

# Technology Helps at Home

PAGE 11

PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISSMANN/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14



**Archerfish president Craig Chambers, left, explains the latest security technology from the Reston-based company during the 2011 Consumer Electronics Show.**

Home  
Life  
Style  
PAGE 11

Community Center  
Looks Ahead

NEWS, PAGE 3

\$2 Million  
Townhouses?

PAGE 12

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## THIS IS "MAGGIE"



D.O.B. Nov. 11, 2009. Beagle Mix, spayed female, 25 lbs. Little Maggie's a shy girl who wants to know you before she turns on her charm. She's incredibly sweet and wants so much to be loved. She came to us with 6 puppies, who are all ready for their forever homes, and it's time for Maggie to receive the attention she so deserves. She's a cutie pie, medium size, a little over a year old and seems to be housebroken. She is a devoted companion just waiting for someone to give all her love to. Come and meet this sweetheart soon so her New Year and yours will be the best ever. Attributes: What a sweetheart this little girl is!



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## BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 17

**Greater Reston Newcomers & Neighbors Club Treasures Auction.** St John Neumann Church, Lawyers Road, Reston. Non-members welcome. Free. Contact 703-391-1363 for event time.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 18

**Syndicate Business Networking Group Monthly Luncheon.** 11:45 a.m. Syrah Restaurant, Sheraton Hotel, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. With speaker Michael McCarthy, Editor in Chief & Content Director, Washington Flyer Magazine & Media. \$35. Register at [www.thesyndicateva.com/next-event-details#lunch2](http://www.thesyndicateva.com/next-event-details#lunch2).

**MOMS Club of Herndon.** 10 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. For mothers who have chosen to stay home with their children. With stories and crafts in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday. [herndon\\_moms\\_info@yahoo.com](mailto:herndon_moms_info@yahoo.com).

### SUNDAY/FEB. 20

**Pancake Breakfast and Open House.** 9-11 a.m. Great Falls Assisted Living, 1121 Reston Ave., Herndon. Pancakes, sausage and fruit. Learn more about this new dementia-specific community. Free. Reserve by Feb. 17 at 571-926-8867 or [www.greatfallsassistedliving.com](http://www.greatfallsassistedliving.com).

### MONDAY/FEB. 21

**Assistance League of Northern Virginia.** 9:30 a.m. at the Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. A nonprofit, volunteer organization promoting literacy and well-being for women and children through community based programs, such as Operation School Bell: New Clothes for Kids and Weekend Food for Kids. Meetings are the third Monday of every month. 703-878-1928.

### WEDNESDY/FEB. 23

**La Leche League of Herndon-Reston.** 10 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Pregnant and nursing moms with their children welcome. 703-435-1429.

**Lifeline Health Screening.** Sugarland Hill Senior Apartments, 1100 Dranesville Road, Herndon. Cardiovascular conditions, abdominal aortic aneurysms, bone density to access osteoporosis risk and more available. Screening packages start at \$139. Schedule appointments at 1-877-237-1287 or [www.lifelinescreening.com](http://www.lifelinescreening.com).

### THURSDAY/FEB. 24

**Lupus Support Group.** 12 p.m. at Reston Hospital Center, The West Wing, 1850 Town Center Parkway, Reston. [lh@ascendcomm.com](mailto:lh@ascendcomm.com) or [www.lupusgw.org](http://www.lupusgw.org).

**Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce Virtual Reality Tour.** 7:30 p.m. Hyatt Regency Reston, 1800 Presidents St., Reston. Commercial realty event with government agencies, commercial brokers and more. [communications@restonchamber.org](mailto:communications@restonchamber.org).

**"Race to Nowhere."** 7:30 p.m. St. Thomas a Becket Church Findley Hall, 1421 Wiehle Ave., Reston. A 30-minute panel discussion will be held immediately following the movie.

\$10 advance, \$15 at the door. [www.rtnherndonhspts.a.eventbrite.com](http://www.rtnherndonhspts.a.eventbrite.com).

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PHOTOS BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

**Reston Community Center Executive Director Leila Gordon and Initiative for Public Art-Reston President Joe Ritchey discuss the future role of the community center and IPAR at the Reston Community Center Feb. 14.**

# Community Center Looks Ahead

BY ALEX MCVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**A**s the Reston Community Center plans for a crucial five-year period, the community is sounding off on how they see the future of the center. Gordon Gerson, president of the Reston Masters Swim Club, said his goals can be summed up simply.

"We need more swimming pools," Gerson said. "A lot of people come here and want to swim, and suddenly we have 11, 12, 13 people in a single lane."

Gerson says his organization's dream is a 50-meter swimming pool in its own facility. While Gerson's dream might be far-fetched, RCC Executive Director Leila Gordon says this is a time for people to express their dreams about the community center, no matter how far-fetched it might be.

"The front end is the most fun, it's our opportunity to think big about the future," Gordon said. "We'll find out what's impossible down the road."

**THE COMMUNITY CENTER** kicked off the first phase of planning Monday, Feb. 14, with future sessions to explore options before the plan is released in June.

"This is the beginning of the process for planning our next five years, from 2011 to 2016," said Leila Gordon, executive director of the RCC. "This plan aligns with the transition this community is making as the Silver Line arrives, which we hope will bring positive changes."

Representatives from commu-



**Reston Community Center Executive Director Leila Gordon solicits comments from the public about programming at the center Feb. 14. The RCC is currently collecting public input while formulating their five-year strategic plan.**

nity groups across Reston shared their visions for the future, as well as what they enjoyed about the community center's current programs and services. Reston Interfaith board member Stuart Rakoff said he looked forward to working with the RCC in the future.

"I think it's important to continue the extraordinary partnership we've had with the Reston Community Center," he said. "I think there are a lot of folks in the community who are looking to volunteer, and part of our mission is to provide that opportunity. As we add 20 to 30,000 more people in Reston, the community center can be a clearinghouse for people

looking to volunteer."

Joe Ritchey, president of the Initiative for Public Art-Reston, said the RCC will play a crucial role in IPAR's future.

"I see the Reston Community Center as the very heart of IPAR, and going forward, I'd hope they would support world class standards for architecture and public space design," Ritchey said.

Ritchey also said he supported a new space for the performing arts to replace the current stage. Reston Orchestra Executive Director Linda Ackerman also supported a new performing arts space.

"A performing art center would be wonderful. When we want to do a larger production, such as one that would require an orchestra, we just run out of space," Ackerman said.

Diane Blust, speaking on behalf of Sustainable Reston, said she would like to see programs offered to encourage a sustainable lifestyle.

"We would be interested in seeing a sustainable film series, and maybe classes about sustainable living," she said.

Gerson said, in addition to a pool, he would like to see workout facilities at the community center.

"We don't have any gym facilities, and if you take look at the Herndon Community Center, you can see a lot of things that we don't have that we need," he said.

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS** can give their feedback and vision for the Reston Community Center by e-mailing RCCcontact@fairfaxcounty.gov.



PHOTO BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

**From left, Potomac Running Company co-owners Ray Pugsley and Brendan Shapiro, Miles the Bulldog, Reston Potomac River Running team members Adam Condit, DeeDee Loughran and Aaron Schwartzbard and Marine Corps Marathon Operations Manager Bret Schmidt. Schmidt presented the Potomac River Running Reston location their prize for finishing first among local running stores at the Oct. 31 marathon.**

## Marathon Men and Women

BY ALEX MCVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**A**aron Schwartzbard of Reston finished behind only 40 people in last year's Marine Corps Marathon, out of more than 20,000 runners. He ran the 26.2-mile race in two hours and 44 minutes, but he doesn't think it's anything to brag about.

"It was one of my slowest times," said Schwartzbard, who says marathons are the shortest races he runs. "But I always like running in the Marine Corps Marathon. It's local and convenient, I can wake up in my own bed and run."

While Schwartzbard says his individual performance wasn't his best, it's hard to top first place in the running store competition, which he did as part of the team from Potomac River Running's Reston location. The store, who had two other locations place in the top four for running store teams, took first place in the Oct. 31 race.

Team member DeeDee Loughran of Reston said it was her first time running in the Marine Corps Marathon.

"It was a great experience, at least, as much as marathons can be," she said. "Actually, only the first 20 miles were a good experience." Bret Schmidt, operations manager for the Marine

Corps Marathon, was joined by Miles the Bulldog to present members of the winning team as well as the owners of Potomac River Running.

"Kudos to what you do as a group, for promoting running and fitness within your community, not just selling shoes," Schmidt said.

Ray Pugsley, one of the owners, says the store has been running in the store division of the marathon for about five years.

"There aren't many options when you're an adult to compete as part of a team," Pugsley said. "So when they come along, you try to take advantage. The competition is always fun, everyone comes from different

backgrounds in fitness competitions."

Brendan Shapiro, one of the owners, says the competition between store locations - there are eight in the area, including Arlington, Ashburn, Tysons Corner and Burke - adds some fun to the business.

"All of our stores put out a ton of quality runners, so we have a nice friendly competition there," said Brendan Shapiro, one of the owners. "It's exciting to have Reston win this year." The team also featured Adam Condit of Ashburn, who finished seventh place overall with a time of two hours, 31 minutes.

**"Kudos to what you do as a group, for promoting running and fitness within your community, not just selling shoes."**

**— Bret Schmidt, operations manager, Marine Corps Marathon**



# General Assembly Mandates Autism Treatment

Law would require some insurance companies to pay for certain therapies.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

Over the past few weeks, four year-old Quentin Tidd has started to say a few words and to repeat sounds he has heard.

For Quentin, who has autism, this was a major and somewhat unexpected leap forward in his development. Experts have told his family that Quentin might be able to make more progress if he spent more time in one-on-one behavioral therapy, said his mother, Jennifer Tidd.

"My son is considered nonverbal so this really was a breakthrough," said Tidd, who lives in Reston.

Unfortunately, the extra therapy that Quentin needs doesn't come cheap. Tidd said her family currently pays about \$40 per hour out of pocket for individual treatment, which Quentin receives approximately twice per week.

Like many other families, the Tidds discovered their insurance policy did not cover any of behavioral and speech therapy that doctors say Quentin requires.

"Some insurance companies charge higher premiums if an autistic child is on the policy. They charge more but they refuse to pay for treatment," said Tidd.

Tidd said her family spent their Christmas break discussing how they could rework their finances so they could afford more hours of one-on-one therapy for Quentin. Experts have said this type of early intervention could improve Quentin's functioning for the rest of his life, according to Tidd.

Still, the family finances are already a bit stretched, especially with one child enrolled at Virginia Commonwealth University.

"Honestly, we would probably be paying for more therapy if we didn't have child in college," said Tidd. "But we would find a way to afford it now."

Tidd has thought seriously about going back to work to pay for extra hours of treatment for Quentin but she doesn't necessarily trust another person to take care of her son. Tidd has no problem sending her older children to daycare, but she would worry about handing over Quentin to a caretaker that did not have special training to deal with children who have autism.

"There are days when he is just impossible. He can be very difficult. You worry that you are not going to be able to find someone who will treat your child the right way when he is screaming and kicking and throwing a tantrum," said Tidd.

"Then, you wonder, should we take the chance of putting him in a daycare situation? If I don't go to work to pay for this



PHOTO BY PAM BROOKS/CONTRIBUTED

**Springfield resident Teresa Champion spoke to the crowd gathered in Richmond to lobby on behalf of a bill that would require insurance companies to provide some treatment for Autism. Fairfax County Sen. Janet Howell (D-32), pictured in the background, was one of the sponsors of the bill.**

additional treatment, he is not going to progress as he should," said Tidd.

**RELIEF** may be on the way for Tidd and other parents of children on the autism spectrum that are in similar predicaments. The Virginia General Assembly recently passed a bill that would require some insurance companies to cover treatment for children with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder.

The Virginia House of Delegates passed the legislation 74-24 on Feb. 2, with the support of every Fairfax County delegate. Two Fairfax representatives, Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) and Del. Tom Rust (R-56), were chief sponsors of the legislation in the House.

The Virginia Senate passed a very similar bill 28-11 on Feb. 8, with all but one Fairfax senator, George Barker (D-37), supporting the bill. Sen. Janet Howell (D-42), also from Fairfax, sponsored the senate legislation.

Howell, who carried similar bills for the past two years, said she got involved with autism advocacy in part because her grandnephew, who lives in Arizona, is "severely autistic." She was impressed with the services he was provided but frustrated that so many children in Virginia were being unable to get the same treatment.

"He receives wonderful treatment but he doesn't live in Virginia. He lives in Arizona and they have a [insurance] mandate," said Howell.

**HUGO**, who sits on the House subcommittee overseeing mandated benefits, said he was moved by some of the testimony he heard from parents around the state.

One woman told the subcommittee that she had two children with autism but could only afford treatment for one. Another man asked the delegates to let his child "out of the darkness."

"With these treatments, you can prevent some of these children from being impacted for life. You can make sure they do not be-

come wards of the state," said Hugo, who represents Clifton and Centreville.

"I think this is an important bill. If we don't do something, we risk leaving these kids in the darkness," he said.

Even though the legislation passed both chamber by large margins, legislators and advocates alike have said they are unsure whether Gov. Robert McDonnell (R) plans to sign the bill into law. When contacted by The Connection, McDonnell's office said the governor had not reviewed the bill yet.

"We have no idea what he is going to do. His office is being pretty mum. But his [cam-

**"Self-insured companies do not have to provide this benefit and at least 55 percent of people in Fairfax work for self-insured companies."**

—Del. Mark Sickles (D-43).

paign committee] did give the Virginia Autism Project a \$5,000 contribution last year so we know he is supportive of the cause as a whole," said Lynn Miller, a Fairfax parent of two boys with autism who lobbied for the bill.

**AUTISM ACTIVISTS** have been trying to get some type of mandate for insurance companies to cover autism spectrum disorder in Virginia for about a decade, though the effort has become more focused over the last three years, said Teresa Champion, a Springfield resident.

"When a parent gets a diagnosis of autism from a doctor, they also get a prescription for therapy like speech therapy and behavioral intervention and they will file a

claim with their insurance company. Then, the insurance company will send a letter back saying that the treatment is not medically necessary," said Champion of the current situation in Virginia.

According to Champion, the type of intensive therapy that will really make a difference, particularly for toddlers and very young children, could cost \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year, which few families can afford.

"When we began working intensively with my son, he was considered to have moderate to severe autism. But after six months of intensive treatment, he was moved into the mild to high functioning category. He improved after this therapy but we couldn't afford to keep doing it," said Champion, whose son is now 17 years old.

**PROPONENTS** of the bill have also learned to pare down their expectations. Three years ago, the advocates had proposed a bill that would have required insurance companies to cover treatment for children with autism until they were adults.

This year, they narrowed their focus to toddlers and children in preschool, in order to make the legislation more palatable to fiscal conservatives in the House of Delegates. They also put a cap on services of \$35,000 per year, said Champion.

"A lot of people in the House don't like the government mandating anything. That was the primary resistance. There was also a fear about what the cost might be," said Champion.

Twenty-three other states have passed similar legislation, so Champion and supporters of the bill were able to provide the legislators with data on the cost incurred in other states. Of particular concern was the impact it might have on the state budget, since the benefit would be extended to employees of the commonwealth, said Champion.

"South Carolina thought it would cost \$18 million and it ended up costing \$2 million last year. The data shows that the doom and gloom about this bill's impact on budgets doesn't exist," she said.

Children with autism also are likely to cost Virginia more as adults if they don't receive early intervention services, said autism advocates.

In Fairfax County Public Schools, one in 83 students has been diagnosed with some form of autism, an 846 percent increase since 1997. Last year, the county's human services department announced that the greatest threat to local government's fiscal health was not the wave of aging baby boomers as previously thought but the rapidly growing percentage of young adults with autism.

"Without this bill, the cost to society is huge because the incidence of autism is only growing," said Champion.<sup>9</sup>

**IF THE BILL** becomes law, it will still be the most narrowly focused and limited of all state mandates related to autism. Most other states allow a wider age range to be

SEE ASSEMBLY, PAGE 5



# Trading Citrus and Gators for Snow and Ice

BY JOHN LOVAAS  
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST



The snow, slush and ice finally got to us. So Fran and I decided to go hide out for a week with friends and family in Florida, the Sunshine State. We also decided to try a new mode of transport to travel there—the AutoTrain.

The visits with old friends and family were delightful and time well spent. In both cases they told us what was going on in their region and went to great lengths to show us. And, we could not help but get filled in on local events and compare Florida to Reston, Virginia.

While the trip was most satisfying in terms of time spent with people important to us, it also served to remind us how fortunate we are to live in a place called Reston. The scenery and landscape of the central and northwest areas of Florida at least are somewhere between dull and dreary. The land is all low and flat, with little variety in the vegetation and trees one sees all the way from Leesburg west to Crystal River to Tallahassee in the north and back to Sanford to the east of Leesbury, Fla.—a 450-mile journey with no change. It makes Kansas seem exciting and Reston spectacular by comparison.

The human condition didn't seem much better. Suburban and urban areas were continual strip centers, neon and billboards along the road. And most of the commercial areas were blighted by abandoned storefronts and buildings. Unemployment is a little

over 12 percent statewide in Florida and from what we could see, it may be worse in the areas we experienced. Our friends near Orlando noted home foreclosures and the lovely homes on the market but not selling, even at greatly reduced prices. The same was true in the region of my in-laws' home near Tallahassee. Houses were selling at half or a third what they sold for just a few years ago. Examples included new, three-bedroom, three bath homes with nice lots along Route 44 advertised

at \$120-\$130,000. On the train, we dined with a recently retired prison guard from Rykers Island, N.Y. He was on his way to buy a home in Homestead, Fla., a deal he'd been working on since he'd begun to think of retirement three years ago. He was coming to finally buy a house he had first priced at \$455,000, but would close on for only \$175,000. This is the silver lining if you are buying, not selling.

Of course, this liberal had to check on Florida politics while he was there. Here again, we were glad to be just visiting. While our local pols sometimes disappoint and our state government headed by Bob McDonnell is worse, Florida makes them look very good. Governor Scott, a Tea Party darling, is busy cutting services and laying off folks in the face of 12 percent unemployment while cutting taxes for the corporate class. I'll bet McDonnell could sell him some liquor franchises.

Did I mention that it was also rainy and cold and most oranges had been killed by frost? It really is good to be back home on beautiful Lake Anne.

INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

# Assembly Passes Autism Bill

FROM PAGE 4

covered or have a higher spending cap for services. In one case, Minnesota, there is no upper age limit or cap on spending at all, said Champion.

Even under this legislation, there are families whose insurance still won't cover services for autism spectrum disorder.

The legislation would not apply to companies with 50 or fewer employees. Employers who are self-insured, including large corporations, are also exempt from the mandate. Individuals who buy plans for their families on the open market are also not covered by this legislation.

"Self-insured companies do not have to provide this benefit and at least 55 percent of people in Fairfax work for self-insured companies," said Del. Mark

Sickles (D-43).

Sickles voted for the bill but said he worries that it might cause more small businesses to stop providing insurance to their employees altogether.

"This is most expensive mandate on businesses that we have imposed since I have been here. With all the talk of Obamacare and what the federal government is doing, we have turned around and imposed this very expensive mandate on a certain set of businesses in Virginia," said Sickles.

The delegate said he has also seen an opinion from Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli's office which suggested the \$35,000 annual cap on services was not legal because a federal law mandating parity for mental health treatment. If the cap was removed, the mandate could be become even more expensive to meet, said Sickles.

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# OPINION

## Important Step for Autism

**Governor should sign bill that would require limited insurance coverage for needed therapy.**

**T**hanks to Delegates Tim Hugo and Tom Rust, along with state Sen. Janet Howell and a majority of members of the Virginia General Assembly, for passing a bill that would require some insurance companies to provide limited but critically important coverage for therapy for children with autism.

Now, Gov. Bob McDonnell should sign the bill into law.

"With these treatments, you can prevent some of these children from being impacted for life. You can make sure they do not become wards of the state," said Hugo. ... "If we don't do something, we risk leaving these kids in the darkness."

Behavior therapy at an early age can make the difference between a child who speaks and interacts and a child who is non-verbal. But the therapy, often not covered at all by insurance, can cost \$20,000 a year or more per child.

Consider the heartbreak of one family who was able to afford therapy for one of their children with autism. Unfortunately, the family has two children with autism.

As they become adults, children with autism will cost Virginia more if they don't receive early intervention services.

And this is a growing problem.

### EDITORIALS

For example, in Fairfax County Public Schools, one in 83 students has been diagnosed with some form of autism, an 846 percent increase since 1997. Last year, the county's human services department announced that local government's fiscal health would be greatly impacted by providing services to the rapidly growing percentage of young adults with autism diagnoses.

### Missing the Point

As the U.S. Department of Justice presses Virginia to provide services for people with intellectual disabilities and more options to live in the community, it's important to remember that it's not just a question of moving some current residents out of training centers.

Families across Northern Virginia and the state are stretching budgets, going into debt and hanging on by their fingernails as they care for family members with intellectual disabilities who should have "waivers" providing for services in the community.

Right now, more than 6,400 Virginians with intellectual and related developmental disabilities are on waiting lists for community-based services, according to the Arc of Virginia. Nearly 3,000 of these individuals are in urgent

need because they live with an aging caregiver, are at risk of abuse or neglect, or are aging out of foster care.

See [www.arcofva.org](http://www.arcofva.org).

### Cheap and Effective Traffic Fix: Telework

While National Telework Week officially began Monday, Feb. 14, last month's commuting-home debacle probably did more to push individuals, governments and companies to contemplate real teleworking measures than any other advocacy.

Increasing the number of people who regularly work from home at least one day a week is the only possible cure for the current traffic nightmare in the region. On most days, rush hour in Northern Virginia is a pain. But it only takes one hiccup (a man threatening to jump of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge or an inch of badly timed snow) to bring the region to a standstill and worse.

Telecommuting can also be good for the environment, good for employee morale, good for families, good for productivity. And anything that decreases the chances of a 10-hour commute or being stranded overnight on the George Washington Parkway is a step in the right direction.

The technology exists to make this work.

- MARY KIMM,

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## Casting a Red Light

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM  
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

**V**irginia was one of the first states to use an electric voting machine as a way for legislators to cast their votes without the need to call the name of all 100 delegates and 40 senators and having them "voice vote." Beginning in 1964 Virginia installed an electric voting board with member names and red and green lights to indicate how members voted using a switch at their desks. That system was replaced with an electronic voting machine that continues to display "yea" or green votes and "nay" red votes. A yellow light is a way for legislators to indicate that they have a conflict of interest that keeps them from voting on a particular measure.

Since the legislative process is largely a consensus process, the overwhelming majority of votes are green votes. With the sharp ideological differences that have developed among legislators in

recent years, casting a red light or a nay vote has increased. I must have set an all-time record for my years in the General Assembly last Tuesday when I voted against 31 of the 74 bills on the regular or contested calendar.

All of the bills passed on a mostly partisan vote. Of the bills I voted against, nearly half were Arizona-style anti-immigrant bills that among other things would have put local police in the business of enforcing federal immigration laws.

It is not likely that any of these bills will pass the Senate. Another bill I voted against would have defined a fetus as a person beginning at the moment of conception. This bill is also likely to be defeated in the Senate. Its implications would be far-reaching: Would birth control be considered a form of abortion? Would property rights extend to the unborn fetus? These were two among many questions.

On another day I voted against the House version of the Governor's transportation plan. The plan would push Virginia to

its debt limit with more than \$4 billion in borrowing.

The limited funds it provided would not have built one interchange in Fairfax County and would have taken more than \$150 million from schools. I know that some people in the district have heard about this vote from a robo-telephone call.

The vote is one step in a long legislative process that I am confident will result in some money for transportation while we await the Governor's promised proposal next year for a more permanent solution to our needs.

The red light I cast on the House version of the budget came because of the more than \$93 million cut in funding for public schools and the significant reductions in monies for mental health, especially among young people. As with all bills that pass each House in a different version, a conference committee will resolve the differences, and a final vote will be taken.

Send your comments on how I should cast those votes to me at [kenplum@aol.com](mailto:kenplum@aol.com).

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Disciplinary Action as Learning Experience

To the Editor

On Feb. 8, 2011, at a regular meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, along with Supervisor Penny Gross, I moved that our Board direct County staff to engage Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) and community organizations in a discussion about how to help students and parents turn a FCPS disciplinary action into a learning experience. I believe that County and Schools working together, along with other community resources, can better help a student understand that while there are serious consequences to infractions of school rules, we are there as a community to help the student cope with the emotional response that may follow and provide an appropriate level of support for both the child

SEE LETTER, PAGE 7

## THE CONNECTION

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Reston

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# LETTER

FROM PAGE 6

and the family. Disciplinary situations, if handled compassionately, can help a child develop a balanced understanding that should ultimately down the road translate into a mature, responsible adult. Lessons can be painful, but they need not result in either the child or family feeling alone in their ability to examine and address the situation, or see a path to a hopeful future. I believe we can, working together as county government, schools and community, do a better job at that than we have done in the recent past.

I am not seeking for the Board of Supervisors to commandeer the FCPS disciplinary process; that is not our role. But as with so many other aspects of the Board of Supervisor and FCPS partnership, the Board of Supervisors provides, supplements, or augments services outside of the \$1.77 billion transfer to FCPS. In addition to the direct transfer, the County's FY 2011 budget provided nearly \$55.8 million in additional support for programs such as the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA), Head Start, School Age Child Care (SACC), public health nurses and school health aides, School Resource Officers and school crossing guards, field maintenance, afterschool programming in middle schools, and services offered by the Fairfax Falls Church Community Services Board, including mental health and substance abuse prevention and intervention in the schools.

Clearly there is a role for Fairfax County Government in the development and safety of students in Fairfax County Public Schools. We demonstrated in the past how well we can work together when we created our joint county-school-community based organization, Fairfax Partnership for Youth. We need to have a discussion of how we can work together on this issue before another precious life is lost.

**Supervisor Cathy Hudgins**  
Hunter Mill District

## 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  
1606 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314  
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# Black History Month Celebrated

Spirited singing, dancing and preaching highlight Fairfax County's celebration.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
 THE CONNECTION

Sounds of clapping, singing and shouts of "amen" rang out as Kennedy Saunders began singing the uplifting spiritual "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

With its message of struggle and hope, the hymn has long been a staple at African-American churches, and was quoted by the Rev. Joseph E. Lowery at Barack Obama's presidential inauguration.

But Saunders wasn't singing for his congregation at Antioch Baptist Church in Fairfax Station.

Along with the Antioch Baptist Choir, he was performing for more than 300 people who gathered at the Fairfax County Government Center auditorium Friday night to celebrate Black History Month. The free program, titled "Embracing Our Youth, Our Heritage and Celebrating All Cultures," was sponsored by Fairfax County, in partnership with Cox Communications.

"Joy is for everyone. We're all brothers and sisters, and that's

what we're celebrating tonight. Black history is the history of everyone," said Emma Marshall, who organized the popular event along with Tilly Blanding and Dale Wallace. All are social workers for Fairfax County.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**, celebrated each February, officially began in 1976, and this year arrives on the heels of the 25th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The stirring music program mixed dance and step performances with up-tempo gospel music. During an emotional performance by Maharold People, Jr. & The Tribe of Praise, the audience danced along and cheered the group's soaring vocals.

The audience gave standing ovations after energetic routines by The Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Step Team of Herndon, and the Greater Little Zion Baptist Church Spirit of Praise Youth Dance Ensemble of Fairfax.

"It's an awesome, inspiring program," said Debora Brown, an employee for the County's Women Infants and Children (WIC) program. She performed an interpretive dance selection, and has been

coming to the celebration for 18 years. "This is an opportunity for us to love and celebrate our background, and look forward to positive changes in our future," she said. The event included remarks by Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill). Supervisors Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) and John C. Cook (R-Braddock) also attended the event.

Bulova choked up recalling an episode from her childhood. "When I was growing up in the 1950s outside of Baltimore, I didn't know anyone who was African-American." On an afternoon walk, she and her siblings wandered into a neighborhood they had never seen before. "A boy who was about my age came out to shake our hand," Bulova recalled. "He was African American. He invited us inside his house to have some cookies his mother had made. It opened up a whole new world for us ... It pleases me so much to see how our world has changed for the better."

Hudgins mentioned the county's many historically black churches, such as Cartersville Baptist Church in Vienna, which was founded in 1863 by free African-Americans.



Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, celebrates the event with Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill).

"When others were not serving the African-American community, the church served as a substitute and continues today to have a prominent place in our community," she said. She emphasized the community's need to stay connected and get to know each other. "We acknowledge we are a county about all people," she said.

**AFTER THE MUSICAL PROGRAM**, the crowd moved into the Board of Supervisors' chamber to hear the keynote speech by Vice Admiral David L. Brewer, III, U.S. Navy (retired). During his career in the U.S. Navy, Brewer, who was born in Farmville, commanded two

ships and won numerous awards for combat efficiency and community service. He also received the Naval War College's Distinguished Graduate Leader Award. He targeted his speech to the youth in the audience, and did a humorous question and answer session with the group. Mark Cannady of Lorton said he brought his two teenage daughters and wife to the celebration to hear the inspiring music, and hear Brewer "preach."

"This is always a fantastic event, and I really enjoyed the focus on youth tonight," Cannady said.

## ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com).

**WEDNESDAY/FEB. 16**  
**ESL Business Writing Course.** 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Business Writing Course for ESL students. Adults. 703-689-2700.

**THURSDAY/FEB. 17**  
**"Frozen."** 8 p.m. The Elden Street Players in the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Bryony Lavery's play entwines the lives of a murderer, the mother of one of his victims and his psychologist. Mature audiences. \$19 adults, \$16 students and seniors. 703-481-5930 or [www.eldenstreetplayers.org](http://www.eldenstreetplayers.org).

**Terrific Twos.** 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Storytime for two-year-olds. Age 2 with adult. 703-689-2700.

**Nature ABCs.** 10 a.m. Walker Nature Education Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. \$5 child of RA member, \$8 child non-members. For ages 3-5. Reserve at 703-476-9689 or [naturecenter@reston.org](mailto:naturecenter@reston.org).

**Paul Thorn.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$22. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**"Motorcycles, Midgets and Mayhem" comes to the Dulles Expo Center, 4368 Chantilly Center in Chantilly on Feb. 19-20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The self-proclaimed hardcore little person wrestlers, "Half Pint Brawlers," will wrestle, sign autographs, entertain and amuse all ages. Motorcycle enthusiasts will find all of their favorite dealers, vendors, custom motorcycles and merchandise. \$7 for children, \$15 for adults. [www.kevmarv.com](http://www.kevmarv.com) or [www.halfpintbrawlers.com](http://www.halfpintbrawlers.com).**



**FRIDAY/FEB. 18**

**Wagner's "The Valkyrie."** 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The second opera in "The Ring Cycle," performed by the Virginia Opera and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. Tickets \$44-\$86, available at 888-945-2468 or

[cfa.gmu.edu.vaopera.org](http://cfa.gmu.edu.vaopera.org).  
**"Frozen."** 8 p.m. The Elden Street Players in the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Bryony Lavery's play entwines the lives of a murderer, the mother of one of his victims and his psychologist. Mature audiences. \$19 adults, \$16 students and seniors. 703-

481-5930 or [www.eldenstreetplayers.org](http://www.eldenstreetplayers.org).  
**Jonathan Edwards.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$24. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**SATURDAY/FEB. 19**

**"Frozen."** 8 p.m. The Elden Street Players in the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Bryony Lavery's play entwines the lives of a murderer, the mother of one of his victims and his psychologist. Mature audiences. \$19 adults, \$16 students and seniors. 703-481-5930 or [www.eldenstreetplayers.org](http://www.eldenstreetplayers.org).

**"Goldilocks and the Three Bears."** 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The Elden Street Players, Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Tom McCabe's retelling of the classic fairy tale. Goldilocks, with her "not so gold" hair is persecuted by all the other kids at The Enchanted Forest Kiddie Camp.

She runs away and it's up to Ranger Roger to find her. \$7 general admission. 703-481-5930 or [www.eldenstreetplayers.org](http://www.eldenstreetplayers.org).

**Whitey Morgan and the 78's.** 7 p.m. The Carpool, 208 Elden St. #100, Herndon. Honky tonk and country music. [www.bloodshotrecords.com](http://www.bloodshotrecords.com).

**Celebrate Black History Month.** 5 p.m. Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. Speakers will share Civil Rights experiences and Squire Muse will lead a sing along of Freedom Songs. View Reston Community Center's 2002 Color Line Project interviews. 703-709-7700 or [restonmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:restonmuseum@gmail.com).

**Photography Workshop: Introduction to Digital**

**Photography.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Weekend immersion format. [www.ArtSpaceHerndon.org](http://www.ArtSpaceHerndon.org).  
**Young Dubliners.** 7:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$22. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**SUNDAY/FEB. 20**

**Introduction to Digital Photography Workshop.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Weekend immersion format. [www.ArtSpaceHerndon.org](http://www.ArtSpaceHerndon.org).

**Wagner's "The Valkyrie."** 2 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The second opera in "The Ring Cycle," performed by The Virginia Opera and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. Tickets \$48-\$98, available at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu.vaopera.org](http://cfa.gmu.edu.vaopera.org).

**"Goldilocks and the Three Bears."** 2 p.m. The Elden Street Players, Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Tom McCabe's retelling of the classic fairy tale. Goldilocks, with her "not so gold" hair is persecuted by all the other kids at The Enchanted Forest Kiddie Camp.

She runs away and it's up to Ranger Roger to find her. \$7 general admission. 703-481-5930 or [www.eldenstreetplayers.org](http://www.eldenstreetplayers.org).

**Fairfax Symphony Orchestra 48th Annual Dorothy Farnham Feyer String Competition Finals.** 2 p.m. Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Featuring nine finalists in grades 8 through 12 from northern Virginia. Free, public invited. 703-563-1990 or [www.fairfaxsymphony.org](http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org).

## RESTON ASSOCIATION 2011 BOARD ELECTIONS CANDIDATES FORUM

Meet the Candidates and learn their positions on the issues that affect the Reston community. Candidates are running for an At-Large Director and in the Hunters Woods/Dogwood District Director seat. The winner of each will hold the seat for three years. So take the time to Meet the Candidates.

**TWO CONVENIENT SESSIONS**  
**Reston Association, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive**  
**Reston, Virginia 20191-3404**  
**Saturday, February 26 at 11 a.m.**  
**Monday, February 28 at 7 p.m.**

To learn more about the Reston Association Elections: [www.reston.org](http://www.reston.org) and click on 2011 Elections.

Contact Cate Fulkerson 703-435-6512 or e-mail [Cate@reston.org](mailto:Cate@reston.org)



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Reston Association Board of Directors will hold a public hearing on proposed changes to Design Guidelines. The hearing is open to the public and will be held on **Feb. 24, 2011** at the Board's regular meeting, beginning at **7 p.m. 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20191.**

**Contact:** Cate Fulkerson, Director of Administration, Member Services and IT, 703-435-6512 or via e-mail [cate@reston.org](mailto:cate@reston.org)

### Proposed Design Guideline Changes

- Colors & Materials
- Gutters
- Landscaping
- Sheds & Storage Boxes
- Signs
- Teardowns





# South Lakes' Forrest Captures Region Wrestling Crown

Seahawk standout remains unbeaten at 37-0 going into states.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

South Lakes High wrestling sensation Ryan Forrest remained unbeaten for the season and captured the 145-weight class title at last weekend's Northern Region championships. The two-day postseason event took place Friday and Saturday (Feb. 11-12) at Fairfax High School.

Forrest, a junior who two weeks ago captured his third consecutive Liberty District title, won all four of his matches at regionals to gain the 145 crown. In the finals, he dominated his match versus Robinson's Zak Depasquale with a 10-1 major decision triumph.

"It was great," said Forrest, of the excitement of winning the title match. "I knew most of the [Fairfax High] gymnasium would be on his side because of how good Robinson is."

Depasquale, indeed, had a loud and supportive following of fans cheering him on. The Robinson faithful enjoyed a night in which seven Rams' wrestlers won championships at their respective weight classes. On top of that, Robinson easily won the team title - its first since 1991.

But in the 145 finals, Forrest, who had some good fan support of his own, quieted the Robinson followers with his fantastic title match win in which, midway through the first period, he used a



South Lakes' Ryan Forrest (right) competes against Robinson's Zak Depasquale during Saturday night's 145-division region wrestling finals at Fairfax High School.

takedown and turned his opponent onto his back to build a 5-0 lead. The score was 8-0 after that first period and Forrest controlled the remainder of the match.

**FORREST, OVER THE YEARS**, has wrestled with and against Depasquale and had a good idea of what it would take to win the match.

"I've known that kid most of my life," said Forrest, with a smile.

As thrilled as Forrest was with the individual title, he has been most pleased this season with the progress the South Lakes program, as a whole, has continued to make under head coach Bruce Hall. The Seahawks have continually gotten

better and better under Hall in recent years. South Lakes put together an exceptional season this winter in which the Seahawks went 19-6 over the dual meet season.

"This is definitely the best [South Lakes wrestling] has been in a long time," said Forrest, who was a third place finisher at last year's regionals. "I've really enjoyed my team and I love our coaches. I try to take on more leadership and try to help out some of the other kids."

Forrest, along with growing in the sport under the guidance of the South Lakes coaching staff, has also worked under the tutelage of longtime wrestling aficionado Wade Schalles at Landon School

in Bethesda. Schalles, a nationally renowned wrestling coach and a former two-time NCAA champion, is director of EagleHawk Academy.

It has all come together this season for Forrest, who goes into next weekend's Virginia State AAA championships at Robinson Secondary with a perfect 37-0 record. Forrest said he has not felt the pressure of being unbeaten for the most part this season, although he is more conscious of his perfect record now that the postseason is here.

But he appeared as focused as ever at regionals. In his first round match, Forrest defeated Hayfield's Mark Allan on a first period pin, then pinned Chantilly's Sam Cronin early in the second period of his second round match. In the semifinals, Forrest handled Westfield's Nick Hehman, 6-0, to earn his spot in the finals against Depasquale (33-10), the 145-Concorde District champion.

**SOUTH LAKES** finished 19th place overall in the region team standings with 32 points. The team champion was Robinson, which captured its first region crown since 1991. The Rams finished with 260.50 points, finishing ahead of second place and defending region champion Westfield (208). South County (118) finished third place, while Annandale (92) and Hayfield (78) finished fourth and fifth places, respectively, at the 30-team event.

Finishing sixth through 10th place were Lee High (69), Mount Vernon (65), Edison (62), the Saxons and Lake Braddock (54.50).

Robinson's Jack Bass, the 125-weight class champion, was named the region tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler. Centreville High, which finished 18th place in the team standings, accepted the Sportsmanship Award trophy during brief post meet ceremonies on Saturday night.

Neither South Lakes nor Herndon had any top six place finishers at regionals, other than Forrest.

**OAKTON HIGH**, meanwhile, saw Austin Murga earn a third place finish at 189-division, while Cougars' wrestlers Eddie Gerow (112) and Matt Nortorangelo (152) finished fourth and fifth place, respectively.

Murga earned a third place finish at 189. He defeated Stuart's Melvin Mazariegos with a second period pin, then lost an 8-6 decision to Annandale's John McCollom. But Murga then went on a tear, winning four straight matches in the loser's bracket to earn third place. The wins came over Yorktown's Hakeem Sansui, 8-3; Langley's Elie Kawmy (11-3 major decision); Centreville's David Chenevey, 9-8; and, in the consolation finals, a default win over Jefferson's Patrick O'Connor.

The Virginia State AAA championships will take place this Friday and Saturday (Feb. 18-19) at Robinson Secondary.

## Local Swimmers Shine at Region Championships

Langley captures team title on girls' side. Madison, Oakton, McLean, South Lakes and Herndon swimmers excel at postseason showcase.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

The Langley High girls' swim and dive team captured first place at the recent Northern Region swim and dive championships, held at Oak Marr Recreation Center Feb. 1-5.

The Saxons, coached by Ryan Jackson, finished the postseason event with 241 team points, ahead of second place Yorktown (218), third place Lake Braddock (167), fourth place West Potomac (152) and fifth place Westfield (149).

Finishing sixth through 10th place at

the 23-team girls' meet were: South County (145), Robinson (143), Chantilly (138), Oakton (130) and Madison (119).

Other local teams of note included 11th place McLean (116 points), 14th place Herndon (68), and 19th place South Lakes (30).

**THE CHAMPION SAXONS** had first place finishes from senior Jayme Katis (200-yard freestyle) and sophomore Abi Speers (100-freestyle). Both were also a part of Langley's first place 200-yard free relay team, consisting of senior Meghan Overend, Katis, senior Megan Howard, and Speers.

Other top six place finishers by Langley

girls' swimmers came from: Spears (second place in 50-free); Meghan Overend (fifth in 100-butterfly); Megan Howard (sixth in 100-fly); and Katis (second in 100-free).

The Saxons' 400-free relay team of junior Allie Zeidan, Katis, Speers and Overend finished second overall.

Oakton High's Janet Hu won two events - the 50-free and 100-back. She was also a part of the Cougars' winning 400-free relay team. Oakton's team members on that relay were: Hu, Stephanie Hallock, Kendall Lawhorn and Kaitlin Pawlowicz.

Individual girls' champions from area schools included Oakton's Pawlowicz (200-IM) and Madison's Kelly Corish (dive).

Pawlowicz was also a second place finisher in the 100-fly.

Top six place finishers from the area included: Madison's Laura Kellan (fourth in 200-free); Marshall's Kather VanWinkle (third in dive); South Lakes' Emily Sennett (third in 100-fly); McLean High's Eva Greene (third in 100-back, fourth in 100-free); Herndon High's Ryan Murphy (sixth in 100-back); and Herndon's Jenna Van Camp (second in 100-breaststroke).

**THE BOYS' TEAM CHAMPION** was Westfield High, which finished with 271 points, ahead of second place Woodson (188), third place Robinson (186), fourth place Madison (179), fifth place Lake Braddock (163), and sixth place Fairfax (145).



# Home Life Style

## Security, Convenience and Green Innovation

**Northern Virginia companies debut home technology trends in Las Vegas.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE CONNECTION

Getting a lot of attention at this year's Consumer Electronics Show were several Northern Virginia companies who were among the more than 2,700 exhibitors displaying some of the world's most cutting edge home technology trends.

This year was all about the "apps" as more than 150,000 people from around the world descended on the Las Vegas Convention Center last month for the 2011 Consumer Electronics Show.

Homeowners can have more control over their homes using many newly developed smartphone applications, getting real time information from home security systems even when not at home, controlling room temperatures, raising and lowering window shades or even starting dinner or the laundry from anywhere with an internet connection.

### Surveillance Systems, Archerfish: Reston

For homeowners looking for a home surveillance system, Reston's Cernium Corporation has developed the Archerfish Solo, an IP-based wireless camera that sends video clip emails to your smart phone or computer whenever it senses unusual activity.

"There's been a lot of interest in the Solo," said Debbie Shuey of Archerfish, a CES exhibitor for the last three years. "We've had far more people stopping by this year than the last two."

Homeowners can use Archerfish to view live video via computer, smart phone or tablet devices, as Shuey demonstrated by monitoring the cameras at Reston Skate Quest cameras from the show floor in Las Vegas.

"The number of people interested in this for personal use has multiplied tremendously," Shuey said. "Even our competitors have been stopping by."

Debuting at CES this year was the Archerfish Solo Flood Light Adapter, which allows the camera to be installed simply by screwing it into an existing flood light socket.

"We're continuously developing products to help consumers keep an eye on the places that matter to them," said Cernium president Craig Chambers. "The Archerfish Flood Light Adapter makes installing the Solo as easy as screwing in a light bulb."

WWW.MYARCHERFISH.COM



**Herndon-based Simplicikey president Jason Pizzilo, right, demonstrates the new lockset to Oracle's Joel Storm at the Consumer Electronics Show.**

### Tablet Times Two, Entourage: McLean

McLean-based Entourage Systems used this year's CES to launch the Pocket Edge, a portable version of its bestselling Entourage Edge.

"We just launched last year and are doing very well, especially internationally," said Entourage vice president Doug Atkinson. "As a consumer device, we are just getting started and are excited to be here." The mission is to provide an all-inclusive personal technology device that combines the functions of several products into one solution.

Both the Entourage and Pocket Edge are dual screen e-reader, Android-based tablet computer, notepad and audio/video recorder and player. Connected to the internet, it can manage any connected home security system or smart appliances. Prices start at \$349.

"We can build a tablet by cutting off half, but then we'd be just like everybody else," Atkinson said. "But people still write and along with many other features, we offer that with our product."

WWW.ENTOURAGEEDGE.COM



**Jon Kelman demonstrates a light-up security vest by Fairfax Station-based MAXSA Innovations.**



**Entourage vice president Doug Atkinson, left, demonstrates the new Pocket Edge to David Goldhagen of San Antonio.**



**Skip West, founder of Fairfax Station-based MAXSA Innovations, displays his latest home technology solutions at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas last month. West teaches the course "From Geek to Gazillionaire" at George Mason University.**

SEE HOME, PAGE 13



# Northern Virginia REAL ESTATE

## Top Townhouse Sales in 2010



**8** 1227 Stuart Robeson Drive,  
McLean — \$1,360,000



**5 6 7** Evans Farm,  
McLean — up to \$1,685,000



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

**2** 207 Fairfax Street South,  
Alexandria — \$2,840,000

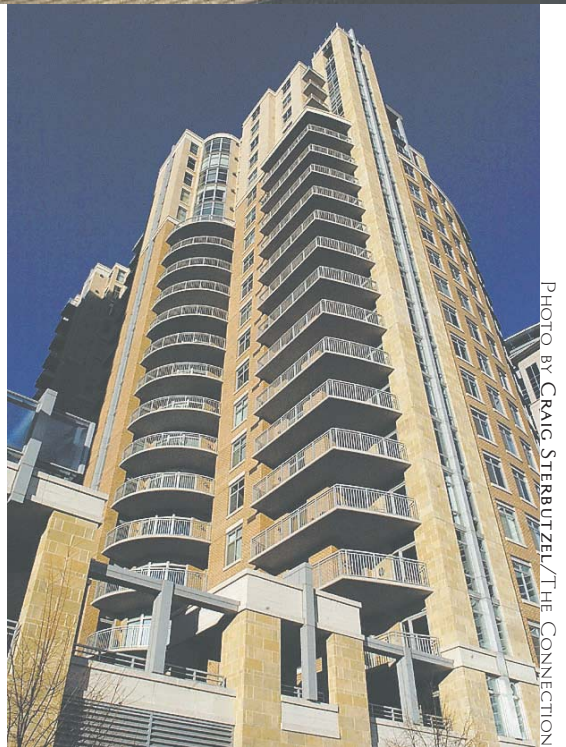
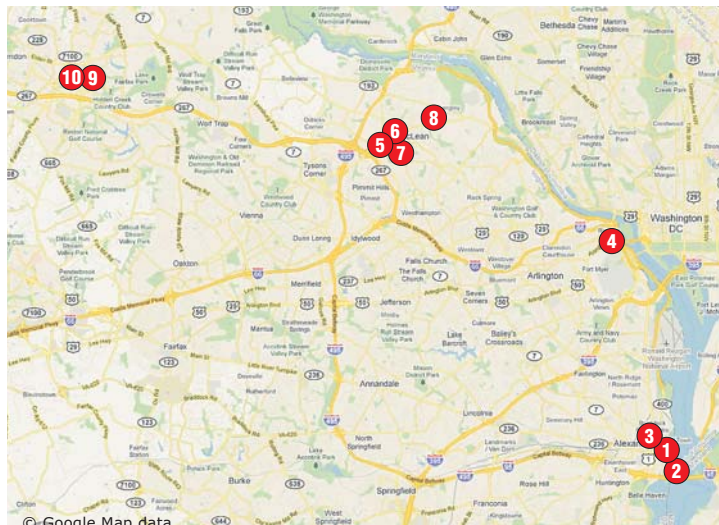


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUZEL/THE CONNECTION

**10** 11990 Market Street,  
Reston — \$1,000,000



**3** 1401 Nash Street,  
Arlington — \$2,150,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 415 PRINCE ST	3	3	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,850,000	Townhouse	0.17	OLD TOWN	08/23/10	
2 207 FAIRFAX ST S	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,840,000	Townhouse	0.13	OLD TOWN	07/09/10	
3 1401 NASH ST	4	4	2	ARLINGTON	\$2,150,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.03	BROMPTONS@MONUMENT PL	09/30/10	
4 606 CAMERON ST	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,100,000	Townhouse	0.11	OLD TOWN	06/07/10	
5 7218A FARM MEADOW CT	4	4	1	MC LEAN	\$1,685,000	Townhouse	0.06	EVANS FARM	06/30/10	
6 1423 HARVEST CROSSING DR	3	4	1	MCLEAN	\$1,630,000	Townhouse	0.07	EVANS FARM	06/21/10	
7 1496 TEAGUE DR	4	4	1	MCLEAN	\$1,487,000	Townhouse	0.07	EVANS FARM	07/16/10	
8 1227 STUART ROBESON DR	3	4	2	MCLEAN	\$1,360,000	Townhouse	0.10	MERRYHILL	04/30/10	
9 11776 STRAIFORD HSE PL#11043	3	0	0	RESTON	\$1,060,000	Penthouse		STRAIFORD	01/29/10	
10 11990 MARKET ST #1813	2	3	0	RESTON	\$1,000,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		MIDTOWN AT RESTON TOWN	10/05/10	

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



# Security, Convenience

FROM PAGE 11

## Going Green, MAXSA: Fairfax/Fairfax Station

Skip West is no stranger to the crowds of the Consumer Electronics Show.

"This is my eighth year here and it just keeps getting better," said West, founder and president of the Fairfax Station-based MAXSA Innovations. "I love inventing new products and this is the place to introduce them to consumers."

West debuted a dozen new items at this year's show, most focusing on "green" technology.

"We now have solar powered motion activated flood lights, along with our solar walkway lights for decks, stairs and driveways," West said. "We've been taking lots of orders and getting a great response."

MAXSA also offers laser garage parking systems and personal devices such as a reflective safety vest with 16 LED lights, devices to avoid automobile/deer collisions and special flashlights.

"I sold my last company but didn't like being retired," said West, who teaches the course "From Geek to Gazillionaire" at George Mason University. "I love helping students develop their ideas into successful companies."

West, one of the first to produce the now popular battery powered votive candles, donates his salary from GMU to a student business competition.

"I love what I do and have been fortunate in my success," West said. "It's very rewarding to help my students see their dreams become reality."

MAXSAINNOVATIONS.COM

## First Impressions, Simplikey: Herndon

If the employees of Herndon-based start-up Simplikey all look young, it's because they are.

"We hired 11 people, all between the ages of 21 and 35," said Carl Guerreri, president of parent company Electronic Warfare Associates, a government defense contractor. "I told them to wander the world for a year to come up with an idea that best utilized our technology."

The result is the Simplikey lock, a remote control electronic deadbolt.

"We wanted to make something worthy of a front door," said D'Veil Garrison, vice president of sales and marketing. "The lock is all metal with a carbon

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE CONNECTION



**Debbie Shuey monitors security at the Reston Skate Park as part of the Archerfish demonstration at the Consumer Electronics show in Las Vegas last month.**

core center deadbolt, concealed light-up keypad and remote key fob that works from up to 50 feet away."

The slim design lock is programmable with up to 16 different codes and runs on 4 AA batteries.

"This is our first time at CES," Garrison said. "It's great seeing all the first adapters' eyes light up when they see the lock."

The Simplikey uses standard deadbolt installation and is available in three finishes.

"I started early this morning and haven't stopped talking since," said Simplikey president Jason Pizzillo. "But people love the product and it's been a great show."

WWW.SIMPLICIKEY.COM

## There's an App for That

Arguing over the remote may soon be a thing of the past as smartphones and tablet computers take control of your home theater system. In a world where all you need is an Ethernet cable and ISP, every major TV manufacturer is now producing internet-connected HDTV and 3D displays, all easily controlled and monitored by mobile apps.

On screens that can reach up to 90 inches (on a soon-to-be-released Mitsubishi plasma display), smart TVs and the newest apps allow web surfing from your sofa. You can also connect with friends via Facebook, Google Talk and Twitter as you watch your favorite programming. Also expected to gain ground in the home theatre arena is gesture controlled TV, which uses technology similar to the Xbox Kinect.

## Capital Home & Garden Show, Feb. 25-27

The Capital Home & Garden Show will feature hundreds of displays and exhibits this year, with a special emphasis on "Going Green." Exhibitors include all aspects of home design and improvement, gardening, kitchen and bath remodeling, flooring, roofing, doors, windows, fencing, pools, interior and exterior lighting, home entertainment, interior designs and much more. Get ideas, investigate new products, gather information and meet the professionals who can help. **Dulles Expo Center, Feb. 25 - 27, www.capitalhomeshow.com.**

### 10 WAYS TO GOGREENER

**SOURCE:** Capital Home & Garden Show

- 1. Energy Efficient Appliances:** The refrigerator is one of the home's highest consumers of energy. Use the water and energy-saving settings on your refrigerator and dishwasher.
- 2. Lighting:** Use **compact fluorescents (CFLs)**. Designing a home with good **natural lighting** cuts down on the need to use electricity.

### 3. Biodegradable Cleaning Products

and use common supplies like baking soda and vinegar.

- 4. Indoor air quality:** Look for products that don't have **synthetic formaldehyde resins**. **Proper ventilation** will help maintain superior indoor air quality.
- 5. Green Cabinetry:** Many are made from renewable and salvaged materials
- 6. Skip the bottled water.**
- 7. Green Flooring:** Consider **cork, bamboo** or concrete flooring.
- 8. Countertops** and backsplashes made

of recycled glass that make stunning backsplashes.

- 9. Buy Local and Organic:** Buying local keeps fuel usage at a minimum, supports local economy and encourages local farming. Check out a local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program.
- 10. Solar Water Heating** can save your household up to 35 percent of its energy use and prevent tons of carbon dioxide entering our environment over the life of the system. Many states also offer tax credits.

# OPEN HOUSES

Saturday & Sunday, Feb. 19th & 20th



**11095 Saffold Way, Reston • \$425,000 • Open Sunday 1-4**  
**Pat Orend, Long & Foster, 703-407-3300**

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](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com), click the Real Estate links on the right side.



**Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.**



## Reston

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11095 Saffold Way.....\$425,000...Sun 1-4....Pat Orend.....Long & Foster.....703-407-3300

## Herndon

2963 Mockernut Ct.....\$479,900...Sun 1-4....Sridhar Vemuru.....Agragami, LLC.....703-707-9737  
12506 Northern Valley Ct...\$499,000...Sun 1-4....Diana LeFrancois.....Century 21 .....703-930-6682  
12526 Ridgeway Dr.....\$749,900...Sun 1-4....Liam Doherty.....Fairfax Realty.....703-975-7366

## McLean

1613 Brookside Rd.....Sun 2-4....JD Callander.....Weichert.....703-606-7901

## Vienna

1511 Gingerwood Ct.....\$599,950...Sun 1-4....Eugene Curtin.....Weichert.....703-856-3416

## Oakton

11415 Vale Rd.....\$569,000...Sun 1-4....Audrey Hunt.....Weichert.....703-371-9376

## Sterling

21181 Millwood Sq.....\$322,500...Sun 1-4....Barbara Hendrickson...Keller Williams.....703-901-9200

**To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Karen Pechacek-Washburn at 703-778-9422 or E-Mail the info to [kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com) All listings due by Monday at 3 pm.**



# FAITH

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday.

**Dranesville Church of the Brethren**, 11500 Leesburg Pike in Herndon, is collecting soap, toothbrushes and tooth paste, washcloths or hand towels, deodorant, combs and brushes, shampoo, tissues, lotion, hand sanitizers, safety razors and large socks to assemble 150 personal hygiene kits for the homeless.

Size XL or larger t-shirts and coats, scarves, hats, gloves, and sweaters also needed. 703-430-7872 or [www.dranesvillebrethren.org](http://www.dranesvillebrethren.org).

**St. Timothy's Episcopal Church**, 432 Van Buren St. in Herndon, presents "Journey to Adulthood", a comprehensive Christian Education for youth in grades 6-12.

It uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, outreach ministries and both serious and playful activities to underscore its core message that adulthood must be earned.

**Floris United Methodist Church**, 13600 Frying Pan Road in Herndon, holds worship services at 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sundays with a Latino service on Saturdays at 7 p.m. 703-793-0026 or [www.florisumc.org](http://www.florisumc.org).

**Hope Fellowship Church** will temporarily be meeting at Woody's Golf Range, 11801 Leesburg Pike, Herndon. Sunday Worship Services for this new Southern Baptist church are at 10:45 a.m. The public is invited to join a growing Bible believing, multi-ethnic/multi-cultural congregation, with Bible-based sermons and uplifting music. 703-599-3527 or [www.hopefellowshipchurchloudoun.org](http://www.hopefellowshipchurchloudoun.org).

Knitters needed the first and third Wednesdays of the month, at 7 p.m., at **St. Timothy's Episcopal Church**, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. The church's Shawl Ministry is offering free knitting instruction while providing shawls, blankets and other knitted items for people in need. No cost and yarn can be provided. E-mail [shawl@saint-timothys.org](mailto:shawl@saint-timothys.org) or visit the Pastoral Care page at [www.saint-timothys.org](http://www.saint-timothys.org).

Nondenominational **Christian businessmen** meet for prayer, Biblical discussion and fellowship 7 p.m. Fridays at Anita's, 1051 Elden St., Herndon and 12 p.m. Thursdays at 555 Grove St., Suite 200, Herndon. Call 703-795-1257.

**Adult Sunday school** will be held 9:30 a.m. Sundays at the Washington Plaza Baptist Church at Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow at 11 a.m.

**HAVEN of Northern Virginia** offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org) for schedules and registration information.

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

**The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington** and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources.

Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. [ShalomDC.org](http://ShalomDC.org).

**The Baha'i community of McLean** holds a weekly fireside, a meeting of discussion, devotion and fellowship, at 7500 Box Elder Court in McLean, at 8 p.m. every Friday. An opportunity to learn about the Baha'i faith. 703-556-3400.

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

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## Master Plumber

Northern Virginia HVAC Company is in search of a Master Plumber to manage a start up Plumbing division. Must have at least 10 years experience, submit to a drug test, have a good driving record and excellent customer skills. Benefits include top pay with 100% family medical coverage, matching 401k, holiday, vac and PTO. This is a great opportunity to get in at ground level of a growing division. Serious applicants email resume to [Rmurphy@ssihvac.com](mailto:Rmurphy@ssihvac.com).

## Garden Center Laborer and Merchandiser

Bell Nursery, a nationally recognized grower/vendor is looking for hardworking people to stock our products at a garden center near you. Must be flexible for weekend work. For job descriptions and locations go to [www.bellimpact.com](http://www.bellimpact.com)

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## "Cunancer-drum"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Living with cancer and dying of cancer. For many cancer patients, it's a conundrum we attempt to balance every day. "Living" sounds so positive, so optimistic; while "dying" sounds so negative, so pessimistic. When one says the word "living," the inflection in your voice seems to go up. When one says the word "dying," the inflection goes down. The word "living" conjures a smile, almost; the word "dying" not so much. Living is something you want to do, presumably; dying doesn't exactly present the same opportunities - so far as we know, anyway. Moreover, there's not nearly as much future in dying as there is in living. And since I'd just as soon take a definite over a maybe, I definitely would prefer living over dying. (From my pen to God's ears.)

As simple as my preference is however, receiving the terminal diagnosis that I did (stage IV lung cancer) really changes your priorities, and "simple" is the last thing your life will ever be. Consider the effect that shuffling a deck of playing cards has on the previous order of those cards; that's minor compared to a cancer patient's reality. The reality is 52 pick-up - cards scattered everywhere with no rhyme or reason as to how any of the cards got anywhere. Now, try to organize that indiscriminate and random chaos into some kind of meaningful arrangement, all the while enduring physical and mental/emotional obstacles to accomplishing the most important task in your life: trying to make order out of that chaos. Welcome to my/our whirled.

I've been told by many health care professionals that control, anecdotally speaking, is a very effective tool in fighting cancer/any terminal disease. In fact, my original oncology nurse shared the story of how cancer patients who drove more than 20 minutes to their chemotherapy appointments seemed to do better than those who lived closer; so much so, that patients who lived closer would drive an indirect route to the Infusion Center just so the trip took more than 20 minutes. Of course, there was nothing magical in the minutes, the magic was in the presumptive control and commitment that the patient was exhibiting.

Fact or fiction. True or false. Believable or not. Add in the amount of medical information a key stroke away on the Internet, some of it for-profit, not to mention all the solicited - and unsolicited (well meaning though it may be) - advice from family and friends; and the potential for contradictory, misleading and inappropriate courses of action/treatment (for your specific medical history/condition/diagnosis) is off the charts. Combine this with the patient's inability to filter and discern as keenly and objectively as before they were diagnosed and you have a series of disasters waiting to happen. The trick is, there is no trick; it's just life in the cancer lane.

And though it's a road I never thought I'd be on - certainly at age 55 (ever really, considering my immediate family's medical history; no cancer), I'm on it - full time! Trying to make the best of a bad situation is how I approach every day. Pretending - and maybe even denying - (there's no "maybe"), is how I approach every night. I'm not living to die; I'm dying to live (figuratively speaking). Every day, every result, brings new challenges. What matters, what matters not? It's a recurring theme. I wish I had the answer. I don't and that's the problem. Even though I've been on this cancer lane now for two years, there's no road map to direct me. Maybe a GPS would help.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.



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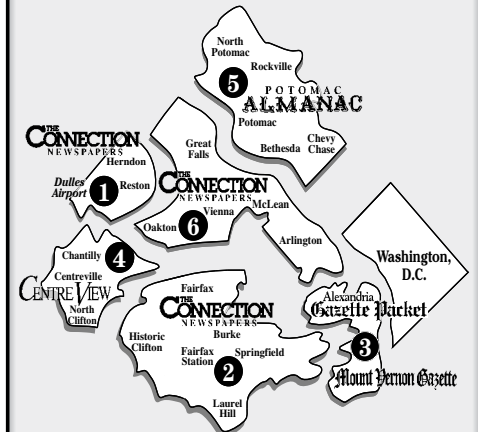
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Pictured, from left, Lions Steve Reber and Jack Gazlay, Co-Chairman; P Taylor Vogelzang, Mountain View High School; Stabile, Oakton High School; Sill, Dominion High School; Adam Cleland, Flint Hill School; Claire Wang, Homeschooled; Balasubramanian, Rachel Carson Middle School; Boyle, Stone Bridge High School; Kendra Eun Song, Rachel Carson Middle School; Mo, Rachel Carson Middle School; Joshua Liu, Liberty Elementary School; Gruber, Dominion High School; Victor Pan, Forestville Elementary School; Ellie Chang, Forestville Elementary School and Cynthia Ma, Colvin Run Elementary School.

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## Honoring Music Competition Winners

Winners of the James A. Bland annual music competition held at the Reston Community Center at the Hunters Mill Shopping Center on February 8 were: Antonia Stabile, first place; Evelyn Mo, second place; and Shankar Balasubramanian, third place in the instrumental division. Winners in the vocal division were: Alexis Gruber, first place; Meg Boyle, second place; and Ryan Sill, third

place. Fourteen students competed in the event that was co-sponsored by the Reston Lions Club and the Reston Community Center. Winners were awarded a total of \$450 of Series EE Bonds.

First place winners will advance to Regional, District and State competitions and compete for additional awards. Judges were Lydia Kriso, Gretel Von Pischke, Elizabeth Kluegel and Kathryn Honan-Carter.

## SCHOOL NOTES

**Twenty-eight Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students** will be performing at Carnegie Hall in New York City on Sunday, Feb. 20, as part of the wind ensemble Flutopia.

Performing will be:

❖ Brandon Austin and Ali Dettmer, Centreville High School; Jessica Hiemstra, Will Morgan Palmer, and Victoria Palmer, Chantilly High School; Maddie Boyles and Amanda Meneses, Fairfax High School; Katie Lopes, Herndon High School; Leanne Poussard and Michael Poussard, Lake Braddock Secondary School; Katie Moody, Dana Rosenberg, and Jenna Weida, Langley High School; Katy Maher and Evie Masterson, Lee High School; Emma Andrews, Lydia Carlson, Laura Feibelman, Emily Hertzler, and Olivia Staton, Madison High School; Julia Henderson, McLean High School; Jen Harazin and Drew Witter, Robinson Secondary School; Julia Morris and Dylan Reiser, South Lakes High School; Kenny Venskus, Stuart High School; Kerrigan Strong, West Springfield High School; Will Crowley, Woodson High School.

The students will perform in "A Breath of Fresh Air" presented by the Distinguished Concerts International New York series as part of a larger concert.

Among the pieces they will perform are Eyes Wide Open (Eric Jackson), October (Eric Whitacre), Heaven's Light and Fate of the Gods, (Steven Reineke) and the overture to the Marriage of Figaro (Mozart).

**Martha F. Fischer** of Reston has been accepted to The Graduate School

at Virginia Tech. Fischer is majoring in human development and pursuing a master of science.

**Emily M. Peck** of Reston has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Peck is majoring in human development and pursuing a master of science.

**Frederick M. Kyle** of Reston has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Kyle is majoring in educational leadership and policy studies and pursuing a master of arts in education.

**Lauren E. Whitley** of Reston, a 2009 graduate of South Lakes High School, has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Christopher Newport University in Newport News. The sophomore is a directing and dramatic literature major in the Theatre Department.

**Melissa Tran** of Reston has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Providence College of Providence, R.I.

**Elisa Becker** of Reston has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Lycoming College of Williamsport, Pa.

**Khalid Abdelaziz** of Reston has been selected as a national outstanding campus leader and is included in the 2010 edition of Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Abdelaziz is majoring in Information Technology at Marymount University.

**Tyler Binh Nguyen** of Reston was named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Mary Baldwin College of Staunton, Va.

**Elena Yen-Vi Nguyen** of Reston was named to the fall 2010 honors list at Mary Baldwin College of Staunton, Va.