

Fairfax Station ♦ Clifton ♦ Lorton CONNECTION

Pepito Jimenez of Clifton
has collected a bounty of eggs
at the town of Clifton's annual
Easter Egg Hunt on March 31.

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PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

It took these toddlers and preschoolers seven minutes to clear a large field of hundreds of eggs at the town of Clifton's annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 31.

Egg Hunting in Clifton

After missing the previous year, the Town of Clifton held its Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 31 thanks to the efforts of the Clifton, Fairfax and Fairfax Station au pairs with Cultural Care Au Pair. Local Coordinator, Dariece Rau, was glad that her group of au pairs was willing to take on the event and get it started again for the town.

Over 130 children showed up for the three separate hunt areas: toddlers – pre-school, kindergarten – second, and third – fourth grades. Following the

hunt, each child waited to see if they were going to be the lucky winner of one of the three raffle prizes donated by DGallery Photography, Village TimeSaver of Clifton, and Au Pair Coordinator, Dariece Rau.

With the closing of Clifton Elementary in 2011, the egg hunt offered an opportunity for the children and families of the greater Clifton community to once again come together.

For additional information about the au pair program or future activities, contact Rau at 703-944-3907 or dariece.rau@lcc.culturalcare.com.



Four-and-a-half year old Cassidy Lindenberg of Clifton sorts through her booty during the town of Clifton's annual Easter Egg Hunt on the village green.



Bob Ivy, of Clifton, helps his daughter, Fable, find eggs during the town of Clifton's annual Easter Egg Hunt on the village green on March 31.



Pepito Jimenez of Clifton has collected a bounty of eggs at the town of Clifton's annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 31.



Colston Farmer of Clifton raises his egg victoriously during the town of Clifton's annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 31.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Tim Steinhilber, Transurban-Fluor Express Lanes manager, explains the benefits of the new 495 Express Lanes, on track to open in December 2012. "The 495 Express Lanes will fundamentally change how the region thinks about and uses the Capital Beltway in Virginia," Steinhilber said.

Fasten Your Seatbelts

VDOT officials say I-495 Express Lanes will be just that.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Predictable, safe and reliable is not how most motorists would describe driving on the obstacle course known as the Capital Beltway.

But at a news conference last week, VDOT officials said that's exactly what's in store for drivers in the coming year as several billion dollars' worth of Northern Virginia transportation megaprojects moves forward.

"The mild winter and early spring helped put us on schedule for our projects," said Steven Titunik, VDOT's communications director.

Construction of the 14-mile HOT lanes, now formally called the 495 Express Lanes, is 90 percent complete, and the two new lanes - in each direction from Springfield to just past the Dulles Toll Road - are on track to open in December 2012, said Tim Steinhilber, Transurban-Fluor's Express Lanes manager.

"The great news is that construction is ending. Drivers will have faster, more reliable and more predictable trips on the Capital beltway," Steinhilber said.

The 495 Express Lanes will provide much-needed relief to heavily congested Northern Virginia, according to VDOT officials. In a Transportation Institute 2011 Urban Mobility Report, the Washington, D.C. area had the worst traffic congestion in the United States, and yearly commutes that are twice as long as the national average.

"The 495 Express Lanes are the first roadway of their kind in the region," said Gregory A. Whirley Sr., VDOT Commissioner. "As with anything new, there is a learning curve and we want to make sure drivers and the community are educated and equipped to use the lanes."

FOR THE FIRST TIME, officials said, motorists will have choices that can make the ride smoother: carpools with three or more occupants travel free on the Express Lanes, and cars with fewer riders can pay a toll for a faster trip on the Express Lanes, or



PHOTO BY VDOT

Crews work on new ramps at the Springfield Interchange, one of the most complex interchanges on the 495 Express Lanes project. Construction of the 14-mile, four-lane roadway also brings upgrades to 12 interchanges, new access points and the replacement of over 50 bridges and overpasses.

'Know Before You Go'

The HOT Lanes, now formally known as the 495 Express Lanes, will provide new options for a faster, more predictable trip on the Capital Beltway in Virginia and help drivers control how and when they get to their destination, according to VDOT officials.

A new website launched last month is the first step in a year-long education campaign focused on educating the community on how to take advantage of the new travel options when the lanes open in late 2012.

"That's one of our main messages to motorists: know before you go," said Steven Titunik, VDOT's communications director.

He said the name of the new traffic project has changed from HOT Lanes to Express Lanes because all the on-road signage will say 'EXPRESS,' and officials want customers to become familiar with what they will see on the road.

The website includes everything from detailed maps outlining how each interchange will work to information about safety in the lanes

For more information, visit 495ExpressLanes.com.

use regular travel lanes.

Instead of toll booths that create cattle-chute conditions, tolls on the new lanes will be collected solely

SEE EXPRESS, PAGE 9



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS

As part of the Fairfax County Parkway Phase 3 project, Donegal Lane in Springfield will be closing on April 10 in conjunction with the opening of the new Rolling Road Bridge, expected in early April. For more information on the Fairfax County Parkway Phase 3 Project, visit the website at: www.fcparkway.com/index.htm

Fairfax County Overpass Opening

Donegal Lane access shuts down April 10.

On Tuesday, April 10, the Virginia Department of Transportation is permanently closing the intersection of Donegal Lane and the Fairfax County Parkway, and simultaneously opening the overpass carrying the new alignment of Rolling Road over the parkway.

To implement that new road configuration, there will be multiple lane closures on the parkway in the area of Rolling Road and Donegal Lane beginning at 9 a.m. April 10.

In addition to the lane closures, temporary traffic shut-

downs of the parkway northbound and southbound will occur between 10 a.m. until noon. These stoppages will be between 5 and 15 minutes in length for removal of traffic signals.

After the new road configuration is in place, motorists will no longer be able to access the parkway from Donegal Lane at the intersection, and motorists will not be able to turn onto Donegal Lane. Motorists who want to access Donegal Lane from the Fairfax County Parkway will be required to follow the signs for Rolling Road or take the Barta Road exit ramp. Temporary message boards and new signs will be in place to direct motorists to the new access areas.

— VICTORIA ROSS

Fast Facts: The \$174 Million Project

When the first two phases of the four-phase Fairfax County Parkway Extension project opened in September 2010, at a cost of \$124 million, motorists gained a direct route to I-95 through the Fort Belvoir North Area in Springfield.

Project Phases

♦Phase 1 - Construction of a four-lane section between Rolling Road and Fullerton Road that provides direct access to I-95. Construction began in November 2008 and was finished in September 2010.

♦Phase 2 - Construction of a partial cloverleaf interchange at Rolling Road and the Fort Belvoir North Area entrance. Extension of Boudinot Drive provided an on-ramp to the southbound parkway. Construction finished in September 2010.

♦Phase 3 and 4 - The last two phases of the Fairfax County Parkway, priced at \$50 million, will be partially funded by the American Restoration and Recovery Act (ARRA). Phase four was completed in July 2011, while phase three was a separate design-build contract with a scheduled completion of fall 2012. Highlights include: relocating Hooes Road and Rolling Road with improvements to the Franconia-Springfield Parkway interchange and the Fairfax County Parkway and extending Boudinot Drive at the parkway linked with a loop ramp.

♦In late 2011, the U.S. Army relocated nearly 19,000 jobs to Fort Belvoir, Alexandria and Springfield as part of the Base Realignment and Closure Plan (BRAC). To handle the increased traffic in southern Fairfax County, the parkway was extended by two miles between Rolling Road and Fullerton Road. The realignment of Rolling Road will be complete this summer.

♦The Fairfax County Parkway was designated as the John F. (Jack) Herrity Parkway in 2001. Former Chairman Jack Herrity, who served on the Board of Supervisors for 12 years, was instrumental in getting the road built.

For additional information on any VDOT projects, go to www.vamegaprojects.com

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY VDOT



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Former Governor George Allen fires up the crowd at the 2012 Fairfax County GOP Convention on Saturday, March 24, at West Springfield High School.

Super Saturday for County GOP

Convention features former Governor George Allen; FCRC elects new president.

More than 1,000 Republican delegates participated in the 2012 Fairfax County Republican Committee (FCRC) convention, held at West Springfield High School on Saturday, March 24.

A full slate of prominent speakers was featured, including former Virginia Governor George Allen, who returned to his home base in Northern Virginia as part of his campaign to recapture the Senate seat he lost in 2006 to Jim Webb.

U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (VA-10), Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli; and Pete Synder, Chairman of the Virginia Victory Program, were also speakers at the event.

“Virginians have always enjoyed making history and this year’s election could decide control of the U.S. Senate,” Allen said. “I believe we have the opportunity today to positively change the trajectory of our nation and make America competitive again. It was great to see the energy and excitement of everyone in Fairfax County and all the friendly and familiar faces at this morning’s convention.”

“It was invigorating to start the day with so many friends and neighbors at the Fairfax County GOP Convention. The Fairfax County Republicans are fired

up and ready to win,” Allen told the crowd.

During the convention, the FCRC elected Jay McConville as its new chairman during its biennial convention. Upon his election by acclamation, McConville immediately nominated his rival for the chairmanship, Matt Ames, to stand as 1st Vice Chairman of the Fairfax GOP. Both will serve two-year terms. McConville succeeds Anthony Bedell, who retired as chairman after serving for two terms.

“This year is critical for our nation,” said McConville. “Our party must put forth its best effort to ensure that Fairfax County supports the Republican candidates who will help reverse the disastrous policies of the Obama Administration and usher in a new period of fiscally responsible governance and respect for the Constitution. Our liberty depends on it.”

McConville is a business executive, community leader, and former candidate for the Virginia House of Delegates. He has served for the last two years as the FCRC’s Vice Chairman for Budget and Finance. He is an Army Veteran and graduate of George Mason University. He and his wife Sue have three children.

— VICTORIA ROSS

Susan Allen (center) with Marianne Gearhart (right) President of the Republican Women of Clifton, and Alice Butler-Short (left) host of a tea in honor of Allen.



AREA ROUNDUPS

South County HS Theatre Presents ‘West Side Story’

South County Secondary School Theatre Department is ready to rumble as the popular musical, “West Side Story,” hits its stage in May. Set in the mid-1950s, the play tells the story of two rival gangs, the Sharks and the Jets, who fight for the same territory in New York City. Tony, a previous leader of the Jets who wants something more in his life, agrees to attend a dance and support the Jets as they challenge the Sharks to a rumble. At the dance, he meets Maria, the younger sister of Bernardo, the leader of the Sharks. Bernardo steps in and sends Maria home. Tony searches the streets for Maria and finds her on her balcony. They pledge their love to each other and plan to meet the next day. The Sharks and

Jets agree on a rumble site and meet to fight. Tony steps in to break up the rumble and his best friend Riff is killed by Bernardo. Tony then kills Bernardo in a rage. Tony must then face Maria, as the two of them try to find a way to still be together.

Featuring a cast and crew of more than 58 high school students, the production includes the talents of Dean Maldonato as Tony, Whitney Turner and Katie Murray as Maria, Kathryn Moore and Claire Gallagher as Anita, Nikko Custodio as Riff, Yusuf Alizo as Bernardo, Angel Hernandez as Chino, and Jack Gereski as Action.

When and Where:

Friday and Saturday, May 4 & 5, 7:30 p.m.

Friday and Saturday, May 11 & 12, 7:30 p.m.

General admission is \$10, and \$9 for senior citizens and students. Get tickets at the door or discounted tickets online at southcountytheatre.org.

Location: Dale S. Rumberger Auditorium, South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, VA 22079.

Celebrating Japanese Art And Culture

The Workhouse Arts Center will present Japanese Art and Culture Day at the Workhouse, Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Gift of Trees, National Cherry Blossom Festival. On Saturday, April 21 from 11:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., visitors to the Workhouse Arts Center will find an array of interesting, educational, entertaining, and free activities celebrating the art and culture, both ancient and modern, of Japan. A ceremonial planting of cherry trees will kick-off the event at 11:30 a.m. The trees have been provided by the Merrifield Garden Center.

Activities include demonstrations of the ancient and living art of bonsai, Ikebana, the traditional Japanese art of flower arranging, and the art of the Edo period (1615-1868) featuring Ukiyo-e prints. More modern art and culture offerings include the culinary art of vegetarian sushi making, and the Japanese art of Anime, being presented in the screening of the film 5 Centimeters Per Second. Children can learn about and participate in traditional Japanese games, crafts and dress being offered by The Japan-America Society of Washington, DC.

In celebration of the 100th Year of the Gift of Trees, the day will begin with a presentation featuring the ornamental Asian trees. Keith Tomlinson, manager of Meadowlark Gardens in Vienna, Virginia will take a look, through the lens of the deeply held relationship between humans and nature, at how these trees attract our collective passion as an aesthetic icon of spring and societal renewal.

Presenters for this celebration of Japanese art and culture include the Virginia Museum of Fine Art, Ikebana International, The Potomac Bonsai Association, and the Workhouse Arts Center’s Studio Artists. This celebratory festival runs from 12PM to 4PM at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton, VA. For more information on the festival offerings visit WorkhouseArts.org.

NEWS

Eggstravaganza!

Jubilee Christian Center event features music, moon bounces and egg rolls for every age.

Ever since Dolly Madison, wife of the fourth American president, organized an egg roll down the hilly lawn of the Capitol building in 1810, egg rolls have become an Easter tradition.

On Saturday, March 31, more than 1,000 children had the chance to roll wooden eggs down 40 lanes during Jubilee Christian Center's annual Eggstravaganza, held at the Fairfax County Government Center. Older children could compete during the egg-rolling contest, while children younger than 5-years-old had their own lanes, where they could roll at their leisure. Each child who participated received a ticket for a goody bag filled with candy.

"There is something for everyone here," said Terry Leonard of JCC, the event's organizer, "we have water bottles, chips, Vocelli's pizza and goody bags for 2,000 people. There's finger-painting, face-painting, dance performances, you name it. We even have several Easter Bunnies to meet and greet all the children."

Sebrena Greene, who brought her family from Reston, said she was surprised by all the activities. "This is pretty cool. It's a nice family event, and a beautiful day to be outside."

Jubilee Christian Center places a strong emphasis on the arts and



Wearing their Easter Best: Katie Sherry, 3, holds hands with big sister Lilly Sherry, 5, as they wait to get tattoos during Jubilee Christian Center's 2012 "Eggstravaganza" held at the Fairfax County Government Center on Saturday, March 31. Their mom, Tracy Sherry, of Fairfax Station, said the girls loved dressing up for the event.

adds creativity to its worship services, which feature contemporary Christian music, according to

Leonard. For more information on JCC, go to www.jccag.org.

— VICTORIA ROSS

PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

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PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to: south@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:
The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection,
"Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,"
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PHOTO BY ANGELA BALLARD/FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE

Technician Clay Slaymaker, Technician Edwin Flores, Firefighter Brendan Downing and Lt. Aron Corwin were honored March 21 for their heroism during a swift water rescue in Lorton last September.

Above and Beyond

Firefighters honored for Lorton rescue.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN AND ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The water was swiftly overtaking a Lorton intersection as deadly flash flooding devastated the region on Sept. 8, 2011. By the time first responders from Fire Station 24 arrived on the scene, multiple vehicles had been swept into the intersection by the force of the fast moving floodwaters.

As they quickly surveyed the scene, Lt. Aron Corwin and Firefighter Brendan Downing located several stranded victims. Some were on the roofs of cars, another on a six-foot high brick wall and some still inside their vehicles.

Two of the stranded vehicles contained five people, including two special needs children. Using a fully extended 95-foot aerial tower, the Station 24 crew climbed into the waist-deep water, rescuing all five victims.

At the same time, two additional people had entered the water and been propelled up against a brick wall. Rescuers quickly secured a ground ladder from a stranded car to the brick wall and created a bridge, allowing the victims to be assisted back across the ladder and aerial device to safety.

For their acts of heroism in Lorton that day, Corwin and Downing were honored March 21 with Bronze Medals of Valor at the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards. Also honored for his rescue efforts was Technician Clay Slaymaker, who was presented with a Lifesaving Award.

At the event held at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, the Chamber recognized 108 of the county's first responders at the 34th Annual Valor Awards. Members of the Fairfax County Police Department, Sheriff's Office, Fire and Rescue Department, as well as from the Towns of Herndon and Vienna, were given awards.

Thirty-five responders were given Bronze or Silver Medals of Valor and their children will receive post-secondary education scholarships from the Valor Scholarship Fund, a 501(c)3 foundation. To date,



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Fire Chief Ronald Mastin, right, presents Lt. Aron Corwin with a Bronze Medal of Valor March 21 for his efforts saving the life of five people during a swift water rescue last September in the Lorton area.

more than \$250,000 in scholarships has been awarded.

The flash flooding of Sept. 8, a result of 6 to 10 inches of rain that deluged the area, brought numerous calls for water-related rescues and 18 Fairfax County Fire and Rescue personnel were honored for their efforts that day. The firefighters saved dozens of lives by rescuing people who were trapped by rising water, in danger of washing downstream or were otherwise trapped by the severe weather conditions.

The Chamber also awarded 48 lifesaving awards and 25 certificates of valor during the ceremony.

"We have heard some remarkable accounts of heroism today," said Doug Brammer, chair of the Valor Scholarship Fund. "Having done this for a number of years, it just reinforces that when things are at their worst, our first responders are at their best."



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Megan Dwyer, an art teacher at Woodson High School, helps students with making paper origamis while they attended the Woodson Pyramid Art Show last week. The art show is held each year and features the work of students from schools that feed into Woodson.

A Pyramid of Art

Woodson High Pyramid stages annual Art Show.



Gabriella Asfaw, 6, a student at Mantua Elementary School, works on her part of a mural while attending the annual Woodson Pyramid Art Show on Friday night at Woodson High School. The art show is held each year and features the work of students from schools that feed into Woodson.



Parents and family members of students within the Woodson High School Pyramid attend the school's annual pyramid art show.



(From left) Gil Harrington and Kim Nelson hold posters with their daughters' photos and pass out information to local residents.

'There's Always a Void'

Two grieving mothers seek answers here.

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Kim Nelson goes to bed at night hoping she'll someday see her daughter again; Gil Harrington knows she'll never be able to because her own daughter is gone forever. Saturday, March 31, they were together in Fairfax seeking information about what happened to their girls and doing what they could to prevent similar tragedies from befalling someone else's child.

Nelson's daughter Bethany grew up in Fairfax, Chantilly, Burke and Lorton and was a senior at GMU when she disappeared in January 2011. Harrington's daughter Morgan, a 20-year-old sophomore at Virginia Tech, vanished outside a Metallica concert in Charlottesville in October 2009.

Morgan's body was found in a pasture, three months later; and in summer 2010, authorities linked her killer's DNA to the person who abducted and sexually assaulted a Fairfax woman in September 2005. So Saturday afternoon, Nelson and Harrington stood outside the Jermantown Road Giant Foods store - near where that crime occurred - pass-

ing out informational posters and brochures and warning others that the perpetrator has never been caught and may still be in this area.

They also shared their stories with anyone who stopped by their table, desperately hoping that someone might know even the tiniest detail that might help them find this man.

"Perhaps he frequents this store or others around here," said Gil Harrington. "We know he has a habit of abduction, sexual assault and murder, and we don't want these habits repeated. People need to know about him and to be cautious."

"My daughter's dead, but we want to save other families from going through what we went through," she said. "And it makes the pain more tolerable to help someone else. You have to find a new life because the old one is broken."

Morgan planned a career in education and intended to work with orphans in Zambia with her mother, the following summer. But exactly what led to the events of Oct. 17, 2009 is still shrouded in mystery.

NO ONE KNOWS for certain why Morgan left her friends and the concert arena during the opening act, but witnesses said she was acting erratically and was last seen that night hitchhiking on a bridge. Police believe a motorist picked

her up and - although a \$150,000 reward is offered for anyone providing information leading to her killer's arrest and conviction - the perpetrator is still at large.

Bethany was 21 and studying global and environmental change at GMU. She was three classes away from graduating when she disappeared. Her married name was Decker, and her husband Emile was serving with the National Guard in Afghanistan at the time. Their son, Kai, was 1 1/2, and Bethany was five months pregnant with their second child.

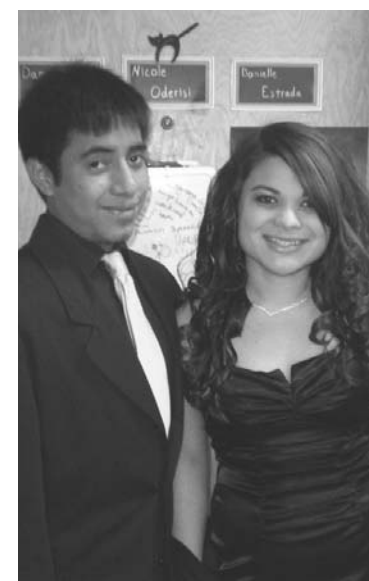
She was last seen Jan. 29, 2011, at an apartment in Ashburn. She and Morgan are not connected, except that both suddenly vanished. And now, both of their mothers are working with HelpSaveTheNextGirl.com to try to prevent this from happening to anyone else.

Harrington organized this group in October 2011. "There was no saving my daughter, but we could save the next family," she said. "Behind each girl's name on our posters is a whole cadre of people who are hurting."

"Someone from the campaign reached out to me on Facebook and let me know about the organization," said Nelson, who was raised in Burke. "We want to help save people from the next heartbreak of having a child that's murdered or missing. Nobody ever thinks it's their daughter who'll go missing."



Morgan Harrington



Emile and Bethany Decker

Suspect, Tip Information

The suspect was described in 2005 as a black male, 25-35, height 5' 9" - 6'0", weight 180-220 pounds; black hair, beard and mustache.

To provide or request additional information in the Fairfax or Charlottesville cases, contact Fairfax County Police Det. Michael Boone, 703-385-7959 or michael.boone@fairfaxva.gov or Virginia State Police Agent Dino Cappuzzo, 434-414-4456 or dino.cappuzzo@vsp.virginia.gov.

Reference Fairfax case No. 667782 or state police case No. 10-83-02-0098.

Anyone with information about Bethany Decker's case should call the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office at 703-777-0475.



2005 police sketch of suspect. (He may have changed his appearance since then).

Harrington said people nowadays hear about disappearances so often that they "become immune to it." But her daughter and Nelson's daughter aren't mere statistics.

"What we're doing is standing up here and individualizing it," said Harrington. "Maybe when people look into the eyes of we two mothers, they'll see the loss and pain we feel and it'll become real to them."

Bethany's son is now 2 1/2. "I show him pictures of his mother and he asks, 'Where's Mommy,'" said Nelson. "And I have to tell him, 'I don't know.' My other daughter, Ashley, is a student at Old Dominion University, but she's now coming home to live for awhile because she's just devastated by this. So it's had a ripple effect throughout the entire family and on Bethany's friends."

"There's always a void, so that's why HelpSaveTheNextGirl is so important," explained Nelson. "And I want people to know my daughter isn't forgotten. I still hope she's out there somewhere; not knowing is very difficult."

Kenny Jarels, who works in computer and electrical engineering at VT, was one of the group's volunteers accompanying the women to Fairfax on Saturday. He said it's vital to spread the word about the

suspect.

"We go everywhere - where we think this guy lives in Charlottesville and where we know he's been," said Jarels. "We want to jog someone's memory because we know he's out there somewhere."

THE FAIRFAX CRIME occurred Sept. 24, 2005; the victim was 26 and had just finished grocery shopping. "She left this [Giant] with both arms full of groceries and possibly walked to the left of the store on her way home," said Jarels.

According to City of Fairfax police, it was about 10 p.m. and the woman lived three or four blocks from the Giant, in the Oxford Row townhouses on Rock Garden Drive. She was walking down her street and had almost reached her steps when, said police, the suspect allegedly grabbed her from behind and carried to the park/swimming-pool area, where he choked and sexually assaulted her. He then fled and was last seen running south toward Fairhaven Court.

"Someone else came by and scared him off," said Jarels. "But we believe that, if we can find the missing link between the Fairfax and Charlottesville cases, then police can solve them both."

OPINION

Please Share

Call for Mother's Day Photos, and Father's Day.

Every year at this time, the Connection puts out the call for photographs of moms and their children, grandmothers and their children and grandchildren. Most years, we're lucky enough to receive some photos include four generations — great-grandma and all the rest.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13, and once again the Connection will publish a selection of Mother's Day photos, celebrating the mothers who make so many things possible in families, businesses, communities, schools and other institutions in local neighborhoods.

Email photos, including the full names of the people in the picture, the approximate date and location the picture was taken, the ages of the children and sentence or two about the people and/or event.

Father's Day is June 17; soon it will be time to send photos of Dads and children, grandfathers and children and grandchildren.

You can upload your photos on our website at www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday or email them to lorton@connectionnewspapers.com

Share Your Poetry: April Is Poetry Month

April is National Poetry Month. We invite local poets of all ages to send in submissions for inclusion in our papers and/or online. Are you a poet? The Connection will print poetry submitted by readers this spring, and occasionally throughout the year. Email your poem to lorton@connectionnewspapers.com

Be sure to include the poet's name and address (we'll print your town name, not your full address). Photos of the poet are also welcomed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

County Attracts New Residents

To the Editor:

When the Census Bureau released their American Community Survey of County-to-County Migration last week, I was happy to hear that Fairfax County was the number one destination for people moving to the Washington Metropolitan region. The migration statistics help demonstrate what many Fairfax residents already know: Fairfax County is a great place to live, work, play, and grow older comfortably.

Fairfax County is home to one of the best K-12 school systems in the country. We are also one of the safest jurisdictions of our size in the United States. Many top companies that have relocated here cite our top-flight education system as the number one reason for choosing Fairfax County as their new home. We are also a uniquely great place to start a business, a place where we can insure a stable business-friendly climate and access to a highly educated workforce.

Fairfax County offers an impressive menu of recreational opportunities, with attractive parks, golf courses, and bike trails to choose from. We also can claim a well-established arts community, world class shopping and dining, and numerous historical and cultural attractions.

It's important to recognize that Fairfax County is attractive to new residents because of our diversity. We are home to people of many different backgrounds and cultures and consider our diversity one of our greatest assets.

Apart from all of the statistics, facts, and figures, I believe there is another more intangible reason that Fairfax County tops the re-

gion in new residents. Everywhere I go across the County, I continue to hear that people enjoy the "mood" here in Fairfax County. We are a community that is innovative, curious, resilient, and caring. Even during tough economic times we have worked together in a positive way to maintain the quality of life that our community values.

Sharon Bulova
Chairman, Fairfax County
Board of Supervisors

It Takes Community To Prevent Bullying

To the Editor:

As a private, not-for-profit agency focusing on bullying prevention and intervention in northern Virginia since 2009, we at Fairfax Partnership for Youth, Inc. are pleased to see your recent pieces focusing on this critical issue for youth ["Interrupting Harassment and Bullying: Empowering Bystanders to Intervene, Students to Set Boundaries," Connection, March 28-April 3, 2012]. We have been encouraged by the Fairfax County Public School System's efforts to provide a structure within which each individual school can improve its bullying prevention and intervention response, and have been pleased to offer feedback as they have developed it. However, this issue is not the concern of the schools alone; youth can be bullied anywhere they interact. And providing safe environments for them to interact is a tremendously complex job that requires the cooperation and leadership of all of the adults in the community, especially parents. We are hosting

our third Bullying Prevention Symposium to promote this kind of community-wide cooperation on April 25, and all 224 seats were reserved within 1 week of the day we opened registration. It's clear our community is dedicated to eliminating bullying, but we must all contribute to the effort, by learning, sharing what works, and supporting the local schools and private organizations that are working hard to provide clear solutions that promote respect and understanding among youth.

Kristen Brennan
Executive Director, Fairfax
Partnership for Youth, Inc.
www.fairfaxyouth.org

System Down

To the Editor:

One of the best things about living in the information age is that in recent years I have been able to handle almost all my dealings with the Department of Motor Vehicles by using the Internet.

Unfortunately, to obtain a driver's permit for my teenager I am required to show up in person at DMV. The three visits I made over the last nine days brought back bad memories of many lousy experiences with DMV from years long past.

My daughter and I showed up at the Lorton DMV only to be told that "The system is down and we can't help you." I asked why that information could not be posted on the DMV website so people would not have to waste their time driving there only to find out that they would not be helped. The employee had no answer for me but did give me a phone number to call before our next visit.

Four days later, our schedule allowed us to try again. So we

called the number. We got through after 18 minutes of waiting and were told that "The system is up right now but could go down at any time." We took that as a positive and drove to the DMV in Arlington. After 10 minutes of waiting in line to get a service number an announcement stated, "Our system is down and we don't know when it will be working again." Strike two for us.

Three days later my daughter has some time between the end of school and the start of soccer practice. So I come home early from work and we headed to the Franconia DMV. This time we actually get a service number and waited for 15 minutes before we heard the now familiar refrain, "Our system is down statewide."

I notice that there are security guards posted at each of the three DMV locations we visited. No doubt they are there to deal with customer rage at being forced to be subjected to such government incompetence.

Pat Shaw
Springfield

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

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

Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail:
south@connectionnewspapers.com

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

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

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

Victoria Ross
Community Reporter
703-752-4014
[@ConnectVictoria](mailto:vross@connectionnewspapers.com)

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

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

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

Steve Hogan
Display Advertising, 703-778-9418
shogan@connectionnewspapers.com

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

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

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

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
[@TheismannMedia](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



New bridge piers are under development to support completion of project construction in the Springfield Interchange.

Express Lanes 90 Percent Complete

FROM PAGE 3

with E-Z Pass transponders read by overhead monitors allowing motorists to pass through at highway speeds while deducting the toll from their E-Z Pass accounts. Single occupancy or two-passenger vehicles will pay the tolls. VDOT officials said the tolls will have “dynamic pricing,” because there is no theoretical ceiling for tolls.

Toll prices are based on demand, and officials said it’s difficult to predict exactly what the tolls will be at any given time.

“We expect they will range from as low as 20 cents per mile during less busy times, to approximately a \$1.25 per mile in some sections during rush hour. An average trip cost is estimated to be between \$5 and \$6,” Steinhilber said.

Buses and vehicles with three or more passengers can use the Express Lanes for free by using a new E-Z Pass Flex, which gives drivers the option of a flipping a switch to avoid the tolls on the Express Lanes.

“It’s all about choices,” said John Lynch, the Virginia Department of Transportation Regional Program Director. “By giving motorists more choices on the Beltway, the transportation picture in Northern Virginia gets another dimension that was not available before.”

The project also includes the replacement of more than \$260 mil-

lion of aging infrastructure including 58 bridges and overpasses.

Steinhilber noted that construction of a new median and safety shoulder, which will divide I-495 north and south-bound traffic, will enhance safety and cut-down on gridlock in the event of accidents.

“The new median will provide an enforcement and staging area for Virginia State Police and dedicated incident management crews. The key is to keep traffic free-flowing,” he said.

“The 495 Express Lanes will fundamentally change how the region thinks about and uses the Capital Beltway in Virginia,” said Steinhilber. “Between the new exits and on-ramps, the new travel options and the significant increase in capacity, the Beltway will be wholly different than just a few years ago.”

THE EXPRESS LANES PROJECT is a partnership between VDOT, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, and Transurban-Fluor, two private companies in a joint venture to build and operate the new lanes.

VDOT officials said motorists can expect to encounter the following in the coming months:

- ❖ Extensive milling and paving along the entire Express Lanes corridor, which means 400,000 tons of asphalt placed in 2012.

- ❖ Construction of new ramps and bridges in the middle of I-495, providing direct access between the Express Lanes and 10 major access points.

- ❖ Installation of new tolling equipment and crews conducting on-site testing of the equipment, which includes automatic incident detection cameras, which can quickly notify Express Lane operators of accidents and radio frequency identification (RFID) technology to communicate with vehicle E-Z pass transponders to process trips and detectors and video cameras for quick license plate detection.

- ❖ Installation of lane separators every eight feet throughout the corridor to segregate the Express Lanes from the regular Beltway lanes.

In addition to the Express Lanes project, other megaprojects include the Dulles Corridor Metrorail; the Telegraph Road interchange in Alexandria; the Fairfax County Parkway extension; and the proposed I-95 HOV/HOT lanes. Together, these projects represent several billion dollars’ worth of local transportation improvements.

For more information on construction, visit www.vamegaprojects.com. Go to www.495ExpressLanes.com for information on tolling and the Express Lanes system will work.

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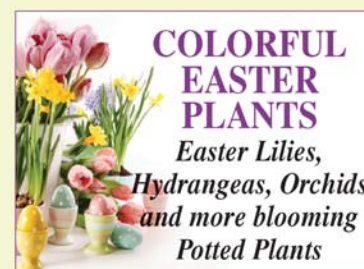
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Discussing Substance Abuse

VIEWPOINTS

The Connection high school interns – Nikki Cheshire (Langley High), Monika Bapna (Marshall High) and Mary Grace Oakes (Madeira) – asked area high school students:

- ❖ Do you feel that legal substances (alcohol, tobacco) are being abused more or less than illegal substances (marijuana, painkillers)? Why?
- ❖ Do you think regular drinking or irregular binge drinking is more prevalent in your community?

Belle Therriault,
Grade: 10, Marshall High



Tracy Soon,
Grade: 11, Marshall High

“Legal substances for sure are more abused. I mean, they are easier to get to and the illegal things probably cost more.”
“I think teens do regular drinking more. As they get older they want more freedom, so they go to more parties where alcohol is often free flowing.”

Sophia Therriault,
Grade: 12, Marshall High

“It really depends. Prescription drugs are something that kids abuse a lot. But it really depends on the age group.”
“Binge drinking, hands down. Teenagers usually don’t get a chance to drink very often, and when they do they often go overboard.”

—MONIKA BAPNA



Annie Wattenmaker,
Grade: 12, The Madeira School



of freedom when they’re at a party over the weekend and they completely abuse the opportunity.”

Makenzie Parent,
Grade: 12, The Madeira School

“Alcohol is probably the substance that is most abused because it’s easiest to obtain.”
“I think many kids binge drink. Since parties are really the only place for kids to drink, they tend to go all-out because they feel like they need to cram everything into one night, which is inevitably more dangerous.”



Area high school students reflect on alcohol, drugs in their communities.

THE COUNTY LINE

| Substance | Overall | | Grade | | | Gender | | Race/Ethnicity ^a | | | | |
|--|---------|--|-----------------|------------------|------------------|---------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|----------|-------|----------------|
| | FCPS | | 8 th | 10 th | 12 th | Females | Males | White | Black | Hispanic | Asian | Other/Multiple |
| Alcohol | 21.1 | | 7.7 | 19.9 | 36.5 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 25.3 | 16.8 | 23.9 | 11.6 | 21.5 |
| Binge Drinking ^b | 10.5 | | 2.6 | 8.9 | 20.5 | 9.4 | 11.6 | 12.6 | 8.7 | 12.5 | 5.2 | 10.4 |
| Marijuana | 10.3 | | 2.4 | 10.0 | 18.9 | 7.5 | 13.1 | 11.5 | 12.7 | 11.7 | 5.0 | 10.7 |
| Cigarettes | 6.8 | | 2.3 | 5.7 | 12.8 | 5.7 | 8.0 | 7.3 | 5.7 | 9.1 | 4.3 | 6.9 |
| Painkillers without a doctor's order | 5.7 | | 4.9 | 5.7 | 6.5 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 6.3 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 3.6 | 6.9 |
| Prescription drugs other than painkillers without a doctor's order | 4.1 | | 2.1 | 4.0 | 6.2 | 4.1 | 4.0 | 4.8 | 3.4 | 4.1 | 2.4 | 4.4 |
| Inhalants | 3.9 | | 6.9 | 3.0 | 1.8 | 4.3 | 3.6 | 2.9 | 4.9 | 6.6 | 3.1 | 5.0 |
| Over-the-counter drugs to get high | 1.7 | | 1.2 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 2.6 | 0.8 | 2.0 |
| LSD or other hallucinogens | 1.5 | | 0.9 | 1.3 | 2.4 | 1.0 | 2.1 | 1.9 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 0.8 | 2.1 |
| Ecstasy | 1.2 | | 0.8 | 1.1 | 1.7 | 0.8 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 1.8 |
| Cocaine or crack | 0.8 | | 0.7 | 0.7 | 1.1 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 0.4 | 1.0 |
| Methamphetamine | 0.7 | | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.5 |
| Steroids | 0.6 | | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.5 | 0.8 |
| Heroin | 0.4 | | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.7 |

Notes. All percentages were calculated from valid cases (missing responses were not included).
^aRacial categories do not include Hispanic students who are treated as a separate category in this table. ^bBinge drinking was defined as having consumed five or more alcoholic drinks in a row within the past two weeks.

Percentage of students reporting use of selected substances in the past month, according to the 2010 Fairfax County Youth Survey.

County Aims to Prevent Substance Use and Abuse

Alcohol use down, painkiller and inhalant use on the rise.

By ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

THIRD IN A THREE PART SERIES.

Twenty-one questions in the 2010 Fairfax County Youth Survey dealt with substance abuse. The survey asked about lifetime use of alcohol, marijuana and cigarettes, as well as use in the past month of 13 different substances.

According to the survey, the most frequently used substance by Fairfax County students is alcohol, with 45.5 percent saying they had consumed it in their life, 21.1 percent reporting use in the past 30 days and 10.5 reported drinking five or more drinks in one sitting. While all those numbers are below the national averages, several community groups are at work trying to get them even lower.

“Quite simply, alcohol is a danger to their future,” said Diane Eckert, executive director of the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County, which recently received a \$200,00 state grant to reduce underage drinking. “Once you start drinking at a young age, you’re priming yourself to become dependant as you grow older, which of course we don’t want.”

Lifetime alcohol use in the county has decreased since the 2001 Fairfax County Youth Survey by 13.8 percent across all grades.

Access is a key part of the prevention mechanism, since students are under the age of 21 and cannot purchase it themselves. Many community groups reach out to places where alcohol is sold to increase awareness of the consequences of providing alcohol to minors.

“We participated in Operation Sticker Shock, which marks beer and wine at grocery stores with “Stop” signs to discourage shoppers from purchasing them for underage children,” said Debbie Withey, presi-

Presenting Realities of Alcohol Abuse

The Unified Prevention Coalition will present “The Perils of College Drinking Culture,” a program designed to educate students and parents about the realities of binge drinking on college campuses. The presentations will include a screening of the award winning documentary “Haze,” as well as a question and answer session with a panel of law enforcement, medical and legislative personnel.

The programs will take place:
❖ Tuesday, April 17, Fairfax High School
❖ Tuesday, April 24, Herndon High School
❖ Wednesday, May 16, Mount Vernon High School
❖ Wednesday, May 23 at Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus Ernst Community Cultural Center
All programs will be from 7 to 9 p.m. More information can be found at www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org.

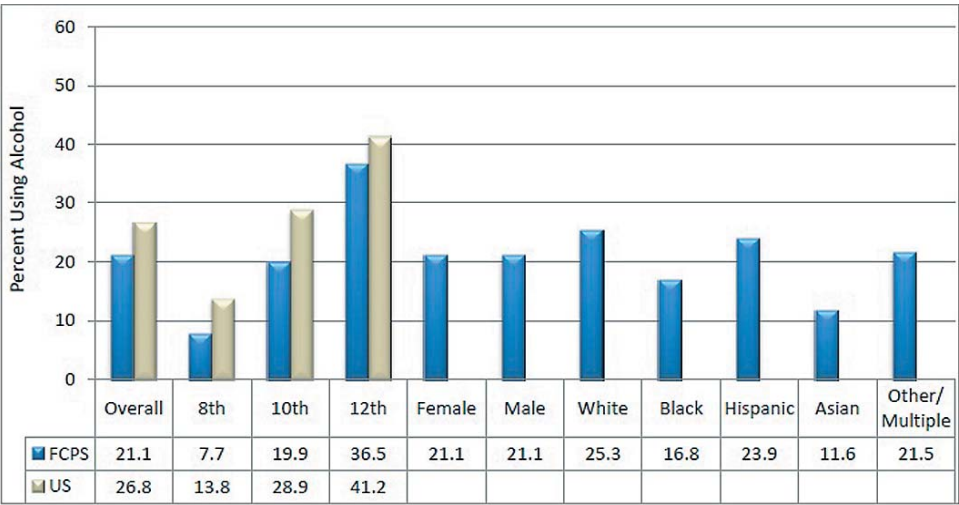
dent of the Safe Community Coalition, which served the Langley and McLean High School pyramids. “We also held a program where fifth and sixth graders wrote notes to juniors and seniors attending prom, reminding them that they are role models and asking them to make responsible decisions, especially when it comes to drugs and alcohol.”

Prescription drugs, particularly opioid painkillers, are a concern for the community since they can be readily available in students’ homes. Painkiller use has risen from 4.9 percent reporting use within 30 days in the 2009 survey to 5.7 percent in 2010. Non-painkiller prescription drug use has also risen from 3.9 percent within the last 30 days in 2009 to 4.1 percent in 2010.

“Prescription drugs abuse wasn’t even on our radar a few years ago, now it is because of the youth survey,” Eckert said. “We know we have to develop more awareness, because a lot of parents aren’t aware of the effect an unlocked medicine cabinet can have on teenagers.”

The rise has led to county-sponsored prescriptions drug drop-off events several times a year, where residents can bring medicine that is no longer needed to county facilities for proper disposal.

According to the survey, prescription drugs



Past month prevalence of alcohol use, by selected demographic characteristics, according to the 2010 Fairfax County Youth Survey.

cess, and can be something younger students try and experiment with.”

Inhalant use in the past 30 days has gone up and down since 2001, falling as low as 2.6 percent in 2008, but is currently at its highest measured rate. In eighth-graders, it has gone up by 1.5 percent since 2009.

Marijuana was the second-most used drug by 10th and 12th graders. While 5.3 percent of eighth graders reported using it, 19.3 percent of 10th graders and 36.7 percent of 12th graders reported the affirmative.

Eckert also said the UPC focuses on marijuana use because “the perception of harm and parental disapproval seems to be going down, and that usually leads to usage numbers going up.”

Coalitions like the Unified Prevention Coalition and the Safe Community Coalition are working on new ways to spread awareness of the dangers of substance abuse. Dr. Bill Geary of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America recently spoke to school officials, police, parent organization leaders and coalition members about how to approach the problem.

“We use a Strategic Precognition Framework that’s based on the Public Health Model, where we look at the agent as the substance that causes the change and the host as the people who use it,” he said. “The point at which the host interacts with the agent is a problem, but if that was the only one, we’d only need prevention programs. But we also have to look at the environment, and some are easier than others when it comes to allowing the host to interact with the agent.”

Geary said that programs, while often a part of a comprehensive prevention strategy, coalitions play a more central role in what he called “community level change,” which requires looking at the whole picture, the host, agent and environment.

“If the goal is to spread change to impact the maximum amount of people, then a community level change is most likely with a comprehensive community coalition,” he said. “A coalition does not just run programs, but they oversee and implement what role programs might have in that strategy. Coalitions are in a unique position because it means no one single agency is in charge of everything.”



Kristen Bilowus,
Grade: 12, The Madeira School

“I think legal substances are more commonly abused mainly because of their accessibility. Cigarettes are easiest to come by, and many kids either have or know someone who has a fake ID to buy alcohol. This leads to a very widespread abuse of alcohol by kids in our area. Illegal drugs are less common, but are enticing to kids because of the danger surrounding them. Often, drinking and cigarettes lead to abuse of illegal substances. Peer pressure at parties combined with intoxication can lead to skewed decision making and maybe illegal drug use.”

“Irregular binge drinking is more prevalent. Kids drink at parties to be social, rather than by necessity. I wouldn’t say I know anyone that drinks regularly by necessity.”

Jennifer Oler,
Grade: 12, McLean High School



“I think that both illegal and legal substances are being used the same. Lots of kids at this age drink alcohol and smoke marijuana.”
“I definitely think it is prevalent in my community.”

—MARY GRACE OAKES



Miles Laubinger,
Grade: 12, Langley High School

“Different things run in different crowds. Alcohol is more prevalent, but the illegal drugs are more of a problem because people that buy prescription drugs off the street run the risk of encountering shady people instead of just store clerks.”

“You run into both regular drinking and binge drinking, depending on the responsibility of the individual. Big team parties have more binge drinking versus someone who does it responsibly.”

Gabrielle Zuccari,
Grade: 11, Langley High School



“Alcohol is probably the most common, but it depends on what group you’re in more than anything. It definitely seems like alcohol and cigarettes are easier to get than, say, marijuana.”

“There’s a fine line for kids our age between regular and binge drinking. I do think that casual drinking is more popular, but it depends on the group and the environment.”



Michaela Burton,
Grade: 10, Langley High School

“I think it’s probably easier for people to get their hands on legal substances, like from convenience stores or even at home. There certainly is a lot of usage of both, but I think legal drugs are abused more.”
“Binge drinking, since more people just drink and don’t think about it. I don’t think teenagers have the self-control to just have one drink for dinner.”

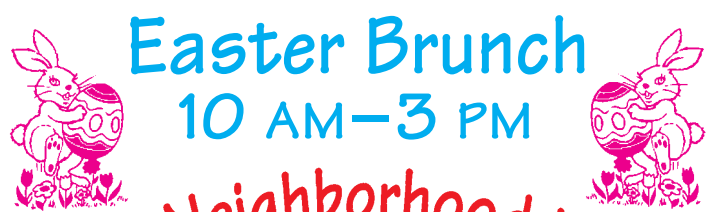
Norah Bazarov,
Grade: 11, Langley High School



“Illegal drugs are probably used less, because you have to ask around for it. Legal drugs are easy to get because they’re sold by a lot of people. Also, a lot of families have alcohol around the house, not marijuana.”

“Regular drinking happens more often, because you can just sit down with a group of friends. It’s more casual.”

—NIKKI CHESHIRE



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NEWS

Two Workhouse Artists Travel Abroad

Carol Iglesias goes to France and Hadrian Mendoza travels to China.

The Workhouse Arts Center has announced that two of its artists will be traveling abroad this spring to fulfill one month artistic residencies. Carol Iglesias, an Associate Artist at the Workhouse, will be traveling to Dinan, France and Hadrian Mendoza, a Studio Artist of Building W-8, will be traveling to Fuping, China.

Local Workhouse Associate Artist Carol Iglesias has been accepted as an artist-in-residence into the prestigious l'Atelier d'Ariste de Grande Vigne in Dinan, France for the month of April. The purpose of the program, which was started by French artist Yvonne Jean-Haffen before her death in 1993, is to perpetuate a tradition that goes back to the 18th century whereby artists from around the world are invited for a one-month stay. When accepted, the artist receives the use of a studio and housing in Dinan in exchange for a painting created during their stay and chosen by a selection committee. The painting is then put into the permanent collection of La Grande Vigne and used in exhibitions by the association.

Iglesias' passion for painting European streets, old buildings, boats and reflections led her to apply for the residency last fall. Her extensive love of travel inspires her and provides the subject matter for much of her work, which she describes as "Impressionist Style in Vibrant Colors." Throughout her career, she has painted many locations in Europe, including Provence and Tuscany, as well as many sites in the Caribbean and the United States. She has also exhibited her work in shows which have traveled around the U.S.

Born in Montreal, Canada, Iglesias grew up in the Pacific Northwest, graduated from Olympic College in Washington State, and continued her study of art at The New School of Visual Concepts in Seattle. She enjoyed a successful career for twenty years as a graphic designer and art director. Also, she co-founded a design company in Asheville, North Carolina and won numerous awards both nationally and internationally for her designs. As a fine artist, she is an award winning signature member of the Maryland Pastel Society whose members come from Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Washington D.C., West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Florida and New Jersey. Carol is the third Workhouse artist to be accepted into this program and the fourth Workhouse artist to travel to Dinan, France.

Dinan, is known as one of the most beautiful towns in France. Located in Brittany on the River Rance, it is considered one of the Earth's most beautiful spots, boasting aqueducts and a medieval wall around the town.



Carol Iglesias working on artwork at the Workhouse Arts Center.



Ceramic artist Hadrian Mendoza at work.

BUILDING W-8 ARTIST, Hadrian Mendoza, will participate in the Ceramic Art Residency Program at the FuLe International Ceramic Art Museums (FLICAM) in Fuping, China for the month of May. He is in charge of selecting the Southeast Asian artists and the logistics of the entire program.

With an aim to promote contemporary ceramic art in China as well as around the world, FLICAM places a heavy emphasis on blending old with new, East with West, and traditional with modern. All of the art works exhibited in the museums are created by artists who have completed a residency and are made from local materials found in Fuping. Artists are invited to Fuping to create contemporary ceramic art that will be permanently exhibited in a museum at the end of their stay.

Mendoza, a stoneware potter, looks for unusual and indigenous forms while creating, with a special interest in expressionistic and abstract shapes. Many of his pieces, which often include heavy cultural undertones, captivate the presence of his own cultural dilemmas as an artist. His work has been exhibited in many solo shows, as well as group shows internationally. His pieces are also a part of public and private collects around the globe.

Receiving his Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Mary Washington College, Mendoza was also a student at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, D.C. where in 1997 he was awarded the prestigious Anne & Arnold Abramson Award for Excellence in Ceramics. During the late 1990's Mendoza decided to move back to the Philippines where, for the next few years, he began teaching ceramics and divulging further into his interest for Southeast Asia's indigenous forms. At the Workhouse, his studio and work can be found in Building W-8.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

PHOTO BY SARAH SHEPARD

CALENDAR

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.

FRIDAY/APRIL 6

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot circle, Fairfax. "Fully Charged." Pre-show Party one hour before show time, free to ticket holders. \$14-\$30. 800-551-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 7

Spring Festival and Egg Hunt. 1-3 p.m. Springfield United Methodist Church, 7047 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Easter Egg Hunt, crafts, popcorn, games, and bounce houses. Free. 703-451-2375 or sum-cares.org.

Easter Festival. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. Children's games, crafts and Easter egg hunt.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot circle, Fairfax. "Fully Charged." Pre-show Party one hour before show time, free to ticket holders. \$14-\$30. 800-551-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com.

VITA Tax Assistance. 10 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earned up to \$50K. 703-339-4610.

VITA Tax Assistance. 10 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earned up to \$50K. Adults. 703-451-8055.

SUNDAY/APRIL 8

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot circle, Fairfax. "Fully Charged." Pre-show Party one hour before show time, free to ticket holders. \$14-\$30. 800-551-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com.

MONDAY/APRIL 9

Book Bunch. 3:30 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Call for title. Age 7-8 with adult. 703-971-0010.

Spring Fling. 10:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Stories, songs and fun. Age 2-3 years with adult. 703-339-4610.

TUESDAY/APRIL 10

Second Tuesday Book Discussion. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Wordy Shipmates by Sarah Vowell. Adults. 703-339-4610.

Presidential Biography. 7:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Read any biography about James Monroe to discuss with the group. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Bedtime Storytime: In the Company of Stars. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Bedtime stories and music. Age birth-5 with adult. 703-451-8055.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Practice and improve your English. Adults. 703-451-8055.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 11

Women's Association of Northern Virginia Benefit Fashion Show, Luncheon & Raffle. 11 a.m.

Springfield Golf & Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Proceeds benefit the Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia, a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the well-being of children, improve parent-child relations and prevent child abuse and neglect through public awareness, parent education and advocacy. Tickets \$35. 703-250-6636 or 703-549-0190

Toddler Time. 10:30 a.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Stories and activities. Age 13-23 months with adult. 703-971-0010.

Learning English. 10:15 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

Older Adults Book Group. 2 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro. Meet next door at Kingstowne Center for Active Adults (KNCAA.) Adults. 703-339-4610.

Science Stories: When the Wind Blows. 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories and experiments about wind. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

Time for Twos. 10:30 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Storytime. Age 2 with adult. 703-451-8055.

THURSDAY/APRIL 12

Wolfpac Music. 7 p.m. Empire, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Hip-hop music producer "Wolfpac Music," also known as Mustafa Sediqli of West Springfield High School. His instrumental music is targeted to hip hop fans and appropriate for all ages.



Local hip-hop music producer "Wolfpac Music," also known as Mustafa Sediqli of West Springfield High School, will be performing on Thursday, April 12 at 7 p.m. at Empire, 6355 Rolling Road in Springfield. His instrumental music is targeted to hip hop fans and appropriate for all ages. Tickets are \$10 online, \$13 at the door. 703-569-5940 or www.empire-nova.com.

\$10 online, \$13 at the door. 703-569-5940 or www.empire-nova.com.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot circle, Fairfax. "Fully Charged." Pre-show Party one hour before show time, free to ticket holders. \$14-\$30. 800-551-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com.

Friends of the John Marshall Library Annual Meeting. 7 p.m.

John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Local author William Connery discusses his book, Civil War Northern Virginia 1861, with an emphasis on the local area. 703-971-0010.

Learning English. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak

Road, Burke. Practice your English with other adults. 703-249-1520.

An Evening with S.J. Rozan. 7:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Meet S.J. Rozan, author of the Lydia Chin/Bill Smith mystery series. Books available for sale and signing. 703-451-8055.

FRIDAY/APRIL 13

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot circle, Fairfax. "Fully Charged." Pre-show Party one hour before show time, free to ticket holders. \$14-\$30. 800-551-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 14

2nd Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m.

Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Meet each building's featured artist, a reception in W-16 from 6-7 p.m. and more. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

Public Reception And Poetry Slam. 6-8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. 4th Annual

Sgt. Scott Lange Kirkpatrick High School Poetry Scholarship. The Workhouse Arts Center invites area high school juniors and seniors to participate. The winning poem and honorable mentions will be displayed March 30-April 29. www.workhousearts.org.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot circle, Fairfax. "Fully Charged." Pre-show Party one hour before show time, free to ticket holders. \$14-\$30. 800-551-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com.

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Surviving Spring Allergies

Local allergists offer suggestions for coping.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

The Washington region's unseasonably mild winter led to the early arrival of spring. While many delighted in the balmy temperatures and blossoming flowers, some who suffer from allergies began sneezing earlier than usual.

"The pollen started coming out early and a lot of people were blindsided by their allergy symptoms," said allergist Dr. Heidi Isenberg-Feig, a Potomac resident and allergist at Johns Hopkins Community Physicians in North Bethesda. "The tree pollen count has been high already which is unusual."

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) estimates that 35 million Americans suffer from allergies due to pollen and mold. Symptoms include sneezing, a stuffy or runny nose and itchy, watery eyes. This allergy season is expected to last longer and be more in-

tense than usual. Local allergists offer strategies for surviving spring allergy season.

"Although there is no cure for allergies, symptoms can be managed," said Dr. Jean Glossa, medical director for the Fairfax County Community Health Care Network and Molina Healthcare. "It is possible to reduce or eliminate exposure to allergens. Minimize walks in wooded areas or gardens and stay indoors as much as possible on hot, dry, windy days when pollen counts are highest. Think about wearing a mask when mowing the lawn or gardening and don't hang linens or clothes out to dry."

TIPS TO HELP manage symptoms:

❖ Decrease your contact with pollen. "The best way to do that is to close the windows of your car and house," said Isenberg-Feig. "Even if it is a nice day, the pollen count can still be a little high." Pollen can drift through open windows and settle onto carpet and upholstery.

❖ Take showers at the end of the day. "Shower and change clothes as soon as you get home to wash pollen from your hair and skin," said allergist Saba Samee, M.D. of Alexandria & Clinton Allergy Associates. "Leave your purse or book bag at the front

SEE ALLERGIES, PAGE 15



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Cherry blossoms and tulips made an early appearance this spring. Experts say those who are allergic to pollen can expect an intense and prolonged allergy season.

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Dr. Heidi Isenberg-Feig, an allergist with Johns Hopkins Community Physicians, says that this year's spring allergy season could be more severe than usual.



Allergist Dr. Saba Samee, of Alexandria & Clinton Allergy Associates, advises allergy sufferers to take a shower after entering their home to wash away pollen from skin and hair.



Dr. Jean Glossa, medical director for the Fairfax County Community Health Care Network, Molina Healthcare advises allergy sufferers to consider wearing a mask when mowing the lawn or gardening.

Coping With Spring Allergies

FROM PAGE 14

door. Don't drop them on the sofa or bed because they are all covered in pollen. The same goes for shoes."

❖ Use sunglasses to defend against pollen. "If you have problems with itchy, watery eyes, wear sunglasses when you're outside and avoid being outside on windy days if you can," said Samee.

❖ Stay ahead of allergies. "If you are someone who suffers from allergies, try to take your medicines before things get too bad," said Samee. "If you wait until you're absolutely miserable the medicines don't work as well."

❖ Eat fruits and vegetables judiciously. Many people with seasonal allergies also suffer from pollen food allergy syndrome. "Some people experience itching hands or mouth or a scratchy throat if they eat certain raw fruits or vegetables because of the cross-reaction between the pollen and certain fruits and vegetables," said

Isenberg-Feig.

❖ Use air filters to help create a pollen-free home. "Ensure that the filters fit properly and are changed regularly," said Samee.

❖ Know the pollen count. "This information is readily available on the web or the weather section of the news," said Isenberg-Feig. The National Allergy Bureau (NAB) tracks and reports current pollen and mold spore levels. A local pollen count can be found at <http://www.aaaai.org/global/nab-pollen-counts.aspx>

"Although there is no cure for allergies, symptoms can be managed."

— Dr. Jean Glossa

"IF YOU NEED long lasting relief, nasal sprays and allergy shots may be recommended," said Glossa.

"However, if symptoms persist for more than a week or two and tend to reoccur, make an appointment to see your doctor. The good news is that most allergies are not lifelong conditions. By following your doctor's advice and taking control of your environment, allergies shouldn't keep you from enjoying springtime."



The Republican Women of Clifton annual membership tea featured Star Parker as the keynote speaker.

Membership Tea

Republican Women of Clifton hold gathering.

The Sixth Annual Membership Tea of the Republican Women of Clifton (RWC), held at the home of First Vice President Alice Butler-Short on March 24, was a huge success. Over sixty members and potential members attended the tea. It was a grand sit-down affair, and ten guests signed up to become members of the club. RWC membership is open to both residents and non-residents of Clifton.

The keynote speaker was Star

Parker, who is one of the names on the short list mentioned when anyone speaks of national Black conservative leaders. She is frequently seen on Fox News on the Hannity and O'Reilly shows. Her talk was informative, inspirational and entertaining.

The club President, Marianne Gearhart, welcomed VIP guests: former First Lady of Virginia Susan Allen; Ginni Thomas, wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas; and Martha Ann Alito, wife of Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito. Also recognized by Marianne were three former Presidents of the club, Elizabeth Schultz, recently elected to the Fairfax County School Board, Terri Rollins, and Lynn Falk.

Destination Smile Offers Free Clinic April 27

Journey to perfect smile begins at Destination Smile.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

It was all smiles last year when Lorton dentists Kristina Biggs and Flavia Tingling celebrated the first anniversary of their dental practice by donating dental care to dozens of uninsured children in the area.

So they are going to do it again.

On Friday, April 27, Destination Smile

will host its second annual "Caring For Kids" event in collaboration with United Community Ministries (UCM) and the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC). The event focuses on providing free dental care to children who have limited access to care on a regular basis.

"We have always valued and made community service a priority," said Tingling, who, along with Biggs, has made dental mission trips to South Africa, Guatemala and Honduras. "This is our effort to reach out to children who are not able to access proper dental care on a regular basis."

Last year, the doctors donated more than \$7,000 worth of dental care to children who ranged in age from 18 months to 17 years.

During the pro bono event, each patient receives a basic exam, cleaning, x-rays and a gift bag containing toothbrush, toothpaste, floss and an oral hygiene coloring book.

Although going to the dentist is not typically high on children's "Fun Things To Do" list, Tingling and Biggs said they try to make the experience more pleasant with their colorful, whimsical office décor. The waiting area looks like an airport terminal, and each room is decorated to portray an exotic destination around the world. The dentists are the pilots, and the staff is the flight crew.

"The décor creates an exciting experience for children," Tingling said. "The objective is to make dental care and hygiene a posi-

tive focus of kids' lives."

The doctors' philosophy of philanthropy extends beyond their office doors: Destination Smile holds and participates in community-centered events year-round with the intent of sharing their good fortune with those less fortunate. These community gifts have included visiting schools to foster awareness of dental health, gathering over 200 pounds of food for the LCAC 2011 Easter Food Drive, gathering coats in an office-wide coat drive to support UCM, and participation in the annual Buddy Walk.

For more information about Destination Smile and the event, visit www.destination-smile.com.

SPORTS

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South County at the Mingo Bay Classic

Stallions playing three games in South Carolina over spring break.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

For the third straight year, the South County High baseball team is spending its spring break week competing at the Mingo Bay Baseball Classic, at the Carolina Forest venue in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

There, South County, last year's Patriot District and Northern Region champions, had won its first two games going into its final game of the trip on Wednesday, April 4.

The Stallions' first game in South Carolina was Monday night, April 2, an outing won by South County, 13-3, over TL Hanna High (Anderson, S.C.). The Stallions hit the field again the following morning for a 10 a.m. game and won another game in decisive fashion, 8-0, over Lake City High.

South County (6-1) was scheduled to play its final game on the trip on Wednesday morning, another 10 a.m. start, against Frewsburg High (N.Y.).

Prior to its spring break trek, South County had started the new spring season by winning four of its first four five. The Stallions opened the season on Monday, March 19, defeating visiting DeMatha, the private school team from Hyattsville, Md., and a member of the strong Washington Catholic Athletic Conference (WCAC), by a 10-0 score.

Then, over an eight-day period from March 21-29, the Stallions played four consecutive Patriot District games. They lost their first one at W.T. Woodson, 5-4, on Wednesday, March 21. It was a rare district setback for South County, which was unbeaten in district play in both the regular season and postseason district tournament last year.

But the Stallions came back to win a home game two days later over rebuilding Lee



Blake Thompson (4), a senior outfielder, is one of the Stallions' and the district's top players.

High, 12-2, on Friday, March 23. The Lancers, under new head coach John Dowling, are rebuilding following some tough seasons of late, including a two-win season last spring. Lee, earlier this spring, won a game over Edison High, 5-2, at the Langley High Ice-Breaker on March 16.

South County, following the win over the Lancers, defeated host Annandale on Tuesday, March 27 by a 5-2 score, then, in its final game prior to spring break, defeated a scrappy T.C. Williams High team, 4-1, in a home outing on Thursday, March 29.

So going into the second half of the schedule following spring break, South County held a solid 3-1 record in the district.

"At this point we have been winning with

pitching and defense," said South County head coach Mark Luther, who led the Stallions to the state finals last year and an incredible 28-1 record.

The coach said the Stallions' offense thus far has been led by senior outfielder Blake Thompson, junior catcher/infielder Keaton Tettlebach, and senior infielder/pitcher Kyle Fairbanks. On the mound, Devin Gould, a junior, and senior Jake Josephs have pitched the majority of South County's innings. In the field, the team has received solid glove work from senior Michael Herrmann, a newcomer to the team's line-up this season, at the hot corner third base position. "He has shored up the defense with his play at third base," said Luther.

Next week, following their trip to the Gamecock State, South County will dive back into its district schedule with a pair of road games - at West Potomac on Wednesday, April 11 and at West Springfield High on Friday, April 13, at Tugwell Yards, the

home playing venue for the Spartans named in honor of former West Springfield coach Ron Tugwell who years ago built the program into a Northern Region power.

South County's next home game is scheduled for Friday, April 20 versus Woodson, the lone team to have beaten the Stallions thus far. Earlier that week, the team will play a Tuesday, April 17 game at Lake Braddock.

All district games, home and away, have 6:30 scheduled starts.

"At this point, we feel that we have a long way to go to reach our potential," said Luther, of the regular season and heavy district schedule ahead for his squad. "Our district is very balanced this year so many games can turn with just a mistake or two."

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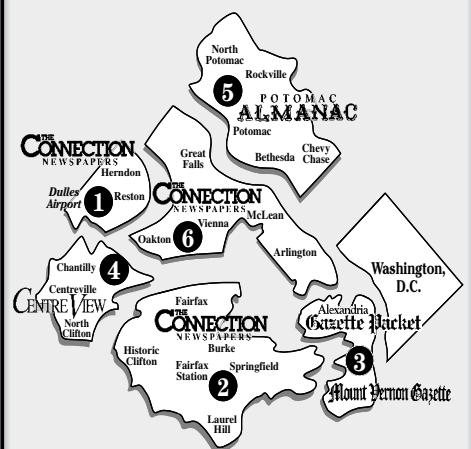
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Zone 4.....Wed @ 1:00

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ZONES

Zone 1: The Reston Connection
The Oak Hill/Herndon Connection

Zone 2: The Springfield Connection
The Burke Connection
The Fairfax Connection
The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection

Zone 3: The Alexandria Gazette Packet
The Mount Vernon Gazette

Zone 4: Centre View North
Centre View South

Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac

Zone 6: The Arlington Connection
The Vienna/Oakton Connection
The McLean Connection
The Great Falls Connection

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

OBITUARY NOTICE

CATHERINE ELIZABETH REASKE, formally of New York and Chicago, age 54 died on March 29, 2012 at Reston Hospital Center in Reston, VA.
She was born on March 17, 1958 in Queens, New York to Eugene Vincent Otto and Mary Eleanor Murphy.
Catherine had a passion for fashion along with a great desire for learning. She loved her animals, loved cooking and loved her two boys dearly. She traveled all over the world enjoying and learning different cultures and spending time with friends. Preceded in death by her father: Eugene Vincent Otto.
Survivors include her loving husband of 29 years: Peter Daniel Reaske of Chantilly, VA; her loving sons: Trevor Gray and Ryan Eugene Reaske both of Chantilly, VA; her loving mother: Mary Murphy of Gainesville, Virginia and a host of loving and adored family and friends.
In Lieu of flowers, the family has requested memorial contributions be made to: www.donate.ASPCA.org. In loving memory of Catherine E. Reaske. Condolences may be sent to: www.piercefth.com

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF

10875 Main Street, #107
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
TAX MAP ID NO. 57-1-30-0-007

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from Sang Eun Park and Sang K. Park, as grantors, to Samuel N. Moore, as trustee, for the benefit of Ann Marie Dolan and Patrick Joseph Dolan, Trustees of the Ann Marie Dolan Trust, as beneficiaries, dated January 14, 2005 and recorded on January 19, 2005 in Book 16898 at Page 0242 as Instrument No. 2005002486.014 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, VA ("Deed of Trust"), with an original principal balance of \$190,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and pursuant to a Deed of Appointment of Substitute Trustee dated February 17, 2012 and recorded on February 23, 2012 in Book 22145 at Page 1254 as Instrument No. 2012008671.007 removing Samuel N. Moore as Trustee and appointing John D. Eubank as Substitute Trustee, the Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction at the front door of the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, on

APRIL 11, 2012 AT 9:00 AM

ALL THAT fee-simple LOT OF GROUND AND THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON situated in Fairfax County, Virginia, known as 10875 Main Street, #107, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of ten per centum of the sale price will be required of the Purchaser at the time and place of sale. The deposit must be paid in cash or certified funds. The balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash or certified funds within twenty (20) days of the date of sale. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate of 12% per annum from the date of sale to the date of settlement. The party secured herein, if a bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit or to pay interest. Purchaser shall settle within twenty (20) days of the date of sale. TIME SHALL BE OF THE ESSENCE WITH RESPECT TO SETTLEMENT BY THE PURCHASER. In the event that Purchaser does not settle as required for any reason, Purchaser shall be in default. The defaulting Purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the property, and the deposit shall be forfeited to the Substitute Trustee and all of the expenses of this sale (including attorneys' fees and full commission on the gross sale price) shall be charged against and paid out of the forfeited deposit. In the event settlement is delayed for any reason, including, but not limited to, exceptions to the sale, bankruptcy filings by interested parties, court administration of the foreclosure, or unknown title defects, there shall be no abatement of interest. Taxes, ground rent, water and all public charges including electrical, sanitation, and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, are to be adjusted for the current year to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by the Purchaser. Cost of all documentary stamps, recordation taxes, transfer taxes and settlement expenses shall be borne by the Purchaser.

The property will be sold in an "AS IS" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind (except as required by the Deed of Trust).

In the event that the Substitute Trustee is in default for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy at law and in equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit and the sale shall be considered null and void and of no effect.

Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward.

Substitute Trustee reserves the right, in his sole discretion, to reject any and all bids, to withdraw the property from sale at any time before or at the auction, to extend the time to receive bids, to waive or modify the deposit requirement, to waive or modify the requirement that interest be paid on the unpaid purchase money, and/or to extend the period of time for settlement.

Additional terms may be announced at the sale. The Purchaser will be required to execute and deliver to the Substitute Trustee a memorandum or contract of the sale at the conclusion of bidding.

John D. Eubank, Substitute Trustee
FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:
PARDO & DRAZIN, LLC
Russell S. Drazin, Attorney
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements



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21 Announcements

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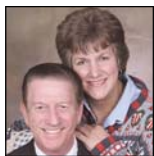
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