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Alaina Lester, a senior at W.T. Woodson High School, photographed her 94-year-old great grandmother, Grace. The photo is on display at the Lorton Workhouse arts Center.



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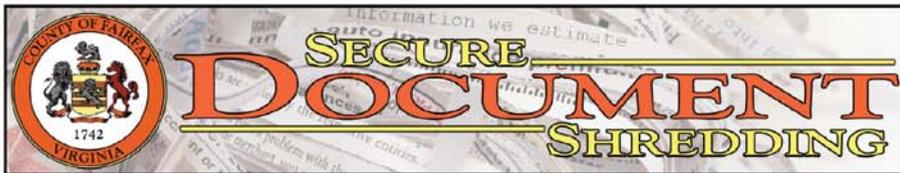
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I-66 Transfer Station (4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax).

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www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling, or call 703-324-5052, TTY 711.



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SPRING FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

CONNECTION EDITOR MICHAEL O'CONNELL
703-778-9416 OR SOUTH@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Put On Those Gardening Gloves and Get Digging

Local garden shops offer plants, advice to weekend gardeners.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Perhaps author Margaret Atwood said it best: "In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." Good advice for all those gardeners who are packing their car trunks with shrubs, annual, perennials, trees and hanging baskets.

"It's definitely that time of year, when everyone is coming in to get their spring gardens started," said Bonnie Ruetenik, owner of Heather Hill Gardens in Fairfax Station. "Everybody has dirt on their knees or under their nails, and they're excited about gardening," she said.

"Spring is one of the most exciting times of the year at Merrifield Garden Center," said Kevin Warhurst, manager of the family-owned nurseries with three Northern Virginia locations. "We literally have truckloads of trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals pulling into our stores each week." He said customers discover the latest varieties or traditional favorites. "There are more colors, textures and varieties this year than ever," he said.

Drive around any neighborhood in the area, and it's common to spot driveways, patios and lawns stacked with bags of mulch as people prepare for the spring planting season.

"We sell thousands of bags of mulch this time of year," Warhurst said "We often work with local schools, providing mulch as a fund-raising tool."

Merrifield Garden Center, which started in 1971 with about an acre of land on the corner of Lee Highway and Gallows Road, has expanded over the years to include nearly 90 acres of space at three locations for every kind of plant, shrub, tree a gardener can dream up.

Merrifield even has its own "Indiana Jones" of gardening. Tim Guy, who has worked at the center since he was



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Heather Hill Gardens owner Bonnie Ruetenik and Manager Lisa Jackson of advice to gardeners in the Fairfax Station area.

Gardening Seminars

Heather Hill Gardens, 8111 Ox Road in Fairfax Station

❖ **Container Day**. Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; rain date, Sunday, May 1, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Gardeners pick the plants, and Heather Hill provides potting soil and fertilizer. The nursery will also help design containers for the buyer's taste and location. Bring a container or browse Heather Hill's hand-selected collection of containers and saucers.

❖ **Herb Day**. Saturday, May 14, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; rain date is Sunday, May 15, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Herb Day at Heather Hill features a seminar by Barbara Jacksier, a guest chef, a free herb for everyone, samples of herb-infused drinks and food and free herb recipes. Gardeners can also explore the more than 50 varieties of herbs at Heather Hill Gardens.

For more information, go to www.heatherhillgardens.com.

Merrifield Garden Centers – Three locations: 8132 Lee Highway, Merrifield; 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax; and 6895 Wellington Road in Gainesville.

The three centers offer a number of free seminars, classes and instructional videos. For more information, go to www.merrifieldgardens.com.

Craven's Nursery – located at 9023 Arlington Blvd. in Fairfax

During the month of May, herbs have their own department at Craven's Nursery, with more than 100 varieties available. They have edible, medicinal, teas, ground covers, shrubs and more.

For more information on gardening tips and landscape and planting tips, go to www.cravensnursery.com

Burke Nursery Garden Centre – two locations: 9401 Burke Road in Burke and West Ox Road in Oak Hill

Misty Kuceris, a certified horticulturalist, is available to give customers gardening tips, advice and problem-solve. "It's exciting. People will bring in plant samples or bugs, which is the fun part, and I will analyze the problem and give them various solutions," Kuceris said.

She also gives talks on various topics, including how to create sun and shade gardens, creating a wildlife habitat, spring clean up and container gardening. For more information, go to www.burkenursery.com

Top Local Gardening Trends

❖ **Sustainable Container**. As backyards get smaller, garden centers are seeing a trend towards container gardening, especially herbs, vegetables and perennials.

"Containers are wonderful for those of us with limited time and busy schedules. They add color close to our homes and are easy to water from the house," said Bonnie Ruetenik, owner of Heather Hill Gardens in Fairfax Station.

Misty Kuceris, a certified horticulturalist with Burke Garden Centre said container gardening is so popular because it's versatile and easy to maintain. "What you can plant in the ground, about 99 percent of it you can also plant in a container," said Kuceris.

While still popular, annuals are being replaced in container gardens with hardy perennials, such as compact rose bushes, Little Purple Iris, Virginia Bluebells and azaleas. "Perennials come back every year, so they save you both time and money." This is the perfect time to get your new perennials established with the spring rains and cooler temperatures," said Ruetenik.

* **Vegetable & Community Gardens**. According to the Garden Writers Association Foundation, a national organization that

tracks gardening trends, vegetable gardening is up almost 20 percent from a year ago, and community gardens are up nearly 60 percent. It's a trend that local garden centers are seeing, and they are offering seminars and classes to cater to gardeners interested in learning more about vegetable and community gardens.

"In the free seminars we offer to the public, we used to do classes on vegetable gardening and would maybe get 10 or 12 people, compared with 50, 60 or more for other classes," said Kevin Warhurst, manager of Merrifield Garden Center. "But the class we had on vegetable gardening a few weeks ago attracted over 100 people. It's very popular right now."

❖ **Knock-Out rose bushes**. As every gardener knows, roses are beautiful and smell wonderful, but they can be a nightmare to maintain and are susceptible to a variety of diseases. Knock-Out roses are being sold at almost every garden center this year.

The compact, tidy shrub roses are resistant to black-spot, and they only need periodic trims, not frequent dead-heading, according to Warhurst of Merrifield Garden Center. They also come in vivid colors, such as fire-engine red, cherry-red and the foliage, a dark purplish green, turns to burgundy in the fall.

❖ **Herb Gardens**. Parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme are not just the lyrics to a song. Herbs have been garden favorites for centuries, and they are now trendy again as part of hugely popular sustainable and organic gardening culture. Local garden centers offer hundreds of varieties of herbs, from aromatic and medicinal to culinary and classic.

"Herb gardening is popular as we value the flavor and freshness of food we can grow ourselves. Grow a pot of Chocolate Mint to introduce your kids to gardening," said Ruetenik of Heather Hill Gardens.

At Craven's Nursery in Fairfax, herbs have their own department for the month of May, with more than 100 varieties available. They have edible, medicinal, teas, ground covers, shrubs and more. "Part of the increasing popularity of container herb gardens is how convenient it is to have a fresh selection of herbs within a few steps from the back door," Ruetenik said.

❖ **Succulents**. Succulents, which were popular in the 1970s, are making a comeback, according to local garden centers. Their appeal is that they are drought-tolerant and able to thrive in a variety of conditions, and come in a surprising array of colors and textures. They are also able to withstand neglect because their leaves are almost entirely composed of water stem cells. Popular succulents

are cacti, agave and aloe.

"Succulents are perfect for small gardens, large landscapes, and gardeners of all ages and skill levels," said Ruetenik of Heather Hill. "They are easy to grow and can be combined to make artistic arrangements." There are more than 400 varieties of succulents; many grow low to the ground, and some reach two feet in height.

"Succulents are great for rock gardens, and in places where you don't want soil erosion," said Kuceris.

❖ **Japanese Maple trees**. Since its European introduction more than 200 years ago, the popularity of the Japanese Maple has grown steadily.

The tree is often found as garden centerpieces and next to sidewalks. But the common red-leaf variety is being replaced by a new color, Honeysuckle Pink, which has pink-tinged foliage.

"Our inventory of Japanese Maples is overwhelming. We have varieties that you didn't even know existed," said Paul Craven of Craven Nurseries in Fairfax. He added that gardeners can find Japanese Maple varieties that have a mature size from two feet to 18 feet.

Teen Art — But Hold the Angst

Young artists display talent in 11th District Congressional Arts Contest at Workhouse.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Teen angst is so passé when it comes to art. Instead, art by today's teens is more mature, colorful, whimsical and expressive.

Artist Marti Deppa Kirkpatrick should know. An artist and exhibition coordinator at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center, she has been judging artwork by teens for nearly two decades, and was one of four judges for the annual Congressional Arts Competition, which took place Sunday, April 3 at the Workhouse.

"This generation does not do as much teenage angst," Kirkpatrick said to the parents and students gathered at the center. "It's beautiful and intelligent, and your concerns are more mature."

The contest and exhibit, featuring 144 works of art by high school students in Fairfax and Prince William counties, was sponsored by U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11).

"One among you will hang," Connolly said, pausing for effect, "... among the halls of Congress."

The artwork by first-place winner, Kelly Teboe of Brentsville District High School, will be on display at the U.S. Capitol for a year, alongside winning entries from other congressional districts across the nation.

Teboe also received \$1,000 donated by the Arts Council of Fairfax County.

"Art is an important reflection of our culture and support for the arts is vitally important to developing young minds," Connelly said, before announcing the winners. "I believe we should be doing everything we can to encourage our students to participate in the arts."

The young artists used a variety of techniques and styles, including non-traditional mediums such as Photoshop, digital art and computer graphics. "Computer-generated art has opened the door for kids who are creative, but may not be able to use a brush in creating art," Kirkpatrick said.

Alaina Lester, a senior at W.T. Woodson high School, photographed her 94-year-old great-grandmother, Grace, in front

of an American Flag. "I wanted to concentrate my series on family, and she's very expressive and patriotic," Lester said.

Nicole Thomas, a senior at South County Secondary School, created a series of six silver gelatin photographs, using "Alice in Wonderland" theme and "The Wizard of Oz" as inspiration. "I like to contrast the photography with unusual frames," she said.

The public can view the 144 pieces of student artwork until April 18 at the arts center, located at 9601 Ox Road. The exhibit, in Building 16W, will be open Wednesdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sundays, from 12-5 p.m.

"This generation does not do as much teenage angst."

— Artist Marti Deppa Kirkpatrick



Nicole Thomas, a senior at South County Secondary School, created a series of prints using 'silver gelatin' photography. She is standing in front of 'White Rabbit.'



Alaina Lester, a senior at W.T. Woodson High School, photographed her 94-year-old great grandmother, Grace.



Minji Koo, a senior at W.T. Woodson High School, created 'Nature in Grey,' using watercolor and pencil. "In this piece, nature is represented by the sky, and nature is trying to purify the robot," she said. Koo attended the event with her father, InMo Koo. "I am very proud of her work," he said.

PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAY/APRIL 9

- ❖ **Volunteer for Fairfax County Park Authority's 23rd Annual Watershed Cleanup Day.** 9-11:30 a.m. Individuals and groups can help remove tires, bed springs, bottles, cans, and more from local waterways. Boots with sturdy soles are recommended. Wear old clothes and bring gloves. Trash bags provided.
- ❖ **Frying Pan Farm Park,** 703-437-9101.
- ❖ **Hidden Oaks Nature Center,** 703-941-1065.
- ❖ **Hidden Pond Nature Center,** 703-451-9588.

- ❖ **Huntley Meadows Park,** 703-768-2525.
- ❖ **Lake Accotink Park,** 703-569-0285.
- ❖ **Riverbend Visitor Center,** 703-759-9018.
- ❖ **Sully Historic Site,** 703-437-1794.

SATURDAY/APRIL 16

CASA Information Session. 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is hosting an information session for those who would like to learn more about advocating for abused or neglected children. 703-273-3526, x22 or ekosarin@casafairfax.org.

MONDAY/APRIL 25

Republican Women of Clifton Meeting. 7 p.m. Clifton Elementary School, Clifton, Va. 39th District candidates question and answer session, with Republicans Miller Baker and Scott Martin. susan@sliderassociates.com.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 27

Foster Parent Information Session. 6 p.m. United Methodist Foster Services (UMFS), 6335 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria. Agency representatives will answer questions. Free. 703-941-9008 or www.umfs.org.

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Spring Fun: Brunch

Celebrate spring with a weekend meal on the town.

By Julia O'Donoghue/The Connection



HOPSFROG GRILLE

This locally owned restaurant offers an extensive brunch buffet on Sundays. The spread includes Eggs Benedict and omelet stations as well as roast beef and turkey carving stations. It also features belgian waffles, french toast, muffins, biscuits, sausage gravy and creme caramel among other items. Hopsfrog charges \$14.95 for the brunch buffet, which is served 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Sundays only. The restaurant is located at 5765-C Burke Centre Parkway, Burke, Va.; 703-239-9324.



TRUMMER'S ON MAIN

Stefan and Victoria Trummer opened this restaurant in the historic town of Clifton two years ago. Trummer's serves a fixed brunch menu of three courses. The meal starts with homemade pastries and moves onto dishes like fried green tomatoes with tomato jam and oatmeal brulee with pineapple and cappuccino froth. The third course features entrees like a duck confit and oyster hash or a fried chicken with a bourbon drizzle. Trummer's fixed price for brunch is \$32. Patrons can also have dessert for an additional \$5 and sides for an additional \$4. Brunch is served on Sundays only from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Trummer's is located at 7134 Main Street, Clifton, Va.; 703-266-1623.



MAIN STREET BAGEL DELI

This New York style deli is a local hang out for politicians and civic activists in Fairfax. The restaurant offers about 20 different varieties of homemade bagels every day as well as heroes and other types of sandwiches.

A simple bagel with cream cheese or breakfast egg sandwich usually costs well under \$4. Heroes and other large sandwiches run from about \$4-\$7. Main Street Bagel Deli serves breakfast all day from 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday; 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday; and 7 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sunday. It is located at 10268 Main St. Fairfax, Va.; 703-591-2966.



CHUTZPAH A REAL NEW YORK DELI

Owner Eric Roller hired a Brooklyn-born chef Todd Epstein when he decided to start this authentic Jewish deli. All dine-in customers are given coleslaw and a pickle at the start of every meal. Breakfast scrambles include one that mixes eggs, Matzo and onions. A stuffed cabbage entree is also on the menu. Main breakfast plates are priced from \$2.95-\$12.95. Most sandwiches and entrees, served later in the day, are \$9.50-\$16.95. Chutzpah is open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Wednesday; 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 8 a.m.-9 p.m. on Saturday; and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sunday. Most breakfast food is not served after 11 a.m., through a small sampling of breakfast scrambles are served all day. The restaurant is located at 12214 Fairfax Towne Center, Fairfax, Va.; 703-385-8883.



KILROY'S RESTAURANT & SPORTS BAR

This independently owned restaurant in Springfield hosts an all-you-can-eat brunch buffet. Items include made-to-order omelets, Belgian waffles, biscuits and gravy, sausage, hash browns, pastries, oysters, fresh fruit and a pasta bar. The buffet costs \$15.95 for adults and \$5.95 for children. Kilroy's serves its brunch buffet from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Sundays only. It is located in the Ravensworth Shopping Center at 5250-A Port Royal Rd., Springfield, Va.; 703-321-7733.



SPARTAN'S FAMILY RESTAURANT

This Greek diner is owned and operated by a local family. It has a breakfast menu that includes a Greek omelette, spinach and feta cheese omelette and other selections. Beer and wine are also served. Spartan's breakfast dishes are about \$9 and sandwiches cost between \$5-\$8. Beer and wine cost \$3-\$5 per glass. The restaurant serves breakfast from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. It is located at 9542 Burke Rd., Burke, Va.; 703-503-5800.



FIRESIDE GRILL

Local restaurateur Kosta Daskalakis owns this American fusion restaurant in Lorton. Fireside has a brunch buffet featuring a carving station with beef filet and baby back ribs. It also includes Eggs Benedict, Belgian waffles, chorizo hash, shrimp and scallop pasta, salmon teriyaki and Caesar salad. The restaurant holds its brunch buffet from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sundays only. It costs \$18.95 for adults and \$7.95 for children. On Easter Sunday, the brunch buffet will start at 10 a.m. and be slightly more expensive. Fireside is located at 9000 Lorton Station Blvd. Lorton, Va.; 703-372-1923.



PANE E VINO RISTORANTE E PIZZERIA

This family-owned and operated restaurant specializes in Southern Italian cuisine. Pane e Vino has a brunch buffet that includes made-to-order pasta, wood-fired pizza and a carving station for beef. There is also a selection of six cold salads and a pastry bar. The brunch buffet is served from 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Sundays only. Adults pay \$20.99 and children pay \$9.99 for the buffet. Pane e Vino is located at 9020 Lorton Station Blvd. Lorton, Va.; 571-642-0605.

DELIA'S PIZZERIA & GRILLE

This casual restaurant has served Italian, Greek and American food in Springfield since 1981. The restaurant has 15 different kinds of omelets, four types of Belgian waffle, and seven pancake dishes on its weekend breakfast menu. Side dishes include home fries, bacon, ham, sausage, grits and corned beef hash. Breakfast entrees cost between \$6.95-\$13.95. Delia's serves breakfast from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. It is located at 6715 Backlick Rd, Springfield; 703-451-0242.

SPRING FUN CALENDAR

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.

FRIDAY/APRIL 8

Youth Coffeehouse. 7:30-9 p.m. The Youth Ministry at Clifton Presbyterian Church hosts its second coffeehouse, which features musical acts from local high-school students and will include refreshments and prizes. Anyone wanting to participate should contact Matt at mwbrooks01@yahoo.com or 703-266-0128. Admission is free, but a small cash donation or nonperishable food item for WFCM would be appreciated. The church is located at 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton.



Hop and Fall

Children race — or fall — during the sack race at the 2010 Springfield Festival and Egg Hunt. This year's event returns April 23 at Springfield United Methodist

Bailey Circus. 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$7-\$15. www.ringling.com or 202-683-3238. **"Honk!"** 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Robert E. Lee High School, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. The musical story of the Ugly Duckling. Tickets \$10 adults, \$5 students and children. akberting@fcp.edu.

SUNDAY/APRIL 17

Northern Virginia NTrak Display. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Operating display of N-gauge model trains. \$3 adults, \$1 children. 703-425-9225 or www.fairfax-station.org.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$7-\$15. www.ringling.com or 202-683-3238.

TUESDAY/APRIL 19

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$7-\$15. www.ringling.com or 202-683-3238.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 20

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$7-\$15. www.ringling.com or 202-683-3238.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

SATURDAY/APRIL 9

Volunteers For the 23rd Annual Watershed Clean-Up. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Clean the park and surrounding roadways. All ages welcome. Meet at the marina to sign in and receive an assignment. Dress for the weather and wear clothes and sturdy shoes that can get muddy. To be held rain or shine. 703-569-0285 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/accotink.

Oldies But Goodies (OBG) Cocker Spaniel Rescue. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Springfield Petsmart, 6535 Frontier Drive, Springfield. Meet cockers of all ages available for adoption. All dogs are spayed or neutered. Volunteers will be available to help potential adopters and answer any questions on the dogs.

www.cockerspanielrescue.com or 703-533-2373.

SUNDAY/APRIL 10

Artists' Reception. Belnavis Art Gallery presents "In Bloom" an exhibition celebrating the beauty of spring. This exhibition feature five local artists — Jamaliah Morais, Matthew Johnston, Natalie Shudt, Terry Anstrom and Marni Maree, all using different mediums to capture springtime. Opening reception is 1:30-4 p.m., at Belnavis Art Gallery, 6208 Rolling Road, Springfield. www.belnavisart.com. Exhibition runs through May 10.

THURSDAY/APRIL 14

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 7 p.m. George

Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$7-\$15. www.ringling.com or 202-683-3238.

FRIDAY/APRIL 15

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus. 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$7-\$15. www.ringling.com or 202-683-3238.

"Honk!" 7:30 p.m. Robert E. Lee High School, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. The musical story of the Ugly Duckling. Tickets \$10 adults, \$5 students and children. akberting@fcp.edu.

SATURDAY/APRIL 16

Funatical: Taking Comedy to the

Extreme! 7:30 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College Ernst Cultural Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. An intercultural, interfaith comedy tour that breaks stereotypes and bridges gaps between Muslims, Jews, Christians and other faiths. Proceeds benefit the Nooristan Foundation, a 501c3 nonprofit that provides support for charitable and educational projects in Afghanistan. \$25-\$40. www.funaticalcomedy.com.

Gallery After Hours: Ballroom Social Dance. 7:30 p.m. Gallery W-16, Second Floor, Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Ballroom dancing, complimentary refreshments and cash bar. 7 p.m. Ballroom mini-lesson, with a focus on Foxtrot, \$5. Dance tickets \$18-\$20 per couple. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

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Thanks to new techniques and medical advances, thousands of people are returning to the active lifestyle they deserve. This is your chance to join them.

FREE Community Seminar on Osteoarthritis and Joint Replacement Advances

Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 7 p.m.
The Workhouse Arts Center
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Lorton, VA 22079



The Inova Joint Replacement Center has earned a Gold Seal of Approval™ by The Joint Commission for outstanding care in hip and knee replacement.

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INOVA MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL



INOVA JOINT REPLACEMENT CENTER

Inova Health System is a not-for-profit healthcare system.

OPINION

Sadly Disappointing

By the time the Connection is delivered to homes and businesses this week, there is a good chance that how you vote and who you can vote for will have changed. No one will have consulted you about this.

Virginia's every-10-year, hyper-partisan process of drawing political districts is in rare form this year. It's all the more disappointing since two years ago, there appeared to be developing consensus that this process should be approached in the best interests of voters.

Instead, the Democrats in control of the Virginia Senate and the Republicans in control of the Virginia House of Delegates have created a nearly obscene mess without even lip service to providing effective representation.

Proposed changes in districts split communities, localities, counties and even precincts and homeowners associations. The City of Alexandria will likely now have three state senators. Arlington, which could be represented by a single state senator in a compact and highly effective district, could instead have as many as three Senate districts within its boundaries. Arlington's primary senate seat, District 31, will now snake along the Potomac River through McLean and Great Falls and actually encompassing part of Sterling, covering three counties in a densely populated area that begs for compact districts.

This means residents of McLean and Great Falls will likely be represented in the Virginia Senate by someone from Arlington, who will try to understand the complexities of three very

different counties. The change shifts Janet Howell's district 32 to the west, leaving thousands of residents to get to know new candidates who will likely be focused on other areas first.

Mount Vernon, a highly diverse community, will also have its senate representation split, likely resulting over time in half being represented by someone from the City of Alexandria and half represented by someone from Prince William County, neither with the grasp of community needs that a Mount Vernon centered district would allow.

George Barker's district 39 scoops up parts of Prince William, the least densely populated parts of Fairfax County in Clifton and Fairfax Station, then takes a turn through densely populated Lorton, Newington and Franconia before poking its head into the City of Alexandria. This certainly does not comprise a "community of interest."

If Democratic voters were wealth, this would be the plan to spread the wealth around. Whether that will actually be effective for the Democrats in retaining seats is dubious. We've seen numerous examples of seats specifically drawn to benefit particular candidates or party that fail to hold up.

There are almost as many examples as there are senate seats in Northern Virginia.

There are similar problems with the Republican drawn delegate seats, but the smaller districts make for more compact districts, with the problems a bit harder to cherry pick.

EDITORIAL

Our Take on Redistricting

BY SEN. RICHARD SASLAW
& SEN. MARY MARGARET WHIPPLE

Many, if not most, Virginians if asked would say they support some kind of non-partisan redistricting process to determine our state's political boundaries. Political experts and the media have touted the benefits of this concept nationally and across the Commonwealth.

However, that is not the system that Virginia operates under now. The Democratic-controlled Virginia Senate passed legislation the last four years to establish a bipartisan commission to oversee the redistricting process in a fair and non-partisan manner. These bills have all been killed by the Republican-controlled House of Delegates.

What we have been able to do is craft a redistricting plan that meets the criteria for redistricting as established by the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and the U.S. Constitution and Virginia Constitutions. These criteria include but are not limited to, making sure districts are near the same size, do not dilute racial or ethnic minority voting strength, are compact and contiguous, and maintain communities of interest.

Drafting a map that meets these criteria isn't a simple or easy task.

Virginia is one of the first states to undertake the once-a-decade redistricting process because of our election schedule. Senate map makers had one month since receiving the final U.S. Census data to study maps, analyze the data, and redraw political

boundaries in order to submit plans to the U.S. Department of Justice for approval. The Justice Department has 60 days from the date of submission to approve the plan.

Dramatic shifts in Virginia's population required significant changes in district lines. Northern Virginia experienced massive population growth over the last decade especially in Loudoun and western Prince William counties. This resulted in Northern Virginia gaining an additional Senate seat while population changes in other parts of the state resulted in Hampton Roads and Southwest Virginia losing one Senate district.

COMMENTARY

Although time constraints have made the redistricting process very challenging, we believe our plan fully complies with all applicable federal and state legal requirements. Our bill will be introduced and debated during a special redistricting session which begins on April 4.

Some critics have claimed that our map is an extreme partisan gerrymander; however under our plan, Gov. McDonnell (R) carried 28 of 40 districts — or 70 percent of the proposed Senate districts. There are 17 districts in the proposed Senate map that the Republican candidates for Governor carried in 2005 and 2009. There are only 12 districts the Democratic candidates for governor carried in both those elections. The remaining 11 districts voted for the Democratic candidate for Governor in 2005 and

SEE COMMENTARY, PAGE 15

Proposed General Assembly districts are not an April Fool's joke.

Every seat in the General Assembly will be up for reelection in a few months, with August primaries and caucuses and November general election, which is one reason this process is happening with so little citizen scrutiny. Proposed boundaries will have been public for only a few days, and will be voted on and approved by the end of the week. Homeowners Association presidents who might object to having their neighborhood split won't have time to react, for example.

Is there hope to circumvent the madness for 10 years from now?

It really is time to give control of the redistricting process to an authority that will not consider voting patterns or incumbency, but instead will focus on what will create more effective representation.

Keeping communities of interest together is key. That means not splitting jurisdictions, creating compact shapes, minimizing the distance from one end to the other of populous districts.

But it's unlikely that the winners of the coming elections will be that interested in the project. After all, they will be the beneficiaries of the current flawed process.

It's time for a constitutional amendment that would save us from districts shaped like boa constrictors and clawed dragons a decade from now.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM
ON TWITTER @MARYKIMM.

Letter to the Supervisors

To Chairman Bulova and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

After hearing both School Board and public testimony from the March 29 Budget Hearings, it is evident yours is a difficult

LETTERS job. There are many needs in this county, and our county budget has limitations; there is only so much funding to go around.

Most people living and operating businesses in this county would agree that our school system provides tremendous value. During the past several years, the economic downturn has severely impacted the school system as it has businesses and government agencies. We have seen increases in our stu

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

THE CONNECTION

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Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 7

Applause Unlimited Puppets. 11 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Travelin' Jack & Company with classic American folktales. All ages. Register at 703-451-8055.

FRIDAY/APRIL 22

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$7-\$15. www.ringling.com or 202-683-3238.

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Holiday Hunt Easter Eggstravaganza. 10 a.m. South Run RECenter, 7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield. For ages eight and under. Easter egg hunt and face painting, pictures with the "Bunny" and arts and crafts. \$10 per child. Register at South Run RECenter or 703-866-0566.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus. 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$7-\$15. www.ringling.com or 202-683-3238.

Easter Egg Hunt. 10 a.m. Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. For preschoolers to sixth graders. 703-971-5151 or www.franconiaumc.org.

Springfield Festival and Egg Hunt. 1-3 p.m. Cotton candy, popcorn, moonbounces, Easter egg hunting and more. The church is located at 7047 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. 703-451-2375.

SUNDAY/APRIL 24

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$7-\$15. www.ringling.com or 202-683-3238.

FRIDAY/APRIL 29

"The Odd Couple," both male and female versions, 7:30 p.m., at Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Mature themes; not recommended for those under 13. www.wtdrama.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Women Supporting Women Family Fun Fest. 1-5 p.m. Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter, 13000 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Music, crafts, shopping, refreshments, silent auction, raffles and more. All proceeds will benefit Artemis House, formerly the Fairfax County Women's Shelter. Rain date May 14. brandland@mac.com.

Northern Virginia Chapter, International Plastic Modelers Society. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3500 Old Lee Road, Fairfax. Museum quality scale models, modeling contest, vendors, raffle prizes, Make & Take event for children, doll houses, Lego, Ho & N Scale model Railroads, radio control models, lectures by area historians and more. Food concession on site. \$8 adult, \$10 entire family. www.novaipms.org.

Fairfax CASA Run for the Children. 8:30 a.m. Fairfax Courthouse. 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 10K and 3k. Food, prizes and entertainment for runners and spectators. Runners will help raise awareness for the CASA program while also raising money to support the recruitment, training, and supervision of volunteers from the community to serve as Court Appointed Special Advocates. \$25-\$30. Register at www.fairfaxrunforthechildren.com.



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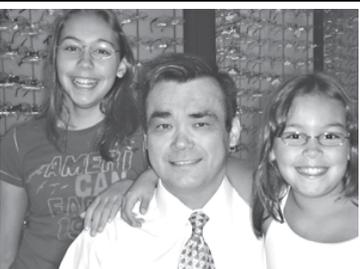


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Gransback the Catalyst for Lake Braddock Lineup

Sophomore hits first varsity home run in win over West Potomac.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

As a leadoff hitter, it's Alex Gransback's job to get on base and let others drive him in. With two outs in the top of the second inning on Monday, the Lake Braddock sophomore did the job on his own.

Gransback smashed his first varsity home run during an 8-1 victory at West Potomac. The third baseman drilled a change-up over the left-field fence, his first of three hits on the evening. He was also hit by a pitch.

"He did a good job," Lake Braddock head coach Jody Rutherford said. "He did what we ask for out of our leadoff hitter, which is get on base."

The win improved the Bruins' record to 5-2, including a 4-1 mark in the Patriot District. Lake Braddock reached the state tournament in 2008 and 2009 and fell one win shy last season, losing to Woodson in the regional semifinals. Led by seniors Kenny Towns (pitcher/infielder), Andrew Weidinger (infielder) and Ryan Owens (outfielder), the Bruins have intentions of mak

SEE SOPHOMORE, PAGE 14



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock sophomore Alex Gransback hit his first varsity home run on Monday during an 8-1 victory over West Potomac.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

Michael Church allowed one run in six-plus innings to earn the win against West Potomac on Monday.

Rams Top Wildcats

Michael Cable leads Robinson tennis team past Centreville.

Traveling to Centreville on a cold and windy day, the Robinson Rams boys tennis team overcame the elements to score an 8-1 win over the Wildcats on April 1.

Michael Cable overwhelmed his opponent, winning 10-1 and was off the court long before any other match finished. Jacob Schreiman moved up to No. 5 — Dillon Meyer, who's been battling a cold was given a rest today — and also won 10-1. Tim Ferrell also won his match 10-1 at the No. 1 spot. David Smiley finished off his opponent, 10-4, as he easily controlled the match despite the windy conditions. Aaron Christian battled and won, 10-4. Dayton Coupland moved into the No. 6 slot and pulled out a 10-7 win. He got a lead on the Wildcat lefty who finally started hitting some penetrating forehands to come back to 8-7. However, at that point, Dayton steadied his game and took the final two games and match.

In doubles, a number of other Rams got to play and contribute to the win. Smiley and Amit Gupta moved up to the No. 1 position and won easily, 8-2. Junior David Weinberg and freshman Austin Mathews teamed up to win at No. 2. Ted Diamond and Chris Do struggled at No. 3 against the Wildcats No. 3 and 4 players as Centreville won its only match.

WEEK IN SPORTS

Local boxer Jimmy Lange (35-4-2 record, 24 knockouts), who earned his most recent victory on March 12, is headed back to Hollywood, Calif., where he was a former star on the hit TV series, "The Contender."

Lange, the NABA U.S. Super Welterweight Champion, will fight actor Mario Lopez, a former actor on the TV series, "Saved by The Bell," in a three-round celebrity exhibition bout at the Sports L.A.'s KO Cancer charity event on Wednesday, April 6 at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills.

"I'm honored to be part of such a worthy cause and help raise money and awareness for the City of Hope," said Lange, a Great Falls resident. "I look forward to stepping into the ring with Mario to see what he's got. I just hope that the referee doesn't need to step in to give Mario time to be 'saved by the bell.'"

City of Hope is one of 40 national Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer centers.

Lange appeared on the first season of the NBC reality boxing show, "The Contender," in 2005 where he developed a loyal following. While he lost in week eight, viewers voted him back as a "Fan Favorite" and he won his return bout. Since his reality show appearance, Lange has captured the WBC's USNBC and Continental America's 154-pound titles while averaging 5,000 hometown fans at the Patriot Center in Fairfax.

Fairfax-based non-profit Our Daily Bread, Inc. invites golf enthusiasts of all skill levels to enjoy a great afternoon of golf to help struggling families in

the Fairfax County area of Virginia. Our Daily Bread's Charity Golf Tournament is scheduled for Monday, May 16 at the South Riding Golf Club, 43237 Golf View Drive, South Riding. Registration and lunch begin at noon, with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Individual players and teams are invited to register. A \$130 registration fee includes lunch, full round of golf, driving range, golf cart, beverages, raffles, silent auction, dinner and prizes. Sponsorships are welcome. For information on registration, sponsorship and donating goods, visit www.our-daily-bread.org, or call 703-273-8829.

Michael Shabaz of Fairfax is a member of the top-ranked University of Virginia men's tennis team. The Cavaliers, through last week, were a perfect 20-0 overall with a 5-0 mark in the ACC. They hold an 83-match home winning streak. UVA's top competition in the ACC this spring is from Duke (13-6, 4-0) and North Carolina (9-4, 4-0). Shabaz, along with teammate Alex Domijan, are No. 5 and No. 2, respectively, in recent ITA rankings.

Joey Marson (Chantilly High graduate) and Josh Furnary (Vienna resident, Gonzaga High) both tallied goals for the University of Mary Washington men's lacrosse team in the Eagles' 9-8 Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) home win over Marymount last Wednesday afternoon, March 30 in Fredericksburg. Another former Northern Region

SEE WEEK IN SPORTS, PAGE 14

SPRING FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

Green Thumbs Getting Dirty

FROM PAGE 3

16, is passionate about plants. A horticulturist, Guy goes on expeditions around the U.S. and Europe to hand-select and tag specific plants that customers have requested, or ones that he thinks are great examples of the species. "Tim is an encyclopedia of plant knowledge. I don't think there's a plant he doesn't know or hasn't seen," Warhurst said.

"We work with a lot of landscape designers who know they can count on us to provide them what they need for their clients."

In addition to the annuals, perennials and other plants, Merrifield Garden Center offers materials and expertise for customers who want hardscapes, landscapes, patios, outdoor kitchens, waterfalls and various types of plants from sunny perennials to curb-appeal gardens.

They have a team of more than 30 landscape designers and consultants, and more than 65 installation crews, available. "We take great pride in offering true customer service. Whether it's planting a small garden or renovating an entire landscape, we have someone here who can help," Warhurst said.

At Burke Garden Centre, gardeners are coming in for spring planting tips, said Misty Kuceris, a certi-

fied horticulturalist at the center. "Right now, we're in transition weather-wise, so what are great to plant now are trees, shrubs and pansies, which are colorful and hardy," she said.

Kuceris said camellias are back in fashion, and many customers are requesting the evergreen shrub that has showy flowers in white, pink and red. "A lot of people are living in older homes, with more mature shade trees, and camellias are a great shrub for trees. They never lose their leaves, and the deer don't care for them."

Owners of the independently owned garden centers say they offer the kind of customer service and on-site expertise that large chains don't provide. "If you do all your grocery shopping at 7-Eleven, then the big box store will be fine for you. If you want your yard to be unusual and special, and then come to our nursery," said Paul Craven, owner of Craven's Nursery in Fairfax. "We have one location, and we've been family-owned and run since 1973." Craven said they also design and install patios, walls, walkways and other hardscape designs.

The best thing about spring gardening, said Ruetenik, is that it's a great family activity. "Gardening rewards us with beauty and satisfaction, and re-connects us with the natural world."

"It's definitely that time of year, when everyone is coming in to get their spring gardens started."

— Bonnie Ruetenik

HOW TO GET YOUR ORGANIZATION'S SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE CONNECTION

Calendar Listings

The Connection Newspapers contain a Calendar of Upcoming Events every week. While we cannot guarantee that every event we receive information about will be listed, here is the information we need for your upcoming event to be considered for the Calendar. We welcome photographs of similar events held previously, which sometimes appear with Calendar items.

Name of Event:

Day of the Week, Date and Time:

Name of the Place Event will Be Held:

Address of the Place Event Will Be Held:

Name and Phone Number for More Information:

Three Sentences Describing the Event:

Please submit your calendar information at least two weeks before your event. Clear photographs from similar previous events are always welcome. All events should be open to the public. We give first priority to free events. E-mail listings to:

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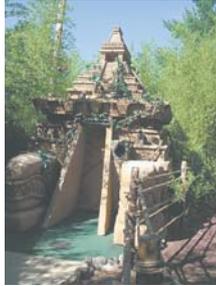
Spring Fun: Hitting the Links

As the weather warms, the area's many golf courses, practice facilities and driving ranges offer great opportunities. From rookies to scratch golfers, from youth to adult, there are options for everyone. From a nationally recognized course at Laurel Hill, to a beginner's delight at the Par 3 at Burke Lake Park, to putt-putt that ranges from cartoonish to difficult, there are plenty of greens to approach.

By **Alex McVeigh**/The Connection

A WOODY'S GOLF

Celebrating 30 years, Woody's features a full driving range and "The Perils of the Lost Jungle," an 18-hole mini-golf course that features animatronic animals, which reflect owner Woody FitzHugh's creativity. The course has been ranked nationwide as one of the best mini-golf courses, and was recognized by Newsweek in 2007. The shop offers video swing analysis and custom club fitting, as well as other services.
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703-430-8337



G BURKE LAKE GOLF COURSE

This 18-hole Par 3 offers a chance for golfers of all skill levels to hone their skills. Located on the 888 acre Burke Lake Park, the course features a lighted driving range, a practice bunker and an 8,000 square foot putting green. Private and group lessons are offered, as well as a Junior Golf Program. A current special offers nine holes for \$10, 18 holes for \$15, Mondays through Thursdays after 2:30, excluding holidays. Nearby Burke Lake Park also has an 18-hole mini-golf course.
7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station,
703-323-1641



H GREENDALE GOLF COURSE

The 18-hole regulation course over 148 acres features a practice green and clubhouse with food service. Open since 1967, staff say they're proud to offer an old fashioned course with consistent customer service. Until May 15, there will be a discount on multiple rounds purchased, 10 percent off five rounds, 20 percent off 10 rounds, etc. Also home to the Greendale Senior Golf Club and the Greendale Women's Golf Association.
6700 Telegraph Road, Alexandria,
703-971-3788

I OAK MARR GOLF COURSE

Located at the Oak Marr Recreation Center, one of the premiere training facilities in the area features a 1,456-yard, nine-hole course, a lighted, 76-station driving range, a mini-golf course and practice bunkers, chipping area and putting green. Golf instruction is available in groups or privately for adults and juniors. Training includes driving range practice, on-course playing lessons and video swing analysis. Club fitting, repair and regripping also available.
3200 Germantown Rd, Oakton,
703-255-5390



J PINECREST GOLF COURSE

Known as "the best kept secret inside the beltway," the nine hole, par 35 course measures 2,462 yards. The course is dotted with ponds and hills to create a challenge for novices and experts alike. Clubs, riding and pull carts are available for rental, and golf lessons are offered. There is also a putting green, 10 driving cages and a full service pro shop.
6600 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria,
703-941-1061



B GOLF PARK AT HUNTER MILL

With 100 tee stations and a 300-yard landing area, the Golf Park at Hunter Mill offers golfers of all skill levels a place to practice. They use Top Flite tour-quality balls, and the ball inventory is replaced every year. There are also practice bunkers available. Swing coaching and beginner golf lessons are offered, as well as custom Legend Custom Club fitting, which were named among the world's Top 100 Golf Fitters in 2007 and 2008 by WorldGolf.com.
1627 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna,
703-759-5664



C TOP GOLF

Top Golf offers a twist on the standard driving range, using technology to track each player's ball as it goes into any number of portals on the range. Each of the 76 spots on the range are covered and heated. Two 18-hole mini-golf courses, the "mountain" and "valley" courses are also onsite, featuring a variety of obstacles. The location also features a clubhouse with a full-service restaurant and bar.
6625 South Van Dorn Street, Alexandria,
703-924-2600.



D HERNDON CENTENNIAL GOLF COURSE

The 18-hole, Par 71 course in Herndon was designed by Tom Clark, one of the most prolific golf-course designers in the area. It also features a driving range with grass and mat stations, an 11,000 square foot putting green, chipping area and practice bunker. The course has been recognized as one of



E RESTON NATIONAL GOLF COURSE

Located just off Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston National Golf Course is currently redoing the bunkers in response to customer feedback, and are about halfway finished. Home to the Mid-Atlantic's only Nike Golf Learning Center, lessons, clinics and camps are open to golfers of all skill levels. They also feature a

full driving range and putting and chipping greens. Reston National also participates in the Capital Area Golf Membership, which allows members to play at reduced rates at four other local courses.
11875 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston,
703-620-9333



F LAUREL HILL GOLF CLUB

This 18-hole course was designed by Bill Love, who said his objective was to let the natural beauty of the property dictate the character of the course. Bud Key of the Teetime Golf Press said the course "occupies 280 acres and takes advantage of the site's outstanding features and views of the historic prison compound. Bar none, it rivals any course you'll play in Northern Virginia." Classes for beginners, intermediate and women are available.
8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton,
703-493-8849



SPRING FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

Harbinger of Spring

The 78th anniversary Historic Garden Week comes to homes in Northern Virginia.

The Garden Club of Fairfax will host five homes on the 2011 tour in Arlington and McLean. A cross between a ranch and a "A Cape Cod on steroids," designed and constructed by Marvin T. Broyhill for his son, Joel Thomas Broyhill; a modified Craftsman house by BOWA Builders; a brick cottagerambler, a Tudor Revival Arts and Craft remodeled 1938 home and a French Country home are to be featured.

So far the cool weather is cooperating with extending the bloom time. At the Ceckowski-Christie home, a transformation of the grounds got underway six years ago. And now it boasts an Edgeworthis chrsantha, a Pyrus communis Moonglow – Pear, a Mexican buckeye, a Continus grace Smoke tree, a Parsley-leaf Hawthorn, Chinese Fringe, a Japanese Snowbell and Cusa dogwoods, Cornell dogwoods, and a walking stick tree.

This year's co-chairs Sandra Hunt and Cheryl Freeman of Vienna are working up last minute details on the docent's notes and coordinating the multiple committee assignments.

The Fairfax Tour will be held on Tuesday, April 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$20 prior to the tour and \$25 day of tour; they may be purchased online at www.VAgardenweek.org or locally at participating retailers: Anita Perlut Interiors in Oakton, Burke Florists in the University Mall, Calico Corners on Williamsburg Boulevard, Color Wheel in McLean, Company Flowers in Arlington, Damon Galleries in Vienna, Executive Press in Fairfax, Express Jewelers in the Ballston Mall, Heart in Hand in Clifton, Judy Ryan of Fairfax, Katie's Coffee House in Great Falls, Lemon Twist in Arlington, McLean Cleaners in McLean, Mesmeraldas in McLean, Millie's Dry Cleaning in Arlington, Needlewoman East in Falls Church and the Old Brogue Irish Pub in Great Falls. Tick-



Hand-painted Chinese screens selected by Dorothy Draper for the Greenbrier now cover a wall of storage closets in the hallway.

ets may also be purchased with a map and brochure by sending a self-addressed stamped, legal-size envelope along with a check, payable to The Garden Club of Fairfax by April 8 to Mrs. George Whipple, 11508 Yates Ford Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039, or telephone 703-978-4130. On the day of the tour, tickets may be purchased at the Memorial Baptist Church and at any of the properties open for the tour.

Garden Week in Virginia hosted by the Garden Club of Virginia, the oldest and largest statewide tour in the country. This year 36 tours feature 250 homes, gardens, and historic landmarks during the week of April 16-23.



This home at 6028 Chesterbrook Road in McLean will be open for visitors during the Garden Club of Fairfax 2011 tour.



Above, located in Franklin Park in McLean, the 2007 French Country home is open for the first time this year for the Historic Garden Week tour.

At left, a sun room looking out to the patio features a whimsical table remade from a damaged French stoneware sculpture of Diana the huntress by Cote Jardin Antiques in Georgetown.

At far left, the breakfast room leads into a comfortable family room at 6028 Chesterbrook Road in McLean.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT

SPORTS

Sophomore Slugger Leads Bruins

FROM PAGE 10

ing it back. While the trio provides plenty of talent and experience — Towns signed with UVa — the catalyst for the Bruins' lineup is the youthful Gransback. "He's one of our most athletic players," Rutherford said. "He has some experience from last year because he played some games as a freshman." Gransback played third base last season but was replaced in the lineup by a designated hitter toward the end of the year. This season, he's played third

base, second base, shortstop and outfield. "I know how everything was," Gransback said of experiencing the varsity level as a freshman. "I knew the level of intensity." Junior pitcher Michael Church picked up the win against West Potomac, allowing one run and five hits over six-plus innings. Lake Braddock will host Woodson on Friday, April 8, at 6:30 p.m. "We would like to win a state championship," Rutherford said. "It's what we've set our eyes on."

WEEK IN SPORTS

FROM PAGE 10

player, Ryan Kleman (Robinson Secondary), had 10 saves in the net as the Eagles' goalie. Marson, a freshmen, scored the game's first goal for Mary Washington, which improved to 6-5 overall and 2-2 in the CAC with the win.

Washington Redskin Pro Bowler Brian Orakpo will be hosting his own Brian Orakpo Football Camp the week of June 26-29. The camp, which offers overnight and day camp options, will be held at George Mason University in Fairfax. Orakpo, the camp director, is a two-time Pro Bowl linebacker for the burgundy and gold. The camp is designed for players ages 7 to 18 and will feature daily instruction, lectures and demonstrations by Orakpo and other members of the Washington Redskins. The col-

lege and high school coaches on staff will ensure individual and team instruction on both offense and defense. Football newcomers and seasoned players alike will also experience teamwork, self-discipline, selecting the correct role models and how to attain their sports and life potential.

A former All-American at the University of Texas, Orakpo finished his rookie season in 2009 with 11 sacks, becoming the first Redskins' rookie to make the Pro Bowl since 1978. He followed that up with another stellar season in 2010, leading all Redskins with 8.5 sacks and earning a second consecutive trip to the Pro Bowl.

Football players can obtain more information and request a camp brochure by calling 1-800-555-0801, or by visiting www.footballcamps.com.

FAITH NOTES

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

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) will host an open house at the LDS meeting house at 6942 Sydenstricker Road in Springfield on Saturday, April 9, from 3-6 p.m. The open house will provide an opportunity for the local community to learn more about the LDS faith. The public is invited. Light refreshments will be served. 703-655-0617.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road in Burke, has announced their upcoming events. Contact the church at 703-455-2500.

❖ Sunday, April 10 at 6 p.m. "Stations of the Cross" by youth ages 6-16. This is a re-enactment of the last days of Christ's life.

❖ Sunday, April 17 at 10 a.m. On Palm Sunday, the church body will march around the parking lot singing waving palm branches.

❖ Saturday, April 23 at 4 p.m. Easter egg hunt and party.

Harvester PCA, 7800 Rolling Road in Springfield, will hold a Good Friday Service on Friday, April 22 at 8 p.m., with a sermon by radio host Ron Kronz, interpretive dance and music. 703-455-7800.

The Truro Parish Choir presents the Duruflé Requiem as

part of the Good Friday worship services on Friday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. at Truro Church, 10520 Main St., Fairfax. The Requiem, op. 9, by Maurice Duruflé is a work in which most of the thematic material comes from chant. The choir will be accompanied by organist Andrea Boudra. 703-273-1300.

Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive in Burke, will host a small group Lenten Study through April 23. Small groups will meet on a variety of days and times throughout the week to explore John Indermark's book *Gospelled Lives: Encounters with Jesus* which covers varied responses of biblical characters to direct encounters with the living Christ. Choose a group that meets at a time convenient to your schedule. Open to all. www.BurkePresChurch.org or 703-764-0456.

The Institute of Catholic Culture will host a lecture entitled, "Divine Mercy: Understanding the Sacrifice of Christ," featuring Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR, on Wednesday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m. in Saint Leo the Great Catholic Church, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. www.InstituteofCatholicCulture.org or 540-635-7155. Free.

Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax, will present an Easter Cantata on Sunday, April 28, at 11 a.m. The public is invited to sing in the Cantata. For more, 703-383-1170. www.jccag.org

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP



5690 Oak Leather Drive
Burke, VA 22015 • 703-764-0456
www.BurkePresChurch.org

Sunday Worship:
8:30 & 11:15 am
9:45 am Sunday School

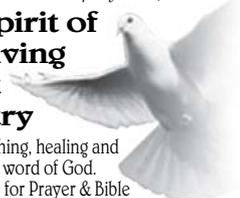
Saturday Worship:
5:30 pm CoffeeHouse
casual, guest musicians

Easter Services
8:30 • 10:00 • 11:30

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except by me." John 14:6

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Baha'is of Fairfax County Southwest... 703-912-1719
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Clifton Baptist Church... 703-263-1161
Community Baptist Church... 703-250-9060
Fairfax Baptist Temple... 703-323-8100
Harvest Assembly Baptist Church... 703-799-7868
Hope Baptist Church... 703-799-5155
Jerusalem Baptist Church... 703-278-8166
Shiloh Baptist Church... 703-550-8557
- Virginia Korean Baptist Church 703-425-1972
- Buddhist**
Ekoji Buddhist Temple... 703-239-1200
- Catholic**
St. Clare of Assisi... 703-266-1310
St. Raymond Penafort... 703-440-0535
Church of God
Church of the Living God of No. Va... 703-250-7980



9800 Old Keene Mill Rd.
703-455-7041
Sunday School 9:15 AM
Worship Service 10:30 AM



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St. Peter's in the Woods... 703-503-9210
Pohick Church... 703-339-6579
- Lutheran**
Living Savior Lutheran Church 703-352-1421
- Methodist**
Christ Church of Fairfax Station... 703-690-3401
- Cranford United Methodist Church... 703-339-5382
- Non-Denominational**
Grace Bible Church... 703-339-7292
Gunston Bible Church... 703-339-5395
- Iglesia La Gran Comision Asambleas De Dios... 703-541-0816
- New Hope Church... 703-971-4673
New Jerusalem Temple of Worship... 703-593-6153

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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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First United Pentecostal Church... 703-339-2402
- Presbyterian**
Clifton Presbyterian Church... 703-830-3175
Seoul Presbyterian Church... 703-764-1310
- Sikh**
Sikh Foundation of Virginia... 703-323-8849



PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to: photoL@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to: The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection, "Me and My Mom Photo Gallery", 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314
Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

dent enrollment and a tremendous increase of educational needs within our student population. Despite such student growth, the system has worked to reassess certain needs resulting in often times challenging decisions affecting our teachers and those we serve — our students. The school system is leaner. We have implemented fees for sports, re-evaluated and revised programs and eliminated over 1,400 positions in the last several years. The task has been difficult, and we have cut to the bone.

Therefore, I was quite dismayed to hear a small handful of residents with political agendas testify in front of the Board of Supervisors saying that the school system has millions of dollars in vague line item funds and hidden capital funds from bonds left unused.

This is simply not true. Such unsubstantiated comments are disingenuous to a system that works diligently for each and every child and it is terribly misleading and offensive to those parents, teachers and citizens who work collaboratively with the system to assist with program improvements and serve as positive advocates for public education.

We are a School Board of 12 elected individuals, who similar to the Board of Supervisors make deci-

sions with thoughtful review and analysis. If adequate school funding was available, the expansion of full-day kindergarten would not have been halted, summer school opportunities would not have been terminated, reductions to guidance and career services, high school academies, library media, special education and adapted physical education services would not have taken place, schools would not be waiting years for needed renovations, central office staffing would not have been reduced and most certainly our teachers pay would not have been frozen.

The Fairfax County Public School System is the 11th largest system in the nation operating 196 schools and centers with 177,000 students projected for fiscal year 2012. The majority of our funding comes from the county and we rely on you, our Board of Supervisors, to adequately fund our school system. As a parent with a child in the system and as a member of the School Board, I am asking you to help us provide adequate compensation for our teachers and equitable educational programs and opportunities for all of our students, including our youngest and perhaps most vulnerable, our kindergarteners.

Elizabeth T. Bradsher
Fairfax County School Board
Springfield District Representative

COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 8

for the Republican candidate in 2009.

Overall, Senate Democrats are proud of what we've been able to accomplish in a short time.

There is still a lot of work to be done before the General Assembly passes redistricting legislation. We hope you will take a look at our plan and tell us what you think at <http://redistricting.dls.virginia.gov/2010/>.

OPEN HOUSES SAT. & SUN. APRIL 9 & 10



9713 Turnbuckle Drive, Burke • \$599,950 • Open Sunday 1-4
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When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click the Real Estate links on the right side.

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

Fairfax Station

10107 Crooked Creek Ct. ... \$839,900 ... Sun 1-4 ... Barb White Adkins ... RE/MAX ... 703-609-8950
12208 Fairfax Station Rd. ... \$965,750 ... Sun 1-4 ... Camille Wurm ... Long & Foster ... 703-585-1445
7418 South Reach Dr. ... \$849,900 ... Sun 1-4 ... Photini Riner ... Weichert ... 703-606-1878
9807 Lost Ravine Ct. ... \$839,950 ... Sun 1-4 ... Kathleen Quintarelli ... Weichert ... 703-862-8808

Lorton

10818 Harley Rd. ... \$849,000 ... Sun 1-4 ... John McNamara ... TTR Sothebys Int'l. ... 703-395-2908
8049 Winstead Manor Ln. ... \$814,950 ... Sun 1-4 ... Tom & Cindy & Assoc. ... Long & Foster ... 703-822-0207
9043 John Sutherland La. ... \$999,900 ... Sat 1-4 ... John McNamara ... TTR Sothebys Int'l. ... 703-395-2908
9054 John Sutherland La. ... \$799,000 ... Sat 1-4 ... John McNamara ... TTR Sothebys Int'l. ... 703-395-2908

Clifton

7429 Kincheloe Rd. ... \$889,000 ... Sun 1-4 ... Marsha Wolber ... Long & Foster ... 703-618-4397

Burke

6010 Burnside Landing Dr. ... \$569,000 ... Sun 1-4 ... Carol Hermandorfer ... Long & Foster ... 703-503-1830
6442 Lake Meadow Dr. ... \$989,000 ... Sun 1-4 ... Steve Dunleavy ... Long & Foster ... 703-946-5571
9713 Turnbuckle Dr. ... \$599,950 ... Sun 1-4 ... Anita Mason ... Weichert ... 703-627-6624
9714 Klmit Ct. ... \$639,500 ... Sun 1-4 ... Carol Hermandorfer ... Long & Foster ... 703-503-1830

Springfield

9021 Daum Ct. ... \$469,500 ... Sun 1-4 ... Becky Berning ... Long & Foster ... 703-930-3400

Fairfax

10543 James Wren Way ... \$584,900 ... Sun 1-4 ... Mary Young ... Long & Foster ... 571-214-3299
12571 Cerramar Pl. ... \$895,000 ... Sat/Sun 10-5 ... Debbie Kent ... Cottage Street Realty ... 703-740-7654
5844 Robeys Meadow Ln. ... \$999,950 ... Sun 12-4 ... Lola LeCraw ... Weichert ... 703-354-7200
9122 Briarwood Farms Ct. ... \$769,900 ... Sun 1-4 ... Beckie Owen ... Long & Foster ... 703-328-4129
10514 Acacia La. ... \$549,900 ... Sun 1-4 ... Carol Hermandorfer ... Long & Foster ... 703-503-1830
4601 Lawn Ct. ... \$499,500 ... Sun 1-4 ... Joe Frangipane ... Long & Foster ... 703-628-4430
13128 Point Pleasant Dr. ... \$400,000 ... Sun 12-3 ... Mary Ann Bendinelli ... Weichert ... 703-368-6677
3423 Tilton Valley Dr. ... \$1,495,000 ... Sun 1-4 ... Lillian Jorgenson ... Long & Foster ... 703-790-1990

Annandale

4330 Roberts Ave. ... \$549,900 ... Sun 1-4 ... Laura Nunley ... Fall Properties ... 703-795-8667

Kingstowne/Alexandria

3304 Coryell Ln. #806-33 ... \$240,000 ... Sun 1-4 ... Candace Rende ... Long & Foster ... 703-314-2461

Centreville

6515 White Post Rd. ... \$514,900 ... Sun 1-4 ... Jo Ann L. Procvic ... Long & Foster ... 703-966-3351
5136 Glen Meadow Dr. ... \$319,999 ... Sun 1-4 ... Freda Azzouz ... Jobin ... 703-272-1000
5312 Indian Rock Rd. ... \$489,900 ... Sun 12-3 ... Kim House ... Long & Foster ... 703-968-7000
6751 Jade Post Ln. ... \$575,000 ... Sun 1-4 ... Scott MacDonald ... RE/MAX ... 703-652-5777

Manassas

6245 Happy Creek Dr. ... High \$400s ... Sun 1-4 ... Bev Tull ... RE/MAX ... 703-963-0163

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 All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

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Fairfax Station \$674,950
Woodson HS District

Immac col on premium flat .66 acres w/ flag stone patio, updated eat-in kit w/ new granite, SS appl & porcelain tile, new carpet, fresh paint, wonderful fin bsmt w/recessed lts & loads of storage, lovely hrdwd flrs, elegant moldings, MBR w/ walk-in closet, many updates & more.



Reston \$749,950
1/3 Acre Backing to Creek

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West Springfield \$2,100
Walk to Huntsman Lake

Sunny end unit w/ fenced yard w/ deck, 3BR, 2.55 BA, eat-in kit w/ breakfast bar, fin lower level w/ frplc & plenty of storage, spacious MBR w/ walk-in closet, Orange Hunt & West Springfield school districts, owner will consider pets, 1 or 2 year lease, quiet community & more.

Kathleen Quintarelli
703-862-8808



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Jim Kincheloe, a member of the Clifton Lions Club, mixes the pancake batter with a drill and a special blade. Kincheloe has been the 'Pancake Master' for many years.



Clifton Lions Gus Koustenis of Fairfax and Richard Bell of Fairfax Station are the 2011 griddle-masters for the Lions Club pancake breakfast. Member Andy Cook of Fairfax observes.

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Accounting firm in Reston seeks individual with knowledge of Word and Excel for full-time administrative assistant position. Word processing is primary responsibility. Some billing and mailing. Attention to detail and accuracy are important. Excellent salary, benefits, and flexibility. E-mail cover letter, salary range, and resume to: cpas@ggrouppcpas.com

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Our busy happy stimulating pediatric practice in Alexandria & Fairfax has an upcoming opening for a F/T position. Some travel between offices. Ideal for nurses returning to the workforce. Competitive salary with benefits. Orientation provided. Fax resume to Attn: Sharon @ **703/914-5494**

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PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Although Brinley Vaughan of Fairfax is a little young to munch on the pancakes, she seems happy. Holding her is mom Erika Vaughan.



Reese Vaughan of Fairfax enjoys her bacon at the Clifton Lions Club pancake fund raiser.

Batter Up, Dig In

Clifton Lions Club raises money with annual pancake breakfast on Sunday, April 3.

On Sunday, April 3, the Clifton Lions Club hosted their annual pancake breakfast fund raiser at the Clifton Presbyterian Church. Through efforts such as the pancake breakfast, the 57-member group raises between \$35,000-\$40,000 a year to donate to various local and national charities.

The two biggest local benefactors of fund-raising efforts are the Life With Cancer House at Inova Fairfax Hospital, which provides housing and counseling to families receiving cancer treatment at the hospital, and the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program, which provides equine assisted activities for children and adults with disabilities, youth-at-risk, veterans and their families.

Friends Karen Wandelt and Cindi Glaspy of Clifton load their plates.



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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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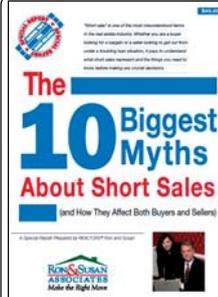
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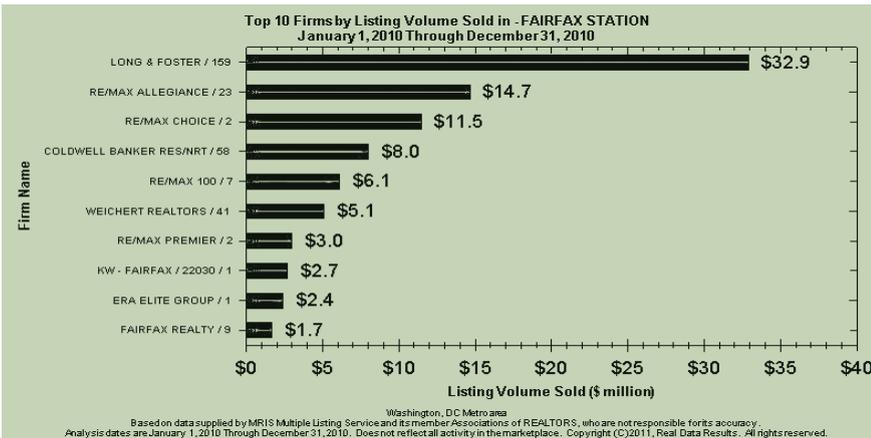


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