

# Burke CONNECTION

# Culinary Experience

NEWS, PAGE 4

Chef Christine Gloninger, instructor of the Annandale High School culinary arts program stands with two of her students, Adam Goodson and Laura Garcia. Their class prepared desserts for the event and helped serve guests at the Annual Taste of Braddock Dinner.



PHOTO BY GINA URICOLI/THE CONNECTION SPORTS, PAGE 12 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 17

## FCPS Offers Fourth Option

NEWS, PAGE 4

## Bruins Fall In Semi-Finals

SPORTS, PAGE 12

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# 'Tis the Season to be Green!

Here are some tips to add Green to your Holidays:

## **GIVE YOUR HOME A TREE:**

Fairfax County is in need of more trees planted on residential properties. This holiday season - before the ground freezes - plant a tree on your property. If you plan on purchasing a live Christmas Tree, you might also consider purchasing a tree - with the root ball intact - to plant after the holiday. Trees can provide many benefits to your home. For details on tree planting and benefits, contact the Fairfax County Urban Forester at 703-324-1770, TTY 711.

## **USE CARE WITH LIGHTING:**

When using festive lighting arrangements, be sure to carefully inspect wires for fraying and other damage. Also, be sure to follow manufacturer's instructions when connecting lights in sequence, using power strips or connecting to outlet adapters - overloading a circuit can overheat wires and cause fires. Use caution when using open flames such as candles and food warmers.

## **CONSERVE ENERGY:**

Using LED decorative lights and timing devices can save on energy usage during the holiday season. Never leave lights on overnight.

## **CAN THE GREASE:**

You can prevent sewer backups and overflows by pouring grease into used cans, adding an absorbent (like kitty litter or a paper towel) and disposing of it in the trash when full.

## **RECYCLE PACKAGING AND GIFT WRAP:**

Cardboard boxes and packaging, all gift wrap (with the exception of foil wrap) and holiday cards, can be recycled through your normal curbside paper recycling collection.

## **RECYCLE YOUR LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE:**

All Christmas Trees less than 8 feet tall can be recycled at the curb in Fairfax County during the first two weeks in January at no additional cost. Please remove tree stands, ornaments, tinsel, lights and tree toppers. For larger trees, contact your trash collector for collection details.



A Fairfax County, Va., publication.  
December 2010

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## School Board Seeks Comments on Fourth Option

Latest alternative moves fewest students, involves four school additions.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

**F**airfax County Public Schools released a fourth option for adjusting elementary school boundaries in southwestern Fairfax County on Nov. 23, two days before Thanksgiving. The school system is asking community members to provide feedback on the latest alter-

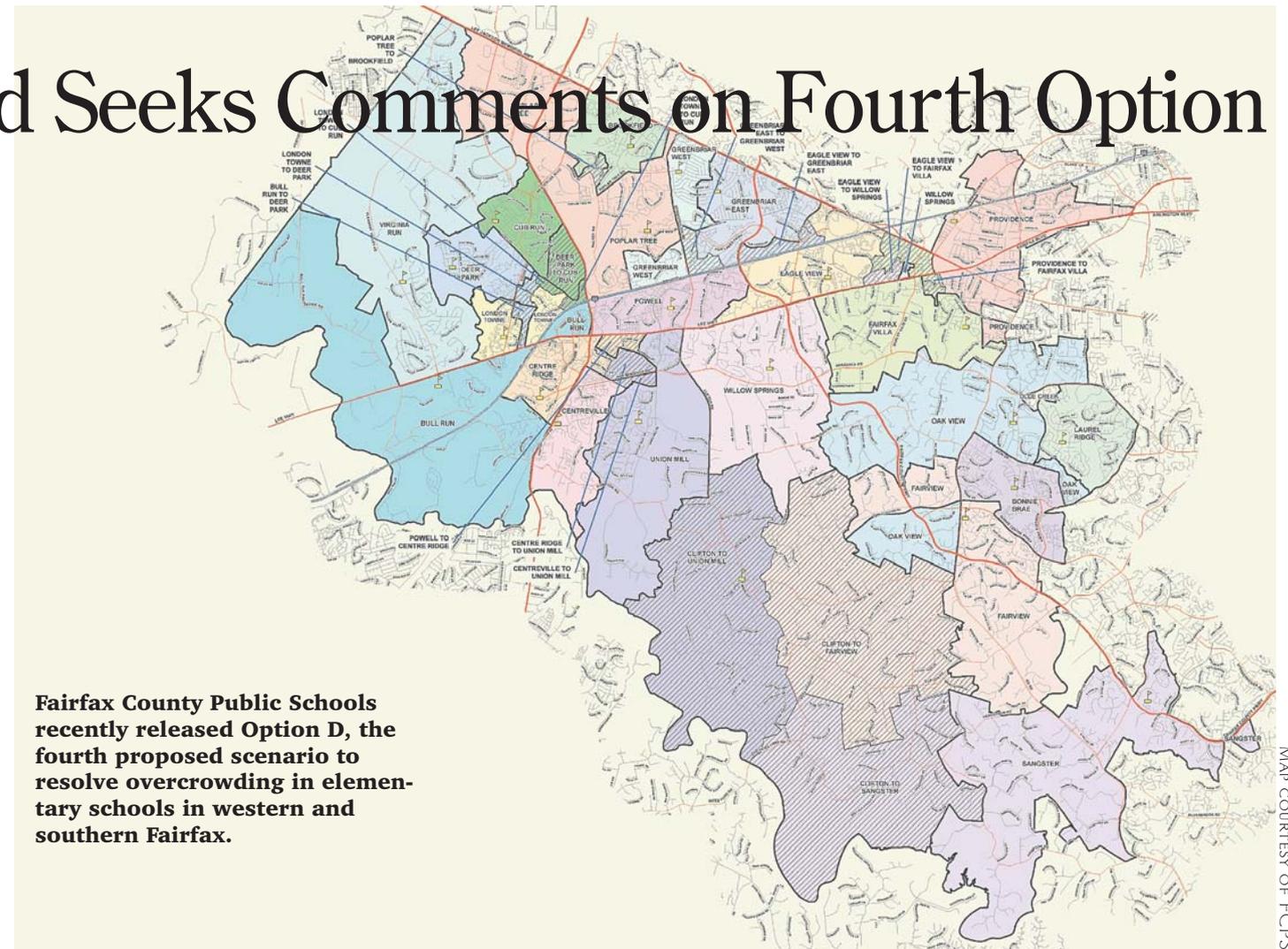
**"We would still be overcrowded."**

— Sandy Jones,  
Greenbriar West Elementary

native, called "Option D," through Dec. 10.

School system staff developed "option d" in response to feedback about the first three school boundary alternatives presented at community meetings in late October.

Option D moves fewer students than the other three proposals but calls for more "bricks and mortar" school additions than the other plans. All four options assume that Clifton Elementary School closes.



Fairfax County Public Schools recently released Option D, the fourth proposed scenario to resolve overcrowding in elementary schools in western and southern Fairfax.

MAP COURTESY OF FCPS

The new option would not necessarily be the final boundary change proposal staff presents to the Fairfax County School Board on Jan. 20.

"I don't think we are there yet. The final answer is probably going to be some combination of what we have seen," said School Board president Kathy Smith (Sully).

The School Board is scheduled to take a final vote on the boundary changes on Feb. 24. It will conduct public hearings on the matter on Feb. 7 and 8.

Fairfax schools started to undertake a massive school boundary study, which initially included 28 elementary schools in western and central Fairfax, last school year.

The school system's own projections showed severe overcrowding at several elementary schools, particularly in the area where Fairfax, Centreville and Chantilly meet near Interstate 66.

Officials projected that Eagle View Elementary School, with approximately 1,200 students, would be at 144 percent of its

building capacity in 2015. They said Greenbriar East Elementary School, with about 950 students, would be at 124 percent of its building capacity by the same year. They also predicted that Centreville Elementary School, with approximately 1,000 students, would be at 118 percent of its building capacity in five years.

At the same time, some elementary schools in the vicinity — Cub Run, Union

SEE NEW SCHOOL, PAGE 14

## Burke Man Named Business Person of the Year

Gordon heads up the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

**R**ichmond-based Virginia Business magazine has named the president and chief executive officer of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority its Virginia business person of the year in 2010.

Gerald Gordon, a long-time Burke resident, has worked for the development authority, a quasi-government entity, since 1983 and started heading up the organization in 1986.

He is only the third person the publication has honored in this fashion.

"We try to pick someone who is having a transforming effect on their company, their industry and Virginia's economy. So much has happened in Fairfax County in recent years and he is credited with having such a big influence on the development there," said editor Robert Powell whose magazine is running an extensive profile on Gordon in this month's edition.

**GORDON** is a bit of an unusual choice for business person of the year since he is technically a government employee.

"I think it was really wise to recognize the public sector in this way," said Gordon, who holds a doctorate in Economics.

The Fairfax Economic Development Authority is an independent organization that was chartered by Virginia in the mid-1960s and continues to receive financial support from the local county government.

The mission of the authority is to attract new companies to Fairfax County, which in turn helps boost the commercial tax revenue for the locality and makes the county government less dependent of residential property taxes.

"What we do is help the Board of Supervisors provide education and parks and li-



Gerry Gordon

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

braries. I feel good about that," said Gordon.

In addition to a local office in Tysons Corner, the economic development authority has outlets in San Francisco, India, Korea, Germany, Israel and the United Kingdom.

As the business magazine states, Fairfax has grown

from a sleepy bedroom community to

SEE GORDON, PAGE 8



Students from the Annandale High School Culinary Arts Class prepared a wide array of desserts for the Annual Taste of Braddock dinner. The meal featured food donated by area businesses and was hosted at the Kings Park Library on Dec 2.



Guests at the Annual Taste of Braddock Dinner mingle and enjoy their meals at Kings Park Library.

# Just a Taste

Supervisor hosts  
Taste of Braddock.



Erick Ruiz and Binh Tran serve food from Duk Wo, a local Chinese restaurant in Burke.



Supervisor John C. Cook (R-Braddock) and Braddock Chairman Bill Barfield of the Braddock District Council wait to greet guests.



Laura Garcia, a student in Annandale High School's Culinary Arts program serves food to Leo Paska of Burke at the Annual Taste of Braddock dinner.

PHOTOS BY GINA URICOLI



Local restaurants donated food for eager diners at the Annual Taste of Braddock.

## CAMPS & SCHOOLS

# 'Summer' at Robinson

BY SIENA RICHARDSON  
MCLEAN HIGH SCHOOL

"Some girls are pretty. Some girls are smart," laments Millie Owens, the smart sister of the prettiest girl in town, Madge, sighs. Competition between the sisters, a dramatic love-triangle, and the desperation of realizing one's own situation is not as it seems are all prominently revealed in Robinson Secondary School's production of "Summer Brave."

"Summer Brave" is the revised version of William Inge's Pulitzer prize-winning play, "Picnic." The play is set in the early 1950s, in a small town in Kansas. It follows the tale of Madge Owens and those around her, as the characters struggle to find themselves and choose their paths

in life amid a Labor Day celebration. It realistically encompasses the competitive relationships between family members and the desires of parents to keep their children from repeating their mistakes.

### CAPPIES REVIEW

Robinson Secondary School's technical crew did an excellent job. Two realistic small-town houses, designed and lead by Carl Schwartz, complete with porches, clotheslines and a white picket fence set the scene accurately and believably, although parts appeared unstable. The incredible cyc lighting in the background portrayed a genuinely moving sun and a sky that changed colors with perfect, seamless transitions thanks to lighting designer Paul Mayo. Costumes by Marissa Kleiman helped to transport the audience into their little town and create distinct, believable characters. Although some age makeup effects were a bit too harsh for the close proximity of the audience to the actors, the hair was beautifully done.

Christy Fischer exhibited a realistic portrayal of Madge Owens, the pretty sister in the family. Her emotional commitment to the character

SEE CAPPIES, PAGE 7

# How would you like state of the art LASER dentistry without drills or needles?

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### ■ Sterilization

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

### ■ Great for Teenagers

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

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

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# OPINION

## Expect a Tough Road Ahead

State and local coffers will continue to shrink in 2011; transportation improvements unlikely.

The Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance quotes Gov. Bob McDonnell's remarks to the Dulles Area Transportation Association earlier this week. "I can't emphasize how important it is to get started now," McDonnell said, to take advantage of favorable infrastructure pricing [due to the recession] by starting to invest more in transportation.

But the Alliance, which advocates for spending on roads and highways, points out that McDonnell "provided few details as to new funding sources, but promised that specifics would surface in the weeks ahead."

Last January was the "now" to get started to take advantage of "favorable infrastructure pricing."

McDonnell has been in office a year now, and won in Northern Virginia largely because of his vigorous campaigning on transportation issues. But he allowed the first year of his tenure, including the first year's session of the General Assembly, to pass without a serious proposal on how to fund transportation improvements in Northern Virginia or elsewhere in the state.

Instead, McDonnell has spent the last months talking up a liquor privatization proposal as a solution to transportation. In fact, that proposal would possibly pay for one intersection or overpass improvement project in Northern Virginia before moving on to cost state funding for education, public safety and social services tens of millions of dollars a year by turning over the revenues for private companies' profit.

### EDITORIAL

Meanwhile, localities in Northern Virginia received essentially zero dollars from the state for transportation improvements in past year.

More on the outlook ahead for public services from Deputy County Executive Ed Long as he prepared the budget forecast for the coming year:

❖ While home values are up for the first time in five years, the county still faces a multimillion dollar shortfall and the future of the local economy is uncertain.

❖ Government contracts are a major component of the Northern Virginia economy. In Fairfax County alone in 2008, federal procurement contracts totaled \$17 billion. Since this

is such a large component of the local economy, the discussion of cutbacks in federal contracts is a major concern.

❖ The Fairfax County budget gets less than 20 cents back from Richmond of every tax dollar it sends to the state.

❖ There are 30,000 unemployed people in Fairfax County, with the current unemployment rate approximately 4.9 percent, or close to half the national rate. Still, 30,000 people is a huge number of unemployed.

## Share Your New Year's Resolutions

It's early and much of the holiday eating season is still in front of us. But most of us will engage in some soul searching and resolution making around the New Year. In the first issue of 2011, the Connection will share the New Year's resolutions of individuals and offices. Send us your resolutions, plus your tips on keeping resolutions. Feel free to offer resolutions for local officials as well.

Please include a photo with your resolutions. Photos and resolutions may be submitted to south@connectionnewspapers.com.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Elie Choe, Michelle Pearlstein and Nicole Choe make Chanukah cards.



A mountain of Legos was available for children to build whatever they were inspired to build.

## All for Fun

Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia hosts Dec. 5 Chanukah party.

PHOTOS BY MEG JOHNSTON

Children wait to get their faces painted.



## THE CONNECTION

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# SCHOOLS

## Cappies

FROM PAGE 5

was clear and her overall portrayal of the vain, pretty girl who yearns for more than a life as a housewife was very believable. Kyle Lynch played Hal Carter, the bad boy of the show and college friend of Madge's boyfriend, Alan Seymour (Jason Rath) excellently. The chemistry between Fischer and Lynch was electric and Lynch portrayed his character's outwardly easy manner and contrasting emotional intensity with undeniable skill. Fabiolla Brennecke's performance as Rosemary Sydney, an "old maid schoolteacher" leant the character complexity and heart. While some performances lacked emotional build, Brennecke's excellent comic timing and emotional commitment to her character make for a believable and endearing character.

Newsboy (Jackson Viccora), Bomber (Josh Israel) and Beano (Adam Bradley) created a realistic an hilarious gang of ruffians, inciting bursts of laughter throughout the audience with their raunchy, yet adorable adoration of Madge. Featured characters like the adorable Mrs. Potts (Hannah Sikora) and the dorky Howard Bevans (TJ Albertson) bring yet more comedic relief to this performance.

This production was carried by the talented lead actors and skillful tech. The cast felt like a small-town family that transported the audience to their small-town home.

## Doucette Stars In Tennessee Williams Play

Cameron Doucette of Burke was selected to play Archie Kramer for the University of Mary Washington production of Tennessee Williams' 'Summer and Smoke.'



**Cameron Doucette**

Performances took place Nov. 11-21 in duPont Hall, Klein Theatre. Doucette is the son of John and Janette Doucette of Yigo, Guam and is a 2007 graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary School.

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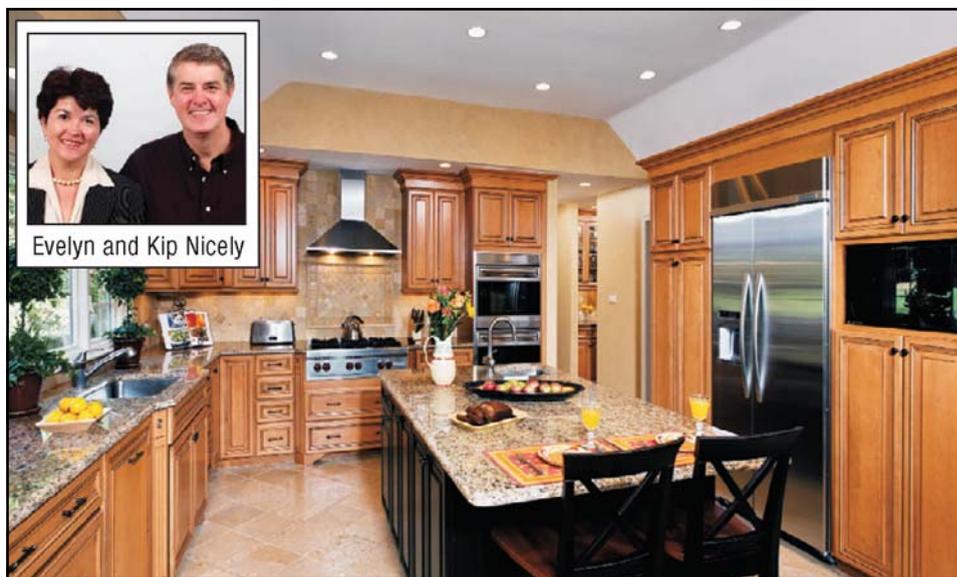


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Watch our informative video at [www.NicelyDoneKitchens.com](http://www.NicelyDoneKitchens.com)

# Big Show for Little Trains

Fairfax Station Railroad Museum hosts annual Holiday Train Show.

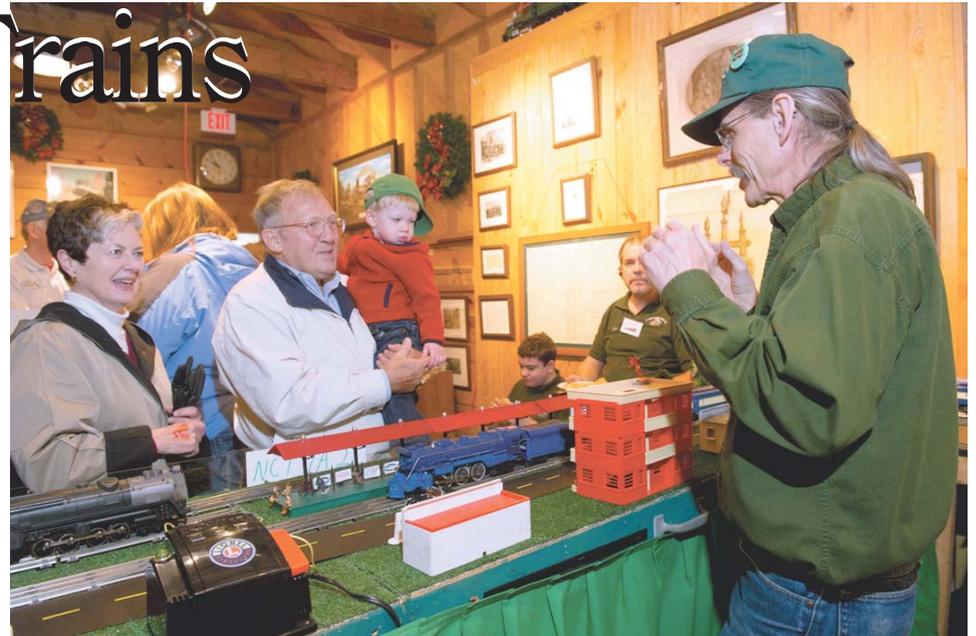
Last weekend, the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum hosted its 21st annual Holiday Train Show featuring at least eight different gauges of train track, including a Lego train layout. Some of the participating volunteers brought their trains and/or layouts from near and from far, some traveled more than 100 miles to participate in the show. The show offered something for everyone to see,

from a garden-gauge train filled with Christmas finery to an amazingly small T-gauge train.

**Bernie and Ellen Ziegler of Gainesville learn about some of the finer points of model railroading from a member of the National Capital Trackers Model Railroad Club.**



**Frank Hale of Haymarket, a member of the National Capital Trackers, has four gauges of trains set up for the show. He has had a layout in the show for 15 years and makes improvements every year.**



**Chad Macklin Jr. with his mother Teresa of Fairfax Station is amazed and delighted by the trains.**

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

## Gordon Business Person of Year

FROM PAGE 3

the region's prime business location under Gordon's tenure. Tysons Corner is now home to more office space than downtown Washington, D.C.

"He has had extraordinary success attracting major businesses to Fairfax. In a way, he is being recognized for Fairfax's success overall," said U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11).

Over the past three years, five major corporate headquarters — CSC, SAIC, Volkswagen Group of America, Hilton Worldwide and Northrop Grumman — have relocated to Fairfax County, in part because of Gordon's efforts.

"He is absolutely fabulous. I think he is the best economic development leader in the country. ... He has the ability to promote the attributes of Fairfax County and the broader commonwealth better than anyone I have ever seen," said Bobbie Kilberg, president of the Northern Virginia Technology Council, a trade association of approximately 1,000 technology companies in the area.

Part of Gordon's success is due to the great team he has compiled at the authority. The average tenure of one of his senior staff members is 17 years, he said.

In the current economic climate, Gordon said his

organization has to work hard not only to attract new businesses to Fairfax but also to make sure existing businesses decide to stay in Fairfax.

With the economic downturn, some states and localities are desperate and offering very enticing packages to large corporations willing to relocate, said Gordon.

"We are not only competing with places around the country but also around the world," he said.

Fairfax County has several strong points that give it an edge over other locations, said Gordon.

It is located in Virginia, which has a tax structure very conducive to doing business. The commonwealth and Fairfax also have a reputation for being flexible about permitting and adjusting policies to benefit the business community, he added.

Proximity to Dulles International Airport also makes Fairfax an attractive location, he added.

But businesses tend to stay in Fairfax County because of the exceptional quality of its schools. Not only do the heads of companies have an interest in sending their children to the local public school system, they also know that it will be easier to attract high-quality employees to a Fairfax company because the local schools are top notch, said Gordon.

"The whole issue of quality of life is an advantage for Fairfax," he said.

### BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

#### THURSDAY/DEC. 9

**Immigration Workshop.** 6:30 p.m. Virginia International University, 11200 Waples Mill Road, #360; Fairfax. Information on U.S. immigration requirements. Free and open to the public. [jbennett@viu.edu](mailto:jbennett@viu.edu).

#### FRIDAY/DEC. 10

**Business of Games Conference.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. For students and local independent game developers, game industry leaders and members of the business community. <http://eagle.gmu.edu/newsroom/846>.

#### SATURDAY/DEC. 11

**Our Daily Bread Food Drive.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. next to the Safeway at 10376 Willard Way, Fairfax. The food drive will benefit several Fairfax-based

organizations and congregations. Donors who bring five non-perishable items or a grocery gift card will receive a coupon for a free McCafé beverage. [www.our-daily-bread.org](http://www.our-daily-bread.org).

#### Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Information Session.

11 a.m. at the Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn more about advocating for abused or neglected children. 703-273-3526, ext. 22 or [ekosarin@casafairfax.org](mailto:ekosarin@casafairfax.org).

#### SUNDAY/DEC. 12

**Community Hours.** Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) will be meeting with constituents 6-7:30 p.m., at Panera, 6230 W. Rolling Road, Springfield.

#### MONDAY/DEC. 15

**Mamie Eisenhower Republican Women's Club Luncheon Meeting & Holiday Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m. Army Navy Country Club-Fairfax, 3315 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. With Edwina Rogers, Executive Director, The Patient Centered Primary Care Collaborative. 703-323-0939.

# Communities Still Paying Off Last Year's Snow Bill

## Three Burke clusters still owe money for snow removal during 2009-10 season.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

Last December, the Washington Metropolitan region got hit with the first of two record-breaking snow storms during the 2009-10 winter season and some Burke communities are still paying for it, literally, a year later.

After any snow fall, the Burke Centre Conservancy is responsible for a little more than half of its 65 residential clusters. Three of these clusters still owe Burke Centre money for the plowing that took place last winter, when the exceptional snow storms in December and February brought the Mid-Atlantic to a standstill.

The clusters that rely on Burke Centre for their snow removal must budget and pay for the service out of their cluster dues. Burke Centre, which functions like a large homeowners association, does not cover the service with its own funds.

"Three clusters did not have enough money put away and had used up all the money in their snow removal reserve. Of course, we provided the snow service any-

way. We extended short term loans to the clusters in that situation," said Patrick Gloyd, Burke Centre's executive director.

Following a few years of mild winters, most of the clusters had amassed enough money to pay for about five years of normal snow fall by the beginning of last year and had enough money on hand to pay for the two blizzards.

Those clusters that did not have a reserve fund in place may not have budgeted properly for large snow storm, said Gloyd.

"This was only three of 36 clusters. Most of them had enough money and I would say the system worked," he added.

At least one person on the Burke Centre Board of Trustees thinks the clusters should have to cover the cost of last year's plowing. Oaks Trustee Luanne Smith has written several newsletter articles protesting the greater board's decision to charge the clusters for the February snow storm.

"Previous boards would have, most likely, given out funds for this expense. I think this board looks down too much on the clusters," said Smith, who has tried to get the board to revisit their decision about charging clusters three or four different times.

Burke Centre typically uses its own staff and equipment for local snow removal but the homeowners association ended up hiring an outside firm with heavy-duty equipment to clear snow following last year's February storm.

According to Gloyd, the Burke Centre trucks were not large enough to effectively clear the high snow drifts the occurred during the second storm.

The circumstances last winter were exceptional. Previously, Burke Centre had never had to bring in an outside firm to assist with snow removal, said Gloyd.

**HIRING OUTSIDE HELP** for snow removal was expensive.

According to Gloyd, the outside vendor cost three to four times what Burke Centre staff charges for snow plowing. Smith said the organization spent about eight times as much money on snow removal after the February storm as it did after the December storm.

In part, the snow removal was so much more expensive in February because Burke Centre chose to keep its own staff on call,

even after it became clear that their equipment was inadequate, said Smith. That meant that the clusters were paying for snow removal services provided by an outside vendor and Burke Centre staff at the same time, she added.

"One of our complaints is that the clusters were not advised about this before it happened. Some clusters would have just gotten out their snow blowers and done it themselves. Instead, they got a bill in the mail which was extremely high," said Smith.

Smith added that the Burke Trustees ran a surplus this year and had plenty of money to cover the snow removal bill on its own.

She worried that several clusters, including many of those that paid their bill in full last year, now have no money to pay for plowing that might be needed this winter.

"The solution is that we have to pray that there is no snow this year," said Smith.

But if Burke Centre were hit with another large snow storm this winter, Gloyd said the Conservancy had enough emergency funding available to make sure all the clusters

**"We have to pray that there is no snow."**

— Luanne Smith, Oaks Trustee

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SEE SNOW, PAGE 16

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# Time To Start a Family Holiday Tradition

Virginia Ballet Company performs 'Nutcracker' Dec. 27-29 at NVCC.

BY SARAH PEVNER  
THE CONNECTION

Looking for a local holiday tradition to share with the family? Then, no further than Guinea Road in Fairfax.

Virginia Ballet Company will present performances of "The Nutcracker" starting the week of Dec. 27, at the Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater in Annandale. Among its more than 100 member cast are a variety of local Burke ballet students, many of whom have been involved with the school for years.

"This is a very close knit community," said Colleen Stockmann, who has been the board secretary since 1997.

That sense of community can be observed in every part of the ballet company's preparations for this performance. Volunteers are used in every capacity here. Parents of ballet students create and build sets and help with costume repairs and costume fittings. Last fall, adult ballet students helped run the company's fund raiser. Melanie Johnson, volunteer coordinator, estimated that she

works with more than 100 volunteers throughout the year.

The ballet company also offers a mentoring program, in which more experienced families help new families adjust to the rigors and demands of the program. When new students have questions about where to find the right supplies or what time to get to the auditorium on a performance day, they know they have other people they can turn to for help.

At the annual costume fitting for "The Nutcracker," older students helped students of all ages find the right costume and the right fit.

Layna Lamans, who has danced with the company for six years and helped with costume fitting for four, said that the experience is exciting. She also teaches pre-ballet classes for the school and said that her students are excited that she helps them prepare.

"We fit the costumes, and then we get to see them on stage," she said.

Founded as a non-profit in 1965, Virginia Ballet Company has been at their Guinea Road address for 10 years. Current Artistic



PHOTO BY SARAH PEVNER/THE CONNECTION

Gwynneth Lao, who has been dancing with the company for nine years, and Morgan Stuart, who is 5.

Director Tish Cordova is a Northern Virginia native, and many members of the board were born and raised in Fairfax.

Barbara Mirabello, who has served on the board for 14 years, said that the benefits of ballet go far beyond the performances themselves. The self-discipline required by bal-

let helps students in all facets of their lives.

Maryanne Hart's children both dance with the company. Her son loves the challenge that ballet offers, and her daughter came to ballet to train for ice skating, but has

SEE VIRGINIA, PAGE 11

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# ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY SARAH PEVNER/THE CONNECTION

Layna Lamans, who has been dancing with the company for six years, and assisting with fitting day for four, and Mariko Najima-Schmumk, who is 9. This is her first 'Nutcracker.'

## Virginia Ballet Company

FROM PAGE 10

stayed because she loves it. Hart's son, Cecil, often saves up his pocket money to add to the donation jar.

This year, the Virginia Ballet Company has also been performing selections from "The Nutcracker" accompanied by The U.S. Air Force Band, which Cordova described as an honor. Those performances, on Dec. 4 and 5, were at the DAR Constitution Hall

in Washington, D.C., and Cordova hopes that they would become a regular partnership.

The Virginia Ballet Company offers performances all year round. "The Nutcracker" opens on Monday, Dec. 27, and runs through Wednesday, Dec. 29, at the Ernst Community Cultural Theater at Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale. Adult tickets are \$30, senior tickets and student tickets are \$20. More information is available at [www.virginiaballetcompany.org](http://www.virginiaballetcompany.org).

### CALENDAR

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

#### FRIDAY/DEC. 10

**Waverly Consort's "A Christmas Story."** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. In the spirit of the medieval church dramas and mystery plays, eight singers and five instrumentalists play reproductions of medieval instruments. \$21-\$42, youth through grade 12 half price. Tickets available at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**Voce Chamber Singers: Home for Christmas.** 7:30 p.m. Fairfax Christian Church, 10185 Main St., Fairfax. Christmas carols, classical and contemporary holiday music. \$23 adults, \$18 seniors, \$8 for age 24 and under. Tickets at the door an additional \$2. Purchase at [www.voce.org/tickets](http://www.voce.org/tickets) or 703-277-7772.

**Bonita Lestina Concert Series.** 8 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The Colombia Flute Choir "Celebrating the Season." [www.visitfairfax.com](http://www.visitfairfax.com).

#### SATURDAY/DEC. 11

**Synergy Brass Quintet: "Christmas in Brass."** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Brass arrangements of Bach's choral works, Handel's triumphant "Messiah" and a selection of classic Christmas carols. \$22-\$44, youth through grade 12 half price. Tickets available at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

#### Lopez Studios, Inc. Annual Christmas Concert.

2:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).  
**Encore Theatrical Arts Project: "Santa Got Frostbite."** 12 p.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College Ernst Theatre, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Christmas chaos and fun for the whole family in a Broadway-style, song and dance holiday spectacular. Tickets \$18-\$21. [bonnielhobbs@gmail.com](mailto:bonnielhobbs@gmail.com).

**Fairfax County TalkStories.** 3 p.m.-5 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Fairfax. Sam and Shirley DiBartolo and Larry and Mary Mark on heritage from Italy and Denmark and the history of St. Mary's Catholic Church. With the Burke/West Springfield Senior

Center Without Walls. [corazonfoley@yahoo.com](mailto:corazonfoley@yahoo.com).  
**Wheels to Africa Bicycle Collection.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Pizza Hut at the corner of Route 236 and Prosperity Drive, Fairfax. Wheels to Africa is a nonprofit that collects bicycles for Africa and needy American communities. \$10 donation to help cover shipping costs. [www.wheels-to-africa.org](http://www.wheels-to-africa.org).

#### SUNDAY/DEC. 12

**Xyra and Mystic Angels.** 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).  
**Encore Theatrical Arts Project: "Santa Got Frostbite."** 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College Ernst Theatre, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Tickets \$18-\$21.  
**"A Lamb's Tale."** 11 a.m. Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. A children's Christmas musical, presented by the Kids Church Ministry. 703-383-1170 or [www.jccag.org](http://www.jccag.org).  
**Christmas Bazaar.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the American Legion Auxiliary Post 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Gifts, jewelry, crafts, wickless candles, bags and more. 703-273-2250.



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Bruins' junior linebacker Ricky Tkac (44) goes in for the tackle during the state semifinals game last Saturday at Lake Braddock.



A jarring first quarter hit caused Lake Braddock quarterback Michael Nebrich to lose the football, resulting in a touchdown recovery in the end zone by Battlefield.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

# Mistakes Finish Bruins' Stellar Season

Lake Braddock's bid for return trip to state football finals falls short against Battlefield.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock Secondary's 35-27 football loss to Battlefield of Haymarket in a Virginia State AAA semifinals playoff game last Saturday afternoon was the result of too many costly turnovers by the home team Bruins as well as their struggles in keeping star quarterback Michael Nebrich protected.

It was a rough way to end the season for Lake Braddock (12-2), the two-time Northern Region champions who lost for just the second time all season and missed an opportunity of returning to the state championship game for a second straight year.

"I thought they had a good team and went after it," said Lake Braddock coach Jim Poythress, of Battlefield. "We battled well

to the end. The bottom line is that we turned the ball over."

Nebrich, who had one of the best careers at quarterback in the history of high school football in Virginia, could not overcome a Battlefield defense that sacked him eight times and forced him into two turnovers that resulted in defensive touchdowns for the Bobcats.

"We saw some things we could do against their offensive line," said Battlefield head coach Mark Cox, of his team's defensive pass pressure on Nebrich throughout the game. "The guys put pressure on him all game long. We played a great defensive game."

Cox, the former star quarterback of Annandale High School, credited Battlefield defensive coordinator Paul Labazzetta, known throughout Northern Region circles for his many years as the W.T. Woodson High

wrestling coach, with coming up with the winning game plan.

"Lab put together some nice blitz packages," said Cox.

"They mixed things up with some blitzes and got to him," said Poythress, who also credited the Bobcats' secondary with good coverage at times.

Yes, it was a difficult day for the entire Lake Braddock offense in terms of protecting its star player in the pocket and holding onto the football. In all, the Bruins turned the ball over four times, three on lost fumbles.

Even with all of that, the high-powered offense still managed to put 27 points on the scoreboard and the Bruins stayed in the contest until the final two minutes. Nebrich

put up sensational numbers, completing 26 of 33 passes for 345 yards and three touchdowns. He was held in check running the

ball, managing 47 yards on 23 attempts.

"He's still the best player I've ever coached," said Poythress, of his star signal caller.

**"We battled well to the end. The bottom line is that we turned the ball over."**

— Lake Braddock Football Coach Jim Poythress

**THE TWO BATTLEFIELD** defensive touchdowns, in the end,

were simply too much for the Bruins to overcome. The first, with the home team Bruins ahead, 3-0, occurred in the opening quarter when Nebrich, on a third-and-12 play from the Lake Braddock four yard line, was hit hard by a Bobcat pass rusher as he was

SEE BRUINS, PAGE 15

# For Wrestling Enthusiasts, This Meet Is a Classic

NOVA Classic wrestling meet set for this weekend at Fairfax High School.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

One of the yearly highlights of the early high school winter sports season is the annual Northern Virginia (NOVA) Wrestling Classic, the large showcase extravaganza that is hosted by Fairfax High School and includes most of the public schools from across the Northern Region as well as other public and private schools from the metropolitan area and further out.

The Classic has been one of the most suc-

cessful and longest-running booster-sponsored events in the region. This year's Classic, the unofficial starting point of the local prep school wrestling season, is believed to be in its 23rd straight year, although that fact is a little fuzzy to event coordinators.

"We were trying to do a countdown and we think this is the 23rd year," said Tim Gordan, Fairfax High's director of student activities, in a recent e-mail regarding the event. "But our memories are fading!"

Whatever the Classic's official year start-up, the tournament is a monitor for local coaches to get a sense of where their re-

spective teams are at the early stages of the mat season.

"The NOVA Classic is a great opening tournament for the season," said Scott Matheny, Lake Braddock Secondary School head coach. "It gives the guys a preview of what is in the region and some good competition from outside the region. It is a early season measuring stick for where you are and what you need to work on."

The Classic is Friday, Dec. 10 and Saturday, Dec. 11 at Fairfax High. The action will begin at 10 a.m. on both days.

Jack Clark, the Woodson High head wrestling coach, said the Classic is a great opportunity for his wrestlers, especially the younger team members, to get a "big meet" experience, a preparatory for the bigger and

more important tournaments later in the season.

"My expectation for the NOVA Classic is that it is a motivator for the guys, to get an idea of what they need to do to prepare for the end of year tournaments," said Clark. "Time is short and I really believe in our guys. They are great kids, good listeners and willing to put themselves on the line and do the work that's necessary. I'm particularly proud of their team-first attitude."

While succeeding and doing well at the Classic, both in the team standings and individually, are of importance for athletes and coaches, the big picture reality of the event suggests it is but the first step of a

SEE NOVA, PAGE 13

## SPORTS

# Ram Girls React To Tough Loss

## Robinson wins consecutive games after losing opener

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**R**obinson's girls' basketball team had a five-point lead at home with less than 3 minutes to play against a Yorktown team with a freshman point guard. While the Rams had to like their chances, it was the Patriots' ninth-grader who played like a veteran down the stretch and started Yorktown's season with a win.

Yorktown freshman Mikayla Venson knocked down a 3-pointer from the right wing with 2.5 seconds remaining to give the Patriots a 48-45

**"We didn't play with what's between our ears."**

— TJ Dade, Robinson head coach

victory on Dec. 1. The triple was part an 11-3 Yorktown run during the final 2 minutes and 28 seconds.

"First games are tough for any player," Yorktown head coach Dave Garrison said. "She stepped up, had some big plays throughout the game and certainly the one at the end is the one that's going to be remembered."

Meanwhile, Robinson head coach TJ Dade wasn't pleased with his team, which shot 10-for-20 from the free-throw line and failed to protect a late lead.

"We've got to play smarter," he said. "We



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Robinson junior guard Megan Green tries to drive past Yorktown's Tricia Leano on Dec. 1.**

turned the ball over entirely too much. The intensity level was good, but we didn't take care of the little things. They're a good team, but I think if we had handled the little things, we would have come out on top. We have a five-point lead and we couldn't close it. We didn't play with what's between our ears."

Robinson returns three athletes — junior guard Tyler Hansen (5-foot-8), junior guard Megan Green (5-foot-7) and junior forward Brigitte Kuter (5-foot-11) — from last year's team, which opened the season with a 19-point win over Yorktown. Robinson expected to return a fourth starter, but 6-foot-1 junior Christie Michals was lost for the season after pre-season foot surgery.

While they struggled in the opener, the Rams bounced back from the loss with 41-31 win over McLean on Dec. 2 and a 57-43 win over Woodson on Dec. 4. To continue having success, Dade said the Rams will need points out of their returning starters. Against Yorktown, Hansen scored seven points, Kuter finished with six and Green added five.

"We need more scoring from them for us to be successful," Dade said. "We've got some younger players who are working hard in practice and hopefully, if given the opportunity, if somebody's not producing then they've always got a shot."

One younger player who stepped up was sophomore Dhyamond Crenshaw (6-foot), who scored a team high 13 points. Junior Jenna Lamb (5-foot-9) came off the bench and scored four points for the Rams.

Robinson's only senior is 5-foot-5 guard Lauren Denham, who scored seven points against Yorktown. Juniors Noelle Martinson (5-foot-7), Caroline Parris (5-foot-7) and Cassie Wood (5-foot-7), sophomores Shannon Lopynski (5-foot-4) and Paula Bobsin (5-foot-6) and freshman Natalie Nohra (5-foot-6) are also on the team.

Robinson will host Langley on Dec. 10, at 5:45 p.m. "We know what went wrong," Dade said after the Yorktown game. "We've got to figure it out."



**Robinson sophomore Dhyamond Crenshaw shoots from close range during a Dec. 1 matchup against Yorktown.**

# NOVA Classic

FROM PAGE 12

long, often grinding season.

"The NOVA Classic is a big early event, however it is so early in the season that it won't have a major effect on the team," said Sean Anderson, the coach at South County Secondary School. "We all know it's not how you start a season but how you finish it. With that being said we look forward to the challenge of a big tournament and look for some of our wrestlers to make a name for themselves."

Thirty-one teams are expected to participate in this year's Classic, including local schools such as Annandale, Fairfax, Lake Braddock, Paul VI, South County, West Springfield and W.T. Woodson.

The other participating schools will be: Bishop Ireton of Alexandria, Bishop O'Connell of Arlington, Centreville, Chantilly, Edison, Fauquier, George Mason (Falls Church city), Herndon, Jefferson, Madison, Marshall, McLean, Mountain View (Stafford), Oakton, Potomac Falls, South Lakes, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School of Alexandria, Tallwood (Virginia Beach), T.C. Williams, Wakefield, Washington-Lee, Westfield and Yorktown.

Last year's top five team finishers at the 2009 NOVA Classic were champion Westfield, second place Fairfax, third place Woodbridge, fourth place Annandale and fifth place Potomac Falls of the Dulles District.

Robinson Secondary won the team title in 2008 and Westfield took the crown in 2007. Robinson is participating at another tournament this weekend in Annapolis.

**THE FOLLOWING is** a brief look at some of the local wrestling teams as they go into this weekend's Classic.

**Lake Braddock:** The Bruins' strength this season will be in its middleweights with such wrestlers as Rory Renzi, who finished fifth in the state last year, Jake Sage and Cory Smith. The team is less experienced in both its light weights, where the Bruins will have four freshmen starters, and its heavyweights.

"Our wrestling team will be a mix of inexperienced young guys and some very strong returners," said Matheny.

**W.T. Woodson:** A year ago, the Cavaliers, behind a stellar group of senior wrestlers, finished fourth in the postseason Northern Region championships. It was Woodson's best finish at regionals in 16 years.

This season, different team members will have to emerge in order for Woodson to have a successful year.

"I do not consider this a rebuilding year, but I see this as an opportunity for guys on the team to step up and fill the role where last year's guys left off," said coach Clark. "We're a work in progress at the moment, but are working hard to make progress this season."

Returning seniors include Mitchell Kohlhaas (112 weight class), who finished in the top 12 at states last year, Randall Mailand, Michael Orrick, Daniel Albamonte, Mac Tunick, Ben Newman and Carson Brown.

**South County:** Coach Anderson has been impressed with his team's work ethic and determination right from the start of this young season. The Stallions were certainly impressive this past weekend at the Spotsylvania Duals competition at Spotsylvania High (Battlefield District) where they went 5-0 in team competition.

"The coaching staff is very encouraged with the start of the season," said Anderson. "From the first day of practice, the kids have been very motivated and have worked hard in the practice room."

South County's top returning wrestler this winter is Tyler Howard, who finished third at the NOVA Classic in 2009. Other Stallion wrestlers that could have success this season include Brett Stein, Keegan Sullivan, Scott Blackstone, and Christian Merino. Two of the squad's young lightweight wrestlers, Hunter Manley and Kabir Gill, could have big seasons as well.

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 5529 Ajuga Ct.....\$658,880.....Sat/Sun 11-5.....Kim Rosewall.....Jobin Realty.....703-433-0600

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**To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Steve Hogan at 703-778-9418 or E-Mail the info to [shogan@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:shogan@connectionnewspapers.com) All listings due by Tuesday at 3 pm.**

## CAMPS & SCHOOLS

# New School Boundary Option

FROM PAGE 3

Mill and Willow Springs — are expected to be under their building capacity by at least 20 percent in 2015.

Through the boundary changes and building additions, school officials hope to spread some of the excess student population across a larger number of communities, making use of the vacant seats at some area schools.

“The overcrowding at some of the schools, that is what I am trying to fix,” said School Board member Tessie Wilson (Braddock).

**UNDER OPTION D**, approximately 961 students would move schools at the beginning of the next school year. An additional 498 students would move schools in the fall of 2013, once some school building additions were constructed.

With the exception of students at Clifton, rising sixth graders would not be asked to move campuses before their final year of elementary school.

In this proposal, the school system would construct six-classroom additions to both Fairview and Fairfax Villa elementary Schools. Officials would also build eight-room additions at Greenbriar East and Union Mill elementary schools.

Fairfax schools would also move an eight-classroom modular from Canterbury Woods Elementary School to Centreville Elementary School, according to public documents about the new boundary proposal.

The total cost for moving the modular and adding the new additions would be approximately \$17.7

million overall, according to documents.

By far, the most students to be moved from a school would occur at Eagle View and Clifton, which the School Board has voted to close permanently.

Like earlier options, about 326 Clifton students would be split up between Union Mill, Fairview and Sangster elementary schools at the end of this school year.

Eagle View, the most overpopulated elementary school in western Fairfax, would lose 117 students to Willow Springs at the end of this year and 202 students to Fairfax Villa and Greenbriar East in 2013.

Under Option D, only one school would be subjected to a “double bump,” where students are moved out of a building to make room for other students who are moving into the same facility.

In 2013, Centre Ridge would lose about 128 students to Union Mill but gain almost the same number of children, about 115, from Powell Elementary School.

This boundary alternative also calls for about 138 students enrolled in the Advanced Academic Program, previously called gifted and talented centers, to move locations.

**OPTION D** does little to eliminate attendance “islands,” where school boundaries are not contiguous.

Notably, the Oak View “island” in Fairfax Station, which is also known as the Woodson High School “island,” remains intact under this option. Option D also expands a Willow Springs attendance “island” north of Lee Highway into communities that currently

SEE FCPS, PAGE 16

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## SPORTS

# Bruins Fall Short of State Finals

FROM PAGE 12

in his throwing motion in the pocket. The ball came loose and was recovered by a Battlefield player in the end zone.

Later in the first half, after Lake Braddock had regained the lead, 10-7, Nebrich, on a first down at the Battlefield 45, set up and threw a medium-range pass to the left side of the field. There appeared to be a cross-up somewhere as there was no receiver in that area. Battlefield senior defensive back Jason Hoepker probably could not believe his good fortune as the aerial went right to him. He intercepted the pass before returning the ball untouched 63 yards for a startling touchdown. For good measure, Hoepker, also the Bobcats' kicker, booted the extra point to give the visitors a 14-10 lead with just 20 seconds left in the half.

After a Battlefield squib kick on the ensuing kickoff set the Bruins up at their own 40, Lake Braddock moved the football into field goal territory in the closing seconds, thanks to back-to-back pass plays from Nebrich to senior receiver Chris Williams of 15 and 19 yards that put the ball at the Bobcats' 26. Then, on the final play of the half, Lake Braddock kicker Nick Weiler drilled a low, zooming kick that cleared the goalposts by a large margin to get the Bruins within 14-13.

"It was frustrating in the first half because we just gave them their points," said Nebrich. "They had blitzes and came after me."

**BATTLEFIELD'S** offense, which had not accounted for any points in the first half, came up big midway through the third quarter following a Lake Braddock lost fumble that set the Bobcats up at the Bruins' 46 yard line. Battlefield needed just one play to score a touchdown — a long pass play from quarterback Ryan Swingle to Jeff Beathard. Bruin defensive back

Eric Long, on the coverage, nearly knocked the pass away before Beathard caught it at the 10 and took it in for the score.

Later in the third quarter, Battlefield, ahead 21-13, got a huge special teams play on a 43 yard punt return that set the Bobcats up at the Lake Braddock 12 yard line. The result was a Battlefield touchdown three plays later on a 1-yard QB keeper by Swingle to make the score 28-13.

The Bruins never gave up, putting together two long fourth quarter scoring drives that were capped by touchdown catches by senior receiver Matt Zanellatto from 12 and 24 yards out. But in between the two Lake Braddock touchdowns, Battlefield, needing to regain the momentum after the Bruins had crept within 28-20, put together a game-defining, 85-yard scoring march that put them ahead 35-20 with two minutes, 55 seconds left.

Lake Braddock, despite coming back with the game's final touchdown with 1:47 left, failed to recover the ensuing onside kick try and Battlefield, to the delight of their vocal, celebratory fan base stationed in the visitors' bleachers, ran out the remainder of the clock to earn a trip to Charlottesville for this weekend's title game against Hermitage High of Richmond.

"We were holding our breath on the onsides kick," said Cox. "If they get that [recovery] they can go down the field and score. They have the type of offense where we couldn't let them get the ball back."

It was a satisfying victory for a Battlefield squad that, a year earlier, had seen its 2009 season end with a state semifinals loss to the same Lake Braddock squad.

For the Bruins, their dream of getting a state crown fell two victories short.

"It's really tough," said Nebrich, of his final game in a Lake Braddock football uniform. "This program's been built on a lot of heart."

### WEEK IN SPORTS

## Robinson Football Players Receive Region Honors

The Robinson football team was well represented when the all-Northern Region team was announced.

Senior Jared Velasquez was named co-Defensive Player of the Year. He earned first-team honors as a defensive back, first-team special teams honors as a kick returner and was a first-team running back on offense.

Senior Evan Hanscom made the second-team offense as a tackle. On defense, senior Thomas Petrocci (defensive back), senior Patrick Miller (defensive end), senior Chris Garcia (defensive back) and junior Andre Kendall (defensive lineman) made the second team.

Junior center Calvin Shade and junior wide receiver Patrick Baker garnered honorable mention accolades.

## Bowl for Charity, Jan. 30

Fairfax Adult Softball (FAS) hosts a bowling tournament each year, benefiting Northern Virginia Special Olympics and Fairfax County Park Authority field improvements. The 11th annual tournament will be Jan. 30, at the Bowl America Shirley in Alexandria. It is time for Fairfax Adult Softball to solicit raffle prizes and tournament sponsorships in hopes of raising the maximum amount of funds for the Special Olympians. FAS is hoping local companies, organizations and individuals will be kind enough to be-

come a sponsor of the bowling event.

Two types of sponsorships are available to choose from:

Raffle prize/Goods Sponsorship - FAS conducts a big prize raffle auction at the event. The more raffle items FAS receives, the more tickets are sold and the more money is raised for the Special Olympians.

Lane Sponsor- For just \$100, one can sponsor a lane for the FAS event and be a hero for Northern Virginia Special Olympics. The Lane Sponsorships are split into three levels: Spare sponsor for \$100, Strike sponsor for \$500 and Turkey sponsor for \$1,000.

For more information on the Jan. 30 event and sponsorships, contact Christine Frece at the FAS office at: [office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com](mailto:office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com).

## Spring Soccer Tryouts

Tryouts for McLean Premier Soccer's (MPS) U10 Boys Spring 2011 team are now taking place. Players must be born on or after Aug. 1, 2000. The MPS program is dedicated to developing strong technical skills, good sportsmanship and a fun experience for young soccer players who share a passion for playing the sport. The program provides excellent year-round training, including competition in NCSL or ODSL, indoor soccer leagues, competitive tournaments, as well as high quality training and summer/winter camps. Please contact Coach Lucas Cook at 571-277-1554 or e-mail [mpscocook@gmail.com](mailto:mpscocook@gmail.com) to register for tryouts. To obtain more information about MPS see [mcleansoccer.org](http://mcleansoccer.org).

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—Alexander Pope

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## CAMPS & SCHOOLS

# FCPS Solicits Input on Option D

FROM PAGE 11

attend Eagle View. At the request of parents, officials said they did not change middle and high school attendance patterns as part of Option D. This action would result in some "split feeders" at the elementary school level. Students formerly from the Clifton attendance area would still attend Robinson Secondary School instead of continuing onto Centreville High School like other Union Mill students or Lake Braddock Secondary School like other Sangster students. Students moving from Greenbriar East to Greenbriar West would still attend Fairfax High School instead of going to Chantilly High School.

**IN OPTION D**, the school system would be moving some families out of schools with full-day kindergarten programs into schools with half-day kindergarten programs, a point of contention for many parents.

Those moving from Eagle View to Willow Springs; from Powell and Centreville to Union Mill; and from Greenbriar East students to Greenbriar West would shift from full-day to half-day kindergarten program. The School Board members intend to expand full-day kindergarten to all campuses eventually but tight budgets have caused them to put a freeze on the program. Full-day kindergarten is awarded on basis of need and those schools still without full-day kindergarten are usually among the most affluent in the county, according to school officials.

Option D would leave all schools at an acceptable population level, using between 95 and 105 percent of their building capacity by 2015, according to statistics released by the school system.

But "building capacity" is often calculated by including modular classrooms, which some parents find inappropriate. For example, school officials report that Centreville Elementary would move to 91 percent of its building capacity by 2015, but only if they include the eight-classroom modular unit they would move to the campus.

"[Option D] only puts us down 40 children. That isn't enough. We still have two trailers. It kills me to have trailers," said Sandy Jones, PTA president at Greenbriar West, a school that would be at about 100 percent building capacity, with trailers, if option d was adopted.

"We have rooms in use in the building that were never intended to be classrooms. We have absolutely zero space. ... We would still be overcrowded," said Jones.

The Clifton community, which is still fighting the School Board's decision to close their school, is also concerned about plans to move their students to Fairview and Union Mill before new additions at those schools are completed in 2013.

"Are they going to be moving students out of our school building and into trailers?" asked Patti Hopkins, PTA president at Clifton.

"My main concern is that they are closing Clifton at the end of this year without having enough seats at the surrounding schools," she said.

# Snow Plowing

FROM PAGE 9

that receive snow removal from the organization got plowed.

**SEVERAL BURKE CENTRE** trustees said they did not feel comfortable using the homeowners association's general funds to attend to the needs of relatively few

**"I would say the system worked."**

— Patrick Gloyd,  
Burke Centre  
executive director

residents in only one or two clusters like Smith had suggested.

Most clusters that did receive plowing were able to cover their bill. Burke Centre also has many neighborhoods that pay dues to the

homeowners association but do not get the benefits of the conservancy's snow removal program.

About 32 of Burke's clusters have to rely on the Virginia Department of Transportation for plowing instead of Burke Centre's in-house team.

"Certain clusters get snow removal and some don't depending on how they are located. Those clusters all paid money into the general fund and that would be the money that we would have use to pay for a few clusters' snow removal," said Kala Quintanna, Burke trustee president.

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## FAITH NOTES

**Messiah United Methodist Church**, 6215 Rolling Road in Springfield, will have a Christmas Comfort Service on Sunday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. Those who are hurting and in need of God's comfort are invited for a time of special music, scripture, silence, reflection, and healing prayer. [dcarnes@messiahumc.org](mailto:dcarnes@messiahumc.org).

**Burke Presbyterian Church**, 5690 Oak Leather Drive in Burke, present their annual Christmas Cantata on Dec. 12 at 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Hear Handel's Messiah (part 1) performed by the Chancel Choir. [www.BurkePresChurch.org](http://www.BurkePresChurch.org) or 703-764-0456.

**Jubilee Christian Center**, 4650 Shirley Gate Road in Fairfax, will have a Christmas Eve Service on Dec. 24 at 8 p.m., with refreshments. 703-383-1170 or [www.jccag.org](http://www.jccag.org).

**Burke Presbyterian Church**, 5690 Oak Leather Drive in Burke, presents a sermon series entitled "Life in the Fast Lane: Slow Down for Relationships." Explore everyday relationships through the Biblical story of Joseph and his family (Genesis: 37-50). Worship services are Saturday Coffeehouse at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. [www.BurkePresChurch.org](http://www.BurkePresChurch.org).

**Interested in the Catholic Faith?** Classes will be held at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church in the Guadalupe Room in the Parish Center, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Contact Carolyn Smith at [carolynsmith.stleos@gmail.com](mailto:carolynsmith.stleos@gmail.com) or 703-273-5369.

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### 21 Announcements

#### Draft Finding of No Significant Impact

**Fort Belvoir Travel Camp**  
U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir  
Directorate of Public Works  
Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Name of Action: Construction and Operation of a Travel Camp at Fort Belvoir.

Description of the Proposed Action: Under the proposed action, the Army would construct and operate a Travel Camp in the Tompkins Basin Recreation Area on the Main Post of Fort Belvoir. Construction of the Travel Camp would provide recreational vehicle (RV) pads, tent campsites, and rustic cabins. Other amenities would include potable water, communications, and sanitary hook-ups for the RV sites; a shower and laundry facility; playgrounds; internal circulation roads; and other support facilities.

Because the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a camping opportunity at Fort Belvoir and to generate revenue for the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (FMWR) at Fort Belvoir, the Army did not evaluate off-post sites. The Army did consider alternative locations for the Travel Camp during earlier planning for proposed development of the Tompkins Basin Recreational Area (TBRA), as well as the "No Action" alternative. Earlier proposals for TBRA development variously included a marina, a hotel, and other amenities, but these proposals were never approved. The specific nature of the resources needed to create the Travel Camp, coupled with environmental constraints at Fort Belvoir, limited the number of alternative locations that could be considered. Two site alternatives to the proposed action were assessed during the early stages of Travel Camp project development and both were located in the Tompkins Basin Recreational Area. These alternative sites were both rejected because of concerns raised by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Protection of bald eagle habitats at the alternative sites would have required such restrictive usage times for the marina that development of the proposed marina was determined to be infeasible.

Environmental Consequences: The Environmental Assessment (EA), which is attached and incorporated by reference into this Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI), examined the following potential effects of the proposed action alternative and possible mitigation strategies.

Natural Resources: The location proposed for the Travel Camp was selected in part because it is an area that was previously developed (cleared and graded) and accessible through pre-existing roads, thus helping to minimize impacts to the natural environment. Additionally, the Army would mitigate natural resource impacts by maximizing retention and protection of existing trees and native vegetation; planting native wetland plants in storm drainage areas to promote water quality. Approximately 7.6 acres of Partners In Flight (PIF) buffer area would be impacted by the proposed action; since this is only a small fraction of the available upland forest area located on the installation, the effects to PIF Species are expected to be minimal. Because the proposed site is located in an area that was already disturbed and partially developed, impact to natural resources such as vegetation would be significantly reduced. Prior to construction, the Army would prepare a Tree Preservation Plan for the proposed action to more accurately delineate and serve to mitigate against the anticipated vegetation impacts. Trees removed by clearing and grading that are 4-inch diameter or greater would be replaced at a 2:1 ratio. Disturbed areas would not extend beyond the limits of disturbance and be restored through planting and re-seeding after construction. Additionally, the Army would take steps to protect seeps and recharge areas and strictly adhere to erosion and sediment control and stormwater management laws and regulations to minimize impacts to aquatic ecosystems. No federally Endangered or state Special Status species would be affected by the proposed action.

Noise: Construction would be limited to weekday business hours. Construction equipment would use mufflers. Noise from the operation of the Travel Camp is expected to be minor.

Infrastructure and Utilities: The proposed action would have a moderate impact on infrastructure and utilities through connections to new sanitary sewer lines and potable water lines planned for the Tompkins Basin area. Stormwater management during construction will include provisions for erosion and sediment control and use of Best Management Practices (BMPs). Indications from Dominion Virginia Power are that existing infrastructure is adequate to meet electrical power demand for the Travel Camp.

Community Facilities and Services: Because the number of employees that would be required to operate the Travel Camp is small (6) and the average number of patrons projected to be use the facility at any one time is low (179), the proposed action would have a low impact on community facility and services.

Transportation and Traffic: The proposed action would have a minor impact on long-term increases in traffic on local roadways because transit to and from the Travel Camp would be anticipated to occur typically during off-peak hours, and traffic volume would be relatively small.

Mitigations: BMPs and adherence to applicable policies/regulations that would be implemented for resource protection are included with discussions of each respective resource area in the Draft EA. No mitigation measures for effects on socioeconomic, utilities, air quality, cultural resources, topography, soil integrity, migratory birds, surface water quality, floodplains, waters of the U.S. including wetlands and Chesapeake Bay Resource Protection Areas, Land Use, Coastal Zone Management would be required. Air pollutant emissions from the proposed action would not be significant and below de minimis levels for general conformity.

Summary of Environmental Impacts: The proposed action would not have significant impacts to human health or the environment. No significant cumulative impacts or indirect impacts are anticipated.

Conclusions: On reviewing the EA and other project information, the Garrison Commander at Fort Belvoir has concluded that the proposed action would not have significant impacts on the environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Notice of Availability: The EA is available for public review at the Directorate of Public Works and Van Noy Library, Fort Belvoir, Virginia; and at Lorton, Sherwood, Kingstowne and Fairfax City Regional branches of the Fairfax County Public Libraries. A copy of this notice and the EA can be viewed at [www.belvoir.army.mil](http://www.belvoir.army.mil).

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments for consideration on or before 30 days after publication date to Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, 9430 Jackson Loop, Suite 100, ATTN: IMNE-BEL-PW, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060 5116 or e-mail comments to environmental-fb-dpw@conus.army.mil. For more information, contact Mr. Patrick McLaughlin, Chief of Environmental and Natural Resource Division, Directorate of Public Works, at (703) 806-4007.

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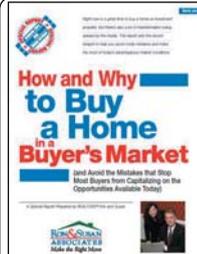


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