

Fairfax Serving Areas of Burke CONNECTION

City of Fairfax K9 Officer Robert Mignon and his partner, Loki, a black Malinois, at a July 18 training session at the Fairfax County Police Department Facility in Chantilly, prepare to do a room search for narcotics.

City Council Member Dies

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PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

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City Mourns Death of Councilmember Joan Cross

Public memorial planned for Thursday, July 28, at Sherwood Center in Fairfax.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Kind, accessible, responsive and determined — that's how friends and colleagues say they will remember Joan W. Cross, 68, a five-term member of the Fairfax City Council, who died Thursday, July 21, at her home from complications of cancer.

"This has been hard for every member of council," said councilmember and longtime friend Dan Drummond. "We all mourn the loss of this wonderful woman who did so much for community. She was someone who cared about your life outside of council. ... If our Federal legislators were more like Joan, and her approach to public life, we would get more done."

Cross, who was elected to the City of Fairfax City Council in 2002, was the long-

est-serving woman councilmember to date. During her tenure, she was an energetic leader and volunteer, serving as the city's representative on a number of regional boards and commissions, including the Potomac Watershed Roundtable and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission.

"We certainly mourn the loss of this wonderful woman who did so much for our community."

— Dan Drummond

"We certainly mourn the loss of this wonderful woman who did so much for our community. Her voice will not only be missed from the dais in City Council chambers, but at the civic association meetings, band concerts and other places around town where she was always a presence," Drummond said.

A native of Wapello, Iowa, Joan Elizabeth Cross (nee Weaver) earned a B.A. in journalism and public relations from the University of Iowa. She moved to Fairfax in the early 1990s, and quickly became active in both the business community and her neigh-



FILE PHOTO

Joan Cross

borhood. She served on the board of directors for the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce and the Fairfax Rotary Club. She also helped found, and was chair of Destination Fairfax, a partnership between the city and local businesses to increase tourism in the city.

In 2004, the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce named her the Small Business

Advocate of the Year, and she received the chamber's Athena Award in 1997. She also served on the city's Board of Architectural Review for 10 years and chaired the board for three terms. She co-chaired the city's Independence Day Celebration Committee for two years.

"I will always remember and value her friendship and quiet counsel," said Doug Church, chairman of the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce and a banker with Virginia Heritage Bank.

"She was one of the finest people I ever met. She had the unique quality of making everyone feel comfortable. She made everyone feel important. She took her role as a councilmember seriously, but it was purely a labor of love," Church said.

On June 30, Cross resigned from City Council because of her illness. Fairfax Mayor Bob Lederer and City Council appointed Scott Silverthorne to serve the remainder of her term, through June 30, 2012.

"It's been a tough week, because we all miss her," said Silverthorne, who served with Cross on City Council for three terms.

"She made her mark as a volunteer. She was always the most helpful and polite person, and even when she disagreed with you, she was always respectful and never hurtful," Silverthorne said.

SEE COUNCILMEMBER, PAGE 7



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Working Dogs in Fairfax County

Canines team up with public safety personnel.

BY DEB COBB
THE CONNECTION

Every day in Fairfax County, dozens of specially trained dogs are on the job, using their noses and in some cases their teeth to keep Fairfax County safe.

"We're looking for a dog that works as hard on his last hour of work as his first," said Michael Szubinski, course development instructor at the Customs and Border Protection Canine Training Center in Front Royal, on June 22, as he explains the puppy selection that is underway on this day at the facility. Over the course of five hours, instructors will run 6 to 8 one-year-old dogs brought by breeders contracted with CBP through a series of tests to see if the dogs have the aptitude to become narcotics detection dogs.

The instructors are playing a basic game of fetch with these dogs — they have several "toys" of different materials, rubber, wood, aluminum, all about 12" long. First, they bring the leashed dog into a fenced-in area, talk to it, try and get it excited about the toy, and then they toss the toy into tall grass. They let the dog see where the toy lands, and then release the dog's leash and let it seek the toy. Each throw, they make the game a little more challenging, not letting the dog see where it lands, and maybe adding some distractions. What are the instructors looking for? How does the dog search; does the dog use its eyes or its nose to search; does the tall grass or other environmental factors bother or distract the dog; how long does it take the dog to find the toy; does the dog maintain interest in the game; what is the dog's level of confidence

in this new environment and situation?

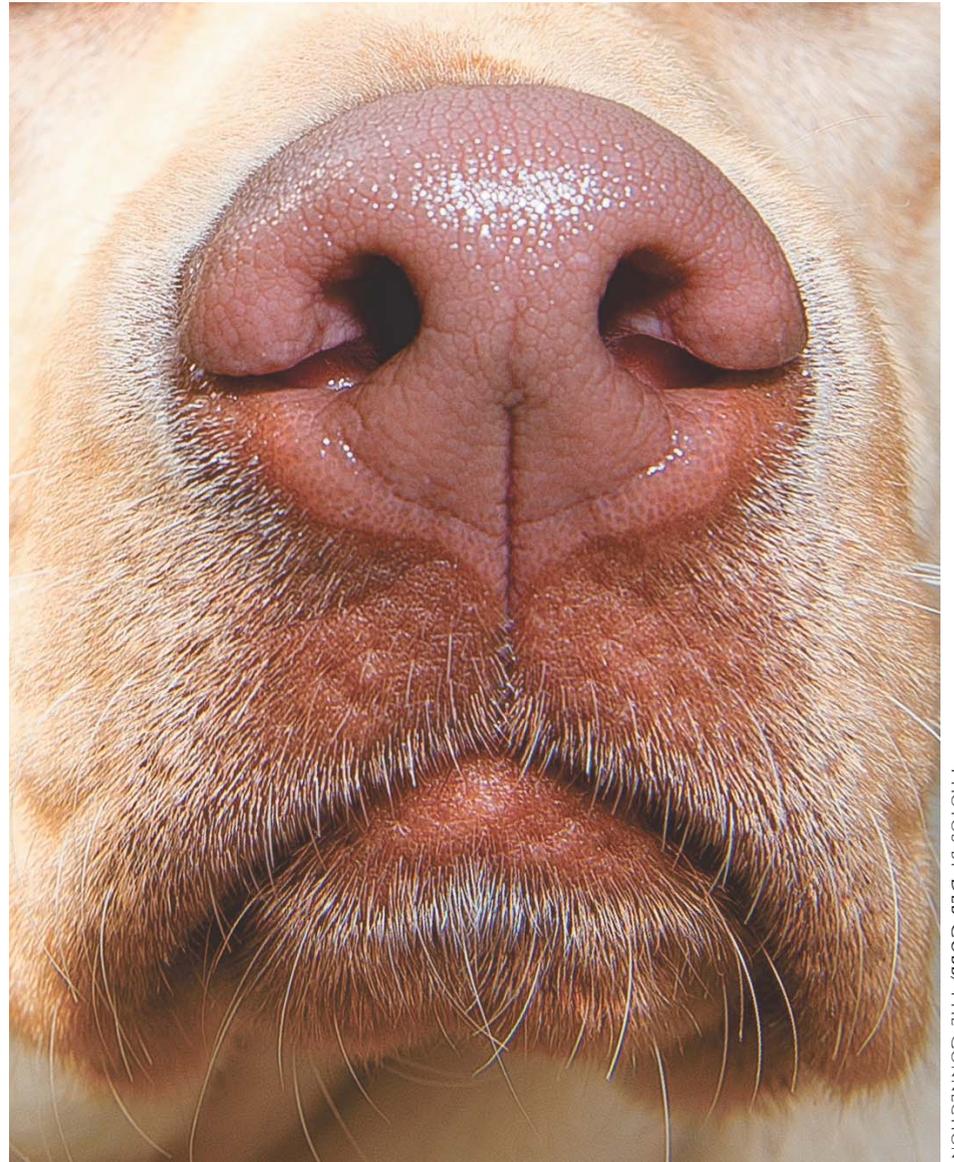
If the dog passes these initial tests, more follow. Instructors will throw a toy past a bowl of water and then past dog food and see if the dog stays focused on the toy. If the dog passes these tests, there are environmental tests they'll do, conveyor belts, cars with running engines, wet cement floors — all tests to see if the dog has the interest in the game despite environmental changes — said Szubinski "that translates into the dog's ability to stay focused on the job." They'll crowd the dog and see how he

FIRST IN A SERIES

reacts; they'll shoot blanks out of a gun and open an umbrella to see how the dog reacts, to weed out aggressive dogs.

If the dog passes all of the preliminary tests and health review, it is purchased by the CBP and begins training.

THESE WORKING DOGS TEAMS are trained in a variety of specialties — narcotics detection, explosives detection, accelerant detection, tracking, bedbug detection, termite detection, and contraband agriculture product detection. The dogs received extensive scent training — generally speaking, they were exposed to desired scents and trained to respond certain ways when they smelled them — a passive response like pointing the nose at the source of the scent or an aggressive response like scratching at the scent. When dogs successfully find the scent, they are rewarded with praise and either their toy and a game with their handler or some kibble — their food. Whether the dogs were play or food rewarded depended on their occupations, breeds and, to some degree the choices of the organizations that trained them. The unifying factor among all of these dogs was that they



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Scent-trained working dogs help provide a safer county. This nose belongs to Moose, a new addition to the Fairfax County Police Department's Explosive Ordinance Unit. He is a yellow lab that is trained to find explosives that are derived from six families of chemicals.



Two trainers work with a 1-year-old dog at the Customs and Border Protection Canine Training Center in Front Royal to see if the dog has the "play drive" needed to become a CBP dog.

work with singular focus to get their reward.

"You train, train, train, train, 10-hour days of training every other Monday, 20 hours a month," said Officer Damien Austin of the Herndon Police department. His partner is Smokey, a bi-colored German shepherd. They have been on the street since January 2009. Austin says he became a police officer so that he could work with a police dog. Austin and Smokey trained with the Fairfax County Police Canine Unit, and regularly train with Fairfax County K9 teams.

"The calls we go on are usually the worst of the worst — you have to have courage. We go into dark places, we have to trust the dog," said Austin.

KEEGAN is the Fairfax County Fire Marshal's newest accelerant detection dog. He is the fourth such dog the county has had, in the longest running program of its kind in Virginia.

"My training exercise starts at 4 a.m. and goes through a 24-hour day," said Investigator Terry Hall, Keegan's handler. Keegan

is food-rewarded, which means every time he finds a scent he's trained on — one of 21 ignitable liquids (products that contain hydrocarbons) — he gets a food reward. It also means that Hall must schedule training exercises at least twice a day for 15-20 minutes, so that Keegan gets his two cups of food.

"Through the month, fire debris from accidental fires of all characteristics that are negative for liquid accelerants is collected. All different articles: clothing, shoes, things from the Salvation Army that they can't use, is what I use to train Keegan every day," Hall said.

He sets out 20 items, burned down to 20 percent, and then adds a pin drop of a partially evaporated solution of a liquid accelerant.

Fire investigators use a number of investigative techniques to determine the cause of fires in Fairfax County. When a structure has been destroyed, and there are no physi

SEE MAN, PAGE 12

Police Seek Serial Cutter

Fairfax County Police from the Fair Oaks District are looking into reports of a man who is following women into retail stores and cutting them before fleeing the scene.

According to a police release, the most recent incident took place on Monday, July 25, around 5:30 p.m., at the Forever XXI Store in Fair Oaks Mall. The release states that an 18-year-old woman received a 1-1/2-inch wound in her buttocks.

The victim had been shopping when she saw that clothes had fallen from a rack behind her and noticed a man stooping down to retrieve them. She then felt a sharp pain. At first, the victim thought that she'd been stuck by one of the hangers, but she discovered a short time later that her denim shorts had been slashed. Her buttocks had also been cut and she was bleeding. Store security personnel contacted the police.

According to the release, detectives report that Monday's attack may be linked to four others that have taken place in Fairfax County retail stores since February. The previous case had taken place on June 20, around 2:45 p.m., in a Marshall's at Greenbriar Shopping Center. In each case, the victim is distracted by the suspect before he cuts them. Also, the victims have been women in their teens or early 20s.

Police describe the suspect as Hispanic, in his late 20s, around 5 feet 6 inches tall and heavy-set. He wore white shorts and a short-sleeved shirt in the July 25 assault.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

Crash Kills Sterling Man

A 65-year-old Sterling man was killed last Tuesday, July 19, when the truck he was driving struck several vehicles near the intersection of Braddock and Ox roads. Fairfax County police say Albert Spriggs was driving a 2009 Chevrolet, stake-body truck west on Braddock Road. For unknown reasons, shortly before 2:30 p.m., the truck crossed the median and entered the eastbound lanes of Braddock Road just west of Ox Road.

The truck initially sideswiped a Chevrolet van headed east on Braddock Road, near the intersection of North Hill Drive, and then struck another Chevrolet van head-on. The second impact caused the truck to overturn and come to rest on its side. Spriggs was pronounced dead at the scene.

Three other vehicles traveling east on Braddock were also involved in the crash. A total of five people were taken to local hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries. Speed and alcohol do not appear to be factors in this crash, police say.

Crash reconstruction detectives continue to investigate. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call police at 703-691-2131.

Embezzlement Charges

City of Fairfax police have arrested two women in connection with an embezzlement case that began April 8 at Brown's Fairfax Mazda, 10570 Fairfax Blvd. According to police, investigation revealed that an employee with permission to make authorized transactions had discovered that checks belonging to the business had been removed, signed and cashed for large sums of money without permission. The embezzlement was reported to police on July 13.

Five days later, on July 18, the Criminal Investigations Division charged two Front Royal residents — Jennifer Kay Garnett, 38, of the 200 block of Cavalier Drive, and Mattie Beatrice O'Bannion, 38, of the 100 block of West 17th St. — with one count each of embezzlement. They were later released from the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center on \$2,500 bond each.

Davidson Receives Top Honor

Academy instructor named 2011 Career Firefighter of the Year.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

In 1985, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department established the Career Firefighter of the Year award to honor a member whose outstanding service and selfless dedication reflect the highest traditions of the department.

It's the highest commendation the department bestows upon one of its own, and for 2011, that person is Lt. Marc Davidson, an instructor/officer in the Basic Training Unit at the Fire and Rescue Academy.

"Marc is a natural leader," said Battalion Chief Jim Hedrick, during a ceremony for Davidson, last Wednesday, July 20, at the Massey Building in Fairfax. "He leads by example and really enjoys his job and wants to be totally proficient at it. He also takes initiative to make things better."

At the academy, Davidson, 46, teaches recruits the skills required to become a firefighter/EMT. He also mentors them during their 20 weeks of training. But he was recognized for more than his three years there; he was feted for the entirety of his 16 years with the department.

Noting all the skills Davidson brings to the table, Hedrick told him, "You've earned this award." Hedrick, who supervised him at the Dunn Loring Station from 2001-03, said Davidson always placed his family first. "He shows that you can take care of your family and still do an outstanding job," said Hedrick. "He always thought of his co-workers, too, and that made him special throughout the years."

Capt. Chester Waters, Davidson's immediate supervisor at the academy, said he "not only rose to the level of instructor, but raised the bar. I'm blessed to have him on my team. He always seems to have his hands in a lot of projects at once and is one of the hardest-working people I've ever met. His work ethic and passion prompted me to nominate him for this prestigious award."

Davidson began his career at the Tysons Corner fire station, and Technician Jacques Cochran, of that station, also had high praise for him. "Although he went out on his first call with his hat on backwards, everything in his life and career with the Fire Department has led up to this award," said Cochran.

He said Davidson's mother instilled his love of teaching in him, and his experience in the U.S. Marine Corps made him value organization. Also stressing Davidson's leadership abilities and devotion to family, Cochran called him "a template for what a firefighter should be. I'm grateful to have him as a friend and proud that he's receiving this well-deserved honor."

County Fire Chief Ron Mastin said there are so many excellent people in the department, it's a challenge to select just one for this award. But among its 1,400 members, he said, Davidson is one of the most outstanding.

Davidson and his family live in Howard County, Md., so he has quite a long drive to and from his job each day. "That's the type of dedication he has," Mastin said. "He comes in early and stays late to make sure everyone he's working for and with will be successful. He has a positive influence on everyone he comes in contact with, and we appreciate all



Lt. Marc Davidson with his family, from left, daughter Victoria Marie, wife Denise and son Marc Daniel.

he's done for this organization."

Mastin then presented the Firefighter of the Year helmet to Davidson, along with a savings bond contributed for this award each year by an anonymous donor. Afterward, Davidson stepped to the podium and addressed the crowd.

He thanked his family "because all the work I did came at a cost." He called his mother "the biggest influence in my life, the way she cares for people. And I learned a lot about work ethic from my brother."

In the Marines, Davidson was a member of the elite ANGLICO (Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company) unit, and retired Marine Warrant Officer III Dan Hazeltine, who served in ANGLICO with him, was at last week's ceremony. Acknowledging his presence, Davidson said, "Those influences helped me step up to the next level."

He also thanked all the speakers for the things he learned from them, as well. "This is all about working hard and providing the best services you can," said Davidson. "Thank you very much for this award. I appreciate the honor and the opportunity to thank everyone who's been an influence on my life."

Afterward, his 12-year-old son Marc Daniel said he was happy about his father's honor. "He definitely deserves it," said Marc.

Agreeing, Davidson's daughter, Victoria Marie, 14, said her dad "downplays it, but he works really hard, and I'm proud of him."

Denise, his wife of 20 years, was overcome with emotion as she saw her husband being recognized by his colleagues and supervisors. "He's quite possibly the best father in the world," she said. "Once he's home, he's there 100 percent, except when his pager goes off."

"He's supported my career as a physical therapist at Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland," said Denise Davidson. "He's allowed me to be a mom to the best of my abilities, and he's such a good role model for our children. He's the love of my life; and if there's such a thing as a soul mate, then I've been lucky enough to find mine. I'm so proud of him."

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

'Conquering the Rose' Debuts

John Michael Whalen directs first feature film.

By MEREDITH ZETZLEMOYER
THE CONNECTION

John Michael Whalen, a graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary School, was in the ninth grade when he realized what he wanted to do when he grew up.

Kevin Kid, his history teacher, assigned the class a video project. Whalen and a friend documented the Palestine Liberation Organization by blowing up models and pretending to shoot at each other. Seeing the project onscreen, the class demanded to see it three times.

"It was literally one of those moments that change your life," Whalen said.

When he was 17, he came across his parents' Super 8 camera and shot a short film about a man trapped in his basement. His parents supported him and found film, and Whalen had experience with black and white photography from high school. His next black and white film was 6 minutes of murder and revenge.

Whalen attended the Savannah College of Art and Design intending to major in computer animation. However, he had discovered a passion for film. "I'd be insane not to go for what I really love to do," he said. He switched to the filmmaking program, which only four of the initial 60 students made it out of.

Despite having to pay for film by kicking drunks out of bars for \$20 a night, Whalen received solid instruction at the school. "We were hearing toys, hearing principles and then going out and doing something," he said, of his time at the college.

In 1998, Whalen returned home to Springfield, where he began filming field hockey at McLean High School and working on other local shots. When, within the span of a mere three hours, all jobs were cancelled, Whalen began freelancing with production companies despite the closed doors that accompanied someone not in a union.

Eventually, he became a cinematographer; a director of photography, filming three films over one and a half years. Cortina Productions and director Adam Meyer called him on the same day with job offers. Having discovered that he and Meyer shared a passion for the film "Manhunter," Whalen went with him, leading to the film "Eighth Plague."

This was a horror film shot at the Lorton Prison shortly before it was destroyed. The prison was so creepy that no sets were designed, and the real security men, playing the guards, had horrendous stories to share. The film won at the Eighth Annual Horror Film Fest in Chicago.

Whalen began seeing that actors were getting little respect or instruction from the directors he worked with. "I got into directing out of frustration," he said. He said that it is all about putting the actors in the right mind frame, and maintaining a relationship with them even when all the footage was completed.

In January 2010, he was asked to direct a short adaptation of a Ernest Hemingway piece by Jenna St. John and Rocket Media Group. The film turned



PHOTO BY MEREDITH ZETZLEMOYER/THE CONNECTION

John Michael Whalen is the director and editor of the upcoming film 'Conquering the Rose.' This tale of pressure and obsession premieres July 31, at 8 p.m., at the Cinema Arts Theater in Fairfax.

out to be an audition for the role of director for a feature film St. John had been writing as a 700 page novel, "Conquering the Rose."

By April 2010, auditions had begun. Whalen witnessed impressive talent in the local area as intense actors arrived and defined the characters. He said that filmmaking is more about spending time with the actors than the technology and effects.

"Conquering the Rose" weaves the tale of two trials. It opens with ink-splattered pages of canvas that revolve around an artist's obsession over an affair with a dance student who committed suicide and his desire to create a masterpiece. He battles his memories while dealing with his crumbling relationships.

The parallel plot introduces two brothers who wonder if they are the father of a girl whose mother they both slept with. The stories, based loosely on the 13th century poem "Romance of the Rose," revolve around themes such as obsession and choosing religion. The movie premieres July 31, at 8 p.m., at the Cinema Arts Theater in Fairfax

Not a single day in production goes according to plan. Scenes had to be improvised and writers had to be dealt with. That's one of the challenges of directing, according to Whalen. "I never thought I'd be directing someone else's writing," he said. With three screenplays of his own, the challenge becomes adapting someone else's vision.

Whalen enjoys "tinkering" with his films, making them perfect up until the last moment. But while he reflects that "a director presides over accidents," his flexibility has made for a show that demonstrates relationships both onscreen and off.

"It was literally one of those moments that change your life."

— John Michael Whalen



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What's Your Advice?

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Insiders edition.

The Connection staff and interns are already preparing the annual newcomers and community guide. We invite our readers to help with providing insiders' advice and information.

Below are several suggested questions, but we encourage you to participate in any way.

We'll print selections from the answers along with your name. Answer one question or all of them; give as many answers as you'd like to each question.

What "insider's tip" about your town would you share with a friend? Places to go, things to do, can't-miss events, ideas on what it means to live here.

What advice would you give new residents on how to make themselves at home and get involved here?

What tips do you have for someone new to your town? What interesting, almost secret, places would you like to have learned about earlier when you moved in?

We invite you to share the expertise you've gained in living in your hometown with your

neighbors and with people new to the area.

Send us a short letter: what do you love about your community? Tell us about one special place you've discovered. Does your family have different favorites in different seasons? How did you get involved in your town? Share your favorite park. Tell us about your favorite annual event. Send us a photo of your family at one of your favorite spots or engaged in a favorite activity.

EDITORIALS

We also ask for input from local arts organizations, civic organizations, houses of worship, clubs, schools, businesses and other community institutions. Send us information on dates and details for major events for the upcoming year, information on how to get involved in nonprofits and charities, details about your club or other organization.

The Insiders Guide will publish the last week in August. Please send in your tips and answers by Aug. 17.

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Obamacare To Blame

To the Editor:

In this week's Connection article "Connolly Vows to Protect Medicare" [July 21-27, 2011], U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) stated "The United States can afford Medicare, but we can't afford to finance tax cuts on the backs of our senior citizens." However, it is not "tax cuts" that are the problem in financing Medicare, it is Obamacare, the new healthcare law strongly supported by Connolly, which takes more than \$500 billion from Medicare. In fact, Connolly stated in the past [Connection, March 25-31, 2010] that Obamacare will guarantee the solvency of Medicare in spite of the fact that this huge amount of money is removed from the program just as the baby boomers are being covered under that program. This is surely not a path to solvency but rather one to rationing.

To make matters worse, Obamacare establishes the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), a 15-member group appointed by the President to cut Medicare costs once a cap has been reached. This will almost definitely result in rationing of healthcare services for seniors.

As to "financing tax cuts on the backs of our senior citizens," there

are actually big tax increases that are part of ObamaCare. With the American economy in dire straits, raising taxes is a bad idea.

Also troubling, chief Medicare actuary Richard S. Foster "made it clear that ObamaCare will actually do great damage to Medicare by driving doctors and hospitals out of the program." This information is from an excellent book entitled "Why ObamaCare is Wrong for America," which I highly recommend to seniors who want to learn more about how ObamaCare will impact their healthcare. It is available on Amazon.com for \$8.23 + shipping and handling. The book includes an entire chapter on the impact of the new healthcare law on seniors.

Susan Lider
Clifton

Freedom of Information

To the Editor:

Information censorship endangers lives. We learned this from the incident of SARS, a contagious disease, and the tainted food products from China, both of which Beijing's state controlled media did not disclose on time.

Misinformation by those media also has national security implica-

tions. In 2001, 80 percent of the Chinese on-line chat room users were found to be "cheering" over 911. More recently, 59.9 percent of the Chinese online poll respondents felt "saddened" for the fall of an "anti-American fighter," Osama bin Laden.

For the above reasons I am grateful to U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), for writing to Taiwanese government and helping secure continued signal relay of an independent U.S.-based Chinese-language New Tang Dynasty Television (NTD) into mainland China, via a Taiwanese satellite.

A PBS style TV, NTD carries in-language news the Chinese regime wants quiet. It also provides a platform to foster free flow of information into and out of China.

Li Ding
Fairfax

Calling for Fiscal Responsibility

To the Editor:

Recently, 11th Congressional District residents received a four page glossy flier sent by U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11). At a time when our nation is on the verge of potential default, I find it more than a bit ironic that Mr. Connolly chose to send this political flier that was "prepared, published and

mailed at taxpayer expense." The flier is virtually indistinguishable from a mailing during a political campaign, including the obligatory union bug, with the exception that taxpayers paid for Mr. Connolly's blatantly political message. About the only thing that was interesting was that no one apparently caught the typo of "Medicate" when "Medicare" was obviously the intended term.

Year after year our elected representatives, both Republicans and Democrats, have promised benefit increases in Social Security and Medicare and many other entitlement programs in a ploy to get reelected. In 2010 voters across the nation made it clear that fiscal responsibility was critical to our nation. While Mr. Connolly held onto his seat by the most razor thin margin imaginable, I had hoped that even he would have gotten the message.

Serious reform is necessary and we need Congressional representatives that will be fiscal stewards of taxpayer funds. Constituents in the 11th Congressional District deserve more than politics as usual. Our nation is facing a financial crisis of our own making due to fiscally irresponsible actions and Mr. Connolly either needs to lead or get out of the way.

Michael Hokenson
Fairfax Station

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Councilmember Dies

FROM PAGE 3

“What I will remember most about Joan is that not only did she know her constituents well and responded to their needs, but it was the way she did it. With grace, with class and that Midwest smile and gentle nature,” Drummond said. “Joan has left quite a legacy of accomplishments, as a Council member, a wife, a mother and a grandmother. It was a life that was authentic and reflected how to live to the fullest.”

It was a life well-lived.”

“She took her role as a councilmember seriously, but it was purely a labor of love.”

— Doug Church

In her resignation to letter to city residents, Cross wrote: “Serving on the City of Fairfax City Council has been a tremendous honor. Thank you for your trust and confidence.”

Cross is survived by her husband of 19 years, Ron; three sons, William

Clarke of Carlsbad, Calif.; John Clarke of Plainfield, Ill.; and Brady Clarke of Pittsburgh, Pa.; five grandchildren; two sisters, Nancy Roach of Libertyville and Jane Weaver-Sobel of Charlotte, N.C.; one brother, William Weaver of Macon, Ga.; her stepfather, Edwin Hicklin of Wapello; and three stepsisters, Kate Gerst of Wapello, Martha Remley of Leawood, Kans., and Betsy Barber of Philadelphia, Pa.

Her parents preceded her in death.

Visitation will be Wednesday, July 27, from 6-9 p.m., at Everly Funeral Home in Fairfax, where family will receive friends. The body will be cremated following visitation.

A public memorial service for Cross will take place Thursday, July 28, 10 a.m., at Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center in Fairfax.



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Autumn, left, and Rocket are 10-month-old long-haired Chihuahuas from Burke. — Teresa Tobat

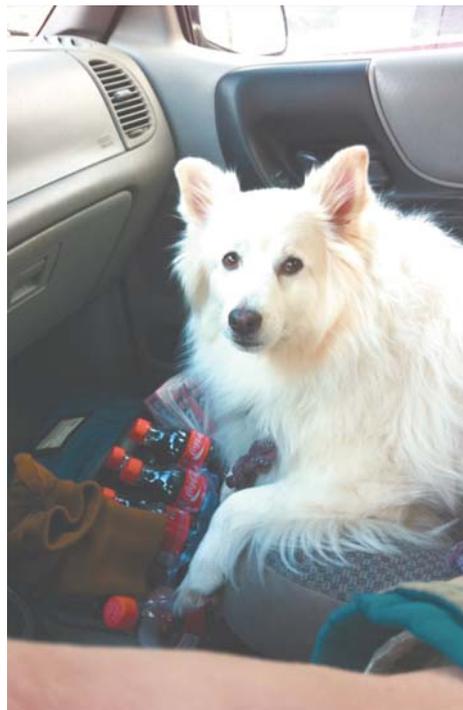


BRANDY & COCOA ON NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Brandy and Cocoa looking out the front door doing Neighborhood Watch, submitted by Stephen and Heather Novosad of Grinnell Street in Fairfax.



Mister Frodo is a shelter cat. He is part Maine Coon and part American Bobtail. When we first got him he had a fear of our ceiling fans. He now runs the house. — Fairfax County Chair Sharon Bulova (D-At-large)



Cody, an American Eskimo, had been dropped at a shelter when he was 11-months-old. He was Santa's gift for our daughter three weeks later. Eskies are extremely active, social and vocal dogs. He fits perfectly into our family. Here he is at 6-1/2-years-old waiting for my husband Paul to start the truck. Cody is a great companion, playful, friendly, protective, for our daughter Emily, 12. — Clifton Town Councilwoman, Deborah Dillard



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) with Abigail in his office on Capitol Hill



Tippers Clark is a rescued bunny of Charlotte Clark, 12, of Fairfax Station. Tippers Clark is 6-months-old.



Tora Clark, 7, sports a uniform for Burke basketball, Patrick Clark's team. Tora Clark is a rescued Labrador Retriever of Ian and Lucille Clark's family of Fairfax Station.



This photo was taken at our home in Burke when granddaughter Mackenzie Kelly Maisel was 13-months-old. Mackenzie is now 4. Labrador Retriever named Gabby is now 13. Mack and Gabby were watching me from the other side of the 'baby gate.' I told Gabby to "sit" and Mackenzie immediately sat down in the same pose as Gabby, mouth open and all. It remains one of my favorite photos of them together. — Gail Westin, Onion Patch Drive, Burke

NEWS

Cat Adoptions Resume

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter has reopened for cat adoptions. In celebration, it's hosting ExtravaCATza! 2011 and will also extend summer adoptions through August. As part of the event, the first 100 cats adopted from the shelter during July and August will receive a free spay or neuter at the shelter's veterinarian. There will also be no adoption fee for cats 7 or older.

The facility is reopening for cat adoptions after closing temporarily in June after an outbreak of suspected virulent systemic Calicivirus. After the outbreak, the shelter enacted a very strict cleaning regimen to eliminate the virus from all cat-housing areas. No signs of the feline illness have been present in the shelter among its cats since the June outbreak.

The shelter will be open its normal adoption hours for cats, dogs and other animals throughout the month: Tuesdays-Fridays, noon-6:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The shelter is at 4500 West Ox Road in Fairfax. For more information, call 703-830-1100.

Helping Keep Children Safe

City of Fairfax Police, in conjunction with the Optimist Club, will be offering Safe Assured identification kits on Saturday, Aug. 6, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., at Walgreen's at 10320 Main St.

Parents will receive a full-color photo ID and a mini-CD containing digital fingerprints, a digital photo, video showing movement and mannerisms, a general physical description, vital personal information and a family code word. Private information is encrypted and accessible only by law enforcement. Missing-persons posters can be created and printed directly from the mini-CD in English, Spanish and French. The Safe Assured ID kits can also be used as a valuable aid for adults with special needs. The kits are free and an appointment is necessary. Call 703-385-7966 for further information.

Volunteers Sought

Fairfax County's Volunteer Solutions needs volunteers to help older adults and adults with disabilities. Current needs include Meals on Wheels drivers, as well as drivers to transport older adults to medical appointments. Call 703-324-5406.

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A Short Sale is defined as: A homeowner is 'short' when the amount owed on his/her property is higher than current market value. A short sale occurs when a negotiation is entered into with the homeowner's mortgage company (or companies) to accept less than the full balance of the loan at closing. A buyer closes on the property, and the property is then 'sold short' of the total value of the mortgage.

For homeowners to qualify for a short sale, they must fall into any or all of the following circumstances:

- **Financial Hardship** – There is a situation causing you to have trouble affording your mortgage.
- **Monthly Income Shortfall** – In other words: "You have more month than money." A lender will want to see that you cannot afford, or soon will not be able to afford your mortgage.
- **Insolvency** – The lender will want to see that you do not have significant liquid assets that would allow you to pay down your mortgage.

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CALENDAR

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/JULY 28

City of Fairfax Concert Band. 8 p.m. Veterans Amphitheater, City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. A pops-style concert of light classical, Broadway, jazz, film, and patriotic selections. Weather permitting. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and a picnic basket. Free. 703-757-0220 or www.fairfaxband.org.

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.

Conversations with the Director. 7:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Meet Sam Clay, Director of the Fairfax County Public Library, and share your view of what the future should hold for our library system. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Rubblebucket. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

NSO at Wolf Trap: The 5 Browns. 8:15 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Emil de Cou, Conductor. The National Symphony Orchestra is joined by five Julliard-trained siblings from Utah. Tickets \$20-\$52. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/JULY 29

Movies Under the Stars. 7:30 p.m. Pinn Community Center, 10225 Zion Drive, Fairfax. Family-friendly movies

shown every Friday. 703-250-9181, tty 711.

The Bigger Lights, Divided By Friday and Fourth Quarter Comeback at 6 p.m., followed by The Bigger Lights, For The Foxes and Aim For The Weekend at 9 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

NSO at Wolf Trap: Marvin Hamlisch, Brian Stokes Mitchell and Stephanie J. Block. 8:15 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. The National Symphony Orchestra in an evening of showtune classics. Tickets \$20-\$52. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 30

Summer Lovin': A Hot Night of Cool Stories. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Better Said Than Done, a community of professional storytellers, present stories for grownups about summer romance. \$10. www.betersaidthandone.com, www.jamminjava.com or 703-255-1566.

Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association, Inc. 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice to home gardeners. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association answers your gardening questions. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Feed God Cabbage, DC Flow and Feel Free. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

NSO at Wolf Trap: Casablanca. 8:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. With conductor Emil de Cou and host Ben Mankiewicz. The film will be shown on large screens both in-house and on the lawn, with the film's full score played live by the National Symphony Orchestra. Tickets \$20-\$52. www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/JULY 31

Burke Historical Society Meeting. 4 p.m. Silas Burke House, 9617 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Historian and author Patrick O'Neill will speak about the Belvoir manor, the seat of Col. William Fairfax's plantation. Belvoir was effectively abandoned by the family, fell into disrepair, and was further damaged during the War of 1812. Its name lives on in the Army base that now includes its ruins. slawski_brian@yahoo.com.

"Conquering the Rose" Film Debut. 8 p.m. Cinema Arts Theatre, Fair City Mall, 9560-14 Main St., Fairfax. A feature film written and produced by GMU alummi Jenna St. John and made with a local crew. A small college town is haunted by a young girl's suicide. www.conqueringtherose.com.

Rebecca Loebe, Jenee Halstead and Sam Friend. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Dolly Parton: Better Day World Tour. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Country music. \$60 in-house, \$35 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

MONDAY/AUG. 1

Benefit for NOVACO. 7-10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E.,

Vienna. Local artists Birds of Mauze, The Improvaliers, Bradley Perrow, West Potomac Improv, Poi, Jamie Fredrickson's Mad Hoop Skills, The Fair Sons of Robin Fax, Alice Boyars, Julian Rosen and more. A portion of the proceeds benefits NOVACO, offering affordable housing, education, childcare, counseling and mentoring to survivors of abuse. \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door. www.novaco.org or www.jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/AUG. 2

Jolie Holland and Sallie Ford & the Sound Outside. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 3

California Tortilla Battle to Break Out: Semi-Finals Round #1. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/AUG. 4

The Bob Gibson Big Band. 8 p.m. Old Country Buffet 9650 Main St., Fairfax. Vintage to modern jazz and big band music. 703-764-0708.

FRIDAY/AUG. 5

Tom Paxton. 7 p.m. Mason District Park Amphitheater, 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Folk music. 703-324-SHOW.

SATURDAY/AUG. 6

Deep River Summer Revival with Larkin Poe. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 10

Civil War History of the Hunter Mill Road Corridor. 7:30 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. With forum speaker Jim Lewis, a historian, tour guide and member of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. Free. 703-425-9225.

Cash Cash, Breathe Electric, For the Foxes and The Baby Grand. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/AUG. 12

Movies Under the Stars. 7:30 p.m. Pinn Community Center, 10225 Zion Drive, Fairfax. Family-friendly movies shown every Friday. 703-250-9181, tty 711.

Dan Navarro at 7 p.m., followed by Tyler Bryant at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 13

Sully Civil War Weekend. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Federal and Confederate troops recreate Civil War daily life as re-enactors demonstrate the varied work of the army. Skirmishes include infantry, artillery and cavalry. Visit the weekend encampment and discover a soldier's lifestyle during this turbulent time in America's history. Enjoy live music and a fashion show. House tour includes artifacts rarely on exhibit belonging to the Haight family, mid-19th century residents at Sully. \$8adults, \$6 seniors and children. 703-708-0861.

The Fabulous Mary Ann Redmond Band. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna.

MEET JANE...

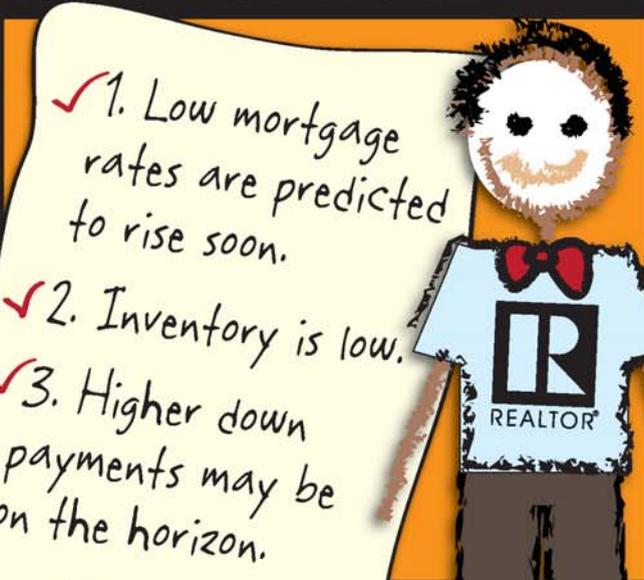
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FAITH NOTES

Talking Books Reaches Milestone

Many readers can't actually see the words on the pages, but that doesn't mean they can't experience the pleasure of reading.

Talking Books, a Library of Congress National Library Service for the blind and those with physical disabilities, is available to all ages, from preschoolers to centenarians. The oldest customer, according to Fairfax County Public Library's Access Services branch, is 105 and the youngest is 4. The average Talking Book audiobook reader borrows or downloads 52 recorded books or magazines per year.

This year, FCPL is one of many libraries marking the 80th anniversary of the Talking Books Program. Since the Talking Books program started in 1931, more than 320,000 books have been recorded orally using different forms of technology. Now, books can be downloaded from the Internet onto a flash drive-type of device and popped into a player. According to the NLS, more than 823,000 people use Talking Books.

Fairfax County residents have access to more than 12,000 titles onsite in cassette or digital form, and more than 400,000 titles available through NLS. Last year, Access Services provided the free NLS program to more than 1,000 local residents, 29 schools and 33 institutions.

Individuals who are unable to read or use standard print due to permanent or temporary blindness, visual impairment, or physical limitations may qualify for the program. The Access Services library provides specially recorded books, magazines, and players to residents of Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the City of Falls Church through the free Talking Book Program. To register for the program, call 703-324-8380 or TTY 703-324-8365.

Once a person is registered for the program, he or she may select his or her own books or may ask Access Services staff to select titles for you based on your reading interests. The books and magazines will be mailed to the borrower in sturdy containers with preprinted return address cards, according to FCPL staff.

— VICTORIA ROSS

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.

Westwood Baptist Church, 8200 Old Keene Mill Road in Springfield, will change its Sunday morning schedule for the month of August. Worship will begin at 9 a.m. followed by a brief fellowship time and then Sunday School for all ages at 10:15 a.m. 703-451-5120.

Barcroft Bible Church, 9401 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax, invites rising kindergarden-sixth graders to the "Kickin' it Old School" Summer Bible Camp with games, music and crafts. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch provided. \$15 per child. www.barcroft.org/kh-bible-camp.

The Fairfax Church of Christ, 3901 Rubgy Road in Fairfax, has facilitators available to help those who are experiencing a separation or divorce. 703-631-2100 or www.fxcc.org.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive in Clifton, offers three levels of ESL classes every Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. Cost for semester is \$35, including student book. To register, come to the next class. www.lordoflifeva.org or 703-323-9500. Registration is Sept. 8, 7 p.m. ESL classes are also available at 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton, offers services on Saturdays at 4:30 p.m., in addition to Sunday services at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. www.uucf.org.

RECENT HOME SALES

In June 2011, 93 Fairfax homes sold between \$1,335,695-\$145,000. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$398,000-\$145,000 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	..	Postal City	..	Sold Price	..	Type	.....	Lot AC	.....	Subdivision
4114 WOODLAND DR	5	2	1	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$398,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.23	.....	WARREN WOODS
10546 ASSEMBLY DR	3	2	2	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$397,000	.....	Townhouse	.....	0.04	.....	THE ASSEMBLY
4217 LAMARRE DR	3	2	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$395,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.23	.....	WARREN WOODS
10711 JOYCE DR	3	2	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$395,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.24	.....	JOYCE HEIGHTS
10217 STRATFORD AVE	3	2	1	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$390,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.28	.....	LORD FAIRFAX ESTATES
12802 MADELEY CT	4	2	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$390,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.25	.....	GREENBRIAR
4005 MURDSTONE CT	3	2	2	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$389,999	.....	Townhouse	.....	0.05	.....	FAIR RIDGE
4278 SLEEPY LAKE DR	3	2	2	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$385,000	.....	Townhouse	.....	0.04	.....	FAIR RIDGE
4323 MAJESTIC LN	4	2	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$382,500	.....	Detached	.....	0.26	.....	GREENBRIAR
13155 QUAIL CREEK LN	4	2	2	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$375,000	.....	Townhouse	.....	0.03	.....	FAIR LAKES LAND BAY
3227 DUNSTER CT	3	3	1	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$370,000	.....	Townhouse	.....	0.04	.....	CAMBRIDGE STATION
13121 PELFREY LN	3	2	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$370,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.20	.....	GREENBRIAR
3347 OAKSHADE CT	3	2	1	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$350,000	.....	Townhouse	.....	0.04	.....	FRANKLIN GLEN
4208 LAMARRE DR	3	2	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$347,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.25	.....	WARREN WOODS
4235 UNIVERSITY DR	4	3	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$345,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.23	.....	FAIRFAX TOWNE ESTATES
3507 BROOKWOOD DR	4	3	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$341,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.26	.....	FAIRMONT ESTATES
11398 AMBER HILLS CT	0	0	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$340,008	.....	Detached	.....	1.04	.....	ESTATES AT FAIR OAKS
4265 SLEEPY LAKE DR	3	2	2	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$340,000	.....	Townhouse	.....	0.04	.....	FAIR RIDGE
3932 PLUM RUN CT	3	2	1	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$339,000	.....	Townhouse	.....	0.03	.....	FOXFIELD
4300N CANNON RIDGE CT #13	3	2	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$335,000	.....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	.....	CHRISTOPHER AT CEDAR LKS
3739 BROOMSEDGE CT	3	3	1	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$335,000	.....	Townhouse	.....	0.03	.....	FRANKLIN GLEN
3941 PLUM RUN CT	4	3	1	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$334,000	.....	Townhouse	.....	0.03	.....	FOXFIELD
13333 BURKITT'S RD	3	3	1	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$332,272	.....	Townhouse	.....	0.03	.....	FOXFIELD
3647 SWEETHORN CT	4	3	1	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$327,500	.....	Townhouse	.....	0.06	.....	FRANKLIN GLEN
3717 MAZEWOOD LN	3	2	1	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$324,500	.....	Townhouse	.....	0.05	.....	FOXFIELD
4679 RED ADMIRAL WAY #151	3	2	1	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$315,000	.....	Townhouse	.....	.....	.....	WILLOW OAKS
12151 WEDGEWAY CT	2	3	1	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$315,000	.....	Townhouse	.....	0.05	.....	PENDERBROOK
3928 TEDRICH BLVD	4	2	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$312,900	.....	Detached	.....	0.25	.....	FAIRVIEW
4108J MONUMENT CT #303	2	2	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$287,000	.....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	.....	FAIRMONT
12971 RIDGEMIST LN	2	2	2	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$244,800	.....	Townhouse	.....	0.03	.....	TOWN OF GREENBRIAR
10347 SAGER AVE #301	2	2	1	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$242,500	.....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	.....	THE CROSSINGS
12104 GREEN LEAF CT #201	3	2	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$242,000	.....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	.....	HEIGHTS AT PENDERBROOK
3804 RIDGE KNOLL CT #4	2	2	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$236,900	.....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	.....	OXFORD HOUSE
3803 RIDGE KNOLL CT #106A	2	2	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$235,000	.....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	.....	OXFORD HOUSE
4401 SEDGEHURST DR #101	2	2	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$234,950	.....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	.....	STONECROFT
12100 GREENWAY CT #201	3	2	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$226,000	.....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	.....	PENDERBROOK
3722 SUDLEY FORD	3	1	1	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$225,900	.....	Townhouse	.....	0.03	.....	FOXFIELD
3909 PENDERVIEW DR #1931	2	2	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$219,900	.....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	.....	PENDERBROOK SQUARE
3805 GREEN RIDGE CT #297	2	2	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$215,000	.....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	.....	HEIGHTS AT PENDERBROOK
3902 GOLF TEE CT #102	2	2	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$198,500	.....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	.....	HEIGHTS AT PENDERBROOK
12944 GRAYS POINTE RD #C	2	2	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$182,500	.....	Other	.....	.....	.....	GRAYS POINTE
4443 FAIR STONE DR #104	1	1	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$178,000	.....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	.....	STONECROFT
11127 ROCK GARDEN DR	2	1	1	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$167,000	.....	Townhouse	.....	.....	.....	OXFORD ROW
9447 FAIRFAX BLVD #302	2	1	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$149,900	.....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	.....	FOXCROFT COLONY
12159 PENDERVIEW TER #931	1	1	0	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$149,900	.....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	.....	PENDERBROOK SQUARE
10570 MAIN ST #221	2	1	0	FAIRFAX	\$145,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors	MAIN STREET GREEN

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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

Centreville

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

Chantilly

13714 Adelphi Ct \$339,900... Sun 1-4..... Jon Butt..... Long & Foster..703-625-6040
 3820 Lightfoot St #314 \$160,000... Sat 12-2..... Candace Woodson..... Weichert..703-819-8399
 25638 Creek Run Terr \$479,000... Sun 1-4..... Suzanne Burch..... Century 21..703-328-5606

Fairfax

11836 Robertson Farm Cir \$799,000... Sun 1-4..... Sara Mirza..... Long & Foster..703-887-4616
 12571 Cerromar Pl \$795,000... Sun 1-4..... Debbie Kent..... Cottage Street..703-740-7654
 3518 Schuerman House \$1,299,999... Sun 1-4..... Kathy Shea..... Weichert..703-795-3946
 8810 Lynnhurst Dr \$895,000... Sun 1-4..... Anne Harrington..... Long & Foster..703-585-8595
 4858 Sideburn Rd \$625,000... Sun 1-4..... Stan Goldberg..... Weichert..703-731-4230
 12520 North Lake Ct \$395,000... Sun 1-4..... Jim Souvavis..... Long & Foster..703-919-9191
 4224 Majestic Ln \$479,900... Sun 1-4..... Greg Connarn..... Century 21..703-850-4484

Clifton

13935 South Springs Dr \$600,000... Sun 1-4..... Karen Gales..... RE/MAX..703-403-0992
 5710 Regal Crest Ct \$599,990... Sun 1-4..... Hall Wang..... UnionPlus..202-276-6928
 6800 Glencove Dr \$719,900... Sun 1-4..... Dan Mleziva..... Jobin..703-380-9915
 6918 Clifton Rd \$659,500... Sun 1-4..... Carol Hermandorfer..... Long & Foster..703-503-1812

Fairfax Station

11115 Devereux Station Ln \$1,299,900... Sat 12-3..... Frank Madden..... Century 21..571-221-2062
 7013 Sylvan Glen Ln \$830,000... Fri 6-9..... Dallison Veach..... RE/MAX..703-477-7920
 7511 South Reach Dr \$799,950... Sun 1-4..... Kathleen Quintarelli..... Weichert..703-862-8808
 8914 Magnolia Ridge Rd \$597,500... Sun 1-4..... Kathy Peters/Ed Hillebrand..... Long & Foster..703-915-2165
 9011 Banyon Ridge Rd \$524,900... Sun 1-4..... Kelli Orford..... Long & Foster..703-895-8970
 11523 Wild Acre Way \$624,000... Sun 1-4..... Carol Hermandorfer..... Long & Foster..703-503-1812

Burke

5822 Shana Pl \$285,000... Sun 1-4..... Bob Dooley..... Samson Properties..703-581-5758
 6054 Heathwick Ct \$385,000... Sun 1-4..... Debbie Kent..... Cottage Street..703-740-7654
 9901 Coffer Woods Rd \$574,900... Sun 1-4..... Diana LeFrancois..... Century 21..703-930-6682

Springfield

5609 Rolling Rd \$425,000... Sun 1-4..... Janice Buckley..... Long & Foster..571-239-2792
 6030 Queenston St \$379,000... Sun 1-4..... Charlie Rose..... Long & Foster..703-919-9361
 8624 Etta Dr \$569,000... Sun 1-4..... Christine Stephenson..... Weichert..703-901-0944
 8118 Ridge Creek Way \$689,900... Sun 1-4..... Beckie Owen..... Long & Foster..703-328-4129
 8205 Taunton Pl \$399,900... Sun 1-4..... Carol Hermandorfer..... Long & Foster..703-503-1812

Lorton

10413 Midway Ln \$699,000... Sun 1-4..... Dane Work..... RE/MAX..703-869-4567
 6710 Red Bird Woods Ct \$368,972... Sun 1-4..... Malia Eckert..... Long & Foster..703-573-2600
 9068 Arch Hall Rd \$584,000... Sun 1-4..... Susie Zinn..... RE/MAX..703-403-2524
 9108 Wildwood St \$649,900... Sun 1-4..... Dane Work..... RE/MAX..703-869-4567
 9264C Cardinal Forest Ln #301 \$215,000... Sun 1-4..... Pat Dewey..... Long & Foster..703-919-4952
 9615 Sloway Coast Dr \$590,000... Sun 1-4 by appt..... Audrey Funk..... Weichert..571-335-6075

Kingstowne/Alexandria

6327 Still Spring Pl \$749,950... Sun 1-4..... Tom & Cindy & Assoc..... Long & Foster..703-822-0207
 6412 Caleb Ct \$659,950... Sun 1-4..... Tom & Cindy & Assoc..... Long & Foster..703-822-0207

Woodbridge

12233 Stevenson Ct #12233 \$104,900... Sun 1-4..... Ciara Lascano..... RE/MAX..703-798-2696

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call

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All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

Man and Dog, Working Together

FROM PAGE 4

cal indicators of the nature of the fire left — such as burn patterns — Keegan can find chemical residues under heaps of ash and debris. He alerts when he finds the odor of an ignitable liquid.

On the scene, Keegan pinpoints where to collect the evidence so the lab can identify the accelerants. The investigators may see burn patterns that indicate flammable liquids but because of the nature of fire, it is very labor and resource-intensive to collect and process samples from a fire scene to locate the residual accelerant. Keegan can pinpoint it in moments, reducing the time it takes to collect evidence. If Keegan doesn't find anything, it makes investigators more comfortable ruling out incendiary liquids as the cause of the fire.

In 2010, the Fairfax County Police Department had 13 Patrol K-9 teams on active status. They were called to service 3,549 times. Of those calls, the dogs were deployed on 1,473 calls; 450 of those were “tracks” when the dog team was sent to look for someone or something — like a cast off article relating to a crime; 246 were searches for people; 605 drug searches were conducted; 60 were tactical deployments, when K9 teams were deployed with SWAT teams all of which resulted in 140 felony charges being placed and 185 misdemeanor charges being placed.

“They provide an added layer of safety because dogs can quickly locate a perp and take away his advantage — they take away the ambush advantage,” said Lieutenant Shawn Martin, a Fairfax County K9 officer and supervisor of the Canine Unit. “A dog is also a force multiplier. A dog will clear and search faster and more effectively. Dogs are more efficient, particularly when clearing buildings, tracking individuals and doing narcotics searches.”

Martin received a Silver Medal of Valor and Nero received a Meritorious Award in 2008 after they subdued an armed and violent man who had stolen and crashed a Prince William County police cruiser. What is the best part of being a K9 handler? “The biggest reward is finding the bad guy — we have made arrests that never would have happened without dogs.”

WHAT IS THE HANDLER'S role? “You’ve got to know how to walk and chew gum at the same time,” joked Officer Jennifer Jones, of the skills a canine handler must have. She is a CBP agriculture detection dog handler at Dulles Airport — once known as the Beagle Brigade. She and her partner Hudson inspect incoming international passengers at Dulles to ensure that fruits, plants and meats do not enter the United States, bringing harmful animal, pests, or plant diseases.

She watches him work, looks for alerts, making sure he doesn't eat things off the floor, watches passengers, and ensures that



Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Officer Cpl. Jeff Richards and his dog Rex work through a training exercise at the MWAA Canine Facility at Dulles Airport on June 7. Rex is an explosives detection dog. Richards points to the areas along the suitcase where scent is likely to leak, in this case, the zipper, and Rex is trained to follow with his nose.

he remains safe in the busy airport environment.

“It is important to understand his viewpoint. The dogs will work until they fall down, so you have to see whether he's hot, tired, sleepy. He's not just a tool. For me, I have a job to do. For him, it's his life,” she said.

A handler needs to be empathetic, patient, enthusiastic — “You have to be a partner,” said Jones. And, working with a beagle, you must have a sense of humor.

Jones and Hudson work during the peak times that international passengers arrive at Dulles. He alerts around 20 times a day and his accuracy is about 90 percent. Every time he alerts, he gets some kibble. How do passengers react when he alerts to their bags? “You never know what the trigger will be or who will get upset,” said Jones.

Beagles are ideally suited for this work, Jones said. They are friendly, cute, they have the drive and the ability to deal with the chaos of the airport, they are perfect of this job and there are always an abundance of them to be adopted and trained for the work.

This is the first part of a series of photo essays that Deb Cobb is doing about working dogs. Subsequent articles will explore assistance dogs, medical detection dogs, and search and rescue dogs. If you have a dog in any of these fields, or work for an organization that trains dogs for these jobs, send an email to Cobb at: dcobb@connectionnewspapers.com



Niko, a City of Fairfax patrol dog partnered with City of Fairfax Officer Vann Sayasithsena, alerts to marijuana in a training wall at the Fairfax County Police Department Facility in Chantilly. Said Sayasithsena, “Being a handler is like watching your kid do sports. Having him do a track and have good results, or helping an officer find dope makes you proud.”



Fairfax County Police Bloodhound Shnoz just received a valor medal for tracking and finding a woman who had been missing in the woods of Mason Neck State Park for two days. Shnoz is called in to track when the scent trail might be hour or — in the case of the woman in Mason Neck State Park — days old.

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

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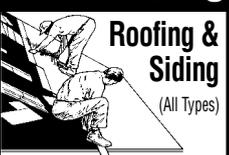
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