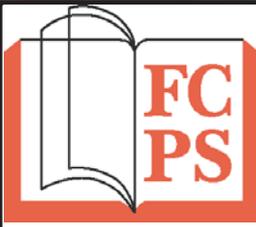


Fall Fun

Page 3

The 179,000 pound FedEx Airbus 310 is ready for the Dulles Day Plane Pull on Saturday, Sept. 24. The event, in which 25-member teams compete to pull the airplane 12 feet in the fastest time, is a fund raiser for Special Olympics Virginia.



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PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**
State of The Schools Report

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Labovitz Sentenced on Misdemeanors

Peter Labovitz, President and CEO of Connection Newspapers, has been sentenced to six months in prison for two misdemeanor counts of failing to fully pay the company's payroll taxes for two quarters in 2007.

Magistrate Judge John F. Anderson acknowledged Labovitz's long record of leadership in civic and business affairs

at a hearing in U.S. District Court in Alexandria on Sept. 27. He cited scores of letters to the court praising Labovitz's commitment to community journalism as head of Connection Newspapers and his years of community service.

Anderson said Labovitz's history of service "weighed heavily" in his decision not to impose a longer sentence, citing "your

service to the community, the newspapers and other organizations" and "your support for your family, not just your wife and daughters, but also to your grandchildren." But Anderson said some incarceration was necessary "to give credence to adequate deterrence."

Labovitz will pay more than \$645,000 in restitution.

In a statement in July, when he pled guilty

to the misdemeanors, Labovitz took full responsibility and cited economic challenges: "Like all American newspapers, in recent years the Connection Newspapers have faced daunting technological and economic challenges. We have weathered repeated crises that killed or crippled many others in the news media. I am proud that we have kept these vital community voices alive."

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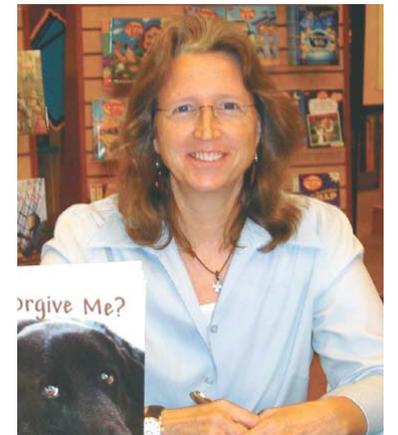
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Oak Hill author/illustrator Judy Link Cuddehe will be signing books in Reston on Oct. 8.

Meet The Author

Cuddehe to sign her books at Barnes and Noble Store in Reston.

Author-illustrator Judy Link Cuddehe of Oak Hill, will read from her illustrated books on Saturday, Oct. 8, 11 a.m. This interactive event for pre-school and elementary school-age children will also include how-to-draw activities and coloring pages of several of her storybook characters.

Books written and illustrated by Cuddehe include: "Forgive Me?" published in hardcover; "Mom Says I am Just Plain Squirrely," published in paperback; "Big Al Has a Foul Attitude," published in hardcover; and "Flash Light!" published in paperback, all published by Found Link Publishing.

Cuddehe will be available after the activity to sign books and answer questions. The event takes place at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore-Reston, located at 1851 Fountain Drive, Reston.

FALL FUN

HERNDON CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHC
703-778-9414 OR MCLEAN@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Helping Out in Herndon This Fall

Haunted House, Turkey Trot help local nonprofits.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

This fall, Herndon will host several annual traditions that will help raise money and awareness for those in need.

Bradley Farm will host its annual Haunted House Oct. 28 and 29, with proceeds going to Herndon-Reston FISH. Located at the neighborhood's barn, this is the event's fifth year.

The barn, which serves as the poolhouse during the summer, will be transformed into a scary destination. Members of the neighborhood design each year's house from scratch and they begin planning as early as January each year.

The house will feature a children's haunting Oct. 29, which will be during the day, less scary and feature a variety of activities. A magician, balloon artist, face-painters and more will be present. The children's haunting is more suitable for children age 8 and under.

Admission is only \$3, and will go to help FISH support people in need in the Herndon-Reston area.

"The money raised is very helpful for

our program, they get such a big turnout and FISH reaps the benefits," said Marcia Di Trapani, a past president of FISH. "They're so organized and have such a great community response, they really know what they're doing."

The Bradley Farm Haunted House is located at 13159 New Parkland Road in Herndon. It will be open Oct. 28 and 29, from 6-10 p.m., and the children's haunting will be Oct. 29 from 1-5 p.m. More information can be found at www.bfhauntedhouse.com.

For those who are ready to earn their Thanksgiving turkey, the annual Town of Herndon Turkey Trot 5K offers runners a chance to run for their dinner. The event will award prizes to winners in various age groups, and the first overall male and female finisher will receive a Turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

"Every year I try to convince my wife that I'll win our dinner at the Turkey Trot, and every year it turns out that she was right in planning on picking up our own," said Arthur Einzen of Herndon. "But even when you don't win, it's a fun event, the route is very scenic. But I guarantee a win this year."

The race's course will take runners through parts of the Herndon Centennial Golf Course, the Washington & Old Dominion Trail and other paths in the area.

The event will also collect canned food items and used running shoes. The latter will be ground up to make basketball

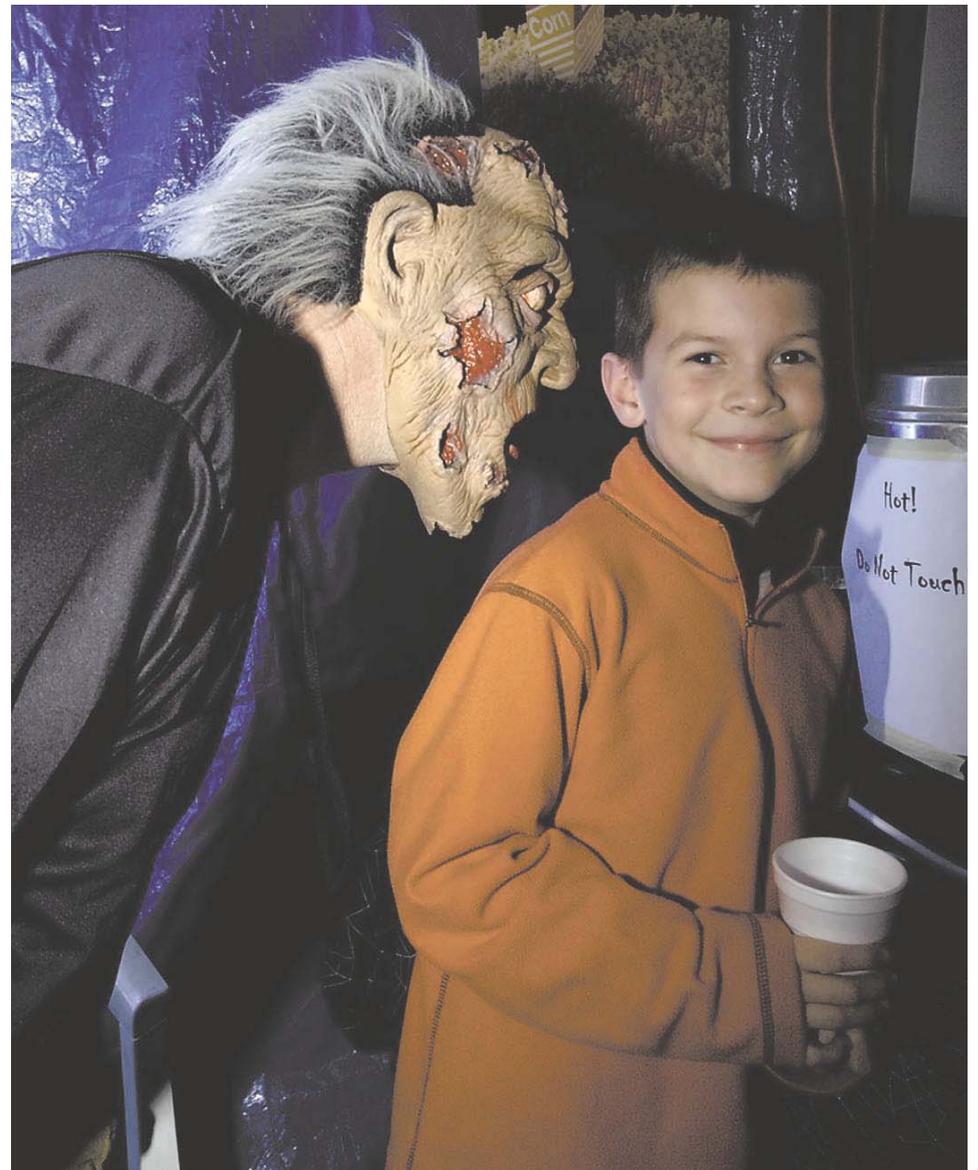


PHOTO BY GREG DAILY PHOTOGRAPHY

John McCrone tries to give Ethan Hanover, 9, a scare during the Bradley Farm Haunted House. This year's event will take place Oct. 28 and 29 and will raise money for Herndon-Reston FISH.

courts, running tracks, playgrounds, apparel and more. For those who can't make it to the event, the Herndon Community Center will be collecting shoes from now until Nov. 21.

The Turkey Trot 5K will take place Saturday, Nov. 19, with registration starting at 1:30 p.m. and the race kicking

off at 4 p.m. The cost is \$15 and a can of food for donation for those who pre-register, and \$20 for adults (\$15 for those 18 and under) and a can the day of the race.

More information can be found at www.herndon-va.gov.

Fall Fun in Herndon

- ❖ **Oct. 1:** HarvestFest, 12960 Highland Crossing Drive, noon. Free entertainment, such as a giant walking scarecrow, a DJ, face-painting, photo ops and food samplings from local restaurants. Proceeds from sale of select food and beverages will go to Reston Interfaith. For more information, visit www.woodlandparkcrossing.com.
- ❖ **Oct. 15:** Farm Harvest Day, Frying Pan Farm Park, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Watch a cider press in action, milk a goat, shuck corn and meet farm animals. Cost is \$5 per person.
- ❖ **Oct. 21:** Spooktacular, Herndon Community Center, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Ghoulish games, creepy cuisine, a costume parade and trick or treating are all part of this annual event. Parents must accompany children. The price is \$8 per child in advance, \$11 per child on the day of the event.
- ❖ **Oct. 22:** Herndon High School Homecoming Parade, downtown Herndon. This annual event will feature floats from various groups around Herndon High School.
- ❖ **Oct. 22:** Music in the Gallery, Herndon ArtSpace, 8 p.m. A showing of silent film "The Hands of Orlac" from 1924, with a new musical score performed live by the Vicodin Harlot Orchestra. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased by calling ArtSpace at 703-956-6590.
- ❖ **Oct. 28:** BooStravaganza, Frying Pan Farm Park, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Children ages 2-8 are invited to attend the farm in costume and enjoy a wagon ride, treats and a small pumpkin. Reservations required, \$8 per child.
- ❖ **Oct. 29:** Hardly Haunted Hayride, Frying Pan Farm Park, 12-6:30 p.m. A Halloween-themed ride through the park. Cost is \$5 per person.
- ❖ **Dec. 4:** 33rd Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Show, Herndon Community Center, noon. More than 100 vendors will present their wares at this annual show. Admission and parking are free, refreshments will be available.



PHOTO BY DONALD ROSENBERGER

A visitor to the Bradley Farm Haunted House gets a fright. This year's haunted house will take place Oct. 28 and 29 and will raise money for Herndon-Reston FISH.

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NEWS

George and Laura Price, Herndon Rotary's Citizens of the Year

The Herndon Rotary Club has named George and Laura Price as this year's Citizens of the Year. George and Laura are the 46th recipients of this highest honor presented annually by the club.

The Prices have been active volunteers in the Herndon area for many years. For the past 14 years they have been supporters of Friday Night Live. One nomination letter said, "They show up before the first person arrives, and are usually the last to leave after clean up." The letter further states, "... everyone and anyone who has ever volunteered in Herndon knows about the countless hours they dedicate every year."

George and Laura Price have been active members of the Herndon Optimist Club for many years; both have served as club president and also held numerous other club positions. They have been recognized by the club as Optimist of the Year. George Price remains active with the club's Partners in Education while Laura Price ran the HOYB's major fundraiser, Bat-A-Thon for five years. Laura is also the past local, regional and state president of the Business and Professional Women Club, as well as a past Chair for the VA BPW Foundation.

Their volunteer efforts have been recognized in the past by the Town of Herndon and Fairfax County. Laura Price was named Lady Fairfax in 2006. Another letter supporting this nomination said, "They are an unselfish couple who continually give and want nothing in return. ... They are always going the extra mile to make sure everyone else is happy" Their commitment to giving is best summed up when the nomination letter stated, "They are two of the most kind hearted and welcoming individuals our town has."

The Prices will be honored at a banquet to be held at the Dulles Hilton, 13869 Park Center Drive, Herndon on Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to participate in this community event which will honor them while recognizing other supporters of the Rotary Club of Herndon's community outreach. Reservations should be made before Oct. 12 by contacting Tom Haselhorst at 703-761-4747 or thomas.haselhorst@wellsfargo.com.

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SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 7

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PHOTOS BY JEAN T. JIANOS/THE CONNECTION

The Muralidhar Family, from Great Falls, talks about space debris with Jacque and Charles Olin of the Analemma Society

Park Is Eye on the Sky

Astronomy program at Herndon, Jefferson high schools to work with Analemma Society on automated, remote access to new Observatory Park telescope.

equipment and technical expertise. As explained by Jacque Olin, Analemma Society member and Great Falls resident, fund raising is currently underway for Phase II, bringing computer systems on line that will enable astronomy students at Fairfax County Public Schools, and other users county-wide, to configure remote access control of the Observatory dome, telescope and digital imaging, from their classroom or other remote location, according to their research needs. "We are going to need continued support to complete this remote access in our schools," Olin said.

Blessing and her astronomy students at Herndon High School, together with Thomas Jefferson High School planetarium teacher Lee Ann Henning and students in the Thomas Jefferson Senior Research Astronomy Tech Lab, will be working on the year-long, remote access pilot program.

Herndon High School astronomy students also lead sky tours of the constellations on stargazing evenings when Observatory Park is open to the public. Members of the Analemma Society and the Northern Virginia Astronomy Club share their telescopes and their expertise. Blessing anticipates that those family nights will resume on Fridays in October.

Charles Olin, president of the Analemma Society, formed in 1998, gave a talk at Herndon High School in the early years of the society to further its stated mission, "to develop awareness, appreciation and understanding of science through astronomy."

When, a few years later, Blessing was looking to extend the learning experience of her astronomy students beyond her classroom, the Analemma Society and the Fairfax County Park Authority gave them that opportunity through the newly established Observatory Park. "It has been great for not only the school system, but the public in Northern Virginia," Blessing said at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

As the final speaker of the morning, Charles Olin expressed the belief that Observatory Park would continue to give students. "Some idea and appreciation for how science works, and for the joy and endeavor that is required in science, to know that you can learn yourself without looking it up in books," he said.

"It has been great for not only the school system, but the public in Northern Virginia."

— Mary Blessing

BY JEAN T. JIANOS
THE CONNECTION

Mary Blessing has worked with scientists during research flights aboard NASA's Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA), "the largest airborne observatory in the world," according to SOFIA's website.

To qualify for SOFIA's Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors program, Blessing had to explain how she planned to use her SOFIA training and flight experience. Her selection for the program was an acknowledgment of what she has successfully been able to do as planetarium director and teacher of astronomy at Herndon High School — bring the excitement of scientific research in to the classroom and to the wider community.

On Saturday morning, Sept. 24, Blessing was one of the featured speakers at the Observatory Building ribbon cutting ceremony at Observatory Park, Turner Farm, Great Falls, the Fairfax County Park Authority's only observatory. The Park Authority recently completed Phase I of a multi-phase improvement plan for Observatory Park by replacing the observatory dome and automating it for future remote access.

The nonprofit Analemma Society has worked with the Park Authority on the improvement and operation of Observatory Park from the time the park was established. As part of Phase I, Analemma donated the observatory telescope, telescope mount, related

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Calendar Listings

The Connection Newspapers contain a Calendar of Upcoming Events every week. While we cannot guarantee that every event we receive information about will be listed, here is the information we need for your upcoming event to be considered for the Calendar. We welcome photographs of similar events held previously, which sometimes appear with Calendar items.

- Name of Event:*
- Day of the Week, Date and Time:*
- Name of the Place Event will Be Held:*
- Address of the Place Event Will Be Held:*
- Name and Phone Number for More Information:*
- Three Sentences Describing the Event:*

Please submit your calendar information at least two weeks before your event. Clear photographs from similar previous events are always welcome. All events should be open to the public. We give first priority to free events. E-mail listings to:

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or mail to:
Calendar, Connection Newspapers
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OPINION

Overabundance

If you've lived almost anywhere in Northern Virginia for 10 years or longer, you probably remember when it was a bit of a thrill to catch sight of a deer.

Now in some neighborhoods, it can be a bit surprising if you don't see half a dozen deer in a mile at dusk. With the automobile the only active predator, and a remarkable 24-hour buffet set on nearly every block, the deer population is growing. Along with the growing deer population come serious impacts on people, as well as the deer and other plants and creatures.

If you drive in suburban Washington, chances are you know someone who has hit a deer, or had a deer hit them while driving. This has proved to be fatal for the driver in a small number of cases, but nearly always results in death or serious injury for the deer, plus often thousands of dollars in damage to the vehicle.

Lyme disease is an increasing problem, which can have serious health consequences if untreated. Lyme disease is often overlooked as a diagnosis.

The large deer population is hard on other flora and fauna. Not only do the deer consume vegetable gardens and landscaping, they damage habitat needed by other wildlife and impact native plants and young trees.

But even as we admit that something needs to be done about the deer population, it's difficult for many to embrace hunting in urban/suburban areas. Some residents have safety concerns, some are concerned about the suffering of the deer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An Open Letter to Gov. McDonnell

Dear Gov. McDonnell:

The proposed increase in Dulles Toll Road fees to over \$17 roundtrip within the next five years is an issue that has outraged Northern Virginia residents.

I read in the local media that Sen. Janet Howell (D-32) wrote a public letter urging you to increase the Commonwealth's contribution to this project. Make no mistake, Sen. Howell is making an election year, political recalculation and still refuses to offer substance, leadership or action on this important issue. Offering this issue lip service by writing politically motivated letters will not solve the massive funding problem facing Phase 2 of this project.

Throughout this year, the debate over the Metrorail to Dulles has been very controversial, yet Sen. Howell has been completely absent from the discussion. Even though her district covers almost the entire length of the Dulles Toll Road, she has demonstrated a fundamental lack of understanding of

these unacceptable toll increases. Furthermore, Sen. Howell continues to ignore the fact that these are actions of a non-elected entity with no transparency or accountability. Only one MWAA board member lives in the Dulles corridor area and takes the Dulles Toll Road to work.

Sen. Howell's lack of understanding was further demonstrated in her letter, wherein she cites dated toll rate projections from a 2009 study. What Sen. Howell fails to mention is that those numbers are based off of the initial cost estimates which have since ballooned over \$1 billion. In an official report on July 11, 2011, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) clearly projected double-digit roundtrip tolls before the end of your term as governor in order to pay for Metrorail to Dulles.

As a Commonwealth budget conferee, Sen. Howell is either being disingenuous or does not understand the fundamental economic realities of the situation. Either way, Northern Virginia residents deserve better.

At a Herndon Town Hall Meeting in January, Sen. Howell was asked about alternative rail financ-

Last year, Fairfax County's archery program killed 452 deer in 11 county parks, more than half the 815 deer killed through the county's deer management program on parkland. Last year marked the most deer killed since the deer management program began in 1998. Sharpshooting operations, conducted at 15 parks by Fairfax County police, killed another 226 deer. Managed hunts killed 137 deer at four parks.

EDITORIAL

Bow hunting allowed on private property is also part of county efforts to keep the deer population in check. With the deer population likely more than 25,000, it's not clear that such numbers will make enough of an impact.

Fairfax County will again use bow hunting, sharp shooting and managed hunts from now through March 2012 in efforts to control the population of deer. The sharpshooting and managed hunts will be conducted at selected park sites throughout the county.

Bow hunting began last weekend and will run until February in parks in every part of Fairfax County: Lake Accotink and Accotink Stream Valley park in Springfield; Wakefield Park in Annandale, Eakin Park in Fairfax, Laurel Hill Park and golf course in Lorton, Pohick Stream Valley, South Run Stream Valley and Lake Mercer in Springfield; Burke Lake Park in Fairfax Station, Confederate Fortifications Historic Site and Johnny Moore Stream Valley Park near Clifton; Eleanor C. Lawrence Park and Cub Run Stream Valley Park in Chantilly;

Adapting suburban, urban sensibilities to controlling deer; adapting deer control to suburban, urban sensibilities.

Sully Woodlands Park and Sully Historic Site; Colvin Run Stream Valley and Difficult Run Stream Valley parks, along with Riverbend Park in Great Falls; Difficult Run Stream Valley and Clark's Crossing parks in Vienna; Sugarland Run Stream Valley park in Herndon, and Huntley Meadows in Mount Vernon. Bow hunting is also used at Fort Belvoir, Mason Neck, and on private property. It is a continuous program with bow hunting allowed six days a week from just before dawn until sunset.

Managed hunts will go forward in two county park authority parks, Sully Woodlands on Nov. 17 and Jan. 12, and Scotts Run Dec. 14-16.

More research is needed. U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R) sponsored legislation that would direct more funding to develop a better test for Lyme disease. There are methods under study to apply some insecticide to deer to kill the ticks that spread Lyme disease. Some breakthrough method of curbing reproduction would be a welcome addition to deer management.

What are your thoughts? Have you seen bow hunters in the parks you frequent? Do you have an anecdote to relate about deer? We also welcome your photos.

MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

increase until they reach \$34 roundtrip by 2040. A toll increase of this magnitude will destroy our economic viability, congest our side streets even more, and run businesses and jobs out of town. What's more, this increase is an unreliable source of funding for Metrorail to Dulles.

Inevitably, commuters will avoid the Dulles Toll Road due to prohibitive fees. When this happens, who will pay for the maintenance of overused side streets and who will be responsible for replacing the loss of revenue on the Dulles Toll Road?

The residents of Northern Virginia need you to demonstrate strong leadership where others have not. I strongly support and urge you to make a significant allocation of funds for this project. However, I urge you to use that power to bring costs down to initial estimates, eliminate the PLA, and protect commuters, residents and businesses along the Dulles corridor from outrageous toll increases that would devastate our regional economy.

Patrick Forrest (R)
State Senate Candidate
32nd District

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NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 4

Credit Union Hosts School Supply Drive

Preparing for the school year can be financially stressful when budgets are tight. Corporate America Family Credit Union recognized a need within their community and launched its eighth year of sponsoring their school supply drive, "Project Backpack," to lend a hand to students from Hutchison Elementary School.

The member-owned financial institution, located at 13075 Worldgate Drive in Herndon, asked members and residents of their community to donate a variety of school supplies to benefit students in need. This year's drive helped demonstrate that the credit union philosophy of "people helping people" holds true in today's economy.

Corporate America Family Credit Union appreciates the support of their members and local community and looks forward to other opportunities to make a positive difference.

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years of experience serving the financial needs of members, and currently has 20 locations in small towns and major metropolitan areas nationwide, serving more than 65,000 members. For details about Corporate America Family Credit Union visit www.cafcu.org.

Town of Herndon Clean-Up

The Town of Herndon is asking residents to pitch in once again for its annual fall

clean-up and curbside collection of large items throughout the town's residential areas

Pickup is on normal trash day only, from Monday, Oct. 17, through Friday, Oct. 21. Items are to be placed at the curb by 7 a.m., for pickup, but no earlier than 24 hours prior to collection.

For more information about the pick up, including information about what types of items will be picked up, contact the Department of Public Works, Public.works@herndon-va.gov/ or 703-435-6853.



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Directions: I-66 West to Rt. 28 North to Rt. 50 West. Turn left on Rt. 15 South, to left on Braddock Rd., 1.5 miles to left at community entrance.

Hours: Mon. 1-6, Tues. – Sun. 11-6; closed Wed.

Brokers Warmly Welcome



Drees HOMESSM

2nd Annual NOVA Fall Art & Craft Showcase
Presented By
Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild

Saturday, Oct 8 (10 – 5)
Sunday, Oct 9 (11 – 4)

Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus
Ernst Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA 22003

Admission: \$3 Parking: Free

Artist Work & Directions: www.nvhg.org

Featuring over 50 Juried Artisans – Glass, Fabric and Wearable Arts, Jewelry, Knitting, Photography, Pottery, Silverwork, Watercolors, Wood and much more!

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ENTERTAINMENT

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GAINESVILLE
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Tropicals Back Indoors
And at our Fair Oaks Location
Oct. 1, 1 - 6 pm & Oct. 2, 12 - 4 pm
**73RD ANNUAL POTOMAC
ROSE SOCIETY ROSE SHOW**



The Fairfax Festival of the Arts will be at Fairfax Corner, 11900 Palace Way, Fairfax, on Saturday, Oct. 8 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 9 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Over 10,000 pieces of art will be for sale, including paintings, sculptures, photographs, jewelry, glass, fiber and ceramic art and more. Admission is free. paragonartevents.com/fairfax2/

Send announcements to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 28

Big Apple Circus. 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Dulles Town Center, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Dulles. Performers from around the globe. 888-541-3750 or bigapplecircus.org.

No Kidding! 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Great Grass-Grazing Goat Stories for the entire family. All ages. 703-689-2700.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 29

Big Apple Circus. 7 p.m. Dulles Town Center, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Dulles. Performers from around the globe. 888-541-3750 or bigapplecircus.org.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 30

ValeArts Fall Art Show Reception. 7-9 p.m. Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. More than 150 paintings by nine artists. Free. www.valearts.com or 703-860-1888.

Big Apple Circus. 7 p.m. Dulles Town Center, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Dulles. Performers from around the globe. 888-541-3750 or bigapplecircus.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 1

Light the Night Walk for Leukemia

& Lymphoma. 5-9 p.m. Reston Town Center, Pavilion and Market Streets, Reston. Celebrate and commemorate lives touched by cancer to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Funds raised support the ongoing mission to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma and to improve the quality of life of patients and their families. Children's games, local restaurants, live music and entertainment until 2-mile walk begins at dark. Register at 703-960-1100, 1-877-LTN-WALK or leukemia-lymphoma.org.

The 73rd Annual Potomac Rose Society Rose Show. 1-6 p.m. Merrifield Garden Center Fair Oaks, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Exhibitors must place rose specimens by 9:30 a.m. Saturday, judging follows. Consulting Rosarians will answer questions. Free. 301-869-4948 or kay.george@verizon.net.

Big Apple Circus. 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Dulles Town Center, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Dulles. Performers from around the globe. 888-541-3750 or bigapplecircus.org.

Brain Aneurysm 8K Run and 2K Walk. 9 a.m. South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. Proceeds benefit the Brain Aneurysm Foundation of the Washington Regional Transplant Community, in memory of Timothy Susco. www.susco8k.com.

Artist Reception and Gallery Talk. 8 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Petra Gerber's paintings for "Birth of a Star" were inspired by telescope images. 703-956-6590 or

www.artspaceherndon.org.
Adopt-A-Lab Event. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Weber's Pet Supermarket, 11201 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Meet Labrador retrievers from shelters, humane societies and more. Bring the family and you may be able to adopt the same day. Event organized by Lab Rescue of the Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac Inc. Free admission. 703-385-3766 or www.lab-rescue.org.

Lake Anne Jazz Festival. 1-9 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza Waterfront, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. With performances by Veronneau, Wayne Wilentz Quartet, The Mykle Lyons Group, Cissa Paz and more. www.lakeanneplaza.com.

The 19th Annual Fall For Fairfax KidsFest. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Interactive and educational programs, entertainment and activities for families with elementary and pre-K children. Free admission. 1-800-880-6629.

Loudoun Black U15 Boys Soccer Team Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. 709 Alabama Drive, Herndon. Proceeds help pay for the team's tournament expenses to Va. Beach. mickzahora@verizon.net.

SUNDAY/OCT. 2

Big Apple Circus. 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Dulles Town Center, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Dulles. Performers from around the globe. 888-541-3750 or bigapplecircus.org.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 14

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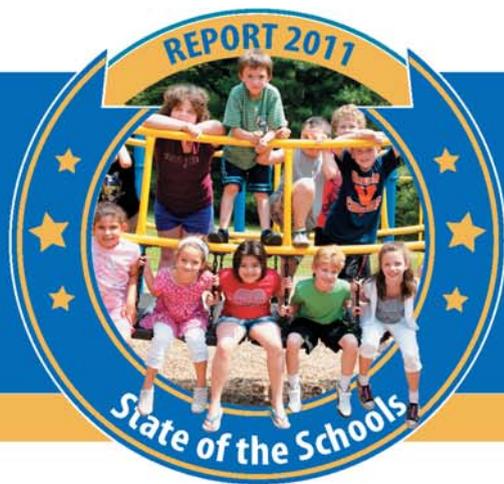
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Lab Rescue of the Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac Inc., a nonprofit group that rescues, fosters, and adopts Labs to approved applicants, will have an Adopt-A-Lab Event on Saturday, Oct. 1 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Weber's Pet Supermarket, 11201 Lee Highway in Fairfax. Meet Labrador retrievers from shelters, humane societies, and owners who no longer can care for them. Bring the whole family, human and canine, and you may be able to adopt the same day. Free admission. More Labs are available for adoption at www.lab-rescue.org. 703-385-3766.



There's Never Been a Better Time to Be a Student in Fairfax County Public Schools!

The Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) bus comes to a stop at the curb in front of the school. The engine continues to hum as the brakes let out a hiss. Standing eagerly at the curb are three smiling staff members waiting to greet the students. Students gather their backpacks and line up in the aisle. The students wait patiently as each child before them carefully navigates the steps off the bus. Their orderly line soon turns into a happy-go-lucky stride as they swing open the door to school, looking forward to seeing their classmates and teachers.



In every classroom, teachers are channeling the enthusiasm of their students and taking them on a journey that will inspire, motivate, and prepare them with knowledge and skills they will need for the future. Everyday, FCPS teachers help their students learn skills that will allow them to succeed in personal, community, and workplace environments and to understand and

participate in the global economy. Teachers adjust their methods and techniques to meet the unique needs of individual students and challenge all students.

Look inside a classroom. An elementary school teacher leads a language arts class discussion on synonyms and antonyms. The teacher is using an interactive white board to demonstrate how the words are similar or opposite. Observe other classrooms where students work quietly in centers, or designated areas of a classroom, allowing for small group instruction and learning.

Visit a middle school and observe 8th grade students in the science lab using computers and probeware to study temperature change during chemical reactions. The geometry class down the hall is hard at work using theorems to determine if lines are parallel.

Take a seat in a high school auditorium where students are participating in a seminar about the Cold War, listening to speakers who share their stories as influential players during the war. In another classroom, students log onto their computers and access their online social studies textbooks that offer extra learning resources and interactive maps to enrich their learning.

Hear a tune coming from the band room down the hall? Open the door and your ears fill with the music of Frank Ticheli's *Vesuvius* played by the high school concert band. Beginning in grade 4, FCPS students can play an instrument and be part of the band



or orchestra, or even choose to sing in their school's chorus.

For many students, their day does not end with the learning in the classroom. Thousands of FCPS students participate in extracurricular activities which can enhance what they learn in the classroom and also provide important lessons in teamwork, cooperation, and problem solving.

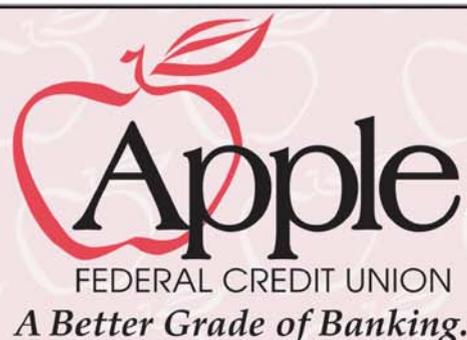
The clapping in the auditorium is coming from yet another sold-out performance of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Secondary and high schools throughout Fairfax County have established well-known theater programs that produce popular plays and shows.

The athletic fields and gymnasiums at FCPS schools are buzzing with activity most of days of the week as soccer, lacrosse, football, basketball, volleyball, and many more sports teams are

meeting to prepare for their next match.

Students can participate in a wide variety of activities as early as elementary school as members of the safety patrol, student government and school publications. At the middle and high school level, students can choose to get involved with the student newspaper or yearbook, join clubs, run for student government, try out for performance groups and athletics, and become a member of an honor society.

There's never been a better time to be a student in Fairfax County Public Schools!



This year's *State of Schools Report* courtesy of
Apple FCU - 2011 FCPS Business Partner of the Year

AppleFCU.org | 703-788-4800

Greetings from Superintendent Jack Dale



Fairfax County Public Schools is fortunate to have the support of an engaged community, involved parents, talented principals and teachers, and motivated students. Our school system ranks among the best in the nation and throughout this State of the Schools Report, you will see why. We are very proud of the hard work and focus of our staff and students, which have resulted in our extraordinary student achievement gains. But there's always more to do to make sure every one of our students is reaching his or her highest potential—academically and personally.

In moving FCPS forward, we have to help each student find his or her element—the meeting point between natural aptitude and personal passion. Our commitment here in FCPS is to provide as many opportunities as possible for students to achieve at the highest levels and help our students discover what possibilities for passion lie within them.

However, the reality is that while the way we educate students remains somewhat static, our world is changing exponentially. Through lots of great interventions and technology, we educate more students to higher levels of success and often at younger ages, but all within the current model of education. I believe it's time to change the paradigm.

What should our education system look like and be like to prepare our students to create the possibilities and opportunities to succeed in the 21st century? We will start to have these conversations during this school year throughout our community. I invite you to join in that conversation by visiting a special web site we have set up where you can share ideas and comments about what the future should look like for FCPS at <http://fcps.uservoice.com>. Ideas will be posted on the site throughout the year. School system employees, parents, and members of the community are welcome to weigh in on these topics, vote for the ideas they prefer, and include their comments.

Thank you for your continued support of our school system, our families, and our students!

FCPS Focuses Relentlessly on Student Achievement....

FCPS has established three student achievement goals as a framework to prepare students for the world of college and beyond:

Academics - Students will integrate academic knowledge and 21st century skills, allowing them to succeed in personal, community, and workplace environments and to understand and participate in the global economy.

Essential life skills - Each student will demonstrate the ability to work with others and develop relationships through effective communication, cooperation, negotiation, honesty, and ethical behavior.

Responsibility to the community - Students will demonstrate an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, and rights specific to a democratic society such as expressing ideas, act-

ing responsibly toward self and others, making informed decisions, accepting accountability and consequences for actions, and practicing honesty and treating others with respect.

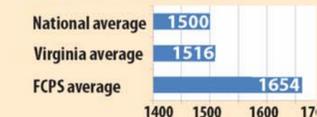
Each year, the School Board receives reports on how the school system is progressing toward reaching each of these goals.

... That Results in High Performance

- For the 2010 Standards of Learning tests, 92 percent of FCPS students passed mathematics and 93 percent of FCPS students passed reading.
- FCPS had the second highest graduation rate (91.2 percent) among the nation's 50 largest school districts.
- 91.7 percent of 2010 graduates are attending post-secondary programs.
- 65 percent of 2010 graduates earned advanced studies diplomas.

- All FCPS schools were in the top 6 percent of all American high schools as measured by their student participation in Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exams, according to the 2011 *Washington Post* rankings.
- A record 234 National Merit Scholars semifinalists were named from the class of 2011, the most in FCPS history.
- FCPS students earned more than 7,000 industry certifications during the 2009-10 school year, an increase of 86 percent from the previous year.

SAT Scores (Class of 2011)



THE TALENTS OF FCPS STAFF

FCPS employs 22,980 staff (92.9 percent school based and 7.1 percent non-school based).

Just as every student brings individual strengths and needs to our classrooms, our teachers and staff bring unique skills and talent to prepare students for the future. More than 9,700 (64 percent) of teachers have master's degrees and more than 360 FCPS teachers are certified by National Board of Professional Teaching Standards, the highest credential a teacher can earn.

Our principals provide strong leadership and focus on creating collaborative teams that use the best teaching practices to raise the bar

for all students and close the achievement gap. Principals also collaborate throughout the school system to share leadership strategies and success stories.

FCPS has the lowest ratio (0.8 percent) of non-school-based management positions to total school system positions in the entire metropolitan region. So while FCPS enrollment increased by 13,000 from 2007 to 2012, we hired 906 positions in the schools and decreased non-school positions by 130.

177,629 students



THE FACES OF FCPS STUDENTS 2011-12 Projected Enrollment: 177,629 students

Fairfax County Public Schools is the 11th largest school system in the United States with nearly 200 schools and centers.

Diversity is one of FCPS' greatest strengths and is an important part of creating resilient, caring, and innovative citizens of a global community. Our schools support more than 23,000 students who receive services for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and more than 24,000 students who receive special education services. One in four students (or 45,000) is eligible for free or reduced-price meals, the federal measure of poverty.

More Ways Why FCPS is a World-Class School System

- Closing the achievement gap between black and white students and Hispanic and white students is a priority for FCPS. Over the past three years, the black/white achievement gap on Standards of Learning (SOL) reading tests continues to decline from 13 percent to 10 percent. The Hispanic/white achievement gap on SOL reading tests increased from 10 percent to 11 percent. On SOL math tests, the achievement gap between black students and white students declined from 15 percent to 13 percent. The Hispanic achievement gap also declined from 16 percent three years ago to 11 percent.
- FCPS is one of eight school divisions in Virginia to be recognized with 2011 **Excellence Award from the Virginia Board of Education**, which recognizes divisions that exceed minimum state and federal accountability standards and meet or exceed a number of performance indicators. In addition, 98 FCPS schools were honored for Virginia Index of Performance Awards.
- Nine students from FCPS won awards at the 2011 **Intel International Science and Engineering Fair**.
- FCPS received the 2011 **CIO 100 Award**, recognizing innovative use of technology, from *Chief Information Officer* magazine. FCPS was honored for creating and deploying the FCPS Electronic Curriculum Assessment Resource Tool (eCART), which provides teachers and school administrators with access to web-based curricula, assessments, tools and resources that support teaching and learning for grades K-12, and are available anytime and anywhere.
- The Broad Foundation recognized FCPS in 2010 as one of the top performing school districts in the nation for improving African-American and economically disadvantaged student achievement.



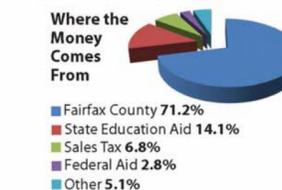
FCPS Manages Its Resources Responsibly

Two primary budgets help to fund the programs and facilities of Fairfax County Public Schools—the annual school operating budget and the Capital Improvement Program budget.

The school operating budget, which is approved by the Fairfax County School Board every year, provides for the day-to-day operations and maintenance of the schools.

In FY 2011, FCPS ranks in the middle of other school districts in the Washington metropolitan area with a cost per pupil of \$12,597, a decrease of \$301, or 2.3 percent, from \$12,898. This decrease was due primarily to a lower county transfer and budget reductions. This represents the third consecutive year of declining per-pupil spending, with an overall decrease of \$810, or 6.0 percent, from FY 2008 to FY 2011.

2011-12 Fiscal Year Operating Budget -- \$2.2 billion



FY 2012-2016 Capital Improvement Program -- \$805 million

Student enrollment continues to grow each year. More than 177,629 students attend FCPS, an increase of 2,333 students in one year alone. Enrollment has increased by 13,000 students since 2007. Additional space is needed to accommodate our growing student population and the accompanying normal wear and tear on buildings.

Since 2007, FCPS has built three new schools, renovated 10 schools, and completed three school building additions and eight modular additions. In 2011-12, FCPS is currently building two new schools and renovating 10 others. We will begin renovations on nine other schools this year.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM THE PAST YEAR



Student Rights & Responsibilities Handbook Update

Fairfax County Public Schools is committed to the safety of all students and providing a secure learning environment at school. The *Student Rights and Responsibilities (SR&R)* handbook helps students understand both their right to be educated in a safe environment, and their responsibility for proper behavior. This year, the booklet has been updated to reflect recent Fairfax County School Board decisions about the discipline process. Some of the changes include:

- Principals will have increased discretion regarding consequences for possession of prescription drugs at school.
- Ensuring that before a student is reassigned from his or her base school, other disciplinary options would be considered, including loss of privileges.

- Providing, if feasible, academic support and other services to a student on out-of-school suspension to maintain academic progress.

Priority Schools Launch

As part of the school system's commitment to closing the achievement gap, 30 elementary and middle schools were designated as Priority Schools. These schools receive additional support in training, resources, and staff to ensure that all their students achieve at high levels. Support teams composed of central office staff provide new ideas and extra attention to the Priority School principals and teacher leaders so that any barriers are removed that might impede success. First-year results show significant gains in reading and math in many of the priority schools.

Online Textbooks for Social Studies

All FCPS students in grades 7-12 began using online textbooks this year in all core social studies classes. Online textbooks offer resources to differentiate and enrich student learning and can include built-in features such as read aloud, highlighting, dictionaries, glossaries, videos, and flashcards.

Full-Day Kindergarten Rollout

Beginning this fall, children entering kindergarten will attend a full-day program in every one of our 137 elementary schools. The completion of the implementation of full-day kindergarten in the remaining 36 elementary schools this year was a critical step that ensures all of our youngest students will receive the same educational opportunities.

CHALLENGES AHEAD

Closing the Achievement Gap

While FCPS has made progress on closing the achievement gap, we haven't reached our goal of all students achieving at high levels. School system data show that black and Hispanic students still do not perform academically, as a group, as well as their white and Asian counterparts. A steady focus on best teaching practices, collaborative teams, and using data to drive decisions on teaching and learning strategies will result in the continued narrowing of the gap.



Larger Class Sizes

Fairfax County continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. This year's budget provided for an increase of more than 2,300 additional students for the 2011-12 school year at a cost of \$28.4 million. As FCPS enrollment continues to grow, more resources will be needed to accommodate more teachers, learning materials, and classrooms.

Did You Know ?

Approximately 70 percent of high schoolers participate in student activities, and nearly 40 percent participate in Virginia High School League (VHSL) athletic or academic activities.

Did You Know ?

65 percent of FCPS graduates complete college-level courses in high school.

Teacher Compensation

More is demanded of teachers every year. They consistently update their professional training to improve their teaching skills, and are required to keep up with technology changes in their classrooms and new ways of collaborating together to ensure every child succeeds. In FY 2012, FCPS teachers (and all other employees) received their first salary increase in two years. FCPS believes in its teachers and wants to compensate them for the increase in demands of their jobs.

Fairfax County School Board

We Believe in Our Children

- Each child is important and entitled to the opportunity to realize his or her fullest potential.
- High expectations promote high achievement.

We Believe in Our Teachers

- Effective teachers are essential to student success.
- Learning occurs best when instruction is tailored to individual needs.

We Believe in Our Public Education System

- Adults and children thrive in a vibrant, safe, enriching, and respectful environment.
- A well-rounded education enables students to lead fulfilling and culturally rich lives.
- An educated citizenry is critical to sustaining our economy and our system of self-governance.

We Believe in Our Community

- A dynamic partnership among students, parents, teachers, staff members, and the community is critical to exceptional student achievement.
- Our diversity creates resilient, open, and innovative citizens of the global community.



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Chairman,
Dranesville District



Ilryong Moon
Vice Chairman,
Member At Large



Elizabeth T. Bradsher
Springfield District



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Lee District



Sandra S. Evans
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Member At Large



James L. Raney
Member At Large



Patricia S. Reed
Providence District



Kathy Smith
Sully District



Dan Storck
Mount Vernon District



Tessie Wilson
Braddock District



Parents, Citizens Invited to Education Summit on Saturday, October 15

Education is moving away from the traditional industrial model and evolving into an era of customization in which individual student goals drive the learning process. The second annual **Fairfax Education Summit** will explore student goal setting, project-based learning, and new ways of measuring student success. Superintendent Jack Dale will lead a discussion panel composed of educators, students, and business leaders.

Please join parents, school system leaders, and community members at Woodson High School on October 15 from 8 a.m. to noon for this program, "Moving to the Next Level: Customizing Public Education."

For more details, visit www.fcps.edu

Getting to Know Us

Middle School Teacher **Jamie Sawatzky**



For Rocky Run Middle School history teacher Jamie Sawatzky, every new school year is like the opening day of baseball season. The year is a fresh start, a chance to work with a new group of students and help each of them hit an academic homerun.

Sawatzky, the Fairfax County Public Schools 2011 Teacher of the Year, brings history lessons to life for seventh graders at his school. Not only do his students learn about historical events, they participate in role play exercises to reinforce the lesson. For example, his students are assigned a position to debate the merits and expenses of the Social Security program while studying the New Deal or they each assume the identity of an immigrant arriving at Ellis Island.

Sawatzky also serves as a coach in FCPS' Great Beginnings, a comprehensive program that provides support to new teachers through mentoring and professional learning opportunities.

"It is an extensive program designed to inspire teachers who are new to FCPS," he said. "The level of excitement in the new teachers is just great. Fairfax County recognizes that teaching is a profession and they provide the resources to help us on that journey."

Sawatzky has been teaching for 12 years. He is also the recipient of The Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award for educational excellence.

Strengthening Schools with Business and Community Partners

More than 350 businesses, community organizations, and individuals have partnered with Fairfax County Public Schools. Through generous donations or time, each person makes a valuable contribution to creating a world-class school system and an environment that values learning. To date, 130 schools, supporting 3,800 students, have active mentoring programs.

If you would like to partner with FCPS, here are five ways to get involved:

- Mentor a child
- Partner with a school
- Partner systemwide
- Support an existing partnership
- Help develop or advance an educational initiative

To learn more about how your business or community group can support the schools, please visit www.fcps.edu.

For more information on Fairfax County Public Schools, visit www.fcps.edu.

Be sure to look for regular updates about Fairfax County Public Schools every month right here in your Connections/Gazette newspaper!



Become a fan of the Fairfax County Public Schools on Facebook



Follow **FCPSnews** on Twitter

Did You Know ?

In partnership with the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, the Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools was launched this year to support the mission of the world-class school system to inspire, enable, and empower students to meet high academic standards, as defined by the superintendent, through resource development and business partnerships.

Learn more at <http://www.fairfaxchamber.org>

High School Senior **E. J. Coleman III**



E.J. Coleman's week is similar to many other high school seniors. He's an active member of the Mount Vernon High School debate team, the National Honor Society, the Men of Vision and Purpose program and many other clubs. He is enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program at his school and he serves as a Battalion commander in the Marine Corps JROTC. He's even a licensed pilot. But the one thing that sets him apart from other seniors? He's the student representative to the Fairfax County School Board.

Coleman said he wanted to serve on the School Board because he is interested in politics.

"I saw it as a way for me to help other students in Fairfax County Public Schools in a more direct way. Before I was elected to the position I spoke at different public hearings and that was a way to help other students. This position allows me to have more of a positive impact on a larger group of my peers," he said.

Coleman has served as class president and was elected Governor at Boy's State last summer. His experience at Boy's State gave him the opportunity to meet students from around the country.

"I'm especially proud to say that Fairfax County Public Schools is one of the best school systems in the country and that it has been recognized internationally," he said. "I am also proud of the fact that some of the best students in the country would give me the honor of representing them on the school board."

Lifelong Partners Through Education Apple Federal Credit Union and FCPS

Apple FCU is pleased to sponsor FCPS' outreach efforts in the *State of the Schools* initiative. This year, Apple and the Apple FCU Education Foundation were named the FCPS Business Partner of the Year and we're honored to be associated with this premier school district.

Serving the Education Community Since 1956

No one understands educators, students and their families better than Apple FCU. Our commitment to the education community is evident through our exclusive product and service offerings and support for student achievement and academic success.

19 Student Run Credit Unions (SRCU). Apple FCU was the first credit union in Virginia to deploy an SRCU program at Robert E. Lee HS in 1995, providing students with invaluable money management skills and financial literacy acumen.

Sponsorship of the Junior Achievement Finance Park. Apple hosts a storefront to provide practical skills and financial education to approximately 14,000, eighth-grade students.

Stuff the Bus School Supply Drive supports Fairfax County families in need with school supplies and backpacks.

FREE Money Management Workshops. Monthly workshops are provided to assist FCPS employees in meeting their financial dreams.

Apple FCU Education Foundation's partnership with the Great Beginnings New Teacher Induction Program.

For details, visit AppleFCU.org or call 703-788-4800.





PHOTO BY AMIEE FREEMAN/THE CONNECTION

Reston residents Debra and David Penn with daughters Peyton, right, 5, and Sydney, 2. Debra was walking in memory of her mother and grandmother who both had Alzheimer's Disease. Debra was a top fund raiser in Sunday's event. At the time of the walk she had raised more than \$4,000.

Walking Against Alzheimer's

Walk at Reston Town Center raises money to support Alzheimer's Association.

BY AMIEE FREEMAN
THE CONNECTION

The pavilion at Reston Town Center was a sea of purple Sunday night, Sept. 26, as more than 650 walkers participated in the Alzheimer's Association's Walk to End Alzheimer's. The goal of the 1-mile walk and candlelight vigil was "to provide hope and help and to raise money and awareness for programs," said Susan Kudla Finn, president and CEO of Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter. This walk was the third annual walk in Reston and one of 600 events that took place nationwide this year.

According to Finn, Alzheimer's is in the "top 10 of disease killers." The disease affects more than 5.4 million people nationwide, with an estimated 80,000 affected in the Washington, D.C., area.

Walk to End Alzheimer's co-chair Linda Bucelli, a Vienna native and current resident of Oak Hill, became involved with Alzheimer's Association because of her mother. She saw how Alzheimer's devastated a family, so she volunteered with Alzheimer's Association.

"I made it my personal goal to fight this disease," Bucelli said. She calls Alzheimer's a two for one disease, affecting the person diagnosed and the caregiver.

Margie and John Gold of Vienna recruited family and friends to form the Gold Team. Together they raised more than \$4,500 and were one of the top fund-raising teams.

John Gold said that he and his team were participating in the Walk to "make Alzheimer's just a memory." Both Margie and John Gold's fathers were victims of

Alzheimer's, and they do not want their children to have to "deal with this disease, to deal with us," said Margie Gold.

Reston resident Debra Penn, walking with her husband David, and daughters Peyton, 5, and Sydney, 2, was among the top individual fund raisers, raising more than \$4,000. She lost her mother and her grandmother to the disease.

"Alzheimer's Association has so many great services to help caregivers. I wanted to help get the word out about this organization," said Debra Penn.

Heidi Matchett of Sterling participated in the walk with her husband, Jason; son, Aaron, 4; her friend, Laura Walz and her son, Jacob, also 4. Matchett lost her father this summer, at age 60, to Alzheimer's. After having been diagnosed five years earlier with the disease, Matchett said Alzheimer's "crippled" her family.

"When people hear Alzheimer's, they think he must have been in his 80s, but he was still young," Matchett said. Her mother had use of her savings to take care of her father. Matchett hopes Alzheimer's Association works to create legislation to help caregivers take care of loved ones.

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) was the Walk's honorary chair. She said that the disease "affects us all some way or another." She wants to ensure that county employers are aware of and "look out for signs of Alzheimer's." She hopes to work to "promote awareness through the county of the disease."

In her opening remarks to start the Walk, Hudgins related how the disease effected her. She said she lost her father to

SEE FIGHTING, PAGE 15

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*Offer good on select seat locations and performances. Children under 3 are free on the lap of a paid adult, one child per lap.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 8

The 73rd Annual Potomac Rose Society Rose Show. 12-4 p.m. Merrifield Garden Center Fair Oaks, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Consulting Rosarians will answer questions. Free. 301-869-4948 or kaygeorge@verizon.net.

TUESDAY/OCT. 4

Big Apple Circus. 7 p.m. Dulles Town Center, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Dulles. Performers from around the globe. 888-541-3750 or bigapplecircus.org.
Author Ingrid King. 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Author of "Buckley's Story: Lessons from a Feline Master Teacher." www.ingridking.com.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 5

We Can't Live Without Them: The Importance of Minerals to Our Way of Life. 7 p.m. USGS, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Every year about 25,000 pounds of non-fuel mineral materials are extracted from the Earth for every person in the US. Learn what these minerals are and how we use them, where they come from, and the steps involved from discovery to use. Free and open to the public. Federal facility, photo Id required. 703-648-4748 or www.usgs.gov/public lecture series.

Big Apple Circus. 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Dulles Town Center, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Dulles. Performers from around the globe. 888-541-3750 or bigapplecircus.org.

THURSDAY/OCT. 6

Big Apple Circus. 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Dulles Town Center, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Dulles. Performers from around the globe. 888-541-3750 or bigapplecircus.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 7

Oktoberfest Reston. 3-11 p.m. Reston Town Center, Pavilion and Market Streets, Reston. Featuring fall brews, food from area restaurants, live entertainment, children's rides and more. Presented by the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce. oktoberfestreston.com.

Big Apple Circus. 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Dulles Town Center, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Dulles. Performers from around the globe. 888-541-3750 or bigapplecircus.org.

The Wood Brothers with Clay Cook. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$20. www.wolftrap.org.

Transforming the Written Word into a Spoken Performance. 1:30 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Laura Giannarelli, a professional actress and audio book narrator for the Library of Congress, gives the inside scoop on transforming the written word into a spoken performance by taking you behind the scene in the recording studio. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/tr/direct.htm.

SATURDAY/OCT. 8

Fairfax Festival of the Arts. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Fairfax Corner, 11900 Palace Way, Fairfax. Over 10,000 pieces of art will be for sale, including paintings, sculptures, photographs, jewelry, glass, fiber and ceramic art and more. paragonartevents.com/

fairfax2/
Oktoberfest Reston. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Reston Town Center, Pavilion and Market Streets, Reston. Featuring fall brews, food from area restaurants, live entertainment, children's rides and more. Presented by the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce. oktoberfestreston.com.

Big Apple Circus. 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Dulles Town Center, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Dulles. Performers from around the globe. 888-541-3750 or bigapplecircus.org.

Chris Smither. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Blues and contemporary roots music. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

Discover eBooks. 11 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 1925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. A check presentation will be followed by hands-on demonstrations on downloading eBooks and will allow participants to compare different eReaders. 703-689-2700.

SUNDAY/OCT. 9

Fairfax Festival of the Arts. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fairfax Corner, 11900 Palace Way, Fairfax. Over 10,000 pieces of art will be for sale, including paintings, sculptures, photographs, jewelry, glass, fiber and ceramic art and more. paragonartevents.com/fairfax2/

Oktoberfest Reston. 12-8 p.m. Reston Town Center, Pavilion and Market Streets, Reston. Featuring fall brews, food from area restaurants, live entertainment, children's rides and more. Presented by the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce. oktoberfestreston.com.

Big Apple Circus. 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Dulles Town Center, 21100

Dulles Town Circle, Dulles. Performers from around the globe. 888-541-3750 or bigapplecircus.org.

Anthem Great Pumpkin 5K and Kid's Pumpkin Dash. 8:30 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11921 Freedom Drive, Reston. Kids Pumpkin Dash and pumpkin decorating contest. Timed 5k \$35, non-timed 5k \$25. 703-707-9045.

MONDAY/OCT. 10

Big Apple Circus. 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Dulles Town Center, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Dulles. Performers from around the globe. 888-541-3750 or bigapplecircus.org.

Take Steps for Crohn's & Colitis. 3 p.m. Temporary Road Pavilion, Reston. Raise money for research and raise awareness of these painful digestive diseases that afflict millions of people. www.cctakesteps.org, 703-865-6130 or hpalmer@ccfa.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 15

Frying Pan Farm Park Harvest Day. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Watch the cider press in action, milk a goat, shell corn, peel apples, and meet the farm animals. Paint a small pumpkin, play farm games and see traditional farm demonstrations. \$5. 703-437-9101.

Comedian Wanda Sykes. 8 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. \$35-\$45, available online at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. www.wandaspykes.com or www.patriotcenter.com.

Weekend Bluegrass Concert Series: Hearttown. 7:30 p.m. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090

Sterling Road, Herndon. \$15. 703-435-8377 or www.hearttownband.com.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 19

Disney On Ice: Dare to Dream. 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$70, available at 1-800-551-SEAT, www.ticketmaster.com; and www.patriotcenter.com. www.disneyonice.com.

THURSDAY/OCT. 20

Disney On Ice: Dare to Dream. 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$70, available at 1-800-551-SEAT, www.ticketmaster.com; and www.patriotcenter.com. www.disneyonice.com.

FRIDAY/OCT. 21

Herndon Spooktacular. 6:30 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Registration fee covers all activities, treat bag and Magic Show. Ages 3-8 with parent. 703-787-7300.

Disney On Ice: Dare to Dream. 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$70, available at 1-800-551-SEAT, www.ticketmaster.com; and www.patriotcenter.com. www.disneyonice.com.

16th Annual Craftsmen's Fall Classic Arts & Crafts Festival. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Dulles Expo Center South Hall, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center. Original designs and work from artists and craftsmen. Admission \$7, \$1 age 6-12, under age 6 free. 1-336-282-5550.



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PHOTO BY AMIEE FREEMAN/THE CONNECTION

The Gold family team were top fundraisers in Sunday's Alzheimer's walk. At the time of the walk they had raised \$4,500 to support Alzheimer's Association. From left are John Gold, Colleen Sheppard, Scott Gold and Margie Gold. John and Margie live in Vienna. They participated in the walk in memory of their fathers.

Fighting Alzheimer's

FROM PAGE 13

Alzheimer's and a very close friend was diagnosed with the disease at 40.

"We are working to stop this disease from robbing families of parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles," she said. "One day, we want to say that we cured this disease. Fairfax County is committed to being a partner in fighting this disease."

ABC7/WJLA reporter and Maryland Bureau Chief Greta Kreuz was the Walk's emcee. In her opening words to the walkers, Kreuz called the disease "very

insidious" and recounted the story of her mother who just passed away from the disease. Kreuz also read a letter of support from Gov. Bob McDonnell (R). According to Kreuz, Alzheimer's has also affected the governor's family, with the governor's father being diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

At the conclusion of the Walk, participants gathered again in the pavilion at Reston Town Center to take part in a candlelight vigil. Light from the glowing candles was reflected overhead in the pavilion's glass covering, calling to mind those who had been lost to the disease, said Kreuz.

HOME SALES

In August 2011, 83 homes sold between \$1,682,000-\$109,000 in the Herndon and Oak Hill area.

This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$460,000-\$274,196 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
113 HERNDON MILL CIR	3	3	1	HERNDON	\$460,000	Townhouse	0.06	20170	VILLAGE AT HERNDON MILLS	08/03/11	
12730 BRADWELL RD	4	2	1	HERNDON	\$430,000	Detached	0.24	20171	FOX MILL ESTS	08/01/11	
620 WORCHESTER ST	4	2	0	HERNDON	\$425,000	Detached	0.21	20170	HUNTERS CREEK	08/10/11	
3417 DOE RUN CT	3	3	0	HERNDON	\$418,000	Detached	0.23	20171	FRANKLIN FARM	08/22/11	
3194 KINBRACE RD	3	2	0	HERNDON	\$410,000	Detached	0.23	20171	CHANTILLY HIGHLANDS	08/20/11	
13503 FLORIS ST	4	2	0	HERNDON	\$405,000	Detached	0.60	20171	MOUNTAIN VIEW	08/23/11	
2602 ARMADA ST	4	2	0	HERNDON	\$395,000	Detached	0.26	20171	FOX MILL ESTATES	08/12/11	
13394 BURROUGH FARM DR	3	2	2	HERNDON	\$390,000	Townhouse	0.03	20171	MCNAIR FARMS LANDBAY	08/26/11	
13105 PLOTNER FARM RD	3	2	2	HERNDON	\$384,000	Townhouse	0.03	20171	MCNAIR FARMS LANDBAY 11	08/31/11	
2549 JAMES MONROE CIR	3	2	2	HERNDON	\$383,000	Townhouse	0.04	20171	MCNAIR FARMS LANDBAY	08/24/11	
1435 KINGSTREAM DR	3	3	0	HERNDON	\$380,000	Detached	0.23	20170	KINGSTREAM	08/31/11	
1406 POWELLS TAVERN PL	4	3	2	HERNDON	\$370,000	Detached	0.26	20170	CRESTBROOK	08/23/11	
12602 BAYOU DR	3	2	1	HERNDON	\$370,000	Detached	0.21	20170	KINGSTON CHASE	08/14/11	
12011 STUART RIDGE DR	3	2	0	HERNDON	\$367,900	Detached	0.22	20170	STUART RIDGE	08/15/11	
13122 PLOTNER FARM RD	3	3	1	HERNDON	\$360,000	Townhouse	0.03	20171	MCNAIR FARMS LANDBAY 11	08/12/11	
13412 WHALEY CT	3	2	2	HERNDON	\$340,000	Townhouse	0.06	20171	FRANKLIN FARM	08/31/11	
12511 MISTY WATER DR	4	2	1	HERNDON	\$330,000	Detached	0.20	20170	CRESTBROOK	08/26/11	
535 MERLINS LN	4	2	0	HERNDON	\$329,900	Detached	0.15	20170	HUNTERS CREEK	08/31/11	
3302 HILL HAVEN CT	3	2	1	OAK HILL	\$329,900	Townhouse	0.04	20171	FRANKLIN FARM	08/01/11	
1512 SADLERS WELLS DR	3	2	0	HERNDON	\$320,000	Detached	0.21	20170	HIDDENBROOK	08/30/11	
3342 STONE HEATHER CT	3	2	1	HERNDON	\$317,000	Townhouse	0.04	20171	FRANKLIN FARM	08/19/11	
644 ALABAMA DR	4	2	1	HERNDON	\$309,000	Detached	0.38	20170	CHANDON	08/19/11	
1520 SHELLBARK PL	4	2	0	HERNDON	\$299,000	Detached	0.19	20170	HIDDENBROOK	08/26/11	
1241 WILSHIRE DR	6	3	0	HERNDON	\$297,000	Detached	0.22	20170	DULLES PARK	08/02/11	
13494 FOXLEASE CT	3	3	1	HERNDON	\$295,000	Townhouse	0.04	20171	FRANKLIN FARM	08/09/11	
415 PATRICK LN	4	2	0	HERNDON	\$294,254	Detached	0.27	20170	CHANDON	08/29/11	
2526 LOGAN WOOD DR	2	2	1	HERNDON	\$293,000	Townhouse	0.02	20171	MCNAIR FARMS LANDBAY 6	08/31/11	
13114 MARCEY CREEK RD	3	2	0	OAK HILL	\$290,000	Townhouse	0.04	20171	FOX MILL STATION	08/25/11	
507 ASPEN DR	4	2	1	HERNDON	\$280,000	Detached	0.20	20170	THE DOWNS	08/19/11	
13611 KRISTIN PL	3	2	1	HERNDON	\$280,000	Townhouse	0.04	20171	HIGHLAND MEWS	08/31/11	
1201 CYPRESS TREE PL	2	2	2	HERNDON	\$278,000	Townhouse	0.06	20170	PARKWAY PLAZA	08/31/11	
13135 MARCEY CREEK RD #131353	2	2	0	HERNDON	\$274,196	Townhouse	0.04	20171	FOX MILL STATION	08/15/11	

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"Confliction"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I know I need to get out more, as in go places – out of town, specifically, and do more things (while I'm able), but I'm conflicted. Since my diagnosis, back in February 2009, my life has evolved into a variety of cancer-targeted pursuits whose goal was to survive the original 13-month-to-two-year prognosis I was given; from adhering to the standard cancer-treatment protocols with which most people are familiar: chemotherapy and/or radiation, lab work, diagnostic scans, regular and recurring appointments with my oncologist, etc., to lifestyle and diet changes: alkaline diet, alkaline water, miscellaneous pills and supplements, baking soda, apple cider vinegar, pureed asparagus, probiotics, exercise and so forth. And largely, given the 30-month point at which I am presently still living and breathing, these changes/modifications have had a presumably positive effect on my life expectancy.

In considering the facts/feelings and wondering still (always) about the future (and the present, too; let's be honest here), I feel like I'm at a crossroads of sorts: what to do/where to go next? If I want to live longer and hopefully prosper, perhaps something in my life needs to change. But change is difficult for me, especially when changes that I've made previously have apparently (not definitively) extended my life way beyond that rather grim and discouraging prognosis I received two and a half years ago.

Nevertheless, stagnation is probably not good for the soul, either. And if I want to continue to pretend that nothing is really wrong with me, staying in my routine, as much as I've come to embrace it, might not be the best long-term answer. I can't imagine that being afraid to live outside my cancer-fighting cocoon is the best revenge, as they say. But breaking free of some of these cancer-induced boundaries is risky – in my head, anyway, and worrisome, too; as in why mess with success? But if I don't, there's an ever-increasing sense that the mental restraints that I am self-imposing will weaken my resolve somehow and provide a type of aid and comfort to the enemy which I – and so many others, are fighting.

I can't stop thinking that to do so would be a leap of faith, however. And though I've had faith and belief in what I've been doing to support my immune system in fighting this insidious – and incurable disease (stage IV lung cancer), I still want to think and act like I'm open to, and always doing, more – without leaping too much. But if more (something new and different – for me) causes me to do less of what I have already been doing and what I perceive has been successful in keeping me alive/enabling me to outlive my original prognosis, then I start using some of my deceased father's made-up words, which means I don't have any of my own real words to accurately describe the stress, anxiety, fear, uncertainty and "confliction" I feel. And even though invoking my father's memory – in almost any context is a good thing, invoking it here, with respect to one of my cancer conundrums seems disturbing somehow, as if I'm involving him in something I'd rather spare him from knowing. Do you know what I mean?

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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CAMPS & SCHOOLS

Carson Teacher Wins Award

Garrett Evans recognized as Technology Education Teacher of the Year.

BY AMIEE FREEMAN
THE CONNECTION

At first glance, technology teacher Garrett Evans' seventh grade Inventions and Innovations classroom at Rachel Carson Middle School in Herndon resembles other technology classrooms: a large space with computer terminals and work areas. On a recent weekday afternoon, about 30 students were working in pairs at computers terminals to complete an introduction to the class.

The ordinariness of this classroom belies the honor bestowed on Evans by the Virginia Technology and Engineering Education Association. This past summer, Evans was awarded the 2011 Virginia Middle School Technology Education Teacher of the Year award.

Through the course of a semester, students will work in pairs to complete units on rocketry and space, electricity, small engines, flight technology, lights and lasers, computer graphics and animation, robotics and audio broadcasting and other topics.

"Fifteen things happening simultaneously," said Evans. "It gets pretty busy in here."

A brief run down of what students accomplish at the 15 stations sounds like the type of knowledge everyone should have or would want to have. At the rocketry and space station, the students build rockets, at the electricity station students create circuit panels, at the small engine station students take apart a lawn mower engine and reassemble it, at the lights and lasers station students transfer sound using light, at the technical station students take apart a sink and put it back together and learn how to hang a shelf level.

"My sister took this class," said student Cole Brudi, when asked why he wanted to take this class. "They got to make CO2 cars and rockets. I thought it would be fun to learn more about technology and how stuff works, lasers and stuff like that."

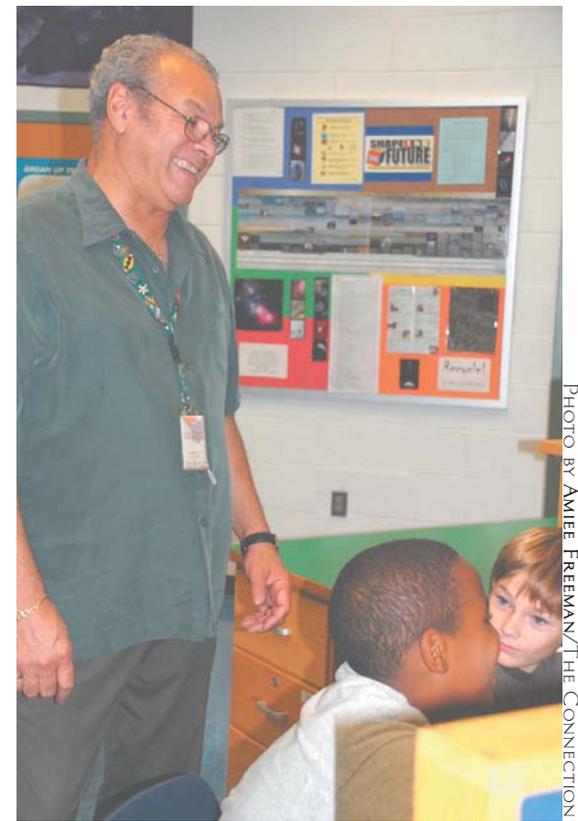
Fellow student Zack Thomas had a similar reply. "I love technology and our teacher's great," he said. "My sister took this class and my sister's friends. They said it was great. Everybody wanted to take it."

"I like technology and my dad is a technical person, so I figured if I did this class he could help me with my homework," said student Joey Schantz.

"It sounded like fun, making robots and doing computer stuff," said student Alice Wang.

"Students hear from older siblings and friends about the egg crash cars and rockets, and they want to take the class too," said Evans

Adjacent to the classroom is a workshop where students make model cars and do woodworking for other projects. This room also contains the ramp that will be used later in the semester for testing egg crash



Garrett Evans provides instruction to Rachel Carson seventh grade students Cole Brudi and Ahmed Mahmoud.

cars. Students are given Styrofoam cars and an egg. They must then decide how to secure the egg in the car to protect it during simulated crashes.

Much of the subject matter covered in this class will give students a leg up in high school and with careers. For example, at one of the stations students work with computer-aided architecture design (CAAD) to develop a house floor plan.

"This is the type of information a student could take to high school and beyond. It gets the student off and running. It exposes them to ideas and pushes them think about stuff they normally would not," said Evans.

EVANS' PATH TO A CAREER as a technology teacher began while he was still in high school. During his senior year, Evans' guidance counselor pulled him aside and asked him what he liked to do. Evans replied he liked making go-carts and that he often worked with his father, who was a hobby

carpenter. The guidance counselor told him that he should go to college and learn how to become an industrial arts teacher.

Once completing college and following a brief stint in the military, Evans began his teaching career in 1973. He left teaching in 1978 to pursue careers that paid more to support his growing family. He returned to teaching in 2000 and has been at Rachel Carson Middle for the past six years.

In March, Evans will be traveling to Long Beach, Calif., to receive the International Technology and Engineering Education Association's (ITEA) Teacher Excellence Award.

"Students hear from older siblings and friends about the egg crash cars and rockets, and they want to take the class too."

— Garrett Evans

MILITARY NOTES

David T. Lewis, son of Samuel R. Lewis of Oak Hill, graduated from the

Army ROTC Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Op-

eration Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash.

Seahawks Reach Volleyball Finals at Hayfield

South Lakes wins four matches before falling to Forest Park in finals.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

South Lakes' successful girls' volleyball season continued on Saturday, Sept. 24, when the Seahawks won four of their five matches and reached the finals of the Hayfield Invitational in Alexandria.

South Lakes coach Cheri Hostetler and the Seahawks, three days earlier on Wednesday, Sept. 21, had lost their Liberty District opener, three games to none, to visiting Stone Bridge. But Hostetler said her team played solid throughout the match with Stone Bridge, one of the Northern Region's top teams every year.

"We lost to Stone Bridge but the team played really well and it was a competitive match," said Hostetler.

The Seahawks continued their good play into the Hayfield showcase on Saturday, a one-day event hosted by the Hayfield Hawks. In morning matches, South Lakes



The South Lakes Seahawks display the second place trophy that they earned at the Hayfield Volleyball Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 24.

defeated both Lee and Hayfield by identical 2-0 scores. Then in a pair of afternoon matches beginning at 2 p.m., the Seahawks were victorious over Mountain View (Stafford), 2-0, and Mount Vernon High, 2-0.

That put South Lakes into the 5 p.m. tournament finals where they

lost to Forest Park (Woodbridge), 0-2. Finishing runner-up was not bad for the Seahawks (8-3 overall record), who are on track to have a winning season this fall.

"We finished second in the Hayfield Invitational," said Hostetler. "The team didn't lose a set until the championship match

against a very tough team from Forest Park."

HOSTETLER has said she loves the makeup of this year's South Lakes squad, a roster made up of players who love the sport and give their all. The Seahawks' team co-captains are seniors Christy

Hoffman and Sarah Delaney.

South Lakes has a knack of winning close matches, a sign of good team cohesiveness. In a 3-0 win over Edison on Sept. 15, South Lakes won three close sets — 27-25, 25-19, and 25-23 — to earn the non-district match victory over the Eagles, members of the National District. Hoffman, who plays setter/opposite hitter, had nine kills and three service aces in that team win, while middle hitter Delaney and junior outside hitter Dory DeWeese both had eight kills.

In another big match this season, South Lakes, in a home meeting versus cross-town rival Herndon on Sept. 6, earned a hard-fought 3-0 win over the Hornets, who are coached by Rebecca Waters. The set scores were 25-17, 25-17, and 25-22. Delaney led the Seahawks with seven kills and five aces. Also for South Lakes, Annemarie Bresson (6 kills), Cloe Taylor (5 kills), DeWeese (5 kills), Mary Youngren (4 kills), Mary Severin (5 kills), and Hoffman (5 kills, 2 aces) all had stellar outings.

Herndon (2-5) has wins this season over Falls Church and Madison. The Hornets were set to play at South County on Monday, Sept. 26.

South Lakes was scheduled to play matches earlier this week against visiting Annandale on Monday and at Washington-Lee on Tuesday in Arlington.

Area Runners Shine at Oatlands Meet

McGorty captures first place in boys' race; Kolonich earns third in girls' race.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The annual midseason Oatlands Invitational high school cross country meet took place Sept. 17 at Oatlands Plantation in Leesburg. Numerous schools from the Northern Region participated in the huge showcase event.

In the varsity "A" boys' meet, consisting of 46 teams, Chantilly High, led by junior Sean McGorty, earned a second place overall finish with 197 team points, finishing behind champion Albemarle High (146 points) of Charlottesville. Other Northern Region teams competing in the "A" boys' race included fourth place Oakton (265), 11th place Jefferson High (282) of Alexandria, 15th place Hayfield, and 20th place Stone Bridge. South County finished 26th and Annandale 28th. Madison, Westfield, Langley, Fairfax, and Marshall High Schools

were also among the schools that competed.

Chantilly's McGorty captured the individual title with a time of 15 minutes, 30 seconds, finishing ahead of second place finisher Ahmed Bile, a senior from Annandale.

Chantilly junior Logan Miller also had an outstanding race with a third place finish at 15:49. South County senior Jeff Puhek finished 10th place overall.

Three-hundred sixteen runners in all participated in the boys' race. Other good outings from Northern Region runners included: Stone Bridge sophomore Brady Guertin (23rd); Marshall High sophomore Mackenzie Haight (41st); Westfield High junior Jeff Edmondson (47th); Chantilly sophomore Peter Malander (also 47th); Oakton seniors Greg Petruncio (33rd), Pratik Singh (37th), Chris Jewell (52nd), and Patrick Eberhart (55th); and Hayfield High's Jacob Miller (58th).

IN THE GIRLS' "A" RACE, McLean, Madison, and Jefferson High Schools finished eighth, ninth, and 10th, respectively, in a field of 41 teams.

Other Northern Region schools finishing in the top 25 were Oakton (15th), Washington-Lee (16th), Langley (17th), and Stone Bridge (22nd).

Top area individual finishers, included: Lee sophomore Bailey Kolonich (3rd place); Jefferson senior Katherine Sheridan (22nd); Oakton sophomore Hailey Dougherty (25th); Westfield senior Leidy Arias (32nd); McLean junior Hannah Dimmick (36th); South County junior Mary Cate Scully (40th); Madison freshman Amanda Swaak (45th); Langley senior Mary Fouse (50th); and McLean senior Alexa Tabackman (51st).

IN THE VARSITY "B" BOYS' RACE, Oakton finished sixth overall among 66 teams. Also among the top 25 teams were 11th place Centreville, 12th place Jefferson, and 14th place McLean.

Top local individual finishers were: Centreville junior Chan Young-Lee (19th

place); Lee High sophomore Biruk Amare (23rd); Oakton sophomore Jack Stoney (43rd); Jefferson's Elliot Simon (45th); and McLean senior Jason Richards (46th).

IN THE VARSITY "B" GIRLS' RACE, Chantilly High captured the team title with 81 points, finishing ahead of second place Briar Woods of Ashburn and third place Centreville High. Oakton (seventh place) and Hayfield (eighth) finished among the top 10 as well.

Oakton freshmen Allie Klimkiewicz captured the individual title with a first place finish.

Chantilly had three runners finish in the top 10.

They were junior Kendall Crowe (fifth), freshman Xaveria Hawvemarle (sixth), and senior Carolyn Carlson (10th).

Centreville runners Rebecca Vinter, a junior, and freshman Jackie O'Shea finished eighth and ninth, respectively, while teammate Joanna Ahn, a freshmen, was 23rd overall.

Hayfield sophomore Abigail Power finished 14th.

COMMUNITY



Sisters Elisa, Erin and Elana Ellington of Fairfax check out one of the City of Alexandria Police Department robots on display at the Sept. 24 Dulles Day Plane Pull at Dulles Airport. The robots are operated by the City of Alexandria Police Department's Special Operations Team and used in a variety of situations.



On Sept. 24, 65 teams made up of 25 members participated in the 19th Dulles Day Plane Pull, racing to see which team would be fastest at pulling a 179,000-pound Airbus A310 airplane 12 feet. Each team had to raise a minimum of \$1,250 to participate in the event.

179,000 pounds Goes 12 Feet

Teams compete in 19th Annual Airplane Pull to benefit Special Olympics Virginia.

How many people does it take to pull a 179,000-pound airplane? Twenty-five, if you participated in the 19th Dulles Day Plane Pull on Saturday, Sept. 24. The annual fund raiser organized and hosted by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Police Department at Dulles Airport pits teams of 25 against each other to see how fast they can pull an Airbus 310 airplane 12 feet. Since its inception in 1993, the event has raised more than \$1.1 million for Special Olympics Virginia, an organization that provides sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Dulles Airport was the first airport in the world to host a Plane Pull.

To date, the 65 participating teams have raised \$135,000 for Special Olympics Virginia. The Chesapeake Virginia Sheriff's Office earned its fifth title in a row as fastest plane pulling team with a time of 7.493 seconds. Approximately 10,500 people attended the event.



Kay Jacobi and Officer Carol Wilhite, of 'Team Fairfax County Police Department' are the first two of the 25-member team in line on the rope to pull the 179,000 pound Airbus 310 at the Sept. 24 Dulles Day Plane Pull, an event that raises funds for Special Olympics Virginia.



Sisters Abigail Mitchell, far right, and Natalie Mitchell of Lorton participate in the September 24 School Bus Pull, adjacent to the Dulles Plane Pull at Dulles Airport. The event is a fundraiser for Special Olympics Virginia.



On Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Dulles Day Plane Pull, Abby Sharpe, Soraya Jordan and Crystal Curry learn first-hand how heavy a fully fueled Airbus 310 is — 179,000 pounds. They and 22 others are members of the Special Olympics Area 23 Team from Prince William County and are kicking off the Dulles Day Plane Pull, a fundraiser for Special Olympics Virginia during which teams of 25 are timed pulling the Airbus 310 a distance of 12 feet. The team that pulls the plane in the shortest time wins.

PHOTO BY DEB COBB/
THE CONNECTION