

Springfield CONNECTION

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PET CONNECTION

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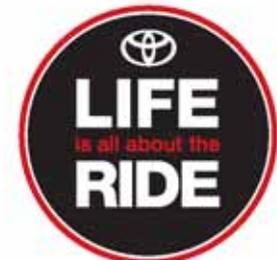
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Elected officials cut the ribbon during a ceremony announcing the addition of six new TAGS buses in Alexandria July 17. From left, Del. Vivian Watts (D-39), Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large), TAGS official Jack Mutterelli, and Del. Mark Sickles (D-43).



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/
VIRGINIA MEGAPROJECTS

New Buses Join Springfield Service

Local and state officials gathered on the penthouse terrace at Metro Park in Alexandria last week to announce the addition of six new state-of-the-art buses to the Springfield Circulator Service.

The fleet is owned by the Transportation Association of Greater Springfield (TAGS), and the larger buses meet the growing demand for the downtown Springfield circulator, according to transportation officials.

"We're here today to say this does work," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large).

"It's a proud moment because it really shows how this area evolved," said Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay.

U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) and Virginia Delegates Mark Sickles (D-43) and Vivian Watts (D-39) also attended the ceremony.

"We recognize that there's not a 'one size fits all' approach to commuting," said McKay. "TAGS has played and will continue to play a vital role in keeping Springfield moving. TAGS was the first 'circulator' bus service in Fairfax County and has grown to serve approximately 400 riders a day."

The TAGS bus service started in 1999 to ease traffic congestion during the Springfield "Mixing Bowl" construction. The "little green bus" was so popular that service continued after the interstate construction was completed. The service is an effective way of reducing congestion in the Springfield area.

In addition to managing the shuttle service, TAGS works with local businesses to market transit services and alternative commuting options, and hosts programs to educate the community on transportation-related issues. TAGS supports local community events, including Springfield Days, the Springfield Community BridgeWalk, and the Lee District concert series.

"Investing in public transit is an investment in Northern Virginia's future—every dollar we invest in public transportation yields four dollars in economic activity," said Moran.

TAGS is a non-profit, public-private transportation management association in the Greater Springfield area. Established in March 1999, TAGS includes business owners, community leaders and transportation organizations including the Virginia Department of Transportation, Department of Rail and Public Trans-



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) welcomed six new TAGS buses during a ribbon-cutting ceremony July 17 on the rooftop penthouse terrace of Metro Park in Alexandria.



Elected officials cut the ribbon during a ceremony announcing the addition of six new TAGS buses in Alexandria July 17. The new TAGS buses have bicycle carriers on the front.

portation, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), and Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC).

WMATA/Metro operates the TAGS buses. Stops include Metro Park, the Franconia-Springfield Metrorail station, Springfield Mall and the Springfield Hilton. Buses run every 15 minutes from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

—VICTORIA ROSS



STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

New Ravensworth Principal Roxanne Salata with first-graders Hieu Hoang, Ines Fernandez and Jonathan Ward.

Salata Named Ravensworth Principal

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Roxanne Salata, 41, has a motto she likes to use: People first and paper second.

The New York City and Miami, Fla., native will take that to heart when she leads 520 students as the new principal at Ravensworth Elementary come September.

The school off Nutting Drive in Springfield has a racial breakdown of 17.32 percent Asian, 3.57 percent black, 26.07 percent Hispanic and 48.39 percent white students.

For goals, "I want to accomplish creating a school of 21st-century learners," she said. "Be somebody who is able to give the teachers everything that they need to help lead the students into being tomorrow's leaders."

A key word for her is "transparency," she said: "I want people to feel comfortable in knowing they can come to me if it's a good day or a bad day, and know that when they're talking to me, what they have to say is the most important thing happening for both of us at that moment."

She will be a fixture at the front of the building as students arrive in the mornings and leave in the afternoons. "Even if it's just to give a student a hug as they walk out the door; it might be the only hug that that child gets that day."

Ravensworth is somewhat small, with 19 full-time classroom teachers and 12 instructional assistants. It is also a Spanish-immersion school where 10 percent of its students are native Spanish speakers. But Salata does not see that as a hurdle. "It's more of a celebration of what we do here," said

the conversational Spanish-speaker.

Her challenge is in the scheduling—making sure to schedule the immersion program alongside the general ed program so as not to create two schools inside one building... so that all students feel as they are in one community.

"The idea is to mix the entire grade level so students have the opportunity to collaborate with students who are non-immersion students," she said. The students are not mixed in grades 1-2, but are mixed in 3-6.

To help improve Ravensworth's AYP scores, she wants to protect teachers' instructional time with students; to make sure that teachers have the training and resources they need to do the job well.

Eleanor Contreras, principal of Lane Elementary School where Salata was assistant principal, calls her a people-person. "She makes great connections with students, staff and parents," said Contreras, who was impressed with her collaborative leadership skills. "She is able to mentor new teachers and challenges experienced teachers as well."

"She is about relationships, about people," said Jay Nocco, coordinator of the K-6 School Support for Fairfax County. "She values communication."

Katie Reynolds, assistant principal of Lane Elementary, agrees: "She always puts people and what kids' need first. She gives people room to grow and she coaches them."

Salata attended the University of Dayton in Ohio, Florida International University and Nova Southeastern University in Miami, Fla. She has a degree in physical education and a master's in education leadership from Nova.

NEWS

TB Investigation Expands At Lee High School

Health officials say “no reason to restrict activities.”

By VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

On Monday, Fairfax County Health Department officials announced they are expanding the tuberculosis (TB) investigation at Robert E. Lee High School, in the wake of reports that as many as 430 students and faculty could have been exposed to the disease.

In June, the health department reported three people within the Lee High School community had been identified as having active TB. One person was diagnosed in December 2012, and two were diagnosed in June. One of the June cases was linked to the December diagnosis.

The health department now recommends screening and testing for TB infection for all Lee High School 2012-2013 students, faculty and support staff. In addition, approximately 20 others have been identified as meeting the health department’s exposure criteria, which is based on having spent a significant amount of time in the school on multiple occasions and in places where TB transmission may have occurred during the 2012-2013 school year.

While there is no ongoing transmission of TB at Lee High School, and the vast majority of the Lee High School community was not at high risk of exposure to TB, the health department—out of an abundance of caution—concluded that the “expansion is prudent based on multiple factors that included a higher-than-expected skin test positivity rate among those who have been tested so far,” said health department officials on Monday.

“This expanded level of testing will ensure that everyone who may have been exposed to TB is identified,” said Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu,



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Fairfax County Health Director Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu.

director of the Fairfax County Health Department.

The health department recommends that only individuals who received a letter plan to attend one of the special clinics that will be held at Lee High School on the dates listed. Because the TB test is a two-step process, it is important that when selecting a date for the skin test, the individual is also able to return on the corresponding date for a health care worker to determine whether the test is positive or negative. Returning any other time will require that the skin test be repeated.

“There is no reason to restrict activities or attendance at Lee High School because of the expansion,” Addo-Ayensu said. “All activities at the school can continue as usual and Lee High School students who are undergoing testing can continue to participate in all activities.”

Lee High School parents who have questions should call the health department’s call center at 703-267-3511.

TB Testing Schedule at Lee High School

Skin Test: Saturday, Aug. 3, 8 a.m.-noon. Return for Results: Monday, Aug. 5, noon-4 p.m.

Skin Test: Saturday, Aug. 3, noon-6 p.m. Return for Results: Tuesday, Aug. 6, 8 a.m.-noon.

Skin Test: Monday, Aug. 5, 8 a.m.-noon. Return for Results: Wednesday, Aug. 7, noon-4 p.m.

Skin Test: Tuesday, Aug. 6, 8 a.m.-noon. Return for Results: Thursday, Aug. 8, noon-4 p.m.

Skin Test: Saturday, Aug. 10, 8 a.m.-noon. Return for Results: Monday, Aug. 12, noon-4 p.m.

For more information about TB, go to:

Health Department Facebook
Health Department Twitter
Fairfax County NewsWire
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Congressman Jim Moran Hosts:



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NEWS

Unlocking the Door To Affordable Housing

County considers establishment of residential studio option to assist with housing affordability.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Like most areas that have seen explosive growth in the past 30 years, Fairfax County's stock of affordable housing has dwindled as it's grown into one of the nation's wealthiest counties.

One of the obstacles to affordable housing are zoning regulations that ban what used to be the bottom end of the private housing market—rooming houses, the in-law-apartment, student housing and studio apartments.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova said Tuesday she is "hopeful" the board is ready to move forward on a plan to make housing more affordable throughout the county.

"Our board has been exploring the establishment of residential studio housing for about 10 years. I think it's a good way to provide more affordable housing options for county residents. By advertising this for public hearing, we will initiate the process for engaging the community in the discussion," Bulova said.

She added that the board could advertise for public hearings as early as its July 30 meeting.

"Let me just say, my feeling is we really need to move this forward," Bulova said.

Donna Pesto, the county's senior assistant zoning administrator, said the proposal would not change the building codes, and would apply to rental units only. She also said there could be no more than 75 residential studio units in a building and a minimum of 80 percent of units have to be affordable to low-income earners, those making about \$45,000 per year or less. The maximum square footage for the units would be 500 square feet, including one bedroom and a kitchen.

"We see this use as very similar as assisted-living apartments and nursing homes, which are all carefully reviewed and require case-by-case approval by the board," Pesto said. "The standards are pretty stringent."

While many similar developments serve individuals at risk of homelessness, particularly those linked with supportive services, small efficiency apartments also provide an affordable housing option for seniors, students, recent graduates and single professionals, providing diversity and vibrancy to communities.

"There's a lot of buzz now about micro-units that are 300- to 500-square-feet," Bulova said.

"This is the hot housing product," Pesto added.

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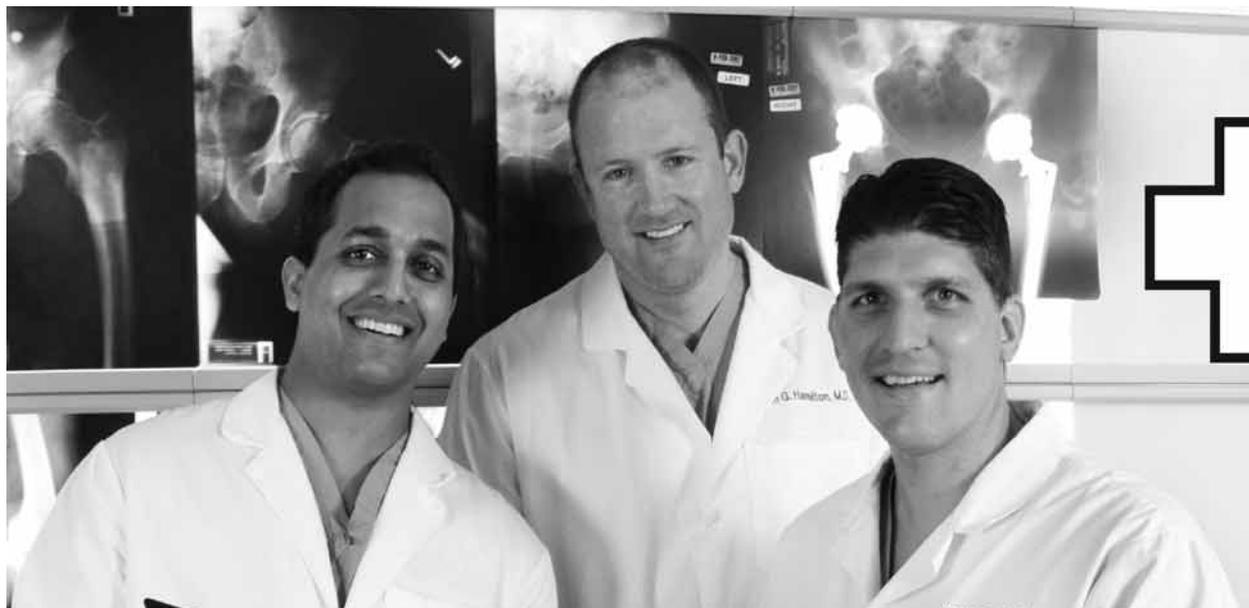
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OPINION

Stemming Gun Violence

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

While President Obama in his statement about the Trayvon Martin case reminded us, "we are a nation of laws, and a jury has spoken," he went on to say that "we should ask ourselves if we're doing all we can to stem the tide of gun violence that claims too many lives across this country on a daily basis." Not only are we not doing enough, but we are seeing actions on the part of congressmen and senators and state legislators fearful of the gun lobby that may well result in more gun violence. When handguns used in the commission of crimes were traced to Virginia in such great numbers that the state became known as the "gun-running capital of the east,"



the state legislature put in place a limitation of one handgun purchase per month. This year the General Assembly repealed that law. If 12 pistols were too few a year, one can now buy however many are desired!

According to a USA Today editorial, in 1981 19 states prohibited people from carrying a hidden weapon in public, "but a powerful gun lobby has turned that system upside down." Four states now allow persons to carry hidden firearms without a permit, and in 35 states, including Virginia, officials must issue permits to just about anyone who applies unless they have committed a felony. Hidden guns are now allowed in restaurants and bars and public places.

Most frightening of all are the changes in state law to allow persons to stand their ground and use deadly force in any location one is legally

allowed to be without first attempting to retreat. Florida was the first state to adopt such a law that had been drafted by the National Rifle Association and promoted by the American Legislative Exchange Council to almost two dozen states. The instructions to the jury in the Zimmerman case made it clear that if "he had a right to be where he had a right to be, he had no duty to retreat." Efforts to enact a "stand your ground" law have been made in Virginia and are likely to continue until successful. Not only is there a proliferation of guns, but laws are being rewritten to expand the instances in which they can be used against another.

There were the tragedies at Virginia Tech, Columbine, Newtown and thousands of other instances of gun violence. What will be the tragedy that will cause us to wake up and insist that no constitutional right can be argued that reduces the safety of others and enhances the potential for violence?



PEOPLE AND PETS

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova with Frodo and Sam.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Meet Frodo and Sam

Lou and I adopted Mister Frodo from Home Alone Cat Rescue about two years ago. We have a soft spot for big orange cats. Frodo is part Maine coon (large with furry feet) and part American bobtail (large with short tail). A description of the American bobtail breed on the internet says they are "born scared"—which sums up Frodo. He is the proverbial "fraidy cat." For the first few weeks after we adopted him, Frodo refused to go into the living room, dining room or master bedroom for fear of our ceiling fans, even when they weren't moving. When he accidentally escapes the house, he comes scurrying right back when birds chirp at him. Despite being timid, Frodo is very playful. He "races us" up and down the stairs and loves to chase Lou's laser toy.

Last year I decided Frodo might benefit from the company of another cat. When I ran into Lee District School Board Representative Tammy Derenak Koufax at the Lee District Bridge Walk last summer, she showed me a photo of three kittens she and her children, Matthew and Halle, were fostering as part of a School Project. They

were less than a month old and adorable. Sam looked like a little tiger cub! Her siblings, solid soot grey, looked like little bears. They had been found living behind a restaurant in Washington D.C. My husband and I fell in love with Sam at first sight.

Once Sam was old enough to come home with us, we introduced Sam and Frodo over a few days, keeping Sam separated in the guest room. It took a few months for them to work out "dominance issues," but now they are chasing each other around the house and amusing each other. Sam has a fascination with water. We have to keep her water bowl upstairs in the tub because she splashes the water all over the place. When she does this, Frodo looks at her as though she is completely uncouth. It's hard to believe Sam was a feral kitten. She is very affectionate and loves to have her head stroked.

Pets definitely add an important dimension to our lives!

—SHARON BULOVA AND LOU DEFALAISE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wrong Priorities

To the Editor:

We seem to have money for everything these days—bank bailouts, congressional investigations, even potential invasions of Syria. Just not our kids. We slash food stamps and cut early education and our elected officials just whistle past the graveyard. New polling shows Virginians think these priorities are all wrong, and expect our leaders to invest in our kids. We should make those running for office in Virginia this year tell us where they stand on these issues.

John Horejsi
SALT Coordinator
Vienna

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

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CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. For more entertainment events in the county, go to: <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2013/may/22/fairfax-county-calendar/>.

FRIDAY/JULY 26

Chimaira With Dark Sermon. 5 p.m.-11:30 p.m., Empire-Alchemy Room, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Chimaira, Dark Sermon, and others present songs of the metal genre. <http://www.ampedandalive.com/eventdetails.aspx?eventId=1157>.

The NOVA Annandale Symphony Orchestra. 7:30-8:30 p.m., Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Led by music director Christopher Johnston, the NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra has been performing a wide range of music embracing different cultures and heritages since 1994. www.reunionmusic.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 27

Peter Pan and Captain Hook in the Fairies. 1 p.m., in the W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Vianlix Mestey's original adaptation of the fairy tale, in which the magic clock of Neverland begins to wind down and Peter Pan and Hook must work together to stop it. \$12 for adults; \$8 for children under 12. <http://workhousearts.org/events/performing-arts/peter-pan-and-captain-hook-fairies-land>.

Debi Smith. 7-8 p.m., at Workhouse Arts Center at Lorton, 9601 Ox Road,

Lorton. Debi has recorded over 2 dozen albums and compilations, for which she has won numerous Wammie awards, ASCAP composer awards and American Library Awards. www.debismith.com.

Cecil Ray Comedy Club. 7 p.m., Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A night of comedy. Advance: \$20; At the Door: \$25. <http://workhousearts.org/events/performing-arts/cecil-ray-comedy-club-1>.

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 31-SEPT 8

3rd Annual Workhouse Clay National Exhibition. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. View A juried exhibition of ceramic art from across the country representing various styles and trends in the art field. <http://workhousearts.org/events/visual-arts/3rd-annual-workhouse-clay-national-2013>.

THURSDAY/AUG. 1

Davey Suicide With Farewell My Love. 6-11 p.m. Empire-Alchemy Room, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Varied artists present rock music. \$10. ampedandalive.com/eventdetails.aspx?eventId=1128.

FRIDAY/AUG. 2

Alt Washingtonia. 7:30-8:30 p.m., at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. This group will be performing traditional Alpine dances from Germany and Austria, representing the many different aspects of the culture. www.altwashingtonia.com/.

SATURDAY/AUG. 3

Winnie the Pooh. 1 p.m., W-3

Theatre, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A. A. Milne's characters encounter new neighbors and other adventures in the Hundred Acre Wood. \$8 for children under 12, \$12 for adults, runs 75 minutes with one intermission, appropriate for all ages, concessions available before the show and during intermission. <http://workhousearts.org/events/performing-arts/winnie-pooh>.

3rd Annual Clay National Ceramics Exhibition Public Opening Reception. 6-9 p.m., Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. View The Workhouse Arts Center's 3rd Annual Workhouse Clay National Ceramics Exhibition at a reception with food and fellow art-lovers. <http://workhousearts.org/events/visual-arts/3rd-annual-workhouse-clay-national-2013>.

Pentagram. 6-11:30 p.m. Empire-Alchemy Room, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Varied artists perform metal music. \$20. ampedandalive.com/eventdetails.aspx?eventId=1147.

The Holmes Brothers. 7-8 p.m., at Workhouse Arts Center at Lorton, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The Holmes Brothers have been playing a joyous and moving blend of blues, gospel, soul, R&B, rock 'n' roll and country for their fan base. www.theholmesbrothers.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 3-4

Cabaret Series: Hot, Hot, Hot! 8 p.m. on Saturday, 1 p.m. on Sunday, W-3 Theatre, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. This summer celebration features songs from the stage and screen. \$25, doors open 30 minutes before the show, cash bar available, ticket reservations recommended. <http://workhousearts.org/events/performing-arts/cabaret-series-hot-hot-hot>.

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PET CONNECTION



Eric Cryan beams outside his Nova Mobile Vet van in Lorton.



Eric Cryan examines an x-ray from a cat in his mobile vet van.

Mobile Vet Provides At-home Care

Vet Eric Cryan visits pets in their homes.

BY ELEANOR LAMB
THE CONNECTION

Most people associate going to the vet with wrestling their trembling pets into an animal carrier and dragging them into a cold, unfamiliar office. Eric Cryan, founder of Nova Mobile Vet, makes people discard this grim association.

Nova Mobile Vet is a service that provides veterinary care to animals without their owners having to drag their pets to animal hospitals. Cryan started the service in 2011 when he was working as a stationary vet in McLean and noticed some people had trouble bringing in their pets, due to either their complicated schedules or restrictions

on the animals' mobility. He thought that going to see the pets in their homes would make everyone more comfortable.

"People generally seem to really like it and the animals are more themselves," said Cryan. "I love seeing the dogs outside. [Also,] seeing an owner in a normal environment is very nice."

Cryan spends his days traveling with an assistant to visit different animals in the Alexandria, Arlington, Springfield, Burke, Fairfax and Fairfax Station areas. His appointments usually begin around 10 or 11 a.m., in order to dodge the area's traffic patterns. Sometimes, before hitting the road, he sees an in-house appointment at the Nova Mobile Vet office, which is in Lorton. He is usually back at the office by 6 or 7 p.m., where he may or may not have a final in-house appointment.

Although a van is certainly not as big as a regular vet office, Cryan and his team are

not at a disadvantage. The van is equipped with an x-ray machine, surgical and dental supplies, and blood work machines.

"We have all the bells and whistles of a regular vet," said Cryan. "We just show up in your driveway."

While he does have the equipment of a traditional vet, Cryan does not conduct all of his cases inside the large, well-maintained mobile vet van. Sometimes, if he just needs to look at the animal without running any tests, he can visit with it in the backyard or see it in an enclosed area in its owner's house, where it feels more comfortable.

"It's nice to have [the equipment] and not need it than the other way around," said Cryan.

Cryan gives his clients a window in which he visits them to allow cushion time for congested traffic conditions. Many people book their visits online. Sometimes, however,

Cryan receives an emergency call during the day and has to shuffle his whole schedule around. These days, he reflects, are the toughest. Even though he may have a list of visits lined up at the beginning of each day, he does not know who will contact him while he is on the road.

"Each day is a challenge," said Cryan. "I try to keep a positive attitude."

One of the biggest joys Cryan finds going from animal to animal is how comfortable the pets are in their own homes. He has had days where he has gotten to play with three golden retrievers in one visit and has encountered plenty of friendly puppies. Although some animals may at first be timid to enter his van for tests, the occasional pet will have a good time in there. He remembered a cat that simply did not want to leave the van even after its exam was over.

"I always think that's a good sign," said Cryan.



Kerry and Kay

PHOTO BY
LISA ENNIS

A Welcoming Community

These pictures are taken on the Greenspring campus by Lisa Ennis, my dog-loving daughter-in-law.

The pup is 2-year-old Kerry, a Havana silk dog who shares my apartment and my life at Greenspring. Greenspring is not only a terrific place for seniors,

but it is also a community that welcomes our well-behaved dogs. We have a dog club, a "Bark Park," and a pet therapy group. Every year we have a Halloween Pet Parade and a Blessing of the Animals. The happy old lady in the photo is me, and I am Kay McCurdy.

Dogs of Springfield



Supervisor Jeff McKay's rescue greyhound, Vera, and his son, Aidan.



Greenspring resident Jan Madden and her cavalier King Charles spaniel, Gilbey, enjoy a summer day. (Photo taken at Greenspring retirement community in Springfield in June 2013.)

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PET CONNECTION



This is Jill, a former “lost dog” who joined the Howell family and inspired their volunteer work with Lost Dog.



Princess is one of many foster dogs taken in by Marcia Tiersky, president of the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation, over the past 10 years.



This kitten, fostered by Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation volunteer Beth Stevens, is “a polydactyl,” meaning she has extra toes.



Parker, formerly a “lost dog,” was adopted by Beth Stevens before she became a Lost Dog volunteer.



This dog, called Batman, was a foster in Lisa Marie Czop’s home.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Helping Save Lives, One Pet at a Time

Area residents explain their dedication to the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

Behind every adoption successfully completed by the Arlington-based Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation, there’s a volunteer with a happy heart.

There’s a small volunteer army across Northern Virginia that turns out every weekend to help cats and dogs find homes, but there’s never a shortage of others looking for a safe place to be fed, sheltered and loved. Volunteers are what make the organization run, from walking dogs at adoption events to petting cats to making sure adoptable animals have safe transportation

from rural shelters to this area for medical care.

These volunteers are playing, and will continue to play, a major role in Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation’s participation in the ASPCA/Rachael Ray \$100,000 challenge, an ongoing competition in which the rescue group and others across the country are trying to surpass the number of animal adoptions recorded between June 1 and Aug. 31.

But why do people agree to share their limited free time with animals? What brings them in, and what makes them stay?

Here are a few of their stories:

A FAMILY EFFORT. Diane McIntosh and her family have been involved with fostering dogs for the foundation for three years, not to mention the two other rescue groups she helps.

The former federal government employee of 38 years was recruited by her niece, who told her about the organization and its need for temporary homes for dogs.

“Then they needed someone to work the adoption table at an event in Alexandria, and sometimes while I’m working the table, I’ll need to hold a dog or two,” she said.

McIntosh also helps bring dogs from other animal shelters to be examined by a veterinarian for Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation before their photos are uploaded onto the rescue’s website and they are made available for adoption. She



PHOTO BY AMBER HEALY/ THE CONNECTION

Barbara Hutcherson and Marcia Tiersky help dogs out of the transport crates loaded into a van used by the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation to bring them to the 11 adoption events the rescue group hosts each weekend.

The Challenge: Joining Together to Save Animals

There are dozens of animal welfare organizations across the country working to secure “forever homes” for dogs and cats of all ages. And while there’s a general camaraderie amongst them, stemming from their common cause, what’s a little friendly competition amongst peers?

For the past few years, the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) has sponsored a nationwide contest to challenge shelters to see how many more animals they could adopt between June and August beyond the total the year before.

The idea was to “spur innovation, increase public support, empower staff and, most importantly, save more lives,” said Bert Troughton, ASPCA’s vice president and a leader of what has become the ASPCA/Rachael Ray \$100K challenge.

The organizations that adopt the most animals above totals from June to August the year before wins not only in terms of putting cats and dogs in loving, happy homes, but a sizeable chunk of change to save even more.

“We know that the contest can help save more lives in the long-term too, because all of

the added attention and support contestants earn during the contest can be harnessed for continued life-saving,” Troughton said.

ASPCA started the challenge in 2010, and in 2012, TV personality and animal lover Rachael Ray joined up with the organization, as she did again this year, allowing the organization to offer more than \$600,000 in prize grants:

A \$100,000 grand prize grant will be awarded to the organization that reports the largest increase in adoptions over the total from the year before. Other awards include a \$25,000 “community engagement award,” and \$25,000 to the first place finisher in each of five divisions, as well as \$15,000 to the second place finishers. Lost Dog is in eighth place overall and second place in their division as of Monday, July 22.

“It’s a whole lot of work and a whole lot of fun because every single life saved is a victory — regardless of who wins the grant prizes for the biggest increases,” Troughton said.

This year, 49 organizations in 30 states are competing for the grants, he said. To see the challenge details, visit challenge.aspcapro.org.

— AMBER HEALY

is so often called on to help transport animals, she recently purchased a new SUV purely because it can fit nine animal crates at a time.

“If I’m taking dogs and cats, I can fit a few in the front seat too,” McIntosh laughed.

She and her husband have three dogs of their own, including one, Rusty, who would fall under the knowing title of a “foster failure.” Rusty was supposed to be a foster dog, staying with the family in their Springfield home only temporarily, but soon became a permanent resident.

“The entire trip from the shelter, he stayed with his head on my shoulder,” McIntosh recalled. “He was found in a coal mine in West Virginia. We had him two and a half years.”

Her family tends to foster, or adopt, older dogs and currently has a 13-year-old Labrador/Shepherd mix named Glen who “doesn’t have teeth and is getting cataracts. We didn’t have plans for a third dog, but I’m past the puppy stage. He just wants to have a nice place to live,” and McIntosh and

her family are happy to provide him with that.

She continues to volunteer with Lost Dog “because I believe in them,” she said. “Sometimes it’s very crazy and frantic, but it’s an organization near and dear to my heart. It’s one of the best rescue organizations around. I’d do anything for Lost Dog.”

CALL HIM THE CAT MAN. Harry Shubin and his wife, Julie, know what it’s like to get sweet-talked into taking on more responsibility.

“Always a cat person,” Shubin, a Fairfax resident, was introduced to Lost Dog through a secretary at work when his family was looking to adopt a kitten after the loss of a cat he’d had for 16 years. He was more interested in adopting an older cat, but his family had other ideas. So they went to an adoption event. Within a little time, he had “managed to convince everyone that we should come home with an adult cat too.”

SEE VOLUNTEERING, PAGE 11

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Volunteering Saves Lives

FROM PAGE 10

It took a while to find the right cats, and Friday nights became the family's time to go to adoption events, chat with volunteers and spend time with the animals. During an adoption event about six months after they started going regularly, someone asked Shubin if he was interested in adopting.

"Before I could say no, someone opened up and said no, they're just volunteers," he said.

A year later, Shubin, officially a volunteer with cat adoption events at the Tysons Corner PetSmart, was asked to help find a cat volunteer coordinator for the center in the store, where cats sometimes live before they're adopted.

"We had about 30 volunteers at the time," and Shubin said he made it clear — at least to him — that he was not interested in being responsible for keeping track of which volunteers had which cats at which time. But something happened and, before he knew it, Shubin was put in charge of the cat volunteers, a team he now counts at about 400 people.

"I refused twice," he said with a laugh. He's not alone in being drafted to help out. His wife and daughter are both cat adoption counselors, meeting with prospective cat owners before paperwork is signed and formalized.

Other rescue groups might cringe at the thought of allowing an adoption to be made the same day people meet a cat, but Shubin believes that's the best way to go. "We'd rather adopt more cats to 85 percent perfect people than wait for that 99 percent perfect house," he said.

A RESCUE DOG MADE HER FAMILY COMPLETE. Since the age of four, Beth Howell has had a dog. She doesn't remember how she found Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation, but for the past eight

years, she's been helping with dog adoptions in Fair Lakes.

However, she's most grateful to the organization for bringing her dog Jill into her family's life.

After losing a dog she'd had for 16 years, her family went to a Lost Dog event with the idea of maybe someday adopting a new puppy. After spending upwards of two hours with the adorable pup, Beth Howell gave Jill a new home.

"She makes us smile all the time," Beth Howell said. Jill is a "blend" of breeds, the family found after having her DNA tested, just for fun. "There are traces of German shepherd, Yorkshire terrier, spaniel and about seven other breeds in there," all in a dog that weighs about 30 pounds.

"I always wanted to contribute in some way, and I love helping animals," Howell said of her inspiration for becoming a volunteer. She helps get dogs ready for some special events, including 5K races that sometimes serve as fundraisers or outreach events for Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation. There have been times when passersby have approached Howell to tell her they adopted their dog from the foundation, and how happy they've become.

MONEY WON EQUALS LIVES SAVED. All volunteers interviewed were asked what Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation's winning the \$100,000 challenge would mean to the organization, and the response was unanimous: winning that money would mean more animals could be saved.

Editor's note: Writer Amber Healy is an occasional cat volunteer with Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation.



Mason, a Lost Dog cat, strolls on a leash during an adoption event.

Lost Dog: For the Love of Animals

In 2001, there were too many dogs without homes and too few people to help them.

That wasn't acceptable to Pamela McAlwee and Ross Underwood, lifelong animal lovers who wanted to save dogs and cats alike from shelters where their futures were non-existent if they weren't adopted.

McAlwee and Underwood were a few years into running a gourmet take-out pizza deli on Washington Boulevard in the Westover neighborhood of Arlington, when McAlwee went to help a friend find a dog to adopt. While visiting a shelter, she saw six dogs that were about to be put down within a few days. She promptly took all six home that night. She got them spayed or neutered and cleaned up and put a classified ad in a newspaper, and in between orders for pepperoni and cheese and vegetarian pizzas, she worked to find good homes for them all. She did this several times, adopting dogs about to be euthanized and finding homes for them.

That's how the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation was born, out of the take-out phone number for what's now the original location of the Lost Dog Cafe. McAlwee had worked with other rescue groups before, but she wanted to focus more on finding good homes for the animals instead of waiting for a "perfect" placement. The rescue group started with 25 dogs.

Now there are 150 dogs at a ranch in Sumerduck, Va., owned by Lost Dog, as the rescue organization is known, along with 20 cats and an assortment of other animals, including a horse. Other dogs and cats live with fosters — more than 100 dogs are currently in temporary homes until they're adopted.

How to Help

To learn more about the ASPCA/Rachael Ray \$100,000 challenge, find a new pet, donate or volunteer with the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation, go to www.lostdogrescue.org.

"It's amazing what we accomplish with an all-volunteer base," said Barbara Hutcherson, Lost Dog's adoptions coordinator.

Lost Dog is the only organization in Northern Virginia participating in the ASPCA challenge. The rescue had to verify its numbers and qualify in order to

participate, proving the volunteer base and "the commitment to really take this challenge and run with it," Hutcherson said.

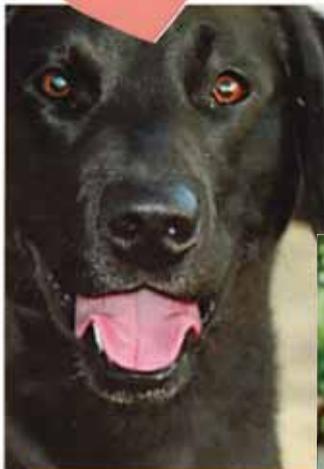
If Lost Dog wins one of the grants provided through the challenge, the winnings likely will be used for vet bills. "It's difficult when you're looking at a list of shelter animals and you have to ask if you can afford the big vet bill for one animal" compared to smaller fees for multiple animals, Hutcherson said. "We want to take them all. It's uncomfortable, but we want to do every single thing we can."

Funding for the rescue comes from adoption fees, donations, and from proceeds from the four Lost Dog Cafe locations across Northern Virginia and the Stray Cat Cafe, next to the original Lost Dog Cafe in Westover.

— AMBER HEALY

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SPORTS

Setting Records Straight

Fairfax Station resident Brandon Fabian (age group 13-14) broke four Colonial Swim League (CSL) Yard records this summer, swimming for the Barrington Blue Fins Swim Team.

On June 22, Brandon swam the 50-yard Backstroke with a time of 26.73 seconds beating a record set in July 2008. On July 13, Brandon surpassed two CSL records that stood for 34 years. He swam the 50-yard Butterfly with a time of 24.87 seconds, beating the record that was set in June 1979. He broke this record twice this summer, with this being his best time. Also on July 13, Brandon swam the 50-yard Freestyle with a time of 22.95, beating the record also set in June 1979. This season, Brandon also bested the 100-yard Individual Medley record set in July 2011, with a time of 56.60 seconds.



Brandon Fabian in a backstroke race.

Brandon Fabian is a rising sophomore at South County High School. On Saturday, July 27, Brandon will be swimming Freestyle, Butterfly and Individual Medley in the CSL Blue Divisional Meet.



The Northern Virginia Nereids synchronized swim team after they participated in the finals at Age Group National Synchronized Swimming Championship in Riverside, Calif.: Connie Polnow (Lake Braddock Secondary School), Monica Olivo (Lake Braddock Secondary School), Margot Baden (Woodson High School), Jackie Hafner (Robinson Secondary School), and Mikaela Voegelé.

Nereids Synchronized Swimmers 9th in Nation

The Northern Virginia Nereids synchronized swimming team just returned from the Age Group National Synchronized Swimming Championship in Riverside, Calif. The Nereids' team, Connie Polnow of Lake Braddock Secondary School, Monica Olivo of Lake Braddock Secondary School, Margot Baden of Woodson High School, Jackie Hafner of Robinson Secondary School, and Mikaela Voegelé, qualified for the finals event and finished as the 9th place team in the country. Angel Oh and Alex Marini

also joined the Nereids in the duet category. The Nereids had strong showings in all of their routines.

The Northern Virginia Nereids are based in Annandale and practice at Wakefield Recreational Center. Team members range from ages 8-16 and compete in various skill divisions. The team will have "Try Synchro" days in the fall for anyone interested in trying out the sport—all are welcome to join. For more information, go to www.nvnsynchro.com or email president@nvnsynchro.com.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL K. BOHN/THE CONNECTION

Thomas Lim of Moorpark, Calif., teed off on the 12th hole at Laurel Hill Golf Club on the first day of the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship on July 15. Laurel Hill was built on the grounds of the former District of Columbia prison, and one of the old guard towers is in the background.

College Athlete Takes Championship in Lorton

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN
THE CONNECTION

A U.S. national golf title was on the line last week, and outside of golf's inner circles, virtually no one knew about it. Jordan Niebrugge from Mequon, Wis. won the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship at Laurel Hill Golf Club in Lorton. Niebrugge defeated Michael Kim 1-up in the 36-hole final match on Saturday, July 20.

Three thousand players attempted to qualify for the championship at 71 sectional tournaments in June. Of those, 156 made up the starting field last week, and 36 holes of medal play produced the 64 golfers who began match play. After five rounds of matches, only Niebrugge and Kim remained.

The two players reached the 36th hole, the par-5, 599-yard 18th, with Niebrugge leading 1-up. Kim played first and went for the green in two, but splashed his hybrid approach. That allowed Niebrugge to play for a conservative par and the championship.

Niebrugge is a rising sophomore at Oklahoma State University. Kim, from Del Mar, Calif. and a rising junior at University of California-Berkeley, was the low amateur in last month's U.S. Open.

While the championship trophy is nice, another perk normally earned by the Public Links winner has a bit more spice—an invitation to the Masters next spring. When asked after the final match about playing Augusta National, Niebrugge said, "I mean, to play in it, I mean, it's just a dream come true, I

guess, for any golfer, any junior golfer, any amateur golfer."

The Public Links tournament is the fourth oldest national championship sponsored by the U.S. Golf Association, one that began in 1922. The USGA began staging the "Publinx" in order to offset its discrimination against non-private club amateurs that began in 1895 and lasted until 1979. Public course players couldn't enter the U.S. Amateur during that period, so the USGA created another championship for them.

Yet despite its history, the Publinx, will disappear in a year. In an unexpected move, USGA officials announced last February that they will discontinue the championship, as well as the Women's version, after the 2014 championships.

USGA vice president Tom O'Toole said in February that since the Amateur has been open to all comers for the past 34 years, the Publinx "no longer served that original purpose or mission."

But there are other forces at work. Applications to play in the men's championship have decreased in the last 15 years, partly because of increasingly stricter USGA handicap limits; entrants must have a 4.4 or better now. There aren't many 3- and 4-handicap players at Pine County Golf Course and Water Slide Park. However, there are plenty of college golfers with that kind of game.

The last 17 Publinx champions, including Niebrugge, have been college, or college-age players. The championship created for the working man is now dominated by "student athletes."

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Chong Nan Shin, President
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Public Notice – Environmental Permit
PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow the release of treated wastewater into a water body in Fairfax County, Virginia.

Public comment period: June 13, 2013 to August 26, 2013

Permit name: Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit – Wastewater issued by DEQ, under the authority of the State Water Control Board

APPLICANT Name, address and permit number: Colchester Utilities, Incorporated P. O. Box 379, Dunkirk, Maryland 20754, VA0029416

Name and address of facility: Colchester Utilities, Inc. WWTP 10609 Greene Drive, Lorton, VA 22079

Project description: Colchester Utilities, Inc. has applied for a reissuance of a permit for the private Colchester Utilities, Inc. WWTP. The applicant proposes to treat sewage wastewaters from residential areas at a rate of 0.080 million gallons per day into a water body. The sludge will be disposed by hauling it to Noman M. Cole, Jr. Pollution Control Plant (VA0025364) for incineration. The facility proposes to release the treated sewage wastewaters into Massey Creek in Fairfax County in the Potomac River watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. The permit will limit the following pollutants to amounts that protect water quality: pH, cBOD5, TSS, Ammonia as N, Dissolved Oxygen, E. coli, Chlorine, and Total Phosphorus.

HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing by hand-delivery, e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requester, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

Contact for public comments, document requests and additional information: The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ-Northern Regional Office by appointment, or may request electronic copies of the draft permit and fact sheet.

Name: Joan C. Crowther

Address: DEQ-Northern Regional Office, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193

Phone: (703) 583-3925 E-mail: joan.crowther@deq.virginia.gov Fax: (703) 583-3821

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Centreville~3BR, 2.5BA, 3Finlvl TH \$315,000
Bristow~4BR, 3000+FinSF, Backs to Woods \$460,000
Bristow~3BR, 3.5BA, Priv Setting \$420,000
Haymarket~BRAND NEW SFH, 4BR, Mtn \$300,000

We have other homes coming on the market soon! Call us for more details.



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FAIRFAX STATION \$714,900

Exquisite CROSSPOINTE colonial sits on a premium 1/3 acre lot backing to trees! 5BR, 3.5BA. Finished walkout basement with huge rec room & wet bar. Eat-in kitchen with granite counters & center island. See virtual tour at: www.8309CrosspointeDrive.com



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Fairfax/Fair Lakes \$199,900

Stonecroft Condo
Nice 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath condo. Second floor unit with Fireplace, Balcony, Storage room, Washer/Dryer. Close to Target, BJ's, Walmart, transportation.
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Just listed! This charming home offers 5 bedrooms and 4.5 baths on 5 wooded acres near historic Clifton. 4 fireplaces, dual staircases, hardwood floors, library, walkout rec room, screened porch, deck and sparkling in-ground pool. Very spacious (approx 4600 sq. ft.). Close to shopping and commuter routes. \$859,000



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Fairfax \$685,000
Fantastic Addition graces this colonial, sited on a cul-de-sac lot! You'll love the main house kitchen w/granite

counters, SS appliances, checkered floor, HW floors throughout & finished LL. Delight in the huge addition w/its 2-levels of upgrades, including HW floors, separate kitchen & laundry, 2 full baths & dream bedroom with a sitting room. Huge screened-in porch co-joins both residences!