

COMMONWEALTH Cooling & Heating, L.L.C.

24 HR SERVICE

We can fix it today!
703-339-7739



"A *state* of comfort"

- **FREE Estimates on New Installations!**
- **FREE 2nd Opinion on Major Repairs!**
- **We Service All Makes & Models**

- **Heat Pumps**
- **Humidifiers**
- **Water Heaters**
- **Service Agreements**
- **Duct Cleaning**

- **Fully Licensed & Insured**
- **Flat Rate Pricing**

www.RepairMyAirConditioner.com

- **Air Conditioners**
- **Attic Fans**
- **Air Cleaners**
- **Furnaces**
- **UV Lights**

up to
\$1100 OFF
on Select Bryant
Equipment Only
bryant
Heating & Cooling Systems
With coupon. Not valid with any other offers. Limited time offer.

Service Agreement Program
\$140
Summer & Winter Check-Ups
Plus 15% OFF any Parts
With coupon. Not valid with any other offers. Can be applied towards diagnostic fees. Limited time offer.

The South County Chronicle

Lorton ♦ Mason Neck ♦ Fairfax Station
Clifton ♦ South Springfield ♦ Newington

May 2011

www.chroniclenewspapers.com

Volume 11 • Number 4

New Life Sought for Lorton Landfill

By Irma A. Clifton

The Fairfax County Department of Public Works is seeking input from county citizens to help them pull off the ultimate in recycling:

Inside

Clifton Home Tours Set
Page 2

Annual Charity Home Tour & Marketplace set for May 19

County Adopts New Budget, Approves Redistricting
Page 3

The Board of Supervisors last month approved a balanced 2012 budget and altered voting districts

Cricket Coming to Fairfax?
Page 10

A local cricket club's donation of equipment is part of an effort to spark interest in the sport

Establishing an interim reuse of the approximately 200 acres encompassing the closed landfill at Lorton.

The landfill was started in 1972 by the DC government on part of the property at the Lorton prison complex. In 1982 the operation was assumed by Fairfax County. The landfill was permanently closed in 1995, but continues to accept ash from the incinerator in a portion of the facility. The ash landfill is expected to close about 2042.

According to Joyce Doughty, director of the Fairfax County Division of Solid Waste Disposal and Resource Recovery, the Department of Public Works (DPW) is

considering a number of reuse options that would take advantage of available resources, provide mixed uses, promote energy efficiency and be easily removed to be replaced by long-term uses.

Reuse of landfills is not a new idea and a successful case lies just to the south in Virginia Beach. Known as Mount Trashmore, this 165-acre park, which opened in the 1970s, features picnic shelters, playground areas, facilities for basketball and volleyball, a skate park, trails, parking and restrooms. It is the most popular park in Virginia Beach, with an attendance of more than a million visitors a year. Kids'

continued on page 19

Groundbreaking at Mount Vernon

By Ruth Baja Williams

In a letter to a friend, George Washington once wrote of his wish to build a house to accommodate his military, civil and private papers "which are voluminous and may be interesting." More than two centuries later on April 14, 2011, dignitaries and other special guests gathered to break ground for a new library that would fulfill Washington's wish. The 45,000-square-foot facility will be named the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington.

In his keynote remarks, Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates under-

scored Washington's dilemma following the French Revolution with its ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity, even as he and Jefferson owned slaves. Gates likened Washington's struggle between idealistic and realistic approaches to the dilemma facing today's president with regard to how America should support democratic movements in the Middle East.

Although Washington's is probably the most familiar face in American history, many surveys and focus groups show that a majority of Americans know little about Washington's achievements and personality. It is hoped that

Congressional Honors for Student Artists



South County Secondary School student Kaitlin Baylie's "World Traveler," in colored pencil, was among the work hung in the gallery at the Workhouse from March 30 to April 17 for the 2011 Congressional Art Competition, 11th Congressional District. See story page 4.

the new Mount Vernon library will change this. It will house hundreds of manuscripts, books and other documents drafted and owned by Washington himself. All of Washington's written works, which number in the tens of thousands, are spread among collectors across

America. Eventually, the new library will bring them all together in a complete digital record.

The present library is housed within the administration building on the Mount Vernon estate. Mount Vernon's librarian Joan

continued on page 20

ECRWSS
Residential Customer
Local

Postnet Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
The Chronicle
Newspapers



Spectacular Mother's Day Buffet

Beef Filet, Baby Back Ribs & Shrimp

Seatings at 10 AM, 11:30 AM, 1 PM, 2:30 PM

Adults \$29 Children 4-10 yrs. \$12 • Call For Reservations

Certified Angus Beef • All Natural Chicken • Fresh Seafood • Grilling Over Wood

"A Winner"—The Washington Post • "Top quality at reasonable cost"—Potomac News

9000 Lorton Station Blvd, Lorton • 703 372-1923 • www.firesidegrillVA.com



Tell her on MOTHER'S DAY

VISIT OUR STORE TO FIND THE PERFECT GIFT



PANDORA™
UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

Gift with Purchase • April 22ND–May 8TH



Receive a PANDORA Ring Holder
(a \$35 US retail value) with your purchase of
\$100 or more of PANDORA jewelry.*

*Charms and bracelet shown on ring holder are sold separately.
Good while supplies last, limit one per customer.

Celebrate all of life's moments...
Embrace them, hold them and share them in charms, rings and
bracelets as unique and genuine as the women who wear them.

Experience at:

JEWELRY
By Design

2932 Prince William Parkway • By Borders Books
703.580.888 • www.JBD4U.com

Some of the jewelry displayed is protected by U.S. Patent No. 7,007,507 • © • All rights reserved • PANDORA.NET

Clifton Annual Charity Homes Tour Scheduled for this Month

By Irma A. Clifton

Life is quiet in the bucolic corner of Fairfax County called Clifton. That is what makes it a great place to visit to soak up history and step back in time to a lifestyle that has all but been lost in the midst of the hectic pace of Northern Virginia. The Clifton Com-

in the historic town of Clifton and other more contemporary estates in the area surrounding the town, as well as a log cabin dating back to the early 1800s. A newly completed barn at Paradise Springs Winery will serve as the site for a marketplace and silent auction.

The Fairfax House, dating to 1905, started out as a summer kitchen for the house next



Photo: Clifton Community Woman's Club

This log cabin at Paradise Spring Winery is more than 200 years old. It was added onto in 1955.

munity Woman's Club (CCWC) will give one a chance to experience life in the slow lane when it hosts the 39th Annual Charity Homes Tour & Marketplace on May 19, 2011, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Tour five tastefully decorated homes, some

door. It has been lovingly restored with respect for the past while undergoing the addition of two new wings. Another house, home to a local artist, shows the owner's love for colors. The home's bright-green

continued on page 19

**City of Fairfax
Antique Car Show
Old Town Fairfax**

**Saturday May 21, 2011
10:00AM - 3:00PM**
LOCATION: CITY HALL (Between Rt. 123 & University Dr.)
10455 Armstrong St. • Fairfax, Virginia
Historic Old Town Fairfax—A Sense of Place

Live Bluegrass Music & Food!

Presented by:
Northern Virginia Regional Group of the Early Ford V-8 Club
City of Fairfax
Downtown Fairfax Coalition
Valvoline

A portion of the proceeds are donated to the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, DC

Come See the Model-T Ford Reassembled in 15 Minutes!

Disassembled 1926 Model-T Ford... Getting it together... RIDE RUNS!

Saturday May 21st, at 1:00 PM

Don't Miss this Extraordinary Demonstration!
For more information go to: www.visitfairfax.com or www.nvrg.org • email: info@nvrg.org

NEWSBRIEFS

Board of Supervisors Adopts Budget

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors last month adopted a budget for Fiscal 2012, which begins in July.

The budget includes a real estate tax rate of \$1.07 per \$100 of assessed value, a two-cent decrease from the \$1.09 rate in FY 2011. With assessments generally rising, this means that most homeowners will pay the same amount in taxes in 2012 as they did in 2011.

The plan provides for a balanced budget based on a General Fund revenue increase of 1.97 percent from the FY 2011 Adopted Budget Plan. General Fund disbursements are projected to total \$3.38 billion, an increase of \$69.4 million or 2.10 percent from the FY 2011 Adopted Budget Plan. The budget includes the addition of 39 positions, including 12 state-funded school nurse positions, 20 federally funded positions to support mental health services, four additional positions to replace grant staffing support for the detoxification programs and three staff members for the expanded Reston Community Center.

The budget does not include funding for compensation increases for county staff. However, the Board directed the county executive to identify balances as part of the FY 2011 carryover review for the purpose of providing county employees with a market-rate increase, effective mid-October 2011.

The total county transfer to support School Operating and Debt Service is \$1.77 billion or 52.5 percent of total county disbursements. In its guidance on the budget, the Board supports the school board's efforts to fully implement full-day kindergarten within existing school resources in FY 2012.

Full documentation on the budget is available on the county's website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

County Adopts Changes to Voting Districts

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

on April 26 approved changes to the composition of several of the county's magisterial districts, and changed the boundaries of some voting precincts.

The precinct changes are:

- Bristow moves from Braddock to Mason District,
- Eagle View and Monument move from Springfield to Braddock District,
- Walnut Hill No. 2 moves from Providence to Mason District,
- Hunt moves from Mount Vernon to Springfield District,
- Coates moves from Hunter Mill to Dranesville District,
- Colvin moves from Dranesville to Hunter Mill District.

The precinct boundary changes are:

- Woodlawn Precinct is divided along Frye Road. Frye Road becomes the eastern boundary of the Woodlawn Precinct. The area east of Frye Road becomes a new precinct to be named Pinewood and then be included in the Lee District. The Pinewood polling place will be the Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School.
- Willow Springs Precinct is divided along Stringfellow Road to the north of Lee Highway. Stringfellow Road becomes the western boundary of the Willow Springs and the eastern boundary of the Powell Precinct. The area to the west of Stringfellow Road is included in the Sully District.
- Nottoway Precinct is divided so that the portion of the precinct that lies within the Town of Vienna becomes part of the Vienna No. 6 Precinct. That area is included in the Hunter Mill District.

Shiloh Baptist Church Celebrates 142nd Anniversary

Shiloh Baptist Church in Mason Neck will celebrate the unveiling of a historical marker and its 142nd anniversary on May 21 and 22, 2011. The marker commemorates blacks from the Mason Neck area and others who moved to Virginia from Maryland and formed a religious congregation in 1869. They built a log church on the north side of Gunston Road in 1878. The church cemetery remains at that location today.

The present-day church located on the south side of Gunston Road, a former county school building, was purchased in 1900, and has been incorporated into an expanded church structure. The church continues to enjoy good relationships and is among other notable attractions that are the center of community life on Mason Neck.

Festivities will begin on Saturday, May 21, 2011, (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) with a dedication day. The key event will be the unveiling of the church's historical marker presented by the Fairfax County History Commission as well as other dedication events, culminating with a barbeque at the church. On Sunday, May 22, 2011, there will be two worship services (10 a.m. and 3 p.m.) with dinner served between the services. For more information, contact the church at 703-550-8557.

Archaeology Group Partners with Park Authority

A memorandum of understanding was signed by the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Friends of Fairfax Archaeology

(FOFA) on Tuesday, March 15, 2011. The agreement formalizes FOFA's ongoing support of archaeological and cultural resource protection and education activities within Fairfax County in cooperation with the Park Authority.

Founded in 2009, FOFA works to publicize and expand volunteer opportunities for residents to participate in and contribute to archaeology and historical conservation in Fairfax County communities. Among other projects, FOFA currently supports the archaeological dig taking place at Old Colchester in Lorton.

Nature Nuts Program Launched

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA) and its foundation formally kicked off a new program called Nature Nuts last month at Hemlock Overlook Regional Park.

The Nature Nuts program seeks to provide a meaningful outdoor experience to half a million children over the next five years throughout Northern Virginia.

"A big part of the mission of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority is to 'foster an understanding of the relationship between people and their environment' and the Nature Nuts program is going to be central of our efforts in this area," said Paul Gilbert, NVRPA executive director.

The foundation has set up the Nature Nuts fund, which will support activities that further the goals of the program, including grants to help elementary schools defray

the costs of field trips to Hemlock Overlook, grants to help send kids to camp, the expansion of NVRPA's Roving Naturalist Program and more. For more information on the Nature Nuts fund or the kick-off event, contact Jenny Hofler at jhofler@nvrpa.org or 703-352-5900.

Chronicle Wins Press Association Awards

The South County Chronicle took first prize for Editorial Writing in the Virginia Press Association's annual News and Editorial Contest for 2010, with judges citing "Strong, well-constructed opinions on meaningful issues."

Publisher F. Lowell Curtis was cited for three editorials in particular: "The Purpose of Editorials," "Do We Really Need to Honor the Confederacy and All the Evil it Stood For?" and "The Political Silly Season Continues and Once Again, Cuccinelli Delivers."

The editorials, which were judged against similar newspapers from across the entire state of Virginia, were judged by an outside panel of experts, who noted that, "The Confederacy piece was the shining star of the category."

South County Chronicle graphic designer Kimberly R. Proffitt also took second prize in the advertising contest for her original ad designs.



Electric Sunday

May 22 & June 26

RECYCLE



Televisions



Computers and Peripheral Electronic Devices



Fluorescent Tubes and Light Bulbs

Fairfax County residents may recycle these materials either on

May 22 at the I-66 Transfer Station (4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax)

or on

June 26 at the I-95 Landfill Complex (9850 Furnace Road, Lorton).

Both events will be held from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

This is a FREE service for county residents. For event details, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling or call **703-324-5052, TTY 711.**



A Fairfax County, Va., publication.
For reasonable ADA accommodations, call 703-324-5230, TTY 711.



The South County Chronicle

Lorton • Mason Neck • Fairfax Station
Clifton • South Springfield • Newington

An Independent Newspaper

F. Lowell Curtis, Publisher

publisher@chroniclenewspapers.com

Commentary & Viewpoints Editor

viewpoints@chroniclenewspapers.com

Rob Garver, Editor

editor@chroniclenewspapers.com

Kimberly Proffitt, Art Director

Mike Collins, Business Manager

mike@chroniclenewspapers.com

Kathy Marinucci, Calendar/Staff

calendar@chroniclenewspapers.com

Eleanor Gomolinski-Lally, Staff

Dan Kelly, Advertising Sales

dan@chroniclenewspapers.com

7830 Backlick Road, Suite 403

Springfield, VA 22150

703-440-9550 • Fax 703-913-9520

The South County Chronicle is published monthly and is mailed to homes. It is mailed to zip codes 22039, 22079, 22153, and 20124.

Local Artists Win Awards Congressional Recognition

By Eleanor Gomolinski-Lally

The Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton was once again the location for the 11th District Annual Congressional Art Competition. This nationwide high school arts competition is sponsored by members of the U.S. House of Representatives and is open to public,

First-place winners' works are hung in the U.S. Capitol for one year.

private and home-schooled high school students. Eighteen schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties that are in Gerry Connolly's district participated this year. Last year 14 schools entered the competition with 79 works of art. This year 18 schools participated with 144 works of art submitted by 108 students. A great variety of media was represented—all types of painting, drawing, photography and computer graphics.

There were four judges who selected winners of the prizes: Henrik Sundqvist, artist and director of communication and programs for the Arts Council of Fairfax County; Adam Lister, representing Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts, artist and gallery director of the Adam Lister Gallery; Emily Hawes, artist and program chair of the Prince William Arts Society and Marti Kirkpatrick, artist and exhibition coordinator for the Workhouse

Arts Center.

Kirkpatrick said, "The judging process is one of the rewards of having this job." She enjoys judging high school students' work, seeing what they are thinking and how they evolve. She commented that there is not so much teenage angst in students these days and that they are expressing themselves in intelligent and mature ways. There is a new challenge for judges because of the new direction in art with computers, which is being embraced by many teens.

On Sunday, April 3, a reception was held to present awards to the prize winners. More than 200 family members, students, teachers and others attended. The first place prize of \$1,000, donated by the Arts Council of Fairfax County, was awarded to Kelly Teboe of Brentsville District High School. She said it took her about a month to create "The Wood Between Worlds," a mixed-media, ink

This year 18 schools participated with 144 works of art submitted by 108 students.

and watercolor piece. First place winners' works are hung in the U.S. Capitol for one year, where they are viewed by hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Capitol.

Second place went to Isabel Yun of Oakton

continued on page 18

Werkheiser to Head GMU Center On "Social Entrepreneurship"

By Eleanor Gomolinski-Lally

On March 30, 2011, George Mason University announced the launch of the Mason Center For Social Entrepreneurship, a university-wide multidisciplinary initiative in the social innovation movement.

Greg Werkheiser, founding director of the Phoenix Project, has been appointed as the center's inaugural managing director. Paul Richards, assistant professor of English, will serve as faculty director, and Philip Auerswald, associate professor of the School of Public Policy, will serve as senior scholar, both helping to engage scholars in the work of the center. Deans and faculty members in several departments will play a vital role in the center's activities.



Greg Werkheiser

A year-long planning process involved academic and administrative units, drawing on university-wide leadership. Programs in 2011 will set the stage for the center's active engagement in finding entrepreneurial solutions to urgent challenges facing the region, nation and the world, combining Phoenix Project programs, current Mason initiatives and emerging efforts.

Werkheiser describes social entrepreneurship as an intersection of ideas that can

He says historically public dollars have been invested without concern about how effectively they were being used.

improve world problems such as education, environmental issues and hunger, using sound business strategy. He says historically public dollars have been invested without concern about how effectively they were being used. He questions, "How do we take those ideas to market in a way that makes them financially sound and having greater impact?"

Werkheiser set out to answer that question in 2006 when he founded the Phoenix Project, a nonprofit organization with the

mission to ameliorate poverty in the most distressed areas of Virginia through innovative market-driven solutions not dependent on government funding. One such area is the Rte. 1 corridor in Fairfax County, where faculty members and students have helped nonprofit agencies. Werkheiser believes that applying business principles to nonprofit organizations and to government will make both more efficient and effective.

The Phoenix Project holds a six-week

For two weeks the students receive training from 25 practitioners in business and government on how to take ideas and put them into a business plan.

summer institute for 30 top undergraduate and graduate students chosen from across the nation. They come from many different disciplines, but have one thing in common: They all need a strategy. For two weeks the students receive training from 25 practitioners in business and government on how to take ideas and put them into a business plan. Then for four weeks they work with community leaders. The institute will continue as one of the new center's programs. George Mason University has already been involved in social innovation with faculty members who teach social entrepreneurship. They will continue their partnership with Ashoka, the global association of the world's leading social entrepreneurs. When the team and programs of the Phoenix Project join Mason, their years of experience will enable the center to do things they couldn't do alone. There will be an opportunity for Mason's research program to grow, providing faculty and students at all levels to be involved in helping a greater number of organizations. Immediately Mason will be on a par with other nationally recognized centers in the field.

The role of technology has been important in making ideas that used to be isolated known around the world. What works in one

continued on page 18



Weekends May 7 - June 5 10AM - 5 PM

Only \$9,
Kids 5 & under FREE

www.VaRF.org

703-508-5036



May 7-8 Scout Weekend

May 14-15 Shakespeare Fantasy

May 21-22 Pirate Invasion

May 28-29 Military History

June 4-5 Celtic Heritage

At the Lake Anna Winery, 5621 Courthouse Rd., Spotsylvania, VA

An Evening With Bluegrass Maestros Leon Morris & Orrin Star

Saturday May 14

Burke, VA ~ 8pm

Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church
10125 Lakehaven Court

See two of DC's most renowned bluegrass performers in their first Virginia concert appearance. Leon's strong singing and distinctive guitar & mandolin playing has been a beloved part of Washington's bluegrass scene since the 1960's. Orrin is a former National Flatpicking Champion also known for his dry humor. With exquisite harmony vocals and picking both hot and tasteful this is a duo you don't want to miss.

\$15 admission. 703-503-4579. For advance tickets email administrator@accotinkuuc.org
www.accotinkuuc.org • www.orrinstar.com

From *Design* to Construction Michael Nash... *does it all!*

Additions • Extensions • Kitchens • Baths • Basements

Design & Build



Call for a no obligation
home consultation.

Additions & Extensions

Two-Story Additions

Major Renovations

Total Kitchen Remodeling

Total Bathroom Remodeling

**Complete Basement
Remodeling**

**Custom Garages &
Screened Porches**

Sun Rooms

Custom Home Theaters

Custom Wine Cellars

Space Planning

Interior Design

Window Treatments

Windows & Doors

Custom Flooring

Faux Painting

Corian/Granite/Quartz

Follow us on:



Michael Nash®

Design  Build & homes

The Ultimate in Luxury

A Michael Nash Company

703-641-9800 • 8630-A Lee Hwy, Fairfax, VA

1 Mile West of Gallows Road, at Stonewall Square • Monday-Friday 9:00-6:00, Saturday 9:00-5:00, Sunday Closed

www.Michael-Nash.com

\$ 1000 Off

Complete Remodeling Project (Minimum \$25,000)
Present coupon at time of estimate. Not valid with any other offer. Offer expires 5/31/11

All Appliances at our Cost

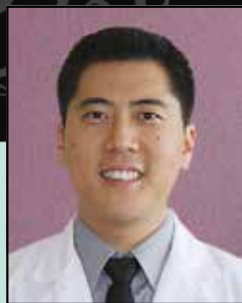
with complete kitchen remodeling
Present coupon at time of estimate. Not valid with any other offer.

We Don't Hurt!! Gentle Dental & Orthodontic Care

Complete Dental Services



Puja Ohri, DDS



Dan Lee, Orthodontist



Anuja Parikh, DMD

Preventative • Restorative • Sedative • Cosmetic
Orthodontic (Braces) • Invisalign
Periodontic (Gum Specialist) & Endodontic Care

Adult & Children's Dental & Orthodontic Services
Implants • Extractions • Root Canals • Crowns & Bridgework
Restorative Treatment • Dentures & Partials • Porcelain Veneers
Tooth Bonding • Sealants & Fluoride Treatment • Gum Surgery
Ceramic & Metal Braces • Bleaching

New Patients Welcome • 0% Financing Available

Serving the Community Since 1997
Evenings and Weekends by Appointment

703-349-3209

www.gentledentalpractice.com

8170-D Silverbrook Rd. • Lorton, VA

Just off I-95 at Lorton Exit #163, next to Comfort Inn



Remembering an Outdoorsman's Mom

Mark Fike

Finally we are seeing some really nice weather. Mother's Day is upon us and I am reminded how much my mother played a role in the outdoors and my upbringing. My mother stayed at home and raised us while Dad went to work. I learned and received so much from my mother while I was young.

These days, women are increasingly taking an active part in the outdoors. More women are hunting and fishing and shooting. That is great. My wife is mother to my two daughters and she is a big fan of hunting and shooting as well as fishing. My mother liked to fish, but she only went hunting once that I can recall and what a trip that was! She wanted to wait until she saw the squirrel before she even loaded the gun. When the squirrel heard that old break-action scattergun "clunk" open, he disappeared over the hill, laughing, I am sure.

Shooting was another big activity at our house. At a very young age all of us kids listened to my father explaining and reviewing gun safety with us. My mother watched, but rarely spent time shooting, but when she did, it was a lot of fun. Mom was very understanding of our desire to go shooting and we owe

her for being so. Despite all the hoopla about how dangerous guns can be and how bad it is for parents to allow their kids to shoot firearms, we never had any problems and I have yet to hear of anyone that I know who

has. Perhaps it was the way we were raised. We knew the rules and knew the consequences if we broke a rule. My mom may not have known much about firearms, but she kept us in line concerning the rules. We had a number of firearms in our house growing up.

I think the most important way my mother helped encourage my love of the outdoors was in cooking my catch or kill. If we brought it home and cleaned it,

she cooked it and we ate it. Not only did she cook it, but she ate it

as well and she cooked it in such a way that it tasted great. Mom always was willing to try something new. Groundhogs, squirrel, rabbit, frog legs and other things all found their way to our dinner plate. We always seemed to have great pies to go with dinner, too. A fresh apple pie or blackberry pie was a regular thing at our house in the summer. Mom can cook!



I think the most important way my mother helped encourage my love of the outdoors was in cooking my catch or kill.

We played some terrible jokes on Mom and she was almost always a really good sport about it. With three boys and a husband who was a kid himself, my mom had it rough when we got around to pulling pranks on her. Some pranks were unintended but just as frightening to her. One such prank that comes to mind involved frog legs. I had been frog gigging late one night. I came in, showered the muddy smell off and placed the skinned frog legs in a bowl of salt water in the fridge. The legs began twitching and kicking as I shut the door. It is a pretty gross sight, but considering it is just the nerves reacting to the saltwater, it is not so bad. A few minutes later my mother woke up and went to get a drink of juice. She screamed at the bowl full

With three boys and a husband who was a kid himself, my mom had it rough when we got around to pulling pranks on her.

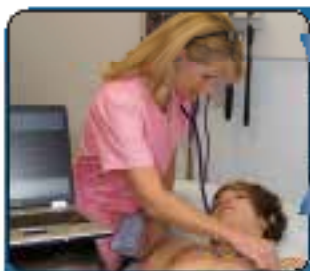
of kicking frog legs. I made myself scarce in a quick manner.

Another really bad prank we pulled on mom involved a snake. My father had caught a very large black snake and placed it in a paper sack. We all decided mom needed a gift so he rolled the bag top down and knocked on

continued on page 18



Lorton Urgent Care



Primary Care Service
& Extended Evening
Hours Coming Soon!

Flu Vaccine Available



Services

- ◆ Common non-life threatening diseases of adults and children
- ◆ Minor cuts and burns
- ◆ Sprains, strains, and simple fractures
- ◆ School, sports, and pre-employment physicals
- ◆ Workers' compensation injury management
- ◆ X-rays and labs on site
- ◆ Immunization services
- ◆ Travel vaccinations, medications, and consultations



7740 Gunston Plaza ♦ Lorton, VA 22079

703-339-5858 ♦ Fax: 703-339-5860

www.lortonurgentcare.com

We care for your precious smiles!



Precious Smiles of Virginia
Nahee Williams McDonald D.D.S., PC.

- Comprehensive Dentistry and Orthodontics
- Safe and Fun Environment
- After Hours Emergency Care
- Nitrous Oxide
- Caring for the Special Needs Patients
- Oral and IV Sedation
- Hospital Dentistry
- Insurances Accepted

Nahee Williams McDonald D.D.S.
Kenneth Hrechka D.D.S.

Eugene Lee D.D.S.

7841-F Rolling Road

Springfield, VA 22153

703-455-1339

www.precious-smiles.com



Dr. Peter Lanzaro and staff

Peter J. Lanzaro, D.D.S.

8918 Village Shops Drive
Conveniently located on the corner
of Silverbrook & Hooes Road

- Celebrating 20 years of family dentistry in the community
- Digital x-rays
- Teeth whitening options
- Introducing our new office manager—Tamyee White

703-690-0102

Fairfax Station



Physician's Laser & Skin Care Center
(703) 878-0694

*for your free consultation

MicroPeels
Vitalize & Rejuvenize Peels
Laser Hair Removal • Laser Skin Rejuvenation
Laser Vascular Treatments

SkinMedica & Jane Iredale

2296 Opitz Blvd. Suite 240
Woodbridge, VA

Receive \$15 in SPA BUCKS towards your product purchase
(This ad must be presented at time of purchase)

* Gift Certificates Available *

www.physicianslaserandskincarecenter.com

FREE Micropeel
with purchase of 1 Micropeel
at regular price
Not valid with other offers. Offer expires 5/30/11.

Free Botox
(up to 10 units) with the purchase
of Juvaderm (1 syringe)
Not valid with other offers. Offer expires 5/30/11.

Infectious Diseases & Travel Clinic

- Accepting new patients for Infectious Diseases
- Pre- and Post-Travel Counseling
- Travel Immunizations
- Malaria Prevention



- Certified Yellow Fever Center
- DNA Testing
- Immigration Medical Exams
- Travel Safety Products

Open from
9 a.m.-6 p.m. and
Saturdays
9 a.m.-12 p.m.

703-313-5060

6226 Old Franconia Rd.
Suite A
Alexandria, VA 22310



ROSENBERG
ORTHODONTICS

Dr. Jack Rosenberg, D.D.S., P.C.

Diplomat of the American Board of Orthodontics



At Rosenberg Orthodontics we feel that life is full of things to smile about. Orthodontic treatment is an investment that will provide a lifetime of benefits.



As a gift from Dr. Rosenberg, bring this ad with you and receive \$400.00 off your Treatment Plan!*

*Offer ends May 31, 2011

Please visit our Burke or Gainesville Locations. Call today for your Complimentary Orthodontic Exam, Digital Photographs and X-Rays.
6045 Burke Centre Park Way • Suite 202 • Burke, VA 22015 • (703) 250-2208
7504 Iron Bar Lane • Gainesville, VA 20155 • (571) 248-4355

Providing Comprehensive Women's Health Services

Our commitment is to state-of-the art, comprehensive obstetrics and gynecology services.



Marc C. Alembik, MD Allyse L. Weltman, MD Ronald A. Hatcher, MD Richard N. Jenet, MD Adonius M. Wright, WHNP-BC Stephanie Williams, MD Michael S. Lempel, DO Jennifer Folks, WHNP-BC

- Annual Examinations & Lab Testing
- Adolescent Gynecology
- HPV Counseling
- Contraception including Essure and IUD's
- Family Planning
- Obstetrics/Pregnancy Care
- 3D/4D Ultrasound
- Menopause/PMS Care
- DaVinci Surgery (the Latest in Minimally Invasive Surgery)
- Laparoscopic Surgery with no hospital admission and minimal incision
- Menstrual Disorders, including Novasure procedures



**ABOUT
WOMEN
OB/GYN^{PC}**

2296 Opitz Blvd., Suite 440
Woodbridge, VA 22191
www.aboutwomenobgyn.com
703-878-0740

Conveniently serving southern Fairfax Co. & surrounding areas
All Major Insurances Accepted
7am-5pm Mon-Fri • Sat & Evening appointments available

Featuring Invisalign



DR. DENNIS PRYOR, DMD, MS

Practiced Dentistry since 1979

specializing in Orthodontics since 1988

State of the Art Treatment with Metal,
Clear Ceramic and Invisalign Braces

Accepting Children & Adult Patients
No Referral Required
No Charge for Consultation

7493 Huntsman Blvd. • Springfield, VA 22153



703-455-1505
www.drpryoramd.com

"Excelling in Dance Education for 22 years"

DANCENSATIONS DANCE CENTER

One of America's Top Studios

Artistic Director
Professional Dancer Neo Lynch
Plus Exciting New Teachers

We Produce Great Dancers!

Dancensations' dancers can be found on Broadway, cruise ships, in professional jazz and ballet companies, and in music videos. Many have won college scholarships.

Experience Dancensations...

Award-Winning Teachers
Warm, Friendly Atmosphere
Monthly Tuition—No Contracts
Family Discounts Available

Dance & Cheer/Tumbling

Non-Competitive Classes—Preschool thru Adults
World Champion Competitive Teams
Tap · Hip Hop · Jazz · Cheer/Tumbling · Rhythm
Tap · Lyrical/Contemporary · The Best Ballet/
Pointe Program in the Area

Gymnastics Program

Non-Competitive Classes in a Fully Equipped Facility
Valentino Taguding, Director
NEW COMPETITIVE TEAMS—USAG Certified Coaches

Hayfield Shopping Center
7572 Telegraph Rd., Alexandria
703-719-9315

www.dancensationsdancecenter.com

Exciting Summer Dance & Gymnastic Camps

50% OFF Registration
(New students only, through 5/31/11)



LONG & FOSTER #1 in Virginia

703-451-9400 • www.longandfooster.com



ANNANDALE—\$850,000 THE 60-FOOT FRONT PORCH

Welcomes you to this charming 5BR, 4BA home. Remodeled and updated, the home offers a bright open kitchen w/granite countertops. 2 MBR suites, one on the main level, 1 one 2nd floor. Cathedral ceilings. Landscaped backyard features a beautiful in-ground pool & patio for entertaining.

WOODBIDGE—\$495,000 ENJOY PEACE & TRANQUILITY

In this lovely 5 acre retreat. 4BR, 3.5BA Fireplace in family room. Lower level rec room opens to backyard featuring hot tub and in-ground solar heated pool & private pavilion. Pellet stove in rec room. 2 stall horse barn/paddock with electric fence. A must see!



BURKE—\$825,000 CUSTOM BUILT COLONIAL

Situated on a beautifully landscaped property just shy of 1 acre. This home is decorated to perfection. The main level gourmet kitchen opens to a large family room with a fireplace. The upper levels 4 large bedrooms include a large master bedroom that features a cozy sitting room with its own fireplace & luxury bath. Don't miss the lower level's inviting Rec. room with fireplace & full bath!



ALEXANDRIA—\$599,000 PRICED BELOW ASSESSMENT

Large 5BR, 3BA home with 2-car carport, Remodeled Kitchen with granite countertops, family room addition on main level. Fireplace in LR, Fenced-in backyard. So much space for just fun living or entertaining.



BURKE—\$613,500 LOVELY COTTONWOOD COLONIAL



With 4BR, 2.5BA. Two-car garage. Fireplace in family room. Vaulted ceiling in the master bedroom. Lower level rec room opens to backyard. Convenient location with easy access to VRE & 495.

APPLEGATE TEAM

703-452-3909 or 703-452-3907
Jane.Applegate@LongandFoster.com
Connie.Forbes@LongandFoster.com
www.ApplegateTeam.com



Interested in a career in real estate?
Call Jon Wolford 703-452-3905

Tours | Cruises | Vacation Packages

Bart's Time for Travel, LLC

An At-Home Travel Agency
Serving Northern Virginia since 2005

Summer is approaching fast. Take \$50 off your next trip of \$1000 or more (excluding airfare, taxes, surcharges, gratuities, non-commissioned fees). Must be booked by 6/30/11

There is no service charge and Bart's personalized service costs no more than doing it yourself.

703-644-0010
www.bartstimefortravel.com
timefortravel@verizon.net

Pet De Lite

Gentle, Loving Care

Come and visit our clean environment for expert grooming, & special care for puppies. We trust that you and your dog will feel right at home.

8815 Telegraph Rd., Suite B
Lorton, VA 22079

703-339-4331
www.petdelite.com

\$10 OFF
Full Grooming
New clients only on first visit. Not valid on Saturdays. With this ad. Exp. 5/31/11.

Keep Your Car in Shape at Exline

Need to repair your car but concerned about the cost?

We finance your repair interest-free with The Exline Credit Card

- Fast turnaround—approval in minutes
- 0% interest for up to 12 months
- No annual fee
- Free nationwide roadside assistance



Join us on Facebook

to avoid the local construction of the Fairfax County Parkway extension.

Exline Automotive is trusted by many local cable and home security companies to provide fleet service on their vehicles. We will also advise you on what service you need to obtain optimal gas mileage from your car. We have been servicing the Springfield-Lorton community since 1996.

Ask about our FREE Courtesy shuttle to get you to your nearby home, office or Springfield Metro.

FREE Caring for the Community—Exline is a multiple award winner from DC Consumer Checkbook, United States Commerce Association and a local contributor to community organizations, schools and fundraisers.

If you feel that you need another opinion on some major work, talk to us. And, before you get on the road and travel this season, let us take a look. Your families' cars are a major investment, better safe than sorry. Call 703 440-8900 and talk to George or Liz Hall.

www.exlineauto.com



Moms, kids and everyone can relax in our clean and comfortable, newly remodeled waiting room featuring wide screen TV and FREE WiFi. State & Emission Inspections & Certified Emissions Repair Facility

Brakes • Shocks • Tires • Batteries • Tuneups • Engines
Transmissions • Alignments • Custom Exhaust • 30k • 60k • 90k Service & More! Extended Warranties Accepted



Nationwide Warranty
12 mos./12,000 miles



7661-A Fullerton Road, Springfield, VA 22153
We're on Fullerton Rd., 1 block off of Rolling Rd.

703-440-8900

Mon.—Fri. 7 a.m.—5 p.m.

\$15 OFF
Repair of \$100 or more
\$25 OFF
Repair of \$250 or more
Most Cars. With Coupon Only. Not valid with other offers. Expires 6/15/11 (SC)



\$2 OFF
VA Safety Inspection
\$3 OFF
Emissions Test
Most Cars. With Coupon Only. Not valid with other offers. Expires 6/15/11 (SC)



\$5 OFF
Oil Change Lube & Filter
Includes oil change with up to 5 qts. regular oil, filter, top off all fluids, adjust tire pressure, check belts & hoses & battery test. Most Cars. With Coupon Only. Not valid with other offers. Expires 6/15/11 (SC)



C.A.S.T. Players Learn More than Their Many Parts

By Ruth Baja Williams

Without a full awareness of the historical importance of the words they were speaking, cast members of the theater production "James Madison: Little Man, Big Ideas" gave two rousing performances on April 13. The theater piece with music co-written by Debra Kay R. Lindsay and Ronald A. Lindsay was performed by the Crestwood After School Theater (C.A.S.T.), featured 38 budding thespians with Brian Perry as James Madison and Kayla Cox as Dolley Madison. Gabriella Ramos was the principle narrator and mistress of ceremony.

While memorizing their parts, C.A.S.T. members learned about the writing of the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the heated debates surrounding those two historical events. Playwright Debra Lindsay said, "The production marks the 250th anniversary of Madison's birth and the 220th anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights."

Any audience member watching "James Madison: Little Man, Big Ideas" appreciates the efforts of young performers, yet not all in the audience can understand the obstacles many of the C.A.S.T. players must overcome.

Perhaps this is why, in a preperformance introduction, co-playwright Ronald Lindsay said that James Madison was a little man who had a lot to overcome. He was only five foot, three inches tall, not handsome, not a good speaker and was often overlooked.

Yet Madison is today named the Father of the Constitution and is known for being responsible for the Bill of Rights.

Crestwood Elementary School in Springfield is a Title I school where 80 percent of the students qualify for free or reduced meals. C.A.S.T. meets after school. Debra Lindsay said that C.A.S.T. has a lot of active parents

and volunteers who help with transportation. "Many parents right now are out of jobs, yet a planned trip in February was made possible. At \$29 per student some parents managed to come up with the fare. Volunteers and other parents donated the fare to make the trip possible for more students," said Lindsay.

Debra Lindsay is a regular music teacher at Crestwood Elementary School and directs all theater productions. She says that classroom teachers appreciate this because they have so much curriculum that must be covered and so much class time is taken up with testing.

Debra Lindsay has been writing plays for

continued on page 18



Fairfax Fire and Rescue Team

Deployment to Japan, March 2011, Following Earthquake and Tsunami Destruction

By Alexandra Seton

On March 11, 2011, news flashed around the world: Honshu, the main island of Japan, had been shaken by one of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded. Barely 15 minutes later, a 50-foot tidal wave—tsunami—smashed across the city of Sendai and nearby

The group assembled within the mandatory four hours following an alert.

towns along the Pacific coast, drowning thousands of people.

No stranger to disaster, the Japanese organized immediately. Calls from their highest political level to the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo formally requested help. President Obama issued the Presidential Directive to Deploy Overseas, which authorized mobilization of the only two U.S. search and rescue teams trained to assist with disasters outside the United States. Virginia Task Force 1 (VA-TF1) is an elite section of the Fairfax Fire Department; the California Task Force 2 is in Los Angeles.

The Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance immediately coordinated with USAID and Homeland Security, and an urgent message went out to 220 Fairfax firefighters and associated civilians: "VA-TF1 is currently on alert

for possible deployment to Japan following major earthquake and tsunami."

The 220 members of VA-TF1 grabbed bags kept packed with multiple sets of underwear, steel-toed boots, protective eyeglasses, gloves, baby wipes, sunblock lotion, skin cream, disposable razors. Clothing was chosen for layering, useful in the tropics—such as Haiti—or sleet and snow in Japan. Each retrieved his or her stash of parka, sleeping bag, hand tools and technical equipment, and the group assembled at the Fairfax Fire and Rescue Academy at 4600 West Ox Road within the mandatory four hours following an alert. Passports and immunizations were checked, personal bags were weighed—a maximum of 80 pounds per person.

The 72 VA-TF1 members from Fairfax were selected to deploy to Japan based on availability and areas of individual expertise, although all are extensively cross-trained. Civilians included three physicians; six canine

The 72 VA-TF1 members from Fairfax were selected to deploy to Japan based on availability and areas of individual expertise.

search specialists (two of them women) and their dogs; structural engineers and rigging specialists. Simultaneously, US Embassy personnel in Tokyo organized a base of op-

continued on page 19

Residential Concrete • Stoops • Walks • Patios

David E. Ratcliff
Concrete and Brick Work

Call Today!
703-339-7579
cell 703-244-5755

Driveways • Bobcat Work • Small Dump Truck Work

Do Your Ads Target Your Customers?

HIT YOUR TARGET!
Reach 60,000 homes

For advertising rates and information, call Dan Kelly 703-440-9550.

Chronicle Newspapers

Common Interest. Common Ground.

Vulcan Materials Company

As a local business for over 50 years, we share our fellow citizens' interest in helping our community prosper. Our materials have gone into hundreds of institutions, both private and public and have contributed immensely to the community and to the quality of life in Lorton. We are the nation's leading producer of construction aggregates.

Graham Quarry
10000 Ox Road, Lorton, VA 22079
(703) 690-1172

Amendments Proposed to Workhouse/Reformatory Historic District

By Irma A. Clifton

The District of Columbia Workhouse and Reformatory Historic District nomination, which was prepared in 2005 and added to the Virginia Landmarks Register in December 2005 and to the Department of Interior's National Register of Historic Places in February of 2006, is currently under review by the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) staff. This review was recommended in May of 2010 by the county board of supervisors to insure that the nomination reflects the property conditions as accurately as possible. DPZ maintains that changes have occurred on the property and that additional research has uncovered new information that may require amendments to the original document.

The revised nomination incorporates additional information not known at the time of the original nomination and updates changed conditions in the district. Additional information includes archival documentation from the District of Columbia Archives, site plans and photographs and specific studies for features such as the Laurel Hill House and gardens and the physician's house. Changed conditions include improvements to the former Workhouse as part of the adaptive reuse of the site by the Lorton Arts Foundation into the Workhouse Arts Center and development of parkland for community use.

DPZ staff stresses there is no proposed change to the current boundaries of the 511-acre National Register Historic District, nor is there any proposed change to the current Period of Significance which is 1910 to 1961. Some changes are minor description corrections, such as substituting *dormitory* for *dorm*, while others expand on previous areas of significance, for instance the importance of industrial operations to the prison.

Resources that were demolished while renovating the Workhouse as an arts center are noted, for example two staff residences, a facility maintenance building, two sawmill buildings and the original hospital building. Overall, a total of nine contributing and 28 noncontributing resources have been demolished and those are documented in the revised nomination. Also, four contributing and one noncontributing structures have been added, including a brick shed, a boundary marker, the stone pillar at Lorton and Furnace Roads and a security post. Noncontributing are two information kiosks designed and installed by the Fairfax County Park Authority.

The prison perimeter road and a small equipment shed adjacent to the Reformatory ball field were removed from contributing status.

At press time, the county is awaiting comments from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the Fairfax County

continued on page 19

Fairfax County's Sports Scene

Jiminy Cricket, What's This? Washington Warriors Donate Cricket Equipment to Fairfax County Schools

By Joseph Hight

What was that game Fairfax County physical education supervisors were playing at the Lanier Middle School gym on Jermantown Road on April 12? It looked like stick ball

The Washington Warriors donated cricket bats and balls to county middle schools.

with a paddle for a bat.

The physical education supervisors took turns as fielders, batsmen, bowlers and wicket-keepers in a game often described as second to soccer as the most popular sport in the world. It was cricket.

Peter Harty, a computer systems architect who lives in Fairfax County, remembers playing cricket after school on the village common in England when he was a boy. He said, "We would make bats out of pieces of discarded wood. We played with tennis balls, but when we were able to get a real cricket ball that was great, though hitting a hard cricket ball with a clunk of wood for a bat did hurt our hands a bit."

If all goes according to plan, Fairfax County middle school students will be able to play with real cricket bats. The Washington Warriors, previously known as the Himalayan Cricket Club, have donated cricket kits containing bats and balls to Fairfax County middle schools.

The Warriors began reaching out to local schools in the Herndon, Reston and Fairfax areas as part of a community outreach program. They have conducted cricket clinics in three middle schools, including one at Herndon Middle School on March 11, another at Langston Hughes Middle School (Reston) on April 8 and the one at Lanier on April 12.

Cricket probably originated in England in the 16th century. By the end of the 18th century it had become the national sport of England and eventually expanded throughout the British Empire. This English gentlemen's game is the most popular sport in the Indian subcontinent, which has a 1.5 billion population. It is a national sport in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

Suresh Neelapala, president of the Wash-

The national sport of England, cricket is wildly popular in the Indian subcontinent.

ington Warriors, tells of the recently concluded 2011 International Cricket Club World Cup, hosted in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. India beat Australia in the quarters, Pakistan in the semis and Sri Lanka in the final to win the trophy. The final was played in Mumbai, India, and was followed by more than a billion people all over the world. The upset of the tournament was Ireland defeating England.

continued on page 20

Home Remodeling: Don't Get Nailed

With the recession slowly fading, homeowners are tiptoeing back into the home improvement market and contractors are eager for business. According to Harvard University's Center for Housing Studies, remodeling expenditures will increase this year. This is due, in part, to an economy that is beginning to normalize along with the fact that consumers deferred upkeep and delayed projects during the recession.

No matter if you are interested in having a basement finished, your kitchen or bathroom updated or a room added, the end result can



vary widely. A key factor in ensuring a pleasant experience is the amount of due diligence you decide to perform prior to entering into a contract. While most contractors are honest and hard-working, others prove sloppy, incompetent or downright fraudulent. According to the Better Business Bureau

(BBB) home remodeling ranked as the No. 1 most-inquired-about industry and the No. 4 most-complained-about category in 2010. As compared to 2009, the number of inquiries

continued on page 21

It adds up to real money!
Discount Coupons
help you save every day.

Visit our website at
www.chroniclenewspapers.com
and click on RedPlum grocery coupons or Zip2Save for discount flyers and discount coupons.

Chronicle Newspapers

Chocolate Milk Returning to Schools

After a drought that made some school-age children unhappy, chocolate milk will return to Fairfax County Public Schools' menus on May 2. According to the National Dairy Council, children drink more milk when it is flavored. The council claims that chocolate milk is a healthful alternative to white milk and flavored milk contains the same nine essential nutrients as white milk. The council further claims that low-fat chocolate milk is the most popular milk choice in schools and kids drink less milk and thus get fewer nutrients if it is taken away.

So why did chocolate milk disappear from school menus in our county last January? In a word, obesity.

Head of Food Services Penny McConnell says that parents became concerned about the high sugar content of chocolate milk. Although known for organizing and loudly voicing concern around their children's welfare in the past, mounting complaints about chocolate milk arrived quietly in McConnell's office by e-mail. Parent concerns centered around the high-fructose corn syrup content in the chocolate milk served at schools.

Shenandoah Dairy in Springfield has developed a new, low-fat chocolate milk that meets the district's request to eliminate high-fructose corn syrup without adding extra sugar. The new chocolate milk had been taste-tested by Fairfax students. Shenandoah

Dairy's laboratory supervisor Mar

Vangardias worked at Shenandoah Dairy for seven years.

He says that the new chocolate

milk uses one-percent fat milk and contains lower fructose.

One second-grader who didn't want to give his name is delighted that chocolate milk is back. "Chocolate milk is the best drink. And the other drinks are more expensive." He's right. McConnell confirmed that the chocolate milk in the carton costs 60¢. Fruit juice costs 75¢. Fairfax County Public Schools serve no soft drinks.

According to the American Dietetic Association, more and more studies are revealing the benefits of chocolate milk. "Many sports doctors recommend chocolate milk as a recovery drink after a workout. This especially benefits children and teenage athletes for the calcium and vitamin D it contains." Could chocolate milk be the new sports drink?

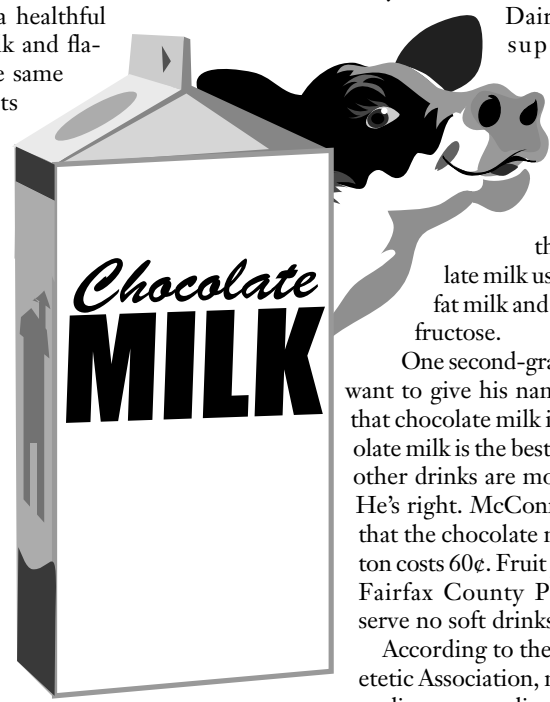




Photo courtesy of Columbia Artists Management Inc.
The National Acrobats of the People's Republic of China are one of the many groups set to perform during the coming season at George Mason University.

The Arts at Mason, a Peek at the 2011-2012 Season

By Trish Mandes

The 2011-2012 season at George Mason University's Center for the Arts was introduced on April 7. Approximately 110 guests attended the presentation at a luncheon in the Concert Hall. Representatives of the media, faculty and staff of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, members of the different arts boards and corporate sponsors were invited to the event.

After lunch, Associate Provost Rick Davis welcomed the crowd. "I'm pleased that we have a season which both engages the mind and enriches the spirit," he commented. "This season encompasses such a wide array of performances that I think we can truly claim to offer something for everyone—from the classical to the contemporary and spanning all kinds of performance styles."

Davis then turned the podium over to Thomas Reynolds, who is the director of Artistic Programming, Marketing and

Audience Services at both the Fairfax and Prince William campuses. Reynolds said he was "thrilled to reveal a spectacular season of performances that demonstrates the center's commitment to extraordinary diversity, with offerings this year including everything from a Mariachi band to the Mariinsky Orchestra."

Great Performances at Mason will offer nine series for subscribers to enjoy: Dynamic Dance, Magnificent Music, Global View, American Echoes, Enthralling Theater, Virginia Opera, Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel, Seasons Greetings from Fairfax and the unique All Music or All Dance series.

Faced with such a broad array of performances, some patrons may have trouble deciding which performances to attend. The Choose-Your-Own Series solves those problems. Subscribers may select tickets to as many different performances as they like, receiving both discounts and reserved seats.

Family-friendly tickets enable parents to take their children to these wonderful events at a discount, and students (K-grade 12) can purchase tickets for half price if they are accompanied by adults.

When artistic director Reynolds discussed

the season, he singled out two of the Arts at Mason's sponsors. HSBC, "The World's Local Bank," has underwritten the Global View Series, including the music of the Soweto Gospel Choir, Portuguese singer Mariza, the Kings of Salsa, the Ballet Folklorico of Colombia and the Gypsy Flamenco Dancers of Spain.

Steinway Piano Gallery of Washington, DC, will sponsor Jeffrey Siegel and his four Keyboard Conversations. This artist has performed at the Center for the Arts for 19 consecutive years. "He is as good a teacher as he is a performer," Reynolds explained. "He is delightful and enthusiastic."

"With more than 50 marvelous performances," Reynolds stated in his remarks, "the Center for the Arts endeavors to appeal to those who prefer the classics, as well as those who enjoy more contemporary and popular performances."

To receive a copy of this season's brochure, call 703-993-2787 or e-mail stagecfa@gmu.edu. Subscriptions may be purchased now, and single tickets will be available on Sept. 1, 2011. Don't miss an incomparable year of fun and beauty at George Mason University's Center for the Arts.

The Center for the Arts endeavors to appeal to those who prefer the classics, as well as those who enjoy more contemporary and popular performances.

Homelessness in Fairfax County

By Steve Rorke

You may have read a recent article in the Washington Post that reported on a large group of the homeless who were evicted from VDOT-owned property in Dale City. The group had been living in the area for several years and had created a large residential community. It is estimated that several hundred people were living in the community. They had established cooking facilities, sleeping areas, entertainment areas and even a pool table. They left without incident in less than two days. They had no idea where they would go.

Who are these individuals? They comprise about one-third of America's homeless population. They are substance abusers, those with mental health issues and those who want to live on their own. The former two groups do not wish to change their behaviors or at least think they do not. The latter are rugged individuals who simply want to live self-sufficient lives.

I became familiar with Fairfax County homeless populations living in wooded areas and parks many years ago. They came to my notice when an advocate who herself was homeless teamed up with a developer to keep campsites owned by the county open for the winter. Fairfax County had regulations closing campsites for winter months and the advocate and developer were trying to have the county change this policy. The campers were largely construction workers from West Virginia who came to Fairfax County to work construction during the week and went home

to their wives and families on weekends. They lived in tents owned by campers and carpoled back and forth each week. They could not afford the price of permanent housing in the county but they made a lot more income working in the county's construction jobs than they would on those same jobs in West Virginia. The county did not respond to their requests for winter camping so they found undeveloped property and continued their nomadic lives.

The numbers of homeless persons living in wooded areas has increased in recent years, hence the location in Dale City. They established communities with cooperative residents who largely get along. When I worked in Arlington, a large group was found under a bridge near Reagan National Airport. They even had living rooms set up. The executive director of a local nonprofit was a film maker who discovered a whole city of

homeless persons living in abandoned subway tunnels in Manhattan. They do not differ in composition from those in Dale City. Just in size and location. There are many more out there. Where will those folks from Dale City go? Not to permanent homes. Probably to other wooded areas where they will once again rebuild their homes.

The City of Los Angeles has embarked on a campaign to put their limited funding resources into serving the hardcore street dwellers. Why? Because they consume the highest proportion of the resources available to serve the homeless populations from federal, state and local governments.

They are the homeless who have been on the streets the longest amount of time. They are the most in danger of getting sick and dying in the streets. And they consume the largest proportion of funding allocated to serve the homeless.

Los Angeles County has adopted a resolution, unanimously recommended by business leaders, to permanently increase resources for a rapid increase in permanent supportive housing for all homeless veterans and the

chronically homeless. The plan, known as Home for Good, proposes reallocation of about \$230 million in federal, state and local resources to pay for a rapid increase in permanent supportive housing, which includes counseling and treatment for the most persistent street dwellers.

Although the chronically homeless make up just a quarter of the estimated 48,000 people who are homeless in Los Angeles County, they use a disproportionate share of services, including emergency hospital care and jail space. The shift in resources will eventually free up additional resources to serve families and children. Children

comprise the largest share of homeless persons.

So, where will the residents of Dale City go? To other wooded areas. They will find new homes and rebuild their homes. They will start over. Or they will leave the area and find new places to live. Evicting them does not solve their problems or ours.

Steve Rorke is executive director of the Lorton Community Action Center.

Lorton Community Action Center



Business Directory

Please let these businesses know that you found them in the Chronicle Newspapers! **703-440-9550**

CARPET CLEANING

**5 ROOMS
\$115**

Stretching & Repairs
* Mold Specialist *

24 Hr. EMERG. WATER DAMAGE

30 Years Experience Including the White House!

703-978-2270

IN-HOME CARE

PERSONAL IN-HOME CAREGIVER

Provides in-home care services to the elderly/disabled.

Performs a variety of compassionate services which are tailored to the needs of the client.

Call Diana at (703) 440-0189

Great references available upon request.



ELECTRICAL SERVICES

BEACON Electrical Services Inc.

Providing all your residential and commercial electrical needs.

703-367-0900

Limited Time Only:
Providing **Whole House
Electrical Inspections** for
ONLY \$35!

(\$225 VALUE: Receive a 3 page detailed report of our findings!!!)



Calendar

May 2011

Send calendar listings to Kathy Marinucci at calendar@chroniclenewspapers.com

EXHIBITS & SHOWS

1–27—“Around Town in Spring” will feature paintings and photography of local scenes done by members of the Springfield Art Guild. 2–4 p.m. in the Community Room, lower level at entrance #6, Springfield Mall, Springfield. (www.springfielddartguild.com/, 703-283-7264)

7 & 8—Train Display by the Potomac Module Crew HO members and Monty’s Legos will be up and running while N-gauge trains will be in the caboose. \$3, \$1 for kids. Sat., noon–5 p.m.; Sun., 1–4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Rd., Fairfax Station. (www.fairfax-station.org, 703-425-9225)

15—Northern Virginia N-Track Members will have a display and N-gauge trains running. \$3, \$1 for kids. 1–4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Rd., Fairfax Station. (www.fairfax-station.org, 703-425-9225)

21—Spring Craft Show will offer the works of about 30 local crafters—jewelry, pottery, art, children’s items, clothing, accessories, crochet and knit items, photography and a bake sale. Hosted by the Lorton Ladies Auxiliary. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at the Lorton Volunteer Fire Department, 7551 Armistead Rd., Lorton. (www.lortonvfd-auxiliary.com)

21—Youth in the Arts Day will feature Workhouse artists and teachers, plus select community student performing groups from local schools and arts groups. Enjoy performances, interactive artist demonstrations, arts and crafts. \$5 suggested donation. Noon–5 p.m. at the Workhouse Art Center, 9517 Workhouse Way, Lorton. (www.workhousearts.org, 703-930-8382)

FARMERS’ MARKETS

6, 13, 20, 27—Kingstowne Farmers’ Market. 4–7 p.m. at Kingstowne Center. (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farm-mkt.htm, 703-324-5390)

7, 14, 21, 28—Burke Farmers’ Market. 8 a.m.–noon at the Virginia Railway Express depot, 5671 Roberts Pkwy., Burke. (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farm-mkt.htm, 703-324-5390)

7, 14, 21, 28—Occoquan Farmers’ Market. 8 a.m.–noon at 200 Mill St., Occoquan. (occquanfarmers-market.org)

8, 15, 22, 29—Lorton Farmers Market. 9 a.m.–1 p.m. at the Virginia Railway Express depot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farm-mkt.htm, 703-324-5390)

PERFORMANCES & FILM

6, 7, 13, 14—“Once Upon a Mattress.” Rodgers and Hammerstein’s hit musical will be performed by the Northern Virginia Players. \$10, \$12 at the door. 7 p.m. at New Hope Church, 8905 Ox Rd., Lorton. (www.NVPlayers.com, 703-866-3546)

7, 8, 13, 14, 15—“How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying” is a witty and satirical take on the perils of both climbing the corporate ladder and inter-office romance. Performed by the Good Shepherd Players. \$10 and \$15. 8 p.m. (3 p.m. Sunday) at Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Rd., Burke. (www.goodshepherdplayers.com, 703-323-5400)

28—“Beautiful Losers.” This film focuses on the careers and work of a collective group of artists who in the 1990s began a movement in the art world using DIY aesthetics from skateboarding, graffiti and underground music. 7:30 p.m. in Gallery W-16 at the Workhouse Art Center, 9517 Workhouse Way, Lorton. (www.workhousearts.org, 703-584-2900)

MOTHER’S DAY

8—Chinese Tea Tasting & Chinese Brush Painting Demonstration. Treat your mother to tea and see resident artist and tea expert Darlene Kaplan give a Chinese brush painting demonstration, followed by a Chinese tea tasting. \$15–\$20. 1–3 p.m. in Gallery W-16 at the Workhouse Art Center, 9517 Workhouse Way, Lorton. (www.workhousearts.org, 703-584-2900)

8—Picturing Mothers. Learn period dance steps during the World of Women plantation tours (1:15 and 3:15 p.m.). Relax with a cup of tea and a pastry. For a separate fee, a silhouette artist will create keepsake images of family members (2–4 p.m.; reservations recommended). Free for mothers, grandmothers and

Friends of Gunston Hall. \$10; \$6 for ages 6–18; \$2 for ages 2–5. \$25 for families. Noon–5 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Rd., Mason Neck. (www.gunstonhall.org/, 703-550-9220)

GATHERINGS

8 & 22—Gunston Hall Conversations. George Mason’s family, friends and servants will discuss politics, play games and perform domestic skills in 1787 Virginia. Each session is different. \$10; \$6 for ages 6–18; \$2 for ages 2–5. \$25 for families. 2–4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Rd., Mason Neck. (www.gunstonhall.org/, 703-550-9220)

10, 17, 24, 31—The Wakefield Choral. In its 30th year, will practice, and new members are welcome (no auditions required). 7:30–9:30 p.m. in the cafeteria



at North Springfield Elementary School, 7602 Heming Ct., Springfield. (703-451-7917)

11—LCAC New Food Building Dedication Ceremony. Celebrate the new food building with Mt. Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland and other community leaders. Includes lunch. 12:30 p.m. at the Lorton Community Action Center, 9518 Richmond Hwy., Lorton. (www.lortonaction.org/, 571-642-0605)

12—National Foster Care Month Appreciation Event will pay tribute to foster parents and their children. 6:15–8 p.m. at the Adolescent and Family Growth Center, Inc., 8000 Forbes Pl., Springfield. (www.afgcinc.com, 703-425-9200)

14—Beautiful Garden of Prayer. Walk the meditative path and beautiful garden areas, absorb the peace and beauty of the grounds to get closer to God, enjoy the scriptures with other like-minded Christians. Suggested donation, \$40. 9 a.m.–1 p.m. at the Silverbrook United Methodist Church, 8616 Silverbrook Rd., Lorton. (www.silverbrook-umc.org, 703-690-4159)

20—Quiet Retreat Day. Walk the meditative path and garden areas to get closer to God. Enjoy the scriptures with other like-minded Christians. Suggested donation, \$15. 10 a.m.–noon at Silverbrook United Methodist Church, 8616 Silverbrook Rd., Lorton. (www.silverbrook-umc.org/, 703-690-4159)

MASON NECK STATE PARK

These events will take place at Mason Neck State Park, 7301 High Point Rd., Lorton. For more information, visit www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/mas.shtml, or call 703-339-2385, 703-339-2380. Parking costs \$3 weekdays, \$4 weekends.

7, 14, 21, 28—The Wonders of Nature will be enjoyed in this hour-long hike. Meet at the Bayview Trail head. 11 a.m.

7, 14, 21, 28—Pond Patrol. Use dip nets and buckets to catch minnows, crayfish and more as you check for life in the pond. Meet at the large pond by car top boat launch. 1–2 p.m.

7, 14, 21, 28—Makin’ Tracks. Kids can identify tracks from animals native to Mason Neck and make some of their own. Meet at the picnic area. 1:30–2 p.m.

7, 14, 21, 28—GPS Adventures. This mile-long hike will employ handheld Global Positioning System devices (provided) to search for hidden caches. For ages 6 and older. Meet at the visitors’ center. 2:30–4:30 p.m.

23—MOMS Club of Springfield will meet at 10:30 a.m. at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Pkwy., Springfield. (www.momsclubspringfieldva.org, 703-569-1357)

27—Quiet Retreat Day. Walk the meditative path and garden areas to get closer to God. Enjoy the scriptures with other like-minded Christians. Suggested donation, \$25, includes lunch. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. at Silverbrook United Methodist Church, 8616 Silverbrook Rd., Lorton. (www.silverbrook-umc.org/, 703-690-4159)

INSTRUCTION

11—“The Battle of Blackburns Ford, July 18, 1861: Prelude to First Manassas” will be explained by forum speaker Jim Burgess, a ranger and museum specialist at Manassas National Battlefield Park. 7:30 p.m. at

the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Rd., Fairfax Station. (www.fairfax-station.org, 703-425-9225)

11—David Snell, director of the NARFE Retirement Benefits Service Department and former chief of the Retirements Benefits Branch of OPM, will discuss benefits of federal employee retirees. The public is invited to this meeting of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association. 1:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield. (jkadelg@yahoo.com, 703 313-9387)

23—Art Camp Registration will open for 5–8-year-olds and 8 years and older for 4-week sessions starting in July. Sponsored by Burke Centre Conservancy at the Woods Community Center, Burke Centre, and a second Burke location. See website for details. (www.czartlessons.com, 703-250-6930)

GOLF

12—Foulger-Pratt/Lorton Arts Foundation 4th Annual Workhouse Golf Classic. Individuals and teams are welcome. Proceeds benefit the Workhouse Arts Center. Registration required. \$125, \$450 for team of 4. Hole sponsorship, \$250; contest sponsorship, \$750. 1 p.m. shotgun start at the Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Dr., Lorton. (www.WorkhouseArts.org, juliebooth@lortonarts.org, 703-584-2923)

23—Food for Others 8th Annual Golf Tournament will be a captain’s choice, best-ball format. It will start with a grilled lunch on the patio and will include contests and a gourmet dinner. Held by Food for Others. Registration required. \$175; \$700 for foursomes. Noon at the Springfield Golf and Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Rd., Springfield. (www.foodforothers.org/, 703-207-9173)

TOURS

14—Civil War Tour of Fairfax County will be led by Civil War historian and expert John McAnaw and will include the earthworks in Centreville, Mt. Gilead and other locations as well as a tour of Civil War weapons at the National Firearms Museum. \$30, \$25 for members. Sponsored by the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Reservations suggested. 8:15 a.m.–3:30 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Rd., Fairfax Station. (www.fairfax-station.org, 703-425-9225)

19–39th Annual Clifton Charity Homes Tour and Marketplace will include guided tours of six homes and a garden, a silent auction, boutique and an art show and sale by local artists. At Paradise Springs Winery, tour the historic log cabin and new barn, which will house local vendors and the silent auction. Box lunches (\$12.95; \$19.95 with wine) will be available at Paradise Springs Winery (703-830-9463) with an RSVP. \$20; \$25 day of the tour; \$10 for a single home tour. Proceeds support the charitable trust of the Clifton Community Woman’s Club. 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. in Clifton. (www.cliftoncwc.org, 703-322-1811)

OUTDOORS

14—Herb Festival. Learn how to grow and use fresh herbs. Sample herbal delights. Take home recipes and a free herb plant. Magazine editor Barbara Jacksier will lead plant and cooking demonstrations at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. (Rain date is May 15.) 10 a.m.–5 p.m. at Heather Hill Gardens, 8111 Ox Rd., Fairfax Station. (www.heatherhillgardens.com, 703-690-6060)

22—Woof Walk will include a 3-mile walk, silent auction, contests and food and vendor booths. Dogs will be available for adoption. Walkers get a T-shirt; dogs get a bandana. Preregistration suggested. Proceeds benefit the Humane Society of Fairfax County. \$20, \$25 day of the walk. 8 a.m.–1 p.m. at the Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, 7315 Ox Rd., Fairfax Station. (www.hsf.org, pets@hsf.org, 703-385-7387)

28—Annual Strawberry Festival. Enjoy barbeque sandwiches, hot dogs, chips, coleslaw, beverages, baked goods and strawberries served in many ways and topped with ice cream or other choices. Also offered will be strawberry baked goods and a basket drawing with an assortment of strawberry items. Take-out will be available. Proceeds benefit mission projects for the Methodist United Methodist Women. 11 a.m.–3 p.m. at the Cranford United Methodist Church, 9912 Old Colchester Rd., Lorton. (703-339-5382)

MEMORIAL DAY

30—“Hold Ourselves in Readiness.” Learn how George Mason created the Fairfax Independent Militia. Patriot & Planter mansion tours will highlight Mason’s role with the militia and in securing Virginia’s independence. \$10; \$6 for ages 6–18; \$2 for ages 2–5. \$25 for families. Free for active military personnel and veterans. 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Rd., Mason Neck. (www.gunstonhall.org/, 703-550-9220)

BOOK SALE

June 3 & 4—Book Sale will offer thousands of books in all categories as well as other media in this largest sale ever offered by the Friends of the Richard Byrd Library. Fri., 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. at the Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/rb/, 703-451-8055, TTY 703-324-8365)

LORTON COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER (LCAC)
& THE SOUTH FAIRFAX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



invite you
TO JOIN US ON
Wednesday,
May 11, 2011
AT
12:30 p.m.



FOR THE DEDICATION OF
LCAC's
new Food Pantry Building

& TO CELEBRATE
LCAC's dedicated volunteers

REMARKS BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 12:30 P.M.

PICNIC BUFFET LUNCH BEGINS

AT APPROXIMATELY 12:45 P.M.

The buffet picnic lunch is sponsored by Vulcan Materials and catered by American Bar-B-Que.

**** RSVP BY MAY 8 TO**

ANDREA@LORTONACTION.ORG OR

CALL 703-339-5161, EXT. 16**

Special thanks to the donor for their immense generosity which will enable LCAC to enhance its capacity for serving clients and do so more efficiently and safely. LCAC thanks everyone who helped bring this project to fruition including: Sandra Fedorshik, Supervisor Gerry Hyland, Fairfax County, LCAC Board of Directors, Mobile Modular, OTJ Architects, LCAC staff, Michael Romans and his crew, and numerous volunteers.

Vulcan
Materials Company



Lorton Community
Action Center

A Hand-up, Not a Hand-out.



\$50 OFF
List price of any
Miele Canister
Vacuum
OR
1 FREE
Hepa Filter
(\$70 Value)

With any Miele Canister Vacuum purchase

Broken Vacuum
Repair OR Service
Most Makes &
Models
\$29.99
plus parts
Regularly \$59.99
Please present
coupon before
service is
performed

With this ad. Expires 6/15/2011.

Free
Vacuum
Bags
Buy
One Pack
Get
One Pack
FREE

Excludes Miele, Kirby, Simplicity & Microfiltration bags. With this ad. Expires 6/15/2011.

KIRBY • PANASONIC • SHARP • MIELE • ORECK • ELECTROLUX • RICCAR • DYSON • ROYAL

VacuumZone

Fairfax/Chantilly/Centreville

Greenbriar Shopping Center

(behind Popeyes Chicken)

13057 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy #C

(703) 961-1000

Store Hours M-F 10-7; Sat. 10-6; Sun. 12-4

Sales and Service Guaranteed

Burke/Fairfax Station/Springfield

Burke Center

(left side of Kohl's)

5765 Burke Centre Pkwy #W

(703) 426-9010

We accept all credit cards

HOOVER • EUREKA • DIRT DEVIL • KENMORE • SEBO • RAINBOW • SANITAIRE • BISSELL

Herb Festival

Sample Herbal Delights &
Take Home Recipes

Sat. May 14, 10-3 p.m.*

FREE HERB for Every Customer

Huge Selection of
Unusual Perennials and Annuals

*Rain Date Sun. May 15



703-690-6060
8111 Ox Rd. (Rt. 123)
1/2 mile south of
Lee Chapel Rd.

www.heatherhillgardens.com

- **FREE ESTIMATES!**
(FOR REPLACEMENTS ONLY)
- **SERVICE ALL BRANDS**
- **SAME DAY SERVICE**

www.AegisAir.net

AEGIS AIR

AEGIS Means Trust, Prudence & Security®

COOLING

HEATING

385-3599

OFFERS THAT MAKE YOUR NEW SYSTEM AFFORDABLE

- **SERVICE AGREEMENTS ONLY \$109**
- **GAS & ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS**
- **ELECTRONIC AIR CLEANERS**



TRANE

It's Hard To Stop A Trane®

TRANE Instant Rebate

AIR CONDITIONERS HEAT PUMP SYSTEMS

For TRANE XL High-efficiency Systems

- Most Durable,
Safest & Quiet
- Variable Speed
Blower
- Super High
Efficiency:
From 13 to 19 SEER

30% Off
Replacement
Labor &
Equipment

Instant Tax Credit
\$500

Plus
Choice of
Instant Rebate
up to
\$1,000
OR

ZERO Interest for 36 months equal payments
OR

Reduced Rate of 5.9% with minimum payment of 1.75% of the ticket price

Designed to Save a Fortune on Utility Bills

\$1,000 Rebate applies only for XL20 Trane System (Heat Pump must include the Heat Pump with Air Handler & an Air Conditioner with a Gas Furnace). Other Trane Models have less instant rebates.

This offer cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 5/31/11

SPECIAL Service Agreements

only **\$109⁰⁰**

New customers only.
Expires 08/31/11

COOLING INSPECTION

(Maintenance & Tune-Up)

Air Conditioner or Heat Pump

**TROUBLE SHOOTING
SPECIAL**

A complete system
diagnosis!

\$64⁹⁵

USE THIS SPECIAL IF IN NEED OF
SERVICE OR REPAIRS

Travel distance over 20 miles add \$10
Service All Brands. Expires 8/31/11.

aegisair@hotmail.com

A World Full of (Bad) Choices Faces Players in “New Vegas”

About a year ago, I wrote about one of my favorite parts of videogames: making moral choices.

Games like “Mass Effect 2,” “Dragon Age” and “Fallout 3” allow you to shape the world around you as you act like a villain or a hero. Even a few first-person shooters let you make critical choices toward the end of the game that change its outcome.

But it wasn’t until I played “Fallout: New Vegas” that I saw how far this can really

go—and I wasn’t entirely comfortable once I got there.

In most games, the choices you make are related to how you progress toward a goal. For example, in “Dragon Age: Origins,” the game forces you to hire three factions as allies, but gives you leeway to determine which ones to pick. You could choose kind-hearted elves, or, if you are feeling nasty, savage werewolves.

It’s an important choice, but it only af-

fects which armies you bring with you to the final battle against the Archdemon. In other words, no matter what you do, the ultimate goal remains the same: defeating the Archdemon.

Similarly, “Fallout 3” lets you be a jerk to the radiated inhabitants of a post-nuclear war Washington DC, but in the end, you had to side with the Brotherhood of Steel in their fight against the villainous Enclave.

But “Fallout: New Vegas,” which plays almost exactly like “Fallout 3” in every other way, goes in a radically new—somewhat disturbing—direction. The game has three factions: the New California Republic, the Legion of Caesar and Mr. House, the mysterious operator of post-apocalypse Las Vegas. At some point, the game forces you to choose between one of those three players or, in a twist, essentially go to work for yourself.

This is not a minor decision. All four endings are wildly divergent from one another, although a couple share similarities. Here’s the other thing: none of them makes you feel

much like a hero.

At first, I assumed the game must have a good-guy ending where you did everything right. But no matter how many different ways I approached the game, I ended up doing something evil at some stage.

You may not appreciate how truly groundbreaking that is. Yes, games like “Grand Theft Auto” force you to play as a bad guy, but that is the entire point of the game. “Fallout: New Vegas” lets you almost

play as a good guy, but then pulls the rug out from under you.

To be sure, there is a bad guy in the game—the Legion, a group of soldiers who have devoted themselves to a charismatic leader styling himself as the new Julius Caesar. These are not nice people. They enslave women and children and pretty much crucify anyone who gets in their way.

“Fallout: New Vegas” lets you almost play as a good guy, but then pulls the rug out from under you.

It’s a credit to the game’s open-world, moral-free philosophy that you can help the Legion if you choose, allowing them to seize and operate Hoover Dam and enslave most of the population of the Mojave Desert. While I like that I had the choice, I hated actually playing that way. Among the many distasteful things I had to do was help a sub-faction embrace cannibalism (including killing their first meal) and assassinate the NCR’s president.

But if the Legion is the bad choice, what is the good one? If you work for NCR, its officials will ask you to do some pretty shady things, including murdering—in cold blood—Mr. House.

If you work for Mr. House, however, you will help the NCR take down the Legion—a good action—but then force the Republic to surrender Hoover Dam to the control of Las Vegas. Oh, and along the way, you will also have to wipe out the local chapter of the Brotherhood of Steel, the good guys from

continued on page 19

You’re Invited...to have your next great birthday party with our fabulous ponies!

- Affordable pricing and options for any budget
- Located in Lorton among rolling hills and tree lined pastures
- These fun and educational pony parties will be a hit with your children and their friends



Stables at Meadowood

Contact Allison Mills for more information
703-339-5813 • stablesatmeadowood@verizon.net



FREE EVENTS

Friday Nights in the Courtyard

Friday, May 6th 7-9pm

GOTTA SWING

“American Swing and Dance”

Friday, June 3rd 7-9 PM

CLASSIC ROCK LIVE BAND

“Celebrate the beginning of Summer”

Lorton Station Town Center

9000 Lorton Station Blvd, Lorton, VA 22079

Call 703-339-7506 for more information



Million Dollar Pottery Sale!

The best selection you have ever seen!



Japanese Maples 30% Off

Over 100 varieties from 6” to 10’



Shredded Hardwood Mulch
3 cubic feet
\$3.49



Impatiens
97¢
Reg. \$1.89



9023 Arlington Boulevard
Fairfax, Virginia 22031
703-573-5025

8 a.m. – 7 p.m. 7 Days a Week

www.cravensnursery.com
cravensnursery@gmail.com

Patios, Walls, Walkways, Paver Driveways, & So Much More • Free Estimates

Lorton Station Town Center

Medical Care & Services Minutes from Home

8000-9010 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton, VA 22079

Convenient South County location, easily accessible and with plenty of customer parking.



Dr. Christine Lee

Quality Care Right in Your Neighborhood

Seeing Infants to Elderly

Lorton Station Family Medicine

A medical home of Fairfax Family Practice Centers, P.C.

8988 Lorton Station Blvd, Ste. 201 • Lorton, VA 22079
Mon. & Tue. 8am-7pm Wed., Thur. & Fri. 8am-5pm

703.339.7550

www.LortonStationFamilyMedicine.com

Located in the NEW Lorton Station Medical Center

NOW ACCEPTING TRICARE INSURANCE



Dr. David Lee



*Specializing in Cosmetic,
Periodontal and Family Dentistry*

Lawrence D. Rosenman, DDS • Sara T. Brendmoen, DMD
Stephen C. Tupman, DDS • Ari J. Socher, DMD
Lisa A. Marvil, DMD, MHS • James W. Willis, DDS



Lorton Location
8988 Lorton Station Blvd. #101
Lorton, VA 22079
(703) 541-3110

Springfield Location • (703) 256-8554
5419 C. Backlick Rd. • Springfield, VA 22151
www.springfieldlortondental.com

Your Brand New Smile!



\$500 off
Full Set of Braces
Comprehensive Treatment

Some restrictions apply. Expires June 15, 2011.
Must present coupon at the start of treatment to receive the offer. Not redeemable for cash.



Orthodontics for Children & Adults

- Free consultations and flexible payment plans
- Quality, individualized care
- Weekend and evening appointments
- We accept most insurances • Specializing in second opinions

Swathi Reddy, DMD, Board Certified Orthodontist
9010 Lorton Station Blvd., Suite 260
Lorton, VA 22079
(703) 337-4414 • www.AllSmilesBraces.com

ADVANCED CARE FOR ALLERGY & ASTHMA RELIEF



Allergy & Asthma
Center of Fairfax

Dr. Andrew S. Kim MD
Dr. Seth C. Craig III MD
Board Certified
Adult & Pediatric Allergy,
Asthma & Immunology

Now Accepting New Patients!



9010 Lorton Station Blvd. #210, Lorton
703-339-1660

Visit us at www.FairfaxAllergy.com

eternal
med spa of lorton

703.339.1214
8988 Lorton Station Blvd, #103
Lorton, VA 22079



*Happy,
Mother's
Day!*
Don't forget
Mother's Day
Gift Cards

Hello Spring...

- 2 for \$150 - *Mothers Day Package*: Choose from a European Facial, Illuminize Corrective Peel or Aromatherapy Massage
- 5 for \$200 - Laser Hair Removal Package (Small Area)
- 5 for \$500 - Laser Hair Removal Package (Large Area)
- 2 Full Face IPL Photofacials for \$500
- *Sunless Glow* - \$135 Unlimited Monthly Spray Tanning

Call for a free consultation • 703.339.1214
www.lortonmedspa.com

*Offers valid through 04.30.11
restrictions may apply.

Gorgeous Floor Plans

The Woodlands luxury retirement community is now offering a limited number of apartments at **REDUCED PRICES!** So it's a perfect time to select your ideal apartment. If you act now, you can receive tremendous financial savings and begin enjoying the freedom, friendship and excellent service that our community is known for.

The floor plan below shows a **lovely two-bedroom, two-and-a-half bath apartment** with a separate dining room and library, plenty of walk-in closet space, your own laundry, and a total of **1894 square feet**. Should you desire a different layout, we have **several other floor plans from which to choose** – all in excellent locations.

Our apartment floor plans give you a small idea of just how spacious and lovely The Woodlands residences are. Please do yourself a favor and contact us today for an opportunity to see for yourself. We invite you to call today and arrange a convenient appointment. You'll see for yourself why we say there's a beautiful apartment in your future here at **The Woodlands**.

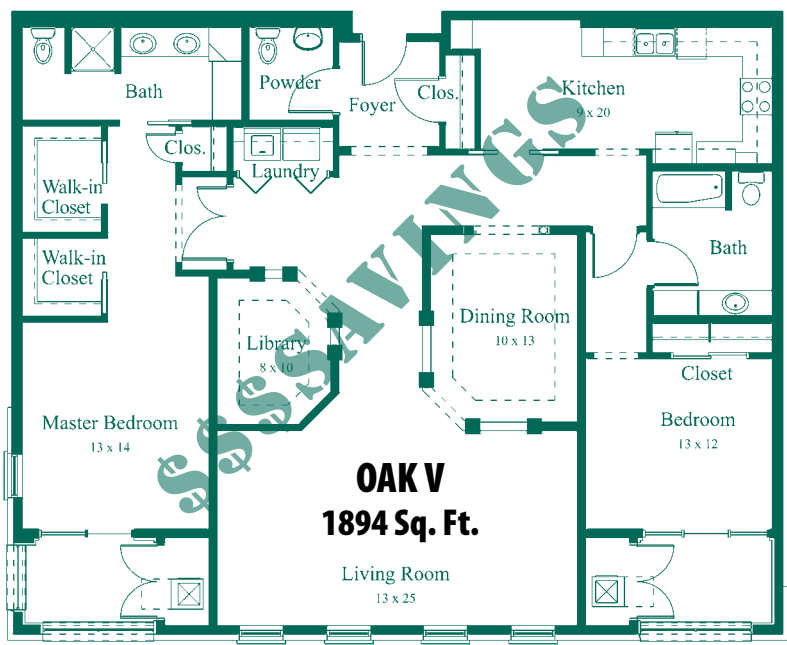
Call (703)667-9801 for more information and for a personal tour of our community.



Dimensions are approximate and floor plans are shown at varying scales. Stop by for a private tour and see just how spacious your new Woodlands apartment home will be!

(703)667-9801

The **Woodlands**
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY



Call (703)667-9801 for a personal tour

BURKE NURSERY & GARDEN CENTRE



9401 Burke Road • Burke, VA 22015 • (703) 323-1188

www.burkenursery.com



SPRING IS HERE!



Plants Arriving Daily

One of the largest selections
in Northern Virginia

**Now is the Time
to Plant**

Perennials, Trees & Shrubs

Lawn Care:

It is the time to fertilize and seed!
Fresh Sod arrives every Friday
(weather permitting)

**Professional Design and
Installation Service Available**

Gigantic Selection of Hanging Baskets, Annuals,
Vegetables & Herbs

Mulch by the
bag or by the
truckload
Bagged
topsoil & soil
amendments

**Delivery
Available**



\$5 OFF

**Any Purchase of
\$50 or More**

Sale items, installations, landscaping,
deliveries & prior purchases excluded. Not
valid with any other offer. **Offers cannot
be combined.** Expires 5/31/11 (SC)

\$10 OFF

**Any purchase of
\$100 or more**

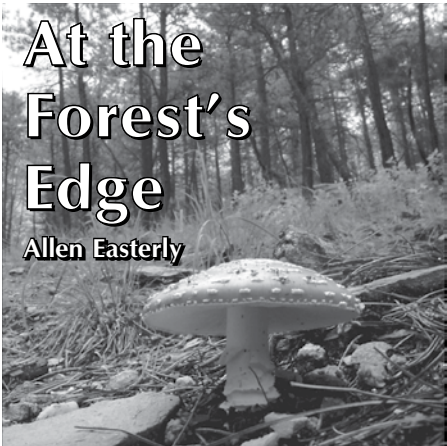
Sale items, installations, landscaping,
deliveries & prior purchases excluded. Not
valid with any other offer. **Offers cannot
be combined.** Expires 5/31/11 (SC)

Mud Wrestling in Fairfax County

Wrestling in the mud not too far away from the forest's edge lives a critter that loves to be dirty. If you want to find one, you'll probably have to get dirty, too, and maybe a little wet. The eastern mud salamander loves to squirm its way through freshwater muddy springs, bogs, swamps, marshes, beaver ponds and muddy stream-bank burrows. It's a shy and secretive critter that can be hard to find in the mud. Its three- to six-inch-long, reddish-brown, stocky body with a short tail and round black spots blends in very well with Fairfax County soil colors. These secretive critters also like to hang out under logs, rocks and in

At the Forest's Edge

Allen Easterly



The eastern mud salamander loves to squirm its way through local wetlands.

decaying vegetation and sometimes take up residence in abandoned crayfish holes. When a good crayfish hole isn't available, they'll dig their own underground passages and underwater tunnels. Most often you'll be able to catch a glimpse of them lounging just outside of a burrow opening, but quickly disappearing inside for safety when disturbed.

Fine dining for a mud salamander includes a hearty meal of earthworms, other salamanders and small amphibians, insects and arthropods. With a good diet like that it's no wonder they grow three to more than six inches in length. Not bad for a salamander. One with an exceptional diet holds the record at more than eight inches.

Pseudotriton montanus females breed every other year. but on occasion one might breed each year. The males on the other hand are always willing to breed and may breed multiple times each year with a multitude of willing females. Male mud salamanders will go on the hunt for eligible females with whom to frolic during summer. When the right lady mud salamander is found, he will perform a fancy tail show for his lady, trying to impress her. If he is the right guy for her, she

When all goes well with the habitat of a mud salamander, the little critters can live up to 15 years.

will straddle his tail to show acceptance and breeding soon follows.

After breeding in the warmth of sum-

mer the female lays her eggs in fall or early winter. Eggs are commonly found on stems of vegetation near the water's edge, on the underside of leaves floating in water, in ground or rock cracks near streams in their burrows, or on roots and under leaf litter. She will lay 65 to 200 eggs and attach them singly or in clusters. With so many eggs she will do the best she can to help incubate them until they hatch. If all goes well, the young will leave the security of their egg enclosure after about

three months, between January and March. The larvae will quickly make their way to water where they will survive the best they can on their own for the next 15 to 30 months. At the right time they will undergo a metamorphosis to become more recognizable as a salamander and then leave the water to live their juvenile life under leaf litter. The new salamanders start out yellowish in color and, with time, darken to brown with a reddish tint. The young females will have to survive in

Its three- to six-inch-long, reddish-brown, stocky body with a short tail and round black spots blends in very well with Fairfax County soil colors.

the wild a long four or five years before they are mature enough to breed and start their own families. The males are a bit quicker to mature and are ready to begin mating in a little more than two years.

Common garter snakes and water snakes are quick to swallow up a tasty mud salamander. However the salamander isn't without his defenses. When threatened, the salamander will tuck its head against its body, stand up on its hind legs, balance its weight on the forelegs and then curl its tail over its head in a display of defense. It also excretes some nasty toxic fluids along its back, which I'm sure don't taste too good to a hungry snake. When all goes well with the habitat of a mud salamander, and water quality does not become polluted and predators don't devour the little critters, they can live a long life up—to 15 years. As is the case with many salamanders, the mud salamander has delicate skin. For this reason, it should not be handled unless absolutely necessary. The residues and oils on human hands can diminish the skin's ability to absorb oxygen.

Allen Easterly is a freelance writer, Complimentary Work Force volunteer for the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and a state-certified Virginia master naturalist who has been studying wildlife for 50 years.



Be the Change and Spread the Word

In the last three days I've helped homeless men write resumes, listened to immigrants proudly share their face-to-face meetings with the mayor, updated a nonprofit's Facebook page and unsuccessfully tried to shove a too-big couch into the too-small apartment of a low-income family.

Why all the activity? I've just started a new Get Out and Give Back program in which I engage in at least one community service activity each week (or four in three days in this case) then spread the word through Twitter, Facebook and my website. I tweet as I'm doing the work, and then post on my Facebook page and back on Twitter, directing followers back to a story that I've written on my website. The nonprofits get publicity. Followers are informed and inspired. I feel incredibly relevant. Everybody wins.

It's taken me a year and a half to move from thinking about doing this to actually pulling the trigger. There are lots of reasons I've sat on this great idea for so long, but since taking the plunge less than a week ago, I've learned that online applications for menial labor jobs are too bureaucratic for a homeless high school graduate, and I've felt a surge of national pride that we teach and encourage our citizens to right a wrong.

Nonprofits have deluged me with requests to work with them. What organization doesn't want free help and publicity? And who doesn't want to feel relevant? While

your time to help may be limited, I challenge you to start communicating and sharing the

good that you do, too. Let people know when you give back and how good it makes you feel. It's not bragging or showing off. Everyone wants to feel relevant, and if you're happy, most people will want to be let in on why. Spreading the word on the good you do doesn't necessarily require that you become a social media expert. Just let your family and friends know how much you enjoy your volunteer passion, whatever it is, in conversation, letters and phone calls.

If you are plugged into social media, here's your chance to start a sea change. Create a Facebook page, sign up for Twitter, start a blog. Then type. Upload some pictures. If you feel creative, produce a few Flip videos for YouTube.

You can follow my volunteer adventures through the social media sites listed at the end of this story. But I really hope you'll start sharing the

good that you do in your own communities and inspire your friends and family to do the same. Start a movement.

Put me out of business. Get out and give back.

Jane Hess Collins helps and encourages people to give back through her writing,

speaking, coaching and workshops. Follow Get Out and Give Back on Facebook, Twitter (@getoutgiveback) and at getoutandgiveback.com.

Get Out and Give Back

Jane Collins

It's taken me a year and a half to move from thinking about doing this to actually pulling the trigger.

If you are plugged into social media, here's your chance to start a sea change.



Friends know how much you enjoy your volunteer passion, whatever it is, in conversation, letters and phone calls.

BUSINESS BRIEF

Diagnostic Radiology Expands Practice to Lorton

Diagnostic Radiology is pleased to announce the opening of its Lorton office, located at 8986 Lorton Station Boulevard, Suite 200. The Lorton office opened last month and provides digital radiology services to the Lorton, Fairfax, Burke and Woodbridge communities.

The Lorton location will also offer digital mammography, ultrasound, x-ray and bone-density scan studies.

Diagnostic Radiology's office in Lorton expands the practice to two locations, the primary office remaining at 6128 Brandon Avenue, Suite 205 in Springfield. Diagnostic Radiology will open a third office at 8101 Hinson Farm Road, Suite 108,

Alexandria on May 9, 2011.

Diagnostic's medical director, Dr. Stephen Hersh, stated, "We are excited about expanding our offices to better serve underserved communities for radiology imaging needs. Furthermore, the transition to digital imaging enhances our level of service to both patients and referring doctors."

Dr. Stephen Hersh has been in private practice with Diagnostic Radiology since 1976. He is board-certified by the American College of Radiology and is a member in the American College of Radiology and the Northern Virginia Medical Society.

Outdoorsman's Mom

continued from page 6

the door of the house. When she came to the door she eagerly unrolled the bag expecting something great. It *was* great—great big and black. She threw it to the floor and carried on like a mad woman. We died laughing at the sight of her looking eagerly into the sack only to come face to face with an irritated snake.

Of course my target shooting occasionally caused problems with mom, too. One early morning she was not feeling well. I awoke to the sound of crows cawing back and forth in the garden. I eased up to the window and watched the crows pulling up the corn we had just weeded the day before. Keep in mind we lived in the country and the nearest neighbor was barely in sight. The shoots were tender, green and about five inches tall. I did not want to replant all that corn so I decided to do something about it. Spying my rifle on the rack in my room the idea came naturally. I made a big assumption, though, and I was big-time wrong in my assumption. I thought if I put the rifle muzzle out of the window the sound would not be too loud. I raised the screen, took aim at the crow and BLAM!

I was so surprised at the sudden explosion

and the noise that I just sat there. My mom's hysterical voice screeching from her bedroom where she was probably hanging from the ceiling brought me around. I knew it was bad and I knew life was about to end if I did not escape. So, much like Tom Sawyer, I rolled out the window and made for the hills for the day. Dad got an earful when he got home and then of course I got an earful, too. I think Dad was a bit humored by her description of the fear I raised with the high-powered shot. He did tear into me, but I detected a grin when he asked me if I got one of the crows.

"Yep," I replied sheepishly, "the one on the left."

This is my tribute to moms everywhere who put up with a lot from country boys and girls. The wild game that needs cooking, smelly fish, dirty jeans, muddy shoes and boots, frogs, odd critters and thousands of pranks are just some of the tortures moms put up with to let us become the outdoorsmen and -women we are today. My hat is off to you, Mom! Happy Mother's Day.

Young Artists Win Awards

continued from page 4

High School, who was last year's first-place winner with her acrylic work titled "The Flood." Her entry this year was a 3-D mixed-media piece, "Tuesday Afternoon." She was awarded a \$750 prize donated by the Lorton Arts Foundation.

Third-place winner Taylor Fox of Brentsville, who received a prize of \$500 from Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts, received his award for a graphite drawing of an eye, titled "Blind."

Ryan Brown of Oakton, fourth-place winner, did a digital scan of his own face. Titling it "Trapped #4," he explained that it represented human emotions trying to get out. Lauren Neufeld of Battlefield High School, fifth-place winner, did a scratchboard, pen and ink drawing of her brother titled "Money on His Mind." Fourth and fifth place winners received \$100 each from the Prince William Arts Society.

Four honorable mentions were given to: Christopher Green for "WWI General," a

portrait done with prisma markers; John Le for "Lost Dancer," photography; Angelina Namkung for "Endangered Environment," a colored-pencil drawing; Heeyun Na for "Self Portrait" done in poster color.

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) addressed those who were gathered to discover whom the winners were. He said the arts reflect our culture and connect humanity through the centuries. He told the students, "Expression is important. I hope you will make this a lifetime commitment."

Richard Wolford, vice president of development at the Lorton Arts Foundation, commented that all of the students' artwork was exceptional. He said, "It is inspiring because all of you are on the beginning of your journey."

After the awards were presented, Connolly accompanied the winners to where their artwork was hanging, asking them to tell him more about it and posing for a photograph. He talked to many of the other students about their work, as well, and said they should all be very proud of what they had created.

Werkheiser

continued from page 4

place can be adapted somewhere else. U.S. Sen. Mark Warner, a long-time supporter of the social entrepreneurship movement, recognized this when he pointed out that the new center is ideally situated for its mission. He said, "It is located on the campus of a university known for innovation, within sight of our nation's capital, in the middle of this region's world-class information technology corridor and surrounded by leading social sector organizations."

Social entrepreneurship has been around for a long time, from small efforts to international programs. A familiar example is the story of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream. Two young friends, Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield, opened an ice cream shop in Burlington, VT, in 1978. Their business grew, and by 1986 they established a new manufacturing plant in Waterbury, VT, becoming a public company. They began donating 7.5 percent of

the company's pre-tax profits to the Ben and Jerry Foundation, which funded nonprofit organizations. Though they no longer own the company, their environmentally friendly production policies and donations to nonprofits still exist with the new owners.

Another example on a much smaller scale is a senior mobility program. Seniors who are still mobile earn points by transporting immobile seniors to places where they can no longer drive. They cash in their points at drugstores and supermarkets. Later on they may find themselves recipients of the same services.

On a larger scale is the Microfinance International Corporation, whose mission is to expand affordable and professional financial services to markets where such services previously have been unavailable, overpriced or disconnected from mainstream banking.

FINCA is a charitable microfinance organization that provides assistance to very small businesses ("micro" enterprises) in developing countries. In 1984, John Hatch, a former Peace Corps volunteer, created the Village Banking method, which allowed the poor to obtain loans without collateral at interest rates they could afford. When he began lending to women he found Village Banking was a great anti-poverty tool, as it affected the welfare of children through aid to their mothers. Providing small loans to poor families enables them to create their own jobs and increase their income. TechnoServe, which was founded 40 years ago by businessman Ed Bullard, has been helping the poor in developing countries help themselves. For example, they have assisted entrepreneurs implement business plans amid the rubble of the Haitian earthquake and have helped Honduran farmers grow a crop used for biofuels.

Mason Provost Peter Stearns stated, "The Mason Center for Social Entrepreneurship will foster leaders, research and strategies for tackling major social challenges of the 21st century. Mason—with its tagline 'Where Innovation is Tradition,' is a natural place to break new ground in this ever-evolving field."

Education Matters

continued from page 9

elementary school for nine years. She says, "This piece was first written in 2007–2008.

How do I write plays? First I get an idea. Then my husband [Ronald A. Lindsay] and I decide on a plot. We look at the program of studies in social studies and the goals. We gather facts and tie them all together."

Learning a role is hard, and far more so for anyone whose first language is not English. Several members of the cast speak more than one language. According to Debra Lindsay, a lot of the children were at first not able to read the words, many are new to the

country and do not speak English at home. Nevertheless, the students got the script and tried out for parts in early January. Rehearsals began in the second week of January. "Once students learned the words they were able to memorize. They learned vocabulary and

concepts. That is one of the reasons I do these plays," says Debra Lindsay.

Then in February, members of C.A.S.T. took a field trip. They visited Montpelier and Baltimore where they learned about the

War of 1812. Music teacher Alice Real, who had helped out with some of the rehearsals, planned the field trip and designed the study sheet that complemented the trip.

Debra Lindsay says she loves writing and theater production. She has written several books. Her most recently published book, *Lessons in American Music, Vol. II*, came out in March. She is working on volumes three and four.

I'm certain that in years to come, the students at Crest-

wood will remember the words they had to memorize for a production on stage and will have a deeper understanding of the ideas that stand behind those words. Through theater production they learn not only history, but English, teamwork and stage craft.



Kayla Cox, left, as Dolley Madison and Kevin Perry as James Madison.

a clean house
a clean mind

a cleaning service, inc.

satisfaction guaranteed
since 1985

services provided in DC, VA & MD
commercial and residential
licensed, bonded, insured
free estimates

visit our website at:
www.acleaningserviceinc.com

703.892.8648

Now you can search for almost anything on zip2save.com.

It's Easy! Just type in the product you're looking for and then shop, compare and buy from any of these retailers. All in one place.

It's so easy your dog can do it!

No more confusing search engine results or jumping from website to website. The products and brands you need are now on zip2save.com.

Thousands and Thousands of products from: Target, Wal-Mart, Kohl's, Lowes, JCPenney, Sears, KMart, Payless Shoe Store, HHGregg, Bass Pro Shops, Cymax and more. New Stores added every week!

• ADVERTISING CIRCULARS • COUPONS • DEALS
• TRAVEL SPECIALS • ONLINE ANYTIME!

zip2save.com

Contact Lowell Curtis to advertise in zip2save—703-440-9550
Featured Advertisers

Target Walmart KOHL'S LOWE'S JCPenney Sears Kmart Payless HHGregg Bass Pro Shops Cymax

* New retailers added weekly.

Critics Corner

continued from page 14

“Fallout 3,” who are mostly just minding their own business and aren’t a threat to you. (To be fair to Mr. House, the Legion and NCR also want you to wipe out the Brotherhood.)

Then there is working for yourself. If you choose to go your own path, you can avoid wiping out the Brotherhood and help the

The main character holds all the bargaining chips—everyone needs him to do something—but never really uses them.

NCR defend Hoover Dam, but you are still going to have to kill Mr. House and kick the NCR out of the Mojave Desert for good.

In almost every scenario, I did something I didn’t want to do, which was clearly the design of the game’s developers, Obsidian.

In many ways, I admire the game for injecting an element of realism in a frequently unrealistic genre where good and bad are easily identifiable choices.

But the game’s choices still rang false to me. It’s pretty clear that the main character is a critical player in events in the game, and yet he or she only seems to have a limited ability to negotiate. Do I really have to kill Mr. House to help the NCR? Isn’t there some type of compromise that can be made? Can’t I assist Mr. House, meanwhile, but refuse to wipe out the largely harmless Brotherhood of Steel?

The main character holds all the bargaining chips—everyone needs him to do something—but never really uses them.

For all its freedom and moral ambiguity, “Fallout: New Vegas” still left me feeling vaguely unsatisfied. With all the choices I was able to make, it was the ones I couldn’t that left the most lasting impression.

Search and Rescue

continued from page 9

erations at Misawa U.S. Air Force Base about 150 miles north of Tokyo. Translators were hired, specific areas for U.S. rescue efforts decided upon, transport rented. Japanese officials coordinated other search and rescue teams arriving from the UK, China and France.

In less than 24 hours, the Fairfax VA-TF1 team was in the air. In Los Angeles they picked up the California team, refueled in Alaska and landed at Misawa AFB less than 14 hours after leaving Dulles International Airport. (Japanese time is 12 hours ahead of EST.) A cargo plane landed nearby with 31 tons of supplies. Task forces travel completely self-contained, from water to Army-style MRE meals, housing, cots, medical supplies, kerosene heaters, fans, generators, technical equipment, canine supplies, even an inflatable boat.

After setting up in the gymnasium of Setumai Elementary School in Sumita, 10 miles inland, the teams were taken by bus to start searching for survivors in Ofunato City, Iwate Prefecture, on the Pacific Coast. Michael “Mikey” Moore, a rescue specialist, noted that the tsunami had wiped out many “survivable voids” in wreckage where air pockets might otherwise have sheltered people safely.

For a week, the Fairfax Team worked in different locations with rescue dogs, with sensitive monitors listening in the muddy rubble for breathing, a noise, body heat. They found eight bodies but no survivors. In destroyed

buildings, ears were attuned not to sea birds crying overhead but to subtle sounds of walls shifting with dangerous aftershocks. Below-freezing temperatures minimized decay, but rescue teams were alert for any whiff of gas or dangerous chemicals. One team monitored wind direction and radiation levels, though fortunately they were more than 100 miles north of the battered nuclear power plants causing so much international anxiety.

Moore was impressed by how polite and grateful the Japanese were for their rescue efforts, repeating “Arigato! Arigato arimasu!” (“Thank you! Thank you very much!”) Hard-working interpreters were “wonderful,” William Thurston, a paramedic and medical and rescue specialist, said with gratitude. On morning bus rides toward their work on the devastated coast, everyone was struck by the contrast inland of lovely, peaceful snow-covered countryside. But search and rescue is their primary job. Sadly, after a week it was plain that rescue expertise was no longer needed. VA-TF1 donated \$145,000

Below-freezing temperatures minimized decay, but rescue teams were alert for any whiff of gas or dangerous chemicals.

of equipment and supplies to the Ofunato Fire Department to help in their recovery efforts. Then they packed up and flew home on March 20.

Asked what motivates someone to volunteer for such rigorous training, discomfort, danger and stress from the disasters to which they are sent inside and outside the U.S., Mark Lucas, a search team manager, unhesitatingly replied, “to help people” and “compassion.” When sent suddenly to a major disaster area anywhere in the world, the Fairfax team works with practiced efficiency, a broad spectrum of skills and above all with dedication to their chosen profession. It takes exceptional strength of body, mind and spirit and an innate humility to respond to massive human tragedy with focused, practical assistance. Perhaps that is one definition of heroism, which easily describes the members of Virginia Fairfax Task Force One. They are a remarkable group.

Lorton Landfill

continued from page 1

Cove, an innovative playground designed for children using their ideas and input, opened at the site in 1993 and was expanded to nearly twice its size in 2010.

In April of this year, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced a program to create solar power plants on top of sealed landfills that he expects to generate enough power for 50,000 homes. To harvest landfill-based solar power on Staten Island and Brooklyn, the city will seek partnerships with private companies developing renewable-energy technology, according to an article in the New York Daily News.

Recreational and energy-producing options are some of the ideas for the Lorton landfill being considered by DPW and include community garden plots, an RV/boat/truck storage facility, a trail around the perimeter of the landfill, a model-airplane field and growing hay or straw for county use. Another idea is to lease space to a locally based nursery for use as a storage facility for

large items such as trees, shrubs and large plantings.

In an effort to promote a “green” agenda, the potential for energy-producing opportunities such as placing photovoltaic panels on the landfill to collect and store energy to produce power are under consideration. Also, wind turbines could be considered but would require being incorporated into the landfill cap as well as requiring a permit change. Although borehole heat exchange and utilization of ground water to generate heat/AC would be possible, according to a report generated by DPW, this alternative is not considered practical due to the slope where the drilling could trigger the hazard of releasing pollutants by penetrating the protective layers in the landfill. Biofuels, made from recently living organisms, for instance sunflowers or other oilseed-bearing plants, are subject to growing seasons and an agreement with a harvester for operation and maintenance would be required.

The goal, according to Doughty, is to provide mixed uses, promote energy efficiency, generate revenue where possible and obtain outside funding for research and sustainability. DPW is making a presentation to the South County Federation meeting on Tuesday, May 3, 2011, to be held at the South County Secondary School at 7:30 p.m. Ideas may be submitted at that meeting or to Amarjit S. Riat, assistant director, I-95 Landfill Complex at Amarjit.Riat@fairfaxcounty.gov or to Christopher Meoli, chief, Environmental Projects Branch at Christopher.Meoli@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Clifton Homes

continued from page 2

family room, vivid-purple bathroom and the kitchen’s yellow countertops will wake up your day. Three estate homes of more modern vintage offer such individual delights as a French Provincial-style kitchen, an “imperial” staircase and a unique decorating style featuring a springtime theme with yellows and blues and butterflies.

The log cabin, used by Paradise Springs Winery for offices, welcoming and hosting guests and as a tasting room, has been passed down through generations and was originally one room with a loft and cellar. In 1955, the family undertook a major renovation under a protégé of Frank Lloyd Wright. Today, family antiques enhance the décor with two heirloom pieces made in Virginia—a Jacob Fry tall case clock and a unique Chinese Chippendale-style mirror occupying pride of place.

The CCWC’s mission is to promote the civic, cultural, social, educational and physical environment of the community. Each year the

homes tour draws hundreds of visitors and the proceeds help support CCWC’s Charitable Trust which, over the past five years, has distributed more than \$100,000 to local charities and student scholarships.

This year’s tour chairman, Lynne Garvey-Hodge, said she was inspired to chair the event by memories of enjoying homes tours with her mother back in her hometown of Cleveland, OH. She said that this year’s Clifton tour is almost to the day of her mother’s passing in 2010. Garvey-Hodge also added that CCWC is affiliated with the General Federation of Woman’s Clubs, which is a direct offshoot from the Suffragist movement, the history of which she is heavily involved in promoting.

Lunch will be available at Clifton eateries, and the Paradise Springs Winery will also take reservations for box lunches at 703-830-9463. For more information on the tour, visit cliftoncwc.org/. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 on the day of the tour. Single-home admission is \$10. Admission to the silent auction and marketplace is free.

Workhouse Amendments

continued from page 10

History Commission, the county Architectural Review Board and the Lorton Heritage Society, all stakeholders in the amendment process. DPZ is seeking comments from other agencies, organizations, groups or individuals who may have an interest in the proposed amendment document, a copy of which can be viewed online at www.fairfax-county.gov/dpz/laurelhill/natregister.htm. Questions or comments may be directed to Laurie Turkawski or Linda Cornish Blank at 703-324-1380 or by e-mail to Laurie.turkawski@fairfaxcounty.gov or [Linda.blank@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:blank@fairfaxcounty.gov) respectively.

Metal Recycling

Aluminum
Brass
Copper
Steel

Davis Industries, Inc.
9920 Richmond Highway
Lorton, VA 22079
(703) 550-7402
scrap@davisindustries.com

Chronicle Newspapers

If you like
The South County Chronicle,
please support the fine
advertisers found in these
pages. Let them know you
saw their ad in
The South County Chronicle.

Thank you for your
continued support.

Please visit our Web site:

www.chroniclenewspapers.com

Washington’s Library

continued from page 1

Stahl says, “A lot of people don’t know that we have a library at Mount Vernon. The library has been used primarily by staff and is not very well known. It hasn’t been used as much as it can be used. Our collection has grown in fits and starts. Having a new and separate library building will let the public know that a library is here. Right now we have a limited staff. The public can come by to do research but they must make an appointment first. In the future, all of the library’s holdings will be in an online catalog.”

With the new library, historians and authors will have a far easier time accessing the information. Mount Vernon will more than double its library staff to provide expertise and assistance to researchers. A team of education and media experts will move to the new library. Their task will be the dissemination of research findings to the largest and most diverse audiences. James C. Rees, president and CEO of George Washington’s Estate, said the library will allow the estate to expand its existing teacher-training programs and host seminars for government and business groups on topics such as Washington’s vision of leadership.

The heart of the National Library will be devoted to the main reading room, rare books and manuscript rooms and stacks for modern volumes. The larger education wing on the east side will provide spaces for seminars, lectures and training programs on George Washington’s life, times and leadership. Offices in the west wing and on the second floor

will supply work spaces for visiting scholars and 30 staff members.

Mount Vernon’s most precious documents will be protected. A secure, climate-controlled oval vault will safeguard the contents of Washington’s personal library. Mount Vernon will add to its current collection of 45 titles owned by Washington and complete his library by obtaining 18th-century duplicates of the original edition. Letters written by George and Martha Washington, as well as other treasures from the 1700s, will be preserved within archival storage lining the walls.

Mary V. Thompson, who has worked at the Mount Vernon Estate for 31 years and worked as historian for 13 years, said, “The intention is that the new library will be the place to come either in person or online for people studying all aspects of George Washington’s life and the Mount Vernon estate. The hope is that our users will include not only scholars working on books or dissertations, but also the teacher planning a lesson, the student answering a homework question and the descendant of a Mount Vernon slave looking for more information on their ancestor.”

The library receives no federal funding, relying solely on donations. The Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association, which has run the estate since purchasing it from the Washington family in 1858, has never accepted government funds. The largest donation of \$38 million has come from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation and is the largest in the history of Mount Vernon. The estate ranks as the oldest and most visited national preser-

vation project in America. The foundation’s chairman, Fred W. Smith, has been a Mount Vernon supporter since 2001.

Rees said the estate has raised about \$70 million of the \$100 million needed to build and endow the library. The building is scheduled for completion in 2013.

Fairfax Sports Scene

continued from page 10

The idea to introduce cricket to Fairfax County middle-schoolers came about when Kelly Riley, a health and physical education teacher at Herndon Middle School, participated in a state association conference in Maryland, where she met Jamie Harrison, the president of the United States Youth Cricket Association.

Always on the lookout for ways to get middle-schoolers active in physical activity, Riley asked Harrison to do a presentation with students. Harrison contacted the Warriors and the result led to the great fun in the Lanier Middle School gym.

After observing the cricket demonstration at Herndon Middle School, Dr. Elizabeth Payne, K–12 health, family life and physical education coordinator for Fairfax County Public Schools, and Tony Salgado, a middle-school resource teacher, designed a unit of instruction for students using cricket as a way of teaching about different cultures.

Neelapala said, “Kids are the same ev-

Judging from the excitement of the action in the video, American kids should have no trouble taking to the game.

erywhere, and we do not see a reason why American youth will not take to cricket like their counterparts in the rest of the world.”

At the Lanier school demonstration, Neelapala showed a video of a 2007 World Cup match between India and England. Judging from the excitement of the action in the video, American kids should have no trouble taking to the game. The crowd went wild as a batsman for India hit “six consecutive sixes.”

A “six” in cricket is similar to a home run in baseball. It’s called a six because it is scored as six runs. In cricket, the batsman gets a chance to hit six balls in a turn at bat. This makes six consecutive sixes possible.

But six sixes, Neelapala said, “Is a quite rare event. It has happened only four times in the history of cricket played at the highest level.”

Payne says that Herndon and Fairfax County have very diverse communities. She has seen cricket being played by adults in her neighborhood and thinks that cricket could be another option for students to participate in physical activity, while at the same time learning about other cultures.

Parents of middle-schoolers who wish to learn more about a cricket program in their children’s schools should contact the physical education supervisor at their school.

For more information on cricket, go to www.warriorscricket.blogspot.com and www.usyca.org.

Classifieds | Call 703-440-9550 to place your classified ad

Automotive

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE Receive \$1000 GROCERY COUPON. UNITED BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION. Free Mammograms, Breast Cancer Info www.ubcf.info FREE Towing, Tax Deductible, Non-Runners Accepted. 1- 877-632-GIFT

Business Opportunities

PAID IN ADVANCE! Make \$1000 Weekly Mailing Brochures from Home. Income is guaranteed! No experience required. Enroll Today! www.thehomemailer.com

THIS 160 BILLION DOLLAR SECRET Will Forever Change The Way You Look At Making \$\$\$. Video: www.MoneyNotStress.com

Do You Want to Be Rich? Want to Know The Secret Behind "The Secret"? Billionaire Shows You How for Free. Go to www.YourWishisYourCommand.com for FREE offer.

Employment

Earn up to \$150 per day Undercover Shoppers Needed to Judge Retail & Dining Establishments Experience Not Required Call Now 1-877-737-7565

Help Wanted!!! Make \$1000 a Week processing our mail! FREE Supplies! Helping Home-Workers since 2001! Genuine Opportunity! No experience required. Start Immediately! www.homemailerpro.com

2011 POSTAL JOBS! \$14 to \$59 hour + Full Federal Ben-

efits. No Experience Required. NOW HIRING! Green Card OK. 1-866-477-4953 ext. 95

ACTORS/MOVIE EXTRAS Needed Immediately for upcoming roles \$150-\$300 per day depending on job requirements. No experience, All looks needed. 1-800-951-3584 A-105. For casting times /locations

Help Wanted

DOG WALKER/PET SITTER NEEDED for Sprfld, Lorton, FFX St SHANNON@WALKINGPAWS.NET

Available to Travel? Earn Above Average \$\$\$ Selling with Successful Young Business Group! No Experience Necessary. Paid Training. Lodging, Transportation, Provided. 1-877-646-5050.

ATTN SALES REPS: Inc.500 Co CPAY (www.cpay.com) is now hiring Sales Partners in your area. Commissions paid daily, plus bonuses and residual income. Sell Visa and MasterCard services to businesses. Proven and accomplished company with career opportunities. Call 1-800-213-3350

Financial

Wipe Out Credit Card Debt! STOP Garnishments, Repossessions, Foreclosures & Harassment! Attorney Driven – Nationwide Offices FREE Consultation! Se Habla Espanol! Call Now – 888-476-3043

Instruction

Attend College Online from Home. *Medical, *Business, *Paralegal, *Computers, *Criminal Justice.

Job placement assistance. Computer available. Financial Aid if qualified. Call 800-488-0386 www.CenturaOnline.com

AIRLINES ARE HIRING- Train for high paying Aviation Maintenance Career. FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified- Housing available. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance (877)818-0783

Merchandise

DIRECTV DEALS! FREE Movie Channels for 3 mos - starting at \$29.99 for 24 mos -210+ Channels+FREE DIRECTV CINEMA plus, Free Installation! Limited time only. New Cust only.1-866-528-5002 promo code 34933

Give the perfect gift for Mother's Day and show you care with our All the Frills bouquet- Over 50% off Reg. \$44.99 Sale Price \$19.99 +s/h. Call 888-587-0771 or visit www.ProFlowers.com/Cherish

Miscellaneous

ADOPTION- A loving alternative to unplanned pregnancy. You choose the family for your child. Receive pictures/info of waiting/ approved couples. Living expense assistance. 1-866-236-7638

Advertise your product or service nationwide or by region in up to 12 million households in North America's best suburbs! Place your classified ad in over 750 suburban newspapers just like this one. Call Classified Avenue at 888-486-2466 or go to www.classifiedavenue.net

Earn \$1000 a week Mailing Brochures from Home. Free Supplies! Guaranteed Income! No experience required. Start Today! www.thehomemailer.com

Allstate Auto Insurance. So Many Ways to SAVE. Switch Today & Save Hundreds! You're in good

hands, ALLSTATE. Call for Your FREE Quote. 1-888-861-8912

Health and Wellness

Diabetes/Cholesterol/Weight Loss Natural Product for Cholesterol, Blood Sugar and Weight. Physician recommended, backed by Human Clinical Studies with amazing results. Call to find out how to get a free bottle of Bergamonte! 888-470-5390

Canada Drug Center is your choice for safe and affordable medications. Our licensed Canadian mail order pharmacy will provide you with savings of up to 90% on all your medication needs. Call Today 888-459-9961 use Promo code save135 for \$25.00 off your first prescription and free shipping.

Pets and Animals

Walking Paws Exceptional Pet Care 703-434-0910 www.walkingpaws.net Cat Sitting ♥ Dog Walking Overnight Stays Pet Taxi Mature & Reliable Sitters

Real Estate

Land for Sale

Catharpin/Manassas Battlefield 10.8 acre homsite in exclusive Forest Hills Estates. Partially wooded, open, rolling, spring fed pond site. 4BR sewer system installed. \$249,500. Owner financing. For details (703) 978-6952 or 328-4726 (cell). Trustee, Lic. Agt.

Out of Area Real Estate

BIG BEAUTIFUL ARIZONA

LAND \$99/mo. \$0 down, \$0 interest, Golf Course, Nat'l Parks. 1 hour from Tucson Int'l Airport Guaranteed Financing, No Credit Checks. Pre-recorded msg. 1-800-631-8164 Code 4001 www.sunsiteslandrush.com

LAND LIQUIDATION 20 Acres \$0 Down, \$99/mo. ONLY \$12,900 Near Growing El Paso, Texas (2nd safest U.S. City) Owner Financing. NO CREDIT CHECKS! Money Back Guarantee FREE Color Brochure 800-755-8953 www.sunsetranches.com

Certified Real Estate Appraisers. Established multi-state firm Seeks Residential and Commercial Appraisers Employee opportunities available w/benefits Email resume' and sample report to: recruiting@live.com

Timeshares

SELL/RENT YOUR TIMESHARE FOR CASH!!!! Our Guaranteed Services will Sell/ Rent Your Unused Timeshare for CASH! Over \$95 Million Dollars offered in 2010! www.sellatimeshare.com (800)640-6886

Services

Personal/Family Bookkeeper & Organizer

I'll track income and expenses in Quicken, pay bills on time, create a filing system, track medical claims. Let me contribute to your peace of mind! NO MESS IS TOO BIG TO HANDLE!! 703-266-6962, JJBookkeeperOrganizer@gmail.com

LIGHT HAULING—Yards & Basements cleared. Furniture and appliances disposal. Local light moving. Lawn Mowing Services. free estimates. 703-497-4976 or 703-599-8385 lighthauling1@aol.com

Training

PHARMACY TECH Trainees NEEDED NOW! Pharmacists now hiring. No experience? Job Training & Placement Assistance Available. 1-877-240-4524

MED BILL & CODING

Trainees Needed Now! Medical offices now hiring. No experience? Job Training & Placement Assistance Available. 1-800-566-1309

DENTAL ASSISTANT

Trainees NEEDED NOW! Dental offices now hiring. No experience? Job Training & Placement Assistance Available. 1-800-416-8377

THIS IS NOT A DESK JOB!
This Job is Yours...
If you are outgoing, self-assured and enjoy meeting people.

The Chronicle Newspapers are looking for outside sales representatives to sell display advertising.

Independent Contractor Position
High Commissions

Interested? E-mail a resume to: publisher@chroniclenewspapers.com

Remodeling Scams

continued from page 10

for contracting services increased at the local area BBB by more than 150 percent, to 2,983,238.

Without question, the potential for problems and headaches abound. The BBB has ample cases to prove the point. To improve your prospects of having a positive experience with your home repair or improvement, the BBB recommends an easy three-step process.

Step one is to plan your project. Be realistic about what you want versus what you can afford. Having a floor plan or sketch—with the correct dimensions—will help to assure the bid you receive is accurate.

Step two is selecting a contractor. Get two or three bids and make certain that the bids are apples to apples. The bids should be based on the same building specifications, materials, labor and time needed for completion. Discuss the bid in detail to make certain you understand the scope of the project. Check references and, if possible, visit the most recent job site. Verify licensing and check their record with the BBB. You should also verify insurance and coverage for claims against workers' compensation, property damage and personal liability in the event of accidents. Also, be mindful that the bid you accept should not be based on price alone. Good customer service, reliability and workmanship are equally as important.

Step three is the contract. Make certain you understand the terms and conditions.

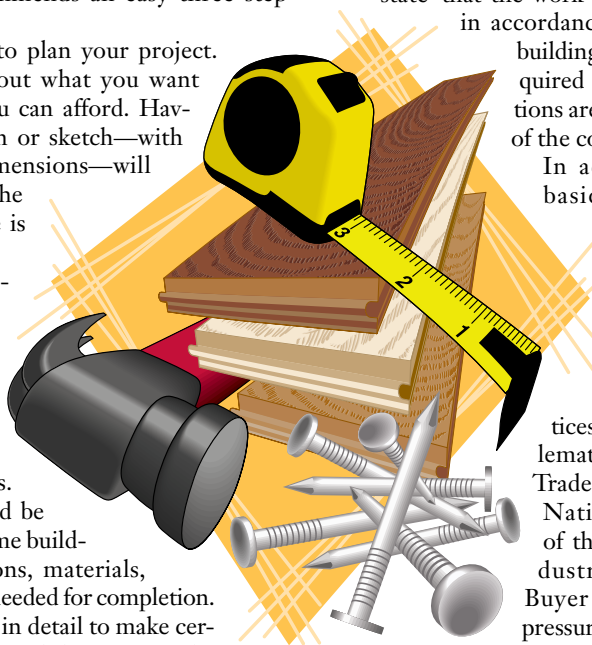
Any verbal promises should be in writing and the contract should at a minimum specify the work to be done, materials to be used, start and completion dates, payment schedules, guarantees, debris removal and your right to cancel. Never sign a partial or blank contract. If the project involves subcontractors, you should have a release-of-lien clause added. If a warranty is provided, it too should be in writing and must state whether it is a full or limited warranty. The contract should also state that the work will be performed in accordance with applicable building codes and that required permits or inspections are the responsibility of the contractor.

In addition to these basic steps, you can help to eliminate what are likely to be less-than-reputable contractors by being aware of the list of practices considered problematic by the Federal Trade Commission, the National Association of the Remodeling Industry and the BBB.

Buyer beware of high-pressure tactics, door-to-door solicitations claiming

leftover material from a neighboring project, up-front payment requests for the entire job, cash-only transactions, special pricing as a "showcase" home, reluctance to provide insurance information or failure to provide notice of your right to cancel. A contractor who has an "F" rating with the BBB should also speak volumes.

Edward Johnson is president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau serving the greater metro Washington, DC, region.



Cash in on the High Price of Gold!

Now is the perfect time to profit from selling your gold, platinum, silver, jewelry, and coins.

Licensed and Bonded Jeweler
15 Year Old Established Jewelry Store

DANIEL ROBERTS
FINE JEWELERS

Serving Northern Virginia and the Washington D.C. area for over 15 years!

703-951-0070
10254 Main St., Fairfax City,
T.J. Max Shopping Center
In Historic Old Town Fairfax City

Silverbrook NURSERY & LANDSCAPING

Spring 13th Annual Customer Appreciation Day

Saturday, May 7

Our way of saying "Thank You" to the Community

12-3 p.m. Pony Rides & Petting Zoo
Face Painting
Live Music

12-2 p.m. Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Soda

Sales & More

Hours: Mon.-Sat. 9-6, Sun. 11-5

Silverbrook Nursery & Landscaping
8408 Monacan Road • Lorton, Virginia 22079
703-690-1231
www.silverbrooknursery.com

Eagle Scout Project was to Move the Food.



As part of his Eagle Scout Project, Michael Romans, a sophomore at Lake Braddock High School, worked with Lorton Community Action Center staff to iron out the logistics of getting the food shelving to LCAC, assembling it and moving food from the old pantry to the new one. Michael, his fellow Scouts from Troop 1518, family and friends all pitched in over the course of three long days during spring break. Up to 15 people worked with Michael to complete the task. Pictured above, several of Michael's crew stand with Karlene Webster, LCAC's Food Pantry manager, in front of the new building. From left, Viet Huynh, Stephen Romans, Michael Romans, Karlene Webster, March Sohl and Luke LeVans.

Dining Guide

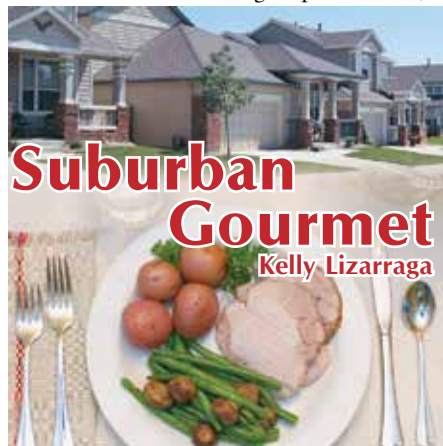
Looking East in Kingstowne

East Moon Asian Bistro, located next to the movie theaters at Kingstowne Towne Center, is a large, airy restaurant with a pan-Asian menu that facilitates large group meals and pre-movie dinners.

If you need to wait for a table, you can either sit and wait or can kill time at the bar to the right of the entrance for a pre-dinner cocktail. On crowded evenings, you may be offered a seat at the sushi bar located in a corner of the dining area. Above the sushi bar, diners can watch sports events on one of the flat-screen TVs. In the rest of the restaurant, booths and tables are scattered about in one giant room. The black décor is punched up with modern art in primary colors. Overall, the feel is hip and minimalist.

Food is served on dramatic square, round and oval plates that are oversized and shiny white. The shape of the plate enhances the food's appearance and makes for an impressive presentation.

Service at East Moon was quick and efficient, but not particularly friendly. Our waitresses rarely cracked a smile as they briskly and efficiently went about their duties.



When asked about some of the particulars in a dish, they gave perfunctory and not very informative answers.

With such an extensive menu of food from Vietnam, China, Japan and Thailand, East Moon is a great place to dine with a group of friends, large or small. Diners can also order sushi a la carte. The variety in the menu ensures that most everyone can find something that appeals.

On the appetizer menu we found some terrific choices, but some disappointments as well. The Thai Spring Rolls (\$4.95 for 2) are particularly good. The fresh, clean flavors are a great start to the meal. The coconut shrimp (\$6.95 for 6) were also excellent. The sweet coconut flavor shines through, making the sweet sauce on the side almost redundant but a treat for those who enjoy a sweet and slightly sour dish. We also sampled the Shumai (\$4.95), steamed or fried (diner's choice) dumplings served with a soy-based dipping sauce. We found the steamed version of the dish uninteresting. Likewise, the chicken coconut soup (\$2.95) was disappointing

continued on page 25

The Sweet Side of Cornmeal

Cornmeal can be white, yellow or blue, but when it comes to flavor, color is not as important as how it is processed. Stone-ground cornmeal is more flavorful because stone grinding allows more of the germ to remain, resulting in a coarser, more flavorful product. It is also more perishable, so it should be used quickly and stored in a cool place or in the freezer for longer storage. Steel-ground cornmeal is the most common type; it stores well but has less flavor. Use finely ground cornmeal when you want the texture to disappear, while medium or coarse grind is suitable for most applications.

Here are two recipes—a sweet corn cake and honey cornbread—that showcase the gritty texture and subtle sweetness of cornmeal.

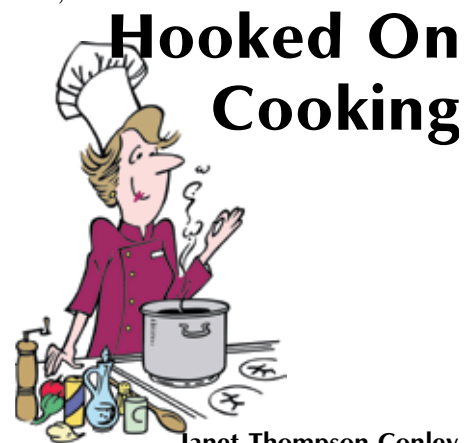
Having grown up practically across the street from one, I have a fondness for El Torito, a chain of Mexican restaurants in California. If you've ever been to El Torito then you're familiar with the little scoop of sweet corn cake that comes on the side with many of their entrees and if you're like me, you wanted more of it. Sweet, rich with butter

and a texture somewhere between pudding and cornbread, sweet corn cake is reminiscent of sweet tamales. Now, thanks to Allrecipes.com, I can get more of it. One of the key ingredients is masa harina, the corn flour used to make tortillas, which gives this cake its distinctive taste. The original directions require a food processor to puree the corn, but I substituted a can of creamed corn with excellent results. This cake would be a special treat in the summer when fresh corn is available.

If Southern-style cornbread is defined as crumbly and not at all sweet, then Joan's Honey Cornbread is definitely not a Southern-style cornbread. This cornbread is so sweet and rich that it could be served for dessert with some fruit and whipped cream and it would be ideal at breakfast or brunch. The sweetness of the honey is tempered by the crunchy cornmeal. Both the sweet corn cake and the honey cornbread can be made ahead and reheated.

Sweet Corn Cake

If you don't have a food processor or
continued on page 23



Janet Thompson Conley



TOUCH OF GOLD
202A Washington St
Occoquan, VA 22125
703.490.4544

Special Event
MAY 4-7
BUY 3 GLASS BEADS
GET ONE \$31
GLASS BEAD FREE

TROLLBEADS
THE ORIGINAL SINCE 1976

PERFECT FOR MOTHER'S DAY,
ANNIVERSARIES & GRADUATION



Art Gallery Walk & Wine Tasting Event
in Historic Occoquan
May 14th, 10 - 5PM
Featuring Occoquan artists & wine tastings
at various locations throughout town!
sponsored by the Occoquan Merchants Association
www.OccoquanMerchantsAssociation.com





dansk
day spa at occoquan
a unique scandinavian experience

Wellness In Body, Mind & Spirit
www.danskdayspa.com

Great Gift Ideas for Mother's Day
Massages • Facial Treatments
Advanced Skin Care
Holistic Care • Body Scrubs
Skin & Body Care
Waxing • Tanning & Much More

212A Commerce Street
703-492-1991

10% OFF with this ad
Cannot be used with purchases of gift certificates
or retail products. Expires 5/31/11

Let Mom know
how much you appreciate her!



Join Us for Wine & Cigar Dinner
Friday, May 20th Reception at 6:30 p.m.
\$59.95 per person plus tax & gratuity
Reservations Required

♪ ♪ Kenny'oake Contest Every Monday in May ♪ ♪
Finals on May 30th
Win Tickets to the Kenny Chesney concert, June 4th

Tiki Bar & Deck Now Officially Open



201 Mill Street Historic Occoquan
madiganswaterfront.com • 703-494-6373

Cupcake Wines: Not Just for Dessert

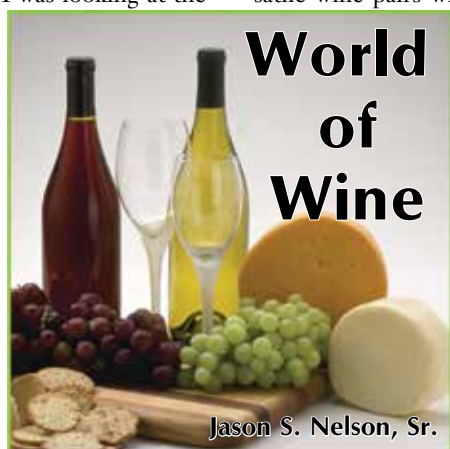
There is a new powerhouse hitting the shelves in the wine stores and wine aisles in the grocery stores. My discovery started about a year ago when I was looking at the sauvignon blanc bottles in the California section of the wine aisle. A bright-yellow bottle caught my eye with the name Cupcake Vineyards on the label (www.cupcakevineyard.com). Strangely, it said New Zealand wine on the label though it was in with the California whites. It seemed to be misplaced, but with a \$9 price tag, I gave it a shot, and I am glad I did!

This wine was amazing and drank like gold medal-winning New Zealand sauvignon blancs. What a pleasant surprise. In reading the fine print on the label, the secret to this wine is that the grapes are grown in Marlborough, New Zealand, and bottled in Soledad, CA. This is why it was in the California section. New Zealand is the king of the sauvignon blanc grapes and what a novel idea to produce and bottle it in California. This wine has a burst of citrus fruit—lemon, key lime and grapefruit—with

hint of flowers and grass. The acidity and sugar are smoothly balanced and finishes with a long, wonderful crescendo. This versatile wine pairs with almost anything and goes great with spicy foods, seafood, during cocktail hour or with dessert. The next best thing about this wine is that Costco is now selling it for \$7.69. At this price, you can stock the wine fridge and use it as an everyday drinking wine in addition to trying to impress someone who is really hard to please. As with all whites, it is best to serve this one a

bit warmer than the refrigerator temperature so you can really taste the fruit. Most whites are consumed too cold, and we really miss out. If you do not have a wine fridge, take it out of the kitchen fridge about 20 or 30 minutes before pouring.

Now that I have professed my love for Cupcake sauvignon blanc, I can also tell you about two others I have tried from their portfolio. A few nights ago, we tried the Cupcake merlot, and I must say that it too was a winner. We



Jason S. Nelson, Sr.



tend not to buy very much merlot, not because of the movie "Sideways," but due to the household preference of Syrah and pinot noir. In the '90s, merlot's reputation took a big hit, when producers commercialized the varietal, overpressed it, watered it down and ruined the wine for many drinkers. However, merlot may be back with this one. If I had to guess, I would have thought this was a French Bordeaux merlot as it was smooth, velvety, full of fruit with well-balanced tannins and alcohol.

continued on page 25

Hooked on Cooking

continued from page 22

just want to cut a step, substitute a 14- to 15-ounce can of creamed corn for the ¼ cup water and frozen corn. Masa harina can be found in the Latin food section of the supermarket. Adapted from Allrecipes.com. (6 servings)

Ingredients

½ cup unsalted butter, softened
1 cup masa harina
¼ cup water
1½ cups frozen whole-kernel corn, thawed
¼ cup cornmeal
1 cup sugar
2 tablespoons heavy whipping cream
¼ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon baking powder

Directions

Preheat oven to 350°. In a medium bowl, beat butter until creamy. Stir in masa harina and water. Using a food processor, process corn until chunky. Stir into the butter mixture. Add cornmeal, sugar, cream, salt and baking powder to the masa mixture and stir to combine. Pour batter into an ungreased

8-inch square baking pan; cover with aluminum foil. Place pan in a 9-by-13-inch baking dish filled a third of the way with hot water. Bake for 50 to 60 minutes. Cool 10 minutes before serving with a spoon or an ice cream scoop, El Torito style.

Joan's Honey Cornbread

In the original recipe, this cornbread is baked in an 8-inch square baking pan, but I had problems with the cornbread burning before the interior was done. If you want to try it in an 8-inch pan, bake the bread as directed below for 20 to 25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out with few crumbs, covering the pan with foil if overbrowning. Adapted from *The Get 'Em Girls' Guide to the Perfect Get-together: Delicious Recipes for Family and Friends*, by Shakara Bridgers (Fireside, 2009). (12 servings)

Ingredients

1 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup yellow cornmeal
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon baking powder
2 large eggs
1 cup milk
1 cup vegetable oil
3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
¼ cup honey

Directions

Preheat oven to 400°. Grease a 9-inch square baking pan. In a large bowl, stir together flour, cornmeal, sugar, salt and baking powder. In another bowl, mix eggs, milk, oil, butter and honey. Pour the egg mixture into the cornmeal mixture. Stir to combine; pour into the baking pan. Bake 20 to 22 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.



AMERICAN BAR-B-QUE & CATERING

Restaurant • Dine-In • Carry Out • Country Breakfast
7230 Lockport Place at Telegraph Road • Lorton

Now All Year Long

Friday Night BBQ!!! 3-8 PM

New Lunch Buffet
Tuesday-Friday 11 AM-2 PM

Mon.-Thurs. 6 am-3:30 pm; Fri. 6 am-8 pm
Sat. 7:30 am-3 pm; Sun. Closed

703-339-6765 **703-550-7757**
www.americanbbq.com **Catering**




Family Night with Bozzelli's! 50% Off the Kids Menu! OR 10% OFF Entire Purchase with this Coupon. Not combinable with other offers. Expires 6/12/11.

the best
Bozzelli's
since Italian Deli 1973

Catering since the 70s.

8091 Alban Road
Springfield, VA Suite A
bozzellideli.com

SUBS PASTA PIZZA
Real Italian Guy
phone **703-440-9190**



Drs. Joseph and Renee Mills
Pastor and First Lady

IT'S NO ACCIDENT YOU ARE READING THIS AD

WE HAVE THE ANSWER TO YOUR CHALLENGES IN LIFE!!!

We are a multi-cultural church that would like to help you discover your God given potential. At our church everything we do is to help you overcome life's challenges so that you can become a person of power and purpose. If you are troubled about anything, you need to come and be a part of our services.


Agape Embassy Ministries

We are a Bible Based Ministry

For a deeper understanding of the Bible, join us on Friday nights in our Foundation Class.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our services!

Service times are:
We begin on time!
Sunday Services 8 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 p.m.



5775 Barclay Drive, #7
Alexandria, VA 22315

(703) 971-7202 www.agapembassy.org

A Message from EnviroSolutions

....South County's Community Partner....

The Lorton Arts Foundation's (LAF) Workhouse Arts Center is a true symbol of the transformation that has occurred in the South County community. The Foundation's adaptive re-use of a historic facility has created a place where the community can take advantage of a wide variety of cultural arts opportunities.

EnviroSolutions, Inc. continues to be an active supporter of the Workhouse and its mission to enrich the lives of all within its reach by creating a vibrant cultural community that fosters a diverse offering of arts, education, social and entertainment experiences for people of all ages. I encourage you to join us and to become a part of this exciting cultural arts community.

Attending classes and events, becoming a Friend of the Workhouse, and volunteering are all ways you, as an individual, can enjoy and nurture this wonderful organization. As a business, you can support the organization through financial support, sponsorships, corporate membership and in-kind donations.

Conrad Mehan,
EnviroSolutions, Inc.



Save the Date!

Solo Exhibition, Joyce Watkins,
Workhouse Associate Artist, 2010
Designer's Choice/
People's Choice Artist
April 20-May 8

Influence, 25 Years of Glass Art
April 27-May 29

Mother's Day Tea at the Workhouse:
Chinese Tea Tasting & Chinese Brush
Painting Demonstration
May 8, 1-3pm

Solo Exhibition, 2010 People's Choice
MAD Artist! of the Year:
Patricia McMahon Rice
May 11-29

Foulger-Pratt/Lorton Arts Foundation
4th Annual Workhouse Golf Classic
May 12, 1pm

2nd Saturday Art Walk
May 14, 6-9pm

The Workhouse Salutes
Youth in the Arts Day
May 21, 12-5pm

Workhouse Urban Art Film Series:
"Beautiful Losers"
May 28, 7:30pm

Learn more about these and other Workhouse
events at www.WorkhouseArts.org



The Workhouse Salutes
Youth in the Arts Day on
Saturday, May 21 from
12-5pm



Black Reticello Vase
by Dante Marioni



2010 Workhouse Golf Classic
May 12th



*The Nudniks with
Red Crocs*
by Patricia
McMahon Rice



Workhouse
ARTS CENTER

LORTON Arts
FOUNDATION

9601 Ox Rd | Lorton, VA 22079 | www.WorkhouseArts.org | 703.584.2900

World of Wine

continued from page 23

It drank easily, with a long, warm and fruity finish. I was so disappointed when I went to get more and the bottle was empty. This wine went extremely well with spaghetti and meatballs and would stand up well to a steak, fish, chicken or lamb. Unlike the sauvignon blanc, this wine was born and bred in California's central coast and came with a price tag of around \$12.

The third and final wine we tried was the Cupcake Prosecco, produced from Glera grapes from Italy, the official prosecco grape. I was excited to see a sparkling wine for \$9 and eager to get it cold and try it. I did not fall in love with this wine, but it is a good one for the price range. I tend to like my bubbly very dry and this one was a bit on the sweeter side without a lot of body or structure. The bubbles were lively, but died out quickly, so it needs to be enjoyed right away. In doing research for this column, I read that this

I tend to like my bubbly very dry and this one was a bit on the sweeter side.

prosecco was created in the charmat method, not the traditional method of creating sparkling wine. This means that the wine was fermented in a large steel tank, like beer, not in individual bottles. Bottle fermentation tends to lead to a more structured sparkling with longer-lasting smaller bubbles. The charmat, or tank method, is not bad, it is simply a less-expensive way to create and trap bubbles before bottling. This is why these wines do not cost as much, however, we do sacrifice some quality. If you are looking for a fresh, easy-to-drink sparkling wine with a smooth finish for less than \$9, this is the one for you.

Suburban Gourmet

continued from page 22

and very light on the coconut milk. Though the flavor was pleasant, we wondered whether we had been served the incorrect dish.

The entrée menu also contained a mix of hits and misses. Thai Fried Rice (\$8.95) was

fine, but nothing to write home about. The Chicken Pad Thai (\$8.95) was not the best rendition of the classic dish. Because the flavors in this dish tend to be very mild and delicate, at least in comparison to its more assertive Thai cuisine brethren dishes, a well-prepared Pad Thai doesn't leave you hoping for more flavor. Unfortunately, this version did.

But the restaurant's extensive menu gives diners plenty of other good options. We found the Beef Panang (\$6.50 at lunch, \$10.95 at dinner), another Thai classic, a definite hit. Served in a dramatic deep, square dish, the curry flavor was strong but not overpowering, and the spiciness was just right. The portion was quite large, too. We also enjoyed the Whiskey Beef (\$10.95), a well-prepared steak that was tender and with a nice balance of sweet and sour flavors in the marinade. It is served with steamed vegetables.

Vegetarians will find many dishes that can be made with either vegetables or tofu. We sampled the Sesame Tofu (\$9.95), which

features fried tofu in a very sweet sauce. The outside of the tofu is golden and crispy, and the inside is soft and creamy. It nicely complements the cabbage, carrots and other crispy vegetables in the dish.

On each table at East Moon is a full-color photo menu of desserts. The pictures were so tempting, we couldn't resist. Our favorite was the Torta Tiramisu with

Kahlua (\$5.95). Its creamy texture and coffee flavor were wonderful. The Turtle Molten Bundt Cake (\$5.95) looked beautiful, but lacked a real strong, real chocolate flavor.

With its prime location next to the theater and its extensive menu of regional favorites, East Moon is a good bet to please a crowd. Or, bring the food to your house. East Moon Asian Bistro will deliver within a five-mile radius with a minimum order of \$10. The phone number is 703-347-7707 and the address is 5920 Kings Towne Center, Alexandria. On the web, menus can be viewed at www.eastmoonbistro.net.

Vegetarians will find many dishes that can be made with either vegetables or tofu.

Readers' Viewpoints

Cartoon was Anti-Catholic

The editorial page cartoon in your April 2011 edition, depicting a Roman Catholic cleric is virulently Anti-Catholic and has no place in the pages of a respected newspaper published in the Commonwealth of Virginia, or anywhere else. It is offensive to me, a practicing Catholic, and, I suspect, to many others, both in the laity and clergy of the Church.

It appears to be a crudely disguised effort to taint all members of the Roman Catholic

clergy as child molesters, which is simply not the case. There is no doubt that certain members of the Church committed grave crimes against innocent children. There are no possible excuses for what transpired and the Church has taken strong measures to make sure that such crimes are never repeated.

However, the cartoon you published insinuates that the entire ordained Catholic clergy is guilty of heinous crimes and an associated cover-up. This is yellow journalism at best. The vast majority of Catholic priests, deacons and religious brothers are decent

men striving to serve their congregations as best as they can. They work hard and do not molest children.

An apology to the Catholics of Fairfax County, laity and clerics, is due from you.

Edward H. Beck
Burke

Support Appreciated

I applaud you and your staff on your editorial in the Chronicle Newspapers ["School Discipline," April 2011]

As one who seeks the delicate balance of maintaining a safe and orderly environment while also trying to nurture every one of our 4,000 students, I appreciate your strong words of support.

Dan Meier, principal
Robinson Secondary School

Commentary



Jeff C. McKay (D)
Supervisor, Lee District

When a Plan is Not a Plan

Those of us who live or work in South County are at ground zero for BRAC. For months, we have been braced for the coming disaster in September when thousands of BRAC workers, military and hospital patients relocate to Fort Belvoir and the Mark Center.

There is some good news. The April 13 passage of the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011 that

appropriates \$150 million to widen Rte. 1 adjacent to Fort Belvoir is an important first step in addressing the added traffic congestion that BRAC will bring. This appropriation moves us a few inches from ground zero. We can thank congressmen Moran and Connolly and senators Warner and Webb for their recognition that BRAC's success is tied to local infrastructure improvement.

That's the good news. The bad news is that the state—with the largest responsibility for our transportation infrastructure—still hasn't noticed the existence of Rte. 1. That's hard to imagine when Rte. 1 will be home to a good chunk of the impending B RAC moves to Fort Belvoir.

continued on page 26

Opinions expressed in Commentaries, Columns, Cartoons and Reader's Viewpoints do not necessarily represent the views of the Chronicle Newspapers. The Chronicle invites reader response and is particularly interested in hearing from readers who disagree with the opinions expressed in the Commentaries and in Our Viewpoints. Letters should not exceed 350 words. All submissions must include the name, address, and daytime phone number of the author. The deadline is the 20th of the month prior to publication. All submissions are subject to editing. Send comments to viewpoints@chroniclenewspapers.com.



Pat Herrity (R)
Supervisor, Springfield District

MWAA's \$700 Million Plus Highway Robbery

Much has been written in the press on the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) Board of Directors' April 6 decision to select the tunnel alignment through Dulles International Airport as part of Phase 2 construction for Dulles Rail. Already significantly over budget, this decision will needlessly cost taxpayers and toll road users at least \$330 million.

What has been overlooked in much of the media coverage of the controversial tunnel decision is the April 6 resolution passed by the MWAA board to mandate a union-favoring project labor agreement (PLA) onto contractors building Phase 2 of the project. Construction industry experts estimate this pro-PLA resolution could add between 10 percent and 30 percent in construction costs to the \$3.5 billion project with little benefit to the project or taxpayers.

Both of these fiscally irresponsible decisions will come at the expense of Fairfax County taxpayers and toll-road users and were decided with total disregard of the very vocal desires of the project's financial partners—Fairfax County, Loudoun County and the Commonwealth of Virginia. At best this is taxation without representation. At worst it is highway robbery, as our citizens and the toll-road users will pay for these reckless decisions made by the unelected

MWAA board, the majority of which are not even Virginia residents. Four MWAA board members voted against the tunnel—former Congressman Tom Davis, Michael O'Reilly, Frank Conner III and William Cobey.

The Dulles Toll Road corridor and Tysons Corner are the economic engines of Fairfax County and the Commonwealth of Virginia. In order to finance Dulles Rail, tolls on the Dulles Toll Road are already projected to exceed \$10 one way, excluding the Greenway. These toll projections were prepared *before* the anticipated \$1.2B Phase 2 overrun and the recent outrageous decisions by the MWAA board.

For quite some time I have been raising concerns about the impact of these tolls on our economic engine and our tax base. I am aware of companies that have left this corridor because of the projected tolls. At our next meeting I will be formally asking the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to look at the economic impact of the tolls on this critical corridor.

In addition, Fairfax County taxpayers are on the hook for 16 percent of the project costs. The special tax district established for the Dulles Rail project includes a cap and will not cover the Fairfax portion of the original project estimate, much less the overrun and

continued on page 27



Gerald E. Connolly (D)
Congressman, 11th Congressional District

We Should Not Dismantle Medicare

When Congress returns to session in early May, debate will continue on a Republican plan to dismantle Medicare as we know it and replace it with a privatized voucher system.

When the Medicare program was created in 1965, it marked a major and important change for seniors in our nation.

Before the enactment of the Medicare law, more than half of all seniors in this country had little or no access to health care and life-protecting and life-saving medications because they could not afford it. Thirty-five percent of all seniors lived below the poverty line.

Medicare changed all of that by providing guaranteed, affordable health care to all Americans 65 years of age and older and to the disabled. Today, every senior has access to quality health care coverage, which has improved both the quality of life and the life expectancy for older Americans.

Medicare represents our commitment to the nation's retirees after their lifetimes of hard work. Today, thanks to Medicare, we have cut the senior poverty rate by 75 percent.

Medicare is one of America's greatest success stories, but today it is under attack and faces a very real threat to its existence.

In April, the Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives passed a radical plan that would eliminate Medicare as we know it and replace it with a voucher system that would provide seniors with a fixed amount to help them purchase private insurance in the open market. The remainder of the cost of purchasing private health insurance and other health care costs would come out of

seniors' pockets.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the House-passed legislation would force seniors to pay about \$7,000 more each year in premiums and co-insurance fees. Out-of-pocket costs would double over the next decade and triple by the year 2030.

Besides putting seniors at the mercy of private insurance companies, the plan would also reopen the so-called Medicare Part D doughnut hole, raising the cost of prescription drugs for all seniors.

The GOP legislation also eliminates a key provision in the health insurance reform law which prohibits private insurance companies from denying coverage or treatment for pre-existing conditions.

The Republican plan allows private insurers to cherry pick healthy seniors and forces those with medical issues to fend for themselves. This could put every single senior with a preexisting condition at risk. Whether they suffer from hypertension, glaucoma, heart disease, diabetes, arthritis, cancer or any other ailment, they could be denied coverage by a private insurer. Even those who could afford the increased cost of privatized health care could find themselves denied insurance due to a preexisting condition.

In late April, I hosted a telephone town hall meeting that attracted more than 30,000 participants from the 11th Congressional District here in Northern Virginia and Medicare was one of the primary topics on the minds of our citizens. During that meeting, I conducted a poll on the Medicare question, asking whether participants supported

continued on page 27



Sharon Bulova (D)
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

2012 Budget: Bringing the County in for a Steady Landing

When this current Board of Supervisors took office in the winter of 2008, we did so to the backdrop of a serious nationwide recession with the failure of financial and lending institutions, plummeting property values nationwide and rising foreclosures and unemployment. Our Board has responded to these Great Recession years by engaging our community and our workforce in the implementation of reorganizational changes, efficiencies and reductions that have allowed us to right-size the cost of services to a vastly reduced revenue stream while maintaining the quality of life Fairfax County residents value.

The budget we adopted on April 26 continues this effort for Fiscal Year 2012.

More than \$20 million in reductions are included in this year's budget. This is in addition to \$180 million in reductions that have been taken during the past two fiscal years. Fairfax County government continues to improve efficiency and streamline the delivery of critical services—the county's ratio of posi-

tions per 1,000 residents is currently 11.34, a 17 percent decrease from 20 years ago.

This year's budget lowers the real estate tax rate for all Fairfax County homeowners. Since our first budget as a Board in Fiscal Year 2009, we have lowered the average homeowner's tax bill, even with the addition of the Stormwater Utility Fee.

This Board has also successfully encouraged economic development as a means of jump-starting our economy through the work of our Economic Advisory Commission and through our actions to bring redevelopment to Tysons Corner, the Springfield Mall area and other revitalization areas of the county. Evidence of the success of this strategy is the 3.73 percent increase this year of commercial property values.

When thinking of a theme to this year's budget, I was reminded of a photo that appeared in the news in January 2009 when a plane made an emergency landing in the Hudson River right off the shore of Manhat-

continued on page 27

McKay

continued from page 25

As the May date for the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to act on Governor McDonnell's transportation plan is less than a month away, it's one minute to midnight for Rte. 1. The things we don't do now will have an impact far beyond the seven miles of potholed, unimproved road that is the front door to Fort Belvoir. Rte. 1 has suffered from an unfair allocation of state transportation dollars for far too long.

Just how operationally ready and protected do you think Fort Belvoir is going to be when something as routine as a traffic accident today can close Rte. 1 in both directions and jam up traffic on all the alternate routes. We don't have to look any further than the March 14 and 21 accidents with fatalities and numerous injuries that closed the road in both directions. Now imagine Rte. 1 once the new community hospital on the post opens this August with all the BRAC employees, along with the contractors that will come with them. And this on a road that hasn't been widened since 1971 and relies

on only buses for public transit. You have only to experience the daily logjams on the highway around the base now to realize the critical need to upgrade Rte. 1. It's going to be hard for our military to use that impressive new hospital if they can't get to it.

So how does the governor's plan address this critical need? First, of its 900 projects,

only 31 are in Fairfax County, representing 6.65 percent of the total plan. We need to do much better if we are going to begin to address BRAC impacts.

If the state is really serious about addressing its infrastructure needs with a multi-million-dollar transportation

plan, then it can't ignore the emergency situation that's already at its front door. It's time for the CTB to take a hard analytical look at how the commonwealth allocates its transportation dollars and then match real-time needs to real dollars. Rte. 1 needs widening, it needs better transit and it needs it now. The longer we delay, the harder and more costly the fixes will be.

Now is the time for the state to step up to its responsibilities and become a true partner.

Upgrading Rte. 1 is critical for the county.

Our Viewpoint

Supervisors Pass 2012 Budget with Little Sturm und Drang

In continuing difficult economic times, the Board of Supervisors worked through this year's budget process relatively quietly and with little grandstanding, approved the fiscal year 2012 budget on April 26. Given the current national partisan atmosphere, with conservatives holding the federal budget hostage until minutes before a shutdown of the federal government, it isn't surprising that the three Republican supervisors—Michael R. Frey (R-Sully), John C. Cook (R-Braddock) and Pat S. Herrity (R-Springfield)—voted against the budget. However, their opposition seemed more symbolic than real.

All three complained that the budget did not reduce expenses sufficiently and raised taxes. Herrity wrote in his constituent newsletter: "The time to provide Fairfax County residents with some tax relief is long overdue. I will not support a budget that does not give our homeowners some relief."

Clearly, the goal of the majority was to maintain the level of quality services provided by both Fairfax County Public Schools and the county government while not increasing taxes to cover the increasing built-in costs. Since 2009, spending has been reduced by roughly \$200 million. Last year's budget process resulted in substantial cost-cutting and in the reduction of many county services. For example, the library system over two years had dramatic cuts resulting in significantly reduced operating hours and reductions in staff and acquisition funds.

The new budget makes few changes from the current year. It is expected that revenue will increase by about \$102 million and fixed expenses will grow by \$68 million. Supervisors used most of the expected additional revenue to reduce the real estate taxes that will be set at \$1.07 per \$100 of assessed value down from the current \$1.09 rate. The net result for the "average homeowner" is that their real estate tax will increase by a projected \$20. Homeowners whose assessed values decline will experience a net reduction in their tax bill. However, the other 50 percent, whose assessments climb, will experience a larger increase. For most citizens the

increase will be negligible.

A number of other fees were increased at the same time. The sewer service charge will be raised from \$5.27 to \$6.01 per 1,000 gallons, the connection charge will also increase and there will be an increase in fees for zoning and land development.

It is really hard to take seriously Cook, Frey and Herrity's complaint that the budget includes insufficient cost-cutting, given the cuts made over the last two years and in addition to the fact that neither school nor county employees have received a salary increase for the last two years. The Board did direct County Executive Anthony H. Griffin to provide employees with a 1.1 percent increase if the revenue becomes available.

The elimination in the school system of many good programs and the increase in class sizes that have been required to balance the budget have absolutely resulted in a meaningful decrease in the quality of the Fairfax County educational system. That fact cannot be ignored and will ultimately have a damaging impact on the county.

It is also foolish to believe that you can pay teachers less than they can make in other systems and believe that some of your best teachers will not leave. Those who believe that these various cuts represented the elimination of waste are simply ignorant.

The resulting 2012 budget is not one than anyone should be happy about. Teachers and county employees need reasonable salary increases. Many of the service cuts that have occurred over the last three years will need to be reversed when the economy improves. In the future, a healthy debate should occur over the quality and level of services citizens want from the county and the school system and how much they are willing to pay to achieve it. Today's economic conditions leave few good choices. The Board of Supervisors has acted wisely in facing this significant and continuing economic downturn and has made the right choices.

Bulova

continued from page 26

tan. What could have been a catastrophic disaster was avoided by a cool-headed pilot (Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger) and his crew, who assisted passengers out of the plane and onto the wings, where they waited in an orderly line for lifeboats to arrive.

While comparing Fairfax County's response to this decade's economic downturn to the Hudson River landing may be a stretch, we have averted what could easily have been a severe economic tailspin and have benefitted from some remarkably cool-headed individuals who have worked with this Board and with our community as we begin to recover.

Our county staff has made remarkable efforts on the budget this year and in years past. This is Deputy County Executive Ed Long's last budget and I thank him for his always steady, enlightened and insightful

handling of Fairfax County's fiscal matters. He, along with Budget Director Susan Datta and their talented and able staff, have steered us through two major downturns and helped us to achieve and maintain our status as Best Managed Jurisdiction of our Size in the Nation, even during these rocky times. Thanks also to former Debt Manager Len Wales and of course to County Executive Tony Griffin, who will be steering us through one more budget season before retiring next year.

I also want to thank the Fairfax County residents who came to the table during this budget season and made their voices heard. Hundreds of citizens came to our three public hearings in March, and many more attended town hall forums in our districts and commented online. Community engagement is critical when making decisions on a budget that invests in our priorities. I sincerely thank everyone who contributed this year toward bringing us in for a steady landing.

Herrity

continued from page 26

the impact of the poor financial decisions by the MWAA board. If this project moves forward, additional funding will either have to come at the expense of other transportation projects in the county or will be a further burden on our taxpayers.

Typically, government-mandated PLAs increase the cost of construction by imposing inefficient union work rules and special-interest mandates on contractors and result in reduced competition. This is especially true in Virginia, a right-to-work state, where only four percent of our private construction workforce belongs to a construction trade union. This means the economic benefits and jobs created by the construction project are likely to go outside Virginia, even though it is our citizens who are paying for the project.

The devastating impact PLA mandates have on cost and competition were very evident on the Wilson Bridge project. When Maryland initially imposed a PLA requirement on the bridge project, only one bid was received and it was 78 percent more than the state's cost estimate. Eventually the PLA mandate was lifted by the federal government and the project was broken down into smaller contracts, resulting in multiple bidders and a final cost that came in significantly below the state's cost estimate.

The Fairfax Board of Supervisors, along with Chairman Scott York from the Loudon County Board of Supervisors and Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton are on record asking that these costly decisions be reconsidered. I believe we must go further. In 2006, then Gov. Timothy

Kaine handed the Dulles Toll Road and the Dulles Rail project over to MWAA in an administrative decision. This decision was done without a vote of the General Assembly or local elected bodies. It is time for Virginia and the local partners to revisit this decision and return control of the Dulles Toll Road and the Dulles Rail project to elected bodies so that we can ensure greater transparency, responsiveness to taxpayers and put an end to this highway robbery by the MWAA board.

Connolly

continued from page 26

replacing the current Medicare system with a voucher system.

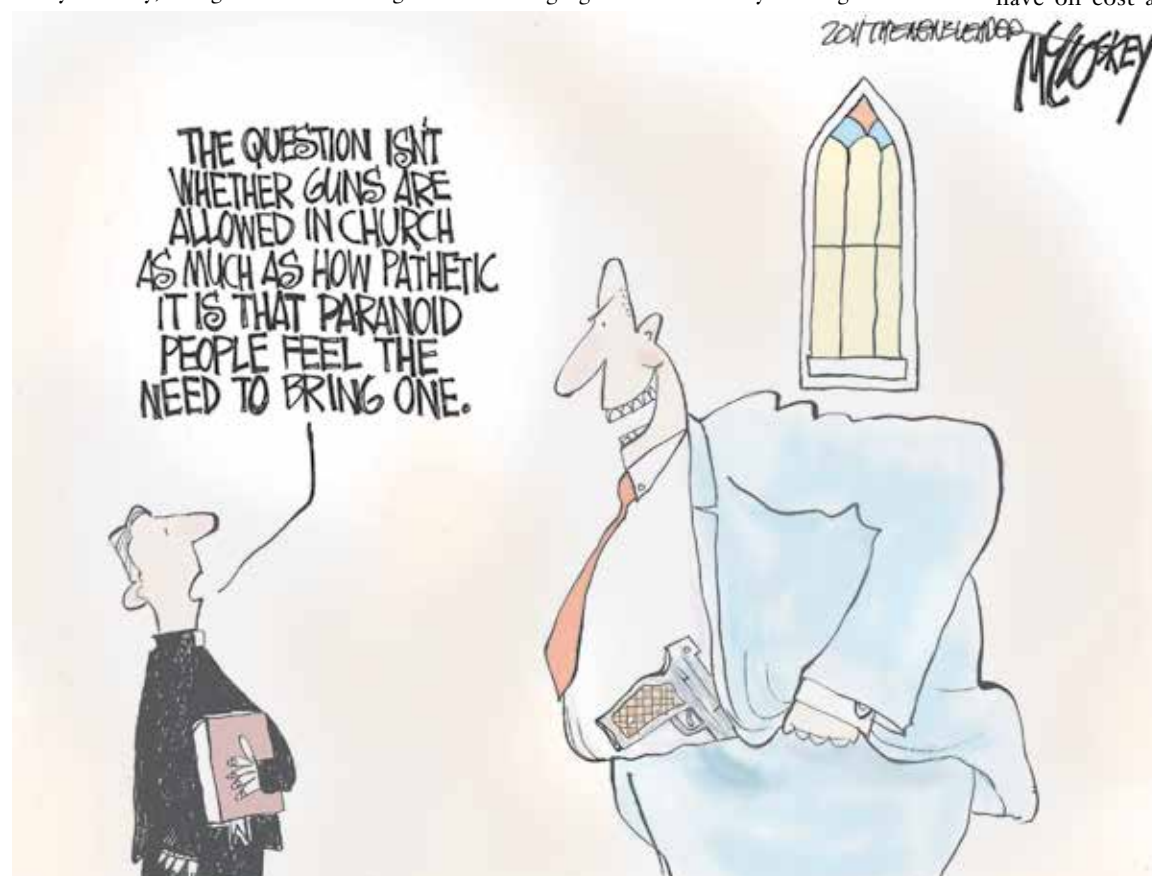
Nearly 1,300 people responded to the poll during that one-hour meeting and 73 percent of them said they support Medicare in its current form and oppose the Republican plan. Twenty-seven percent of those responding supported the change. The participants in the town hall meeting represented a cross-section of our citizens—young and old; Democrats, independents and Republicans; men and women.

It is pretty clear that the vast majority of citizens in Northern Virginia do not want to kill Medicare because it is a program that works and provides important benefits to older Americans and the disabled. They don't want a world where seniors are thrust into bankruptcy or poverty because of medical expenses or, worse, have no access to care at a time when they need it the most.

As the nation rightly focuses on deficit reduction there are many, varied proposals to restore long-term fiscal responsibility. But destroying the Medicare program for our seniors and future generations is not a viable solution that I can support.

Denying or rationing medical care for seniors, increasing out-of-pocket costs for medical services and prescription drugs and putting the fate of our seniors in the hands of private insurance companies do not represent my values or the values of most Virginians.

Compromising the health of our nation's senior citizens is not a compromise that America can or should live with. I will continue to fight to preserve and protect Medicare.



NGOC DO & ASSOCIATES

CROSSPOINTE TESTIMONIAL

I recently retired and wanted to sell my home in Crosspointe, where I had lived for 10 years. In order to do so, I interviewed most of the larger volume realtors in the area. This was not my first time selling a home, as I was a mortgage banker for many years and have lived in numerous states (9 houses). In addition, I had dealt with a large number of realtors and clearly understood that there are good ones and some that are not so good. Ngoc stood out from the others by his professionalism and his strategic approach to selling homes. Ngoc and his team came up with a game plan that was aimed at quickly selling the house for the best price possible. They arranged for a contractor to make a number of improvements in the kitchen (not real major things) that added significant value and appeal (got a bigger bump in value than the cost of improvement by far). They also came up with a suggested list of minor improvements. Tammie did a great job on staging the house to make it as attractive as possible.

We clearly are not in a sellers market today, but within 2 days of putting the property on the market, I had 4 legitimate offers. Two actually got into a bidding war so the house sold for over list! It sold for more than a larger home in Crosspointe which had better upgrades (not a Ngoc listing by the way...) Ben and Ngoc did a great job on getting the deal closed on time with very few bumps in the road. Ngoc and his team were the most professional and easiest to work with of any that I had experienced before. If you want to get the best, Ngoc & his team are clearly the people to see!

Rick Pishalski

9412 Meadow Crossing Way, Fairfax Station, VA 22039



Sold \$952,500- Shadowalk Ln
Fairfax Station



Sold \$701,000 - Meadow Crossing Way
Crosspointe



Sold \$649,900 - Copperleaf Ct
Crosspointe

**#1 Agent at Long & Foster's Lorton, Fairfax Station, Burke & Clifton Offices
Top 1% of Realtors Nationwide**



703-798-2899

WWW.NGOCDO.COM

Long & Foster, 8971 Ox Road Suite, 150, Lorton/Fairfax Station



Gurdeen



Dan



Lauren



Ben



Lucia



Tammie

