

Reyes Gerardo of Burke gets his mouth numbed before an extraction by Dr. Tanuj Puri (right) and dental assistant Dawn Southerly. Gerardo was one of more than 800 residents who received dental treatment during Mission of Mercy's 9th annual Dental Health Fair held Friday and Saturday, March 9 and 10, at the Northern Virginia Community College Medical Campus in Springfield.

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THE COUNTY LINE

What Recession?

Bucking national trend, Northern Virginia governments have record employment and record spending.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

As local governments across America are laying off firefighters and teachers, governments in Northern Virginia are experiencing record levels of spending and an all-time-high number of employees. Budgets now under consideration in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria are higher than they've ever been. Experts say the trend is driven by the region's ties to the federal government, which have traditionally insulated the region from downturns in the market. It's also a reflection of a growing population and an increasing number of students in public school.

"When you have the best economy in the country, people move here," said Stephen Fuller, director of the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis. "Northern Virginia has been pretty hot — not like it used to be but compared to the rest of the country, it's doing just fine."

A look at the past decade shows that spending levels rose dramatically along with the real-estate market. When that bubble burst, local governments across America fell on hard times. Even now, years after the recession technically came to an end, statistics from the Commerce Department show local governments have become a drag on growth. But Northern Virginia believes this trend, in some ways acting as a counterbalance to it.

At least for now.

Because the economic health of the region is so closely tied to the fate of the federal government, any changes to federal spending could have dramatic consequences in Northern Virginia. One scenario that has many local governments worried involves the Government Control Act. That was the legislation that ended the debt-ceiling crisis last year by creating a super-committee that failed to reach an agreement in November. That could mean dramatic reductions in discretionary spending early next year.

"You're not going to gain the savings you need by cutting an aircraft carrier, so you're going to have to cut employees and salaries — the things you need to gain the savings next year, which is required by the law," said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Government Leadership. "For federal agencies, that means disproportionate elimination of positions."

OVER THE LAST two years, local governments across America have cut about half a million jobs. Since the federal government started recording local government jobs in 1955, the statistic declined in only six of those years. The first three were the begin-

ning of the Ronald Reagan administration. And the second three are the beginning of the Barack Obama administration. In the last three years, government employment is down 2.6 percent. In the last 12 months alone, the government sector lost 276,000 jobs.

Contrast those numbers with Northern Virginia. In the last three years, Fairfax County has added about 1,400 jobs. Arlington and Alexandria have added more than 200 jobs. Budget officials say that growth has been built on the strength of the real-estate market.

"We only had one negative year," said Richard Stephenson, budget director in Arlington County. "Because our tax base remains stable, we were able to continue the funding of programs that our population wanted. So we didn't go in and make dramatic cuts to services."

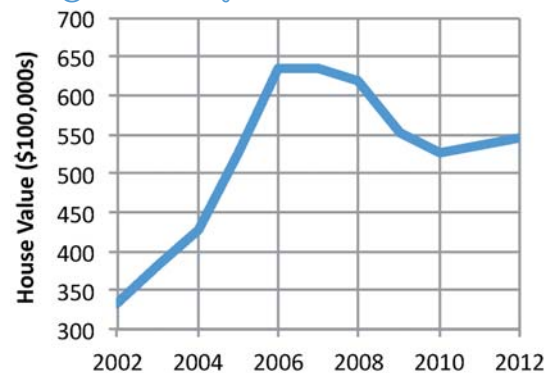
And yet the budgets in local jurisdictions don't always reflect that growth. Libraries and parks, in particular have seen major cuts in all the municipalities. In Fairfax County alone, for example, almost \$5 million has been slashed from the library budget over the last four years. And even now that revenues are growing again, County Executive Anthony Griffin's proposed budget for fiscal year 2013 suggests cutting another \$860,000 from the library system.

"We've had to make some pretty draconian cuts to the library system, and it's one of our most used facilities," said Providence Supervisor Linda Smyth. "A lot of constituents really use the library and they're feeling that pinch."

PART OF THE STORY of growth in Northern Virginia in recent years has been tied to the growth in the federal government, especially the growth in defense spending as a result of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Government contracts to Northern Virginia businesses such as Northrop Grumman have been a cash cow for years, pumping money and jobs into the region. Census records indicate the Fairfax County population grew 12 percent in the last decade. Arlington grew 10 percent, and Alexandria grew 9 percent. Nowhere has that growth been more challenging than in the public school systems, which are pushing the limits of enrollment to the point that school administrators are closely monitoring the fire code.

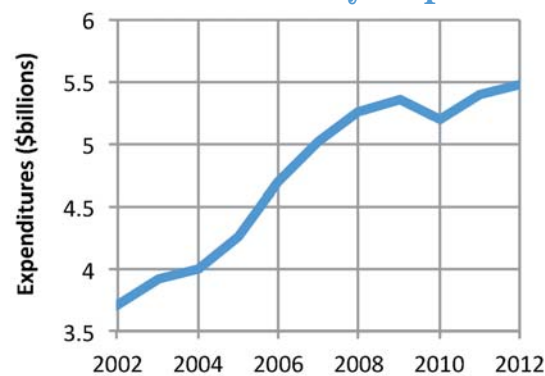
In the last five years, Fairfax County Public Schools has added 15,000 new students and currently has the largest Kindergarten class ever. And more students are expected next year. Much of that growth is from students who live in poverty and speak English as a second language. Because those students cost more to educate, school administrators are seeing budget demands in-

Single Family Detached Home Values



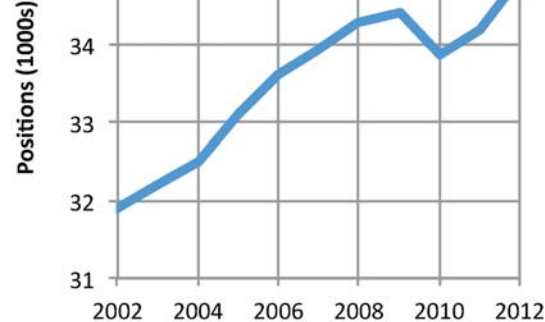
The value of single family detached homes in Fairfax County has not fully recovered since the recession. The peak value in 2007 was \$635,566; dropping to \$525,068 in 2010. The average value of a single family detached home in Fairfax County for 2012 is \$545,279.

Total Fairfax County Expenditures over Ten Years



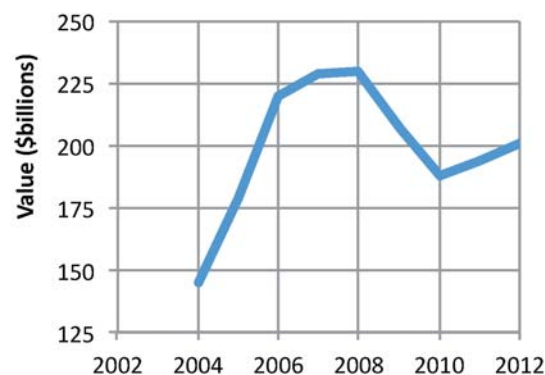
Total expenditures for Fairfax County grew from \$3.71 billion in 2002 to \$5.36 billion in 2009, dropped briefly in 2010 to \$5.19 billion and now are at a record high \$5.47 billion for 2012. Projected expenditures for FY2013 are \$6.73 billion.

Total Positions, Fairfax County Government and Public Schools



Fairfax County Government and Fairfax County Public Schools now have a record number of 34,849 employees in 2012 for ten years.

All Taxable Real Estate Values in Fairfax County



This graph shows the value of all taxable real estate, both residential and commercial in Fairfax County. That value peaked in 2008 at \$229.7 billion, dropped to \$187.8 billion in 2010 and has rebounded to \$200.3 billion, still well short of its peak.

GRAPHICS BY COLIN DIXON

crease at a time when the rest of the country is cutting back.

"We see a lot of immigrant families arriving to Fairfax County in search of a better life, and we see the economy continue to have an impact on our families," said Barbara Hunter, spokeswoman for the county school system. "Thus, we see more kids who are falling below the poverty line."

WHEN THE GREAT RECESSION hit in late 2008, local governments in Northern Virginia responded by imposing hiring freezes and scaling back services. That may seem like an obvious response, but the federal government offered a 7 percent cost-of-living increases at a time when none of the jurisdictions in Northern Virginia were making any cost-of-living adjustments.

"They tightened up early," said Fuller. "They were cutting stuff in 2009 that a lot of people were still waiting and talking about, Maryland particularly was still giving salary raises where they stopped doing that in Virginia."

The story behind the growing expenditures and government employees couldn't have happened anywhere else. Unlike jurisdictions across America, local governments in Northern Virginia have benefited from a growing tax base and an increasing population. That means more money for services at a time when other municipalities are laying off employees and cutting back on programs. But it also means that other sources of revenue have become increasingly reliant on an economy that's still considered by many to be a cash cow.



Reyes Gerardo of Burke gets his mouth numbed before an extraction by Dr. Tanuj Puri.



Dr. Robert Levine of Fairfax and Dr. Michael Hurley of the Alexandria Health Department wrap up after seeing dozens of patients during the Mission of Mercy's 9th annual Dental Health Fair.

PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

A Mission of Mercy

More than 800 residents receive free dental services during two-day event.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The triage center at Saturday's Mission of Mercy Dental health clinic resembled a modern-day MASH unit. Dentists and volunteers in color-coded t-shirts dodged carts filled with sterilized instruments, greeted hundreds of patients and funneled them through initial screenings to determine what services they needed.

"Do you speak English?" asked one of the volunteers when she spotted an older woman wearing a faded black burqa, the traditional Muslim veil. The woman, whose native language was Farsi, spoke English haltingly.

"She's in luck. We have a volunteer who speaks Farsi," said Dr. Peter Cocolis, a Springfield dentist. "In fact, we have volunteers who speak French, Spanish, Korean, Urdu, you name it..."

Cocolis served as chair of this year's ninth annual Mission of Mercy (MOM) Dental Health Fair held Friday and Saturday, March 9 and 10, at the Northern Virginia Community College Medical Campus in Springfield.

"We are providing basically any procedure that patients need, from cleanings to extractions and restorative work," Cocolis said.

HE ESTIMATED that this year's clinic delivered

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What is the Mission of Mercy?

In 2000, the Virginia Employment Commission Population Projects estimated that one-in-five Virginians live in an "underserved area." Typically these are rural communities with a significant impoverished population. Individuals in these areas, primarily the working poor, the elderly, the disabled, or the uninsured, are often left without any dental care to face extreme pain, discomfort, and embarrassment. In response to the lack of access to care and the resulting poor oral health of thousands of indigent Virginians, the Virginia Dental Health Foundation (VDHF) launched the Mission of Mercy (MOM) and began to "make caring visible." According to the VDHF, individuals who suffer from medical complications such as cancer and AIDS are at an increased risk for developing oral disease.

about \$250,000 worth of dental services to nearly 900 patients from five counties who qualify as living below the poverty line. The clinic has limited spots for walk-in patients. "I bet if we could add another day to this, we could see another 300 or 400 patients. Sometimes, this is the only time they receive dental services."

U.S. Representative Gerry Connolly (D-11) attended Saturday's clinic, chatting with patients and touring the extensive, state-of-the-art facilities. Connolly, who collaborated with MOM when he was chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, said one of the aspects of the clinic is the partnership with public sector and non-profit community to help those in need.

"As chairman of Fairfax County, it was our priority to build partnerships like this," Connolly said. "This is really an amazing operation. Hundreds of local

SEE DENTAL SERVICES, PAGE 5



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Capt. Willie Bailey, fifth from left, is honored March 6 by Sharon Bulova and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for his more than 1,000 hours of volunteer service to the community.

Captain Honored for Community Service

Fire and Rescue's Willie Bailey recognized for 1,000 volunteer hours.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

It was supposed to be a one-time event, a toy drive to help 50 struggling families in the Gum Springs community along the Route 1 corridor. But that was 15 years ago. Today, Capt. Willie Bailey's Firefighters and Friends annual toy drive serves more than 4,000 children in need throughout Northern Virginia.

"I never expected it would grow like this," said Bailey, founder of the toy drive. "But businesses and people in the community have really stepped up to help fill what is a growing need in this area."

Bailey's efforts to help serve the community have grown to include a back-to-school backpack drive and fall coat drive and are supported by the entire Fairfax County Fire and Rescue department, the Fairfax County Firefighters and Paramedics union and numerous corporate sponsors.

It is because of these efforts that Bailey was recognized by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors March 6 as a nominee for the 2012 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards Benchmark 1,000 award. The award recognizes individuals who volunteer 1,000 hours or

more each year toward community service and humanitarian efforts.

"This took me by surprise," Bailey said. "It is a huge honor for me to be recognized by Chairman [Sharon] Bulova and the entire Board of Supervisors. They have been encouraging of my efforts over the years and none of these programs would be successful without their support."

Sponsored by Volunteer Fairfax, the Fairfax County Vol-

unteer Service Awards honor individuals, groups and organizations that have given outstanding volunteer service through a broad range of activities and programs. During the past 19 years, more than 2,500 residents and businesses have been recognized for

their contributions to the community.

"When we [fire and rescue personnel] are not running 911 emergencies, we're trying to find other ways to give back to the community," Bailey said. "I didn't have much growing up in Del Ray but have been very blessed in my life. Now it's my turn to give back in whatever small way I can."

Bailey will be recognized at the 2012 Volunteer Service Awards ceremony on April 27 at the Waterford in Springfield. For more information on the awards, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.

"It is a huge honor for me to be recognized by Chairman Bulova and the entire Board of Supervisors."

— Capt. Willie Bailey

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FAITH

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

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

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

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

- ❖ Bible study and Prayer Service every Tuesday starting at 7 p.m.
- ❖ Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., except for the fourth Sunday of the month, when Sunday School is at 9 a.m.
- ❖ Sunday morning service at 11 a.m.
- ❖ Commonwealth Care Center ministry every first and third Thursday night. 703-273-1455.

Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, has services on Fridays, 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. Religious school is on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Adult learning opportunities take place throughout the year. Tot Shabbat is on the first and third Saturdays. Kolot Shabbat, a musical service, is the first Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. 703-370-9400 or www.bethelhebrew.org.

Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria, offers traditional Sunday church services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. plus Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Childcare is available 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. The church is handicapped accessible and assisted listening devices are available. 703 971-5151, admin@franconiaumc.org or www.franconiaumc.org.

❖ **Lenten Quiet Times.** 12-1 p.m. on March 7, 14, 21, 28 and April 4. Spend time in our sanctuary and reflect on Jesus Christ, His suffering and His sacrifice, His life, death, burial and resurrection.

❖ **Terry Hall Concert.** Saturday, April 14 at 4 p.m. Old spirituals, classic hymns, southern gospel favorites and more.

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

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

Messiah United Methodist Church, 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield, has Sunday Worship at 8:15 a.m., with Holy Communion every Sunday; and 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month. 703-569-9862 or www.messiahumc.org.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY FOR APPROVAL TO RECOVER HEXANE COSTS CASE NO. PUE-2012-00014

On February 3, 2012, Washington Gas Light Company ("WGL" or "Company") filed an application with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") requesting approval to recover \$1,252,580 of costs relating to the non-Btu component of hexane injections for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2010, and \$12,908 of costs related to the actual under-collection of non-Btu related hexane costs incurred during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2009 ("Application"). In its Application, WGL explains that it has been injecting hexane into its system since February 2006 to replace heavy hydrocarbons in liquefied natural gas that enters the Company's distribution system. WGL's Application advises that pursuant to a Stipulation accepted by the Commission in Case No. PUE-2006-00059, the Company's performance-based rate regulation ("PBR") plan docket, the Company may request approval to recover the non-Btu portion of hexane costs in excess of \$400,000 if the Company's return on equity is less than 10% in any PBR annual period. Under the terms of the Stipulation accepted in Case No. PUE-2006-00059, the cost recovery of the non-Btu component of hexane will be limited to that amount in excess of \$400,000 required for the Company to achieve an earned return on equity of 10.0% for that PBR period under WGL's PBR Plan. The Company's Application advises that for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2010, the Company earned less than a 10% return on equity. WGL therefore proposes to collect its actual Virginia-jurisdictional non-Btu hexane costs in excess of \$400,000, or \$1,252,580, as well as an additional \$12,908 of non-Btu hexane costs under-collected for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2009.

WGL proposes to collect the non-Btu hexane costs from its customers receiving service under Rate Schedule Nos. 1-Residential Service, 1A-Residential Delivery Service, 2-Commercial and Industrial Service, 2A-Commercial and Industrial Delivery Service, 3-Group Metered Apartment Service, 3A-Group Metered Apartment Delivery Service, 4-Interruptible Service, and 7-Interruptible Delivery Service, 8-Developmental Natural Gas Vehicle Service, and 10-Large Volume Delivery Service. The Company's Application further notes that it proposed new Rate Schedule Nos. 5-Large Commercial and Industrial Service, 5A-Large Commercial and Industrial Delivery Service, 6-Large Group Metered Apartment Service, and 6A-Large Group Metered Apartment Delivery Service in its currently pending general rate case, Case No. PUE-2010-00139. If the Commission approves the Company's proposed rate schedules in its general rate case, the Company will also recover the non-Btu hexane costs from customers receiving service pursuant to these new rate schedules.

WGL proposes to collect its non-Btu hexane costs through an adjustment to the distribution charge for these rate schedules. WGL's Application advises that the hexane charge will be computed on a cents-per-therm basis comprising a current and a reconciling factor. According to the Company's Application, the current factor, if applicable, will be calculated annually by dividing the non-Btu portion of hexane costs approved by the Commission by the total weather normalized throughput for the year. The reconciling factor proposed by WGL will be the difference between the actual amount to be charged and the actual amount collected during the twelve-month period. WGL proposes to implement the current factor as an adjustment to the distribution charge in the first billing cycle month following the Commission's approval of the Company's Application to recover the non-Btu portion of the costs of its hexane injections. The Company's Application also includes testimony and exhibits showing the computation of a proposed charge of \$0.0020 per therm, which will allow the Company to collect the proposed \$1,252,580 of non-Btu hexane costs expensed in fiscal year 2010 and the \$12,908 of non-Btu hexane costs under-recovered in fiscal year 2009.

The details of WGL's proposals are set out in the Company's Application. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Application and other materials filed with the Application for the details of these proposals. Interested persons should also be advised that after considering the record in this case, the Commission may change the tariff revisions proposed by the Company or take other actions with respect to the recovery of the non-Btu component of hexane costs that differ from the proposals set out in the Company's Application.

The Commission has entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, docketed the Application as Case No. PUE-2012-00014 and established a procedural schedule for the filing of comments, requests for hearing, and the filing of testimony or a Report by the Commission Staff. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment for details on how to participate in this proceeding.

Interested persons may also review a copy of the Application, the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment, as well as other documents now or hereinafter filed in this matter, in the Commission's Document Control Center located on the First Floor of the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. A copy of the Application may also be obtained at no cost to interested persons by making a written request to the Company's counsel at the following address: Meera Ahamed, Esquire, Washington Gas Light Company, 101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20080. If acceptable to the requesting party, the Company may provide the Application, with or without attachments, by electronic means. In addition, the Company's Application, the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment, other orders entered in this docket, the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, and other information concerning the Commission and the statutes it administers, may be viewed on the Commission's website at: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>.

Pursuant to the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment, interested persons may file written comments or requests for hearing with the Clerk of the Commission on the proposals set out in the Company's Application on or before April 27, 2012. An original and fifteen (15) copies of all written comments and requests for hearing must be filed with Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. Any request for hearing must state with specificity why the issues raised in the request for hearing cannot be adequately addressed in written comments. If no sufficient request for hearing is received, the Commission may consider the Application based on the papers filed without convening a hearing at which oral testimony is received.

Persons filing a request for hearing and expecting to participate as a respondent in any hearing that may be scheduled in this case shall also file, on or before April 27, 2012, an original and fifteen (15) copies of a notice of participation as required by 5 VAC 5-20-80 B of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.*, with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. Any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Interested persons should refer to the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment for more information on how to participate as a respondent.

Interested persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so on or before April 27, 2012, by following the instructions available at the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case> and referring to Case No. PUE-2012-00014. Interested persons shall refer in their comments, requests for hearing, and notices of participation to Case No. PUE-2012-00014, and shall serve a copy of any such document filed with the Commission upon counsel for the Company at the address set forth above.

WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY



U.S. Representative Gerry Connolly (D-11) greeted patients Gloria Rodriguez of Woodbridge and Lucinda Wuton-Alva of Reston during the Mission of Mercy's 9th annual Dental Health Fair held Friday and Saturday, March 9 and 10, at the Northern Virginia Community College Medical Campus in Springfield.



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Volunteers Marcus Emad and Mahdi Majarrad served as triage runners during the Mission of Mercy's 9th annual Dental Health Fair held Friday and Saturday, March 9 and 10, at the Northern Virginia Community College Medical Campus in Springfield. Majarrad, a student at George Mason University, wears a blue T-shirt, indicating his proficiency in another language (Farsi).

Hundreds Receive Free Dental Services

FROM PAGE 3

dentists and students volunteer their time, providing these critical services to the underserved in our community."

Cocolis said in addition to providing a wide range of dental services, oral hygiene education was a top priority.

"In our county, only half of the population has dental insurance, and of those people, only half actually see a dentist," Cocolis said, noting that every patient received an education packet that included information in English and Spanish on local services and the link between poor oral hygiene and serious medical conditions, such as heart disease, cancer and pneumonia.

Dr. Thomas Wilson, executive director of the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic in Falls Church and one of the event's organizers, said that Virginia was one of a handful of states in which oral health care is not a mandated service under Medicare.

"Education is key. Many times, patients don't see

the link, but, put it this way, the mouth is the portal to the body. If the mouth isn't well, neither is the body," Wilson said.

"This event is so important, because we are serving an underserved population," said Dr. Howard Kelley of Vienna, chief dentist of NoVa's Medical Education Campus. "It can be overwhelming to realize how great the need for dental treatment is, not only abroad but right here. Dental problems are not self-healing. Here, we have an opportunity once a year to reach out to people."

IN ADDITION to the Saturday's event, MOM projects have been held in Wise, Va., two projects on the Eastern Shore and one in Annandale. For each MOM project, there are hundreds of volunteers who participate. To date, 5,365 patients have been provided with over \$1.8 million worth of free dental care. Virginia's MOM projects have broken records for the largest two and three day dental outreach clinics ever conducted in the United States.

BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

THURSDAY/MARCH 15

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke: Lunch N' Life. 12 p.m. Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. For age 50 and up. "Sharks!" with Juliet Eilperin, Washington Post reporter and author of *Demon Fish- Travels through the Hidden World of Sharks*. \$8. Reserve at 703-323-4788 or www.fairfax-burkesc.org.

Lunch Bunch. 12 p.m. Café Ima, 10645-B Braddock Road, Fairfax. Italian Heritage Lodge (OSIA) members and guests get together monthly for informal social event, no

lodge business conducted. Reserve at 703-354-2454 or www.italianheritagelodge.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 17

CASA Information Session. 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Learn more about advocating for abused or neglected children. 703-273-3526, x22 or ekosarin@casafairfax.org.

Fostercare Training Session. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Special Foster Care Program of Northern Virginia Family Service, 10455 White Granite Drive, Oakton. First of three training sessions for individuals and couples willing to provide nurture and a loving home for children and youth in need of respite or foster care. Register at 571-478-2557 or www.nvfs.org/fostercare.

SATURDAY/MARCH 21

The Mechanics of Alzheimer's Disease. 1:30 p.m. Alzheimer's Family Day Center, 2812 Old Lee Highway, Suite 210, Fairfax. Discussion will include the disease process and tests that can diagnose and assess progression. Free. Reserve at 703-204-4664.

Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Lunch & Learn: Tax Law Updates. 12 p.m. Fairfax City Hall Meeting Room A & B, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. Bring lunch. Congress has provided several incentives for businesses to receive credits or depreciate equipment at a higher rate. There are many new procedures that businesses should be aware of in order to prepare for the 2012 filing season. 703-591-2450.

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No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

—Attributed to Aesop, circa 550 B.C.

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Burke Actress Stars In 'Anna in the Tropics'

Veronica del Cerro sees acting as a forum to educate audiences, herself.

BY JENNIFER FEDOR
THE CONNECTION

Burke resident Veronica del Cerro starred in Nilo Cruz's "Anna in the Tropics" as Conchita. The play, performed at the GALA Hispanic Theatre in D.C., depicts a 1920s cigar factory in Florida. A "lector" reads newspapers and literature to the workers as they roll cigars. His reading of Tolstoy's Anna Karenina awakens dormant passions and transforms each character.

Del Cerro describes her role as Conchita, whose name means "little shell" in Spanish. "She's coming out of her shell through the play so her name is a metaphor," she explains.

"[Her husband] pushed her dreams aside. This lector comes in and through the poetry revives her passion and she is freed by it."

"Art is like nature's Band-Aid."

— Veronica del Cerro

Her career as an actress has its roots in her childhood, when she and her sister collaborated to create dance shows and other performances with neighborhood friends. "We used to play pretend a lot," she recalls. "We called our shop 'Everything' so we could be everything in the world from an astronaut to a substitute teacher."

Del Cerro's parents exposed her to theater and musicals, beginning when she was five, and influenced her through their own talents. Her mother, today a visual artist, had a singing contract with RCA while living in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Her father, since passed away, was an economist with a penchant for writing. Del Cerro says her mother and sister, now a lawyer, continue to support her acting career, attending every one of her performances.

GROWING UP, del Cerro gravitated towards athletic activities, but there was always an element of performance in the sports she chose. She figure skated until she was 10. In synchronized swimming, she choreographed her own solos to songs from shows like Les Miserables and Cabaret. Also an avid reader from a very young age, del Cerro immersed herself in the literary world.

Spending most of her childhood in the Kings Park area, she performed as the Singing Rooster in Robin Hood



Veronica del Cerro plays the role of Conchita in Nilo Cruz's "Anna in the Tropics."



A graduate of Lake Braddock High School and Virginia Tech, del Cerro spent many hours as a child pretending and performing with her sister and neighbor friends.

while at Kings Glen Middle School. But it wasn't until her sophomore year at Lake Braddock High School that she began to seriously consider acting, when a teacher assistant insisted she had talent.

Del Cerro had always wanted to be a psychologist and headed to Virginia Tech to earn her Bachelors of Science in Psychology. As she neared graduation, she spent an intense summer studying theatre so she could participate in the major program during her last year of college. She acted in her first professional show as a senior.

Following graduation, she enrolled in the Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory, after watching its powerful and insightful production of "This is Our Youth."

She plunged into the world of acting, learning about everything from realism to Shakespearean theater to Greek plays. In addition, students of the Conservatory can serve as understudies for the theatre's productions; for example, del Cerro understudied "The Syringa Tree," a 26-character, one-

ing with the kids and trying to get through to them and helping them feel comfortable in their own skin," she recalls.

She used a lot of her training as an actor and as a yoga instructor to work with her students to help them heal. "Art is like nature's Band-Aid," she observes. She found similarities in her work as a behavioral specialist and the summers she taught acting to young students at the Conservatory. "You're using a lot of the same techniques: confidence building, standing on your own two feet, focusing, get rid of modern distractions."

DEL CERRO'S FAVORITE ROLES include Saint Monica in "The Last Days of Judas Iscariot" and Isabel Dyson in "My Children! My Africa!" She researches each role and feels an actor's connection to a character is based on how deeply they become acquainted.

After "Anna in the Tropics" closes, del Cerro will head back west where she spent a year and a half working on a play about immigration issues. "Arizona: No Roosters in the Desert" by Kara Hartzler is based on real interviews of women who crossed the Arizona desert from Mexico. Del Cerro notes that the play deals with an "incredibly complex issue that's so far removed from this area. It kind of feels like a war zone [at the border]."

"It's why you do theater," she continues. "It's a vehicle for true discussion in your community. It's great when that can happen." She believes magic occurs onstage, a very pure sense of life shared between the actors and the audience and among the actors themselves.

Del Cerro hopes to one day perform Shakespeare and Tennessee Williams' plays among others but is grateful for every role she earns.

Del Cerro believes acting has made her a more open-minded person. "[In the play], Conchita says you have to do what the actors do. The actors surrender, they let go of being themselves and they walk into the lives of someone else. That's our job and so because of that, that's one of the best things. You're always forced to see something else's perspective."



Del Cerro mastered a British/South African accent for her role as Isabel Dyson in "My Children! My Africa!"

woman show about South Africa.

Del Cerro also spent four years as a behavioral specialist at a psychiatric school in Rockville, working with children with severe emotional disturbances. "I loved be-

Fairfax's Kevin Dykstra Wins WATCH Award

Fairfax resident Kevin Dykstra won a WATCH (Washington Area Theatre Community Honors) award for Best Actor in a Play. He shares the trophy with his co-star, Jim Breen, of Rockville, Md. The two of them played all 13 roles in the Montgomery Playhouse's production of "Stones in his Pocket." WATCH recognizes excellence in community theater in the Washington Metropolitan area. The ceremony was held Sunday evening, March 11, at the Birchmere in Alexandria.



(From left) are Kevin Dykstra and Jim Breen with their WATCH awards.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CRAIG DYKSTRA

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—Arturo
Toscanini



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OPINION

So Hard to Imagine?

Poor families face challenges that officials and many of the rest of us have trouble envisioning.

The Commonwealth of Virginia and even Northern Virginia includes many poor families and individuals. But officials seem to have trouble wrapping their brains around some of the difficulties this can cause.

In Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria, some analysis of the effect of budget cuts and service cuts on families in the bottom 20 percent of income would be appropriate and revealing.

EDITORIALS Cutting library hours and service again? Consider that for many, the public libraries are their only source of computer and internet access. This has a significant impact on school performance, the ability to hunt for a job, the ability to access services and more.

It's hard for many of us to imagine, check-

ing email at stop lights on our smart phones, that there are families who need to go the library to check theirs. If anything, in the current environment, the libraries should be open more hours, not fewer.

When Fairfax County Public Schools eliminated the year-round school calendar, followed by some of the county's poorest schools, and summer school, poor students were most affected, losing access to meals in the summer as well as a needed boost in instruction.

Similarly, some schools systems eliminated the telephone hotline to find out if schools are closed in inclement weather. Everyone checks that online, right? Or gets their daily email update?

Requirements to present a variety of identification to do a variety of things also present

bigger challenges to poorer residents.

Veto Voter ID Bill

Gov. Bob McDonnell should read the handwriting on the wall from the U.S. Justice Department about making it harder to vote.

More than 600,000 registered voters in Texas do not have the identification that the voter identification law would require, according to Tom Perez of the Justice Department, including a disproportionate number of minority voters, and more than 10 percent of Latino registered voters.

The analysis will reveal similar disparities in Virginia. The Governor can save Virginia money, time and trouble by vetoing the bill now.

MARY KIMM,
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Correction: Last week's editorial failed to correctly identify Del. Charniele Herring (D-46). The full editorial has been corrected online.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Bill Sheads in the 1960s wearing a white coat instructing firemen on the best method to handle flammable liquid fires.



Delbert "Bill" Sheads (right) meets with Ned Barnes, Director of the Pinn Center.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Do You Remember the 1941 Burke Wildfire?

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, March 6, 2012, I had the wonderful privilege of sharing stories of everything Burke, Virginia with a living history – Delbert "Bill" Sheads (88 years of age), born in Burke who has served our community as a member of the Greatest Generation, a soldier in WWII who landed in Omaha Beach on D-Day, and a firefighter who was the chief training officer for the fire department

for Fairfax County.

I am writing this letter to support Mr. Sheads' search for the story of the nine or so children whom he saved during the April 1941 wildfire that raged from Guinea road all the way to Occoquan. He asked me for assistance because I have spent several years researching and publishing books on the stories of the Coffey family and the Little Zion Baptist Church. The children whom he saved were living in a house to

the left of the Little Zion Baptist Church cemetery; he gathered them in his fire truck and brought them to safety to the Burke School on Burke Lake Road. He wants to write in his memoirs what happened to those children since that fiery day in April of 1941.

Ned Barnes, Director of the Pinn Center, and I have been making inquiries of Burke residents who may have known the family living in April 1941 beside the cemetery of Little

Zion Baptist Church. If you do have such information, please contact me at corazonfoley@yahoo.com and we can arrange for a follow-up meeting at the Pinn Center with Mr. Bill Sheads. Thank you very much for supporting what I am certain would be a fascinating book by Mr. Sheads and a key contribution to the preservation of Burke local history.

Corazon Sandoval Foley
Burke

Representing Constituents

To the Editor:

Senate Democrats in Virginia have decided that they will not vote for the budget. The Senators' decision spurred from their dis-

taste with their committee assignments and has thus jeopardized some of the Commonwealth's biggest issues. Their irresponsible actions are putting our children's education at risk by cutting off funds for our schools and teachers, threatening the pay for our brave

and selfless law enforcement officers, and jeopardizing the programs our senior citizens depend upon most. Important safety nets like Medicaid will go without state funding unless the Senate Democrats start doing their job. Their job is to represent the best inter-

ests of their constituents—not to further their own personal ambitions of power and glory.

Kayla Andriate
Fairfax

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

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

Victoria Ross
Community Reporter
703-752-4014
vross@connectionnewspapers.com
@ConnectVictoria

Nick Horrock
County & Projects
nhorrock@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor
703-778-9410
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
@jonroetman

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Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
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Debbie Funk
National Sales
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Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Deb Cobb, Louise Krafft,
Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
John Smith
Production Manager:
Jean Card
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
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Fairfax County REAL ESTATE

2012 Assessments by Zip Code Areas

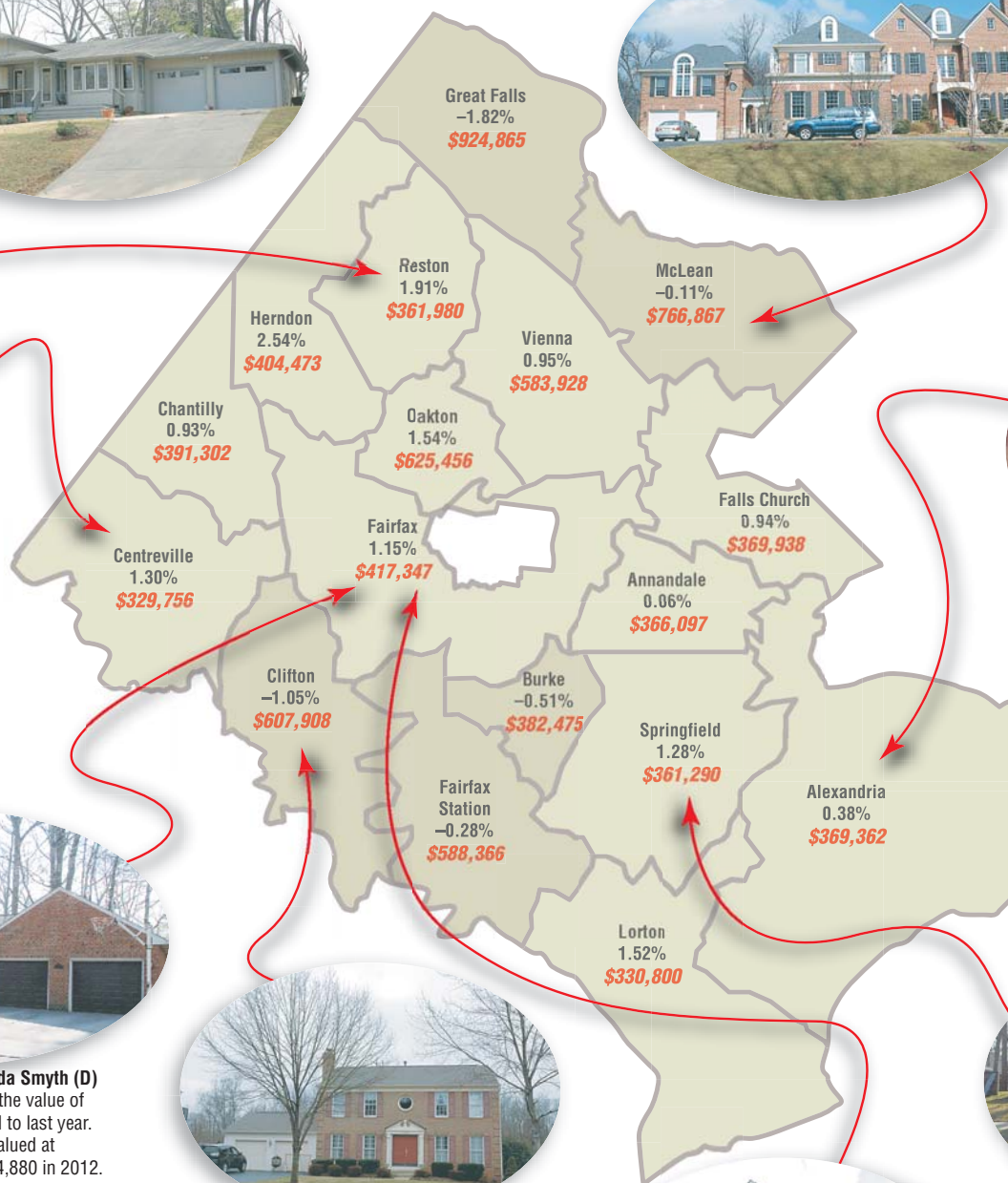
Hunter Mill Supervisor **Cathy Hudgins (D)**
saw her assessment went up 4.60%
from \$545,440 in 2011 to \$570,520 in 2012.



Dranesville District Supervisor **John Foust (D)**
saw a 5.69% gain in his property value when compared to 2011.
The county valued Foust's house at
\$2,884,060 last year and \$3,048,110 this year.



Sully Supervisor **Michael Frey (R)**
saw a 2.88% increase in
the value of his home over the last year.
Frey's home was assessed at
\$208,480 in 2011 and \$214,490 in 2012.



Lee Supervisor **Jeff McKay (D)**
saw an increase of 9.06%
in his home assessment in 2012.
Last year, his home was worth \$645,030 and
this year it is valued at \$703,450.



Providence Supervisor **Linda Smyth (D)**
saw a 2.66% increase in the value of
her house when compared to last year.
Smyth's home was valued at
\$482,080 in 2011 and \$494,880 in 2012.



Springfield Supervisor **Patrick Herrity (R)**
was the only member of the Fairfax County board
to see his assessment drop this year.
Herrity lost 1.07% of his home value,
taking him from \$525,750 to \$520,120.



Braddock Supervisor **John Cook (R)**
has a new home in Springfield
assessed at \$556,920 in 2012.



Fairfax County Chairman **Sharon Bulova (D)**
saw her home value remain flat this year.
Bulova owns a house in Fairfax
assessed at \$591,990 in both 2011 and 2012.

2011 County Average (Percent Change)
Single Family Detached **\$545,279 (0.70%)**
Townhouse **\$327,499 (1.20%)**
Condos **\$212,764 (-0.06%)**

ZIP CODE AREA	2011 MEAN	2012 MEAN	PERCENT CHANGE
Alexandria	367,948	369,362	0.38
Annandale	365,880	366,097	0.06
Burke	384,443	382,475	-0.51
Centreville	325,536	329,756	1.30
Chantilly	387,704	391,302	0.93
Clifton	614,353	607,908	-1.05
Fairfax	412,608	417,347	1.15
Fairfax Station	590,022	588,366	-0.28
Falls Church	366,509	369,938	0.94
Great Falls	941,968	924,865	-1.82
Herndon	394,461	404,473	2.54
Lorton	325,838	330,800	1.52
McLean	767,738	766,867	-0.11
Oakton	615,968	625,456	1.54
Reston	355,205	361,980	1.91
Springfield	356,740	361,290	1.28
Vienna	578,417	583,928	0.95

SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY



Matthew Moore, of John Matthew Moore Fine Art, in McLean was selected to design the foyer and staircase the D.C. Design House.



Great Falls-based designer Susan Nelson, of Susan Interiors (pictured with design student Jacob Oxford), will design a girl's bedroom.



Annette Hannon, of Annette Hannon Interior Design in Burke, was selected to design the parlor.

PHOTOS BY ROBERT RADIFERA

Local Designers Selected to Make Over D.C. Design House

Annual event raises money for Children's National Medical Center.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Some of the Washington area's top interior designers are unleashing their creative talent all in the name of charity. Organizers of the 2012 Washington, D.C. Design House announced the designers

who will make over the 2012 D.C. Design House.

"The selection [was] open to all area designers who wanted to apply," said Susan Hayes Long, chairperson of D.C. Design House. "They started by coming to a design walk-through to get a feel for the space, and then [submitted] up to three proposals for rooms, with

at least one presentation board. The board [included] their floor plan, color selections, and finishes they would use. Our design team selected the final 23 designers. We had more than 80 proposals this year, and so many fantastic presentation boards. The competition was really tough."

The D.C. Design House serves as

a bellwether of local design trends.

"Being selected to design for the show house is a bit like being crowned homecoming queen then having to run a marathon in your ball gown while collecting items for a scavenger hunt," said Shazalynn Cavin-Winfrey of SCW Interiors in Alexandria, who was one of the designers selected. "It is the most

prestigious invitation. .. For a committee of veteran designers and industry leaders to select a designer is truly one of the highlights of one's career."

With no paying clients to please, the designers unleash their creative talent. "I love participating in show houses for the freedom it allows me," said Annette Hannon of Annette Hannon Interior Design in Burke, who was also one of the designers selected. "For each house

I've had the opportunity to engage in, I've gotten to conjure up an imaginary 'perfect' client and design according to their needs and desires. It's a bit like celebrating one's birthday and getting to create your perfect party."

The Washington, D.C. Design House, a nonprofit entity, began in 2008 as a design event in which some of the region's most sought-after designers decorate a luxury home to raise funds for a local

charity. After completion, the home is opened to the public for tours. Now in its fifth year, the D.C. Design House has attracted more than 30,000 visitors and raised nearly \$600,000 for Children's National Medical Center (CNMC). Proceeds will go to CNMC again this year.

Built in 1956, the 2012 D.C. Design House is located in Washington, D.C.'s Spring Valley neighborhood. It is currently on the market for \$3.9 million.

Local Designers

Some of the local designers who were selected to make over the home offer a preview of their plans.

Great Falls-based designer Susan Nelson of Susan Nelson Interiors designed a teenage girl's bedroom. "I combined a variety of block and geometric prints in greens, yellows, pinks, brown and cream to create a cozy haven. By using a mix of new and repurposed furniture, the room has the quality of changing along with the girl," she said. "For instance, the coverlet fabric is a sophisticated fabric with a water color quality to the flowers on it, but the club chair is slip covered in a fun confetti print in pinks and purples that she might have had as a child."

Elizabeth Krial of Elizabeth Krial Design in Reston will create a modern nursery. "The most afforded luxury in my space is the natural sunlight that



Shanon Munn, of Ambi Design Studio in McLean, was one of 23 designers selected to make over the 2012 D.C. Design House. She will decorate the master deck.



Elizabeth Krial, of Elizabeth Krial Design in Reston, was one of 23 designers selected to make over the 2012 D.C. Design House. Krial will design a modern nursery.

Where & When

The DC Design House opens to the public on Saturday, April 14 and remains open until Sunday, May 13. Times are: Saturday and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. and Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online or at the door.

washes the room," she said. "As a designer, I have added luxurious layers of softness and comfort through textiles. The modern nursery has a lightness that will

remind you of the hope and joy that a new baby brings."

SEE LOCAL DESIGNERS.
PAGE 12

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Springfield \$374,950
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8435 Peace Lily Ct. #316/01 \$359,990 Sat 12-4 Shawn Evans Long & Foster 703-795-3973
8516 Blue Bird Woods Ct. \$334,990 Sun 1-4 Tom & Cindy & Assoc. Long & Foster 703-822-0207

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10966 Stuart Mill Rd. \$725,000 Sun 1-4 Connie Forbes Long & Foster 703-963-2193

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Steve Hogan at 703-778-9418
or e-mail the info to
shogan@connectionnewspapers.com
All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.**

Home Life Style

Local Designers

FROM PAGE 10

**Matthew Moore of John
Matthew Moore Fine Art
in McLean will decorate
the foyer and staircase.**

“My design philosophy is clean, classic spaces. My favorite period in design is the late fifties and sixties,” he said. “I feel that that is the time when American design came into its own. I’ve chosen this style for the entrance and reception hall [because] the home was built in that period. It’s a sophisticated design that would be as much at home in the fifties as it is now in the present.”

**Shanon Munn of Ambi
Design Studio in McLean
will decorate the master
deck.**

“My concept for the space is to have an outdoor retreat,” said Munn. “I chose pieces that are scaled similarly to indoor pieces and provide a great lounging spot. We chose patterns that are interesting and bold. We plan to take the existing railing, currently an eyesore, and make it a highlight of the deck with a long row of custom benches and pedestals strategically placed to create focal points and to hide the dated metal-work.”

**Annette Hannon of
Annette Hannon Interior
Design in Burke designed
the parlor.**

“The [parlor] is the first living area a visitor will enter,” said Hannon. “My goal was to create a comfortable, luxurious space someone would want to linger in long after the party’s over. I felt it was essential to add layers of interest in the room.”

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**The Chateau in Oak Hollow is one of four residential
properties for sale for more than \$10 million, was de-
signed by architect, Ron Hubbard, who blends green
technologies with the use of space and proportion.**

The Chateau in Oak Hollow

One of just four prop-
erties in Fairfax County
listed at HomesDatabase
.com for sale for more than \$10 mil-
lion, this home sits on five acres in
Clifton, and is for sale for \$12.5 mil-
lion. The other three properties are
in McLean.

The Chateau was designed by
architect, Ron Hubbard, who uses
innovative green technologies
such as three geothermal fields
and 14 radiant zones using more
than 10,000 feet of buried line to
heat and cool the home.

This home has more than 27,000

square feet of living space inside
(13,500 finished), plus more than
3,000 square feet of exterior living
space comprised of balconies and
patios. Many of the outdoor living
areas are constructed with stamped
concrete and provide ample space
for large parties, and some for more
intimate gatherings.

The property also includes a 3-
bedroom guest suite in one wing
of the home, and an indoor pool
and fitness center in the other. The
Chateau has an eight-car garage.

The house is listed by Meghan
Wasinger of Jobin Realty.



**The parlor is located next to the formal dining room.
There are five fireplaces throughout the Chateau (with a
potential for 13), set on five-acre estate in Clifton.**

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COMMUNITY



The cast of "Maid for Dogs," (standing, from left) Stephanie Lawrence, Charles Hoffman, Elizabeth Vittori, Walid Chaya, Jim Manchester, Maxwell Snyder, Helen Rusnak and Charlotte Yakovleff, and (sitting, from left) Lynne Strang, Andie Matten and Roxy Matten. Dogs are Abby and Izzy.

A Meal and a Play

Clifton Dinner Theater presents 'Maid for Dogs.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Actors are often advised not to perform with children or animals because they'll be upstaged. But in The Clifton Dinner Theater's play, "Maid for Dogs," the animals – beautiful, gray, standard poodles – are well-behaved and the show is hilarious.

The cast and crew of 20 have been rehearsing since January. Producer Dianne Janczewski – owner of the two dogs, Abby and Izzy – created the play's concept and director Charlotte Yakovleff wrote most of it.

"It's a two-act, slapstick, comedic mystery," said Yakovleff. "We had an idea what the characters would be

like, based on people I know. Then after I got to know the actors, I wrote the characters with Dianne according to who could play them."

"It's amazing to see how regular people come together and change their own personalities into such dynamic characters," continued Yakovleff. "Audience members need to arrive on time and pay close attention to the action because, from start to finish, they won't want to miss any of the show's clues and details. It's nonstop fun."

THE STORY takes place at a birthday party

for wealthy Daphne Cranston. She's spoiled her children and grandchildren, so they're selfish and just keep taking. Someone dies during her party, and the play's about the search to find the killer.

Clifton's Helen Rusnak portrays Helen McArthur, who heads the investigation. Describing her character as loyal, clever and bright, Rusnak says McArthur can see through Daphne's family and knows there's been some foul play. "She's a take-charge person," said Rusnak. "It's fun for me because I normally play serious roles, rather than comedic ones."

This is a campy comedy with some very funny parts," she said. "Several of the characters will bring the house down. It takes place in Clifton, and we give shout-outs to people the audience will recognize."

Charles Hoffman of Fairfax Station plays Daphne's brother, Edward. "He's comic relief – not quite a bumbling idiot, but close," said Hoffman. "He fractures language and uses Southern colloquialisms. He drinks a little too much, but is a good brother. He's so opposite my actual self; the things he says will make people laugh – at him and with him."

"This is an original script that's a laugh riot and good entertainment," said Hoffman. "We have plenty of topical references, so it's up-to-date and local. Everybody will have a good time."

Clifton's Lynne Strang portrays Daphne, who lives on a big Clifton estate with horses and two poodles. "She's a prominent member of the community who supports local

"Rebecca has several, different facets to her, so I get to explore each one to show her many layers."

— Stephanie Lawrence



(From left) Lynne Strang and Stephanie Lawrence, both of Clifton, perform a scene from the Clifton Dinner Theater's "Maid for Dogs."

To Go

"Maid for Dogs" will be performed Thursday-Saturday, March 22, 23 and 24. Doors open at 7 p.m. for dinner, and the play starts at 8 p.m. at the Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road in Clifton. Tickets are \$30, Thursday; \$35, Friday and Saturday, for dinner and the show. They're available at A Flower Blooms in Clifton, the Clifton Cafe, The Clifton Wine Shoppe and T&K Treasures. Contact cliftontheater@gmail.com.

causes," said Strang. "She's her family's matriarch, celebrating her 64th birthday. She cares deeply about her children and grandchildren, dotes on them and showers them with gifts. But they sometimes take advantage of her generosity."

Strang's enjoying her role because she can do so much with it. "I take it to the next level and accentuate the things that make Daphne who she is," said Strang. "She's elegant and loves fine things, so I'll show that in her wardrobe and jewelry."

She said the audience will like the play's humor and music. "We have a talented cast and some of them will be singing," said Strang. "There are also some unexpected, musical twists that will add to the audience's delight. Plus, we have live dogs who add a unique feature to the performance. This group has lots of camaraderie, and it's been a terrific experience."

Fairfax resident Elizabeth Vittori plays

Daphne's grown daughter, Maryanne. "She's self-centered, self-absorbed and arrogant," said Vittori. "She's always lived a pampered lifestyle and wants to perpetuate it. She's pretty superficial and uncomplicated. She was the character I'd hoped to play, so I love her."

Vittori said the actors are doing everything, themselves, including finding their own costumes and getting props from their homes. "It's soup-to-nuts community theater," she said. "It shows the passion we all have for this community. We're all working together to create something wonderful."

PORTRAYING REBECCA, Daphne Cranston's maid, is Clifton's Stephanie Lawrence. "She's a young woman trying to find her way," said Lawrence. "She cleans house, takes care of Daphne's dogs and does whatever Mrs. Cranston wants her to do. She's sweet and caring to her employer, but isn't treated well by some of the other family members, so she can be caustic to them."

"Rebecca has several, different facets to her, so I get to explore each one to show her many layers," said Lawrence. "It's also fun playing with the dogs." As for the audience, she said, "They'll like the quirky characters and how they develop as the show progresses. They'll like little nuggets about each one, and may find some surprises along the way. And they'll see that we're having a lot of fun."

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

CALENDAR

To have community events listed, send to south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416 with questions. Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks prior to event.

THURSDAY/MARCH 15

The Dirty Pints. 6 p.m. The Auld Shebeen Restaurant and Pub, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Live Irish music. www.theauldshebeenva.com.

Bob Gibson Big Band. 8 p.m. Old Country Buffet 9650 Main St., Fairfax. Music by Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Harry James, Stan Kenton and more. 703-764-0708.

FRIDAY/MARCH 16

Rosie Thomas and Bhi Bhiman at 7 p.m.; **Bluefiveone and Blue County and Lowercaseletters** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

GrooveLily. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. "Sleeping Beauty Wakes: In Concert," a contemporary take on a classic fairytale. \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

The Choir of the College of William and Mary. 8 p.m. Church of the Nativity, 6398 Nativity Lane, Burke. Under the direction of James Armstrong, and featuring works by Mahler and Liszt (Missa Choralis) and including American and Haitian songs in the folk tradition. Free admission. 703-932-7792.

Spring Book Sale. 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. 703-293-6227.

The Flying Cows of Ventry. 7 p.m. The Auld Shebeen Restaurant and Pub, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Live Irish music.



The Choir of the College of William and Mary will perform on Friday, March 16 at 8 p.m. at the Church of the Nativity, 6398 Nativity Lane in Burke. Under the direction of James Armstrong, their performance will feature works by Mahler and Liszt (Missa Choralis), American and Haitian songs in the folk tradition and more. Free admission. 703-932-7792.

www.theauldshebeenva.com.

John Eaton: A Juke Joint Jam Session. 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The Great American Song Book. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

National Trumpet Competition. 2 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Featuring Doc Severinsen and The Army Blues. Free and open to the public. www.nationaltrumpetcomp.org.

Open Mic Night. 7 p.m. Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. Poetry, music, story telling and more. Refreshments served. Free, donations accepted in support of the Wounded Warrior Emergency Support Fund. Hosted by the BPC TreeHouse ministry. 703-764-0456 or www.BurkePresChurch.org.

Just Ducky. 11 a.m. Burke Centre

Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories and activities about ducks. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-249-1520.

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice your English conversation skills. Adults. 703-978-5600.

SATURDAY/MARCH 17

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With pianist Rick Rowley. Stravinsky's Firebird Suite (1919 version), Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Sibelius' Symphony No. 7, and Sibelius' Finlandia. Free pre-concert discussion for ticketholders at 7 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$55. info@fairfaxsymphony.org.

Consignment Sale. 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Fairfax United Methodist Church, 10900 Stratford Ave., Fairfax. Children's clothing, baby equipment, toys, shoes, books, DVDs, videos, games and more. 703-591-3120.

Spring Book Sale. 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. 703-293-6227.

National Trumpet Competition. 2 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free and open to the public. www.nationaltrumpetcomp.org.

Amelia Earhart: Dreams Take Flight. 1 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Experience the career of an American aviation pioneer through character actor Mary Ann Jung's dramatization. Age 8-14. 703-249-1520.

One-on-One Internet/Computer Training. 11 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn to use the library's e-book collection and compatible e-book readers with a one-on-one technology volunteer. Registration required. Adults. 703-978-5600.

SUNDAY/MARCH 18

Accidents, Derek Evry, Madrone and Today's Tomorrow at 1 p.m.; **Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer** Rockin' the Uke CD Release Concert at 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Spring Book Sale. 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. 703-293-6227.

Northern Virginia Simcha Expo. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Vendors include DJs, photographers, florists, entertainment, venues, invitations and decorations, caterers, make-up, Judaica and more.

www.shalomnova.org/simchaexpo or www.jccnv.org.

"Iron Jawed Angels." 3 p.m. City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. Celebrating Women's History Month. Suffragists put their lives at risk to help American women win the vote, staffing Hillary Swank. Free. www.fairfaxva.gov.

MONDAY/MARCH 19

Children's Music Performance Series. 10:30 a.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. First and third Mondays of each month. Free admission. 703-352-2787 or www.fairfaxarts.org.

Book Buddies. 4 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Beginning readers practice with a young adult volunteer. Age 5-9 with adult. 703-293-6227.

Chess Club. 3:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Learn the rules and strategy by playing the game. Age 8-16. 703-644-7333.

The McEuen Brothers. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/MARCH 20

"Better This World" Film Screening & Discussion. 6 p.m. George Mason University Johnson Center Cinema, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Katie Galloway and Kelly Duane de la Vega's documentary follows David McKay and Bradley Crowder as they are transformed from political neophytes to accused domestic terrorists, arrested at the 2008 Republican National Convention. Free. <http://fams.gmu.edu>.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Hot Music, Cool Vibe

Local students performing in Chantilly Invitational Jazz Festival.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The sounds of smooth, cool jazz will fill the air during the 32nd annual Chantilly High Invitational Jazz Festival. It's slated for Friday-Saturday, March 16-17, in the school auditorium, 4201 Stringfellow Road in Chantilly.

"Almost 40 bands are coming from Virginia and Maryland, and even one from Connecticut," said Chantilly's Band Director, Drew Ross. "We're fortunate to have a large number of fantastic jazz programs in our area, so we invite as many bands as we can."

The event is free to the public and runs March 16, from 4-10:30 p.m., and March 17, from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. So audience members may come and go as they please to listen to whichever bands they want to hear (see schedule).

"March is also 'Music in Our Schools' month, so it's a great way for people to come here and see these groups," said Ross. "The audience will be blown away by group after group and seeing how talented these musicians are. It's overwhelmingly exciting to watch."

Middle-school bands, as well as high-school jazz combos and big bands, will be performing. They include the Flint Hill School's jazz band; two big bands from Robinson Secondary School; one from Lake Braddock Secondary School; big bands from Woodson, Fairfax and South County high schools; and two guitar combos and a Gypsy Jazz group from West Springfield High.

"Each combo and band has different styles, and sometimes they play pieces never heard before, on top of the standard repertoire," said Ross. "I'm as old as this jazz festival, so it's a daunting task to run something that's been around as long as I have."

He said the event provides an opportunity for middle- and high-school students to "share a stage and play music for an appreciative audience. They also play for three, professional adjudicators and six to eight clinicians who provide feedback on their performances."

In addition, each middle-school band and high-school band and combo will vie for first-, second- and third-place awards in their divisions. "The top three, high-school bands compete at the end of the

day on Saturday in a battle of the bands to determine the jazz-festival champion," said Ross. "Each of the three bands gets a trophy."

Awards are also presented to outstanding soloists and rhythm-section players, and GMU gives scholarships to participate in its Summer Jazz Workshop. Chantilly High also awards three, \$500 scholarships to outstanding senior musicians who plan on majoring in music in college.

Besides the school bands, three feature acts will also perform:

❖ Prelude, led by Dave Detwiler, a former Army Blues trumpeter who teaches music and still plays professionally;

❖ The Alan Baylock Jazz Orchestra. Baylock is the arranger for the Air Force's Airmen of Note and the artist in residence at Shenandoah University.

❖ The National Jazz Workshop Invitational Big Band, directed by Matt Niess and including current, local high-school musicians.

Performance Schedule

FRIDAY 3/16

4 p.m. - Workshop Jazz
4:20 p.m. - Eagle Ridge MS
4:40 p.m. - JL Simpson MS
5 p.m. - George Washington MS
5:20 p.m. - Stone MS
5:40 p.m. - Rachel Carson MS
6 p.m. - MS Awards/Dinner
6:25 p.m. - West Springfield Guitar 2
6:50 p.m. - Westfield HS Guitar
7:15 p.m. - Colonial Forge 2
7:40 p.m. - West Springfield Guitar 1
8:05 p.m. - George Mason HS
8:30 p.m. - Walter Johnson High School Combo
8:55 p.m. - Break
9:10 p.m. - West Springfield Gypsy Jazz
9:35 p.m. - Colonial Forge 1
10 p.m. - Albemarle HS
10:25 p.m. - Combo Awards

SATURDAY 3/17

8 a.m. - Robinson SS 2
8:25 a.m. - Fairfax HS
8:50 a.m. - Stonewall Jackson HS
9:15 a.m. - Sherando HS
9:40 a.m. - WT Woodson
10:05 a.m. - Prelude
11:05 a.m. - Robinson SS 1
11:30 a.m. - Manassas Park HS
11:55 a.m. - Oakton HS 2
12:20 p.m. - Flint Hill HS
12:45 p.m. - Alan Baylock Jazz Orchestra
1:55 p.m. - Yorktown HS
2:20 p.m. - Westbrook HS
2:45 p.m. - Washington-Lee HS
3:10 p.m. - National Jazz Workshop Band
3:50 p.m. - Westfield HS
4:15 p.m. - South County
4:40 p.m. - Oakton HS 1
5:05 p.m. - McLean HS
5:30 p.m. - Walter Johnson High School
5:55 p.m. - Colonial Forge HS
6:20 p.m. - Lake Braddock HS
6:45 p.m. - Albemarle HS
7:10 p.m. - Chantilly Jazz

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SPORTS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PANTHERS' BOYS TEAM

The Panther girls, shown here following their state championship game win over Liberty Christian Academy, have now won a record six consecutive state crowns.



The Paul VI High boys' basketball team celebrates following its state finals win over Episcopal High.

Paul VI Boys, Girls Win Basketball State Championship

Panther boys and girls basketball teams win respective VIS State titles.

Both the girls' and boys' basketball teams from Paul VI Catholic High School won their respective Virginia Independent Schools Div. 1 Championships on Saturday, March 3.

The Paul VI Lady Panthers defeated Liberty Christian Academy from Lynchburg to capture the team's sixth consecutive state crown. The Panthers overcame a slow start offensively but clung to a narrow lead midway through the second quarter. Paul VI then took control of the contest when junior guard Marlena Tremba scored four 3-pointers within a four minute span to spark the

Panthers. A team effort led to a final score of 67-45.

The Lady Panthers placed two players on the All-Tournament Team - Marlena Tremba and Lauren Cox. Taking the tournament's Most Valuable Player honors was sophomore Ariana Freeman, who led Paul VI in scoring (25.6 points per game) and was a dominant force on defense.

No other basketball team in the history of the VISAA has won six consecutive state championships. The Lady Panthers also tied their own school record for most wins in a season with 23 and finished fourth in the WCAC for the year.

ON THE BOYS' SIDE, the Panthers' championship game promised to be a battle from the jump as Paul VI squared off against a tough Episcopal team from Alexandria. Paul VI had played Episcopal earlier in the year - a non-conference game in which the Panthers overcame a 14-point deficit late in the third quarter in a stirring comeback win.

Paul VI players were determined to make sure that, in Saturday night's state tournament finals versus the Maroon, there would be no need for a similar comeback. The Panthers, in the finals, controlled play over the final three quarters. They held a 10-point lead with just over a minute to play and held off Episcopal for a 62-61 state championship game win. (A 3-pointer at the buzzer by Episcopal provided the one point final margin).

Paul VI's Patrick Holloway provided the second half spark for his team, scoring all 16 of his points after intermission, and Tilman Dunbar posted 12 points, 11 assists, and four rebounds. Marcus Derrickson recorded a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

The All-Tournament Team included Coleman Johnson, Patrick Holloway and Marcus Derrickson. Derrickson was also named Tournament MVP.

The Paul VI boys were scheduled to compete in the prestigious Alhambra Catholic Invitational Tournament, held at Frostburg State University. Additionally, the Panthers' recent win in the WCAC tournament earned them the right to play in the Abe Pollin City Title Game. That game is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20 at the Verizon Center against Coolidge.

Emerson Set for One Final Season as Paul VI Baseball Coach

Panthers have enjoyed incredible success under longtime skipper.

In an emotional address to players and families last Thursday night, March 8 at the Paul VI High baseball team's annual 'First Pitch Dinner,' Billy Emerson announced he will step down as the Panthers' head baseball coach at the end of this upcoming spring season.

Emerson, beginning his 10th season as the Panthers' baseball coach, is the longest tenured baseball coach in the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference (WCAC). He will continue his duties as the Paul VI High Athletic Director.

Jeff Nolan, Emerson's longtime assistant and current associate head coach, will be the Panthers' next head coach following the 2012 season.

Emerson, who also serves as an associate scout for the Detroit Tigers, indicated he may return to coaching at some point.

"I've dedicated a good part of my life to coaching," said Emerson. "I have new



Billy Emerson

challenges as the A.D., I'm working on a Master's degree and most importantly I will get to spend more quality time with my family. It's time to step away, but I wouldn't say I'm out of coaching forever."

Emerson has coached at the high school and collegiate levels for nearly 20 years. As a high school head coach he holds a career record of 217-114 (196-75 in 9 seasons at PVI). He has been named Coach of the Year

on eight occasions, including honors from the WCAC and the Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association (VISAA). He was also a finalist for Baseball America's National High School Coach of the Year in 2008.

Paul VI has won two WCAC Championships and three VISAA State Championships under Emerson's direction, along with multiple regular season titles, invitational tournament crowns and national rankings. The Paul VI baseball program has sent more than 50 players to college baseball over the last nine years, a mark rarely matched in the Mid Atlantic Region.

While doubling as a manager in the Clark C. Griffith Collegiate Summer Baseball League from 2006-2009, Emerson has coached a total of 315 games (high school and collegiate combined) with a record of 226-89. He was the only baseball coach in America to guide a nationally ranked high school team and a nationally ranked collegiate team in the same years (2008, 2009).

"I will miss the camaraderie, competition and the opportunity to coach so many great players," said Emerson, who during his earlier days as a high school baseball coach once

led T.C. Williams to the Northern Region semifinals - the furthest the Titans have ever gone. "As the Athletic Director I will still have a hand in supporting Paul VI student athletes in advancing to college baseball. I will continue to work tirelessly behind the scenes to support all of our coaches and student athletes."

Nolan has coached both high school and college players for the last 25 years. He has coached at Paul VI during Emerson's entire tenure at the school and has helped Emerson establish the program as a perennial local and national power. Nolan was named Mid Atlantic Assistant Coach of the Year in 2009 by the National High School Baseball Coaches Association.

"The program won't miss a beat with Jeff in charge," said Emerson. "It can only get better. Jeff Nolan is the kind of coach who gets the most out of his players and the kind of man you want your child to learn from. As our pitching coach, he made more of our guys into All-Conference and college pitchers than anyone. Jeff has been essential to building this program."

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