

Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ❖ Kingstowne ❖ Newington

Evelyn Jackson displays some of the flowers and floral arrangements donated to Greenspring's Treasure Chest thrift store. Jackson, who has managed the shop for seven years, recently received the Herbert C. Hunter Citizen of the Year Award, given by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce.

Treasured Memories

NEWS, PAGE 4



Citizens Appeal For Social Services

NEWS, PAGE 3

Home Life Style

PAGE 10

FBI 'Invited' To Springfield

NEWS, PAGE 3

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ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 14 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 17 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 15

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Al Francese of Clifton talks about the lack in maintenance by the state in residential areas in the Clifton area, including the area in which he lives during a public hearing of area elected officials to the Virginia General Assembly.

Citizens Appeal for Human Services

Residents share personal stories of recovery and survival.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Fretful about the impact of Governor Robert McDonnell's proposed budget cuts to social services, representatives from numerous Northern Virginia advocacy groups voiced their opinions to Fairfax County's state legislative delegation.

More than 60 residents gathered at the Fairfax County Government Center on Saturday, Jan. 7 to champion a number of causes. For nearly five hours, speakers touched on a wide range of issues - from education and the environment to transportation and no-excuse absentee voting. Many shared personal stories of survival and recovery, and the need to continue funding streams for Medicaid waivers and community-based social and mental health services.

THE ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING gives citizens an opportunity to speak directly with their legislative representatives before each legislative session.

Lu Ann McNabb of Centreville spoke movingly on behalf of the VTV Family Outreach Foundation, created by families and survivors directly impacted by the 2007 shooting at Virginia Tech. She urged lawmakers to fight for mental health services for college students. "In the wake of the largest massacre on a college campus in United States history, the Commonwealth implemented much-needed legisla-



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-42), center, talks with Carmen Clark and Daniel Ing about the mental health and addiction services provided by Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. "I found it extremely sobering to hear these personal testimonies, as so many are very sad, but I believe it is imperative for us to hear," Filler-Corn said.

tive reforms," McNabb said, pointing out that funding for state mental health services has been cut to pre-2007 levels.

"We have seen the devastating impact of ignoring mental health issues of our young people, from the gunning down of two police officers at the Sully District Police Station...to the five beautiful young women who died on April 16, 2007," McNabb said. "Each and every day, families are devastated by mental illness. We can no longer bury our head in the sand..."

Carmen Clark and Daniel Ing talked about the mental health and addiction services they received from the Fairfax-Falls Church County Community

SEE LEGISLATORS, PAGE 8



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS

The General Services Administration warehouse site, which Fairfax County is proposing for the relocation of the new FBI headquarters, is located in Springfield.

FBI 'Invited' to Springfield

Board of Supervisors votes to lobby for FBI relocation.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County placed its marker on the table Tuesday in what promises to be a high-stakes contest to persuade the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to relocate its headquarters to a government-owned site in Springfield.

Prince George's and Loudoun County officials have already signaled their interest in providing a new FBI home, a move that is anticipated to come with at least 12,000 jobs and a \$1.2 billion complex.

Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-Large) and Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) said the County will lobby its Congressional delegation, the General Services Administration (GSA) and the FBI to move its headquarters to the former GSA warehouse site on Loisdale Road, near Metrorail's Blue Line and the soon-to-be redeveloped Springfield Mall.

"This is our starting point," said McKay after the meeting. "It's an opportunity for the Federal government to overcome the mistake of the BRAC/MARK Center debacle. Our site is strategically located, meets all the criteria, and is a great opportunity for continued robust revitalization of greater Springfield."

"The message we need to send to the FBI is that this is the site that will best allow them to accomplish a very important mission in terms of our national security," said Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield.)

In December, the Senate Committee on Environment

and Public Works authorized the GSA to seek a consolidated headquarters, subject to approval and funding by Congress.

McKay said renovating or rebuilding in DC is not feasible because of the estimated \$1 billion price tag, and the lack of required post-9/11 security features.

According to the resolution authorizing the GSA to find a consolidated headquarters, the government has to own the land and the location has to be "transit-oriented," within two miles of a Metrorail station and 2.5 miles from the beltway. The FBI needs two million square feet of office to consolidate its network of about 20 satellite locations. Currently, there are about 17,000 FBI employees and contractors at 40 sites across the nation.

"The former GSA site not only meets the needs of the FBI, but gives Fairfax County a valuable new employer and new jobs. The area is located near Metro and the VRE, and prime for redevelopment, and this kind of project could spur that," said Bulova.

"The GSA site is already owned by the federal government. It's adjacent to the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station, VRE, Amtrak, bus service and every highway except Route 66," McKay said. He pointed out that airport access will soon be served by two Metro stations once rail to Dulles is complete.

As for other jurisdictions also competing for the prize?

"You just can't get a better spot than Springfield," McKay said.



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

A cheetah figurine and glassware on display at Greenspring's Treasure Chest thrift store. According to longtime manager Evelyn Jackson, most items are donated by incoming residents who are clearing out their former homes.

Greenspring's Treasure Chest thrift store sells everything from the whimsical to the practical. A set of antebellum plantation mansions is priced at \$3.

Treasured Memories Everything old is new again at Greenspring's Treasure Chest.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Evelyn Jackson and Sue Blackwood examine their newest treasure – an antique baby ring adorned with tiny wings.

“I bet this has a wonderful story behind it,” Blackwood, 80, said, holding up the vintage ring for Jackson to assess. “I love looking through all of this,” said Blackwood, the store’s jewelry expert. “It makes you think about life. And who wore it out,” she said, laughing. “Look, it’s coming apart.”

“Some child probably wore this for a good while,” Jackson, 85, said. “We can’t sell it but I’d love to know who owned it. It’s a treasure.”

The ring is just one of the many treasures Jackson sees as manager of Greenspring’s thrift store, aptly named The Treasure Chest. Located in one of the buildings of the retirement village’s 108-acre Springfield campus, the store is run entirely by 125 volunteers.

On a recent Monday morning, Jackson has just finished sorting and arranging the latest items delivered at center. “I think this is what I like best,” Jackson said, “organizing everything into categories, putting up the displays in a thoughtful way, so that we’re ready for customers on Friday.”

THE TREASURE CHEST receives hundreds of donated items each week, many from incoming residents who are downsizing to move into the center.

“Most people just bring too much stuff with them,” Jackson said, “so they donate it here.”

Items include estate and costume jewelry,



Evelyn Jackson displays a case filled with vintage earrings at Greenspring's Treasure Chest thrift store. Jackson, who has managed the shop for seven years, recently received the Herbert C. Hunter Citizen of the Year Award, given by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce.

“Doing this gives me a reason to wake up in the morning. I’m 85-years-old, and I don’t want to be just sitting around.”

—Evelyn Jackson, manager of Greenspring's Treasure Chest

china, figurines from around the world and just about any household item that one would find at the local big-box store – from coffee pots to trash cans. And while prices are typically lower than most consignment stores – a fur coat sells for \$25 and a Beanie Baby elephant for \$.25 cents

- Jackson and her team have managed to net more than half a million dollars since 2005, when Jackson began managing the store.

“We sell pretty much just to residents, and the employees at Greenspring, so we keep our prices very low,” Jackson said.

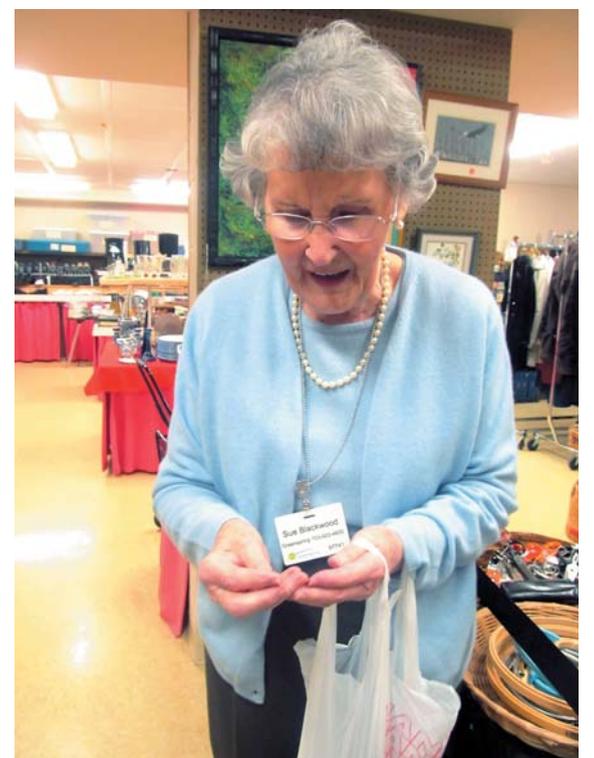
Despite the huge profit margin, every dollar, more than \$575,000, has gone to local non-profits, including ECHO (Ecumenical Community Helping Others), the Greater Springfield Volunteer Fire Department, United Community Ministries Shelter House and the Benevolent Care Fund for Greenspring residents who face financial challenges.

“While it takes many volunteers to attend to all the details, it also takes leadership to make the good works of the Treasure Chest known, and to encourage continued donations,” said Elke Martin, Greenspring’s volunteer programs coordinator. “That’s where Mrs. Jackson has really made a difference in the past seven years.” In 2009 and 2010, Jackson received the Gold President’s Service Award, given to volunteers with 500 hours or more of service in a 12-month period.

LAST MONTH, Jackson was honored with the Herbert C. Hunter Citizen of the Year Award. The award is given by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce to an individual who has “significantly contributed to improving the quality of life for the betterment of the community,” said Nancy-jo Manney, executive director of the chamber.

“It’s a worthy cause, because money is plowed right back into the community,” Jackson said. In addition to the Benevolent Care Fund, donations also go to a scholarship fund and a rehydration program.

“Evelyn really deserves this award. She works very hard to make sure we sell everything, because the next week we get inundated with more things. She’s a joy to



Sue Blackwood examines a baby ring someone donated at Greenspring's Treasure Chest, a non-profit thrift store that donates all of its proceeds to local charities

work for,” Blackwood said.

Jackson said she was humbled by the honor, but that the Treasure Chest has given her something more important.

“Doing this gives me a reason to wake up in the morning. I’m 85-years-old, and I don’t want to be just sitting around.”

Originally from Dallas, Jackson and her husband moved to the area more than 40 years ago. She and her husband raised five children, four of whom still live in the area with their families.

“I moved to Greenspring 10 years ago with a friend of mine. We love it here. I get to see my children and grandchildren, and this is the most interesting job I’ve had,” Jackson said.

Springfield Resident Named Living Legend

Al Grande, founder of ASAP Printing & Mailing and Alexandria Police Foundation, to be honored in 2012.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Claire and Al Grande

Al Grande, a Greenspring resident, has been selected as one of the 2012 Living Legends of Alexandria. Honorees receiving this award have been involved in “the creation of something that improves the quality of life in Alexandria that would not likely have existed without that person’s vision and determination to make it happen” or have given “a minimum of 10 years of service on Boards, Committees, Commissions or Service Organizations” according to the Living Legends of Alexandria Committee.

Born in Dover, N. J., Grande graduated from Bucknell University and was later commissioned as a U.S. Army 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Army Military Police Corps. After serving 20 years of active duty, Grande moved to Alexandria and opened ASAP Printing & Mailing Co. in the Del Ray neighborhood. He joined the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and was later recruited to serve on the Chamber’s Board of Directors. He also was elected Chairman of the Potomac Trade Association, now the Del Ray Business Association (DRBA), and was subsequently elected to the Board of Directors.

Grande has donated time and resources to local schools by serving as a volunteer reader at the Mount Vernon Community School teaching children how to read the English language, donating materials to local art programs, and establishing a relationship with T.C. Williams High School which allowed seniors in the printing program to receive hands-on experience with ASAP’s presses and binding equipment. Grande was elected Chairman of the Alexandria Small Business Development Center and was a founding member of the Alexandria Police Foundation. He now lives with his wife, Claire, at Greenspring and is a resident ambassador and a member of the Greenspring Resident Advisory Council’s Marketing and Publicity Committee.

The 2012 Living Legends of Alexandria will be honored at a reception at the Patent and Trademark Office on March 22.

—VICTORIA ROSS

AREA ROUNDUPS

Case Goes to Grand Jury

The criminal case against the former band director at Robinson Secondary School is moving forward in the legal system. On Aug. 31, Fairfax County police charged Michael Keith Cook, 43, of 14313 Climbing Rose Way in Centreville, with computer solicitation of a child under age 15.

In an Aug. 25, 2010 affidavit, Det. Nickolas Boffi wrote that, while he was working undercover online, posing as a 14-year-old boy, Cook allegedly contacted the “teen,” offered to perform oral sex on him and e-mailed the “boy” a photo of himself.

Following his arrest, Cook was placed on unpaid leave by the school system. He appeared in General District Court on Dec. 19 and, at that time, Judge Donald McDonough certified his case to the grand jury for possible indictment.

December DWI Arrests Increase

Fairfax County police officers arrested 358 drunk drivers as part of their Safe December 2011 efforts. This number represents a 12-percent increase over the December 2010 total. Of those charged with DWI, the vast majority (150) were young adults between ages 21-29. Further analysis shows that 28 were between 15-20 years old, 82 were 30-39, 55 were 40-49 and 43 were 50 or older.

“Despite all our Safe December education and enforcement efforts, hundreds of drivers chose to drink and drive in Fairfax County, presenting an unacceptable safety risk to us all,” said Captain Susan Culin,

commander of the Fairfax County Traffic Division. “Clearly, impaired driving remains a threat and our officers will continue to aggressively pursue violators.”

Streetscape Master Plan

The third public meeting on the Town of Clifton Streetscape Master Plan Project is set for Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road. The goal is to develop a vision for future improvements to Main Street from the triangle to Clifton Heights Lane. Residents may review design concepts and provide their input.

This project is funded by the Federal Safe Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and administered through VDOT. For more information, see

www.lpda.net/index.php?/public/detail/town_of_clifton_streetscape_master_plan/.

Discussion of Environment Set

The Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) will hold its annual public hearing on the environment on Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 7:30 p.m., in the county Government Center. Residents are encouraged to attend to share views on the state of the environment and identify environmental issues applicable to this county.

Written or verbal testimony is welcome. To be placed on the speakers list or for more information, call 703-324-1380 or e-mail EQAC@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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OPINION

Tune in to General Assembly

Republicans control House of Delegates and Senate; Senate has served as roadblock to many things passed by the House in the past.

The newly configured Virginia General Assembly has begun its work in Richmond, convening on Jan. 11.

By Valentine's Day, the Senate and the House will be done with their own legislation and will be considering only legislation already passed by the other chamber. In previous years, this is where the legislation passed by the Republican-controlled House often met its demise in the committees of the Democratic-controlled Senate, but this year is different.

With 20 Democrats and 20 Republicans making up the Senate, and Republican Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling able to cast the tie-breaking vote on

many issues, plus a Republican governor to sign bills passed, this year is likely to have a somewhat different flavor and outcome than sessions past.

If everything goes smoothly passing the budget and Congressional redistricting (what could go wrong?), the session will adjourn on March 10.

Some things to watch: As the Governor seeks to increase money for transportation without raising taxes, the proposed budget will reduce money for K-12 education and social services. More conservative legislation, including concerning abortion and guns, is likely to emerge. The Governor's proposals to reduce regulation will likely move freely through the assembly.

Northern Virginia residents expressed their concerns at a hearing before the Fairfax County delegation to the General Assembly last Saturday, Jan. 7. About 60 people spoke, many about the need for continuing funding for social services, help for people with disabilities, treatment for people struggling with substance abuse, and more.

Chances are excellent that the senator and delegate representing you have changed since last year because of redistricting, elections and

the retirements of several long-time representatives. New districts snake, rattle and roll around Northern Virginia in a way that makes it impossible to say simple things, like, if you live in Arlington, your senator is so-and-so. Unfortunately, if you live in Arlington or Alexandria, your senator could be one of three people. If you live in Fairfax County, it's also impossible to describe simply. You need to look it up.

The good news is that the General Assembly website is relatively user-friendly. Visit http://legis.virginia.gov/1_cit_guide/contacting_my.html to look up who your legislators are, and how to contact them. You can also track particular legislation that interests you, or browse some of the thousands of bills that have been introduced by topic.

General Assembly website: <http://legis.state.va.us/>

Follow the Virginia Senate on Twitter, @vasen and the Virginia House of Delegates on Twitter @vahouse

- MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM. ON TWITTER, @MARYKIMM OR @FOLLOWFAIRFAX

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Losing by Rules

To the Editor:

Anne Damon's letter ["Playing by Rules," Connection, Jan. 5-11] while doing a good job of addressing the GOP Primary Issue from the candidate's perspective, missed the far more important issue of Disenfranchisement of the Voters in Virginia.

In the most recent Virginia polling, Romney and Paul, the only people who will be on the Virginia ballot, polled a combined 33 percent, meaning that 67 percent of GOP voters, including me, prefer someone else. The GOP regulation, joined with the Virginia law will effectively disenfranchise me and everyone else in that 67 percent.

Come with me back to N.J. in 2002, when Democrat Senator Torricelli, facing indictment, withdrew from his bid to win re-election, unfortunately with fewer than 50 days until the election. Unfortunately, because N.J. law very clearly prohibited any party from replacing a candidate on the ballot, if the replacement were to take place with fewer than 50 days until the election. That law did not dissuade the Democrats from replacing Torricelli with Lautenberg. The GOP asked the courts to stop this clearly illegal move by the Democrats. The Lower N.J. Court ruled...for the Democrats. The N.J. Supreme Court upheld that decision unanimously. A US Federal District Court also upheld the

ruling, and the US Supreme Court denied cert. The result: Lautenberg was elected US Senator. The court's logic was clear that the N.J. law was unconstitutional, because it disenfranchised a large number (dare I say, majority) of N.J. voters by preventing them the chance to vote for the candidate of their choice.

Now, let's return to 2012 in Virginia, and we see that is exactly what is happening regarding the GOP primary. Not only are Romney and Paul the only choices on the ballot, but voters cannot even write in any other name. It seems the only comments I hear or read are those like Anne Damon's, which address the primary as if it is a game, and the

candidates other than Romney and Paul failed to play by the rules, so they lose.

But those who really lose are the voters of Virginia, who did nothing wrong, but have effectively been disenfranchised. The cynic in me says that the establishment GOP, which supports Romney, is thrilled with the situation. Does anyone but me wonder why AG Cuccinelli, in just 24 hours, went from leading an emergency effort to change the law to saying there was nothing that can be done?

Can I be the only voter in Virginia angry about being disenfranchised in the GOP primary?

Bob Segal
Burke

NEWS BRIEFS

Celebrating MLK Jr.'s Legacy Through Service

Volunteer Fairfax is hosting Give Together: A Family Volunteer Day presented by UnitedHealthcare on Monday, Jan. 16 (MLK Jr. Day of Service), at three Fairfax County locations: Gum Springs Community Center in Alexandria, George Mason University in Fairfax and Herndon Senior Center. The event is expected to assemble more than 1,000 parents and children.

Volunteer Fairfax created this event to introduce young children to volunteering and giving back to the community. All Give Together projects are designed for children in pre-k through 6th grade and are geared for the involvement of the entire family. Younger children may participate with parental supervision.

Agencies participating at George Mason University event include: FACETS, Fairfax Library Foundation, The Holiday Project and Inova Health System. Children and families will have the opportunity to decorate and pack Hypothermia Prevention Kits that help the homeless, make Valentine's Day cards for nursing home patients, write notes to accom-

pany books for child care centers and make compost bins using clean, hospital wash basins.

A reflection station will be available at the end of the day for families to think about the projects they completed and reflect on the impact of their service. Each location will have two shifts to help maximize the time spent at each station: Shift 1 (10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) and Shift 2 (1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.).

Register today by visiting <http://www.volunteerfairfax.org>. For more information, please contact Elaine Lydick at elydick@volunteerfairfax.org or 703-246-3533.

Springfield CONNECTION

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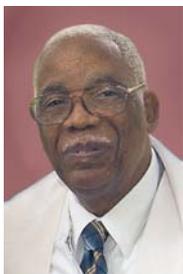
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FAITH Righting Wrong

Burke Presbyterian honors Reverend Lee Swann and his wife Vera.



Rev. Dr. Lee Swann

On the Martin Luther King Holiday week end, Burke Presbyterian Church (BPC) celebrates the service-filled lives that Pastoral Associate Rev. Dr. Darius Lee Swann and his wife, Vera, have led. On

Sunday, Jan. 15, following the 11:15 a.m. worship service, the celebration will take the form of a conversation between the Swanns and all in attendance.

Lee and Vera have been with BPC from the beginning: Vera was one of the founding members in 1980. They were members from 1980 until 1984, when they moved from the area. Returning to Burke in October 2005, Lee became a BPC Pastoral Associate and has served since that time.

Lee has been a man of many careers, having worked widely in both the church and in academia. He is Professor Emeritus of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, and has also taught at both Johnson C. Smith Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina and George Mason University.

Lee was educated at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina, at Union Theological Seminary in New York, and at the University of Hawaii. From 1948 to 1964, Lee served as an

educational missionary to China and India under the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). He was the first African-American missionary in China and taught English and the Bible at the University of Nanking for three years before returning to the United States in 1952. While in India, he pioneered the use of in-

igenous drama and theater in religion through the Christian Drama Program that he founded with Vera.

While teaching in Charlotte in the mid-1960s, Lee and Vera

became the plaintiffs in the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case Swann vs. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education. The Swanns, having recently returned from missionary work in India, initiated the suit in 1965 when their six-year old son, James, was denied admission to the local elementary school on the basis of race. As a result of that suit, in 1969 a federal judge issued an order effectively desegregating Charlotte's schools. In 1971, the Supreme Court upheld the ruling in a 9-0 verdict. This case opened the way for busing to be used as a means for desegregating public schools not only in Charlotte, but throughout the South.

The social justice contributions of Lee and Vera are widely recognized. They were asked to be official NGO observers in the first free elections held in 1994 in South Africa. Nelson Mandela was elected as President of South Africa and marked a new day for race relations in Southern Africa.

Burke Presbyterian Church honors Lee for the Christian learning and evangelism that he has shared in the United States and abroad in both India and China. BPC celebrates Lee and Vera for their initiative and talents in using the creative arts to share the good news in diverse environments. And BPC is grateful to them for demonstrating how lives of deep faith and bold courage can touch hearts, tender justice, and right wrong. They have changed the nation and the world for the better with their acts of faith, hope, and love.

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.

The **Immanuel Bible Church MOPS** group meets on Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m., at Immanuel Bible Church, 6911 Braddock Road, Springfield. MOPS is for pregnant or parenting mothers of children from infancy to kindergarten. 703-922-4295 or www.MOPS.org.

The following is a list of events at **Mount Calvary Baptist Church**, 4325 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax:

- ❖ Bible study and Prayer Service every Tuesday starting at 7 p.m.

- ❖ Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., except for the fourth Sunday of the month, when Sunday School is at 9 a.m.

- ❖ Sunday morning service at 11 a.m.
- ❖ Commonwealth Care Center ministry every first and third Thursday night. Call 703-273-1455.

Beth El Hebrew Congregation has services on Fridays, 6:30 p.m. and on Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. The temple is located at 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Religious school is on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Adult learning opportunities take place throughout the year. Tot Shabbat is on the first and third Saturdays. Kolot Shabbat, a musical service, is the first

Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m., but is not available during the summer. 703-370-9400 or www.bethelhebrew.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield has Sunday services at 10:30 a.m., Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., Hispanic worship service at 9 a.m., and an Ethiopian service at 12:15 p.m. The pastor is Jim Weaver. Church is located at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspRINGfield.org.

Clifton Presbyterian Church, located at 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

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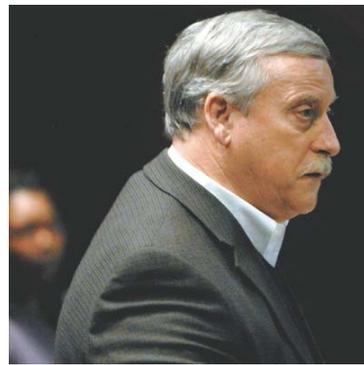
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Dianne Blais of Fairfax, a representative of the Community Action Advisory Board, pleaded with the elected officials to help stop the reduction of funding for public assistance and social service programs throughout the state.



Douglas Koelemay of Springfield spoke on behalf of the Northern Virginia Family Services and the Healthy Families program. "They are stretched beyond their capacity due to the recession," he commented on the loss of funds for the program



State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) listens to testimony from residents of Fairfax County during a public hearing for the Fairfax delegation to the Virginia General Assembly.

State Sen. George Barker (D-39) listens to more than 60 residents of Fairfax County who testified before the elected officials on Saturday, Jan. 7, at the Fairfax County Government Center.

Legislators Urged to Restore Funding for Human Services

FROM PAGE 3

Services Board (CSB).

"Frankly, without these services, I would be dead," Clark said to the panel. "Using and abusing drugs and alcohol is a way to cope with mental illness, so we need to have services that get to the core issues."

"People with mental illness can be productive," Ing testified "But only if we have access to these services. As a community, we are only as strong as our weakest points," Ing said.

Del. Vivian Watts (D-39) said she noticed more people willing to talk about mental health issues. "That's a shift from previous years," Watts said. "We've heard more from those advocating for the mentally ill, not only substance abuse or autism, but a wide range of needed services."

She said it was encouraging that more people are willing to acknowledge the impact that mental illness has on families and the community. "We need to support and fund these services, because many of these programs, as we've heard today, are critical in helping people with mental illness to be functional," Watts said.

Kari Warren of Mount Vernon brought her two young daughters with her to the podium. "We are here to put a face on domestic violence, because we are survivors." Speaking on behalf of the Commission for Women, she thanked the delegation for passing anti-stalking legislation last year, and urged lawmakers to support more shelters for victims of domestic violence.

"Everyone has the right to be heard," said Sen. Richard Saslaw (D-35), who presided over the annual forum. "These are people who don't have high-powered lobbyists to speak for them in Richmond. I never get tired of hearing from them."

SPRINGFIELD MOTHER Carrin Brandt, whose 10-year-old daughter, Bailey, has profound intellectual and developmental disabilities with uncontrolled seizures, which resulted in the removal of half her brain, told lawmakers how important continued funding of Medicaid waivers is to her family. In addition to Bailey's anti-seizure medications, which can cost thousands each month, Medicaid helps pay for a full-time aide, allowing Bailey to live in the community with her family and friends instead of being institutionalized.

"These are not frivolous things we're asking for," Brandt said. "If we lost Medicaid, it would jeopardize her life and health; my husband and I would not be able to work or maintain our community relationships." Brandt is also president of the ARC of Northern Virginia, and said there are 7,000 families "who live in daily crisis because they receive no services as they remain on the waiting list for a Medicaid waiver."

Brandt, who is a licensed marriage and family therapist, said that while Bailey's medical and developmental challenges can be overwhelming, the joys of raising her are also great.

"Bailey is a human being, and she adds value to this world. Bailey is our greatest teacher. ...I don't want you all and our community to miss out on the opportunity to learn from Bailey."

Marta Conner of Centreville also spoke about the challenges of raising a child with disabilities, and the critical support and intervention services she received from The Infant & Toddler Connection of Fairfax-Falls Church (ITC), a program under the umbrella of the CSB. Conner told lawmakers that her daughter, Caroline, was diagnosed with severe developmental delays at 10 months, and her pediatrician suggested she contact the ITC.

"They helped us determine that she had significant delays in all areas of development, and gave us strategies to help her," Conner said. "We are learning that we can expand our child's horizons through therapies and individualized education." She urged legislators to ensure sustainable funding to continue services "for all Virginia families who need them."

"This is a tough budget environment with difficult decisions, and, unfortunately, most of the cost-cutting comes from social services," said Del. Mark Sickles (D-43), who was elected caucus chairman in November. "One thing that stuck out today was hearing that CSB lost 19 acute care beds. We need to work to get those back."

Greg Brandon of McLean said he supported the parental notification of school investigations and beginning school before Labor Day. He also asked legislators to support the Child Care Assistance and Referral program, "a gateway into education for our most vulnerable children." Brandon said the program plays a crucial role in preparing

Learning from Bailey

Carrin Brandt of Springfield testified about the challenges and joys of raising her daughter, 10-year-old Bailey, while voicing her support for the services offered by The Arc of Northern Virginia and of the ID waiver program. Bailey suffers from global delays and uncontrolled seizure, which resulted in the removal of half of her brain. "The ID waiver allows her father and I to work and to maintain our relationships. It also enables Bailey to participate more fully with her family and friends and the community with the assistance of her full-time aid. She requires total care." She also voiced her concern for reduced funding and proposed legislation that will further reduce the ability of those who need Medicaid the most to receive help. "Bailey has been our greatest teacher. All who meet her learn about the important simplicities of life. When I look at Bailey, what I see is success and potential, and I don't want to have to place limits on what she can achieve just to ensure that she is able to keep a waiver. More important, I don't want you all and our community to miss out on the opportunity to learn from Bailey."



at-risk children for kindergarten.

"Unfortunately, people in Richmond are fiddling with the CCAR program that will increase the waiting list for families most in need of child-care help," Brandon said.

David Baldacci of Arlington and Bob Stewart of Chantilly testified for SALT - Social Action Linking Together - in support of a number of social justice issues, from increasing welfare payments to Virginia families, banning the practice of shackling pregnant women in Virginia's prisons and promoting work-sharing, which enables businesses to avoid layoffs.

Del. Ken Plum (D-36) said the hearings give legislators a chance to hear from the most vulnerable citizens. "What we see are the real lives of people impacted by issues beyond their own capacities and beyond their own blame...It's critically important that government has to be in part about helping the most vulnerable. It sends a message to the delegation that we need to step back and remember the people who are hurting, aged, intellectually disabled, or suffering from a mental illness."

Del. David Bulova (D-37) said prioritizing the state's limited resources will be the most important task facing legislators this session.

"The big take away is how important the budget is in terms of reflecting our community's values," Bulova said. "It also

highlights why it is so important to develop new, sustainable sources of revenue for transportation, rather than simply taking money from our already stressed general fund that supports public education, safety, health and human services, environmental protection, etc."

THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET - a two-year \$85 billion plan - is weighted in favor of transportation and higher education. But many of the speakers said they are concerned about the hundreds of millions of dollars in proposed cuts to social services. For example, McDonnell's budget proposes slashing \$81 million from the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI), which pays for preschool programs for low-income families in Northern Virginia.

Plum said he and other members of the Fairfax delegation will be pressing the governor to take crucial "incremental" step in providing funding for social services. "There are still 5,000 people on waiting lists. The governor's budget does not progress us on that need. We need to step it forward," Plum said.

The Virginia General Assembly will meet for its 2012 session on Wednesday, Jan. 11. "We predict that over 2,000 bills will be introduced. There's a lot to watch, especially on human services," said John Horejsi of Vienna, founder of SALT.



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Home Life Style

All Nicely Done

Nicely Done Kitchens lives up to its name.

By MAYA HOROWITZ
THE CONNECTION

Kip and Evelyn Nicely, co-owners of Nicely Done Kitchens, strive to have every kitchen or home they remodel live up to their company name.

"My husband came up with the name," said Evelyn Nicely. "We were deciding do we want to open up our business or not? He said, 'because knowing you, you wouldn't have anything less than nicely done.' Anything we do will be beautifully done. Every week, we have our meeting and I tell our designers, we have to have a nicely done kitchen. Function, beauty, traffic pattern, all these things in one."

The Nicelys opened their business in March 2003 in Burke.

"Our lease says we are in Burke, and the post office says we are in Springfield," said Kip Nicely in an email. "In truth, that corner triangle where we are located — King's Park Shopping Center — has Annandale across the street to the north, Burke across the street to the west and south, Springfield across the street to the east and Fairfax across the street to the northwest. And we do kitchens in every area of Fairfax County, Arlington County, Alexandria, etc. all of Northern Virginia."

Kip Nicely, who has his master's degree from the University of Southern California in systems management, and is "very detailed and schedule oriented" according to his wife, oversees the accounting and marketing. Evelyn Nicely, who has a degree in architecture from the University of New Mexico, said she is "involved in every aspect of the business. I'm involved with every design that we put out as well as going in person to do the final walkthroughs."

The number of employees at Nicely Done Kitchens fluctuates, but right now it's 12. Two employees, Alexa and Maria Ida, are relatives of Evelyn Nicely.

"It's my passion," said Evelyn Nicely. "My entire family has a design background. It's a natural ability."

NICELY DONE KITCHENS, as the name implies, specializes in kitchens, but they also do bathrooms, fireplaces, basements, offices, decks and cabinetry work.

"We used to only do kitchens and now we do anything in a home," said Evelyn Nicely. "We've become more innovative. Our scope of projects have changed."

They are a Virginia Class 'A' contractor, design LEED certified and ADA certified for the handicapped and elderly.

"We have a program where we say no

project is too small or too large for us," said Evelyn Nicely.

Nicely Done Kitchens is a "one stop shop" which means that everything needed for a bathroom or kitchen is available in their showroom. All of their cabinetry is U.S. made. They are a direct dealer for GE appliances.

"We attend industry specific training and conferences at least once a year, to keep abreast of current trends, styles, safety issues, and client focused improvements for their home," said Kip Nicely. "Our designers are all well trained and professionals."

Evelyn Nicely said the average kitchen, from beginning to end, from demolition to the last piece of trim, takes about 4-5 weeks. There are at least six people on each job - a designer that stays with the project the entire time, a project manager, a project coordinator, and the crew - an electrician, a plumber and at least two carpenters.

Evelyn Nicely said every kitchen should have interest and a focal point. It has to be both beautiful and functional regardless of budget. She thinks there should always be a backsplash to complement the cabinetry.

"The only style we really infuse in every design is that of timelessness," said Stephanie Brick, an architectural designer who has her degree from Penn State University. "Some are traditional and some are contemporary but we strive that in 10 years from now they won't have to redo it because it's too trendy."

Before starting a project, Evelyn Nicely said homeowners should look for designers who have degrees, check accreditations and get referrals. She also said honesty, fairness,



Kip and Evelyn Nicely, co-owners of Nicely Done Kitchens.

insurance and niceness are important for choosing a company to work with.

"They should have a pretty good sense of what they want out of the project," said Cathy Goss, a designer with her degree from Ringling College. "It's easy to look at magazines and say, 'wow that's great' but that doesn't necessarily work with the space that they have. Getting a feel for having a realistic point of view for what they have versus what they're trying to incorporate in the space. Everything from cabinet finish to type of appliances, durability based on children/pets, whatever the circumstances."

Brick said one challenge is working within budgets. Evelyn Nicely said another challenge is working with an existing home.

"You're bound by the space," said Evelyn Nicely. "It's just so much wide and so much long. So you have to fit all the requirements that people have in that space. And that's what's also the most rewarding because you can see the before and the after. The amount



The finished Outcrop-Speed kitchen in Burke.

of storage you give people sometimes doubles. We do an in depth survey where we ask a lot of questions. It takes about an hour and a half so we know exactly the lifestyle of the homeowners. Do they entertain, are they right handed, do they have children, what they like, what they don't like,

so we can take everything into account."

SOME TRENDS in the field are opening kitchens to the family room, big islands, white kitchens, quiet dishwashers, large double sinks and charging stations for a laptop or computer.

Evelyn Nicely said she gets the biggest satisfaction

when a client is happy.

"Nothing can compare to the happiness when you know that you gave it your best, everybody worked really hard and they just love it," said Evelyn Nicely. "Our clients actually become our friends. It doesn't matter whether it's a big kitchen or a small kitchen, the joy comes from the people. I wanted to show honesty and people working very hard for the most precious investment, which for most people is their home."

Brick said it's a great experience working one on one with clients.

"I genuinely enjoy meeting people who want to change their space and help realize that vision," said Brick. "Getting to connect with the client is one of my favorite parts of the job."

Marbeth Paulsen, a retired teacher, just had her kitchen redone in white with stainless steel and deep walnut accents by Nicely Done Kitchens. The company had done her daughter's kitchen in Burke and she said they had "done such a beautiful job that we decided we'd like them to do ours." She said it was a "wonderful experience working with Evelyn and her team. Evelyn Nicely is the nicest person in the world. She's just lovely."

Evelyn Nicely said it's her passion to do kitchens. "There's so much in the kitchen," said Evelyn Nicely.

"Kitchens are challenging. It's the only room in the house where everyone gathers. It has to function and it has to be beautiful. If you have a beautiful kitchen and you put your house on the market that's what will sell that house. It's the most important room in the house."

Nicely Done Kitchens is located at 8934 Burke Lake Road, Springfield, VA 22151. Their phone number is 703-764-3748.



The finished Paulsen kitchen in Arlington.



The finished Wolk kitchen in Fairfax Station.

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4007 Justine Dr.....\$479,000.....Sun 1-4.....Amanda Carter.....Long & Foster..703-967-9844

Burke

6614 Saddlehorn Ct.....\$549,000.....Sun 1-4.....Kathy Peters/Ed Hillebrand.....Long & Foster..703-915-2165

Centreville

5128 Wyndham Rose.....\$287,900.....Sun 1-3.....Donny Samson.....Samson..703-864-4894

Clifton

12454 Henderson Rd.....\$750,000.....Sun 1-4.....Fran Rudd.....ERA..703-980-2572

Fairfax Station

5921 One Penny Dr.....\$485,000.....Sun 1-4.....Marguerite Roland.....RE/MAX..703-577-4538
6910 Heathstone Ct.....\$585,000.....Sat 1-4.....Vanessa Simms.....Long & Foster..703-452-8630
7514 Wilderness Way.....\$830,000.....Sun 1-4.....Marguerite Roland.....RE/MAX..703-577-4538
9524 Oak Stream Ct.....\$559,900.....Sun 1-4.....Dan Mieziva.....RE/MAX..703-380-9915

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3834 Prince William Dr.....\$999,999.....Sun 1-4.....Mary Thyfault Clark.....RE/MAX..703-563-2210
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8934 Khalsa Ct.....\$999,900.....Sun 1-4.....Susan Borrelli/Ron Kowalski.....RE/MAX..703-946-2877
9584 Inverary Ct.....\$227,000.....Sun 1-4.....Audrey Funk.....Weichert..703-941-0100

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7582 Woodstown Dr.....\$499,999.....Sun 1-4.....Ron Griffin.....Weichert..571-255-0782
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8305 Covington Woods Ct.....\$849,900.....Sun 1-4.....Leah Bradshaw.....Keller Williams..703-282-7740

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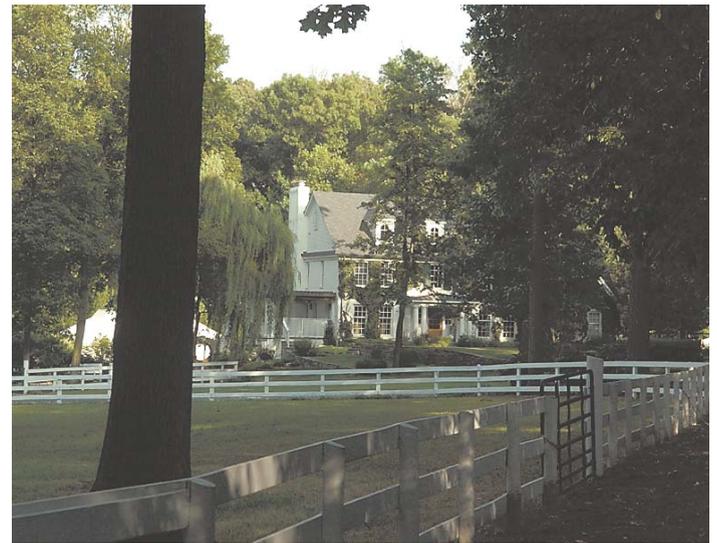
Fairfax County REAL ESTATE

Top Sales of 2011

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



3 903 Turkey Run Road, McLean — \$7,501,310



9 540 Innsbruck Avenue, Great Falls — \$3,800,000



13 3423 Tilton Valley Drive, Fairfax — \$1,547,850



16 3178 Mary Etta Lane, Herndon — \$1,620,000



19 2555 Vale Ridge Court, Oakton — \$3,200,000

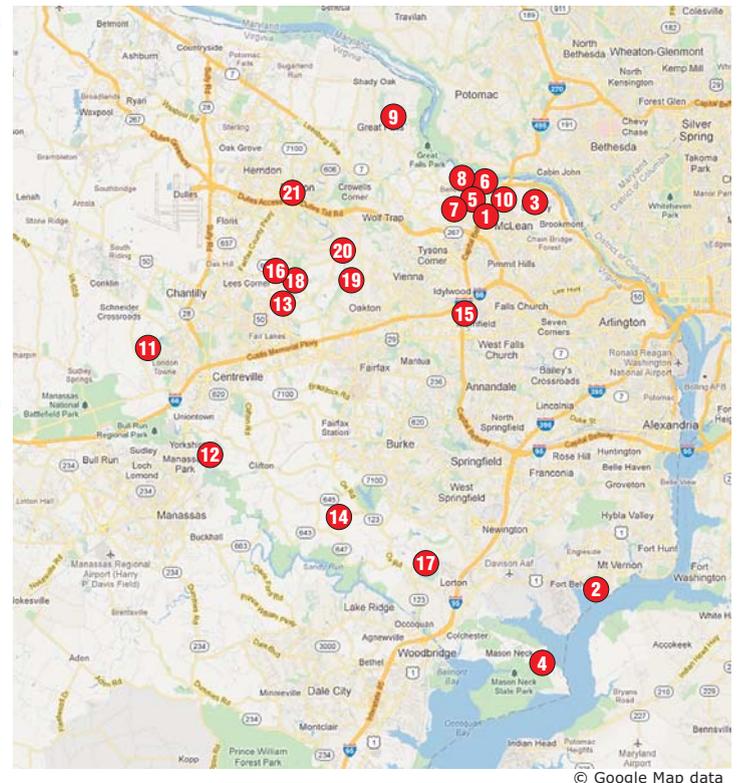
THE TOP TEN

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
1210 MOTTROM DR	6	7	0	MCLEAN	\$8,600,000	Detached	2.00	22101	ELMWOOD ESTATES	11/01/11
9500 FERRY LANDING CT	6	5	1	MOUNT VERNON	\$8,260,000	Detached	11.75	22309	FERRY LANDING	08/04/11
903 TURKEY RUN RD	6	7	2	MCLEAN	\$7,501,310	Detached	1.00	22101	TURKEY RUN	10/27/11
11201 GUNSTON RD	6	8	2	MASON NECK	\$6,100,000	Detached	5.13	22079	STONE MANOR ON THE POTOMAC	09/01/11
1012 FOUNDERS RIDGE LN	6	8	3	MCLEAN	\$5,975,000	Detached	0.85	22102	THE RESERVE	06/06/11
7712 GEORGETOWN PIKE	6	8	2	MCLEAN	\$5,004,000	Detached	2.61	22102	RIVINUS	06/01/11
1043 FOUNDERS RIDGE LN	6	6	3	MCLEAN	\$4,950,000	Detached	1.08	22102	THE RESERVE	06/23/11
7853 LANGLEY RIDGE RD	8	10	2	MCLEAN	\$4,250,000	Detached	5.21	22102	8000 GEORGETOWN PIKE	04/28/11
540 INNSBRUCK AVE	5	6	1	GREAT FALLS	\$3,800,000	Detached	6.17	22066	INNSBRUCK	06/01/11
7017 BENJAMIN ST	5	5	2	MCLEAN	\$3,518,814	Detached	1.26	22101	LANGLEY FOREST	01/12/11

SOME OTHER TOP SALES IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
6140 RIDGEMONT DR	4	5	1	CENTREVILLE	\$1,235,000	Detached	4.87	20120	VIRGINIA RUN THE ESTATES	09/30/11
13761 BALMORAL GREENS AVE	5	4	1	CLIFTON	\$2,225,000	Detached	7.98	20124	BALMORAL GREENS	05/25/11
3423 TILTON VALLEY DR	5	5	1	FAIRFAX	\$1,547,850	Detached	2.04	22033	TADDEO ESTATES	07/22/11
11102 DEVEREUX STATION LN	7	7	2	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,600,000	Detached	5.00	22039	DEVEREUX STATION	09/16/11
7927 SHREVE RD	0	0	0	FALLS CHURCH	\$1,625,000	Detached	2.10	22043	FALLS PLACE	07/15/11
3178 MARY ETTA LN	4	5	2	HERNDON	\$1,620,000	Detached	0.85	20171	SHADETREE ESTATES	08/03/11
8932 KHALSA CT	5	4	1	LORTON	\$1,095,574	Detached	0.83	22079	YORKSHIRE	11/09/11
3182 MARY ETTA LN	7	7	2	OAK HILL	\$1,682,000	Detached	0.83	20171	SHADETREE ESTATES	08/22/11
2555 VALE RIDGE CT	5	7	2	OAKTON	\$3,200,000	Detached	1.74	22124	BLACKSTONE AT VALE RIDGE	06/30/11
11990 MARKET ST #2112	2	3	1	RESTON	\$2,700,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	20190	20190	MIDTOWN AT RESTON TOWN	10/04/11
2124 POLO POINTE DR	7	6	1	VIENNA	\$2,585,000	Detached	5.00	22181	POLO PLACE	08/15/11

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ENTERTAINMENT



Student Passport Club member Rebekah McFarland plays a violin at a Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Reception.



Student Passport Club member Martin Jaeger plays a tuba at a Fairfax Symphony Orchestra reception.



Student Passport Club member Andrew Gantzer plays the cello with the help of FSO cellist Barbara Van Patten.

Passport to Music Concert is Saturday, Jan. 14 at GMU's Center for the Arts.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) is offering local youth music enthusiasts a chance to play symphonic instruments, meet professional musicians and attend symphony concerts.

The FSO created the Student Passport Club where members get tickets to any FSO concert for \$5. Youth ages 6 to 18 join the club for free and are issued a passport that allows them to attend FSO concerts. Student tickets are available from 6 -7:30 p.m. on

the night of the performance. Accompanying adult tickets start at \$25. Passports are stamped at each concert the student attends throughout the season. The next FSO concert is this Saturday, Jan. 14, at 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts.

The goal of the effort is to make symphony performances more affordable and accessible to families.

"There is no experience quite like a live concert," said Elizabeth Murphy, FSO President and CEO. "The Student Passport Club allows us to reach out to young audiences and increases their enjoyment of our performances."

Youth concert-goers receive child-appropri-

ate programs with musical activities and notes about the performances. Students will get to meet some of the FSO's musicians and try their hand at playing symphony instruments at an end-of-the-season reception in May.

"These value-added activities serve to further enrich the music education of students in the Northern Virginia region," said FSO Education Director Tara Nadel. "We want to engage all students in as many ways as possible both in and out of the classroom."

Information about the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra's concerts and its education and outreach programs can be found at www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

When & Where

Students may participate in the Passport Club at the following performances this season at George Mason University's Center for the Arts in Fairfax. Concerts are at 8 p.m., and students are encouraged to arrive by 7:30 p.m.

- ❖ Saturday, Jan. 14 - Concert features cellist Sergey Antonov
- ❖ Saturday, March 17 - Concert features pianist Rick Rowley
- ❖ Saturday, May 12 - Concert features pianist Adam Golka

The January and March performances will be repeated on Sunday, Jan. 15, and Sunday, March 18, at 3 p.m. at the Hylton Performing Arts Center in Manassas.

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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.

FRIDAY/JAN. 13

Baby Animals. 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Very short stories and rhymes. Age 18-23 months with adult. 703-249-1520.

Basic Gardening: Garden on a Shoestring. 1:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Code 290 182 2301. \$10. Creative ways to stretch your dollars while creating beautiful ornamental gardens and productive vegetable gardens. Register at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/JAN. 14

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.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With cellist Sergey Antonov. Glazunov's Chant du Ménestrel, Haydn's Cello Concerto in C Major, and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 11, "The Year 1905." Free pre-concert discussion for ticketholders at 7 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$55. info@fairfaxsymphony.org.

Friends of the Library Book Sale. 10 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Gems and finds for all readers. All ages. 703-339-4610.

Garden Design: Session Two. 9:30 a.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Code 290 182 3201. \$35. Two lectures on Sun, Soil and Drainage and The Right Plants for the Right Places. Register at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173.

SUNDAY/JAN. 15

Hellebores: What's New and Exciting. 1:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Code: 290 182 1801. \$10. An overview of the rapidly expanding selections of Hellebores available. Register at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173.

Clifton Community Choir is designed by a singer for singers. It's a group of musically inclined individuals coming together to learn how to enjoy making music. Experience doesn't matter. The choir is a chance to give back to Clifton and beyond through music, and also



Karen Hutchison will be Winter Interlude Exhibit Featured Artist at the Workhouse Arts Center 2nd Saturday Art Walk from 6-9 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14. The Workhouse Arts Center is at 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

gives each member a chance to work on intrapersonal and interpersonal development in a musical and social context. Those interested should contact Helen Santoro at helentsantoro@gmail.com or 703-785-8565. Informational meetings will be held Sunday, Jan. 15 and 22, at 2:30 p.m. at NOVA Music Center, 12704 Chapel Road in Clifton.

TUESDAY/JAN. 17

OverDrive eBook & eReader Workshop. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Learn how to use your eBook reader and the library eBook collection. Adults. 703-339-4610.

Classics Book Club. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. The Bridge of San Luis Rey by Thornton Wilder. Adults. 703-451-8055.

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

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 18

Fun for Twos and Threes. 10:30 a.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Stories and activities. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-971-0010.

Learning English. 10:15 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500

Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

Can You Share? 10:30 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-339-7385

Let It Snow! 10:30 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Stories, songs and activities celebrating penguins, polar bears and other animals having fun in the snow. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-451-8055.

THURSDAY/JAN. 19

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

Book Discussion Group. 7:15 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Tinklers 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. Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford. Adults. 703-339-7385.

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21 Announcements

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Eastern Trading, Inc trading as Eastern Wholesale, 7942 Cluny Court #N, Springfield, VA 22153-2810. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wholesale Wine (< 30,000 gallons); Wholesale Beer (< 300,000 cases) license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Tok Son Na, President.
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

Public Notice
AT&T intends to file an application to replace an existing telecommunications tower structure at 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, Virginia 22031. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal regulation 37CFR1.1301 et seq, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 36 CFR 800. The project referenced as "Doveville" will consist of the installation of a new 93 foot tall bell tower to replace the existing 46 foot 10 inch tall bell tower with the intention of collocating 12 antennas at 60, 70, and 80 (four antennas per sector) feet RAD center above ground level. Furthermore, an equipment shelter will be installed on a new concrete pad. Additional telecommunications equipment will be installed within the compound. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so in writing by contacting Carolyn Mitchell, AT&T, at 7150 Standard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or c/o theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com.

21 Announcements

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY PUBLICATION SUMMONS
Case No. 11-CV-016199
The Honorable Timothy M. Witkowiak
Case Code 30404 (Foreclosure of Mortgage)
The amount claimed exceeds \$5000.00
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., 3476 Stateview Blvd., Fort Mill, SC 29715, Plaintiff vs. Donna Michelle Peninger & John Doe Peninger, 12201 Lincoln Lake Way, Apt. 5102, Fairfax, VA 22030-7768 and Monticello Gardens Condominium Owners Association, Inc., 16535 W. Bluemound Rd., Ste. 120, Brookfield, WI 53005-5905, Defendants
THE STATE OF WISCONSIN
To each person named above as a defendant: You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. Within 40 days after January 12, 2012 you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is 901 N. Ninth Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425 and to Gray & Associates, L.L.P., plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 16345 West Glendale Drive, New Berlin, WI 53151-2841. You may have an attorney help or represent you. If you do not demand a copy of the complaint within 40 days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property. Dated this 29th day of December, 2011. William N. Foshag, State Bar No. 1020417, Gray & Associates, L.L.P., Attorneys for Plaintiff, 16345 W. Glendale Dr., New Berlin, WI 53151-2841, (414) 224-8404, (414) 224-8182. Gray & Associates, L.L.P. is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. If you have previously received a discharge in a chapter 7 bankruptcy case, this communication should not be construed as an attempt to hold you personally liable for the debt.

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21 Announcements

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West Springfield junior Lindsey Mares scored 10 of her 12 points in the first quarter against T.C. Williams on Jan. 6. Mares also grabbed 11 rebounds.



West Springfield senior Logan Battle finished with 12 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks against T.C. Williams on Jan. 6.



Sophomore guard Amy Berglund scored a game-high 15 points as West Springfield beat T.C. Williams 49-48 despite first-team All-Met point guard April Robinson sitting out with an injury.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

No Robinson, No Problem for Spartans

West Springfield beats T.C. Williams without the services of its standout point guard.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Lindsey Mares called the situation “nerve-wracking.” Logan Battle said the Spartans had to focus on working together. Head coach Bill Gibson acknowledged they missed having their leader on the floor.

The West Springfield girls basketball team entered its Jan. 6 contest against T.C. Williams without the services of first-team All-Met point guard April Robinson, who hadn’t played since mid-December when she suffered an ankle injury in practice. While the Spartans had experienced several games of life without Robinson, the Titans represented the Spartans’ most meaningful competition to date. The two teams met four times last season, including the Patriot District and Northern Region finals, with West Springfield winning each time. TC was hungry for payback with or without the Spartans at full strength.

Thanks to a double-doubles from Mares and Battle, West Springfield overcame Robinson’s absence to beat TC 49-48 at WSHS. The Spartans improved to 11-2 overall, including 5-2 without Robinson, with their losses coming during a holiday tournament in Miami. The Titans overcame a 12-point halftime deficit to the score at 48-48 with 2:52 remaining in the fourth quarter, but a free throw by West Springfield’s Jordan Miller and stingy Spartans defense down the stretch proved to be the difference.

“It was very nerve-wracking — especially the last few games,” Mares said in regards to playing without Robinson, who said she hopes to return in the near future. “Our whole team has been missing her. She’s definitely a big part of the game. It’s just al-

lowed other people to step up and come forth and take her spot.”

Mares stepped up against TC, delivering 12 points and 11 rebounds. The 6-foot-1 junior said she focused on rebounding and staying strong.

“I was just thinking about how I need to box out and get the rebounds,” Mares said. “The girls [on the opposing team], even though they’re shorter than me, they’re still sometimes stronger, so I was just focusing on getting low and being strong.”

Mares scored the Spartans’ first six points and totaled 10 in the opening quarter as West Springfield built a 20-8 lead after one.

“She’s getting better every game,” Gibson said.

The Georgetown-bound Battle scored 12 points, grabbed 11 rebounds and blocked five shots. The 5-foot-11 senior, a second-team All-Met selection last season, did a little bit of everything for the Spartans, including knocking down a 3-pointer and helping with ball-handling duties.

“She’s pretty wide-ranged,” Gibson said. “She needs to still work on her ball handling, but she can do a lot. She brings a lot to us: rebounds, scoring, defense ... a wide spectrum of attributes.”

Sophomore guard Amy Berglund, who missed the first seven games of the season with a knee injury, led West Springfield with 15 points and grabbed five rebounds.

Senior guard Sophie Schedler led TC with 13 points. Senior guard Gaby Moss finished with 11 points and sophomore guard Angie Schedler added 10.

The Titans have high expectations this season and one of their primary goals was to beat the Spartans. TC fell short this time, but will get another shot on Jan. 30 at T.C. Williams High School.

“We knew that’s what they wanted,” Battle said. “We knew they wanted us, we knew they wanted revenge and we didn’t want to give them that chance.”

West Springfield defeated West Potomac 54-33 on Jan. 10 to improve to 12-2, including 5-0 in the Patriot District. The Spartans will travel to face Woodson at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 13.

Robinson’s Green: I Just Want to Win

Senior guard is a scorer, ball-handler and standout defender for Rams.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

During the first half of a Jan. 10 home game against Westfield, Robinson senior Megan Green hustled over to disrupt a Bulldogs pass, sending the ball out of bounds. Green quickly reacted as if the ball had bounced off a Westfield player, but the official standing near the play awarded possession to the Bulldogs.

Westfield fans jokingly praised Green for her effort, and after the game the Rams guard confessed she was probably the last one to touch the ball.

“It’s the little things,” Green said in regard to her attempt to earn her team an extra possession.

Green is a high-energy point guard who does a little bit of everything for the Robinson girls basketball team. Through 11 games, the 5-foot-7 Green was the team leader in assists, steals and deflections and was second in scoring and 3-pointers made.

While Green’s skills are wide-ranging, her focus is narrow.

“I just look to do whatever I can and kind of help the team,” Green said. “If that’s passing, if that’s scoring, if that’s playing defense on their best player, I just kind of do what I can. I just want to win.”

Against Westfield, Green scored 11 points as Robinson won 53-43 to improve to 9-3 overall, including 2-0 in the Concorde District. The Rams have won five consecutive games heading into a showdown with undefeated Oakton at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 13 at Robinson.

The Rams are loaded with talent and it’s Green that makes them go.

“She’s our floor general,” Robinson head coach T.J. Dade said.

“She makes sure we’re set up properly offensively [and] she triggers our offense. She’s a great defensive player. She leads the team in deflections



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Robinson senior point guard Megan Green (14) is seen during a Dec. 6 game at South County.

and steals. She’s just so energetic sometimes it’s hard to get her to turn it down a couple of notches. At times she can get a little too antsy.”

While Green has the ability to score — she knocked down four perimeter shots, including a 3-pointer against Westfield — she said she prefers distributing the ball to others. Tyler Hansen, Brigitte Kuter, Christie Michals and Jenna Lamb are among those who benefit from Green’s ball distribution. Hansen scored a team-high 12 points against Westfield and Lamb added 11. Michals scored seven points and Kuter added six.

“She’s our leader,” Kuter said. “However she’s [running], that’s the tempo of the game. ... She’s energetic, competitive, she doesn’t like to lose. She’s always about the team. Instead of points, she likes getting assists.”

As Green has gotten older, Dade said she has matured as a leader. Green, in her final high school season, said the game carries more meaning.

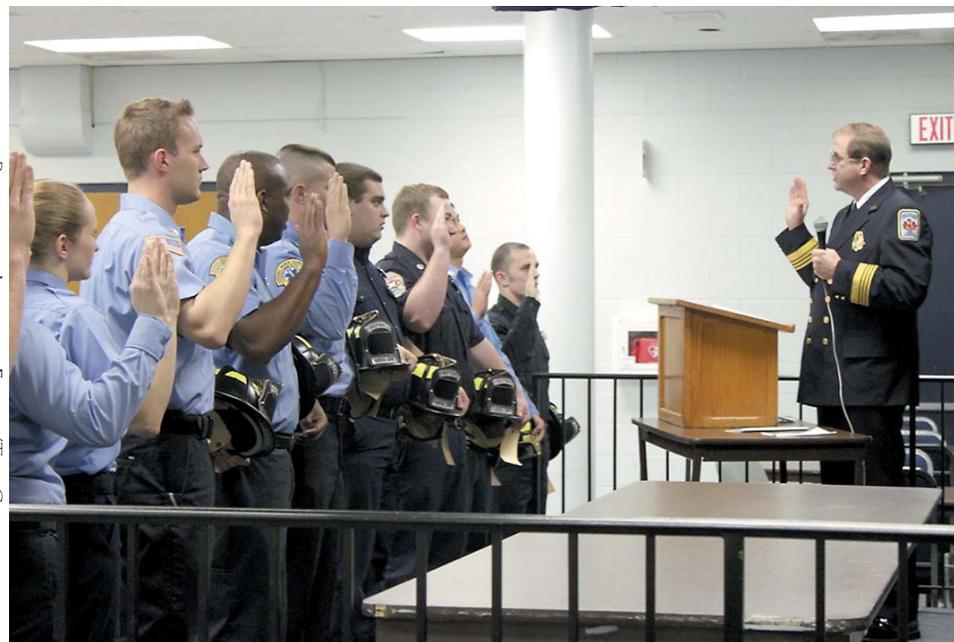
“I cherish every possession more and more,” she said. “Coach Dade said this is it. After this, you’re done. So every game kind of means a little more.”

With a talented roster and a desire to win, Green and the Rams have the potential for a memorable season.



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER FEDOR/THE CONNECTION

Fire school graduates Rachel Blakely, Paul Stracke, and Crystal Eden pose with their black helmets. They will serve at the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department.



Volunteer firefighters from eight Fairfax county departments were sworn in by Chief Ronald L. Mastin.

Graduating Fire School

Burke volunteers continue a proud history of firefighters.

BY JENNIFER FEDOR
THE CONNECTION

In 1736, Benjamin Franklin organized the country's first fire department, Union Fire Company, comprising a team of 30 volunteers. On Dec. 21, 2011, at the Fairfax County Volunteer Fire School graduation ceremony, Rachel Blakely, Crystal Eden, and Paul Stracke were honored as three of the newest members to join the volunteer firefighter ranks.

Firefighters are trained for diverse situations, from delivering babies to responding to terrorist attacks, according to Chris Sarokhan, president of the Fairfax County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association.

There are twelve volunteer fire and rescue departments in Fairfax County. Blakely, Eden, and Stracke will serve at the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department. Sarokhan himself began his career in the county as a volunteer for the Bailey Crossroads Fire Department.

Firefighting has evolved since the days of Franklin almost three centuries ago when it "meant donning a simple helmet, a long coat and learning on the job," according to Sarokhan. Blakely, Eden, and Stracke, along with eight volunteers from other fire departments, "completed some of the best and toughest fire training anywhere in the world, courtesy of the superb Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy and its training staff," Sarokhan observed.

Leading up to graduation, in addition to their regular paid jobs, volunteers were required to attend four training sessions weekly from July to December. On Tuesdays and Thursdays these occurred from 7 -11 p.m. but typically trainees would show up much earlier to set up and stay later to clean. Weekend trainings were scheduled from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Training requirements are the same for volunteers as for career firefighters.

"I literally had no social life," Blakely, a patient service manager for Patriot Sports Medicine, described. "My life revolved around doing continuous laundry on my

uniforms, studying, looking over SOPs [Standard Operating Procedures], and practicing."

All three were impressed by the instructors, led by Volunteer Training Coordinator Allen Pearson.

"The trainers at the Academy truly shape the program," Eden, a capture manager for MicroTech, said. "Instructors who have been with the fire department for decades teach students techniques that they've discovered over their careers while newer instructors are able to combine the knowledge of an instructor with the memory of still being a student."

"All of them motivated me throughout the course," Stracke agreed. A cadet with the Fairfax County Police Department, he was inspired to help others and give more back to the community when he learned the Burke Fire Station was seeking volunteers.

Blakely recalled, "[The instructors] fed off of our energy. If we showed heart, they were motivated to do more with us."

THE THREE FIREFIGHTERS appreciated the knowledge and camaraderie gained as trainees at the academy. Stracke found the lessons on forcible entry, including using hand tools to break through a floor, most interesting.

For Blakely, the education has changed her outlook on life. She observes houses in the area with a keener eye, thanks to a class they took on basic construction and classification of buildings. After completing her Hazmat Operations training, she brainstormed what she would do if a nearby tanker happened to leak, whenever she's sitting in traffic. "Your approach on looking at your environment changes," she said.

"Volunteering for BVFRD is so important in my life because it is a home away from home."

— Rachel Blakely

"We had to force ourselves to slow down in situations where most people would get amped up," Eden explained. The instructors stressed that their movements had to have purpose, particularly in scenarios where vision and hearing may be impaired by the environment.

Other lessons included ladder throws, basic knot-tying, and search and rescue, as well as emergency rappelling from a three-story building (which inspired Eden to take up rock-climbing).

The commencement ceremony was held at the Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Station, in Robbie Allen Hall (named in memory of the former president of the VFD Ladies Auxiliary). A slideshow, set to Johnny Cash's "Ring of Fire," depicted the achievements of the volunteers during training. Symbolizing their new status as firefighters and completing their uniforms, graduates received their black helmets from Deputy Chief Michael T. Reilly, with the county's Fire and Rescue Training Division.

The new firefighters took an oath administered by the Fire and Rescue Department's Chief Ronald L. Mastin.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE at the ceremony were many of the graduates' family and friends. "Never forget the sacrifice that your families make," Chief Reilly implored as the graduates turned to applaud those who had supported them throughout their training. He thanked the audience for loaning their loved ones to the academy. "It's a huge commitment to help them get through this very intense program," Chief Mastin added. "My mom and dad were very supportive of me during the entire academy," Stracke said gratefully, "and helped out with the mountains of laundry that fire school produces."

Blakely, whose father is a career firefighter, knew her mother and grandmother were uneasy about her decision to pursue volunteer work at the fire department. Still, she felt supported and knew her grandmother had come around when she handed Blakely an official prayer card for firefighters.

"I think seeing our training in action during our Incident Simulations Family Day made the dangers of this type of work more real," Eden observed. Many of her family and friends were unaware that volunteers have the same training and respond to the same kinds of emergencies as their career counterparts. Despite the risky nature of Eden's volunteer work, she knows her mother will continue to encourage her on this journey.

The three firefighters served as fully trained Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) while in fire school. They will have additional training requirements as probationary firefighters at the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue station and will then earn their "minimum staffing" firefighter status.

"Volunteering for BVFRD is so important in my life because it is a home away from home," Blakely said. "This extended family that I have adopted has helped me to continue to grow as a young adult."

"Volunteering is one of the most fulfilling things I've ever done because I've met some of my closest friends through the fire department," agreed Stracke. In addition, his EMT training has helped on the job with the FCPD. "I am able to help the community I grew up in, serve my neighbors if they have emergencies, and help the county."

Eden emphasized the other aspects of her volunteer work, aside from responding to emergencies. "I've been involved in two Burke Open Houses, which stress the importance of educating not only adults but children in fire prevention and fire safety," she described. "Volunteering with the BVFRD allows me to be a part of something bigger than myself, teaching me there is much more to life than what is right in front of me."

For more information on becoming a volunteer firefighter, visit the Fairfax County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association recruitment page at <http://vms.fcvfra.org/recruitment.cfm>.

Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/recruitment/> for information on serving as a career firefighter in Fairfax County.



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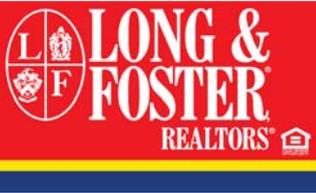
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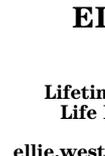
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