

Springfield CONNECTION

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Knitting 530 Blankets

NEWS, PAGE 4



*Handmade for your baby by
Janie Hermon
Layette Volunteer
Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society
Washington Navy Yard Office
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Washington Navy Yard DC 20374
(202) 433-3364*

Before the blankets are shipped to the Navy-Marine Relief Society, they are tagged, giving families the opportunity to thank the six women who spend 30 hours making each blanket. Janie Hermon, the leader of the society based at Greenspring, logged 17,000 volunteer hours from February 2000 to May 2011.

Bailey's Hope

NEWS, PAGE 3

Home
Life
Style
PAGE 9

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PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

A commuter parking lot sits behind the former site of Long John Silvers.

Revitalizing Central Springfield

Demolition of blighted buildings paves way for upscale development.

BY VICTORIA ROSS

THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) could not be happier about the destruction going on all around him. And he's willing to share some responsibility for it.

"Just look at all this," he said, pointing to a large crane dropping debris into a dumpster on Friday, July 8. "It's a major step forward."

The demolition of the long-vacant, graffiti-magnet that used to be a Long John Silver's restaurant is almost complete. The former chain is one of four blighted buildings in central Springfield that have been torn down in the past 18 months.

"We are setting the stage for positive growth and revitalization projects," McKay said. "There are potential developers for these properties, but only when these buildings are gone."

McKay said he started calling property-owners two years ago, asking the absentee landlords what Fairfax County could do to help get rid of buildings.

"It was in everyone's interest to see these blighted buildings used for more attractive tenants. First, you have to get rid of the ugly," he said,



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), standing in front of the former Long John Silver's site, said the County has applied for a TIGER grant to redevelop the property into a structured parking building with recreation fields on top.

"and then set the zoning stage properly."

Nancy-Jo Manney, executive director of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, said Fairfax County officials have been effective partners in revitalization efforts.

"We're very happy to see this building come down, along with other eye sores that have been removed in the past year," she said. "It's encouraging to have the County work with property owners to make way for some exciting new development in Central Springfield. It's never a quick process, often much slower than we'd like, but good things are coming."

Chi-Chi's, the Mexican restaurant,

was the first eyesore to be knocked down last winter. The property, next to a Marriott Residence Inn, will soon be a Homewood Suites; and the former Circuit City is now one of the county's commuter parking lots.

McKay said the County is applying for its third TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant to redevelop the Long John Silver's site into a structured parking building, with 1,000 spaces for community parking, some retail shops and recreational fields on the roof for weekend sports teams.

IN JULY, the Department of Transportation (DOT) announced that it will begin accepting applications for \$527 million in grants to state and local governments on Aug. 22. The DOT is seeking projects that "foster livable communities and contribute to the county's competitiveness," according to the July 1 news release.

"We didn't get the first two rounds of TIGER grants, but we think we have a good shot at getting money from the third round because we

SEE MALL, PAGE 15



DONATED PHOTO

The Brandt family testified at the White House last week against proposed cuts in Medicaid funding and how those cuts would affect their daughter's quality of life. From left: Mitchell, Bailey and Carrin Brandt.

Bailey's Hope

Springfield family testifies before White House against Medicaid cuts

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Like most new parents, Carrin and Mitchell Brandt of Springfield were thrilled and exhausted after the birth of their first daughter in 2001.

Born on May 19, Bailey was a healthy and happy infant. "She cried a lot, but infants cry, and she was developing typically," Carrin Brandt said.

In September, Brandt went back to work as a licensed marriage and family therapist. A week later, on Sept. 11, terrorists struck the World Trade Center. As a therapist, Brandt knew the tragedy of 9/11 would mean helping patients cope with the aftermath of the shattering, traumatic event.

What she didn't know was that her family's world would be forever knocked off its foundation a week later.

"About a week after 9/11, Bailey's grandmother called and

said she thought Bailey had a seizure. We went to Children's Medical Center, and our world changed," Carrin Brandt said.

After numerous tests, neurologists determined that Bailey had uncontrolled infantile spasms, but the specialists could not predict the outcome for Bailey.

"They couldn't tell us if these seizures meant that Bailey was going to develop normally, or have life-long debilitating problems. We felt so hopeless," Carrin Brandt said.

ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, Carrin, Mitchell and Bailey joined The Arc of Northern Virginia along with other families affected by possible Medicaid cuts as President Obama continues deficit reduction talks with Congress.

During a two-hour meeting with senior White House aides, the Brandts explained how Medicaid cuts would drastically

SEE FAMILY, PAGE 15

Knitting 530 Blankets

Greenspring's Janie Hermon earns Meritorious Service Award from the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

BY MEREDITH ZETZLEMOYER
THE CONNECTION

In May, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society recognized Greenspring resident Janie Hermon for her outstanding service to the society as she logged 17,000 volunteer hours from February 2000 to May 2011.

The society's mission is to provide financial and educational assistance to members of the United States Naval Services and their families. The only volunteer with that many hours, Hermon received the Meritorious Service Award at the society's National Capitol Region annual luncheon in May at the Washington Navy Yard in Washington, D.C.

"I was shocked to death," she said, reflecting on the surprise of receiving this award.

Raised in western Pennsylvania, Hermon moved around as a child. She was born in Courtney, Pa., to Pauline and Rudy Renko, a coal miner. She moved with her parents and brother to Scranton early in her childhood, where they remained until she was 12. She began babysitting and worked at the local aluminum factory to help support herself and her family before heading to Baltimore, Md., to take a job with Social Security.

Eventually she headed to Washington, D.C., for stationing at the U.S. Army Signal Corps, the organization that maintains communications and information systems for the combined armed forces.

"I arrived a week after [World War II] ended," Hermon said. "That job was gone." She was restationed at the Army War College, leading to a career at the Pentagon. It was there she met her husband, Lester Hermon, a retired army officer from Kansas who was working in Washington, D.C., at the time.

Janie Hermon briefly switched branches to the Air Force before retiring. "I got a pay check every two weeks," Hermon said of her experience as a civilian in the military, despite the pay raises and various achievement awards during her career.

The Hermons lived in Fairfax and Alexandria with their two children, building a home to Janie Hermon's specifications. When her husband died in 1996, Janie Hermon returned to Baltimore to live at Charleston, an Erickson Living retirement community like



PHOTO BY GREENSPRING

The mission of the Navy-Marine Relief Society is to provide support for enlisted families with newborn children, sending blankets around the world. Janie Hermon knitted 530 blankets for the society.



PHOTO BY GREENSPRING

The Navy-Marine Relief Society at Greenspring meets once a week to chat with friends and knit baby blankets that will then be sent to enlisted families across the globe in the U.S. Naval Services.

Greenspring. However, as soon as she heard that a retirement home was being built in Springfield, minutes away from where she had once lived, she made plans to return in 1999. "I was one of the first to sign up," said Hermon, "and it took me three years to get here."

Greenspring, the largest retirement community in Northern Virginia, is one of 16 Erickson Living retirement communities. It is home to 2,000 residents who have the opportunity to engage in a fulfilling lifestyle with a true sense of community, providing a wide range of activities and kinship with fellow residents.

Once Hermon arrived, Jean Bley took Hermon under her wing. Bley had been in charge of one of the branches of the Navy-Marine Relief Society, located at every military base along the East Coast. The branch at Greenspring is the only one in the Washington, D.C., area. The society sends baby blankets to enlisted personnel with newborn children around the world. The society sends yellow, white, blue and pink yarn for the weekly meetings and ships the blankets out, and the members buy yarn themselves when funds run low.

After 12 years at Greenspring, Janie Hermon is now the leader of

the society. "Jean left me a den of yarn," she said.

The six women meet every Wednesday at 3 p.m., knitting and crocheting for an hour before dinner. "It's a way to pass the time," Hermon said of the service she has done. She enjoys the time with friends, also keeping her hands busy while she watches television. She makes at least a blanket a week, translating to roughly 30 hours of work, and made 530 last year.

"My problem is finding more patterns," Hermon laughs. The women rarely receive thank you letters for their efforts, and never meet the recipients.

"It's a shame," said Jessica McKay, the public affairs manager at Greenspring. But the society reports that when the enlisted spouses open the cabinets full of blankets, they are overwhelmed because they do not know which of the beautiful blankets they want.

Janie Hermon intends to keep on knitting. She stores the blankets, some to be sent overseas, some for her family. Her granddaughter, married last October, asked for one to be kept for her, and Hermon keeps the blanket ready, along with those to be shipped.



DONATED PHOTO

Verna Finley with some of her puppets in the 1990s.

Designing Woman

Verna Finley, 90, is known for puppet creations, costume designs.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Many Greenspring residents know Verna Finley as the costume designer for the Greenspring Players' recent musical production of "My Fair Lady."

But what most people don't know is that costume design is just one of Finley's talents. Finley, who is 90 and largely confined to a wheelchair, gained fame in the 1950s as one of the first and finest foam puppet makers in the world.

"Verna is considered by most to be the 'Grande Dame' of soft puppets. Her creations live on and are highly sought after by both professionals and collectors. If you own a 'Verna' you are fortunate indeed," said Chip Martin, a longtime friend and fan who has written about Finley on his blog.

For several years, Finley created puppets for Jeff Dunham, a ventriloquist and stand-up comedian who has been credited with reviving the art of ventriloquism, which peaked in the 1950s with Edgar Bergen and his sidekick Charlie McCarthy. In 2007, Dunham was named "America's Favorite Comedian" by Slate.com.

FINLEY CREATED PEANUT, one of Dunham's most popular puppets, a purple-skinned, hyperactive character that Dunham has said comes from a small Micronesian island, as well as 40 other puppet characters for well-known ventriloquists.

"Oh, I loved working with Jeff," Finley said. "He's whip-smart, funny and not filled with his own importance, like some performers I could name," she said, laughing. "But, to be fair, almost all performers are

SEE VISION, PAGE 11

SCHOOLS

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.

Daniel Barnes of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (engineering) has won the Achievement Scholarship from the 2011 National Achievement Scholarship program (NASP). The Achievement Scholarships are awarded to Black American high school seniors to be used for undergraduate study at any regionally accredited United States college or university.

Kelli Keith of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (business) has won the Achievement Scholarship from the 2011 National Achievement Scholarship program (NASP). The Achievement Scholarships are awarded to Black American high school seniors to be used for undergraduate study at any regionally accredited United States college or university.

Sabrina Mohamed Keith of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (biomedical engineering) has won the Achievement Scholarship from the 2011 National Achievement Scholarship program (NASP). The Achievement Scholarships are awarded to Black American high school seniors to be used for undergraduate study at any regionally accredited United States college or university.

Robert Orleans-Pobee of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (engineering) has won the Achievement Scholarship from the 2011 National Achievement Scholarship program (NASP). The Achievement Scholarships are awarded to Black American high school seniors to be used for undergraduate study at any regionally accredited United States college or university.

Darcey Pancoast of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (biomedical engineering) has won the Achievement Scholarship from the 2011 National Achievement Scholarship program (NASP). The Achievement Scholarships are awarded to Black American high school seniors to be used for undergraduate study at any regionally accredited United States college or university.

Aaron Williams of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (medicine) has won the Achievement Scholarship from the 2011 National Achievement Scholarship program (NASP). The Achievement Scholarships are awarded to Black American high school seniors to be used for undergraduate study at any regionally accredited United States college or university.

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

The following students were named winners of Merit Scholarships awarded by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

❖ **Kristina Brant** of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST), National Merit University of Chicago Scholarship.

❖ **Alexander Burch** of TJHSST, National Merit Wake Forest University Scholarship.

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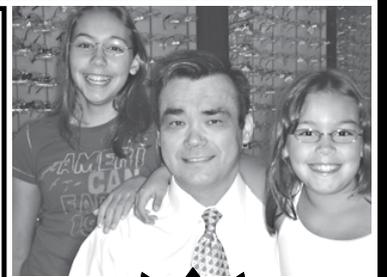
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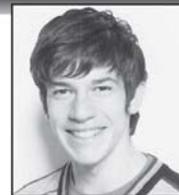
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Patrick from France, 17 yrs.
Loves the outdoors and playing soccer.
Patrick's dream has been to spend time in America learning about our customs and attending American high school.



Elisa from Italy, 16 yrs.
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OPINION

Hot Races? Primaries? Uncontested?

Northern Virginia awash in uncontested races; but there are several hot primaries on Aug. 23.

First of all, there are some very important races taking place on Aug. 23, and absentee voting is already underway. If there is any chance you might either be away on vacation on Aug. 23 or you might have a combined work day and commute of 10 hours (that is to say, if you work), or you might be away for any other reason, you can vote in person absentee or by paper ballot absentee.

PRIMARIES AUG. 23

❖ Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Braddock district Democrats, Janet Oleszek and Christopher Wade compete to face incumbent John Cook (R) in November.

❖ Senate District 30, Democrats Adam Ebbin, Libby Garvey and Rob Krupicka are in a three-way race for the nomination to replace retiring state Sen. Patsy Ticer. The winner will face Tim McGee (R) in November. This district, including parts of Arlington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon, trends to Democrats, so the primary could determine the winner.

❖ Senate District 31, Democrats Jaime Areizaga-Soto (D) and Barbara A. Favola (D) face off; winner will face Caren Merrick (R), to replace retiring Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple. If you live in McLean, Great Falls, parts of Herndon or Sterling, listen up, you are

likely in this newly configured district that used to be almost entirely in Arlington.

EDITORIAL

❖ Senate District 36, Republicans Jeffrey M. Frederick (R) and Tito Muñoz (R) compete to face state Sen. Toddy Puller (D) in this district that includes Mount Vernon, parts of Lorton and much more of Prince William County than before redistricting.

❖ Senate District 39, Republicans Miller Baker and Scott Martin compete to challenge incumbent state Sen. George Barker (D) in November. This district encompasses parts of Centreville, Clifton, Lorton, Fairfax Station, Springfield and the City of Alexandria.

❖ House of Delegates 49, Democratic primary, Stephanie Clifford (D) v. Alfonso H Lopez (D). So far there is no Republican or other candidate so the winner of the primary could be uncontested in November in this Arlington district.

UNCONTESTED:

Parties could still add a candidate up until Primary Election Day, Aug. 23, but at this point it's unlikely that many of these seats will be contested. This is not an exhaustive list.

Fairfax County, Hunters Mill Board of Supervisors, incumbent Cathy Hudgins (D) is so far uncontested. Also on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), Jeff McKay (D-Lee), Gerry Hyland (D-Mount

Vernon), Michael Frey (R-Sully) are uncontested.

There are some hotly contested races for November, but more on those races later.

To register to vote, to vote absentee, contact:

Fairfax Board of Elections, 703-324-4700, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/

Be Part of the Pet Connection

The summer edition of the Pet Connection will publish on July 27, with contributions and submissions due July 21.

Send in photos of you or other members of your family with your pet or pets along with a caption that includes the full names of everyone pictured, the ages of the pet(s) and any children, information about the pet(s) and a description of what is happening in the photo. Include your town name as well. Good to include: who, what, where, when and why.

We welcome photos, drawings or other artwork; stories and anecdotes about what makes your pet special, how you came to adopt your pet or anything other story you'd like to share about your pet; advice for others on adopting or caring for pets.

Send photos and other submissions by July 21.

For Burke, Fairfax, Springfield, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connections, send to moconnell@connectionnewspapers.com

Yes, We Need Medicaid Reform...

BY NANCY MERCER AND
JILL EGLE
CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS/THE
ARC OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

A young man sits in a crowded waiting room. He is a wheelchair user, his hair is cut close to his head and his body is angular, arms bent in ways that most people would find uncomfortable. He wears head gear that looks like something from a sci-fi movie; it is a band that wraps around his head with a stick of some kind protruding off the front of his forehead. Beside him sits a young woman, African American, dressed smartly. She is thumbing through a magazine talking to him out of the side of her mouth, which is greeted with an occasional head bob or grunt from the young man. The rest of the people in the waiting room take great pains to "look down," "look away" or act as if the two are not in the room. The television is playing in the corner of the room, the sound is low but the subtitles are flying.

Suddenly, there is a burst of explosion from the young man in the chair. He begins to violently rock

back and forth. The other people in the room try hard not to stare but they are a bit alarmed. The young woman sitting next to the man in the "chair" pulls out a device, like a big iPad and encourages the young man to explain why he is upset. He begins to use the stick on his forehead and a series of bobbing actions to type out the following, "Can you believe the outcome of the Casey trial?" an automated, robotic voice shares cutting the silence of the room. At first, people stare almost stunned. When the woman begins to share her opinions with the man in the chair so does everyone else in the room. Magically, the differences between the man in the "chair" with the angular body and distracting presence disappear and everyone finds something in common to share as a community.

MEDICAID PAYS for the young lady sitting next to the man in the "chair." She is a direct support professional who is paid to serve as the young man's bridge to his community. Fifty years ago, this young man would have spent a lifetime in an institution, remained at home until he died from lack of adequate

medical care many years before his parents, or worse, survive a lifetime in his home and then move to a nursing home when his parents died before him. Additionally, because of his unique communication style, unless someone took the time to understand his head bobs and teach him ways to use assisted technology he would also spend a lifetime being misunderstood, ignored and unknown.

Congress is looking for ways to "balance the budget." There is talk of block granting Medicaid and giving the dollars to each state to develop a "plan" for serving the neediest, but at the same time conserving our resources. This raises grave concerns as we look at how our own state is currently caring for her "most vulnerable."

Virginia ranks 47th in the Nation in its use of Medicaid dollars in the community — near bottom. In many ways, Virginia continues to operate as if it were 50 years ago, relying on the use of expensive alternatives to community services, spending our Medicaid dollars on outdated crisis models like unnecessary hospitalizations, institutionalizations and nursing

home placements. Virginia is currently under investigation from the Department of Justice for its unfair treatment of people with developmental disabilities. Concerns have been raised about the "inadequate community services," "long waiting lists" and "unnecessary segregation of services" for thousands of Virginians.

TO BE HONEST, Virginia is not alone in its outdated ways of spending Medicaid. With a growing population of people with disabilities and people who are aging, our country cannot afford to "Cut Medicaid" or develop a "state by state" approach to caring for the "most vulnerable." Yes, we need reform to Medicaid. We need a National plan to address our country's long term care needs. We need a Medicaid program that supports the development and maintenance of preventative community based care, not expensive, crisis driven institutionalized based care. Please ask your congressman and senators to vote "No" to Block Granting Medicaid, this is not the answer to our budget crisis — in fact it is the "more costly, less humane way out!"

THE CONNECTION

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SCHOOLS

Middle Schoolers Place First

Seventh graders from Twain Middle School finished first in the nation in the year-end cumulative standings among 291 school teams in WordMasters Challenge. Two students won highest honors for year-long achievement — Naomi Miller and Nick Poniatowski. Miller was the only seventh grader in the country to earn perfect scores in all three of the meets this year. Two students earned perfect scores in the April meet out of only 24 students who did so as well. WordMasters Challenge is an exercise in critical thinking that encourages students to become familiar with new words and challenges to use these words in analogies.



Naomi Miller received First Place at the National Competition in the Word Masters Challenge.

SCHOOL 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.

Threshold, the literary magazine of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology received a Best of Show Award in the Literary Magazine category for staff, editors and Emily Orser, adviser. The awards were presented at the Journalism Education Association-National Scholastic Press Association fall convention in Kansas City, Mo.

The following students from Lake Braddock Secondary School have been named to the Virginia All-State Chorus for 2011 and will perform as a group April 30 at the Visual and Performing Arts

Academy at Salem High School in Virginia Beach: **Seamus Anderson, Allison Kraft, Lauren Lee, Taylor Morgan, and James Vercouterren.**

Kayla Magaha, a health and medical science student from Hayfield Secondary School, won a third place award at the Health Occupations Students of America State Leadership conference. Magaha won in the career health day category.

Heather Flint of Robinson Secondary School, **Nikki Paculan** of Lee High School and **Kailee Tangen** of West Springfield High School won a fourth place awards at the Health Occupations Students of America State Leadership conference.

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NEWSPAPERS



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CALENDAR

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THURSDAY/JULY 14

Children of Bodom, Devin Townsend Project, Obscura, Septic Flesh and more. 7 p.m. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$27 advance, \$30 at the door. 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice English and improve your English speaking skills. Adults. 703-249-1520.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

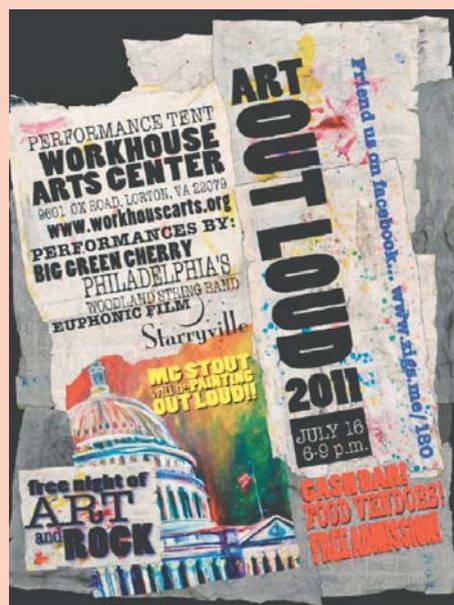
FRIDAY/JULY 15

Blackburn's Ford Lecture. 7 p.m. Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. National Park Service Historian Emeritus Ed Bearss on the July 18, 1861 Civil War battle on the Prince William-Fairfax County boundary. Free admission. 703-978-0685.

The David Kitchen Band. 7 p.m. Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. Pop rock. 703-324-SHOW.

Children of Bodom, Devin Townsend Project, Obscura, Septic Flesh and more. 7 p.m. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$27 advance, \$30 at the door. 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

Lunch Bunnies. 12 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Bring lunch, enjoy stories and



Art Out Loud: A Fusion of Art and Music, will be at the Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, in Lorton on Saturday, July 16 from 6-9 p.m. The event features Workhouse studio artist Mary Gallagher Stout and bands Big Green Cherry, Starryville, Euphonic Film and Woodland String Band (pictured). Each band will play original music inspired by Stout's artwork. The concert is free, refreshments will be available for purchase. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-339-7385.

Lunch Bunch. 12 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Bring lunch and join us for stories. Age birth-5 with adult. 703-971-0010.

SATURDAY/JULY 16

First Blood: Battle of Blackburn's Ford. 2 p.m. Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Talk by historian Mark Trbovich. Free. 703-591-6728.

Latin Pop Rock group Maná. 8 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets are \$55-\$91, available at

www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. www.mana.com.mx.

Drawing 1: Make Your Mark. 2:30 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Learn to draw or improve your skills with artist Lydia Bratton. Age 12-18. 703-339-7385.

A World Away, The Right Condition, Within Wolves, Eyes On Chelsea, 1Alliance and ZeroShift. 4 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Contact Info@outerloopresents.com to play. All ages. \$10 in advance, \$12 day of show. www.jaxxroxx.com.

Reptile Wonders. 2:30 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Meet and learn about these animals with Reptile Wonders' Nature

Center on the Go. Age 6-12. 703-971-0010.

Fiesta! 2:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Join Cantaré on a musical journey through Latin America. Preschool. 703-451-8055.

Art Out Loud: A Fusion of Art and Music. 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Featuring Workhouse studio artist Mary Gallagher Stout and music by Big Green Cherry, Starryville, Euphonic Film and Woodland String Band. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

SUNDAY/JULY 17

Canine Cruises. 6 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Cruise on the Park's dog-friendly

pontoon boat while your dog scans for ducks, geese, and other lake dwellers. \$6 per person, no charge for the dog. One dog per person limit. Reservations and pre-payment required. 703-222-4664 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/.

Northern Virginia NTRACK. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Members will have a display and N gauge trains running. \$3 adults, \$1 children. www.fairfax-station.org or 703-425-9225.

The Scream It Like You Mean It Battle of the Bands. 4 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Featuring I Am Averna. Contact Info@outerloopresents.com

to play. All ages. \$10 in advance, \$12 day of show. www.jaxxroxx.com.

MONDAY/JULY 18

Jammin' Beach Party. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Cody & Bj take you to a musical beach party with surfing, limbo, singing and dancing. All ages. 703-249-1520.

Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Stories, songs and fingerplays. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-339-4610.

Paint & Personalize a Mug. 2:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Presented by Clay Café Studios. Glazed and fired mugs will be returned to the library two weeks later. Age 12-18. 703-451-8055.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 20

Science Spectacular. 10:30 a.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. See fog rings, bubbling potions, a voice changer and more with wacky scientist Eric Energy. Age 6-12. 703-971-0010.

English Conversation Group. 10:15 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

THURSDAY/JULY 21

The National Park Service Commemorates the Sesquicentennial of the First Battle of Manassas. Manassas National Battlefield Park, 6511 Sudley Road, Manassas. The National Park

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 16



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- HomeLifeStyle, publishes Aug. 10, closes Aug. 4
- A+ Education Learning Fun, publishes Aug. 17, closes Aug. 11
- Insider's Edition: Community and Newcomer's Guide, publishes Aug. 24, closes Aug. 18

THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

Home Life Style

Design for How We Live Now

Interior design for real life: Pet-friendly, kid-friendly, family-friendly.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Melinda Mansfield says that she has one of the most active households in her Chantilly neighborhood. She and her husband Rob have 6-year-old twins, two dogs and three cats.

"I have a face painting and glitter tattoo business for children," said Mansfield. "I am the troop leader for my daughter's Girl Scout troop and my husband is the leader of our son's Boy Scout troop. All the kids in the neighborhood come to my house to play."

Mansfield says that she likes a lively household, but not the mess that often comes with the territory. She wanted to decorate her home to accommodate the chaos without sacrificing style. "I like really nice things," said Mansfield. "I always have. I wanted a fresh, clean look with good fabrics that will stand the test of time."

When Mansfield found interior designer Deborah Wiener, she knew that she'd found a good match. Wiener started **Designing Solutions** to specialize "in real life, pet-friendly, family-friendly design," and considers herself "an advocate for the cleaning-impaired and the decorating-challenged."

Wiener came up with a design for the Mansfield living room and lower level that took Mansfield's desire for style and durability into consideration. She suggested substantial furnishings that were chic but sensible and able to stand up to everything from glitter glue to muddy paw prints.

She included pieces from Slobproof!, Wiener's own line of furniture that is made from a fabric called Crypton. The designer says it is virtually indestructible and can be



The living room of the Mansfield home in Chantilly. On the sofa are 6-year-old twins Will and Josie Mansfield.

PHOTOS BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

easily wiped clean.

Mansfield's living room walls were turquoise, and she wanted furnishings that would complement the bold tones that she favors. "Debbie told me to stick with neutrals so the room wouldn't be too busy," she said.

Mansfield chose a taupe sofa that she accented with brightly colored pillows in shades of aqua. She also added a taupe and turquoise afghan with a fleur de lis pattern.

Wiener said the goal is to design living spaces that match the realities of your life.

"I am not your typical designer,"



For one couple, furniture that can stand up to life with two Great Danes.

said Wiener. "I am not there to judge a client's budget or taste. I am there to give them advice to make their lives better."

Wiener's advice also comes in the form of unconventional design tools such as Wite-Out and permanent ink markers.

"Keep Wite-Out on hand at all times," said Wiener. "It may be obsolete for correcting typos, but it's a miracle when it comes to camouflaging dings and scuff marks wherever you have white trim around your house — like door frames, baseboard molding or chair rails. Permanent ink markers can cover a lot of dings and scratches."

Winkle Nemeth approached Wiener to get help decorating her McLean home. Nemeth, a mother of two college-aged sons who live at home, wanted new furniture for her liv-

SEE DESIGN, PAGE 12

Wiener's Tips for Active Households

- ❖ Laminate your most heavily used dining chairs. Almost any fabric can be laminated. Just ask your fabric store or decorator where to send it. New flat finish laminations provide an invisible, moisture- and stain-proof barrier on fabric, making it virtually indestructible and inconspicuous, too.
- ❖ Protect wood finishes from wet glasses, hot cups and scratching with clear glass tops made to fit your table tops. Sure, you'll have to wipe them, but you'll protect what's underneath from everything your slob may put on top.
- ❖ Nothing lasts longer or looks better than a well-finished hardwood floor. Wiener recommends durable wool rugs as well.
- ❖ For family-friendly furniture, you can't beat protected leather. For more see www.mydesigningsolutions.com

Solid Marble Bathrooms?

Seamless stone showers, walls and floors point to new direction in high-end bathroom design.

BY JOHN BYRD
THE CONNECTION

Susan Cassell, of Great Falls Design Build, recalls the chain of events that convinced her some of the fundamentals of bathroom design were about to change.

"We were remodeling a bathroom that had been seriously damaged from leakage caused by cracked grout," Cassell said. "This is a common homeowner concern, so I contacted Shawn Daghigh at EuroStoneCraft who had developed some ideas for dealing with this longstanding problem."

Cassell had worked with EuroStoneCraft — a local marble and granite importer and fabricator based in Herndon — for many years. But she'd heard that the firm had a new brainchild — a custom-made solid marble shower floor which they were introducing under a new division, Verona Showers.

"The shower floor pan is a solid stone slab custom-made to your shower width ... so there's no water-exposed grouting, no cracking or leakage," Daghigh said. "This means there's no mold build up, and no need for time-intensive maintenance."

SEE SOLID MARBLE, PAGE 12



A Herndon company can create massive slabs of marble or other stone to precise specifications for seamless, groutless bathrooms.

Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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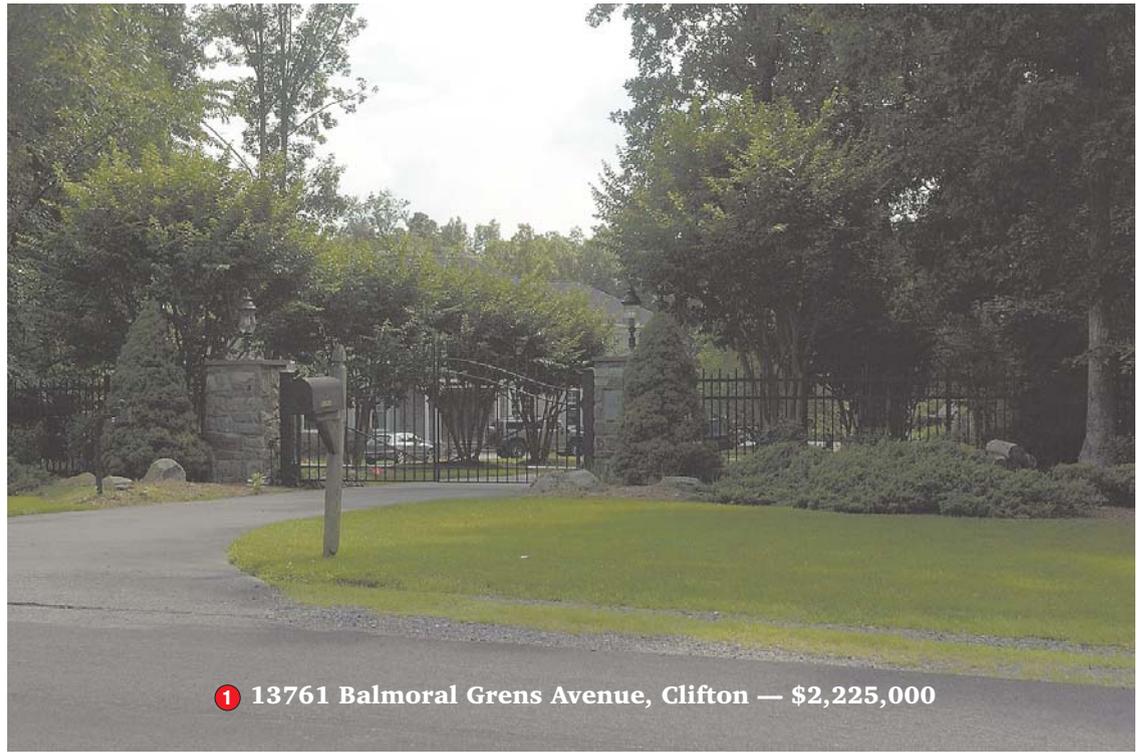
3 8203 Roseland Drive, Fairfax Station — \$1,220,000



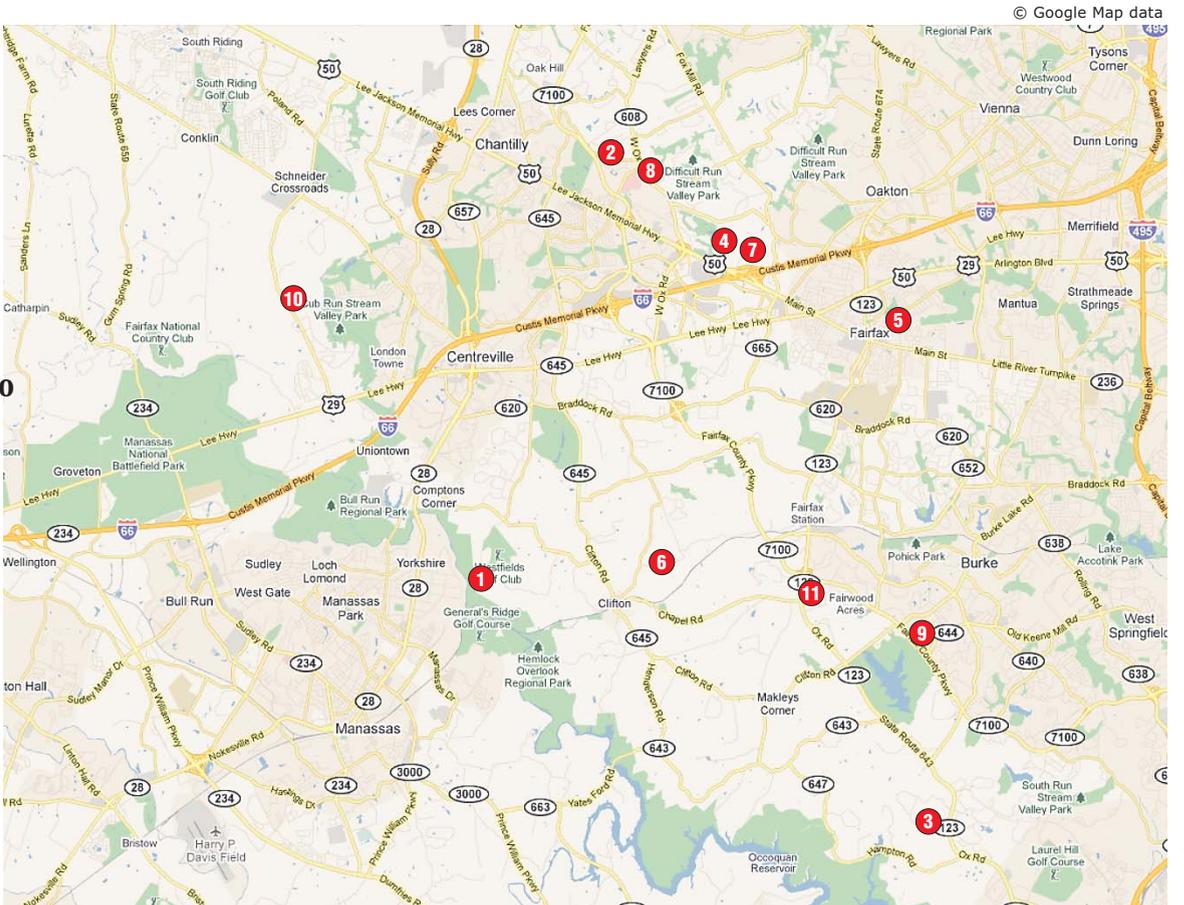
4 11716 Pine Tree Drive, Fairfax — \$1,130,000



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PHOTO BY STEVE HOGAN/THE CONNECTION

The Elinan family of Ana, Oscar, Daniel and Ana, along with friend Fernando Ayala of Springfield, were the first to arrive on Tuesday, June 19, at 8 p.m.

Fresh New Taste Arrives

Boardwalk Fresh Burgers & Fries opens in West Springfield.

On Wednesday, June 22, Boardwalk Fresh Burgers & Fries cut the ribbon of its new restaurant at 6230T Rolling Road in West Springfield. Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) and Anna Kaviani, president of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Board, were on hand for the grand opening celebration. In honor of the event, the restaurant awarded free burgers for a year to the first 50 customers.

The ribbon is cut for the official opening of Boardwalk Fresh Burgers & Fries located at 6230T Rolling Road. From left are Kert Gennings, corporate chief operating officer; Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield); Koti Aluri, owner; and Anna Kaviani, Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Board president.



PHOTOS BY STEVE HOGAN/THE CONNECTION

The crowd camped out for Boardwalk Fresh Burgers & Fries grand opening offer of free burgers for a year to the first 50 customers.

Vision on Display

FROM PAGE 4

interesting people. Even if you wouldn't want them as personal friends."

In 2003, Finley moved to Greenspring, Northern Virginia's largest senior living community, from Florida.

"I had been living by myself and that was really boring, you know. My sister and brother-in-law, Mildred and Henry Hanson, thought I would like all the activities here," Finley said. "It's great to be near family. My passion is traveling. When I was growing up all the borders were closed in Europe, so my sisters and I would meet every year and drive through Europe," she said.

Finley, whose parents were missionaries from Sweden, was born in Korea in 1921. Her family moved back to Sweden when she was a young girl, and she said she always dreamed of becoming a fashion designer. She was living in Stockholm in 1947 when she was offered a job with a design house in New York City. She wasn't in New York City for very long. She "re-met" her husband, Albert there, a young man she had met several years earlier in Copenhagen. "In 17 days, we got married, and then we moved to Bloomfield Hills in Michigan, which was a suburb of Detroit," she said.

In the 1950s, Detroit, "the Motor City," was thriving as a city fueled by the auto industry. At the same time, ventriloquism was becoming enormously popular, due in large part to Bergen and McCarthy's top-rated TV and radio show, as well as other comedic ventriloquists such as Señor Wences, Paul Winchell and Shari Lewis.

"It was a good time to be in Detroit in those days. It was booming. Everyone was working, and as soon as my two boys were old enough, I got a job as a costume designer." Finley started working for the Children's Story Hour, a popular local program. "I was so excited and impressed with myself," she said, laughing. At one point the show featured Muppets creator Jim Henson, and she said she became intrigued with ventriloquists and



DONATED PHOTO

Greenspring residents Laura Fetterolf and Kay Cumbie in Verna Finley designs for the Greenspring Players production of 'My Fair Lady.'

the art of making ventriloquists' puppets.

Finley became known for her special foam puppets, because they weighed only 5 pounds, compared to many that were made of wood, and weighed 40-plus pounds.

In 1978, she and her family moved to the West Coast of Florida. "Florida really wasn't for me, because I don't sail, don't play golf, so I had to do something else." Finley kept designing puppets for community theaters, churches and schools, and she also started teaching the art of puppet-making, as well as working on cruise ships as a puppet-maker.

ONE OF THE LAST PUPPETS she made was a life-size puppet of Al Gore, for a 2004 Saturday Night Live skit. "I really wanted to stay up and see it, but I fell asleep before the show came on. Can you believe that?" she said.

Finley said she'd like to continue making hats and costumes for the Greenspring Players. "I loved doing the show, but it about wore me out, and I'm not getting any younger," she said.

"Verna's talent is evident just from the costumes she designs for the Greenspring Players. The productions are really brought alive by her vision and creativity," said Jessica McKay, public affairs manager for Greenspring.

Even though she can't travel much anymore, she said she enjoys making friends at Greenspring, and hearing everyone's life stories.

OPEN HOUSES

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, JULY 16 & 17



7802 Cyril Place, Springfield • \$510,000 • Open Sunday 1-4
Lana Hartmann, ERA, 703-628-1458

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

Springfield

8624 Etta Dr. \$569,000 Sun 1-4 Christine Stephenson Weichert..703-901-0944
7612 Modisto Ln. \$547,000 Sun 1-4 Marcia Wolber Long & Foster..703-618-4397
7802 Cyril Place \$510,000 Sun 1-4 Lana Hartmann ERA..703-628-1458
7900 Orange Plank Road \$367,000 Sun 1-4 Mike Abate Coldwell Banker..703-623-4895
8308 Windfall Rd. \$265,000 Sun 1-4 Susan Whittenberg Century 21..703-626-4416
9202 Rockefeller Ln. \$524,900 Sun 1-4 Cassandra Lutjen Weichert..484-330-6551
8118 Ridge Creek Way \$689,900 Sun 1-4 Beckie Owen Long & Foster..703-328-4129

Kingstowne/Alexandria

7242 Cherwell Ln. \$424,950 Sun 1-4 Tom & Cindy & Assoc. Long & Foster..703-822-0207
6623 Castle Bar Ct. \$619,950 Sun 1-4 Tom & Cindy & Assoc. Long & Foster..703-822-0207

Lorton

6815 Corder Ln. \$550,000 Sun 1-4 Tom & Cindy & Assoc. Long & Foster..703-822-0207
9780 Lorraine Carol Way \$514,000 Sun 1-4 Cynthia Fish Coldwell Banker..703-201-4451

Burke

5825 Cove Landing Rd, #303 \$199,000 Sun 1-4 Sharon Ayers Exit Realty Talbot & Co..703-850-7710
5714 Oak Apple Ct. \$399,000 Sun 1-4 Sean Adam DR0dio.com..703-888-1505
9477 Lapstrake Ln. \$599,950 Sun 1-4 Kathleen Quintarelli Weichert..703-862-8808
10041 Marshall Pond \$519,000 Sun 1-4 Becky Berning Long & Foster..703-930-3400
9927 Wooden Hawk Ct. \$625,000 Sun 1-4 Diane Lenahan Wolf Run Realty..703-283-7328

Annandale

4436 Sleaford Rd. \$564,900 Sun 12-3 Michael Servello Keller Williams..202-359-9997
4853 Randolph Dr. \$500,000 Sun 1-4 Christina Yoon Weichert..703-357-5111
7811 Ridgewood Dr. \$719,000 Sun 1-5 Maria Delgado RE/MAX..571-241-5067

Fairfax

10842 Oakcrest Ct. \$750,000 Sun 1-4 Robin McKibbin Waugh TTR Sotheby's..703-819-8809
13124 Westbrook Dr. \$858,995 Sat 1-4 George Lodge Keller Williams..571-217-5981
3803 Kirkwood Dr. \$635,000 Sun 1-4 Greg Connarn Century 21..703-850-4484
10332 Collingham Dr. \$529,900 Sun 1-4 Pat Gallagher Long & Foster..571-241-6324
9418 Wrought Iron Ct. \$469,000 Sun 1-4 Jessica Kurian Weichert..540-287-4701
12796 Fox Keep Run \$725,000 Sun 1-4 Deborah Kilbride Keller Williams..571-213-7892
13116 Poplar Tree Rd. \$478,800 Sun 11-3 Veena Runyan Coldwell Banker..703-447-3500
4161 Legato Rd. \$599,900 Sun 1-4 Dayna Blumel/Kerry Adams Long & Foster..703-597-2252

Fairfax Station

11305 Hunting Horse Dr. \$849,000 Sun 1-4 Carol Hermandorfer Long & Foster..703-503-1812
11523 Wild Acre Way \$649,000 Sun 1-4 Carol Hermandorfer Long & Foster..703-503-1812
6803 Brimstone Ln. \$895,000 Sun 1-4 Jim Souvagis Long & Foster..703-919-9191
7406 South Reach Dr. \$819,000 Sun 1-4 Carol Hermandorfer Long & Foster..703-503-1812
8303 Argent Cir. \$675,000 Sun 1-4 Eve Damelin Keller Williams..703-625-2382

Clifton

12411 Clifton Hunt Dr. \$948,000 Sun 1-4 Ann Grainger Long & Foster..703-503-1870
12743 Chapel St. \$669,000 Sun 1-4 Janet Price McEneaney Assoc..703-960-5858
13308 Ivakota Farm Rd. \$1,380,000 Sun 1-4 Lisa Clayborne Long & Foster..703-502-8145
6918 Clifton Rd. \$699,500 Sun 1-4 Carol Hermandorfer Long & Foster..703-503-1812

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14158 Compton Valley Way \$324,900 Sun 2-4 Thomas Hennerty NetRealtyNow.com, LLC..703-652-6040

Chantilly

4503 Orr Dr. \$649,900 Sun 1-4 Scott Kirkland Keller Williams..703-282-3520

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Ashburn

21188 Vineland Sq. \$350,000 Sun 1-4 Deborah Linton Long & Foster..703-967-8852

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Erin Peck at 703-778-9449 or E-Mail the info to epeck@connectionnewspapers.com
All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

Home Life Style

Design for How We Live Now

FROM PAGE 9

ing room. The family's two mixed-breed dogs have free rein of the room. Nemeth was searching for stylish but durable pieces that would accommodate both her active family and her fondness for entertaining friends.

"My two dogs like to get up on the sofa so that they can look out the window," said Nemeth. "Their claws had destroyed the fabric on the back of my old sofa."

Color was one of Wiener's secret weapons. "Color is camouflage, but beige is like having another child in the house. It needs protecting and watching," said Wiener. "Get out of the beige rut and use color to camouflage spills and stains."

Carlene Stephens and her husband Gary Sturm live in Alexandria with two Great Danes who have free rein of the house. She was searching for stylish but durable pieces that would accommodate both her active household and desire for fashionable furniture.

"I was so tired of having messed-up furniture or no furniture at all," said Stephens.

Sturm and Stephens had completed a home renovation project and added an open kitchen, dining and family room space. Wiener came up with a design for the room that took the couple's desire for style and durability into consideration.

"She began with a rug," said Stephens. "And the other furniture was chosen around it."



A reading nook in Winkle Nemeth's McLean home.

"I am not there to judge a client's budget or taste. I am there to give them advice to make their lives better."

— Deborah Wiener

Wiener started with a grey area rug with large circular patterns in shades of blue and yellow, and added a blue sofa and matching arm chair. She completed the look with two gray dining chairs and a gray ottoman that also serves as a coffee table.

Stephens said her furniture has already passed one important test. "When the furniture arrived my dog had just taken a drink from his water bowl and was dropping water on the new sofa. It was like watching Niagara Falls coming from this Great Dane's mouth. I wiped it up quickly with no evidence that [the water] had been there."

Solid Marble Bathrooms?

FROM PAGE 9

"It struck me as a breakthrough," Cassell said. "I've found this a really effective solution for bathrooms, and the color options are impressive. I've been regularly introducing it to my clients."

EuroStoneCraft's already well-honed milling capabilities mean "everything they offer is one of a kind," Cassell said.

The firm's skill at shaping natural stone, granite or marble to precisely fit surface specifications eliminates any need to sectionalize or use exposed seams requiring grout.

Homeowner Lisa Schultz is pleased with the EuroStone/Verona design advantages, which allowed her to distinguish the interior of her spacious Great Falls colonial while greatly reducing maintenance needs. Schultz se-

lected an array of custom-fitted surfaces for strategic parts of the house throughout an extensive five-month remodeling process, including finishing the master bath in contrasting shades of Verona marble hand-picked from the EuroStoneCraft showroom.

"The vanity, shower floor and tub surround are stunning — a very original shade of dark brown," Schultz said. "The floor, tub facing and shower walls are a kind of mocha. The whole is nicely balanced — there's a restful symmetry."

The bathroom's "invisible shower" consists of a custom-made MarbaFloor pan, two solid marble walls converging in one corner and dual sheets of unframed glass forming the other.

Schultz said the master bathroom's new interior seems substantially larger than its previous incarnation, even though the

footprint is mostly unchanged.

Schultz added a prized oriental rug, just for effect.

After 15 years at the same address, Schultz said the changes have reinvigorated her appreciation of her surroundings: "It feels like a whole new custom house, which is exciting."

Describing personal benefits accruing from her own recent master bathroom makeover, Stacy Smith was especially pleased at the relief from perennial grout-replacement duties.

"After years of contending with the predictable problems of mosaic tile — cracking grout, mold build-up, and grit — there's just no substitute for a solid maintenance-free stone surface."

David Prakken of Fairfax was impressed with both the functional and aesthetic outcome resulting from Verona Shower upgrades to his 25-year-old bathroom.

PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

THE COUNTY LINE

Looking for 'Safe, Secure' Headquarters

Fairfax County unveils plans for new \$177 million police, fire headquarters.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The ceilings are covered with asbestos, the plumbing leaks, the elevators don't always function and some of the concrete has popped off the building.

Constructed in 1967, the Massey Building, currently Fairfax County's public safety headquarters, is anything but safe and secure for its 430 employees, according to Fairfax County officials.

"It's literally falling apart. It's an embarrassment. No one should have to work in that environment. When I go there, I take the stairs, because I'm afraid the elevators will get stuck," said Supervisor Jeffrey McKay (D-Lee). McKay is also a reserve deputy sheriff for the county.

On June 28, Fairfax County revealed initial plans for a new 272,000 square-foot police and fire headquarters that will cost approximately \$177 million. A proposed bond referendum on the November 2012 ballot would fund the project, according to McKay.

ALTHOUGH COUNTY OFFICIALS looked at several site options, they are moving forward with plans to locate the headquarters on county-owned property behind the Herrity Building in the Government Center campus on Monument Drive. Plans are to start construction in 2013 and have employees ready to move in by 2015, said Merni Fitzgerald, Fairfax County's director of public affairs.

"The Massey Building has served the county well for almost 45 years, however, with ongoing failures of the core building mechanical systems and overall infrastruc-



FAIRFAX COUNTY

In this conceptual drawing, the existing Pennino building is on the left, with the structured parking deck behind it. The existing Herrity building is shown in the middle, with its structured parking deck curving behind it. The proposed public safety headquarters is shown on the right-hand side, with structured parking curved behind it.

"...Along with the ever presence of asbestos, [the Massey Building] is no longer a safe and dependable work environment for our dedicated employees. It has outlived its useful purpose..."

— Ronald Mastin, Fairfax County Fire Chief

ture, along with the ever presence of asbestos, it is no longer a safe and dependable work environment for our dedicated employees," said Fairfax County Fire Chief Ronald Mastin.

"It has outlived its useful purpose and should be considered for replacement. A new facility will also enable fire and police to leverage new technology, consolidate operations, and continue to be able to operate in close coordination with each another," Mastin said.

One of the options the county looked at was to renovate the Massey Building. A recent Fairfax County Facilities Management report determined that it would cost at least

\$81 million to retrofit the 43-year-old building. Located in the City of Fairfax near the Fairfax County courthouse, the 166,777-square-foot building does not have any room for expansion.

The new headquarters, currently in the conceptual-design phase, would have nearly double the space, with 850 secured, structured parking spaces and room for 700 employees, including the County's primary data center employees and other administrative staff.

The building, designed by HOK architects, would be a LEED Silver certified building, meaning that it is environmentally state-of-the-art, with large windows that allow for

plenty of natural light, vertical baffles and filtered light for energy conservation, and a "green roof" that allows for water conservation and minimum water runoff.

HOK, a global, award-winning design firm, has designed everything from local courthouses to vast campuses for federal agencies. The firm's designs are focused, on comfort, efficiency and security.

"The site selected, on county land, saves money over alternatives at other sites and allows us to build a 21st-century headquarters for our public safety agencies," said Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock.) "For years we have known that the Massey Building was nearing the end of its useful life. It is full of asbestos, has significant water issues, and has been closed several times for health reasons. It needs to be torn down and replaced. We will be budget conscious in the building design and will provide a convenient location to centralize these agencies."

SITE SECURITY was a key feature in the design of the building, officials said. Based on the U.S. Government's Interagency Security Criteria (ISC), the new headquarters would meet ISC "medium" security criteria established for federal buildings. For example, the building would have a 50-foot setback that makes it more secure for personnel.

"The Massey Building is 43 years old. Our first responders and public safety personnel should have the best tools at their disposal, and that includes the building from which they operate. That is why the Board has begun the process to replace this aging building," Fitzgerald said.

If the county moves forward to the funding and schematic design phase of the new headquarters, plans are for the Massey Building to be demolished by December 2015. The gray, concrete building, which never matched the traditional architecture of surrounding buildings, has been considered an eyesore as well as a safety hazard.

"I don't think there's anyone in the city who will cry when it comes down," McKay said.

Woman Sexually Assaulted Seeking Job at Employment Agency

Police launch effort to reach more victims of similar assaults.

A 41-year-old Falls Church woman was allegedly locked in a room, forced to watch pornography and repeatedly sexually assaulted at the World Employment Agency in Annandale on Tuesday, July 7.

According to Fairfax County Police reports, the attacks occurred around 9 a.m. when the woman went to the agency at 7601 Little River Turnpike seeking employment.

The woman escaped after telling the alleged perpetrator that she needed to use the restroom, according to Lucy Caldwell, a public information officer with the FCPD. The woman was treated for non-life-threatening injuries, Caldwell said.

Police investigated and charged Choon Sik Lee, 72, of Annandale with two counts of attempted forcible sodomy on Thursday, July 9.

During the investigation, detec-

tives also uncovered a second incident that allegedly took place at around 8:30 a.m. on May 19 under similar circumstances. The 28-year-old Fairfax City woman involved in this case also suffered non-life-threatening injuries, according to police reports.

"We don't want this to happen again. We have a large population of immigrants who may not be comfortable, for many reasons, with reporting this to law enforcement, whether it's



FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE

Suspect Choon Sik Lee

victims will be kept anonymous," Caldwell said.

Based on their investigation, detectives believe there may be

language barriers or experiences they've had in other places," Caldwell said.

"We want to assure them that they will be treated with respect ... We are very concerned about this, and we want any potential victims out there to know that we have victims' services for these types of sexual assaults and the

additional women who have not yet reported incidents involving the alleged perpetrator and the World Employment Agency. Victims should contact Detective Amy Palizzi at 703-246-7818.

"If they do not speak English, interpretation services will be provided," Caldwell said. In an effort to reach additional victims, the police provided Korean and Spanish interpreters Wednesday, July 13 to Asian and Spanish media outlets at the West Springfield District Station, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield from 1 to 2 p.m.

— VICTORIA ROSS

SPORTS

SPRINGFIELD CONNECTION SPORTS EDITOR JON ROETMAN
703-224-3014 OR JROETMAN@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The Southern Seahawks swim club held its 4th Annual Swim-a-Thon July 10 at the South Run Community Pool to help raise funds for the Fairfax-based charity Life with Cancer.



Bryce Sturtz, 7, swims one of his planned 250 laps at the South Run Community Pool during the 4th Annual Swim-a-Thon sponsored by the Southern Seahawks Swim Club to benefit Life with Cancer. Sturtz swam 200 laps at last year's event. The event raised around \$1,000 dollars for the cancer facility.

Swim-a-Thon Against Cancer

Emily Warwick, 12, swims one of her planned 30 laps for the 4th Annual Swim-a-Thon July 10 at the South Run Community Pool.

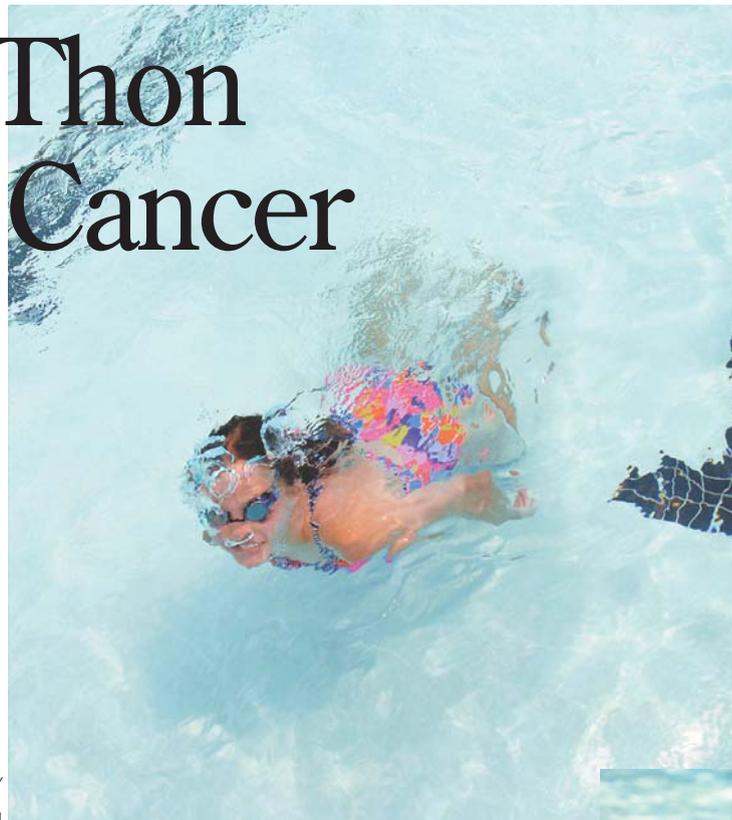
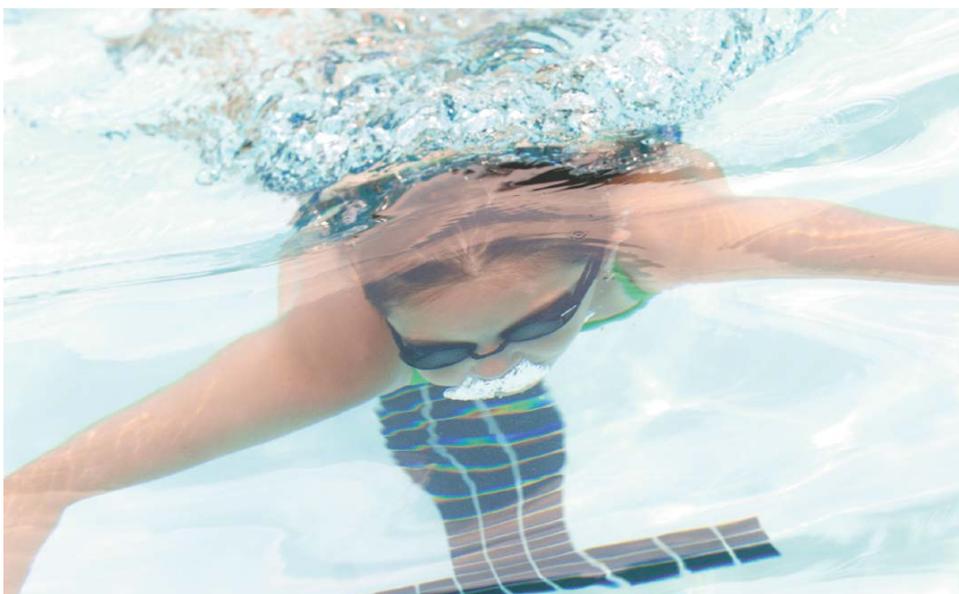


PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/
THE CONNECTION



The Southern Seahawks swim club held its 4th Annual Swim-a-Thon July 10 at the South Run Community Pool to help raise funds for the Fairfax-based charity Life with Cancer. Anyone from the club or community could participate in the annual fundraiser.



Jackie Kligman, 11, swims one of her planned 30 laps for the 4th Annual Swim-a-Thon at the South Run Community Pool.



Alexis Larsen and Kylie Gravatt chat while swimming laps to help raise funds for Life with Cancer during the 4th Annual Swim-a-Thon at the South Run Community Pool.

Family Tells 'Roller Coaster' Story

FROM PAGE 3

impact their family. In addition to Bailey's emergency surgeries, Medicaid has helped pay for 15 anti-seizure medications — one of which cost more than \$1,000 a week — a gastrointestinal tube (G-tube) for food intake and nursing care, among other costs.

"If we lost Medicaid, it would jeopardize my small business as a tax and financial advisor, and my wife would have to quit her job," Mitchell Brandt said. "Bailey's life and health could dramatically change. She wouldn't be able to participate in our community and grow to be as independent as possible. These are not frivolous things we're asking for."

"We don't want to ever see our daughter living in an institution, but without Medicaid funding, we don't know what our future holds," Carrin Brandt said.

"When I first met Carrin eight years ago, she was busy fighting Care First to get her daughter the services she needed. She was going to set up her own nonprofit to address the increasing medical needs they were racking up as they worked to figure out how to help Bailey," said Nancy Mercer, co-executive director of The Arc of Northern Virginia. "They got to The Arc because they were in crisis...that is how most people find us. The public sector runs out of answers and a 'good' case manager tells a family to call The Arc."

Mercer said The Arc was founded nearly 50 years ago in Northern Virginia specifically to help families find answers and lives for their loved ones with disabilities, because nothing existed other than institutional care.

"For 50 years we have been working to educate the community that people with developmental disabilities have value," Mercer said. "Medicaid gives value to our families. Although Medicaid funding moved to the community years ago, Virginia was one of the last states to sign onto Medicaid waiver funding," she said.

During the Brandts' White House meeting, they described their journey with Bailey as a "roller coaster ride" of hope and despair.

Once Bailey was diagnosed with infantile spasms, the 6-month-old, who was smiling and responsive, quickly lost those abilities and began having up to 12 seizures daily.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

The Brandt family at home in Springfield. From left: Bailey, 10, Carrin, Tyler, 3, Alyssa, 5, and Mitchell Brandt.

"Our neurologist was blunt with us: he told us 'within a year, you are going to know more about seizures than your pediatrician.' You try every new seizure medication there is. You start to gain hope, and then it plummets when it doesn't work out," Brandt said.

Although Bailey was rapidly regressing, the Brandts still clung to some hope that the seizures would lessen, or that a new therapy would work, or that doctors would come up with a new anti-seizure drug, or that a miracle would happen.

"It's like a nightmare roller-coaster ride. You go through the worst despair, but then something little happens, and you think 'okay, maybe this will help,'" Carrin Brandt said.

Brandt quit her job to care for Bailey full-time and Mitchell and Carrin's life became a series of doctor's appointments, trying to console Bailey, who was crying non-stop, and seeking any and all treatment that would help their daughter.

While Bailey was still bottle-feeding, the Brandts learned about a new diet that doctors at Johns Hopkins were trying on infants with seizure disorders.

"That was the one thing we had left, that she was a good eater. I could feed my baby. So we thought that maybe, just maybe, this very specific diet would help with the seizures," Carrin Brandt said. The diet, which was 75 percent fat and

very few carbs, was a lifeline. But then Bailey stopped eating.

"That was when I hit rock-bottom. She couldn't eat, and she had to have a G-tube placed in her stomach," Carrin Brandt said.

In 2008, Medicaid paid for a hemispherectomy, a surgery that removed the left side of Bailey's brain for better seizure control. Carrin Brandt said she noticed positive changes soon after the surgery. Bailey's seizures tapered off to three to five a month and she became more alert and responsive.

Although Bailey continues to have seizures, cerebral palsy and significant developmental delays, the Brandts said she has regained all of the abilities she lost when she had multiple daily seizures, and she has progressed further than they expected.

"She smiles, and she loves being around people. Bailey is my easiest child now," Carrin Brandt said, laughing. Bailey has two younger siblings, Alyssa, 5, and Tyler, 3.

"I feel like we're finally seeing the true Bailey. She's very happy and confident. She enjoys the water, and she's very fashionable. She also loves listening to Lady Gaga and Justin Bieber. Her brother and sister see her as just another member of the family," Carrin Brandt said.

The Brandts said they can't imagine what would have happened to Bailey without the surgery, which cost more than \$200,000. Although she can eat solid food, she still has her G-tube for medicine, and she still needs adaptive, specialized equipment and care. She will always have long-term support needs.

"She has made us grow in ways we didn't necessarily want to grow, but we've learned more from Bailey than anyone. She has made us stronger, and I think anyone around her gets a deeper sense of humanity," Carrin Brandt said. "The bottom line is that Bailey is a human being, and she adds value to this world. She's happy to be loved, just have someone kiss her and talk to her. She shows us what's important in this life. When you see that, you wonder why we stress about all the other, crazy stuff in this world."

Mall Needs a Facelift

FROM PAGE 3

have a creative use for the space, and it's something that the community needs," McKay said.

When the old Springfield Plaza shopping center was renovated in 2007, it kick-started some redevelopment along Old Keene Mill Road, considered Springfield's "main street." The 260,974-square-foot community shopping center, surrounded by well-established neighborhoods, features 45 stores, including some trendy, urban retail such as a Buy Buy Baby, Trader Joe's, Iceberry Natural Frozen Yogurt, a Chipotle and a Starbucks.

The center is owned and leased by the Rappaport Companies, known for higher-end mixed-use retail developments in D.C., Maryland and Northern Virginia.

"I remember when this shopping center looked like a dump, especially the Giant," said Springfield resident Janice Martinez, who frequently shops at the Springfield Plaza Giant. "But it's a good, safe place to shop now, and they keep it looking nice."

McKay said the people who live in Springfield should be able to shop, eat and play here too. "But for too long, residents have been going to the other side of the county to shop," he said.

THE DEMOGRAPHICS of central Springfield support the kind of urban retail and streetscape redevelopment that attracts upscale shoppers, McKay said. According to Fairfax County records, about 49,000 vehicles travel Old Keene Mill Road daily, and there's a population of 108,000 people within a three-mile radius who have an average annual household income of \$115,000.

Manney said the Springfield's comprehensive plan encourages higher-density, taller buildings that front the road, with parking behind.

"There is, and will continue to be, a demand for higher-end retail in this area, and it's becoming more attractive because of the influx of employees from the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and the number of transportation options here," Manney said.

Corporate Office Properties Trust (COPT), a specialty office real estate investment trust, is building 240,000 square-feet

of office space called Patriot Ridge on the site that was once Pallone Chevrolet on Backlick Road. COPT specializes in serving government and technology customers, such as BRAC employees.

"We develop properties that are typically located adjacent to government-demand drivers in strong markets that we believe possess growth opportunities," said Derrick Boegner, vice president of asset management and leasing for COPT. "These are technically-sophisticated and environmentally-sensitive buildings."

"Credit us with not being asleep at the switch during a down economy," McKay said, "Fairfax County has been paving the way with zoning, so as soon as the economy kicks into high gear, we will be ready to launch."

But what about the 1.4 million-square-foot ugly elephant in the room known as Springfield Mall?

At a ubiquitous Starbucks on Frontier Drive, across the street from the suburban mall, a 15-foot-high number three is clearly visible to McKay as he sipped his morning coffee.

"I know it's frustrating. People want to see something happening there, and they've been disappointed in the past," he said.

He added that there is some good news on the way. McKay said that Vornado Realty, which purchased the mall in 2006 for \$36 million, according to published reports, will be announcing the first-stage of redevelopment this fall.

"I've learned that the first stage is asbestos removal, which is interior work, and then the redevelopment will begin in earnest early in 2012," he said.

"If you had no retail experience and a blindfold on, you could make Springfield Mall a success," McKay said. County officials have said the redevelopment of the boxy suburban mall, built in 1973 is the most important project in restoring central Springfield.

McKay said he has no doubts that Vornado is committed to redeveloping the mall. "They've already invested \$200 million. Target and J.C. Penney were renovated. They are not walking away. It's going to happen," he said. Representatives of Vornado could not be reached for comment.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

Service will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the First Battle of Manassas with special ranger tours of the battlefield, living history and historic weapons demonstrations, exhibits, lectures, and music. The program opens at 9:30 a.m. with a ceremony at the Visitor Center on Henry Hill. Following the ceremony, the Visitor Center, historic Stone House, and exhibition areas will open at 12 p.m. Exhibition areas include a living history camp area, a three-dimensional photographic exhibit displaying historic images of the battlefield, a medical aid station demonstration area, a youth program tent offering exhibits, programs, and activities and the Civil War 150 HistoryMobile. 703-361-1339.

100th Anniversary of the National Jubilee of Peace. 4 p.m. Old Manassas Courthouse, at the corner of Grant and Lee St., Manassas. Parking at Prince William Fairgrounds. Free. www.manassascivilwar.org.

Sesquicentennial Concert. 8 p.m. Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Circle, Manassas. Tickets \$30-\$60. 703-933-7550 or www.hyltoncenter.org.

Camp Manassas. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Jennie Dean Historic Site, 9601 Wellington Road, Manassas. Military encampments, soap making, period activities and games, horse training and more. Free. 703-361-6599 or www.manassascivilwar.org.

African Folktales. 7 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Bright Star Theater presents African tales. All ages. 703-339-7385.

Beach Jewelry. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Use elements such as natural stone, beach glass, shell and wood to create island jewelry. Age 12-19. 703-249-1520.

Book Discussion Group. 7 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Call for title. Adults. 703-971-0010.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

Springfield Writers' Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Share your work, give and receive feedback in a supportive setting. Adults. 703-451-8055.

FRIDAY/JULY 22

The National Park Service Commemorates the Sesquicentennial of the First Battle of Manassas. Manassas National Battlefield Park, 6511 Sudley Road, Manassas. The National Park Service will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the First Battle of Manassas with special ranger tours of the battlefield, living history and historic weapons demonstrations, exhibits, lectures, and music. Exhibition areas include a living history camp area, a three-dimensional photographic exhibit displaying historic images of the battlefield, a medical aid station demonstration area, a youth program tent offering exhibits, programs, and activities and the Civil War 150 HistoryMobile. 703-361-1339.

Manassas Civil War Parade. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Old Town Manassas. Free. 703-361-6599 or www.visitmanassas.org.

Camp Manassas. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Jennie Dean Historic Site, 9601 Wellington Road, Manassas. Military encampments, soap making, period activities and games, horse training and more. Free. 703-361-6599 or www.manassascivilwar.org.

African Folktales. 2:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Bright Star Theatre presents African tales that have been passed down for generations. All ages. 703-451-8055.

SATURDAY/JULY 23

8th Annual Asian Food and Tennis Festival. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With 35 multi-cultural food and 150 product vendors. Four showcase villages, Heritage India, Wow Philippines, Image of China and Amazing Thailand. Free admission. info@asianfestivaldc.com.

The National Park Service Commemorates the Sesquicentennial of the First Battle of Manassas. Manassas National Battlefield Park, 6511 Sudley Road, Manassas. The National Park Service will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the First Battle of Manassas with special ranger tours of the battlefield, living history and historic

weapons demonstrations, exhibits, lectures, and music. Exhibition areas include a living history camp area, a three-dimensional photographic exhibit displaying historic images of the battlefield, a medical aid station demonstration area, a youth program tent offering exhibits, programs, and activities and the Civil War 150 HistoryMobile. 703-361-1339.

Pringle House Confederate Field Hospital. 6:30-8 p.m. Ben Lomond Historic Site, 10321 Sudley Manor Road, Manassas. Tour a restored hospital used by Confederate forces after the First Battle of Manassas. Not appropriate for age 11 and under. Admission \$15, under age 6 free. 703-367-7872 or www.pwcgov.org/historicsites.

United Daughters of the Confederacy Wreath Laying. 2 p.m. 9027 Center St., Manassas. 703-368-1873 or www.manassasmuseum.org.

Battle of Manassas Reenactment. Pageland Farm, Pageland Lane, Manassas. Modern services to support spectators, event and educational lecture tents, period vendors and large early war garrison-style camps. Tickets available at 703-396-7130 or www.manassasbullrun.com.

Bristow Station Battlefield Tours. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Bristow Station, 10709 Bristow Road, Bristow. Admission \$5, under age 6 free. 703-792-5546 or www.pwcgov.org/historicsites.

Camp Manassas. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Jennie Dean Historic Site, 9601 Wellington Road, Manassas. Military encampments, soap making, period activities and games, horse training and more. Free. 703-361-6599 or www.manassascivilwar.org.

Meridian. 4 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Contact Info@outerloopresents.com to play. All ages. \$10 in advance, \$12 day of show. www.jaxxroxx.com.

African Folktales. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Bright Star Theatre presents African tales that have been passed down for generations. All ages. 703-339-4610.

Workhouse Film Institute with Clifton Film Fest. 7:30 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Creative and thought-provoking independent films by local filmmakers, students and adults. \$5. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

The Braddock Road Youth Club (BRYC) 98 Elite boys' select soccer team, which captured the 39-team Virginia Youth Soccer State Cup this past May, most recently won the US Youth Soccer Region I Championship in Lancaster, Pa. Region I spans the eastern seaboard from Virginia to Maine. Virginia sent teams from U12 to U19, boys and girls. The 98 Elite boys were the only Virginia team to emerge as Regional champions. The Regional Championship is the highest honor teams of this age group can achieve. The BRYC 98 Elite team is made up of players from Fairfax, Fairfax City, Vienna, Centreville, Springfield and Warrenton.

The Fairfax Stars 5th grade boys' AAU basketball team won the AAU Super Regional in Harrisburg, Pa., held May 20-22. The team, which has now won back-to-back Super Regionals in Harrisburg, has once again qualified for the Division I AAU National Championships in Cocoa Beach, Florida in July.

As a team, the Stars put extreme pressure on their opponent's by pushing the ball up the court and getting shots off before the defense could get set. With contributions from all 11 players, the team made the weekend a memorable one for the fans, parents, coaches and each of the players. The Stars have worked hard since the beginning of March and are hitting their stride.

The Springfield Youth Club (SYC) Strikers Blue completed their Spring 2011 season with a record of 7-1-1 and a ranking of second place in Division 3. They scored a whooping 30 goals and were only scored upon nine times through nine league games. The team's outstanding season and record ensures that the boys will move up to Division 2 for the Fall 2011 season.

The Strikers Blue played in the Annandale Premier Cup, the PWSI Ice Breaker and its own SYC Virginian tournament. They participated in their first State Cup competition and although the result was a 3-2 loss to a Virginia Beach team, it was a great experience.

The Strikers Blue will break until the beginning of August when they will participate in their team camp. At that point they will prepare for the big transition to 11 versus 11 and full-field games that will take place next season in U13 play.

The Strikers Blue have committed families and strong support from Springfield businesses that include: Springfield Toyota, Duron Paints & Wallcoverings, Ryan's Landscaping, Dr. Andrew Kim (DDS), Union First Market Bank, Accelerated Physical Therapy, NOVA Chiropractic & Wellness Center, and Dr. Don Pisciotta (DDS).

The Virginia Blackwatch Patriots F.C., a NCSL U19 boys travel soccer team, is looking to add several experienced players to its team for the upcoming Fall 2011 season. Players of all positions are needed. Prospective team members must have a balance of skill and of being a good teammate. The team has a history of developing positive and competitive players with

SEE SPORTS ROUNDUPS, PAGE 17

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SPORTS ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 16

an emphasis on team play, respect for others and good sportsmanship. The squad draws its players from the following area high schools: Fairfax, Robinson, Annandale, Woodson, Centreville, Chantilly, Westfield, South County, Edison, Manassas Park and West Springfield. The Patriots F.C. were recently honored by the coaches, referees and the Old Dominion Soccer League (ODSL) as winners of the Randy Rawls Sportsmanship Award. Players looking for a respectful and fun soccer atmosphere for a reasonable time commitment and cost should contact Team Manager Richelle at richelleannenold@aol.com or Coach Bill at billybobandktr@aol.com or 571-259-1000.

The Matrix Green 2017 6th grade AAU girls' basketball team, which consists of players from all around the Northern Region area, continued its dominance at the recent Potomac Valley District Div. II Tournament, where they earned their first-ever gold medal for the Matrix organization.

In the semifinals, the Matrix faced a well-coached and highly disciplined Maryland Lady Hoopsters, but they were no match for the stifling press of the Matrix. Time after time, the Matrix swarmed in unison, creating turnovers that quickly converted into baskets, and ultimately a 53-30 victory.

In the championship game, the Matrix faced familiar foes in the Virginia Hurricanes. Both teams were weary from a long weekend of basketball in hot gyms, but some outstanding outside shooting and the girls digging deep to beat their opponents down the court often for easy baskets led to a decisive 47-21 victory. In what proved to be a well run and well officiated tournament, the Matrix Green 2017 girls proudly donned their Gold medals after their final victory.

It was a weekend of hard work, great team play and a lot of fun.

On July 9th, in the third meet of the Northern Virginia Swim League season, Annandale's Lincolnia Park Lazars were defeated by the Lakeview Marlins, 234-168. The meet featured four double victories by Lazars' swimmers: Alyssa White won the 13-14 year old Girls freestyle and backstroke; Liam Conroy won the 11-12 Boys freestyle and backstroke; Joey Beadles won the 11-12 Boys breaststroke and butterfly; and Matt Del Signore won the 15-18 Boys backstroke and butterfly.

Lazer swimmers also set two new 2011 division-best times in the meet. The Girls 8 and Under team (Kia Morawetz, Sofia Edwards, Megan McKeen, and Tessa White) won the 100-meter freestyle relay with a time of 1:31.15 seconds, and Matt Del Signore's time of 31.46 seconds in the 50-meter backstroke was a season record for the six-team division. The meet featured an extremely close 13-14 Girls 200-meter medley, which the Marlins won by 0.65 of one second.

On July 16, the Lazars will have an away meet against the North Springfield Dolphins. Any swimmers interested in joining a great family pool with a fun, competitive swim team please go to lincolniapark.org and click on 'swim team.'

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21 Announcements

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Chanaphon Sermbhongse trading as Bangkok Noodle, 7022-B Commerce St. Springfield, VA 22150. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer on Premises, Mix Beverage on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Chanaphon Sermbhongse, owner

ABC LICENSE

Dveloce, LLC trading as Dolce Veloce, 10826 Fairfax Blvd, Fairfax, VA 22030. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine/Beer, on/off Mixed beverages license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Giuseppe Ricciardi, President

ABC LICENSE

Lubrano of FairCity Mall, Inc trading as Mamma Lucia, 9650 Main Street #40 Fairfax, VA 22031 The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine & Beer on premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Rosa Di Savino, President.

21 Announcements

Vendor Show - 7/16, Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

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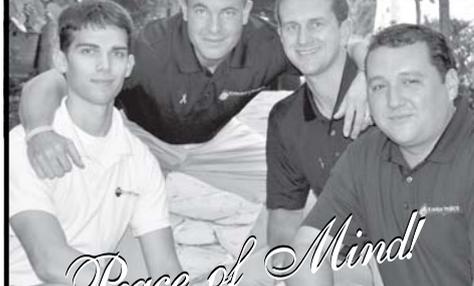
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Fairfax - Middle Ridge COMING SOON

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