove them differently,” Nicely said.

“My only goal was at the age of 40 to step on stage and look like I belonged there.”

— Sherry Nicely, personal trainer

“Once you make up your mind and you want something, your body will follow.” — Sherry Nicely

How do you stay fit at 40?

I make my health a priority. Women tend to put everything else above themselves ... and ignore their own health. I make it a priority. I take the time to prepare my own meals so that I’m not caught out somewhere without proper nutrition. I exercise on a daily basis, so there’s never a day that I’m just sitting. Our bodies weren’t meant to sit.

Is it harder to stay in shape as you get older?

Our bodies absolutely change as we age, especially women. The only thing is adapting to the changes as they come. I don’t think it’s any easier, or harder, to stay in shape at 40 as it was at 25. Once you make up your mind and you want something, your body will follow. It’s easy. It gets hard when you think of diet as a bad four-letter-word [instead of]

fuel for your body and nutrition.

What does fitness mean to you?

Fitness to me means the fountain of youth. I’m 40 and I’ve never felt better, looked better [and] had more energy than I do right now, and that’s because I made fitness and nutrition a lifestyle. It’s not a quick fix. This is the only body we have. We don’t get to trade it in. Some people take better care of their cars than they do their body. It’s got to last me for the long haul, and I hope that’s a long time, so I’ve got to take care of it.

What’s an easy thing to do to live a healthier lifestyle?

Drink water. It is the number one. I fill this [gallon-sized jug] every morning with water, and I don’t go to bed that night until I drink at least 1 gallon of water. I don’t drink any sodas, anything else but water,

because you really don’t have time when you’re trying to drink a gallon. Our bodies are made up of over 70 percent water. It’s essential for every function of the human body, yet so many people don’t even have a sip during the day. By drinking more water you have energy, your body functions properly, your skin gets clear, your hair, your nails, everything a woman would want.

What advice do you have for women who need to get fit?

If possible, hire a personal trainer. A personal trainer will guide you through proper exercise technique and design an individualized program to fit your needs. They will also provide motivation and encouragement. Start small and plan on working out two to three times a week and stay consistent ... results will happen.

— ARIELLE RETTING



PHOTO BY ARIELLE RETTING/THE CONNECTION

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.

FRIDAY/JULY 9

Pietasters. 7:30 p.m. Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy, Alexandria. Ska music. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

Kingstowne Farmers Market. 4-7 p.m. at Kingstowne Town Center, 5955 Kingstowne Center, Alexandria.

SATURDAY/JULY 10

Naturalist-Guided Kayak Trips. 9 a.m. at Pohick Bay Regional Park, 400 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. For age 16 and older. All equipment and instruction provided. \$30. Register at www.meetup.com/Northern-Virginia-Conservation-Trust.

Workhouse Ice Cream Social. 1-4 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Enjoy ice cream while listening to classic rock band Crosscut. Al fresco artist demos on the Quad. \$15.

www.workhousearts.org.

Burke Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke.

B-Sides Music Presents: Local Motive Tour. Critical Propeller, The Philistines, Pay the Tab, All in Karma, Electric Meadows. All Ages. \$10 in Advance, \$12 Day of Show. Doors open 4 p.m. Show at 4:15 p.m. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The Fairfax County

Master Gardeners Association gives tips and strategies. Adults. 703-978-5600.

SUNDAY/JULY 11

Gunston Conversations. 2-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall Plantation, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Converse with 18th-century costumed characters. Discuss politics, fashionable dress, or the doings of the neighborhood with Founder George Mason's family and friends. \$9, \$8 seniors, \$5 ages 6-18, under 6 free. 703-550-9220 or www.gunstonhall.org.

Lorton Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton.

Gorilla Music Presents: Mystify, The Decade Sleeps, Julie Hall, The More You Know, Knife at a Gunfight, Satellites on Parade, Crucial Pain, Forever is Forever, Legacy, Turn Around, Chute. All Ages. \$8 in Advance, \$10 Day of Show. Doors open 4 p.m. Show at 4:15 p.m. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940.

Fest-Ability Picnic to Celebrate All Abilities. 1-4 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King Street, Alexandria. Sponsored by the Virginia Ability Alliance. Fun, activities, information, and resources for northern Virginians with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Free. www.TheArcofNoVa.org.

MONDAY/JULY 12

Friends of the Library Meeting. 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Join our Friends group for their monthly meeting. Adults. 703-978-5600.



Art Exhibit at JCC

The JCC of Northern Virginia Bodzin Art Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of a new art exhibit called **Summer Colors** running June 22 through Aug. 10. Barbara Kaplowitz's exhibit delights us with its playful paper mache birds and stunning photographs that explore the natural beauty of flowers. Carol S. Zilliacus works magic with her polymer clay jewelry and more. The artist reception is Thursday, July 8, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY/JULY 13

Sound Waves. 2:30 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Share the nautical, nonsense of Charlie Williams, the Noiseguy, as sound effects bring splashy stories to life. Age 6-12. 703-971-0010.

Groovy Reading. 2:30 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Sing and dance with Groovy Nate and his puppets. All ages. 703-339-7385.

Let's Hear It for the Girls. 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Mother-daughter book

discussion group. "The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate" by Jacqueline Kelly. Age 9-11 with adult. 703-978-5600.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 14

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra's Brass Quintet. 7 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

Holy Ghost Tent Revival. 7:30 p.m. Lee District Park, 6601 Telegraph Road, Franconia. Indie Americana music. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

Soilwork, Death Angel, Augury, Mutiny Within, Swashbuckle, Cab Ride Home. All Ages. \$22 in Advance, \$25 Day of Show, \$50 VIP. Doors open 6 p.m. Show at 6:15 p.m. All VIP ticket holders will be admitted to the venue one hour before door time and will get a poster from the venue signed commemorating the event. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940.

Rocknecros. 2:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Join Coach Cotton, Williebob, and Boogie Woogie Bennie for a rockin' good time. All ages. 703-249-1520.

Sound Waves. 10:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Share the nautical, nonsense of Charlie Williams, the Noiseguy, as sound effects bring splashy stories to life. Age 6-12. 703-978-5600.

THURSDAY/JULY 15

Hot Topic Presents: The Sacred Ceremony Tour. Black Veil Brides, SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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❖ **Greendale Golf Course** at 6700 Telegraph Road in Alexandria is an 18-hole, par-70 regulation course with 148 acres of rolling terrain and asphalt cart paths. The 17th hole provides a view of the entire course and surrounding area. Greens fees are \$24 for nine holes and \$35 for 18 holes in prime time (weekends and holidays, mid-March through mid-December and Fridays-Sundays and holidays May-September) and \$19 for nine holes and \$28 for 18 holes in non-prime time. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/Greendale or call 703-971-3788 for more information.

❖ **Burke Lake Golf Course** at 7315 Ox Road is a slightly wooded 18-hole, par-three course for all ability levels. Burke Lake also has a lighted driving range with 40 hitting stations, a practice bunker and an 8,000 square foot putting green. The course's sig-



A flag at Laurel Hill Golf Club

nature hole is the 177-yard second, which features weeping willow trees and a fountain on the right side. The hole has a severely sloping green from back to front. Greens fees are \$18 for nine holes and \$25 for 18 holes in primetime (weekends and holidays, mid-March through mid-December) and \$15 for nine holes and \$21 for 18 holes in non-prime time. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/burkegolf/ or call 703-323-1641 for more information.

❖ **The Pinecrest Golf Course** at 6600 Little River Turnpike in Alexandria is a nine-hole, 2,462-yard, par-35 course. The course features several challenging hills and ponds. Prime time greens fees are \$21, \$14 at twilight. Non-prime time fees are \$17, \$11 at twilight. Winter rates from mid-December to mid-March are \$15 daily. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/pinecrest/ or call 703-941-1061 for more information.

❖ **Woody's Golf Range** at 11801 Leesburg Pike in Herndon was opened by Woody FitzHugh in 1980 after time on the tournament trail with the idea of serving the golfing public with good golf balls, good mats and well maintained fairways. Also offering a driving range with artificial and Bermuda grass tees and the PGA sanctioned driving range game, Ironmasters Challenge. Call 703-430-8337 or visit woodysgolf.com.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL K. BOHN

Mike Kirby, a George Mason University graduate, was the runner-up in the Virginia state amateur tournament on July 3.

Kirby Second in State

Pushes Virginia Beach's Brinson Paolini to the final hole.

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN
THE CONNECTION

Mike Kirby, a 25-year-old Falls Church resident, was the runner-up in the 97th Virginia Amateur Championship on July 3 at Alexandria's Belle Haven Country Club. Kirby, a financial analyst for the U.S. Department of Defense, took the two-time defending champion, Brinson Paolini of Virginia Beach, to the final hole before losing 1-up.

"If I can hang with him, for a working guy, that's not too shabby."

— Mike Kirby

The 32nd and lowest seed in the match play portion of the tournament, Kirby defied the bracket odds and won his way into the final.

"I tried to put a little heat on Brinson, but he responded to it well," said Kirby.

Kirby, a graduate of George Mason University, was pleased that he could keep up with a full-time golfer.

"If I can hang with him, for a working guy, that's not too shabby," he said afterward. "The pressure is just not there anymore, so I just go out and give it my best shot." The back-and-forth match came down to the 36th and final hole, with Paolini 1-up. Both players hit their approaches into greenside bunkers, but each left his sand shot about 3 feet from the cup. Slightly away, Paolini sank his. He could only pick up his coin and congratulate the state's first three-time winner.

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Pane-e-Vino restaurant workers cater to parade patrons.



Garrett Smith plays Guitar Hero outside the 'Games 2u' trailer.

Parade's Over, Let's Party

Celebration follows 20th Annual Independence Day Parade in Lorton

Lorton's 20th Annual Independence Day Parade was only the start of the community's Fourth of July celebration. Parade viewers and participants enjoyed a party at the Lorton Town Center, featuring music, community displays, fire trucks and entertainment.



Gunston Hall representatives sport colonial costumes.



King Sandoval prepares a snow cone for a customer.

PHOTOS BY JENNY KRASHIN/THE CONNECTION

Healthplex Plan

FROM PAGE 3

portation impact that the facility would have on surrounding roads, namely the intersection at Lorton and Silverbrook roads. Several Federation members, including President Peter Dickinson and Land Use Chairman Linwood Gorham, said that they feel that Lorton Road is already at its maximum capacity. They that the Healthplex would make traffic on the road even worse.

"I remain constantly concerned about the intersection," Dickinson said. "So, one of the concerns I have, which is beyond Inova, is are we reaching a capacity of what the intersection can hold?"

According to Gorham and Dickinson, other factors exist that could prove to be detrimental to the transportation situation as well that concern the Federation. Gorham said that although a traffic study has been completed on the site, it did not take into account the planned development of other projects in the immediate area, especially the Lorton Prison Adaptive Reuse project and the widening of Lorton Road. He said that these projects would bring much more traffic into the area themselves, let alone the impact of the Healthplex.

"We do believe that there will be a future problem [with traffic]," Gorham said. "The reuse project will contribute to more traffic and the widening of Lorton Road will increase cut-through traffic."

The second phase of the planned construction also could negatively impact traffic, Gorham said, and is a main point of contention between the Federation and Inova. After the first phase is completed, which consists of the construction of the main two-story Healthplex, the second phase, the erection of a five-story, 75,000 square foot facility whose use is yet to be determined. According to Hall, Inova wants to put medical offices in the building, but the Federation is opposed to that use, and instead prefers a hotel.

Though the Federation was initially opposed to a hotel in that location, Gorham said that the Federation understands that Inova has to make money on the project somehow, and therefore, a hotel is the best option because it would generate less traffic than outpatient offices. However, Hall said that the second phase may not even break ground for several years, and as a result, Inova does not want to be tethered to a specific use as the market may change.

"It could be 15 to 20 years before the second building goes up," Hall said. "You may want a hotel now, but maybe then you won't. It would be silly and unproductive to tie Inova's hands on this issue now. Who could have known what this area would be like 20 years ago, and look at it now."

While the Federation will continue to meet with Inova to mitigate the traffic impact as much as possible, the plan will nonetheless move ahead in the public process. According to Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon), the Board of Supervisors will vote on the plan amendment at its Tuesday, July 27 meeting. Though the Federation is insisting on a hotel and enhanced traffic mitigation above and beyond what Inova put in the updated amendment, it can be passed even if its conditions are not met. If the board approves the amendment, Hall said, construction would soon follow, with completion slated for the last quarter of 2012.

"The reuse project will contribute to more traffic and the widening of Lorton Road will increase cut-through traffic."

— Linwood Gorham

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

Vampires Everywhere!, Modern Day Escape, Get Scared. All Ages. \$12 in Advance, \$14 Day of Show. Doors open 5 p.m. Show at 5:15 p.m. Locals Needed, contact thompson@outerloopresents.com to play. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940.

Book Discussion Group. 7 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Title: Kindred by Octavia Butler. 703-971-0010.

Lorton Book Club. 7 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. "Hannah's Dream" by Diane Hammond. 703-339-7385.

FRIDAY/JULY 16

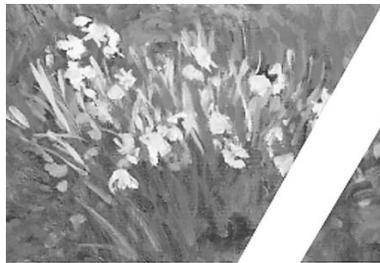
Sun of a Beach. 7:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Reggae pop rock. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

Kingstowne Farmers Market. 4-7 p.m. at Kingstowne Town Center, 5955 Kingstowne Center, Alexandria.

Gorilla Music Presents: Histrionic Witch, Silence the Blind, Deranged Theory, Engulfed in Flames, Resurgency, Manticore, Burnside Landing, Gomorrah, The 6th Degree and more. All Ages. \$10 in Advance, \$12 Day of Show. Doors open 6 p.m. Show at 6:15 p.m. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940.

SATURDAY/JULY 17

Dead Men's Hollow. 7:30 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Bluegrass, country, blues and gospel. \$10. www.workhousearts.org.



Diane Frykman



The FOUR SEASONS



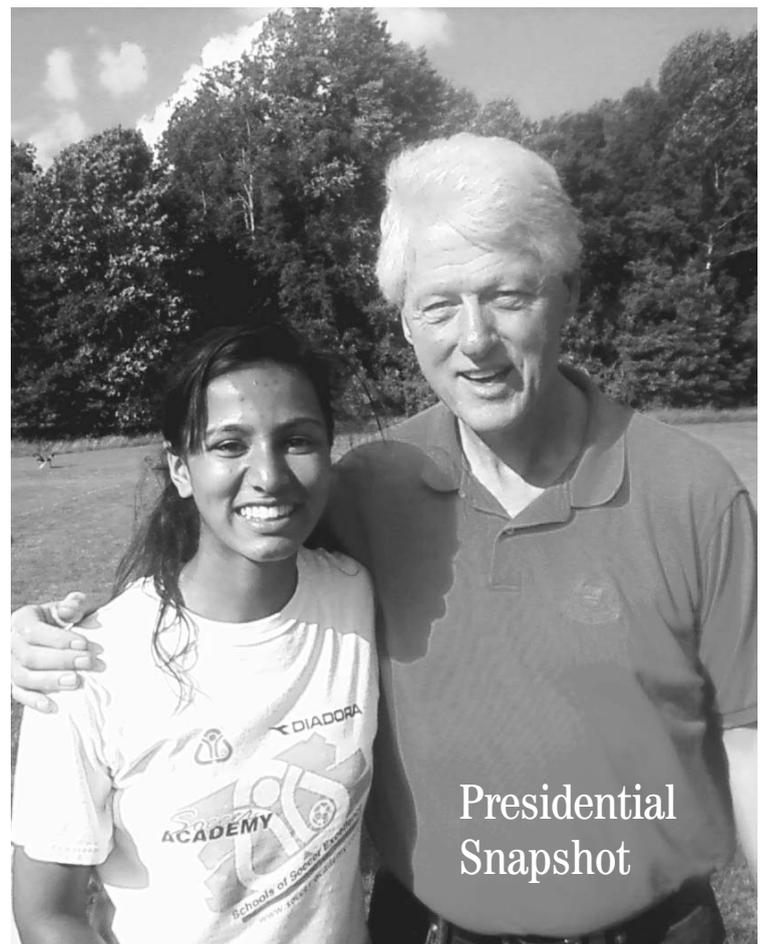
Burke artist Diane Shiely Frykman displays her work at Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria.

Frykman Shows 'Four Seasons'

Diane Shiely Frykman, a Burke painter, will exhibit still life and landscape oil paintings, from June 30 to Aug. 29., in the Historic House at Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria for her show, "The Four Seasons." A reception will take place July 11, from 1-3 p.m. The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public.

Frykman, an award-winning romantic realism oil painting artist, was an art teacher in Fairfax County where she was given the Art Teacher of the Year award. She currently operates a studio in the Lorton Workhouse for the Arts located at 9601 Ox Road, Lorton, where she is one of more than 100 juried visual artists with studios. At her studio she teaches adults in the "Old Master Method" of oil painting.

Green Spring Gardens is located at 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. For more, call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgg/. The gardens and house are open Wednesday-Sunday, from 12-4:30 p.m.



Presidential Snapshot

Tanya Groover of Clifton with former President Bill Clinton at Popes Head Park on June 13. Groover met Clinton while at All-Star practice. The former president and his wife, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, were watching a game on a nearby field.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

Our community is challenging the Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) staff plan to close Clifton Elementary for three reasons:

❖ FCPS has overestimated renovation requirements, which is not fiscally responsible. Clifton Elementary needs minimal renovation. The cost of a new school is significantly higher than the cost to renovate Clifton Elementary.

❖ The county staff has not identified a definitive plan for the children who currently attend Clifton Elementary. FCPS staff acknowledges that asbestos issues may limit their ability to build on the Liberty Middle School site. There are also many unresolved traffic and transportation issues on Union Mill Road.

❖ Closing Clifton Elementary does not fix the overcrowding. FCPS staff admitted in the June School Board meeting that additions will still be necessary at the most overcrowded schools, because both Clifton and the Liberty site are too far away. Closing Clifton and building a new school will result in massive boundary changes affecting as many as 10 other elementary schools.

The decision to close Clifton Elementary is not just a Clifton issue. It is an issue of fiscal responsibility, informed decision making and fixing infrastructure and overcrowding with the minimum negative impact to schools and communities.

Lisa Wax
Clifton

Listen to Clifton

To the Editor:

I encourage you to throw the weight of your news-

paper behind saving Clifton Elementary.

I live in West Springfield and want to encourage you to fight as hard as possible to keep Clifton Elementary School open. The arguments for keeping it open have been expressed many times by many people. As I see it, this is a rush to judgment decision that will cut the heart out of the Clifton community. I have driven past that school for 32 years since moving into Springfield, and have always thought what an ideal setting for an elementary school. It is like a one room schoolhouse in the middle of a hustle, bustle county. Killing that school exemplifies what is wrong with our society.

Evidently, the Clifton community is strongly behind keeping their school. They should be listened to.

Shannon Coffey
Springfield

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

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

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Alexandria VA 22314
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By e-mail: south@connectionnewspapers.com

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Tea Party Celebrates July 4th

FROM PAGE 4

is to hold these politicians' feet to the fire. This [movement] is not a magic bullet to get into office."

Several candidates in state elections in 2011 also made appearances, both to rally the crowd and to get a head start on campaigning. Steve Hunt, defeated by Sen. David Marsden (D-37) in a January special election to fill Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli's (R) vacant Senate seat, announced that he would be running for the seat again in 2011. He said that the state of local politics has gotten worse since he ran for office just less than seven months ago. He echoed the Tea Party mantra of the U.S. Constitution being the blueprint for the country.

"What we're seeing today is a bureaucratic tyranny, which has grown too much and is trying to take too much of our power," Hunt said. "We need to get back to elected officials serving the people and being a watchdog for the people."

Republican Scott Martin, who will be challenging Sen. George Barker (D-39) in November 2011, followed Hunt, and spoke out in support of several issues. Martin said that he is running on a platform of lower taxes, spending cuts and a smaller government, and also voiced his unabashed support for the Second Amendment, including the abolishment of the newly passed state law prohibiting concealed weapons on college campuses.

"Extend liberty," Martin said. "It's that simple, and that's what I want to do. Guns are the tools our found-

ing fathers used to gain our freedom. They are something to be feared, because they are tools of liberty."

David Dotson, the Libertarian candidate for the 11th Congressional District and challenger to Republican Keith Fimian and incumbent U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), concluded the candidates' portion, stressing the need for individual liberty. Dotson said that he considers himself straight out of the Ron Paul mold, and that he looks to Paul for definitive answers on important issues. Dotson, new to politics, said that he is in favor of abolishing the IRS, limiting the power of the Federal Reserve and U.S. Treasury and is against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, saying he supports the troops but not the government's "empire building."

"I don't want to be a politician, that is not why I am here," Dotson said. "I ran because I am upset and want to see change. The Federal Reserve can print money whenever it wants, and the Treasury just borrows it from China whenever it wants, and we're not going to be able to cut spending as long as this is happening."

Mike McCue, president of the Virginia Gun Owners Coalition, dressed as Patrick Henry and recited his "Give me liberty or give me death" speech.

"The Tea Party movement is inspiring us ordinary citizens all over the world, and we're with these guys," said Daniel Rowe, visiting from England. "What happens in this country ripples across the world, and when you elect the right government, it helps everyone."



Siblings for a Cause

ABC News Weather Anchor Sam Champion visited Fairfax on Friday, July 2 for a fund-raising event for the Virginia Autism Project. Champion's sister Teresa, a resident of Fairfax Station, is the Northern Virginia director for the Autism Project. She was recently profiled as his personal inspiration on Good Morning America's 'Be Inspired' series. Teresa Champion, whose son has autism, advocates locally for children and adults with autism. Proceeds of Friday's fund raiser will benefit the Virginia Autism Project's efforts to enact autism insurance reform in Virginia.

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LEGAL NOTICE
The following store will be holding a public auction on 07-21-10
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Storage Mart 1851
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unit#4068 Robert L. Baldwin/Robert Baldwin Tote bed, clothes
unit#4175 St. Productions/ Jose Thomas Vargas Boxes,
computer, ladder

32 Lost

* LOST DOG *

"Casey" is a male,
38lb Beagle/Sheltie mix last
seen 6/20 by the Kohl's
department store in Burke.
Please contact Adrienne at 703-675-2849
if you have any information

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