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PAGE 9

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Sweetening Holidays In Lorton
HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE, PAGE 9

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U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) watches election returns at the event sponsored by the Fairfax Democratic Party at The Waterford at Fair Oaks on Nov. 8.

A Good Year for Incumbents

Democrats retain power in Fairfax County, GOP celebrates statewide gains.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The anti-incumbent mood reflected in national polls did not express itself in Fairfax County when voters cast their ballots on Election Day.

With 99 candidates to pick from, and almost every state and local office up for reelection, voters overwhelmingly returned incumbents to office. And incumbent in Fairfax County typically means Democrat.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors remains the same, with a 7-3 Democratic majority. Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) — who first won the at-large seat in a 2009 special election — cruised to victory with nearly 60 percent of the vote over her Republican opponent Michael “Spike” Williams. Supervisor John Cook (R) held

on to his Braddock District seat by a razor-thin margin, after a scathing and closely-watched battle with his Democratic challenger, Janet Oleszek.

On the 12-member Fairfax County School Board, the race that generated the most heated speculation, voters returned every incumbent, and elected newcomers who, with one exception, identified themselves as Democrats.

Although Republican hopes for more of a foothold in Fairfax County failed, GOP gains in the rest of the state effectively transferred control of the state legislature to Republicans.

The state Senate, which had a Democratic edge of 22-18, is now evenly split 20-20 between Republicans and Democrats. Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling, a Republican who was not on this year’s ballot, now wields the power to cast any tie-breaking votes. The Republicans increased their majority in the House of Delegates from 61-39 to 68-32. Republicans now control both chambers of the General Assembly and the governor’s mansion for the second time since the Civil War.

Virginia General Assembly

As the campaign signs come down, and post-election navel-gazing goes up, the question of “who



State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) said he is concerned about the “inflammatory rhetoric” from state Republicans during an interview Friday in his Fairfax City law office. “The rhetoric from the Republicans right now is ‘we’re in full control.’ But the power should reflect the 20-20 split,” Petersen said.

won?” shifts to “what does it all mean?”

“I think the real question is what the Republican gains in the state Senate will mean,” said Stephen Farnsworth, a Virginia political expert and professor at George Mason University. “It’s going to be a tough time for Northern Virginia, when you look at the makeup of who controls the levers of power in Richmond.”

Farnsworth said funding for transportation and education are key issues on the table. “There’s a pretty valid claim that even though [Northern Virginia] pays more than its fair share to Richmond, there’s not going to be any attempt to equalize the resources. When Virginia goes from Democratic to Republican, the power base moves south.”

Democrats say they are not just concerned with the shift in party, but with what they think may be a shift to more extreme views.

“Arizona, Mississippi, and Wisconsin will be pushed off the front pages of national newspapers as Virginia takes leadership with right-wing legislation,” said Del. Ken Plum (D-36), who was first elected to Richmond in 1978 and serves as the chairman of the House Democratic Caucus.

Issues that concern Democrats include reductions in public education funding resulting from resources being diverted to charter schools, restrictions on abor

SEE FAIRFAX, PAGE 12

Running to Honor Veterans

11K run held at Burke Lake Park on 11-11-11.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Call it 11th-hour serendipity. Last month, marathoner Bruce Whitson was searching for 10K events when he stumbled across the date for Veterans Day this year: Nov. 11, 2011.

“Veterans Day is always Nov. 11, but this year it’s 11-11-11. How perfect is that for an 11K race?” said Whitson, one of the managers of Springfield’s Metro Run and Walk, a local institution for runners and fitness enthusiasts.

Whitson thought the date — which occurs every 100 years, and every 400 years when it falls on a Friday, as it did this year — would be the perfect opportunity to promote the store, and give back to veterans.

“We decided to go all the way with the date,” Whitson said. “We created an 11-11-11 t-shirt, which we sold for \$11, and all the net proceeds benefitted the Disabled American Veterans at Fort Belvoir. Guess which chapter? Chapter 11.”

A few weeks after posting the event on the store’s website, several hundred people had signed up.

Held at Burke Lake Park, the 11 a.m. race attracted more than 250 runners, walkers, dogs and parents pushing jogging strollers.

“I came just for the t-shirt,” Rebekah Postupak said, laughing. “Seriously, I’m a new runner, and my husband is a former Marine. We’re absolutely delighted by the chance to support our veterans.”

Postupak, of Fairfax, brought an entourage that included her own cheering section comprising her children, Nataliya, 7, and Joshua, 18 months, and best friend Susan Stevenson and her three children.

“We came to support Rebekah, and surprise her with flowers,” Stevenson said. “It’s also my 11th wedding anniversary.”

AT PRECISELY 11 A.M., Mark Russell, co-owner of the fitness store with his wife, Helen, gathered runners and explained the rules of the 11K Run/Walk. The race would be timed, but not recorded, and there would be water stations and post-race refreshments.

“We’re trying to help the greater Springfield area become a great place for active



Rebekah Postupak holds up the “11-11-11” Veterans Day t-shirt with Metro Run and Walk’s Bruce Whitson (left). She brought her daughter, Nataliya, 7, and son Joshua, 18 months, to Burke Lake Park for the Springfield fitness store’s once-in-a-lifetime event.

lifestyles, so we try to have some kind of family-friendly event every few months,” Russell said.

Warren Roberts, a 26-year-old runner from Fairfax, brought his chocolate Lab to the event. “It’s perfect running weather,” he said, stretching before the race. “This is also a really cool way to do something for our veterans.”

Russell said several members of his family served in the military. “My father and brothers served and retired from their military careers, but many others haven’t. This is a great way to honor our veterans who have given us so much,” he said.

For more information on Metro Run and Walk’s upcoming events, go to metrorunwalkspringfield.com. The store is located at 7261 Commerce Street in Springfield.



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AREA ROUNDUP

Juvenile Charged in Setting House Fire

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department fire investigators charged a male juvenile, Tuesday, Nov. 8, with intentionally setting a fire. The 14-year-old was charged with burning of an occupied dwelling house, Virginia Code, 18.2-77, and setting a fire capable of spreading, Virginia Code 18.2-87.

The charges are in connection to a fire Nov. 8, in the 3900 block of Bruce Lane, in the Annandale area of Fairfax County. The fire originated on the exterior of a single-family home causing approximately \$35,000 in damage to the siding, eaves, and roof assembly. Two adults and two children have been displaced. Red Cross assistance was declined by the occupants. Smoke alarms provided early warning. There were no injuries.

Clifton House Fire Under Investigation

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded to a house fire Thursday, Nov. 10, 2011, at approximately 11:05 p.m., in the Clifton area of Fairfax County. The single-family home is located 12660

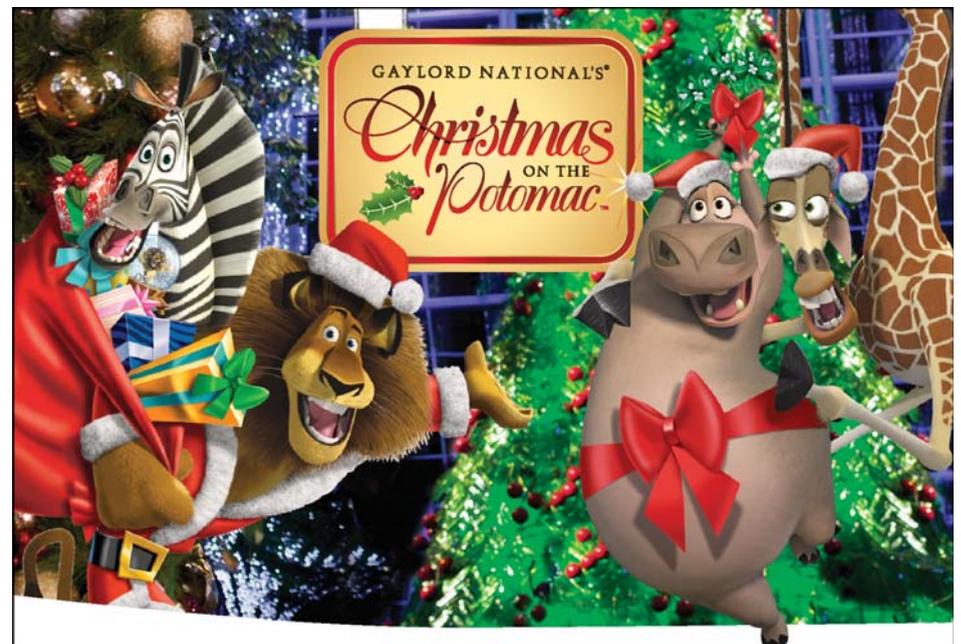
Braddock Farms Court.

Firefighters encountered heavy smoke coming from the front of the two-story home upon arrival. Firefighters found fire in the basement and quickly extinguished the fire upon entering the home from the rear walk-out basement access. Fire extension was limited to the basement only. Smoke alarms provided early warning for the occupants. Three adults have been displaced. Red Cross assistance was declined. There were no injuries.

Damage is estimated at \$80,000. The fire is under investigation.

Gunston Hall Needs Volunteers

Volunteers needed: The Gunston Hall Docents Association will begin training on Feb. 21, 2012, for those interested in becoming docents at this 18th century museum house. Docents are expected to commit to 2 tours per month, primarily for elementary school children. They may also participate in 18th-century cooking, storytelling, living history, or visits to local school classrooms if they so desire. Anyone interested should contact rlandens@verizon.net or the education department at Gunston Hall, fbarker@gunstonhall.org, or call 703 550-9220 no later than Friday, Feb. 10, 2012.



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Walking to Help Homeless

The Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) partnered with several area schools for the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Mini-Walks. The walks raise awareness about homelessness in Fairfax County and the Greater Washington, D.C. area and generate funds to support local nonprofit organizations throughout the region, including LCAC, a local nonprofit organization. William Halley Elementary students participated at the Mini-Walk they hosted at their school on Friday, Oct. 21



Food donated by students from the William Halley Elementary School.

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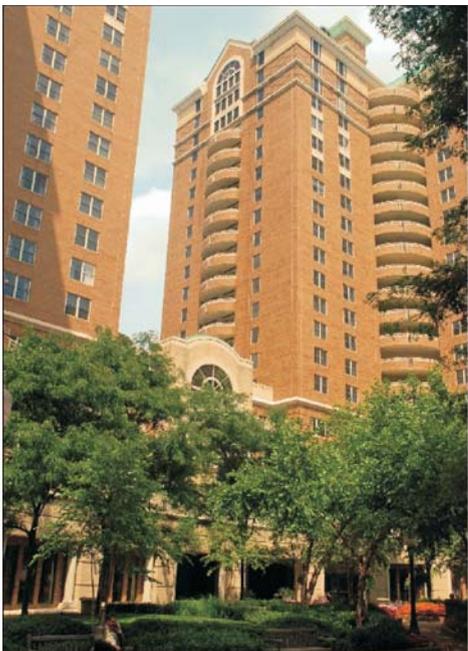
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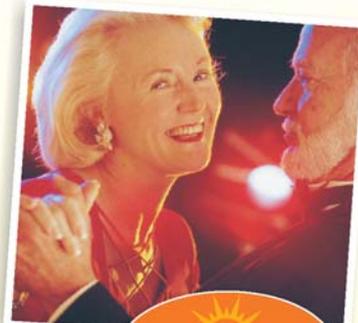
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Communities Remade

Gerald Gordon writes "Reinventing Local and Regional Economies."

BY MAYA HOROWITZ
BURKE CONNECTION

Burke resident Gerald Gordon, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA) has come out with the second in a trilogy of books on how communities across America have remade their economies in the face of decline.

The book, "Reinventing Local and Regional Economies" is a follow-up to "The Formula for Economic Growth on Main Street America" which came out in 2009. Gordon said his position as head of the FCEDA had a major impact on the idea to write the books.

Gordon was born in 1950 in Washington, D.C. He grew up in the D.C. area, attending Richard Montgomery High School in Maryland.

"As a kid, I don't think I sat still very often," said Gordon. "I was not a good student. I went to high school during Vietnam. It finally occurred to me that I needed to

More

"Reinventing Local and Regional Economies" can be found through the CRC Press website at www.crcpress.com. Further information about Gordon is available at the FCEDA's website at www.fairfaxcountyeda.org. Gordon is available to speak to groups about the county, the books or economic development generally.

go to college, in order to avoid being shot at, at least for a few years. I just sort of matured over night."

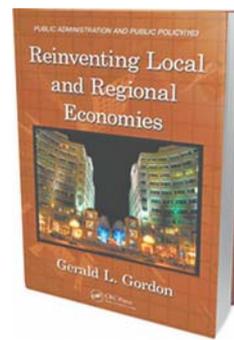
Gordon attended the Citadel in Charleston, S.C. and graduated with a degree in political science in 1972. He went on to pursue a master's from the George Washington University in the school of public and international affairs in 1975 and a doctorate in international economics from Catholic University in 1981.

"When I went to college, in 1968, when I was a freshman, my advisor asked me what I wanted to study," said Gordon. "I said mathematics. He discouraged me because there were no jobs. So he encouraged me to take political science because we needed lawyers. When I got to graduate school, my advisor told me I should study economics — something I could use my faculty with numbers but still had applications in the business world."

In order to attend George Washington,



Gerald Gordon, of Burke, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority.



The cover of "Reinventing Local and Regional Economies" by Gerald Gordon

county to businesses," said Gordon. "My primary job is managing the office staff and the organization and dealing externally. I may talk to companies, deal with organizations, political organizations or the press."

FCEDA has offices in Tysons Corner, Bangalore, London, Los Angeles, Munich, Seoul and Tel Aviv.

GORDON HAS TAUGHT at George Mason, Virginia Commonwealth, University of Maryland and his alma mater, Catholic University. His is a Fulbright Senior Scholar and was named the 2010 Virginia Business Person of the Year by Virginia Business magazine.

He has been a member of the International Economic Development Council for 20 years, and has sat on the board for two and a half years.

"The businesses and residents of Fairfax County should be grateful that we have such a globally recognized economic leader right here in Fairfax County," said Jim Corcoran, president and CEO of the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, who has worked closely with Gordon for the past two years. "He is a treasure to behold. As a community we are fortunate to have him working in and for Fairfax County."

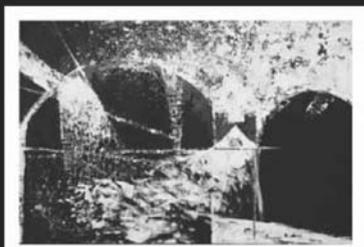
Gordon has written 12 books before "Reinventing Local and Regional Economies." He said he reads "incessantly" and loves

SEE SECOND, PAGE 7

BLACK FRIDAY

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NEWS

Second in Trilogy from Burke Author Arrives

FROM PAGE 6

writing.

"I come in early," said Gordon. "I work late. This is where I spend my weekends. I find the process of writing not only interesting but a challenge because it's all about organization. Some people bowl and some people go dancing and some people play cards and I write."

Gordon said the idea for the trilogy "Reinventing" grew out of his work with FCEDA.

"Working in Fairfax County and marketing a county that has all the benefits and advantages that we are blessed with, I won't say it's easy, but it's easier than marketing counties that have undergone economic distress," said Gordon. "I thought about what it would be like to run an economic development program in a city like Seattle. Then I started to think about places like Birmingham and Pittsburgh. As I started looking at talking to people in other communities that had had economic distress it occurred to me that there were some common themes of what is right to do."

THE FIRST BOOK in the series, "the For-

mula for Economic Growth on Main Street America," examines the lessons Gordon found. "Reinventing Local and Regional Economies" document two dozen case stories of how communities have dealt with economic downturns, based on interviews with over 75 local authorities. The third book, given the working title "the Viability of Small Town Economies," takes the same approach as the second book but examines "micropolitan" areas, cities between 20,000 and 50,000 people. "Viability" will probably come out in the next two years.

For "Reinventing," Gordon spoke to mayors, economic development professionals, chamber of commerce executives, university presidents and community leaders across the country. He said the experience was "fascinating."

"It was interesting to first talk to a mayor and then talk to the head of the chamber of commerce and see how their responses were similar or different," said Gordon. "I had three or four questions that were consistent but most of the discussion was free flowing. Once I heard the first couple of responses that provided fuel for the next couple of questions. It probably took me six or eight months to do just the interviewing."



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Mary LaRoche 703-919-0747



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OPINION

Give Locally

The need has never been greater.

As the holidays approach, many nonprofits that provide holiday meals, food support and other services for people in need are reporting that they are overwhelmed.

More than 45,000 students in Fairfax County Public Schools are from families poor enough to qualify for free or reduced priced meals. That's more than 25 percent of students in the schools. In Arlington, 34 percent of students are poor enough to qualify for free or reduced meals. In the City of Alexandria, more than 54 percent of students are poor.

In Fairfax County, 46,000 live below the poverty line; more than 80,000 have no health insurance.

Where To Give

This is a partial list of charities helping those in need during the holidays and beyond. Let us know about other organizations not listed here.

Additional nonprofits can be found listed on the local Catalogue for Philanthropy website, <http://www.catalogueforphilanthropy-dc.org>. Click on "how to give."

Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia, Arlington, 703-521-9890

Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE), CAUSE ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 4114 Legato Road Suite B, Fairfax, VA 22033, 703-591-4968, cause-usa.org

In Northern Virginia, thousands are unemployed and many more are underemployed. Among the homeless in Northern Virginia, many are working poor, families with at least one wage-earner who doesn't make enough to pay for housing for the family.

In this environment, more and more people are turning to food pantries for part of every month. And it's not surprising that many, many families will have little to offer in holiday cheer and holiday gifts for children without the help of organizations and individuals. It's hard to imagine, but there are hundreds of children in the area who would not receive a single holiday present without the help of a charitable organization.

Alternative House - Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703.506.9191, www.thealternativehouse.org

SHARE of McLean seeks donations of grocery gift cards. Gift cards can be dropped off at SHARE, c/o McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road on Wednesdays and Saturdays (except Thanksgiving week) between 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Checks and gift cards can be sent to: Holiday Celebration, Share, Inc. PO Box 210, McLean, VA 22101. 703-284-2179. www.SHAREofMcLean.org

Northern Virginia Family Service, Oakton, 703-385-3267

Food for Others, 2938 Prosperity Avenue, Fairfax, 22031, 703-207-9173

Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO), 703-569-9160, www.echo-inc.org. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield

If you're reading this paper, chances are that you are among the people at the other end of the spectrum, trying to devise methods to keep the holidays more modest. One way to do this is to help your children understand how lucky they are with a glimpse at the needs of others right here.

There are many ways to give, with some local charities connecting the donor to a specific family to provide a holiday food basket and fulfill some wishes for gifts. Many organizations encourage the donation of gift cards. Every local group seeking to help the needy right now is facing extra demand and needs both volunteer and financial help.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Lorton Community Action Center operates the Act II Thrift Shop at 9506 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Sales from the shop generate funds for LCAC and clients also shop there. While donations are welcome during store hours, visitors are asked to call first at 703-339-8611 before dropping off donations. www.lortonaction.org

FACETS, 703-352-5090

National Capital Food Bank, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063, www.capitalareafoodbank.org

Our Daily Bread, 10777 Main Street #320, Fairfax, 703-273-8829

Shelter House, www.shelterhouse.org, operates two homeless shelters in Fairfax County, in Centreville and Seven Corners. 571-522-6800

Lamb Center, www.thelambcenter.org, Fairfax 703-691-3178

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Paradigm Shift Needed in FCPS

To the Editor:

With a quasi-new School Board and the recruitment of a new superintendent, this system has the opportunity to reinvent itself, not just in rhetoric but in words and action. FCPS has had a great reputation, some of it built on old laurels. This is an opportunity to create a place where children can actually become. A place where homework is not four hours a night of senseless seatwork and where the stress level rivals a combat zone. It isn't good for humans — students, teachers, parents, administrators. The efficacy of homework is debatable, and many educators now say that it is completely without merit. It dominates our family lives and creates an atmosphere of micromanagement. I recently realized that my children would soon be grown and I have spent 12 years "getting through it" with small periods of happiness between big fights with teachers and administrations.

What if we created a place where people felt welcome? What if we actually created emotional safety? What if homework was given only to the degree that it was meaningful and reasonable? (I still

remember the wonderful elementary school teachers who "assigned" an hour of play outside). Studies show that trust and rapport are the most important aspects in seeking to enhance education and outcomes. (tests!) Ask yourselves this: how would you feel about a workplace where you were so closely monitored that you could do nothing right, where social interaction was not only discouraged but punished? Repressive and controlling policies like security cameras and the disgusting discipline policy create a toxic environment. We can learn from the research on community oriented policing that by creating an environment where no one feels safe and everyone is under suspicion, bad events will happen, and are actually caused by these policies.

In this political cycle I was encouraged that some candidates for school board actually seem to get it. They ran on changing the horrific outcomes of zero tolerance. They acknowledged that this policy is not only harmful, but lethal. It is unfair, undemocratic and a violation of our children's civil liberties. It can strike your child, regardless of how accomplished, honest, hardworking or "good" they are.

I am hopeful that FCPS will un-

hinge itself from some of these repressive tactics when they seek, and hopefully are granted, a waiver from some aspects of NCLB, the most harmful and poorly conceptualized piece of legislation ever launched against children and parents.

We need a system that starts from a simple place: the love of children. Some administrators

love buildings, and some love their jobs. You may say that this is simplistic but it is a critical starting place for change. Our schools must be student-centered, they must be built and designed, philosophically and literally, with students first.

Jan Falk, LCSW
Fairfax Station

Call for Annual Children's (& Teens') Connection Contributions

Every year Connection Newspapers dedicates one issue entirely to the imaginative works of our community children and teenagers. We publish artwork, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories and photographs.

We are now asking that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or on CD. Please provide the submissions no later than Thursday, Dec. 8. If you have any questions, please call Kemal Kurspahic at 703-778-9414 or email kemal@connectionnewspapers.com.

Some suggestions for submissions:

- ◆ Drawings, paintings, photographs or 2-D and 3-D artwork that have been digitally photographed.
- ◆ Short stories, poetry, essays, class-wide prompt writings.

◆ Opinion pieces about family, friends, traffic, sports, food, video games, toys, trends, etc.

Images should be submitted as .jpg ATTACHMENTS to an email, not embedded in the body of the email.

All submissions should include the child's first and last name, school, grade and/or age.

Submissions for our Burke, Fairfax, Springfield and Fairfax Station/Lorton/Clifton editions should be e-mailed to ChildrensSouth@connectionnewspapers.com. Subject should be school name, town and teacher's last name (or for individuals or home schoolers, the child's last name and town).

The issue will be published the week of the Christmas holiday. We will publish as many submissions as possible.

THE CONNECTION

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e-mail:
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Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Victoria Ross
Community Reporter
703-752-4014
vross@connectionnewspapers.com
@ConnectVictoria

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter
703-778-9438
south@connectionnewspapers.com

Nick Horrock
County & Projects
nhorrock@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor
703-778-9410
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
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Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Louise Krafft,
Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong, John
Heinly, John Smith
Production Manager:
Jean Card

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

**CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS,
L.L.C.**

Mary Kimm
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon
Executive Vice President
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Wesley DeBrosse
Controller

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann
Special Assistant to the Publisher
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Sweetening Holidays in Lorton

Great Harvest Bread Company

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The Great Harvest Bread Company has a large selection of freshly baked bread, scones, cookies, muffins and other sweets available daily, as well as a variety of dry mixes and oils that can be combined to make a delectable hostess gift or treat basket for a special occasion. The shop also ships. Check the website for their daily menu: www.greatharvestburke.com.

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION



The Lorton Great Harvest Bread Company currently makes a special bread on Saturdays called Stuffing Bread and they offer a special Thanksgiving sandwich on the menu made with turkey, provolone and cranberry dressing that tastes just like a Thanksgiving dinner. The shop offers a variety of sandwiches, soups and drinks in its café daily. Check the website for their daily menu: www.greatharvestburke.com.

SEE GIFT GUIDE, PAGE 10

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Find helpful hints for managing the holidays and navigating winter blues on the Goose Creek Coaching blog at goosecreekcoaching.blogspot.com

Visit our website to find out more about and contact one of our coaches, psychiatrists or other clinicians
www.goosecreekconsulting.com

Use our Facebook and Twitter pages to keep track of the latest news in mental health, the job market and other areas
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HOLIDAY
GIFT GUIDE

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Doodlehopper 4 Kids offers a variety of gifts for children.

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Doodlehopper 4 Kids has an extensive inventory of unique craft items and kits for the creative one in your family.



Squishables like this octopus are a hot toy item for gifts this year. This one sits upon a rack of dress-up clothes near the baby section of Doodlehopper 4 Kids a popular toy store with many unique gift items for special occasions.



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION



Science kits, robotics kit — even a variety of Ugly Dolls. Doodlehopper 4 Kids has a variety of unique gift items for the young and young at heart in your family.

Holiday Gifts

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Free Remodeling & Design Seminars!

Sat., Nov. 19th — 10am-2pm
Where: 5795B Burke Centre Pkwy, Burke, VA 22015

Thinking of remodeling? This event is the perfect opportunity to take advantage of free expert advice with no obligation. Learn about the hot topics you should consider when remodeling.

Saturday's Seminars:

- 2012 Color Trends
- 10 Tips for a Stress-Free Remodel
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Seminars run from 10am-Noon. Lunch to follow.
Please arrive at 9:45am for check-in.

Seating is limited. Call Sara at 703.425.5588 to reserve your seats!

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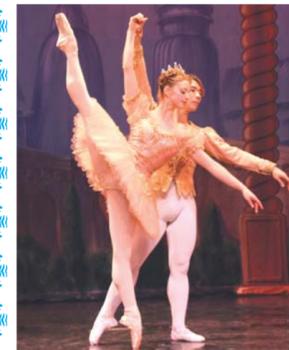
Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: ChildrenSouth@connectionnewspapers.com, or mail (jpg and text files on disc only) by Nov. 30, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.



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Fairfax Remains Blue, GOP Celebrates Statewide Gains

FROM PAGE 3

tion, immigration enforcement, and weakening health and safety regulations.

"The Senate of Virginia will no longer be the safeguard that it has been for the past several years to stop wacky legislation," said Plum.

"When you look at the legislative agenda, a lot of the more polarizing social issues were killed because of the Senate," Farnsworth said. "There will probably be more of these issues moving forward now."

Democratic Senators are also not willing to concede full control to the GOP. "The rhetoric from the Republicans right now is 'we're in full control.' But the power should reflect the 20-20 split," said state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), referring to control of the chamber's floor sessions and committees. "Democrats need to make sure our funding for education and transportation doesn't drop off."

But Del. Dave Albo (R-42), who was first elected in 1994 and is Northern Virginia's most senior member of the House, said the alarmist rhetoric is just party politics.

"Everybody needs to take a chill-pill," Albo said. "[Democrats] are all crying like babies about [the election]. They try to scare people into thinking that suddenly there's going to be all this wacky legislation out of Richmond. The immigration bills are not wacky at all. We allowed police officers to detain someone as an illegal alien when they get a hit on their car. We require businesses to use E-Verify. When they say it's wacky, I want to say, specifically, tell me which bill you're worried about. We are not going to be doing anything out of the ordinary," Albo said.

Albo said revenue for some transportation projects, such as road maintenance, may increase with the GOP in control.

"One of the good-news things of Republicans in the Senate is that we should be able to get something passed for more money for secondary road maintenance and improvements," Albo said. "The Democrats have never wanted to use the General Fund for revenue to pay for the roads."

Even though Republicans now reign south of the Rappahannock, Fairfax County is likely to remain blue.

"You had an optimal environment for Republicans this year. There was a lot of money sloshing around...and they just can't close the deal in this part of the state," Farnsworth said.

"I was disappointed countywide," Albo said. "I doubt that Republicans will ever gain a foothold when [Republican] candidates like Bill Cooper, who was running for sheriff, or Lolita Manchino-Smoak, who was running for the School Board, can't win...Slowly but surely, Fairfax County is becoming Alexandria and Arlington."

Fairfax County School Board

The Fairfax County School Board race was the one to watch this year. It was the most talked-about, blogged-about, debated and partisan-fueled race in the board's 19-year history.

Political insiders predicted that parental



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Ted Velkoff, a former PTA president, won an at-large seat on the Fairfax County School Board. "The challenge, now, is for us to deal with each other in a positive and constructive way," Velkoff said.

anger over discipline, boundaries, class size and grading policies would sweep out incumbents and usher in a slate of candidates running as "reformers" and endorsed by Republicans.

The predictions proved wrong.

Voters returned six incumbents to the 12-member board and handed the three at-large seats to the Democrat-endorsed candidates. Elizabeth Schultz, in the Springfield District, was the only Republican-endorsed candidate to win a district seat.

"Voters didn't reject 'reform,' this was a partisan victory for the Democrats pure and simple," said Sheree Brown Kaplan, who lost her bid for an at-large seat.

But Ted Velkoff, a former PTA president from Rocky Run who won an at-large seat, said the message voters sent on Election Day was more nuanced than partisan politics.

"I don't think it was a rejection of reform, or embracing of the status quo," Velkoff said. "In the end, I think people in Fairfax County are generally happy with the schools. They said, on balance, that the school system is being run well, and voters manifested their diverse spectrum of views about issues by electing a diverse group of people."

"What the voters have rejected," said Ilryong Moon, who retained his at-large seat, "is the oversimplification of complexity of governance of our school system and efforts to meet needs of all students with a few sound bites or campaign slogans."

Moon, who will be serving a fourth term on the board, said the six new board members will be facing several challenges when they meet in January, including a tight budget climate and the selection of a new superintendent.

Fairfax County Superintendent Jack D. Dale, who steered the 175,000-student system for seven years, announced in September that he will retire when his contract ends in June 2013.

"Voters want us to continue staying on the current path, and maintain the quality of our top performing school system," Moon said.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) said he thought many of the winners, even though they were endorsed as Democrats, supported the reform message of transparency, accountability and smaller class sizes.

"A prime example is the independent auditor reporting to the School Board...This and many of the issues that finally got open and honest discussion will result in better schools," Herrity said.

Velkoff agreed that the lengthy campaign process called attention to a number of issues the new board will address, including class sizes, needs-based staffing, "21st century learning," and advocating for an independent auditor to bring more transparency to the School Board's budget. Currently, the School Board absorbs 53 percent of Fairfax County's annual budget of \$3.3 billion.

"There needs to be confidence in the budget process. We can't defend initiatives without independent confirmation of our budget from an outside auditor," Velkoff said.

"While voters in this election expressed satisfaction that the Democratic leadership provides good stewardship over our high-ranking public school system, I think voters also made it clear that they expect the school board to spend more time listening to parent and community concerns," said Rex Simmons, chair of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC).

Ryan McElveen, who also won an at-large seat, said he wants the School Board to be more responsive to stakeholders.

"I hope parents, teachers, school employees of all stripes, and especially students, will get in touch and share their concerns and ideas. I'm excited for the road ahead," McElveen said.

"My hope is that we move away from teaching to the test and find ways to make sure students are well-rounded and ready for college or careers," Velkoff said. "I think it would be great if we could look back in 10 years at how Fairfax County became the model for 21st century learning."

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

With the exception of the scorched-earth battle for the Braddock District seat — which Republican Supervisor John Cook won by just 327 votes — the nine other incumbents on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors retained their seats with fairly wide margins of victory.

"With the Board of Supervisors, we're looking at a situation where the voters were less angry than in other parts of Virginia. There wasn't much voter dissatisfaction with the current board," Farnsworth said.

"The Board of Supervisors has the turnover rate of the Supreme Soviets; they only leave by death or indictment," quipped state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), who endorsed Democrat Janet Oleszek in the race to unseat incumbent John Cook in the Braddock

district.

Three of the 10 supervisors were unopposed — Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) — while Michael Frey (R-Sully), Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon), Penny Gross (D-Mason), John W. Foust (D-Dranesville) and Linda Smyth (D-Providence) faced nominal opposition and ran relatively quiet campaigns.

Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) easily won her bid for a second term, running on a solid record of accomplishments as leader of the most powerful governing body in the county. The only nail-biter was in the Braddock District, where Cook was narrowly reelected after a contentious 10-week battle with his Democratic challenger, Janet Oleszek, a former School Board member.

"I was very pleased with the win by my colleague John Cook in the Braddock District. This was a race that the Democrats made a priority and put a lot of time, energy and resources into," Herrity said.

Rex Simmons, chair of the FCDC, said voters sent a message that they were pleased with the county's quality of life, strong fiscal management and sound governance in returning incumbents to the board.

"Fairfax County has weathered the worst recession since the Great Depression with few service cuts and minimal tax increases," Simmons said. "We have great schools, major transportation improvements underway, excellent environmental protection programs, a modest affordable housing program, and well maintained parks and recreation centers... Even in tough economic times, Fairfax County has remained an economic engine for Virginia."

One critical decision facing the returning board is the hiring of a new county executive. Just two days after the election, County Executive Anthony H. Griffin announced that he will step down in April after serving 12 years in the position. He is the second-longest serving county executive since the position's inception in 1952.

During his tenure as administrative head of Fairfax County government, Griffin managed county resources to address a growing population of 1.08 million people, an increased job base of 580,000 and the county's general fund budget of \$3.46 billion.

Under his leadership, Fairfax County was named "one of the best-managed jurisdictions in America" by *Governing* magazine, which also gave Fairfax County a No. 1 rating in the Pew Charitable Trust's Government Performance Project.

"Tony Griffin is known and respected for his evenhandedness and integrity," Bulova said, adding that the board has already initiated the process to select the next county executive.

She said an executive search firm will coordinate the process to advertise and recruit for the position nationally beginning in January, and the board will seek input from various stakeholder groups in the coming months.

CALENDAR

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/NOV. 17

"The Laramie Project." 7:30 p.m. Robert E. Lee High School Lancer Theater, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. Tickets \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. AKBerting@fcps.edu.

Russell Brand. 8 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$25-\$45, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. www.russellbrand.com or www.patriotcenter.com.

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

Book Discussion Group. 7 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. "Tinkers" by Paul Harding. Adults. 703-971-0010.

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

Lorton Library Book Club. 7 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Moby Duck by Donovan Hohn. Adults. 703-339-7385.

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

"Father of the Bride." 7 p.m. West Springfield High School Auditorium, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Tickets \$7. 703-913-3889.

FRIDAY/NOV. 18

"The Sound of Music." 7:30 p.m. Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre has assembled a cast of 43 young actors to perform the popular musical. \$10 in advance online, \$12 at the door. www.mvcc.org or 703-360-0686.

"The Laramie Project." 7:30 p.m. Robert E. Lee High School Lancer Theater, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. Tickets \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. AKBerting@fcps.edu.

National Acrobats of The People's Republic of China- Direct from Beijing. 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Centuries ago, performers in China combined folk arts using common household objects as props, to create an acrobatic art unique to their culture. In 1950, the government established the National Acrobats of the People's Republic of China to preserve and carry on the art form. \$24-\$48, youth through grade 12 half price when accompanied by adult. 1-888-945-2468.

Turkey Tales. 11 a.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-971-0010.

"Father of the Bride." 7 p.m. West Springfield High School Auditorium, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Tickets \$7. 703-913-3889.

Franconia Police District Fill the Wagon. 3-7 p.m. Kingstowne Shopping Center, 5870 Kingstowne Blvd., Kingstowne, Alexandria. Drop off non-perishable food and gift card donations to be delivered to local food banks. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/franconia.

SATURDAY/NOV. 19

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Maeve Nash as Kay Banks and Conner Chroman as Buckley Dunstan. West Springfield High School Auditorium, 6100 Rolling Road in Springfield, "Father of the Bride" by Carolyn Francke from Thursday, Nov. 17-Saturday Nov. 19. Shows are at 7 p.m. each evening plus a 2 p.m. matinee on Nov. 19. Tickets are \$7, available at the door only. 703-913-3889

An Evening with Andre Rieu. 8 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Accompanied by the 60-piece Johann Strauss Orchestra. Tickets are \$49-\$143, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. www.andrerieu.com.

Holiday Craft Boutique & Family Funfest. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. George Mason University Field House, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Craft vendors, entertainment, play zone, scavenger hunt, silent auction and more. Proceeds benefit Belvoir Officers' Spouses' Club programs and scholarships. \$4, \$6 families, age 6 and under free. Boscfundraiser@gmail.com or www.belvoirosc.org.

NOVA Epilepsy Awareness Stroll. 1-4 p.m. Mason Neck State Park, Shelter #1, 7301 High Point Road, Lorton. Support of those with epilepsy or learn more about it. Children's playground and prizes, chili, grilled hot dogs, cake, coffee and hot chocolate. With speaker John Cochran, MD, FACP, FAHA. Informational tables and reps will be available from Inova Neuroscience Institute, National Institute of Health and UCB Pharma. 703-349-2790 or www.efva.org.

"The Sound of Music." 7:30 p.m. Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre has assembled a cast of 43 young actors to perform the popular musical. \$10 in advance online, \$12 at the door. www.mvcc.org or 703-360-0686.

"The Laramie Project." 7:30 p.m. Robert E. Lee High School Lancer Theater, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. Tickets \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. AKBerting@fcps.edu.

National Acrobats of The People's Republic of China- Direct from Beijing. 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Centuries ago, performers in China combined folk arts using common household objects as props, to create an acrobatic art unique to their culture. In 1950, the government established the National Acrobats of the People's Republic of China to preserve and carry on the art form. \$24-\$48, youth through grade 12 half price when accompanied by adult. 1-888-945-2468.

Flutopia. 8 p.m. George Mason University Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-993-1380 or www.music.gmu.edu.

Tanka Tales. 10:30 a.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. American Indian tales told with puppets. Hear tales about Mount St. Helens and the balance of the seasons. All ages. 703-

971-0010. **"Father of the Bride."** 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. West Springfield High School Auditorium, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Tickets \$7. 703-913-3889.

SUNDAY/NOV. 20

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

"The Sound of Music." 3 p.m. Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre has assembled a cast of 43

Clifton Holiday Homes, Homes

The holiday season begins Saturday, Dec. 3, at the annual Clifton Candlelight Homes Tour. A colorful Holiday Horse Parade and contest, sponsored by the Clifton Horse Society, begins at 2 p.m. Afterward, visitors may enjoy the town's shops and restaurants.

The Candlelight Homes Tour runs from 4-7 p.m. and includes five houses decorated for the holidays. The homeowners are: Royce and Margie Jarrendt, Jeff and Michelle Stein, Jeremy and Jennifer Lustman, Chuck and Helen Rusnak, and Steve and Kim Bittner.

Live music will be featured in both the Clifton Presbyterian Church and the Clifton Baptist Church, and Dickens Carolers will stroll through the town. And the Clifton Caboose and the Masonic Acacia Lodge will be open for tours.

young actors to perform the popular musical. \$10 in advance online, \$12 at the door. www.mvcc.org or 703-360-0686.

Burke Area CROP Hunger Walk. 2 p.m., Living Savior Lutheran Church, 5500 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Walk 6K/3.7 miles or shorter Golden Mile. Proceeds benefit international relief and development efforts of Church World Service and local Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO) and Western Fairfax Christian Ministries. Nonperishable food collected for ECHO. Registration required at www.burkecropwalk.org

Tickets in the town are available at A Flower Blooms in Clifton, NOVA Music and T&K Treasures. They're also at Picket Fence in Burke and Banner's Hallmark in Centreville. Cost is \$20, adults; \$5, children under 12, before Dec. 3. On that day, they're \$25 and \$10, respectively. For more information, e-mail Jennifer Chesley at townofclifton@aol.com or see www.cliftonva.us. For MapQuest directions, use 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton.

In addition, NOVA Music Center at 12704 Chapel Road will host the Guitar Art of J. Douglas Vokes. A reception from, 7-10 p.m. will welcome the artist to the store, and the guitars will be available for viewing or purchase through December. For more information, go to www.NOVAMusicCenter.com or call 703-830-7141.

— BONNIE HOBBS

or 703-455-9025. **The Capitol Steps.** 5 p.m. Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria. Proceeds benefit the All Night Grad Party and other student activities. Tickets \$35. dana.melvin@cox.net or 703-780-9381.

MONDAY/NOV. 21

Book Bunch. 3:30 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Discussion and activities. Call for title. Age 7-8 with adult. 703-971-0010.

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SPORTS

Chasing Down a Win

Lake Braddock junior finishes 47 seconds ahead of nearest competitor.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Full of energy and youthful exuberance, Lake Braddock's Sophie Chase ran out to a big lead early in the 2009 VHSL state cross country meet. Chase was a freshman at the time and had her sights set on a title, but had to settle for third place, finishing with a time of 18 minutes, 28 seconds.

"I went out like 400 meters ahead of some really elite runners," Chase said, looking back on past experiences. "[I felt like], 'I'm here at states, I'm excited, I'm a freshman.'"

In 2010, the sophomore sensation captured the Patriot District championship by more than 20 seconds and the Northern Region title by more than 10. At the state meet, however, Chase finished nearly side-by-side with Stafford's Hannah Lowery, falling short by an excruciatingly slim margin. Chase placed second with a time of 17:41.

"Last year, there was a lot of pressure on me," Chase said.

"Coming in, I felt like I really had to execute it and it didn't go exactly the way I planned."

Now a junior, Chase competed in the 2011 state meet on Nov. 12 at Great Meadow. This time, there would nobody between her and the finish line.

Chase traveled the final straight away free of competition and captured the state championship with a time of 17:33. The Lake Braddock standout finished 47 seconds ahead of her nearest competitor.

"The [tightly-contested] matchups are always great," Chase said, "... [but] coming down that straightaway knowing that I had it, it was nice."

The Lake Braddock girls' and boys' cross country teams failed to qualify for the state meet, but Chase was one of four Bruin individuals who competed, three of whom earned all-state with top-15 finishes.

"It's surreal right now," Chase said of winning the state title. "It's kind of disappointing this year because we weren't out here with our team, but they're all here supporting, which makes it better."



Lake Braddock junior Sophie Chase won the VHSL state cross country championship on Nov. 12 at Great Meadow.

"The [tightly-contested] matchups are always great ... [but] coming down that straightaway knowing that I had it, it was nice."

— Lake Braddock junior Sophie Chase

Sophomore Hannah Christen finished 12th with a time of 18:44. In the boys' race, junior Nick Tuck finished sixth with a time of 15:45. Senior Nick Farrell was 125th (17:51).

In the girls' race, Oakton freshman Allie Klimkiewicz (fifth, 18:32), Robinson sophomore Macey Schweikert (seventh, 18:34), West Springfield sophomore Caroline Alcorta (eighth, 18:35), Oakton sophomore Hailey Dougherty (10th, 18:38) and Lee sophomore Bailey Kolonich (13th, 18:47) also earned all-state from the Northern Region.

Midlothian won the team title with a score of 87, followed by Ocean Lakes (100) and West Potomac (125).

Annandale senior Ahmed Bile won the boys' race with a time of 15:16. Chantilly junior Sean McGorty (15:21) placed second. Woodson senior Paul Gates (12th, 16:01) and Robinson senior Patrick Spahn (13, 16:01) also earned all-state from the Northern Region.

Stafford won the team title with a score of 87, followed by Albemarle (102) and Oakton (128).

Woodson Scores State Tournament Berth

Cavaliers volleyball finish Northern Region runner-up.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

While the Woodson volleyball team posted a dominant 22-3 record en route to a Patriot District championship, the Cavaliers experienced enough slow starts and close games to earn the nickname "Cardiac Cavs."

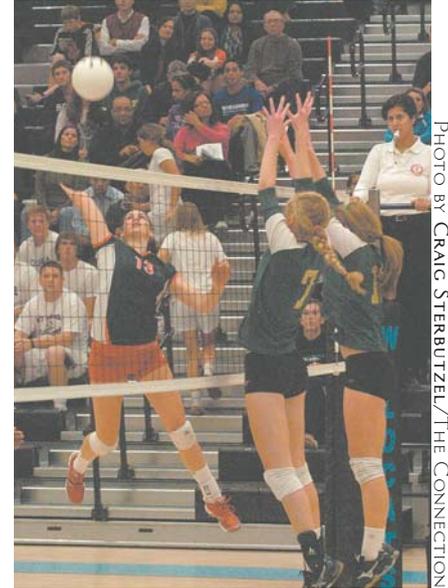
On Nov. 10, Woodson faced Langley in the Northern Region semifinals at Centreville High School. With a berth in the state tournament and a trip to the region final up for grabs, the Cavaliers

lost the opening game, trailed two games to one and fell behind in the deciding fifth set. Woodson's performance was enough to scare any fan with a heart condition, but in the end, the Cavaliers pulled out another exciting victory.

Woodson defeated Langley 3-2 (13-25, 25-17, 18-25, 25-18, 15-9). The Cavaliers energized their fans by jumping out to a 4-0 lead in game five, but after a Langley timeout, the Saxons responded with six straight points and appeared to seize momentum. Woodson, however, scored the next five points and 11 of the final 14 to win the match.

"Our motto is we're turning the butterflies into rhinos," senior setter/outside hitter Rachel Conway said of Woodson overcoming slow starts. "We have butterflies in our stomach, we've just got to harden it up and play to the end. It was our warm-up game. We just warm up swinging and then we come back in the other games and just take it to them."

The Cavaliers lost to Stone Bridge, 3-1, in the region final on Nov. 12, but Woodson's ticket to the state tournament had already been punched. The Cavaliers traveled to Mechanicsville to face Atlee, the Central Region champion, on Nov. 15. The winner would advance to face the winner of Freedom (Northwest Region champion) and Ocean Lakes



Woodson junior Caitlynn King finished with 13 kills against Langley in the Northern Region semifinals on Nov. 10 at Centreville High School.

(Eastern Region runner-up) at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 17 at VCU's Siegel Center. The state championship match is at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19 at the Siegel Center.

Junior setter and outside hitter Caitlynn King led Woodson with 13 kills. She was also part of the Cavaliers' strong defensive effort at the net, finishing with 1.5 blocks.

Senior middle Jordan Jackson had seven kills and five blocks, including two of each in game five.

"It's amazing, especially my senior year," Jackson said of earning a state berth. "We've been working so hard for four years and we never thought that we would get here. It's incredible. I've never felt like this. We never gave up."

Conway finished with seven kills. Junior outside hitter Maggie Price had six kills and 3.5 blocks, junior middle Hannah Dallman finished with four kills and four blocks and sophomore opposite hitter Eliza Fisher tallied four kills.

Woodson head coach Len Palaschak said improved execution is what set this year's Cavaliers apart from those in previous years.

"For the last four years, we've actually had a really good team," Palaschak said. "We're actually putting balls in the court this year, so it makes a huge difference."

Where Science and Business Collide

New master's degree programs address employer demand for more science and math knowledge.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Some call it the new MBA. Others say it is one of the keys to employability in a difficult economic environment. Meet the professional science master's degree, a relatively new, two-year graduate degree that combines advanced training in science or math with business skills often desired by employers.

Professional science master's degrees are designed to address what forecasters say is a future of economic growth and job creation driven by advances in science, technology, engineering and mathematics [STEM] education at many levels.

"A master's degree in a STEM field often offers a clear pathway to professional employment and career success. Even in a difficult job market," said Debra Stewart,

president of the Council of Graduate Schools. The Council of Graduate Schools conducted a study of graduates with professional science master's degrees and found that 82 percent were employed. More than 55 percent of those were earning \$50,000 or more.

Like many other professional master's degree programs, PSMs are structured to meet the needs of working adults.

"Most of our graduate students are part-time students," said Michelle Marks, associate provost of Graduate Education for George Mason University.

The concept of designing graduate degrees around needs of working professionals is not new. "The motivation for a lot of these programs is access," said Carol B. Lynch, senior project director, Professional Master's Programs Council of Graduate Schools. "When you look at the ads that you see on the Metro and in the newspapers, they are really targeting

people who are working and want to advance but don't have the luxury to take time off to go to a more traditional program."

According to the National Professional Science Master's Association (NPSMA), schools in the Washington, D.C., region offering PSM degrees are George Washington University, University of the District of Columbia, American University and University of Maryland University College. Georgetown University and Virginia Tech formed a partnership and created a PSM program in Biomedical Technology Development and Management.

"[George Mason] is currently developing programs that will likely be PSMs that combine science courses with management [and] workplace skills," said Marks.

PSM programs, which often include internships and training in workplace skills, are generally developed in coordination with em-

Graduate Open Houses

Learn more about professional studies programs at one of the following information sessions. Reservations are required.

George Mason University Graduate Admissions session and tour, Sunday, Nov. 20, Presentation at noon (Johnson Center Bistro, lower level); followed by tour at 1 p.m.; <http://admissions.gmu.edu>, click on Graduate and Schedule a Visit. Wednesday, Dec. 14, Tour at 6 p.m.; followed by presentation at 7 p.m. (Johnson Center Cinema, lower level). Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012 Presentation at 1 p.m. (Johnson Center Cinema, lower level); followed by tour at 2 p.m.

George Washington University Arlington Campus
Saturday, Nov. 19, 2-4 p.m. Arlington Education Center, 950 North Glebe Road, 6th Floor, Arlington.

George Washington University Virginia Science and Technology Campus
Engineering Management, Accelerated M.S. Tuesday, Nov. 21 or Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m. Exploration Hall, 20101 Academic Way, Ashburn, Call 703-726-8253.
Electrical Engineering, M.S.E.E. (Thursday, Nov. 17, 6:30 p.m. Exploration Hall, 20101 Academic Way, Ashburn, Call 703-726-8253.

ployers, including nonprofit organizations, businesses and government agencies. Both George Mason University and George Washington University offer professional studies classes at their Arlington campuses.

"We do a lot of market research, and we also have advisory boards and professional groups that we talk to about what is actually needed [in the workplace]," said Kathleen Burke, Ph.D., dean of the College of Professional Studies at George Washington University. "Then we can create programs based on what we know are specific needs."

Unlike traditional graduate science programs, PSM programs are generally terminal; they do not lead to a Ph.D.

"[Part-time] programs are really geared towards people achieving a breadth of business knowledge and then moving into the workforce," said Marks, "as opposed to a more traditional master's program where people may very well move onto a Ph.D."

Are professional degrees like the PSM less rigorous than their traditional counterparts? Just because the courses are offered nights and weekends doesn't mean that the program is less strenuous, university officials said.

"Our programs are very high quality. They are selective," said Burke. "They have admissions requirements and standards that are very comparable to other graduate programs. We don't admit very many students into our programs."

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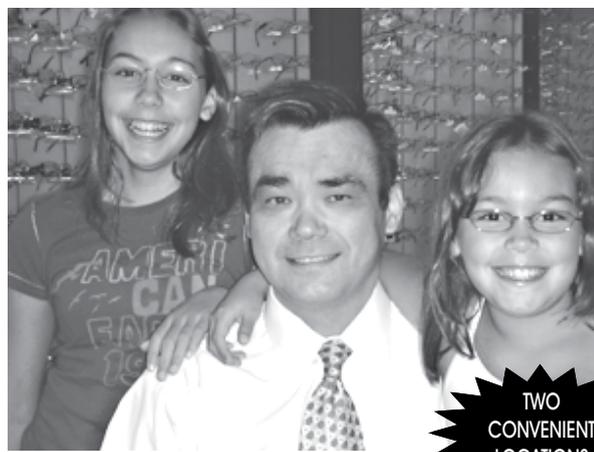


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5120 Veronica Rd.....\$749,545..Sat/Sun 1-4.....Christopher Boris..The Bryan Group..703-850-8561
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—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



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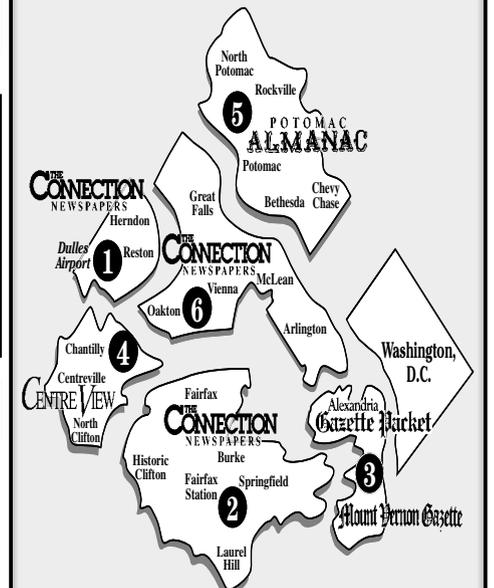
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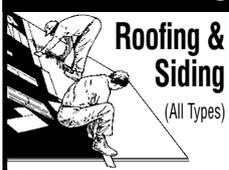
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THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS CLASSIFIED Classified or Home • Lawn • Garden: 703-917-6400 Employment: 703-917-6464 E-mail: classified@connectionnewspapers.com	21 Announcements LEGAL NOTICE The following store will be holding a public auction on 11/23/11 starting at 12 Noon Storage Mart 1851 11325 Lee Highway Fairfax, Va, 22030 Unit 1027 Wilton Crouch Jr. tools, furniture, wood Unit 3073 Yong Sim refrigerated showcases	21 Announcements FIXER UPPER Bargains, lowest prices. These homes need work. Call for a free list w/pics. www.metrolivinginfo.com Free recorded message 1-800-216-5723 ID# 1048	4 RE for Sale	21 Announcements IT'S HARVEST TIME FOR YOUR BUSINESS! Reap rewards when you advertise through Virginia Press Services' Statewide Display Advertising Network! Place your business card-size ad in more than 65 newspapers and your message will reach more than 800,000 Virginians. CONTACT THIS NEWSPAPER or Adriane Long, Virginia Press Services, 804-521-7585 or adrianel@vpa.net.	21 Announcements	21 Announcements	21 Announcements
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21 Announcements	21 Announcements	21 Announcements	21 Announcements	21 Announcements REVEALED Free Report reviews 7 Costly Mistakes to Avoid Before Selling Your Home. www.metrolivinginfo.com Free recorded message 1-800-216-5723 ID# 1048	21 Announcements	21 Announcements	21 Announcements
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TAX NOTICE
CITY OF FAIRFAX

REAL ESTATE TAX PAYMENTS ARE DUE

Real Estate tax bills have been mailed and are due
December 5, 2011

LATE PAYMENT PENALTY

To avoid a 10% late payment penalty and interest charges, payment in full must be made in person or postmarked by close of business on

December 5, 2011

Taxes may be paid in person Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Treasurer's Office, Room 234, City Hall

IMPORTANT

Even if you do not receive a bill, you are responsible for paying real estate taxes by December 5, 2011 to avoid late payment penalties

For Additional Information, please call 703-385-7904

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Pizzacoli, Inc trading as Angelicos La Pizzeria, 10869 Fairfax Blvd, Fairfax, VA 22030. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer on/off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Damla Mehtap Kamis, owner - president

26 Antiques

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116 Childcare Avail.

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

Fairfax Water

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2012 BUDGET

Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) is proposing a \$141.3 million budget for calendar year 2012¹. On Thursday, December 15, 2011, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed 2012 Budget in its offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax. The public hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m. A copy of the proposed budget can be viewed on our Web site at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed budget should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017. Revenues are expected to be \$141.3 million in 2012. Water sales are expected to provide \$121.9 million. Approximately \$19.4 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2011	2012
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$44,812	\$46,934
Power and Utilities	10,813	11,802
Chemicals	5,958	7,463
Fuel	822	862
Postage	407	416
Insurance	1,211	1,175
Supplies and Materials	3,891	4,044
Contractual Services	8,569	8,480
Professional Services	1,112	1,151
Other	2,130	2,224
Sub-Total	79,725	84,551
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(9,391)	(9,559)
Total	70,334	74,992

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$40,798,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$13,629,000

¹ Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

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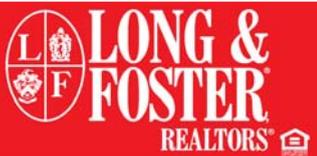
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