

Summer Stage

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 6



These students are getting a taste of Broadway during one of Robinson's theater workshops.

Sheriff, Supervisor Primaries Ahead

NEWS, PAGE 2

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Kammerer, Cooper Face Off in Sheriff's Primary

Primary will decide GOP candidate for county Sheriff.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Wes Kammerer and Bill Cooper will face off for the Republican nomination for Fairfax County Sheriff in the Aug. 23 primary. Both men are running for the chance to run against three-term incumbent Sheriff Stan Barry (D).

The Fairfax County Sheriff's Office is responsible for managing the Adult Detention Center, providing courthouse security and serving civil law process. Founded in 1742, it is one of the oldest law enforcement agencies in the country, and with more than 600 employees, it is the largest sheriff's office in Virginia.

Kammerer was born in New York City, and joined the Army at age 17. He served in the Army for several years before joining the New York City Police Department in 1962.

During his 26 years with the NYPD, he served in numerous positions, including on the firearms discharge review, as an investigator in the Office of Internal Affairs and



Wes Kammerer

a detective with the Office of the Chief of NYPD.

He left the NYPD in 1989 and joined the Secret Service in 1990, where he worked for 12 years in a security capacity, including security support for Presidents George H.W. Bush (R) and Bill Clinton (D). He retired from the Secret Service in 2002.



Bill Cooper

Kammerer said he hopes to use his connections with federal agencies to create partnerships.

"I want to unify federal, state and municipal organizations in case of a catastrophe," he said. "I've observed that these agencies can tend to get argumentative about who should be doing what."

He also says one of his goals is to increase crime awareness among the county's senior population.

"I aim to keep senior citizens informed so they don't become victims," he said. "I'd go out myself and speak to our seniors, to make sure they're informed and make sure they have the proper literature to keep themselves educated."

Kammerer said another one of his goals is to educate the community on the function of the Sheriff's Office.

"I'd like to set up programs in our schools to teach kids about the Sheriff's Office and who to go to for help," he said. "Visibility is a key factor, and I don't see it, which is why I'm running. I want to unify with the Fairfax County Police Department to help with this."

He said he also aims to streamline the Sheriff's Office to make sure funds and manpower are allocated in the most efficient way.

"I'll look and see where we can save money, where we can eliminate wasteful programs and duplication," Kammerer said. "And my top priority will be to make sure we're always turning out professionally trained sheriff's deputies."

More information on Kammerer can be

SEE SHERIFF, PAGE 5

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Primary Race for Braddock Supervisor Quiets Down

Chris Wade, Janet Oleszek are knocking on doors in final days before Aug. 23 primary.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

With less than two weeks before Braddock District voters decide which Democrat will challenge incumbent Supervisor John Cook (R) in the general election, the two candidates left standing are doing what every candidate does in August. They are planting signs, speaking at events and knocking on doors.

Chris Wade, a political newcomer and local businessman, was initially running against Marc Greidinger when Wade kicked off his campaign in April. Greidinger, a civil rights attorney who called himself "the real Democrat," dropped out of the race in June. For at least a day, Wade was unchallenged.

Then, in a move that surprised many local Democrats, Janet Oleszek, a former Fairfax County School Board member, filed to run. She was backed by Sen. Chap Petersen's (D-34).

For several weeks, the political maneu-

vering generated a flash of blog hysteria and theories. But that was June, a lifetime ago in election years.

"Right now, I'm knocking on doors, and the campaign is going very well," Wade said. "I spent 14 hours this weekend door-knocking." Wade added that he's gained his footing as a candidate. "I've always enjoyed talking to people about their issues and helping them problem-solve. That's why I'm in this race."

Oleszek said she takes door-knocking seriously.

"My husband and I are door-knockers. I love door-knocking, because it's the only way you really get to meet the people and listen to their issues," Oleszek said. "You need to serve by hearing exactly what voters have to say, whether they like you, don't like you or know they want to vote for you. If you don't hear that, you're not being responsible public advocate," Oleszek said.

Both candidates said they are focused on meeting the electorate and getting their message out, instead of taking shots at each

other.

Oleszek and her husband, Walter, have lived in the Bonnie Brae community for nearly 40 years, where they raised two sons. Wade and his wife have lived in Fairfax for nearly 10 years.

Wade said he thinks his business experience and fresh perspectives on the issues will give him the edge with voters on Aug. 23. "I am a problem-solver and that's what matters to people, that they can depend on you to help them," Wade said.

OLESZEK SAID THAT name recognition and her political experience will make her the choice to beat Cook in the general election. "I am very pleased to hear that my



Chris Wade



Janet Oleszek

name is familiar to people when I knock on their doors. I've been on their ballots, they know who I am, and many remember I nearly defeated Cuccinelli in 2007," she said. In that race, Oleszek challenged incumbent Republican State Sen. Ken Cuccinelli for the 37 District seat. After a recount, she lost by 101 votes out of 37,185 votes.

Braddock District Democratic Primary — Meet the Candidates

The Connection asked both candidates in the Democratic primary for Braddock District supervisor to answer the following question: "Why should voters elect you as their Braddock district supervisor?"

❖ **Chris Wade:** "Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, called my campaign 'A New Day in Braddock.' My candidacy brings new energy, new ideas and a new perspective to the Braddock District. I possess the diverse skills, hands-on experience and community involvement required to be an effective and engaged supervisor. These are some of the reasons that I have been endorsed by Sharon as well as Supervisors Penny Gross (D-Mason) and Jeff McKay (D-Lee), Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) and Del. Vivian Watts (D-39).

"Over the past 15 years, I have been a vice president of sales, a business owner, a program manager and a performance improvement consultant. My professional experience encompasses leadership, strategic planning, creating jobs, budgeting, operations and customer service. I have a track record of collaborating and solving complex problems for organizations. These same skills translate very well to solving problems for our citizens.

"Companies like Northrop Grumman and Volkswagen are attracted to Fairfax County because of its strong education system and educated workforce. Through both my work

on the Business and Community Advisory Council (BCAC) to Fairfax County Public Schools, and as an adjunct professor at George Mason University, I am involved in the education system from pre-K all the way through the post-secondary level. I will ensure that we continue to provide a world class education to our children so they can compete in the global economy.

"During these economically challenging times, we need a supervisor who has experience doing more with less. My current job entails working with organizations such as the Red Cross and Sallie Mae to find operational efficiencies and cost savings.

"I will also ensure that we invest in the future growth of our community. I have created jobs in Fairfax County. I have served on the Board of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce and have established relationships with the business community. I will work with business, labor and civic organizations to address issues such as affordable workforce housing, smart development and transportation.

"My background and expertise will enable me to complement the work of the current board and implement solutions, which will help protect the quality of life in Fairfax County.

❖ **Janet Oleszek:** "The next four years will be critical for Fairfax County. Thanks to a rough economy, we will have to manage our reduced resources skillfully if we want to keep our community the wonder-

ful place to live and raise our families that it is now. We are also facing some heavy political headwinds. Our excellent school system, our outstanding public services and even our life style, are all under attack by ideology-based politicians whose narrow, negative view of America's future is in bitter contrast to the positive vision I have, a vision I believe is shared by most of my fellow-residents of Fairfax County. Only if you can visualize something better can you ever hope to make things better, and that is exactly why I became involved in civic affairs, beginning as a volunteer in my home community and local PTA.

"My husband, Walter, and I have lived in the Bonnie Brae community here in Fairfax since 1973, raising two sons, Mark and Eric, both of whom attended Fairfax County Schools and went on to graduate from Virginia's public universities. I ran for School Board member-at-large in 2003 because I cared deeply about making Fairfax schools the best in the nation, and was elected by the largest margin a Democrat had ever won, because voters understood my commitment.

"During my four years on the School Board, I led and won the fight for all-day kindergarten for all of our schools and balanced a \$2.2 billion budget each year for four years, proving that I can make the necessary tough choices to solve the schools' problems while still wringing full value from taxpayers' every dollar. I was legislative chairman for the Fairfax County Council of

PTAs and later served as the statewide chair at a crucial time in the many legislative battles over school priorities and funding. Thanks to this experience, I learned how to get things done in difficult times here and in Richmond.

"As your Supervisor, I promise to:

❖ make sure that our schools remain the best in the nation;

❖ spend our tax dollars wisely, investing in the right priorities for Fairfax;

❖ preserve Fairfax open space, investing in parks and libraries throughout the county; and

❖ work on a regional basis to improve our transportation system, partnering with Richmond to bring more resources home for road maintenance, construction, and public transit options.

"There is no getting around it; Fairfax will need experienced, tough-minded leadership to deal with the hard-nosed realities of the next four years.

"Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) has endorsed me for supervisor, saying: 'Janet has been a committed leader for Democratic principles, as a neighbor, volunteer and elected official for many years. She knows our community and will work hard to represent it.' I am also proud to be endorsed by Del. Kaye Kory (D-38); Del. Scott Surovell (D-44), who was former chairman of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee; School Board Members Tina Hone, Ilryong Moon, Dan Storck, Sandy Evans and former U.S. Rep. Leslie Byrne.

At-large School Board Race: One To Watch

Activists, candidates, issues converge to create closely watched race.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Debates over discipline, boundaries, budgets, standardized tests and sleep have generated Fairfax County's most closely watched and contested School Board race in the board's 19-year history.

"Is this an outrageously large slate of candidates? Yes," said Susan Jennings, Fairfax County's coordinator for candidate services since 1994. "I haven't seen this much interest since 1995, when we had our first School Board elections. That was very chaotic."

Of the 12 School Board seats, six are up for grabs, including three at-large seats. The only at-large incumbent running for reelection is Ilryong Moon, who served three terms on the board, including a stint as the board's chair in 2006. Incumbents who will not seek reelection include Stu Gibson (Hunter Mill), Tessie Wilson (Braddock), Brad Center (Lee), Tina Hone (At-large), Jim Raney (At-large) and Liz Bradsher (Springfield).

"When you have that many vacancies, you get more people interested in throwing their hat in the ring," Jennings said.

Currently, 11 candidates are running for the at-large seats, and the top three vote getters on Nov. 8 will serve a four-year term, with an annual salary of \$20,000.

As of Monday, Aug. 8, 11 candidates are running for the at-large seats, and the top three vote-getters on Nov. 8 will serve a 4-year term, with an annual salary of \$20,000. They are Maria C. Allen, Jeannie H. Armstrong, Sheree Brown-Kaplan, Catherine Clark, Christina M. Guthrie, Lin-Dai Y. Kendall, Lolitta Mancheno-Smoak, Ryan L. McElveen, Irylong Moon, Steven Stuban and Ted Velkoff.

Trying to pin down exactly who is running — or not running — is not that easy, Jennings said. Potential candidates have until Aug. 23 to declare his or her candidacy.

"It's tricky this time of year. Anything can happen in the next few weeks, and it probably will," Jennings said. "The first thing I want to do is help keep them out of trouble (in the filing process)," Jennings said.

But the filing process has not been a major issue this election cycle. In addition to the heated rhetoric over the issues, drama over the candidates themselves has sharpened the focus on this race.

In the past month, several candidates have withdrawn, including Bradsher, who ignited a firestorm of debate over her support for the closing Clifton Elementary School. In June, she said she was considering a bid for an at-large seat, instead of running for her seat in the Springfield District. According to Jennings, as of Monday, Aug. 8, she has not filed the necessary paperwork for the at-large seat.

Although the School Board is officially a nonpartisan office, candidates actively seek endorsement by the county's Republican or Democratic committees. No one has been elected without backing from one

of the major political parties, but many say that could change this year.

On July 1, at-large candidate Charisse Espy Glassman, who was endorsed by the Fairfax County Democratic Committee on May 24, withdrew from race, citing personal reasons. It later came to light that Glassman, the niece of former U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, was charged with assault and possession of a prohibited weapon after the Jan. 24 incident in the District of Columbia, according to D.C. Superior Court records.

Currently Moon, Velkoff and McElveen have the Democratic Party's endorsement.

When Glassman withdrew, Armstrong, a newcomer for an at-large seat, announced that she would seek the Democratic endorsement. After McElveen was chosen, Armstrong sent out a news release on Aug. 1 saying that she had filed an appeal to the endorsement vote, citing "multiple problems and irregularities with the endorsement election process."

According to the release, her appeal was filed with the three Democratic Congressional District chairs for the congressional districts in Fairfax County and the Virginia Democratic Party. The Congressional District chairs or their appointees will hear the appeal pursuant to the Virginia Democratic Party Plan, the rules of the Democratic Party in Virginia.

On July 20, the Fairfax County Republican Committee handed down three at-large endorsements. The endorsed candidates are Mancheno-Smoak, Kendall

and Brown-Kaplan.

"It is critical that those serious contenders for the School Board have the drive to assure that the impressive gains that Fairfax has achieved not be devalued or diminished," said Janet Olescek, who served one term on the School Board from 2004-08 as an at-large member. "Strong schools are necessary to continue to attract jobs, and maintain our excellent property values."

Fairfax County Public Schools, the 11th largest school district in the nation with an estimated 177,629 students, operates on a \$2.2 billion budget, which is larger than the education budget of nearly 15 states. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors sets the tax rate for the school system; the School Board allocated funding. The total county transfer to support school operating and debt service is \$1.77 billion or 52.5 percent of total county disbursements.

Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), a member of the Board of Supervisors, said that he's hearing a lot of anger from his constituents about the school system and the School Board.

"On the School Board race, I think there is enough anger on these issues that the bottom of the ticket races will drive some of the voter turnout," Herrity said.

Many parents and school advocates blamed FCPS' rigid discipline policies when two students committed suicide. Josh Anderson, of South Lakes High School, took his life in March 2009; and Nick Stuban, called a "model student" at W.T. Woodson High School, committed suicide on Jan. 20.

Since his son's death, Steve Stuban and his wife Sandy, who is battling Lou Gehrig's disease, have become advocates for reforming the school system's disciplinary process. With the support of many parents and friends, Stuban said he was also motivated to seek an at-large seat on the School Board.

Meet the Candidates

The Connection asked every at-large School Board candidate the following question:

What are the two most important decisions you anticipate voting on as school board members, and why are they important/relevant?

Sheree Brown-Kaplan: Brown-Kaplan, a Virginia native, is a graduate of Fairfax County Public Schools, with a degree in history from George Mason University. After leaving a position in the Office of Management and Budget, she worked in government affairs for a Fortune 500 company and, later, advocated for the interests of a trade association representing small, family-owned businesses. She has two children in FCPS. For more information, go to www.browncaplan4schoolboard.com

"The two most important decisions I anticipate the new School Board must decide center on the best uses of our public resources. The most important decision the School Board must make is to ensure that it keeps down class sizes and maintains a strong curriculum. We need to focus resources on class sizes that are most appropriate for both student learning and teacher effectiveness. I support keeping teacher-student ratios low and will make reasonable class sizes a top priority. I also support offering a range of curriculum choices for our students, especially those who are not academically ready for college level courses yet insufficiently challenged by general education classes. Every student should have options that will further their opportunities not a one size fits all approach that discounts individual need."

Secondly, the School Board must address ways to maintain highly skilled teachers for our world class school system. An excellent teacher is the single most defining feature of student success. Our teachers make less than their counterparts in other jurisdictions. That does not bode well for teacher retention and morale. I support compensating our teachers in a way that values their contributions and benefits our students."

Ilryong Moon: An attorney with two sons who graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Moon immigrated to the United States from Korea as a teenager. He attended T.C. Williams High School and has a bachelor's degree in East Asian Studies from Harvard University. He received a J.D. from the College of William and Mary. The only incumbent running for an at-large seat, Moon has served three terms on the School Board. A resident of Kings Park West, he served as the School Board's vice chairman in 2005 and chairman in 2006. For more information, go to www.moon4schools.com.

"Superintendent's Contract: The superintendent is the most important employee of the school system. The current contract expires on June 30, 2013 and the contract renewal decision is generally made about a year before it expires. We need to make sure that the school system has a superintendent whose leadership inspires others working in the school system and helps all of our students reach their full potential."

"Budget Decisions: With the economy still lagging, the next School Board will be faced with more difficult budgetary decisions. I recently proposed a motion to increase the ability of the School Board to conduct administrative efficiency reviews and audits because I believe we need to ensure no dollar that could otherwise go into the classroom or to teachers is wasted through bureaucracy. The current school Board has been very successful putting in place budget cuts and adjustments that did not impede our school system's continuing academic improvement. So while our per-pupil cost has fallen, test scores and other indicators of academic achievement have been on the rise."

Ted Velkoff: A Rocky Run resident, Velkoff has lived in Fairfax County for 19 years. A software architect, Velkoff has a master's degree in conducting music and computer science from Indiana University, and a bachelor's degree in music from the University of Cincinnati. He served as an officer in several PTAs, including Poplar Tree Elementary School, Rocky Run Middle School and Chantilly High School, where he served as president for two years. He also served as campaign treasurer for Sully District School Board Member Kathy Smith, former Del. Chuck Caputo (D-67). For more information, go to www.tv4sb.org.

"The most important decision the School Board will make is the hir



Brown-Kaplan



Moon

SEE 11 VIE, PAGE 14

NEWS

Sheriff

FROM PAGE 2

found at www.weskammererforsheriff.org, or on Facebook under "Wes Kammerer for Sheriff of Fairfax County."

Cooper is a native of Pittsburgh, Pa., and he moved to Fairfax County in 1976.

He served in the Army for three years, before joining the Arlington County Sheriff's Office and then the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office in 1988. During his tenure at the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, he worked in every division, including court security, the Adult Detention Center and the Criminal Justice Academy. He was also a certified law enforcement instructor.

He served on the office's Fugitive Task Force, along with FBI agents and U.S Marshals. He retired as a lieutenant in March.

"As a law enforcement officer, I feel my primary responsibility is to keep Fairfax families safe," Cooper said. "I've always felt a strong commitment to protecting my country, and after I got out of the military, I still felt that commitment to protect citizens."

He also said, if elected, he plans to enforce the more than 4,000 outstanding fugitive warrants in Fairfax County.

"I'd put together a task force with agencies I've worked with before to put these people behind bars, where they belong," he said. "If the Sheriff's Office and the Fairfax County Police Department combine resources, we should be able to make it a budget neutral initiative."

Cooper said he hopes to combat the growing gang problem in the county, as well as start a program to get deadbeat parents to pay up.

"I'm running on a 'tough on crime' agenda, and I plan to run a tough, strict jail," he said. "I don't believe convicted felons should be sitting around watching TV and eating bonbons."

Cooper said he is also committed to expanding the reach of the Sheriff's Office to keep families safe, saying that with approximately 500 sworn sheriff's deputies, there is a lot they can do.

"Because of budget constraints and manpower issues, local and state law enforcement has to work closer together and share resources," he said. "By doing so, we can keep costs down while rendering better services to this community."

For more on Cooper go to www.cooperforsheriff.net, or on Facebook under "Cooper for Sheriff."

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Students learn the dance steps to the iconic jazz song, 'One,' from theater teacher Amy Hard, far left.

A Taste of Broadway

Students learn to sing, dance and audition during Robinson's theater camps.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Robinson Secondary School has long been known as a theatrical powerhouse, and its musicals always attract huge audiences. So this summer, in response to parent and student demand, it offered a workshop in musical theater.

"People always ask where their child can get music, dance and theater experience, so we decided a good way to wet the feet of an inexperienced musical-theater performer was through a five-day workshop," said Director Amy Hard. "Though there was a presentation for parents at the end, this camp wasn't as focused on the product, but the process."

Also offered July 25-29 was an Audition Boot Camp, preparing students to try out for various roles in plays. Like the musical-theater workshop, it was open to middle- and high-school students and directed by Hard, as well.

"In Intro to Musical Theater, we tried to give them a little taste of a lot of things," she said. "They watched pieces from Broadway, learned new songs, learned how to harmonize, a bit of reading music and a lot of choreography — dance and basic, musical-theater staging. They've hopefully widened their knowledge about current and past shows, did some research on the pieces they presented, made friends

and participated in a variety of improv and theater games."

Although the 27 students in the class came from different schools, their common interest and enthusiasm bonded them. "It's been such a treat to just have fun and introduce them to musical theater [in a more relaxed way], as opposed to while I'm directing/producing a show," said Hard.

Meanwhile, the Audition Boot Camp was designed for no more than 10 students to help them prepare to audition for their school shows this year. "We do an overview of casting and auditioning," said Hard. "But since this camp was only six hours total, we focused on selecting an audition monologue and song."

She and Madison Auch, co-director of both camps, identify what the students need to work on and provide them with the skills and resources to improve. In audition camp, students got to ask questions, work through their nerves and practice performing in front of others.

Since it's summer and they had more time, both directors, in effect, gave the students personalized, private coaching. "Madison is an outstanding musician and theater performer now majoring in musical theater at the University

of the Arts," Hard said.

As for Hard, besides teaching theater at Robinson, she is a private acting coach for college auditions and professional actors. "It's truly my passion to be able to ask questions, direct and assist these performers, one on one, as they gear up for auditions," she said.

"I love meeting new students, seeing returning

"People always ask where their child can get music, dance and theater experience."

— Director Amy Hard

SEE THEATER, PAGE 15

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/AUG. 11

Science Rocks with Flumpa and Friends. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Music, science and movement with Wendy and Flumpa, the tree frog. All ages. 703-249-1520.

Paul Merklein Draws Great Big Faces. 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Fast, fun caricature drawing workshop. Age 12-18. 703-978-5600.

Lunchtime at the Movies. 11:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Bring lunch and watch movies based on children's books. Call for titles. Age 1-6 with adult. 703-644-7333.

"Guys and Dolls." 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. The musical comedy set in Depression-era New York. Tickets \$20-\$80. www.wolftrap.org.

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.

The United States Navy Band "Commodores." 7:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Lake Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Jazz concert. Free.

7: The Capital Focus Jazz Band. 7:30 p.m. Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. Jazz concert. Free.

The Magic of Hans Christian Andersen. 2:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Applause Unlimited presents "The Ugly Duckling," "Thumbelisa," and "The Emperor's New Clothes" told with puppets and masks. All ages. 703-293-6227.

"Guys and Dolls." 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. The musical comedy set in Depression-era New York. Tickets \$20-\$80. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/AUG. 13

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

The Great Zucchini. 10 a.m. Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Show of magic and comedy. Free.

Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association, Inc. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice. 703-293-6227.

Meet the Harleys! 1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Get a close-up look at real Harleys, have your photo taken and meet the people who ride them. Harleys will be on parking deck G2. 703-293-6227.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association answers gardening

questions. Adults. 703-978-5600. **The Magic of Hans Christian Andersen.** 10:30 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Applause Unlimited presents "The Ugly Duckling," "Thumbelisa," and "The Emperor's New Clothes" told with puppets and masks. All ages. Register at 703-978-5600.

NOVA Coalition of Labor Union Women is hosting the first in a series of free workshops on issues important to working women. You and Your Money: Financial Literacy for Women. 10-11:30 a.m., at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Light refreshments will be served.

"Guys and Dolls." 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. The musical comedy set in Depression-era New York. Tickets \$20-\$80. www.wolftrap.org.

Football 101 for Women. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Paul VI Catholic High School, 10675 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax. Learn chalk talk, drills, and positions. \$20 including lunch and tee shirts. www.paulvi.net/football101.

SUNDAY/AUG. 14

Fairfax on the Eve of the Civil War. 2 p.m. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. With living history presenter Jon Vrana and his portrayal of Col. Silas Burke. The namesake of present-day Burke was a large Fairfax landowner and promoter of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad in the 1850s. Free. 703-385-8414.

The Dear Hunter, Deas Vail and O'Brother. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 1-4 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and advice. 703-644-7333.

World Champion Wushu Kungfu Show. 3 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With more than 20 of the world's top professional Wushu / Kungfu athletes and masters. Ticket holders may attend the pre-show news conference and meet actor and former Wushu Kungfu National Champion Jet Li, 2-2:45 p.m. 703-978-7905.

"Guys and Dolls." 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. The musical comedy set in Depression-era New York. Tickets \$20-\$80. www.wolftrap.org.

MONDAY/AUG. 15

An Evening With The Young Dubliners. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Chess Club. 3:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Learn the rules and strategy by playing the game. Age 6-14. 703-644-7333.

TUESDAY/AUG. 16

Be Your Own Boss. 2:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Mike Rose shows you how to make money by starting a small business. Age 12-18. 703-293-6227.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

HISTORY

A Ticket to Vincent's Diner

Local man recalls 'lost' Fairfax business.

By RICHARD W. FULTON

Fairfax City is in the process of changing the city's vista by redeveloping many streets and structures placing it into a modern 21st century. These changes for some citizens are difficult while others look forward to the "new" look and challenges of a more compact and busy center city.

One major intersection stands out as undergoing dramatic changes since the early 1970s. That intersection is of Routes 123 and 50 (211 and 29). Numerous gas stations, car lots, diners and fast food operations lining this intersection were modernized, either changed ownerships or torn-down. Town folks who remember these crossroads changes have called Fairfax City home before and since the 1950s.

This was a major intersection and still is where businesses occupied the four corners. Establishments located within two blocks of each corner advertised in Fairfax City Directories and at varying times in the local newspapers. Walt Morris and Dick Fulton offer special recollections of this intersection.

Walt a resident of Fairfax City since 1956 worked in Washington, D.C., at the American Automobile Association (AAA).

He worked for the AAA for 15 years from 1950 to 1965. He then taught industrial arts in Fairfax County at the Irving Middle and Robinson Secondary schools for more than 20 years. After retiring from the Fairfax County School system, he drove a Fairfax City Cue Bus for five years. During Walt Morris' years at AAA, he rode the Trailways bus each day back and forth from Fairfax City to Washington, D.C. After a workday, he would catch the bus at the bus station for a 45-minute ride back to Fairfax City requesting "A Ticket to Vincent's Diner," a stop at this intersection along the route. He related that he often lingered and had a doughnut and cup of coffee at Vincent's Diner conversing with many local patrons.

Fulton's interest in this Fairfax City intersection came about by a personal connection to Vincent's Diner located on the southeast side of the intersection. Most Saturday mornings starting in 1969 he and his 10-year-old twins ate breakfast at Vincent's Diner now occupied by Denny's Restaurant at the junction of Routes 123 and 50 (211 and 29).

Vincent's was a popular diner dating from the early 1940s constructed of rough stone veneer. The diner

had a few booths and a number of worn counter seats reflecting a more prosperous time. A counter and cash register was on the left as you entered the front entrance. A grill and coffee urns were located directly in front of the counter.

Mr. Lee, a former Navy cook produced a great breakfast of eggs, ham, potatoes, toast and coffee or milk. If you were a steady customer he would ask, "Do you want gravy?" He never charged for the extra gravy while other similar restaurants did, a treat added to an already delicious meal. Mrs. Lee, a Korean War bride was often there and demonstrated her fondness for Dick's boy-girl twins. Mr. Lee opened the diner at 3 a.m. and closed at 3 p.m. His freshly



A postcard of Vincent's Diner courtesy of Fairfax County Public Library's Photographic Archive shows how it appeared in the 1950s.

cooked ham was prepared early most mornings, something rarely done by restaurants in recent years. Fulton will never forget how wonderful the ham tasted and maintained that if Mr. Lee made biscuits his breakfast would have been out of this world.

Many people ranging from construction workers to Redskins football players including Sonny Jorgensen, Billy Kilmer, Dionne Talbert, Mike Bragg and such local business folks as "Texas" Ted Britt ate at the diner. Mr. Lee drank beer with the Redskins players at the Virginia Inn a few miles North on Route 123 in Vienna. Mr. Lee and his cookery, his wife, high school students, Redskin players, local business folks of all dispositions add to many fond memories.

One day in the 1970s, Mr. Lee and the Vincent Diner were gone. Soon a nationally popular Sambo's Restaurant replaced Mr. Lee and his diner almost directly over the original site. Within a few years Denny's Restaurant replaced Sambo's. To Dick's displeasure, he had failed to take a picture of the Lees or the diner. Dick in his memories can still see Mr. Lee greeting his customers, taking orders and asking, "Do you want gravy?"

FAITH NOTES

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

One God Ministry, 4280 Chain Bridge Road in Fairfax, is hosting its Eighth Annual Community Festival and Concert on Saturday, Aug. 13 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fun for the family includes free food, music, games and prizes, including an iPad2. The public service event raises funds to support the homeless and hungry in Fairfax. 703-591-6161 or www.onegodministry.org.

Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road in Fairfax, will host a Family Picnic on Aug. 17, from 6-7 p.m., and a Family Movie Night, with free pizza, on Aug. 31 at 7:15 p.m. No Family Night activities for Aug. 10 or Aug. 24, but the regular Wednesday Family Night activities for Boys and Girls Clubs and Adult Bible Study will resume on Sept. 7, at 7:15 p.m. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

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.

Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road in Fairfax, will hold Fall Women's Bible Study on Tuesdays, Sept.13-Nov.15 at 9:45 a.m. There will be no study on Nov. 8. The topic is "Basic Discipleship," and the cost is \$10. Register at 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

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.fccc.org.

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Judah Praise Fellowship Christian...703-758-1456

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Bible

Bancroft Bible Church... 703-425-3800

Catholic

St. Leo the Great Catholic... 703-273-5369

St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church...
703-978-4141

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Fairfax Christian Church... 703-385-3520

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Congregation of Olam Tikvah... 703-425-1880

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OPINION

Sample Ballots, More Engagement

Virginia Board of Election should mail a sample ballot that includes polling place and ballot for each voter.

It's half past redistricting, do you know where your boundaries are?

While we wrote about the misguided approach to drawing lines for some Virginia Senate and House of Delegates seats during the process, the effects of redistricting are brought more into focus here at the Connection as we plan for election coverage in the communities served by our 15 newspapers.

Many districts stretch out like snakes or amoebas with a piece of one community on this side, a swath of another over here. Individual towns are crisscrossed and nicked by multiple districts.

What's more, voters affected by redistricting are notified just by a postcard in the mail, during the summer — although we should be grateful for this step.

Virginia should follow the example of many other states that mail a full sample ballot to each voter before each election. The ballot shows the specific voter's polling place, a replica of the exact ballot the voter will see, allowing the voter to make selections before hand and carry the ballot into the voting booth, and information about absentee voting, rights and responsibilities and more.

This is a best practice at any time, but a critical practice the first cycle after redistricting. It's too late for this decade, but could be in place for the 2020 redistricting ...

Check your registration, polling place and ballot at www.sbe.virginia.gov, click on "voter information."

A wonderful source for information on the races, including details on campaign finance and the often mind-boggling maps of the new districts, is the Virginia Public Access Project, www.vpap.org/elections/.

Setting Record Straight

To the Editor:

The Connection recently published several letters to the editor on the topic of parental notification under FCPS' disciplinary policy. I'd like to set the record straight on this important issue.

"Mr. Stuban, your son will be suspended effective tomorrow with a recommendation for expulsion. Please stop by the school so we can explain this to you." Our son Nick had been questioned several times over several days and asked to sign multiple statements before my wife or I received any word from FCPS. That's FCPS' idea of parental notification, and the School Board's votes on June 9 did

little to change that.

According to the Student Rights and Responsibilities (SR&R) Handbook for the coming school year, "[t]he principal will make a reasonable effort to notify parents or guardians at the earliest opportunity regarding student disciplinary actions." That language was unanimously approved and added by the School Board at its June 9 meeting; previously, there was no language in the SR&R supporting parental notification. But the new SR&R also says that "[s]chool resource officers (SROs) and school educational officers (SEOs) are active members of the school administration and, as any other school official, are permitted to stop, question, interview, and take action without contacting parents or guardians in advance." (See

page 27 of the SR&R for both of these provisions, <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/ips/ssaw/SRR/SRR2011-12.pdf>.)

It is important to remember that two amendments proposing alternative language on parental notification were also considered at the June 9 School Board meeting. The first stated: "In the event that school officials believe the student has committed an offense for which a report to law enforcement is required, school officials shall notify the student's parent or guardian prior to questioning the student by school officials or a school resource officer unless there is an immediate danger to others." This amendment failed 5-7. School Board members voting in favor of this amendment were Sandra Evans (Mason), Tina Hone (At-Large), Ilryong Moon (At-

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

❖ For Fairfax County Sheriff, Republicans H. Wes Kammerer and Bill A. Cooper III face off to determine who will face Sheriff Stan Barry (D).

Vote Early

You can vote early in person or vote by absentee ballot by mail if you think you might be away from your house for 10 hours or more on Election Day. That's anyone who works.

Arlington Board of Elections, 703-228-3456, www.arlingtonva.us/departments/voterregistration/VoterRegistrationElectionInformation.aspx. In-person absentee voting location: 2100 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 320; Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., through Aug 19; Saturday, Aug. 20, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Fairfax County Board of Elections, 703-324-4700, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/Vote "absentee in person" at the Fairfax County Government Center through Aug. 20 Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Thursdays 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 20, is the last day to vote absentee in person, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

City of Fairfax General Registrar, 703-385-7890, www.fairfaxva.gov/Registrar/GeneralRegistrar.asp

Alexandria Board of Elections, 703-746-4050, <http://alexandriava.gov/Elections>; In-person absentee voting through Saturday, Aug. 20, at 132 North Royal St., Suite 100. Regular hours for in-person absentee voting: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Extended hours for in-person absentee voting on Monday, Aug. 15, until 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 20, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM, ON TWITTER @MARYKIMM

Primary Races

Primary Election Day is Tuesday, Aug. 23.

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

❖ Senate District 30, Democrats Adam Ebbin, Libby Garvey and Rob Krupicka are in a three-way race for the nomination to replace retiring state

Sen. Patsy Ticer. The winner will face Tim McGee (R) in November. This district, including parts of Arlington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon, trends to Democrats, so the primary could determine the winner.

❖ Senate District 31, Democrats Jaime Areizaga-Soto (D) and Barbara A. Favola (D) face off; winner will face Caren Merrick (R), to replace retiring Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple. If you live in McLean, Great Falls, parts of Herndon or Sterling, you are likely in this newly configured district that used to be almost entirely in Arlington.

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

❖ Senate District 37, Republicans Steve Hunt and Jason Flanary compete to challenge state Sen. Dave Marsden (D).

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

❖ House of Delegates 49, Democratic pri-

EDITORIAL

LETTERS

THE CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

cerns over parental notification.

Let's remember that when these and many other important reforms (e.g., ceasing involuntary transfers away from a student's base school, recording disciplinary hearings, shortening the timeframe for the disciplinary process to play out, etc.) were initially proposed in February, the response of the superintendent and the majority of the School Board was to deny that there was anything wrong and to rudely and closed-mindedly challenge community input on how to turn a punitive and mean-spirited disciplinary process into one that engages parents, leverages the resources of the entire community and seeks to rehabilitate students. It was only under the enormous pressure brought to bear by the Fairfax County community, media scrutiny and persistent advocacy from local organizations like the Fairfax Zero Tolerance Reform (FZTR) group that any changes to FCPS' disciplinary process were even considered by the majority of the sitting School Board.

How can some School Board members now attempt to deflect their longstanding, stubborn insistence that all is well with FCPS' disciplinary policy? How can they defend their votes against true parental notification or their lack of effort, creativity or will to craft an appropriate standard that balances the overarching need for safety and security in our schools with the related, important goals of securing individual rights and parental involvement? What part of this do they still not understand? Do they think our community isn't paying attention to what they've actually said or done or how they've voted?

Thankfully, Fairfax County will have an opportunity to correct this unacceptable state of affairs on Election Day, Nov. 8, an opportunity to elect a School Board that engages our entire Fairfax County community and acts in the community's best interests, by thoughtfully setting FCPS' agenda and closely scrutinizing the actions of the superintendent and his staff in fulfilling that agenda.

Steve M.F. Stuban

Fairfax County School Board Candidate, At-large

Time is Running Out

To the Editor:

Making your home more energy efficient is a goal many homeowners are working to achieve. The need to improve efficiency is made clear during the hot summer months when the air conditioning is running strong, and in the cold winter months when

your furnace seems to burn all night.

We all want lower energy bills. One significant step you can take to lower your heating and cooling bills while helping improve the environment is replacing old, inefficient appliances with new efficient ones.

Right now savings abound for homeowners looking to replace older or broken appliances, and not just in the form of lowered monthly bills. With credits, rebates and tax holidays, you can save lots upfront in addition to realizing long term savings from lower energy use.

For example, a member of my staff recently priced a new tankless water heater to replace his aging storage model. He found that by choosing an efficient water heater, he qualified for a \$225 tax rebate from the Commonwealth of Virginia, a \$300 tax credit from the federal government, and a \$250 rebate from his gas provider, for a total savings of \$775! These savings brought the cost of the tankless heater below the cost of a brand new storage type of heater. Of course each of these credits and rebates come with their own rules, so make sure you do your research before purchasing a new appliance.

Unfortunately, many of these offers are expiring soon. Most of the federal tax credits for efficiency upgrades expire on Dec. 31, 2011. State credits do not have an expiration date, but there are a limited number available. Check with your electric or gas provider to see what offers they may have available, too. Your utility provider may also offer other efficiency products or services.

In Virginia, we can take advantage of a sales tax holiday on Columbus Day weekend (Oct. 7-10) for the purchase of certain Energy Star rated appliances. Energy Star is a federal program that rates appliances for efficiency. Visit www.energystar.gov for more information on how they rate the appliances and for instructions on how to apply for the federal tax credit. Replacing inefficient appliances is just one step you can take. The best heater in the world will still be inefficient if your house isn't properly sealed and insulated. To determine if your house meets these criteria, you can perform a do-it-yourself energy audit or hire a professional. Both options will help you identify and correct problems that could help lower your energy bills and decrease the detrimental effects on the environment.

For more information on energy audits and other energy cost savings, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment/energy/.

Sharon Bulova

Chairman

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Maplewood Grill

Restaurant Week August 16th - 22th 3 Course Menu

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- Choice of
- Fire Roasted Summer Gazpacho
 - Tomato, Mozzarella Salad
 - Twin Shrimp and Crab Poppers

Second Course

- Choice of
- Sliced Medallions of Beef Tenderloin with tomato, bacon, blue cheese and green bean salad and peppercorn sauce
 - Pecan Crusted Trout with mashed potatoes and asparagus, citrus cream sauce
 - Chicken Paillard with angel hair pasta

Third Course

- Choice of
- Key Lime Tart
 - Dark Chocolate Mousse Cake

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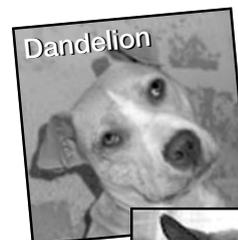
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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 6

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-293-6227.

Evening Book Discussion. 7:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. The Man from Beijing by Henning Mankell. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Book Discussion Group. 1:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Little Bee by Chris Cleave. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Book Discussion Group. 6:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The Legal Limit by Martin Clark. Adults. 703-978-5600

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and advice. 703-644-7333.

Evening Book Discussion Group. 7 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. My Life in France by Julia Child. Adults. 703-644-7333.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 17

Pizza with Everything. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories, songs and finger plays. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-293-6227.

Bedtime Stories: Favorite Things. 7 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Bedtime stories, songs and activities. Age 3-6 with adult. 703-644-7333.

Writers' Roundtable. 7 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Discuss your work with other writers. Adults. 703-644-7333.

THURSDAY/AUG. 18

Pizza with Everything. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories, songs and finger plays. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-293-6227.

Afternoon Reading Group. 1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Little Bee by Chris Cleave. Adults. 703-293-6227.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice English with other adults. 703-249-1520.

Lunchtime at the Movies. 11:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Bring lunch and watch movies based on children's books. Call for titles. Age 1-6 with adult. 703-644-7333.

FRIDAY/AUG. 19

Jammin Java's Mid-Atlantic Band Battle 5: Finals. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Annapolis Bluegrass Coalition. 7:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Lake Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Bluegrass music concert. Free.

Andrew Acosta String Band. 7:30 p.m. Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. Folk and bluegrass music. Free.

SATURDAY/AUG. 20

DC Fest with Michael W. Smith and Steven Curtis Chapman. 3 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Also with by Kutless, Big Daddy Weave, Matthew West, Sidewalk Prophets and Jonny Diaz. Tickets \$15-\$99, available at

www.ticketmaster.com and 703-573-SEAT. www.patriotcenter.com.

Big O and Dukes Live. 9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

An Enchanted Evening of Dance. 7 p.m. W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Chinese folk dance, presented by the Fairfax Chinese Dance Troupe. Tickets \$10-\$30. 571-306-2889 or www.FCDTdance.org.

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra's OTO Brass Quintet. 10 a.m. Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Free.

Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association, Inc. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice. 703-293-6227.

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

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association.

Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Line dance lesson at 7:30 p.m., couples specialty dance at 8 p.m., open dancing 8:30-11 p.m. Couples and singles welcome. Admission \$5-\$12. www.nvwcda.org or 703-860-4941.

SUNDAY/AUG. 21

Northern Virginia NTRAK Display with Running Trains. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. \$3 for adults, \$1 for children. www.fairfax-station.org.

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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.

THURSDAY/AUG. 11

Journey Through Grief Workshop.
2 p.m. Haven of Northern Virginia, 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale. Free. 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org.

SATURDAY/AUG. 13

You and Your Money: Financial Literacy for Women. 10 a.m.

Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Hosted by NoVA Coalition of Labor Union Women, this is the first in a series of free workshops on issues important to working women. Light refreshments served. 202-879-4490 or ccordovi@aft.org.

Journey through Grief Workshop.

2 p.m. Haven of Northern Virginia, 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale. Registration required at 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org.

SATURDAY/AUG. 20

National Alliance on Mental Illness Family Support Group

Meeting. 1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library Conference Room B, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Family members, partners and friends of people with mental illness can share information, ideas and encouragement. No registration required. gaylej08@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 24

Electoral Board General Meeting:

Canvass and Provisional Ballot Meeting for Aug. 23 Primary. 9 a.m. Fairfax County Government Center, Room 315-C, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-4735, TTY 711.

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Find the freedom you deserve- Short Sales Explained

GREAT NEWS! Banks and lenders have become much more negotiable when it comes to short sale transactions. Recent changes in corporate policy and the Obama administration have also improved the chances of getting a short sale approved.

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:

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- **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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Home Life Style

In-law Wing Solution for 3 Generations

BY JOHN BYRD
SPECIAL TO THE CONNECTION

As the US population ages, retirement and estate planning are topics of endless discussion. There's an industry of options catering to retirees needs, of course. Yet families sometimes find their own way, exploring practical avenues.

Consider the case of Dean and Carolyn Baird.

Now in their mid-60s, the Bairds were looking forward to a life unburdened by the problems of maintaining a house, but had ruled out retirement homes.

"I had helped some relatives move into a senior village," Carolyn Baird acknowledges. "I knew it wasn't what Dean and I wanted."

Moreover, as Baird tells it, the Arlington-based couple had recently gotten in the habit of driving 25 miles a day when her daughter and son-in-law, Rebecca and Kevin McDermott, purchased a colonial on a tree-shaded lot in Fairfax Station.

With one grandchild at the toddler stage and another on the way, the Bairds found that they reveled in extended family interaction, a pleasure shared by the McDermotts.

So it wasn't long before a plan emerged, and the Bairds proposed using proceeds from the sale of the Arlington property to finance a spacious "in-law" wing to the McDermott residence.

With little over half an acre, the McDermott property offered ample room for an addition. The question was whether the stately Colonial could be revised a way that would retain its classic proportionality while accommodating the Baird's space and privacy requirements.

"We weren't sure what was possible under the county's rules," Kevin McDermott said. "We envisioned a new wing but I wanted to preserve the look of the existing



The former library was converted to a transitional family room that now accesses the new in-law suite via its 270-square foot kitchenette.

house. So, I was glad we had Dave Guy to guide us through so many unknowns."

Dave Guy, architect with Foster Remodeling Solutions in Lorton, quickly sized up a design solution as follows:

The existing front-facing 14-by-18-foot library converts to a "transitional" family room that opens directly into a 720 square-foot L-shaped addition; the addition extends 18 feet to the rear, then wraps the side elevation in a perfectly rationalized side wing.

To retain symmetry on the front elevation, the new addition is stepped back seven feet from the home's facade, an aesthetic choice which preserves proportionality and offsets any tendencies towards massing.

A window in the rear elevation of the former library is replaced by an 8-by-7-foot all-brick archway that opens into a kitchenette that is 18-by-15. The kitchenette features a large Palladian window with a backyard view, thus restating the family room's visual continuum.

Inside the new wing, functionality and order are emphasized.

While code-adherent, the kitchenette satisfies all the Bairds cooking and refrigeration requirements, without defining itself as a full-service kitchen.

There's a microwave, a pair of compact refrigerators under the food preparation island, and a sizeable floor-to-ceiling pantry recessed behind double doors. A second door leads to a washer and a dryer.

But there's no full-scale cooking range or ovens, no full-sized refrigerator.

"The code is specific on this point," Guy observes. "This is not a second kitchen; it's a convenience — like a wet bar."

Guy also points out that the kitchenette is accessible from a side deck, an easy spot to grab a cold soft drink or a snack.

Still, taken as a whole, the wing satisfies all the Baird's privacy needs while presenting a distinctly personal interior renders it a place apart.

"I provided the designer with a photo of a French country style kitchen I was especially attracted to," Baird says, "and I was really impressed that the Foster people could match it in every detail."

Among other elements, the kitchenette features glass-facing cabinets, ceramic tile backsplashes, and a food preparation island and dining counter finished in a tongue-and-groove base with a Brazilian granite surface

Grandchildren and visiting friends can snack at the dining counter, and there's seating for four at the glass cafe table.

The Palladian-style window above the sink — fabricated to Caroline Baird's exact requirements — includes a course of three casement windows and an enviable view.

The master bedroom suite is, likewise, finely articulated—with distinct zones for sleeping and bathing, wardrobe storage and changing. Carolyn Baird planned the space to accommodate several favored collectibles: a circa 1930s chest of drawers, two four-posters, an antique lowboy with a framed mirror.

"These were pieces that had belonged to my grandmother," Baird said. "Funny what you keep. We gave away a houseful of furniture, yet I have a china cabinet displaying some of my grandmother's ceramics."

The master bath — reflecting Baird's many hours of research in the Foster showroom — is finished in marble mosaic flooring and includes his-and-her vanities and a walk-in shower with soft Arabescato marble wall coverings and a built-in bench.

A few steps beyond, there's 70-square-feet of plushly carpeted walk-in closet.

"We have everything we could want," Baird says. "This is a wonderful new phase of life for the whole family."

Staff at Foster Remodeling Solutions periodically offer workshops on home remodeling topics. For information: 703/550-1371 or www.FosterRemodeling.com

Waterfront Mansion on Mason Neck for Sale

Eagles Landing, a Georgian manor on the deep water banks of the Potomac River, 11521 Potomac Road in Lorton, is for sale for \$5.374 million.

The 15,000-square-foot home sits on 11 acres at the tip of the Mason Neck Peninsula, bordering 440 feet of picturesque waterfront and 676 feet of scenic freshwater tidal marsh. Nearly every room offers panoramic views along an ever-changing natural landscape where waterfowl frolic and bald eagles nest.

The home contains five bedrooms and six-and-one-half bathrooms, including

two waterfront master suites featuring double doors, master baths, a sitting room and Juliet balcony. There is a third floor studio with waterfront balcony; library; billiard room; six fireplaces; detached three-car carriage house with private guest quarters and landscaped grounds with lawns gently sloping down to the Potomac.

The home is listed with Susan Gray Chambers with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Alexandria; call 703-518-6175 or 703-203-9900. www.graychambers.com



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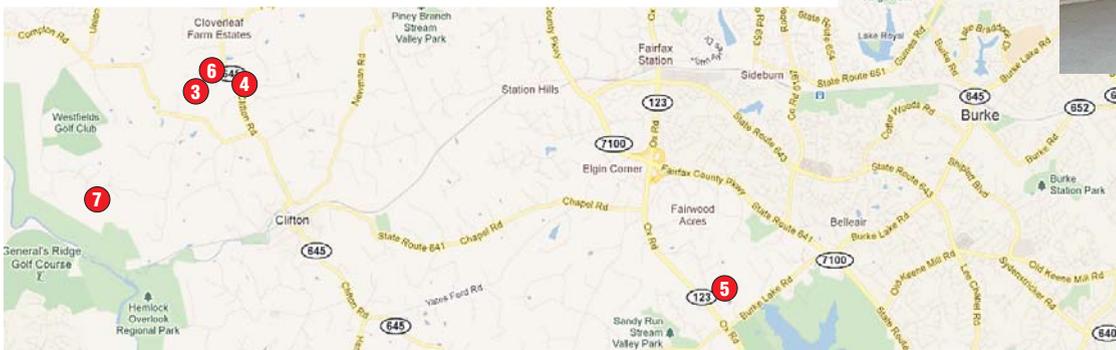
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11 Vie for 3 At-large School Board Seats

FROM PAGE 4

ing of a superintendent. As the public face of our school system, the superintendent represents FCPS both internally to staff and families and also externally to educational institutions, governmental agencies, and the public at large. At a minimum, the superintendent is responsible for administering the school system in accordance with the goals and objectives set by the School Board. Beyond this role, however, he or she must have the full trust and confidence of the School Board and the Board of Supervisors; teachers and employees; parents and students; and also local citizens and our business community. During the upcoming term, no decision will have greater influence on the vision for the future of our schools.

"The School Board must complete a thorough review and revision of its values and goals as one of its first orders of business. Since the superintendent must be held accountable for reflecting the values of the community as represented by the School Board, the newly elected School Board must establish the values and goals that will guide its work during the upcoming term. While such a review has been undertaken periodically, the turnover in School Board membership this fall makes this review essential. In order to guide its own work and that of the superintendent, School Board members must have a shared vision of their goals and the values that drive those goals. It is not adequate that newly elected board members inherit a governance plan that was created before their time. Nor is it acceptable that they operate without such a plan. I look forward to creating a shared vision with the new Board and with input from FCPS' constituents."

Ryan McElveen:

Born and raised in Vienna, McElveen attended Marshall High School, where he served as class president and graduated with an International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) employed him from 2005-07 as an assistant testing coordinator. He currently works in the International Operations and Policy Office of the Boeing Company and is a Mandarin Chinese tutor. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from The University of Virginia with a bachelor's degree in anthropology and East Asian studies. He has a master's of international affairs from Columbia University with a concentration in human rights. He is the author of "Challenging Yellow: Decoding Skin Color in Urban China and the Confluence of Tradition and Globalization," which won the 2008 Elizabeth Cady Stanton Award for the best essay in the study of women and gender. For more information, go to www.ryanfordschoolboard.com/.

"Voting on the budget is perhaps the greatest responsibility of School Board members, as it outlines priorities for the upcoming year and sets a course for the future. In budget debates, it is imperative that we look for ways to eliminate athletic fees, increase teacher compensation and expand foreign language programs while continuing to



Velkoff

provide the world-class education and extracurricular programs that set Fairfax apart.

"In the coming term, we will also have the opportunity to make the school system more transparent and accountable. By voting to employ an independent auditor, we will find redundancies that will lead to savings for taxpayers. By hiring ombudsmen for teachers and parents, we can ensure that the concerns of both groups are heard, evaluated and relayed to the superintendent and School Board."

Lolita Mancheno-Smoak:

A resident of Fairfax Station, Mancheno-Smoak currently serves as an adjunct professor at Strayer University and the University of Phoenix, where she teaches business. She currently volunteers as board president for Hispanics Against Child Abuse & Neglect. She is also on the Advisory Board of CrisisLink, which assists the Northern Virginia community in suicide prevention. Mancheno-Smoak, who is fluent in Spanish, emigrated from Ecuador as a child. She earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from Columbia University; a master's degree in engineering from the University of Miami, and a DBA from Nova Southeastern University. She has four grown stepchildren. For more information, go to www.lolita4schoolboard.com/.

"Vote on motion to reformulate the School Board's strategic governance to return greater accountability and fiduciary responsibility to the Board with direct access to all operational data.

"The board is elected by the people and for the people and as such has the responsibility to have direct oversight and control over the entire school system operations, as stewards of the people's tax investments — \$0.53 of every Fairfax County tax dollar goes to the FCPS system's budget of \$2.2 billion. The School Board needs to be more responsive to the community it serves while maintaining fiscal prudence and it can best do this by reinstating its accountability through strategic governance reform.

"Vote on motion to re-establish formal, regular and open communications with FCPS employees so that the true voice of the teachers can be heard and acted upon.

"Today's teachers are being encumbered with excessive administrative activities that detract from their principal vocation — to teach our children. The School Board needs to take a proactive stance in ensuring that the learning environment is at its feasible optimum for all students and teachers. Even if you are part of the 75 percent of Fairfax County residents that don't use the public school system, we all have a vested interest in maintaining its excellence. So, we need to establish regular, open dialogue with community advocates, parents, teachers, and the School Board to engender innovative responses to our educational challenges.

Lin-Dai Kendall:

A resident of Fairfax Station, Kendall is a Fulbright Scholar and small-business owner, with training in business management, architecture and urban planning. She has an MBA from the Thunderbird School of Global Management and obtained her master's degree in urban planning and public administration on a scholarship in Madrid, Spain. After being appointed the youngest chief of urban planning for the metropolitan area of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, she spent more than 15 years in architecture. She has four chil-



Mancheno-Smoak

dren. She owns a design studio in Fairfax Station. For more information, go to www.lindai.webs.com/.

"A much-needed change in the current strategic governance arrangement which would restore the rightful balance and authority of the School Board to manage FCPS. I've observed throughout the past three years a blatant lack of representation and utter disregard for the voice of the parent and taxpayer. An analysis of the management relations between Fairfax County's Public School System and its superintendent and the School Board reveal an inverse relationship to the one that the School Board was elected to execute, the management of the public school assets and structure on behalf of the taxpayer. Loss of autonomy and an abdication of responsibilities from the part of the School Board bear a negative impact on their relation to the electorate. The School Board needs to listen and consider the voice of the electorate overlaying their needs to the existing framework of resources within the county's education system.

"A much-needed change in the audit functions of FCPS, pursuing the reporting of financial information, budgeting and program evaluations be provided to and monitored by the School Board as ombudsmen elected by the people to manage FCPS. Currently, auditing functions are exercised by FCPS internally. Is the fox watching the hen house? The composition of any current FCPS audit committee should change so that it is independent of FCPS management. FCPS management ideally should not be part of an auditing committee. Audit committees should include School Board members possibly in a rotational manner and should perhaps even include members from the Board of Supervisors.

Steve Stuban:

Stuban received a bachelor's degree in engineering, and a commission as a second lieutenant from the United States Military Academy at West Point. He served more than 24 years on active duty as a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officer. Retiring in 2004 as a lieutenant colonel, Stuban became an acquisition program manager within the Department of Defense. He earned a master's degree in engineering management from the University of Missouri, and a master's and Ph.D. in systems engineering from George Washington University. He is a licensed professional engineer. He has served as a coach, assistant and team volunteer for many youth sports. For more information, go to www.stubanfordschoolboard.com/.

"What are the two most important issues I anticipate voting on? I don't believe there are a 'top two.' All the School Board's decisions are important in that they all have impacts on FCPS' ability to achieve its mission. I am more focused on two areas and concerned about a potential future scenario. My first priority is to restore the entire community's trust in FCPS and the way the School Board conducts itself. This ties back to the values



Kendall

of transparency, accountability, common sense, and engaging the entire community.

"My second priority is ensuring that everything FCPS does supports its mission of inspiring, enabling, and empowering students to meet high academic standards, lead ethical lives, and demonstrate responsible citizenship. The belief that every student matters must be demonstrated in everything FCPS does and every decision the School Board makes.

"The potential future scenario with which I am most concerned is where our country's recent economic downturn persists, the FCPS student population continues to increase, and the 2014 suspense for achieving the No Child Left Behind mandate of 100 percent of students achieving state standards approaches — a veritable 'perfect storm.' Under this scenario, there will be enormous demands on FCPS' staff and resources. While I have confidence that our country's economic fortunes will improve, and similar confidence in the ability of our teachers to meet the challenge, the negative consequences should this scenario prove true are too great to risk. Rather than wait until 2013 to consider this scenario, I intend to immediately engage my fellow board members in assessing all of FCPS' programs and policies with an eye toward ensuring that they directly support FCPS' mission. Resources are limited. Every family knows it cannot be extravagant nor live beyond its means. Similarly, FCPS cannot assume it will always receive whatever increased funding it requests from the Board of Supervisors.

Catherine Clark:

Clark has a bachelor's degree in English literature from the University of California at Berkeley, a master's degree in early childhood education from California State University and another master's degree in special education from George Mason University. She received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from International University in Los Angeles. In California, she founded and directed a preschool for families with special-needs preschool children. She also developed a private practice as a marriage and family counselor. In Virginia, she taught at Phillips programs in Annandale, and interned for a George Mason pilot program for college-age students with learning and/or emotional disabilities.

"Every issue deserves to be addressed with study and open discussion. In particular, I think it very important, after taking care of immediate needs, to be asking how education systems might need to change. What should be taught to whom? What is the intended outcome? Is 'universal design' in curriculum plausible, possible and desirable? Where students should be taught? They don't need grand edifices. Is there a viable possibility of using vacant spaces in office buildings, libraries, parks? ...

"When should classes take place? Some experts talk of starting classes for adolescents in the afternoon, so they can get the hours of sleep they need. Online classes are gaining recognition as viable ways to deliver course material and exercises. What about providing for study of one subject at a time, changing subjects over the course of a year? These options are in use already. Are there studies being done to assess their outcomes?

How should curriculum be delivered. Is available technology being well used? Its utility may be more obvious for administrative purposes than for daily teaching. Computers and software cannot replace teacher-student interactions for setting the context in which learning best takes place. But they do grab and hold attention across a startlingly wide range of abilities and interests. Why? Why are we willing to tax ourselves to educate everyone? Because 'the price of freedom is eternal vigilance.' And it takes education to understand that quote.

Editor's Note: Maria Allen and Jeannie Armstrong did not respond to The Connection's requests for replies. For more information on Armstrong, go to www.jeanniearmstrong.com/.



Stuban

COLLEGE NOTES

Rebecca A. Bajkowski of Fairfax has been named an Alden Scholar for the 2009-10 academic year at Allegheny College. A gradu-

ate of W. T. Woodson High School, Bajkowski is a sophomore at Allegheny.

John Awbrey has been named to

the dean's list for the fall 2010 semester. Awbrey is from Fairfax. To be eligible for dean's list, a student must carry a semester GPA of 3.5 or better

and take a minimum of 12 letter-graded hours (four courses).

Caitlin Campbell of Fairfax, a

sophomore, was named to the deans' honor list at Gettysburg College for outstanding academic achievement in fall 2010.

CAMPS & SCHOOLS

Theater Camp for the Summer

FROM PAGE 6

actors and meeting artists from other schools," she said. "What they each bring from their backgrounds, plus their desires, really produce a workshop that's fun, enlightening and incredibly inspiring. This gets me geared up for the fall and going back to the classroom."

CLIFTON RESIDENT Hillary Hollaway, a Robinson sophomore, took the musical-theater class because she's been in several plays, but doesn't have much background in musicals. "I don't see singing and acting as my strengths, so I took this class so I could improve," she said. "I've enjoyed getting the chance to sing in front of other people because, in middle school, I couldn't do that."

"It gets you more involved in songs and dances," Hillary said, of the camp. "There's lots of group dancing, and they find solos for everyone, so you don't have to be an amazing singer to get one."

Robinson freshman Ian Gaal has also performed before and liked the class because, instead of being criticized, the students were nurtured and encouraged. "They're all your friends," he said. "So, if you have a good or bad voice, you shouldn't be afraid to show it off. You don't have to keep things inside, but can let them all out. You can do it."

He, too, would recommend the workshop to others. "If you've never acted, you can come here because Mrs. Hard is a great teacher and she'll help you," said Ian. "She can be strict when needed, but

also adds in fun and gets you to find what you're passionate about."

James Carter, a Lake Braddock eighth-grader, also enjoyed himself. "I love acting, and I've learned different musical numbers and about different genres of theater," he said. "And we played cool acting games to keep in character while on stage. It's the best camp I've been to this summer. I've made friends, the teachers are nice and make it fun to learn, and the dances are cool."

"I like the teaching methods and environment," said Robinson eighth-grader Graciela Perez, who likes to sing. "Mrs. Hard is easy to talk to and the counselors helping her are really nice. I learned that you have to work as an ensemble and a team, or else things don't come out right."

She was also in the auditioning class. "I get nervous onstage, but they understood and helped me get more confidence doing it," said Graciela. "And it's cool getting to choose your own audition piece and learn what real auditions are like." Her was a comedy about a fast-food employee having to wait on an irritating customer. Hopefully, said Graciela, she'd like to someday act professionally, so she appreciated what she learned in class.

Abigail Wojcik, a Lake Braddock seventh-grader, said audition camp taught her voice and body warm-ups and working with others. "We'd say funny things while warming up, so it wasn't boring," she said. "And they taught us you can change a character around and do what you want with it. I like acting. It's a chance to not be yourself without getting in trouble."

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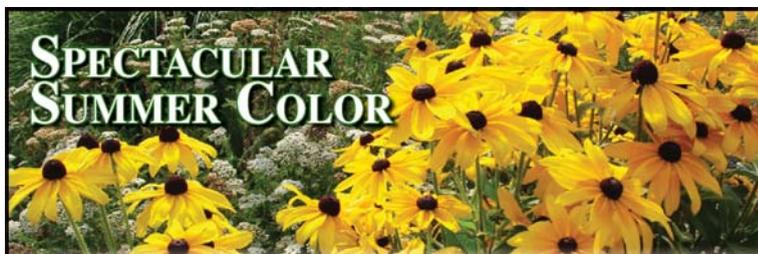
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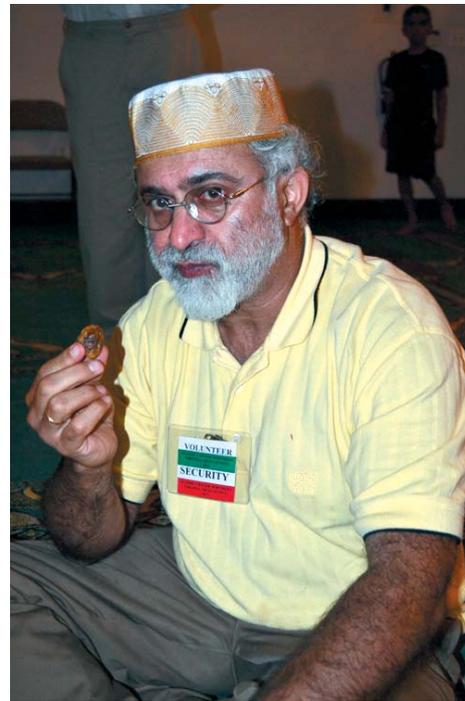
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FAITH



People breaking fast with dates.



Ismail Laher of Burke poses for a picture with a date in his hand.

Muslims Break Day's Fast

Muslim community celebrates month of Ramadan.

August is the Islamic month of Ramadan. During Ramadan, Muslims around the world fast every day from sunrise to sunset. On Sunday, Aug. 8, Muslims in the

Fairfax area came to the Islamic Center Northern Virginia Trust on Shirley Gate Road for prayers and to break the day's fast, which is done every night after the sunset during Ramadan.

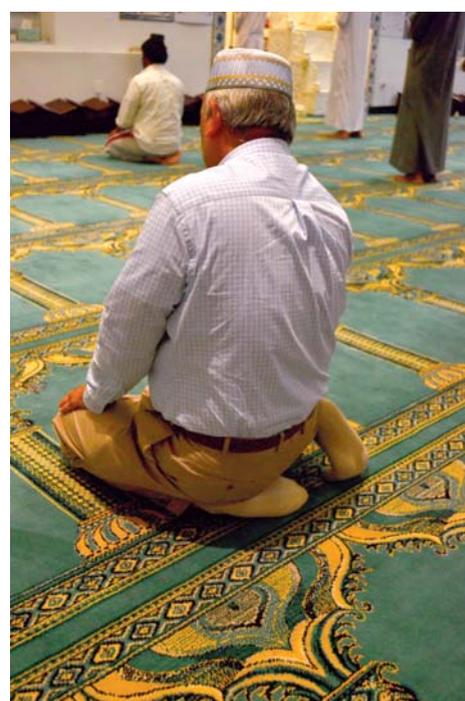


From left, Salim Hasali of Centreville prepares a meal container as Umar Akhtar of Fairfax looks on.



Dr. Muhammad Farooq, M.B.B.S., president of the Islamic Center Northern Virginia Trust.

PHOTOS BY ROSS SYLVESTRINI/THE CONNECTION



Worshippers pray inside the mosque.

Girls Lacrosse Clinics, presented by the Burke Athletics Youth Club, will take place beginning on Sunday, Sept. 11. The Clinics will continue on Sundays throughout September and October. Weekly Clinic times will be 2-3 p.m. Burke Athletics Youth Club is a non-profit youth organization serving the Burke area

SPORTS NOTES

community. Visit www.burkeathleticclub.org for more information.

Cory Bowersox, 17, of Burke, earned a silver medal in the 16-18 boys 3-meter event at the USA Diving Junior National Championships held in Knoxville. Bowersox has now qualified for the 2012 Olympic Trials in Seattle based on his performance at Nationals. The top six divers in the 14-

15 and 16-18 age groups on 3-meter and platform events who have not already qualified for the Trials will compete next summer for the Team USA Olympic spots. Bowersox scored 567.60 on 3-meter to take home the silver medal. He will continue on at Nationals where he will compete on 1-meter and platform. Bowersox will take his medal back home with him to Burke where he trains with Dominion Dive Club.

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Moving Sale on August 13 from 8 am - 12 noon in Burke, VA, 9392 Peter Roy Ct. Offenbacher outdoor table and 6 chairs; two children's BR sets (one for grade schooler, one for teen -- brown wood daybed); toys; household items; clothes.

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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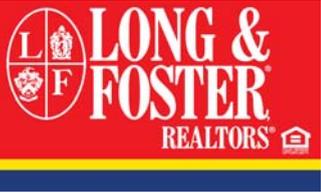
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