

Great Falls CONNECTION

Free Parking

NEWS, PAGE 3

Madhan and Mala Chakravathy look down the Potomac River at Great Falls Park. They came to take advantage of the cool weather and free admission to the park last weekend.

The Show Must Go On...

NEWS, PAGE 4

Building Bridges In Costa Rica

NEWS, PAGE 4

PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 8 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 11 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 14 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 17

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PHOTOS BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION



People enjoy the view at one of the lookouts at Great Falls Park on Aug. 15, one of the admission-free days for the park. Throughout the weekend, free admission was given at national parks throughout the country.

Free Parking

Great Falls is one of more than 100 national parks that offered free admission last weekend.



From left, Ainur Jyekyei, Adu Auganvai and Ainur Jyekyei enjoy the view from the rocks next to the river at Great Falls Park.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Great Falls Park was one of 146 other national parks around the country, that had free admission all last weekend, to try and inspire local residents to come out and see the sites.

Aug. 14 and 15 are two of 13 days this year when a number of national parks will waive their admission fees.

"This fee-free weekend provides an opportunity for individuals and families alike to take an affordable vacation or to explore a nearby park they have never visited before," said Ken Salazar, U.S. Secretary of the Interior. "I encourage everyone to take advantage of the free admission to visit not only our greatest natural wonders but also our nation's historic and cultural icons."

AT GREAT FALLS PARK, the weekend saw a crowded Saturday and a less crowded Sunday. Saturday, as a partly cloudy day with temperatures in the 80s, was a more attractive day for park guests.

"A lot of people seemed surprised when they were told it was a free weekend," said Cheryl Bresee, a ranger at the park. "But I'm not sure how much incentive it was, because we're only \$5, and some parks charge a lot more."

Bresee said that Great Falls Park most likely didn't enjoy the kind of increased attendance a lot of parks did because of the nature of the park.

"Great Falls isn't much of a destination-type park,

like Yellowstone, most people who come here are local," she said. "Most out-of-towners who come are with people who live around here, so I'm not sure how much extra incentive there was to come."

Many people in the park Sunday came out to hike, kayak or just have a cookout in the cooler weather. Without the heat and humidity that has been all over the area the past few weeks, it was the perfect chance for some.

"I actually prefer to come out on days like this, when being outside isn't as oppressive as it can get around here," said Felicia Hopkins, who lives in Falls Church. "It's sort of a double bonus, because less people are out, and you don't have to camp out in the shade the whole time you're here."

Hopkins and her family busied themselves by playing football and cooking some hot dogs on the grill, but others came to get the full Great Falls experience.

"We just came to have some fun," said Adu Auganvai, who spent part of the afternoon with his friends climbing rocks along the water. "We didn't even know about the free weekend, we got to the gate, and they told us we didn't need to pay."

NATIONAL PARKS, including Great Falls, will also waive admission fees Sept. 25, in recognition of Public Lands Day and Nov. 11, in recognition of Veterans Day. For a list of all parks that will be open for free, visit www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm.

A Clearer Picture

Student wins scholarship for algorithm to improve MRI contrast.



CONTRIBUTED

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

McLean resident Alexander Gilbert was named a 2010 Davidson Fellow last week, and he will receive a \$10,000 scholarship from the Davidson Institute for Talent Development. Gilbert — a rising senior at St. Albans in Washington, D.C. — developed a computer algorithm that improves MRI image contrast.

The Davidson Institute is a nonprofit organization based in Reno, Nev. dedicated to supporting gifted youth. This is the 10th year they have offered the Davidson Fellow Scholarships. Gilbert applied for the fellowship in March.

"We are thrilled to ... recognize the 2010 Davidson Fellow not only for their incredible projects, but also for the journey they forged to reach this point," said Bob Davidson, co-founder of the Davidson Institute. "Each year, the breadth and depth of the Fellows' accomplishments overwhelm us."

GILBERT, who attended Haycock Elementary and Longfellow Middle, has long been interested by math and science. He has been participating in competitions for years. After a close relative was misdiagnosed with multiple sclerosis, he became intrigued in the field of neuroimaging, which combined his love of calculus and computer science.

"I wanted to work on improving the detection of neurological diseases like multiple sclerosis. MRI is a powerful and complicated instrument and better image processing techniques can improve contrast and lead to accurate medical diagnoses," Gilbert said. "I had fun doing the project, I learned a great deal and I'm very humble that I was chosen for this prestigious award."

Gilbert worked on the project while interning at the National Institutes of Health in the summer of 2009, and his lab work during the internship focused on neuroimaging. He continued his

work during the school year.

Gilbert's al-

gorithm has been successfully applied to MRI images of the brain, which allows for a clearer image definition of various tissues. Damaged neurons, often present in cases of multiple sclerosis, are easier to see. There are also possible applications for MRIs of the spine and other areas.

Despite the possibilities created by his algorithm, Gilbert said it "needs to be validated with more data, and I hope to keep working on making it more efficient and widely applicable."

While working at NIH, Gilbert was able to find time for his homework, as well as his hobbies, which include playing tennis and soccer. He also plays the euphonium in the school orchestra and has taught himself to play the guitar.

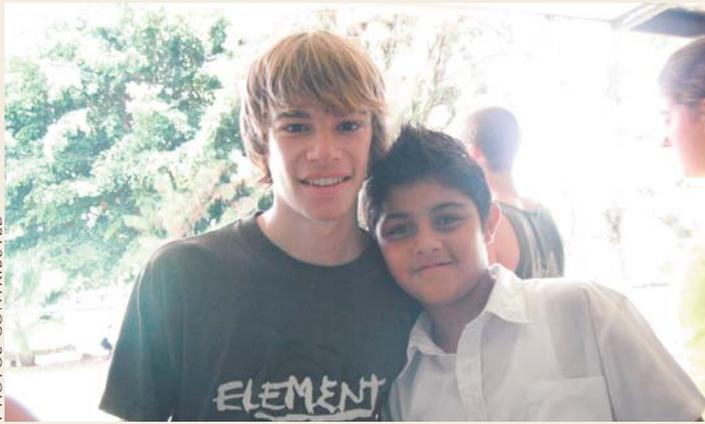
He recently returned from the Research Science Institute at MIT, where he took part in a six-week research program at Massachusetts General Hospital in neuroimaging.

"This summer was a very good experience, instead of focusing on the computer science part of the MRI, I worked on synthesizing a stain that functions as a contrast agent," Gilbert said. "I learned how to better see the brain, to see the effect diseases have on it. Hopefully this will help improve the monitoring of diseases and monitor how medicines affect diseased patients."

HIS MOTHER, Elisabeth Vrahopoulou, has been driving him to and from his various academic competitions when he was younger.

"We feel deep gratitude to the Davidson Institute for the great honor and the amazing experience of being a fellow. It will no doubt shape and inspire Alexander's educational journey," she said. "Over the years, we have been most appreciative of opportunities that continue to develop Alexander's interests in math and science."

More information about the Davidson Fellowship can be found at www.davidsongifted.org.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Brendan Mullen, left, a rising senior at Langley High School, taught Costa Rican children English in their local school.

Building Bridges in Costa Rica

Brendan Mullen experiences hands-on community service.

Brendan Mullen, a rising senior at Langley High School, experienced the community service this summer by engaging in two projects in rural mountain towns of Costa Rica this summer.

“At first, I was worried that I wouldn’t know enough Spanish to really talk to people, but I knew more than I realized and it was fun actually using what I learned at Langley these past three years,” he said.

Drawing on the knowledge of different Spanish speaking cultures through his participation in the Spanish Honor Society at Langley High, he was able to communicate effectively with villagers and children in their native language throughout his two week community service experience.

Mullen, along with 17 other students from across the United States in the Adventures Cross Country (ARCC) Spanish-immersion program, worked alongside villagers, or as Costa Ricans refer to themselves,

“Ticos,” to build two bridges in their village on the mountains of Savegre. Two other ARCC groups had started the bridge building and Brendan’s group completed the project by carrying 12-foot planks about a mile and a half up a steep, slippery, muddy mountain path and setting them in place so that villagers could cross a mountain stream to reach their livestock.

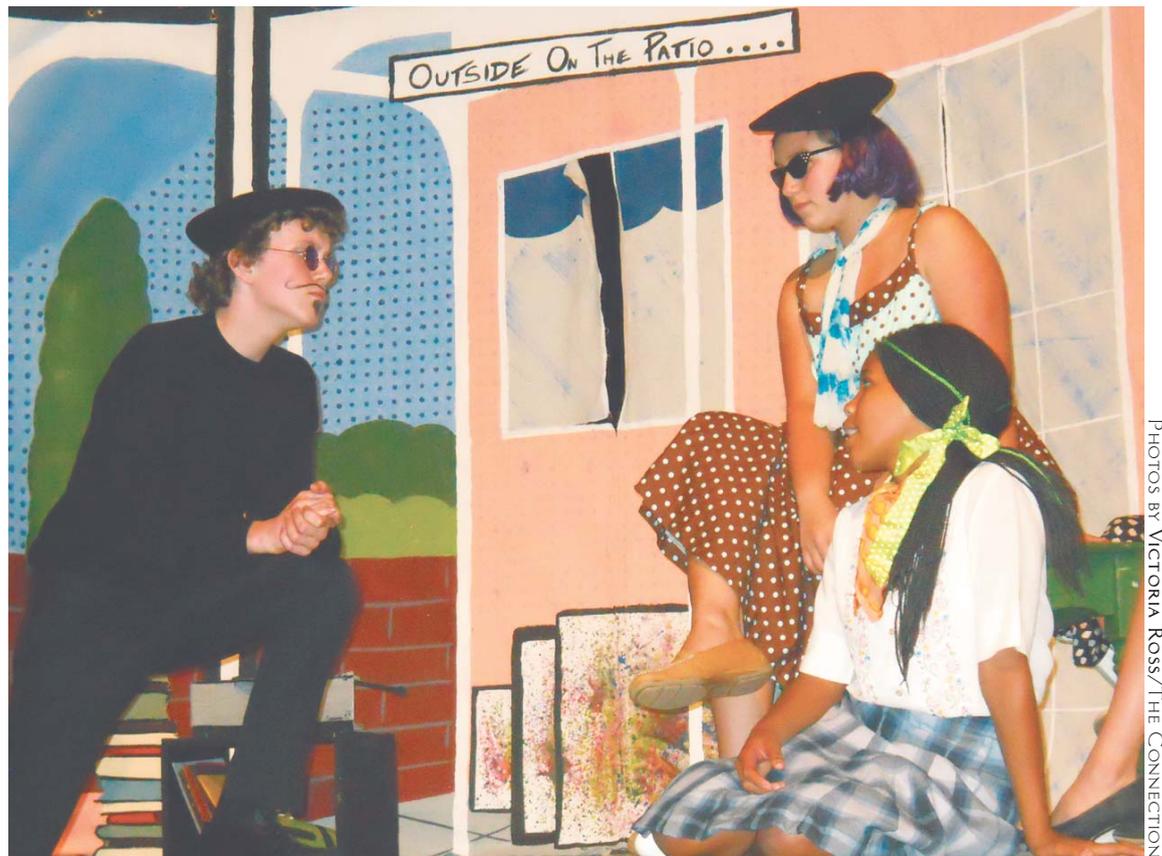
“We felt so good when the bridge was finished, and the villagers were dancing and celebrating on the bridge,” said Mullen. “We knew we had made a difference.”

In a small village outside of Siquirres, Mullen also taught Costa Rican children English in their local school.

“It was many hours of hard work, but this experience changed my view of community service and made me realize how rewarding and fun it can be at the same time,” said Mullen. “I can’t wait to travel internationally after I graduate from Langley next year.”



Brendan Mullen helped build the bridge for the Costa Rican village.



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Trissotin the ‘poet,’ (played by Thomas Kelty who received the ‘Ensemble Spirit’ award) tries to convince Henriette (Sinclair Daniel-right) and her aunt, Belise (Amy Elfin) of his undying love in TPE’s comedy ‘The Learned Ladies’ by Moliere.

The Show Must Go On...

Traveling Players Ensemble perform classics at Madeira School.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The unpredictable nature of outdoor theater is part of what makes it extraordinary and thrilling.

Last Friday, summer’s unpredictable weather forced the Traveling Player’s Ensemble, acclaimed for bringing “great theater to the great outdoors,” into The Madeira School’s auditorium to present its second festival of classic plays.

Jeanne Harrison, the founder and producing artistic director of the troupe, took the weather in stride and hopped on the stage to welcome the crowds entering the school’s theater.

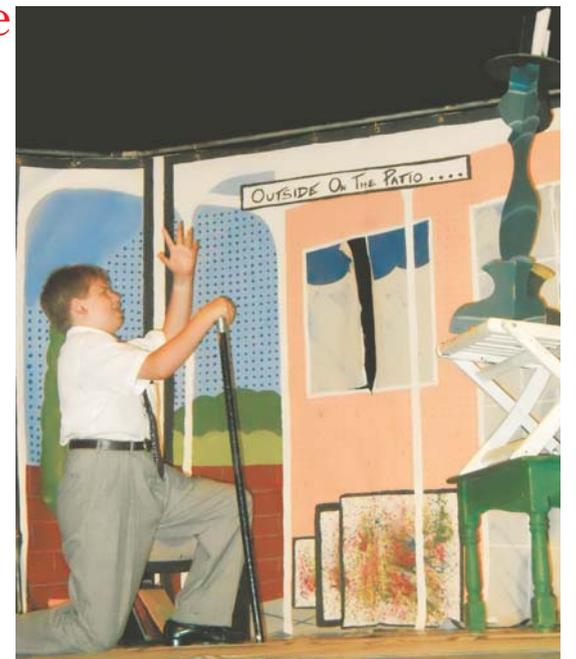
“You’re not late. C’mon down, baby,” she said. “You’re here. It’s going to be fabulous.”

Before the 10 middle-school actors took the stage, Harrison had the crowd laughing and having fun.

“We’re going to have a cast party with s’mores after the performances,” she said.

THE FIRST performance was Moliere’s “Learned Ladies.” Written in 1672, “Les Femmes Savants” is considered one of Moliere’s masterpieces. A hilarious satire on greed and academic pretension, “The Learned Ladies” takes us inside a bourgeois household overrun by a salon of women who swoon for sappy sonnets and other ecstatic pretenses of learning.

Director Lane Pianta updated the timely classic with a 1950s “comic-book” aesthetic. Think poodle



Hugo Kessler, a student at Longfellow Middle School, practices a speech as Chrysale, the father in TPE’s production of ‘The Learned Ladies.’

skirts, saddle shoes, soda shops and beat poets.

Hugo Kessler, 13, a Longfellow Middle School student, played the pompous and put-upon father, Chrysale. “I loved doing the physical comedy in the show. I was really happy when I could crush my foot,” he said. “This is my first year at the camp, and everyone is really friendly. We all work together as a team.”

Maya Wong, 14, who is visiting McLean from

SEE TRAVELLING PLAYERS. PAGE 6

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS

Eagle Scout Project Improves Hiking Trail

On Saturday, Aug. 14, 20 volunteers from Boy Scout Troop 1130, along with many of their parents participated in Aaron Ahlgrimm's Eagle Scout project, contributing more than 100 volunteer hours to the McLean community. The project improved the hiking trail along Pimmit Run near Kent Gardens by adding drainage features and firming the trail with crushed stone. Boy Scout Troop 1130, Venture Crew 1130 and Cub Scout

Pack 1127 are sponsored by Charles Wesley United Methodist Church in McLean. Any boy in first grade or above is eligible to join scouting and take advantage of its community service, adventuring, and leadership programs. Boys and girls from age 13 to 21 can participate in Venture Crew programs. For more information, contact Jim Ahlgrimm at ahlgrimm_jim@yahoo.com or 703-848-0793, or visit troop1130.com.



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Travelling Players Celebrate Season Finale at Madeira

FROM PAGE 4

Canada, said the camp allows her to experience “acting in small groups.” She played the demanding role of the pretentious mother, Philamente, in “The Learned Ladies.” “I love the complex language. I’ve done Shakespeare before, but this camp is great because you get to act in small groups and get a lot of direction and insight. The outdoor part, though, is kind of hard,” she said.

The second performance, also performed by middle-school students, was Moliere’s “The Miser,” a comedy of manners involving a rich money-lender whose feisty children long to escape from his penny-pinching household and marry their respective lovers. Director Suzanne Konicek re-imagined the play as an Old West romp.

After a break for a picnic dinner, TPE’s advanced Commedia troupe, made up of area high school students, performed Flaminio Scala’s “The Fake Madwoman.” The over-the-top physical comedy revolves around Isabella, who pretends to be insane to escape her upcoming marriage. Her deception sets off a chain reaction of confusion that threatens to drive the entire town insane.

Named a “Summer School in the Arts” by the National Endowment for the Arts, TPE is a summer camp where middle and high school students learn about acting and the classics in outdoor settings. For the past four years, the school has been based at the bucolic Madeira School in McLean, where many shows are performed against the stunning backdrop of the Potomac River. TPE also goes on tour through

out Virginia and West Virginia during July and August.

Harrison founded the camp in 2003. In achieving its mission of “bringing great theatre to the great outdoors,” TPE strives to link theatrical work to nature by rehearsing, performing and camping in the great outdoors.

“The outdoors experience is essential to the development of young actors, and artistic creation is fundamental to forming identity, especially for teens in the complex transition between childhood and adulthood,” Harrison said.

“Our program reflects the origins of theatre, when troupes of actors roamed the ancient and medieval countryside, relying on the barest props and boldest imagination to convey their art,” she said.

LEARNING THE CLASSICS, while pitching tents, building campfires and fending off mosquitoes, forces students to be flexible and adaptable.

“We make the kids work hard, because real actors work hard. There’s no room for the ‘star’ here,” said camp director Leah Vonderheide. “If you are asked to help with the lights, or paint part of the scenery, then that’s what you do. One of the reasons the camp is outdoors is because you learn to work together in camp. You need everyone to help pitch a tent, and you need everyone to put on a successful production.”

For more information on Travelling Players’ Ensemble, and to find out where you can catch the troupe’s upcoming performances, go the organization’s website at www.travelingplayers.org.



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Jonathan Leidenheimer, as the scholar Vadius, waxes philosophical about love, while Sinclair Daniel (Henriette - sitting); Amy Elfin (Belise); Claire Borthwick (the maid) and Maya Chapman Wong (Philamente) admire his poetry.

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Instruction Versus Administration

Economy of scale gives Fairfax a financial edge over Alexandria and Arlington.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Alexandria spends less per capita on instruction than any other jurisdiction in Northern Virginia, according to a recent report from Virginia's Auditor of Public Accounts. And officials at Alexandria City Public Schools spend more for administration than every other regional division except for Falls Church.

Because the auditor's report measures spending on everything from welfare and firefighting to police and education, numbers are presented on a per capita basis for jurisdictions based on population. That puts Alexandria's 144,000 residents and Arlington's 217,000 population in a vastly different category than mammoth Fairfax County, home to a million people. School officials and elected leaders in Alexandria and Arlington admit they might not have the economy of scale of Fairfax County, a division with about 170,000 students. But with 20,000 students in Arlington and 12,000 students in Alexandria, they say the trade-off is a more personalized environment.

"Personalization is expensive," said Alexandria School Board member Charles Wilson, a former chairman of the Washington Area Boards of Education. "It may not be as efficient as having huge schools, but that's not what our communities want."

Alexandria has the highest cost-per-pupil spending in Northern Virginia, followed closely by Arlington. But Alexandria and Arlington also have smaller class sizes in their elementary schools. That creates a sharp distinction between how education works in larger jurisdictions such as Fairfax County and Loudoun County compared to how things work in Alexandria and Arlington. School leaders in both communities say parents overwhelmingly approve of the small-scale approach, even if they are sometimes concerned about the cost of administering it.

"Am I satisfied? No. I always think we can do better," said Arlington School Board Chairwoman Libby Garvey. "But I will say that I think we deliver a very good value for the dollar."

THE RELATIONSHIP between money spent on instruction versus administration is a frequent topic of conversation in the education world. When candi-

School Per Capita Spending

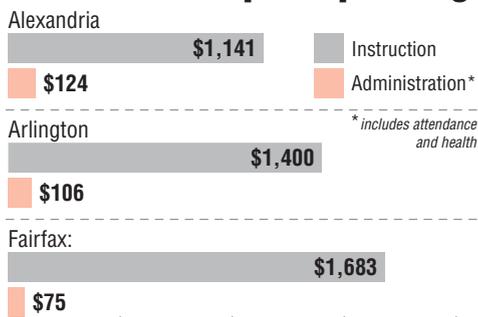


CHART BY LAURENCE FOONG/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

dates for School Board stand for election, they frequently hear from concerned that too much money is being spent on administration and not enough is being spent in the classroom. And parents always want to make sure every available dollar is spent to help children learn.

There's a general perception that more money in the classroom is more critical than money for administration," said John Vigstadt, a member of the Arlington Council of PTAs. "I think we need to take periodic look at what these administrators do to make sure all these positions are justified."

Data collected each year by certified public accountants by jurisdictions across Virginia are compiled by the state auditor in a report known as the Comparative Report of Local Government Revenues and Expenditures. The report documents per capita spending on everything from welfare and social services to firefighters and education. According to Auditor Walter Kucharski, the categories are closely aligned with how schools report spending to the Virginia Department of Education.

"Is there some judgment from the various jurisdictions about what's included in the categories work from time to time? Yes," said Kucharski. "But it's consistent from year to year."

ACCORDING TO GUIDELINES for how the data is reported, "instruction" is defined as "activities dealing with the interaction between teachers and students. Every other jurisdiction in Northern Virginia spends more in this category, including Prince William County (\$1,542), Fairfax City (\$1,195) and Loudoun County (\$1,967). "Administration" is defined as "activities concerned with establishing and administering policy for administration, attendance

SEE BUDGETING, PAGE 13



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OPINION

World Press Freedom Heroes

Kemal Kurspahic, Connection editor, one of the original 50 press freedom heroes of the world.

In September, the International Press Institute will celebrate its 60th anniversary in Vienna, Austria by adding 10 journalists to its list of World Press Freedom Heroes, bringing the total to 60.

The International Press Institute is a global network of editors, media executives and journalists dedicated to freedom of the press, the protection of freedom of opinion and expression, the promotion of the free flow of news and information, and the improvement of the practices of journalism.

Why does it matter? Halfway through 2010, at least 45 journalists, 10 of them in Mexico, have been killed around the world to silence them. 109 were killed in 2009. Both organized criminals (like drug cartels in Mexico) and government authorities who do not want to see their activities exposed go to extreme lengths to suppress information.

Why is it local? Of the 50 World Press Freedom Heroes named 10 years ago — and who will be honored again in Vienna next month — one is Kemal Kurspahic, managing editor and community editor for the Vienna, McLean, Great Falls, Reston and Oak Hill/Herndon Connections.

According to the World Press Freedom award:

In December 1988, Kurspahic was named editor-in-chief of *Oslobodjenje*, Sarajevo's 70,000 circulation daily newspaper, the first elected by the paper's staff. Until then, the Communist Party had controlled all editorial appointments.

Then after the communists were ousted and Bosnia's first democratic elections held, one of Kurspahic's first battles was to maintain his paper's newly acquired editorial independence against a coalition of nationalist parties, through a constitutional court case in 1991.

During the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, despite snipers' bullets, constant shelling, and newspaper print shortages, the paper's multi-ethnic staff of Bosniaks, Serbs and

Croats — guided by Kurspahic — worked day and night in a nuclear bomb shelter to put out a daily issue of the paper, providing one of the city's only sources of information. The paper's modern high-rise building was reduced to rubble by the shelling, and yet the paper was produced every day. *Oslobodjenje* was a symbol of coexistence and the struggle against intolerance and "ethnic cleansing."

Between 1992 and 1995, more than 10,500 people were killed in the Sarajevo area. Five employees were killed and more than 20 wounded. Kurspahic himself was injured in a car crash in 1992 while eluding sniper fire. Throughout this period, Kurspahic and his staff never missed a day of publication, despite shortages of electricity, fuel, paper and ink.

Kurspahic was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University; Clark Fellow at Cornell University;

and a Senior Fellow at the US Institute of Peace and worked for five years for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, first as the spokesman in Vienna (2001-2004) and then

as the Caribbean regional representative, responsible for 29 states and territories. Kurspahic served as the managing editor of *The Connection Newspapers* from 1997-2001, returning in the spring of 2007 after his time with United Nations. Kurspahic has excelled at community journalism in Northern Virginia, winning many awards here, teaching editors and reporters by example, and serving the community by continuously increasing the number of local voices in the papers he edits.

He is the author of four books, including "Prime Time Crime: Balkan Media in War and Peace" (US Institute of Peace Press, 2003) and "As Long as Sarajevo Exists" (Pamphleteer's Press, 1997).

Sometimes in the last two years during the recession, it has taken what feels like heroic efforts to continue to publish independently owned, hyper-local newspapers that have to operate on current revenues. But the biggest physical threat to reporters here is probably the automobile accident. As for intimidation, it is garden variety, officials who threaten to withhold information when they don't like what we write.

Here at the Connection, we have Kemal Kurspahic to remind us about true heroic efforts of journalism.

Sources: www.freemedia.at/awards/kemal-kurspahic, www.mediaindemocracy.org



Kurspahic

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

2,000 Plus Signed 'Safe the Pike' Petition

To the Editor:

I take exception to the position taken in "Ill-advised Decision" [Letter to the Editor, *Great Falls Connection*, Aug. 11-17, 2010]. I have lived in Great Falls since 1990 and have participated with a number of residents over the years in dealing with transportation issues affecting our community. To assert that "some vociferous local community leaders" speak only for themselves and possibly "members of their associations, but ... do not speak for the residents of Great Falls or Fairfax County" is misleading, at best.

First, I point to the 2,000 plus signers of the "Safe the Pike" Petition, most of whom are now or were, at the time of signing, residents of Great Falls. In endorsing the petition, these residents specifically endorsed a position opposing VDOT's plan for two left-

turn lanes from eastbound Route 7 onto Georgetown Pike. And then there is the work that Great Falls citizens have engaged in for over 10 years to call attention to the fact that until the widening of Route 7 is completed all the way to Tysons Corner, encouraging more traffic to turn onto Georgetown Pike at one time, as two left turn lanes will do, simply transfers the safety concerns to that section of the Pike. Drivers will clearly see the bottleneck that occurs at Old Reston Road, where the three eastbound lanes will narrow to the current two, and elect to turn onto Georgetown Pike. But because VDOT considers only the intersection at Georgetown Pike, Seneca Road and Route 7 as part of the Route 7 Widening Project — and not what happens to Seneca Road or Georgetown Pike beyond this intersection, no attention has been given to issues of safety after traffic leaves Route 7.

As president of Great Falls Citizens Association, I drafted the first GFCA response to the Route 7

Widening Plan, following a VDOT presentation of a preliminary project plan at the Great Falls Grange in the fall of 2000. In preparing this response, I worked with a number of residents to incorporate the views of the citizens who attended. GFCA made a concerted effort to inform the community that this meeting had been scheduled, as GFCA has done regarding the subsequent meetings called by VDOT and held at Forestville Elementary School and most recently at Buzz Aldrin Middle School in Reston. At all of these meetings there were a significant number of Great Falls residents who voiced opposition to two left turn lanes. While I agree that there are residents who favor the VDOT plan, I have not seen any specific data to indicate that this group is anywhere nearly as large as the group of residents who oppose it. I am very grateful for the work of Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), Sen. Janet Howell (D-32), Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34), U.S. Rep. Frank

Wolf (R-10) and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to get VDOT to reconsider the current plan and look at alternatives that can address all the safety concerns involved, without the negative impact the current plan would have on Georgetown Pike, and Seneca Road beyond the intersection at issue.

Eleanor Anderson
Great Falls

Unsupported Criticism

To the Editor:

I was somewhat astonished to read the letter ["Ill-advised Decision"] both in the Connection and one other local paper. The writer states that s/he is a long time resident of Great Falls. S/he purports to speak for the "vast majority" of Great Falls residents and in oppo-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

THE CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Newspaper of
Great Falls

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

sition to "some vociferous local community leaders." I sure would like to see the results of any poll s/he took, but I suspect there is none. I do know s/he does not speak for me, and I would guess that contrary to her statement she does not speak for many residents of Great Falls. I think I recall reading in the Connection and elsewhere that the citizens of Great Falls and our elected leaders including our representative to the House of Delegates and our supervisor roundly oppose the construction of a second turn lane. S/he states that a second turn lane will be applauded by the "overwhelming majority of Fairfax residents." S/he probably really meant the "overwhelming majority" of Loudoun County and West Virginia commuters who use Route 7 for their commute.

I suspect you will receive many letters contradicting Rathbone's letter.

W. Scott Railton
Great Falls

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

THURSDAY/AUG. 19

Beulah Road Al-Anon Group. 7:30 p.m. at the Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna. Practicing the Twelve Steps, welcoming and giving comfort to families of alcoholics, and giving understanding and encouragement to the alcoholic. revku@cox.net.

SATURDAY/AUG. 21

Northern Virginia Community College Saturday Registration. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College campuses in Alexandria, Annandale, Loudoun, Manassas, Springfield and Woodbridge. Talk to counselors, apply to the College and register for fall semester courses beginning Aug. 23. Additional classes start Oct. 20. Students may apply and register at any time online at www.nvcc.edu. 703-323-3000.

T'ai Chi Beginners' Practice. 8 a.m. on the outdoor basketball court behind Dolley Madison Public Library at 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. 703-759-9141 or www.FreeTaiChi.org.

TUESDAY/AUG. 24

Trash to Treasure: Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle Meet Zero Waste. 7 p.m. Great Falls Group, Sierra Club, Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. With speakers Ben Boxer, Fairfax County Department of Solid Waste and Roger Diedrich, Great Falls Group Chair, Zero Waste. Contact Janet Al-Hussaini at 703-757-9518 or jalhussaini@msn.com

Tyson's Corner Kiwanis Club Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at George C. Marshall High School, Room 229A 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Meeting is public and individuals looking to volunteer in their community welcome. www.tysonscornerkiwanis.org.



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Fairfax Schools Beat Virginia Narrowly, Except Among Hispanics

Fairfax County Public Schools was the only school district in Northern Virginia and one of only a handful in the entire commonwealth to meet the testing standards laid out by the No Child Left Behind Law this year.

In general, the Fairfax exceeded others in Virginia when it came to standardized tests in 2010, according to the scores released by the Virginia Department of Education Aug. 12.

Ninety-three percent of Fairfax's student population passed the English exam compared to 89 percent of students in the commonwealth as a whole. And 92 percent of Fairfax students passed the mathematics test compared to 88 percent of Virginia students overall.

Smaller subgroups of students from Fairfax schools also performed better than those in Virginia in general. Black, white and poor students from Fairfax passed the English and math exams in greater numbers than their peers across the commonwealth.

A larger percentage of students with disabilities and students with limited English skills also scored proficient on the standardized tests when compared with Virginia students on average.

But one cohort of Fairfax students, those who are Hispanic, did not outperform their

peers in other parts of Virginia.

Eighty-six percent of Hispanic students in Fairfax passed the English exam, just barely beating out the 85 percent of Hispanic students who passed the test in Virginia overall.

Local Hispanic students performed about the same on the mathematics exam as others in the commonwealth, with about 82 percent of students passing in Fairfax and across Virginia.

The percentage of Hispanic students who graduate from a Fairfax high school in four years was 57 percent, lower than the commonwealth's average of 60 percent for Hispanic students.

Fairfax's graduation rate for all other subgroups of students - those who are white, Black, poor, have a disability or limited English - is higher than Virginia's average, according to the report issued by the Virginia Department of Education.

According to the education department's report, Hispanic students also made up nearly half of all the students who dropped out of the Fairfax County Public Schools during the 2008-2009 school year, though Hispanic students make up just 16 percent of Fairfax's high school population.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Fairfax County High School Graduation Rates

The following are the percentages of students at each high school who earned a standard or advanced diploma within four years. The Virginia Department of Education released this information Aug. 12 as part of an annual report required under the national No Child Left Behind legislation.

	All	Black	Hispanic	White	Students with Disabilities	Poor	Limited English
Jefferson High	99%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%
Langley High	95%	100%	100%	97%	82%	67%	85%
Madison High	93%	83%	75%	96%	77%	69%	77%
Woodson High	93%	56%	85%	97%	87%	69%	74%
Oakton High	91%	72%	78%	94%	77%	60%	74%
Westfield High	90%	72%	71%	94%	65%	69%	77%
West Springfield High	90%	88%	77%	95%	69%	71%	77%
Lake Braddock Secondary	90%	87%	78%	93%	76%	63%	75%
Chantilly High	90%	73%	70%	93%	69%	66%	78%
Robinson Secondary	89%	84%	76%	93%	65%	69%	71%
Marshall High	89%	86%	79%	90%	60%	79%	69%
McLean High	89%	79%	71%	95%	76%	50%	65%
South County Secondary	88%	79%	78%	91%	60%	74%	72%
Fairfax High	87%	81%	64%	92%	67%	73%	75%
Centreville High	86%	71%	70%	93%	72%	71%	75%
Herndon High	85%	80%	56%	93%	55%	71%	62%
Hayfield Secondary	84%	80%	69%	87%	65%	68%	72%
Fairfax County	83%	73%	57%	92%	62%	62%	61%
West Potomac High	82%	80%	56%	95%	49%	65%	57%
Edison High	81%	76%	69%	91%	49%	70%	64%
Lee High	76%	78%	58%	86%	42%	64%	63%
Virginia	77%	66%	60%	83%	43%	61%	56%
South Lakes High	75%	59%	51%	88%	48%	62%	57%
Mount Vernon High	73%	74%	50%	89%	65%	62%	52%
Mountain View Alternative	51%	41%	31%	68%	38%	47%	25%
Bryant Alternative	27%	38%	15%	37%	17%	27%	16%

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CALENDAR

Send announcements to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com

THURSDAY/AUG. 19

Mary Chapin Carpenter with Eliza Gilkyson. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$42 in-house, \$25 lawn. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

Tony Lucca, Ernie Halter and Mutlu. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Afternoon Reading Group. 1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Persepolis and Persepolis 2 by Marjane Satrapi. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Book Discussion. 7 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call for title. Adults. 703-757-8560.

OK Book Discussion. 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. East of Eden by John Steinbeck. Adults. 703-242-4020.

English Conversation. 1 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Conversation group for adult non-native English speakers of all levels. 703-938-0405.

Nottoway Park Concert Series: Blues Concert with Cathy Ponton King. 7:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

"The Fake Madwoman". 7 p.m. at Vinson Hall, 6251 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. The Traveling Players Ensemble present a commedia dell'arte style play. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on. Free admission, chairs available for rent \$5. All proceeds benefit TPE educational programs. travelingplayers.pmailus.com.

FRIDAY/AUG. 20

The Irish Tenors: Finbar Wright, Anthony Kearns and Ronan Tynan. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Tickets \$22-\$52. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

The Civil Wars and Madi Diaz at 7 p.m., Super bob at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Summer on the Green: U.S. Navy Commodores. 6:30 p.m. at the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Bring chairs or blankets for seating. No alcoholic beverages allowed. It is recommended that pets be left at home. 703-255-6360 or www.viennava.gov.

SATURDAY/AUG. 21

Open Mic Saturdays. 6:30 p.m. at the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Bring chairs or blankets for seating. No alcoholic beverages allowed. It is recommended that pets be left at home. 703-255-6360 or www.viennava.gov.

The Temptations and The Four Tops. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$38 in-house, \$22 lawn. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

DC Fest with MercyMe, Amy Grant and more. 3 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Christian rock. \$19-\$99 at 703-573-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com.

No Stars Over California, Decent To Daylight, Bourne Of Ash and Til Tomorrow at 5:30 p.m., **Super**



bob, Shinobi Ninja and Feed God Cabbage at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 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. 703-293-6227.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and strategies. 703-242-4020.

Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Masters Gardeners from the Fairfax County Cooperative Extension answer gardening questions. 703-790-8088.

Dulcie Taylor. 5 p.m. at the Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Folk/blues. 703-288-9505

SUNDAY/AUG. 22

Great Big Sea. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$35 in-house, \$25 lawn. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

Butterfly Garden Guided Tours. 3 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. An introductory guided stroll. Learn how the gardens attract butterflies. Members free, non-member adults \$4, seniors and age 7-17 \$1.50, under age 6 free. Rental binoculars available at the Visitor Center. 703-255-3631, ext. 0 or www.nvrpa.org/park/meadowlark_botanical_gardens.

Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Bingo. 7 p.m. at the VVFD, 400 Center St. South, Vienna. Games held every Sunday in the Flame Room. www.vvfd.org.

National Wildlife Federation Fundraiser with Sematic, Meza Mudge, Sheema Bahemat and Computer Folk at 1 p.m., **Boys Will Be Boys, The Love Light, The Wave Exchange, Scott Norris and Adrienne Nicole** at 6:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Virginia Wine Tour. With the McLean Social Club, for singles age 45 and up. Reserve at www.meetup.com/McLean-Social-Club.

Summer on the Green: Redstone. 6:30 p.m. at the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Classic rock. Bring chairs or blankets for seating. No alcoholic beverages allowed. It is recommended that pets be left at home. 703-255-6360 or www.viennava.gov.

The Brethren. 7 p.m. at Providence Baptist Church, 8980 Brook Road in McLean. Many members of the group are from the Army chorus, the Navy Seanchanters and the USAF Singing Sergeants. Free, donations accepted. Contact 703-893-5330 or providencetoday.com.

MONDAY/AUG. 23

Lunch Bunnies. 11 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Bring a snack and enjoy stories and songs. Age 1-5 with adult. Register at 703-938-0405.

Game On Afternoon Edition. 3:30 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Test your

The Brethren will perform at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 22 at Providence Baptist Church, 8980 Brook Road in McLean. Many members of the group are from the Army chorus, the Navy Seanchanters and the USAF Singing Sergeants. Free, donations accepted. Contact 703-893-5330 or providencetoday.com.

prosess at our Wii Mario Kart or Super Smashbros. Age 6-16. 703-938-0405.

Train with Needtobreathe. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$45 in-house, \$30 lawn. 703-255-1868 or www.wolftrap.org.

Used Up, The Humans, Logan Kraft Band and Sub-Radio Standard. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/AUG. 24

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-293-6227.

Three Hurdles to Federal Government Jobs. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Navigating the USA Jobs Web site and additional skills. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Practice Your English. 6:30 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-790-8088.

Rodrigo y Gabriela with Xavier Rudd. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$40 in-house, \$25 lawn. 703-255-1868 or www.wolftrap.org.

The Bigger Lights, The Graduate, You Me And Everyone We Know, Weatherstar, We Are The In Crowd and Amely. 6:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 25

Kevin Heider CD Release and Brian Kissinger. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/AUG. 26

Nottoway Park Concert Series: The Grandsons. 7:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Rockabilly/swing/lounge music. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

Anita Baker. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$48 in-house, \$25 lawn. 703-255-1868 or www.wolftrap.org.

Patrick Henry Book Club. 1 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Call for title. Adults. 703-938-0405.

Jay Nash and Dean Fields at 7 p.m., **Viking, Ypset, Young Enough and Turbo P** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/AUG. 27

Tony Bennett. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$48 in-house, \$25 lawn. 703-255-1868 or www.wolftrap.org.

Curious George Live! 7 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. A musical about Curious George helping Chef Pisghetti save his restaurant. Tickets \$16-\$30, available at www.ticketmaster.com or via Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT. www.curiousgeorgelive.com.



McLean Community Center Governing Board

Work Session on Draft FY2012 Budget

(July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012)

Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Center

Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed FY2012 Budget

Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Center.

The current fiscal year has a tax rate of 2.4 cents per \$100 of real estate assessment, reduced from the previous fiscal year's rate of 2.6 cents.

Residents who wish to speak at the Public Hearing are asked to call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to be placed on the speakers' list. Details of the draft budget will be available during the Work Session. Copies of the proposed budget will be available before the Public Hearing.



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COUNTY NOTEBOOK

TJ Employee Sentenced For Stealing School Funds

Susan Thanh Litwin was sentenced to 15 months in prison, followed by three years of supervised release, for stealing more than \$279,000 from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. The former finance technician at Jefferson received her sentence Aug. 13, according to the U.S. Attorney's office for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Litwin was responsible for overseeing funds that had been donated for student activities like clubs, athletics and dances. She pleaded guilty to theft from an organization receiving public funds on May 6.

Litwin stole the money from the school by writing checks to herself and making unauthorized withdrawals ranging from \$2,500 to \$35,000 over approximately a two-year period, according to the U.S. Attorney's press release.

In an interview with law enforcement, Litwin said the money was used to support a gambling habit and funding trips to Las Vegas, Nev. and Atlantic City, N.J. She also used the stolen funds to help cover extensive credit card debt and a large mortgage on her home in Prince William County, Va.

Richmond Highway Expansion Put On Hold

Money that U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) announced he had secured months ago to pay for the expansion of Richmond Highway around Fort Belvoir has moved out of reach. The transportation project is expected to be delayed at least for several months, according to several Fairfax County officials.

Language that would have allowed officials to spend \$130 million on the highway expansion was taken out of a bill before the U.S. Senate passed it earlier this month. Moran has inserted the same language into another bill but congress is not expected to take up that item until after the November elections.

The delay makes it almost impossible for the highway expansion to be completed by the time several thousand new employees move to Fort Belvoir's campus as a result of changes related to the national

base realignment and closure committee's decisions.

Moran had tied the \$130 million to the new hospital currently being constructed on Fort Belvoir just inside the Pence Gate. The facility, which will serve all branches of the military, will see 500,000 outpatient visits annually, according to Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon).

"We have been working on this for years and there is absolutely no debate about the need. That section of Route 1 in front of Fort Belvoir is in massive need of improvement. ... I look at this as a major setback," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

Richmond Highway is the only option for people accessing the hospital from the north or the south. McKay said it makes no sense for the military to have spent over \$800 million on a new hospital that military personnel and veterans will have to sit in traffic to access.

"Every day that passes where we don't have the money is another day of gridlock on Route 1. It will be frustrating for people trying to get to the hospital," said McKay.

Fairfax Foreclosures Increased Slightly In Spring

A recent economic report released by Fairfax County shows that the number of foreclosures in the locality had increased slightly from March to May, though the total number of foreclosures in Fairfax is still significantly lower this year than it was last year.

The number of foreclosures was 705 in March, 744 in April and 767 in May, according to report issued by the county government. The countywide peak of foreclosed properties was 2,257 in September 2008.

On average there were 823 foreclosed properties on the market from July 2009 through May 2010. This is lower than the average of 1,794 foreclosures on the market during the same time period a year earlier, according to the county's economic report.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

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Traffic Calming Projects without Funding

Virginia's abrupt withdrawal of support for a popular "traffic calming" program in Fairfax County has left at least 18 approved projects without funding, according to county transportation staff.

The commonwealth has eliminated financial support for speed humps, raised crosswalks and other measures that slow down vehicles. The Fairfax supervisors characterized Fairfax's "traffic calming" program as relatively inexpensive, just \$200,00 per year.

The county will use what money it currently has available to finish as many of the 21 traffic calming projects already in the pipeline. But at least 18 Fairfax traffic-calming projects that had already been approved would no longer have financial backing.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is having trouble giving Fairfax any money for new secondary road projects - including stop signs, traffic light installation and road widening — because of a drastic decline in statewide transportation revenue.

Overall, the commonwealth allocated just under \$2,000 to Fairfax for all of its secondary road

construction. Just a few years ago, Virginia gave Fairfax about \$20 million to cover similar types of projects, said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee.)

A secondary road is also not necessarily a minor road. Some of Fairfax's most heavily used corridors, such as Braddock Road and the Fairfax County Parkway, are technically secondary roads in Virginia. Improvements to those types of streets will have to be covered by the \$2,000 allocation.

"I think people gave up on road expansion and capacity enhancement awhile ago but now we are not even taking care of what we have. This is why we can't get crosswalks painted," said McKay of the transportation funding situation.

"The folks that work for VDOT are very skilled, very motivated people but they just simply do not have the resources to do what they need to do at this point," said the supervisor.

Several county board members have said they are reluctantly willing to pick up the slack from the commonwealth for funding relatively inexpensive transportation items, such as the traffic calming program.

But that could mean that individual communities would have to contribute

funding directly if they wanted speed humps on their local streets. Some transportation officials worry that this could lead to an inequitable situation, where only communities of means would be able to secure traffic calming projects.

The following is a list of approved and requested traffic-calming projects that no longer have funding from Virginia:

Brimstone Lane - Fairfax Station
Burgundy Road - Franconia
Center Road - West Springfield
Colts Brook Drive - Reston
Dallas Street - Chantilly
Elmwood Street - Chantilly
Griffith Road, Lisle Avenue, Pimmit Drive - Falls Church
Highland Avenue - Falls Church
Holmes Run Road, Falls Church
Marbury Road - Oakton
Barkley Drive - Fairfax
Potomac View Boulevard - Lorton
Langley Farms - McLean
Misty Creek Lane - Fairfax
Olley Lane - Fairfax
Quincy Adams Drive and John Milton Drive - Herndon

— Julia O'Donoghue

Budgeting for Success

FROM PAGE 7

and health." Alexandria and Arlington spend more per capita than every other jurisdiction in Northern Virginia except Falls Church, which spends \$298 per capita in this category.

"There are some positions you just can't eliminate because you are a small jurisdiction," said Marianne Hetzer, a member of the Alexandria PTA Council. "Considering the size, it makes sense that we have some more administrative costs."

With standardized testing results expected next month, school officials in Alexandria are anticipating drastic changes in the immediate future. Now that T.C. Williams High School has been designated a "persistently lowest

achieving school," Superintendent Morton Sherman has created an action plan that includes writing an individual plan to chart progress for every student and teacher in the system. While that may increase administrative costs, some say, it could also reverse years of failing test scores at the high school.

"I'd expect slightly higher administrative costs as the changes require resources to implement," said Alexandria City Councilman Rob Krupicka, who is also a member of the Virginia School Board, in a written statement. "Administrative costs in ACPS went down per student over the last few years and I would not be surprised if that trend continued for another budget or two."

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Epiphany United Methodist Preschool, 1014 Country Club Drive, N.E. in Vienna, is now enrolling 3-4-year-old students for the 2010/2011 school year. Contact 703-938-2391 or www.epiphanypreschool.com.

Good Shepherd Preschool, a new outreach ministry of the United Methodist Church of the Good Shepherd, 2351 Hunter Mill Road in Vienna, opens on Sept. 14. The Preschool will be available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Contact 703-281-3987 ext. 18 or www.GoodShepherdVA.com.

Vienna Assembly of God has a ministry to children on Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. at the corner of Center N and Ayr Hill Avenue, N.E. Children's Church on Sundays also available. 703-938-7736 or www.ViennaAG.com.

Vienna Christian Healing Rooms, every Saturday, 1-5 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane. A team of Christians is available to anyone requesting prayer. Free and open to the public. 703-698-9779 or www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com.

English classes at McLean Baptist Church on Mondays, including beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. Advanced electives are Literature, U.S. Government, World Religions, and current events. Free class and registration, but students must buy their own books. 9:30 a.m. at 1367 Chain Bridge Road. 703-356-8080 or www.mcleanbaptist.org.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 1830 Kirby Road in McLean. The third Sunday service every month at 10:15 a.m. allows children to play active roles in the music and as greeters and ushers. Traditional services are every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m. Nursery is available at the 10:15 a.m. service. 703-356-7533.

Chesterbrook United Methodist Church is at 1711 Kirby Road, McLean. Worship service is at 11 a.m. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. for adults and children. Rev. Kathleene Card, Pastor. 703-356-7100 or www.ChesterbrookUMC.org.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. Contact Gary Axelrod, 301-610-8309 or

gaxelrod@jssa.org, or www.jssa.org.

Charles Wesley and Chesterbrook United Methodist Churches invite the community to a 20-minute weekly service of prayer and Holy Communion in the Charles Wesley sanctuary, 6817 Dean Drive in McLean, at 12 p.m. Thursdays. At the conclusion of the service, there is a time of individual blessing, anointing and healing prayer. 703-356-6336.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org for schedules and registration information.

McLean Bible Church Fitness Class at Body & Soul fitness. Balance is key, energy is renewed, strength is gained, and friendships are formed. Mondays 9:15 a.m. and Fridays 9:45 a.m. Childcare is free for registered students. E-mail bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org for more information.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center offers ongoing classes on meditation and Buddhist philosophy, Mondays at 7 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. \$10 per class. 202-331-2122 or www.meditation-dc.org.

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Church of the Brethern
Oakton Church of the Brethern ... 703-281-4411
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Our Lady of Good Counsel ... 703-938-2828
St. Athanasius Catholic Church ... 703-759-4555
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Vale United Methodist ... 703-620-2594
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Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church ... 703-560-6336
Korean Central Presbyterian ... 703-698-5577
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Seventh-Day Adventist
Northern Virginia Christian Fellowship ... 703-242-9001
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Twilight Time for Older NVSL Swimmers

Longtime summer season team members move on at age 19.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The conclusion of the summertime swim season for organizations such as the Northern Virginia Swim League (NVSL) also marks the end of the individual summer season swim careers for older team members who have often been a part of their respective clubs for 10 or more years.

Numerous older teenagers who have grown up enjoying the social and competitive benefits of being part of a summer season swim team finally reach the age where they are no longer eligible to actively compete in the weekly meets.

This is a bittersweet time for the young men and women, who are often preparing for their first or second years of college in the upcoming fall while also enjoying one last hurrah with the summer teams of their youth.

NVSL swimmers, according to league rules, become ineligible to swim for their teams once they turn 19 years of age. The ripple effects of older swimmers moving on is a natural progression but also one that hits programs hard as those veteran team members have often served as leaders and good role models to their younger teammates.

Adam Pennington, 18, just completed his final full season as a member of the Cardinal Hill swim team in Vienna. Pennington, who graduated from James Madison High School this past June, will swim within the Ivy League this upcoming school year as a freshmen member of the Columbia University (New York City) swim team. Next summer, he will be allowed to swim for Cardinal Hill until his 19th birthday comes on July 9. At that time, his summer swim career will be officially ended and he will no longer be allowed to compete in his team's meets.

So Pennington, who was a star high school swimmer in recent years at Madison, tried to enjoy this recently completed summer season the best he could.

"Next summer I won't be able to



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PENNINGTON FAMILY

Adam Pennington of Cardinal Hill will be swimming this upcoming school year at Columbia University.

swim for Cardinal Hill the whole year," said Pennington, who just completed his 13th year as a team member. "When you're 11 or 12, you kind of take for granted being part of a team like this. But the last year or so I started thinking, 'Wow, I want to get the most out of [my remaining years with the team].'"

Pennington, who has been a part of the McLean Fish club team since 2001, made his swim mark at Madison where, as a junior, he was part of two Warhawk relay teams — the 200 and 400-free relays — that set Virginia state high school records. During his senior year, Pennington, in individual events, finished second in the state in the 500-freestyle and third in the 200-free.

"When you're 11 or 12, you kind of take for granted being part of a team like this."

— Adam Pennington, Cardinal Hill

He has loved his years swimming for Cardinal Hill, which was 2-3 this summer in NVSL Division 4. The team has had its ups and downs over the years. Pennington recalled one summer when the team failed to win a meet and another one, in 2009, when the team went a perfect 5-0 and won the Division 5 title.

"I've seen the team transition between [different] coaches and I've seen the bad times and the good times," he said. "You get the whole experience and full range of emotions being part of it for 13 years. As you get older, it's less and less about winning and more about the good times with your friends."

During his career at Cardinal Hill, Pennington has broken five team records, some of which have since been broken by others. He said he has competed in at least seven season-ending All Star meets. At this summer's All Stars on Aug. 7 at Broyhill Crest Pool in Annandale, Pennington finished second in the 50-back and fourth place in the 50-IM.

He said he consciously stepped up into more of a team leadership role this summer.

"Definitely this year more than other seasons," he said. "[In prior years] there were always older team members than me so I didn't assume [as much] leadership until this year. Being a leader is a lot of fun. We got blown out in a few meets and I told the kids it's not all about the winning. I think good sportsmanship is the biggest thing."

ELIZABETH HALL of the Poplar Tree team in Chantilly turned 19 on July 31. She competed for the Pirates most of the summer until her birthday. Thereafter, she could not participate in any of her team's postseason events, including All Stars.

In her final meet as an eligible swimmer several weeks ago, Hall, in a home meet, broke an NVSL record in the girls' 15-18, 50-butterfly event. She had originally broken the league record in the event two summers ago before her teammate and friend, Amanda Kendall, broke that mark last summer. But Hall reclaimed the league record last month with a time of 28.26. During her Poplar Tree swim career, Hall was a four-time NVSL champion in the fly and free.

"I knew I wouldn't have the op-



PHOTO BY RICH SANDERS/THE CONNECTION

Hunter Mill swimmer Sean Fletcher, a longtime member of the McLean Fish, concluded his NVSL career by breaking the league record in the boys' 15-18, 50-back event at this summer's All Stars, on Aug. 7 at Broyhill Crest Pool in Annandale.

NVSL SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS

The following teams were voted by their divisions to receive the 2010 NVSL sportsmanship awards.

- Division 1 - Hamlet (McLean)
- Division 2 - Little Rocky Run (Clifton)
- Division 3 - Dunn Loring (Vienna)
- Division 4 - Mosby Woods (Fairfax)
- Division 5 - Langley Club (McLean)
- Division 6 - Wayneswood (Alexandria)
- Division 7 - Ravensworth (Springfield)
- Division 8 - Villa Aquatic (Fairfax)
- Division 9 - Forest Hollow (Annandale)
- Division 10 - Hayfield Farm (Alexandria)
- Division 11 - Walden Glen (Springfield)
- Division 12 - Fair Oaks (Fairfax)
- Division 13 - Rolling Hills (Springfield)
- Division 14 - Lake Braddock (Burke)
- Division 15 - Lincolumbia Park (Alexandria)
- Division 16 - Hollins Hills (Alexandria)
- Division 17 - Pinewood Lake (Alexandria)

portunity [this summer] to break any records at All Stars or at Divisionals," said Hall, knowing her birthday would come prior to those postseason meets.

Hall, along with holding the league mark in the 50-butterfly, holds Poplar Tree club records in both that event as well as the 50-back. She missed setting a new league record in 50-back by two-tenths of a second.

Breaking the league mark in the 50-fly in her final competition as a Poplar Tree team member was an overwhelming experience for Hall, who has competed 11 years with the Pirates.

"It was very emotional knowing it was my last race," said Hall, of the 50-fly. "The whole team was behind me. It was a great experience."

Hall, a rising sophomore at William & Mary where she is studying psychology, has been a swimmer-assistant coach the past four years with the Pirates. She plans on continuing in that role with the team next summer.

SEAN FLETCHER of Division 3 Hunter Mill (Vienna) completed his NVSL career with a bang at All Stars by breaking a league record in the boys' 15-18, 50-back event with a time of 25.82, ahead of second place Pennington (28.04). He also was first in the 50-fly (25.07). Fletcher, who swam at Madison High (where he was a teammate of Pennington), is a rising sophomore and team member at the University of Michigan.

Of his record-breaker in the 50-back, Fletcher said, "It was a pretty smooth race for me. I'm really happy with it and wanted to get under 26 [seconds]. It was real nice to go out with a ribbon in my last swim. I've been swimming [for Hunter Mill] a long time so this is bitter sweet. The whole team atmosphere here has been a lot of fun."

Fletcher said the swim competition at Michigan was fierce during his freshmen year. His final summer within the NVSL was much less stressful.

"A lot of [NVSL swimming] is mostly fun," said Fletcher, one of the Northern Region's top swimmers during his high school career. "For me, this is about relaxing and having a good time. This summer I wanted to jump in, swim fast, and see what happened."

Fletcher said he'll likely serve as a Hunter Mill assistant coach next year. Now, he is preparing for his second year of swimming collegiately for the Wolverines.

"I'm looking forward to it and to bettering my times," he said, of the upcoming college season. "I just want to enjoy the season."

Sports editor Jon Roetman contributed to this story.

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9091 EATON PARK RD	6	7	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,925,000	Detached	2.00		EATON PARK
11440 WOOLINGTON RD	5	6	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,885,000	Detached	1.72		CASCADES ESTATES
10726 FALLS POINTE DR	6	5	2		GREAT FALLS	\$1,850,000	Detached	1.72		FALLS POINTE
9898 WINDY HOLLOW RD	6	4	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,500,000	Detached	1.72		DEEPWOODS HOLLOW
446 RIVER BEND RD	6	7	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,500,000	Detached	5.00		HIDDEN SPRINGS
11444 WOOLINGTON RD	5	4	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,460,000	Detached	1.72		ESTATES AT LOWES ISLAND
701 CLEAR SPRING RD	6	5	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,425,000	Detached	5.69		VALLEY STREAM
10605 DOGWOOD FARM LN	5	4	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,420,000	Detached	1.74		DOGWOOD FARM
1230 COLVIN MEADOWS LN	4	5	2		GREAT FALLS	\$1,355,000	Detached	0.83		COLVIN MEADOW ESTATES
850 CHRISTENSEN CT	6	4	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,300,000	Detached	2.09		SENECA HUNT
11558 TRALEE DR	5	4	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,299,000	Detached	1.79		TRALEE ESTATES
10835 PATOWMACK DR	5	4	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,200,000	Detached	2.62		BEACH MILL DOWNS
520 NALLS DAIRY CT	5	3	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,140,000	Detached	1.72		GREAT FALLS WEST
419 SENECA RD	5	4	0		GREAT FALLS	\$1,090,000	Detached	1.24		SENECA
9293 IVY TREE LN	4	2	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,090,000	Detached	0.92		LEIGH MILL MEADOW
916 CONSTELLATION DR	4	4	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,040,000	Detached	0.51		OLIVER ESTATES
726 GOULDMAN LN	6	5	1		GREAT FALLS	\$915,000	Detached	5.00		GOULDMAN ACRES
341 CHESAPEAKE DR	4	2	2		GREAT FALLS	\$900,000	Detached	0.92		RIVERSIDE MANOR
1122 TROTTER HORSE LN	6	3	0		GREAT FALLS	\$866,000	Detached	0.62		LOCUST HILL
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200 DEEPWOODS DR	4	3	0		GREAT FALLS	\$825,000	Detached	0.91		NONE
933 WELHAM GREEN RD	4	2	1		GREAT FALLS	\$810,000	Detached	0.97		WINDERMERE
998 REDBERRY CT	5	3	1		GREAT FALLS	\$775,000	Detached	0.65		HOLLY KNOLL
1004 CUP LEAF HOLY CT	4	3	1		GREAT FALLS	\$714,900	Detached	0.56		HOLLY KNOLL
10300 ELIZABETH ST	2	2	0		GREAT FALLS	\$595,000	Detached	0.91		GREEN ACRES
10824 MONTICELLO DR	5	3	1		GREAT FALLS	\$593,000	Detached	0.23		GREAT FALLS FOREST
30112 MERCHANT CT	4	3	1		GREAT FALLS	\$512,000	Detached	0.25		GREAT FALLS FOREST

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McLean Property Featured on Christie's Great Estates Cover

Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc. has announced that one of its premier properties, the Château Noble in McLean, was selected to be featured on the cover of Christie's Great Estates magazine. An international showcase for distinct properties, Christie's Great Estates magazine is distributed to the world's wealthiest potential homebuyers, as well as first-class airport lounges, upscale newsstands and at important Christie's auctions around the world.

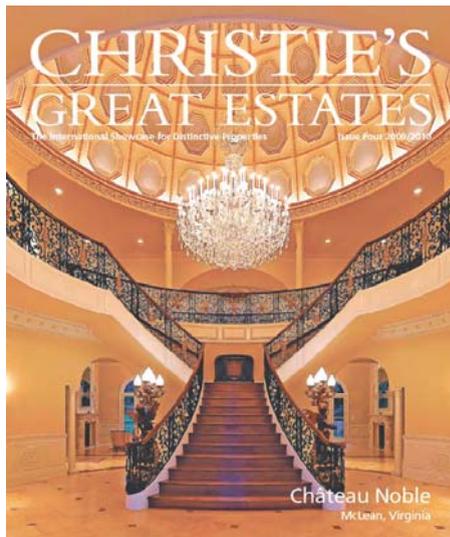
Château Noble, a palatial 27,000-square-foot manor set on 2 acres of professionally manicured grounds, was built by its current owner, Michael Darvishi of Noble Construction. The home is listed for \$17.5 million.

Listing agent Fouad Talout of Long & Foster Real Estate described the property as having exquisite details and attention to aesthetics, factors that contributed to Christie's Great Estates magazine's selection of the prop-

erty as its featured cover listing for the winter 2010 issue. The dome pictured on the cover, for example, took three years to construct and showcases plasterwork custom designed by artists, he said.

"I've been through a lot of houses, and I can't find anything in this property that is not 'perfection,'" Talout said, in the Christie's Great Estates magazine article.

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Christie's Great Estates magazine cover features the Château Noble in McLean.

place," said Jeffrey S. Detwiler, president and chief operating officer of The Long & Foster Companies. "Backed by the reputation for quality and service offered by Christie's, Long & Foster agents have the resources to represent distinct properties such as Château Noble."

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1068 Cedar Chase.....\$925,000...Sun 1-4...Debbie Gill.....Long & Foster.....703-346-1373

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11251 Center Harbor Rd.\$1,025,000...Sun 2-4...Leslie Wilder.....McEneaney Associates...703-798-7226

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SCHOOLS

Forestville Gets SMARTer

Great Falls school will have a SMART Board in all 29 classrooms this fall.

BY KRISTINE NASH

Forestville is getting smarter and bringing technology into every classroom. Forestville will have a SMART Board in all 29 classrooms this fall.

SMART Boards are interactive, touch-sensitive whiteboards that, when combined with a projector and computer, form an interactive teaching tool that allows students to interact with the curriculum. The teachers can project their notes and slide shows on these boards and instead of becoming a one-sided lecture, it becomes a two-sided experience.

Students can edit and make notes on the screen or answer questions directly on the screen, ultimately allowing them to play a larger part in the discussion and absorb more from the lesson. These boards increase the interactive atmosphere in the classroom, which in return increases the

learning experience. The children can see it, hear it, touch it. It enhances the entire learning process.

Kristin Kime is a fourth grade teacher at Forestville who has embraced the SMART Board. "I am ecstatic that every teacher at Forestville will be getting a SMART Board this school year," she said. "When I use the SMART Board in my classroom, the children are excited and motivated to learn. My favorite part about the board is that it accommodates each of the different learning styles. I have used the SMART Board in my classroom for many different activities such as; webs in Kidspiration, editing skills, navigating the Internet and teaching steps to a math problem. The ideas and uses of the SMART Board are only limited to the teacher's imagination. I can't wait to make this interactive board part of my everyday routine. Thanks Forestville for providing us with this wonderful tool."

Through the efforts of the PTA, parents and the \$8,500 donation from the Great Falls Charitable Foundation, Forestville raised enough money to purchase a SMART Board for every classroom.

"Forestville is thrilled to complete its mission of supplying a SMART Board to every classroom," said Matt Harris, Forestville principal. "This venture began in 2004-05 with the purchase of one board for each grade level and one for the specialists and special educators each. The intent was to allow our knowledge and use of the boards to keep pace with the purchases. In so many ways, the multiple purposes and hands on characteristics for SMART Boards have been on display around Forestville over the past five years. Thanks to our former School Based Technology Specialist, Martha Smith, and technology role models on our staff, we have reached a level where full implementation is warranted. Our PTA is extremely generous in the provision of small, large and individual technological tools for our students."

"In the fall of 2009, the



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Mike Kearney, center, presents a check for \$8,500 each to the Great Falls Elementary School, right, and Forestville Elementary, left, on June 23. The Great Falls Charitable Foundation donation helped finance SMART Board project at Forestville.

Forestville PTA recognized the need for equipping every classroom with it's own SMART Board, just as all of our neighboring community elementary schools have," said Lynn Conforti, PTA president. "After seeing a demonstration of the SMART Board, our school community rallied for the cause during the course of the year to help us reach this goal.

According to Conforti, the PTA called a meeting to vote on appropriating all necessary funds to pur-

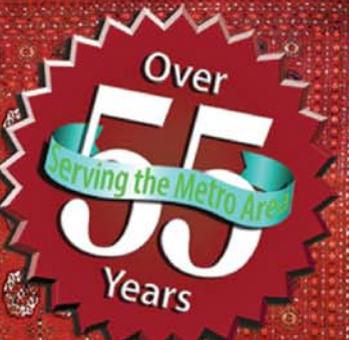
chase the remaining SMART Boards needed. Harris notified the FES faculty after the meeting and teachers were said to "be over the moon" with delight with this news.

"I received several e-mails from teachers personally thanking the PTA for this gift," said Conforti. "I was so touched by this whole thing, reaching our goal, knowing how thrilled the teachers would be, it was beyond words and was a wonderful way to end my year as PTA president."

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WEDDINGS

Katherine Lois Swedo, John Patrick Beatty Married

Katherine Lois Swedo of McLean and John Patrick Beatty of Vienna were married on June 26, at St. John the Beloved in McLean. The bride was given in marriage by her father, Dr. Gregory Swedo. Father Paul Scalia of St. John the Beloved officiated. Music at the ceremony was provided by Alison Combes.

The bride is the daughter of Drs. Susan and Gregory Swedo of McLean. She is a senior at Virginia Tech majoring in mathematics with a concentration in education. She will graduate in December. She is also a graduate of Oakcrest School.

The bridegroom is the son of Daniel and Jean Beatty of Vienna. He graduated from Virginia Tech this past spring with a B.S. in computer science. He is also a graduate of The Heights School. He is presently employed at comScore in Reston.

Stephanie Nguyen of North Potomac, Md., friend of the bride, was the maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Elizabeth Swedo of Atlanta, Ga., sister of the bride; Emily Swedo of McLean, sister of the bride; Amanda Vermaaten of Midlothian, Va., friend of the bride; Julia Crowley of Oakton, friend of the bride; Colleen Beatty of Vienna, sister of the groom; and Marybeth Beatty of Vienna, sister of the



PHOTO BY GARY LLOYD/WWW.PORTRAITPHOTOGRAPHER.COM

groom.

Carlin Crowder of Blacksburg, Va., friend of the groom, was the best man. Groomsmen were Christopher Beatty of Vienna, brother of the groom; Joseph Beatty of Vienna, brother of the groom; Stephen Dolenc of Vienna, friend of the groom; Daniel Faith of Blacksburg, Va., friend of the groom; Joseph Mehan of Vienna, friend of the groom; and Connor Breed of Vienna, friend of the groom.

The flower girl at the ceremony was Monica Beatty of Vienna, sister of the groom. The ring bearer was Nicholas Beatty of Vienna, brother of the groom.

Following a reception at the bride's parents' home in McLean, the couple left for a honeymoon in Disney World.

Police Patrol, Dispatchers Recognized for Helping Citizen in Need

On July 15, Vienna Police Chief Robert A. Carlisle recognized members of Vienna Police Patrol Squad "A" and associated dispatchers for their efforts in assisting a citizen in need.

In the early morning hours of June 21, members of the Vienna Police Department Communications Section received a call from an elderly woman in need of help. The woman was apparently suffering from a medical condition which was both life threatening and had affected her mental faculties. The woman was not able to provide Vienna Police Dispatcher Johnson with her physical location or her house address as she had called in using an obsolete communications line; not 9-1-1, which has enhanced tracking capabilities.

Johnson proceeded to gain small bits of information from the woman in an attempt to locate her. The woman stated she lived near a police station and could see a school. When this information failed to identify her location, Johnson used individual digit recitation to get the woman to recite her house numbers in single digit fashion. The woman was not able to state her street address.

Sgt. Juelharte, MPO Burchfield and PFC Simon began attempting to locate the woman. Johnson asked the woman to open her front door and turn on all her house lights to make locating her easier.

Juelharte then asked officers to activate their blue emergency lights in hopes that the woman could see the lights and direct officers to her home. The woman was unable to speak coherently and was not able to successfully direct officers to her home.

Attempts to locate the woman's phone number and house address continued to prove fruitless and Dispatcher Barker began searching the Internet for solutions. The woman's address was eventually discovered through the diligent work of the two dispatchers and the phone company. The officers and Fairfax County EMS units were able to successfully locate the woman and render aid.

The officers and dispatchers of the Vienna Police Department utilized very creative methods and much persistence in their attempts to locate the woman. In the end, the woman was able to receive the treatment she needed.

LETTERS

Host Families Needed

To the Editor:

A local non profit exchange program is inviting area families to host international exchange students for the 2010-11 school years. The teenage students come from more than 30 countries and attend local high schools. The students have their own spending money and insurance. Host families are responsible for meals, a place to sleep and a nurturing environment. STS Foundation has a local coordinator that will supervise the student and support the family throughout the school year. Here are a three of the incoming students that are requesting families:

Daniel is 17 and comes from Coche-Caracas in Venezuela. His mother and father both work at the electric company. Daniel has an older sister who was also an exchange student. Daniel's hobbies and interests include soccer, music, meeting friends and watching movies. He is part of the soccer team and enjoys it very much. His parents say that he is a polite and responsible teenager and will be a real asset to his new host family

Frederic is 17 and comes from a little village in Croix Blande, France, where he lives with his mother and sister Gabrielle. His hobbies are playing rugby, riding horses and jogging. Fredrick trains with his rugby team at school. He likes to go skiing in the winter time. He loves American culture and hopes to improve his English while he is here. His teacher describes his as being a bright young man with a very pleasant personality.

Liv is 17 and comes from Well in The Netherlands. Her father works as a truck mechanic and her mother is an administrative assistant. Liv has two sisters ages 18 and 12. She speaks English, German, French and Dutch. She loves dancing, jazz and ballet. She also enjoys drawing and shopping with her friends. She describes herself as being polite, patient and cheerful.

For questions about these and other students, call or e-mail Mary Leonhardt or Craig Taddiken, at 1-800-522-4678 or mary@stsfoundation.org.

STS Foundation is a dedicated to intercultural exchange. www.stsfoundation.org

Mary Leonhardt

Regional Coordinator/STS Foundation
Scottsdale, Ariz.



Sixteen scouts and six adults canoed through the chains of lakes located on the border between Minnesota and Canada.

Boy Scouts Take Canoe Trip

Boy Scouts from Troop 1130 traveled to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of Superior National Forest for a seven day canoe trip. The trip was based out of the Boy Scout high adventure base near Ely, Minn. Sixteen scouts and six adults canoed through the chains of lakes located on the border between Minnesota and Canada. The group canoed more than 70 miles, with frequent portages across land between the lakes. Along the way, the group did fishing, hiking to waterfalls,

swimming and cliff jumping. Next year, Troop 1130 is planning a sailing trip to the Florida Keys. Boy Scout Troop 1130 is sponsored by Charles Wesley United Methodist Church in McLean. Young men ages 11 to 18 are eligible to join Boy Scouts and take advantage its outdoor activities. The Venture Scout program is open to young men and women, ages 13 to 21. For more information, contact Jim Ahlgrimm at 703-848-0793 or ahlgrimm_jim@yahoo.com.



Jan & Dan

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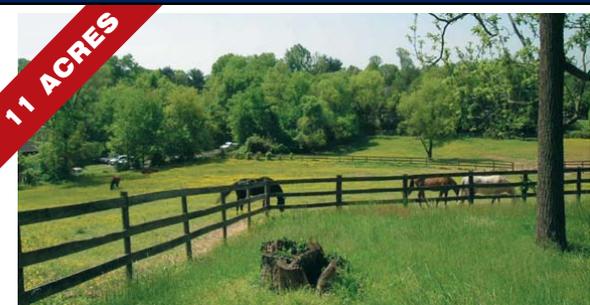
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