

Burke CONNECTION

Among the most expensive homes to sell in Burke in 2010, this home on Summerday Drive sold for \$1,175,000.

\$10 Million: Top Real Estate Sales from 2010

HOME LIFE, PAGE 11



Couple Marks 65 Years Together

NEWS, PAGE 3

Filling a 'Black Hole'

NEWS, PAGE 3

Home Life Style
Page 11

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JANUARY 13-19, 2011

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Proposed Cell Tower To Fill 'Black Hole'

New facility would improve local service for T-Mobile, Verizon.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Derek Harris joked that he might be OK with Verizon putting a monopole on the front lawn of his Burke home if that is what it took to get better cell phone reception inside his house.

"Verizon has known that there is a black hole in our neighborhood for awhile. We need more towers in this area," he said.

Harris was one of only a few residents who attended a community meeting about a proposal for a new cell phone facility at 5797-5801 Burke Centre Parkway on Jan. 6.

Like Harris, most other residents in attendance at the meeting expressed support for the new tower, stating that they would like to see cell phone service in Burke improve.

The Fairfax County Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing and vote on the new tower Jan. 19. Fairfax County's own planning staff has recommended approval



Verizon plans to install a cell phone facility at 5797-5801 Burke Centre Parkway.

for the project, according to a county report released Jan. 7.

If approved, the facility could be operational as early as mid-summer, said Frank Stearns, a representative for T-Mobile attending the community meeting.

THE TOWER, which is actually called a monopole, would be located directly east

of the Burke Shopping Center on a 5-acre property that includes small warehouses, according to the Fairfax County planning staff report. The structure would also be located across the street from Fairfax Club Estates housing development, according to staff members in Supervisor John Cook's (R-Braddock) office.

The pole would be approximately 137 feet

"Verizon has known that there is a black hole in our neighborhood for awhile."

— Derek Harris

tall and designed to blend in with the tree line, said officials.

"Each one of these poles is hand built. We really try to make them look authentic. You really don't notice them. There is currently one on the grounds at Mount Vernon," said Stearns.

Fairfax County planning staff used a "balloon test" to investigate potential visual pollution problems on Dec. 11.

As part of exercise, staff members raised a red balloon to where they estimated the tip of the proposed tower would be. They then drove to several different locations in Burke to observe where the tower might be visible.

They concluded the tower might be seen from the parking lots directly outside Kohl's and Chipotle on Burke Centre Parkway. There were also some parts of the Fairfax Club Estates where the tower might be seen.

SEE VERIZON, PAGE 5

McConnells Celebrate 65th Anniversary

Former supervisor and husband met in Florida and moved to Springfield in 1961.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Former Supervisor Elaine McConnell (R-Springfield) first met her husband Mac on Easter Sunday 1945 in Jacksonville, Fla.

Mac, then a Navy pilot, had been invited to Elaine's parents house for dinner. He had never met Elaine, then 18, but knew her boyfriend, another pilot in Mac's squadron who was also attending the Easter celebration.

"We went separately. When I got to the house, he was already there. He had a car and I didn't," Mac McConnell said.

The couple insists that Mac, then 25, did not steal Elaine from the other pilot. Elaine ended the relationship when the man left Jacksonville abruptly to go home and attend to a family emergency, they said.

Still, the other pilot was taken aback

when he returned to Florida and discovered Elaine was already engaged to Mac. The McConnells had only been seeing each other for six weeks when Mac proposed.

"The courtship was well publicized. The commander announced our engagement over the loudspeaker," said Elaine McConnell. "It caused a little bit of a fight in the squadron."

Mac McConnell had been extremely persistent when it came to pursuing Elaine. After meeting her on Easter Sunday, he came to her house or office for 21 days straight. The couple married less than eight

months after first laying eyes on each other. "He kept trying to move the wedding date up, and I kept trying to push it back," Elaine McConnell said.

The relationship that started with a brief courtship has lasted the span of a lifetime. The McConnells, who have lived in Springfield since 1961, celebrated their 65th wed-



Mac and Elaine McConnell celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Jan. 6.

ding anniversary Jan 6.

ELAINE and MAC MCCONNELL play down the significance of making it through 65 years of marriage. They said they didn't make a big deal out of celebrating their anniversary earlier this month.

Besides, they know another couple that

attends their church that just celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary, said Elaine McConnell.

"Oh yeah, there is that old couple that sits down in front on the right," said Mac McConnell, 90, about the other married

SEE WORKING, PAGE 16

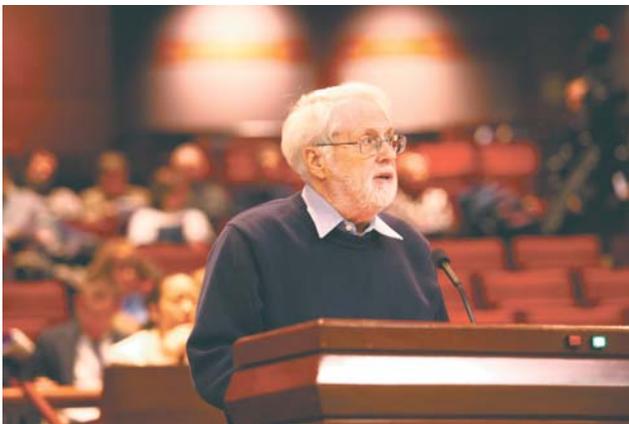
BURKE CONNECTION ♦ JANUARY 13-19, 2011 ♦ 3



Del. Charniele Herring (D-46) introduces herself. Seated to her right are Dels. David Bulova (D-37) and Scott Surovell (D-44). To her right are Del. Ken Plum (D-36), Del. Thomas Rust (R-86) and Sen. Mark Herring (D-33).



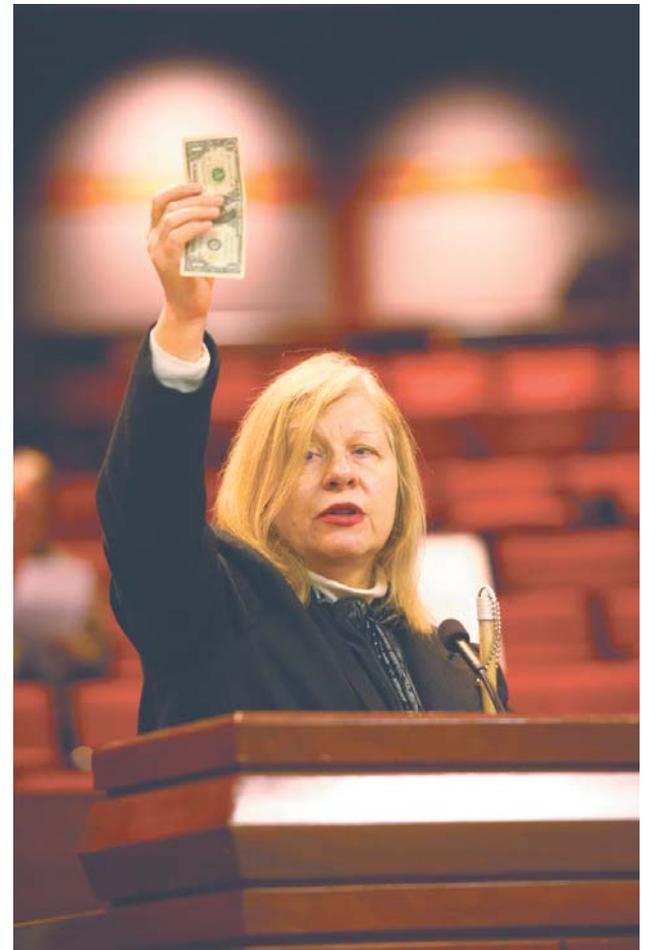
Rev. Gerald Daiden spoke on behalf of his son, who is a resident of Northern Virginia Training Center. He expressed concern that the state of Virginia is moving to a group home model. He thinks that the state must maintain the training centers for 'seriously retarded, behaviorally challenged' individuals.



Bob Stewart of Chantilly, a member of Social Action Linking Together (SALT), entreats legislators to support TANIF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families).



ARC of Northern Virginia Co-director Nancy Mercer holds 9-year-old Maya Simbulan's statement. Simbulan's sister Myra looks on.



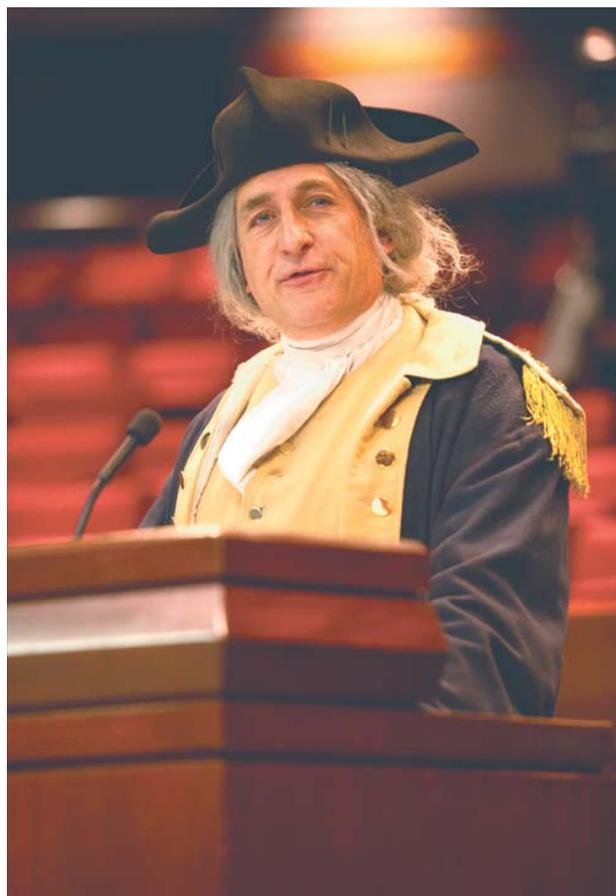
Doris Ray of Falls Church and of the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia, holds up \$1 to contrast the percentage of funds spent in Virginia on home and community based services versus the \$3 spent on institutional care for individuals with disabilities. She asked legislators to look at those percentages and instead of just cutting the budget for home and community services, to contemplate shifting from an institutional-based bias to one favoring more home and community-based services.

Morning Briefing

Public briefs state legislators on their issues of concern.

On Saturday, Jan. 8, Fairfax County's Delegation to the Virginia General Assembly conducted a public hearing about the upcoming 2011 legislative session. Speakers were allotted 3-minutes to make their comments.

The 'caped-crusader for the Constitution' also showed up to the hearing. James Manship Sr., dressed as Gen. George Washington, got his 3 minutes in front of the Delegation.



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB

NEWS

Verizon

FROM PAGE 3

But overall, Fairfax County planning staff concluded the pole would be sufficiently hidden from the public view, officials said.

Several other discretely placed cell towers are already located in the surrounding area including at a local Giant Food store, George Mason University and at the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, according to Stearns.

The new facility would improve service for T-Mobile and Verizon users in the much of the area directly surrounding it and fill in a significant gap in those providers service along Burke Centre Parkway, according to a presentation given by Stearns.

"This is really for capacity infill. ... This is an issue for first responders. First responders use cell phones and you don't want their calls to drop. The tower can't tell the difference between a first responder's call and a social call," said Stearns.

Cell phones are increasingly competing with other technology — including iPhones, kindles, iPads and Garmins — for local bandwidth. As smart technology grows in popularity, the need for new cell phone towers increases, said Stearns.

Traditionally, one of the main public objections to new cell phone towers has been concern over the monopole's impact on human health, said Planning Commissioner Suzanne Harsel (Braddock).

But the Federal Communications Commission prohibits any local government from take health concerns into account when considering the placement of the cell phone tower, said Harsel.

"The Planning Commission's chairmen has started urging people to contact the [Federal Communications Commission] if they have concern about a health issue. ... That is the main objection we seem to be getting," said Harsel.

MILITARY NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 7703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Robert A. Malloy has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. He is the brother of William P. Malloy of Bakersville Lane, Burke.

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OPINION

Be Sure To Let Us Know in 2011

Reaffirming our mission in the new year.

As local, weekly newspapers, the Connection's mission is to bring the news you need about your community that you are not likely to get anywhere else — to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestones in community and people's lives.

At the Connection, we begin 2011 by looking for more input from our readers.

First, send us photos of you and your pet plus a few sentences for our Pet Connection, which will appear the first week in February. We'd like to have photos by Jan. 20.

Let us know how we're doing, and let us know what is going on in your part of the community.

We invite you to e-mail us letting us know about something you especially liked or didn't like about our coverage, and to write us letters to the editor.

We learn a lot from readers' ideas and questions. If you see something that you think might be a story, or just something you wonder about, give us a call, or drop us a line.

We want to know if you have an idea for fixing traffic in your part of the world. We want

to know if you've had a good or bad experience with local government or your schools.

We'd like to hear your ideas about how to make things better. If you know of a person or an organization that is interesting, doing important work, and might make a good feature story, let us know.

This year, almost every state and local elected official is up for reelection, and we will do our best to let you know why this matters and what you need to know in short bites with some longer analysis along the way. If you have questions you'd like us to ask candidates as we go forward, let us know.

We are looking for interesting people to feature in our pages each week. If someone in your family or your community published a book, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon or having art included in an art show, these are all things that we want to know.

THE CONNECTION will publish photos and notes of a variety of community events and

milestones, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, school, etc. Email or mail us a photo and a note about the event. Be sure to include the names of all the people who are in a photo, and say when and where the photo was taken.

We also publish notes about news and events in local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries and other accomplishments and events are welcome.

Our calendar of events lets people know about upcoming events. Send the information at least two weeks ahead of the event, and include a photo if possible. Events to be listed in calendars should be free or at nominal cost and open to the public.

In covering the issues, we strive to provide a voice for our readers. We look forward to hearing from you in 2011. We have a new website in the works (our current site has served us well but is best described as an antique) that will open up many more lines of communication. Stay tuned.

— MARY KIMM
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

Smoking Ban

To the Editor:

As the 2011 Virginia General Assembly session convenes on Jan. 12, I would like to draw attention to some very important legislation. House Bill No. 1545, sponsored by Del. Kaye Kory (D-38), amends the existing law related to tobacco use in public buildings to add language that would prohibit smoking by anyone on public elementary, intermediate and secondary school grounds. As both a parent and as chair of Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC), I am writing to urge Fairfax County residents to support this legislation. SHAC has strongly advocated for a tobacco free school system in FCPS and the passing of House Bill No 1545 will pave the way for the implementation of a comprehensive no-smoking policy for our schools.

The direct result of this will not only be the improved health of employees but will also provide a better example for our students, hopefully cutting down on the number of students who begin smoking during their adolescent (and earlier) years.

I strongly urge all concerned citizens to express their support of this legislation to improve the health and well being of our students and those that educate them by contacting their state legislator. Information about contacting your

state legislator can be found at http://legis.state.va.us/1_cit_guide/contacting_my.html.

Laura Poms
Chairperson
School Health Advisory
Committee

Brain Injury Recovery

To the Editor:

Our hearts go out to all touched by the tragic shooting of U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-Ariz.). This incident raises many issues: gun control, access to public officials, effectively identifying mental stability, etc. But the one thing that hits home for everyone is that anytime, anywhere anyone may suffer a brain injury. Generally, the recovery process is long and challenging and measured over years. It's tough not just on the patient, but also on their friends and family. To make matters worse, insurance typically only covers a small portion of the services needed for the patient's full recovery.

When a brain injury patient has trouble with regaining language skills (speech, writing, understanding the written or spoken word), the Vienna-based nonprofit organization the Stroke Comeback Center [Learn more at:

www.strokecomebackcenter.org] may be a great resource for patients and their families. As one of the only centers of its kind in the nation, SCC offers those recovering their language skills, a place to regain language skills, connect with other patients just like them, and rebuild their confidence in communicating.

If you are interested in learning more about the process of regaining language skills following a brain injury, or for a source as the Giffords' story continues to develop, contact me at 703-346-7111.

Sheri Singer
Fairfax

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

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

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
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By e-mail:
burke@connectionnewspapers.com

FAU

BY DANIEL WILLIAM
GRUBERG
BURKE

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the moss dangled
some of the branches tangled
it was standing above me
a dove died inside the nest
but stayed there to give the
tree a symbol, and

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it stood tall but
looked
for attention from
any

passerby mourning for
more in life
it enjoyed the sound
of a harp string
and the vibrations
made the seeds glisten
and the bark firm up
I couldn't help but
look at it one
more time before
I walked on to more
trees with less of a
presence waiting to grow
old as a widow
past middle age on
and ornamented balcony with
light from her room emanating
the darkness
of the neighborhood.

THE CONNECTION

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PHOTO BY GEORGE BURKE

Connolly Begins Second Term in Congress

Surrounded by family and friends, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) was sworn into a second term of office Wednesday, Jan. 5 by new House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) at a ceremony in the U.S. Capitol. Connolly said he was honored to have the opportunity to serve the citizens of Northern Virginia in the U.S. House of Representatives. Connolly said he was hopeful the 112th Congress could work in a bipartisan fashion to promote economic growth and job creation.

MILITARY NOTES

Army Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Buckley has been decorated with the Meritorious Service Medal. The medal is presented to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who distinguish themselves by either outstanding achievement or meritorious service to the United States in noncombat situations. Buckley is an element leader of the Jazz Ambassadors assigned to the U.S. Army Field Band at Fort

George G. Meade, Md. The sergeant major has served in the military for 21 years.

He graduated in 1980 from Lake Braddock Secondary School High School and received a bachelor's degree in music education in 1985 from the University of North Texas, Denton. In 1989, Buckley earned a master's degree in music from the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley.



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Robinson Presents Two Children's Plays

RoProCo stages 'Rumpelstiltskin,' 'Wolf Tales.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Knowing that the only thing better than one children's play is two children's plays, the Robinson Production Class (RoProCo) is presenting "Rumpelstiltskin" and "Wolf Tales."

"Rumpelstiltskin" is the classic story of how a mysterious, little man helps a poor girl weave straw into gold — but at a high price. And "Wolf Tales" is three stories joined together as one.

Show times are Friday, Jan. 21, at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 22-23, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5 presale, at school, \$6 online at www.robinsondrama.org (reserved seating is an option) and \$7 at the door.

Although theater Director Chip Rome is overseeing things, senior Frannie Nejako is directing both plays. The actors are mainly first-year, theater students in a class only open by audition, and Nejako says they're doing a great job.

"At first, I was nervous when I heard the word, 'freshmen,'" she said. "But they're extremely cooperative and amazingly talented. They're willing to experiment and try new things; and I find that, the more energetic and excited I am, they are, too."



From left, Hillary Hollaway, Jamie Green, Anna Barr, Stephen Diggs and Sarah Irving rehearse a scene from 'Rumpelstiltskin.'

Sarah Irving portrays the miller's daughter, Claudia, in "Rumpelstiltskin." As such, she comes from a poor family. Her mother has died and her father is a pathological liar with multiple girlfriends. So, she tries to keep him out of trouble, especially with the kingdom's new law banning lying.

"She's also kind of reserved and falls in love with the king at first sight because she's so vulnerable," said Irving. "It's fun because I get to interact with a puppet [Rumpelstiltskin]. She's also the lead, and

I like things challenging to me. I like playing a part that calls for so much commitment and hard work to get it perfect."

Irving says children will enjoy the puppet, created by student Sam Hennerty. They'll also like the Carpalian sisters, one of whom the king is supposed to marry. "They're crazy and funny and have pink dresses, extravagant makeup and overbearing personalities," said Irving.

Speaking with an Irish brogue, Eli Downs is playing the title role. "Rumpelstiltskin is

"He has a strange obsession with cherries."

— Hillary Hollaway, describing her character

an old guy with ulterior motives," he said. "He wants what he wants, when he wants it, and he's sneaky. He pretends to be sweet and innocent, but his true colors come out near the end of the play."

Downs watched lots of old, Irish films to learn his character's slang and cadence. He's having fun playing a villain because "There's always a back story to make up about why he's so evil. And you get to do things you can't do in real life — be mean and get your anger out through your character." Overall, Downs says the audience will like the play's characters and silliness, plus "the imagination put into this show."

Anna Barr portrays a princess, the king's Aunt Gertrude. "She's really abrasive and is someone everyone hates," said Barr. "She has everyone's best interests at heart, but she's in your face and is forcefully honest with people. She's fun to play because I'm more reserved than her, but I get to scream at people and they cringe when they hear my name." Barr also likes being in a children's play because "you get to play around with your characters more, and the motions are big, wacky, crazy and fun."

Playing Mitchell, the prime minister, is Hillary Hollaway. "It's an enjoyable challenge because I'm more girly in the way I

SEE CHILDREN, PAGE 10

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/JAN. 13

International Guitar Night. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. With Clive Carroll, Alexandre Gismonti, Pino Forastiere and International Guitar Night (IGN) founder Brian Gore. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

Jammin' Java's Mid-Atlantic Band Battle IV. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Things That Go. 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-293-6227.

Tales for Twos: HiBURNation. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Stories and activities about animals in winter. Age 24-35 months with adult. 703-644-7333.

FRIDAY/JAN. 14

The OK Corral CD Release. 6:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

The Peabody Trio. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Chamber music. \$35. Wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/JAN. 15

Sing Me Insomnia and Struan Shields at 6 p.m., JAMuary, Box & Won, Venise and Empuls at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With violinist Chee-Yun and works by Bernstein, Walton and more. Tickets \$25-\$55, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Line dance lessons 7:30 p.m., couples specialty dance 8 p.m., open dancing 8:30-11 p.m. Two step, waltz, line, swing, cha cha and more. Couples and singles welcome. \$5-\$12. www.nvcwda.org or 703-860-4941.

UFC Superstar Shane Carwin. 12-4

p.m. Max Muscle Fairfax, 10694 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax. Free and open to the public. Carwin will sign autographs and discuss getting fit. fairfax.maxmuscle.com/about.

Buskin & Batteau. 7:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk duo. \$22. Wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 16

Washington, Virginia & Maryland Garden Gauge Train Display (G Gauge). 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Members will have running train displays. Adults \$3, children \$1. 703-425-9225 or www.fairfax-station.org.

Annandale High School Choral Department presents Broadway Desserts. 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Cultural Arts Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, Virginia. Broadway show tunes and desserts. \$8-\$20. 703-916-0232 or pam.odom@verizon.net.

In Layman Terms and Holly Montgomery at 1:30 p.m. and McTwist CD Release, Action Item and The Dukes at 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10



SEBASTIAN SCHMIDT

Pianist Sebastian Knauer and the Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie appear Saturday, Jan. 29 at 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The German State Philharmonic, conducted by Philippe Entremont on its first tour of the U.S., performs Strauss' "Till Eulenspiegels lustige Streiche" and Brahms' Symphony No. 4, Op. 98. Entremont also joins Knauer on piano for Mozart's Concerto for Two Pianos, No. 10 in E-Flat major, K. 365. Tickets are \$30-\$60, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

THEATER Children

FROM PAGE 8

move but, here, I have to move like a man," she said.

Describing Mitchell as weird and strict, Hollaway said he really doesn't like people. "He's upper class and snooty and has a strange obsession with cherries, which seems out-of-character for him," she said. "He also gets stepped-on by horses, all the time. I've always played out-there characters, so it's different playing someone so enclosed and different from me in personality and gender."

Jamie Green plays King Henry. "He's a good person, but childish and naïve, which gets him into trouble, so he believes everything he hears and does what his aunt says," said Green. "He doesn't want anything for himself, but wants the kingdom saved from bankruptcy. So he thinks the gold Claudia will spin will do that." Green's enjoying playing a silly character in a position of power, while "acting wimpy because he's afraid of Gertrude and falling in love with Claudia."

STUDENT DIRECTOR Nejako, who wrote and directed a short play last year, got to pick the show's second play, "Wolf Tales." It's the "Three Little Pigs" merged with "Little Red Riding Hood" and a story about a wolf hunt.

"Hunters Leo and Caroline are looking for B.B. — Big Bad Wolf — and his sidekick, Max," said Nejako. "B.B. ate one of their chickens, so they're after him. B.B.'s character is like a 1930s-40s mobster. As the wolf interferes with the lives of Little Red Riding Hood and the three pigs, they join forces with the hunters. But B.B.'s actually a softy and the story's cartoonish, funny and relatable. Instead of hating the wolf, you grow to care about him because he's so lovable."

Directing children's theater, said Nejako, "You have to think like a little kid and what will make them laugh, but also put in jokes for the adults, too. The best part is when everything comes together — the acting and technical work — and scenes go exactly as I'd imagined them."

Rome said children's theater is RoProCo's signature and this one is its most audience-interactive show. "Guessing Rumpelstiltskin's name will involve the audience, and 'Wolf Tales' has alternate endings the audience can choose," he said. "They'll decide the wolf's fate."

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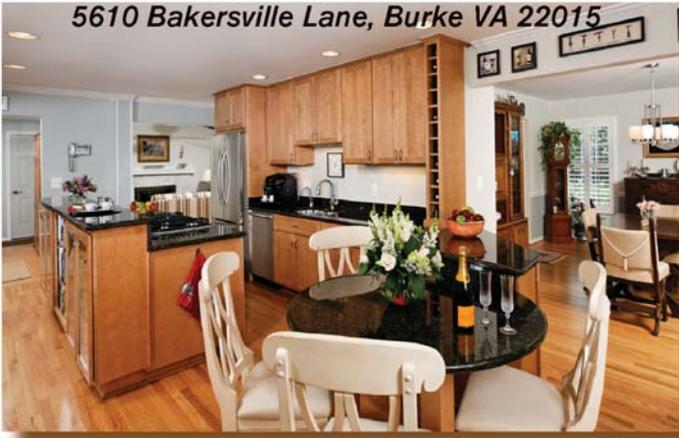
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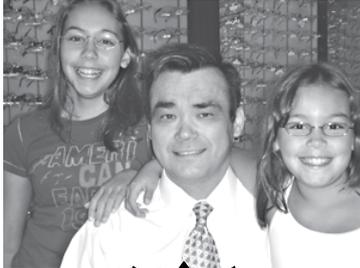
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The Mark Morris Dance Group

Mark Morris Dance To Perform at GMU

The Mark Morris Dance Group will appear on Friday, Feb. 4 and Saturday, Feb. 5 at 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The performance will feature the D.C. area premiere of "Petrichor," set to the music of Heitor Villa-Lobos, plus three classic works from Morris' repertory: "Going Away Party," "Silhouettes" and "Excursions." The performances will feature Mason dance alums Rita Donahue and Billy Smith, who are both members of MMDG. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$22-\$44, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

FROM PAGE 8

MONDAY/JAN. 17

Annandale High School Choral Department presents Broadway Desserts. 7 p.m. George Mason University Cultural Arts Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, Virginia. Broadway show tunes and desserts. \$8-\$20. 703-916-0232 or pam.odom@verizon.net.

The Toasters (30th Anniversary Tour) with Alma Tropicalia and Ugly. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/JAN. 18

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

Evening Book Discussion. 7:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. "When Will There Be Good News?" by Kate Atkinson. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Book Discussion Group. 1:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. "The Art of Racing in the Rain" by Garth Stein. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Book Discussion Group. 6:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. A Mercy by Toni Morrison. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Understudies, Punch Drunk Poets, Forever The Win, Caryn Server, Ethan Douglas, Treble Lifter and Chaotika. 6:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 19

Paws for Reading. 4:30 p.m. Burke

Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice reading skills with a trained therapy dog. Age 6-12. Register at 703-249-1520.

Pierce Pettis and Grace Pettis. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/JAN. 20

Warm Up to a Good Story. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-293-6227.

Afternoon Reading Group. 1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. "Water for Elephants" by Sarah Gruen. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Schiavone, We Were Kings and My Radio. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 22

The Bigger Lights, Boys Will Be Boys and The Love Light at 6 p.m. and **Fight The Bear, Overdrive Superthruster** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Perú Negro With Eva Ayllón: "Festejo." 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A group of more than 30 dancers and musicians performs the rhythms, sounds and movements propagated along Peru's coast by African slaves, joined by singer Eva Ayllón. Tickets \$23-\$46, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Microsoft Access. 2:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Introduction to creating, modifying and mastering

databases using Microsoft's Access program. Age 13 and up. 703-293-6227.

SUNDAY/JAN. 23

Music Through An Artist's Eyes. 2:30 p.m. Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. A free organ recital and reception in conjunction with a juried art exhibition. www.providencechurch.org/music_arts.

Brass of Peace. 7 p.m. Fairfax United Methodist Church, 10300 Stratford Ave., Fairfax. The music of Gabrieli, Bach, Mel Torme, Elgar, Joplin, Pierre Dubois and more. 703-635-5272 or www.brassofpeace.org.

Mid-Atlantic Song Contest Awards Gala. 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

MONDAY/JAN. 24

Tales to Tails. 4 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Sign up to read to the dog. Age 6-12 with adult. 703-293-6227.

Teddy Bear Tales. 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories and songs. Tickets distributed 30 minutes before program begins. Age 13-23 months with adult. 703-249-1520.

Create A Story, Make A Friend. 3:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Create new stories to share. Age 6-12. 703-978-5600.

Rock Against Cancer with ZeroShift, Make Love & War, Bethany & The Guitar, Cerca Trova, Sol Bandits and Black Dog Prowl. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna.

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10 ❖ BURKE CONNECTION ❖ JANUARY 13-19, 2011

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Home Life Style

Creating a Kitchen-centric Entertainment Suite

Making the kitchen a 'more inviting place.'

BY JOHN BYRD

For years, Ginny Craig experienced a vague anxiety as holidays approached. A skillful and passionate cook, the Oakton resident loved regaling friends and family with tasty treasures from her grills and ovens. The problem was that entertaining often became an isolated affair with Craig pushed into a far corner of the kitchen, searching for places to prepare and stage meals while simultaneously defending her "work triangle" from well-meaning guests.

"The old model kitchen wasn't conceived with my preferences in mind," Craig said. "A typical late 20th century floor plan calls for cooking to be out of view. With all the utilities pushed together, it was tricky just keeping food preparation and clean-up sorted out."

After a transformation, the Craigs inaugurated their new space by hosting a soiree with top-rated chef Patrick Bazin preparing signature dishes.

"As an observer, I was really impressed at how well the layout supports complex cooking," Craig noted. "Certainly food preparation has a bigger spotlight in our new space," Craig said. "But it's really all the thoughtful zoning considerations that explains how well this plan functions."

PATRICK BAZIN, formerly star chef at the District's historic Occidental, now owns Bazin's on Church, a popular Vienna restaurant. The menu features contemporary American cuisine with an emphasis on seasonal and

organic ingredients and has been lauded by food critics.

Bill and Ginny Craig have been regular patrons since the restaurant opened four and half years ago, so Bazin was pleased to cook at an affair to be attended by so many like-minded gourmands.

Bazin was particularly impressed with the new kitchen's layout, which provides a pass-through archway linked to the breakfast room that enabled him to face seated guests while cooking.

"It really inspires a chef to see people enjoying your work and having fun," Bazin said. "The whole atmosphere becomes festive and very special for everyone."

Bazin also praised the tightly-conceived food preparation zone, which allowed him to complete every task without ever walking more than a few feet.

Smoked chicken, black pepper biscuits and jumbo lump crabmeat were among the dishes Bazin prepared for the approximately 50 guests who enjoyed the debut of the Craig's new kitchen.

So how does one convert a series of boxy,



CONTRIBUTED

Chef Patrick Bazin (of Bazin's on Church) found the open kitchen plan 'inspiring.' The layout allowed him to see guest reactions to his cooking. 'The whole atmosphere (was) festive...very special for everyone.'



PHOTO BY GREG HADLEY

The open floor plan puts the cook's work triangle in the center. The design solution included a second artery to the breakfast room; cathedral ceilings with skylights dramatically improved natural light availability.

sequentially arranged chambers into a generously-apportioned kitchen-centric entertainment suite?

"We actually interviewed quite a few firms," Craig recalls, "but the people at Sun Design Remodeling showed they were really listening. That was important because we hadn't worked out a lot of the important details—like whether we wanted to bump out the rear or stay within the existing walls."

"The existing kitchen—which was conceived in a remodel in 1992—just wasn't well-rationalized," said designer/project manager Dawn Parker, who made use of her extensive architectural background. "The earlier plan converted the garage and breezeway into a sizeable entertainment area, but there was only one artery leading to the food and drink."

"Above all, we just wanted this part of the house to be inviting," Ginny Craig recalls. "I pictured a spacious, visually-appealing version of the kind of old fashioned country kitchen where everyone would gather."

ONE OF PARKER'S FIRST CHALLENGES was to create a better circulation plan when planning the kitchen's custom interior. The four feet of wall space allocated for

the Thermador range, for instance, had to be situated midway between parallel open arteries into the breakfast room. This preserved a mere two feet on either side for custom cabinetry essential to the chef's process.

Parker's next step was to radically increase natural light by raising a formerly-hidden cathedral ceiling to its appropriate height and introducing three skylights. The elevation at the rear of the breakfast room, likewise, was reworked to incorporate five windows with running surfaces, storage built-ins, a country-style sink and two dishwashers.

"The counters are also perfectly positioned for service to the family and breakfast rooms," Craig points out. "It's made the family room a much more sensible gathering place in every season."

Appropriate to the gourmet-dining theme, Parker proposed an in-kitchen wine storage console and tasting table as the new home for Bill Craig's wine collection. With its marble surface and split-face natural stone backsplash, the station features two 57-bottle-capacity GE Monogram coolers and cabinetry milled specifically to accommodate the couple's stemware and crystal.

Still more to the point, Ginny Craig is now hosting sit-down dinners for 12 and holidays are fun again.

Sun Design Remodeling frequently holds workshops on home remodeling topics at their office in Burke.
www.SunDesignRemodelingInc.com

Elegant and Efficient

BY JOSHUA BAKER

Today's homeowners are much more informed and educated about what they want in a home. Travel, home shows, the internet and a greater focus on the importance of transforming a house into a home, have led homeowners to be very particular about what renovations they do and how they go about them.

No longer are people limited to cookie-cutter plans from a builder selecting little

more than the color of the tile or carpets. Instead today's homeowners have embraced the idea of actively participating in determining customized solutions that will best suit their family's needs, wants and lifestyle.

Here are remodeling trends that BOWA Builders predicts for 2011.

2011 Trends

PROJECTS – SMALLER AND BETTER
The trend to smaller, higher quality spaces

Less is more as homeowners seek higher quality in smaller spaces.

continues as many local residents discover that what they need is not more space, but better space. Often when talking with clients about possible projects we find that making a home larger is not the answer to their concerns. The problem is the bulk of the existing homes in our area were not designed for the way we live today. Small, compartmented rooms, a kitchen that is meant to be occupied by two or three people at most and formal rooms that separate the family from each other are no longer the

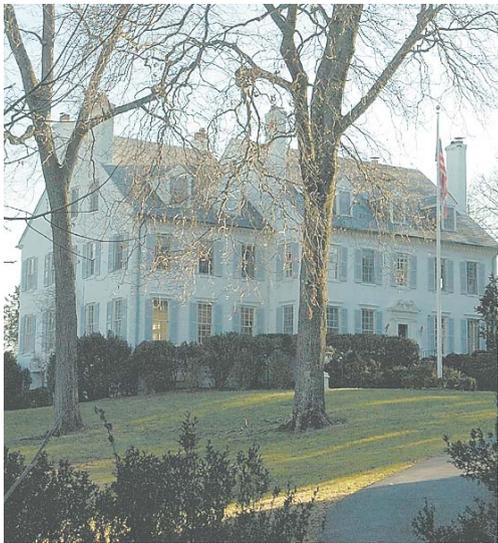
types of spaces families' desire. As a result today's home remodeling projects often focus on reconfiguring, opening up and otherwise improving existing spaces to better suit the way today's families live, play and entertain. Because many BOWA clients lead hectic schedules outside of the home, they continue to trend toward remodeling projects that create highly usable, comfortable living spaces in their home. Families

SEE ELEGANT AND EFFICIENT. PAGE 13

Fairfax County REAL ESTATE

Top Sales

A look at some of the top sales of 2010



2 1147 Chain Bridge Road, McLean



1 1322 Balls Hill Road NE, McLean



3 10350 Elizabeth Street, Great Falls

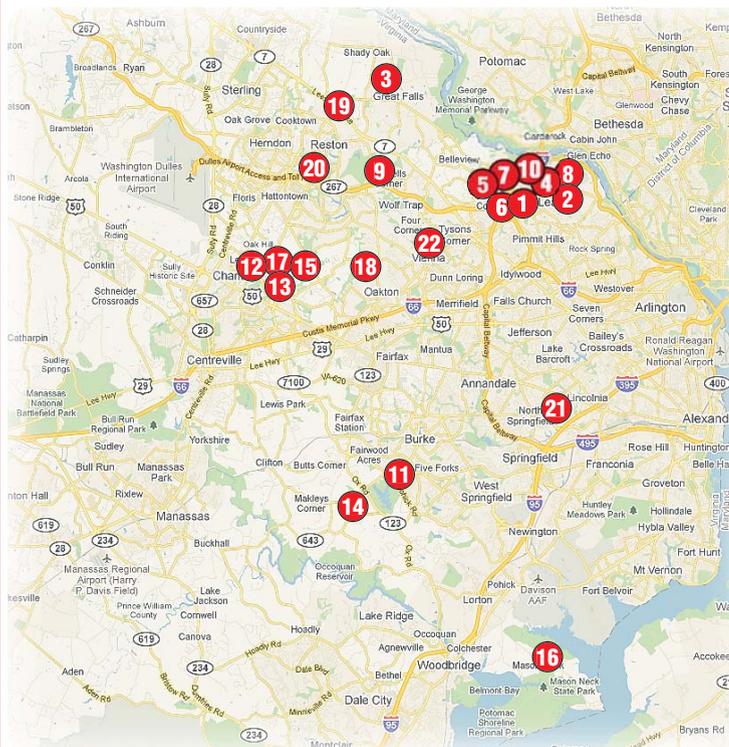


23 330 Ayr Hill Avenue NE, Vienna



4 6622 Malta Lane, McLean

THE TOP TEN



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 1322 BALLS HILL RD NE	7	8	3		MCLEAN	\$10,200,000	Detached	2.05	ELMWOOD ESTS	10/28/10
2 1147 CHAIN BRIDGE RD	12	10	1		MC LEAN	\$8,250,000	Detached	5.63	LANGLEY FARMS	01/07/10
3 10350 ELIZABETH ST	7	10	3		GREAT FALLS	\$6,500,000	Detached	2.71	GOULDMAN ACRES	07/01/10
4 6622 MALTA LN	5	7	1		MCLEAN	\$6,160,000	Detached	1.00	LANGLEY FARMS	03/17/10
5 8113 SPRING HILL FARM DR	5	5	1		MCLEAN	\$4,402,132	Detached	1.17	SPRING HILL FARM	04/15/10
6 7301 DULANY DR	5	6	2		MCLEAN	\$4,335,000	Detached	2.19	ELMWOOD ESTS	08/12/10
7 7681 BALLESTRATE CT	6	6	3		MCLEAN	\$4,000,000	Detached	1.03	THE RESERVE	08/03/10
8 1127 LANGLEY LN	7	5	1		MCLEAN	\$3,850,000	Detached	0.60	LANGLEY FARMS	05/18/10
9 1532 CROWELL RD	5	5	3		VIENNA	\$3,750,000	Detached	2.83	BROWNS MILL ESTATES	11/11/10
10 7029 BENJAMIN ST	5	5	1		MCLEAN	\$3,603,350	Detached	1.10	LANGLEY FOREST	06/11/10

SOME OTHER TOP SALES IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

11 9829 SUMMERDAY DR	4	4	1		BURKE	\$1,175,000	Detached	0.86	BURKE LAKE MEADOW	08/09/10
12 3408 MEYER WOODS LN	5	4	2		FAIRFAX	\$1,310,000	Detached	0.83	THOMPSON ROAD PROPERTY	05/18/10
13 3491 ROSE CREST LN	4	4	1		FAIRFAX	\$1,240,000	Detached	0.99	OAK HILL ESTATES	05/27/10
14 11001 SANDY MANOR DR	5	4	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,685,000	Detached	5.01	SANDY RUN FOREST ESTATES	04/28/10
15 12191 GOLDENCHAIN CT	4	4	2		HERNDON	\$1,445,000	Detached	1.25	SHADETREE ESTATES	09/08/10
16 11191 GUNSTON RD	5	6	1		LORTON	\$3,600,000	Detached	5.26	STONE MANOR ON THE POTOMAC	09/29/10
17 12827 PARAPET WAY	4	5	1		OAK HILL	\$1,350,000	Detached	1.20	OAKTON CHASE	07/23/10
18 2601 GENEVA HILL CT	5	5	1		OAKTON	\$1,475,000	Detached	0.94	HANNAH HILLS	07/29/10
19 11284 STONES THROW DR	5	3	2		RESTON	\$1,290,000	Detached	0.69	ESTATES AT WYNDHAM HILLS	08/12/10
20 11776 STRATFORD HOUSE PL #11043	3	3	0		RESTON	\$1,060,000	Penthouse		STRATFORD	01/29/10
21 5253 MONROE DR	6	5	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$1,075,000	Detached	0.41	EDSALL ROAD PROPERTY	07/20/10
22 330 AYR HILL AVE NE	6	5	2		VIENNA	\$2,200,000	Detached	0.53	VIENNA	07/22/10

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SOURCE: MRIS, INC. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MRIS, VISIT WWW.MRIS.COM.

Top 8

Home design and remodeling trends for 2011.

Case Design and Remodeling identified what they believe will be the top eight trends in home design and remodeling for 2011. Based on emerging industry developments and customer requests, the list was compiled by Bill Millholland, executive vice president at Case.



With drawer inserts for cutlery, spices or dividers, homeowners are making better use of every available space within their kitchens, as in this McLean kitchen renovated by Case Design and Remodeling.

- LED or compact fluorescent (CFL) lighting** – Homeowners are moving away from incandescent fixtures toward more energy-efficient choices such as LED and CFL bulbs.
- High-quality synthetic materials for home exteriors** – Synthetic materials such as Hardie Plank siding and PVC trim pieces mimic the look of natural materials like wood, but are much more durable and better able to withstand climate changes.
- Large format bathroom tiles** – Smaller square tiles are being replaced with tiles measuring 12" x 12" or larger, as well as non-square shapes (12" x 18"), producing flooring and walls that showcase more tile and fewer grout lines.
- Multiple finishes on kitchen cabinetry** – Complementary multiple stains and a mix of painted and stained finishes on cabinetry
- Screened porches** – Homeowners are extending their living areas with screened porches that allow them to enjoy the outdoors throughout the year without the nuisance of insects.
- "Furniture-like" detailing in kitchens** – Varied cabinet and counter heights, distressed finishes and furniture-style toe kicks provide visual interest and help eliminate the "component" look of many kitchen cabinet designs.
- Heated bathroom flooring** – Heated mats underneath bathroom flooring tiles provide radiant heat that is proven to keep homeowners warmer than forced-air heating systems, helping to save on energy costs.
- Kitchen cabinet accessories** – With drawer inserts for cutlery, spices or dividers, homeowners are making better use of every available space within their kitchens.

"The remodeling industry is poised for substantive growth in 2011 due to the number of options available to homeowners wanting to revive their living spaces," said Millholland.

For more, see CaseDesign.com or call 800-513-2250.

Elegant and Efficient

FROM PAGE 11

want practical and appropriate spaces in their home retreats because they treasure their time there.

KITCHENS – TRANSFORMATION BY DESIGN

Kitchens are the social center of our homes and need to accommodate a myriad of uses. While sometimes the solution is adding square footage, particularly in homes built 30 or more years ago, frequently the solution lies in re-thinking the layout and improving the connection to surrounding spaces, both interior and exterior. In one BOWA project, the wall separating the formal dining room from the kitchen was removed completely, creating a spacious casual kitchen. The new expanded eating area was a much improved use of the families existing space, and is now consistent with their lifestyle and priorities.

THEATERS – AS LIVING SPACES

Media rooms have become more and more prevalent as families look for ways to incorporate the latest technology into their homes and lives. While these rooms began as home theaters they are evolving to fit many more aspects of family life. No longer is their sole purpose to showcase a movie while the audience sits quietly in the dark in rows of comfortable seating. Incorporating theater seating with lounge seating and counter space provides an opportunity to socialize with friends during the game or gather the family on a weekday evening. After a recent BOWA renovation, the theater is now used each evening as the family relaxes together with their own focus or project.

REPEAT REMODELERS Requirements for homes change as the family grows and matures. Often what worked wonderfully when a couple is starting out with small children is no longer the best option as

everyone gets older and schedules, hobbies and family dynamics evolve. Many families find that they decide to complete multiple projects during the life of the home. In other cases it just makes sense to phase projects to minimize interruption or spread the costs over time. Year after year, a number of BOWA clients return to us ready to take on the next phase of their home remodeling projects. For one local family, BOWA recently completed its fifth project including a family room expansion, a master suite addition and garage, a guest suite renovation, kids' bath renovations, and an exterior make-over.

HIGH PERFORMANCE HOMES For some homeowners the desire to be "green" and minimize their impact on the environment will drive them to investigate new available options, such as high-efficiency windows. For others it is the desire to reduce the costs of maintaining a home. For still others it is to reduce the contaminants that may exist in our homes. Today's answers to these issues can be flaunted in the design of a renovation or seamlessly incorporated into a home without compromising the integrity of the design. Whatever the goal, we recommend to all BOWA clients that they consider having an energy audit completed on their home before undergoing any renovations. The resulting report will pinpoint many small changes that can drastically improve a home's performance. Often these items can be incorporated into the planned renovation without driving substantial cost increases. These can include adding insulation in unseen gaps in the home envelope, changing the means of heating water or updating out-moded appliances and equipment.

For more, see www.bowa.com.

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

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

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Girls Hitting Mid-Season Stride

Bruins inch closer to .500; Rebels, Spartans, and Stallions roll along.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The Lake Braddock Secondary girls' basketball team earned a much-needed win this past Monday night when it defeated visiting Lee, 48-29, in a Patriot District contest.

The victory was important for a Bruins' squad that had lost two district road games the week before, a 60-31 setback to Northern Region power West Springfield on Jan. 4, and a 61-40 defeat at the hands of T.C. Williams last Friday night, Jan. 7.

"We rebounded well with the win over Lee," said Lake Braddock coach Leigh Kampman, of the bounce-back win over the Lancers. "Defense has really been the key to our success this season and we got back to that on Monday."

The win over Lee improved Lake Braddock's overall record to 5-7.

The Bruins' prior wins this season have come over visiting W.T. Woodson, 58-54, on Dec. 10; at West Potomac, 41-19, on Dec. 21; versus Stuart, 57-12, on Dec. 28; and against Bethesda-Chevy Chase High (Md.), 40-30, on Dec. 30.

The wins over Stuart and Bethesda both came at the Lady Rebels Winter Classic, which took place at host Fairfax High School.

On Dec. 29, in its second game at the Winter Classic, Lake Braddock lost a close 45-42 affair to the host team Rebels. But the Bruins came back strong with the win over Bethesda to finish 2-1 at the showcase event.

"We lost an intense game to Fairfax, but beat Stuart and Bethesda Chevy Chase," said Kampman. "I think the tournament did a lot for us as a team and really helped build our confidence."

Lake Braddock's leading scorer this season is post player Logan Russell, a strong presence on both the offensive and defensive ends of the floor.

"She fights for rebounds and her overall game has really improved over the course of this season," said Kampman, of Russell. "I have a number of other girls step up on different nights, depending on the matchups."

Russell led the Bruins with 11 points in the three-point tournament setback to Fairfax. Caroline Young was Lake Braddock's next leading scorer in that game with eight points. Fairfax, meanwhile, had big games from Liz McNaughton (15 points) and Meredith Mesaris (13 points, 11 rebounds). Kylee Murphree chipped in seven points for the Rebels.

The Bruins led Fairfax 11-5 after one quarter and held a 34-29 lead after three quarters. But Fairfax outscored its opponent by eight points in the final quarter to earn the comeback win.

In the Bruins' win over non-Northern Region opponent Bethesda, Russell also scored 11 points in that contest to pace her team, while Maggie Collins and Allie Snow contributed eight and six points, respectively. Other scoring for Lake Braddock came



Robinson's Tyler Hansen (20) drives with the ball as Lake Braddock's Caroline Young defends during an earlier season game between the Rams and Bruins. Robinson, 10-2 on the season, will be at home this Friday night against defending Northern Region champion Oakton.

from Shelby Sheridan (5 points) and Young (4).

The Bruins, in the win, led 16-9 at the half before putting the game away when it outscored Bethesda 14-2 in the third quarter.

Lake Braddock was scheduled to host South County this Thursday evening (Jan. 13) at 7:30.

THE FAIRFAX HIGH GIRLS went 2-1 at their own holiday tourney — the Winter Classic — which took place Dec. 28-30. The Rebels, under head coach Marcus Konde, won their tournament opener over Falls Church, 69-33, on Dec. 28, then beat Lake Braddock, 45-42, the following day. But Fairfax fell to Stone Ridge (9-3), a private school out of Bethesda, in its final game of the tournament on Dec. 30 by a score of 43-29.

The Rebels trailed Stone Ridge just 22-20 at halftime, but were outscored 21-9 in the second half. Meredith Mesaris, a 6-foot-2 inch senior center, scored 13 points and pulled down 11 rebounds for Fairfax. Liz McNaughton, a 6-1 junior forward, scored six points.

In post holiday action, Fairfax won Liberty District games over both Madison and Jefferson to begin the New Year. The Rebels, in the home game versus Madison on Dec. 3, won 47-41, behind 21 points and 11 rebounds from Mesaris. McNaughton scored nine points and Kylee Murphree added six in the win. For two-time defending district tournament champion Madison, Carmen Mann scored 15 points.

Fairfax (9-3 overall, 4-0 district) defeated Jefferson,

Paul Labazzetta, the former W.T. Woodson High wrestling coach, will be honored during ceremonies at Woodson Wednesday, Jan. 19. The ceremonies will start around 7:30 p.m. in the main gymnasium, prior to the ensuing Woodson varsity-wrestling match versus South County.

In early December 2010, the FCPS School Board adopted a resolution naming the W.T. Woodson High School Wrestling Room in honor of Labazzetta.

Labazzetta was at the helm of the Cavaliers from 1972 through 2004 and coached three individuals who are current head wrestling coaches in the Northern Region. The Hall of Fame coach worked with over 1,000 wrestlers during his time at the helm of the Cavaliers' program.

Allison Jones, a senior member of the Southeastern Louisiana (Ruston, La.) women's volleyball team and a 2007 graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary, capped off a successful women's volleyball season as she was selected to the Louisiana Sports Writers Association (LSWA) 2010 volleyball team, as selected by the sports information directors from across the state.

Jones, an outside hitter from Fairfax Station, was an honorable mention selection on the 24-player squad. She led Southeastern in kills per set (2.46) and was second for the Lady Lions in points scored (250) and hitting percentage (.188). She had 10 or more kills in 10 matches during the season, including a career-high 19 in a Southland Conference victory over McNeese State. Jones added 18 kills against Nicholls, 15 against South Alabama and 14 at UT Arlington.

Jones, along with her prowess on the volleyball court, excelled in the classroom as well last semester as she earned a 4.0 grade point average and maintained her status on the president's list as she has for her entire four years of college.

The Thomas Jefferson High boys' and girls' swim teams took on McLean Friday night, Jan. 7 in Northern Region action. The Jefferson boys (4-1) came away victorious, while the Lady Colonials (3-2) lost to the Highlander girls by five points.

The winning Jefferson boys' 200-medley relay team included Stephen Seliskar, a resident of McLean, and Miles Oakley, who resides in Fairfax. Jon Spitz (Fairfax) won the boys' 50- freestyle race, and Emily Saitta (Springfield) won girls' diving. Other first place finishes for Jefferson came from Brianna Kim (Fairfax) in the girls' 100-fly, and Seliskar in the boys' 100-free. The boys' 200-free winning relay included Alex Li (Oak Hill), Jack Borsi (Herndon) and Spitz.

Region-qualifying swims for Jefferson at the meet came from the boys' 200-medley relay, as well as individual swimmer Seliskar (200 IM and 100 free).

Both the Jefferson boys' and girls' teams, through four meets this winter, carried 3-1 records. Following a win over Fairfax, both of the Jefferson teams lost to Madison, but rebounded in a victorious double-header weekend against both South Lakes and Marshall.

Against a strong Madison team, the Colonial girls placed first and second in the 400 freestyle relay, with the teams of Sarah Liu (Annandale), Madison Phillips (Vienna), Mary Kate Dilworth (Clifton) and Katie Bennett (Arlington); and Katy Burgio (Alexandria), Aileen Huang (Herndon), Sarah Quettawala (Herndon), and Emily Bartlett (Broadlands).

In a strong rebound meet, both the Jefferson boys and girls were victorious against both South Lakes on Friday, Dec. 17 and Marshall on Saturday, Dec. 18. Individual first place finishes against South Lakes came from both Stephen Seliskar (50-free and 100-fly) and diver Emily Saitta (Springfield), as well as Brianna Kim (100-fly) of Fairfax, Leah Gonzalez (100-free) of McLean, and Aedan Collins (100-breaststroke) of McLean. Saitta's diving qualified her for the regional meet.

Jefferson swimmers posting double digit time drops in the meet included Jack Borsi (200-free) of Herndon; Gonzalez (200 IM); and divers Sam Prestwood, (McLean), Kristen Skowronski (Oak Hill), and Melody Wong (Fairfax).

Against Marshall, individual first place finishers for

SEE WEEK IN SPORTS. PAGE 15

SEE GIRLS' HOOPS. PAGE 15

SPORTS

Girls' Hoops Roundup

FROM PAGE 14

56-41, in a road game on Jan. 6. Mesaris scored 20 points with seven rebounds in that win, and McNaughton tallied 17 points with 10 boards.

The Rebels were scheduled to play district games this week versus Stone Bridge (Ashburn) on Wednesday, a make-up game, and against visiting South Lakes on Friday (Jan. 14).

SOUTH COUNTY won its first three girls' basketball games over the post holiday schedule to improve its overall record to 8-4.

The Stallions, coached by Chrissy Kelly, won home contests over Herndon, 39-33, on Jan. 4; Stonewall Jackson, 64-59 in overtime on Jan. 6; and W.T. Woodson, 56-37, on Jan. 7.

In the Patriot District victory over Woodson last Friday night, 6-foot-2 front court player Simone Antwi led the Stallions with 21 points. Also in double figures for the winners were Alex Brown (15 points) and Angela Banks (10).

In the non-Northern Region win over Stonewall Jackson (Manassas) last Thursday, Antwi (20 points), Brown (19) and Banks (15) again led the way, while teammate Summer Peterson contributed six points. The Stallions came back

from a 31-23 halftime deficit in the win and ultimately forced overtime, where they outscored Stonewall, 7 to 2, to get the win.

Earlier last week, in the win over region opponent Herndon, Antwi tallied 19 points and Caitlyn McLaughlin had nine. Deborah Headen scored 19 for Herndon, a member of the Concorde District.

South County was scheduled to play Patriot District road games this week at T.C. Williams on Monday, Jan. 10 and at Lake Braddock on Thursday, Jan. 13.

WEST SPRINGFIELD, the defending Northern Region runner-up, improved its record to 11-1 with Patriot District victories in early January over visiting Lake Braddock, 60-31, on Jan. 4; host Lee, 70-42, on Jan. 7; and winless host team West Potomac, 67-17, on Jan. 10.

The Spartans' lone loss this season came to Stonewall Jackson, 52-49, in a holiday tournament on Dec. 29. Pre-New Year wins for coach Bill Gibson's teams have come over Centreville, Westfield, T.C. Williams, Robinson, Chantilly, South County, Gwynn Park (Md.), and South Lakes.

West Springfield will be at home on Thursday night, Jan. 13 of this week against district opponent Annandale.

WEEK IN SPORTS

FROM PAGE 14

Jefferson included Mary Kate Dilworth (200 IM and 100-fly), Stephen Seliskar (100-free and 100-back), Jake Doran (500-free), Kelsey Rainey (500-free), Sarah Graham (100-back), and Aedan Collins (100-breast).

Fairfax Adult Softball (FAS) teams are needed. Don't miss your opportunity to enjoy one of the nation's top adult team sports. Contact Fairfax Adult Softball (FAS) before March 1 to ensure your spring and summer evenings are filled with fun, camaraderie, and a spirit of competitive challenges every game night. FAS is currently accepting applications for adult softball teams. Men's, Women's, Coed, Corporate Coed, Senior's (age 50-plus), and Master's (age 35-plus) leagues are available. Applications are accessible via the FAS home page at www.playsoftballnow.com.

Those without teams can visit the FAS website and register as an individual free agent to play softball this spring.

For further information, call 703-815-9007 or e-mail office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com.

Local boxing sensation Jimmy Lange will return to the ring on Saturday, March 12, at the Patriot Center on the George Mason University campus in Fairfax, officials at Ice Promotions announced over the holidays.

In his most recent bout, Lange, a Great Falls resident who sports a professional record of 34-4-2, with 24 knockouts, captured the North American Boxing Association's U.S. super welterweight title on Nov. 6 when, in dramatic fashion, he earned a 10th-round knockout win over Joe Wyatt.

Currently rated as the No. 15th ranked super welterweight boxer (154-pounds) in the world by the World Boxing Association (WBA), Lange, the former star of "The Contender" TV show, will be headlining his 12th live pro boxing event at the upcoming March 12 event. His opponent has yet to be determined. Plans are underway for another electrifying undercard line-up showcasing many of the region's top rising prospects and established veterans. Doors at the Patriot Center will open at 6 p.m. with the first fight scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

FAITH NOTES

During the month of January, the Rev. Dr. Beth Braxton of Burke Presbyterian Church will be speaking on Sundays about the Christian faith as seen through the lens of other world religions. Braxton spent time visiting the worship services of four religious groups: Hindu, Buddhist, Islam and Judaism and has interviewed each of the clergy of those faith communities. In her sermons she will have video clips of those interviews. Between the 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services will be an education hour at 10 a.m., in which leaders from these four faith communities will answer questions about their theology and practices. The services are Jan. 16 - Islam; Jan. 23 - Judaism; and Jan. 30 - Christianity. Burke Presbyterian Church is located at 5690 Oak Leather Drive in Burke adjacent to the Kohls department store. Visit www.BurkePresChurch.org or phone the office at 703-764-0456.

Muslims For Peace, in conjunction with Clifton Presbyterian Church, is sponsoring an interfaith discussion, Saturday, Jan. 15, from 1-4 p.m., at the church (behind Trummer's in the Town of Clifton). The event is titled, "God & Science," and its academic purpose is to examine the compatibility of the belief in God, in light of modern scientific discoveries and advances. Another goal is to promote interfaith discussions and establish and maintain relationships among a variety of religious communities.

To RSVP or for more information, contact Jalal Malik, outreach director, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Northern Virginia, at 202-670-1588 or amc.nva@gmail.com or Jen Dunfee, associate pastor, Clifton Presbyterian Church, at 703-830-3175 or jennifer-cliftonpc@vacoxmail.com.

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PEOPLE

Working, Living Side by Side for 65 Years

FROM PAGE 3

couple in a joint interview.

Perhaps the McConnells don't feel the need to boast about the durability of their marriage because of the other accomplishments they racked up over the years.

After leaving the Navy, Mac McConnell worked as federal agent for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives [ATF] tracking down "bootleggers and moonshiners" who illegally produced alcohol in Florida. Elaine McConnell said the work was exciting but also dangerous and unpredictable.

"When he left the house in the morning, I never knew when he was coming home," she said. "I might not see him until 24 hours later and there was no communication. The longest he was away without communication was two weeks. Then, I got a phone call."

Mac McConnell's work also attracted some unwanted attention to the family. One man that Mac was pursuing showed up at the McConnells' house in Florida while Elaine was home alone with their two small children. After that incident, Elaine McConnell carried a gun with her at all times for several years.

But Elaine McConnell also assisted with some of Mac's investigations, which were often based out of the couple's house. At one point, she became friends with a bootlegger's disgruntled wife, who leaked Elaine information about illegal alcohol operations in the area.

"I got involved in cases. It was all very exciting," said Elaine McConnell.

The couple also ended up delivering food to some of the families of the bootleggers Mac McConnell had helped put in jail. Several of the bootleggers were already poor and getting thrown in prison meant their families would have trouble making ends meet.

"We went to give food to one family that lived in a hut with seven children and the children were all dirty as could be," said Elaine McConnell, who said another child showed up on her doorstep with no shoes.

MAC MCCONNELL was eventually transferred to the ATF's Washington operation and moved the family to Northern Virginia in 1961. The McConnells decided to buy a house in Springfield at the suggestion of one of Mac's Navy friends who already lived in the area.

After living in Florida her entire life, Elaine McConnell was rather unhappy about having to move to "the North." She didn't want to leave her large Italian family in Jacksonville.

"I missed them terribly those first couple of years. I was up here all alone," she said.

Still, Mac McConnell rose through the ranks of the ATF and was heavily involved in getting the bureau moved out from under the authority of IRS and set up as its own department. Among other jobs, he headed at one point the ATF team that traced the ownership of firearms used in



Mac and Elaine McConnell with their wedding party on Jan. 6, 1946.

the commission of federal crimes. When President Gerald Ford was shot, Mac McConnell was instrumental in matching the gun used with its original owner, the couple said.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA was significantly more expensive than Jacksonville, so Elaine McConnell decided to go back to work as a teacher in the early 1960s but was unhappy with the administration of the first school where she taught. So in 1964, she established Accotink Academy, a private school that is still located in Springfield.

"We only had about \$500 in the bank, so I borrowed money using the house we couldn't sell in Florida to start the school," said Elaine McConnell, who still works full time as the chief executive officer of the school. The private institution, which specializes in teaching children with disabilities, now has two other campuses, including a location in Florida.

Accotink Academy opened with just 40 students, though enrollment swelled to approximately 400 students over a period of just two years. Initially, Elaine McConnell did almost everything at the school, from driving the school bus to teaching classes. Mac would clean the schoolhouse when he got home from work in the evenings.

When Mac McConnell retired from the

ATF in the 1970s, he went to work for Accotink Academy full time.

"I have been his boss for many years," Elaine McConnell.

IN THE 1980s, former Fairfax County Chairman Jack Herrity (R-At-large) approached Elaine McConnell about running for county supervisor in the Springfield District. Accotink Academy had given her a fair amount of name recognition and Herrity thought she would make a strong candidate.

Elaine McConnell was hesitant, but her family encouraged her to run.

"She has always been a people person," said Mac McConnell.

Elaine won her first race and ended up serving as the Springfield supervisor for 24 years. In the mid-1990s, she was the Republican nominee for Fairfax County chairman during a special election, which she lost to Democrat Kate Hanley.

As Springfield supervisor, Elaine McConnell was one of the original founders of the Virginia Railway Express system. She also oversaw and advocated for the construction of many parts of the Fairfax County Parkway. Elaine McConnell retired from public office in 2003.

OVER THE LAST 60 years, the couple has had many other, lesser-known ventures.

They operated a residential program and school for troubled boys on a farm in the Shenandoah Valley for 11 years. Now, they use that property to raise horses. The McConnells also own an antique shop in Luray, Va.

Mac McConnell was a technical advisor to a television show about federal investigators during the 1970s. The entire family was transplanted to Hollywood for several weeks while he worked on the set at Universal studios, said the couple.

"We got to go around to the sets of all of the different shows," Elaine McConnell said.

In 1969, Elaine McConnell also operated as the general contractor that oversaw the construction of their house across from West Springfield High School. The couple still lives in that home, which is also next to the original Accotink Academy campus.

"I had no idea what I was doing. I had never done anything like that before. They almost didn't give me the permits," Elaine McConnell said.

Now, the couple enjoys their three children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, many of whom live near them in Springfield. They also continue to go to work every day at Accotink Academy.

"They are just very impressive people. Nothing stops them," said Cindy Robiej, who works for the McConnells.

CAMPS & SCHOOLS



PHOTOS COURTESY ANN BILLINGSLEY

Keene Mill Hoedown

Students in kindergarten through sixth grade participated in Keene Mill Elementary School's annual Hoedown. PE. teachers Stan Bragg and Peter Buchanan coordinated the dance and many parents visited and danced, also.



SCHOOL NOTES

Kazumi Ashton-Hughes and **Nshira Turkson**, seniors at West Springfield High School, were named semifinalists in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) runs the program to acknowledge outstanding high school seniors for academic excellence. They are two of 16,000 semifinalists nationwide who will compete at a chance to become one of 8,400 finalists to receive a National Merit Scholarship in the spring.

Threshold, the literary magazine of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology received a Best of Show Award in the Literary Magazine category for staff, editors and Emily Orser, adviser. The awards were presented at the Journalism Education Association-National Scholastic Press Association fall convention in Kansas City, Mo.

sas City, Mo.

Sentry, the middle school yearbook of Robinson Secondary received a Best of Show Award in the Junior High Yearbook category for Katie DePaolis, editor, and Pat Hinman adviser. The awards were presented at the Journalism Education Association-National Scholastic Press Association fall convention in Kansas City, Mo.

The following students from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology received the recognitions during the Write-Off Contest held in conjunction with the recent Journalism Education Association-National Scholastic Press Association fall convention in Kansas City, Mo.: **Arya Dahl**, Excellent award in Advertising; **Bart Bachman**, Honorable Mention in Editorial Writing; **Akshay Seth**, Honorable Mention in Newswriting; and **Mallika Patkar**, Honorable Mention in News Editing-Headline Writing.

The following students from Robinson Secondary School received the recognitions during the Write-Off Contest held in conjunction with the recent Journalism Education Association-National Scholastic Press Association fall convention in Kansas City, Mo.: **Nicole Osborne**, Excellent award in Broadcast News Story; **Katherine Dempsey**, Honorable Mention in Newswriting; **Kaitlin Mackie**, Honorable Mention in Editorial Writing; **Shelby Gee**, Honorable Mention in Review Writing; **Jack Connors**, Honorable Mention in Editorial Cartooning; and **Jacob Bell**, Honorable Mention for Photography Portfolio.

Jamie D. Zivich from Burke has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Zivich is majoring in Environmental Engineering and pursuing a master of science in the College of Engineering.

COLLEGE NOTES

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

Lauren Gertscher has been named to the dean's list for the spring 2010 semester at Radford University in Radford. Gertscher is a criminal justice major in the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences. She is a 2007 graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary School.

Andrew Nguyen of Burke is among 34 people from James Madison University who are heading to destinations throughout the United States to spend Thanksgiving Break volunteering to help with employment workshops, computer lessons, rebuilding affordable housing and tree and vegetation planting. Nguyen is a part of a 12-member team working at the Joshua Tree National Park in Twentynine Palms, Calif., while camping and cooking outdoors. The trip is co-sponsored with JMU's University Recreation. The group will participate in tree productivity, planting restoration and biodiversity inventory collection during the Nov. 19-26 trip.

Nathan Brown, a sophomore from Burke majoring in mining engineering in the College of Engineering and who plays the alto sax, has gained membership to the Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech.

Robert Meyer, a freshman from Burke majoring in engineering in the College of Engineering and who plays the horn has gained membership to the Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech. To qualify for the marching band students

must audition one week before the beginning of classes each fall.

Bradley Harmon, a senior from Burke majoring in music in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and who serves as a manager, has gained membership to the Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech.

Blake M. Walker from Burke has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Walker is majoring in Architecture and pursuing a master of architecture in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

John S. Medeiros from Burke has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Medeiros is majoring in urban and regional Planning and pursuing a master of urban and regional planning in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Andrew E. Moore from Burke has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Moore is majoring in computer engineering and pursuing a master of science in the College of Engineering.

Christopher P. Johnson from Burke has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Johnson is majoring in mechanical engineering and pursuing a master of science in the College of Engineering.

Kelley L. Fennessy from Burke has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Fennessy is majoring in Public and International Affairs and pursuing a master of public and international affairs in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

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SPORTS

Swim Teams Getting Geared for Postseason

Bruins competing at good form, South County boys and girls at 4-1.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

At Lake Braddock Secondary, both the boys' and girls' swim teams have slowly rounded into form over the course of the season. The Bruin girls, talented but young squad across the roster, were 2-3 going into this week. The girls' team's top point producers at meets have come from its sophomore and junior swimmers.

Such team members as juniors Alyssa McGarry and Alessandro Troncoso and the Parry twins, Jordan and Taylor, along with sophomores Alex Hunter and Sophia Chase, have had impact seasons for the Lake Braddock girls.

"They're definitely showing the district what they have," said fifth year Bruins head coach Miriam Lynch, of her talented group of underclassmen swimmers. "I'm looking for big things from them next year. They've worked so hard. A lot of our swimmers are [competing] on club teams and in high school."

Troncoso and Chase have both qualified for next month's state meet in the 100-breaststroke event.

Diver Lizzy White, a junior and the defending district girls' champion, is unbeaten and having another superb year.

The Lake Braddock girls' team wins thus far have come over Lee, on Dec. 3 at South Run Recreation Center, and T.C. Williams, on Dec. 17 at Mount Vernon.

THE SENIORS have led the 3-2 Lake Braddock boys' team this season.

"My seniors are the stars on the boys' team," said coach Lynch.

One of the highlights for the boys this season has been the two relay teams, the 200-medley and the 400-free, that have earned state qualification. Both relays are made up of seniors Troy Chewning, John McKenzie, David Maquera and Nicholas Laffosse.

Coach Lynch said her boys' team has been boosted this season with the addition of four former Annandale High swimmers who are now Lake Braddock students due to recent re-structuring changes in school boundaries. Of her boys' team in general, Lynch said, "They're doing quite well and will be strong at districts."

There were plenty of team highlights for

both the Lake Braddock boys' and girls' teams at their most recent meet on Jan. 7 versus West Potomac High at South Run. Several Bruins achieved season best times in their events. Those swimmers were the following: Kevin Romero (200 free), Alex Hunter (200 free), Taylor Parry (200 free), Kyle Hannam (200 IM), Jordan Parry (200 IM), Sophie Chase (200 IM), Charlene Lertlumprasert (200 IM), Kelsey Carpenter (100 fly), Colin Grey (100 free), Ben Fields (100 free), Megan Goldsby (100 free), Alexis Larsen (100 free), Caitlyn Creasy (500 free), Elisabeth Clymer (500 free), Ryan Krogel (100 back), Kieran Grealish (100 back), Jessica Goldsby (100 back), Mitchell Lawhorn (100 breaststroke), Paul Karcic (100 breaststroke), Varun Bhatnagar (100 breaststroke) and Megan Moody (100 breaststroke).

Both the Lake Braddock boys' and girls' teams will compete against South County this Friday evening at South Run. The meet is scheduled to begin at 6:30.

THE SOUTH COUNTY swim teams, under head coach Robert Jones, are enjoying outstanding seasons, with both the boys' and girls' teams sporting impressive 4-1 records.

The Stallion boys are coming off a 202-111 team win over T.C. Williams last Friday night in a Patriot District competition that took place at the George Washington Recreation Center. Earlier this winter, South County opened the season with a victory over Annandale on Dec. 3 before losing to West Springfield the following week. But the Lancers have since rebounded with wins over West Potomac, Lee and the Titans of T.C.

The South County girls, like their boy counterparts, were victorious in their most recent meet versus T.C. Williams, winning Friday's competition, 213-95. The Stallions' lone loss has come to West Springfield back in the second week of the schedule.

THE FAIRFAX HIGH swim teams will meet Madison High Friday, Jan. 14, at 8:30 p.m. at Audrey Moore Recreation Center. The Rebels will then wrap up their Liberty District regular season schedule the following week when they meet South Lakes on Friday, Jan. 21 at the Herndon Country Club. The district championships are set to take place Jan. 28-29 at Audrey Moore.

"They're definitely showing the district what they have."

— Lake Braddock head coach
Miriam Lynch

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OBITUARY

Samuel John Salamone, "Sandy" (age 89) of
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2011 peacefully at home surrounded by loved ones.



A decorated WW II Veteran and retired assistant principal at
Washington Irving Middle School in Fairfax County, he is
survived by his beloved wife of 62 years, Josephine M.
Salamone; loving father to Dana (Renee), Mark (Sherr),
Diana Kirtley (Rick), and Chris; cherished grandfather to Sam,
Robbie, Christina, Veronica, and Anthony.

Memorial service to be held on Saturday, January 29, 2011, 2
p.m. at Prince of Peace Methodist Church, 6299 Token For-
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Association. Private Interment at a later date.
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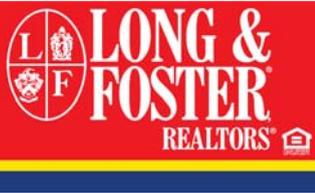
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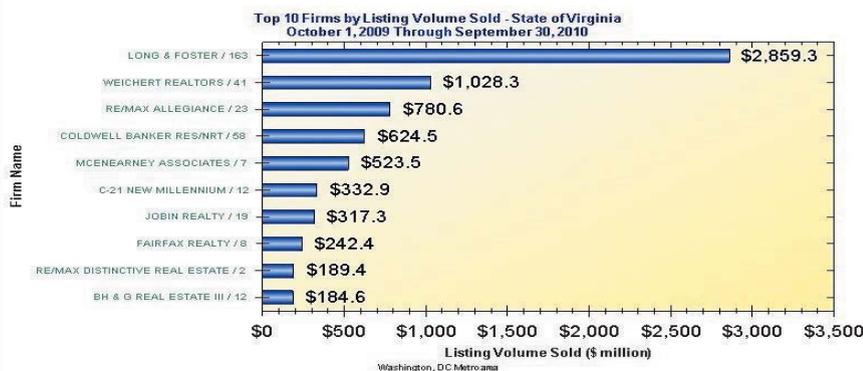
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