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. Moose was raised in a program called Puppies behind Bars — which trains inmates to raise puppies to become service dogs for the disabled and explosive detection canines for the law enforcement.
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Runner's Brave Heat To Battle Heart Defects

Run honors memory of Corbin Grabb, 2, who died of heart defects in 2006.

By Jenny Taylor
The Connection

A mid-sweating heat, nearly 400 runners gathered Burke Lake Park Saturday morning, July 23, for the fourth annual Corbin's Fun Run, a 5-mile race and 1-mile walk commemorating the life of 2-year-old Corbin Grabb. The toddler was born with a fatal condition known as Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome, a disease in which the left side of the heart is underdeveloped.

After a nine open-heart surgeries over the course of 23 months, Corbin lost his battle with congenital heart disease (CHD) in June 2006. His parents, Terri and Travis Grabb of Clifton created the Fun Run in 2007 as a way to honor their son and raise awareness about CHD, the number one birth defect in the nation.

“Our main goal is to increase awareness,” said Terri Grabb. “CHDs are very prevalent, but they’re a hidden death.” The mother of three healthy boys, she witnessed the effects of CHD even before Corbin was born. While pregnant for the fourth time, she lost a set of twins due to heart complications. Terri Grabb’s story, however, is not unfamiliar to several of this year’s race participants. Volunteer Jen Owlett lost her 3-year-old son Brandon to a heart defect in 2008 and has attended the run every year since.

“I come because it gives you the opportunity to help the families,” Owlett said. “When Brandon was sick, I had to focus all my energy on him. Now that we don’t have that emotional burden, I can finally help others.”

Coincidently, the Grabbs’ neighbors Beverly and Jim Seymour also witnessed the effects of CHD when their 18-year-old son Adam died last August. Adam, who was a standout soccer player at Robinson Secondary School, collapsed from sudden cardiac arrest during a preseason practice at Lynchburg College. He had moved into his freshman dorm just a few days earlier. The Grabbs dedicated last year’s Fun Run to Seymour, a fund-raiser that brought in nearly $14,000 for CHD support programs.

In five short years, the Grabbs have managed to raise around $100,000 to help offset the costs of families dealing with heart defects, a cause that hits close to home for Terri and Travis Grabb. When doctors first alerted the Grabbs to Corbin’s condition, they eyed nationally renown Mott’s Children’s Hospital in Ann Arbor, Mich., as a potential treatment center for their son. But the Grabbs lived in North Carolina at the time, which posed several logistical issues for the family of five.

“After he was born, Corbin stayed in the community,” Senior Deacon Arsenio Cabanas said. “Now that we’re open again, we’re going to become a deeper part of the Clifton community.”

Senior Warden Scott Springer explained that the Masons didn’t forget the origins of the lodge as they began interior renovation, especially on the second floor. “It’s very old and historic,” Springer said. “It’s been part of our goal to try and keep up the historic aspect of the building.”

As it stands today, the building retains many of its original structural materials, with windows, walls and floor paneling from the early 20th century. The members of the lodge also reinstalled the wiring, plumbing, heating and air conditioning systems throughout the building. The total cost of the renovation was $225,000, much of it raised through fundraising, as well as donations through the Acacia Foundation that was created in the summer of 2007 after the first flooding.

“Now that we’re open again, we’re going to become a deeper part of the Clifton community,” Senior Deacon Arsenio Cabanas said. “We’re transforming the first floor into a museum, and everyone will be welcome to come in and see it.”

The museum has been in planning since 2008, and will not only feature Masonic artifacts and exhibits but also include items from the history of the Town of Clifton as well.

“We just want to tell the community that we’re back and that we appreciate everyone’s help with the restoration process,” New said. “We just want to say thanks.”
Pet Connection

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 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 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, bed bug 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 work with singular focus to get their reward.

“You 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
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 kindergarten-sixth graders to its “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/kb-bible-camp.

The Fairfax Church of Christ, 3951 Ruby Road in Fairfax, has facilitators available to help those who are experiencing a separation or divorce. 703-631-2100 or www.fcc.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. 703-872-8166, TTY 703-324-7951.

www.lordolfeliza.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.uufc.org.

The Parkwood Baptist Church, 8726 Bradrock Drive in Annandale, Bible Study Fellowship will study the Old Testament Book of Isaiah. The Day Women’s Class meets at 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays, and offers a children’s program for ages 6 weeks-6 years. rdmaroan@cox.net.

Congregation Adat Reym, an independent Jewish congregation, offers services Friday at 8 a.m., Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Hebrew School is Sundays at 9:30 and Mondays at 5:30 p.m. Hebrew High is Sunday at 5:30 p.m. Preschool is Monday–Friday at 9:30 a.m. Adat Reym is located at 6609 Westbury Oaks Court in Springfield. For more information, contact us at 703-569-7577 or visit www.adatreym.org.

Burke Presbyterian Church, 5600 OakLeather Drive in Burke, worship services are Saturday Coffeehouse at 9:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. www.BurkePresCh.org.

One God Ministry Church, 4280/4282 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, now has a Web site with news, events, training, conferences, fellowship programs and more. Early Morning Service is at 8 a.m., Sunday School at 10 a.m., Sunday Worship Service at 11 a.m., and Wednesday Bible Study at 7 p.m. Women, Men, and Youth Bible Studies are on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. A Spiritual Gift Services is the first Friday of every month at 7 p.m. One God Ministry has ministries for youth, men, women, couples, music and singles. www.ongodministry.org.

Legislative Committee Meeting, 5 p.m. Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, 6434 Brandon Avenue, Suite 208, Springfield. www.springfieldchamber.org.

Friday/July 29
Electoral Board Meeting, 9 a.m. Fairfax County Government Center, Auditorium, 1200 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-4755, TTY 711.

SUNDAY JULY 21
Fun-A-Rama Reception for Steve Hunt, 2-4 p.m. Auld Scheben, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Fundraising event for Steve Hunt, candidate for State Senate, 37th District. $15 per person. For more information, go to www.stevenhunt.org or send e-mail to kanchickie@verizon.net.

To Advertise Your Community of Worship, Call 703-778-9418
Opinion

What's Your Advice?

Be part of Connection Insiders edition.

To the Editor:

In this week’s Connection article “Connelly Vows to Protect Medi- care” (July 21-27, 2011), U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) stated “The United States can afford Medicare, but we can't afford to fi- nance tax cuts on the backs of our senior citi- zens.” 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 pro- gram just as the baby boomers are being covered under that program. This is surely not a path to solv- ency but rather one to rationing. To make matters worse, ObamaCare establishes the In- dependent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), a 15-member group ap- pointed by the President to cut Medicare costs once a cap has been reached. This will almost de- finitely result in rationing of healthcare services for seniors. As to “financing options 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 actu- ally do great damage to Medicare by driving doctors and hospitals out of the program.” This in- formation is from an excellent book entitled “Why ObamaCare is Wrong for America,” which I highly recom- mend to seniors who want to learn more about how ObamaCare will impact their healthcare. It is avail- able 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

Perennial Signage?

To the Editor:

There seems to be a new sum- mertime flower popping up all over Fairfax: the Jeff Frederick for Delegate yard sign. I find this odd, because as I un- derstand it, Frederick is running for the State Senate this time. I also thought that in Fairfax, you had to remove your yard signs five days after the election passed. By that standard, Frederick is sev- eral years late in removing his dele- gate signs. They even have started popping up in my yard, and I didn’t even plant them. Isn’t that illegal or at least immoral.

Oh, well. I guess the Frederick yard signs are perennial, because he always seems to be running for something. He can save himself the wait and go collect them now, because he won’t be getting my vote.

Brock Benson
Lorton

Freedom of Information

To the Editor:

Information censorship endan- gers lives. We learned this from the incident of SARS, a contagious dis- ease, and the tainted food prod- ucts from China, both of which Beijing’s state controlled media did not disclose on. 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 respon- dents felt “sadened” 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 help- ing secure continued signal relay of an independent U.S.-based Chi- nese-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 plat- form to foster free flow of infor- mation into and out of China.

Brock Benson
Lorton

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for length, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-778-9416
By e-mail: north@connectionnewspapers.com

Opinion

What’s Your Advice?

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The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-778-9416
By e-mail: north@connectionnewspapers.com
Meeting theNext
Tarantino

Clifton Film Fest shines spotlight on young directors.

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

Betrayal, lust, revenge, suspense, a touch of comedy and a tinge of political irony—more than 200 film aficionados had a chance to see it all during the third annual Clifton Film Fest, held Saturday, July 23, at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center.

The event, which showcases original, independent films, is the brainchild of Clifton resident Dani Weinberg, 24, who launched the festival as a way to spotlight the creativity of young filmmakers.

The evening kicked off about 7:30 p.m. with live music, as filmgoers trickled in with lawn chairs, picnic baskets, blankets and Frisbees. The audience screened 17 “shorts,” 3 to 8 minute films, created by filmmakers in two categories: students ages 13-21, and adults 21-years-old and older.

“I heard that this was all independent films, and that’s really what I enjoy, so I’m looking forward to see what it has to offer,” said Aumdevi Nirvanin of Burke, who was attending the festival for the first time.

“We are really excited with the space here. The location was perfect, and we had an awesome turnout for our first night here,” said Weinberg.

See 2011, Page 11
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

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

Henry and Sassy are a pair of Westies. Henry is 4, Sassy is 1. Sassy was named after the Saudia Airlines jet that crashed in Egypt. — Clifton Town Councilwoman, Deborah Dillard

Pet Connection

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

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)

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

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

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.

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

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Politics

Campaign Signs Raise a Ruckus

GOP candidate calls foul on incumbent’s campaign signs.

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

With less than one month before the Aug. 23 primary, campaign signs are popping up everywhere and so are complaints about political shenanigans.

Jason Flanary, the candidate running against Steve Hunt in the 37th State Senate District Republican primary, showed he had his eye on the general-election prize.

On Friday, July 22, Flanary issued a news release complaining that incumbent Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) was violating Fairfax County zoning laws by posting campaign signs too early without a permit.

Marsden’s campaign manager, said “it seems a little petty at this point in the race. We went and picked up the signs.”

In an interview after Marsden issued the news release, he said he was more concerned about the issues than the signs.

“Young signs are part of campaigns, but I’m more focused on the issues affecting families and business in Northern Virginia. I am running for re-election to build a better future for Fairfax County by investing in education, improving our transportation infrastructure and protecting our quality of life,” Marsden said.

Flanary, who said he was out in the 110-degree heat Saturday, trying to reach his goal of knocking on 7,500 doors by the primary on Aug. 23. “I think our elected officials should lead by example and should be compliant with state and local laws.”

— State Senate Candidate Jason Flanary (R)

“I think our elected officials should lead by example and should be compliant with state and local laws.”

THURSDAY/JULY 28

English Conversation Group. 7 a.m. Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Sam Bartlett, musician, artist and author of Stuntology, presents pranks, tricks and stunts to amuse yourself and amaze your friends. 703-339-4610.

FRIDAY/JULY 29

Stuntology. 2:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landstowne Centre, Alexandria. Sam Bartlett, musician, artist and author of Stuntology, presents pranks, tricks and stunts to amuse yourself and amaze your friends. 703-339-4610.

SATURDAY/JULY 30

Cocker Spaniel Adoption Show. 11 a.m. 2 p.m. Alexandria Hylas Valley Petmart, 7690 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Meet cockers of all ages available for adoption. All dogs are spayed or neutered. Volunteers will help potential adopters find a good match and answer questions. Sponsored by Oldies But Goodies Cocker Spaniel Rescue. 703-531-2373 or www.cockerspanielrescue.com.

Running for Corbin

Photo by Terri Grabb

Corbin Marc Grabb, 2, died in 2006 from complications caused by Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome.

Running for Corbin

From Page 3

hospital in Michigan for five months,” said Terri Grabb, who decided to homeschool her other children during Corbin’s hospital stay.

“It was expensive, insurance only goes so far,” she said. “We couldn’t always get a room at Ronald McDonald House, so you have to pay for shelter, transportation, and food on your own.”

Not only does Corbin’s Fun Run help the Grabb family, it has allowed them to find meaning in their son’s short life.

“I’m no longer overwhelmingly sad,” Terri Grabb said, smiling. “It’s really helped me grieve in a positive manner.”

Former Chantilly cross country runner Eileen Foley claimed the top women’s time in an impressive 33:47, while Annandale High School grad Greg Usem took the men’s title in 31:49.

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Koffee
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Kids Night Out! (4 hours of fun & play give Mom and Dad a “date night”)
KidsZone

Corbin Marc Grabb, 2, died in 2006 from complications caused by Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome.

Calendar

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday.

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Charity’s Law Benefit & Fundraiser For Hope & Faith. 4 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. With Krass Judgement, Hatred, Twisted Tower Dive and more. All ages. $10 advance, $12 at the door. 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

Stuntology. 10:30 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Sam Bartlett, musician, artist and author of Stuntology, presents pranks, tricks and stunts to amuse yourself and amaze your friends. 703-451-8055.

SUNDAY/JULY 31

Civil War Rangers, Raiders, and Spies at Green Spring Gardens. 1-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Stories of Civil War spy craft and the men and women who served as agents for the Blue and the Gray. Learn about two important Civil War spies with close connections to Green Spring whose undercover exploits changed the course of the war. 703-642-5173.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 3

Michael Cleveland and Flamekeeper. 7 p.m. Lee District Park Amphitheater, 6601 Telegraph Road, Franconia. Bluegrass. 703-324-SHOW.

See Calendar. Page 10

CORBIN’S FUN RUN

July 28- August 3, 2011

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charity’s Law Benefit & Fundraiser For Hope & Faith

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Charity’s Law Benefit & Fundraiser For Hope & Faith
From left, 11-12 Boys Relay Team Connor Jacoby, Joseph Stedham, Roman Lowery, Kaleb Royce, Tyler Hazard and John Orsa won the 100m Freestyle Relay and finished fifth in the 100m Medley Relay.

Fairfax Station Swimmers Win 100m Freestyle Relay

Fairfax Station Flyers sent top teams to the NVSL All-Star Relay Carnival at Hayfield Farms and came home with many high honors. The 11-12 Boys won the 100m Freestyle Relay, led by Connor Jacoby, followed by Joseph Stedham, Tyler Hazard and anchor Roman Lowery. The boys finished in 56.76 seconds. He 11-12 Boys Medley Relay team finished in fifth place with a time of 3.05.

Eighteen teams compete in the all-star competition, after earning their place out of more than 100 teams who compete in summer swim programs through the Northern Virginia Swimming League (NVSL).
ENTERTAINMENT

2011 Clifton Film Festival

From Page 7

She said the films keep getting better, and this year’s crop was no exception. “What was interesting this year was to have so many dark films, but my cousin said maybe that’s a sign of the times.”

Most of the films dealt with weighty subjects, including suicide, bullying and betrayal. Some films had distinct narrative arcs, and others were more a collage of provocative images set to music. The young filmmakers gave nods to famous directors, such as Alfred Hitchcock, Francis Ford Coppola, Quentin Tarantino and Andy Warhol. One student entry, “Bus Stop Revenge” by South County Secondary School student Keegan Campbell and foreign-exchange student Tanya Krinitsina, was originally created in one weekend as a school film project. The film had to include the unforgettable line from “The Godfather” “I’m gonna make him an offer he can’t refuse.”

“We wrote it, shot it and edited it in two days,” Campbell said. “I’m really honored that we were one of the films selected to be shown here tonight. I want to see how the audience reacts to the ending, which shocked all my friends.”

ONE FILM satirized the efforts to keep Clifton Elementary School open. Matthew Ross, 13, directed and acted in the film that featured Clifton history, politics and time travel. One scene takes place in 2015, and shows Clifton Elementary School dilapidated and overgrown with weeds. A time-traveling character asks what student happened. “It’s a ghost town. After Clifton Elementary Closed, the rest of the town just died,” That line drew laughter and loud applause even before the “cue applause” command scrolled across the screen.

“The Best Picture” winner of the evening was a 2-minute comedy called “Bing,” written by Alex Zeldin in the 21-plus category. Bing is Internet slang for “Bing is not Google.” But like Bing, Google is a popular search engine, so to “bing” someone one means to search for them on the Internet.

The film featured an exchange between two friends with laptops who try to “out-Bing” each other in searching for the other person’s friend, girlfriends, relatives and pets. Zeldin received $800 worth of Adobe Premiere software for his winning entry.

“It was hilarious,” said Weinberg, “Very clever and witty. The audience obviously loves “Bing.” All of the shots can be seen on the film fest website at www.cliftonfilmfest.com, which has a direct link to YouTube.

“Dani always does an amazing job pulling this together,” said Jen Thompson, a judge who went to college with Weinberg. “It’s always fun to see the variety of films, but it gets harder to judge them,” Thompson added.

Because some of the submissions are getting edgier, she said she might hand out the “under 21” awards during an intermission, so younger families can leave before showing the films made by the “over 21” group. She also wanted live stream the event, with interviews from filmmakers and film enthusiasts.

In June alone, 10 homes sold between $1,210,250-150,000 in the Clifton, Fairfax Station and Lorton area. This week’s list represents those homes sold in the $443,000-$540,000 range. For the complete and complete real estate listings and open houses, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com and click the Real Estate links on the right side of the page. To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Steve Hogan at 703-778-9418.

When you visit some 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 of the page.

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

Fairfax Station

11105 Overseas Sluice Ln. $299,999. Sat 12-3. - Frank Madumard - Century 21, 703-251-2962
10105 Clifton Ln $350,000. Fri 1-4. - Dallison Veach - RE/MAX - 703-477-7720
1011 South West Dr. $975,900. Sat 1-4. - Kathleen Spantono - Weichert - 703-882-8189
11523 Wild Ave Court $624,000. Sun 1-4. - Carol Hermandorfer - Long & Foster - 703-569-1812

Lorton

10413 Midway Ln. $685,000. Sun 1-4 - Jane Warren - RE/MAX - 703-369-6677
10170 Red Woods Ct. $382,972. Sat 1-4 - Mia Elson - Long & Foster - 703-727-2260
9898 Arc Hill Rd. $594,000. Sat 1-4 - Sine Zure - RE/MAX - 703-420-3244
10106 Midwood Ct. $495,000. Sat 1-4 - Dan Work - Jobin - 703-380-9915
1094 Cardinal Forest Lp $215,000. Sat 1-4 - Pat Dimmey - Long & Foster - 703-919-9623
6115 Deale Cross Ct. $596,000. Sun 1-4 - Audrey Fark - Weichert - 703-330-6675

Clifton

13995 South Springs Dr. $609,900. Sat 1-4 - Karen Gates - RE/MAX - 703-430-8992
17105 Regal Court $599,900. Sat 1-4 - Hal Wilson - UnionPlace - 703-276-6470
1060 Cullen Camp Rd. $378,900. Sun 1-4 - Dan Mleziva - Jobin - 703-380-9915
9198 Clifton Rd. $658,900. Sun 1-4 - Carol Hermandorfer - Long & Foster - 703-569-1812

Burke

9662 Plaza Pl. $269,900. Sun 1-4 - Bob Oudley - Sammco Properties - 703-921-5758
1004 Heartwood Ln $274,000. Sun 1-4 - Lisa Furstenberg - 703-746-7934
1001 Cullen Woods Rd $747,000. Sun 1-4 - Diana LeFevre - Century 21 - 703-503-6665

Springfield

4069 Roling Rd. $425,000. Sat 1-4 - Jonlon Bareley - Long & Foster - 703-279-2792
1020 Davenport Ln. $348,000. Sat 1-4 - Christine Stephenson - Weichert - 703-901-2944
9624 El Dr. $659,000. Sun 1-4 - Christine Stephenson - Weichert - 703-901-2944
1158 Ridge Creek Wv $429,000. Sun 1-4 - Rusty Owen - Long & Foster - 703-288-2494
2026 Tualon Dr $599,900. Sun 1-4 - Carol Hermandorfer - Long & Foster - 703-569-1812

Fairfax

11636 Robertson Farm Dr. $798,900. Sun 1-4 - Sara Mow - Long & Foster - 703-387-4617
1271 Gerrymert Pl. $756,000. Sun 1-4 - Debra Kent - Cottage Street - 703-746-7934
3018 Scherman House $1,299,999. Sat 1-4 - Kathy Sheehan - Long & Foster - 703-795-2496
9015 Lynnum Dr. $599,000. Sat 1-4 - Anne Hargreaves - Long & Foster - 703-589-8459
4988 Silverdale Dr. $625,000. Sat 1-4 - Dan Goldberg - Long & Foster - 703-731-4230
1320 North Lake Ct. $284,000. Sun 1-4 - Jim Saus Cooper - Long & Foster - 703-919-9189
2249 Majestic Ln $479,999. Sun 1-4 - Greg Comras - Century 21 - 703-260-4441

Centreville

14186 Compton Valley Way $214,900. Sat 1-4 - Thomas Hammond - ReMaxSouthwest - 703-632-9404
1374 Ashbridge Ct $318,900. Sat 1-4 - Jon Rudd - Long & Foster - 703-650-6440
4221 Lighthouse Dr $160,900. Sun 1-2 - Candice Windham - Weichert - 703-819-8799
2636 Creek Run Terr $479,000. Sun 1-4 - Suzanne Buch - Long & Foster - 703-329-8365

Kingstowne/Alexandria

6027 SR Spring Pl $745,900. Sun 1-4 - Tam & Cindy & Assoc - Long & Foster - 703-902-5007
6142 Culpeper Ct $659,000. Sun 1-4 - Tam & Cindy & Assoc - Long & Foster - 703-902-5007

Woodbridge

1233 Stevenson Dr #1203 $104,900. Sun 1-4 - Carla Lacarras - RE/MAX - 703-786-2899

To your realtor represented open house...
Pet Connection

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 thing — 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, plans 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 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.
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