

Royal Carroll of Fairfax and his daughter Johanna, 2, wait for the start of the April 22 Egg Hunt at Fairfax High School's turf field.



ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 5 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 13 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 16

PHOTO BY MICHAEL O'CONNELL/THE CONNECTION

**GMU Overpass  
Receives Funding**

NEWS, PAGE 3

**Task Force  
Wraps Up**

NEWS, PAGE 3

# Young Egg Hunter

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NEWS, PAGE 4

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## Funding Secured for \$15M Overpass

Officials say 'flyover' will ease congestion.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

For years, traffic congestion at the Route 123/Braddock Road intersection has been a major headache for commuters, motorists from surrounding neighborhoods and George Mason University students.

Last week, after more than six months of meetings with community and state leaders, Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) announced that funding for the \$15 million Route 123 "flyover" is among the list of nearly 900 new transportation upgrades as part of Gov. Robert McDonnell's (R) Six-Year Improvement Program.

"This project will significantly relieve traffic congestion at one of our busiest intersections," Hugo said. "The best part about this is that the university owns the land, so we already have the right-of-way, and it will smooth the way for faster construction. It's a win-win for everyone," he said, adding that securing funding for this project has been one of his top priorities in Richmond this year.

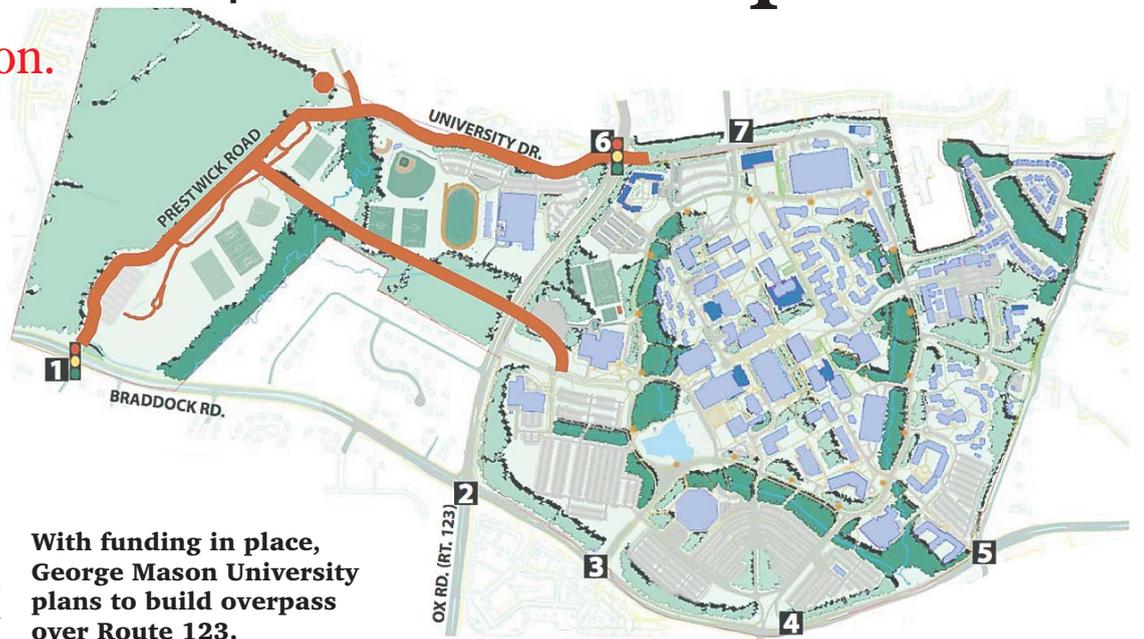
Hugo said he expects construction to start

sometime this summer, and the project to be complete in about 18 months.

"George Mason University is very excited about this project," said Daniel Walsch, university spokesman. "It is part of our ongoing effort to be tied-in with the needs and rhythm of our surrounding communities.

Walsch said GMU has worked closely with local authorities to initiate the transportation links at the Fairfax campus. "[These projects] will enhance our ongoing growth in a way that does not detract from the traffic and safety needs of our students and neighbors," said Walsch. With more than 33,000 students and several million visitors each year, Walsch said making traffic flow as seamless as possible would make life less stressful for everyone.

Hugo said the volume of complaints from motorists and residents in the surrounding neighborhoods amped up significantly in



With funding in place, George Mason University plans to build overpass over Route 123.

the past year. "At our first meeting, we thought we'd have just a few people, but about 60 people showed up saying they need relief from all the traffic congestion," Hugo said.

"This project will allow George Mason University traffic to have a dedicated entry point into the Fairfax campus, away from the heavily-traveled Route 123/Braddock

Road intersection," Hugo said.

The project calls for construction of a new road following Rapidan River Road from University Drive to Braddock Road near the Prestwick Drive/West Campus parking lot entrance.

SEE FLYOVER, PAGE 15

## Lyme Disease: Public Health Controversy

Medical professionals testify April 25 at final Lyme Disease Task Force hearing.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

Chronic Lyme disease is real, pervasive and overwhelmingly underdiagnosed. It is also a public health failure because the accepted medical tests and treatment for the tick-borne illness are flawed.

Several medical professionals delivered that message loud and clear to Gov. Robert McDonnell's (R) Lyme Disease Task Force at its final hearing Monday, April 25, at the Fairfax County Government Center.

"Even in Fairfax County, you have doctors who say we don't have chronic Lyme disease here. It's shocking, actually," said Michael Farris, who heads up the task force. A well-known constitutional lawyer, Farris is the founder of the Home School League Defense Association and Chancellor of Patrick Henry College in Purcellville. He said his wife and seven of his 10 children have been diagnosed with Lyme disease.

"There is too much denial by doctors that chronic Lyme disease exists, and it is dramatically misdiagnosed," Farris said.

Lyme disease is a tick-borne bacterial infection found mostly in the northeastern

United States and is considered endemic in the Northern Virginia area. It is usually successfully treated with three to four weeks of antibiotic therapy, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

The length of antibiotic treatment, and even the term "chronic" Lyme disease, is a controversy among many Lyme disease patients and the medical establishment.

"In patients who have non-specific symptoms after being treated for Lyme disease, and no evidence of active infection, studies have shown that more antibiotic therapy is not helpful and can be dangerous," according to a statement from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, one of 27 institutes and centers of the NIH. The NIH, like the CDC, is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

About 50 residents attended Monday's hearing, which gave the eight-member panel an opportunity to hear medical and

health professionals propose recommendations that would be part of the panel's comprehensive report to the governor.

Jorge R. Arias, Ph.D., an entomologist with the Fairfax County Health Department's Disease Carrying Insects Program, was the first speaker at the hearing.

Arias said he wanted to let community leaders that their money is well-spent, and that Fairfax County employs a more com-

**"Even in Fairfax County, you have doctors who say we don't have Lyme disease here. It's shocking, actually."**

— Michael Farris, head of the Governor's Lyme Disease Task Force

prehensive approach than many other areas in the nation, where the focus is solely on how to avoid ticks.

The county's approach includes tracking human cases, tick surveillance, outreach to health care providers to promote early diagnosis and treatment, deer management and aggressive public education.

"We started our public outreach and education efforts in 2005, and we have a very robust program," Arias said.

In 2007, Arias said the FCHD found that a lack of awareness about Lyme disease existed among Hispanics, so the department

took out ads in Spanish-language media outlets, and printed its brochures, including children's brochures, in Spanish. The FCHD also mailed out 425,000 brochures to households, which provided education and information, and advertising the County's main information website [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fighthebite].

"Approximately 250 cases of Lyme disease were reported to the Fairfax County Health Department in 2010," Arias said. "But these cases represent only a portion of the cases of Lyme disease in our community and are used primarily to follow disease trends. We know that many other cases go undiagnosed and/or unreported."

Dr. Robert Bransfield, a psychiatrist who received his medical training 40 years ago at Fairfax Hospital, said he has treated thousands of patients with mental symptoms associated with Lyme and tick-borne diseases. He treated patients for several years in Virginia before opening a practice in Red Bank, N.J.

Bransfield said progress in treating Lyme disease is obstructed by the NIH and CDC for the "narrow, rigid and restrictive disease definitions." He blasted the CDC's recom-

SEE LYME DISEASE, PAGE 7

## Supervisor Smyth Trust Lends Campaign \$100K

At first glance, Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence) appears to have raised a similar amount to other sitting Fairfax County board members for her re-election campaign.

The Virginia Public Access Project reports that Smyth, who is finishing her second term on the board, had \$118,878 available for her campaign at the end of March. Only four other incumbent supervisors have more money available for the November election.

But a closer look shows that the bulk of her campaign funds came in the form of a \$100,000 loan from a trust named after her husband.

"I was willing to put up the money. We will probably make that back and raise even more than that," said Nigel Smyth, the supervisor's spouse and campaign treasurer.

According to The Virginia Public Access Project, a Nigel S. Smyth trust lent Smyth's campaign \$100,000 on Dec. 28, 2010. The website also reports that the Providence District supervisor has raised \$8,808 for her re-election this November, far less than any of her other peers currently sitting on the county board.

The \$8,808 that Smyth raised came exclusively from donations made to the campaign in February. All of the other sitting supervisors collected the bulk of their campaign donations — more than \$50,000 in most cases — before the beginning of 2011.

Nigel Smyth said the Providence supervisor purposefully held off on soliciting campaign donations because of the tough economy. Linda Smyth did not want to siphon off what little money was available from other Democratic campaigns that might need it more urgently, said the candidate's husband.

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), who lives in Smyth's district, had an expensive but successful re-election campaign in 2010. Connolly served as Fairfax County chairman and was Smyth's predecessor in the Providence supervisor seat.

Smyth does have at least one opponent in the November election. Republican Miriam Erickson is running against Smyth in the race for Providence District supervisor.

Erickson has raised \$300 so far and has \$200 available to her campaign.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

## CASA Run for Children

The inaugural Fairfax CASA Run for the Children, sponsored by Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates, is this Saturday April 30. The 10K begins at 8:30 a.m., followed by a 3K at 9 a.m.; both start and end at the Fairfax County Courthouse.

The course for runners and walkers includes residential streets and major roadways in both the City of Fairfax and Fairfax County. Police will be blocking off the right eastbound lane of Main Street between Judicial Drive and West Street, plus the right southbound lane of Chain Bridge Road between the entrance to the courthouse and School Street.

## Focus on Home Security

The City of Fairfax Police Department remind residents about the importance of securing their homes and properly storing belongings so they won't become targets of criminal activity. Police encourage people to take the time to check windows and doors to make sure they're locked, leave a light on to illuminate the inside of the house and if equipped, make sure all alarms are activated.

SEE WEEK IN FAIRFAX, PAGE 14



In the final Egg Hunt, older children race to snatch up eggs.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL O'CONNELL/THE CONNECTION

## All for Eggs

Before raindrops fall, egg hunters have their day.

**H**undreds of children and their families descended on Fairfax High School's turf football field on Friday, April 22, for the Annual Chick-fil-A Egg Hunt.

Though the weather was gray and stormy, rain held off long enough for three age groups of children to storm the field and snatch up plastic eggs filled with candy or coupons for prizes. Children also enjoyed raffles and moon bounces and could purchase food from event sponsor Chick-fil-A.

**Jeanie Chai of Fairfax, right, helps Ellie Wung, 3, open one of the plastic eggs.**



Chick-fil-A sponsored the April 22 Egg Hunt at Fairfax High School's football field. Two of the restaurant chain's cow mascots entertained the crowd waiting for the Egg Hunt to begin.

# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## THURSDAY/APRIL 28

**Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts.** 7 p.m. Stacy c. Sherwood, Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. With pianist John Gardecki. Reception to follow. Tickets \$15-\$40 at www.wipac.org or www.instantseats.com.

**Eisley, The Narrative and Christie Dupree.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

**Lake Braddock Art Department Juried Art Show.** 6-8 p.m. LBSS, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. "Global Expressions in Art" will show works created by students who have taken art classes at their school this year. Entertainment provided by the LBSS music department. 703-426-1000.

**Tales for Twos: Rain, Rain, Go Away.** 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Stories, songs and activities about rain. Age 24-35 months with adult. 703-644-7333

**"Dracula."** 7:30 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets are \$10 at lbtheatre.com. 703-426-1070.

## FRIDAY/APRIL 29

**Graham Parker.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

**"The Clockmaker."** 8 p.m. Hub Theatre, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Part comic love story, part murder mystery, in a look at how relationships change how we see the world. \$25, \$15 students and seniors. www.thehubtheatre.org or 703-674-3177.

**"Dracula."** 8 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets are \$10 at lbtheatre.com. 703-426-1070.

**"Odd Couple."** 7:30 p.m. W.T.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10

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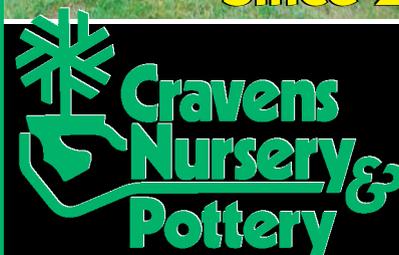
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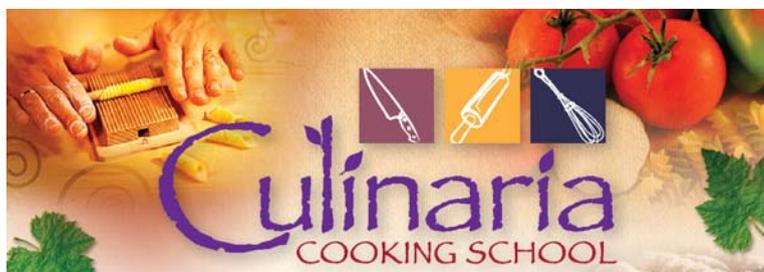
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**Holiday Cookie Primer with Chef Robyn Alexander:**  
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**Pasta Fresca with Chef Roberto Forgione:**  
**Wednesday, May 4, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, \$65** — Pasta is king in Italian cooking. In this class, you'll learn to make fresh pasta with three springtime sauces: Tagliatelle With Leeks, Peas & Prosciutto in a Béchamel Chive Sauce; Pappardelle with Wild Mushroom Sauce; and Linguine with Spinach & Basil Pesto Sauce.

**Couples Cooking South of the Border with Chef Robyn Alexander:**  
**Friday, May 6, 7-10 pm, \$130/couple** — These delicious dishes are inspired by the heat of Mexico. Using ingredients that are native to the region, we will assemble a delicious post-Cinco de Mayo meal: Black Bean Soup with Chipotle Crema; Watercress Salad with Orange, Jicama & Avocado; Beer Battered Fish Tacos; Guacamole & Salsa; and Kahlúa Truffle Triangles.

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Volunteers admire their handy work.

## Volunteers Rebuild Garden

Community pitches in to restore garden at Eagle View.



Volunteers install a new garden at Eagle View Elementary on Saturday, April 2. A week earlier, vandals had destroyed the gardens, which are used to teach children about plants.

Our Eagle View Garden Rebuild Project on Saturday, April 2, from 9-11:30 a.m. was a huge success. We had a great turn out in volunteers, and I'm proud to say that the plants that were once mistreated are now safe in their beautiful new garden located at the front of the school.

We not only expanded the number of beds from our original design and material, we added a few new additions in plants as well.

We weren't able to save the old pansies so they were replaced and added two butterfly bushes that would benefit our third grade curriculum. We look forward in sharing the next development with our second grade team as they include planting the "Three Sisters" — corn, bean and squash — as part of their outdoor science learning project.

Enormous thanks to Principal Patty Granada, our students, parents, teachers and family members that came with or without their wheel barrels and shovels to make our rebuild a success. We couldn't have

done this without you all and is truly touched. This was a learning experience for all of us and I know our students will be even more elated about the new and improved garden. Thank you to Wegmans for their generous \$25 gift card donation and Merrifield Garden Center for their discount for this particular project.

**Jessica Chin**, Art Specialist  
Eagle View Elementary

### COLLEGE NOTES

**Kirsten Manville**, class of 2013 at Connecticut College and a resident of Fairfax, has been named to the dean's honors list for the 2010 fall semester.

**Alexandra Lee** of Fairfax, made the dean's list for fall 2010 at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Undergraduate students earning a 3.00 or higher academic average for the semester gain the distinction of being named to the dean's

list at Georgia Tech.

**Letta Lee** of Fairfax, made the dean's list for fall 2010 at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Undergraduate students earning a 3.00 or higher academic average for the semester gain the distinction of being named to the dean's list at Georgia Tech.

**Ken Mai** of Fairfax, made the dean's

list for fall 2010 at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Undergraduate students earning a 3.00 or higher academic average for the semester gain the distinction of being named to the dean's list at Georgia Tech.

**Gray Ferris** of Fairfax has been named to the dean's list and earned high honors for the fall semester at the University of New Hampshire.

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# Lyme Disease Task Force

FROM PAGE 3

mended ELISA test for Lyme, calling it highly unreliable and prone to false negatives. No representatives from the NIH or CDC attended the hearing.

According to the CDC's website, most recommended tests are blood tests that measure antibodies made in response to the infection. These tests may be falsely negative in patients with early disease, but the CDC maintains they are reliable for diagnosing later stages of disease.

**THE ELISA** test, according to the CDC, is designed to be "sensitive, meaning that almost everyone with Lyme disease, and some people who don't have Lyme disease, will test positive. If the ELISA or IFA is negative, it is highly unlikely that the person has Lyme disease, and no further testing is recommended."

"The failures of NIH and CDC to effectively deal with Lyme disease result in missed opportunity to prevent impairment, disability and sometimes death," Bransfield said.

He drew applause when he quoted Dr. Willy

Burgdorfer, who discovered the spirochete that causes Lyme and who was featured in the award-winning documentary "Under Our Skin."

"Dr. Burgdorfer said "The controversy in Lyme disease research is a shameful affair, and I say this because the whole thing is politically tainted. Money goes to the same people who have for the last 30 years produced the same thing — nothing."

Bransfield said the task force should consider launching an Office of the Inspector General (OIG) investigation of NIH and CDC research funding for Lyme disease.

"Our forward progress on this disease has been deterred by the need of individual or groups for power, money or ego. ... Other countries follow the lead of American healthcare policies which magnify the consequences of our actions," Bransfield said.

The panel, comprised of doctors, Lyme disease advocates, veterinarians, teachers and other health professionals from around the state, will propose recommendations to the governor in the next week. The task force has been conducting public hearings around the state for the past six months.

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## 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:

photoFx@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to: The Fairfax 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.

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# OPINION

# Tolls, Rail, Ridership

## Why do private companies collect biggest tolls?

**\$**34.50: That's what I estimate I spent this past weekend on five full trips the entire length of the Dulles Toll Road and the Greenway, plus an additional trip on the Dulles Toll from the Beltway to Hunter Mill Road and back. (Remember when you could buy a tank of gas for that?)

Almost all of that money, at least \$22.50, went to the private owners of the Greenway, contributing not one penny to rail or any other local infrastructure. I don't mind the \$12 that might help pay for rail nearly as much.

How will the design of the Metro stop at Dulles Airport affect its use?

Research demonstrates, along with common sense, that the more convenient transit is, (frequency, proximity, continuity) the more people use it. It also has to be clean and safe, but we're going to assume those features will be included.

We've planned for decades (Dulles opened in 1962) not for rail to Tysons or for rail to Reston, but for rail to Dulles, to serve a portion of the 24 million passengers a year that fly through the airport; eventually the number of passengers could more than double.

Saving \$330 million is a worthy goal, the amount extra that putting the Dulles stop underground would cost. Making the rail easy to use is also important. The fact that drivers on the Dulles Toll Road pay for a significant portion of construction of the rail line adds to the

controversy.

There might be more than one way to shorten the walk from getting off Metro to the terminal (where we know that there are more trains, shuttles, corridors and escalators waiting). Perhaps an above ground station could be designed on the current hourly parking lot, conveniently a hop, skip and a jump into the terminal. Let the people who drive walk a few extra minutes instead.

Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, demonstrated that the walk from the above ground station to the terminal would be four-to-seven minutes. We know that navigating once inside the terminal also takes time.

Meanwhile, we need more scrutiny and intellectual power on the tolls we already pay and the tolls that are coming, and how those could be used to advance transportation for everyone.

No entity, private or government, should collect tolls without displaying clearly how much they are charging. It's not easy to figure out what you spend using your EasyPass transponder. At least on the Dulles Toll Road, there are signs letting you know what you are paying. No such luck on the Greenway. It might be good for everyone who uses it to have one day a year (not the same day please) when they must pay by cash, just as a reminder of

how much money it is.

Construction continues on the high occupancy toll lanes on the Beltway, where again, a private company will collect 100 percent of the tolls for at least 50 years, and the cost of one trip from near the American Legion Bridge to the Mixing Bowl in the HOT-lanes (remember, T for toll) could be as much as \$12. This is for infrastructure built on public property.

There are benefits to the construction of the HOT-lanes including rebuilding dozens of aging bridges over and around the Beltway. But the state could have paid for the project with bonds based on tolls. Or the contract could have required revenue sharing.

As Virginia seems intent on going forward with HOT-lanes on 395-95, public officials owe Northern Virginia commuters better representation.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM; ON TWITTER, @MARYKIMM

## Remember Mom

The Connection will print a gallery of Mother's Day photos, e-mail in your pictures to [fairfax@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:fairfax@connectionnewspapers.com). Be sure to identify everyone in the photo and let us know when and where it was taken.

## Supervisor Race

To the Editor:

In your article "Wade Announces Candidacy for Supervisor" [Connection, April 14-20, 2011], about nominal Republican Christopher Wade running as a Democrat in a primary against Democrat lawyer Marc Greidinger for the privilege of facing incumbent John Cook (R) in November, Wade made a couple of ridiculous statements. First, he said he is the only commuter in the race. If you Google Greidinger you see he is, or at least has at one time, practiced law in Ellicott City, Md. If Wade doesn't believe Greidinger commutes, how does he think the lawyer gets to work? For that matter, how does Wade think Cook gets to work?

The signature issue for John Cook in this election is transportation and the ridiculous fact that Fairfax County does not control its own roads, something most county residents were not even aware of. It seems Wade isn't either.

Second, Wade declares he's all for transparency for the county government. If that is the case, he has the wrong mentor in [Fairfax County Chairman] Sharon Bulova

(D-At-large) and is running with the wrong party. Cook has proposed many times to open more meetings to the public and to make the county finances more accessible. These are policies Bulova apparently does not agree with particularly when it comes to her more outrageous ideas such as building "luxury-subsidized housing," which seems an oxymoron at best.

Third he believes the county should diversify its income sources. Obviously, he does not understand that Fairfax County does not have much more control of their financing than they do of their roads. I would suggest Wade read up on the Dillon Rule and its impact and implications for Virginia and specifically for Fairfax County.

Perhaps in another two years he will know enough to run. In the meantime he is making a good case for re-electing one of the county's best supervisors, John Cook.

**Linda Bartlett**  
Annandale

## Managing Funds

To the Editor:

In a letter to the Board of Supervisors [April 4, 2011], School Board member Elizabeth Bradsher (Springfield) complains about a "small handful of citizens with political agendas" making "unsubstantiated comments" to the Board of Supervisors that the school system has millions of dollars in its budget left unused.

Unfortunately, this claim is substantiated by the school system's own budget documents. Specifically, a comparison of approved against actual expenditures under the FCPS budgets for FY2008-FY2010, which are the most recent three years for which actual numbers are available, reveals that approved expenditures among all of the primary expenditure categories exceeded actual expenditures by \$40.6 million for FY2008, \$43.9 million for FY2009 and \$105.7 million for FY2010. If you further break down the comparison of approved versus actual spending for each category of regular salaries over that same three-year period, it reveals that approved spending on salaries, even after reducing the approved

numbers for estimated turnover and vacancies, exceeded actual spending by \$17.6 million for FY2008, \$19.7 million for FY2009 and \$15.7 million for FY2010. Needless to say, it is more than a little troubling that at the same time our teachers have not received raises, FCPS has been carrying over millions of dollars in its budgets that were approved for salaries.

As a parent of two young children in Fairfax County Public Schools and a third that will be attending half-day kindergarten in another couple of years, I can assure Bradsher and her colleagues on the School Board that my only "political agenda" is seeing that the maximum resources from the FCPS budget are focused in our schools and classrooms.

**Tom France**  
Vienna

## Project Changes

To the Editor:

The recent recession has left many of us in a state of deep de

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

pression. Initially, we believed that an injection of more money from federal taxes into the system would help deal with the problem, but we saw how that turned out. Wall Street got millions in personal bonuses, while Main Street started shutting down.

In the end, we were left with nothing to jumpstart the economy. How do we get the money to change hands? How do we get the wheels of the economy going? The answer is creating jobs.

The Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project (DCMP) has provided a great opportunity for businesses to start planning and initiating jobs in the areas around the stations. Local communities and businesses should get involved in promotion and expansion of this economic development. This project has already put a number of companies (employment agencies, construction, steel, etc.) back to work. The DCMP Cost-Benefit Analysis reported a 63 percent increase in employment in Northern Virginia because of this project alone. The project is expected to be completed by 2013.

A technology firm, Universal Technical Resource Services (UTRS), stated, "The expansion of the Dulles Metrorail is a central part of an integrated solution that will help foster an environment to bring in new businesses and employment for area residents." This development will create a ripple throughout real estate, construction, and retail/service outlets. As more people will want to move closer to the metro stations, businesses will have to expand towards where the people are.

Sheladia Associates, an engineering firm, summarizes the importance of DCMP: "The new Metrorail line will provide direct service to business and residential activity centers in Fairfax County and Loudoun County. This much needed transit extension will expand the reach of the existing regional rail system, offer a viable alternative to automobile travel, and encourage future transit-oriented development."

Although the project has faced unexpected delays and gone over budget, these issues are to be expected in a big scale development. The government has overcome these issues successfully. We as citizens should support this project to help bring our economy out of recession.

**Amna Amjad**  
Business Student  
Northern Virginia Community College

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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 5

Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. The male version of the play, with Felix and Oscar. [wtwdrama.org](http://wtwdrama.org) or 703-503-4759.

## 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](mailto:brandland@mac.com).

**Kylie Minogue.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$55-\$125, available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or 703-573-SEAT. [www.patriotcenter.com](http://www.patriotcenter.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](http://www.novaipms.org).

**Tony Thaxton and Claudia Rivera** at 10:30 a.m., and Tyrone Wells and Matt Duke at 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**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](http://www.fairfaxrunforthechildren.com) or 301-871-0400.

**Fairfax Fine Arts Festival.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Fairfax Corner, 11900 Palace Way, Fairfax.

Paintings, photography, jewelry, digital art, glass, mixed-media and more. Free admission. [www.paragonartevents.com/fairfax](http://www.paragonartevents.com/fairfax).

**Art Auction.** Fairfax County Police Association Hall, 5625 Revercomb Court, Fairfax. Preview 6 p.m., auction begins 7 p.m. Refreshments and door prizes. \$15 per ticket, \$25 two tickets. Sponsored by Zonta Club of Fairfax County, a non-profit professional women's organization seeking to improve the economic and educational status of women. [www.zontafairfax.org](http://www.zontafairfax.org) or [ZontaFairfax@yahoo.com](mailto:ZontaFairfax@yahoo.com).

**Microsoft Excel.** 2:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Introduction to creating spreadsheets. Adults. 703-293-6227.

**"The Clockmaker."** 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Hub Theatre, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Part comic love story, part murder mystery, in a look at how relationships change how we see the world. \$25, \$15 students and seniors. [www.thehubtheatre.org](http://www.thehubtheatre.org) or 703-674-3177.

**"Dracula."** 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets are \$10 at [lbtheatre.com](http://lbtheatre.com). 703-426-1070.

**"Odd Couple."** 7:30 p.m. W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. The male version of the play, with Felix and Oscar. [wtwdrama.org](http://wtwdrama.org) or 703-503-4759.

## SUNDAY/MAY 1

**Fairfax Fine Arts Festival.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fairfax Corner, 11900 Palace Way, Fairfax. Paintings, photography, jewelry, digital art, glass, mixed-media and more. Free admission. [www.paragonartevents.com/fairfax](http://www.paragonartevents.com/fairfax).

**Randy Thompson.** 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Civil War Concert.** 7 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. "The Civil War on the Home Front," a concert of music, song and poetry from the Civil War presented by Sior-Óg. Sponsored by The City of Fairfax Spotlight on

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11

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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 10

the Arts. Family friendly, free admission and parking. 703-352-ARTS or www.fairfaxspotlight.org.

**Arc of Northern Virginia 33rd Annual Patriots' Cup Corporate Challenge 8K Race.** 9 a.m. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Proceeds benefit people with disabilities in Northern Virginia. www.thearcofnova.org/events/patscup/.

**Virginia Chamber Orchestra "Grand Finale" Concert.** 4 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College, Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Elisabeth Adkins, Beethoven Violin Concerto. Seniors and groups \$10-\$12, adults \$15-\$18, students free. 703-758-0179 or www.virginiachamberorchestra.org.

**"The Clockmaker."** 2 p.m. Hub Theatre, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Part comic love story, part murder mystery, in a look at how relationships change how we see the world. \$25, \$15 students and seniors. www.thehubtheatre.org or 703-674-3177.

**"Odd Couple."** 2 p.m. W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. The male version of the play, with Felix and Oscar. wtdrama.org or 703 503-4759.

## WEDNESDAY/MAY 4

**Joan As Police Woman.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

**"Mulan, Jr."** 7 p.m. Lake Braddock Little Theatre, 9200 Burke Lake Road in Burke. Disney's Mulan as presented by Lake Braddock Middle School Theatre. \$5. lexmsb@hotmail.com.

## THURSDAY/MAY 5

**Jarrold Gorbel, Josiah Leming and Dion Roy.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

**"Mulan, Jr."** 7 p.m. Lake Braddock Little Theatre, 9200 Burke Lake Road in Burke. Disney's Mulan as presented by Lake Braddock Middle School Theatre. \$5. lexmsb@hotmail.com.

## FRIDAY/MAY 6

**Neil Innes.** 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

**Ronald McDonald House Charities: Hunks with Heart.** 7 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Champagne, food, live jazz and an auction. \$35 per person. 703-698-7080 or www.rmhc.greaterdc.org.

**"The Clockmaker."** 8 p.m. Hub Theatre, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Part comic love story, part murder mystery, in a look at how relationships change how we see the world. \$25, \$15 students and seniors. www.thehubtheatre.org or 703-674-3177.

**"Grease."** 7:30 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Tickets available online at www.fxplayers.org for \$8 or at the door for \$12.

**"Odd Couple."** 7:30 p.m. W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. The female version of the play, with Florence and Olive. wtdrama.org or 703 503-4759.

**"Mulan, Jr."** 7 p.m. Lake Braddock Little Theatre, 9200 Burke Lake Road in Burke. Disney's Mulan as presented by Lake Braddock Middle School Theatre. \$5.

lexmsb@hotmail.com.

## SATURDAY/MAY 7

**Fairfax Civil War Day.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Historic Blenheim Estate, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Re-enactors, all-day demonstrations on blacksmithing with an 1862 traveling forge, railroads, and soldier research. Talks about slave life, the telegraph, soldiers' graves, Lee's resignation and the Skirmish at Fairfax. Guided tours of Blenheim's gallery, exhibits on secession and the Blenheim attic graffiti. Firing demonstrations of a Howitzer cannon artillery gun, "boot camp" for children, scavenger hunt, wagon rides through soldier camps, period music and dancing. \$5 adults, \$3 age 12 and younger. Proceeds benefit the restoration and maintenance of the Historic Blenheim Estate. Free parking and shuttle service provided at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run. This event is produced by the City of Fairfax; Historic Fairfax City Inc.; and the 17th Virginia Infantry, Company D "Fairfax Rifles." 703-591-0560 or www.fairfaxva.gov/SpecialEvents/CWW/CWW.asp.

**Steve Forbert** at 7 p.m., and Fight The Bear and Overdrive Superthruster at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

**"The Clockmaker."** 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Hub Theatre, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Part comic love story, part murder mystery, in a look at how relationships change how we see the world. \$25, \$15 students and seniors. 703-674-3177.

**"Grease."** 7:30 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Tickets available online at www.fxplayers.org for \$8 or at the door for \$12.

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All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

## CAMPS & SCHOOLS

# Oak View's Successful Odyssey

## Team Wins Odyssey of the Mind Virginia State Finals

**O**n Saturday, April 16, a team from Oak View Elementary School won the Virginia Odyssey of the Mind State Finals, which took place at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria. The team's next stop is the May 27-30 Odyssey of the Mind World Finals, at The University of Maryland, College Park, Md.

Since October, the team, which is made up of seven fifth-graders from Oak View, has been working on a long-term problem and practicing solving short-term problems. The team members are Isabel Danger, Connor Garcia, Emma Sanchez, Lauren Sawyer, Stephen Rosene, Elizabeth Ryan and Shannon Williams. Ron Sawyer and Nancy Rosene are the team's coaches.

Oak View's Elena Sonnino acts as the team's faculty sponsor and coordinator.

This is the first year that Oak View teams have taken part in the Odyssey of the Mind competition, which requires the participants to solve long-term



DONATED PHOTO

Members of the Oak View Odyssey of the Mind team are, from left, Lauren Sawyer, Emma Sanchez, Shannon Williams, Isabel Danger, Stephen Rosene, Elizabeth Ryan and Connor Garcia.

and short-term problems. Problems range from engineering and science challenges to drama presentations.

The Oak View team qualified to participate in the Virginia State Finals by winning the Northern Virginia Regional Competition on March 5, at Falls Church High School. At that competition and the state competition, the team presented its long-term solution to the problem "Full Circle," which was sponsored by NASA. They also solved a short-term problem within the allotted time span.

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# Staying Tough, Fairfax Boys Press On in Lacrosse

Rebels have not won, but they have shown steady improvement.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

Heading into the final week of the regular season, the Fairfax High boys' lacrosse team is still in search of its first win. But while the disappointment and frustration of a 0-9 record, the team's mark heading into this past week, is un-consolable, Fairfax head coach Ryan Brown understood from the start this would be a re-building spring for his program.

Fairfax, with a senior-laden roster last year, went 5-8, one victory better than the year before when Brown was in his first season at the helm of the Rebels.

So going into this season, with 22 players from last year's team lost to graduation, Fairfax was certain to have a less experienced, younger line-up.

"Using the term 're-building year' is kind of an understatement for us," said Brown. "We are building from scratch. I had almost no experience returning this year."

Nonetheless, Brown said his team is much improved from the Rebels' squad, which took the field for its season opener versus Centreville High back on March 15. Fairfax

lost that night, 16-4. The coach believes his team would be a tougher draw for the Wildcats were the two non-district foes to meet again this season.

"In our first game we were blown out by Centreville," said Brown. "I think if we played them now it would be a totally different game. The guys have matured a lot. The challenge this year is to keep the hopes up and to let them know it's not always about winning and losing. These players are always working hard for me and trying to get better."

In a Liberty District road game on April 14, Fairfax played the home team McLean Highlanders hard and tough but fell short in an 8-6 loss. Brown said the difference in that contest was the Rebels' inability to consistently win face-offs and not being able to pick up enough groundballs.

The closest games Fairfax has played this season were against McLean — the 8-6 setback — and a 7-5 district home loss to

**"When my guys are playing well and doing things right, they're very tough."**

— Fairfax head coach Ryan Brown

Jefferson on March 31. The next closest the Rebels have played an opponent was a 12-7 district home loss to Marshall on April 12. Other reasonably close scores have come against Washington-Lee, 13-7, on March 25, and Madison, 9-3, on April 7, both setbacks coming at home.

The Rebels' leadership this season has come from seniors Sam Bechert, a midfielder and the most experienced player back from last year's squad, and midfielder David Robertson, along with junior midfielder Robert Bush. Unfortunately, Bush injured a knee a few weeks ago and is out for the remainder of the season.

Bechert is a top-notch athlete who handles most of the team's faceoffs. He is a good open field player with the ball and has often cleared the ball out of danger with long, open field runs.

Robertson, meanwhile, is a first year varsity starter. He is an exceptional left-handed shooter and a vocal leader for the young Rebels. Robertson, who was a member of the JV squad last year as a junior, will be attending Duke next school year.

"Every week, he gets better," said Brown,

of Robertson's game.

Bush, out the rest of this spring but certain to come back next year and be an integral part of the line-up as a senior, was a backup on last year's varsity. But this season he emerged into a steady, solid starter for Brown's varsity.

"He's not great in any one area, but he's good in everything," said the coach, assessing Bush's consistent play. "He's a solid guy who can throw and catch and get the ball to the right guy. Also, he's a good shooter."

Fairfax was set to have its work cut out this week with road games against top Liberty District opponents South Lakes (Tuesday, April 26) and Stone Bridge (Thursday, April 28).

"Those are two very good teams," said Brown. "It's going to be tough for us to get wins versus those teams. But as long as we work hard, work together and give our best effort, we'll see how it goes. When my guys are playing well and doing things right, they're very tough."

The present has been tough but the future is brighter for the Rebels.

Brown said his team could surprise some opponents over the final couple weeks of the regular season and on into the district tournament. He is also optimistic about next year's team. "Hopefully next year we'll have a really good team," said Brown. "Most of the line-up will be back."

## McKeever Backs Alternative Transportation

Virginia Tech student from Burke covers biking conference in Switzerland.

BY LEAH WEISMAN  
VIRGINIA TECH

Lyndsay McKeever of Burke, a senior majoring in humanities, science, and environment in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, and student intern with Virginia Tech's Transportation and Campus Services, has contributed to the university's alternative transportation programs and initiatives over the past year. At the end of March, her attendance at Velo-City, an international cycling conference in Seville, Spain, helped to continue her efforts by providing valuable resources to the department.

The Velo-City conference took place from March 23-25 and focused on examples of bicycle-friendly cities and policies. McKeever, a campus advocate for bicycling as an alternative mode of transportation, says she has absorbed new ideas and is hoping to bring them back and integrate them into the Virginia Tech community.

McKeever has also been working with the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) president Andy Clarke. The LAB sent McKeever to blog live from the conference. McKeever has been learning about what other cities and universities are doing about alternative transportation, especially biking. The LAB

has a program with a checklist to make campuses more bicycle-friendly, called Bicycle-Friendly University, which she says she plans to incorporate into her work at Virginia Tech.

Transportation and Campus Services has already taken steps to meet the criteria to be named a Bicycle-Friendly University and will utilize McKeever's experience in their efforts.

"The information that Lyndsay learns while abroad and while networking with the League of American Bicyclists will be valuable to our office as we work to become a Bicycle-Friendly University," said Debby Freed, Virginia Tech alternative transportation manager.

Through her internship with Transportation and Campus Services, McKeever has already completed an assessment of Virginia Tech's bicycle racks which resulted in the receipt of grant funding from the Student Organization Sustainability Initiative to have more racks placed on campus, providing an increase of infrastructure support the campus cycling community.

Currently, she is participating in a program of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland. Her classes all focus on sustainability, centering on European cities as examples.



Lyndsay McKeever

"We're studying sustainability here, and a lot of what we're studying we want to bring back to the states with us," McKeever said. "There are a lot of success stories here that we want to build on."

The Velo-City conference is in its 31st year and strives to "encourage cycling as part of daily transport and recreation," according to its website [www.ecf.com].

Leah Weisman of Fairfax is a senior majoring in communication in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Virginia Tech.

**The Paul VI High golf team** recently captured its seventh straight Virginia State Catholic Schools Championship. The postseason event took place at Kiskiack Golf Club in Williamsburg. Under windy conditions, Paul VI (308 strokes) edged out local rivals Bishop Ireton (326 strokes) of Alexandria and Bishop O'Connell (334) of Arlington, both whom finished in second and third place, respectively. Rounding out the competition were Walsingham Academy, Bishop Sullivan and Peninsula Catholic, placing fourth, fifth and sixth place.

### SPORTS NOTES

Paul VI senior Tyler Wingo was the first place medalist at 72, even par. Matt Barnwell from Ireton placed second with a 75 and Paul VI's Brandon Luxenburg tied for third at 76 with Pat Quinn of Bishop O'Connell. Also posting scores for Paul VI were Jon Patch at 78 and Chris Abbott at 82.

Paul VI, under longtime head coach Milt Papke, has now won 12 state titles in school history.

The Panthers' golf team now looks toward to the upcoming Washington Catholic Athletic Conference (WCAC) Championships, set to take place May 9-10 at the University of Maryland.

## WEEK IN FAIRFAX

FROM PAGE 4

In addition, residents should cut back or eliminate bushes and trees close to the house, check exterior lights for burned-out bulbs and pick up mail and newspapers so as not to give the impression that no one is home. Personal belongings should be stored in places that cannot easily be seen, while items normally kept outside should be secured in sheds and carports.

At residents' request, police will perform a thorough evaluation of a property and make recommendations pertaining to preventative crime measures. To schedule a security survey, call the Community Services Section at 703-385-7966.

## Changes for Hybrid Vehicles

Drivers of hybrid vehicles with the required clean fuel license plates will continue to be able to use the Interstate 95, 395, 66 and Dulles Toll Road HOV lanes until June 30, 2012, according to VDOT. However, come July 1, 2011, there is an important change on Interstate 66.

The new law states that only hybrid vehicles with clean fuel plates issued prior to July 1, 2011 will be permitted to use the Interstate 66 HOV lanes during rush hours. Police will ticket any hybrid vehicle that does not have a clean fuel plate issued before July 1, 2011.

Beginning July 1, 2011, the Department of Motor Vehicles will issue a clean fuel license plate with a different design so that police can easily spot violators in the HOV lanes.

In order for a hybrid vehicle to use Virginia's HOV lanes during the morning and afternoon rush hours, the vehicle must have a clean special fuel plate issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Not all hybrids qualify for clean fuel license plates, motorists should check the DMV Web site, [www.dmvnow.com](http://www.dmvnow.com) for an updated list of eligible hybrids.

## Police: Road Responsibility And Accountability

The City of Fairfax Police Department is reminding drivers to pay attention while driving and to be respectful of other motorists while traveling through the City of Fairfax. Police are stressing the importance of driving responsibly and devoting the proper amount of attention to traffic safety. Speaking on cell phones, text messaging, adjusting the radio and interacting with passengers all are factors that can divert one's attention from driving and potentially lead to traffic accidents.

Driver distractions reduce awareness of the driving environment, interfere with decision-making and deteriorate overall driving performance. As a result, drivers could be forced to take corrective actions which could have an adverse effect on them and others traveling on the streets and highways.

Police encourage motorists to stay focused, continually be aware of other drivers and pedestrians, and obey traffic laws. Drivers taking these measures will help ensure that the roadways are kept safe for other motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians.

## Help the Lions Help the Blind

The Clifton Lions club will host its annual, White Cane fundraiser, Friday-Saturday, May 6-7, outside the Giant Foods stores at the Colonnade at Union Mill and at University Mall. Lions Clubs have supported blind charities worldwide since Helen Keller asked them to lead a "crusade against darkness" at their international convention in 1925.

Besides cash donations, the Lions will collect used eyeglasses and hearing aids. Donations will be used to support charities that help the blind, including the internationally renowned Lion eyeglass recycling program, Leader Dog training, and county programs that provide reduced-cost glasses to low-income families. For more information, see [www.clcv.clubexpress.com](http://www.clcv.clubexpress.com).

## PEOPLE

# Meaning through Volunteering

## Toora Arsala honored for his volunteer efforts.

BY LISA GILLESPIE  
THE CONNECTION

**T**oora Arsala has spent most of his life with out many friends. Recently diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, he spent his childhood in classes for the developmentally challenged and had a hard time connecting with his peers.

His parents, both translators, got him tutors through school, and he eventually graduated from Chantilly High School in 2008. Since then, he's spent three semesters at ITT Tech, two semesters at the University of Phoenix and is now in his first year at Northern Virginia Community College.

Since being diagnosed with Asperger's, a disorder that is characterized by significant difficulties in social interaction, he's been able to take open-note test with more time. Through all the school though, he was never able to call anyone his friend. That is, until he started volunteering.

"I had no social life. I tried many different things, and all of them didn't work out," Arsala said, now 21. He says he was bullied a lot and tried to find solace in clubs. There was drama club, but he had trouble memorizing lines. He couldn't participate in sports because of health issues. But then he found the community service club. "Not only did I like helping others, but going out into the community," he said.

**AFTER HIGH SCHOOL**, he started volunteering for campaigns, where he worked for the 2007 Chuck Caputo House of Delegates campaign. Next was the Hilary Clinton presidential campaign and then Barack Obama's campaign after Clinton dropped out of the primary.

"I was tired of not doing anything with my life," Arsala said. "Everyone deserves to be helped, even if they have a low income or just need help."

Michelle Noth was regional field director in Northern Virginia for Obama for America for two years, when she met Arsala. This year, she and two other employees at OFA nominated Toora for the Adult Volunteer 250 and Over and Benchmark 500 awards.

"He is the most positive and goal-oriented people that I've met," Noth said, who worked with him through several campaigns. "To be in an environ-



Toora Arsala

**"I had no social life. I tried many different things, and all of them didn't work out."**

— Toora Arsala

ment as a volunteer every single day and not being able to process information as quickly would have been extremely tough, but he was extremely adjustable and enthusiastic."

Acquaintance Chrise West, community organizer for OFA, gave Arsala the honorary title of volunteer coordinator after seeing his hard work.

"I know a lot of volunteers who are dedicated people, he outshines them all," West said, who described his 16-hour days as a volunteer. "He was always the first person I saw when I came into the office. He was part of the campaign. I know he's had so many challenges to overcome, yet he has added so much to OFA."

Arsala also volunteered at Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, Celebrate Fairfax and the library in 2010.

"I've had issues in the past couple years, ever since I joined the political campaigns and volunteered, I've gained a lot of friends who support me," Arsala said.

For Arsala's 21st birthday, Noth threw him a birthday party, one of the first birthday parties he's had thrown by a friend.

"You should never give up," he said. "Keep on going, because they're bound to come true one day."

## COLLEGE NOTES

**Cara Regan** from Fairfax, a senior at Washington and Lee University, has been included in the 2011 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities." The 80 undergraduate students chosen from W&L, and 29 students from the W&L School of Law, were nominated by members of the university community based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success.

**Michael Holland Larkins**, a sophomore at Hampden-Sydney Col-

lege, was named to the dean's list for the first semester of the 2010-11 academic year. To earn this distinction, students must achieve at least a 3.3 semester grade point average out of a possible 4.0. Larkins is a graduate of Fairfax High School and is the son of Mark and Diana Larkins of Fairfax.

**Alex Tyler Price**, a sophomore at Hampden-Sydney College, was named to the dean's list for the first semester of the 2010-11 academic year. To earn this distinction, students must achieve at least a 3.3 semester grade point average out of a possible 4.0. Price is a graduate

of Fairfax High School and is the son of Tammi and Jay Price of Fairfax.

**Jim Cook**, a resident of Fairfax, has earned a bachelor of science from Excelsior College.

**Charles Henry Wetzel**, a resident of Fairfax, has earned a bachelor of science from Excelsior College.

**Alicia Gaghan**, a sophomore and a resident of Fairfax, was recently listed on the 2010 fall semester dean's list at the University of Portland. Students need at least a 3.5 grade point average.



# His Music Kept Him Going

After nearly dying from a viral infection, local man finds 'Music is Mind Control.'

BY AMBER HEALY  
THE CONNECTION

Adam El-Alfi shouldn't be alive. When he was 18 and in the middle of his senior year at Gonzaga High School, the Fairfax resident was on a retreat with the rest of his class when he became sluggish and didn't display the kind of enthusiasm his friends had expected from the friendly, adventurous guy who never shied away from fun.

Within 24 hours, El-Alfi was in a coma and nearly died, the result of a viral infection that temporarily paralyzed him and forced him to relearn how to speak, walk and tie his shoes.

But now, at 26, El-Alfi has used that minor roadblock to focus his life's work on his music, a passion he's had since he was a youngster.

When he was little, he moved to Saudi Arabia with his mom and sister because his dad had a job there. They lived in a neighborhood of six houses, and the father of one of the neighborhood children was a producer on a local children's television show. Being American, El-Alfi and his sister were soon joining a handful of other kids on the weekly program.

"I didn't start singing right away," he said. "But I remember there was this girl who totally stole the show. People would stand behind the camera and stare at her when she was singing. She controlled the room."

From that moment, he was hooked.

"I looked at how people stared at her and that's when I decided that's what I wanted to do, I wanted to sing," he said.

Eventually, the people responsible for the TV show had auditions for other singers, and El-Alfi tried out. The first song he sang on the air was John Denver's "Country Roads," a fitting little ditty for the only American boy on the show — and a song that still holds a soft spot in his heart all these years later.

He wasn't always open about wanting to be a musician, but the thought was never far from his mind. He joined the choir at Gonzaga and was soon singing the lead in the group, and later became involved with the school's a cappella group as well.

"It takes a lot of courage to get up in front of people and sing," said Anthony Bell, a friend of El-Alfi's since ninth grade and now his manager. "Especially when you go to an all boy's school. He had to be both, and that's when I really built up respect for Adam."

But El-Alfi also played soccer and was one of the strongest players on the team, and between his musical talent and his athletic ability, he was a popular guy.

El-Alfi's talent was noted by his teachers, and he was selected to be part of a small group of singers to perform at the Kennedy

Center with Ray Charles.

"I didn't know who he was until after the fact, but I remember thinking it was awesome," El-Alfi said.

**AND THEN** came the day he got sick.

"We were bugging him for not being more into the trip," Bell said. "Adam didn't seem like himself and he didn't seem to get the importance of the event."

The way he remembers it, he had a really bad headache and cramps in his legs. When he woke up the next morning, he couldn't move his legs.

A few quick phone calls later, and El-Alfi was in a hospital in La Plata, Md., and his mom, Cheryl El-Alfi, was on her way to her son's bedside.

"I really believe if it wasn't for the physician's assistant having just finished her neurological rotation, I really think it could've been a lot worse," Cheryl El-Alfi said. Still, she was standing by his side when he slipped into a coma, and when the doctors determined they couldn't help him at that hospital, the snowstorm outside became more treacherous.

She had a four-wheel drive vehicle and when she was told there was no way the medical emergency helicopter could fly in a storm, she said, in no uncertain terms, that the team had five minutes to get her son in an ambulance or she was driving to Georgetown Hospital herself.

"It wasn't five minutes later we were all loaded into the ambulance and were barreling down the road," she said.

"I had acute viral encephalitis and meningitis," Adam El-Alfi said. "Ninety percent of people who have this die within the first day; 10 percent of those who survive don't make it a year."

His mom calls him her medical miracle, one who refused to go through physical therapy at the pace designated by his doctors.

He spent seven weeks in the hospital and then was transferred to another facility for therapy. Throughout the course of his treatment, however, he had his own ideas for how things should go.

He had to have a tracheotomy, and one day the nurse showed him how to cover a valve in the tube so he could try to speak again. Right away, he covered the valve and began talking, albeit in a hoarse voice, Cheryl El-Alfi said. When his doctors in the rehabilitation facility wanted to keep him on a feeding tube, he refused to keep it in a minute longer than necessary, telling his doctors he didn't need it or want it any longer.

"We were told it'd take him a year, maybe a year and a half to recover," she said.

Within months, Adam El-Alfi was back at school, working determinedly to graduate with his class. One of the last vestiges of his illness was the cane and wheelchair he



PHOTO BY AMBER HEALY / THE CONNECTION

**Adam E., also known as Adam El-Alfi, and his manager Anthony Bell are working to bring his music to the masses.**

still depended on to get around.

**THE MORNING** of his graduation, they planned out where to drop him off, in his wheelchair, to take the elevator up into the church for the ceremony. When it came time to walk across the stage, he turned to his mom and said, "It's ok, I've got this."

Leaving his cane behind, Adam El-Alfi's recovery was complete.

Since then, his life's been centered around his music. Call it a wake-up, call it whatever else might apply, but that time spent in the hospital and recovering made it clear to him that he needed to cast aside any doubt or fears and make his mark with music.

Adam El-Alfi said he doesn't like to listen to music for inspiration, because he'll end up writing a song that sounds like the last band he listened to. There is one exception, however — the 1990s band Boyz II Men.

"That's the whole reason why I took to R&B," he said. "The best songs are the ones you have deep emotional ties to."

He doesn't write songs about people, per se, but instead uses situations that he's been in and other people can relate to, to tell a story about a time in his life.

To El-Alfi, music isn't something linear, a set of notes that conveys this emotion or recounts that event.

It's just a matter of time before more people find his music and understand his message, he said.

## 'Mind Control'

Adam El-Alfi, otherwise known as Adam E, has songs available from his demo, released on JMD/InGroove/Universal records. He can be found at iTunes, on Amazon.com and on Myspace: [www.myspace.com/theadameproject](http://www.myspace.com/theadameproject).

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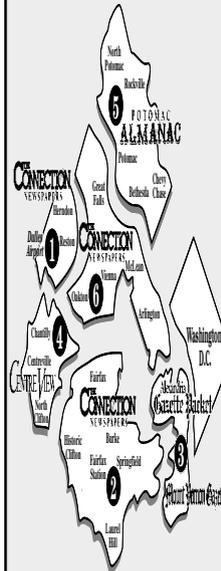
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## Fairfax \$479,500

JUST RIGHT... Top of the line updates, great floor plan, sought-after schools! This three-level walk out split has cathedral ceilings, hardwoods, renovated baths & kitchen. Plus, all the essential updates... brick & hardiplank, architectural roof, vinyl windows, Hvac & more. No expense spared!! Steps to Metrobus & schools, minutes to VRE.

## Save A Date To Attend Long & Foster's FREE Real Estate Career Seminar

DATES IN 2011: TIME:

May 4 7:00-9:00 PM

LOCATION:  
Long & Foster's Northern Virginia Training Center  
3069 Nutley St.  
Fairfax, VA 22031

From the Beltway (495), take Rte. 66 West to the Nutley St. South Exit (exit 62) towards Fairfax. Go through the intersection of Lee Highway and Nutley Street. The training center is located in the Pan Am Shopping Center on the left.

TO REGISTER:

Please contact Mary Ann Plonka at 703-503-1898 or [maryann.plonka@longandfoster.com](mailto:maryann.plonka@longandfoster.com)



**CHERYL HANBACK**

Associate Broker

**703-864-4321**



## Fairfax Station \$769,000

Near Burke Lake! New home to be built! 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath, eat-in kitchen next to family room, master suite, basement, 2 car garage on 3/4 acre lot. Floor plans and other models you can choose from. Customize to your needs and tastes! Let's meet with the builder and build the home that you desire!

**Pep Bauman**

"Put Pep's Energy to Work for You"

**703-314-7055**

[PepLnF.com](http://PepLnF.com)



## Clifton \$2,849,000

Stunning 5 Bedrooms, 4 Baths, 2 Half Baths, Gorgeous Master Suite, Gourmet Kitchens, Shimmering Pool with Fountains, Magnificently Landscaped on 5 Tree-lined Acres in Historic Clifton.



Come to the HEART of Real Estate, since 1980 Proudly Serving Northern VA  
**KAY HART, CRS, GRI**  
Associate Broker  
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[kay.hart@longandfoster.com](mailto:kay.hart@longandfoster.com)  
703-503-1860

**Catie, Steve & Associates**

Direct: **703-278-9313**

Cell: **703-362-2591**

NVAR Top Producers  
Multi-Million Dollar Sales Club



## Burke Centre \$559,900

Spring Beauty, Ready to Bloom Spotless, Neutral and Vacant! 4 BR, 3 full BA, 2 car Garage. Great back yard and deck on a very friendly cul-de-sac street. Excellent schools, pools & paths, transportation. Call Kay Hart, 703-503-1860. From Burke Lake Rd, R on Windward, Left on Wilmette to 6231. OPEN Sunday 5/1, 1-3 p.m.



## Fairfax Middleridge \$565,000

Peace & Quiet! This light & airy 5 Bdrms/2.5 ba Middleridge colonial sits on a cul de sac & backs to parkland & stream. Gorgeous inside & out, fall in love with its updated kitchen with granite counters; its cheerful family room with fireplace; its hardwood floors; its new carpet; & its terrific deck & screened porch; finished LL with built-in bar! Original Owners pride & joy!  
Call Catie, Steve & Assoc. 703-278-9313



CRS, Associate Broker  
Life Member, NVAR Multi-Million Dollar Sales Club  
Life Member, NVAR TOP PRODUCERS  
**Ann Witherspoon**  
**703-503-1836**  
[ann@witherspoon.com](mailto:ann@witherspoon.com)



## Burke \$625,000

Gorgeous, Luxury, former model dream home! Bright, Open & Cheerful! Loaded with Bells & Whistles! Hardwood Floors on First & Second levels - 3 BR, 3.5 BA + Study/Library - 2 Fireplaces - Large, Gourmet Kitchen w/Butler's Pantry & Adjacent Fam Rm - Deck & much, much more.



## Burke \$549,900

Welcome to beautiful Burke Centre where quiet neighborhood charm meets tree lined streets and this lovely home awaits you. Situated on a richly wooded lot on a private drive, this attractive Colonial features 4 BR's, 2 Full & 2 Half Baths. The interior boasts a remodeled kitchen, Formal LR w/Fireplace & Family Room w/2nd Fireplace, Hardwood Flooring, Full walk-out lower level. Imagine enjoying the splendor of the seasons on the beautiful deck or entertaining in the charming yard where brilliant, low maintenance garden is bursting with color. For a private showing, call Sheila Adams, 703-503-1895



**NGOC DO & ASSOCIATES**

**703-798-2899**

[www.ngocdo.com](http://www.ngocdo.com)



## Laurel Hill \$750,000

Immaculate 5 BR, 3.5 BA Colonial with fantastic open floor plan. Gorgeous hardwood flrs & custom blinds throughout.

Great open floor plan with gourmet kitchen, breakfast room & large family room with gas FP Master suite with luxury BA & large WIC & 4 more bedrooms on upper level! Great walk-up LL ready to be finished the way you like. Entertain on your composite deck & fenced rear yard with sprinkler system!



## Lorton \$825,000

Immaculate 4BR, 3.5BA Colonial in Laurel Hill. Open floor plan w/main level office, gourmet kitchen & morning rm bump out. Master Suite w/WIC & luxury bath. Finished walk-up lower level with game room, recreation rm w/surround sound, 2nd kitchen, dining area, den & full bath. Fantastic level yard irrigation system & flagstone patio overlooking waterfall & stream.



**Richard Esposito**

**703-503-4035**

[Richard@LNF.com](mailto:Richard@LNF.com)

Service is the difference I provide



## Coming Soon in Alexandria

This 4 bedroom 3 1/2 bath home has over 2,100 sq. ft. of living space and is located in the Landsdowne community. Call today to schedule your appointment.

**Richard Esposito 703-503-4035**  
[RICHARD@LNF.COM](mailto:RICHARD@LNF.COM)

**ELLIE WESTER**

**703-503-1880**

L&F Founder's Club

Lifetime NVAR Top Producer

Life Member, NVAR Million Dollar Sales Club

[ellie.wester@longandfoster.com](mailto:ellie.wester@longandfoster.com)



## Fairfax \$319,900

1.5 acre building lot located just minutes from charming Clifton and while convenient this gently rolling lot is located in a lovely, private wooded setting with a small stream. Ancient black walnut trees dot the property and there are several excellent choices for siting a home.

**703-425-8000**