

Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ❖ Kingstowne ❖ Newington

Witnessing Pearl Harbor Attack

NEWS, PAGE 8

Carl "Bud" Kloss was 14 when he saw Japanese planes bombing Pearl Harbor on Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941. "I saw them dive down in the harbor, and I ran down the street to see what was going on."

Home Life Style

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Whose Road Is It Anyway?

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Campaign Sign-Off?

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Campaign Sign-Off?

County Board supports Herry's 'thumbs-down' vote on political signs.

In an election cycle with 99 candidates running for almost every state and local office, thousands of campaign signs sprouted like weeds along Fairfax County's roadways.

Nearly a month after the polls closed on Nov. 8, many signs are still standing, and that fact annoys Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield).

"They're an eyesore, a safety hazard, and illegal," Herry said. "It's ridiculous that we are the only county in the state that's not dealing with illegal signs in the right-of-ways. That needs to change."

At Tuesday's Board of Supervisor's meeting, board members unanimously approved Herry's proposal to end to what he calls the "blight" of illegal political signs on roadways and medians.

According to state law, Fairfax County has an exception when it comes to political signs. Although it's technically illegal to post campaign signs in medians and other state-maintained roads, Fairfax County's exception allows campaign signs in Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) rights-of-way until three days after an election. The Board approved a motion supporting legislation that would end Fairfax County's exception to the state code.

But the proposal does not mean an end to political signs.



Dozens of signs are placed outside of the Great Falls Library.

"They can be on private property, in people's front yards, like everywhere else in the state," Herry said. "I am delighted that now we can take our first steps to alleviate this problem, clean up our roadways, and show pride in our communities," Herry said.

— VICTORIA ROSS

Book Sale Raises Record Funds

Book-lovers, bargain hunters and holiday shoppers snapped up nearly 5,000 books at the third used-book sale held at the Richard Byrd Library in Springfield last weekend.

"Good weather, great books and terrific volunteers made this last week such fun. But our customers made it a success," said Christine Peterson president of the Friends of Richard Byrd Library, the non-profit fundraising arm of the library. "We received an amazing variety of donated books this year, and many were almost new, so

they made great stocking stuffers and gifts."

The sale raised more than \$8,000, according to Peterson, a 40 percent increase over the last sale in June.

The money will help fund a variety of programs offered by the library, including an expansion of the children's programs, teen activities and more author events, Peterson said. "Our first-ever bag sale brought over 80 people to gather up treasures on Sunday.

The next book sale will be held June 7-10.

— VICTORIA ROSS

"Good weather, great books and terrific volunteers made this last week such fun. But our customers made it a success."

— Christine Peterson

happy holidays
at
Springfield Mall

a season
of giving
a season
of values!

visit Santa at Springfield Mall

Santa is here daily through Dec. 24
in JCPenney Court

Photos available.

Reindeer feeding breaks: 1 PM - 2 PM & 5 PM - 6 PM

SANTA PET NIGHT!

Photos available!

Sunday, December 4 & 11

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM; JCPenney Court.

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PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) pumped up the crowd of 200-plus Obama supporters at the opening of Obama's first field office in Northern Virginia on Saturday, Dec. 3. Connolly applauded Fairfax County's Democratic Committee Chairman, Rex Simmons, for holding on to almost all Democratic state and local seats in Fairfax during the Nov. 8

Obama Campaign Comes to Fairfax

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly addresses crowd of 200-plus supporters.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

President Barack Obama was not there, but U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) made sure the president's presence was felt at the opening of the first Northern Virginia field office for the Obama 2012 Campaign in Fairfax.

Connolly gave a stump speech to the 250 volunteers and supporters who crowded into the campaign office on Saturday, Dec. 3. The office is located in a strip mall on Lee Highway in Fairfax.

"If we needed living proof that President Obama is going to invest heavily in Virginia, this is it," Connolly said to shouts of "amen" and "that's right." "No president has been more vilified than Barack Obama, and throughout it all he has remained gracious, a true leader."

CONNOLLY INTRODUCED the prominent area Democrats who attended the opening, including State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), Del. Ken Plum (D-36), Del. David Bulova (D-37), Kate Hanley, who preceded Connolly as chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and Ryan McElveen, one of the newly-elected Democrats to the Fairfax County School Board.

Petersen predicted Virginia would be a battleground state in 2012. "The President has to do everything he did in 2008 to win across Fairfax County. In a lot of ways, the stakes are higher, because the statewide race will be closer," Petersen said, adding that the anti-Washington rhetoric doesn't play well



Fairfax County Democrats gathered at the opening of Obama's first field office in Northern Virginia on Saturday, Dec. 3., including - from left - Del. Ken Plum (D-36), Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) and Del. David Bulova (D-37).

in Northern Virginia where many people are invested in a healthy, functioning federal government.

Many local supporters who attended Saturday's event said they volunteered for the campaign in 2008, and intend to volunteer again. "I'm working-class and

SEE OBAMA CAMPAIGN, PAGE 9



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fairfax County police released a photo Friday displaying some of the seized drugs, which included painkillers and birth control pills.

Drugs Seized In Police Raid

Two Springfield shops raided.

Fairfax County police raided 13 businesses on Friday, Dec. 2, in what police say may be the largest prescription drug bust in Fairfax County's history.

From small bodegas to tiny butcher shops, police seized thousands of painkillers, birth control pills, antibiotics and other drugs that are being illegally sold at businesses in Falls Church, Alexandria and Springfield.

The raid was the result of a six-month undercover operation after several reports from the Latino community that counterfeit drugs were being sold over the past several years, according to police.

When several people reported becoming violently ill after taking the drugs, including a woman who was hospitalized a few months ago, investigators stepped up their efforts to tackle the problem.

"Some of the people who came forward asking for help from us were very hesitant to do so," said John Piper, commander of the Fairfax County's Criminal Intelligence Division, in a statement released Friday.

"They were non-English speaking immigrants who came from countries where they'd had negative experiences with law enforcement, so it was a tough thing for them to do. Most likely, there are many others who've become ill from these smuggled drugs that we will never know about," Piper said.

During a news conference Friday, Piper said customers typically pay between \$5 to \$25 in cash for the drugs, which are stored within arms' reach of the cashier.

Search warrants were served at 13 shops in Alexandria and Falls Church, including La Despensa at 7500 Richmond Hwy and Culmore Super Mar-

"Most likely, there are many others who've become ill from these smuggled drugs that we will never know about."

— John Piper, commander of the Fairfax County's Criminal Intelligence Division

ket at 6019 Leesburg Pike in Falls Church. The two Springfield locations were Desi Bazar, located at 6127 Backlick Road, and Mercado La Colonia, located at 6971 Hechinger Drive.

Although no arrests were made during Friday's bust, police say they are continuing their investigation and will make arrests and charges as appropriate.

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

THE COUNTY LINE

Whose Road is it Anyway? County vs. State: A heated debate on who should fix area roads.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

State and local government officials agree that Fairfax County's roads are in deplorable shape, but who should fix the problem has sparked a heated political debate.

On Dec. 1, Fairfax County, along with Prince William and Loudoun Counties, issued a joint statement firmly opposing any hint of legislation from the Virginia General Assembly that would shift road maintenance responsibilities from the Commonwealth to counties, a process known as road devolution.

"Road devolution is going to be a huge issue in Richmond this year," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee). "The idea of local control is universally embraced, but the problem comes down to the cash, and the state is not going to give us the money we need to take over our roads."

County officials argue that devolution would lock in the state's chronic underfunding of secondary roads, and county taxpayers would be on the hook for the cumulative effects of deficient maintenance measures when the big bills come due.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has reported that more than a third of secondary roads throughout the state are in poor condition, and estimates that \$75 to \$100 million is required to bring just one percent of the state's 27,166 mile lanes up to performance standards.

McKay, who chairs the Board's Legislative Committee, said the cost to Fairfax County taxpayers could be close to \$200 million.

"The start-up costs of taking this over would be significant, and my greatest fear is that we'd be pitting roads against schools and public safety," he said. He added that any additional costs associated with road devolution would necessitate a tax hike and likely take money away from projects such as new school construction and renovation of existing schools.

He compared road devolution to the state driving a new car into the ground, and then sticking the county with the repair bills.

"The biggest advocate of devolution is the state. They would like nothing more than to hand it over to us, because they've wrecked it."

IN A DEC. 2 PUBLIC LETTER, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) joined her Republican counterparts in Prince William and Loudoun County contending that road devolution is really an unfunded mandate that would likely come under the guise of transportation funding reform.

"Although we are of different political parties, we are firmly united in opposition to devolution because of the massive property tax increase it will produce for the residents and businesses of Fairfax, Prince William and Loudoun counties... The cost could exceed \$500 per household," according to the statement.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

VDOT crews repair a bridge in Lorton that was washed out by Tropical Storm Lee in September.



Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee): "The biggest advocate of road devolution is the state. They would like nothing more than to hand it over to us, because they've wrecked it."



Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock): "We should be chomping at the bit to take this over; instead, we are thumbing our nose at the Governor."

Bulova said that General Assembly created the problem by neglecting the roads, and they should be the ones to fix it.

"Once the state abandons this responsibility, it will never take it back," Bulova said. "Local governments and taxpayers should not be expected to shoulder what is now a responsibility of the commonwealth."

Although Gov. Robert McDonnell has not yet proposed specific road devolution legislation, House Republicans have been looking at ways to shift spiraling road-maintenance responsibilities back to localities for several years.

In 2005, the General Assembly directed VDOT to develop legislative recommendations, in conjunction with representatives of counties, on the process for any county that wants to assume responsibility for their secondary construction program. So far, no county has taken the state up on its offer.

Bulova noted that over the past few years the General Assembly has pushed the financial burden for more than \$1 billion in services down to local municipalities without sharing state revenues to pay for them. "Then, they claim they have not raised taxes," she said, adding that it's a "shell game" that does nothing to address the state's nearly depleted construction funding.

But not everyone agrees that devolution is a problem.

"[Local control of local roads] is a great idea," said Del. Dave Albo (R-42), who has been a member of the House since 1994 and a key player in obtaining funding for road projects in his district, which covers

Springfield and Lorton. "We would not have to ask Richmond which roads to get repaved. We could ask our county supervisors, who personally know which roads are in need of repair."

Albo said legislation, along with a reallocation of resources to pay for it, is likely this session.

"I think it's highly likely that we pass it because this is the system we currently use for cities, so we are not reinventing the wheel," Albo said.

Currently, counties do not have the same taxing authority as cities and towns. Cities, such as Arlington, have more latitude in raising revenue through other means, such as cigarette, hotel and restaurant taxes, while the majority of Fairfax County's revenue is derived from property taxes.

State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) agrees that road devolution should be a local option, but with the stipulation that adequate revenue comes with the responsibility. "There needs to be an agreed formula which holds the county harmless if it decides to maintain its own roads," Petersen said.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), who made "local control of local roads" his signature campaign issue, said board members should see road devolution as an opportunity instead of an obstacle.

"Virginia is not the norm. We're one of only a few states where the state has maintenance and construction responsibilities for local roads," Cook said.

THE COMMONWEALTH'S SYSTEM goes back to the Great Depression. During

the 1930s, many counties struggled with road maintenance, creating uneven levels of road maintenance and affecting commerce. In 1932, the Virginia General Assembly passed the Byrd Act, which gave VDOT all maintenance, operational, and construction responsibilities for secondary roads, with the exception of Arlington and Henrico counties.

"This is an opportunity, and the board is saying we don't even want to have a dialogue. This could be the best thing for us if it's done right, and they don't know the state is not going to change the funding formula. We should be chomping at the bit to take this over; instead, we are thumbing our nose at the Governor."

Cook said he has talked directly with McDonnell and Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton, and he sees an opportunity for Fairfax County to benefit from road devolution.

Cook said the way to make road devolution viable for Fairfax County includes having the state transfer ownership of the land and redoing the funding formula to be more in line with urban jurisdictions that control local roads.

"Don't fall for the argument that this is going to cost \$200 million," Cook said. "That is misleading, because it only costs us if we choose to do a better job than the state. That's not an imposed cost. If we're getting at least what the state is already spending, and we have control, that's better than no control at all."

Asked what local control would look like, Cook said residents would see medians and roads mowed more frequently, potholes would be filled within a week of reporting and roads would be repaved every 10-20 years instead of 20-40 years, among other benefits.

But McKay and other board members are not so optimistic.

Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) one of the three Republicans on the board, said he generally thinks the most effective government is local government, but for Fairfax County to take over control of its secondary roads, a few other items must come with the mandate.

"The state needs to make up for years of neglect, there needs to be a guaranteed funding stream, and it needs to be at a level necessary to perform the maintenance – not the current level," Herrity said. "Otherwise the state is just transferring the burden and years of neglect onto Fairfax County taxpayers."

"There's no question Fairfax County could do a better job, but I am very suspect that the state is going to give us the tools to fix the problem. In my mind, this has to be dead on arrival," McKay said.

Fairfax County's position on road devolution is part of its 2012 legislative agenda, which will go before the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, Dec. 6, for a final vote. On Wednesday, McKay chairs a joint session between board members and Fairfax County legislators during which the County's legislative agenda will be presented.

BULLETIN BOARD

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/DEC. 8

Clifton Lions Club Meeting. 7 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Meetings are the second and fourth Thursdays of every month. 703-209-7421 or www.clvclubexpress.com.

South Fairfax Chamber and LCAC Breakfast. 7:15 a.m. Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. With Sam Chamberlain, Chief Operating Officer of Five Guys Enterprises, LLC. \$35 SFCC members, \$50 non-members. All proceeds benefit LCAC, a local 501 (c) 3 non-profit human services organization that operates the only food pantry in southeast Fairfax County. Register at http://SouthFairfaxChamber.org/lcacbreakfast. www.lortonaction.org or 703-339-5161.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 14

Springfield Christian Women's Connection Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. Springfield Golf and Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. With Karin Williams on "Learning to Say Goodbye." Door prizes, bake sale and more. \$17. 703-590-6562 or SpringWmConn@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 17

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Naturalization Information Session. 12 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. The session will provide lawful permanent residents with information on the naturalization process, the naturalization test and the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship. Open to the public, especially individuals interested in becoming U.S. citizens. USCIS will provide information about eligibility and residency requirements, the application process, the naturalization test and the naturalization interview. Participants will receive an overview of U.S. history and civics principles, and observe a mock naturalization interview. Free educational materials will be available. Free. www.uscis.gov.

TUESDAY/JAN. 3

Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Brown Bag Seminar. 12 p.m. Community Business Partnership, 7001 Loisdale Road, 2nd Floor, Springfield. Bring your lunch to CBP the first Tuesday of the month and learn best practices for the small and mid-size workplace. Free for Greater Springfield Chamber members and \$10 for non-members. www.springfieldchamber.org.

THURSDAY/JAN. 12

Clifton Lions Club Meeting. 7 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Meetings are the second and fourth Thursdays of every month. 703-209-7421 or www.clvclubexpress.com.

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OPINION

More on Giving Locally Local organizations need your help right now to help needy families.

Organizations that help needy families and individuals in Northern Virginia have seen a dramatic increase in requests for assistance since the recession hit in 2008, and right now those organizations need your help to meet the need.

Connection reporter Victoria Ross cites the examples of Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO) and Food for Others. In 2010, ECHO assisted more than 1,472 households, an increase of nearly 30 percent from before

the recession. And Food for Others delivered a record 2.7 million pounds of food to an average of 125 families a day last year.

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.

EDITORIALS

Where To Give

In no particular order:

- ❖ Our Daily Bread — ODB has been serving needy families in Fairfax County for 25 years. For more information on their holiday programs, including how to sponsor a family, go to www.odbfairfax.com.
- ❖ Food for Others — Food for Others is the largest distributor of free food directly to people in need in Northern Virginia, provides the assistance needed by unemployed and low-income neighbors. The non-profit provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. www.foodforothers.com
- ❖ Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO), 703-569-9160. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. www.echo-inc.org.
- ❖ 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. www.lortonaction.org.
- ❖ 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

- ❖ National Capital Food Bank, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063. www.capitalareafoodbank.org
- ❖ Western Fairfax Christian Ministries — food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly (near Backyard Grill and Bar). For more information or to sponsor a family, call 703-988-9656, ext. 105. To mail gift cards or send donations by check, add a note saying "food basket program" and send them to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153. 703-988-9656.
- ❖ The Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic, 13525 Dulles Technology Drive, Herndon, VA 20171, 571-235-3577. Last year, 139 community volunteers — nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians — gave more than 1,300 hours of their time to see patients. jsfreeclinic.org.
- ❖ Alternative House — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703-506-9191. www.thealternativehouse.org.

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

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. About half of the homeless in Northern Virginia are children.

Here are some suggestions about how to help, but there are dozens of other opportunities.

- ❖ Reston Interfaith, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.restoninterfaith.org. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program and the Thanksgiving Food Drive.
- ❖ FACETS — Information about supply donations and FACETS holiday gifts drive is available on the website at www.facetscares.org. Additionally, FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. People who are interested in volunteering can contact 703-865-4251 or volunteer@facetscares.org.
- ❖ Committee for Helping Others (CHO), Vienna 703-281-7614
- ❖ Fairfax City Area FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 703-222-0880
- ❖ Lamb Center, www.thelambcenter.org, Fairfax 703-691-3178
- ❖ Northern Virginia Family Service, Oakton, 703-385-3267
- ❖ United Community Ministries, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, 22306
- ❖ National Capital Food Bank, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063, www.capitalareafoodbank.org

Free, Safe Ride Home from Holiday Celebrations

Once again, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program will provide a safety net for those who might celebrate the holiday season with alcohol and unexpectedly need a safe ride home.

WRAP's 2011 Holiday SoberRide program will be offered nightly from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. beginning Friday, Dec. 16, and running until

Jan. 1, 2012.

To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30 fare), call 800-200-8294 (TAXI). You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service. All requests for SoberRide service must be called to and dispatched from 1-800-200-8294. Callers will be responsible for any amount over \$30.

WRAP's SoberRide has helped to ensure lo-

cal residents have a safe way home on high-risk holidays, keeping likely impaired drivers off the roads. Since 1993, WRAP has provided nearly 53,000 safe rides home. SoberRide operates during the December/January holiday season, St. Patrick's Day, Independence Day and Halloween.

For details, see <http://wrap.org/soberride>

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Deer Hunting: Hunter's View

To the Editor:

A recent letter (Saving the Deer Population, The Connection, Dec. 1-7) offered suggestions and comments that are, I am sure, well intended. But they lack scientific support or rational processing. I fully agree with the author that the County does need to do more to address the Lyme disease issue and I believe the 4-Poster program is a step in the right direction. The DeerDeter device is also effective and should be considered in doing repair, replacement and new road construction.

But to suggest that the reason deer are running across the roads in the fall is because there are hunters in the woods is simply wrong. Deer are most active at

night when visibility is less for drivers as well as deer. They are active all year long. They become particularly active during the fall, whether in areas where hunting is severely restricted, such as Fairfax, or in rural areas because this is the time of year when baby deer are made by aggressive, determined and not so bright male deer who with no regard for family, child care or housing issues, run across six lane highways in pursuit of female deer. They don't think about it, and they are going to do it whether there are hunters behind them or not.

And as to killing deer (harvesting if you need political correctness) being futile because they will be replaced by another deer, this is, again, simply not so. The deer population in Virginia was a small fraction of what it is today when I

first started hunting 40 years ago. It had been decimated by over hunting, poaching, market hunting and other causes. The simple fact is that if we do not kill (harvest, cull, whatever) more deer our deer will succumb to chronic wasting disease. Google that for an eye full.

I won't add that hunters in Virginia supply hundreds of meals of low fat, high quality meat to shelters and the underprivileged through the Hunters for the Hungry/Hunters Who Care programs. We pay for the licenses to shoot deer and we donate the deer and many of us donate the processing money as well through direct donations.

Yes, arrows do wound deer. So do bullets. And so do automobiles and motorcycles. And poor hunting skills do result in unfortunate suffering to some deer. People die

in car accidents but we would scoff at banning automobiles as a solution.

Ironically restricting hunting in Fairfax County to bow hunting (with an onerous and usually impossible exception) does result in some inexperienced gun hunters hunting with bows and this does increase the number of arrow wounded and lost deer. None of us feel good about wounding and/or losing a deer and the fact that we spend as much time practicing our craft and tracking deer is a tribute to that concern.

Giving deer human characteristics makes for nice children's movies. But it is inaccurate and unrealistic and the more you learn about deer the more one will understand that, if one wants to.

Michael Valentine
Fairfax Station

THE CONNECTION

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AREA ROUNDUPS

Police Target Shopping Swindlers

Phony credit cards, stolen IDs and out-of-state shoplifting scammers are being targeted by Fairfax County Police Retail Anti-Theft Teams once again this holiday season. In an annual effort that began "Black Friday," officers are patrolling the malls and shopping centers across the county, hoping to keep the areas safe and crime-free.

Teams of officers are working in shopping malls and retail businesses in both uniformed and plain-clothed capacities. They're targeting all shoplifters, but particularly the "professionals" that distract store employees while associates across the store attempt to conceal and steal merchandise.

In 2010, officers assigned to the retail theft operations made significant arrests, charging suspects with fraud, forgery, embezzlement, possession of stolen property, distribution of narcotics and more. In the Fair Oaks Police District, 41 adults and 23 juveniles were charged with 182 felony and misdemeanor offenses.

Residents Can Help Santa

As the holidays approach, some children in Fairfax County won't have to wait until Christmas Eve to see Santa. He and his elves will be rumbling down the streets here next week. Once again, Santa will temporarily trade in his sleigh and reindeer for a Harley Davidson motorcycle.

The Fairfax County Police Motorcycle Squad, in cooperation with the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, Fairfax City Police, Falls Church Sheriff's Office and the Town of Vienna Police will escort Santa on his 25th annual Ride for Children.

On Monday, Dec. 12, Santa's elves will pick up toys and other donations from police stations and other government facilities throughout the county. Then on Tuesday, Dec. 13, Santa will visit seven local schools.

Anyone wishing to make a donation should bring a new, unwrapped toy, game, book or other gift to any county police station, their designated school or to the Fairfax County print shop at the Government Center. All donations should be made before Dec. 12 at 9 a.m.

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GRIEF SHARE Grief Share: Surviving the Holidays Seminar

Sunday, December 11 from 1-3 in Room 216

The seminar features practical suggestions and reassurance through video interviews with grief experts and other people who have experienced the holidays after their loved one's death. Classes are free, child care provided upon request. To register, call Kathy Benton at 703-569-9862, ext. 105.

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6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Continuous Free Outdoor Tours

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www.aldersgate.net 703-765-6555



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Carl "Bud" Kloss, Betty Kenealy and Houston Wynn stand in front of the Christmas tree at Greenspring Retirement Village in Springfield. The three residents were all living near Pearl Harbor when it was bombed by the Japanese on Dec. 7, 1941.

Witnessing Pearl Harbor Attack

Greenspring residents witnessed 'Day of Infamy.'

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Seventy years ago this week, 14-year-old Carl "Bud" Kloss was getting ready for church when he heard the drone of aircraft above his home on the U.S. Naval base on Pearl Harbor. It was shortly before 8 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941.

"It was unusual to hear planes on a Sunday. I went up to the porch and saw four planes circling, and then I saw them peel off and the bombs started dropping," Kloss said, recalling the chilling vision of the distinctive red circles that adorned Japanese aircraft. Within seconds of seeing the planes, Kloss said he heard the muffled thuds of the bombs as they exploded in Pearl Harbor.

Hurrying down to the harbor in his Sunday best, Kloss climbed to the top of an

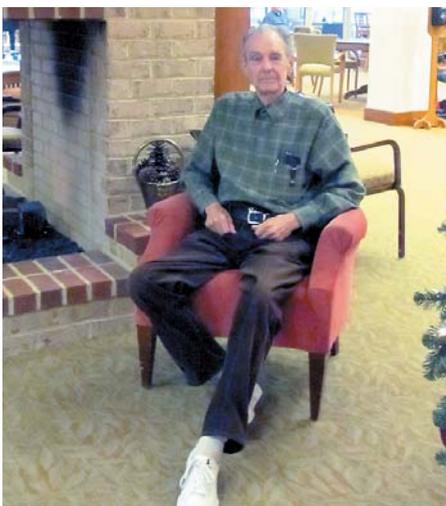


PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Carl "Bud" Kloss was 14 when he saw Japanese planes bombing Pearl Harbor on Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941. "I saw them dive down in the harbor, and I ran down the street to see what was going on."

unfinished building to "check it out." He said he saw flames shooting skyward as the battleship USS Arizona exploded, destroyed by Japanese torpedo bombers that sent 1,177 of the 1,400 member crew to their deaths.

"It was the first eight minutes of the attack. A man told me to get out of there, and I didn't have to be told twice. I started running back to my house when I saw torpedo planes making a run over the base," he said.

"I saw my father waving from our front porch to get the hell inside. I remember one woman came out of her house with a smoking towel. When she opened it, it contained a piece of shrapnel," Kloss said. "No one was really prepared for it, and we didn't realize how dangerous it was at the time."

In a perfectly synchronized attack, Japanese planes attacked in two waves. The first wave, arriving just before 8 a.m., began its assault with dive-bombing and strafing against Navy and Army airfields to cripple U.S. fighter planes.

ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY, 40 torpedo planes roared in low over Pearl Harbor, launching their weapons against warships moored on both sides of Ford Island, the U.S. Navy's center of gravity for its Pacific fleet. Around 9 a.m., the second Japanese wave hit, pummeling Pearl Harbor's "Battleship Row" for the next hour with dive bombers and machine gun fire. The incessant barrage of armor-piercing bombs sank several battleships within minutes of being hit.

Kloss said his family spent the night of Dec. 7 in the town of Oahu. When they returned to the harbor the next day, they saw "a big hole in the ground" where the base's movie theater used to be.

"It's hard to imagine now, but we didn't

"I remember driving away from the harbor that morning, and looking in the rear-view mirror. All I could see was great big fireball."

— Carl Kloss



PHOTO BY JESSICA MCKAY

Betty Kenealy holds up a copy of the Dec. 8 Honolulu Star Bulletin declaring "War!" after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and Manila on Dec. 7, 1941.

have TV then. No one gathered around the TV set to see what was happening. We walked to the harbor, and saw it with our own eyes," Kloss said.

Now 85 and a Greenspring resident for two years, Kloss is one of thousands of aging Pearl Harbor survivors who will mark the 70th anniversary of the Japanese air and naval assault that claimed 2,390 American lives and propelled the United States into World War II.

Another Greenspring resident, Elizabeth "Betty" Kenealy, 79, also remembers the attacks. She was 9 years old, and her father was a sheet metal worker for the U.S. Navy. She said the morning of Dec. 7 started off "clear and serene," and she and her brothers were looking at airplanes from a field near John Rogers Airport — now Honolulu International Airport.

"We were on our way to church when my father heard loud noises, and saw the Japanese planes. He immediately packed everyone in the car and drove us 30 minutes away to Kaimuki," she said.

When her family returned to the area, they found out that everyone left on the field that morning had been killed, and their own house had been hit by machine gun fire.

Houston Wynn, who has lived at Greenspring for nearly a decade, was 25-

years-old in 1941. On Dec. 7, he had just started a new job working as a landscape architect on officers' houses around Pearl Harbor. Awakened by an aircraft shell exploding in the yard next door, he and a friend rushed to the harbor.

"Most of the ships were still burning and smoking when we got there," Wynn said. Now 95, Wynn said he vividly recalls listening to radio reports assuring listeners that the commotion was just an air raid and no one was in any danger. "But the reporter sounded very nervous," Wynn said.

The attacks ended about 9:45 that morning, after decimating the entire Pacific fleet.

SEVENTY YEARS LATER, there are fewer and fewer Pearl Harbor survivors: When the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association was formed in 1958, it started with 18,000 members. Today there are around 3,000.

Still, some have memories that remain strong.

Following the attacks, Kloss said he and his mother worked at a temporary hospital, tending to the injured, many of whom were burned beyond recognition. "We fed them, and wrapped a lot of bandages," he said. Kloss' father, a career Naval officer, soon moved the family to San Diego.

"A year later, the U.S. Navy released photos of the destruction. It was illegal to talk about it at the time, you know 'loose lips sink ships,' so no one in my high school knew I had been there," he said.

"But I can tell you, it's something you never forget," he said, pausing. "I remember driving away from the harbor that morning, and looking in the rear-view mirror. All I could see was great big fireball."



Latasha Gunter of Fairfax adds a note to the wall at the opening of Obama's first field office in Northern Virginia on Saturday, Dec. 3. Supporters were asked to write "Why I'm In."



Paul Strasberg of Fairfax brought his sons, Andrew, 10 and Zach, 13, to the opening of Obama's first field office in Northern Virginia on Saturday, Dec. 3.

Obama Campaign Fairfax Office

FROM PAGE 3

he works for me," said Paul Strasberg, an economist who lives in Fairfax.

"I like President Obama because he doesn't make up all these crazy ideas," said Zach Strasberg, 13, a student at Robinson Secondary School. "He doesn't harass people, like Herman Cain does."

Latasha Gunter of Fairfax said education was a key issue for her. "I feel like the President has made a strong effort to reach across the table. He works effortlessly to support change for all Americans."

Olivia Hinebaugh of Vienna brought her 15-month-old son, Callum and husband Jason to the event. She said she supported President Obama's health care plan. "My biggest struggle after I graduated from college was getting health coverage. I was a preschool teacher. We were ready to start a family, and I couldn't get health coverage. Personally, that's why I'm a huge supporter," she said.

Organizing for America-Virginia hosted the event, and opened offices in Newport

News as well as Fairfax on Saturday. Along with the campaign's statewide headquarters in Richmond, the field offices will serve as community hubs for 2012 election activities.

ON FRIDAY, DEC. 2, Democratic Party of Virginia Chairman Brian Moran joined Organizing for America-Virginia volunteers as they delivered the signatures required to put President Obama on Virginia ballots in 2012.

In order for candidates to be eligible for their party's nomination in the Commonwealth of Virginia, the state Board of Elections requires the signatures of 10,000 registered voters, including 400 from each congressional district in the state.

"Nearly three weeks ahead of the Board of Elections deadline, the Organizing for America volunteers delivered more than 15,000 notarized signatures collected through grassroots efforts in every corner of the Commonwealth," said Marianne von Nordeck, press secretary for Organizing for America.

OBITUARY

Quinn V. Elliott, 48, of Springfield, Dies

Quinn V. Elliott died suddenly on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2011. He is survived by his mother, Mahshid Elliott; sister, Zena Elliott; and brother, Ryan Elliott. Quinn has left a legacy of love for the game of tennis, which will continue to grow even in his absence. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 11 a.m. at Harvest Christian Fellowship, 1948 Isaac Newton Square W. Reston, Virginia, 20190. Please contact Dyanna or Cathy if you are planning to attend: ddelaney5@me.com, 703-772-0129; Cathysp813@aol.com, 703-868-1672.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to: Washington Tennis & Education Foundation The William H.G. FitzGerald Tennis Center 16th and Kennedy Streets, N.W. Washington, DC 20011.



Quinn V. Elliott, 1963-2011

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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- Replace your furnace filter once a month.
- Turn your hot water heater down to warm or low, never more than 120 degrees.
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For more information and additional energy saving tips visit washingtongas.com.

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and give Buttercup a chance to show you what a great girl she is and how complete she would make your home. Attributes: Super Sweetie!



HUMANE SOCIETY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY
Hours: Monday-Friday 10-4 and Saturday 10-3 • www.hsfc.org
4057 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030 • 703-385-7387

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/DEC. 8

"A Christmas Carol." Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. Doors open 6 p.m., performance at 8 p.m. 703-550-7384 or www.lazysusan.com.

Origami Workshop. 4 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn basic folds, create an animal figure, practice geometry and algebra math skills. Maximum attendance 15, age 9-12 years. Register at 703-249-1520.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice English and improve English-speaking skills. Adults. 703-249-1520.

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

FRIDAY/DEC. 9

"A Christmas Carol." Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. Doors open 6 p.m., performance at 8 p.m. 703-550-7384 or www.lazysusan.com.

E is for Elephant. 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories and activities. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-249-1520.

SATURDAY/DEC. 10

A Plantation Christmas. Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. 703-550-9220 or www.gunstonhall.org.

*Ride in a horse-drawn carriage, sip warm cider and sample period food prepared in the hearth kitchen. Return to the 18th century as costumed characters greet you in the house and throughout the grounds. 5:30-9:30 p.m. \$15 adults, \$8 age 6-

18, \$2 age 2-5. Reservations not required.

***Plantation Christmas Yuletide Dinner.** Traditional courses served in a candlelit setting. Seatings at 4:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., reservations required.

Pancake Breakfast with Santa. 8-11 a.m. Greater Springfield Volunteer Fire Department, 7011 Backlick Road, Springfield. Visit and have photos taken with Santa. Donations of new, unwrapped toys will be collected for Toys For Tots. \$5 per person. www.gsvfd.org.

2nd Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Meet each building's featured artist, a reception in W-16 from 6-7 p.m. and more. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

WMZQ Winter Fest with Rodney Atkins. 5:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Also with Kellie Pickler, Thompson Square, David Nail, Josh Thompson and Ashton Shephard. \$30-\$99, available at www.ticketmaster.com and 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035. www.patriotcenter.com.

Open House and Artists' Reception. 2-6 p.m. The Artists' Undertaking Gallery, 309 Mill St., Occoquan. "Unwrap the Magic," a group show with 16 local artists, will be open Dec. 6-Jan. 2, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. 703-494-0584 or www.theartistsundertaking.com.

The Northern Virginia Chorale. 7 p.m. St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 5800 Backlick Road, Springfield. Carol Barnett's "Bluegrass Mass," John Rutter's "Gloria" and traditional holiday music. Advance sale tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. www.northernvirginiachorale.org.

Oldies but Goodies Cocker Spaniel Rescue Adoption Event. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Springfield PetSmart, 6535 Frontier Drive, Springfield. Adoption show and fundraiser. Pet pictures with Santa, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. www.cockerspanielrescue.com.

"A Christmas Carol." Lazy Susan



Keep of Kalessin will be performing black metal music from Norway on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. at Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-471-7612.

available. Age 6-12. 703-339-7385.

SUNDAY/DEC. 11

Christmas Cantata: The Gift of Christmas, Share the Hope. 11 a.m. Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. 703-971-5151 or

FAITH NOTES

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

Church of the Apostles, 3500 Pickett Road in Fairfax, will offer "Facing Life's Losses" on Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. This two-part seminar is designed to be a safe environment to help people learn how to process grief in a healthy way. Free and open to the public. Register at Info@ChurchoftheApostles.org or 703-591-1974.

Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road in Alexandria, will celebrate Advent on Dec. 11 and Dec. 18 at the 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday Services. Sunday School for all ages is at 9:45, and childcare is available 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. The church is handi-

www.franconiaumc.org.

4th Annual Bluegrass Christmas Concert. 4:30 p.m. New Hope Church, 8905 Ox Road, Lorton. With The Bluegrass Gospel Express, Barnyard Bluegrass, and Sonrise. All donations benefit Habitat for Humanity. 703-971-4673 or www.newhope.org.

"A Christmas Carol." 1 p.m. Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. 703-550-7384 or www.lazysusan.com.

Symphony Orchestra and Combined Choirs Sing-Along Messiah. 7 p.m. George Mason University Center For The Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Adults \$10, students and seniors \$5. 703-993-1380 or <http://music.gmu.edu>.

Christmas Concert. 4 p.m. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Eight different musical ensembles including choirs, instrumentalists, and handbells. Free. 703-451-5855 ext.109 or www.poplc.org.

Breakfast With Santa. 8-11 a.m. Workhouse Art Center, Bldg. W-3, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Gingerbread pancakes, hot chocolate, coffee and juices. Includes a performance of Studio 3's "Schoolhouse Rock Live!" \$17-\$24. Reservations recommended. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

Keep of Kalessin. 6 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Black metal music from Norway. 703-471-7612.

MONDAY/DEC. 12

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

Gingerbread Tales. 10:30 a.m.

Mason were parishioners. 703-339-6572 or www.pohick.org.

❖ Christmas Eve Services. 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ.

❖ Christmas Day Service. 11 a.m. Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

❖ New Year's Eve Watch Night. 11 p.m. Give thanks for the blessings of the outgoing year and praying for divine favor during the upcoming year.

Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway in Lorton, will have a Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 10 a.m., with a series of readings, Advent and Christmas carols, hymns and a choral anthem. At 11 a.m. the Pohick Church Decent Guild will give guided tours of the historic colonial church, which has been restored back to the days when George Washington and George

Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Wintery stories, songs, and fun. Age 2 years-35 months with adult. 703-339-4610.

TUESDAY/DEC. 13

Belvoir Officers' Spouses' Club Holiday Tour of Homes. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 5:30-8:30 p.m. Ft. Belvoir Officers' Club, 5500 Schulz Circle, Fort Belvoir. Those without a DOD-issued ID should enter Fort Belvoir at the Tully Gate off U.S. Rt.1. Proceeds benefit the club's scholarship fund, activities, programs and more. Tickets \$15, age 18 and under \$5. www.belvoirosc.org or 540-847-1467.

"A Christmas Carol." Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. Doors open 6 p.m., performance at 8 p.m. 703-550-7384 or www.lazysusan.com.

Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker. 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$28-\$122, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT.

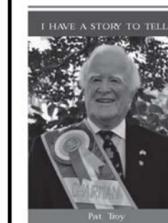
Presidential Biography Book Discussion. 7:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Read any biography of Thomas Jefferson for discussion. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Second Tuesday Book Discussion Group. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. The Code of the Woosters by P. G. Wodehouse. Adults. secondtuesdaybookgroup.blogspot.com. 703-339-4610.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Practice and improve your English. Adults. 703-451-8055.

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PHOTOS BY DEB COHAR/THE CONNECTION

Holiday on the Farm

Ciara Sitko, of Springfield, and her Norwegian Fjord Toril are dressed in their holiday finest as part of the Norwegian Fjord Horse Association demonstration that was part of the Frying Pan Park holiday on the farm event on Dec. 3.



Regina Paik and son Ewan Inman, of Springfield, roast marshmallows at the Frying Pan Park Holiday on the Farm celebration on Dec. 3.

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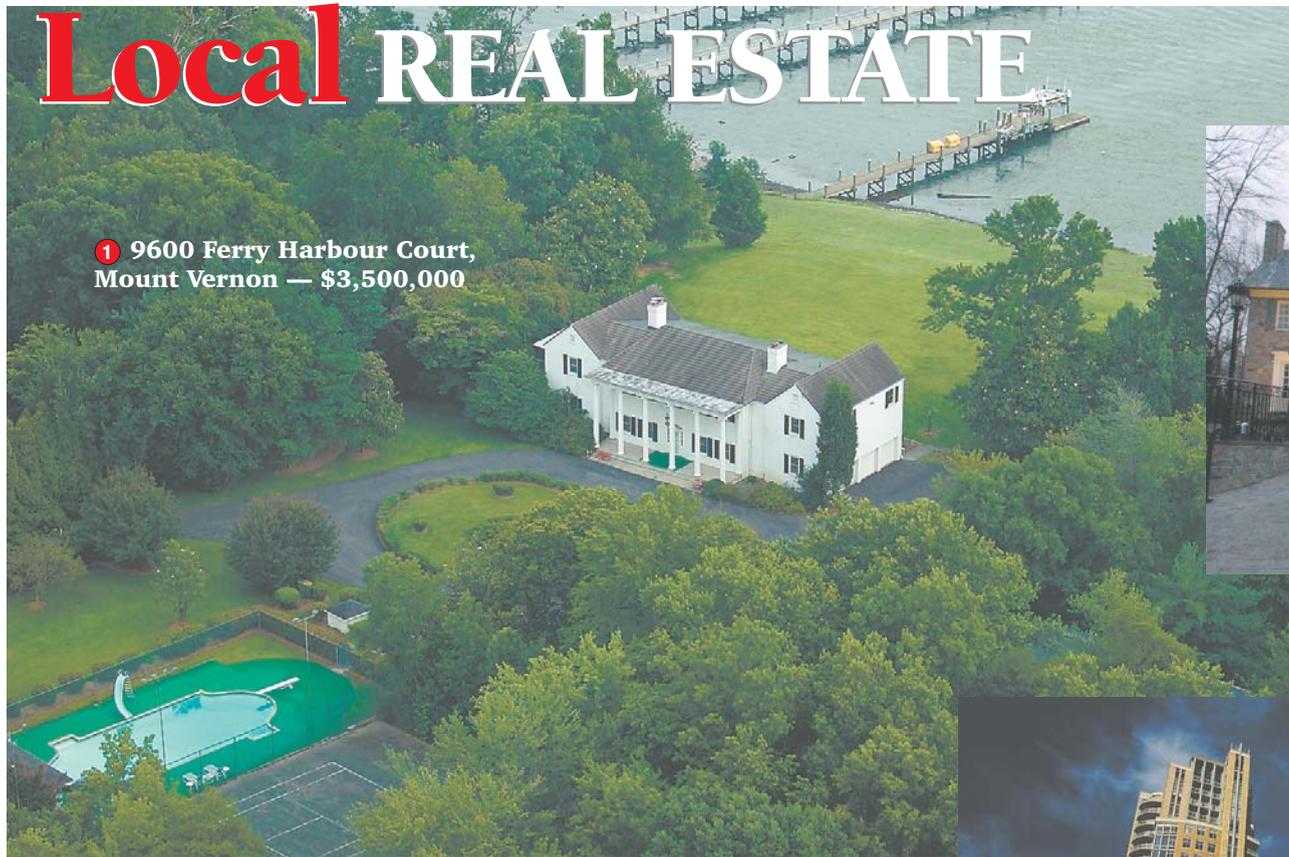
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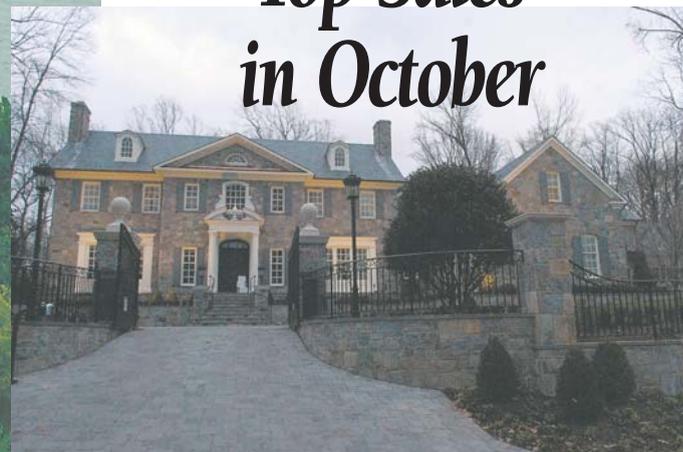
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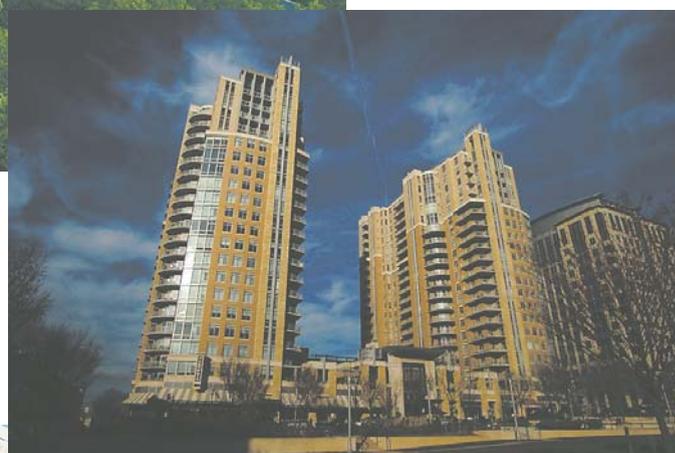
Top Sales in October



1 9600 Ferry Harbour Court, Mount Vernon — \$3,500,000



2 903 Turkey Run Road, McLean — \$7,501,310



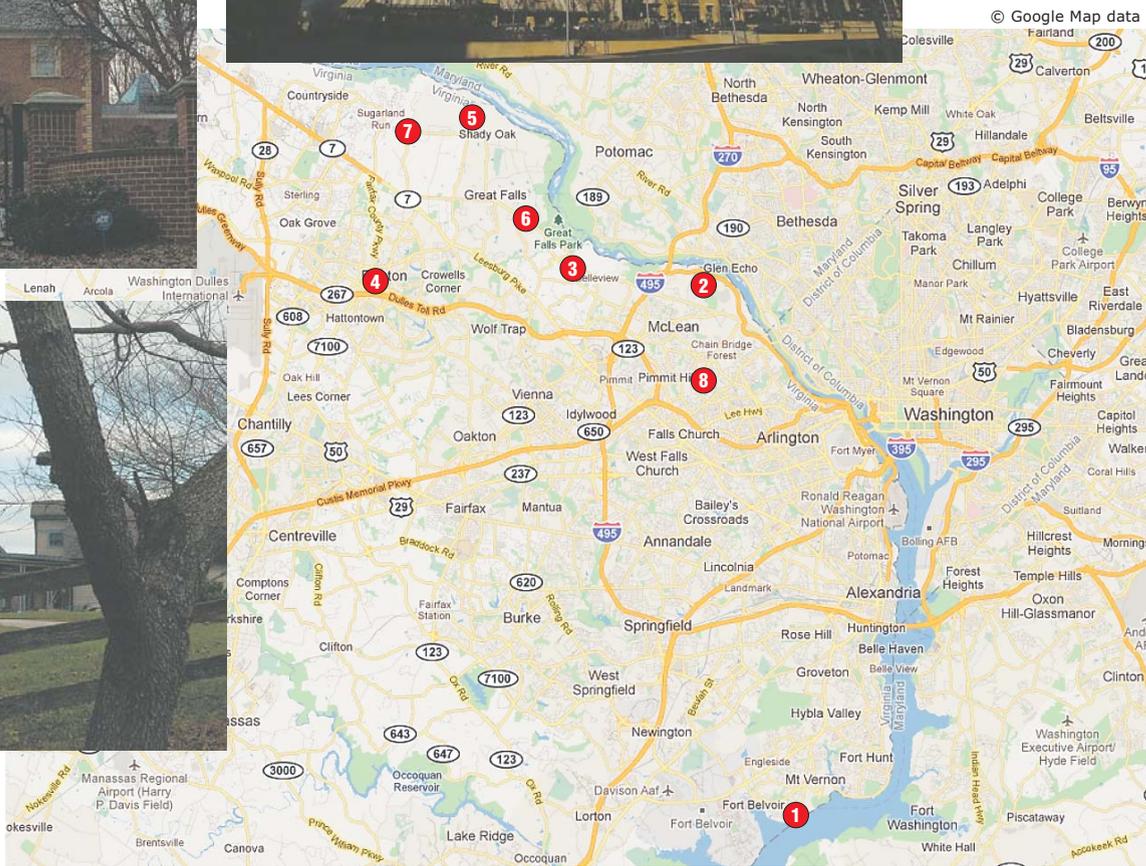
4 11990 Market Street #2112, Reston — \$2,700,000



3 8537 Old Dominion Drive, McLean — \$2,950,000



5 129 Commonage Drive, Great Falls — \$2,695,000



7 11322 Beach Mill Road, Great Falls — \$2,335,000

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1 9600 FERRY HARBOUR CT	5	..	4	..	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$3,500,000	Detached	5.00	22309	FERRY LANDING VILLA	10/28/11
2 903 TURKEY RUN RD	6	..	7	..	2	MCLEAN	....	\$7,501,310	....	Detached	....	1.00	22101	....	TURKEY RUN	....	10/27/11
3 8537 OLD DOMINION DR	9	..	8	..	5	MCLEAN	....	\$2,950,000	....	Detached	....	3.10	22102	....	MB DAWKINS PROPERTY	....	10/06/11
4 11990 MARKET ST #2112	2	..	3	..	1	RESTON	....	\$2,700,000	....	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	..	20190	....	MIDTOWN AT RESTON TOWN	....	10/04/11	
5 129 COMMONAGE DR	6	..	5	..	2	GREAT FALLS	....	\$2,695,000	....	Detached	....	5.24	22066	....	SOUTHDOWN FARMS	....	10/06/11
6 9330 GEORGETOWN PIKE	7	..	7	..	4	GREAT FALLS	....	\$2,350,000	....	Detached	....	5.43	22066	....	THREE SWALLOWS FARM	....	10/07/11
7 11322 BEACH MILL RD	6	..	6	..	1	GREAT FALLS	....	\$2,335,000	....	Detached	....	2.73	22066	....	SENECA	....	10/11/11
8 1932 FRANKLIN AVE	6	..	5	..	1	MCLEAN	\$2,315,000	Detached	0.32	22101	FRANKLIN FOREST	10/21/11

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Home Life Style

Creating the Holiday Table

Local designers offer suggestions for dressing a festive table.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

A festive holiday table requires more than prime rib and plum pudding. From incorporating natural elements to maintaining a consistent theme, local entertaining and design gurus dole out advice for creating a table as enticing as the food it holds.

Candlelight creates a warm ambience, but Ann O'Shields, owner of The Nest Egg in Fairfax suggests skipping tall tapers.

"Low candles set a really nice glow on the table and give it a really nice feeling as well," said O'Shields. "I always recommend doing unscented candles so they don't interfere with all the fragrances from your holiday meals."

Vienna-based design consultant Denise Willard of Décor by Denise suggests choosing a color scheme, but limiting the palette.

"A simple way to give your holiday decorations a designer look is to stick to two or three colors at most," said Willard. "This year the silver and green color combination is hot."

O'Shields agrees that simpler is better. "Whether you want to decorate with blues and browns and silver or go more traditional and use red and gold, keep your palate at a minimum for really high impact."

Bring the outdoors in by using elements from nature, even from your own property, on your table.

"The outdoor, woodsy, organic feel is really popular right now," said O'Shields. "You can incorporate [things] from your own backyard, whether it is pinecones or holly. [You don't have to purchase] brand new decorations every year. You can freshen up what you have by using new elements from outside."

Rustic floral centerpieces are also popular. But remember that when you're creating concepts for the table, height matters.

"You don't want it to be so high that you can't see the person across from you," O'Shields said.

For the most polished look, choose a theme and keep it consistent. "I always think that if you pick a theme and do it well throughout and don't falter, you'll be satisfied whether you spend a lot of money or not," said Michael

Corrado, owner and head designer at Devers Design Group in Arlington. "If your theme is candy cane, for example, and everything you do [is] red, white and candy cane oriented, it is going to be very successful looking."

"The outdoor, woodsy, organic feel is really popular right now."

— Ann O'Shields, Nest Egg, Fairfax

Don't be afraid to break tradition. Holly and mistletoe are holiday mainstays, but O'Shields says sometimes it is wise to mix old and new. "If you have plates that you like that were passed down to you,

you can use them and add in some new, modern elements, like mercury glass pieces," she said.

FOR YOUR GUESTS

Use care in choosing a menu, keeping in mind possible dietary restrictions of your guests.

"Make sure you understand all of your guests' needs and are doing your best to make sure that you have food for everyone so that no one feels overlooked or left out," said Scott Hoffner, corporate chef for Main Event Caterers in Arlington.

"Keep in mind that the dietary restrictions of the average person are much different than [they were] even just a few years ago. There is a huge turn to vegetarianism and veganism, and you have gluten issues and religious factors in terms of pork or shellfish."

Hoffner believes a menu with farm-to-table fare will make a memorable meal.

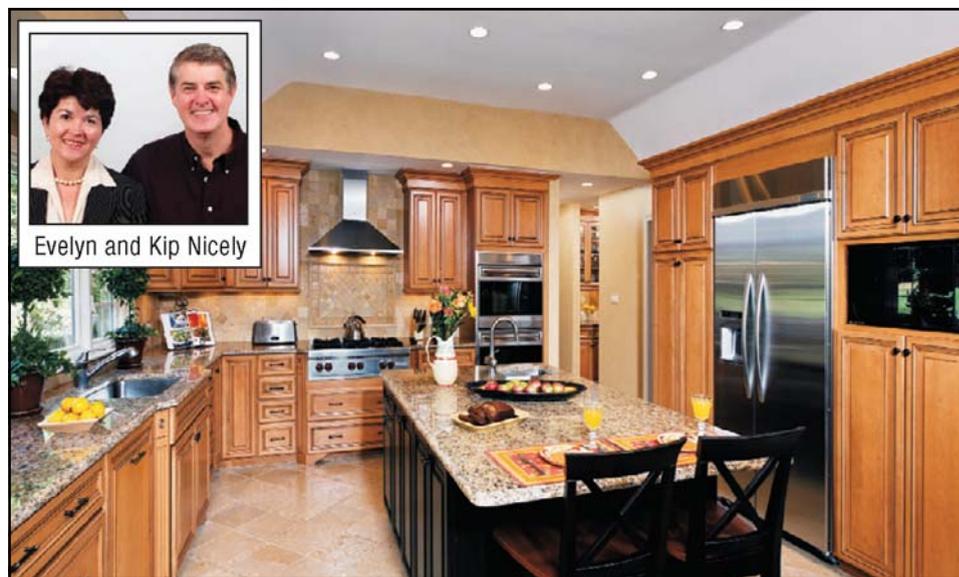
"Find food that is local, fresh and in season," said Hoffner. "At the end of that day, that is what is going to give you the best result."



Ann O'Shields, owner of the Nest Egg in Fairfax.

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HomeLifeStyle

Holiday Tested

**Kitchen-centric,
open floor plan
well-suited for extended
family entertaining.**

BY JOHN BYRD
SPECIAL TO THE CONNECTION

What a relief to be living in a “holiday-tested” house as the season approaches.

Such are the reflections of Marie Brill on the kitchen-centric floor plan she and her husband introduced into their busy lifestyle just last year as the holidays commenced.

What tests has it passed so far? A sit-down dinner for forty or more. Family gatherings at Thanksgiving, Christmas. Open house parties. Birthdays. Anniversaries. “We’re the hub for our extended family,” Brill explains. “So I appreciate a plan that makes it easier to prepare meals and spend time with guests. I can stand at the range oven facing the living room. The visual connection really adds to the festivities.”

A food preparation island, well-organized workspaces and several strategically located built-ins facilitate multi-tasking. Yet the kitchen artfully integrated so the entire first floor functions as an upscale entertainment suite.

The effect, Brill says, is a far cry from the compartmentalized warren of small rooms that dominated the home the couple purchased in late 2009.

Certainly, the existing house — a circa 1980s center hall Colonial on a tree-shaded lot in Burke — had potential for a young family that includes two



PHOTO BY GREG HADLEY

Removing a load-bearing wall by means of a high-tech beam, the Brill’s center-hall colonial in Burke now has open spaces suitable for entertaining.

preschoolers. There’s a large backyard; a comfortable, well-located neighborhood.

“But when I took a critical look at the first level floor plan,” Brill recalls, “I knew entertaining was going to be difficult.” Brill pictured holiday parties as one endless trudge from the stove to the front parlor and back.

“We interviewed several remodeling firms,” Brill says. “Sonny Nazemian, at Michael Nash Design Build, however, offered plausible solutions the first time we walked through the house together.”

Since the Brills were especially interested in a more open first floor socializing scheme, Nazemian proposed a reconfiguration of rooms that places a gourmet kitchen squarely into the home’s mainstream.

Satisfying the Brills’ passion for enhanced visual linkage was another matter.

To open up sightlines, Nazemian removed a load-bearing wall between the family room from the kitchen, shifting upper level support to microlaminate beams resting on vertical shafts. A wall between the old kitchen and dining room was also deleted. As an interior design solution, Nazemian proposed decorative archways that conceal supports, keep sightlines clear and add dramatic midroom accents.

“I’ve found that a successful open plan demands cohesive interior design,” Nazemian says. “The point is to create a greater whole.”

Top 10 Things To Know Before You Remodel

BY JOSHUA E. BAKER

There are very few decisions that can impact your family life, and the value of one of your biggest assets than selecting the right remodeler. Why not approach this as you would when hiring a lawyer, investment advisor, or even a physician?

1 Seek an Advocate: Unless you’re an expert, and have an enormous amount of time, you will need someone who is able to assemble and manage team of professionals to work together on your behalf. Complex projects require input from numerous players, and may include an architect or designer, various engineers, landscape designer, lighting expert and others. Having one party who takes accountability and manages the entire process while looking after your interests is key to a successful remodeling experience.

2 Plan Early Government regulations and the permitting process for home remodeling are becoming increasingly restrictive and challenging. An experienced professional who understands the ever-changing requirements can help you navigate this process.

3 Find a Good Match Ensure that your contractor has a track record of success with projects similar to your own. Ask specifically about projects of comparable complexity, magnitude and

level of finish, or requiring special areas of expertise, such as green remodeling, or historical restoration.

4 Get First-Hand Info Check the remodeling company’s current references and visit recently completed projects to see firsthand if you are satisfied with the caliber of work. The best remodeling firms will be able to provide you with a list of raving fans who will welcome you into their homes.

5 Explore Options “Paper is cheap.” Take as much time as you need to make sure that the design addresses all of your priorities. It is better to invest in design which is relatively inexpensive, vs. having missed opportunities or costly changes during the construction process. Look to the remodeler for advice on using durable materials, incorporating specialty items you may not know were available, and investing in green technologies that will pay off over time.

6 Be Wise Beware of offers and deals that appear too good to be true. Remodeling remains one of the most reported industries at the Better Business Bureau. Understanding exactly what you are getting for your investment and taking steps to ensure the remodeler will be able to provide service in the long-term is essential. Asking for bank references, researching employee tenure, and confirming that subcontractors have been

paid on time can help you evaluate a company’s financial stability.

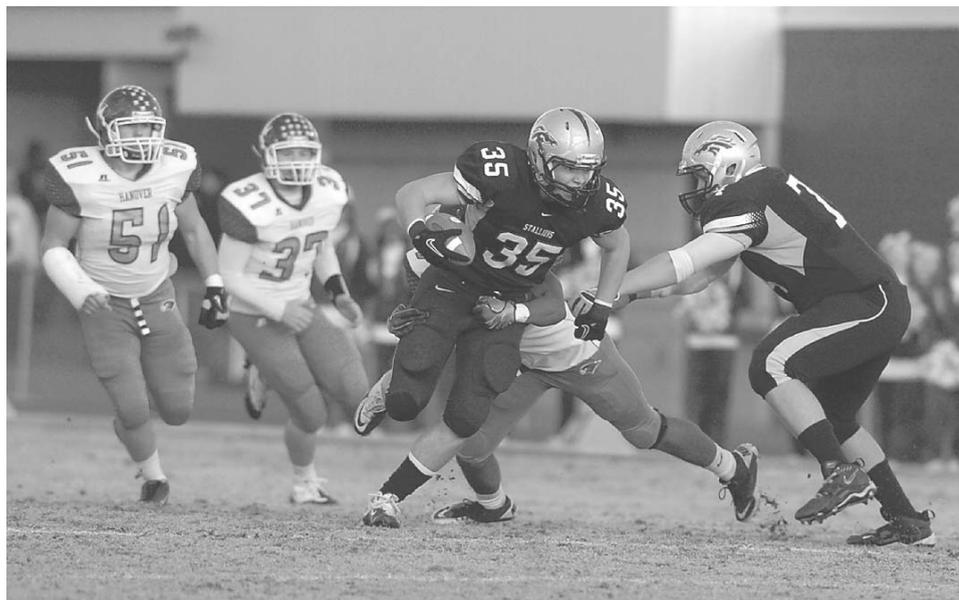
7 Prevent Stress Especially for larger or more complex projects, insist on a full-time onsite project supervisor to orchestrate the entire process and all the players involved.

8 Be Firm Insist that a detailed production schedule be tied to your contract, and hold the builder accountable for these deadlines. While it’s not commonly provided, ask for a written schedule guarantee with a penalty clause to ensure your satisfaction.

9 Double Check Warranties can vary greatly from one remodeler to another, so make sure you understand exactly what your builder will cover and for what duration after the completion of the project. Also ask about what resources are available to provide service if problems arise in the future.

10 Take Advantage Now is a great time to remodel! Compared to a few years ago, subcontractors are more readily available and their costs are significantly lower, enabling contractors to produce projects more efficiently and deliver greater value.

Joshua E. Baker is founder of BOWA Builders.



South County running back Peter Basnight looks to break free from a tackle attempt during the Stallions' state playoff home win over Hanover last Saturday.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Andrew Rector (28) of South County tackles a Hanover ball carrier during Saturday's state semifinals game. In the background is Stallion linebacker Timmy Hunt (44).

Stallions Gallop Their Way to State Football Finals

South County proves dominant in state semis victory over Hanover.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Behind an outstanding game from lefty-throwing quarterback Shane Foley and an offensive line which dominated play in the trenches, the South County Secondary football team soundly defeated Hanover High (Mechanicsville), 38-22, in a Div. 5 Virginia State AAA semifinals football playoff game last Saturday evening. The postseason contest, which began at 4 p.m., took place at South County's home field in Lorton.

With the win, South County continued what has been as dramatic a turnaround season as has perhaps ever been seen from a Northern Region football team. The Stallions began the season with three straight losses — to Hayfield, Oakton, and West Potomac — but have since won 11 straight and now find themselves preparing for this Saturday afternoon's state championship game against annual Div. 5 power Phoebus High (Hampton). The title game is scheduled to be played at the University of Virginia's Scott Stadium in Charlottesville beginning at noon.

"Honestly, 11 weeks ago, nobody thought we'd be playing for a state championship," said South County senior wide receiver/kicker Michael Ferguson, who caught three touchdown passes, converted a field goal, and connected on all five of his extra point kicks in the win over Hanover. "Week after week it's become more of a reality."

South County's 11-game win streak following its tough start has been fascinating to watch. The Stallions, under first year head coach Gerry Pannoni, had never before — in the school's relatively short seven-year history — won any type of postseason football title. Following the 0-3 start, South County won all seven of its remaining regular season games to make its record 7-3, earning the Stallions a part of the Patriot

District title along with West Potomac and Lake Braddock.

Then, in the eight-team Div. 5 region playoffs, the Stallions continued their red-hot play with victories over three quality opponents — Madison, 31-0; defending Div. 5 region champion Stone Bridge, 25-3; and previously unbeaten Yorktown, 37-13. The latter victory over the Patriots (National District) coming in the region finals.

That earned South County its' first-ever trip to the state playoffs.

"The past 11 weeks, it's really been unexplainable," said South County senior running back Jake Josephs, who caught a touchdown pass and threw for one as well — on a halfback option play. "Everything has worked. If something goes wrong [in a game], the next play works. When we were 0-3 we all got together and said 'That's it, no more losses or we're done.'"

Hanover, the Div. 5 Central Region champion, had no answers for slowing down South County's rolling offense on Saturday as Foley, the Stallions' southpaw quarterback, behind ample protection from his offensive line, smoked the Hawks by connecting on 13-of-16 passes for 200 yards and three touchdowns. The signal caller threw no interceptions and was not sacked.

His biggest target was Ferguson, who caught three touchdowns on pass plays of 27, 11, and 13 yards. The Stallions (11-3), who led 24-0 at halftime, utilized an impressive running attack in the win to bring balance to the offense. South County, in all, rushed for 162 yards, the top ball carrier being senior running back Peter Basnight (15 carries, 64 yards).

FROM THE START of Saturday's game, South County was in charge. On the game's opening kickoff, senior Ryan Taylor fielded a high, short kick and returned it 38 yards to start the Stallions' first possession on the Hanover 40 yard line. Six plays later, South

County was in the end zone as a result of a Foley hook-up with Ferguson from 27 yards out.

The Stallions began their second scoring march later in the quarter, moving the ball 80 yards over 10 plays with the touchdown coming on a 22 yard run by Drew Rector who, after taking a pitch to the right, methodically looked for running room, then dashed ahead. He was nearly tackled at about the 15, but used a spin move to ward off the defender before striding on into the end zone for the Stallions' second touchdown, which came on the fourth play of the second quarter.

On the ensuing kickoff moments later, South County, leading 14-0, made a huge special teams play. On a high, short kickoff to the right side of the field, the ball was not handled by Hanover and was instead recovered by Stallion player Devin Vandyke, a South County team captain. That set up the Stallions at the Hawks' 32. Six plays later, the South County offense electrified the excited home crowd on a third-and-goal halfback option pass play which resulted in a touchdown from 11 yards out. Foley pitched the ball back to all-purpose player Josephs, who then threw a pass towards the middle of the end zone which Ferguson, moving left to right, caught in traffic. Ferguson then knocked his third extra point kick of the game through the uprights and South County had a commanding 21-0 lead.

One play before the option pass touchdown, South County had fumbled the ball. But an alert Conor Quigley, a senior lineman, pounced on the loose ball on the 11.

SOUTH COUNTY, late in the first half, moved the ball from its 40 to the Hanover 12 over seven plays before Ferguson made it 24-0 with a 29 yard field goal with just less than two minutes left.

Ferguson actually made two field goals during that sequence. The first, from 34

yards away, was disallowed as a result of a defensive penalty prior to the kick. So Ferguson, from five yards closer, tried it again and converted again.

Hanover's offense, over the first half, managed just two first downs and 62 total yards.

The Hawks did come to life on the first possession of the second half with an 84-yard scoring drive, which took up just four plays. But South County, with its lead cut to 24-7, made a statement with an impressive 10-play, 66-yard touchdown drive which pretty much put an end to Hanover's thoughts of a comeback. On the touchdown, Foley, on a third-and-eight from the 13, found Ferguson over the middle. The receiver, on a left to right pass route, caught the ball at the goal line and got in for the score. His point-after kick made it 31-7 nearly midway through the third quarter.

The key play on that scoring drive came on a third down from the Stallions' own 37 when Foley threw a 30 yard pass to Basnight who, with two defenders right on him, made a nifty grab of the ball.

Hanover did score again in the third quarter before the Stallions, on the first play of the fourth quarter, scored their final touchdown when Foley, on a third-and-13 from the Hanover 21, connected with a wide open Josephs, who caught the ball on the left sideline right at the goal line. He fell over into the end zone for the score.

Hanover would later score in the final two minutes but South County had long since wrapped it up and had secured a trip to Saturday's state title game in Charlottesville. The Stallions' vocal student body, in the game's closing seconds, chanted, 'UVA, UVA.'

"This is just crazy," said elated South County offensive lineman Cody Smith, of the Stallions' making it to the state finals. "We've always wanted to go this far."

To read more stories about South County football, go to connectionnewspapers.com and go to Fairfax Station Sports.

SPORTS

Bruin Boys Enjoy Cross Country Success

Lake Braddock Secondary School boys cross country team had a successful fall season. The Bruins had a strong autumn with an out-of-state invitational win at the North Port Invitation in Siesta Keys, Fla.

All members on the varsity team got a personal record and the first place runner of the meet came from Lake Braddock. Other Lake Braddock highlights of the season included: the freshman boys winning the Freshman Race at the Glory Days Invitational at Bull Run Regional Park; the boys sweeping the Patriot District Festival at Occoquan Park, winning both the Freshman-Sophomore Race and the Junior-Senior Race; the varsity winning the Patriot District Championship, with four of the seven boys making the All-Patriot District Team; two Bruins qualifying for states; and six Bruins going on to run at the Footlocker South Regional Championship in Charlotte, N.C. in late November.

— CINDY BACHINSKY



PHOTO COURTESY OF CINDY BACHINSKY

Lake Braddock runners at the recent Foot Locker event, from left: Alex Corbett, Nicholas Tuck, Will Greenwood, Forrest Isenhour, JJ Pitrelli, and Nick Farrell.

South County's Henson Scores 19 in Defeat

South County sophomore April Henson matched the Robinson girls basketball team's offensive output during the final four minutes of the third quarter on Dec. 6, with each scoring 10 points.

In the game's closing seconds, Henson leaped high in the air to grab an offensive rebound before putting the ball in the bucket.

Henson, a 5-foot-9 guard, showed off her athletic ability, scoring a team-high 19 points against the Stallions' Concorde District opponent. But in the end, Robinson had too much talent and depth as the Rams defeated the Stallions 59-40 at South County Secondary School.

Robinson led 18-4 at the end of the first quarter and 34-14 at halftime. The Rams extended their lead to 40-14 in the third period before Henson scored 10 of South County's next 11 points.

The Stallions outscored the Rams 26-25 in the second half.

"I think we did much better in the second half of the game," Henson said. "We had more motivation."

Senior guard Angela Banks scored nine points for South County and junior forward Kim Levinstein finished with four.

Robinson's Tyler Hansen buried a career-high six 3-pointers and finished with a game-high 20 points.

The loss dropped South County to 1-3. The Stallions opened the season with a 48-38 win against Hayfield on Nov. 29, but have since lost to South Lakes, Madison and Robinson.

South County will host Centreville at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

— JON ROETMAN



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

South County sophomore April Henson scored a team-high 19 points during a 59-40 loss to Robinson on Dec. 6.

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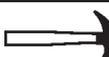
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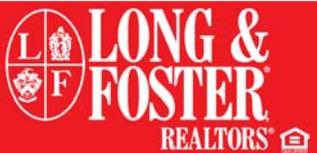
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w/fireplace & doors to deck, all new SS appliances, breakfast bar, living room built-ins, new flooring & freshly painted throughout, finished LL has full bath & lots of room for your activities. Top-rated schools, plus all the amenities of Burke Centre!



Lorton \$479,000
WOW! Gorgeous single family home, 3BR, 3.5 BAs, gleaming hardwoods on 2 levels! Open floor plan, morning room, fully finished lower level and 2 car garage! Beautifully decorated, move in ready! Walk to Lorton Town Center with the VRE, shops, restaurants, and more!

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Gainesville \$549,900
Heritage Hunt Golf & Country Club 55+
LIVE ON THE GOLF COURSE!
3 fin lvls, 3 BR, 4BA, Grnt Kit w/granite, island/cherry cabs/SS apps, main-lvl MBR suite w/huge WIC, sun rm, wet bar, scr porch & deck, study, hdwds, loft & guest suite, fin LL w/ rec rm, games rm & bonus rm, ceiling fans, rec lights, molding & built-ins, cent vac, irrig sys, HOA fee inc. phone, basic cable TV, pools & fitness MOVE-IN READY (50+ is OK)



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MIDDLERIDGE \$734,900
Immaculate & Ready to Move Into Nestled in a Sought After Community - 4 BR, 3 1/2 BA, 3 Beautifully Finished Levels - Hardwood Floors on All Levels - Recently Finished Lower Level with Many Must-See Surprises - Home has a Large Flat Back Yard & is Located on Quiet Cul-de-Sac - Don't Pass This One Up! Call or Email ANN WITHERSPOON @ 703.503.1836 - Ann.witherspoon@longandfoster.com

Sheila Adams

703-503-1895
Life Member, NVAR Multi-Million Dollar Sales Club
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Clifton \$749,550
Horse Lovers...do not miss this beauty. 5 acres, 4 Stall Barn, Creek runs across back of property. Beautiful Brick Front Colonial Home, Interior Boasts many updates, 3 BR's (Upper level Library could be 4th BR), 2 full & 2 Half Baths, Partially finished W/O Lower Level. Let me welcome you to this Quiet Charming Neighborhood, Lovely Tree Lined Streets, Enjoy the Nature & Splendor of the Seasons, this lovely home awaits you. Call Sheila Adams for a private showing 703-503-1895

Save A Date to Attend Our FREE Real Estate Career Seminar

DATES IN 2012:

January 4

February 1

TIME:

7:00-9:00 PM

LOCATION:

Long & Foster's Northern Virginia Training Center
3069 Nutley St.
Fairfax, VA 22031

From the Beltway (495), take Rte. 66 West to the Nutley St. South Exit (exit 62) towards Fairfax. Go through the intersection of Lee Highway and Nutley Street. The training center is located in the Pan Am Shopping Center on the left.

TO REGISTER:

Please contact Mary Ann Plonka at 703-503-1898 or maryann.plonka@longandfoster.com



Richard Esposito
703-503-4035
Richard@LNF.com
Service is the difference I provide



Springfield \$349,900
This T/H has over 1500 sq ft on 3 finished levels. Amazing Walk-in Closet and storage space. Hardwood on main and deck overlooks trees. LL has Fam Rm, Storage Rm, Office w/exterior entrance.
Richard Esposito 703-503-4035

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Broadlands Ashburn \$629,900
Beautiful home surrounded by common area in Broadlands South. Over 4000 finished square feet featuring 4 spacious upper level bedrooms and a loft tech center while the main level offers a wonderful family room with gas fireplace and walls of windows and a kitchen made for cooking and entertaining. The lower level is a must see with custom bar, media room and more.

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