

Snow Friends

On Friday, Jan. 28, Vienna resident Julia Kupczak and Roxy head to Van Dyck Park in Fairfax to take a walk and do some sledding.

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PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Remembering Nick Stuban

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Dogs, Cats Visit Seniors

PET CONNECTION, PAGE 8

PET CONNECTION

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Christina Walsh shovels out her car last week after the Jan. 26 snowstorm. Her neighborhood received 10 inches of snow.

The Long Commute

Snowstorm wreaks havoc on residents' commutes.

Painfully long commutes home, power outages and downed trees – not to mention all that chilly, white stuff to shovel – were among the results of the snowstorm that descended Wednesday, Jan. 26, over the Washington Metropolitan area.

Christina Walsh of Fair Oaks's Penderbrook community usually leaves her job in Washington, D.C., at 6 p.m. but, with a major storm forecast, she got on the Metro at 4 p.m., arriving at the Vienna station at 4:45 p.m. She planned to catch the Fairfax Connector bus, as usual, but discovered that people had already been waiting for it for hours.

"The off-ramps and on-ramps into the Metro station were blocked by stalled cars and drivers not moving in all the traffic, so the buses couldn't come in," she explained. After about 90 minutes, the Metro buses arrived, so Walsh decided to instead take bus 1B to Fair Oaks Mall and make her way home from there.

"We all got on, but because the roads were all blocked, no one was going anywhere," she said. "But at least we all got warm." They stayed on the bus at the station about an hour and, despite the inconvenience, said Walsh, the passengers bonded over their

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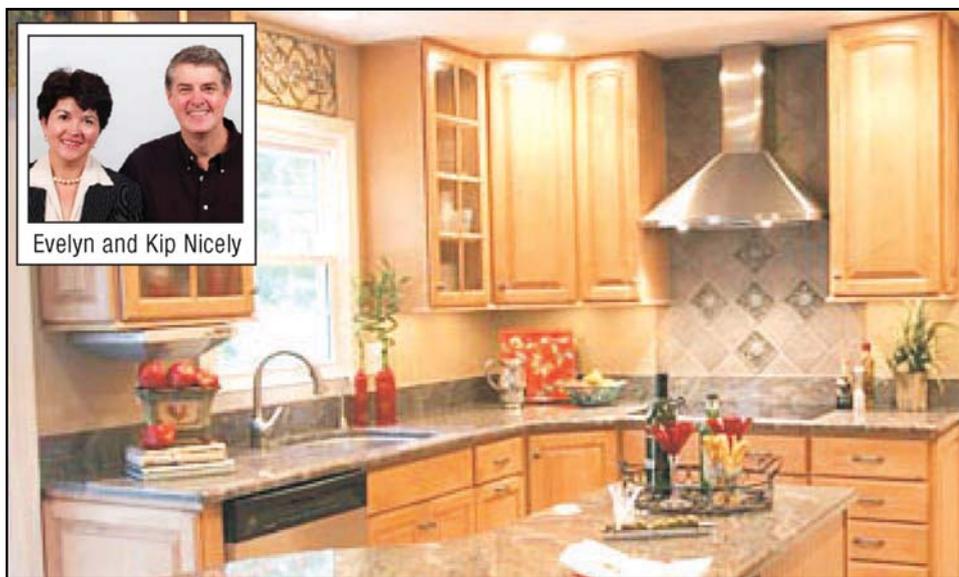
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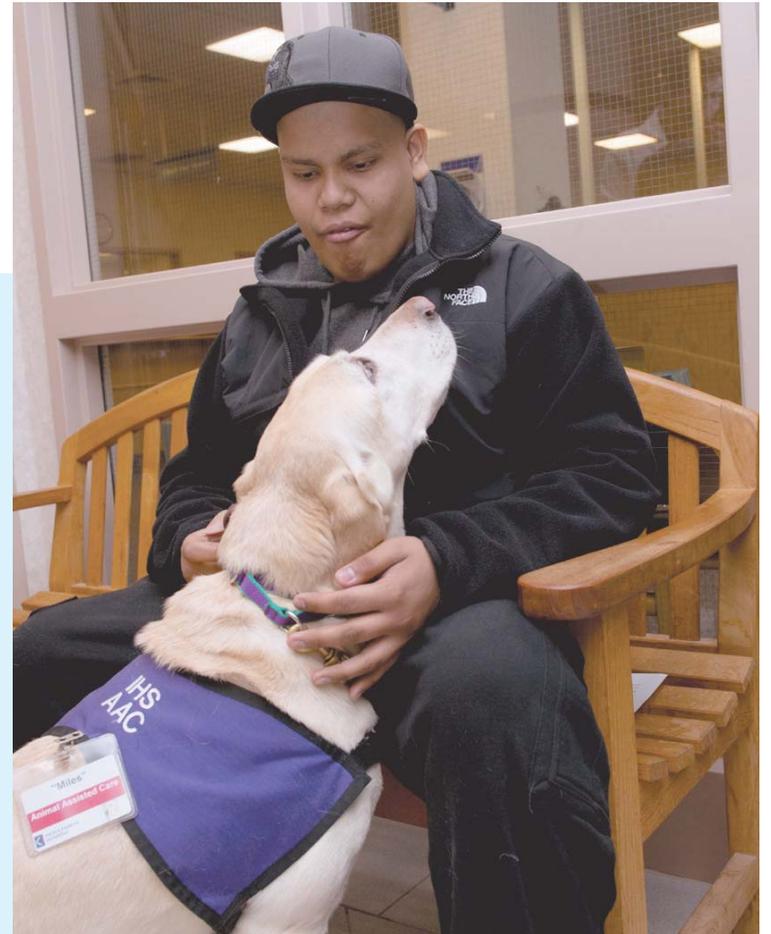
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PET CONNECTION



Miles meets Bailey Himeon of Leesburg. This is the first step in the process of incorporating him and his other canine colleagues that work at Inova Fairfax into Himeon's recovery process. Himeon's doctor has requested that the Animal Assisted Care team evaluate her and assess whether a dog can be incorporated into her therapy program. The Animal Assisted Care program at Inova Fairfax Hospital, run by Leslie Horton, a certified canine trainer and an experienced critical care nurse, is the benchmark for animal assisted therapy programs throughout the country.



Alan Rivera of Ashburn gives Miles a hello pat. Rivera met Miles when he was a patient at Inova Fairfax Hospital. Miles is one of the 30 canine members of the Inova Fairfax Hospital's Animal Assisted Care (AAC) team, part of the rehabilitation center. Among other things, the dogs assist patients in achieving rehabilitation and recovery goals. In Rivera's case, Miles and some of the other AAC dogs helped Rivera walk laps in the hospital during his treatment. 'The dogs are wonderful,' says Rivera. 'Sometimes, I'd feel down when I was getting chemo and they made me happy.'

A Helping Paw

Canine volunteers help hospital patients with recovery, rehabilitation.



Neno Mejid of Fairfax welcomes Miles. Miles and the other members of the Animal Assisted Care team have been assisting Mejid with his rehabilitation and recovery.



Ashley Himeon of Leesburg is excited to meet Miles, one of the dogs who might help her daughter Bailey reach her rehabilitation and recovery goals. AAC Program Director Leslie Horton has brought Miles to meet Bailey and to evaluate how a dog could be incorporated into her therapy program.

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Blood Donations Urgently Needed

It's tough enough for blood banks to get people to donate blood, in the best of circumstances. But last week's snowstorm prevented many donors from being able to do so – thereby dealing a devastating blow to all those who depend on these donations to help keep them alive.

One of these people counting on the generosity of blood donors is Clifton's Nick Franca. Just 21, he's battling neuroblastoma – a cancer requiring him to receive regular infusions of blood and platelets. But local supplies are dangerously low, so his mother, Caryn Franca, is pleading with area residents to help.

"The Red Cross platelet-donor coordinator in Fairfax said the shortage of blood and platelets in this area is at a critical level," said Franca. "So I'm asking people if they can take two hours out of their day to pass on the gift they have to those that don't."

"Not just for Nick, but for all the cancer fighters in our area who may need these precious platelets in the coming weeks," she said. "Become a regular donor; call Lori at 1-800-272-2123. You can donate in Fairfax; get directions at www.redcross.org. Tell Lori you are friends of Nick Franca, because I have a feeling we are going to rock the blood-donation world with all your generosity."

"It is an ongoing service to humanity to just become a regular donor," said Caryn Franca "It is a unique feeling to know that you really will make a difference in someone's life by taking a little time out of yours. I can donate every two weeks, and I will."

Fair Oaks Woman Indicted

Fair Oaks resident Jennah Billeter, 33, a former special-education teacher at Deer Park Elementary in Centreville, was indicted last Tuesday, Jan. 18, by a Fairfax County grand jury. She's charged with one count of misdemeanor simple assault and two counts of felony cruelty to children.

Police and Child Protective Services believe that, between May and July 2010, Billeter, of 11800 block of Federalist Way, reportedly physically assaulted and mistreated two boys, ages 4 and 5, assigned to her class. They were attending Deer Park's summer program for autistic children.

In 2002, Billeter was an instructional assistant at Halley Elementary in Fairfax Station. She worked as a special-ed teacher at Clifton Elementary in 2003 and Bull Run Elementary in 2004, before coming to Deer Park in 2007. Following her arrest, the school system placed her on unpaid leave. She's scheduled for a Feb. 16 jury trial in Circuit Court.

Mantua Teenager Remembered

Nick Stuban, 15, participated in Woodson football, Boy Scouts.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Personal notes from friends and classmates line the coffin of Nicholas "Nick" Stuban, a 15-year-old who died of suicide in his Mantua home on Jan. 20. Steve and Sandy Stuban chose to bury their only child in his football jersey from W.T. Woodson High School.

Nick, who wore number 45 for Woodson, fell in love with football after a friend introduced him to the game in sixth grade at Mantua Elementary School. He aspired to be Woodson's starting running back and hoped to earn a college football scholarship, said his parents. Every single football coach he had ever worked with showed up to Nick's memorial service on Jan. 24.

"That hurt, seeing all of them. Because it brought back all of these memories of that time and those games," said father Steve Stuban.

"He was the nicest person I ever met. He went out of his way to help all people," said David Luftglass, also a sophomore at Woodson, who had known Nick since elementary school. David created a tribute video for Nick's memorial service.

When David had to put together a food bank to earn an Eagle Scout badge, Nick was the first person to volunteer to help. He spent almost as much time on the food bank as David did, said the friend.

EARLIER THIS semester, Fairfax County school officials forced Nick to leave Woodson because of a disciplinary infraction and transferred him to Fairfax High School. He was also barred from attending any Woodson events, including school-sponsored events held off campus.

"Nick had such a love for his school and his fellow students. His spirit was crushed. He didn't understand how such a harsh punishment could be meted out to him," said Steve Stuban.

Steve Stuban declined to share the exact reason his son Nick had been removed from Woodson in November, though he said Nick had not been caught holding, using or distributing any illegal or controlled substance. Nick was a good student who never been in any serious trouble before.

Steve Stuban said he does not hold Fairfax County Public Schools responsible for his son's suicide, though he said the punishment and transfer did not help Nick either.

"His support network was at Woodson," said Nick's mother, Sandy Stuban.

The situation echoed similarities to the death of Josh Anderson, a standout on the football team at South Lakes High School who also had dreams of playing in college. In March 2009, Josh, then a high school junior, died of suicide in his Vienna home.

Josh's parents chose to bury their son in his South Lakes football jersey, number 33.

At the time of each death, both Nick and Josh were facing stiff consequences for violating Fairfax County Public Schools regulations. (The students did not know each other and their cases were not related.)

Josh died the night before he was expecting to be kicked out the Fairfax County school system for a second marijuana offense. He had already been booted from one Fairfax high school, Langley in McLean, for possession of marijuana a year earlier. He believed that a second offense meant that he would likely be banned from all school property, including for events like a friend's graduation, said his parents.

THE STUBANS were serving as Army officers and living in Hawaii when Nick was born on April 7, 1995.

Steve Stuban almost missed his son's birth. The expectant father had just gotten back from a week-long exercise in the field when he was called into the hospital because Sandy Stuban was giving birth early. Not wanting to miss Nick's arrival, Steve Stuban arrived at the delivery room in fatigues with war paint still on his face.

"I had all my combat gear on except my helmet," he said. "I was just in time and I was immensely, immensely proud. Life couldn't have been happier."

The Stubans didn't get to bask in their new parent bliss for long. The couple discovered, when Nick was just eight months old, that Sandy Stuban had Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis [ALS], also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. At the time, doctors told the couple that she probably had about 18 months left to live.

Sandy Stuban, who has lived with ALS for the past 15 years, defied those initial predictions, though her disease progressed quickly. By the time Nick was 2-years-old, Sandy Stuban, who had been an accomplished runner, could only walk very short distances without help.

In 1997, Steve Stuban secured a transfer to the Washington D.C. area, in part so that his wife could participate in special therapy offered through Johns Hopkins University. Steve Stuban recalls pushing his wife in a wheelchair and trying to manage the family's luggage in the Hawaiian airport, all with Nick strapped to his back.

"He was sort of dangling out of this thing but he never got fussy or complained. He was just a great kid," said Steve Stuban.

THE FAMILY bought their home in Mantua, primarily because it had a bedroom on the ground floor and was located near Steve Stuban's office in Merrifield.

Over the next four years, Sandy Stuban made a concerted effort to interact physically with her son, even as movement be-

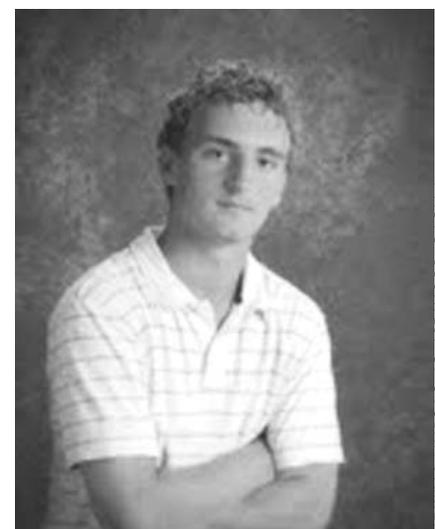


PHOTO COURTESY OF STUBAN FAMILY

Nicholas 'Nick' Stuban was found dead in his home Jan. 20.

came more difficult. The two often played with sock puppets, a dragon and a puppy, that made it less obvious that Sandy Stuban couldn't move her hand or fingers. When it became difficult to breathe, Sandy Stuban couldn't muster much more than whisper but she continued to speak to her young son, said Steve Stuban.

"Nick listened to his mom and loved his mom," said the father.

In 2001, Sandy Stuban lost the ability to breathe on her own and was rushed to Fairfax Inova Hospital, where she had a ventilator permanently installed. Six-year-old Nick spent Halloween at the hospital that year, while his mother recovered.

"Nick was dressed as a cowboy. Instead of going around the neighborhood, I brought Nick to the intensive care unit and he passed out candy to the nurses," said Steve Stuban.

Steve Stuban said some people with ALS choose not to go on a ventilator because of their quality of life diminishes significantly but Sandy Stuban had many reasons, including Nick, to stick it out.

"We had discussed it earlier and I told her that I wanted her to choose ventilator support. I told her that I needed her. Nick needed her. ... She wanted to see Nick grow up, get married and have his own family," said Steve Stuban. "That was the type of motivation that sustained us."

Today, Sandy Stuban is unable to move any part of body below her nose and uses a series of small eye movements to communicate. A digital sensor that tracks these eye movements allows her to "type" out remarks and "speak" to other people via an electronic speaker. The process is slow-going but effective. Sandy Stuban wrote an entire book, "The Butcher's Daughter" that was published in 2009.

NICK rarely talked about his mother's illness, though it definitely had an im-

SEE FAMILY, PAGE 12

Commute

FROM PAGE 2

shared experience and were friendly with each other.

"These are the people we travel with all the time; but normally, we just smile and go sit down," she said. "This time, we had a chance to talk and get to know each other. Some found happiness in just being warm."

Some time after 7 p.m., the Fairfax Connectors started coming in, so Walsh and the others boarded their regular bus for home. "The bus driver piled us all on so no one would be left," said Walsh. "On I-66, he got us as far as the Route 50 West/Fair Oaks exit ramp."

But that's as far as he could go. "There were cars skidding in the snow and their wheels were spinning," said Walsh. "Men were getting out of buses and cars to go [relieve themselves] in the bushes on the side of the road, and we were cracking up - it was so funny."

Meanwhile, since the passengers were now within walking distance of their homes, the bus driver called and got permission to let them off there. "He's a great guy," said Walsh. "I think I'm going to make him some banana bread [as a thank-you]."

Still, her journey wasn't over, yet, and two more experiences further reinforced her faith in humanity while she trudged home in the snow with a neighbor.

"While walking on the ramp to Route 50, we met this guy with a pizza and hot chocolate," said Walsh. "He said his wife was stuck in a car on the ramp and he was bringing it to her. I loved it. It was great to see the love and care this man showed for his wife."

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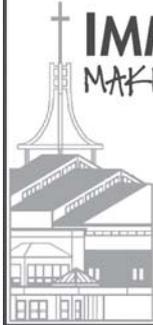
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OPINION

Making One's Own Pet Connection

We love our pets, but millions more need homes. Some Places To Adopt

Are you considering adopting an dog or a cat or another animal? Be sure to rescue one in need.

More people have turned in pets to animal shelters in the past couple of years, in part because of the recession and increased foreclosures.

Approximately 6-to-8 million pets end up in animal shelters each year, according to The Humane Society of the United States. Of that number, 3-to-4 million are adopted, but the

remaining 3-to-4 million pets end up being euthanized.

EDITORIALS

Here are a few places to adopt a pet who needs a home. There are many rescue organizations, including some that specialize in particular breeds. There are also networks of people, like PetConnect, mostly communicating on the internet, who help save adoptable animals from overcrowded shelters from near and far.

Fairfax County Animal Shelter: Dogs, cats and other pets are available for adoption at the Animal Shelter Tuesday – Friday, noon – 7 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, 703-830-1100 Some animals available for adoption can be viewed online. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal/adoption.htm

Fairfax County Humane Society, www.hsfc.org, 4057 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax; 703-385-7387. FCHS also operates two thrift stores. Second Chance 1 Thrift Store, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 4055 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax; 703-385-3064. Second Chance 2, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 929 West Broad St., Falls Church, 703-533-9268

Super Bowl Parties, Fun and Safe

This year's Super Bowl might even turn out to be a game worth watching.

Super Bowl parties are fun even for those who are not big football fans. It's a great reason to get together at home or out in a restaurant or bar with friends.

Just be sure that you or your guests get home safely.

The McLean-based organization Wash-

ington Regional Alcohol Program suggests tips for safe celebrating to on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 6. During Super Bowl Sunday 2009, 50 percent of all U.S. crash fatalities included drivers who were intoxicated according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Plan ahead: designate a driver if you're celebrating with alcohol, or use alternative transportation like taxi or public transportation.

If you're hosting the Super Bowl party: serve high protein food like meats and cheeses with alcohol; serve non-alcoholic beverages as an option; designate a bartender so guests don't

mix their own drinks; close the bar at least an hour before you expect your guests to be leaving; don't serve alcohol to anyone who appears to be impaired; never serve minors; never allow anyone who has had too much to drink to get behind the wheel.

If you're driving on Super Bowl evening (or anytime), wear your seatbelt. "Wearing a seatbelt may be your best defense against a drunk driver," said Kurt Erickson, WRAP director. "The routine wearing of seatbelts is the single most effective measure to reduce crash-related deaths and injuries."

Cleaning Up Their Act

Senate, House bills aim to require Tank Farm owners to update Fairfax facility.

BY SEN. CHAP PETERSEN
D-34TH DISTRICT

On Monday, Jan. 31, the Senate's Natural Resources committee unanimously passed SB 843, my bill which toughens the requirements on above-ground petroleum storage tanks. The bill will be on the uncontested docket this week before the full Senate and should clear the House in February.

If the governor signs it, SB 843 would be the first state law to directly address the issue of the Pickett Road Tank Farm, located on the eastern border of Fairfax City. It's about time.

The Tank Farm is an industrial property that houses aboveground petroleum storage tanks. Those tanks feed the 18-wheelers ferrying loads to customers in Fairfax County. Existing since the 1960s, the Tank Farm has been a continuing thorn in the side for local governments. About 20 years ago, it was the home of an epic spill that impacted — and still impacts — the water supply for the neighboring residential community of Mantua.

In the past several years, the Tank Farm has been the subject of new accidents, as well as repeated investigations by the state's Department of Environmental Quality. The problem became so intense that a "summit" was held

last October by city and county leaders and U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) to try and address this problem.

It's not legally possible to just shut down the site. Therefore, at the behest of local citizens and elected leaders, Del. David Bulova (D-37) and I introduced companion bills this year — SB 843 and HB 2103 — which sought to do the following:

1. Give local governments input on "consent orders" governing Tank Farm spills;

2. Allocate penalties from the spills toward local remediation efforts;

3. Upgrade the standards for the tanks, which pre-date 1992 Code requirements.

After further research, we learned that state or Federal environmental laws currently cover the first and second goals. Therefore, we focused our efforts on the third goal, i.e. improving the state Code standards for the existing storage tanks on Pickett Road.

There were a lot of interested parties in our legislation, including representatives from the oil and gas industry as well as major industries that it serves. Eventually, we found agreement with all parties on a targeted bill that

SEE TANK FARM, PAGE 7

About Energy

To the Editor:

In ancient times, energy efficiency meant keeping the tribal cooking fires well-fed with branches and twigs gathered from the nearby forest. The gathering activity was not without some effort on the part of the tribe. Over the centuries, we've found easier ways of providing energy to cook our food, heat and cool our homes, support commerce and operate emerging tools and technologies.

Today, most of our energy sources are from fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas and far too much of it is imported from other countries. Regardless of the origins, our reliance on fossil fuels is not sustainable and does not provide long-term supply security. It also takes its toll on the environment as it is dug, pumped or blasted out of the earth.

Thirty years ago, a similar story unfolded in Europe. Faced with potentially crippling supply threats, weak economies and serious environmental degradation countries such as Finland and Germany framed new energy policies around long-term supply reliability, technical flexibility and transportation alternatives.

Local leaders from Northern Virginia have been able to observe firsthand the success of these policies through a Sis

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

THE CONNECTION

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OPINION

Tank Farm Bills

FROM PAGE 6

would apply to the Fairfax City Tank Farm only and requires it to be upgraded to the Code requirements for brand-new facilities.

To be specific, the agreed version would require the Tank Farm owner to update its pre-1992 structure to conform with current environmental technology, e.g. requiring the use of "double-bottoms" to prevent leaks that could infect our water supply.

The solution is not perfect. It took weeks of negotiation with industry. And there is still a lengthy (10-year) window for full compliance to take effect. However, when it does, the residents of Mantua and Fairfax City will be at least know that the Tank Farm tanks are being held to the highest Code requirements.

The Tank Farm represents a long struggle for the neighborhoods in central Fairfax. But at least we're on the offensive now — and not just cleaning up.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6

ter-Region Partnership between the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) and the Verband Region of Stuttgart, Germany. In Stuttgart, Helsinki and other European cities we saw large-scale applications of renewable energies from wind, solar and biomass.^o We studied district energy systems that combined heat and electrical power generation, including waste-to-energy, and distributed it efficiently through downtown central business districts.

Fairfax County has been a pioneer in energy innovation. An example is our Waste-to-Energy facility in Lorton, where heat from burning garbage is converted into energy that is then used to run the plant. Essential elements of our Environmental Agenda include the efficient use of energy resources, the promotion of energy conservation and support for alternative energy sources. We have made notable strides towards improving the energy efficiency of our County buildings, facilities and operations — but we can do more.

Real progress can only be achieved in partnership with the private sector. Redevelopment in Fairfax County,^o will offer significant opportunities for creativity and collaboration that we must explore. Additionally, technology is emerging that will help our residents and corporate neighbors save money and precious natural resources as we heat and cool our homes and offices and operate machinery and tools.

During 2011, Fairfax County will be making innovation and collaboration for Energy that is clean, efficient, sustainable, secure and reliable a priority. At a Business Roundtable Discussion in December I presented a proposal to convene a Private Sector Energy Task Force. The Task Force is meeting throughout the winter and spring and includes representatives of the residential and business communities, institutional representatives such as George Mason University, Northern Virginia Community College, INOVA, and utilities operating in Fairfax County.

The group's purpose is to define steps our community can take to position ourselves as a leader in the area of energy efficiency, sustainability and "green" technology.

Fairfax County looks forward to collaborating with our neighboring jurisdiction in Northern Virginia where similar efforts are underway. Together we can ensure that our businesses remain competitive, while attracting green business to complement our existing industry sectors and serving as responsible stewards of our natural resources.

Sharon Bulova

Chairwoman

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

COLLEGE NOTES

Erin Killiany of Fairfax received a master of science degree in human development from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Virginia Tech.

Loveenia Gulati of Fairfax received a master of science degree in environmental engineering from Virginia Tech's College of Engineering.

Steven Kemp of Fairfax received a master of business administration degree in business administration from the Pamplin College of Business at Virginia Tech.

Iman Moustafa of Fairfax received a master of science degree in computer science and application from Virginia Tech's College of Engineering.

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Dogs, Cats Visit Local Senior Friends

Pets on Wheels brings furry friends to area nursing homes.

BY LISA GILLESPIE
THE CONNECTION

Life in a nursing home can be lonely. Residents don't always want to go there in the first place to spend their days among people they don't know, away from their families and former lives. It can look like a bleak future.

But then, imagine sitting in a room and seeing a puppy trot by. Perhaps you had a dog in your old house. Perhaps you just need that unconditional love.

That's where Fairfax Pets on Wheels comes in. The volunteer organization brings dogs and cats to the elderly that wouldn't get to pet a dog otherwise.

Beginning in 1987, Kim Wilkerson started visiting people at nursing homes with her dog. The more she came, the more the nursing homes started noticing a change in residents. They asked her to come more and more, and she realized she couldn't do it on her own. She formed Fairfax Pets on Wheels to bring animals to the elderly.

Now, 23 years later, 250 to 300 volunteers visit the 12 facilities Fairfax Pets on Wheels serves with more than 8,000 hours of volunteer work.

"It makes their day, honestly, anytime I've

visited, I've had at least one resident that will say, this has been the highlight of my week," said Ruth Benker, director of communications and facility liaison at Illiff Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Dunn Loring. "On some level, it's scary, I don't want to get old and be in a nursing home. It brings life into perspective."

As a nonprofit, Pets on Wheels is completely volunteer run and operates out of offices provided by Fairfax County. The owners of the dogs and cats go through five rounds of training, starting with an online application through the Fairfax Agency on Aging website to a test where the dog or cat is exposed to a "neutral" animal. If the pet does not react negatively, it's on to a visit to the vet to make sure the pet is healthy. Finally, the pet visits the nursing home of choice to be approved.

Kathi Baker, is the FPOW facility liaison at Cameron Glen Nursing Home in Reston. She and her dog, Abby, are responsible for orienting new volunteers there. Baker is also on our Board of Directors.

"Sometimes, the folks have become removed from their families and the staff because they are unhappy," Baker said, who also has a sheltie that regularly makes visits. "You can tell the difference in attitude almost immediately. Sometimes it's just a

little love that's needed."

Illiff is a relatively small home in comparison to the other homes Pets on Wheels Serves, but the result is the same.

"Nursing homes do the best they can to keep them busy, but this is completely different kind of busy," said Emily Atkinson, Illiff's activities director. She also serves as the volunteer coordinator for all the center's programs. "We can do bingo every day, but this is different. One of the regular dogs just passed away and a few residents were devastated. A lot of the residents had dogs growing up and since they can't have them here, this is the next best thing."

Get Involved

Where: Administrative offices are located in the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, but trainings take place throughout the county. Volunteer work takes place in Commonwealth Care Center, Illiff Nursing Home, Leewood Healthcare Center, Mount Vernon Nursing Center, Sleepy Hollow Nursing Home and The Virginian, to name a few.

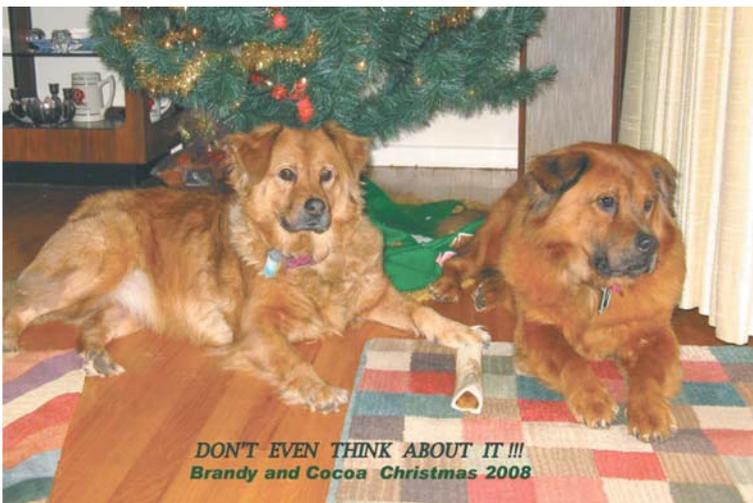
When: Visiting hours differ for each facility, but are generally Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.

How: Visit FPOW.org, call 703-324-5406 or dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov for more information.

Why: Get involved with the community through a visit to a local nursing home with your pet.



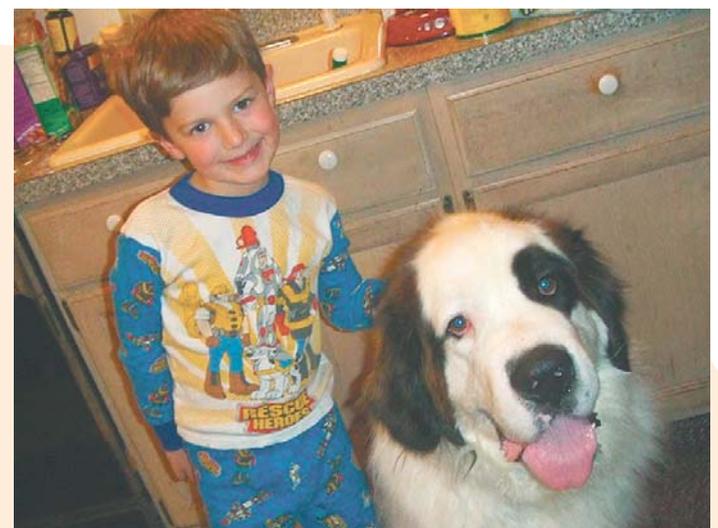
Kathi Baker and her dog Abby visit area nursing homes through Pets on Wheels.



Brandy and Cocoa guard the Christmas tree in 2008. — Stephen and Heather Novosad of Fairfax



Brianna and Bethany Camp of Fairfax bathe Marshall.



Zachary Camp of Fairfax poses with Petey

This is a picture of my daughter, Eleanor Hurst, 7, and her buddy, Oliver, 9, taking an afternoon nap. — Margaret Ostafin of Fairfax



The Camp family of Fairfax's pet Tigger drinks water.



Bethany Camp of Fairfax poses with LuLu.

ENTERTAINMENT

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/FEB. 3

An Evening with Todd Wright and Cal Everett. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/FEB. 4

Mark Morris Dance Group. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The D.C. area premiere of "Petrichor," set to the music of Heitor Villa-Lobos, plus "Going Away Party," "Silhouettes" and "Excursions." A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets \$22-\$44, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Ellis Paul. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

"My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm in Therapy" with Steve Solomon. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. The hilarious story of a man whose family has driven him from the dinner table straight into the therapist's chair. \$30. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 5

Mark Morris Dance Group. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The D.C. area premiere of "Petrichor," set to the music of Heitor

Villa-Lobos, plus "Going Away Party," "Silhouettes" and "Excursions." A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets \$22-\$44, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

An Evening With The Nighthawks. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Women's Fashions and Etiquette in the Civil War. 2 p.m. The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. A presentation by Amy Beechler, a re-enactor with the 17th Virginia Infantry living history organization. Free. 703-591-0560.

"My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm in Therapy" with Steve Solomon. 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. The hilarious story of a man whose family has driven him from the dinner table straight into the therapist's chair. \$30. www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 6

Super Bowl Viewing Party. 6 p.m. Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. Free food and beverages. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

Canadian Pianist Bryan Wagorn and the Capitol Wind Symphony. 2 p.m. Lanier Middle School, 3801 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. Stravinsky's Piano Concerto, Rimsky-Korsakov's Capriccio Espagnol, Salfelder's Cathedrals, Saint-Saen's Occident et Orient and more, conducted by George Etheridge. \$10 adults, \$5 children and students. mmclover2009@gmail.com

MONDAY/FEB. 7

HelloGoodbye, Gold Motel, You Me and Everyone We Know and Now, Now Every Children. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/FEB. 8

Cas Haley. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 9

Project/Object Featuring Ike Willis. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

"The War Comes to the Court House, Night of June 1, 1861." 7:30 p.m. Civil War Forum at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. With speakers Chris Godard as Lt. Col. Richard "Old Baldy" Ewell and David Meisky as Col. William "Extra Billy" Smith. Free and open to the public and is free. 703-425-9225. www.fairfax-station.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 10

George Mason University's Theater of the First Amendment presents "24, 7, 365." 7 p.m. at the Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H St. N.E., Washington, D.C. The world premiere of Jennifer L. Nelson's play putting educated African Americans' attitudes about race, class and social activism under a humorous microscope, as part of Intersections: A New America Arts Festival, opening at the Atlas Arts Center on Feb. 25. www.atlasarts.org or 202-399-7993.

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PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE CONNECTION

Gordon Day, a Fairfax resident and junior at George Mason University, cools down after finishing a 2,000-meter sprint at the Mid-Atlantic Erg Sprints competition Jan. 29, at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria.

Day Shines at 2011 Erg Sprints

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

Rowers from throughout Fairfax joined more than 1,000 high school, collegiate and masters athletes Saturday, Jan. 29 at the Mid-Atlantic Erg Sprints, one of the world's largest indoor rowing competitions.

Hosted by T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, athletes competed in more than 100 events, averaging 2,000 meters (approximately 1.25 miles) as they vied to reach the National Erg Sprint Championships.

"I'm actually not happy at all with how I did," said Gordon Day, a Fairfax resident and junior at George Mason University. "It wasn't my PR [personal record] but it's my first time competing here, so I'm trying to take it with a grain of salt."

Rowing for George Mason University, Day finished

"The 2K is one of the more demanding things a rower can do."

— Gordon Day

21st in the 2,000-meter sprint with a time of 00:06:43.8.

"The 2K is one of the more demanding things a rower can do," Day said after completing his race. "But it's also one of the better tests of strength. I'm a little disappointed but this has been a great physical challenge."

Fairfax, Robinson and Woodson high schools were well represented in the competition and the top local finishers in the Junior divisions are listed below. For complete results, go to www.ergsprints.com.

LOCAL RESULTS

Junior Women (age 17) 2,000M

11. Robinson Secondary: Kate Mott 00:07:50.1
13. Robinson Secondary: Kelly Gawne 00:07:51.9
30. Fairfax High: Sarah Gentry 00:08:10
34. Robinson Secondary: Anna Lewis 00:08:14.6

Junior Men (age 17) 2,000M

49. Robinson Secondary: Benjamin Snyder 00:07:15

Junior Women (age 16) 1,500M

9. Robinson Secondary: Kelsey Martin 00:05:58.8

Junior Men (age 16) 1,500M

42. Robinson Secondary: Brandon Van Leer 00:05:51.7

Junior Women (age 15) 1,500M

12. Robinson Secondary: Madeline Lewis 00:05:56.1
40. Fairfax High: Maisie Newman 00:06:29.5

Junior Men (age 15) 1,500M

42. Fairfax High: Jack Rizek 00:05:52.8
50. Fairfax High: Bryce Gentry 00:06:02.3

Junior Women (age 15-16) 1,500M (lightweight/135lb)

21. Robinson Secondary: Alyssa Randell 00:06:21.8
60. Fairfax High: Simone Askew 00:07:20.8

Junior Men (age 15-16) 1,500M (lightweight/155lb)

56. Woodson High Crew Boosters: Alex Welenson 00:06:13.8

Junior Men (age 14) 1,000M

3. Woodson High Crew Boosters: Andrew Greer 00:03:29.7
18. Fairfax High: Mark Traester 00:03:56.6
25. Robinson Secondary: Zackary Ghalayini 00:04:15.9

Girls' Basketball Season Winds Down

Fairfax to host first place Stone Bridge on Friday.

Fairfax, a member of the Liberty District, played outstanding on Monday, Jan. 31, in a 54-30 home win over Jefferson. The Rebels (13-5 overall, 8-2 district) had three players score in double digits — freshman point guard Kylie Murphree (17 points, 6 rebounds), junior forward Liz McNaughton (15 points, 11 rebounds) and senior center Meredith Mesaris (11 points, 8 rebounds). Jefferson's top scorer was Morgan Cheatham with 10 points.

Fairfax, after leading 7-4 following one quarter, broke out for 23 points in the second quarter to take a 30-16 lead into halftime. The Rebels continued to dominate in the third quarter when they outscored the Colonials 18-2.

Fairfax will host first place Stone Bridge (16-1, 8-1) this Friday night. The Rebels lost at Stone Bridge, 59-37, on Jan. 12 in the first meeting between the two teams.

Next week, Fairfax will conclude the regular season with games at South Lakes and McLean.

— RICH SANDERS

District Swim and Dive Results

The W.T. Woodson High boys and the South County Secondary girls' swim and dive teams both captured titles at last weekend's Patriot District Championships meet. The South County girls scored 405 points to take first, ahead of second place West Springfield (387) and third place Woodson (324.5). The Woodson boys (490 points) finished in front of runner-up West Springfield (454) and third place Lake Braddock (380).

First place finishers at the boys' meet included: John McKenzie (200, 100-free races) of Lake Braddock; David Maquera (200-IM) of Lake Braddock; Logan Richlak (50-free) of Woodson; Michael Herrmann (100-fly) of South County; Nicolas Laffosse (500-free) of Lake Braddock; Robert Ilgenfritz (100-breaststroke) of Woodson; and Matt Hubbard (diving) of Woodson.

Second place boys' finishers were: Nicolas Laffosse (200-free) of Lake Braddock; Eric Phung (200-IM) of West Springfield; Matt Garstka (50-free) of West Springfield; Robert Ilgenfritz (100-free) of Woodson; Dirk Verheul (500-free) of Woodson; Michael Herrmann (100-back) of South County; and Nathaniel Pease (100-breaststroke) of Woodson.

Third place boys' finishers were: Dirk Verheul (200-free) of Woodson; Alexander Saffran (200-IM) of Woodson; Jacob Anderson (50-free) of West Springfield; Sean Mayer (100-fly) of West Springfield; Matt Maquera (100-free) of Lake Braddock; Eric Phung (500-free) of West Springfield; David Maquera (100-back) of Lake Braddock; William Bryan (100-breaststroke) of West Springfield; and Daniel Rabe (diving) of West Springfield.

First place finishers on the girls' side were: Alyssa McGarry (200-free) of Lake Braddock; Courtney Betro (100-free) of South County; Kathryn Sieracki (500-free) of West Springfield; Sophie Chase (100-breaststroke) of Lake Braddock; and Elizabeth White (diving) of Lake Braddock.

Second place finishers on the girls' side were: Alison Smith (200-free) of South County; Jordan Parry (100-fly) of Lake Braddock; Alexandra Hunter (100-free) of Lake Braddock; Alyssa McGarry (500-free) of Lake Braddock; Nha-Khuyen Bui (100-back) of Woodson; Brooke Malone (100-breaststroke) of South County; and Samantha Eldridge (diving) of Woodson.

Third place girls' finishers were: Kimberly Kellogg (200-free) of West Springfield; Mackenzie Walsh (200-IM) of South County; Stephanie Phillips (50-free) of South County; Lauren Yi (100-fly) of West Springfield; Samantha Kvarunas (100-free) of West Springfield; Alison Smith (500-free) of South County; Susan Ward (100-back) of West Springfield; and Alessandra Troncoso (100-breaststroke) of Lake Braddock.

The Robinson Secondary girls' swim and dive team finished second at last weekend's Concorde District Championships. The Rams (373 points) finished behind champion Oakton (419). The third place finisher was Westfield (368).

PET CONNECTION



Brianna Camp of Fairfax with her guinea pigs, Hydrox and Porter,



Abby Camp with LuLu

Two Kittens Snuggle Together

We adopted our kitties from a vet clinic in 2006. They are not brother and sister, but were nursed by the same cat. They are almost like little people with fur and follow us around, especially the orange one, Charlie. He has extra toes and his front paws look like he is wearing white mittens. The black and white one is Momo, the sweet one, who will clean Charlie and mother him when he needs it.

They teach me every day that it is important to relax and enjoy what the moment brings, to get excited about the little things in life and to live in the moment because you don't know what the future holds.

You are also never fully dressed unless covered in cat hair — don't leave home without it

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7514 June St.....	\$369,000	Sun 12-3	Linda Brack	Long & Foster	571-277-6338
7906 Greeley Blvd.....	\$449,000	Sun 12-4	Gil Clark	Clark Select Prop.	703-288-9611

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Karen Washburn at 703-778-9422 or E-Mail the info to kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Tuesday at 3 pm.

PET CONNECTION



Terry Pear, left, and Sean Roland of Fairfax wash their 2-1/2-year-old German Shepherd Ruby at Bark 'N Bubbles Dog Wash in Fairfax.



Groomer Dunia Cruz begins working on Sabrina, a 15-year-old dog, on Sunday, Jan. 30, at Bark 'N Bubbles in Fairfax.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL O'CONNELL/THE CONNECTION

A Day of Puppy Pampering

Dog owners use local business to groom or bathe canine friends.

After days of snowy, slushy weather, many of Fairfax's canine residents looked worse for the wear. On Sunday afternoon, Jan. 30, some of the dogs' owners took ad-

vantage of the sunshine and brought their companions to Bark 'N Bubbles Dog Wash for a good cleaning.

Vicky Pittman and her husband opened the dog washing facility at 11725 Lee High-

way, #A-17A, in Fairfax, in October 2009. The store offers appointments with an animal groomer, who will bath and trim the dog's hair and nails. Owners who are looking for a more hands-on experience can use one of Bark 'N Bubbles walk-in tubs to bathe their canine friends.

To learn more, go to www.barknbubbles.com/fairfax.

— MICHAEL O'CONNELL



Animal groomer Dunia Cruz places a bow on Chantilly.

Family, Friends Remember Nick Stuban

FROM PAGE 4

pact on the type of person he was, said Zach Williams, who had known Nick since sixth grade.

Zach said Nick could be fearless. One day, Nick and Zach decided to cut through the woods to walk home from 7-Eleven near their house. When the two boys stumbled upon an electric dog fence in one backyard, Zach became apprehensive. He didn't want to cross the fence and risk getting attacked by a neighbor's dog.

"Nick was like 'Don't worry. The dog is probably a Chihuahua.' It was like, you would point out something that hindered a normal person and he would brush it off," said Zach.

When he first got in trouble this fall, Nick's parents had initially been confident he would be able to return to Woodson after a relatively short suspension. Steve Stuban said the family was very surprised when they learned Nick would have to transfer schools for at least a semester.

"Nick was a people person and he had been with some of those Woodson students

since elementary school," said Steve Stuban.

The drawn out disciplinary process had a negative impact on their son's mood, said Nick's parents.

At the beginning of November, Nick had initially been told he would have to sit out school for approximately 10 days while waiting for his disciplinary hearing. According to Steve Stuban, that 10-day period actually ended up lasting two months, during which Nick was barred from setting foot on any Fairfax school campus.

This prevented Nick from attending his Boy Scout meetings and many other social activities because they were held in local public schools, said his father.

"Nick is an only child and that separation was for so long," said Steve Stuban. "I intend to communicate my concerns about the process to the school board and hearing officers. I don't want to do this through the media."

Virginia state laws dictate what type of punishment a student receives for a wide variety of violations, including possession of marijuana or weapons.

For example, Fairfax schools used to only

suspend students found in possession of marijuana for a period of 10 days. Then, the Virginia General Assembly passed new legislation that required the school system to automatically recommend students caught with marijuana for expulsion, said School Board member Stu Gibson (Hunter Mill) in a previous interview.

The school system does have some flexibility about what a recommendation for expulsion means in practical terms. For example, School Board members are not obligated to send a students caught with marijuana to another school, said Paul Regnier, spokesperson for the school system.

A group of parent activists have already called for a reform to the Fairfax County disciplinary process, criticizing the current setup as arbitrary, inflexible and unnecessarily harsh.

"The school system never ever tries to determine what the circumstances are in a kid's life when he gets in trouble and that makes us furious, sad and angry," said Caroline Hemenway, founder of Fairfax Zero Tolerance Reform, a advocacy group hoping to change Fairfax County's disciplinary

process.

Hemenway said the practice of moving a student from one general education school to another is flawed. If the school system has determined that the student can attend a general education school program, then officials should keep that student at their original school.

"There is no infraction that I can think of that would require a kid to be moved from one general education school to another. If a kid is violent or poses a threat, then they should go to an alternative school or be kept out of the system altogether," said Hemenway, whose son, now a college student, was also forced to switch schools because of a nonviolent disciplinary matter.

In the wake of Nick's death, Hemenway said there has been an outpouring of support among parents for changing the disciplinary policies. The activist has heard from at least 20 families who said their children were devastated as a result of getting kicked out of their base school.

"There but for the grace of God do not go a whole lot of other kids the way Nick went," she said.

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21 Announcements

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AT US ARMY GARRISON FORT BELVOIR

In accordance with 10 USC §2705 and Department of Defense (DoD)/ Army policy, Fort Belvoir is inviting public involvement by community members in the decision-making process, including project prioritization, for Fort Belvoir's environmental restoration program. Environmental restoration is a planned and focused cleanup of contamination associated with past DoD activities to insure threats to public health and the environment are eliminated. The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is a stakeholder group that regularly meets to discuss environmental restoration at a specific property that is either currently or was formerly owned by DoD, and where DoD oversees the restoration process. RABs enable people interested in the cleanup to exchange information with regulators, the installation, and the community.

Cleanup efforts at Fort Belvoir include evaluation of Munitions Response Sites (MRS), Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) investigations, and petroleum remediation.

Remedial Investigations (RI) are being conducted at 8 MRSs to determine whether these sites warrant further response action pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA). The RI will determine the nature and extent of Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) and Munitions Constituents (MC) and determine the risk posed to human health and the environment by MEC and MC.

SWMU investigations, in accordance with United States Environmental Protection Agency and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) requirements, were performed at 50 Main Post sites and over 30 sites at Fort Belvoir North Area (BNA) consisting of former spill, dump, and landfill sites. Investigations included soil and groundwater sampling. At Main Post, 14 sites plus a former tank area will be investigated further. Three other Main Post sites and 6 BNA sites may also require further action.

Fort Belvoir Buildings 305, 324, 1124, 2209 and 3161 are the five petroleum remediation sites under the RAB. Site remediation at Buildings 324, 1124, 2209 and 3161 consists of groundwater, soils and vapor treatment to reach remedial endpoints that are required in Corrective Action Plans approved by the VDEQ. The remediation at Building 305 is complete and post-operational gauging and sampling is occurring at that site at this time.

Community members interested in serving on a RAB are asked to contact Mr. Patrick McLaughlin, Directorate of Public Works, Environmental and Natural Resources Division, at environmental-fb-dpw@conus.army.mil, 703-806-4007, or 9430 Jackson Loop, Building 1442, Suite 200, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5116. If enough interest is generated Fort Belvoir will form a RAB and provide information on membership and responsibilities.

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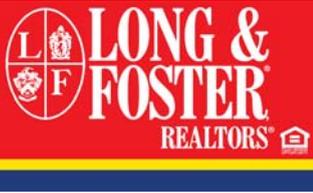


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