

# Burke CONNECTION

## Businessman In Boxing Ring

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## Support for Military Families

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Ruth Edstrom  
of Burke holds  
her first painting.



# Artist At Home

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PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

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## For Those Who Are Waiting Back Home

### New support group helps families of deployed servicemen and women.

BY CHRISTIAN SMITH  
THE CONNECTION

**I**n the back room of Brion's Grill, amid the sounds of clattering dishes, booths of laughing diners and lines of hurried waiters, a woman stands up, walks to the front of a long table, tries to joke but begins to cry. Susan Landseadel's son, a U.S. Army reservist, was deployed just 10 days before to Afghanistan and she has yet to hear from him.

The terror emanating from Landseadel seems familiar to the group of about 40, who gathered Thursday, March 3, at the Fairfax restaurant. They listen and respond with nods and groans. They have been there, they know what she is feeling. This is a support network for parents of deployed U.S. troops.

The Parents Support for Parents Who Have Children Who Are Deployed is a newly formed group sponsored by Fairfax County. Gail Ledford, a Fairfax County employee and mother of a Gulf War veteran, had the idea for the group during a conversation with fellow organizers, Tilly Blanding, a co-worker, and Ann Sharp, who works for, event co-sponsor, Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock).

"I remember how awful it was when my own son was deployed," said Ledford. "It was very frightening. Twenty-four-seven frightening. You're consumed by the possibility that you might lose them."

Blanding was able to understand, her son is cur-

rently deployed to Afghanistan. The three wondered if any other area residents were in a similar position. The small group, meeting for only the second time, has quickly attracted several parents as well as local organizations, community members and representatives of government agencies looking to offer assistance. Groups like Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, Easter Seals and Blue Star Mothers of Northern Virginia have rushed to co-sponsor the evening's event. Fort Meyer's Army Community Service program sent two representatives, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency sent one person and two local churches with similar support groups sent members.

"We had no footprint for this, no preconceived notion of what it needed to look like or where it needed to go," said Ledford, who hopes that the group would develop around the needs of its members. "[We can] talk to people about this common thing. It's not like sharing a love of gardening. You don't wear this on your sleeve."

The room buzzes with a multitude of conversations. Occasionally, laughter can be heard and the mood starts to lighten.

Mary Beth Gibbons is beaming about her newly minted status as a grandmother. Her smile almost hides the underlying strain. Her family is preparing for two upcoming deployments. Her son, an Army captain, is currently stationed in Germany and will re-deploy this summer to Afghanistan, and her son-in-law, a member of the Virginia National Guard, has orders to deploy in May.

"We have to be there for [our daughter]," said Gibbons. "It's not like we just go off and lead a fun life."

"It's very humbling," said Lorna Miller about be-

SEE MILITARY, PAGE 9

**"I remember how awful it was when my own son was deployed."**

— Gail Ledford



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

**Lynne Gildon, president of the Blue Star Mother's of Virginia, speaks at the March 3 meeting of The Parents Support for Parents Who Have Children Who Are Deployed.**

## A Blessing of Artwork

### Artist captures family memories in paintings.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hen Ruth Edstrom was a young girl living on a farm near the town of Randolph, Minn., she loved to draw pictures of rural life for her family.

The scenes captured a small-town, bucolic Norman Rockwell life of barns, dairy cows, farmhouses and churches. The town's population was 200, but most people, including Edstrom's family, lived outside of town on family farms.

"It was the 1940s, and we grew up during hard times for farmers," she said. "You could definitely say it was a small-town life, and most people were very practical-minded. I don't think we ever went to a restaurant growing up."

"I loved to draw, but I never thought of myself as an artist. It never even crossed my mind to take classes or anything," said Edstrom, 75.

That changed in 1972 when she was a young officer's wife stationed at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base in Kansas City. At the time, she had been married to her high school sweetheart, John, for 17 years, and the couple had two young children, David and Julie.

"When my husband was in Vietnam, another officer's wife, an art major, offered oil painting classes to members of the Officers Wives Club," said Ruth Edstrom. "I signed up and discovered I could paint."

Her first painting was from a photo of a painting in an art book. "It was a house in the country, and I just tried to copy it. I used my fingers, a spatula, whatever to paint it," she said.

She continued taking classes in Kansas for the next three years, until John Edstrom was transferred to the Pentagon in 1975, where he became chief of the

SEE EDSTROM'S, PAGE 16



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

**Ruth and John Edstrom in front of a painting of their Burke home. John holds 'grand dog' Shelby.**





PHOTOS BY BENJAMIN FASKE

Air Force Maj. Joseph D. Wall helped to move cargo and passengers into Haiti after a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck the region in 2010.



More than 30 million pounds of relief supplies were flown into Haiti in the months after a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck the region in 2010.

# Son of Burke Woman Helps Out in Haiti

Air Force Maj. Joseph D. Wall helps to bring aid to earthquake victims.

BY STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER HOLMES  
USAF

Last year, newspaper headlines and TV and radio newscasts blasted our senses with reports of such things as devastating earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, along with massive floods in Pakistan and a volcanic eruption in Iceland. After a few days, though, media reports moved on to the next big news event. But for the son of a Burke woman, picking up the pieces in the aftermath in places like Haiti and Pakistan was just the beginning of business as usual.

Air Force Maj. Joseph D. Wall, son of Lisa D. Stickford of Stipp Street is Burke, is a mobility tanker pilot and contingency tanker planner assigned to the 621st Con-

tingency Response Wing at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Wall is part of a highly specialized unit that can deploy quickly to combat hotspots or disaster areas and quickly open airfields and is often the first to provide a vital pipeline in getting food and supplies to the devastated areas.

"During the Haiti response, I deployed to Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., as airflow plans chief at the Haiti Flight Operations Coordination Center," said Wall.

**WALL AND** his team are made up of three main organizations in 10 geographically separated areas that are often co-located with Army and Marine Corps units. Everything from air refueling to command and control, offloading and onloading people and equipment, security, maintenance and

damage assessment is included in the make-up of the units.

"We were in charge of scheduling all flights throughout the world trying to land at Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to aid in relief efforts," said Wall.

While their primary job is to go into combat zones like Iraq and Afghanistan and provide re-supply, medical evacuation and set up or repair unusable airfields, Wall believes that their talents lend themselves perfectly to responding to disaster relief operations like Haiti and Pakistan.

"I truly believed that we were doing great things supporting the effort. Our mantra became, 'order from chaos.' In direct communications with our cohorts on the ground, it was obvious we were helping

out," said Wall.

But having the ability to respond anywhere around the world on a moment's notice means that Wall and his unit are required to constantly

train to stay sharp at what they do. A number of functions need to come together at once to make things happen.

"After being in the Air Force for 10 years, readiness has been a normal part

of my life. My wife was 'new' to the idea when we first married, but has gotten used to it, for the most part. I am very excited to be able to be a part of operations wherever and whenever I am needed," said Wall.

No one knows what disaster or trouble spot awaits, but it's a good bet that Wall and his team won't be far behind to help pick up the pieces.

**"I truly believed that we were doing great things supporting the effort."**

— Maj. Joseph D. Wall

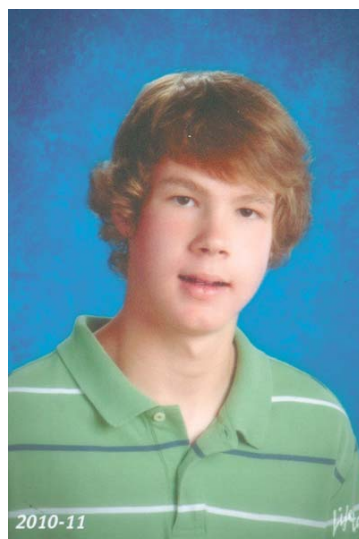
## Carriers of the Year

Connection honors its top carriers for 2010.

Lake Braddock sophomore Charlie Shreves is a veteran carrier with almost four years' experience on his Burke Connection route. Originally from Leavenworth, Kans., he likes snowboarding as well as basketball and football, and is often found outside throwing a baseball with his father. Charlie recently celebrated his birthday on Groundhog Day and has a white shepherd dog named Koda. Hanging out with his brothers to watch TV and share pizza provides his relaxation.

Kevin Fowler has delivered 235 Connection papers for three years in the White Oaks Elementary area of Burke. The 13-year-old homeschooler faithfully tithes 10 percent of his paychecks, but likes to use the remainder to purchase video games. Frequently found on a soccer field, he enjoys playing drums when he hangs up his cleats. He and his brother were recently in their church drama club's production of "Peter Pan."

Davis Fowler, 12, who teams up with his brother on their Burke route, is also a soccer player. Off the field, he plays bass and loves to cook. Likewise homeschooled, he has a strong reputation for professional reliability and excellent customer service.



Charlie Shreves



Kevin Fowler



Davis Fowler



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# OPINION

## Note to Governor: Sign Autism Bill

Bipartisan effort supports early treatment.

A new law to mandate very basic and limited insurance coverage for treating autism in young children awaits the signature of Gov. Bob McDonnell. The added coverage will be a lifeline to many families already coping with major challenges.

The bill passed by wide margins with wonderful bipartisan support (including all of our Northern Virginia legislators). It passed 29-8 in the Senate; 73-24 in the House of Delegates.

The governor is facing a major lobbying ef-

fort by some business and insurance company interests to veto the bill, and he has not yet said what his intentions are. The law would save money over time, because it will result in young adults with autism functioning at a higher level.

Contact him and urge him to sign this bill into law.

<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/contact.cfm>; (804) 786-2211.

— MARY KIMM

### SB 1062/HB 2467 verbatim:

Health insurance; mandated coverage for autism spectrum disorder. Requires health insurers, health care subscription plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and treatment for ASD in individuals from age two to six, subject to an annual maximum benefit of \$35,000 of coverage for applied behavior analysis. This requirement does not apply to individual or small group policies, contracts, or plans. The mandate will also apply to the state employees' health insurance plan and to the local choice health program. This measure will not apply to an insurer, corporation, or health maintenance organization, or to government employee programs, if the costs associated with coverage exceed one percent of premiums charged over the experience period.

## Safe for Saint Patrick's Day

While the City of Alexandria holds its Saint Patrick's Day parade early, that leaves that much more time for celebration on the day itself, March 17.

The Saint Patty's Day SoberRide program will offer 12 hours of safe passage from 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 17th until 4 a.m. the following day impaired drivers off the road during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

First, plan ahead to manage this yourself: leave your car at home, take public transportation, arrange for a designated driver, or choose to abstain if a designated driver isn't

available.

But if you find yourself needing a ride, area residents 21 and over celebrating with alcohol can call the SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI for a free, safe way home (up to \$30 cab fare).

Last Saint Patrick's Day, 525 possibly impaired people used the SoberRide service rather than possibly driving home impaired. More than a third of traffic fatalities on Saint Patrick's Day and the early morning hours of the next day are alcohol related nationwide.

Sponsors of this year's Saint Patrick's Day

Plan ahead to get home safe after celebrations.

SoberRide include the Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, Volkswagen Group of America and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association, as well as some of the area's Irish restaurants, including Ireland's Four Provinces and Murphy's, Ri Ra and Sine Irish pubs.

Since 1993, this program on targeted holidays has provided 51,718 safe and free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the area. See [www.soberide.com](http://www.soberide.com).

## Local Control

To the Editor:

Our neighborhood streets are peppered with potholes and crumbling curbs and sidewalks. Median and roadside grass is left uncut, creating dangerous intersections and unkempt roadways that reduce property values. Snow plowing is a challenge. A recent study from the Texas Transportation Institute pegs the yearly delay per commuter in our metro region at 70 hours, meaning we spend nearly two additional work weeks sitting in congestion.

A relic of a bygone era, Virginia is one of only three states where the state, not localities, owns and maintains local roads. Controlled by rural counties that do not need more road funding, the General Assembly has eliminated construction funding for secondary (local) roads and significantly reduced maintenance funding. Recent state funding initiatives are temporary fixes only, and state policy is geared correctly toward highly traveled primary roads. A state funding formula based on lane-miles instead of vehicle-miles-traveled hurts Fairfax as well.

We are not resigned to this fate, however. Decades ago, the Hampton Roads jurisdictions opted to become cities to better meet their transportation needs as an urbanizing area. Two counties — Arling-

ton and Henrico — cut their own deals with the state to handle their own roads.

A year and a half ago, our County Executive recommended that Fairfax follow suit and consider negotiating with the state for a local takeover of at least some roads. County staff has interviewed each Virginia locality that owns and maintains its own roads. All reported that they are happy they do and, in fact, many expressed their disbelief that Fairfax has not yet followed suit.

Both county staff and our citizens' Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) have identified clear benefits to the County Executive's proposal. These include, but are not limited to, enhanced influence in transportation decision-making, improved responsiveness and accountability and increased flexibility in establishing priorities and standards. Despite these advantages, some county leaders are reluctant to move forward on this issue. They argue that maintaining and improving our transportation infrastructure has long been a state function and follow the tired path of asking for money from Richmond, knowing it won't arrive.

I agree that funding is an issue and any transfer of responsibility would have to come with a trans-

fer of at least current levels of state funding. Further enhancements to our transportation system would likely require local dollars. But remember a local system means all our local dollars stay right here in Fairfax, instead of Fairfax dollars going to Richmond where only a fraction return. A good first step toward locally enhanced funding would be removing the decal fee, which generates roughly \$27 million, from the General Fund and apportioning it to transportation projects.

I do not suggest that moving towards local control of local roads is a simple issue. Much care and thought must be given to any potential change. But Fairfax County is an urbanizing suburb and it needs a 21<sup>st</sup> century system for its local roads, one where decision-making authority rests here, not in Richmond.

**Supervisor John Cook**  
R-Braddock

## Justice for All

To the Editor:

During the past month there has been ads placed on television and in newspapers by the Department of Interior in regards to the "recently settled" suit between Native American Trust Fund account holders versus The Department of Interior. This suit was labeled

Cobell vs. Salazar. My purpose is to dispel notions that may arise in the minds of the general public that the advertised \$3.4 billion is being paid to Native Americans as a gift given them by a benevolent federal government. Nothing could be further from the truth. The fact is that the \$3.4 billion is only a fraction of the amount owed to Trust Fund account holders.

Those funds consisted of income from resources mined or taken from land that the account holders owned. Examples of resources removed from those lands include oil, gas, coal, precious metals and from land leases, etc. Interior was to receive the funds, maintain accurate records of income, amounts disbursed to account holders, and an accurate account of account balances.

The Department of Interior has been the Trustee for funds held in trust for Native Americans since about 1876 when certain reservation lands were allotted to individuals. In 1983, it was discovered that account funds plus interest were missing in the estimated amount of \$40 billion to possibly \$1 trillion. Where the funds went is anybody's guess, but it is known that it surely did not go to the account holders. Was it misplaced, borrowed or stolen? Handily for the U.S., there are no records that

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

would answer the question of the true funds in the accounts, hence the estimates. But the fact remains that the Trustee United States failed to carry out its fiduciary trust duties to Native Americans, again. Yet no one has been accused, arrested, convicted or gone to jail for this major crime. If a Bank Trustee mishandled a clients account in this manner someone would have gone to prison.

In 1995, a lawsuit was filed against the Interior Department Secretary for replacement of the missing funds and the suit slowly wended its course through the tricks used by lawyers. One result of the delays was that elderly account holders died without ever seeing a penny. At one point, President George W. Bush replaced the judge with a more government-friendly judge.

At one point, it was proposed by the President that the case be settled for \$40 billion. The account holders refused that amount. Then Sen. John McCain (R.-Ariz.) got involved and attempted to settle the matter by pushing for settlement of only \$8 billion. This too was refused. Finally, the new judge settled it himself behind closed doors. He lowered the amount to the \$3.4 billion.

Historically, government trust funds have never died a natural death. They always die mysteriously. Examples include the Social Security trust fund that suffered a depletion. Then there was the Nuclear Waste trust

fund that was paid into by customers power bills. It disappeared at \$13 billion old.

**Elmer M. Savilla**  
Burke

## One More Word

To the Editor:

Imagine if your name was retard. Take any sentence you might use the word retard in and replace it with your name. "That's so Nancy." "You're such a Bobby." "I feel like such a Morgan."

Imagine your name meant stupid, misguided or dumb.

Although mental retardation isn't our name, it is often the first way that people with intellectual disabilities are introduced. For example, in the press, we frequently see that Sarah Palin has a Down syndrome baby. Not a baby with Down syndrome or a baby named Trig.

For people with intellectual disabilities, the battle over the "r" word isn't simply about the use of a word. It is a movement that will allow us to rediscover our names. We also hope that it will open the hearts and minds of everyone else so that we can all benefit from a community where everyone belongs and, as the "Cheers" gang used to say, "Every body knows your name."

**Jill Egle**  
Co-Executive Director  
The Arc of Northern Virginia

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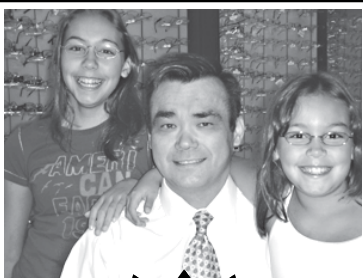
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# 'White Lightning' Wilson Ready To Strike

Local man seeks 10th professional victory in boxing ring Saturday.

BY MELANIE LECOULLON  
THE CONNECTION

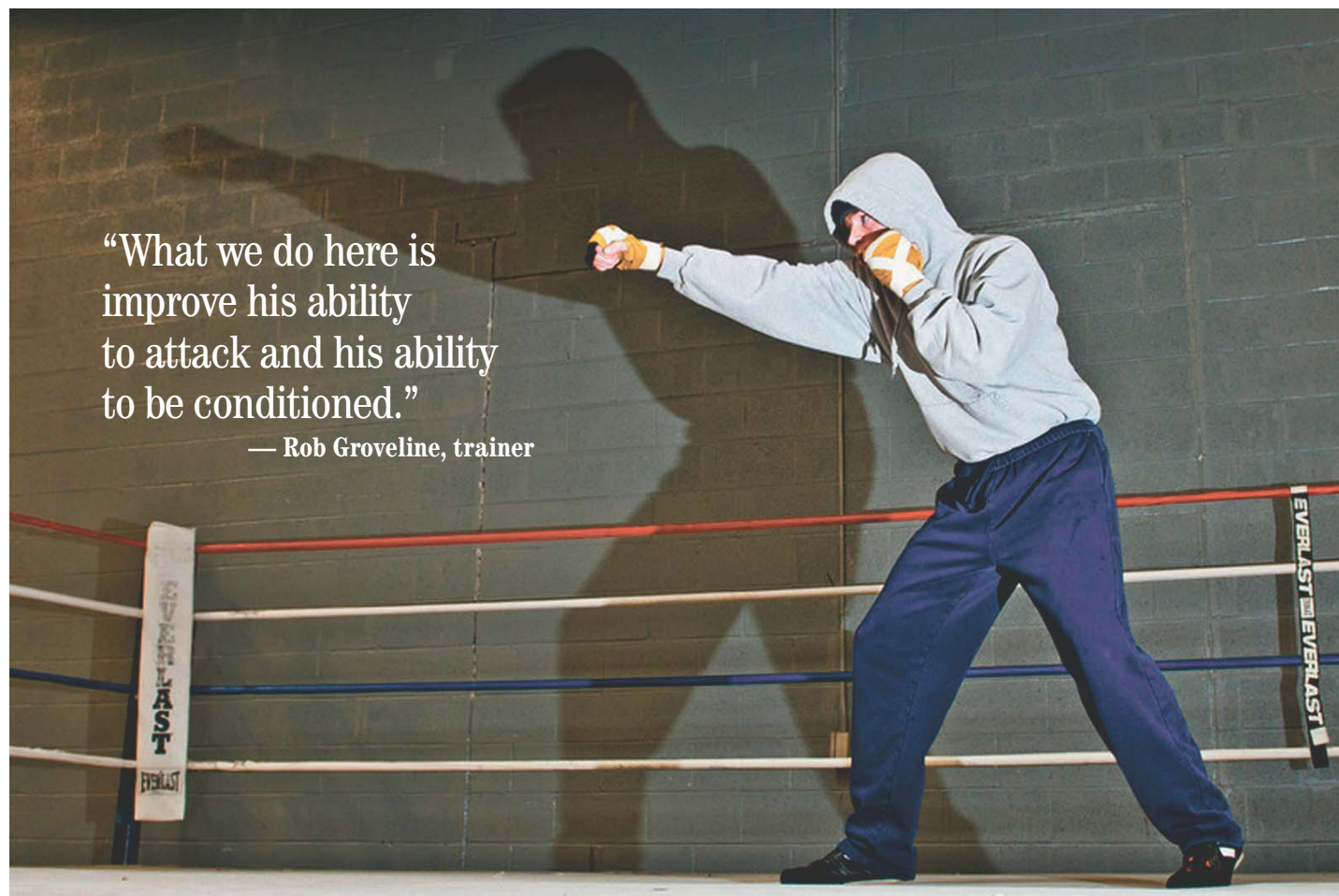
**B**y all accounts, Fairfax resident Todd Wilson doesn't look like a fighter. In a suit and tie, he is the picture of professionalism at his day job with Booz Allen Hamilton. But, at the end of the day, the gloves come on and the 26-year-old business development associate becomes Todd "White Lightning" Wilson, a professional boxer with an undefeated record who seeks to add his 10th win this Saturday night when he faces Dean "Pitbull" White at the Patriot Center.

Wilson first started boxing at 16. He had trained in martial arts for a few years prior, but had taken some time off to play football and baseball in high school. "You know, the regular sports," he joked. But it wasn't long before he decided to try his hand at boxing, perhaps inspired by his grandfather who was a boxer in the Army, and whose old gloves still hang in Wilson's home.

Wilson went on to win a National Collegiate Boxing Association title by the time he was a sophomore at the Virginia Military Institute. While there, he also earned two bachelor degrees in English and psychology.

Not one to slow down after graduation, Wilson continued his training and now has the perfect balance between his professional and boxing careers. "I usually do my strength and conditioning in the mornings before work, and then hit the Annandale Boys and Girls Club after work," said Wilson.

Two trainers see to his athletic development: Rob Groveline, his exercise physiologist at Fitness Together, and his boxing coach, Leo Rossiter, at the Annandale Boys and Girls Club boxing gym. The two of them



"What we do here is improve his ability to attack and his ability to be conditioned."

— Rob Groveline, trainer

Todd 'White Lightning' Wilson shadow boxes at the Annandale Boys & Girls Club boxing gym where he trains with coach Leo Rossiter.

keep a close eye on Wilson's progress, monitoring diet, strength and cardio progress, as well as boxing technique.

"What we do here is improve his ability to attack and his ability to be conditioned," said Groveline. "What he gets better at in the other gym where Leo trains him is him being under attack, because that's a whole different stress level."

The days leading up to the fight pose an additional form of stress on the body particularly if the fighter has to cut a lot of weight. Wilson's training team avoids traumatic weight cuts by gradually reducing his strength training, increasing the cardio and monitoring his diet. Wilson texts his weight to his trainer every morning so they know exactly where he stands and how his weight cut is progressing.

When Wilson is not training or working, he is promoting his fights and helping to fill the seats by making public appearances at pre-fight parties alongside fellow fighters such as main event headliner Jimmy Lange.

But it's easy to see that the polite, unassuming fighter with the boyish grin would rather be spending time with his family, friends and girlfriend Brigid McEvilly. He met McEvilly at Fitness Together where she is a personal trainer. Has she ever trained him?

"No way," she laughs, shaking her head. "I don't train him."

She does, however, attend all his fights, and says that she doesn't get nervous until one or two fights before Wilson walks out. And what a memorable walk out it is. True to his Irish heritage, Wilson enters the arena to live bagpipes. His signature entrance is usually one of the highlights of the night, rousing his fans dressed in green to stand up and shout. His parents, who come into town for every fight, cheering from the crowd as well.

This support structure of family and friends, more than anything, helps Wilson tackle each fight. Sure, he has his little rituals that he relies upon — he wears the same socks to each fight and listens to "Saturday Night's Alright for Fighting" before walking out — but when he enters that ring it's his family, his coaches, his friends and his girlfriend who are backing him up every step of the way.

They will all be there this Saturday night, March 12 at the Patriot Center when Todd



Brigid McEvilly and boyfriend Todd 'White Lightning' Wilson share a laugh after a workout at the Annandale Boys & Girls Club boxing gym.

"White Lightning" Wilson defends his undefeated record and goes for his 10th straight victory against Dean "Pitbull" White.

## Saturday Night Fights

See Fairfax resident Todd "White Lightning" Wilson take on Dean "Pitbull" White Saturday, March 12, 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Great Falls boxer Jimmy Lange will also be fighting that night. Tickets \$35-\$500, through [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) and 703-573-SEAT.



Todd Wilson, right, and boxing coach Leo Rossiter, center, visit with 'The Voice of the Redskins' Larry Michael at a pre-fight party designed to let fighters and sponsors mingle with fans.



# Military Families Find Support

FROM PAGE 3

ing the mother of Ryan, an explosive ordnance disposal officer deployed to Afghanistan until September.

The military, which has several programs for spouses of deployed troops, has left many parents feeling out of the loop and alone. It's a problem that this group hopes to rectify.

"I think it gives you a perspective. Here, I was hearing people say 'My son is gone for the fourth time,'" said Landseadel, later in the evening. "I feel a little bit like [the military] dropped us. ... I don't know anyone from his unit. Right now, I feel like I have no information."

The next meeting of Parents Support for Parents Who Have Children Who Are Deployed is scheduled for April 7. For more information, contact Blanding at 703-324-5252 or

tilly.blanding@fairfaxcounty.gov/.

Christian Smith is the executive editor of MyMilitaryMom.com.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

**Bonnie Gallahan speaks at the March 3 meeting of The Parents Support for Parents Who Have Children Who Are Deployed.**

## COLLEGE NOTES

**Christine Franzel** of Burke, class of 2013, was named to the dean's honor list at Agnes Scott College for the fall semester. Franzel is the daughter of Jeanette Franzel and Robin Franzel.

Students are eligible for the dean's honor list at the end of a semester if they have completed 16 semester hours in academic courses with a semester GPA of at least 3.7 and no grade below a C.

**Caitlin Landsman** of Burke was named to Marist College's dean's list for the fall 2010 semester. She is a member of the class of 2013 and is majoring in communication.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### SUNDAY/MARCH 13

**Fellowship of Christian Athletes Fundraising Rally.** 6:30 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College, Richard J. Ernst Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Free. Adults only. 703-255-0070 or www.novafca.org.

### MONDAY/MARCH 14

**Haven of Northern Virginia's Bereavement Support Group.** 7:30 p.m. Haven of Northern Virginia, Inc., 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale. Six weekly meetings, through April 18. Free. Register at 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org.

### TUESDAY/MARCH 15

**Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group.** 6:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. 703-451-8626.

**Surviving Divorce: A Women's Support Group.** 7 p.m. JSSA, 3018 Javier Road, Fairfax. For women who are separated or who have been divorced within the last two years. Eight weekly sessions. Register at 703-896-7908.

### Senior Fall Prevention Classes.

1:30 p.m. The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Held in a heated indoor pool, designed to work on balance and core muscles in order to prevent injuries and falls. Classes are held Tuesdays and/or Thursdays. \$10 per class. Register at 703-667-9800.



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## ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

From left, maid of honor Terri Marin; best man Hilary Rinke; bride Nichole Klocke de Rodriguez; and reporter Lorraine Hoppe rehearse a scene.

# Murder in the Morning

**Dinner theater comes**  
**to Town of Clifton.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Town of Clifton is having its first-ever dinner theater. The murder-mystery/comedy, "I'm Getting Murdered in the Morning," will be presented Friday-Saturday, March 18-19, at 7 p.m., in the Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road.

Tickets are \$30/person for the show and a catered dinner. They're available at A Flower Blooms in Clifton, The Clifton Café, T & K Treasures and The Clifton Wine Shop & Tasting Room, or by e-mailing [cliftontheatertickets@gmail.com](mailto:cliftontheatertickets@gmail.com).

"The story is about a disgruntled bride whose wedding is interrupted by a murder," said producer Dianne Janczewski, a Clifton resident and Fairfax High grad. "While everyone is trying to solve the murder, she just wants to eat a good meal at her reception."

Audience members will become the guests at the wedding reception, and Clifton's Brant Baber, as the detective, will interact with them, asking them questions as part of the plot. The fun begins at 7 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres and drinks from the cash bar, followed by dinner and the show at 8 p.m.

Shirley's Catering of Lorton is providing stuffed chicken breasts, rice and vegetables, with vegetarian meals also available. Students from Rocky Run Middle School will serve the food and have some surprise lines during the play.

The show boasts a cast and crew of 18, plus 17 students. Half the cast is from the Town of Clifton

and the rest are from Centreville, Fairfax Station, Fairfax and Reston.

"It's a fun evening, dinner and local theater with a community feel," said Janczewski.

Charlt Yakovleff of Centreville's Marleigh Downs community is directing the show. Professionally, she works in the television and film industry as a production freelancer for major networks in the Washington Metropolitan area. She's currently co-producing and co-directing three films, including one on 23-year-old LaVonda "Nikki" King, who was killed in the June 2009 Metro train crash.

"I'm thrilled to be directing the inaugural, Clifton Dinner Theater production," said Yakovleff. "I'm honored. It's great to see how the actors come from their everyday lives to become the characters and make them what they want."

"This is a tongue-in-cheek comedy and a great opportunity for people to get together and enjoy themselves," she said. "I really want the audience to have a good time and to walk away thinking, 'Wow, I really liked that and I can hardly wait 'til they do another show.'"

Fairfax's Terri Grimes-Marin plays Bunny, the maid of honor. "She's smart, intellectual, well-read and interested in the truth," said Grimes-Marin. "Although serious, she's still fun-loving. I'm having a ball; I was a theater major in college, and it's fun to be acting again. I'm enjoying my fellow cast members a great deal, and I play a broad character that I can change up at each rehearsal."

She said the audience will appreciate the show's humor and "the fact that we look like we're really having fun. It's so exciting to have dinner theater in Clifton; I think every town should have one."

**"It's not the**  
**Kennedy Center, but**  
**it sure is fun."**

**— Helen Rusnak, playing the**  
**mother of the bride**

SEE CLIFTON, PAGE 11



# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## THURSDAY/MARCH 10

- Jennifer L. Nelson's "24, 7, 365."** 8 p.m. George Mason University Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Attitudes about race, class and social activism are put under a humorous microscope. \$25. [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).
- Jesse Malin & The St. Marks Social, Josh Abt & The Regulars and American Babies.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).
- Tom Paxton.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk music. \$22. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).
- The Wind Blew.** 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories and activities. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-293-6227.
- Paws for Reading.** 4 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice reading with a trained therapy dog. Sign up for a 15-minute session. Age 6-12. 703-249-1520.
- Kid Science: Mirror, Mirror.** 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Stories and activities about mirrors. Age 4-6 with adult. 703-644-7333.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 11

- Celtic Woman: Songs from the Heart.** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Irish classics, contemporary covers and original compositions. Tickets \$34-\$79, available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or 703-573-SEAT. [www.Celticwoman.com](http://www.Celticwoman.com).
- Jennifer L. Nelson's "24, 7, 365."** 8 p.m. George Mason University Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Attitudes about race, class and social activism are put under a humorous microscope. \$30. [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).
- Rocknocos Family Happy Hour** at 7 p.m., Super bob, Star City Meltdown and DJ Crazy at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).
- The Second City: Fair & Unbalanced.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Improv comedy. \$24. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

## SATURDAY/MARCH 12

- Jimmy Lange Boxing.** 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$35-\$500, through [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) and 703-573-SEAT.
- Northern Virginia's Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Directed by Jim Carroll, with percussionist Joe McCarthy, percussionist Roberto Quintero and jazz vocalist Sara Jones. Brazilian bossa nova, Argentine tango, Afro-Cuban beats from Harlem and more. \$20-\$40. Tickets are half price for youth through grade 12 when accompanied by an adult. Charge at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).
- Jennifer L. Nelson's "24, 7, 365."** 2 p.m. George Mason University Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Attitudes about race, class and social activism are put under a humorous microscope. \$25. [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).
- Lab Rescue's Adoption Event.** 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Weber's Pet Supermarket, 11021 Lee Highway,

Fairfax. Talk with fosters and volunteers who can prepare you for dog ownership and help choose the right dog to join your family. If you bring all members of your family including canine, you may be able to adopt the same day. [www.lab-rescue.org](http://www.lab-rescue.org).

**Deep River Concert and After-Party.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**The Second City: Fair & Unbalanced.** 7:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Improv comedy. \$24. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**Children's Book Sale.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Books and more. All Ages. 703-293-6227.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 13

**Young Artist Competition Finalist Recital.** 7 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Blvd., Fairfax. Northern



## Dance Gala

**The Mason Dance Company 2011 Gala Concert will be Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26 at 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive in Fairfax. The performances will showcase a repertory company of dancers performing contemporary choreography in four pieces, including Ohad Naharin's 'Ehad Mi Yodea,' Lar Lubovitch's 'Dvorak Serenade,' Robert Battle's 'Promenade' and Susan Shields' 'Sunlit Song.' Tickets are \$20 adults, \$12 students and seniors, and are available at the Center for the Arts Box Office, open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., or at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).**

Virginia's most talented high school instrumentalists compete for a \$2000 scholarship to further their musical education in a free public recital as part of the City of Fairfax Band's Young Artist Competition. Application materials are available at [www.fairfaxband.org](http://www.fairfaxband.org). Free. 703-757-0220.

**Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel: "Northern Stars."** 7 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Works by Edvard Grieg, Jean Sibelius, Carl Nielsen, Johannes Brahms and more. \$19-\$38. Tickets are half price for youth through grade 12 when accompanied by an adult. Charge at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**Jennifer L. Nelson's "24, 7, 365."** 4 p.m. George Mason University Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Attitudes about race, class and social activism are put under a humorous microscope. \$25. [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**Al Petteway & Amy White CD Release Show.** 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

## MONDAY/MARCH 14

- Jo Williamson.** 8:15 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).
- Book Buddies.** 4 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Beginning readers practice with a young adult volunteer. Age 5-9 with adult. 703-293-6227.
- Can You Hop Like a Bunny?** 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories and activities about rabbits. Tickets distributed 30 minutes before program begins. Age 2 with adult. 703-249-1520.
- Green Is Good.** 10:30 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Stories and fun about St. Patrick's Day. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-978-5600.
- How to Draw Great Big Faces.** 2:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. With artist Paul Merklein. Maximum number of participants is 30. Age 8-

14. 703-644-7333.

## TUESDAY/MARCH 15

- Bushwalla and Jason Ager.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).
- English Conversation Group.** 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-293-6227.
- Evening Book Discussion.** 7:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery. Adults. 703-293-6227.
- Book Discussion Group.** 1:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by Nicholas Kristof. Adults. 703-978-5600.
- Book Discussion Group.** 6:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The Color of Water by James McBride. 703-978-5600.
- Tiny Tots.** 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Very short stories and activities. Age 13-17 months with adult. 703-644-7333.

# Clifton Dinner Theater

FROM PAGE 10

Lorraine Hoppe of Fairfax Station portrays a reporter who covers the society scene for a local, weekly paper, but who considers herself a celebrity-magazine reporter. "She has a giant ego and is a muckraker and a loudmouth," said Hoppe. "But she wants to be a serious reporter and is one of the few people in the play who want to get to the bottom of the murder."

She's great to play, said Hoppe, because "she's brash and loud and the opposite of me, and she's got some funny lines. And the audience will like being included as part of the production, essentially, everybody's on the stage."

Playing the bride, Brenda, is Reston's Nichole Klocke de Rodriguez, formerly of Centreville's Asher View and Sully Station II communities. "This is Brenda's third marriage and she's whiny and a daddy's girl," said Klocke de Rodriguez. "She's a spoiled brat and nothing makes her happy. I'm quiet and easygoing, so it's fun to make everyone bend to 'my' whims. And I get to be pretty and wear a wedding dress."

Klocke de Rodriguez says the audience will like the surprising and humorous references to things currently happening in Clifton. But the play will appeal to everyone, she said, because of elements in the show that are "universally funny."

One of the most hilarious characters is Mildred, mother of the bride, played by Clifton's Helen Rusnak.

"She's very high class and hoity-toity and feels her daughter is marrying way beneath her," said Rusnak. "The man her daughter has chosen is a hillbilly with no class or culture, at all, and Mildred is peeved to be going through her third wedding with this girl."

"I love it because I like character-acting and getting to be somebody else," said Rusnak. "The only way Mildred can survive this wedding is to get drunk. She starts off fairly sober and, by the end of the show, she's really sloshed."

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# Fairfax County REAL ESTATE

## 2011 Assessments

Hunter Mill Supervisor **Cathy Hudgins (D)** saw her assessment stay flat this year, unlike most Reston households that saw a slight increase in their home values. Her 2011 assessment, the same as last year, was \$545,440



Dranesville District Supervisor **John Foust (D)** saw a 4.29% gain in his property value when compared to 2010. The county valued Foust's house at \$2,765,510 last year and \$2,884,060 this year. Most McLean homes saw a smaller bump in their home values.



Lee Supervisor **Jeff McKay (D)** saw a slight increase of .58% in his home assessment in 2011. Last year, his home was worth \$641,330 and this year it is valued at \$645,030. Most households in Alexandria ZIP codes saw a larger bump of 1.64% in their real estate assessments.



Mount Vernon Supervisor **Gerry Hyland (D)** was the only member of the Fairfax County board to see his assessment drop this year. Hyland lost .45% of his home value, taking him from \$402,810 to \$400,999.



Braddock Supervisor **John Cook (R)** saw a 6.1% increase in the value of his house when compared to last year. Cook's home was valued at \$381,570 in 2010 and \$404,860 in 2011. Cook's assessment increased more than most houses in his Springfield ZIP code.



Fairfax County Chairman **Sharon Bulova (D)** saw a much larger increase in her real estate assessment than most households in the county. Bulova's assessment went up 12.33% from \$526,990 in 2010 to \$591,990 in 2011.

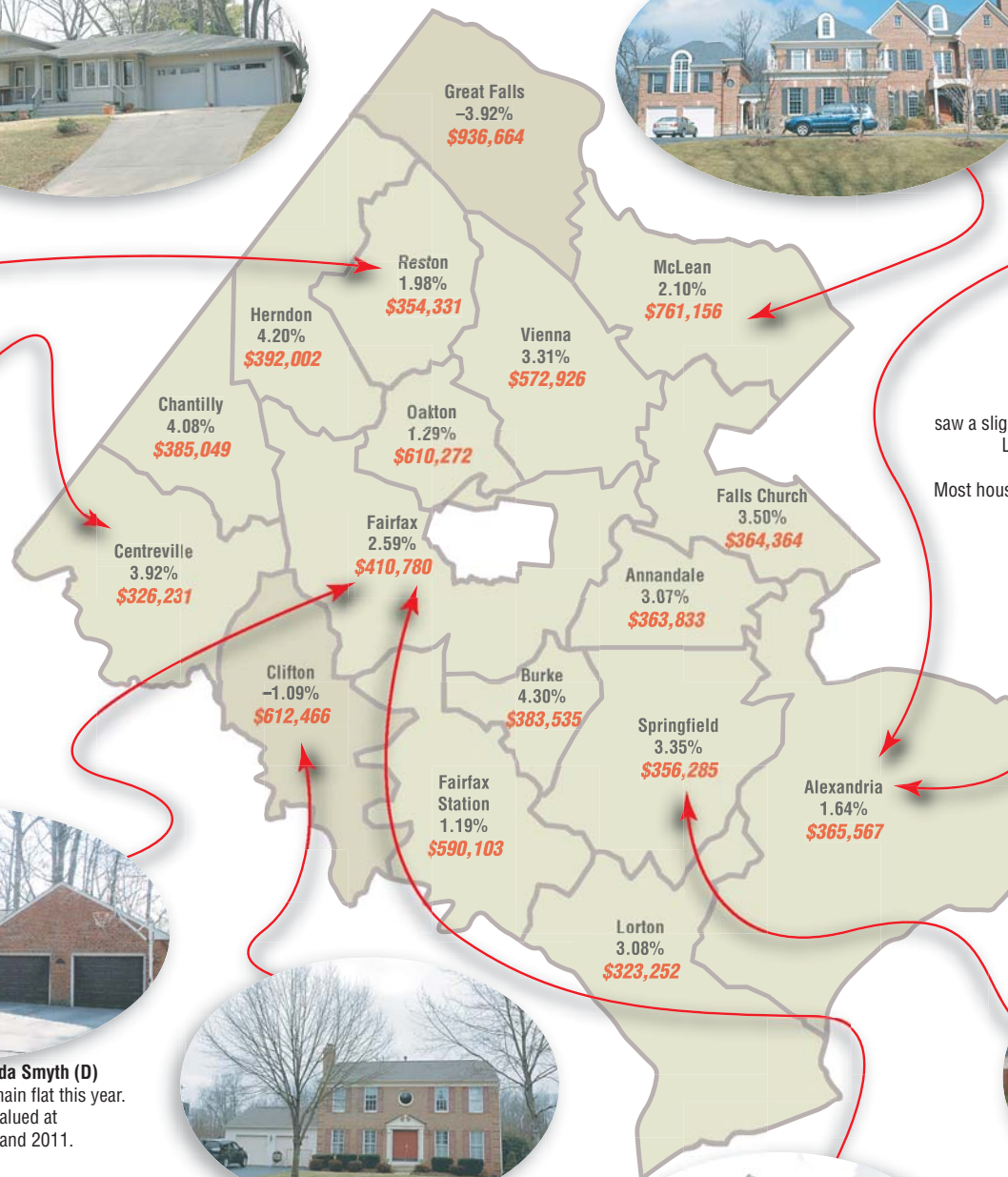


Springfield Supervisor **Patrick Herrity (R)** saw his home value remain flat this year. Herrity owns a house in Clifton assessed at \$525,750 in both 2010 and 2011.



Providence Supervisor **Linda Smyth (D)** saw her home assessment remain flat this year. Smyth's house was valued at \$482,080 in both 2010 and 2011.

Sully Supervisor **Michael Frey (R)** saw a 6.69% increase in the value of his home over the last year. Frey's home was assessed at \$195,410 in 2010 and \$208,480 in 2011. His home assessment increased more than most Centreville residences.



**2011 County Average (Percent Change)**  
 Single Family Detached **\$535,298 (2.1%)**  
 Townhouse **\$318,614 (3.73%)**  
 Condos **\$211,281 (2.53%)**

ZIP CODE AREA	2010 MEAN	2011 MEAN	PERCENT CHANGE
Alexandria	359,674	365,567	1.64
Annandale	352,988	363,833	3.07
Burke	367,728	383,535	4.30
Centreville	313,922	326,231	3.92
Chantilly	369,952	385,049	4.08
Clifton	619,233	612,466	-1.09
Fairfax	400,391	410,780	2.59
Fairfax Station	583,177	590,103	1.19
Falls Church	352,035	364,364	3.50
Great Falls	974,906	936,664	-3.92
Herndon	376,196	392,002	4.20
Lorton	313,608	323,252	3.08
McLean	745,486	761,156	2.10
Oakton	602,520	610,272	1.29
Reston	347,456	354,331	1.98
Springfield	344,733	356,285	3.35
Vienna	554,550	572,926	3.31

### Changes in Real Estate Values Across the Region

Alexandria	0.46%
Arlington	1.4%
Fairfax	2.34%
Loudoun	2.45%
Prince William	5%



## COMMUNITY

### Legion Baseball: An Investment in America's Youth

**H**ow many parents and their baseball oriented sons, from ages 15 to 19, have given much thought to the advantages of playing American Legion Baseball — a program that is extremely active in the Northern Virginia District 17 of the American Legion? American Legion baseball is not just another local baseball program for youth.

American Legion Baseball is the oldest and largest nationwide teenage baseball program played throughout America since its inception in 1925. Over 10 million teenagers have played American Legion baseball since that time. On an average, nearly 70 percent of all college baseball players played American Legion Baseball as teenagers; approximately 52 percent of Major League Baseball players played American Legion Baseball as teenagers; and more American Legion alumni have been inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum than any other amateur baseball program - the outcome of positive support provided mostly by a volunteer coaching staff throughout the nation.

American Legion Baseball presents the potential of playing in the various American Legion tournaments at the district, state, regional, national, and the ultimate — the American Legion World Series.

For information on how to be involved in American Legion baseball as a player or coach, contact Bill Murphy, District 17 Baseball Chairman via e-mail at bigmerf@gmail.com or Jim Glassman, District 17 Baseball Administrator, at jimglassman@verizon.net.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERNUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**The District 17 American Legion baseball All-Star game is played at Waters Field in Vienna every year on Independence Day.**

## OPEN HOUSES SAT. & SUN. MARCH 12 & 13



**8515 Silverdale Road, Lorton • \$519,900 • Open Sunday 1-4**  
**Tracy Jones, Acquire Real Estate LLC, 703-231-6094**

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

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

#### Lorton

9220 Wrights Hollow La. .... \$739,950..Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert.....703-862-8808  
8515 Silverdale Rd. .... \$519,900..Sun 1-4.....Tracy Jones.....Acquire.....703-231-6094  
9272 Cardinal Forest La #101 ..\$225,000..Sun 1-4.....Annie Koontz.....McEneaney Assoc.....240-606-9423

#### Burke

9805 Pulham Rd. .... \$469,750..Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert.....703-862-8808  
9638 Ironmaster Dr. .... \$549,900..Sun 1-4.....Shanna Miller.....Weichert.....703-615-3178  
6114 Pond Lily Ct. .... \$309,000..Sun 1-4.....Diane Murphy.....DGM Properties.....703-408-1152  
10135 Walnut Wood Ct. .... \$339,900..Sun 1-4.....Janet Yoon Kang.....Weichert.....703-628-3822

#### Springfield

6234 Levi Ct. .... \$449,950..Sun. 1-4.....Tom & Cindy and Associates.....Long & Foster.....703-822-0207  
6920 Spur Rd. .... \$459,950..Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert.....703-862-8808  
7250 Hillmead Ct. .... \$279,750..Sun 1-5.....Steve Childress.....Long & Foster.....703-981-3277

#### Kingstowne/Alexandria

3845 Dominion Mill Dr. .... \$565,000..Sun 1-4.....Heather Bennett.....RE/MAX.....703-508-5442  
6411 Casperson Rd. .... \$899,000..Sun. 1-4.....Tom & Cindy and Associates.....Long & Foster.....703-822-0207  
6612 Netties Ln. #26B.....\$299,950..Sun. 1-4.....Tom & Cindy and Associates.....Long & Foster.....703-822-0207  
7417 Gillingham Row .....\$509,950..Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy and Associates.....Long & Foster.....703-822-0207

#### Fort Belvoir

9149 Ciri Lake Ln. .... \$539,950..Sun. 1-4.....Tom & Cindy and Associates.....Long & Foster.....703-822-0207

#### Annandale

4209 Downing St. .... \$429,900..Sun 1-4.....Ronni Miller.....Weichert.....703-801-4082

#### Fairfax

4310 Cannon Ridge Ct Unit E.....\$280,000..Sun. 1-4.....Linda Smith.....Samson Properties.....703-338-0060  
5503 Ridge View Dr W .....\$995,000..Sun. 1-4.....Ashley O'Brien.....RE/MAX.....571-332-1816  
9010 Colesbury Pl .....\$785,000..Sun. 1-4.....Anne Harrington.....Long & Foster.....703-938-4200  
9201 Briary Ln .....\$665,000..Sun. 1-4.....Deborah Larson.....Long & Foster.....703-905-7269  
5402 Leeway Ct .....\$329,900..Sun. 12-4.....Richer Cadima.....Classic Realty, Ltd.....703-597-3418  
10500 Elmira Ct .....\$529,000..Sun. 1-5.....Lena Restivo.....Weichert.....703-691-0555

#### Fairfax Station

8223 Bayberry Ridge Rd.....\$649,990..Sun 1-4.....Deborah Baird.....Coldwell Banker.....703-585-9231  
8303 Pinyon Pine Ct.....\$845,000..Sun 1-4.....Mary FitzHenry.....Long & Foster.....703-503-1825

#### Centreville

15529 Eagle Tavern Ln.....\$659,900..Sun. 1-4.....Eileen Smith.....Prudential Carruthers.....703-272-2322  
13652 Fox Meadow Ct.....\$599,900..Sun. 1-4.....Brian Erickson.....Realty Direct, LLC.....703-738-7237  
15155 Stratton Major Ct.....\$579,900..Sun. 1-4.....Jennifer Young.....Keller Williams.....703-674-1777

#### Clifton

12204 Henderson Rd.....\$724,900..Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster.....703-503-1812  
7114 Ivakota Rd.....\$799,500..Sun 1-4.....Debbie Besley.....Long & Foster.....703-346-5103  
12109 Wolf Valley Dr.....\$849,000..Sun 1-4.....Diane Lenahan.....Wolf Run.....703-283-7328  
6406 Deepwood Farm Dr.....\$874,000..Sun 1-4.....Romie Oplinger.....NBI.....703-304-5042  
7519 Detwiller Dr.....\$865,000..Sun 1-4.....Marguerite Roland.....RE/MAX.....703-577-4538  
12105 Wolf Valley Dr.....\$759,900..Sun 1-4.....Art Hoppe.....Century 21.....703-850-8488

#### Chantilly

13421 Marble Rock Drive.....\$759,900..Sun. 1-4.....Elizabeth McGuiness.....Long & Foster.....703-626-1952  
14719 National Drive.....\$60,000..Sun. 12-3.....Veena Runyan.....Coldwell Banker.....703-691-1400

#### Manassas

10926 Pennycress St.....\$350,000..Sun. 1-4.....David Gillis.....Long & Foster.....571-451-7306

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

## #1 Weichert Agent in Burke & Fairfax Station

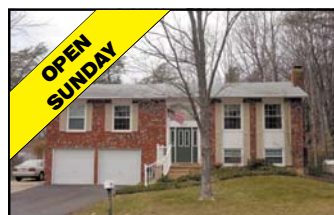


**Call Kathleen today and ask for a copy of her "Satisfied Client List"**



**Fairfax St/Lorton \$739,950**  
**Open Sunday 3/13 1-4**

Amazing home on premium 3/4 acres w/ dramatic 2 story foyer, library, huge fin walkout bsmt w/ in-law suite, 5000 sq ft, gorgeous hi-end MBA remodel, loaded w/ hrdwd flrs & moldings, updated eat-in kit w/ granite & SS appl, deck, patio, spinkler sys, dual zone HVAC, many updates & more.



**Springfield \$459,950**  
**Open Sunday 3/13 1-4**

Immac home loaded w/ updates on premium 1/3 acre lot w/ deck & fence, updated eat-in kit w/ granite & 42" cabs, 4BR, updated baths, fin lower lvl w/ wood flrs & gas frpl, walk to school, replaced roof, siding, HVAC, garage dr, windows, sliders & more.



**Burke/Cherry Run \$469,750**  
**Open Sunday 3/13 1-4**

Immac home w/ large fenced yard w/ deck, 4 spacious BR, fin walk-out bsmt w/ plenty of storage, updated eat-in kit, fresh paint, lovely hrdwd flrs, updated baths, new driveway, walk & stoop 2010, walk to school, replaced siding, windows, garage door & more.



**Fairfax Sta/Crosspointe \$639,950**  
**Backs to Common Area**

Beautifully updated col w/ flat fenced yard w/ dramatic mastersuite w/ vaulted clngs & walk-in closet, updated eat-in kit w/ SS appl & granite cntrs, loads of hrdwd flrs, sunny fin walk-up bsmt w/ custom blt-ins & full BA, deck, MBA w/ double sinks w/ granite, gas frplc & more.



**Burke/Longwood Knolls \$569,950**  
**Multiple Offers Received**

Mint cond home w/ 4BR, 3.5BA, deck, screened porch, fin walkout bsmt, lovely hrdwd flrs, updated eat-in kit w/ granite, new Andersen windows, spacious MBA w/ sep tub & shower, large familyrm w/ granite bar & greenhouse window, replaced roof, siding, HVAC, garage drs & walkway, walk to school & more.

**Kathleen Quintarelli**  
**703-862-8808**

See Interior Photos at:  
**[www.kathleenhomes.com](http://www.kathleenhomes.com) • [kathquintarelli@erols.com](mailto:kathquintarelli@erols.com)**



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April Robinson helped West Springfield reach the state semifinals for the second consecutive season.

## Spartans Return To State Semis

West Springfield to face old foe — Stonewall Jackson.

Junior point guard April Robinson knew what the West Springfield girls basketball team had to do defensively against Woodside in the AAA state quarterfinals.

Thanks to the Internet.

"We figured out they couldn't really shoot the ball," Robinson said. "We saw video tape of them on YouTube, and I could tell that they couldn't shoot, so we got in a 2-3 [zone] and they just didn't want to shoot the ball."

The strategy worked as West Springfield prevailed, 49-40, on Friday, March 4 at Robinson Secondary to return to the state semifinals. The win improved the Spartans' record to 28-1 and set up a rematch with Stonewall Jackson, the only team to defeat West Springfield during the regular season. The game was scheduled to take place on Wednesday, March 9, after the Connection went to press.

Last year, the Spartans lost to Lake Taylor in the semifinals.

"The kids have been there, they want to go back," West Springfield head coach Bill Gibson said. "They got one game at VCU last year, we'd like to get [more] this year."

— JON ROETMAN



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Freshman Amy Berglund and the West Springfield girls basketball team defeated Woodside, 49-40, in the quarterfinals of the AAA state tournament on March 4.

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## Beethoven's Piano Concerto

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Matti Raekallio, piano

George Mason University's  
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- **SIBELIUS:** Symphony No. 5

Tickets: 888-945-2468 or [www.fairfaxsymphony.org](http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org)

# THIS IS "LUCKY"

Manchester Terrier X-neutered male, 15 lbs. DOB 8/20/10. Will this be your lucky day or Lucky's lucky day? This will be a win-win situation for everyone. Lucky is very sweet and loves to play. He's good with other dogs and would be a great companion for anyone wanting a small to medium size dog. He's 3 months old, has adorable half up and half down ears. This makes all his expressions seem like he has an inside joke. Please take time to come and meet Lucky and let this be his really lucky day, but be prepared to do a lot of smiling. Attributes: He'll prance into your heart!

HUMANE SOCIETY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

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4057 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030 • 703-385-7387



# SPORTS

**Fairfax's Caitlin Henry**, a Robinson Secondary graduate and current senior on the Case Western Reserve University (Pittsford, N.Y.) women's basketball team, has been named an Honorable Mention member on the 2011 All-University Athletic Association Team, announced by the UAA office on Thursday, March 3. Henry finishes her career as a two-time honorable mention pick. She averaged 10.3 points and 5.7 rebounds and became the 11<sup>th</sup> woman in school history to reach 1,000 career points. With 1,020 points for her career, Henry ranks ninth on the all-time CWRU list. The Spartans finished the season at 13-12 overall and 7-7 in the UAA. The winning season was Case's third in head coach Jennifer Reimer's four-year tenure and the .500 UAA slate was the best for the program since a 10-4 finish in 2001-02.

**The annual Northern Virginia Senior Olympics** (NVSO), set to take place Sept. 17-28, will add three new events this year — volleyball, badminton, and a 1,600 meter walk.

"These three events join over 25 others NVSO offers during 10 days of competition," said NVSO Chairwoman Betsy Bailey.

Bailey also said that participation during the past two years has increased 20 percent each year. "We are particularly happy to see so many new faces taking our goal of living healthy longer seriously," said Bailey.

NVSO offers both indoor and outdoor events including swimming, diving, tennis,

table tennis, racquetball, pickleball, men's basketball, bowling, Wii bowling, team line dancing, golf, miniature golf, bocce, fencing, eight ball pool, horseshoes, and track and field. Board games and card games are also offered such as chess, cribbage, duplicate bridge, bunco, backgammon and scrabble. For more information, call 703-228-3600, ext. 9996, or e-mail jmassa@arlingtonva.us. Check the website at [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us) for photos.

**Paul VI Catholic High School** of Fairfax has announced that Gordon Leib has been named the new head football coach for the Panthers. Leib, the former coach at James Madison High School (Vienna), has led his Warhawk teams to a record of 69-43 (.616) over the past 10 seasons, while qualifying for the Northern Region Division 5 playoffs eight times. Madison reached the region finals three times and garnered one region championship.

"Gordon is someone with a proven track record," said Paul VI Principal Virginia Colwell. "We need someone who will bring a quality program to us. I believe that Gordon is that man and coach."

Leib will also teach at the private school.

"The number one thing we looked for was a leader," stated Billy Emerson, the Paul VI Athletic Director. "That's what we got."

**The Virginia State Independent**

**Schools** Swim and Dive Championships took place the weekend of Feb. 18-19, at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center, a brand new facility between Virginia Tech and the town of Christiansburg. The facility was outstanding for the state private school postseason meet, with state of the art equipment, including wireless stopwatches and a digital scoreboard. The meet was covered by [www.swimmingworld.tv](http://www.swimmingworld.tv) and is available for viewing on their website. The meet includes preliminaries and finals for each event.

On the girl's side, St. Catherine's of Richmond repeated as state champions. Second was The Collegiate School (also of Richmond), and third was Norfolk Academy. The Madeira School of McLean was the top finisher from Northern Virginia and fourth place overall.

Other Northern Virginia schools which competed at the state meet were: The Seton School of Manassas (fifth place); Bishop Ireton of Alexandria (tied for seventh); Paul VI of Fairfax (10th); Flint Hill of Oakton (12th); St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School of Alexandria (20th); and Potomac School of McLean (27th).

On the boy's side, Fork Union Military Academy of Fork Union, Va. won the meet, followed by second place Woodberry Forrest (Orange). Other area schools included: St. Stephen's & St. Agnes (fifth place); The Seton School (seventh); Bishop Ireton (9th); Flint Hill (17th); and Paul VI (20th).

**Shannon Ericksson**, a Thomas Jefferson High girls' basketball player, was honored with a surprise on-court presentation prior to a Colonials girls' basketball home game last month.

The senior, during the brief ceremonies, was recognized for her achievement of being named a nominee to play in the 2011 McDonald's All American High School Basketball Game. The presentation was made by Ashley Welburn on behalf of the local Fairfax County McDonald's.

Ericksson is competing nationwide to fill one of 24 positions on the Team, and to play for the honor of raising Game proceeds for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicago and Northwest Indiana. The girls' game will be played March 30 at the famed United Center in Chicago. The boys' game will follow.

**Washington Redskins star** tight end Chris Cooley has announced dates for his annual Old Spice Chris Cooley Football Camp. The two-day event will take place Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 5, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Fairfax High School. Cooley's wife Christy will be hosting a cheerleading camp that runs in conjunction with the football camp.

Cost of the camp is \$199. Campers are encouraged to register early, as spots are limited. Additional information and registration is available at [www.ChrisCooleyCamp.com](http://www.ChrisCooleyCamp.com) or by calling 888-389-CAMP.

## WEEK IN SPORTS

# COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP



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5690 Oak Leather Drive  
Burke, VA 22015  
703-764-0456  
[www.BurkePresChurch.org](http://www.BurkePresChurch.org)  
Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 11:15 am Saturday Worship: 5:30 pm  
9:45 am Sunday School CoffeeHouse/casual, guest musicians  
"Gospelized Lives: Encounters with Jesus"  
Six-Week Small Group Study March 9-April 23  
Open to All! To join this study in Lent, call 703-764-0456.



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OUR WORSHIP SERVICES  
SUNDAYS AT 8, 9:30, 11AM  
VENTURE (YOUNG ADULTS) 10:45AM  
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Sunday School 10:10 AM  
Sunday Evening - Realtime Service & Youth 6 PM  
Family Night - Wednesday 7:15 PM  
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Sunday Services 8:15, 9:30 and 11 am 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield  
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Childcare is available during worship **703-569-9862**



9800 Old Keene Mill Rd.  
703-455-7041  
Sunday School 9:15 AM  
Worship Service 10:30 AM  
**www.calvaryfamily.com**  
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## Christian Youth Mission Fund Raiser

**Art Auction, Saturday, March 19th**  
Preview 6 p.m., Auction 7 p.m.  
Tickets: \$10/person, \$15/couple  
Music, door prizes, snacks & guaranteed fun!  
For more info visit [www.SUMCdisciples.org](http://www.SUMCdisciples.org) or call 703-451-8223.  
Preview the art online at [www.Marlinaart.com](http://www.Marlinaart.com) (Use code 63634 at checkout)  
**Sydenstricker United Methodist Church**  
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Baha'is of Fairfax  
County Southwest 703-912-1719  
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Preservation of Zion Fellowship  
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**Catholic**  
Church of the Nativity

703-455-2400  
**Christian Reformed**  
Grace Christian  
Reformed Church  
703-323-8033  
**Episcopal**  
Church of the Good Shepherd  
703-323-5400

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
703-455-2500  
**Lutheran**  
Abiding Presence Lutheran Church  
703-455-7500  
**Methodist**  
Burke United Methodist Church  
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St. Stephen's United Methodist Church  
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**Non-Denominational**  
Burke Community Church 703-425-0205  
Calvary Christian Church 703-455-7041  
Knollwood Community Church  
703-425-2068

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# Edstrom's Art Reflects Family History

FROM PAGE 3

airfield facilities. The couple bought a home in Burke, then a small community of about 200 people.

Ruth Edstrom set aside her hobby for a while after the move as her family settled into their new home. In 1986, after taking a tour of the Torpedo Factory in Old Town Alexandria, she decided to start painting again.

"I took a series of oil painting classes through the Fairfax County Park Authority, and then I enrolled in drawing and oil painting classes at the Torpedo Factory," Ruth Edstrom said. "In the fall of 1986, I started classes with Suzanne French Luke at her gallery in Occoquan, which I continued until she moved to Florida the summer of 1998."

In 1993, she joined the Springfield Art Guild (SAG), a non-profit group interested in promoting fine art and fine crafts through educational programs, juried shows and classes for adults and children.

Since joining SAG, she has been part of the Wednesday Art Group with Instructor Susan Norman. "I enjoy the camaraderie of painting with the ladies in the Wednesday group so very much. I truly enjoy painting and feel so blessed and thankful that God granted me a little talent in this endeavor," she said.

In October 1993, Ruth Edstrom represented SAG by showing one of her oil paintings, called "Springtime in Virginia," at the annual Fairfax County ARTSFAX show. Another one of her paintings received an honorable mention at the SAG show at Northern Virginia Community College, and she was named SAG's Artist of the Month in September, 2010.

"She just does marvelous artwork, and it really touches people," said Skeeter Schied, past president of SAG. "She's an artist who responds to beauty. She is a longstanding member of the guild, and nothing, and I mean nothing, stops her from painting."

Ruth Edstrom's paintings capture the most important things in her life: her children and grandchildren, family vacations and cherished scenes from childhood. Al-



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

**Ruth Edstrom created these paintings of her parents' farmhouse and her husband's farmhouse and barn in Minnesota.**

though she gives away most of her paintings to her family and friends for special occasions, she has done commissions, particularly for golf courses.

"John and I are avid golfers, and we're very involved in the Fort Belvoir Golf Community, so many of my paintings depict scenes of golf courses," Ruth Edstrom said. She and her husband frequently travel with friends, including Jim

— Julie Edstrom

and Nancy Ross of Burke, to Augusta, Ga., for the Master's Golf Tournament, and to the South Carolina coast, where the Edstroms have played in many tournaments.

"Ruth painted a lovely painting of the flowers that surrounded our beach house in Murrell's Inlet in South Carolina," Nancy Ross said. "She is so talented. I just don't know how she has the time to do it all."

As Ruth Edstrom walks through her home, she and her husband point out the paintings that have special meaning. In the family room hangs a series of three paintings of her family's farm house, and her husband's family's farm. Over the fireplace mantle is a winter scene of her house.

"You know, I also painted our house in spring, summer and fall. They're for my grandsons," Ruth Edstrom said.

Both of the Edstroms' children graduated from Lake Braddock Secondary School and remain in the area. Julie Edstrom has a doctorate and works as a school counselor at Chantilly High School. David Edstrom, who launched his own thriving computer business, and his wife, also named Julie, have three sons — John, 22, Michael 20 and Timothy, 16.

"I've painted my grandchildren so many times," said Ruth Edstrom. "I painted many when they were little guys about 2-years-old. There's one of Tim playing with his Dad's tractors and old toys, John fishing and one of Mike feeding a bunny. I also painted the three of them at the beach, looking at turtles. I gave that painting to Julie and David for their 10th anniversary."

One of John Edstrom's favorite paintings is of a little girl sitting in field of flowers. "That painting just flows. The colors are vivid, and it does remind me of our daughter," he said.

Julie Edstrom's favorite painting is her mother's first. "She is one of the most creative and artistic people you will ever meet," Julie Edstrom said. "She can sew, decorate cakes, draw and paint beautifully. We are blessed as a family to have so many of our memories captured on canvass to keep forever."

**Northern Virginia Community College** is accepting applications for a new scholarship sponsored by Rividium, Inc. The Rividium Biotechnology Scholarship will provide \$3,000 per year for two years for a student who plans to enroll full-time in NOVA's Biotechnology Program beginning in fall 2010. To be eligible, applicants must be graduating from a local high school this year, have a minimum 3.0 grade point average and qualify for financial aid as determined by the

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The application deadline is March 15. To access the application, go to [www.nvcc.edu](http://www.nvcc.edu) and search for "scholarships."

## SCHOOL NOTES

**The American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra** is seeking upright bass players at the elementary or middle school levels, and tuba players at the middle or high school level, to join the orchestra program. Contact Holly Hanneke at 703-642-8051, ext. 24 or [hhanneke@aypo.org](mailto:hhanneke@aypo.org).

**Kwame Ampeh** of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology was among more than 800 students nationwide who have won Achievement Scholarships from the 2010 National Achievement Scholarship program (NASP). The Achievement Scholarships are awarded to Black American high school seniors to be used for undergraduate study at any regionally accredited United States college or university. The student received a \$2,500 National Achievement Scholarships supported by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

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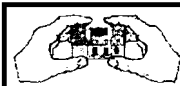


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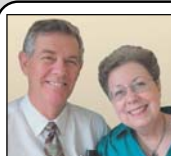


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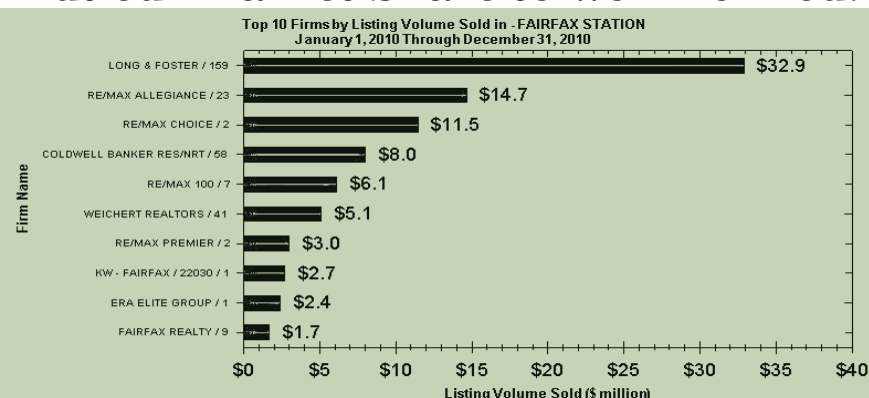


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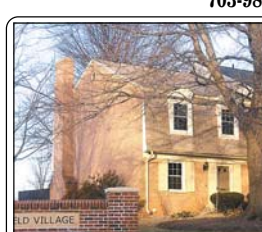
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