

Rescued Dog

PET CONNECTION, PAGE 3



Peg Owens' daughter helped her find a dog to adopt. 'She did all the research,' says Owens. 'We went to a rescue event and brought him home,' she says of the German Spitz-mix Frosty. He was a bit younger than the rescue group realized and chewed up a lot of shoes. 'Now he's in to white socks. He'll knock over a laundry basket to get them.'

**Friendly
Competition**
SPORTS, PAGE 14

**Strays Find
New Homes**
NEWS, PAGE 4

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CALENDAR, PAGE 13 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 14 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 17

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PET CONNECTION



Bill Rufus of Fairfax, offers Fang, left, and Bacon a treat. They are 'puggles' – pug/beagle mixes. Rufus' girlfriend inspired him to get a puggle after meeting Fang. So he recently adopted Bacon through the petfinder.com website. 'It's nice to have someone that is so happy to see you when you come home,' he says. He notes that having a dog brings a person into the community to meet his or her neighbors, particularly those with dogs, although, he jokes, you often learn the dogs' names first.



Enrique Tapia and Diane Brown-Tapia are pictured here with their K-9 family, Shelby, an Australian shepherd; Ein, a collie mix; and Darby, a German shepherd mix.

Dog Park Party

Blake Lane Dog Park place to be for dogs and their owners.

Stop by the Blake Lane Off-Leash Dog Area on any morning or evening, and you can find a collection of happy dogs frolicking with old and new friends. Otherwise knows

as the Oakton Dog Park, the large fenced-in area provides dogs and their two-legged companions with a place to socialize, run around and have a good time together.

— PHOTOS BY DEB COBB



At left, Carol and Michael Wheeler just celebrated the year anniversary of adopting Morgan, their border collie/Jack Russel terrier mix. They decided to adopt Morgan after losing their previous dog and realizing they were miserable without a dog. Morgan had been abandoned in a field, found by a kill shelter and then rescued by a border collie rescue group.

John Allerton is pictured, right, with his plott hound Angus. Angus and John are regulars at the Oakton Dog Park. They found Angus through the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation. 'Angus picked us. We walked through the shelter and it was like he said, "I've been waiting for you,"' says John's father Dennis Allerton.



Police Charge Suspected Copper Thieves

City of Fairfax Police have charged three Maryland men who were apprehended by officers while allegedly attempting to steal copper from a utility storage yard, early Tuesday morning. Patrol officers responded July 27, shortly after 2:45 a.m., to a report of a theft in progress at the Verizon lot at 3174 Spring St. in the Fairfax Circle area.

As officers arrived, the suspects fled. But with help from a City of Fairfax police K-9 team and a Fairfax County Police helicopter, officers located the three suspects in the area and took them into custody without incident.

According to police, investigation revealed that the trio had gained access to the Verizon lot and allegedly tried to steal 8-foot sections of copper and about 200 feet of copper wire from a spool.

The three suspects were taken to the Adult Detention Center where a detective from the Criminal Investigations Division obtained warrants charging them with attempted grand larceny and possession of burglary tools.

Charged were Thomas James Mason, 27, of the 800 block of Herndon Court, Baltimore; Timothy Michael Baumgardner, 21, of 1100 block of Nanticoke St., Baltimore; and Kevin Jermain David Furman, 23, of 10 block of Charles Road, Linthicum, Md. Each was ordered held on \$10,000 bond. During the past year, thefts of copper have been reported from various locations within the City. At this time, the suspects in this case have not been connected to other thefts.

Construction Fraud Charged

An investigation by the City of Fairfax Police Department Criminal Investigations Division into a case of construction fraud resulted in the arrest of a Falls Church man. Mark Andrew Sands, 50, of the 3700 block of George Mason Drive, was charged with a felony count of false pretense and a misdemeanor count of having an improper contractor's license.

Police say that, on Dec. 18, 2009, a city resident reported that, in May 2009, she and her husband contracted with Sands — operating as Choice Design — to perform dry-wall work at their home and had given him money to buy materials for the project.

However, they allege that Sands subsequently failed to deliver the materials or perform the work and reportedly failed to respond to civil court actions to recover the money. Investigation allegedly revealed that Sands had made misleading statements to the victim about his license, insurance and start and finish dates for the project.

Police also contend that Sands had a Class C contractor's license, but reportedly contracted for a job requiring a Class A license. He was arrested July 9 and was later released on personal recognizance.

'Purr-sey Shore' Arrives At County Animal Shelter

The cats of the 'Purr-sey Shore' will be in residence at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter from now through Saturday, July 31. The Kit-uation, Kitty-D, J-Meow and the notorious Snoo-Kitty will make special appearances and be available for adoption during the week.

Visit the cast of "cat-acters" through Friday, from 12-6:30 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. As part of the shelter's special ExtravaCATza! adoption event, cats and kittens adopted from the shelter will receive a free spay or neuter. The shelter is at 4500 West Ox Road in Fairfax. For more information, call 703-830-1100.

PET CONNECTION

Helping Stray, Lost Animals

City of Fairfax Animal Control Section finds new homes for its furry friends.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax City's mission to provide the best quality of life possible to all of its residents apparently includes the furry, scaly and feathery ones, too.

The city's Animal Control Section, a division of the Fairfax City Police Department, is responsible for handling all animal-related issues within city lines. One of those duties is to care for lost or owner-released dogs and cats, and is a task the section's leader does not take lightly.

"We get animals [brought into the shelter] for a variety of reasons," said Animal Control Officer Joyce Holden, a 14-year section veteran. "We catch strays, we find them and there is the occasional drop-off. We're small, so we can only [shelter] a few animals at a time, but because we're small, we can keep these animals until they are adopted."

Due to the small size of the city's Animal Control section, which consists of Holden and one part-time officer, the city has a partnership with Town and Country Animal Hospital, located on Fairfax Boulevard, to shelter the animals. After an animal comes into Animal Control custody, it is promptly brought to Town and Country, where it first receives a full examination. If the animal is healthy and its vaccinations current, it will be housed in a cage in the hospital and is fed and walked by volunteers until it is adopted or claimed by the owner.

In other cases, animals are brought into the shelter for biting a person or being overly aggressive. These animals, Holden said, work with an animal counselor that specializes in rehabilitating dogs and cats with behavioral issues until they are fit for adoption. According to Holden, more than 50 percent of the animals rescued and brought to the hospital are



Animal Control Officer Joyce Holden and Ben, a 3-year-old cocker spaniel.

claimed by their owners soon thereafter, as most ran away or escaped from their homes. Regardless of the animal's situation, however, as long as it can be nursed back to health, it will be housed until it is adopted.

"The city is no-kill with its rescued animals," said Adrienne Patton, an employee at the hospital "It could be days, it could be weeks or even months, but we hold these animals until they are adopted."

Currently, the city has only two dogs and one cat that is has up for adoption, but at any given time, that number fluctuates. Animal Control handles about 115 to 130 rescue and adoption cases a year, but that this year, due to the down economy, has seen a slight uptick in cases. Holden said that Animal Control has taken custody of four more animals than usual so far this year, as foreclosure and job

SEE FAIRFAX CITY, PAGE 5

"We just want to see [the animals] happy."

— **Adrienne Patton,**
Town and Country
Animal Hospital

Adopt an Animal

Go to <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/animals/animals.asp> and click on the link on the left entitled "Adopt-A-Pet" to see all of the animals that the City of Fairfax's Animal Control Section has for adoption.



Holden cradles a 4-week-old cat found by the side of the road. The cat will be kept until it is 7-weeks-old.

PHOTOS BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION



PET CONNECTION

Fairfax City Shelter

FROM PAGE 4

loss has forced more owners to give up their pets.

In addition, Holden said that the popularity of pit bull has risen, and in turn, the number given up for adoption has increased as inexperienced owners have trouble dealing with them. Though Animal Control will

take on these pit bulls, the increased number has Holden alarmed. Pit bulls and other large dogs, she said, are harder to find owners for, while small dogs and pure breeds typically find homes quickly.

"Bigger dogs are given up more, and typically don't get picked up right away," Holden said. "The cute little furry ones go much faster."

The adoption process, Holden said, can be quite difficult, so Animal Control must use a variety of means to find owners for its animals. Holden said that Animal Control advertises all of the animals it has for adoption on the city's Web site and on PetFinder.com, but also works with several area rescue groups. Each weekend, a volunteer from the Homeless Animal Rescue Team, based in Fairfax Station, goes to Town and County to pick up the city's animals and takes them to adoption events around the county.

The prospective owner must first obtain

a city dog license from the police department and fill out other assorted forms there. The individual must also pay a \$25 boarding fee, a \$25 pick up fee and around \$200 to cover the cost of spaying or neutering and vaccinations.

"If the animal is here for a short time, we're happy to see it find a new home so fast," Patton said.

"But it's when they're here for a long time that it's sad, not only because you hate to see them in cages for days on end, but also because you get attached to them. We just want to see them happy."

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PET CONNECTION



Ron and I met our wonderful dogs while we were volunteering for Homeless Animals Rescue Team (HART). Elvis and Penny grew up together, so when we heard that someone had applied to adopt just Elvis, we applied for both of them so that they could stay together. Six months later, I was in charge of handling Scout and Star at six consecutive three-hour adoption events. By that time, I was totally in love with them, so we adopted them, too. We are quite a little parade when we go for our neighborhood walks.

We still enjoy volunteering for HART. HART helps match up people with adoptable dogs by posting the dogs' photos and stories at www.hart90.org. Then at Saturday adoption events at area Petco stores, check the HART website for locations, people can meet the dogs that they've seen



Ron and Eileen Parlow of Fairfax with adopted rescue dogs Penny, beagle mix, 9; Star, Shih Tzu, 9; Elvis, Cocker spaniel, 5; and Scout, Shih Tzu, 9.

on the website. All-breed rescue organizations like HART do a wonderful job of helping people to find a dog that's perfect for them, in terms of personality, age, breed, activity level, etc. Another wonderful resource is www.petfinder.org where you can search for adoptable dogs by breed, age, and ZIP code. "Make adoption your first option!" It worked great for us.

— EILEEN PARLOW



My Dog Max

By JULIANN MAROYKA

My dog Max is such a handful
 But he's so cute and super lovable
 He's playful and funny and always hungry
 He loves to take rides in the car, even if we don't go very far
 He enjoys cuddling in bed

And gets up bright and early, ready to be fed
 He loves new toys
 Although they're always destroyed
 Yes, he's a licker
 Every day he licks quick and quicker
 My dog Max is such a handful
 But he's so cute and super loveable



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Nala Serves as Feline Volunteer

Nala, my cat, has a volunteer job. She serves as a therapy animal with Fairfax Pets on Wheels. I take her for regular visits at Heatherwood Center where she is joyfully received by staff and patients alike. It took me several weeks to teach Nala to wear a harness and walk on a leash as well as get used to riding in the car. I knew she needed something to do because, not long after I adopted her, she became bored and started getting into mischief. She opens the cupboards in the kitchen and bathrooms, knocks over wastepaper baskets to play with their contents and leaves things in my bed, on or under the furniture and on the kitchen counters. She also likes to rub on things, knocking the phone off its cradle, and jump high up on doorjamb and then slide down.



Nala volunteering.

She is very affectionate, loves attention and tolerates anything, including dogs.

— SONJA LAZEAR



Rescued Cats

I have nine rescue cats, three of which are blind since birth. They are all my 'Fur Babies.' I have six boys and three girls. Annie, Mickey, Rudy, Gizmo, Amber Lynn, Lula, Charlie, Tater and Little Vinny. I built their own playroom equipped with lots of toys and cat houses. Everyone should adopt a pet. They can bring such happiness to your life. — Helen DiTanna



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OPINION

Welcome to the Pet Connection

It would be easy, based on some measures, to say that some areas love their dogs more than others, although we are quite confident that most families love their dogs and other pets in a way that defies quantification.

Nevertheless, we will point out that the City of Alexandria, with a population of more than 150,000 and more than 70,000 households, is also home to 17 different dog parks, including both fenced and unfenced areas for dogs to run free of their leashes and play with other dogs. (Nationally, 39 percent of households average 1.7 dogs, so even assuming a normal level of dog ownership in Alexandria (we suspect it exceeds national numbers), there are likely more than 46,000 dogs. That's one dog park for every 2,700.

In Fairfax County, with a population of about 1,038,000 people and more than 393,000 households, statistics would predict at least 260,000 dogs, but only eight dog parks. That's one dog park for every 32,000 dogs or so ...

In Arlington, 217,000 people live in about

103,000 households, and a statistically likely 68,000 dogs also has eight dog parks, or one dog park for about every 8,500 dogs.

In Montgomery County, Md., about 970,000 people live in about 364,000 households, and so probably about 240,000 dogs, and just five dog parks, so more than 48,000 dogs per dog park.

Fortunately, we found no evidence of overcrowded dog parks in any of our areas, just happy dogs and owners enjoying one of the amenities of this area. And lots of dog parks mean less likelihood of dog owners running their dogs off their leashes in other less appropriate parks. In fact, the growing numbers of dog parks are just one more indicator of how important pets and animals are to us.

A third of local households are likely homes to cats, with the average household with cats having 2.4 cats, but there are not cat parks ... Most "cat people" agree that cats are safer indoors, although we all know exceptions.

Of all these animals, 19 percent of dogs and 22 percent of cats are adopted from animal shelters. Most pets (75 percent of dogs, 87 percent of cats) are spayed or neutered. There are so many pets that need homes, it's a local and national crisis. If you are considering adding a pet to your family, please consider the humane society, the shelter or a rescue organization.

In the pages of our Pet Connection this week, you'll find stories of many families and their pets, plus information on how and where to adopt dogs, cats, birds, small animals and even horses that desperately need homes.

For much more information, look online at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, and click on Pet Connection.

If you'd like to share information about other pet resources, or about your pet, we still look forward to hearing from you.

Statistics from U.S. Census and the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association 2009-2010 National Pet Owners Survey.

Keeping Our Eye On the Prize

To the Editor:

A number of community groups, newspapers and local politicians have criticized, often in strident tones, some recent decisions of the Fairfax County School Board. The decision to close Clifton Elementary School is one such example. According to the critics, members of the Board supposedly ignored the "wishes of the community," and relied too heavily on the superintendent and his professional staff. One editorial accused the Board of depriving the citizens of information, and adopting a "we know what's best" attitude. By ignoring the unprecedented amount of information the School Board makes available and the open nature of the Board's processes, the critics miss the mark.

The voters of Fairfax County elected the School Board — not single issue or self-appointed "community watchdog" groups — to exercise responsible stewardship over the education of our children. This means it is our job to work harder, study more and exercise sound judgment about what works best for all of Fairfax County and the children we serve. It means that the loudest, most persistent voices do not always carry the day, the supposed opinion of a "majority" of community members is not always right, and what may be the best decision for some community advocates is not always the best decision for all the children.

When former School Board

Chair Bob Frye used to say we must always "listen to the silence," he was reminding us to take account of the voices of those in our county who do not organize e-mail and petition drives, who do not hold mass rallies and who have never written a letter to the editor or a check to a candidate for School Board. As a result, we sometimes make decisions that, as one Clifton resident wrote to a Board member, "offend the rich and powerful." That comes with the territory.

What should not come with the territory, however, are disrespectful personal attacks on individual Board members and their integrity, whether from community members or other elected officials. And yet angry Clifton residents have sent hate mail to the homes of School Board members and called some Board members names that cannot be printed in the newspaper. One so-called community group has questioned not only the integrity of the Board, but also the competence of the superintendent and everyone who works for him.

That group, which has yet to offer any support for the Board, its budget or any of its decisions, apparently believes that recent gains in student achievement all happened by magic. A member of the Virginia House of Delegates accused one School Board member of "throwing Clifton children under the bus." Still another official threatened political retaliation against a member of the School Board. We would never tolerate

this behavior from our own children. We should not tolerate it from adults.

Even though we have to make decisions about many things, the Board must always focus on one thing: student achievement. By all measures, we are succeeding.

More children are achieving greater success than ever before. Achievement gaps are steadily shrinking. In some schools they have disappeared altogether. We have achieved our successes by working together with parents, teachers, administrators, and support staff. That is how we should be working.

At the end of the day, we must make decisions that focus on supporting our mission to "inspire, enable, and empower students to meet high academic standards, lead ethical lives, and demonstrate responsible citizenship."

When we start trying to please or pander to vocal, well-organized groups of single-issue advocates, or elected officials trying to make political hay, we will have lost sight of our goal. And when some Board members and the public treat the professional staff as adversaries, not as partners, student achievement will suffer. No one can afford that.

Stuart D. Gibson
Member, Fairfax County School Board
Hunter Mill District

Tessie Wilson
Member, Fairfax County School Board
Braddock District

Good Beginning

To the Editor:

As the newly elected President of the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, I have appreciated the efforts of the Fairfax County School Board over the past few months to address the issue of employee compensation.

The School Board's written commitment to direct the superintendent to develop an FY 2012 Proposed Budget that includes employee compensation increases for FCPS staff and to commit itself to compensation increases for FY 2012 displays a willingness to prioritize salary and benefit issues for the workforce.

In addition, the School Board recently passed the VRS Resolution, which absolves the burden (for new hires) of additional employee contributions for retirement.

This is a promising sign, considering FCPS' freezing of all employee salaries over the past two years. It is encouraging that the Board has identified that compensation is critical in maintaining a quality workforce and employee morale, which ultimately creates the greatest impact on student learning and achievement.

We thank all of them for their promise to care for their dedicated and caring employees.

In particular, I have noted the consistent, focused efforts of three Board members: Patty Reed (Providence), Sandy Evans (Mason) and Tina Hone (At-Large).

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

THE CONNECTION

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PET CONNECTION

Dog Parks

Talk of the Town



Photo by Deb Cobb/The Connection

Roxy, a Greater Swiss Mountain Dog, gives a high-5 for a treat from companion Agnes Vanek, while Vanek keeps the other pups who would also like a treat at bay at the Reston Dog Park.

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Sponsor: RestonDogs, Inc.

B BLAKE LANE
10033 Blake Lane, Oakton
Established: June 2000
Capacity: 25 dogs
Sponsor: OaktonDogs, Inc.

C CHANDON
900 Palmer Drive, Herndon
Established: January 4, 2003
Capacity: 42 dogs
Sponsor: Herndon Dogs, Inc.



Photo by Chloe Mulliner/The Connection

Olivia Wagner and her dogs Zena and Zoey spend time at the South Run dog park.



Dogs are free to run around and play at the fenced-in South Run dog park.



Ari Alvarez of Alexandria brought her 5-months-old Presley the Pug, right, to the Herndon Dog Park on a puppy date.

Photos by Deb Cobb/The Connection



Kathy Hale, a Herndon resident, is pictured at the Herndon Dog Park with two of her dogs — and the pug Presley hoping for a treat — her 9-year-old black border collie mix Rosie, far right, and her 5-year-old beagle/pug mix, Carly.

D GRIST MILL
4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy, Alexandria
Established: April 2006
Capacity: 64 dogs
Special Features: Interior space is one acre of bluestone dust surface. Clean and dry.
Sponsor: Mt. Vernon Dog Opportunity Group

E QUINN FARM
15150 Old Lee Rd., Chantilly
Established: March 2006
Capacity: 90 dogs (80 large/10 small)
Special Features: Separate area for small dogs (under 25 lbs.)
Sponsor: CentrevilleDogs

F MASON DISTRICT
Intersection of Alpine Drive and Pinecrest Parkway, Annandale
Established: June 2002
Capacity: 62 dogs
Sponsor: Mason District Dog Opportunity Group

G SOUTH RUN
7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield
Established: December 2001
Capacity: 85 dogs
Sponsor: Lorton Dogs, Inc.

H TOWN OF VIENNA VIENNA DOG PARK
700 Courthouse Road
www.viennadogs.org

This new off-leash dog park is situated in Moorefield Park. The fenced 90 x 150 area is shaded with on-site water. Owners and dogs must follow posted rules and regulations. Dogs must be licensed by the Town of Vienna or Fairfax County. The park is open from dawn to dusk. Please respect others by following the posted rules and picking up after your dog. To find out more about the Vienna Dog Park. Open: Daylight to Dusk.

Fairfax County Park Authority has always welcomed leashed dogs in all of its parks. Now, well-mannered canines can enjoy a good run or a friendly romp in one of 8 dog parks - fenced areas where unleashed dogs can have free play. Additional off-leash dog areas are in the planning stage. See <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/wp-offleash.htm> for more.

All of the dog parks are public/private partnerships, developed in cooperation with sponsoring organizations of pet owners. The sponsors are the agency's liaison between users and local residents, Animal Control and the Police Department. They monitor and clean up the facilities, publicize dog park rules and regulations, and report maintenance needs to the Park Authority.

The hours of operation of all off-leash dog areas are dawn to dusk, unless posted otherwise.

All dogs four months of age or older must be licensed. Licenses are good for one year and must be purchased by January 31st.

1. The off-leash dog area is for dogs, their handlers and those accompanying them. No other use is allowed.
2. All dogs must be legally licensed and vaccinated, and shall wear a visible dog license.
3. Dogs under 4 months of age and female dogs in heat are prohibited.
4. Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting the off-leash dog area.
5. Dogs must be under the control of their handler and in view of their handler at all times.
6. Spiked collars are prohibited.
7. Children 8 years and under are not allowed in the off-leash dog area; children ages 9 - 15 years must be accompanied by an adult.
8. Handlers must be 16 years of age or older.
9. Handlers must have possession of the dog leash at all times.
10. Handler is limited to a maximum of two dogs.
11. Handlers must "scoop the poop" and fill any holes dug by dogs under their control.
12. Food and drinks in glass containers are prohibited; training treats are allowed.
13. Dogs must be removed from the off-leash dog area at the first sign of aggression.
14. No animals other than dogs shall be permitted in the area.
15. Handlers are responsible for any injuries caused by the dog(s) under their control.
16. Users of the facility do so at their own risk. Neither Fairfax County nor the Fairfax County Park Authority shall be liable for any injury or damage caused by any dog in the off-leash area.





Political Pets Fairfax County Chairwoman Sharon Bulova (D- At-large) called her cat Winston ‘the love of our lives.’ She picked him out at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter two years ago.



Providence District School Board member Patty Reed poses with her dog Abigail.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Many Options Available for Finding a Pet

Pet Adoption is easy at county shelter.

BY COLIN DAILED A
THE CONNECTION

When no one is watching, A046268 lies there with her fellow felines at Fairfax County Pet Shelter, just another former stray cat waiting for someone who wants a furry edition to the family. But then two little girls walk in with their father, bright eyed and bushy tailed, scampering around to every cat in sight, hoping they’d soon be able to call one of them their own.

“Daddy, can we get a cat?” asks the youngest as she tugs her father’s hand with both of hers, peering up at him with pleading brown eyes. Her father smiles down at her, adoption literature in his free hand, as if to say “Oh, sure. Why not?”

The little girl’s head turns and she sees A046268’s small square glass home. Lexi, a 2-month-old gray kitten with dark gray, tiger-like stripes across her side and down her legs looks up, no longer just a number. She’s like a pint-sized, quick bundle of dark cotton as she bounds up to get a better look at her new friend, and paws at the glass as if to say “Hi.” Lexi’s deep blue eyes shine with a playfulness only kittens and puppies possess, and her tiny head is on a swivel as she follows the girl’s every move.

The two enjoy each other’s company for awhile. Despite posted warnings not to do so, the girl sticks her index finger through one of the six glass holes in Lexi’s home,

and is greeted by a tiny, wet tongue. But, despite the chemistry, adoption can’t happen right then. Adopting a pet is a process, and the Fairfax County Pet Shelter makes sure everyone has gone through it before they can bring home a furry friend.

First things first; stop in for a visit. The shelter has dogs, cats, guinea pigs, rabbits, birds, reptiles and a few other potential pets for would-be adopters to check out.

Once you’ve found an animal you think you might like, the shelter asks that you bring the pet number — posted on the outside of their corral — to the front and fill out a visitors pass. The visitors pass allows you to take the animal out of its cage and play around with him/her for awhile. According to Michelle Hankins, the Fairfax County Pet Shelter community outreach manager, it’s important for both you and any pets you already have to spend some time with your potential adoptee to make sure everyone gets along. While you’re at the counter, you can also ask for some notes on your animal of choice. Lexi’s notes said she was playful, yet shy, and would “follow you from room to room just to see what you’re up to.”

So, is everyone happy? Great. Now it’s time to revisit the front desk to fill out an adoption application and a surgery consent form. The adoption application asks you to list everything from your name to the kind of home you live in to who will be responsible for feeding the pet. They want to make sure everything is in place before they en-

Humane Society of Fairfax protects county’s animal community.

The Humane Society of Fairfax County, Inc. began as a small community effort to advocate for animals both domestic and wild, but over the last 45 years, has become a symbol for second chances.

Established in 1965, the Humane Society of Fairfax County, Inc. was formed by concerned citizens as a non-profit organization to rescue and protect animals from abuse, neglect, abandonment, and cruelty. The organization started with just a handful of volunteers and one small building, but today has more than 100 who tirelessly perform community outreach and has two buildings and a 13-acre farm to call home.

The society’s volunteers educate the public about animal care, provide information on state and county laws, foster parenting for our animals awaiting adoption and lead numerous public programs. The society also devotes much of its time to coordinating with rural shelters that have high euthanasia rates to transfer pets to society facilities to ensure to animal’s survival.

trust you with a new family member.

According to Hankins, the surgery consent form is necessary because all adopted pets must be either spayed or neutered be-

Adopting an Animal

Dogs can be adopted from the Humane Society at any time. The society’s website, www.hsfc.org, has a listing for every dog up for adoption. Click on applications, fill out the dog adoption application and fax it to the society’s administrative offices at 703-935-8225 or e-mail it to pets@hsfc.org.

After the application is received, a society representative will make contact as soon as possible to determine if the dog is a suitable match for the prospective owner. Once matched, the applicant will go to the society’s farm in Centreville to meet and play with the dog. This is followed by a home visit, and if approved after that, the new owner can return to the farm and pick up the animal. The cost for adopting a dog is \$250, which covers spaying or neutering and all relevant immunizations.

A listing of available cats can also be found on the Web site, but to see the animal, the prospective owner must attend a scheduled adoption event. At the event, an application can be submitted and a society representative will determine if the applicant is suitable for ownership. The cost to adopt a cat is \$125.

Other animals, such as horses, rabbits, birds, guinea pigs and more can also be adopted in a similar fashion through the society, and cost \$350, \$60, \$35-\$50 and \$25, respectively.

fore they are sent to a new home. Additional optional surgeries include a mini/full blood

SEE ADOPTIONS, PAGE 11

PET CONNECTION



Karen S. Paris with her blue and gold Macaw Xander.

Family Menagerie

Here is a picture of me with one of my many pets. I have dogs, cats and birds, but gathering the entire gang together for a photo is a bit tough. They all get along but are in constant motion except for one of my cats that never moves she is a ragdoll breed.

This is me and my blue and gold Macaw Xander, short for Alexandra. She is 4-years old but will live to be 80 or more. She definitely rules the roost she eats with the family, or should I say "The Flock." Xander uses a spoon and loves mashed potato she also loves toast. She calls me "momma" and My husband Cliff "poppie." She plays peek-a-boo and she

actually can say I as she hides behind her blanket. She also will say "come over here and pick me up" or a bath when she needs one. Birds take baths daily. We have a spray bottle and we spray while she flaps her wings and wags her tail. It is very funny to watch. Macaws are very attached to their owners and require much attention. We have perches set up in key areas around the house so we can take her with us. She likes music and dancing.

When the phone rings she will say "hello" and clients hear her in the background on occasion singing or talking.

— KAREN S. PARIS

Adoptions Available at Shelter

FROM PAGE 10

screening, a microchip implant so your pet can be easily found if it scampers off or a laser surgery that's used in place of the spay/neuter, and is thought to be less invasive and allow for quicker healing.

Neither form takes long to fill out, and both can be approved just minutes after you put the pen down. But in order to complete the process, you have to bring proof of home ownership or that you're legitimately renting a home, a photo ID, and information on all pets you currently own such as vaccination information, and that all dogs you own are current

on county licensing.

If your new buddy already had spay/neutering, you can take him/her home that day. If not, a surgery will be scheduled right there and will likely take place within the week. The pet fee for a cat is only \$30, but the spay/neuter fee for felines is \$100, \$170 for dogs.

Once the money is paid, pets are sent off to Deepwood Veterinary Clinic for the procedure, and can be picked up there once they've recuperated.

Lexi recuperated on July 20, and the kitten with the mouse-like meow was picked up by her new family later that day.

FAITH NOTES

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 5800 Backlick Road, Springfield is hosting "Galactic Blast" Vacation Bible School on July 25-30, from 5:30-8 p.m. For age 3-rising sixth graders. Free, includes dinner. 703-451-4331.

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield, is hosting a free Sunday Sundae Summer Movie Supperx on Sunday, July

25, at 4 p.m. There will be a light supper, The Disney movie "Cars" and a sundae bar with all the toppings. ejdowning@cox.net.

Congregation Adat Reyim, 6500 Westbury Oaks Court, Springfield, offers several events open to the public in August. Contact adatreyim.org or 703-569-7577.

❖ **Shabbat Wine and Cheese Reception**. Friday, Aug. 6, at 7 p.m. Enjoy an array of fine cheeses, Kosher wine

and other Shabbat fare, and stay for Shabbat services at 8 p.m. We welcome new and current members, and individuals and families who are looking for a new synagogue experience.

❖ **Preschool and Religious School Open Houses**. Sunday, Aug. 8, at 11 a.m.-1 p.m., and on Monday, Aug. 16, at 5:30-7:30 p.m. Join us for refreshments and learn about Adat Reyim's preschool and religious school programs.

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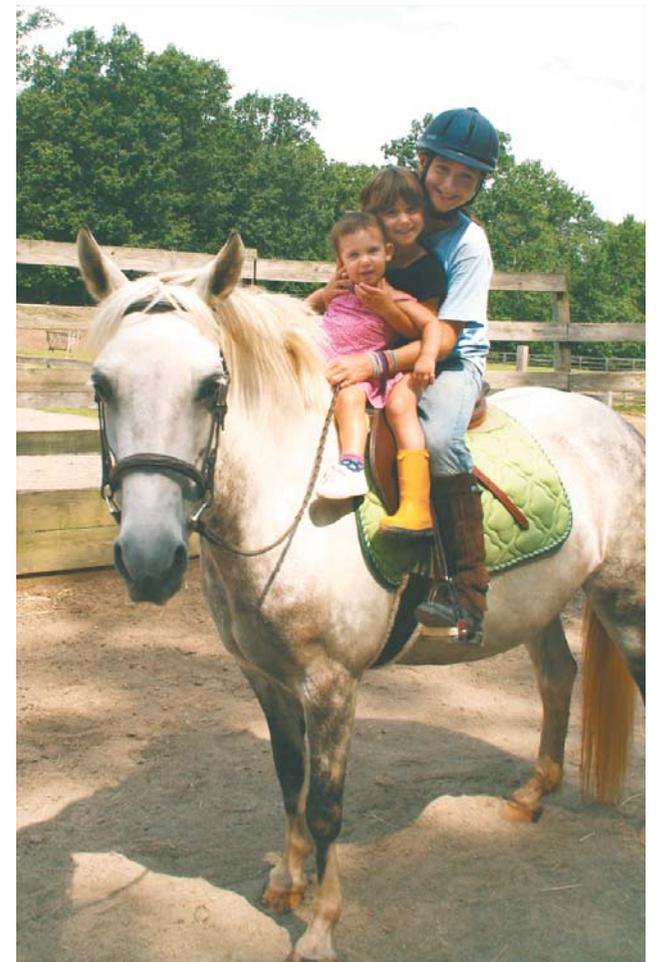
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PET CONNECTION



From left, Joshua, Amanda, Nick and John Carpio with papillon Peppy and Shetland sheepdog Buddy.



Aimee, an 8-year-old Connemara/paint cross with Abigail Wojcik, 11; Amelia Wojcik, 4; and Camille Wojcik, 1, in Fairfax Station.



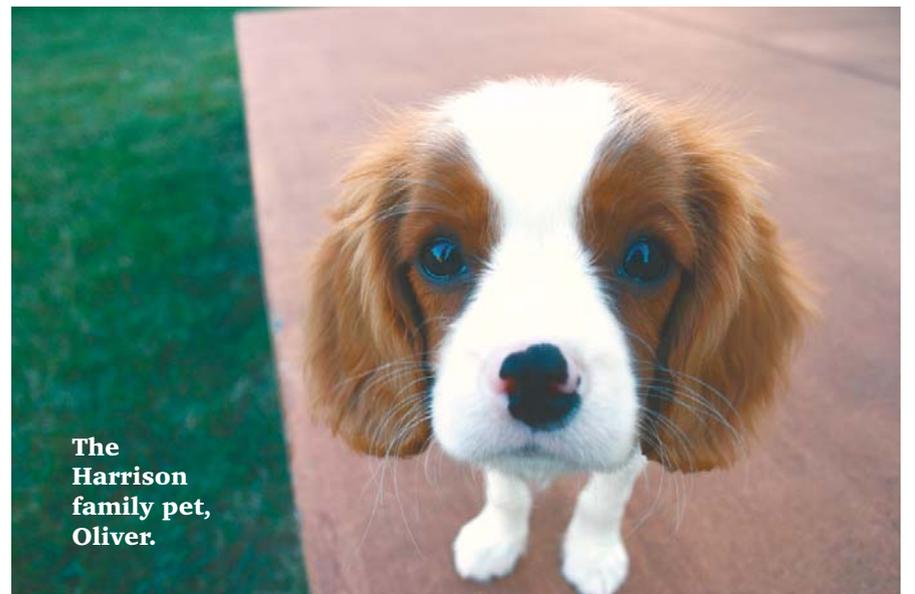
Amanda, Joshua, John and Nick with Peppy and Roudy.



John and Nick asked for hamsters for their birthday.



Amanda takes Peppy for a ride on her bike.



The Harrison family pet, Oliver.

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/JULY 29

Aretha Franklin. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$45 in-house, \$25 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

Wolftrap Childrens Theatre in the Woods. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. 10 a.m. Maryland Youth Ballet: Caroline Goes to the Zoo, 11:15 a.m. Bob Brown Puppets: Dragon Feathers. Free workshops follow the 10 a.m. performance; reservations required at 703-255-1824. \$8-\$10. www.wolftrap.org.

Stephen Kellogg and the Sixers and Matt Hires. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. jamminjava.com.

City of Fairfax Concert Band. 8 p.m. at Veterans Amphitheater, City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. A mixed program of classical pieces, marches and Broadway tunes. Free admission. Weather permitting. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. 703-757-0220 or www.fairfaxband.org.

FRIDAY/JULY 30

Billy Woodward & the Senders. 7:30 p.m. Royal Lake Park: 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. Rock, R&B and soul. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance.

Stephen Kellogg and the Sixers and Matt Hires. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. jamminjava.com.

NSO@Wolf Trap: Distant Worlds, Music From Final Fantasy. 8:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Arnie Roth, Conductor. \$20-\$52 www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 31

Wolftrap Childrens Theatre in the Woods. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. 10 a.m. Maryland Youth Ballet: Caroline Goes to the Zoo, 11:15 a.m. Bob Brown Puppets: Dragon Feathers. Free workshops follow the 10 a.m. performance; reservations required at 703-255-1824. \$8-\$10. www.wolftrap.org.

Pirate Jack. 10 a.m. Burke Lake Park Amphitheater: 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Live music. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance.

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

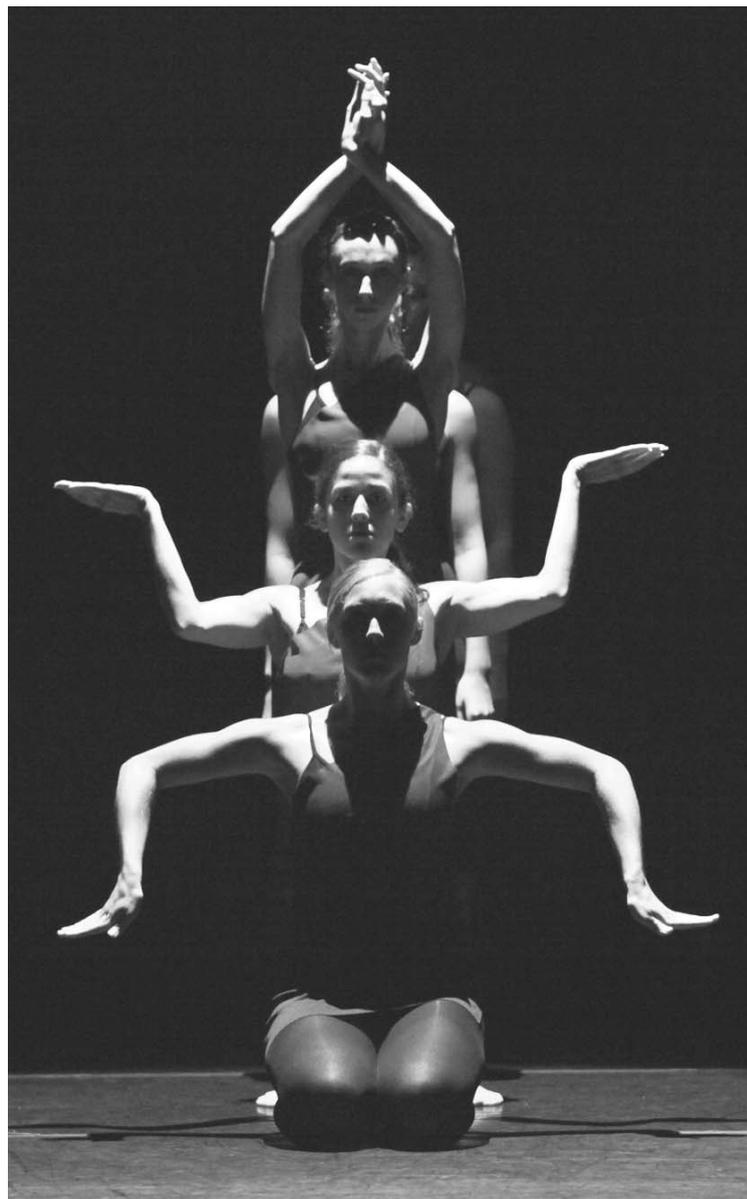
An Evening with Asylum Street Spankers. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$17. jamminjava.com.

The Chuck Shaffer Picture Show, Conditions and Madrone. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. jamminjava.com.

Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association, Inc. 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Master Gardeners provide horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice to home gardeners. Adults. 703-293-6227.

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.

Country Western Dance at the Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Intermediate Two Step lessons begin at 7:30 p.m. Open dancing



Summer Performance: 'Precedence'

Featuring music from ragtime piano of Scott Joplin to Janis Joplin, Virginia Ballet Company presents its summer performance 'Precedence' on Sunday, Aug. 8, at 4:30 p.m., in the theater at the Ernst Community Cultural Center, NVCC, Annandale campus. The performance combines contemporary dance, classical dance, folk dance and flamenco. Tickets are \$15 and all seats are reserved. Tickets may be purchased online at www.virginiaballetcompany.org. For wheelchair accessibility or additional information, call 703-249-8227.

8:30-11 p.m., including Two Step, waltz, line, swing, cha-cha and more. Admission \$5-\$12. www.nvcwda.org or 703-860-4941.

NSO@Wolf Trap: The Planets in HD. 8:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Emil de Cou, conductor. \$20-\$52. www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/AUG. 1

The Goodnight Anthem, Jonas Sees In Color, The Love Light and Forever Is Forever. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Reggae: For the Love of It with Beres Hammond, Inner Circle, Kenyatta Hill of Culture, Lenya Wilks and DJ Inferno. 3 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$42 in-house, \$25 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

MONDAY/AUG. 2

Alejandro Sanz. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap

Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$54-\$471. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

TUESDAY/AUG. 3

Willie Nelson. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$54-\$471. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

Wolftrap Childrens Theatre in the Woods. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. 10 a.m. PROJECT Trio: From Hip-Hop to Bach, 11:15 a.m. Wolf Trap Opera Studio: Instant Opera! Free workshops follow the 10 a.m. performance; reservations required at 703-255-1824. \$8-\$10. www.wolftrap.org.

SmartMarkets Weekly Farmer's Markets. 3:30-6:30 p.m. at the corner of Monument Drive and Government Center Parkway in Fairfax Corner. Every Tuesday through Oct. 26. www.smartmarkets.org.

Fairfax Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at Van Dyck Park, 3720 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax.

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AUGUST 2 - AUGUST 6MUPPETS FROM SPACE (G)

AUGUST 9 - AUGUST 13.....NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (G)

AUGUST 12 - AUGUST 20.....ELMO IN GROUCHLAND (G)

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For Love of the Game

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BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Tom Tudor stands in the batter's box at Braddock Park's field No. 5 in Clifton on a warm Monday evening. The game is slow pitch softball and the 64-year-old Fairfax resident isn't interested in anything other than delivering a hit.

Facing a two-strike count, Tudor lets the pitcher's offering fall to the ground. It's not to his liking. But the home plate umpire has a different view, and rings Tudor up with a called third strike.

Tudor doesn't think the pitch was legal, stating the pitcher was too far behind the rubber upon delivery. He argues his case with the umpire, but to no avail. Moments later, Tudor reminds the umpire of his frustration from the dugout.

After the game, won handily by Tudor's Solid Gold squad, the second baseman is all smiles as he shares stories. But when he and his teammates are on the field, it's all business. Tudor said Solid Gold has been one of the best teams in the Fairfax Adult Softball league for the last 10 years and they intend to keep it that way.

"Some of the teams don't even want to play you because it is just total recreation for them," Tudor said. "I always play on something to better myself. [It feels like I'm] trying out every time. Your reputation is on the line. [If] you have a bad night: I struck out watching the ball tonight and I'll hear about that for two months now. You now it's coming."

People have several reasons for participating in recreational sports. Some approach events looking to have fun, while others see activities as a means to staying in shape. In Tudor's case, it's all about competing and testing his skills against others.

Tudor started playing rec softball in 1969 after returning from his second tour of duty in Vietnam. He had played basketball and baseball at James Madison High School in Vienna, and received a partial scholarship for basketball at Old Dominion University, but nothing became of it. After returning from Vietnam, rec sports gave him an outlet for his competitiveness and athletic talents.

"It really got into my blood," he said.

Tudor plays with several teams, and has competed for top-flight national teams from Florida and California. His Solid Gold squad, which includes W.T. Woodson head softball coach Bob Coleman, competes in Division I of the FAS senior (50 and over) league. Solid Gold is listed on the FAS website with a 7-0 record through July 27, having outscored its opponents 136-65.

"We built this team on chemistry and abil-

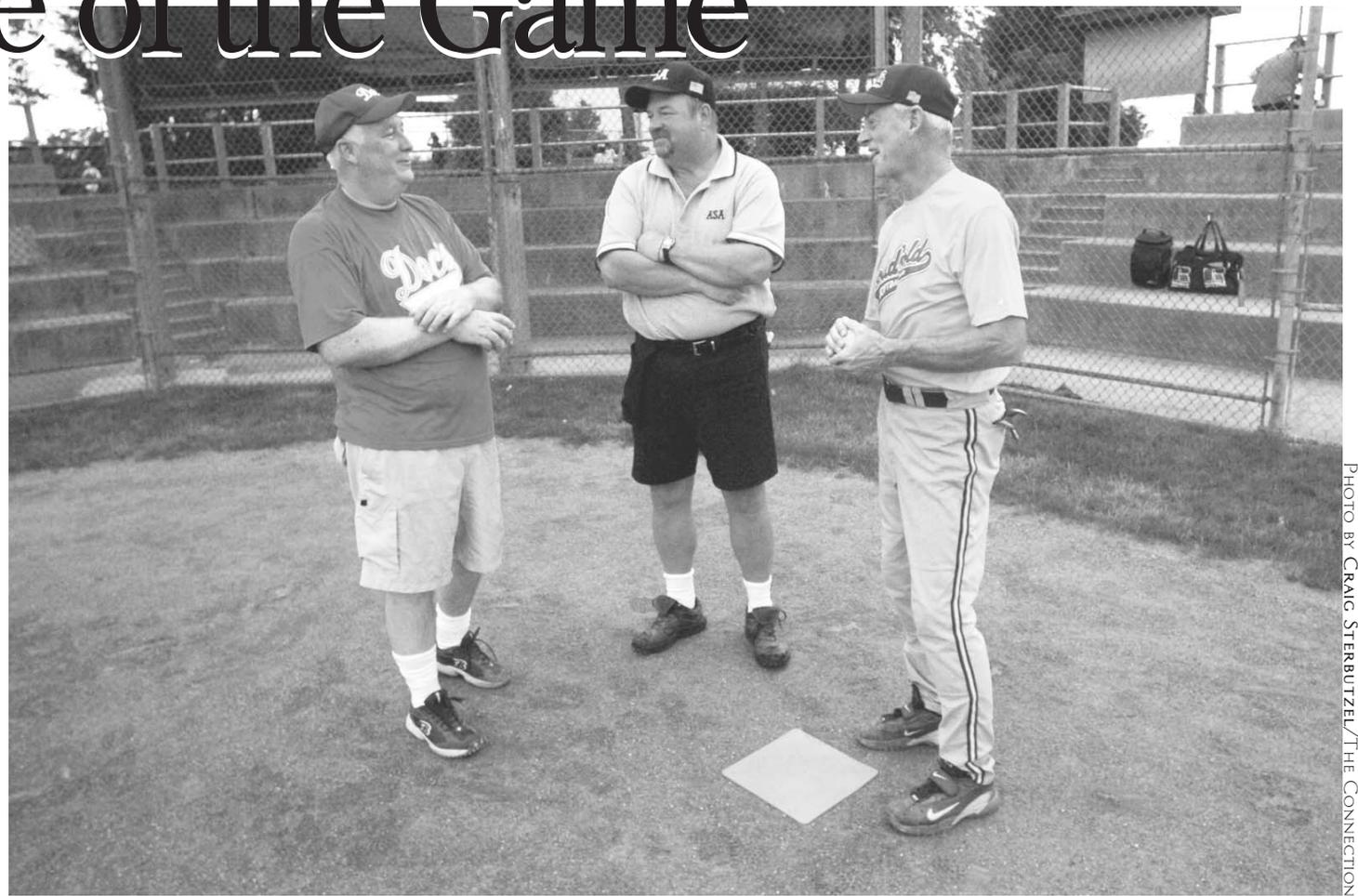


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax Adult Softball league offers an opportunity to compete for a wide range of age groups and ability levels.

ity," Tudor said. "Chemistry is No. 1, to tell you the truth. There's a lot of guys that wanted to play on this team and we've been the No. 1 team for 10 years."

"You'll see in the late innings every once in a while [when] we're down and we haven't been playing well, somebody will come in and say, 'Hey, let's take it up a notch. Let's go,'" said Tudor. "Everybody just comes together and they do the job."

While Tudor and his teammates are focused when it comes to softball, there's also room for fun. On Sunday mornings, members of Solid Gold get together for batting practice, something that Tudor said he enjoys.

"I look forward to that more than anything else," he said. "You play a double-header out here, you might get eight swings, unless you take some batting practice. Out there, we'll hit 100 balls on Sunday. We really do like the sport and try to be good at it."

FAS also offers men's and co-ed divisions, among others.

Mary Alexandre tries to make it to the gym a minimum of three times per week. Fitness is important to the 42-year-old married mother of two, who hardly looks her age.

Along with going to the gym, Alexandre enjoys playing soccer. The Alexandria native played on the Groveton High School team and took part in intramural soccer at Old Dominion. These days, Alexandre plays indoor soccer at the Fairfax Sportsplex in Springfield, which not only helps keep her in shape, but also adds an athletic element she craves.

"I love a little competition — competition

is good," Alexandre said. "The challenge is great."

Alexandre plays for the team "Lazy Fox" in a lower-division 6-on-6 co-ed league. The Sportsplex also offers 5-on-5 leagues, men's leagues, women's leagues and youth travel teams. On a muggy Friday night, Alexandre finished with a hat trick in a losing effort, scoring a pair of left-footed goals while adding a third on a right-footed flick. Despite the loss, the team was in good spirits after the contest, hanging around and drinking beer. While the desire to win is present, there isn't a post-loss tension that can come with a competitive bunch.

"It's a great way to stay in shape and still have some competitive fun," said Joe Alexandre, Mary's husband and teammate. "Even between the men, during rec soccer, you just don't go as far physically. You're a little more careful on your tackles and your steals and your pushing with everyone. It's more of a light-hearted soccer."

Joe Alexandre, 42, said he feels no awkwardness in terms of competing against women. Mary Alexandre, on the other hand, sees competing against men as a challenge.

"When you add guys into the mix, it adds another element," she said. "It changes the game only because you can play aggressive [with] body contact [against] another woman, but when you've got a guy on you that's another 50 [to] 70 pounds [heavier] than you, it makes it a little more challenging."

What is she thinking when chasing down a ball in the corner against a male opponent?

"I'm expecting to get bumped," she said. "So you know what? You just tighten your core and you stand your ground and that's the best thing you can do. If you go in there a little lackluster, you can expect to get nailed."

"I always play on something to better myself."

— Tom Tudor

Rules for co-ed 6-on-6 state two women must be on the field at all times.

Mary Alexandre also said she enjoys the structured environment of a rec league.

"Pick-up soccer, you can end up with 20-on-

20 or 25-on-25 and it is just madness trying to pass and play together," she said. "My son has a big group of friends and our parents and their parents play together. It's pure chaos. This is way more organized, way more structured. You've got enough playing time [and] there's enough space to create some strategy and some passes to create a play."

Along with providing a structured environment, 28-year-old Jack Fan said the Arlington Athletic & Social League provides a place to meet new people. Fan, the AASL's sports and program coordinator, said with the Washington, D.C. metro area being such a transient location, rec sports provide a place to get connected with those who share common interests.

"We cater to a lot of different types of

SEE A LITTLE, PAGE 16

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

They have shown tremendous empathy for the workforce and have reached out often to meet our needs both personally and professionally. Their constituencies should be proud of their hard work and empathy for those who care daily for our children.

Once again, I am grateful for the promise made by the entire School Board to address the compensation issue, and look forward to supporting them in the upcoming year to secure the funding needed to meet our deserving employees' needs.

Steven L. Greenburg
President
Fairfax County Federation of Teachers

Wall Street Reform Bill

To the Editor:

The Wall Street reform bill that was passed by the U.S. Senate on July 15 will protect consumers and investors by eliminating deceptive and unethical Wall Street business practices. This and other "Main Street" benefits will undoubtedly inspire confidence in the economy and encourage the growth of private-sector jobs and small businesses.

Eleventh District congressional candidate Keith Fimian (R) refused to heed Republican moderates and publicly shouted down the bill. He opposes a bill that will end taxpayer-funded bailouts, demand a high level of transparency and accountability for the benefit of ordinary Americans and help prevent another economic meltdown. Mr. Fimian's rejection of this bill is effectively a rejection of working Ameri-

cans.

Mr. Fimian's opponent, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), has laudably taken the side of working Americans. Unlike Mr. Fimian, Connolly realizes that Wall Street's corporations — not American taxpayers — must bear the burden of responsibility for their failures. I am thankful that Connolly voted for this reform and consistently sides with ordinary Americans instead of greedy CEOs in corner offices. I applaud the passage of this sensible legislation.

Donna Forsman
Annandale

Reducing Addiction To Oil

To the Editor:

Every day, we send \$1 billion overseas to buy oil from countries that are anti-American. The recent "consensus over science, cost of warming elusive" article discusses climate change and the real debate over the issue, which is money.

We cannot afford to continue sending our money to foreign regimes because it not only continues to fund our devastating oil addiction, but we also are exposing ourselves to those who wish us harm. It is a national security issue we can't ignore. If we work toward passing clean energy and climate change policies, then our nation would be taking a big step toward reducing our indirect funding of hostile nations. Such a change in our current energy policy is long overdue and needs to happen as quickly as possible.

Darlyn Varr
Stafford

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SPORTS

A Little Friendly Competition

FROM PAGE 14

people," he said. "The primary demographic that we try to cater to are the young professionals who are looking for a place where their friends can always meet up. The second type of people this league is for is newcomers."

The AASL offers softball, volleyball, dodgeball, flag football, bowling, basketball, kickball inner tube water polo, cornhole and broomball. Fan said softball is the league's most popular sport, with 80 teams competing. Kickball and volleyball also see a high turnout. Fan said the league offers competitive and social divisions, with some sports — including softball, kickball, dodgeball and bowling — often acting as precursors to another kind of fun.

"Sports is just kind of an excuse to come and hang out at a bar," Fan said.

Reston native Anne Nichols, 21, plays for a social league softball team despite having no experience. She joked that she plays catcher to avoid being involved in the action.

"It just seemed like a fun opportunity," said Nichols,

a student at Wake Forest, "even though I'm really miserable and I've never played before."

Nichols' boyfriend's sister, Katie Flynn, started the team. Flynn, a 27-year-old Reston native, played softball at South Lakes High School and Seton Hall University. While Nichols is a newcomer along for some fun, the rest of the team has a different approach.

"As a team, we're outrageously competitive to a point where it's embarrassing and awkward for everybody," Flynn said. "We run up the score, which is improper. [There is] anger when somebody botches a play, even when we're up by a considerable amount."

While Nichols and Flynn are on a team because they know the same people, Fan said some of the best friendships are made from teams composed of strangers. Fan, a Dallas native and Washington, D.C. resident, said he met his future roommates after being placed on a random kickball team.

"I always tell people to come check it out," he said. "If you have nothing else better to do, let us know, especially if it's early in the season. We can help you out."

WFBC Mustangs Make 'Elite 8'



The Western Fairfax (WFBC) Mustangs 13-under girls' basketball team reached the 'Elite 8' at the AAU Nationals in Cincinnati, Ohio. The team made a terrific run to the quarterfinals, beating top national teams from Texas, Minnesota, Indiana, Tennessee and Philadelphia before losing. Team members are Abigail Rendle, Alli Kemp, Amanda Nelson, Ashley Brusick, Colette Toma, Jenna Green, Katie Blumer, Kirsten Cornwell, Natalie Toma, Sasha Sprei and Tori Collar. The Mustangs' head coach is Tom Watson, who is

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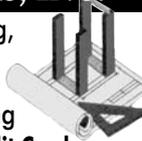
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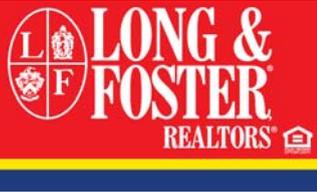


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