

The Bowen family of Fairfax checks out the chicks raised by the Fairfax 4-H Club at the Fairfax County 4-H Fair held at Frying Pan Farm Park on Aug. 4. From left are Dawson, Todd, Ethan and Jaden Bowen.

# 4-H Fair Attracts Hundreds

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# Hands-On Fun while Learning

## Children attend LEGO camp in Clifton

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**S**ure, LEGOs are child's play—but they're also much more. And Clifton's Cam Meyer, 15, recently shared his knowledge of what these colorful building pieces can do during a LEGO camp held in the town's meeting hall.

"I started building with LEGOs around age four," he said. "I started by using the instructions, but then realized it was much more fun to break away and just do what you want."

A rising sophomore at Trinity Christian School in Fairfax, Meyer says LEGOs provide him "a medium of creativity to express my art." He especially likes constructing spaceships and "cool, sci-fi creations."

"As I got older, I began using more advanced techniques and figuring out new connections and new ways of using parts," he said. He also joined other teen and adult LEGO enthusiasts in using Flickr, the photo-sharing Web site, to post his models online.

In addition, Meyer began the nonprofit Junior Brick Builders Assn. to teach his skills to children; and from July 23-27, from 1-4 p.m., he hosted a camp for eight to 12 year olds. Fourteen boys from Centreville, Chantilly, Clifton and Fairfax participated, and Meyer ran the camp with friend and fellow LEGO aficionado, Evan Cater of Arlington.



**Standing, from left, Evan Cater and Cam Meyer explain LEGO building techniques to the young campers.**

**THEY MET A FEW YEARS AGO** at Brickfair, a Washington, D.C., LEGO convention. Both belong to the Washington Metro Area Adult LEGO User Group. And, said Cater, who attends Yorktown High, "We wanted to teach children using LEGOs to think more outside the box."

"Online, there wasn't anything for kids to learn new techniques," explained Meyer. "So I wanted to create a place where they could build and share ideas with each other — because when you're little, you're building at home alone and don't really have anyone to share [your creation] with who's as passionate about it as you are."

Tuition for Junior Brick Builders Summer Camp was \$160/person. "The money was used to purchase the LEGO sets, plus other

costs of putting on the camp," said Cater. "Each day, the kids did a new LEGO set."

So, said Meyer, "They each got four LEGO sets worth \$80 total, a plastic box to hold them, daily snacks and the overall building experience."

Every day, the campers did challenges for prizes, such as small LEGO sets. For example, one afternoon, half the children and Meyer competed against the other half and Cater to see which team could construct the strongest bridge. "We wanted our bridges to hold six cans of tomatoes, but we got way past that," said Cater.

"Our bridges were so strong that we had to drop things on them to finally break them," said Meyer. "They were about 2 feet wide and even held six-packs of water. The contest

ended in a tie and everyone got lollipops."

Each day, the boys worked with a themed LEGO set, without using the instructions. "The first day, we built cars and raced them down a track," said Meyer. "The fastest one won a LEGO set." Cater said they showed the boys Flickr photos of "cool cars to get their creative juices flowing."

"I was incredibly impressed with how they used particular techniques to make their own cars go fast," said Meyer. Cater added, "A lot of them were so fast that they beat both of our cars."

**ANOTHER DAY**, they all constructed spaceships and voted on which one they thought was the most creative and well-built. Other days, the boys built LEGO robots and dinosaurs. And on the last day of camp, they combined all the sets so the boys could let their imaginations soar and build whatever they wanted.

Meyer said the camp was so successful that they plan to hold it again next summer and might even hold it on weekends during the school year. They planned to have the boys tell them which activities they liked best and thought were the most fun. "I really loved the bridge-building," said Cater. "It was hands-on and they worked really well as teams."

"I enjoyed seeing the different models that everyone came up with using the same parts and a limited number of them," said Meyer. "They were so diverse, and that's fascinating to see. So even though I've been building longer and am more advanced than these kids, I learned from them because they created things I haven't even thought about."

## Creative Thinking, Problem Solving and Engineering

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**P**hilip Everard is only eight, but says he's been building with LEGOs ever since he was born. "We had [the large] Duplo LEGOs then," he said. "My brother would put them in my hand and guide me."

Both he and his brother Stephen, 11, attended the recent Lego camp in Clifton and had a great time. A third-grader at Willow Springs Elementary, Philip said they have two big tubs of LEGOs at home, plus a shelf displaying some things they've built.

"Stephen and me like to buy LEGO sets and sometimes we build them like they say," said Philip. "But we also like not to, so we can get better at building. We play good guy vs. bad guy and we especially like building big robots. But sometimes our little brother James, who's five, smashes what we've made and then we have to recreate it."

Philip came to camp to improve his skill at building with LEGOs without instructions. "I've learned different techniques, and I've enjoyed combining parts from old creations," he said. "At the end of the camp, we'll put everything all together to make something. I'm thinking of making a robotic



**(From left) Philip Everard and Nicholas Richmond show their mech robot and spaceship, respectively.**

dinosaur."

Clifton's Nicholas Richmond, nine, is a Fairview Elementary fourth-grader who says LEGOs are easy to build with; and at camp, he learned that "you have to build a thick structure so your creation doesn't fall down. I liked building whatever I felt like, and I liked the challenge where we had to build something fast."

Classmate Ryker Lawter, nine, is also from Clifton and especially likes constructing vehicles. "I make any kind of transportation, including fantasy vehicles," he said.



**Ryker Lawter, a Willow Springs fourth-grader, proudly holds up the robot and speedboat he built with LEGOs.**

"The coolest thing I built was an RV with two trailers connected."

He came to camp because it sounded like fun to him and some of his friends also attended. "I like how you get to keep the LEGOs you built with, at the end," said Ryker. "My favorite things I built here are a robot and a speedboat, and I got second place in the car-race challenge."

Clifton resident Cam Meyer started the camp and led it with friend Evan Cater. "This camp brings together kids with a common interest in taking LEGO-building to the next



**Camp founder and instructor Cam Meyer, (in black T-shirt in center), stands with his team and the tall, LEGO tower they constructed.**

level," explained Cam's mother, Kari Meyer. "They make new friends, which is awesome, and they love competing against each other. It unites creative thinking, problem solving and basic engineering principles."

Besides, added Philip's mom, Wendy Everard, "It's pretty impressive that they created a program that occupied kids for three hours a day, five days a week—and they're all working well together and not fighting."

## Backpack Campaign in Full Swing

200 backpacks still needed to meet Our Daily Bread's goal.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he start of the new school year is less than a month away, and back-to-school sales are cropping up everywhere. Trendy backpacks and must-have supplies can easily cost more than \$100, and that's just for elementary school students.

But some Fairfax County children will struggle to be ready when school doors swing open in September.

"For many families in our area who are working hard but struggling to make ends meet, the prospect of finding the funds to purchase new supplies for their children each year can be stressful," said Lisa Whetzel, Our Daily Bread's executive director.

For the second year, ODB is collaborating with Kids R First, Fairfax County, Fairfax County Public Schools and other area non-profit agencies to purchase high quality school supplies at a deeply discounted rate through a partnership with the Collect for Kids program.

The program allows ODB to provide all the supplies a student needs for approximately \$10 per student, where it can traditionally cost \$40 or more per child.

While ODB's goal is to provide supplies for 700 qualified needy children who attend schools in the Fairfax High School and J.E.B. Stuart High School pyramids, Whetzel said they still need to collect \$3,000 and 200 backpacks by Aug. 12.

To wrap-up the campaign, ODB is hosting a Back



From left, Wren Kelly-King and Lauren Fallen of the Divine Dining Divas present \$700, 52 backpacks and four scientific calculators to Our Daily Bread Development Manager Jennifer Rose to support ODB's 2011 Back-to-School Program. The donations were made by their fellow group members and their colleagues at the Fairfax County Department of Safety Communications.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

to School Benefit on Sunday, Aug. 12 at Casa Italia in Fairfax City from 1-5 p.m. A customer car show will be hosted by Bubba's East Coast Rods & Customs.

"We hope the community will respond generously to ensure that children whose families are in crisis are able to return to school this fall with the tools they need to succeed in the new school year," Whetzel said.

In 2011, ODB assisted 438 children in central Fairfax. Whetzel said the nonprofit wants to continue to expand the program in future years to ensure that as many needy children as possible receive assistance.

In addition to financial contributions to purchase the supplies, ODB is seeking donations of new backpacks and scientific calculators (TI-30Xa, TI-83 or TI-84). ODB will accept donations through Aug. 12 at its offices at 4080 Chain Bridge Road, 2nd Floor, or at the following local businesses that are partnering with ODB:

- ❖ Apple Federal Credit Union: Fairfax (9701 Main Street) and Vienna (419A Maple Avenue East)
- ❖ Bertucci's Restaurants (Alexandria, Herndon, Springfield, and Tysons Corner locations only.)
- ❖ Valvoline Instant Oil Change (9885 Fairfax Blvd.)
- ❖ Virginia Heritage Bank (Fairfax Branch Only – 11166 Fairfax Blvd)

For more information, contact Becca Brummett or Jennifer Rose at 703-273-8829 or holiday@ODBFairfax.org, or visit www.ODBFairfax.org.

### About Our Daily Bread

Our Daily Bread (ODB) is a volunteer-based organization focused on easing the plight of low-income residents in the Fairfax County area of Virginia. ODB offers emergency financial assistance and food assistance to qualified residents of the Fairfax County area and operates school supply and holiday assistance programs. It also provides a variety of financial literacy programs, including financial mentoring and free monthly budgeting classes and six-week Credit Smart courses. In addition to regularly scheduled classes, ODB can bring these classes to local workplaces and community-based organizations for free. For more information contact 703-273-8829 or visit [www.ODBFairfax.org](http://www.ODBFairfax.org).

## Realizing a Dream

Garrett begins job of deputy fire chief.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**S**ince he was a boy, William Garrett knew he'd grow up to be a firefighter. Although he and his family have lived in Centreville six-and-a-half years, he was born and raised in Alexandria's Gum Springs community—and that's where the spark was ignited.

"Four generations of my family lived there," he said. "When I was a kid, my friends and I would play basketball with some of the firefighters at the Mount Vernon Fire Station. I told them I'd be a firefighter someday, but they told me to go to college and get a good education first."

Garrett followed their advice and has now been with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department for 23 years.

And he hasn't just done the job — he's excelled. In 2009, he was named the county's Firefighter of the Year. In June, he was promoted to deputy fire chief; and on July 28, he began supervising 37 fire stations and 350 personnel throughout the county.

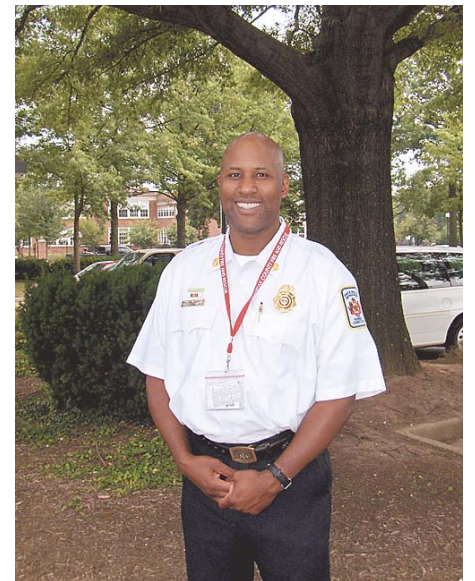
"I'm very humbled by it," he said. "Sometimes we don't see our own potential; but every step of the way, someone did. They offered me some type of advice or guidance — and I've taken hold of it."

That realization made Garrett see the direct connection between the Fire Department and the community. "It's still there today, and it gave me a different perspective on community outreach," he said. "I know it's not just about delivery of service. It's also about giving sound advice, mentoring and communicating with a young audience."

After graduating from West Potomac High, Garrett joined the Franconia Volunteer Fire

Department. Nine months later, he was hired as a county firefighter. Attending NOVA part time, he eventually received an associate's degree in administration of justice. Next came a bachelor's from GMU in foreign language with a concentration in Spanish — and with good reason.

"About 10 or 15 years ago, as a firefighter, there was an unconscious Hispanic child and a frantic mother trying to communicate with us," said Garrett. "We had to go through a language line to understand her,



William Garrett's first day as deputy fire chief was July 28.

and it pained me that we couldn't speak with her directly."

He began his professional career at the Dunn Loring station in 1989, riding on fire engines. He also became a paramedic and has been one for 22 years. And, he added, "It's even more important now as the population ages and increases."

Garrett was a paramedic at the Reston station and became an EMS sergeant at the Lorton station. (That title was later changed to EMS lieutenant.) Afterward, he became a fire investigator. "It was something different, and I thought it would be cool to try to figure out why someone would start a fire," he said. "That helped me with fire suppression because you've got to know how and where fires start so you can put them out."

That job also set the foundation for Garrett moving up the ranks and later becoming a fire lieutenant. "I loved it; it was a

SEE GARRETT, PAGE 5

## 10th Annual Backpack Drive

**P**overty threatens the academic success of many children in Fairfax County; more than 40,000 qualify for free or discounted school lunches.

In response, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

and the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have partnered to collect backpacks for this year's 10th Annual Backpack Drive. They have set a goal to collect 2,800 backpacks for needy students in Kindergarten through high school. Last year, with the help of vol-

unteers, more than 2,000 backpacks with school supplies were filled and delivered just in time for the new school year. To participate, drop off backpacks to the Braddock District Office at 9002 Burke Lake Road between now and August 20.

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**WEEK IN FAIRFAX**

**Women's Self Defense Program**

The Fairfax County Law Enforcement Foundation is partnering with the Fairfax County Police Department to offer the Women's Self Defense Training program. It's based on the SAFE program formerly provided by the Police Department, but now being taught by C&J Security Corp.

The program is a two-day class that will meet on consecutive Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:15-9:30 p.m. It's currently offered free and all class materials are included. Program funding is provided through the Fairfax County Law Enforcement Foundation.

The course is offered to females, age 13 and older. A female guardian must accompany girls 13-18. No men other than the instructors are permitted to be present during a class. For more information, call 703-246-7806, e-mail [WSD@fairfaxfoundation.org](mailto:WSD@fairfaxfoundation.org) or go to [www.fairfaxfoundation.org](http://www.fairfaxfoundation.org).

**Rita's Italian Ice Opens in Fairfax**

Rita's Italian Ice, the nation's largest Italian Ice concept with over 625 stores in 19 states, opens its newest location at 10726 Fairfax Blvd, in the Shops of Fairfax (neighbors include Super H Mart, Panera Bread, Subway and Paul VI Catholic High School), in Fairfax. The new Rita's Italian Ice will be the first location in Fairfax for the brand and is owned and operated by franchisees Rico and Kristen Vicencio, and Edwin and Jacque Whang.

Rita's Italian Ice location in Fairfax will feature the same combination of fresh-made ice in a clean, fun atmosphere that patrons have loved since the first Rita's location opened in Pennsylvania by Bob Tumolo, a former Philadelphia firefighter in 1984.

# 4-H Fair Attracts Hundreds

**Katie Harsh of Fairfax (far left) waits with her guinea pig Mr. Bubbles during the Rabbit and Cavy Show in the 4-H barn at Frying Pan Farm Park during the Fairfax County 4-H Fair on Aug. 4.**



PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

# Garrett Becomes Deputy Fire Chief

FROM PAGE 3

typical ‘whodunit,’” he said. “Sometimes, an anomaly in a piece of equipment causes a fire. But we also see a lot where caution, intervention or education could have changed the outcome dramatically.”

What it taught him, said Garrett, is the importance of “maintaining a situational awareness of what’s going on and how things work. That’s why I’m big into community outreach and fire prevention — taking the time to educate folks about safety. It’s something subtle, but it speaks volumes.”

He said it can be something as simple, yet vitally significant, as advising residents to move hot barbecue grills on balconies and decks away from the house — or reminding them to keep space heaters away from combustibles. So, said Garrett, “Every time we have a citizen contact, we use it as an opportunity to educate.”

**“What we do makes a difference.”**

— **William Garrett, Deputy Fire Chief**

Then, promoted to fire lieutenant, he moved to the Woodlawn station on Richmond Highway. “It was a dream-come-true because it’s where I grew up,” he said. “Then I returned to Franconia — where I’d volunteered.” This time, though, he was an officer.

Afterward, a position became available for a captain in the Hazardous Materials and Investigative Services section and, following another promotion, the job was Garrett’s. He later opened the Crosspointe station and, in March 2007, he said, “I got my dream job as commander of the Penn Daw station in Alexandria.”

There, he was thrilled to turn that station into the focal point of that area’s community outreach. Furthermore, he said, “It was great serving along the Route 1 area — a place I had a stake in and was involved with.” Then in January 2010, Garrett was promoted to battalion chief of the Fairfax Station/Clifton/Burke/Crosspointe/Pohick area. He supervised 40-50 people providing emergency services out of six different stations.

“It’s a whole different look at emergency services,” he said. “It required me to think more



**Deputy Fire Chief William Garrett**

strategically. Instead of just being focused on the task or on firefighting tactics, I had to consider the impact to the community. I had to make sure our personnel were well-trained and the equipment well-placed so that, when calls came in, we were ready to go.” Garrett also monitored the radio to ensure that, when one station was out on a call or away training, another unit was covering its service area.

In October 2010, he was assigned to work on a special project to modernize Fairfax County

government’s finance and human-resource systems. His participation resulted in the final product taking into consideration the Fire Department’s special needs as a 24/7 service.

Then on June 28, Chief Ronald Mastin promoted Garrett to deputy fire chief, placing him in charge of C-Shift operations for the entire Fire Department. As such, he’s become a senior staff member and an integral part of the department’s core leadership. And as always, he takes his duties seriously.

“I’m responsible for the overall, day-to-day operations and management of 350-plus firefighters,” he said. “And I’m now in charge of the seven battalion chiefs.”

Garrett will visit all the stations under his command and plans to “continue the chief’s objectives and motivate the shift to do that, as well. And because firefighters influenced me at the start, I want to support the community’s needs — whether by collecting backpacks or coats or doing a food drive. I want to support the residents.”

And he’s not the only one in his family who feels that way. His wife Laretta is a police MPO with the Sully District Station and, in January, she was honored as Officer of the Quarter. During the ceremony, her station commander, Capt. Purvis Dawson, told her, “You’ve set a standard for others to emulate. Each day you pin on your badge, you make Fairfax County a better place.”

The Garretts have been married 15 years and have two children, 13 and 11. Dad’s also an assistant SYA basketball coach for their children’s team. Serving the community is important to the couple, and that’s why the new deputy fire chief is so excited about his new position.

“I love it because we’re such an integral part of society—what we do makes a difference,” said Garrett. “It’s a meaningful job, and I know that what I do makes a direct impact.”

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# Mindless Slashing

Automatic cuts set to kick in January would harm Northern Virginia more than any other region.

**W**hile reducing the federal deficit is critical to the nation's economic health in the long run, the knee jerk, slash and burn method based only on cuts that is coming at us like a freight train will do immense damage to the economy nationally. But no place would feel the pain more intensely than Northern Virginia. Last week, hundreds of technology workers gathered in Arlington, waving stop-sign shaped pickets that said "stop sequestration." Self-serving? Perhaps, but the mindless and catastrophically timed cuts would hurt everyone in Northern Virginia.

"The risk posed by these cuts taking effect is not a gamble that Virginians can take," said U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, who addressed the group along with Gov. Bob McDonnell, U.S. Reps. Jim Moran and Frank Wolf, Northrop Grumman CEO Wes Bush, SAIC CEO John Jumper, Northern Virginia Technology Council Chair Brad Antle, Aerospace Industries Association CEO Marion Blakey and Fairfax Chamber of Commerce CEO Jim Corcoran and others.

"A third of our economy here in Northern Virginia and in the National Capital Region is dependent directly on federal investment and spending, Connolly said, calling for compro-

mise in Congress.

The Budget Control Act of 2011 sets the stage for automatic spending reductions over the next 10 years beginning Jan. 2, 2013 resulting in Pentagon spending cuts of \$800 billion, \$700 billion in cuts from other agencies with a \$200 billion reduction, mostly from Medicare, in mandatory programs. This is according to Steve Fuller and the GMU Center for Regional Analysis.

According to the analysis, Virginia would be second after California in job losses to the states in the next two years, with a potential loss of

more than 200,000 jobs (136,191 defense-related jobs lost and 71,380 non-defense jobs).

It's important to note that the vast majority of these job losses would be in Northern Virginia, and the looming problem is one reason Fairfax County is asking all departments to prepare for a possible five percent reduction in each of the next two years.

There are hundreds, possibly thousands, of ways to begin to fix the deficit; this is not one.

You can read the George Mason analysis at [http://www.aia-aerospace.org/assets/Fuller\\_II\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.aia-aerospace.org/assets/Fuller_II_Final_Report.pdf)

— MARY KIMM,  
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIALS

## Be Part of Insiders Guides

**O**ur Insider's Guides will publish the third week of August. What tips do you have for someone getting to know your community? We're hoping to share the places, activities, events, organizations and volunteer opportunities your neighbors might not know about. What tips do you have for someone getting to know your community? Great places and activities? Events that should not be missed? Organizations that do a great job? Places to volunteer? Share it

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## Welcoming Dr. Ángel Cabrera

George Mason University welcomes new president.

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN COOK (R-BRADDOCK)

**S**ummer may be considered the "off-season" in education, but at George Mason University, major change is underfoot. GMU recently celebrated Alan Merten's illustrious career as one of the university's most consequential presidents and now welcomes Dr. Ángel Cabrera as his successor.



Cook

Last month, I had the opportunity to meet and speak with Dr. Cabrera at a welcoming reception sponsored by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce. I came away extremely impressed. As you would expect, he is a brilliant educator, an innovative leader and an engaging promoter of his new home. But what struck me most was his interest in listening and in establishing new and furthering existing partnerships.

There were no grandiose pronouncements of how he would "lead in a new direction" or establish "a new era." Instead, he asked that the County and the business community partner with the university so that we can work together to advance the interests of the region. I mentioned to him our efforts in Braddock to lessen the inevitable tension between "town and gown," and he responded by agreeing to meet the community and to continue to work with us to make GMU a better neighbor. He has already

learned the great secrets of Fairfax County's success—partnership and collaboration. Under Dr. Cabrera's leadership, I am confident the university will continue to be a great partner in the region.

The reception was also an opportunity for those in attendance to engage in informal discussions about the future of GMU; I continue to digest many of the ideas from those conversations. The university is ideally situated to become a leader in international business. Given our proximity to Washington, D.C., our diverse population and business community and Dr. Cabrera's experience as the recent president of the Thunderbird School of Global Management, why not establish GMU as a center for international business, finance and perhaps foreign relations?

Given the number of former political leaders who continue to reside in Fairfax, shouldn't the university seek to be a leader in studying innovative public policy? And what about a medical school? It's an idea that has been around and, maybe now, one whose time has come. As the County Board, Economic Development Authority and Inova Hospital seek to make the region a leader in personalized medicine, why not establish a medical school to teach this emerging field?

Exciting times are ahead for Dr. Cabrera, GMU and the region. I look forward to helping the County and the university form stronger ties and partner together as innovative, forward-thinking leaders.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Flawed Diagnosis, Wrong Prescription

To the Editor:

Your editorial ["Separate and Unequal?," Connection, July 26-August 1, 2012], is a perfect example of flawed diagnosis leading to the wrong prescription—or "same old—same old." Your focus is on entry into Thomas Jefferson Math and Science Magnet School and you claim that low numbers of Hispanic, Black and poor students is basically unfair. You say that we need "[to be] addressing these issues from Kindergarten up" and the "benefit" of more "diversity." You also compare the acceptance rate at TJ to those of Cornell and Swarthmore. Wrong focus. Wrong diagnosis. Schools in Fairfax and the surrounding feeder counties are extremely diverse. Teach

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

ers often have few students who speak English as a primary language. Students are from Africa, Latin America, The Middle East—Europe, Far East and Asia, and more. So, what defines the students who succeed? Find models. Look at Asian students, students from Ethiopia, India, and more. See what they are doing and apply it. It is not just money or GT programs. Those students are motivated and helped by parents and communities. The students are encouraged to succeed and required to participate in their own learning. They are taught responsibility. It is not government programs or quotas. We have tried that prescription for generations. Teachers will tell you, it is parents who are willing to help their children to do their homework and keep up with their assignments. If students miss basic math concepts early on, they will have difficulty throughout middle school, high school and even remedial classes in college. They need parents who will learn English and join with other parents and with teachers to prepare their own children. That in itself is a valuable life lesson for children to

learn. As you said, few students get into TJ—and, by the way—those many who are not accepted do go on to many great colleges. TJ has experimented with “prescriptions” but it is far better to maintain high standards and encourage students (and parents) to reach those standards.

**TJ Fields Jr.**  
Springfield

## Separate and Unequal - II

To the Editor:

Your editorial in the titled “Separate and Unequal?” [The Connection, July 25-31, 2012] addressed the “eye-popping,” disparately low admission of Black and Latino students to Thomas Jefferson High School, and the complaint that this was “in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1965 which prohibits discrimination based on race, color and national origin.”

The article was incomplete, however, 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. While admittedly this statistic doesn’t fit the discrimination paradigm we are used to, it would be of greater interest to the population as a whole for your next article to address this much larger absolute disparity around white students admission to Thomas Jefferson, if this also fits your model of “Separate and Unequal?” and if you may be suggesting that this also may be in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

**Brad Brewster**  
Fairfax Station

## TJHS Story in Numbers

To the Editor:

The point is that inborn talent is not the real issue for TJHS-level success. Nor is there any educational program magic pill that will solve this. The key is student long-term personal commitment to scholastic achievement and hard work—the old “20 percent inspiration, 80 percent perspiration” adage).

Since everyone likes statistics so much, the elephant in the room has always been the performance of Asian minority students vis-a-vis the entire FCPS student population—e.g., for 2011/12, Asian: 19 percent of FCPS vs 64 percent at TJHS; White: 43 percent of FCPS vs 26 percent at TJHS; Hispanic: 22 percent of FCPS vs 2.7 percent at TJHS; Black: 10 percent of FCPS vs 1.4 percent at TJHS. Maybe those Asian students should get with the program and stop working so hard and being so successful. It makes the other ethnicities look bad.

FCPS has already watered down the scholastic admission criteria for TJHS in response to the clamor for increased Hispanic and Black enrollment, and that only resulted in more criticism because of the inevitable drop-off in TJHS student performance levels.

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

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# Remodeling and Renovating

Local designers design a home that is compatible with one's lifestyle.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Lifestyle and social considerations are as important as design and aesthetic decisions when remodeling or renovating a home, say some local designers. From bathrooms with a water closet to second floor laundry areas and kitchens that flow freely into the family room, homeowners should determine how the space will be used before beginning a remodeling project.

"I try to figure out how the family lives," said George Hodges-Fulton of BOWA. "If I know who is doing what where and when I can design around it. If something drives you up a wall and you're ready to go see Dr. Phil with your spouse, let's just design around it."

Hodges-Fulton restructured the dated kitchen of a McLean home to add more space for an active family that includes three teenage boys. An addition extending from the rear wall of the kitchen expanded the footprint of the home. The plan included a butler's pantry, family dining area, sitting room and screened porch. The addition of windows allowed natural light to stream into the space.

"The specific reason that the addition was put on was to provide the husband with a place to read the Sunday paper and still be engaged with the family," said Hodges-Fulton. "He travels quite a bit, but the idea would be that the family would have a Sunday morning gathering space. The addition definitely changed the dynamic and improved family time."

Guy Semmes of Hopkins and Porter Construction in Potomac, Md. transformed the cramped, dark interior of a Damascus, Md., home into a haven of light and nature. Floor to ceiling windows make up the entire rear wall of the addition, which also unified the kitchen, family room and living room, creating an open, flowing space with a panoramic view of the tree-filled backyard.

"We wanted to take advantage of all the southern light from the backyard and to make the home feel more expansive," said Semmes. "We integrated the outdoors with the interior spaces. It made everything flow so much nicer."

**HUSBAND AND WIFE DESIGN** team Suzanne and Robert Kalmin of RJK Construction in Fairfax created a space in the bathroom of a Reston home to make laundry less laborious. "The homeowner had an active family," said Suzanne Kalmin. "She had to do laundry for three kids and two adults. The washer and dryer were in the basement. She wanted a laundry area that didn't require her to run up and down the stairs constantly."

The Kalmins remodeled the large second floor master bathroom to include a space for the washer and dryer. "All of the bedrooms are on the top level,



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOWA

**George Hodges-Fulton of BOWA remodeled the kitchen of this McLean home to include a butler's pantry and a family dining area. He added a sitting room, screened porch and additional windows, allowing an abundance of natural light to stream into the space.**



PHOTO BY SUZANNE KALMIN

**Designers at RJK Construction created storage and entertaining space in this Vienna kitchen. This kitchen features black pearl granite countertops and stainless steel appliances.**

so it made more sense," said Robert Kalmin. "Instead of walking up and down the stairs she could just go straight across the hall. She could do laundry at night while relaxing in her bedroom."

Potomac, Md.-based designer Susan Matus of Case Design/Remodeling transformed an outdated Bethesda home, creating a space that would feel inviting to the homeowners' daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren. The design included a ground level office and family room, and a renovated basement with room for a pool table and bar. Even the walls were stripped of the existing wood paneling.

"The family room walks out to the backyard where there is a very beautiful pool," said Matus. "Before the renovation, the family room did not have a clear exit out to the pool area. We added French doors that open to the patio."

When renovating a kitchen, an Alexandria homeowner wanted the warm look of a slate floor, but not the high-maintenance that comes with a natural stone surface in a high-traffic area. Designers Allie Mann and Jim Wrenn of Case Design/Remodeling suggested a porcelain slate with high variation to provide the look and feel of slate without the tiresome upkeep.

From free-flowing rooms to low-maintenance spaces, designers say that are able to incorporate most homeowner requests into a remodel or renovation. "Every homeowner has their own style," said Robert Kalmin. "When it comes to construction, we're able to accomplish everyone's style."

# Home Life Style

## Enlarging a Living Space — Without Adding On

The Kourils increased usable space of their circa-1950s ranch, while staying within walls of original structure.

BY JOHN BYRD

Nineteen years may seem like a long time to wait for an in-terior custom-suited to your lifestyle, but Gail and Doug Kouril are satisfied that everything has come together perfectly, and at just the right time in their lives.

"We moved into this house in 1992," Gail Kouril said, referring to their circa-1955 ranch house quietly situated on a tree-shaded Arlington cul-de-sac. "Our main pre-occupation, though, was raising and educating three sons — who have now finished college and moved on."

Gail Kouril is quick to add that the couple's decision to makeover the entire house wasn't simply "empty nest" syndrome, but finds it timely that they were introduced to a top design/build remodeling firm at exactly that point when moving forward on long forestalled plans made sense economically and personally.

"The house is in a neighborhood that has really appreciated," Gail Kouril said. "So we attended a workshop sponsored by Sun Design Remodeling, and were surprised at how quickly the outlines of a working plan came together."

**FOR STARTERS**, the solution called for converting a first floor 2,000-square-foot primary living area into a more spacious, bright and better rationalized interior without ever broaching the envelope of the original structure.

Among key problems with the existing house: the master bathroom was tiny; the kitchen cramped and dated. There was no place to have a meal save the dining room. The rear porch was of minimal use. Traffic patterns were constricted. The interior was too dark. There wasn't even an organized place to store beach chairs and Christmas decorations.

Moreover, the ever-promising lower level — which featured windows at-grade and a rear walk-out — was only half finished, and the accessing stairway was too steep and out-of-code.

"We were pretty aware of the shortcomings," Doug Kouril said. "We just weren't sure what was feasible within our budget."



PHOTO BY BRYAN BURRIS

**Sun Design Remodeling removed a rear bearing wall in a circa-1955 ranch, co-opting a seldom-used rear porch into an expanded new kitchen. The dining counter is a de facto space divider and a convenient serving station.**

So it was a revelation when planners at Sun Design proposed a spatial reconfiguration — which made the home's existing footprint seem vastly enlarged, without adding an inch of new enclosed square footage.

"It's now a kitchen-centric plan," said Roger Lataille, the remodeling firm's design consultant. "We rotated the kitchen into the north corner of the house, switching places with the dining room, then converted part of the seldom-used back porch into a breakfast room with a two-stool dining counter facing into the kitchen."

Results: the kitchen now easily serves the living room, the new dining room and a back patio where the family spends a lot of warm weather time.

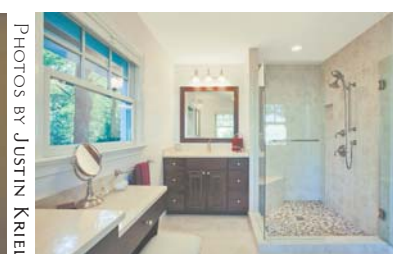
Better yet, with several interior walls deleted (including a section of rear elevation bearing wall), the new layout yields a significant increase in natural light.

Convenient serving stations are integrated into well-equipped food preparation zones. As Doug Kouril,

MASTER BATH BEFORE



MASTER BATH AFTER



PHOTOS BY JUSTIN KRIEL

**The remodeling team converted an adjacent back corner bedroom into an adjoining master bath which features a glass-encased walk-in shower and a generously-sized vanity and bench.**

More

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors tours of recently remodeled homes as well as workshops on home remodeling topics. Headquartered in Burke, the firm will be opening a McLean office this fall. Call 703-425-5588 or visit [www.SunDesignInc.com](http://www.SunDesignInc.com).



PHOTO BY JUSTIN KRIEL

**The new kitchen presents a warmly textured ambience. Maple built-ins, floor-to-ceiling glass-facing cabinets and marble surfaces are set off by newly-refinished hardwood flooring.**

in retaining all four bedrooms while adding a large master bath and two walk-in closets.

"The designer immediately identified the bedroom adjacent to the existing master suite as the appropriate spot for the master bath," Gail Kouril says. "In fact, the arrangement actually creates an extra bedroom window and space for sizeable his and her closets."

The 12' x 11' master bath features a glass-encased walk-in shower; each partner now has a basin of their own; and Gail gains a generously-sized vanity and bench.

Eliminating the former back corner bedroom also deletes an end-of-the-hall foyer, gaining 20 square feet for the re-made hall bath.

So, where's the fourth bedroom? In the thoroughly mainstreamed lower level—which now includes a beautifully-appointed guest bath and a home office as well as a newly carpeted and upgraded family room complete with working fireplace.

Doug Kouril said that the lower level, with its ample available light, was always a pleasant gathering place. But Sun Design's better-rationalized stairway has made this part of the house as functional as any other—one of the reason the makeover has really worked for everyone.

"Developing ways to get existing space to perform better is always one of the strategic initiatives we explore," said Lataille. "Clients are often amazed at how much unused

square footage we find within the envelope of the existing home, and at how quickly the design solution comes together."

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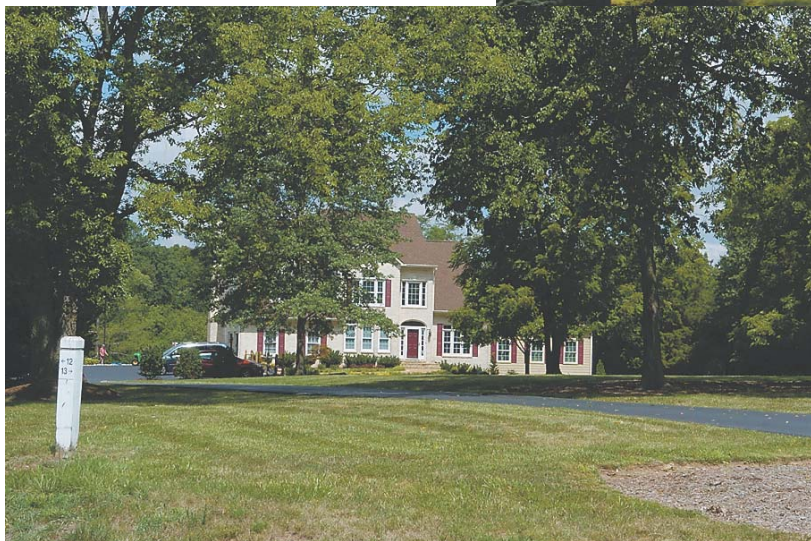


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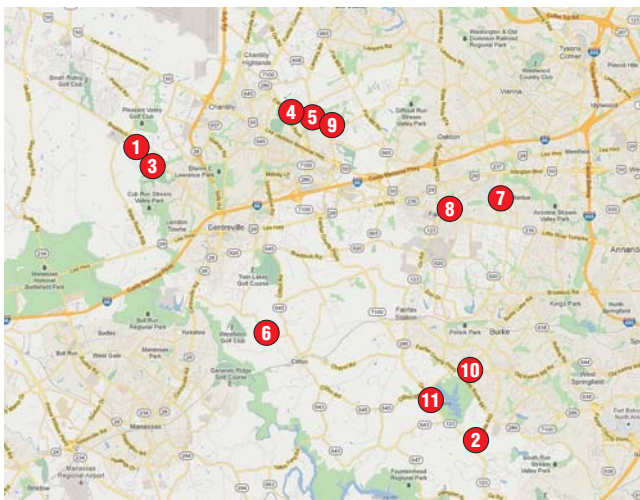


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## NVSL Season Concludes with Individual All-Star Meet

### Waynewood's Dona sisters win at home pool.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**E**ight-year-old Hanani Dona jumped up and down in support of her older sister, 17-year-old Reanna, during a medal ceremony at the Northern Virginia Swim League Individual All-Stars meet on Aug. 4. Hanani's involvement in the day's events wasn't limited to cheerleading, however, as the younger sibling received her own recognition.

Reanna won the 15-18 girls' 50-meter butterfly and finished second in the backstroke, and Hanani finished third in the 8U 25-meter butterfly and first in the backstroke at their home pool: Waynewood Recreation Association in Alexandria. Reanna, a 2012 graduate of West Potomac High School and rising freshman at Ohio State University, finished with an NVSL season-best time of 28.55 seconds in the fly. In the backstroke, she was one of two swimmers to break 30 seconds. Her time of 29.66 was bested only by Janet Hu's NVSL record time of 28.21.

Hanani swam 18.81 in the fly and 19.94 in the backstroke.

"I actually made it a point to watch [Hanani]," Reanna said. "... We have such a huge age difference between us, I wasn't sure whether she'd like swimming or not. At her age, I was not making it to all-stars as an eight-and-under. I didn't know what all-stars was. The fact that she knows what's going on is just really great for her."

While the Dona sisters shined in their home pool, Hu rewrote the NVSL record book. A member of the Mosby Woods Raiders (Fairfax) and a rising junior at Oakton High School, Hu broke her own record in the 15-18 50 freestyle with a time of 28.21. Hu set the previous record of 28.52 one week earlier at divisionals, according to the NVSL Web site.

"It's pretty exciting," Hu said, "to know I'm still improving."

Hu also won the 50 free with a time of 26.5. She set the NVSL record in the event one week prior with a time of 26.27.

Laura Schwartz, a member of the Camelot Community Club Knights (Annandale) and rising senior at Falls Church High School, entered the 15-18 girls' 100 IM as

the No. 1 seed and didn't disappoint. She finished with an NVSL season-best time of 1:06.5.

"I try not to think about it," Schwartz said of being an event's top seed. "I guess it kind of gets me a little bit excited because I think, 'I have to make sure I get first place since I'm seeded first.'"

Schwartz had to come from behind to capture the win.

"I actually had no idea where I was until I came off the breaststroke turn," she said. "... I breathed to my left and I saw the other girl and I was right at her hip. I was like, 'Oh gosh, I'm seeded first, I need to win this,' so I had to kick it into another gear to out-touch."

While Schwartz fulfilled her duty as a favorite, Ben Lambert's victory in the 15-18 boys' 50 fly was an upset. Lambert, a member of Hayfield Farm Seahawks (Alexandria) and rising sophomore at Hayfield Secondary School, won the event with a time of 26.3 despite being seeded outside of the top three.

"It was all mindset," Lambert said. "My coach from a while ago told me that if you believe you're the best one out there and you swim like it, then you can be and that's what happened today. ... I actually kind of like having people ahead of me because it inspires me to go faster and it gets me more hyped."

Paul O'Hara, a member of the Hollin Meadows Barracudas (Alexandria) and a rising senior at Gonzaga College High School in Washington, D.C., finished first in two events. After finishing in a first-place tie in the 15-18 boys' 100 IM (1:00.65), O'Hara won outright the 100 freestyle with a time of 23.74.

"I was kind of amped up for the second event," O'Hara said, "because after the tie, it was kind of disappointing."

Zachary Fountain, a 2011 West Springfield High School graduate and rising sophomore at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, tied with O'Hara in the 100 IM and won outright the 100 breaststroke (30.82). Fountain represented the Orange Hunt Sharks (Springfield).

In boys' butterfly action, winners included: Sleepy Hollow's Liam Redman (8U, Falls Church); Highlands Swim's Ben Charles (9-10, McLean); Chesterbrook's Jaya Kambhampaty (11-12, McLean)



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Hunter Mills' Alexandra Dicks won the 8U girls' 25-meter butterfly at the NVSL Individual All-Stars meet on Aug. 4.

and McLean's Christopher Murphy (13-14). In girls' butterfly action, winners included: Hunter Mill's Alexandra Dicks (8U, Vienna); Little Rocky Run's Emily Drakopoulos (9-10, Clifton); Greenbriar's Jacqueline Clabeaux (11-12, Fairfax) and Orange Hunt's Robyn Dryer (13-14, Springfield).

In boys' IM competition, winners included: Highlands Swim's Charles (10U); Dunn Loring's John McClorey (11-12, Vienna) and Lee-Graham's Miller Surette (13-14, Falls Church). In girls' IM action, winners included: Wakefield Chapel's Madelyn Donohoe (10U, Annandale); McLean's Isabella Rongione (11-12) and Commonwealth's Hannah Baker (13-14, Fairfax).

In boys' freestyle action, winners included: Fox Mill Woods' Tomasz Kleczek (8U, Reston); Lee-Graham's William Jackson (9-10, Falls Church); Little Rocky Run's Myles Brown (11-12, Clifton) and Village West's Aidan Pastel (13-14, Springfield). In girls' freestyle competition, winners included: Ravensworth Farm's Emily Suris (8U, Springfield); Little Rocky Run's Drakopoulos (9-10); Greenbriar's Clabeaux (11-12) and Commonwealth's Baker (13-14).

In boys' backstroke competition, winners included:

Tuckahoe's James Ewing (8U, McLean); Lee-Graham's William Jackson (9-10, Falls Church); Overlee's Jonathan Day (11-12, Arlington); Overlee's Ryan Baker (13-14, Arlington) and Annandale's Kyle Tyrrell (15-18). In girls' backstroke action, winners included: Sully Station SS's Elise Mozeleski (9-10, Chantilly); Hamlet's Grace Gent (11-12, McLean) and Orange Hunt's Dryer (13-14).

In boys' breaststroke competition, winners included: Donaldson Run's Drew Harker (8U, Arlington); Sully Station SS's Brian Patten (9-10, Chantilly); Chesterbrook's Sam Gollob (11-12, McLean) and South Run's Christopher Stankiewicz (13-14, Springfield). In girls' breaststroke action, winners included: Ravensworth's Suris (8U); Hunt Valley's Carrie Morrison (9-10, Springfield); Mount Vernon Park's Holly Jansen (11-12, Alexandria); Little Hunting Park's Sarah Cahill (13-14, Alexandria) and Crosspointe's Brooke Malone (15-18, Fairfax Station).

## OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, AUGUST 11 & 12

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](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com) and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

### Annandale

3705 Krysia Ct.....\$649,900....Sun 1-4...Min & Jimmy O'Burns.....Long & Foster..703-437-6110  
8706 Prudence Dr.....\$595,000....Sun 1-4.....Linda Maxwell.....Long & Foster..703-451-9400

### Burke

6159 Hatches Ct.....\$599,950....Sun 1-4....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808  
5488 Midship Ct.....\$419,700....Sun 1-4.....Karen McGavin....Keller Williams..703-477-1125

### Centreville

6532 Sharps Dr.....Contact Agent....Sun 1-4.....Scott Koval....Samson Props..703-625-3446

### Chantilly

42344 Astors Beachwood...\$850,000....Sun 1-4.....Chris Pezzana.....Weichert..703-447-1662

### Clifton

12406 Shari Hunt Grove..\$1,050,000....Sun 1-4....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812  
12129 Beaver Creek Rd.....\$899,000....Sun 1-4.....Diane Lenahan.....Wolf Run..703-283-7328  
13421 Cavalier Woods Dr...\$619,900....Sun 12-3.....Vickie Carroll.....Century 21..703-818-0111

### Fairfax

3950 Collis Oak Ct.....\$374,900....Sat 1-4.....Myra Hiser..Long and Foster..571-426-4391

### Fairfax Station

11107 Hampton Dr.....\$1,495,000....Sun 1-4.....Dana LaFever.....Weichert..703-609-3479  
11501 Lilting Ln.....\$875,000....Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365  
7401 Wayfarer Dr.....\$779,990....Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365  
11215 September Ln.....\$642,500....Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365

### Lorton

5941 Kentia Trl.....\$649,900....Sun 1-4.....Patrick Coen....Keller Williams..703-201-4440

### Springfield

7582 Woodstown Dr.....\$455,000....Sun 1-4.....Paul Kaepfel.....Weichert..703-924-7115  
8446 Springfield Oaks Dr...\$315,000....Sun 1-4.....Doris Crockett.....Weichert..703-615-8411

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Karen Washburn at 703-778-9422 or E-Mail the info to: [kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com) All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

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**21 Announcements**

STATE OF CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHARLESTON

KADEE LYNN AUSTIN and LEE ALEXANDER RUBLE, Plaintiff  
IN RE: ZOE AVA AUSTIN (a minor under 18 yrs old)

**21 Announcements**

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

CASE NO. 2012-DR-10-2158

SUMMONS

**21 Announcements**

JOHN DOE  
DONOR ID NUMBER 1432  
Defendant.  
TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT:  
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action of which a copy is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer to the said Complaint on the subscriber at her office, 1327 Ashley River Road, Building C, Suite 100, Charleston, South Carolina 29407, within thirty (30) days after the service thereof, exclusive of the day of such service.  
YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that if you fail to appear and defend and fail to answer the Complaint as required by this Summons within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

LAW OFFICES OF CINDY M. FLOYD

Cindy M. Floyd  
Attorney for the Plaintiff  
1327 Ashley River Road, Bldg C, ste 100  
Charleston, South Carolina 29407  
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**Fairfax Water**

**FAIRFAX COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**  
**Notice of Public Hearing**

Resolution Authorizing Acquisition of Property Necessary for Public Purposes by Eminent Domain or Other Means

**September 6, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.**

The Fairfax County Water Authority will hold a public hearing pursuant to Va. Code Ann. § 15.2-1903 on at **6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 6, 2012**, to receive public comments on a proposed Resolution authorizing the acquisition of easements necessary for the improvement and expansion of Fairfax Water's water system infrastructure adjacent to sections of the Lee Jackson Memorial Highway (U.S. Route 50) in Fairfax County. The improvement and expansion is required to provide adequate capacity to serve existing and future customers. The necessary easements are to be located across several parcels of land adjacent to U.S. Route 50, more particularly described as Fairfax County Tax Map Parcels 0332-01-0004, 0332-01-0005B2, 0332-01-0005D, 0332-01-0005E, 0341-03-B4, 0341-03-B5, 0341-03-0001, 0343-01-0041A, and 0343-13-0001. Following the public hearing, the Water Authority Board may vote on or after September 6, 2012, to adopt the proposed Resolution.

The proposed Resolution and other related information can be viewed at Fairfax Water's Website at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org>.

**The public hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.** Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed resolution should call Eva Catlin at (703) 289-6017. Interested parties also may submit written comments to [PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org](mailto:PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org) or mail written comments to:

**Fairfax Water**  
Public Hearing Comments  
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All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, September 5, 2012 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

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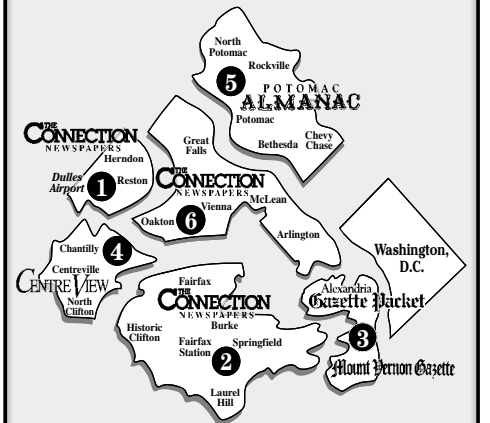
I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate.  
-Arthur Wing Pinero

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