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Retired City of Fairfax Treasurer Steve Moloney holds the plaque Mayor Scott Silverthorne (on right) presented him from the City Council.

Rescue for
Lorton
Arts Center

NEWS, PAGE 7

Burst Pipe
Could Stop
Woodson's
'Cavalry'

COMMUNITY, PAGE 4

Winter Fun, Food & Entertainment

ENTERTAINMENT, STARTS ON PAGE 8

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Debate Over School Budget Continues

Later start times, class size discussed.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

Later start times, class size, and cuts to needs-based staffing were major themes of the testimony given at the Jan. 27 public hearing on Superintendent Karen Garza's proposed budget.

Members and representatives of SLEEP in Fairfax, Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, Coalition of the Silence, and many other groups spoke at the public hearing.

Several SLEEP advocates at the hearing said that Fairfax County should follow the example of other school systems in the area and adjust middle and high school start times, beginning in Fall 2014.

Catherine Pournelle, an eighth-grader at Lake Braddock Secondary School, said most teenagers only get around seven hours a sleep per night, which leads to several problems while in school.

"I know from experience that this then causes us all to feel drowsy and not pay attention as well during morning classes. It especially becomes hard when homework piles up, causing us all to get to bed later and creating a spiral of sleepiness until the

weekend," Pournelle said. "Overall it does not create a healthy environment for leaning."

Stuart Orloff, a 10th-grader in Fairfax County Public Schools, agreed. "School is a great idea. Sure there are flaws, but it is an important part of growing up.

The problem is, I'm only half awake to experience it. In class, I can hardly focus because I'm trying too hard to stay awake," Orloff said.

Another concern several speakers have with the budget is the cuts to need-based staffing.

Coalition of the Silence co-founder and vice chair Dr. Lolita Mancheno-Smoak stressed the importance of closing the achievement gap in Fairfax County, which she said cannot be done with the proposed budget.

"We all accept the premise that education is the great equalizer. However, over the years, we keep seeing budget cuts that weaken the progress towards leveling the playing field for all children," Mancheno-Smoak said.

COTS co-founder Avis Catchings also spoke, and said that while COTS supports



Janet Laubgross and Fairfax County Public Schools student Stuart Orloff spoke in support of later high school start times at the public hearing.

PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS

some aspects of the budget, including the decision to pay teachers fairly, she is disappointed with some of its other aspects.

"This is about life choices for COTS kids. When COTS kids fail in school, too often they also fail in life," Catchings said. "Proposing any cuts to needs-based staffing when the FCPS student population has increased by the thousands, and when most of this growth is in our neediest communities, is just not a good choice."

Several students also advocated for children who are underrepresented and disadvantaged.

Alanna Brown, a ninth-grader at Lake Braddock Secondary School, spoke about the digital divide in Fairfax County.

Brown said she thinks that while digital textbooks are helpful, it is unfair for poorer students who don't have access to the internet at home.

"Although there are low-income students at Lake Braddock, I don't believe there are that many, but there are other places like Alexandria and other areas in Virginia that have many more poor students," Brown said. "Many of these students may not have access to the internet at home, and I don't believe it is fair that they may get bad grades because they can't do their homework because they don't have access to the internet at home."

At the hearing, Steven Greenberg, president of the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, praised Garza for her budget proposal.

"Dr. Garza's budget is the best lemonade anyone could possibly make, considering the rotten lemons we've been given," Greenberg said.

However, former school board member Tina Hone, a founder of Coalition of the Silence, said that the organization is struggling with the proposed cuts to need-based staffing.

"Even Jack didn't cut needs-based staffing," said Hone of the former Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Jack Dale.

West Springfield Renovations Still Years Off

Citizens question Capital Improvement Program funding.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

West Springfield High School freshman Rylie Smedley said her school's need for renovation doesn't impact her everyday life at school too much, but that repair is obviously needed.

"A lot of the bathrooms don't work," said Smedley.

It was this state of disrepair that led Eric Hawkins, a resident of West Springfield since 2001, to join other parents and community advocates in 2008 to create SOAR, a group dedicated to ensuring West Springfield High School renovations by 2016.

Fairfax County Public School's current Capital Improvement Program only allows for one high school to be renovated every educational bond, which is bi-annual.

This has led to a queue of schools in line to be funded for renovation. West Springfield renovation is due to begin in 2016, but Hawkins said this timeline negatively impacts students and teachers currently at West Springfield.

"Some classrooms are freezing cold while others are steaming hot on the same day. It is as basic as bathrooms not functioning properly, to huge temperature fluctuations in classrooms on the same day," Hawkins said.

"Most importantly, the school does not provide an optimal learning environment. The facility of West Springfield does not provide optimal learning environments and does not even meet the educational specifications of Fairfax County Public Schools."

According to Hawkins, schools in need of repair are forced to wait for years before renovation can take place.

"No Fairfax County high school facility should ever be in the situation that West Springfield is in today. The most unfortunate reality is that not only is it West Springfield. Behind West Springfield in the renovation queue is Oakton, Herndon and Falls Church," Hawkins said. "If you think forward, and you can only fund one of these every other year, you are literally saying that all of these other high schools are not going to be renovated until the mid-2020s."

IN 2013, the Infrastructure Financing Committee was created to discuss capital needs of both Fairfax County Public Schools and county government.

Hawkins said SOAR had been advocating for a collaborative group between the schools and the county for four years be-

fore it was finally established in 2014.

"We wanted schools and the county to work together to what we saw, even at that time, as an impending crisis of unmet and unfunded infrastructure and capital needs. Community groups like ours saw that impending crisis three or four years ago," Hawkins said.

SOAR has been working for the past four years with their elected officials, including Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity, a graduate of West Springfield High School.

Herrity said that it is problematic that Fairfax County has increased their debt by passing the storm water bond in 2012, but schools like West Springfield have still not been renovated.

"We told schools we don't have money and couldn't increase bonds for renovations, but then against the recommendation of staff, the storm water bond was increased in 2012," Herrity said.

Although West Springfield is on the queue to begin renovation in 2016, Hawkins said he hopes that the Infrastructure Financing Committee will address problems with the way schools are put on the list to be renovated now.

"Why has the school system communicated a goal of 25-year renovations cycles, if the county has never provided enough funding to make that goal attainable?" Hawkins asked. "The question we have for the Infrastructure Financing Committee is

how can the county invest more to resolve these unmet and unfunded capital needs, that have been termed a crisis and the biggest challenge currently facing the school system, and how quickly can incremental funding be provided?"

West Springfield PTSA President John Pastino, who has two children at West Springfield High School, said that although the school should have been renovated sooner, its faculty and staff, along with students, are what makes West Springfield a viable place to learn.

"The teachers and books are still the same, whether the infrastructure changes or not, you still have the same teachers, you still have the same books," Pastino said. "They've had issues over the past couple of years with maintenance. That obviously impacts the learning abilities of the students and the teachers to teach."

According to Pastino, West Springfield High School renovations will include larger classrooms, new windows, an increased parking lot size, and much more.

"We're being told it's going to look like a new school when it's done," Pastino said.

Hawkins hopes the IFC can make changes that will positively impact the timing of West Springfield's renovation.

"At the current rate, only children in second grade or younger will attend a completely renovated West Springfield High School," Hawkins said.

Federal Grand Jury Indicts Fairfax Man

Accused of producing child pornography.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A 46-year-old Fairfax man is facing more than a decade in prison after being indicted last week by a Federal grand jury in Alexandria. He is Padraic Collins, and he was indicted Thursday, Jan. 23, on a charge of production of child pornography.

According to U.S. District Court documents, he was allegedly found in possession of videos containing child pornography while he tried to cross the border into Canada. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Washington received information

from HSI Toronto regarding Collins at the Lansdowne, Canada Port of Entry.

He was arrested by the Canadian Border Services Agency and charged with importing and possessing child pornography files on a handheld video camera and a laptop. Authorities say the seven videos confiscated reportedly show Collins engaging in sexual activity with an underage girl.

HSI Washington, in coordination with HSI Toronto and the Ottawa Provincial Police, determined the identity of the 11-year-old child in the videos. Court documents state that she allegedly identified Collins as her abuser and confirmed the details of the sexual abuse.

According to authorities, the girl reported that the crime happened in Springfield. The indictment lists the alleged offense date as Dec. 18, 2011. It also states that the visual evidence documenting it was contained on

Collins's Sony Handycam video camera and his Dell Latitude laptop computer.

If he is convicted, Collins could be sentenced to anywhere from a mandatory minimum of 15 years behind bars to a possible maximum of 30 years. He's scheduled for arraignment this Friday, Jan. 31, at 9 a.m., before Judge Claude Hilton in U.S. District Court in Alexandria. His plea or trial date should be set at that time.

The investigation was conducted by HSI Washington, with assistance from HSI Toronto, HSI Buffalo, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Ottawa Provincial Police and the U.S. Marshals Service. Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Alicia J. Yass, a trial attorney with the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the U.S. Justice Department's Criminal Division, is prosecuting the case on behalf of the United States.

Dana J. Boente, Acting U.S. Attorney for

the Eastern District of Virginia, and Scot R. Rittenberg, Acting Special Agent in Charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), HSI Washington, made the announcement about Collins after the grand jury returned the indictment against him to U.S. Magistrate Judge T. Rawles Jones Jr.

This prosecution is part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood uses federal, state and local resources to better find, apprehend and prosecute people who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information, go to www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

Fairfax City Treasurer Given Fond Farewell

Moloney honored for three decades of service.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

It's always tough starting a new job. But when Steve Moloney became the City of Fairfax Treasurer, 31 years ago, things were far from ideal.

"The community had gone through a dark period," said Mayor Scott Silverthorne. "His longtime predecessor had embezzled money and was convicted. The next person held the job two weeks and quit because the office was in such a mess."

But Moloney tackled it with gusto, put things right and never looked back. And on Jan. 14, as he retired from three decades of public service, friends and colleagues honored him with a retirement reception at City Hall.

"Steve's been the consummate professional," said Silverthorne. "Not only did he run for this office like a politician, but he had deep experience in the finance-and-accounting profession. And this experience served both him and the city well."

Besides that, said Silverthorne, "Steve's one of the easiest-going, kindest individuals you'd ever want to know. He's extremely loyal to the city, his friends and family. It's no wonder he only had one opponent for the job in the whole 31 years — he was always re-elected by popular demand."

Councilman Michael DeMarco called Moloney "a great asset for the city and a great steward for our finances. He's a regular guy, approachable and smart, with a good sense of humor. He's a great guy to be around. We'll lose a lot of experience, but new Treasurer Tom Scibilia has been a CPA, a number of years, so he, too, will [do a good job]."

City of Fairfax Police Lt. Craig Buckley,

who's known Moloney 18 years, said how personable he is. "He always took the time to talk to the residents," said Buckley. "And when he looked at a sheet saying how much taxes someone owed, he knew that person. He made a point to get to know everyone in town and was available to everyone. He made it his mission to serve the public."

In the early 1980s, Moloney and former Fairfax Mayor Rob Lederer started a Neighborhood Watch together in their Fairchester Woods community. Later, said Lederer, "I recruited him to run for treasurer because he was a CPA and would take a professional approach. And he's been the one constant, stabilizing thing in City Hall for many decades."

"He's the best," continued Lederer. "He's ethical and friendly, and everybody in City Hall loves him." And Lederer thinks so highly of him that he recently made Moloney CFO and accountant of his trade association, EICC, dealing with the electronics industry.

Following the reception, Moloney was also feted at that evening's City Council meeting. Said Silverthorne: "It's a great honor and a privilege to recognize the outstanding work Steve Moloney's done as treasurer."

When Moloney was sworn in as treasurer, added Lederer, "He became the conscience of City Hall and the go-to guy. Steve's a dear friend and, for everything he's done, he'll certainly be missed; but the friendship will continue forever."

Working with Moloney the past six months, Scibilia noted his "calm demeanor" and acknowledged the big shoes he has to fill. "When I was campaigning and said I

SEE RETIRE, PAGE 14



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax City Council stands to honor former Treasurer Steve Moloney. Front row, from left: are Rob Lederer, Scott Silverthorne, Moloney, Page Johnson and new Treasurer Tom Scibilia.

'I Made It a Reliable Office'

Moloney reflects on his 31-year career.

BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Before Steve Moloney started college, his dad advised him to take business and accounting — something he could use in a future career. "I think he wanted me to spend his college money well," joked Moloney.

But it turned out that he was actually good at it and liked working with numbers and systems. He spent 10 years with the IRS, first as a field auditor and then in the national office. During that time, he earned his CPA.

Where Moloney made his mark, though, was with the City of Fairfax, serving 31 years as its treasurer. And during that time, he's seen a slew of changes.

"Thirty years ago, we didn't have PCs — just green screens and IBM cards," he said. "When I came in, the only way people could pay their real-estate or personal property tax bills was by mail or in person. Now, they can pay them online or via a lockbox."

People must be City of Fairfax residents to hold one of its elected offices, and Moloney had moved there in 1979, while

SEE MOLONEY, PAGE 14

Road Warriors?

A broken water pipe could mean no more home games for Woodson.



CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Tyler Wilson (40) and the Woodson boys' basketball team might have to get used to life on the road after a water pipe burst in the Woodson gym, rendering the facility unplayable.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Woodson boys' basketball team has one of the top home-court advantages in the region. The student section, nicknamed "The Cavalry," is known for its passionate support of the Cavaliers. However, Woodson's ability to benefit from playing on its home floor for the remainder of the season is in doubt after a broken water pipe in the school's gym has rendered the facility unplayable. The water pipe burst early Friday, Jan. 24, soaking the gym floor. Woodson Director of Student Activities Dan Checkosky said he spoke with a contractor on Tuesday and there will be an attempted temporary fix. The target date is Feb. 7, which is senior night for the Woodson boys' and girls' basketball

teams. It's also the night on which the school is scheduled to induct the second class in its hall of fame.

Checkosky said he's pleased with the assistance he has received from Fairfax County Public Schools.

"We're [trying] this quick fix," Checkosky said "... It might not necessarily work, but at least they're trying to help us finish the season."

The Woodson boys' basketball team lost a road game to Lake Braddock on Monday and beat Annandale on the road Tuesday, moving the Cavaliers' record to 13-4. Woodson was scheduled to host Battlefield on Friday, Jan. 31, but the game has been moved to Jan. 30 at Battlefield.

Woodson also has scheduled home games against Lake Braddock (Feb. 4) and West Potomac (Feb. 7). If the Woodson gym is not ready, the games will

be moved elsewhere.

As far as practice time, Checkosky said the Cavaliers will likely use the Fairfax High School gym, or other facilities, in the near future.

Woodson head coach Doug Craig said the Cavaliers can't let the situation become a distraction.

"We can sit there and let it define us and let it bother us for the rest of the year or we can just find a way to get it done."

— Woodson boys' Basketball Coach
Doug Craig

"It is what it is. It's nobody's fault, you can't do anything about it," Craig said. "You've just got to find a way to get it done. We can sit there and let it define us and let it bother us for the rest of the year or we can just find a way to get it done. It doesn't affect our end game, which is to play for championships late in the year and be the best team we can be in February and March."

Senior point guard Eric Bowles said home-court advantage is important to the Cavaliers.

"My initial thought was the home-court advantage, the student section — we have one of the best student sections in Virginia and that's going to really hurt us," Bowles said. "We can still play on the road well, but that home-court advantage is a key to us playing well."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MRS. GREEN'S NATURAL MARKET

Natural, Organic Store Opens in Fair Lakes

VIP guests and the store's "Vine Lady" joined the crowd, last Thursday, Jan. 23, for the grand opening of Mrs. Green's Natural Market in the Fair Lakes Shopping Center. From left are: James Zambora, director, Life with Cancer of Fairfax; Rick Hoffman, regional manager, Mrs. Green's Natural Markets; Rodney Lusk, director of national marketing, Fairfax Economic Development Authority; Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) and Jesse Hilliard, Mrs. Green's store manager.

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SPORTS



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax junior Rachel Barborek won the all-around competition at the Barbara Reinwald W-L Gymnastics Invitational on Jan. 25.

Fairfax's Barborek Wins All-Around at W-L Invite

Fairfax junior Rachel Barborek won the all-around competition at the Barbara Reinwald W-L Gymnastics Invitational on Jan. 25 at Washington-Lee High School in Arlington.

Barborek produced a score of 35.975, finishing ahead of West Potomac's Monica Thompson (35.425) and Washington-Lee's Sylvia Shea (35.275).

Barborek placed first on bars

(9.3), sixth on beam (8.725), seventh on floor (8.65) and tied for third on vault (9.3).

Washington-Lee won the team event with a score of 104.975, followed by Yorktown (104.95), T.C. Williams (102.95) and Mount Vernon (91.225). Fairfax finished sixth with a score of 88.225.

The Rebels will compete in the Conference 6 meet on Monday, Feb. 3 at McLean High School.

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OPINION

For Nonpartisan Redistricting

Virginia is a purple state, gerrymandered to bleed red.

Consider that in statewide elections, Virginia voters have chosen Democrats in the last two presidential elections, for U.S. Senate, for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General.

Almost none of these elections was by a wide margin, but it's clear that Virginia is a purple state leaning blue.

Here are the actual numbers:

2013

McAuliffe (D) 1,069,789; Cuccinelli (R) 1,013,389
Northam (D) 1,213,155; Jackson (R) 980,257
Herring (D) 1,103,777; Obenshain (R) 1,103,612

2012

Obama (D) 1,971,820; Romney (R) 1,822,522
Kaine (D) 2,010,067; Allen (R) 1,785,542

It's reasonable to assume that a state so evenly divided would be about evenly divided in political representation.

How is possible then that Virginia House of Delegates consists of 67 Republicans and 33 Democrats?

Why is it that Virginia's delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives consists of 11 Republicans and three Democrats?

The split in the Virginia Senate makes sense, a 20-20 split with a Republican Lieutenant Governor breaking tie votes the last four years and a Democratic Lieutenant Governor poised to break ties in the coming four years (pending this week's recount in the special election in District 6 to replace Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam).

Virginia's 11 Congressional districts should

be split about evenly. You could understand a split five Dems and six Republicans; or five Republicans and six Democrats. A four and seven split would smack of some unusual circumstance. But three and eight?

The answer is gerrymandering.

Both political parties have been guilty of this when in power, although new technology and better data have made the process more egregious, the effects more damaging.

Political parties should not control the drawing of political districts. Gerrymandering thwarts the will of the electorate. It is especially damaging in a Dillon rule state, like Virginia, where localities have only the power explicitly granted to them by the General Assembly,

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

BULOVA REPORT

BY DAVID BULOVA

DELEGATE, 37TH VIRGINIA HOUSE DISTRICT

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is hard to believe that we are already entering our third week of session. Floor debates are starting to get longer (and more interesting) as bills move their way through the committees. Sen. Chap Petersen and I are looking forward to sharing what is going on in Richmond and answering your questions at our Town Hall meeting on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 9-10:30 a.m., at the Fairfax City

Progress in Richmond

Hall. We hope you can join us.

I am also happy to announce that I will be holding my second annual Constituent Day on Monday, Feb. 17. We will meet at 10 a.m. and then visitors will get a behind-the-scenes tour of the General Assembly Building and the State Capitol. Send me a quick email at info@davidbulova.com if you are interested in attending.

I appreciate the many responses that I received regarding HB848, which would allow Dominion Virginia Power to assess a small additional fee to recover the cost of

undergrounding significant portions of its infrastructure to increase power reliability. The feedback was generally favorable — with a few important caveats. The first concern was to make sure that the benefits would be felt here in Northern Virginia and that we weren't simply sending money to other parts of the state. Dominion confirmed that over a quarter of the undergrounding projects will be here in Northern Virginia.

A second concern was that, if we are being asked to pay more now, customers should be able to share

in the long-term savings. While the more immediate payoff will be to businesses and residents in the form of quicker restoration time, customers will also enjoy long-term savings under the rate review process established by the State Corporation Commission. The bill passed the House 95 to 1 this past Thursday with me voting yes.

Another major issue on which I have received a great deal of communication is the proposed repeal of the extra tax on hybrid vehicles. The tax was part of the transportation funding compromise enacted last year. While I did not support the hybrid tax, I voted for the package with the understanding that we had a better chance of repealing the tax than having another opportunity to pass a comprehensive transportation bill. I am pleased to say the House voted to repeal the tax this past Thursday. The measure now goes to the Senate, where identical legislation has already passed.

MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM REFORM

This year the General Assembly is tackling much needed reform to our mental-health system. While the need for reform has been widely acknowledged, the issue took on additional urgency when Sen. Creigh Deeds was stabbed by his son, who then took his own life. Hours before the tragedy, the son had released from custody after a psychiatric bed could not be found within the state-mandated time limit.

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STEVEN G. ARTLEY/THE CONNECTION

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
fairfax@connectionnewspapers.com

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

Amna Rehmatulla
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
arehmatulla@connectionnewspapers.com

Victoria Ross
County Reporter
301-502-6027
vross@connectionnewspapers.com

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

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor
703-778-9410
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
[@jonroetman](https://twitter.com/jonroetman)

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
sales@connectionnewspapers.com

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

Karen Washburn
Display Advertising, 703-778-9422
kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic

Photography:
Deb Cobb, Louise Krafft,
Craig Sterbutzel

Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
[@TheismannMedia](https://twitter.com/TheismannMedia)

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Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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New Leadership for Workhouse Arts Center

Board of Supervisors continues to debate future success of center.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

Laura McKie, a volunteer at the Prison Museum at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center, said she doesn't expect the museum's everyday operations to change too much as Fairfax County takes greater control over the center.

"I think everything will carry on as normal," McKie said. He is referring to the Jan. 14 Board of Supervisors' decision, which will abolish the current Lorton Arts Foundation Board. Fairfax County will assume \$30 million in debt, settling the agreement with Wells Fargo Bank, which the Lorton Arts Foundation has entered into a debt of \$60 million.

Still, county officials such as Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herry question the Jan. 14 Board of Supervisors' decision. Herry, who was the only Supervisor who dissented in the decision, said that foreclosure could have been avoided, even without Fairfax County assuming the Foundation's debt. "We had more time and we didn't take it," Herry said. "This wasn't

our loan. We had no legal obligation to pay off this debt."

Braddock District Supervisor John Cook, however, said before the Board of Supervisors decision that if the decision to assume the loan was not made, foreclosure would have been inevitable. "The fact of the matter is, if this deal was not made today, the bank was going to foreclose on that loan this month, and we had to act," Cook said.

Cook said before the Jan. 14 vote that the Lorton Arts Foundation failed, something Herry disagrees with.

"The Lorton Arts Foundation didn't fail. They did the best they could with the situation," Herry said. He added that circumstances were tough, however, especially considering the location of the arts center.

"Even the Torpedo Factory in Old Town Alexandria isn't surviving," Herry said.

In 2002, Fairfax County purchased 2,440 acres of federal land, which was the site of the historic Occoquan Workhouse Prison, for \$4.2 million. In 2006, the Lorton Arts Foundation renovated the former prison into an arts center after approval from the Board of Supervisors. Chairman Sharon



PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

"However, like many nonprofits and businesses alike, the LAF has not been immune to the economic recession and slow recovery. Simply put, the past few years have proven an intensely difficult time to raise money for the arts, and the Workhouse Arts Center's operations have not generated enough revenue to cover expenses, especially debt it incurred for capital renovations," Bulova said in the statement.

Herry said he is opposed to spending \$30 million of taxpayer's money, and believes Fairfax County should look at longer term solutions. "We shouldn't be bailing out a bank because it made a bad loan," Herry said. "We should be looking at monetizing the surrounding land."

Cook, however, said that nobody is being bailed out with this agreement, and that the agreement was necessary to avoid litigation. "It is not true that there was no potential legal liability to the county. We own the land. We own the buildings," Cook said.

Lee District Supervisor Jeffrey McKay supported the decision in order to protect the county's investment in the Workhouse. "This is a county with over a million people. We ought to have an arts center in this county, but we ought to have one that is fiscally well-managed and controlled, and one that we have some lever of oversight with," McKay said.

Bulova has attended many events at the Workhouse Arts Center. McKie, who organized the "American Women: The Long and Winding Road" lecture series at the Prison Museum, said Bulova attended the first lecture and will participate in the event in March. "She is a big supporter of our program," McKie said.

Bulova issued a statement following the Board of Supervisors decision, stressing the economic difficulties faced by the Lorton Arts Foundation.

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WINTER FUN, FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

Staying Warm and Entertained

Check out GMU's Center for the Arts for winter fun.

Burke Residents have been interacting with members of the George Mason University Fairfax Campus for some time. One of the benefits of this relationship includes use of Mason's many cultural and entertainment events at the Patriot Center and the Center for the Arts.

In February, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra will be coming to the Center for the Arts, featuring conductor and violinist Pinchas Zukerman.

At Mason's Art and Design Building's Fine Arts Gallery, "Black and White and Thread All Over" will be displayed until Feb. 21.

The exhibit, arranged by Virginia Commonwealth University Professor Sonya Clark, uses textiles, combs and hair as a commentary on race, culture and identity. An artist lecture and reception will take place in the Fine Arts Gallery Feb. 4, 1:30 p.m. Other events at Mason include the Haifa Symphony Orchestra of Israel, Walnut Street Theatre's "Driving Miss Daisy," and Mark Morris Dance Group.

Ticket prices vary. Visit cfa.gmu.edu for more information.

Burke residents can also travel to the City of Fairfax for the 2014 Chocolate Lovers Festival, taking place Feb. 1-2. Learn more at chocolatefestival.net

— JANELLE GERMANOS



Under the baton of Maestro Boguslaw Dawidow, Haifa Symphony Orchestra of Israel will be coming to George Mason's Center for the Arts this Saturday, Feb. 1 at 8 p.m.

PHOTO BY D. NAGL

VIEWPOINTS

What do you like to do for fun in the wintertime?

— JANELLE GERMANOS



Rylie Smedley, 9th grader at West Springfield High School
"I like going to D.C."

Morgan Geer, student at South County Middle School
"I like drinking warm drinks and baking cookies."



Emma Henderson, 12th grader at South County High School
"The Gaylord Hotel Ice Sculpture is really fun to look at. It's nice being so close to D.C."



Violet Smith, student at South County Middle School
"My family likes to go skiing a lot."



Olivia Hoffmaster, student at South County Middle School
"I like hanging out with friends."

Jimmy Luehers, student at George Mason University
"I like to eat."



Derrik Marrow, student at George Mason University
"I like sleeping and relaxing."

Laura Jasso, educator, JCC of Northern Virginia
"I love to play in the snow and sled."



Erez Cramer, student at George Mason University
"I like to sled and hang out in the snow."

Winter Fun with Local History

Take a break from the cold to learn about the Franconia Museum and Laurel Grove School.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

If tired of spending another cold winter day at the movie theatre or bowling alley, try something educational for a change. Take a step back in time this winter by visiting the Franconia Museum, located at the Franconia Government Center on Franconia Road. This museum, founded in 2006, offers information about the Franconia area that dates back to the Civil War.

Pictures, artifacts and stories are abun-

dant in the museum, bringing visitors back in time to an era when life was simpler.

The Franconia Museum has a simple mission: to promote the heritage of the Franconia area. The museum is heavy in Civil War memorabilia.

THE HISTORICAL LAUREL GROVE SCHOOL, a couple minutes from the Franconia Museum down the road on Beulah Street, offers another historical glance at life in the area. Every Saturday in February, the museum is offering an open house with free admission.

Laurel Grove School was a one-room school house for African-American children in Franconia from 1882-1932. Visitors to the school can learn about what it was like to go to school with multiple grades in one room.

The museum curator, Phyllis Ford of the Fairfax County Historical Commission, will also be present to ask questions.

"We decided to have an open house every Saturday in February for Black History

More Information

Franconia Museum
Address: 6121 Franconia Rd., Franconia, VA 22310
Phone: 703-971-4984
Hours: Monday-Wednesday, 10-2 p.m., Saturday 10-2 p.m.

Laurel Grove School
Address: 6840 Beulah Street, Alexandria, 22310
Phone: 703-322-0833
Open House: February 1, 8, 15, and 22, 11-3 p.m., no admission fee

Month. We're mostly opening up for the community to tell some of the history of how the school got started, and talk about the history from slavery to the Jim Crowe Period," Ford said.

Visitors can see a map from the 1860s showing where families lived in the area.

"We are trying to get three women who went to the school to visit on Feb. 22," Ford said.

"On the other Saturdays, we will be showing a video of the women."

WINTER FUN, FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

Chocolate Lovers Festival in Fairfax, this Weekend

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

For anyone who likes chocolate, the City of Fairfax is the place to be, this coming weekend. The 22nd annual Chocolate Lovers Festival is Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 1-2, with tasty treats and fun-filled events for the whole family.

The Taste of Chocolate — which attracts visitors from throughout the Washington Metropolitan area — runs Saturday, Feb. 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 2, from noon-4 p.m., on both floors of the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive. Admission is free. Inside are a variety of chocolate cakes, all kinds of chocolate candies and bars, chocolate-covered strawberries, fudge, ice cream and even chocolate fountains into which customers may dip fruit, cake or marshmallows.

Visitors buy pogs for \$1 each and then browse around the vendors' tables to check out all the chocolate treats being offered. When they decide to purchase something, they pay for it in pogs. Strollers may be left on the building's front porch, and a fully accessible entrance is at the door on Main Street.

Vendors at this year's Taste of Chocolate include: BaTer Chocolates, C & D Sweets, Cakes by Shelby, Cameron's Coffee & Chocolate, Capitol Chocolate Fountains; Chocotenago, Cocoa Vienna, Confection Connection, Dave's Candy Kitchen, El Ceibo/Bolivia, Extreme Ice Cream, Fair Trade Winds, Fluffy Thoughts



One of the many creative entries in last year's Chocolate Challenge.

Cakes, Mike's Fudge, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Sugar Mama's, Virginia Chocolate Co. and Watergate Pastry. The Chocolate Challenge, a display of imaginative creations in chocolate — art, cakes and cupcakes — takes place at the Nutrition Kitchen, 3950 University Drive. It runs Feb. 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Feb. 2, from noon-4 p.m.

Both professionals and amateurs participate, and judges and visitors judge them in various categories. Visitors may also vote for the People's Choice Award winner.

Saturday's many activities kick off with the annual, Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast, from 8 a.m. to

1 p.m., at Fire Station 3, at 4081 University Drive. Then that evening will be the festival's first-time, "Chocolate and a Movie" night, featuring the original "Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory." It'll be shown at 7 p.m. at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Hwy.

For more information about the festival and a complete schedule of events, go to www.chocolatefestival.net or call 703-385-1661. A Chocolate Express will provide free, shuttle service between event locations. It'll run Feb. 1 from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Feb. 2 from 11:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Step Back in History While in Fairfax

As part of the Chocolate Festival, several historic buildings in the City of Fairfax will be open to visitors this Saturday, Feb. 1. They are as follows:

❖ **Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center**, 10209 Main St., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This structure was constructed in 1873 with bricks made at the Farr property across Main Street. The oldest brick, two-story school building remaining in Fairfax cost \$2,750 to build. Docents and volunteers now welcome visitors to stop in for chocolate goodies while learning about the city's colorful history. Admission is free.

❖ **Ford House**, 3977 Chain Bridge Road, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit the childhood home of Antonia Ford, a Confederate spy during the American Civil War. She provided Confederate military leaders with information gathered at her Fairfax home during the First Battle of Manassas.

When she was imprisoned, she fell in love with her Union jailer, whom she later married, and their son built the Old Town Hall. The Woman's Club of Fairfax created the exhibit at the Ford House, which is currently used as an office building. Admission is free.

❖ **Legato School**, Route 123/Chain Bridge Road, between Judicial Drive and Sager Avenue, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Learn about the noble heritage of chocolate and play some games at the one-room Legato School, the last of its kind in Fairfax County. It's been restored and is furnished as it was in the 1870s. Now operated as a museum, Legato School is located on the grounds of the historic Fairfax County Courthouse on Route 123. Admission is free.

❖ **Ratcliffe-Allison House**, 10386 Main St., noon to 4 p.m. The oldest standing house in the City of Fairfax depicts the lives of everyday people in 19th century Fairfax. And during the festival, it'll offer chocolate

treats. Built in 1812, it served a variety of purposes, including a stint as a cobbler shop.

The house is furnished with period pieces collected by one of its owners, the late Kitty Pozer, a famed gardener and writer who lived in the house until 1981. The Ratcliffe-Allison House features the exhibit, "Dr. Kate Waller Barrett: Mother to Many." The adjoining Kitty Pozer Garden may also be visited. Admission is free.

❖ **Historic Archives:** In the Historic Archives in the Fairfax Courthouse, people may view historical legal documents such as The 1739 Land Grant; a page from polling done around the county as citizens voted to secede from the Union; the Civil War Rule Book filled with graffiti from the soldiers stationed here; as well as original deed books, court-order books and images of pages from George Washington's will. The Old Courthouse will be open to the public for the first time since its renovation.

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WINTER FUN

Spend Winter at the Workhouse

Lorton's
Workhouse Arts
Center offers
activities for
friends and
families to enjoy.

BY AMNA REHMATULLA
THE CONNECTION

Spending your weekends at home on these blistering cold days becomes boring after a while. Bundle up and venture off to the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton for a range of activities such as viewing art exhibitions, watching theatrical classics, laughing out loud to stand-up comedy, and creating your very own dinner from scratch with an experienced chef. Here is a list of events going on at the Workhouse Arts Center at 9601 Ox Road in Lorton.



Nicole Aquillano's mug at Lorton Workhouse's International Ceramic Cup Show, "Drink This!"



Theo Uliano's mugs at the "Drink This!" exhibition. Don't miss your chance to view 71 works of art that offer a surprising sample of the many ways contemporary artists interpret the cup this weekend at Workhouse Arts Center.

American Women: The Long and Winding Road

In July 1917, suffragists incarcerated at Northern Virginia's Occoquan Workhouse initiated what became the final push toward women's voting rights. The Workhouse Prison Museum's five free public lectures trace the American women's equality movement from before the Civil War to the present.

Attendees must register online at www.WorkhouseArts.org. This public lecture will take place on Feb. 5 at 7:30 p.m.

2nd Saturday Art Walk

The 2nd Saturday Art Walk at the Workhouse showcases the diverse work

of more than 100 visual artists in a historic venue.

Guests can tour seven studio buildings, mingle with artists, buy original works of art, all while enjoying light refreshments and music.

These monthly events are perfect for family art outings. Admission is free. The Art Walk will take place on Saturday, Feb. 8 from 6-9 p.m.

Beauty and the Beast

Watch the classic Beauty and the Beast live onstage, where a self-centered

prince is cursed to spend eternity as a hideous and frightening beast, will he ever find the way to break the spell? Show dates are Saturdays, Feb. 1-March 1 at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$9 for children under 12 years old.

Limited seating is available so advance ticket reservations are recommended for this event. Reserved tickets may be collected at Will Call beginning 30 minutes prior to event, doors open for seating 15 minutes prior. Purchase tickets at <https://reservations.workhousearts.org/info.aspx?EventID=9>.

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.

SATURDAY/FEB. 1- SUNDAY/FEB. 2

Fairfax's Chocolate Lovers Festival. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive. Indulge in all things chocolate at this annual festival. www.chocolatefestival.net

SATURDAY/FEB. 1

A Broadway Valentine. 8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. The very popular Cabaret Series at the Workhouse will be exploring the romantic section of the Broadway songbook with a tribute to Valentine's Day. Tickets: www.workhousearts.org/

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WINTER FUN

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION



Eileen Weisiger of Annandale (far right) takes advantage of a snow day on Jan. 23 to paint pottery at Color Me Mine in Fairfax Corner.



Barbara Fisher, Elsie Benson, Nick Fisher, Lalita Hanshaw, Zack Cosgrove, Margo Milburn, and Margaret Eccles take advantage of a snow day on Jan. 23 to go to Color Me Mine in Fairfax Corner to paint bowls to contribute to Our Daily Bread Fairfax's Feb. 27 fundraiser. The paint-your-own pottery shop is a popular destination for families and friends.

Painting Pottery on a Snowy Day

Color Me Mine in Fairfax is a paint-your-own ceramic studio where adults and children can choose from hundreds of bowls, plates, mugs, decoration pieces and more to paint with all sorts of different colors. After you have painted your artwork,

the studio fires the objects in their kiln, and after a week customers can take their pieces of artwork home.

Color Me Mine is located at 4209 Fairfax Corner Avenue East, Fairfax. For more information visit, www.fairfaxcolormemine.com or call 703-803-7246.



Margo Milburn watches as Lalita Hanshaw paints a bowl at Color Me Mine in Fairfax Corner on Jan. 23. Both are members of Oakton United Methodist Church and are making bowls to contribute to Our Daily Bread Fairfax's Feb. 27 fundraiser.

Winter Fun in Lorton

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax Station and Lorton residents have the Workhouse Arts Center, Gunston Hall, and several other arts and historic sites at their disposal for winter fun this season.

But what about a winter activity that is somewhat off the beaten path?

Being outdoors and hiking can be just as fun during the winter months, and the Fairfax Station, Lorton and Clifton area has a variety of great trails to keep people active.

It may seem cold, but winter is a great time to go hiking. There are fewer crowds, and if bundled up, short hikes can be rewarding during the winter season.

The Bull Run-Occoquan Trail is a great option for some hiking. The 18-mile trail goes along the Bull Run and Occoquan Rivers.

"If you did the whole thing, you would spend anywhere from seven to 10 hours hiking, and you'll maybe see a house, or maybe see a car. The only other people you will run into are other people hiking on the trail. That's how isolated it is," said Brian Bauer, the marketing and communications director at Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.



For some winter fun in the South County area, bundle up and try a trail, such as this one at Occoquan Regional Park.

Authority.

Paul Gilbert, executive director of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, said the trail is a hidden treasure in Fairfax County.

"It's like hiking the Appalachian Trail.

Bundle up and enjoy the outdoors this winter.

views of the Occoquan River.

The park is also home to historic brick kilns, which were used to build bricks for the Lorton Workhouse Prison.

"I love Occoquan in general," said Lorton resident Hau Chu, 20. "It's just really nice."

Remember to wear layers, hats and gloves, wool socks, drink plenty of water, and bring high-calorie snacks.

For residents who don't want to brave the cold, there are several indoor events to keep busy, including the Workhouse Arts Center. The Workhouse Arts Center offers several events in the coming months, including comedy shows, art walks and more.

Residents looking for educational fun this winter can try the Prison Museum at the Workhouse Arts Center, which details the history of the workhouse as a prison throughout the 20th century.

There's also the 2nd Saturday Art Walk on Feb. 11, a free event that showcases the work of more than 100 artists.

This event also includes a nonperishable food drive for the Lorton Community Action Center.

Occoquan Regional Park is located at 9751 Ox Road, Lorton. It is open daily from 8 a.m. until dusk, Jan. 1 – March 17. For more information, call 703-690-2121.

Lake Braddock Boys' Basketball Beats Woodson

Bruins, Cavaliers have become Conference 7's top teams.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock boys' Basketball Coach Brian Metress stood down the hall from the Bruins' home locker room and praised Monday night's opponent.

"They're very good," Metress said about the Woodson Cavaliers. "They've beaten Robinson, they've beaten really good teams. I think they'll be there at the end. They're one of the top three teams in the region. We just want to be part of that."

"Woodson-Lake Braddock is becoming a big basketball game."

The Lake Braddock boys' basketball team defeated Woodson 56-50 on Jan. 27 at Lake Braddock Secondary School in the first of two regular-season meetings between what have become the top teams in the Patriot District/Conference 7. The Bruins improved to 10-3 while handing Woodson (13-4) its first conference loss of the season. Lake Braddock has dropped just one conference game — a controversial loss to Annandale on Jan. 10.

Woodson led 43-41 with six minutes remaining in the fourth quarter, but Lake Braddock took the lead for good with a 10-0 run, including three-pointers by freshman Corey Pelham and senior John Nice.

The Cavaliers pulled to within three with less than a minute remaining, but 6-foot-6 Lake Braddock sophomore James Butler grabbed an offensive rebound off a missed free throw and scored to extend the Bruins' lead to two possessions.

"It's one of those things where when the game is chaotic, certain guys can think, I might be able to get one here," Metress said about Butler's rebound and putback. "I think he was thinking all along, I might be able to get one of these. It was a big play."

Lake Braddock senior Will Gregorits led all scorers with 15 points. Junior forward A.J. Alexander and Nice each scored nine points for the Bruins.

Senior point guard Eric Bowles led Woodson with 13 points. Junior guard Jackson Boehman finished with eight, and senior forward Andy Stynchula and junior guard Trey Johnson each had seven.

Last season, Woodson beat Lake Braddock twice during the regular season and finished atop the district standings. The Bruins countered by beating the Cavaliers in the district tournament semifinals before capturing the program's first district title in a decade. Woodson went on to win the Northern Region title and advance to the state semifinals.

On Monday, Lake Braddock made more plays in the fourth quarter.

"It's always a big win," Alexander said of beating Woodson. "Last year, they beat us pretty good in the regular season, we came back and beat them in the



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock sophomore James Butler had a key offensive rebound and putback late in the fourth quarter of Monday's win over Woodson.

Patriot District tournament. They're a great team. Everyone is talking about them every year. Bowles is a great point guard — much respect out to him, he kept them in the game. It's a fun game. It's good playing competitive teams that can score on us.

"It's fun beating teams by a lot, but always good to have a good crowd-pleaser."

Woodson closed the second quarter with a 10-0 run and led 36-32 at halftime, but failed to widen its lead beyond six points in the second half.

"We had a chance to take control ... and it didn't happen," Woodson head coach Doug Craig said. "Give them credit. They made all the plays down the stretch and found a way to make enough plays to win the game. We had some opportunities and we didn't convert."

The Cavaliers and Bruins are scheduled to meet again on Feb. 4 at Woodson High School. However, a water pipe recently burst in the Woodson gym, leaving the facility unplayable. If the floor is not fixed in time, the game will likely be played at Lake Braddock or another facility.

While the Bruins got the best of the Cavaliers on Monday, Metress said there is still more work to be done.

"We're under no illusions," he said, "that this automatically gives us any more victories."

Mandela's 3-Point Play Lifts Bruins to Win

Lake Braddock girls' basketball edges Woodson.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

With her team trailing by two points late in the third quarter, Lake Braddock senior Caitlyn Mandela thought she was fouled on a shot attempt and informed an official of her displeasure with the no-call.

Mandela received a technical foul and Woodson capitalized by making one of two ensuing free throws, extending its lead to 30-27. Lake Braddock head coach John Giannelli had a talk with the forward before sending her back in the game.

"Caitlyn plays with a lot of emotion," Giannelli said. "Early in the year, I had her playing out at the [small forward] position and it was a little bit out of her game. Her game is more [suited for power forward or center] — the more contact, the more she's into the game and the more that fires her up."

"The thing with Caitlyn is her motor never stops. Sometimes I have to sit her down and say, let the game come to you instead of you go to the game."

Mandela didn't let the technical foul affect her aggressive approach. With the score tied in the final minute, No. 33 stepped up and made a play.

Mandela scored and was fouled with 33.9 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter. She converted the free throw and her three-point play proved to be the difference as the Lake Braddock girls' basketball team defeated Woodson 40-37 on Jan. 27 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

"I just saw an opening and took it," Mandela said. "I love driving to the basket."

The victory came three days after a 51-46 loss to Annandale and returned Lake Braddock to the winning side of .500 with an 8-7 record.

Woodson took a seven-point lead in the second quarter when a jumper by Jasmine Fasold gave the Cavaliers a 19-12 advantage with 1:50 remaining in



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock sophomore Caroline Jones scored a game-high 12 points against Woodson on Jan. 27.

the first half. But Lake Braddock responded with a 9-0 run in 87 seconds, giving the Bruins a 21-19 halftime lead.

No team led by more than four points in the second half. A bucket by Claire Swanson gave Woodson a 37-35 lead with 2:13 left in the fourth quarter, but Lake Braddock tied the score with a pair of free throws by Marcia Altman with less than a minute remaining and took the lead for good with Mandela's three-point play.

"Any time you get a win in the conference it's a big boost," Giannelli said. "I honestly think we stole tonight's game because I think Woodson played better than us. I absolutely think Woodson played better than us and we just stole it. To be successful during the season, you need to steal a couple games. I think that helps."

Sophomore Caroline Jones led Lake Braddock with 12 points. Altman finished with seven, Nirali Shah and Christine McGrath each scored six and Mandela added five.

Gillie Andes led Woodson with eight points. Swanson finished with seven and Tianay Zeigler and Caitlin Patrick each had six.

Lake Braddock will travel to face T.C. Williams at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 30 and will host Robinson at 5:45 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1.

Woodson defeated Annandale 34-30 on Tuesday and improved to 4-12.

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Progress in Richmond

FROM PAGE 6

A second issue is how to ensure that available beds can be easily identified. Currently, psychiatric services must be identified by calling individual hospitals and facilities — a process that takes a lot of time. Virginia has been working on a real-time digital registry for several years. This is an absolute priority and will be essential to ensuring that individuals in need are linked with services in the least time possible.

Finally is the issue of how to treat mental health in the long-term — both to reduce the prevalence of reoccurring mental health crises and to keep those with mental health issues from ending up in our local and regional jails. A jarring statistic is that about 24 percent of the inmate population is known or suspected to be mentally ill. Nearly half of the mentally ill population has been diagnosed with a serious mental illness.

I want to thank the many constituents who have sent me e-mails and letters to advocate on behalf of this important issue. If you are interested in seeing what kind of bills have been introduced this session, the Virginia Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Health Illness website has a tracking chart of all legislation broken into topic areas. You can download the chart at <http://namivirginia.org/Bill%20chart%20122.htm>.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance or if you have any questions. I will be sharing the preliminary results of my 2014 constituent survey at my Town Hall meeting next Saturday.

to \$125 million.

Another major change was getting the treasurer's office into the automated age. "We got new systems every eight to 10 years," said Moloney. "We're now in the process of installing a new one with more customer interaction. I've enjoyed working with the different software programs and tweaking them to make them better. I like to see things balance; and planning a new system, turning it on and seeing it work is pretty cool."

Toughest, he said, was telling people they had to pay penalties for late payments. "But 99 percent of the residents understand the benefits they get from the city and the value they get for their money," he said. "I collected it efficiently and made it as easy as I could for them."

34), saying Moloney has been "the gold standard by which public service is measured in the City of Fairfax." Next, Silverthorne presented Moloney with a plaque containing a photo of City Hall, as the audience stood and applauded.

Thanking his staff and recalling all the people he met at the bill-payment counter over the years, Moloney said Fairfax has been "a wonderful place to work. It's like one, big family and I thank everybody in the City of Fairfax for giving me this opportunity to serve them for so long. I've certainly enjoyed it."

Lack of funding is an important factor — and the Governor's introduced budget includes \$38 million for mental health. It is important to note that this infusion of funding essentially places Virginia at the same level of support for mental health services before major cuts during the recent recession. However, in addition to funding, there are important structural reforms that need to be addressed.

The area receiving the lion's share of attention is how long someone in crisis can be held against their will under an emergency custody order. It is during this period when a person is evaluated and a determination is made whether the individual should be held for treatment pursuant to a temporary detention order. Current law allows a person to be held under an emergency order for four hours, with the potential for a two-hour extension. If a psychiatric bed cannot be found in that time frame, the individual is free to leave even if the situation hasn't been stabilized.

According to a report released by the University of Virginia School of Law, it took more than six hours to find a bed in 3.2 percent of cases. That is a relatively small percentage, but it means that our system is failing a significant number of real people who are in the greatest need. While there is wide agreement that an emergency custody order should be longer than six hours, there is significant debate over how long that time period should be extended.

Moloney

FROM PAGE 3

still with the IRS in Crystal City. So when the treasurer's job came open, he applied.

"It was a better commute — just 2 miles — and the newspapers said the office was in disarray," he said. "I liked the challenge of getting it in shape and making it run smoothly." In his election campaign, he promised residents a "professional approach." He won and began work in 1982.

"I made it a reliable office so that, when people got a bill, it was correct," said Moloney. Any money the City of Fairfax receives — for tax payments, dog tags, water and sewer bills, parking stickers, etc. — comes through the treasurer's office. And this past year, said Moloney, it amounted

Retire

FROM PAGE 3

was running for city treasurer, people said they liked the guy they had now — so I had to add that he was retiring."

Revenue Commissioner Page Johnson worked with Moloney 16 years. Calling him a "great mentor and role model," Johnson said he'll miss their relationship.

Silverthorne told the audience that Del. David Bulova (D-37) sent Moloney his thanks and best wishes. The mayor then read a note from Sen. Chap Petersen (D-

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21 Announcements

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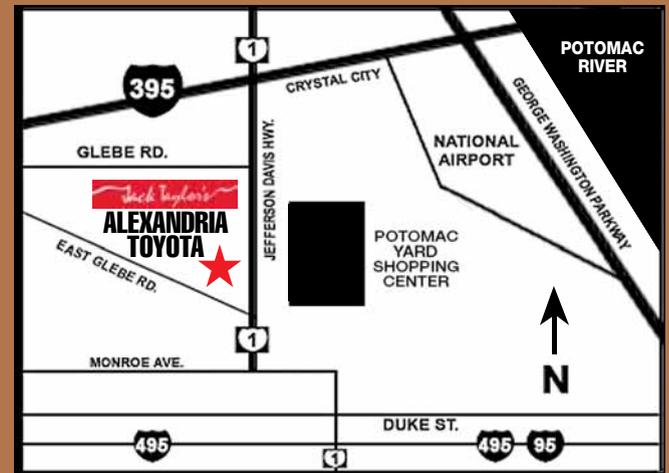
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