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PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISSMANN/THE CONNECTION

Incinerator Debate Heats Up Business community opposes county recommendation to purchase incinerator.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

By the end of Fairfax County's first information session on ownership of the Interstate 95 waste-to-energy plant, better known as the Lorton incinerator, it was clear exactly who had taken an interest in the topic.

About 20 people showed for the Jan. 31 meeting at the Fairfax County Government Center and at least one third came from the county's business community. About a quarter worked directly for a company related to waste management or trash disposal.

None of these business-types appeared pleased with Fairfax County Executive Tony Griffin's recommendation that Fairfax purchase the incinerator, a privately-owned facility where most of the county's trash is burned.

Fairfax government staff held three information sessions on the incinerator purchase during the second week of February. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will also hold a public hearing on the issue Feb. 22. Griffin



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Executive Tony Griffin has recommended that the county purchase a trash-burning facility in Lorton.

said he expects the supervisors to vote on the incinerator purchase during the last two weeks of March.

The purchase of the incinerator has the potential to touch nearly every resident and business in Fairfax. If the cost of waste disposal increases, trash haulers are likely to impose higher service fees on local businesses and households, said critics of the proposal.

"We are very against this recommendation. ... We will be in touch with the supervisors on this as we already have been. This is very

dangerous for businesses of all types in Fairfax County," said Jim Corcoran, president and chief executive officer of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, in an interview.

Instead of purchasing the incinerator, Griffin has said the county could extend its current agreement with the facility's owner, Covanta Energy Corporation, an approach that local business leaders would prefer. Fairfax could also "do nothing" and simply allow its current contract with Covanta to expire, which has gotten very little

support from any interest group.

GRIFFIN SAID purchasing the plant is the most fiscally prudent option for the county. Fairfax government staff estimate extending the county's agreement with Covanta would cost \$556 million over the next 30 years and purchasing the facility would only cost the county \$432 million during the same time period.

The cost of letting Fairfax's contract with Covanta expire and turning the plant over to the whims of the free market would be \$1.1 billion, according to County staff estimates.

Though Covanta operates and now owns the plant, Fairfax covered cost of its initial construction in the late 1980s and a significant facility upgrade six years ago with revenue bonds. In fact, the county made its final payment on debt associated with the facility earlier this month, said Griffin.

According to Griffin, Covanta is asking for a 30 percent increase in "tipping fees," the amount of money charged for per ton of

trash. In the out years, that increase would go up 50 percent, which is why a proposal to purchase the incinerator appears more cost effective than renegotiating a rental agreement with the private company.

The Lorton incinerator produces about \$24 million in annual revenue for Fairfax County. The facility converts some of the trash it burns into energy, which is then purchased by Dominion Power.

According to Griffin, Covanta is asking for a larger portion of the profits accrued by the sale of energy at the plant.

BUT EVEN IF the county bought the incinerator, Fairfax wouldn't reap any financial benefits from the purchase for the next 25 years.

Fairfax staff figures show that much of the savings from the incinerator purchase would not come until 2036. In fact, if the county owned the facility, "tipping fees" would be about the same or slightly higher for the next 17

SEE INCINERATOR, PAGE 16

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A Home for Homeless Teens

High school students find safety and promise in cutting-edge program in Vienna.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

About six years ago, Judith Dittman, executive director of Alternative House, wondered what happened to the teens who had come through the shelter that provided refuge for teens not welcome in their family homes.

She recognized a population, over 18, in high school and homeless, not appropriately served by community services. At 18 years old, these youths are legally adults. But, as Dittman observed, they really are not suited to the adult world yet, able to work and continue with their education at the same time. If the homeless youth had a place to sleep indoors at all, it was usually at an adult homeless shelter. Sometimes, they slept outdoors.

Dittman wasn't alone in her unease.

In 2007, a group of concerned citizens in Fairfax County joined together to ask, "What happens to the young people still in high school, homeless, with no family support?"

ALMOST LIKE A MIRACLE, federal stimulus money became available in the summer of 2009. Alternative House, through Dittman, and its Board of Directors put together the Homeless Youth Initiative [HYI] to take advantage of the funds they were able to get from the stimulus money.

Today, in cooperation with Fairfax County Schools, teens identified as homeless and "unaccompanied," have a safe and appropriate housing resource through Alternative House's Homeless Youth Initiative.

"It's difficult to stay in school when you're homeless and have no family support," Dittman said. "Previously, these kids would have had to drop out of school to support themselves. With community support, these kids finish high school, get a diploma. They're in a safe environment."

Case managers follow the progress of the students in the Homeless Youth program. Along with volunteers, professional staff provide emotional support and tutoring, as well as a home to live in.

Approximately 77 percent of Homeless Youth Initiative alumni go on to college.

"We have one of the cutting-edge programs in the country," said Dittman. "We're out in the forefront with this initiative."

The Homeless Youth Initiative provides housing to high school students through three options: a small-group women-only home in Vienna, host homes subsidized by Homeless Youth Initiative funding and by subsidized apartment rental. The Vienna house is rented from another nonprofit at nominal cost. There is a shortage of host homes and Alternative House is hoping to increase the number through publicity of the program. Dittman emphasized that the host is not required to be a two-parent family. Currently, Alternative House pays a \$350 rent subsidy to the host home to help defray the costs of an additional person living in the house.

Twenty-four students, male and female, are currently being provided housing resources by one of Homeless Youth Initiative's three residential prongs. Homeless students are identified directly by their home schools, or by the emergency shelter at Alter-



DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Case Manager Gege Latif [left] and Meghan Huebner work with the four homeless high school women living at a group home in Vienna. The program is operated by Alternative House of Vienna through its Homeless Youth Initiative.

native House. The homeless liaison has a list, as well.

THE VIENNA HOUSE is home to four young women in the 18-19 year-old age group. Backed by regulations developed by the homeless liaison for Fairfax County Public Schools, the students are entitled to attend their home schools, with transportation provided. The house is cheerful, looking much like any other home. There are two bedrooms, two roommates to a room, each room with its own bathroom. The women are responsible for cooking and laundry, what Case Manager Gege Latif refers to as basic life skills.

The students have access to computers, television and a well-equipped kitchen and dining room. The furnishings are donated. Each resident works part time to raise her share of the small monthly contribution.

A residential advisor lives on-site.

"Most people in the community are affected one way or another by homelessness," said Meghan Huebner, director, Alternative House Residential Services. "But we don't think of kids being homeless on their own."

Huebner would like to see the time when homeless youth have a permanent place, not contingent on grant-funding. "It would be great to have homes for boys, too, and group homes in different parts of the county," she said. Host homes close to students' home schools give students additional flexibility.

Last year, around this time, a teen's mother died and, two weeks later, the teen had to leave her house. The young woman, who asked not to be identified, was just 18 years old at the time and had nowhere to go. To stay in school, she stayed with friends until September of 2010 when she moved in with her aunt. The teen wanted to graduate this year.

SEE HOMELESS, PAGE 5



Robert and Bradford Fried, brothers from Vienna, established the Chinese Language Institute in Guilin, China, in 2009.

Love of Chinese Turned Into Business

Vienna brothers establish Chinese Language Institute in China.

DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

When Robert Fried, a Virginia Tech student, visited his brother Brad in Guilin, China, in the summer of 2007, it was a pivotal event in the lives of both brothers. Robert's three-week stay turned into eight weeks, but, more significantly, it whet Robert's appetite for more Chinese language and culture.

"I was fascinated by the language and the culture," said Vienna-raised Robert 'Robbie' Fried. "During those two months, I fell in love with the Chinese language. I spent the whole time studying Chinese." Robert Fried so immersed himself in the acquisition of the language, that by two months' end he was conversationally fluent.

His passion was such that he returned to Guilin the following spring semester under the guidance of his older brother Brad.

Bradford Fried was teaching at Guangzi Normal University [GXNU] and through his network there set Robert up with a credit-bearing program in spring, 2008.

"Very early on, I realized that by converting my thoughts into Chinese, I wouldn't have to translate from English to Chinese," said Robert Fried.

In fall of 2008, Robert Fried began studying in Beijing. In his

dorm room there, the foundation for the Chinese Language Institute, CLI, took shape.

"Based on my shared experiences with Brad, and, in response to a lot of the shortcomings I saw in the program in Beijing, I recognized the void in study options for American students."

By spring 2009, Robert Fried created a CLI website, promoting what his CLI programs would provide. He and Brad had already developed the education philosophy behind CLI. Their program would center on intensive one-on-one language lessons.

"The State Department qualifies Chinese as one of its critical languages," said Robert Fried, now 24, and a 2002 graduate of Virginia Tech. "So there's huge value in anyone interested in international relations or international business learning the language."

What the Fried brothers developed was a full-immersion Chinese language and culture program in Guilin, China, taught by native Chinese instructors. The lessons are one-on-one, up to 40 hours a week. Students, primarily from the United States but also from other countries, have extended opportunities to engage in local cultural and academic activities. Students live in host homes, apartments or college

SEE TEACHING, PAGE 5

WEEK IN VIENNA

Town Offices Observe Presidents' Day

Town of Vienna offices will be closed on Monday, Feb. 21, in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday. The Vienna Community Center will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and no classes will be held. Garbage collection will operate as normal on Monday, Feb. 21.

Council Candidate Filing Deadline

Tuesday, March 1, is the filing deadline for candidates in the May 3 Vienna Town Council election. This year, voters will elect three Town Council members for two-year terms beginning July 1.

Candidates for office must meet certain qualifications and are required to file specific documents in order to qualify to appear on the ballot. The information packet for candidates is available on the State Board of Election's Web site, www.sbe.virginia.gov. For more information, call the Fairfax County Office of Elections at 703-324-4735.

Business License Deadline March 1

Town of Vienna businesses are reminded that the annual business, professional, and occupational license tax (BPOL) is due on Tuesday, March 1. All businesses in the Town of Vienna, including home occupations, must renew their business licenses each year.

License tax forms are available in the Finance Department at Town Hall, 127 Center St., S., and online at www.viennava.gov. For more information or assistance in calculating license taxes, call 703-255-6321.

The amount of the tax is based on gross receipts, and the rate varies according to the type of business. The gross receipts threshold is \$50,000, below which the tax does not apply. Those businesses with total annual gross receipts of \$50,000 or less pay only the minimum license fee of \$30 per year.

Open Mic Nights at the Community Center

Open Mic Night is scheduled for Saturday, Febr. 26, and March 26, at 7 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, S.E. Admission is free of charge and light refreshments will be provided.

If you are interested in performing, pre-register by contacting Jim Dowell at jimdowell@cox.net. Performance slots fill up quickly, so performers are encouraged to pre-register in advance. For more information, call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Twenty-eight Fairfax County Public Schools students will be performing at Carnegie Hall in New York City on Feb. 20, as part of the wind ensemble Flutopia. Performers include Brandon Austin, Ali Dettmer, Jessica Hiemstra, Will Morgan Palmer, Victoria Palmer, Maddie Boyles, Amanda Meneses, Katie Lopes, Leanne Poussard, Michael Poussard, Lake Braddock Secondary School; Katie Moody, Dana Rosenberg, Jenna Weida, Katy Maher, Evie Masterson, Emma Andrews, Lydia Carlson, Laura Feibelman, Emily Hertzler, Olivia Staton, Julia Henderson, Jen Harazin, Drew Witter, Julia Morris, Dylan Reiser, Kenny Venskus, Kerrigan Strong and Will Crowley. The students

will perform in "A Breath of Fresh Air" presented by the Distinguished Concerts International New York series.

The Marshall High Future Business Leaders of America teams placed first and second in round one of the LifeSmarts state academic competition. Team one, which won first place, is composed of Michael Benson, Daniel Heshmatipour, Benjamin Kim, and Gabriel Ritter. Team two, which finished in second place, is composed of Nathaniel Chen, Shannen Escobar, Corey Martin, and Sandy Vo. Students must be knowledgeable in personal finance, health, safety, the environment, technology, and consumer rights and responsibilities. LifeSmarts is the educational program of the National Consumers League and is designed to develop the consumer and marketplace skills of students.

NEWS



Members of the Spirit of Praise Dance Youth Ensemble from Greater Little Zion Baptist Church in Fairfax received a standing ovation after their performance.



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

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. "When others were not serving the

SEE BLACK HISTORY, PAGE 7

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Homeless Youth Initiative Helps Teens Stay in School

FROM PAGE 3

"I stayed with my aunt up until Jan. 6 and that's when she kicked me out and that's how I found out the Alternative House," the young woman said.

She has been at Alternative House's group home for about a month now and said she likes living there. "I thought it was going to be bad, but it's not. Being here is helping me get on my feet.

"After I get out of high school, I just plan on working and taking care of my baby and also thinking about going to college."

"It's really valuable for others in the community to invest in this kind of program because there are no other programs that focus on this population, high school students 18 and above," said Latif. "Most people aren't aware the problem of homeless youth exists."

The Homeless Youth Initiative program gives students the life skills they need and the support they need to finish their high school education, she said.

ALTERNATIVE HOUSE has a wish list that includes services as well as tangible items. It and its branches can always use Target or Walmart gift cards, Latif said. Volunteers to provide handyman services are welcomed, too.

In September of 2010, the funding from the federal stimulus ended. "We were down to the wire," said Dittman. "How could we tell those kids they had nowhere to go?"

The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region stepped up with a \$25,000 grant, enough to keep the Homeless Youth Initiative program going for about two months. During the fall, Dittman pleaded the case for the program with Fairfax County whose homeless services division contributed \$75,000. The Northern Virginia Community Foundation donated \$25,000. "We've had a lot of support from the community who have clearly recognized that what we're doing is effective," Dittman said.

"It looks like we've got enough funding to keep us going through the end of the school year."

Currently, Dittman is trying to see what is available federally. "My hope is that, eventually, it will be recognized nationally that this is a population that needs help." No state money is available in this year's budget.

"It [the Homeless Youth Initiative] saves both money and kids' lives," said Dittman.

Alternative House, founded in 1972, provides support to at-risk children, youth and families. Its programs include the emergency shelter for teens on Gallows Road, community outreach, Assisting Young Mothers [AYM], 24-hour crisis hotline, and the Homeless Youth Initiative.

To contact Alternative House, call 703-506-9191. The emergency telephone number is 1-800-SAY-TEEN [1-800-729-8336]. For more information on Alternative House and its programs, see www.thealternativehouse.org/index.htm

Teaching Language, Culture

FROM PAGE 3

dormitories.

Joe McReynolds, a graduate of Georgetown University in National Security Studies, was CLI's first student. In Beijing to improve his Chinese language skills, McReynolds studied there with Robert Fried and offered to be CLI's test subject.

In the five months that McReynolds studied with CLI, he got the "single most intensive Chinese language immersion program available" for his money, he said. McReynolds took one-on-one language lessons for 40 hours every week. He believes he got a lot more language learning for significantly less cost than in other programs.

Once his language skills were proficient, he took graduate classes at GXNU set up by the Fried brothers. McReynolds even got the opportunity to do some deejay work there.

"I wanted to try different things," said McReynolds. "They make everything happen."

While a college student in Oregon, Bradford Fried did summer study in China in 2001 and returned to study there from May through December of 2002. In 2004 Brad Fried took a position teaching high school and, later on, at GXNU.

The students are interested in learning English to help expand their job opportunities and for pop culture. "For a lot of my students, one of their biggest motivations is to understand pop music," said Brad Fried, who teaches English among other coursework.

More than 60 international students have enrolled in CLI's program. Robert Fried, principle partner and managing director of CLI, oversees a staff of nine Chinese language teachers and three local managers. Thirty-one year-old Brad Fried, program direc-

tor, continues to teach at GXNU. He's also director of what he calls "make-your-Chinese-dream-come-true" outreach. "We've sent someone into a monastery and a doctor to visit a medical school," said Brad Fried. "We try to offer very personalized service. That's what makes us different from other language programs."

CLI offers an opportunity to gain international work experience and to learn more about a country that will be even more important in the 21st century, Robert Fried said. "One of the major goals we'd like to accomplish is an opportunity for both the American and Chinese people to mutually understand one another's culture."

Robert Fried said he hopes to enroll at least 100 students in the 2011 calendar year. The brothers return to the U.S. twice a year to market CLI to students and colleges.

What also sets apart CLI is its official affiliation with GXNU. All CLI students are directly enrolled in the university.

CLI issues GXNU transcripts for all coursework completed while abroad. Over 150 international universities have accepted GXNU transfer credit, including George Mason University, Virginia Tech, Arizona State University and Wake Forest. All CLI students are responsible for arranging credit transfer with their home university.

Brad Fried says he wants CLI to be the "best" Chinese language instruction available. Robert Fried expands on that. "Our goal is to be the authority on Chinese language education," he said.

To learn more about the Chinese Language Institute in Guilin, China, see www.StudyCLI.org or www.facebook.com/studycli. To contact Robert Fried, e-mail robert@studycli.org or call him at 703-328-4167.

How To Successfully Take Advantage of Short Sale and Foreclosure Opportunities Available in the Real Estate Market!

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OPINION

Important Step for Autism

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

Thanks 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.

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

LETTERS 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 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
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1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-778-9410.

By e-mail: vienna@connectionnewspapers.com

THE CONNECTION

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SCHOOLS

Send school notes to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Works by Oakton High photography students are currently on display in an exhibition at Worldgate Centre Plaza in Herndon. Students of all levels are represented in the show, which runs through the end of February. The exhibitions are organized by the Oakton Photo Club.

Elise Lundy of Vienna has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pa. Lundy is a music major.

Matthew Johnson of Oakton was named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Wake Forest University. The 2009 Oakton High School graduate is the son of Davis and Cathy Johnson.

Claire Siekaniec of Vienna was named to the fall 2010 dean's list at the University of New Haven, West Haven, Ct.

Daniel John Kreykes of Vienna has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Brevard College in Brevard, N.C.

Mark Cochrane of Vienna was named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Susquehanna University of Selinsgrove, Pa.

Black History Celebrated

FROM PAGE 4

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.

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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



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 become 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.

"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).

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

PROPOSERS 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.

SEE ASSEMBLY, PAGE 9

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NEWS

Assembly Passes Autism Bill

FROM PAGE 8

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 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).^o

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 become even more expensive to meet, said Sickles.

FAITH NOTES

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

Epiphany United Methodist Church, 1014 Country Club Drive in Vienna, is hosting a Women's Health Issues Series every Sunday morning in February. "Osteoporosis: Prevention and Treatment" will be presented Sunday, Feb. 20 at 9:45 a.m. Free, reservations required at 703-938-3494 or office@epiphanyumc.com.

First Baptist Church of Vienna, 450 Orchard St. in Vienna, will be holding its Annual Ushers Day on Sunday, Feb. 27, at 3 p.m. The guest speaker will be Rev. Duane T. Kay of First Baptist Church of North Brentwood, Md. 703-938-8525.

Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. in Vienna, presents the 12-week

program "Passages," for those experiencing the pain of separation or divorce. The DivorceCare series begins Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. Cost of materials \$20, scholarships available. 703-938 9050 or Passages@ViennaPres.org.

Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. in McLean, will have a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, March 8 from 5-7 p.m. with pancakes, sausage and apple sauce. Cost is \$5 person/\$12 per family. Proceeds benefit Trinity's Missions. Trinity's Ash Wednesday services will be March 9 at 12 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. 703-356-3312 or www.umtrinity.org.

Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna, invites singers to join a local volunteer choir. Presentations are Sundays at 11 a.m. at with rehearsals Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. 703-255-2761 or 703-319-8742.

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(From left) Joe Kisiday, Chantilly High; Ashleigh Markin, Herndon; Matt Calvert, Chantilly; Thomas Hinds, Oakton; and Danielle Dumas, Westfield, during a dress rehearsal of "Les Misérables."

Local Students Act in 'Les Misérables'

'The ideas and conflicts are timeless.'

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The drama and turmoil of the French Revolution will burst upon the stage when Centreville Presbyterian Church's community theater group presents the musical, "Les Misérables." It features a cast and crew of more than 60, with a live orchestra and students from 26 different schools – including Madison, Oakton and Langley high schools.

"The talent is so high," said Director Zoe Dillard. "The kids are just wonderful, and they've been a pleasure to work with."

Show times are Thursday-Friday, Feb. 24-25, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 26, at 2 and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 27, at 2 p.m., at the church, 15450 Lee Highway in Centreville. Tickets are \$10 at the church office or via www.centrevillepres.com. For more information, call 703-830-0098.

Playing Cosette is Madison High sophomore Molly Nuss. "She's around 17, is very sheltered and doesn't know what it's like in the outside world," said Nuss. "Jean Valjean is very protective of her; she stays within a gated area and doesn't know about her mother. One day, she and Valjean go outside and she meets Marius and falls in love. She's innocent and sweet and wants to be exposed to more of life."

Nuss loves playing Cosette because she connects with her. "I've wanted to play this part since I saw this show at Wolf Trap when I was a child," she said. "I want to be like her because she's so elegant, sweet and pure, the way she presents herself; I look up to her."

Her favorite song is the epilogue when the whole company comes together to sing the last chorus. "That's my favorite part of the whole show because it's so powerful," said Nuss. "The audience will like 'Les Mis' because it has such emotion, plus messages of forgiveness and love. It has a little bit of everything. The costumes are beau-



(From left) Molly Nuss of Madison High; Alex Johnson, Chantilly; Nick McDonough, Langley; and Lauren Rowson, Robinson, take a break from rehearsing.

tiful and elaborate, and we have an amazing set and director. It's going to be a well-put-together production."

Police Inspector Javert is played by Langley High senior Nick McDonough. "He's sort of the villain, but what he does is because he's honorable and really strict about the law," explained McDonough. "He was born among criminals, so he's distrustful of people and has a hard time believing Valjean has reformed himself. He's just trying to make the world a better place, but goes about it the wrong way."

Calling this his "dream role," McDonough said he loves 'Les Misérables' and, until now, didn't realize he could sing. "A lead's always fun and I like character roles," he said. "Javert's a vicious and vigilant person, but you like him, and I like making the audience feel empathy for him."

His favorite song is "Attack on the Rue Plumet" because of the way Herndon High's Ashleigh Markin, as Eponine, belts out her lines within this number. McDonough also said the audience will enjoy "the amazing and relevant story. It really hits home because the ideas and conflicts are timeless and are still very real in the world today."

ENTERTAINMENT

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

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 16

Organ Recital by Carol Feather Martin. 1 p.m. Saint Luke Parish, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Free. 703-356-0670 or www.musicinmclean.org.
"12 Angry Women." 7:30 p.m. Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. An all-female cast in a courtroom drama about twelve jurors. \$10. www.saxonstage.com.

Islam in Pop Culture: Stereotypes, Stigma and Shtick. 8 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Explore mass media and pop culture in both the Western and Arab worlds, and how Muslims are portrayed worldwide. Panelists include Georgetown University Professors of Islamic Studies Dr. Laurie King-Irani and Dr. Adel Iskandar. Free. 703-790-9223.

The Antique Club of McLean. 10 a.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. 18th and 19th Century European Glass in the Market Place, with Benedict Hastings, a certified fine arts appraiser for over 25 years who frequently appears on "Trash to Treasures" on Fox Morning News. Public welcome. 703-532-0280.

Toddler Tales. 10:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Stories and activities. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-242-4020.

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basics of the Internet, Word and Excel. Adults. 703-242-4020.

Book Discussion Group. 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call for title. Adults. 703-757-8560.

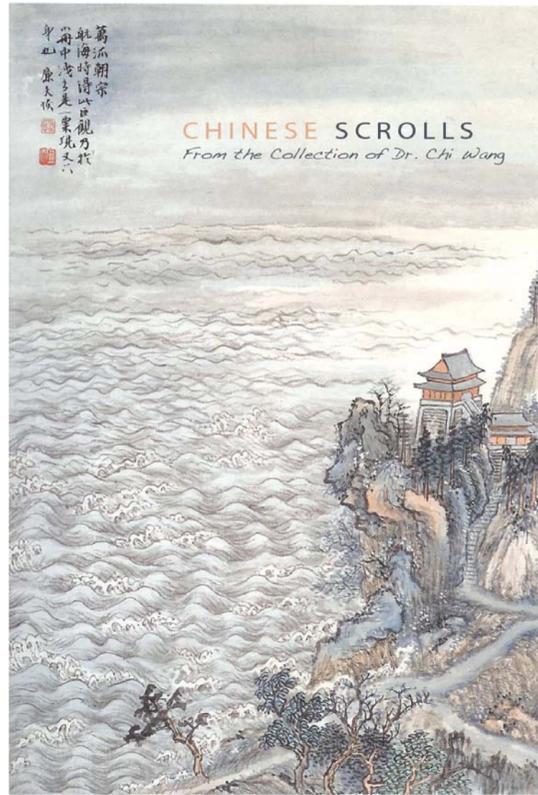
Lunch Bunnies. 11 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Bring a snack and enjoy stories and songs. Age 1-5 with adult. Register at 703-938-0405.

Model Investment Club of Northern Virginia. 7 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Learn about investing. Meet on the third Wednesday each month. New visitors welcome. Adults. 703-790-8088.

THURSDAY/FEB. 17

Dan Bern. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

"12 Angry Men." 7:30 p.m. Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike,



Chinese Scrolls from the Dr. Chi Wang Collection will be displayed in the Mason Hall Alumni Atrium Gallery at George Mason University, 4400 University Drive in Fairfax, with a Panel Discussion on Thursday, Feb. 24 at 5 p.m. and a Reception from 6-8 p.m. This exhibition represents the best of Chinese scroll painting from the 14th to the 20th century. The exhibit is open through March 18, Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m., and Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

McLean. A courtroom drama about twelve jurors. \$10. www.saxonstage.com.

Book Discussion. 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy. Adults. 703-242-4020.

Book Discussion Group. 7:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call for title. Adults. 703-757-8560

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/FEB. 17

VTRCC Pre-President's Day Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar, 1960 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. \$40 members, \$50 non-members. www.vtrcc.org.

Re-entering the Workforce. 11 a.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. A workshop designed to address questions regarding the job market and provide essential pointers on how to get started. \$35, \$25 members. Register at www.thewomenscenter.org or 703-281-2657.

Finding Emotional Strength During Separation & Divorce. 7:30 p.m.

The Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. Learn effective ways to cope in a safe, confidential and supportive setting. Six weekly workshops. \$185, \$165 members. Register at www.thewomenscenter.org or 703-281-2657.

Financial Planning During Separation & Divorce. 7 p.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. All financial components of the property settlement agreement, from preparing documents for your attorney to signing agreements. \$50, \$40 members. Register at www.thewomenscenter.org or 703-281-2657.

SATURDAY/FEB. 19

Vienna Lions Club 48th Annual Bland Contest. 1 p.m. at Assembly of God Church, 100 Ayr Hill Ave., Vienna. Vocal and instrumental categories for Virginia students up to 12th grade. Applications available at 703-938-7716 or n.volpe8@verizon.net.

VTRCC Brown Bag University. 11:45 a.m. Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, 8300 Boone Blvd., Suite 450, Vienna. Free. www.vtrcc.org.

McLean Branch of the American Association of University Women. 9:30 a.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Dr. Jeffrey Schulman, OB/GYN, on "The New Hysterectomy" and the options available for managing gynecological problems. Light refreshments, public welcome. 703-847-3195 or www.mcleanaauw.org.

T'ai Chi Practice. 8 a.m. at St. Luke's Catholic School Gymnasium, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Saturdays through March. Free, open to all. No

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.

"Fuddy Meers" by David Lindsay-Abaire. 8 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Claire's amnesia causes her to awaken each morning as a blank slate, and chaos arises as everyone tries to fill in the holes of her lost memory. A dirty puppet, an ex-criminal and a fake cop add to the dark comedy. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststageysons.org.

Jammin' Java's Mid-Atlantic Band Battle IV Finals. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

"12 Angry Women." 7:30 p.m. Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. An all-female cast in a courtroom drama about twelve jurors. \$10. www.saxonstage.com.

Fairfax Chamber Ensemble. 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Violinists Harriet Vorona and Wendy Posner, Helen Fall on viola, cellist Jeff Van Osten, clarinetist Tim Anderson and pianist Mark Vogel. Brahms' Clarinet Quintet, Opus 114, Schumann's Piano Quintet, Opus 44 and Prokofiev's "Overture on Hebrew Themes," Opus 34. Post-concert reception. \$10-15. www.fairfaxchamberensemble.com.

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-938-0405.

Pokemon League. 3 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Learn and play. Age 5-18. 703-938-0405.

Moonlight Garden Walk. 6 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Join park naturalist Casey Pitttrizzi to explore at night. Search for nocturnal animals then warm up at a fire in the Visitor Center. Free. Reserve at 703-255-3631.

Jonathan Edwards. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$24. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 19

"Fuddy Meers" by David Lindsay-Abaire. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Claire's amnesia causes her to awaken each morning as a blank slate, and chaos arises as everyone

special clothing or equipment needed. www.FreeTaiChi.org or 703-759-9141.

Breakfast with Delegate Barbara Comstock. 9-11 a.m. Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Del. Comstock is inviting constituents to join her at Katie's Coffee to informally discuss issues facing Virginia and Fairfax County this year. Comstock also has a legislative survey posted at www.delegatecomstock.com.

SUNDAY/FEB. 20

Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. Chapter 227 Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Eugene Toni will discuss life as a sniper team leader and a long range reconnaissance patrol member in the 101st Airborne Division during

tries to fill in the holes of her lost memory. A dirty puppet, an ex-criminal and a fake cop add to the dark comedy. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststageysons.org.

The Downtown Fiction. 5:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Hot Tuna Blues. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Blues, jazz, bluegrass and folk by Jorma Kaukonen and Jack Casady. 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, youth through grade 12 half price. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

"12 Angry Men." 7:30 p.m. Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. A courtroom drama about twelve jurors. \$10. www.saxonstage.com.

VITA Tax Assistance. 10 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Tax help. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earned up to \$49K. Adults. 703-790-8088.

Young Dubliners. 7:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 20

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.

"Fuddy Meers" by David Lindsay-Abaire. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Claire's amnesia causes her to awaken each morning as a blank slate, and chaos arises as everyone tries to fill in the holes of her lost memory. A dirty puppet, an ex-criminal and a fake cop add to the dark comedy. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststageysons.org.

Matt & Shannon Heaton. 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Traditional Irish music. \$15. 703-759-3309 or www.ionamusic.com/brogue.shtml.

Birding in the Gardens. 2 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Join a NVRPA park naturalist for an informative talk about bird life and identification. Search for species that spend the winter in northern Va. All experience levels welcome. Free. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. 703-255-3631 ext. 106.

the Vietnam War in 1970. His awards include the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. The general public and all veterans are invited. Free. 703-255-0353 or www.vva227.org.

TUESDAY/FEB. 22

VTRCC TIPS Group. 12:15 p.m. Shula's Steak House, Marriott Corp., 8028 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. www.vtrcc.org.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 23

Support Group for Survivors of Clergy Abuse. 6:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Tysons-Pimmit Hills Regional Library, 7684 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. A monthly peer support group for survivors and others affected. Free. Confidential. No registration required. 703-538-6128.



Here's What's Happening at MCC

Winter/Spring Class & Activity Registration Continues
Pursue your interests by signing up for one or more of the more than 100 classes we offer for children and adults. Our day trips, special events and performances can keep you active and chase away the winter doldrums.

Visit our Website for detailed information.
Insider Knowledge
Islam in Pop Culture: Stereotypes, Stigma and Shtick
Wednesday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m.

Media help define how we see each other, and ourselves. Explore mass media and pop culture in both the Western and Arab worlds and how Muslims are portrayed worldwide. Panelists will include Georgetown University Professors of Islamic Studies Dr. Laurie King-Irani and Dr. Adel Iskandar.

BeFit McLean
Outdoor Adventure & Fitness Expo
Saturday, Feb. 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Free Admission

Ever wanted to learn how to kayak or rock climb? From hang gliding to mountain biking to nature photography, to disc golfing, to rafting, tubing and wilderness expeditions, to hang gliding—this expo will have it all! There'll be a Dutch Oven Cook-Off, sponsored by REI, and a variety of outdoor cooking demonstrations and an adaptive sports component. So come and educate yourself about choosing a great, active life in the great outdoors!

The Philadelphia International Flower Show
Springtime in Paris
Monday, March 7

What could be better than springtime in Paris? The 2011 Philadelphia International Flower Show is the answer. Visitors will be treated to walks along the Seine, the Tuileries gardens, a glimpse of the Eiffel Tower, artists' canvases, floral courtyard cafes and even a peek at the daring Moulin Rouge.

Closing Notice
The Center will be closed on **Monday, Feb. 21**, in observance of Washington's Birthday. The Center will reopen at 9 a.m. on **Tuesday, Feb. 22**.

The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org

Vienna Minister Addresses the Church Growth Issue

Clevester Hawkins, the assistant pastor of the First Baptist Church in Vienna, has published a book on church growth in the Christian church. He is the president and founder of Teach-the-Word Ministry, LLC. Hawkins has been on the pastoral staff of the First Baptist Church for the past 10 years. He frequently conducts workshops and seminars on Christian leadership, Christian education and Christian discipleship and evangelism. He is a graduate of Grace College of the Bible, Omaha, Neb. (Bachelor of Science in Christian Education and Bible); Grace University, Omaha, Neb. (Master of Arts in Biblical Studies); and Sioux Falls Seminary, Sioux Falls, S.D. (Doctor of Ministry).

The book, *Scratch Where They Itch: A Model for Enhancing Christian Ministry*, is a 5.5 x 8.5, 181 page paperback in the religion, Christian church and growth category. With U.S. wholesale distribution through Ingram and Baker & Taylor, the book is also available online through Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com,



Clevester Hawkins

Booksamillion.com and elsewhere. The webpage, www.outskirtspress.com/ScratchWhereTheyItch, was launched simultaneously with the book's publication. *Scratch Where They Itch* was published by Outskirts Press, located in Denver, Colo.

The book addresses a critical question facing the churches in the 21st century: "Where are their parishioners itching?" Hawkins

maintains that this question is at the heart of identifying the motivational factors impacting church ministry participation. He wrote: "Addressing this question will enable church ministries to scratch where its members are itching. In a simplistic world, one scratch would fit all. However, the world is complex, and one scratch does not fit all."

A church may be effective in scratching a particular itch or need. In fact, it may be determined to utilize that particular scratch regardless of the nature of the itch. Consequently, individuals within the body of Christ may drop out because the church is scratching in the wrong areas."

Hawkins maintains that a better understanding of the relationship between itching and scratching will empower church leaders to develop strategies that will enhance and increase church ministry participation. *Scratch Where They Itch* is a must read for local church leaders who want to release and engage its parishioners in active ministry participation.

FAITH NOTES

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

Epiphany United Methodist Church, 1014 Country Club Drive in Vienna, is hosting a Women's Health Issues Series every Sunday morning in February. "Osteoporosis: Prevention and Treatment" will be presented Sunday, Feb. 20 at 9:45 a.m. Free, reservations required at 703-938-3494 or office@epiphanyumc.com.

First Baptist Church of Vienna, 450 Orchard St. in Vienna, will be holding its Annual Ushers Day on Sunday, Feb. 27, at 3 p.m. The guest speaker will be Rev. Duane T. Kay of First Baptist Church of North Brentwood, Md. 703-938-8525.

Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. in Vienna, presents the 12-week program "Passages," for those experiencing the pain of separation or divorce. The DivorceCare series begins Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. Cost of materials \$20, scholarships available. 703-938 9050 or Passages@ViennaPres.org.

Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. in McLean, will have a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, March 8 from 5-7 p.m. with pancakes, sausage and apple sauce. Cost is \$5 person/\$12 per family. Proceeds benefit Trinity's Missions. Trinity's Ash Wednesday services will be March 9 at 12 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. 703-356-3312 or www.umtrinity.org.

Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna, invites singers to join a local volunteer choir. Presentations are Sundays at 11 a.m. at with rehearsals Thursdays at 7:30

p.m. 703-255-2761 or 703-319-8742.

Centering Prayer offered at St. Dunstan's, 1830 Kirby Road, McLean, Tuesdays at 7-7:45 p.m. Centering prayer is meditation and contemplative prayer, wordless, trusting, opening of self to the divine presence. Instruction offered. marjorie.cole@gmail.com.

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.

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean, Sunday worship services are at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults is at 9:30 a.m. and for children during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Youth Group for grades 7-12 meets Sunday nights, 6 - 7:30 p.m. A 20-minute service of Holy Communion is held each Wednesday at 12 p.m. 703-356-3312 or umtrinity.org.

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Madison's Schultz Reaches Region Wrestling Finals

Oakton and Marshall also well represented at postseason championships.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The Vienna area was well represented at last weekend's Northern Region wrestling championships as athletes from Madison, Oakton and Marshall High Schools all had fine showings at the annual postseason event. The 30-team regional meet took place Friday and Saturday (Feb. 11-12) at Fairfax High School.

Oakton (54 points) and Madison (51.50) finished 11th and 12th place, respectively, at regionals, while Marshall (26 points) placed 20th overall. The team champion was Robinson, which captured its first region crown since 1991. The Rams finished with 260.50 points, 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.

Finishing sixth through 10th place were Lee High (69), Mount Vernon (65), Edison (62), Langley (58) and Lake Braddock (54.50).

Robinson Secondary's Jack Bass, the 125-weight class champion, was named the region tournament's Most Outstanding



Madison High wrestler Albert Schultz (right) gives it his all against Westfield's Beau Donahue during last Saturday evening's 140-weight class wrestling finals at Fairfax High School.

Wrestler. Centreville High, which finished 18th place in the team standings, accepted the Sportsmanship Award trophy during brief post meet ceremonies on Saturday night.

For Madison, Albert Schultz earned a second place finish in the 140-weight class division. The Warhawks also received a third place finish from Robert Dooley at 119. Oakton, meanwhile, saw Austin Murga earn a third place finish at 189-division, while Cougars' wrestlers Eddie Gerow (112) and

Matt Norterangelo (152) finished fourth and fifth place, respectively. From Marshall High, Zack Brooks (215 weight class) and James Cusack (112) both earned fifth place finishes.

The top four wrestlers in each weight class automatically advanced to this weekend's Virginia State AAA championships. The top six finishers earned medals.

MADISON'S SCHULTZ (40-7), this year's Liberty District champion, had an outstanding region

tournament at 140 division. He won his first two matches by pin-victories over Wakefield's Luis Masariegos (first period pin) and Robinson's Shon Topper (second period pin). That put him into the semifinals where he won a hard-earned 3-0 decision over Lake Braddock's Jake Sage. Schultz, in the finals, then fell to Westfield's Beau Donahue, 7-2. Donahue (56-3) is a two-time Concorde District champion who was a region runner-up last year.

Schultz, who will be attending the U.S. Naval Academy next school year, trailed the championship match 4-1 after one period. He was behind 5-1 late in the second period before earning what appeared to be a two-point takedown in the closing seconds. But following a brief officials' conference, the points were taken away from Schultz and he still was down 5-1. He closed within 5-2 with an escape point with 20 seconds remaining in the third and final period before Donahue scored in the final seconds to secure the win. For Donahue, the final victory win was his 100th career high school varsity win.

At 119 weight class, Madison's Dooley opened his region tournament with a 21-4 technical fall win over Chantilly's Kyle Smith. He

then, in his next match, earned a first period pin win over South County's Bilal Ali to earn a place in the semifinals. There, Dooley lost a tough 3-1 decision to Robinson's Jake Smith, the eventual champion. Dooley, following the setback to Smith, won two loser's bracket matches - 2-1 over Westfield's Dennon Carranza-Kee and 4-2 over Lee's Alex Moore in the consolation finals (third place) match.

OAKTON'S 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.

Oakton's Gerow, at 112 weight class, earned fourth place.

FOR MARSHALL HIGH, both Brooks (215) and Cusack (112) earned fifth place finishes.

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: Speers (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). Rounding out the top 10 team scores, were: seventh place West Springfield (137), eighth place Langley (135), ninth place Oakton (128) and 10th place Chantilly (127). Other teams of note included:

Marshall and Jefferson, which tied for eleventh place with 87 points; 15th place McLean (55); and Herndon and South Lakes, which tied for 18th place with 42 points.

Langley High's Chuck Katis finished first place in two events - the 200-IM and the 100-breaststroke. He was also a part of the Saxons' third place 200-free relay team, which included: Katis, Ryan Natal, Alex Brumas, and Chris Barnard.

Other local individual first place boys' champions included: Marshall's Cyrus Hashemi (200-free); Madison's Ryan Fox (dive); and Oakton's Philip Hu (100-back). Hashemi of the Statesmen from Marshall was also a second place finisher in the 500-free.

Top six boys' place finishers from the area included: McLean's Charlie Putnam (second place in 200-free, third in 100-back); Langley's Ryan Natal (second in 100-fly, third in 200-free); Marshall's Andrew Nyce (fourth in 200-IM); Madison's Evan Owens (fifth in 200-IM); Oakton's Joseph LeBerre (third in dive); Oakton's Hu (sixth in 100-fly); and Herndon's Conor Cudahy (sixth in 500-free).

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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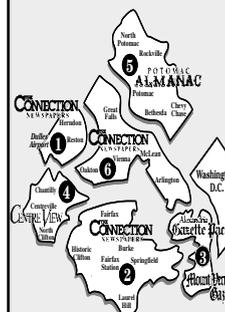
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"Cunancer-drum"



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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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

Incinerator Purchase Raises Questions, Concerns

FROM PAGE 2

years than they would be under a contract extension with Covanta, according to a graph on Fairfax County's website.

There are also several assumptions built into the county financial projections regarding the incinerator.

If the county were to purchase the incinerator, the government would continue to outsource the operation of the facility to a private company, possibly Covanta. Fairfax has estimated how much such a contract would cost over the next 30 years, said Charlie Forbes, assistant director for disposal and resource recovery with Fairfax's solid waste management program.

Staff has also predicted that the sale of energy will produce as much as \$100 million in revenue in the out years, though the county's contract with Dominion — the local power company — expires in 2015. Fairfax has offered no clear plan about who might purchase this energy produced by the plant after that date.

In a statement on the website,

Fairfax has said they intend to sell the power generated by the incinerator after 2015 "in a different manner to maximize revenues."

FAIRFAX ESTIMATES of the incinerator's purchase price also heavily rely on the county producing a larger amount of trash in the years to come.

Fairfax would use "tipping fees" collected at the incinerator to pay off the bonds used to purchase the facility. These "tipping fees" — and consequently the fees residents pay for trash pickup — would only remain stable if the amount of trash coming to the incinerator increases over time. A certain amount of trash would also be needed to keep the plant operating 24 hours per day, seven days per week — which is required if it is also going to be used as reliable power source from which the county can sell energy.

On its website, Fairfax County has said that the amount of waste produced per capita in the locality has stayed fairly stable over the last several years. But Bill Lecos, former president of Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, said

trends across the country show the amount of trash produced per person diminishing over the last 20 years, partly because of recycling programs.

"The amount of trash we are producing seems to be going down on a per capita basis. In Fairfax, do you get to a point where solid waste has diminished below the level needed to produce [energy]?" said Lecos, who was the head of a Fairfax trash task force in 2004. Lecos now works for an association that represents local waste management companies, though he said he was speaking as an individual and not for his employer. His association does not represent Covanta.

According to Lecos, Fairfax could have to increase fees if the amount of trash going to the incinerator decreased significantly. It could also start bringing in more trash from other localities to make up for a deficit in Fairfax trash.

In its proposal to the county, Covanta has offered to lower the volume of trash required from the county, even to the point where Fairfax would not be responsible for any particular volume of trash

at all, said Robby Demeria, the Fairfax chamber's vice president for government affairs.

YET COUNTY STAFF warns that the incinerator, under private operation, could become a dumping ground for trash from all over the Northeast United States. Several municipalities, including those in New York and New Jersey, are looking for a place to store their waste. Covanta could decide to offer up capacity at the Lorton incinerator to the highest bidder, whoever they are, said Griffin.

If the Fairfax owned the facility, the county would also have a say where trucks going in and out of the facility came from. Fairfax could also restrict the types of waste that are burned at the incinerator, said Griffin.

"[A private operator] would result in more vehicles coming into the county. ... They might be dependent on waste from the outside. Medical waste could be disposed of at the incinerator [under private ownership]," said Griffin.

IN ADDITION to wanting control over what trash comes into the

county, Fairfax also has an incentive in preventing trash from leaving the locality.

In 2007, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the county can require all residential developments and businesses in a locality to use a particular trash disposal facility only if a local government was using bonds to pay for the facility's upkeep, said Forbes. A previous Supreme Court decision, issued in 1994, said a municipality could not force its residents and businesses to use a particular waste management facility if it was privately owned.

"If the local government owns a facility outright, then their right to require waste to go there is secure," said Forbes.

Now that the county has fully paid back the bonds used to build the incinerator, Covanta owns the facility and Fairfax can no longer require businesses and homeowners associations to send their trash to the Lorton plant. A reduction in trash would possibly lead to a reduction in county revenue from energy sales or trigger the need to import of more trash from outside the county to the facility.

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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 Simplikey president Jason Pizzillo, 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.

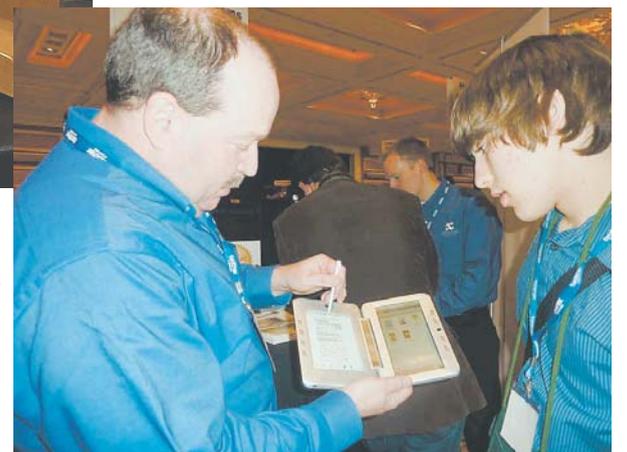
Both the Entourage and Pocket Edge are dual screen e-reader, Android-based tablet computer, notepad and audio/video recorder and player. Connected to the internet, it can manage any connected home security system or smart appliances. Prices start at \$349.

"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 19

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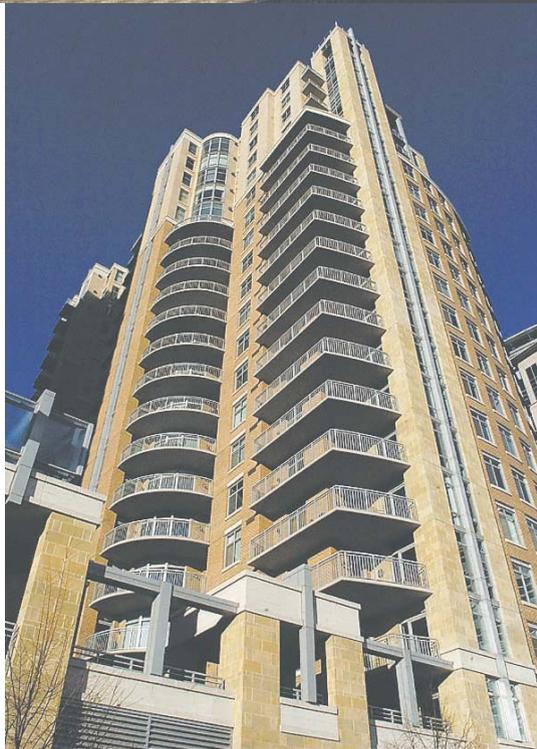


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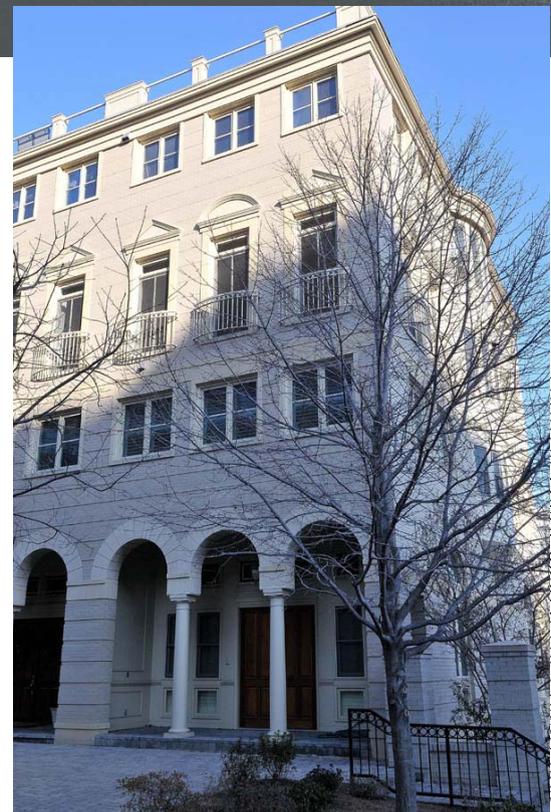
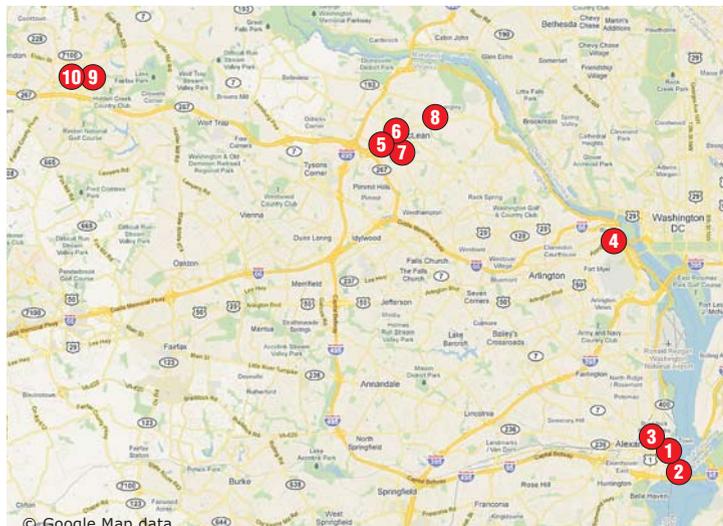


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Security, Convenience

FROM PAGE 17

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



21181 Millwood Sq,
Sterling
\$322,500
Open Sunday 1-4

Barbara
Hendrickson,
Keller Williams,
703-901-9200

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, click the Real Estate links on the right side.



Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.



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

Reston

1416 Church Hill Pl.....\$282,000...Sat 12-3...Kim House.....Long & Foster.....703-201-8660

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

Sterling

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

To add your FREE Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact Don Park at 703-778-9420, or donpark@connectionnewspapers.com All listings are due by Monday at 3 p.m.

You CAN Make A Difference in Your Community!

Run for the McLean Community Center Governing Board

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER GOVERNING BOARD SMALL DISTRICT #1 OF THE DRANESVILLE DISTRICT FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

This **NOTICE** of elections to select members of the 2011-2012 Governing Board of the McLean Community Center is officially given to residents of Small District #1 of the Dranesville District, Fairfax County, Virginia (referred to as "Small District #1"). The McLean Community Center operates as a Special District Agency of the Fairfax County Government through a Memorandum of Understanding between Fairfax County and the McLean Community Center. On February 8, 1984, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved the Memorandum of Understanding, which authorizes the elections. The McLean Community Center is funded by residents of Greater McLean for their use through a real estate tax surcharge, the result of a 1970 Small District 1A-Dranesville bond referendum.

Elections are held on **McLean Day** at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Virginia. This year, McLean Day is on **Saturday, May 21, 2011**.

Voting on McLean Day takes place from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Only Small District #1 residents are eligible to run for seats on the 11-member McLean Community Center Governing Board and to vote in the election. Residents are not required to be property owners in Small District #1 in order to run for the Governing Board or to vote in the election.

Candidate Qualifications: Each resident who lives within Small District #1 is eligible to run for a seat on the Governing Board within the appropriate category.

The Governing Board seats to be filled through the election are:

Three (3) Adult Governing Board Seats: Adult candidates must be residents of Small District #1 and must be at least eighteen (18) years of age by McLean Day. The candidates who receive the three (3) highest numbers of votes will serve three-year terms on the Governing Board. (If you need help determining whether you reside in Small District #1, please contact the McLean Community Center at 703-744-9348 or elections@mcleancenter.org.)

Two (2) Youth Governing Board Seats:

One (1) Governing Board youth seat for teens living within the McLean High School boundary area
One (1) Governing Board youth seat for teens living within the Langley High School boundary area

Teen candidates must live in Small District #1 and must be between fifteen (15) and seventeen (17) years of age by McLean Day. One candidate from each high school boundary area receiving the highest number of votes will serve a one-year term on the Governing Board. High school boundaries are set by the Fairfax County Public Schools.

NOTICE TO TEENS: You must live within Small District #1. However, you **do not** have to attend either McLean or Langley High School. You can attend another school, including one that is outside of Small District #1, or you can be home schooled.

In some cases, you might live within the boundary of one of the two high schools, but attend school in the other school high school boundary. For example, you could attend McLean High School, but live in the Langley High School boundary, or vice versa.

***You must run for the youth board seat for
the high school boundary area where you live.***

You can find your high school boundary area by entering your home address in the Fairfax County Public Schools' boundary tool at <http://boundary.fcps.edu/boundary/>.

Remember: No matter where you attend school, you must still live within Small District #1 and run for election in the correct high school boundary area. (If you need help, please contact the McLean Community Center at 703-744-9348 or elections@mcleancenter.org.)

Candidate Petitions: Nominating Petitions may be obtained at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, Virginia, 22101, beginning at 9 a.m. on **Tuesday, February 22, 2011**. Adults seeking to become candidates for a seat on the Governing Board must get the signatures of ten (10) residents of Small District #1 who are 18 years old or older (by McLean Day). Teens seeking to become candidates for a youth seat on the Governing Board must get the signatures of ten (10) residents of Small District #1 who are between 15 to 17 years old (by McLean Day), **and** who live within the same high school boundary area where the candidate lives.

DEADLINE: Each resident seeking election to the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center shall file a completed petition with the McLean Community Center at the address shown below **on or before 5 p.m. on Friday, March 25, 2011:**

**McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Avenue
McLean, VA 22101**

All petitions will be certified on **Friday, March 25, 2011**; candidates will be notified whether their petitions have been certified on the same date. The names of certified candidates will be published in newspapers having general circulation in the Dranesville District.

Voter Qualifications: Each resident who **lives** within Small District #1 is eligible to vote in the Governing Board elections (within the adult or youth categories, as appropriate).

When voting in the elections, the qualifications are:

Adults: Any Small District #1 resident who is eighteen (18) years of age or older by McLean Day is eligible to vote in the elections. Adult candidates may vote for up to three (3) adult candidates.

Teens: Any resident who is fifteen (15) through seventeen (17) years of age by McLean Day is eligible to vote in the elections. Teens may vote for one youth candidate from each high school boundary area (but not for two candidates in the same high school boundary area).

Verification of age and residence shall be determined from a driver's license, student identification card, birth certificate, or other satisfactory evidence. A verification process also is required for residents choosing to apply for absentee voting.

Absentee Voting: Residents may vote by absentee ballot. Applications for Absentee Ballot packages will be available at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, Virginia beginning on **Monday, April 11, 2011** at 9 a.m. Applications for Absentee Ballot packages may be requested in-person, by email at elections@mcleancenter.org, and by telephone at 703-744-9348. Please also refer to the McLean Community Center's Website for updated information regarding the absentee voting process (www.mcleancenter.org). The **DEADLINE** for returning a **completed and signed Application for Absentee Ballot and the Absentee Ballot** to the McLean Community Center is **Wednesday, May 18, 2011, at 5 p.m.**

Election Results: Election results will be posted on the door of the McLean Community Center on the evening of the elections. The McLean Community Center's Elections and Nominations Committee will report the results of the elections to Dranesville Supervisor John W. Foust, who will present the successful candidates to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors at its next regular meeting following the elections. At that meeting, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, after determining that it is in the public interest to do so, shall appoint to the McLean Community Center Governing Board:

The three (3) adult candidates who received the top three (3) highest number of votes

Two (2) youth candidates – the candidate who received the highest number of votes in each of the two (2) high school boundary areas

The appointment of new Board Members shall be effective upon action by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Newly appointed Board Members will take office when they attend their first meeting of the 2011-2012 Governing Board. The 2011-2012 Governing Board's term runs from May 2011 through May 2012.

For more information about the elections, please call 703-744-9348 or email the McLean Community Center at elections@mcleancenter.org.

Chair
Elections and Nominations Committee
McLean Community Center Governing Board



**McLean
Community
Center**
The Center of It All