

News



Humane Society of Fairfax County (HSFC) Farm Manager Lisa Schroeder answers Black Jack's call for a treat. Jack is a 14-year-old Tennessee Walker. He can no longer be ridden, but he is the character of the barn and would make great companion horse.



Saint Bernard Sophie relaxes a bit after enjoying some play time.

More Information

More information about HSFC services, how to donate or volunteer, and the adoption process is available on their website at www.hsfc.org



Merry, the first resident of the Fairfax facility having joined the staff in 1995, rules the roost from the comfort of her cat bed. Merry is a breast cancer survivor and paid no attention to her grim prognosis.

In Search of a 'Forever Home'

Humane Society of Fairfax working for animal and human welfare.

By Andrea Worker
The Connection

ook up Petfinder.com on your Internet browser page. It's a site where animal welfare groups can promote animals they have available for adoption. Type in a town or zip code. Let's use Alexandria as an example. Check "Cat" for "Type of Animal." Hit "Search." Unless you specified a particular breed, be prepared to look through 293 pages of cats, about 25 per page. OK. How about "Dog - Any Breed?" That will get you 3 more pages - 296 total - or a staggering 7,500 dogs all vying for your attention as a potential adopter. The numbers won't change much if you start your search with Chantilly, Reston, Springfield, Vienna, or anywhere else in the county.

Those pages mention dozens of worthy welfare and rescue groups. One name that will come up on quite a few of them, whether you are searching for a dog, a cat, a rabbit, a guinea pig, or even a horse, will be the Humane Society of Fairfax County, with President Vicki Kirby at the helm.

Established in 1965 by a few concerned citizens, the HSFC is one of the area's oldest animal protection organizations. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor who gifted the group with two office buildings in Fairfax City, a major milestone was achieved in 1995 when HSFC opened the doors to its new administrative offices, nokill animal shelter and thrift shop at 4057 Chain Bridge Road. One of the first to cross the newly renovated threshold was Merry, a longhaired, wide-faced, cancer-surviving feline Diva, who still holds court there, mostly from her cozy cat bed. Merry kindly allows Office Manager Janice Adams to think she is in charge of day-to-day opera-

ON A RECENT TOUR of the facility, the is less fighting among them, lefirst thing noticeable is the smell — fresh injury and death," Kirby added.

and clean. Are there really 60 plus cats and kittens in residence here, not to mention a room full of rabbits and a collection of guinea pigs?

"It's got to be clean," said Adams. "That's the only way to keep a healthy and comfortable environment. In addition to our faithful volunteers who spend time playing with and socializing the animals, we have several part-time caregivers who look after the cats and their accommodations."

There are large, sunny rooms throughout the building. Cats and kittens are carefully arranged in compatible groupings, with separate spaces for newcomers in quarantine awaiting the vet's all clear, or those overcoming illness or injury. Many of the rooms have wide-ledged windows perfect for sun bathing and people and bird watching. Since no dogs are housed at this location, most of the tenants are visibly relaxed in the quiet atmosphere, free to play or lounge.

HSFC also supports about 80 cats in foster homes, funding general care and medical expenses, and as part of their ongoing battle to curb the number of unwanted cats, HSFC sponsors a spay/neuter and return program. Recognized feral cat colony caregivers around the Northern Virginia area are assisted in feeding these un-adoptable cats, and HSFC picks up the cost of the spay/neuter, vaccinations, and any other medical requirements. "Feral cat maintenance is sometimes a controversial issue," said Kirby. "But if someone has a better answer, we're all ears." Many feral cats can never adjust to an indoor existence, especially since many can never learn to accept human handling. "This way, we are true to our mission to behave humanely to all animals. These cats receive much-needed treatment. They are fed. They don't add to the already unmanageable number of cats without permanent homes. And neutered, there is less fighting among them, less painful

With such emphasis on population control by so many animal protection groups, why all those pages on Petfinder.com? "Several factors," says Kirby. "No matter how much we all preach spay and neuter, there are still so many people out there who resist it. There are even vets who tell owners it's not necessary, or to wait until the female comes into heat for the first time. Others think neutering makes a male animal less masculine. That's just not true."

HSFC has a good relationship with the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, as well as with several rural shelters. When there is room, they take animals from these locations to give them a better chance at adoption

And then there is the economy. Both Kirby and Office Manager Janice Adams note that more animals are coming in when families can no longer care for them. Adams pointed out several cats whose owners had been forced to move. "These were much-loved feline family members," she said. "These owners were in tears, but they didn't have a place to keep them. Couldn't find petfriendly living or afford the pet deposits."

HSFC keeps trying to help keep pets and humans together. They run the Ani-Meals program, just like a human food pantry. Owners struggling to care for their pets can pick up donated food and supplies at the HSFC offices. But for some, that just isn't enough, and another often-distressed adult cat joins the HSFC waiting hopeful.

So where are the dogs? In 2002, HSFC realized another dream when they were able to purchase a farm in Centreville that now houses the horses and dogs in their care. Lisa Schroeder started as a volunteer and is now the fulltime farm manager. "My friends kid me," she said. "It can be pretty difficult to get time away with all the animals in our care, so they say I do all my grocery shopping at the 7-11 next to the vet's office while I wait for one of our canine friends to be seen to."

JUST LIKE THE CAT ROOMS in Fairfax, the dog enclosures and the horse stalls at the Farm are clean. "It's our volunteers," Schroeder is quick to credit. "They're here first thing every day, cleaning and feeding."

Lisa Zimmer travels from Lorton every Wednesday to volunteer. "There's lots of hard work," she said. "But when the work is done, we can spend time cuddling and playing. I get my dog fix, since I can't have my own right now."

Kirby also praises the efforts of the volunteers. "None of this is possible without them," she said. In addition to animal care duties, volunteers foster. They run educational programs and staff the original Thrift Shop and the second, larger store in Falls Church. They work fundraising events. They transport animals from other shelters and to vet appointments. There are even volunteer trainers who provide the free training sessions available to those who adopt pups and dogs.

The services provided by the Human Society of Fairfax to animals and to their human friends is an expensive undertaking. Even with the small army of volunteers, significant time is dedicated to fundraising and recruiting even more assistance and donations of time, materials, and items to sell in the thrift shops. But everyone you ask who is touched by this group - new owners, people having to surrender animals, people who keep their beloved pets because of assistance from HSFC, people who learn from the educational outreach, volunteers and staff - all agree that the hard work and the occasional heartbreak is a small price to pay when they are greeted by that wagging tail or that contented purr.

The Fairfax facility accepts visitors. The Farm is by appointment only, after consultation and approval by HSFC staff. If you are looking for a new friend, be prepared. The adoption process is serious business. As Kirby said, "We are dedicated to doing whatever it takes to find the right home, the right match between animal and human, to make everyone happy. It really is supposed to be a 'forever home."



Child care providers, parents and concerned citizens filled the Fairfax County Board Auditorium for the Child Care Town Hall. Representatives from Supervisor Pat Herrity's office reported that more than 350 people were in attendance.

Child Care Meeting **Draws Vocal Crowd**

Debate focuses on discrepancy in state, county regulations.

> By Andrea Worker The Connection

udging by the crowd and the occasional calls for order, the topic under discussion in the Board Auditorium at the Fairfax County Government Center was a hot one. Over 350 home child care providers, parents, and interested citizens packed the Child Care Town Hall Meeting on the evening of Monday, July 23, sponsored by Fairfax County Supervisors Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) and Michael Frey (R-Sully) and Mac Cannon, Chairman of the Child Advisory Council.

level highlighted a discrepancy between state and county regulations. The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), the state authority that licenses home day care businesses, implemented a policy change requiring new applicants and providers seeking license renewal to receive approval from their local zoning administration before the license is granted or renewed.



Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) had to call for order several times, when some of the attendees reacted loudly to portions of the speakers' presentations and responses.

imposed by the two authorities. The state of Virginia allows up to 12 children to be cared for. Presently, the zoning ordinances in Fairfax County allow for five children to be cared for in a townhouse, apartment, or mobile home setting, or seven in singlefamily detached dwelling. Providers wanting to care for additional children in a single-family dwelling can seek a special permit from the Fairfax Board of Zoning Appeals (BOA) at a cost of a non-refundable \$1100 fee, plus any costs associated with providing the documentation required by the Board for the appeals process. Even if the applicant is successful, the maximum allowed under current zoning rules is 10 children, still less than the 12 allowed by

THE CONFLICT lies in the caps

A representative from Supervisor Herrity's office told the Con-

nection Newspapers that there are currently more Recent changes to licensing regulations at the state than 200 state-licensed providers caring for 12 children in the county, in perfect agreement with their licensing agreement, but in violation of the county's zoning codes. As the situation stands, those providers would be forced to apply for the special permit with no guarantee of success, and still have to lower the number of children they care for.

Several providers and parents took to the micro

SEE CHILD CARE, PAGE 5



Staff members from Fairfax County Public Library administrative offices and Access Services branch pose in front of the "Geek the Library" display in the Government Center on Tuesday, July 31, officially designated as "Geek the Library Day." Edwin S. Clay III, library director, is in the middle of the back row.

To Geek or Not To Geek. That is the...Verb

Library launches novel campaign to get people talking.

By Victoria Ross The Connection

uth geeks fairy tales. Katie geeks wildlife. Benjamin

County residents can now "geek" whatever their passion is at their local library during Fairfax County Public Library's (FCPL) "Geek the Library" campaign.

Funded by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the campaign highlights what people are passionate about-or what they 'geek'and how local libraries can and do to support them.

Geek the Library introduces "geek" as a verb, and encourages the public to talk about what they geek—whether it's engineering, superheroes, art, politics or anything else, said Mary Mulrenan, FCPS marketing director. (Mulrenan personally geeks Downton Abbey.)

The campaign, which runs through September, is also designed to heighten awareness about funding issues public libraries face and provide information on how people can get active and support their local

"This is a fun campaign that we hope will get residents talking about the valuable role of the library and will encourage those who don't currently use the library to drop by or visit us online," said Edwin S. Clay III, library director. "We offer thousands of free eBooks; Wi-Fi at all our branches; meeting space; computer access; tutoring and so much more."

RESIDENTS CAN PICK UP

Geek the Library materials at their local branch and sign a GeekBoard. Facebook and Twitter followers can post what they

Geek online. To find out more, visit the library's website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/Library, and click on the "Geek the Library" tab.

"This campaign is designed to provoke conversation about the vital role that public libraries and librarians play in today's challenging environment," said Cathy De Rosa, global vice president of marketing for Online Computer Library Center, Inc., a nonprofit library cooperative which led the campaign development. "We hope it will spark important community discussions about how public libraries can remain strong."

As the economy slowly recovers, Americans are turning to local libraries for educational opportunities, job searching resources and entertainment. According to Clay, other libraries have successfully used the campaign to position the library as a critical asset—for individuals to find jobs, reeducate themselves and enhance literacy, and for the community to gain access to technology and continue their education.

A new American Library Association (ALA) report sheds light on the importance of public libraries as a key access point for technology and job resources. According to the 2012 Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study, more than 60 percent of libraries report that they are the only provider of free computer and Internet access in their community.

"Fairfax County Public Library is fortunate to be expanding our hours in the fall thanks to an increase to the library budget in FY2013 by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors," said Clay.

The Fairfax Library Foundation provided supplemental support for the campaign.

Free Remodeling & Design Seminars!



Sat., Aug 11th — 10am-2pm

Where: 5795B Burke Centre Pkwy, Burke, VA 22015 (behind Kohl's)

Thinking of remodeling? This event is the perfect opportunity to take advantage of free expert advice with no obligation. Learn about the hot topics you should consider when remodeling.

Saturday's Seminars:

- Kitchen and Bath Trends
- 10 Tips for a Stress Free Remodel
 Universal Design-Planning Ahead

Seminars run from 10am-Noon. Lunch to follow. Please arrive at 9:45am for check-in.

Seating is limited. Call Gerri at 703.425.5588 to reserve your seats!

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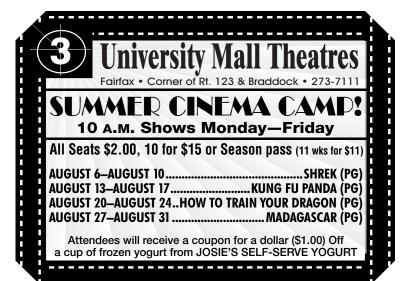
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From left, Holly Doughtery, Executive Director of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce; Susan Escherich, and Carolyn Gamble, Friends of Historic Huntley; Mason District Park Authority Board Member Frank Vajda; Braddock District Representative on the Park Authority Board Tony Vellucci; Norma Hoffman, Friends of Historic Huntley; Lee District Park Authority Board Member Edward Batten; Barbara Ballentine, President of the Friends of Historic Huntley; members of the Amlong Family (previous owners); Chairman Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Charlie Davis, Friends of Historic Huntley; Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay; Tim Aiken, Legislative Director for Rep. Jim Moran; and State Delegate Mark Sickles.

Historic Huntley Opens to Public

Site available for rent starting this August.

fter more than 20 years of planning, the federal-style villa that was built in 1825 for Thomson Francis Mason, a grandson of George Mason, is now open to the public. What many consider a 19th century architectural

"gem" recently opened for tours and programs through the fall. In 1989, the Fairfax County Park Authority obtained the house and its surrounding 2.5 acres, but it was open only during special events until undergoing a recent renovation.

The renovation got a boost from a \$100,000 grant from the National Park Service's Save America's Treasures program, created by NPS to preserve significant historic properties and collections. The grant helped fund the site's extensive structural restoration work. Additionally, through two park bonds, the park authority provided several million dollars towards preservation and redevelopment of the site.

Historic Huntley - which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Virginia Landmarks Register and the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites - once served as a summer retreat for the Mason family and was part of a much larger farm. Thomson Mason was a five-time mayor of Alexandria. Over the years, Historic Huntley was used as a summer retreat and troops of the 3rd Michigan infantry camped there during the Civil War. Later, the property was farmed. It changed ownership several times, and, in later years, was vandalized after being abandoned.

"The Friends of Historic Huntley were instrumental in this project's completion," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee). "It's been restored to its place in history, and it's a wonderful place to take visitors or host an event."

— Victoria Ross

Touring Historic Huntley

The grounds at Historic Huntley (located at 6918 Harrison Lane in the Lee District) are open March-November, dawn to dusk. Historic Huntley is closed December-February.

Buildings are open during weekend tours (Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; March-November) and for scheduled programs, open houses and special events.

A variety of educational programs are being developed for visitors of all ages, from scouts and school groups to universities and historical societies. School-age programs

will be created with SOL requirements in mind, and scout merit badge programs will be available. Custom programs for special groups will be possible with enough advance notice. Call Huntley Meadows Park at 703-768-2525 for information

Starting this month, there will be rental opportunities for small groups. Call Huntley Meadows Park at 703-768-2525 for information. Learn more about the Friends of Historic Huntley who have advocated for the site for 20 years at www.historichuntley.org



"Before and After" photos of Historic Huntley.



News

Child Care Regulations Challenged

"We need to

balance...a safe

environment with

common sense."

— Supervisor Pat Herrity

(R-Springfield)

From Page 3

phones to object to the situation. Some of the caregivers declared that they would be forced to close their business and seek other employment if required to drop their enrollment. Parents expressed similar concerns. Parent "Vanessa" told the assembly that if a franchise-type care center became the

only place left with room, she would have to quit her employment to stay at home and care for her children. "Two bodies of government have created a problem for the people. If I have to quit, welfare would be my only option. We are creating a revolving door that none of us wants," she said. "Delia" has run a state-licensed home day care for 13 years. "If they don't fix this mess, I think they will get a lot of illegal child care

going on. And that is not good for anybody, especially the kids," she worries.

Supervisor Herrity was in agreement with many of the sentiments expressed. In his opening remarks, he stated "I believe that the proposed child care regulations...are placing unnecessary strain on providers and pushing them out of business or worse, forcing providers to provide services without a license. We need to balance...a safe environment with common sense."

SPEAKERS from the Fairfax Office for Children and from the Department of Planning and Zoning were part of the panel and outlined additional proposed

changes, most of which were met with a positive reaction, especially when Eileen McLane, outgoing Zoning Administrator, announced intentions of streamlining the entire application process. To cheers and applause, McLane and her successor, Leslie Johnson, told the gathering that Fairfax County would not enforce the limits against current state-licensed pro-

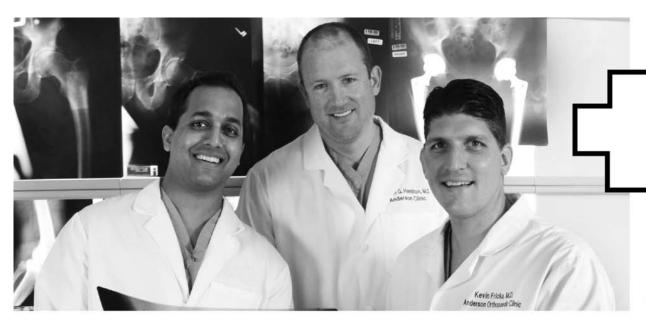
> viders not in compliance while the regulations continue to be reviewed, unless doing so would pose a health or safety risk. The Zoning Department will sign off on the applications and renewals as they stand. The State has also agreed to leniency. Jenifer Nalli with the VDSS said that her department would renew existing licenses for their existing number of children unless otherwise notified

by Fairfax County, or until the situation is fully resolved. No specific date was announced, but mid-2013 was mentioned by most of the speakers as the time when the changes could be expected to be fi-

The meeting officially adjourned shortly after 9 p.m., but the members of the panel stayed to continue answering questions and address concerns.

In a statement released on July 24, Supervisor Herrity announced that he would be asking the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors at a committee meeting that day look at increasing the number of children that can be cared for without obtaining a special permit, to match the cap allowed by the State.





Living with the pain of arthritis can be exhausting. Surgical joint replacement can be a solution.

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A FREE community lecture to discuss osteoarthritis and the latest advances in hip and knee replacement surgery will be held in your area by one of our experienced joint surgeons.

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joint replacement, can make a difference.



OPINION

Readers Respond on TJ Admissions

"Stop making smart 8th graders feel inferior because they are not admitted."

eaders responded to last week's editorial, which cited a civil rights complaint about the apparent lack of access to gifted and talented programs and admission to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

The larger impact of the disparities is evident in the demographics of the students who qualify for gifted and talented services at a certain level in elementary school, which affects more than 12,000 students. By comparison, the incoming class at Thomas Jefferson is 480 students.

From the complaint:

"Being 'identified' as eligible for Level 4 services is no easy task for Black or Latino students in Fairfax County. Data specifically broken down for elementary and middle school was not readily available. However, overall K-8 data is striking. Among the 12,044 elementary and middle school students identified last year as eligible for Level IV GT services by FCPS last year, substantial racial and ethnic disparities are evident.'

Hispanic students make up 6.2 percent of those identified as gifted but 22 percent of students overall. Black students make up just 3.8 percent of those identified but nearly 10 percent of students overall.

The complaint was filed by Martina Hone, former school board member and founder of the Coalition of the Silence, and Charisse Espy Glassman, education chair of the Fairfax NAACP.

HERE ARE some excerpts from reader comments:

"The [editorial] was incomplete ... as it failed to address the relatively much larger issue of white students admission to Thomas Jefferson, which your article states as 26 percent of the class of 2016, which is versus a Fairfax County school system white student population of about 45 percent."

"[Poor students are] not innately less talented, however they don't reach their full potential ... This should come as no surprise considering their home environment includes overworked parents that have 'no time' to micromanage a student, and no resources to hire a tutor. The stereotypical Asian 'Tiger Mom' is not just a stereotype, in my experience ... The persistent encouragement for success from such a parent is likely behind the large Asian representation at TJ. Having tu-

Brad Brewster, Fairfax Station underrepresented Asians (families from Vietnam and the Philippines). But long ago, TJ decided that racial and ethnic diversity could not be pursued ... Many want TJ, not because they are interested in science and math, but because TJ is a safest way to be admitted to UVA. Make every school in Fairfax County as incredible as TJ is. Clearly many, such as those in our area, McLean and Langley, are already there. Provide access to advanced courses at George Mason for those who need special acceleration. And stop making smart 8th graders feel inferior because they are not admitted."

Eddie Eitches, McLean

Demographics

	White	Asian	Hispanic	Black
Fairfax County	62.7	17.6	15.6	9.2
FCPS	44	20	22	10
TJ	26.2	64.2	2.7	1.4
Gifted and Talented	51.3	32.4	6.2	3.8

tored a disadvantaged Hispanic student for the first time last year I noted he had access to cable TV and both the latest Xbox and Playstation gaming systems (all the distractions of a wealthier student) but lacked the encouragement from his mother (a single parent household) to reach academic excellence. This was an unfortunate combination.'

Daniel Bronson, Arlington

"This is a culture contest pure and simple. One culture puts study and commitment to educational goals at the top of life's responsibilities and diversions. The others, not nearly so much. Change the cultures if you can."

William Smith, Fairfax

"There are sufficient talented African Americans in the jurisdiction to make up at least 10 percent of TJ, their percentage of the overall population. And this is true for Latinos and

DEMOGRAPHICS:

Whites make up 62.7 percent of Fairfax County population, 44 percent of students in Fairfax County Public Schools, 51.3 percent of elementary and middle school students who qualify for specific gifted services in FCPS and 26.2 percent of the incoming class at Thomas

Asians make up about 18 percent of the overall Fairfax County population, 20 percent of students in Fairfax County Public Schools, 34 percent of elementary and middle school students who qualify for higher level gifted services in FCPS and 64 percent of the incoming class at Thomas Jefferson.

Hispanics make up about 16 percent of the overall Fairfax County population, 22 percent of students in Fairfax County Public Schools, 6 percent of elementary and middle school students who qualify for specific gifted services in FCPS and 3.8 percent of the incoming class at Thomas Jefferson.

Blacks make up 9.2 percent of the Fairfax County population overall, 10 percent of the students in Fairfax County Public Schools, 3.8 percent of the students who qualify for specific gifted services in FCPS and 1.4 percent of the incoming class at Thomas Jefferson.

Storms Provide Wake-Up (

Dust off emergency plans; sign-up for Fairfax County alerts.

BY JEFFREY MCKAY Supervisor (D-Lee District)

've been thinking a lot about emergencies lately—a derecho, four days without power in a heat wave with two small kids, and a flooded kitchen floor will do that to you. So will a magnitude 5.8 earthquake such as the one we experienced last August.

In this part of the country, we're accustomed to weather emergencies that give a few days' notice. With hurricanes and snow storms, there's usually time to make a

around the house, and alter travel plans. Garden-variety thunderstorms are a normal part of our summers, and any power outages are usually short. The derecho violent straight line thunderstorms with the power of tornados - that roared into our area on June 29 was something else entirely, and a sharp reminder of what nature can do to our infrastructure. I'd say we've had a loud wake-up call to government at all levels, to utilities, and most of all, to us as individuals to plan for the unexpected.

Back in the days and months afstore run, secure loose items ter the 9/11 terrorist attack, you

couldn't read a news story or turn on the TV without hearing about family emergency plans. Many of us put those plans in place, and then - as the years rolled by without incident - those plans and emergency kits gathered dust and got shuttled off to a closet somewhere. Emergencies come in many different forms and some of the most damaging have natural causes. Now would be a good time to dust off and replenish those emergency kits and communication plans.

Fairfax County's web page has lot of very useful information at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ oem/residents/. If you go to http:/ /family.readynova.com/ you'll be guided through creating a family emergency plan. It'll be a half hour

well spent that could save you hours and days later.

If I could ask for just one thing, it's for every Fairfax County resident to sign up for the County's CEAN (Community Emergency Alert Network) text alert system. This system delivers important alerts, notifications, and updates during a major crisis or emergency, in addition to day-to-day notices about weather and traffic. You can sign up online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean. Messages will be delivered to all devices vou register including email accounts, cell phones, text pagers, satellite phones, and wireless devices.

This is information that I hope you'll never need to use, but it can help you to sleep better at night knowing you're well prepared.

Fairfax Station, Lorton & Clifton

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News

Children Enjoy Pony Time Classes

t is late morning on a warm and slightly muggy day in July and a halfdozen children are gathered around Allison Mills and

her horse, Doc, at the Stables at Meadowood in Lorton. "How much do you think Doc weighs?," asks Mills. The guesses range from 50 to 1,000 pounds and the children are a bit amazed when Mills tells them that 1,000 pounds is an accurate guess. This hands-on opportunity to learn about horses was organized by the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) and CAS Company Management Services, LLC, the business that manages the Stables at Meadowood. The "Pony Time" class was offered, at no charge,

to children of local military families who are stationed at Fort Belvoir and served by LCAC.

During the two-hour program, children learn about the food and shelter needs of horses, their anatomy, aspects of grooming, how to behave around horses and how to feed them a treat. Each child had the opportunity to pet Doc, brush him, learn how to inspect a hoof, and lead Doc around the paddock. The children's enthusiasm and excitement of interacting so closely with such a large animal is evident when one young girl raises her hand and asks "May I give



A quiet moment with the horse, Doc.

Doc a kiss?"

Before taking a lunch break, each child took a short ride (with stable staff walking alongside holding a lead) around one of the outdoor rings. Children had the choice of riding Doc, a 14vear-old American Quarter horse, or Pal, a mellow fellow at the wise old age of 32. (Yes, that is old for a horse!)

The "Pony Time" class is not about learning how to ride a horse, rather it provides an avenue for young children to get "up close and personal" with a horse in a supervised setting and understand some basic horse body-language and why horses behave in certain ways.

Mill offers the "Pony Time" class as part of a business model

to paying clients; however, she has offered it free of charge for other groups, including a Head Start program in Fairfax County where funding was an issue and for a group of students from a high risk high school in Greenbelt, Md.

LCAC and the CAS Company are planning to offer other free "Pony Time" sessions in the coming months. To learn more about LCAC, visit www.lortonaction.org; to learn more about the Stables at Meadowood. www.stablesatmeadowood.com.



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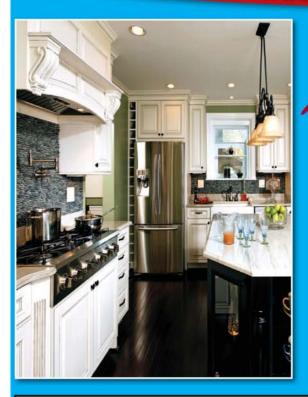
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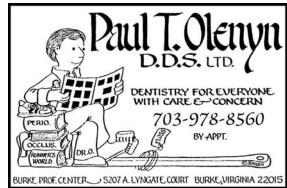
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—William Shakespeare

WELLBEING

Taking Care of One's Teeth

American Dental Association says many Americans don't know basic oral care.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

often should a per year," said Terrie Andrews of

When should a parent schedule is important, as we are living a child's first dental appointment? "Just after their 6th birthday," said Julie Mahon, an Alexandria mother of 2-year-old twins.

Both answers are incorrect, but consistent with the findings of a replaced every three months or as new survey by the American Dental Association, which tested the average person's knowledge of oral health care. On average, Americans did not know the answers to questions ranging from how often to brush to what causes cavities.

THE SURVEY is part of an initiative, launched this summer, aimed at educating the public about maintaining healthy teeth. Dental care experts say prevention, care and treatment information are key to fighting gum disease and keeping enamel, allowing a cavity to form. teeth healthy. "Good dental health longer and we need to make the

ADA consumer advisor. In fact, toothbrushes should be soon as the bristles become frayed or worn. The ADA also recommends brushing one's teeth twice per day and says a child's first dental visit should take place no later than six months after the first tooth

one set of teeth we get last a life-

time," said Dr. Matthew Messina,

More than 80 percent of those surveyed believe sugar causes cavities. They're actually caused by acid that forms when germs in the mouth feed on sugar. The acid attacks and weakens the tooth

The survey showed that many believe gums that bleed after brushing is normal, but experts say such bleeding could be a sign of early gum disease. "Periodontal disease is a slowly progressing disease where the early warning signs are subtle. There is seldom any pain until the disease is very advanced. Redness and puffiness in the gums around the teeth are something to watch for. Bleeding of the gums when someone brushes or flosses is not normal and should be evaluated. Eventually,

pain and swelling from gum infections will occur, but the damage is advanced by that point," said

as well. "Don't underestimate the role of nutrition and the role that food choices play in preventing gum disease and maintaining healthy teeth. The presence of too much or too little of any nutrient can have harmful effects, particularly on the mouth and teeth, and may contribute to oral diseases and infection," said Dr. Raymond K. Martin, spokesman for the Academy of General Dentistry. "Your teeth and jaws are made mostly of calcium. Without enough calcium in your diet, you risk of developing gum disease and tooth decay. Iron deficiency can cause your sores can form inside your mouth. Martin added that a lack of vitamin B3 can cause bad breath and



Dr. Matthew Messina of the American Medical Association says prevention, care and treatment information are key to fighting gum disease and keeping teeth healthy.

Selecting the Best Dentist for a Child

Choosing the right dentist for one's child is one of the most important decisions that a parent will make. What should a parent consider when choosing a pediatric dentist? The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry offers a few

- Does the dentist have special training or interest in treating children?
 Is the dental office set up for children? For example, does it offer toys,
- books, games or child-sized furniture? * How does the dental office manage emergencies?
- ❖ Is the office conveniently located to your home or child's school?
- Does the practice accept your dental benefit plan?
 Is the dentist a member of the American Dental Association and the American Dental Association and the American Dental Association. can Academy of Pediatric Dentistry?

Dentistry on the Edge: The Latest **Technology in Cosmetic Dentistry**

While a toothbrush and floss are considered the keys to a beautiful smile, cosmetic dentists have new tools in the quest for perfect teeth. The American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (AACD) says a few technological advancements are increasing safety, efficiency and patient comfort during dental procedures.

Computer-Aided Dentistry-Computer-Aided Manufacturing: Dental restora tions like porcelain crowns can now be made faster and without the mess of traditional, goop-filled rubber molds used to make impressions of one's teeth. The new procedure uses 3-D scans and computer software to create perfect restora-

❖ iPad and Smartphone Applications: Tasks ranging from managing dental records to displaying x-rays are now made easier with a few new iPad and smart phone applications. One such application is the Smile Touch Guide, created by AACD dentist David Traub, DDS. Used for virtually any cosmetic procedure, dentists and patients can work together to decide on the correct shape and length of the teeth. The patient can see what the full set of teeth will look like and make

❖ Digital X-Rays: With digital x-rays, cosmetic dentists can reduce the amount of radiation patients are exposed to with standard x-rays by as much as 90 percent. The dentist places a small camera into the patient's mouth and takes a icture. An image appears on a computer screen almost immediately. Cosmetic dentists say digital x-ray pictures are clearer than those taken with standard

* Botox: Cosmetic dentists are now using Botox and dermal filler treatments to treat problems like temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorders.

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About the Doctor:

Dr. Jones was graduated from William and Mary. After attending the William and Mary Physics Graduate School, Dr. Jones was employed by the Environmental Hygiene Agency and the United Nations Command as a Nuclear Physicist. He was graduated from the University of New York at Buffalo Dental School and received additional training in a General Practice Residency at DeWitt Army Hospital. Prior to establishing his private practice Dr. Jones was Lieutenant Colonel at Fort Belvoir and Chief of General Dentistry.

Dr. Jones is a participating dentist in all military dental insurance plans.

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Clifton Town Council Meeting

The Clifton Town Council will meet Tuesday, Aug. 7, at 7:30 p.m., in the Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road in

GOP Women of Clifton Host Annual Barbecue

The Republican Women of Clifton (RWC) will host its annual barbecue on Saturday, Aug. 18, 4-7 p.m., at the home of Mary and Dan Howard, 6900 Clifton Rd, Clifton. The barbecue and silent auction will feature Congressman Frank Wolf, Congressional candidate Col. Chris Perkins and new Virginia Republican Artur Davis, former Alabama Democratic Congressman.

The cost to attend the barbecue is \$25/person or \$50/family. RSVP with your check, payable to RWC, no later than Aug. 11 to: RWC BBQ/Silent Auction, 13818 Springstone Dr, Clifton, VA

Please feel free to bring your favorite wine or beer to share. For more information, contact BBQ Chairman Lynn Falk at lynnkaflk@cox.net or 703-802-9005.

Aroma's New Location

Aroma Indian restaurants has opened their third branch in Lorton. The new premise is located on 9429 Lorton Market Street, Lorton, Virginia 22079.

Daljeet Singh, the owner, has been serving the metro area since 1994 with his authentic Indian cuisine. Among the vast variety of clientele are Capitol Hill, foreign dignitaries, embassies, and thousands of local patrons.

Aroma specializes in indoor and outdoor all occasion catering. Such as weddings, anniversaries, graduations, birthdays, corporate meeting, boxed lunches, etc. They are also affiliated with top hotels and convention centers.

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/AUG. 3

Dinner and Whiskey Tasting at **George Washington's Distillery.** 6:30 p.m. George Washington's Distillery & Gristmill, 5513 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. Reception, dinner, distillery tour and more. \$150. MountVernon.org.

Incendio. 7:30 p.m. Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. Latin. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ performances.

SATURDAY/AUG. 4

Traditional Vietnamese Cultural

Celebration. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Ossian Hall Park, 7900 Heritage Drive Annandale. Music, dance, martial arts and fashion show. jble98@yahoo.com or 703-725-8418.

Toho Koto Society of Koto Players/Dancers. 7 p.m.

Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Japanese. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ parks/performances.

Flea Market. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. VRE Commuter Rail Parking Lot, 6900 Hechinger Drive, Springfield. Sponsored by Springfield-Franconia Lions Club. Vendor fee \$20 per parking space. Proceeds benefit local charities, 703-569-3074 or http://sfhostlions.org/

Mount Vernon Nights at the Workhouse. 7-8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton, Free public concerts Saturday evenings on the Quad; ends August 25. www.workhousearts.org.

TUESDAY/AUG. 7

Before the People Came. 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Based on an African fable, the production features a combination of poetry, dance, and delightfully imaginative costumes accompanied by a blend of jazz, blues, pop, and African rhythms. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or www.wolftrap.org/TITW.

FRIDAY/AUG. 10

Guy Mendilow Band. 7:30 p.m. Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. World music. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ performances.

SATURDAY/AUG. 11

The United States Air Force Band Airmen of Note. 7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Big Band Jazz. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ performances.

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.

FRIDAY/AUG. 17

Sierra Hull and Highway 111. 7:30 p.m. Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. Country. Free. 703-324-

7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ parks/performances.

SATURDAY/AUG. 18

DC Fest Featuring Mercyme and Third Day. 3 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Also with Sanctus Real, Brandon Heath, Building 429, Kerrie Roberts and Lindsey McCaul. Tickets \$20-\$99. www.ticketmaster.com, 1-800-745-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com.

Sunset Cruise. 7 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Cruiser the shores of Lake Accotink. Beverages served. \$6.

Register at 703-569-0285. **The United States Navy Band** Country Current. 7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Country. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/

parks/performances. Flea Market. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. VRE Commuter Rail Parking Lot, 6900 Hechinger Drive, Springfield. Sponsored by Springfield-Franconia Lions Club. Vendor fee \$20 per parking space. Proceeds benefit local charities. 703-569-3074 or http:/ sfhostlions.org/fleamkt.html.

Republican Women of Clifton's

Annual BBQ. 4-7 p.m. 6900 Clifton Rd, Clifton. \$25/person or \$50/ family. RSVP with your check, payable to RWC, no later than 08/11/2012, to: RWC BBQ/Silent Auction, 13818 Springstone Dr, Clifton, VA 20124. lynnkaflk@cox.net or 703-802-9005.

SUNDAY/AUG. 19

Canine Cruises. 7 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Cruiser the shores of Lake Accotink with your dog. Limit one dog per person. \$6. Register at 703-569-0285.

FRIDAY/AUG. 24

MAHALA. 7:30 p.m. Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. Township Jive. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ performances.

SATURDAY/AUG. 25

150th Anniversary Civil War **Evacuation Reenactment.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Museum fee \$5 adults, \$1 age 5-10, under 5 free. 703-425-9225 or www.fairfax-

station.org. **Alexandria Kleztet.** 7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Jazz/Jewish. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ performances.

Flea Market. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. VRE Commuter Rail Parking Lot, 6900 Hechinger Drive, Springfield. Sponsored by Springfield-Franconia Lions Club. Vendor fee \$20 per parking space. Proceeds benefit local charities. 703-569-3074 or http:// sfhostlions.org/fleamkt.html.

SUNDAY/AUG. 26

Golden Reunion. 4-7 p.m. Ernst Cultural Center, Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Celebrate achievements of adult learners and info@lcnv.org

150th Anniversary Civil War **Evacuation Reenactment.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Museum fee \$5 adults, \$1 age 5-10, under 5 free, 703-425-9225 or www.fairfax-station.org.

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9800 Old Keene Mill Rd. 703-455-7041 Sunday School Worship Service 10:30 AM

www.calvaryfamily.com "Continuing the ministry of Christ on earth

9:15 AM

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New Hope Church...703-971-4673 New Jerusalem Temple of Worship. 703-593-6153 The Spirit of The Living Christ

Ministry...703-568-5647 Pentecostal

Christ Pentecostal International Church...703-339-2119 First United Pentecostal Church... 703 - 339 - 2402

Presbyterian

Clifton Presbyterian Church... 703-830-3175 Prochytorian Chur 703-764-1310

Sikh Foundation of Virginia...703-323-8849

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PEOPLE

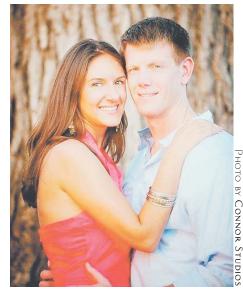
Howell and Harrington Engaged

r. and Mrs. Walter A. Howell of Clifton announce the engagement of their daughter, Laura Marie Howell of Arlington, to Brian Michael Harrington of Alexandria, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Harrington of Alexandria.

The bride-to-be is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Sullivan, formerly of Falls Church and the late Mr. and Mrs. W. Frank Howell, formerly of Ozark, Ala. The groomto-be is the grandson of Mrs. Marie Harrington

of San Francisco, Calif. and the late Mr. John F. Harrington Jr. of San Francisco, Calif. and the late Mr. and Mrs. Francis E. Briggs of Long Branch, N.J.

Laura is a graduate of James W. Robinson Secondary School and Clemson University. Laura, a Zeta Tau Alpha, received her B.S. degree in business management. She is employed by DRT Strategies, Inc. in Arlington as an IT program manager.



Laura Marie Howell and Lt. Brian Michael Harrington

Brian is a graduate of Mount Vernon High School and the University of Virginia where he was captain of the Atlantic Coast Conference Champion swim team. Brian received a commission in the U.S. Navy in 2006 and has deployed to Iraq and the Horn of Africa. He is currently stationed in Washington, D.C.

A September 2012 wedding in Alexandria is planned.

Availability of Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for Expansion of U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM) Headquarters Facilities

U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, Virginia

The Army has prepared an EA that considers the proposed expansion of INSCOM's headquarters facilities at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. INSCOM proposes to renovate their existing 234,000-square-foot building, construct a new 382,000-square-foot addition and a 1,420-space parking garage, reconfigure the developed part of the site, and consolidate 890 personnel now working in the vicinity on the headquarters site. The EA considered the effects of the project on land use, plans, coastal zone management, natural resources, socioeconomic factors, traffic and transportation, air quality, and utility systems and concluded that the project is not expected to result in significant adverse environmental impacts. Therefore, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required. The EA and FNSI may be viewed online at: www.belvoir.army.mil/environdocssection2.asp. Paper copies of the EA and draft FNSI are available for review and comment at the Fort Belvoir Van Noy Library and the following Fairfax County, Virginia libraries: John Marshall Branch, Kingstowne Branch, Lorton Branch, and Sherwood Regional Branch. Comments on the EA and draft FNSI should be submitted to: Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, ATTN: Public Works, 9430 Jackson Loop, Suite 100, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5116; or by e-mail to: imcom.fortbelvoir.dpw.environmental@us.army.mil. Comments must be received no later than 30 days after publication of this Notice of Availability. Subject to review and consideration of comments submitted by individuals, organizations, or agencies during the comment period, the Army intends to issue the final FNSI at the conclusion of the comment period and to proceed with the proposed action.

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KIDDIE COUNTRY II

Burke-Springfield Fairfax Station (Lorton) 9601 Old Keene Mill Rd. Burke, Virginia 22015 703-644-0066

OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, AUGUST 4 & 5

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link.

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42344 Astors Beachwood	\$850, 000	Sun 1-4				
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4176 Vernoy Hills Rd	\$512,000	Sun 1-4	Amna Amjad Coldwell Banker 703-677-4437			
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To add your Realtor represented Open House						

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Steve Hogan at 703-778-9418 or e-mail the info to shogan@connectionnewspapers.com
All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

SPORTS



Great Falls native Kate Ziegler, seen at the U.S. Olympic Trials, will compete in her second Olympic games when she swims in the 800-meter freestyle on Thursday, Aug. 2.

Ziegler's Second Olympics

Great Falls native Kate Ziegler to compete in London.

reat Falls native and Bishop O'Connell High School graduate Kate Ziegler will swim in her second Olympic games on Thursday, Aug. 2, when she competes in heat five of the 800-meter freestyle in London.

Ziegler, 24, will swim in lane five of the heat, competing with Canada's Savannah King, Spain's Erika Villaecija Garcia, China's Yiwen Shao, Great Britain's Rebecca Adlington, New Zealand's Lauren Boyle, Australia's Jess Ashwood and Argentina's Cecilia Biagioli.

Fellow American and Bethesda, Md., native Katie Ledecky, 15, will swim in heat three. The top eight finishers will compete in the finals on Aug. 3.

Ziegler competed in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, finishing 10th in the 800 and 14th in the 400. She won gold medals at the 2005 (1500 free, 800 free) and 2007 world championships (1500 free, 800 free), along with a silver (1500 free) and bronze (800 free) at the 2011 world championships.

In 2005, Ziegler first broke Sippy Woodhead's 25-year-old American record in the 800 freestyle during the FINA World Cup. At the time, Woodhead's record was the oldest American mark in the record book. In 2007, Ziegler broke Janet Evans' world record in the 1500 freestyle. Evans'



Bishop O'Connell graduate Kate Ziegler is seen at the U.S. Olympic trials in Omaha.

record was the longest standing swimming world record.

Ziegler, who stands 6 feet, was born in Fairfax and graduated from Arlington's Bishop O'Connell High School in 2006. She trains in Great Falls with her club team, The Fish, and coach Ray Benecki. She attends Chapman University in Orange, Calif.



Supporting Troops First

Josh Marr, Hidden Creek Country Club's golf pro, played 16 hours of golf on Monday, July 23 to raise funds for Troops First, a foundation that aids in the rehabilitation of combat wounded soldiers. In total, Marr played 270 holes or 15 rounds of golf. He shot an average of 73 per round with an average time of 1 hour and 10 minutes per round. Once all the pledges are in, Marr believes he will have raised \$14,500. On Aug. 4, Hidden Creek will host the Foster Cup and raise funds through that event, also for Troops First.

-Sports Roundups-

Adult Softball Teams Wanted

Fairfax Adult Softball is accepting applications for adult softball teams. Men, women, coed, social coed, corporate coed and senior (age 50 and older) leagues are available. Applications are accessible via the FAS Web site at www.playsoftballnow.com. Sign up before Aug. 3 to ensure a spot.

Don't have a team yet? FAS will place you on a team. Visit the FAS website and register as an individual free agent.

For further information, call 703-815-

office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com.

Fuller is Lee HS Girls' Soccer Coach

John Fuller has been named the varsity girls' soccer coach at Robert E. Lee High School.

Fuller was the Lee JV coach last season and has been the JV girls' soccer coach at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, Md., for the last 10 years. He coached U16 girls' soccer for eight years with travel teams in Virginia and Florida,

winning regional titles and finishing second at the Walt Disney tournament in Orlando.

Fuller is the chief diversity educator for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C., and is a former director of diversity for Johns Hopkins Hospital. He is a retired U.S. Army major and former U.S. Marine Corps sergeant with 26 years of military service.

Fuller graduated with a Doctor of Education degree from California Coast University, has an MS in business ethics and an MS in community leadership from Duquesne University, and an MA in education from Vermont College. He completed his undergraduate studies at Indiana University.

Tryouts for 14U Raiders Elite Softball

The 14U Raiders Elite girls' select fastpitch softball team (Vienna) will be holding tryouts for the 2012-13 season at Meadow Lane Field (off Plum St. and Courthouse Rd.) from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 8, from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Aug. 11, from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 15 and from 3-5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 19.

The team is looking for one seasoned tournament pitcher and two or three strong hitters/fielders with travel experience. For more information, visit viennaraiders.org.

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IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE

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CASE NO. 2012-DR-10-2158

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