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The Chronicle

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May 2011

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Volume 8 • Number 9

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Crestwood Elementary School students launch an original play about James Madison

New Effort at GMU Werkheiser to Direct Center For "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 multi-disciplinary 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 help-

ing 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.

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
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Congressional Honors for Student Artists



Lake Braddock Secondary School student Daniel Castellano's "Self Portrait: Pop Art" 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 2.

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

The landfill was started in 1972 by the DC gov-

ernment 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 contin-

ues 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
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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, 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,

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

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 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 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

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

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.

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 underscored 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 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 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 edu-

cation 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-

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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 compo-

sition 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 Over-

look, 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 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."

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



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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 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 search specialists (two of them women) and their dogs; structural engineers and rigging specialists. Simultaneously, US Embassy personnel in Tokyo organized a base of operations 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 of equipment and supplies to the Ofunato

continued on page 15

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 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/natlregister.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 respectively.

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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, fat-free 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, said

Shenandoah Dairy’s laboratory supervisor Mar Vangardias worked at Shenandoah Dairy for seven years.

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?

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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 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 Washington Warriors, tells of the recently conclud-

ed 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.

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 everywhere, 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

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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 Community 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.

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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.

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

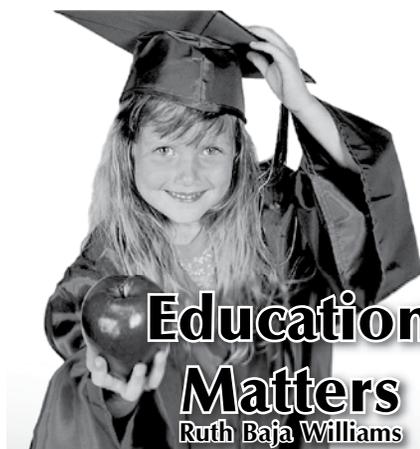
in the audience can understand the obstacles many of the C.A.S.T. players must overcome. Perhaps this is why, in a preperformance introduction, co-playwright Ronald Lindsay said that James Madison was a little man who had a lot to overcome. He was only five foot, three inches tall, not handsome, not 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

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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 Folklórico 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.

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 affects 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 ground-

breaking 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.

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 "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 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.

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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 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

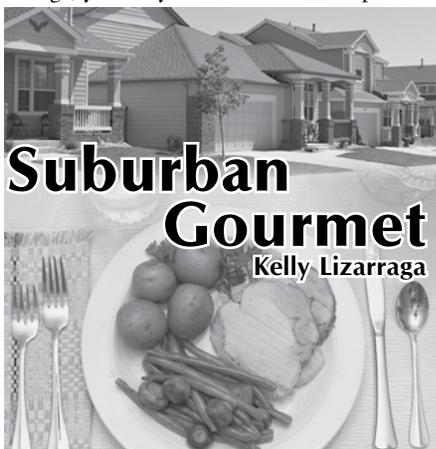
more assertive Thai cuisine brethren dishes, a well-prepared Pad Thai doesn't leave you hoping for more flavor. Unfortunately, this version did.

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

continued on page 9



Suburban Gourmet
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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.

These recipes—a sweet corn cake and honey cornbread—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 with fresh corn.

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.

Sweet Corn Cake

If you don't have a food processor or 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
- ½ cup masa harina
- ¼ cup water
- 1½ cups frozen whole-kernel corn, thawed
- ¼ cup cornmeal
- ½ 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.



Hooked On Cooking

Janet Thompson Conley

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
- ⅔ cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup milk
- ⅓ 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.

Suburban Gourmet

continued from page 6

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.

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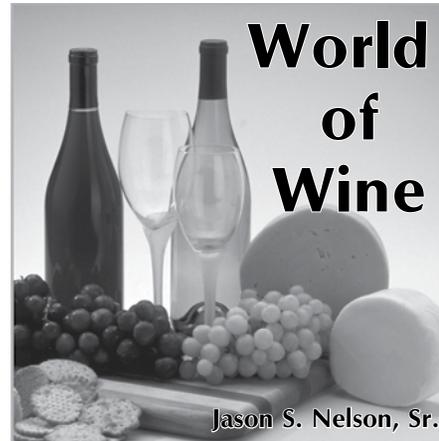
There is a new powerhouse hitting the shelves in the wine stores and wine aisles in the grocery stores. My discovery started about a year ago when I was looking at the sauvignon blanc bottles in the California section of the wine aisle. A bright-yellow bottle caught my eye with the name Cupcake Vineyards 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.

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.

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

World of Wine



Jason S. Nelson, Sr.

was a winner. We 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. 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 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.

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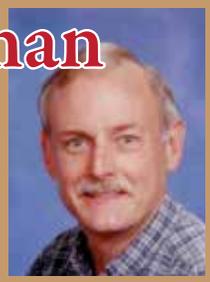
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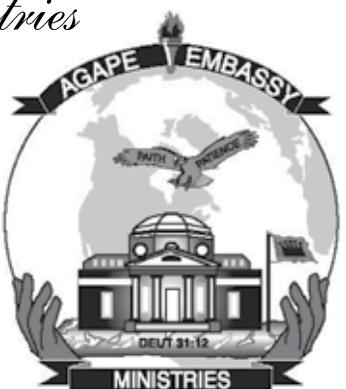
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Critics Corner

continued from page 6

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.



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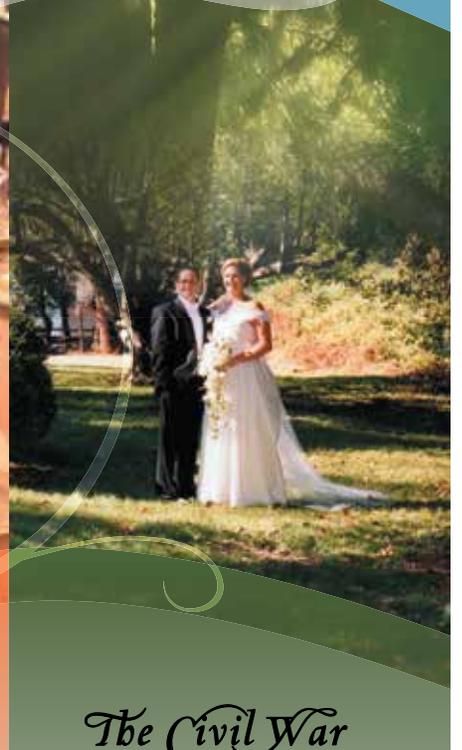


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Calendar

May 2011

Send calendar listings to Kathy Marinucci
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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.springfieldartguild.com/, 703-283-7264)

6-15-14th Annual T.C. Williams Student Art Show, presented jointly by Del Ray Artisans and the T.C. Williams High School Art Department, will feature the work of members of the National Art Honor Society. Thurs., noon-6 p.m.; Fri., noon-9 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun., noon-6 p.m. at the Del Ray Artisans gallery at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. (www.TheDelRayArtisans.org, 703-824-6800)

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)

20-22-14th Annual Antiques in Alexandria, one of the most prestigious shows in the mid-Atlantic, will feature dealers offering furniture, silver, porcelain, folk art, clocks, jewelry and more. See website for special events and exhibits. \$15. Fri., 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat., 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria. (www.AntiquesinAlexandria.com, 703-548-7469)

FARMERS' MARKETS

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

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)

18, 25, June 1, 8-Mount Vernon Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-noon at the Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall La., Alexandria. (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farm-mkt.htm, 703-324-5390)

PERFORMANCES

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

14-All the Jazz. The Personality Show Choir will perform toe-tapping hit songs from jazz, pop and disco history. \$5. 7 p.m. in the auditorium of West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Rd., Springfield. (www.wshschorus.org/)

14 & 15-Mahler Anniversary Concert. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra will perform Beethoven and Mahler with pianist Garrick Ohlsson. \$80-\$5. Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 3 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. (www.alexsym.org/index.shtml, 703-548-0885)

19 & 20-Musical Revue. The Musical Theatre Ensemble will perform Broadway tunes from "Grease," "Newsies," "Sweeney Todd," "Mamma Mia!" and more. \$5. 7 p.m. in the auditorium of West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Rd., Springfield. (www.wshschorus.org/)

22-Symphony Spectacular. The American Youth Concert Orchestra and the American Youth String Ensemble will perform in concert. \$10-\$14. 3 p.m. at the GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. (www.aypo.org/about-us/about-us.php, 703-642-8051)

23-Music Buddies Showcase Recital. The American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra Music Buddies Mentorship Program is a peer-to-peer musical training opportunity for area youth. This concert will feature those mentees, their families and mentors. 7:30 p.m. at Kilmer Middle School, 8100 Wolf Trap Rd., Vienna. (703-642-8051, www.aypo.org/events/concert-schedule.php)

30-34th Annual Memorial Day Jazz Festival will offer American music played by jazz ensembles and orchestras performing in a variety of jazz styles. 1-7 p.m. at Fort Ward Park, 4301 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria. (www.AlexandriaVA.gov, 703-746-5592)

MOVIE

14-"Twelve Disciples of Nelson Mandela" tells the story of B. Pule Leinaeng and 11 comrades, who left their home in Bloemfontein in 1960. They told the world about the brutality of the apartheid system and raised support for the fledgling African National Congress and its leader, Nelson Mandela. One of the Movies with a Mission. Followed by a discussion and a gallery walk. Reservations requested. 4:30 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. (www.alexblackhistory.org, 703-746-4356)

INSTRUCTION

14 & 15-Creating Outdoor Mosaic Garden Ornaments. This workshop will include techniques and materials to install mosaics that withstand moisture, freeze-thaw cycles and other elements of winter weather. Bring your own additional supplies (a supply list will be provided). \$30 (\$35 for nonmembers); \$60 (\$70 for nonmembers) for both days. Registration (by May 11) required. Sat., 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Sun., noon-4 p.m. at the instructor's home (details provided at registration). (calendar.thedelrayartisans.org)

the Woods Community Center, Burke Centre, and a second Burke location. See website for details. (www.czartlessons.com, 703-250-6930)

24-Café Sketching Workshop. Learn techniques for drawing quickly and fearlessly in a sketchbook. Practice first in a mock café setting, then head out as a group to draw. Bring a sketchbook, pencils and eraser. Registration required. \$30 (\$25 for DRA members). 2-5 p.m. at the Del Ray Artisans Gallery in the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. (www.thedelrayartisans.org/cafe, 703-836-1468)

June 4-Fourth Family Caregivers Forum will include Fairfax County information as well as private exhibitors and a panel discussion by experts in caregiving. Spanish translators will be available. Sponsored by the Region One Caregiving Initiative. Reservations required. 9 a.m.-noon at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Hwy., Alexandria. (703-780-4055, 703-324-4600, TTY711)

June 8-Open Life drawing. All skill levels can loosen up and participate in a fun, fast-paced drawing experience at this gesture session, composed primarily of series of dynamic 1- to 5-minute poses by a live model, one or two of which may be revisited for 10-15 minutes at the end of the session. Bring your own supplies. \$8 (\$6 for DRA members). 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Del Ray Artisans Gallery in the Nicholas A. Colasanto



www.view_entry.php?id=911&date=20110514, www.TheDelRayArtisans.org, 202-270-9524, sallycoler@hotmail.com)

17-Genealogy from the Inside Out: Tracing a Family Secret from a Single Clue. Steve Luxenberg, Washington Post senior editor and award-winning author, will explain how to comb through burial records, birth certificates, hospital records, immigration documents and wartime records from diverse locations and assemble them into a coherent paper trail. The public is invited. 1 p.m. in room 112 of the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Rd., Alexandria. (www.MVGenealogy.org/, haroldm@erols.com, 703-360-0920)

18-Restoring Shad to the Potomac River will be explained by Jim Cummins of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin. Presented by the Friends of Dyke Marsh. 7:30 p.m. at the visitors' center at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. (www.fodm.org, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/, 703-768-2525)

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

Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. (www.thedelrayartisans.org, 703-836-1468)

June 8-Open Life drawing. All skill levels can get drawing practice at this short/long-pose session, composed primarily of series of dynamic 5- to 15-minute poses by a live model. Bring your own supplies. \$8 (\$6 for DRA members). 2-5 p.m. at the Del Ray Artisans Gallery in the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. (www.thedelrayartisans.org, 703-836-1468)

GATHERINGS

17, 24, 31-The Wakefield Chorale, 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)

19-Ms. Virginia Senior America Pageant will feature 12 candidates vying for the title. Donations are welcome. 1:30 p.m. at the Lee Center, Kauffman Auditorium, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria. (www.msvirginiasenior.com, 703-549-7012)

21-Life in Civil War Alexandria: A 150th Commemorative Event. This kick-off for Alexandria's

Civil War Commemoration will feature the Federal City Brass Band; interpretations of Robert E. Lee, a Civil War photographer, an army surgeon, Union and Confederate soldiers, and black civilians; as well as a U.S. Military Railroad portrayal; the Victorian Dance Ensemble and more. 2-5 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St., Alexandria. (www.historicalexandria.org, 703-746-4554)

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

27-29-Sunset Celebration at Mount Vernon. Stroll the lantern-lit grounds and enjoy 18th-century music, dancing, colonial games, wagon rides and meet characters from Washington's world. \$18; ages 6-11, \$12; younger than 5, free. 6-9 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. (www.MountVernon.org, 703-780-2000)

June 4-Annual Community Family Fun Fest, to benefit the Koinonia Foundation, will offer the ubiquitous moon bounce, face-painting, children's games, food, vendor/craft sales, live music and more. Donations of funds and canned or dried foods are welcomed. (Rain date, June 11.) 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Rd, Alexandria. (www.franconiaumc.org, 703-971-5151)

HELPING

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 will 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.hsfc.org, pets@hsfc.org, 703-385-7387)

22-The Franconia United Methodist Men Ministry will meet, and invites all men to join them in various service projects such as Heart Havens, the Job Jar, Adopt a Highway and supporting Camp Rainbow. 8 a.m. at the Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Rd., Alexandria. (www.franconiaumc.org, 703-971-5151)

26 & 27-Phoenix Rising Meal Program. Volunteers are needed to help prepare and assemble bag lunches on Thursday at 6:30 p.m., then deliver them on Friday at 5:30 p.m. to homeless people living in the woods, their vehicles and in motels along the Rte. 1 corridor in Alexandria. Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Rd., Alexandria. (www.franconiaumc.org, admin@franconiaumc.org, 703-971-5151)

GOLF

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)

27-Golf Tournament, sponsored by the Sydenstricker United Methodist Men, will help pay the way for David Curtin to travel to Athens to represent the U.S. in the Special Olympics World Summer Games. Green fees, cart, bag of practice balls and donation to David's bid for the Olympics is \$95. Prizes will be awarded. 1 p.m. at the Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Dr., Lorton. (www.sumcdisciples.org/, 703-569-2770, 703-644-1884)

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)



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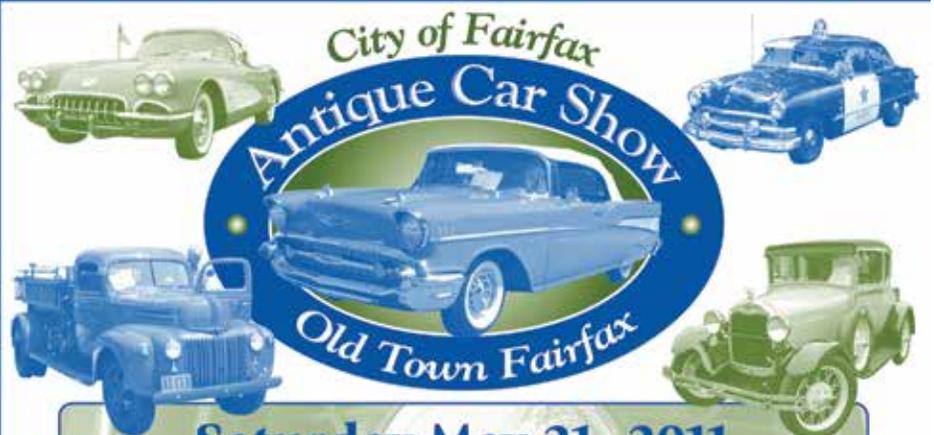
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Search and Rescue

continued from page 4

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.

Education Matters

continued from page 5

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



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

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 Crestwood 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.

Clifton Homes

continued from page 5

Tour five tastefully decorated homes, some 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 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 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.



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Werkheiser

continued from page 1

intersection of ideas that can 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 innova-

tive 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 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, 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.

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

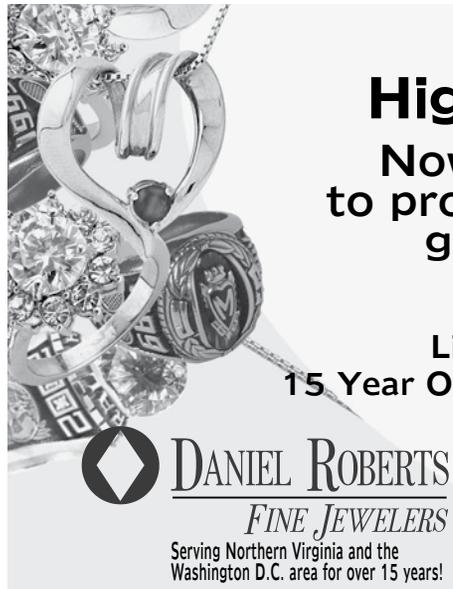
Jerry Foundation, which funded nonprofit organizations.

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. 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 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."



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Lorton Landfill

continued from page 1

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' 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.

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.

Fairfax Sports Scene

continued from page 5

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.

Washington's Library

continued from page 2

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.

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.

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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

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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

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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-

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McKay

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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

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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

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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

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replacing the current Medicare system with a voucher system.

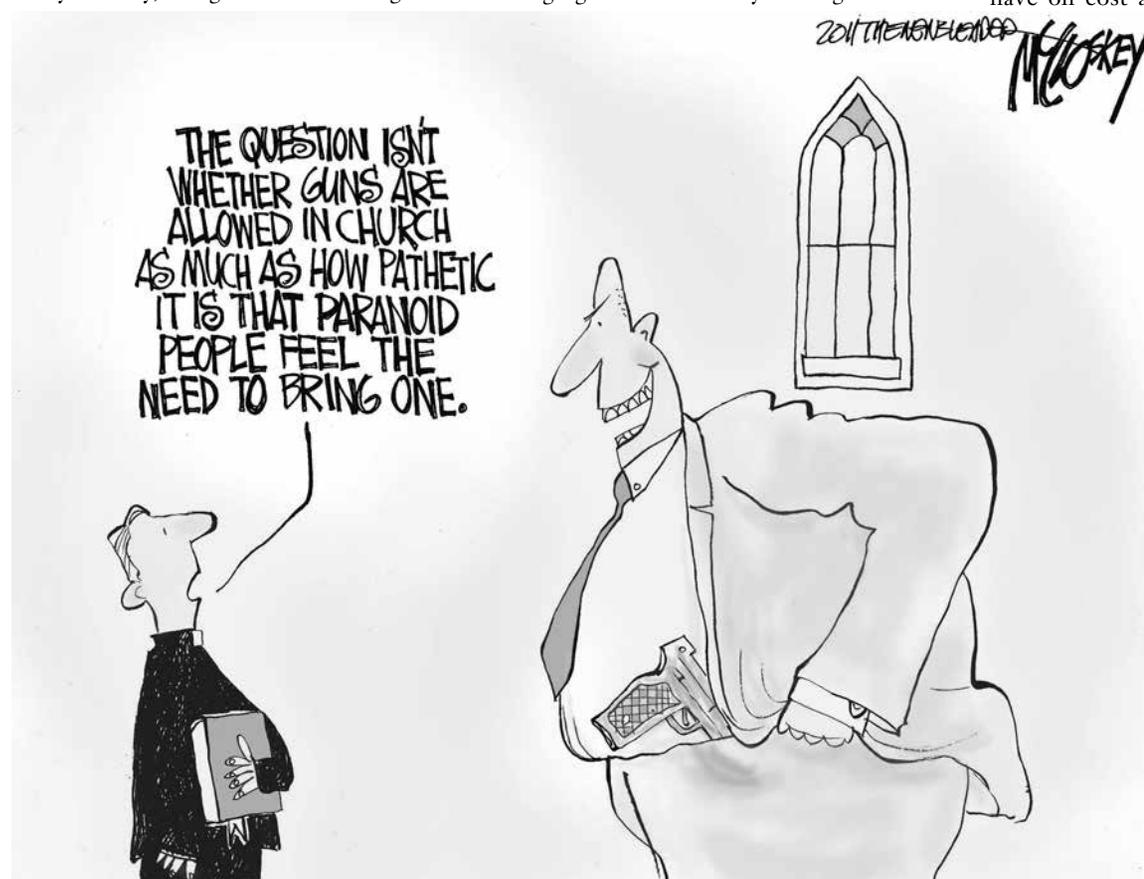
Nearly 1,300 people responded to the poll during that one-hour meeting and 73 percent of them said they support Medicare in its current form and oppose the Republican plan. Twenty-seven percent of those responding supported the change. The participants in the town hall meeting represented a cross-section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



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