

Danny (Ivonte Milligan)
threatens the suspicious
Olivia (Sarah Marksteiner)
with a menacing look in
Robinson Secondary's pro-
duction of "Night Must Fall."

Fairfax Votes 'Yes'
On Bond Package
News, Page 12

Area Votes
For Obama,
Kaine, House
Incumbents
News, Page 3

Murder Mystery at Robinson Secondary

News, Page 12

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Photo by Deb Cobb/The Connection

Reaction to the announcement that President Barack Obama has been re-elected at the Fairfax County Democrats Victory Party on Nov. 6.



Photo by Deb Cobb/The Connection

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) helps a Greenspring resident find election officials at the Greenspring Polling Station to determine whether he can vote in the election.

Area Votes for Obama, Kaine, House Incumbents

President Barack Obama wins second term, Kaine wins Senate seat, Moran, Wolf, Connolly re-elected.

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

In a bitter and historically expensive battle, President Barack Obama defeated Gov. Mitt Romney, winning a second term Tuesday after grabbing the key swing state of Virginia after midnight.

With the addition of the Commonwealth's 13 electoral votes—as well as those of Colorado, Iowa, New Hampshire and Wisconsin—Obama sailed over the electoral cliff with the critical 270 electoral votes he needed for victory.

More than 200 Democrats gathered at the Tysons Sheraton Tuesday evening—some cautiously optimistic, some nervous—about the Democrats' chances of another four years for Obama in The White House.

Mondana Nicksolat, an Obama volunteer from McLean, said she was so nervous about Obama's chances for victory, "I feel like I'm getting ready to take a final exam. . . . I'm nervous. I'm not sure he will win," Nicksolat said. But as the evening wore on, Nicksolat became more optimistic.

"Obama shouldn't be called a politician," she said. "He is a human being. He has a lot in common with the American people. We are not all rich; we all did not go to elite schools; some of us are immigrants and we're Americans. Obama is with us."

Close to midnight, the Sheraton crowd erupted in cheers, hugs and tears when news networks projected the win for Obama.

"The country and women are safe for four more years," one guest shouted.

According to the Fairfax County Board of

Elections, Obama won the county with nearly 60 percent of the vote.

Kaine Wins Senate Seat

It was one of the most competitive and closely-watched Senate races in the nation, but after 17 months of brutal campaigning, former Virginian Governor and DNC Chair Timothy M. Kaine grabbed the seat of retiring U.S. Sen. Jim Webb from former Governor George Allen. Kaine won 51.85 percent of the vote over Allen's 47.97 percent with 100 percent of the state's 2588 precincts reporting, according to the Virginia State Board of Elections.

The 11th District: Connolly

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) knows how close a race can be on election night, beating challenger Keith Fimian in 2010 by a razor-thin margin, but Connolly handily defeated Republican challenger Chris Perkins Tuesday night along with four other candidates: Chris DeCarlo (Independent), Mark Gibson (Independent), Joe Galdo (Green Party) and Peter Marchetti (Independent Green Party). Connolly received 60.05 percent of the vote, or 163,212 votes, compared to Perkins's 36.22 percent of the vote with 98,456 votes.

"Tonight our voters also sent a message about our politics. They want more functional government," Connolly said, standing with his daughter and wife at the

Sheraton. "They don't want more rabid, partisan rhetoric as a substitute for real solutions to real problems."

Connolly said he was honored "to have been reelected, by my widest margin ever, and to have received the thrust of our voters to represent them for the next two years. On their behalf I will fight for the values we share while seeking common ground to move our country forward."

Connolly also displayed his trademark wit when he told the crowd he had another announcement: "CBS News just called it for Tim Kaine. . . . Not so fast, Tea Party!"

The 10th District: Wolf

U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10), the most senior of the 11 members of the House of Representatives from Virginia, won his 17th consecutive term on Tuesday. This year, Wolf faced a challenge on two fronts: Democrat Kristin Cabral and Independent Kevin Chisholm fought hard to take his seat.

Wolf won 58.71 percent of the vote (194,817 votes) compared to Cabral's 38.38 percent of the vote (127,355 votes) with 192 of 195 precincts reporting at 1 a.m.

Wolf sits on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, where he is the chairman on the Commerce-Justice-Science subcommittee. In addition, he is the co-chairman of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, a bipartisan organization made up of more than 200 members of Congress who work together to raise awareness about international human rights issues.

The 8th District: Moran

U.S. Rep. James P. Moran won a 12th term in Congress, easily beating his Republican



Photo by Victoria Ross/The Connection

Ron Wiersma of Springfield and Caroline Smith of Reston celebrated with other Democrats at the Sheraton on Tuesday. "Look around you. This is America," Smith said. "Black, white, Asian, Latinos, men and women, young and old. . . . This is our America."

opponent J. Patrick Murray with 63.42 percent (174,974 votes) of the vote over Murray's 31.5 percent of the vote (86,910 votes). A senior member of the Appropriations Committee, Moran serves as the ranking member on the Subcommittee on the Interior and Environment and also serves on the Defense and Military Construction Subcommittees. Throughout his two decades of service in the House of Representatives, Moran has championed regional transportation solutions, the environment, women's issues, technology, fair and open trade, and fiscal discipline. He is also well known for his efforts to protect federal employees and military retirees.



Photos by Louise Kraft/Connection

Rob Whitfield and Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield).

Fairfax Republicans Come Together for Election

Losses by Mitt Romney, George Allen, Chris Perkins put damper on Republican Committee event.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

What started as a night of hope for the Fairfax County Republican Committee ended on something of a sour note, as Republican presidential, senate and congressional candidates were not able to oust incumbents.

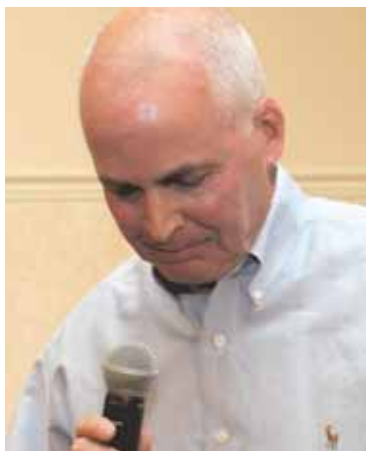
"I think we got off to a great start, I was pleased to see some of the early big states go to Governor [Mitt] Romney, but when I looked up and saw it tied at 153 for about half an hour, I thought he might have run out of steam," said George Pindrell of Falls Church. "It just got hard to remain optimistic seeing states like Pennsylvania go to President Obama, and Mitt needed to win a few surprises to stay in the race, and those just never came."

"We did a lot of hard work thanks to a lot of dedicated people," said Committee Chair Jay McConville. "We knocked on about 130,000 doors since March, and it just wouldn't have been possible to reach and listen to so many people without our volunteers."

As Republican presidential candidate Romney built an early lead thanks to victories in several southern states, Republican senatorial candidate George Allen took an early lead over Democrat Tim Kaine as well.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), said he was energized by the feeling he got at the polls during the day.

"I haven't seen this much excitement within the party since we elected Bob McDonnell in 2009," said Herrity. "I felt it while knocking on doors the last several months, I felt it in the number of yard signs I saw in front yards across Fairfax County and I felt it at the polls today."



Chris Perkins announces that he called U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly to concede the race.

Herrity said reports from his district were long lines throughout the morning, with a gradual slowing into the evening.

"That shows me that everybody, on both sides, felt the need to get out and vote as soon as they could," he said. "It's a great thing to make voting that kind of a priority."

The only candidate in attendance at the event was Republican challenger Chris Perkins, who ran against Gerry Connolly for the 11th district. As the precincts started rolling in, Connolly's lead became insurmountable, and Perkins conceded around 10 p.m.

"The numbers were just not there for us this time, but we

fought a great fight, and it has been one of the most incredible experiences of my life," Perkins said. "It's hard to capture everything I'm feeling right now, but the gratitude for everyone who was with me on this experience is overwhelming."

Much of the crowd seemed to disperse after Perkins' concession, only to get excited one more time as it was announced that Romney won North Carolina, one of the east coast states that had been deemed "too close to call."

But soon the west coast Polls closed, handing Barack Obama California, Washington and Hawaii, bringing his total to 244 electoral votes. Just after 11 p.m. the news broke that Obama had won Ohio, virtually sealing his re-election bid.

"It looked for a bit there like things would turn out right, with Romney and Allen winning, but it went downhill pretty fast," said Chase Neil of Fairfax. "In the end, the only victory Republicans have was keeping Frank Wolf and the majority in the house, but we had those this morning. As people said in a campaign four years ago, we were ready for change."



Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), right, talks with Kevin and Linda O'Brien.



Christopher Smith of Tysons, Amethyst Polk, Lisha Viens, Meredith Delaware, Jane Pyrak and John and Kim Gibbons of Oakton watch the national results come in on an iPad.



Langley High School students Brad Jeter, Deanna Labring, Clayton Kennedy and Xavier Ryan spent the day campaigning for Romney.



Arlington resident Terill Coggins applauds with Mona Roise and Susan Fletcher who are visiting from Frisco, Texas.

News

Helicopter Unit Coordinates Efforts to Save Two Children

Thanks to a series of precise, accurate and well-coordinated efforts among helicopter, K-9, and the Project Lifesaver program, an 8-year-old boy was rescued and delivered home safely.

Police were alerted to a missing juvenile on Saturday, Oct. 13. The little boy, who is autistic, left his Clifton area home on his scooter around 2 p.m. Family and officers searched the home and neighborhood but did not find the missing boy.

Fortunately, this family had registered their son with the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver program (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sheriff/lifesaver.htm).

He wears an electronic bracelet at all times that helps officers locate him in the event of an emergency. With the assistance of the FCPD helicopter, a K-9 team, Fairfax County Sheriff's deputies and ground patrol officers, a faint transmitter signal was heard that led searchers to a heavily wooded area near Otter Run Court.

After about an hour's search, officers spotted the child waist-deep in the frigid waters of Otter Run creek, looking up and watching the helicopter. Officers allowed the boy to pet the K-9, named Nero, and pulled him quickly to safety. The boy, although very cold and wet, was not seriously injured and did not require hospitalization.

After reuniting the boy with his parents, helicopter officers heard a call for emergency help at 4 p.m.



Saving lives: FCPD helicopter on a rescue mission.

A police officer working at Cox's Farm had encountered a toddler who was choking and unconscious. Since the crew was in the vicinity, the crew was immediately able to land in the hay field. They quickly rendered aid and medevaced the child to Inova Fairfax Hospital, rendering care throughout the flight.

"The outstanding coordination in both of these events demonstrates the cooperation necessary among public safety agencies and personnel. Without it, the outcomes could have been drastically different," said Sergeant Mark Smith, the chief flight officer for the FCPD Helicopter Division.

Photo contributed

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News



Photos by Andrea Worker

Suvda Villarroel was busy at the Whole Health Fest. Providing just a sample of the massage therapy available at Comfort and Joy Wellness Spa in Fairfax, Villarroel's massage chair was surrounded all afternoon by eager volunteers.

Getting Fit in Fairfax

Get Fit City of Fairfax presents the free Whole Health Fest.

On Sunday, Sept. 23, from 1-4 p.m., the Stacy C. Sherwood Center in Fairfax was the place to be when Get Fit City of Fairfax presented the free 2012 Whole Health Fest. The 14,000-plus square feet of the facility's main level became a maze of vendors, exhibits, demonstrations, tastings and activities, all focusing on fitness, nutrition and general wellness.

In the first exhibit hall, the perimeter of the room was lined with booths. Staff from the City of Fairfax Parks and Recreation Department distributed copies of the fall edition of their magazine "Leisure Times" and made sure that attendees got the full scoop on all the fitness and leisure opportunities available in the area. The exhibitors also included The Pantry Police, Certified Holistic Health Counselor Jill Dulaney's company offering personalized nutrition and wellness coaching. The team from Conquer the Clutter was on hand to offer tips on organizing your surroundings. INOVA Health Source offered nutrition and cardiac health information and Title Boxing Club, newly opened in the City of Fairfax, had



Karyl Moesel of Vienna looks like a pro as she spars with trainer AJ Smiley from Title Boxing Club in the City of Fairfax. Moesel says she was looking for something a little more active and interesting than the traditional offerings for the Non-Youth groups.

them lining up to try their hands at sparring with one of the club's trainers or having a go at the heavy punching bags. Probably one of the biggest attractions of the exhibit area was the chair massage, offered to more-than-willing volunteers by staff from Comfort and Joy Wellness Spa in Fairfax.

If you could bring yourself to finally get past the
See Get Fit, Page 7

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News

Get Fit

From Page 6

informative exhibits, then the Food Hall beckoned. Just outside the room where healthy food samples were being devoured and cooking demonstrations were underway, local celebrity Madeline Steppel was chatting with the fest-goers and signing copies of her cookbook. The 9-year-old from Reston was the Virginia winner of First Lady Michelle Obama's "Healthy Lunch Challenge" contest with her recipe entry for "Fish Chowder and a Fruity Salad." Steppel and her mom Debra attended a special White House State Dinner for all 54 winners in August, dining with the first lady, meeting the president, and touring the White House and local DC landmarks. During the Health Fest, the youngster also took to the podium to present a slideshow and talk about her experiences.

As if all this wasn't enough to entertain the crowds, there was still all of the action in the Dance Room to catch. To showcase just a few of the programs they have available this season, the Parks and Recreation folks brought along some of their talented instructors. David Cohen led a group from teenagers to seniors in a series of Tai Chi exercises. Martha Hemingway gave a rousing clogging demonstration. Andrea Webb led a Flow Yoga Group, and Cami St. Germain introduced the crowd to Nia, a non-impactive cardiovascular movement practice, inspired by martial arts, dance and healing arts like yoga. It's performed barefoot to diverse music and is adaptable to each participant's ability, providing aerobic and strength benefits at every fitness level.

In a week when new studies warned that more than 50 percent of the population are heading toward obesity in the near future, organizers Cherie Lejeune and Catherine Read provided an afternoon filled with nutritional and fitness education, activity and fun for all ages.



From left, Sydney Thompson, 6, Lainey Thompson, 8, and Alexandra Greenfield, 6, enjoying a dance class demonstration.



Madeline Steppel, 9, from Reston gave a presentation and slideshow describing her experiences as the Virginia Winner of First Lady Michelle Obama's "Healthy Lunch Challenge." The young chef also signed copies of her cookbook. Madeline says she has been cooking since she was 2 years old.



David Cohen gets a group of fest-goers really going with some Tai Chi moves. Cohen teaches both Tai Chi and Pilates with the City of Fairfax.

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Opinion



Barack Obama came to Northern Virginia on Saturday, Nov. 3 with Bill Clinton and Dave Matthews.



Mitt Romney packed the Patriot Center at George Mason University on Monday, Nov. 5. Anne Romney asked: "Will we be neighbors soon?"

Photos by Deb Cobb/The Connection

Feeling Important

Presidential campaigns traversed Northern Virginia on last days, marking the importance of every vote.

The images from the last weeks of the presidential election of 2012 make it clear that it would be hard to overstate the importance of voting, especially in Virginia, especially in Northern Virginia.

Every vote will be important. What I wish for today from Northern Virginia is record turnout and smooth sailing for voters casting their votes.

Writing this the morning of Election Day, it's still fair to say that the race for president and for the U.S. Senate in Virginia is too close to call. It's hard to overstate the difference it will

make when the election results are final.

Mitt Romney came to the George Mason University Patriot Center on Monday, also bestowing attention on Republican Senate candidate George Allen. It was one of several trips to the area.

President Barack Obama came to Prince William County on Saturday, along with Bill Clinton. On Monday, Vice President Joe Biden came to Claude Moore Park. Both visits gave a boost to Democratic Senate candidate Tim Kaine.

The money that has been spent—and raised—here in Virginia is daunting. At the end of Octo-

ber, in 2012, Romney had raised \$10.1 million and Obama \$8.2 million in checks of \$200 or more from Virginians, according to the Virginia Public Access Project. Inside the Beltway donors (different from Northern Virginia in VPAP's categories) gave \$3,193,148 to Obama and \$3,104,160 to Romney. Northern Virginia outside the Beltway gave \$2,694,030 to Obama and \$3,525,796 to Romney.

While either way, about half of voters will be disappointed by the outcomes here, no one will be sorry that this campaign season is over. It's been fun to be a favorite child in some ways, but it will be OK to go back to addressing local issues without the magnification of such an important election.

— Mary Kimm,
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Letters to the Editor

Anti-advertisement

To the Editor:

As you drive down our roads, it is worthy to recall Michael Lee Pope's October 18th article "The Message is not the Median: Fairfax Roadsides Now Free of Political Speech."

In that article, Springfield Republican Delegate David Albo touted his new legislation which according to Springfield Republican Supervisor Pat Herrity clearly addressed and outlawed the posting of political placards in the medians on Fairfax County roads which have "bothered people for a number of years."

"When I see a political sign, to me that's an anti-advertisement," said Albo. "Here's a person who is running to write laws, and they are purposefully violating laws."

Just before I received an e-

mail from the Republican Party asking me to join Delegate Albo at the Springfield Baskin Robbins to campaign for Republican candidates, I saw this long line of 18 George Allen signs in the median just outside my neighborhood, one of many remarkably similar large groupings of Allen signs up and down the median in Braddock Road.

Unlike the very few scattered signs for other candidates, you can tell these placards were placed by an organized campaign by how many there are (they are expensive) and by the way they are spaced, maintained, and moved around as part of a strategy to ensure that they are noticed.

I agree with Delegate Albo on one thing at least: we should not be voting for the candidate whose name is on these signs.

Marc Greidinger
Springfield



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Photo by Liz Roll

(From left) Jim Chandler, director of LIHTC Credits, VHDA; Delegate David Bulova (D-37); Mayor Scott Silverthorne, City of Fairfax; Jane Henderson, president and CEO, Virginia Community Capital; Stephen Smith, vice president, Enterprise Community Investment, Inc.; Wilma Huff, West Wood Oaks resident; and J. Michael Pitchford, president, Community Preservation and Development Corporation, celebrate the completion of the \$6.7 million green renovation of the West Wood Oaks apartments in Fairfax.

Green Renovation

Affordable apartment community completes \$6.7 million green renovation.

Mayor R. Scott Silverthorne and City Manager Bob Sisson joined residents of West Wood Oaks Apartments, located in the heart of Fairfax, to celebrate the community's \$6.7 million green renovation and brand-new clubhouse, just completed by Community Preservation and Development Corporation (CPDC). Known as Suburbia Fairfax before the renovation, the 54-unit property is the only dedicated affordable property in the City of Fairfax by virtue of its income restrictions.

As Northern Virginia's economy continues to thrive, rents have outpaced household incomes, meaning that families must spend more of their hard-earned dollars on housing costs. A study by the National Low-Income Housing Coalition showed that a household in Fairfax must earn \$60,240 per year to afford a typical two-bedroom apartment, a level that is out of reach for many types of professions, such as teachers, social workers and health care workers.

The renovation of West Wood Oaks will ensure quality apartments at rents affordable to many families who otherwise could not afford to live in Fairfax. The property includes 39 apartments reserved for households earning 50 percent or less of area median, considering their family size. Rents for these apartments are 25 percent lower than the average apartment rent in the City of Fairfax. The other 15 apartments are reserved for households earning 51 to 95 percent of the area median.

"This residential community has been a great asset to the city, helping to ensure that people who work in the area can afford to live here," said Silverthorne. "We are delighted that CPDC decided to preserve and

update the property for the long term with this wonderful green renovation and beautiful new clubhouse."

"Our mission is to ensure that communities include high-quality housing that families of all incomes can afford, and we certainly have that here in the City of Fairfax," stated CPDC President and CEO J. Michael Pitchford.

Wilma Huff moved to West Wood Oaks 35 years ago after praying to find a safe, affordable place to call home near her job, then at the National Bank of Fairfax. She moved on to a 25-year career with the City of Fairfax, appreciating her convenient location less than a mile from City Hall and the friendliness of her neighbors.

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

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Sat., Nov. 10th — 10am-2pm

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

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- Paint Colors Made Easy
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When: November 17th, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

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For more information about the Open Season Workshop
 Call Congressman Connolly's District Office
 at 703-256-3071

Wellbeing Cutting a Rug

**Researchers say dancing
 can improve balance and
 mental ability in seniors.**

By Marilyn Campbell
 The Connection

Springfield resident Fred Griffin enjoys a good hoe down and takes pleasure in doing a do-si-do. In fact, he has been square dancing since high school. "At this time in my life, square dancing is the most enjoyable exercise activity, as well as the most consuming mind and body activity, that I participate in," said Griffin, a 76-year-old resident of Greenspring retirement community. Researchers say dancing can improve mental and physical well-being in the elderly. According to studies published in *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience*, dancing can improve cognitive ability and balance, and decrease the risk of falling that often increases with age. "The key to improving balance and coordination, regardless of age, is to challenge it," said Rita Wong, a professor of physical therapy at Marymount University in Arlington. "Dance can be a fun and effective way to challenge your balance and to improve the control and coordination of

your muscles. [This gives you] better control of unanticipated challenges to your balance that occur in real life situations, which may result in a fall if the body is not able to quickly respond to a balance challenge." Wong said dancing is effective because it requires using arms, legs, and torso in coordinated patterns. "Ongoing dance classes should gradually increase the speed and complexity of the dance steps as participants improve with practice," she said. "The amount of challenge should start out geared to the physical activity level of the person." Juanita Kuntz, a Springfield-based wellness coordinator, agrees: "Dance classes, just by their very nature, help maintain balance, coordination and agility. These all help reduce the risk of falling," she said. "Aerobic activity provides extra energy and helps you relax and sleep better." Dancing, like other forms of exercise, can improve mental clarity: "Research shows that physical activity can positively affect connections between nerves in the brain, thereby improving attention and information-processing skills," Dominique Banville, director of George Mason University's Division of Health and Human Performance in Fairfax, said in an email. Kuntz also said that dancing can be a pleasurable social opportunity for seniors: "Add the fun and friends to the mix of a dance class, and it is a near perfect activity for many...seniors."



Springfield resident Fred Griffin has been square dancing since high school. Researchers say dancing can improve mental and physical well-being.

Photo Continued

Bulletin Board

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SATURDAY/NOV. 10
Women in the NAACP Meeting. 10 a.m.-noon, at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Rd., Burke. Meet and discuss the upcoming the NAACP holiday event, to be held Dec. 8.
College Bound: Road to Success. Noon-3 p.m., at the Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax. The Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., hosts the annual luncheon for high school junior and senior African American students; the event focuses on preparing students for the academic, social and financial transition from high school to college. RSVP: www.fcacdst.org/collegebound.
Dog Adoptions. 1-4 p.m. PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Every Saturday. Sponsored by Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. www.lostdogrescue.org.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 14
Where Do I Go For Help? 1: 30 p.m., at the Alzheimer's Family Day Center, 2812 Old Lee Highway, Suite 210, Fairfax. Learn about services available in Fairfax and the greater area for those facing Alzheimer's. RSVP: 703-204-4664.

FRIDAY/NOV. 16
Dog Adoptions. 6:30-8:30 p.m. PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Every Friday. Sponsored by Lost Dog & Cat

Rescue Foundation. www.lostdogrescue.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 17
Open Season Workshop. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main Street, Fairfax. For federal employees/retirees, FEHBP experts will present and answer questions on plan coverage and benefits before open season ends, Dec. 10. 703-256-3071 or www.opm.gov/insure/openseason/.
Dog and Cat Adoptions. 6:30-8:30 p.m. PetSmart Seven Corners, 12971 Fair Lakes Parkway, Fairfax. Every Saturday. Sponsored by Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. www.lostdogrescue.org.
Homeless Animals Rescue Team Dog Adoptions. 12-3 p.m. Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Every Saturday. 703-817-9444 or www.hart90.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 8
Women in the NAACP meeting. 10 a.m.-12 p.m., at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Please join the Women in the NAACP for a holiday event.
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Inova Health System is a not-for-profit healthcare system.

British Murder Mystery At Robinson Secondary

Theater students present “Night Must Fall.”

By Bonnie Hobbs
The Connection

A British murder mystery, “Night Must Fall,” is Robinson Secondary’s upcoming play. It’s slated for Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 15, 16, 17, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at www.robinsondrama.org and \$12 at the door.

“It’s a psychological thriller set circa 1935 in Essex, England,” said Director Chip Rome. “And it’s off the beaten path from the productions most high schools do.”

Cranky old Mrs. Bramson rules over a couple servants; but soon, the household dynamics change. Her niece Olivia comes to stay and

a man from Scotland Yard tells them all a woman is missing. As it turns out, she’s been murdered. Meanwhile, a man named Danny arrives, gets the maid pregnant and charms his way into Bramson’s good graces. But Olivia begins to suspect he was involved in the murder, and the tension keeps building.

“My mother passed away last June, and I remember prompting her, in the 1960s, when she played Olivia in community theater in Worcester, Mass.,” said Rome. His cast and crew of about 30 have rehearsed since early September and he’s pleased with their efforts.

“They’re diving into the challenge of the accents and interpreting their lines and the way their characters evolve over time,” he said. “It’s been a delightful experience to have such a small cast because I can delve into character development in a way in which I can’t in a larger production. This is a character-driven play.”

“It takes the audience on a ride—with enough red herrings and change that they’re not sure where they’re going,” continued Rome. “It’s melodramatic, with the actions and scene transitions enhanced by music. Student Alex Bulova found the original music and, for only key pieces, he trained and conducted the school orchestra and recorded it.”

He says the audience will be fascinated by Danny, whose character has several dimensions. “His attitude flips between quiet, silly, dangerous, charming and threatening,” said Rome. “And people will like the atmosphere of another time and place, plus the building suspense of what misdeeds have been or might be done.”

Sophomore Sarah Marksteiner plays Olivia. “She comes off as uptight, but really has more personality,” said Marksteiner. “She writes poetry in her spare time and secretly longs for a more exciting life. She craves drama, but doesn’t want to admit it.”

“I absolutely love this role,” said Marksteiner. “She has qualities that are almost an extreme version of me, and I like the way she evolves so drastically throughout the piece. I think the audience will really enjoy the tension that starts to develop, and they’ll become attached to the characters.”

Portraying Bramson is senior Carys Meyer. “She’s in a wheelchair and is a crotchety old lady who wants people to do everything for her,” said Meyer. “She



Rehearsing a scene are (back row, from left) Hannah Sikora, Brandy Skaddan, John Turner and Ivonte Milligan; and (front row, from left) Kolya Rabinowitch, Sarah Marksteiner, Lauren Rainford and Carys Meyer.

loves attention, wants to control her whole world and wants everything to revolve around her.”

ENJOYING HER PART, Meyer called it different from her past characters and a complete departure from her own personality. “It’s been interesting playing around with her voice and accent,” she said. “And people push me around in a wheelchair, the whole show, so that’s fun.”

“The show has a lot of humorous moments, but the story will also keep the audience guessing,” said Meyer. “Because it’s a classic murder mystery, it’ll be fun for the audience to try to figure out.”

Senior Ivonte Milligan plays Danny. “He’s a complicated guy and everybody loves him, except Olivia,” said Milligan. “So he tries to get her to love the Danny he shows the public—but he slips up and shows the real Danny. He’s like your average serpent.” Milligan said the audience will like the set, the show’s “dark and mysterious” lighting and mood, plus the overall suspense of the play.

Initially, he said, “I had to wrap my head around who Danny was and what his quirks were. But it’s fun playing somebody crazy who’s calm and collected one moment and blowing up, the next. This is my first lead and it’s nice to have that responsibility; my mom, who’s always supported me, is proud.”

The lighting designer is junior Anna Ready, who created a vision of what the lights in Bramson’s home would be like. “With a show so dramatic, I had to think of different colors and angles of lights that really set the mood for the scenes,” she explained. “The lighting lets the audience know something’s going to happen, without saying anything.”

She said it took about 20 minutes to design, but a month to hang all the lights so they’d work exactly the way she wanted. She controls them by a computerized light board. “My freshman year, I talked with and watched the lighting designer, and it was fascinating,” said Ready. “Then when he graduated, I took over.”

TOUGHEST, she said, is angling all the lights because “if it’s not just right, it’s really obvious.” But she loves the liberty she has “to do what I want with my design. And seeing it actually come to life is a really good feeling.”



Photo courtesy of Fairfax County

A Huntington mom holds her daughter as she surveys the damage to her home that was flooded during Tropical Storm Lee.

Fairfax Votes ‘Yes’ On Bond Package

\$155 million will be used to upgrade, renovate fire stations, libraries, parks and make storm water improvements.

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

On Tuesday, Fairfax County voters overwhelmingly approved \$155 million in bonds to upgrade and renovate libraries, parks, fire stations and courtrooms, and to make storm water improvements to address flooding in the Huntington neighborhood.

With 99 percent of Fairfax County precincts reporting at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 7, each of the four bonds passed by at least 70 percent of the vote.

♦**Libraries (\$25 million):** Funds will be used to renovate three libraries (John Marshall, Pohick and Tysons-Pimmit Regional) and either renovate or relocate the Reston Regional Library. Currently, the 30,000-square-foot library is located north of the Reston Town Center and near the planned Reston Parkway Metro station. Because that area may be redeveloped into a more urban, mixed-use center, the library may be relocated. The \$10 million project includes site studies, design and construction of a new library. The library bond passed with 288,519 “yes” votes (70.6 percent), and 123,300 “no” votes (29.4 percent) with a total of 412,787 votes cast.

♦**Public Safety (\$55 million):** The public safety bond

will raise a total of \$55 million, including \$35 million to replace three fire stations—Baileys Crossroads, Jefferson and Herndon—and \$20 million to renovate 22 courtrooms in the Jennings Judicial Center. The public safety bond passed with 307,217 “yes” votes (74.56 percent), and 104,824 “no” votes (25.44 percent), with a total 412,041 votes cast.

♦**Parks and Park Facilities (\$75 million):** The bulk of the funding, \$63 million, will go to the Fairfax County Park Authority for improvements to existing facilities and for purchase of land. The remainder will support the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. The Fairfax County Park Authority administers 23,194 acres of parkland and 420 individual parks. These include parks that provide countywide services, such as camping, golf, ice skating and swimming as well as RECenters. For community parks, the passage of the bonds mean a wide array of park and recreational facilities, including the first phase of improvements at Monticello Park, Hartland Road Park and White Gardens and continued phased development at Laurel Hill Park and Patriot Park. Countywide improvements in park signage and funding of the Mastenbrook matching grant program are also included.

See Bond, Page 13

The County Line

Eminent Domain Amendment Prevails by Wide Margin

Some lawmakers predict amendment will cost taxpayers millions down the road.

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

Local lawmakers said they were not surprised that nearly two and half million voters (74.6 percent) approved a state constitutional amendment last night further restricting Virginia's power of eminent domain.

But they do predict the unintended consequences of enshrining those restrictions in the state constitution—which some call an act of “corporate welfare”—will cost state and local governments and taxpayers tens of millions of dollars in added compensation to businesses and private landowners.

“The same people who voted for it will express outrage at how much more expensive it is to make road improvements or extend sewer to properties with failing septic systems a year from now,” said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large.)

At issue was not if the government could use the power of eminent domain, but how much corporations, business owners and landowners could be compensated when—in the course of building roads, power lines and many other public projects—the government takes their property through eminent domain.

Many local lawmakers argued the amendment goes too far, requiring taxpayers to compensate landowners not only for the value of condemned property, but for lost access to their property and lost benefits.

In 2007, responding to a populist backlash against a Supreme Court decision allowing the government to use the power of eminent domain to aid private development, Virginia legislators passed a law restricting that power.

“The language in this amendment is completely unnecessary—it bans actions currently illegal in Virginia,” said Del. Scott Surovell (D-44).

“I don't think anyone's arguing that private property owner's rights are not important,” said City of Fairfax Councilman Dan Drummond. “But this is a solution in search of a problem.”

He said the fear is that the amendment will have a “chilling effect” on economic progress and projects that benefit the public.

“Nobody really knows from a local government perspective how this will be used, but the fear is that it could open up a Pandora's Box of litigation that would leave taxpayers footing the bill.”

Bulova said business-owners could construe the amendment as “taking away or diminishing” their

profits when streets are closed and their shops are shut down during popular parades and festivals, such as Viva Vienna or the City of Fairfax Fall Festival, events that attract up to 40,000 people during one weekend.

“These are community-building events, and we're concerned the language in the amendment can be read by individuals as way to seek compensation for lost profits,” Bulova said.

“A shop owner could complain they lost revenue, that festival vendors are taking their business away,” Bulova added. “What if someone decided to make that an issue and seek compensation for lost profits under [the amendment]? The Town of Vienna can't afford to reimburse every shop owner ...”

Del. Dave Albo (R-41), who co-sponsored one of the versions of the law, acknowledged that “lost profits and lost access” could end up making roads more expensive to build.

“But it's fair,” Albo said. “If they run a road and cut off your driveway to the point that no one can get into your restaurant and ruin your business, you should be compensated.”

“Basically, we don't want the government taking private property for something that is not a bona fide government use, for example taking old houses in the name of economic development and then transferring the land to a private hotel,” Albo added.

At the crux of the debate is the Supreme Court's landmark 2005 decision known as the “Kelo decision,” widely considered by scholars, land-use attorneys and local government to be one of the most controversial rulings in recent U.S. history. “Kelo v. City of New London” came before the Supreme Court in 2005. In a 5-4 decision, the court held that the general benefits a community enjoyed from economic growth qualified private redevelopment plans as a permissible “public use” under the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment.

“I think all of this is an overreaction to Kelo,” said Toni-Michelle Travis, a GMU associate professor of government and politics and editor of “The Almanac of Virginia Politics.” “Historically, property owners have always been favored under Virginia law,”

Prior to Kelo, only seven states specifically restricted the use of eminent domain for private development.

As of June 2012, 44 states had enacted some type of reform legislation in response to the Kelo decision, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Of those states, 22 passed laws that severely inhibited the takings allowed by the Kelo decision, while the rest enacted laws that place some limits on the power of municipalities to invoke eminent domain for economic development.

Bulova said local officials take the power of eminent domain seriously:

“Eminent domain is a very heavy power and absolutely needed only for the greater good. We haven't used it to force people off their property. That just doesn't happen in Fairfax County and it never has,” Bulova said.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment Question 1

Precincts reporting: 2588/2588
Votes:
Yes—2,408,032 (74.64 percent)
No—818,314 (25.36 percent)
Total Votes—3,226,346
*Information provided by The Virginia State Board of Elections

“I don't think anyone's arguing that private property owner's rights are not important. But this is a solution in search of a problem.”

—City of Fairfax Councilman Dan Drummond

Bond Package

From Page 12

Nearly \$20 million of the money will include an expansion to Spring Hill RECenter, featuring new fitness space, renovations to the locker rooms, the addition of multi-purpose activity rooms and a new gym area. Oak Marr RECenter will be expanded, featuring new fitness spaces and improved facility flow. Additional features at the Water Mine at Lake Fairfax will be added to enhance the visitor experience and increase capacity. The park bond passed with 297,757 “yes” votes (72.13 percent of the vote) and 115,030 “no” votes, or 27.87 percent of the vote.

❖Storm water Drainage Improvement Bonds (\$30 million): Funding is earmarked for a levee and other storm-water improvements in the Huntington community. In June 2006, 160 homes were flooded and 161 homes were damaged in 2011 during Tropical Storm Lee. Currently, there are 180 homes in the FEMA-designated floodplain that are at risk.

At Fairfax County's request, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers studied the best ways to protect Huntington from future floods. The study examined a number of options, including dredging Cameron Run, buying the flood-prone properties and flood-proofing individual homes.

The study found that building a levee and a pumping station is the most cost-effective way to reduce flooding in the neighborhood. Bond funds are planned to pay to complete the design and build a 2,865-foot-long levee and pumping station, along with buying any land needed for this purpose.

The storm water bonds passed with 316,296 “yes” votes (76.76 percent) and 95,769

“no” votes (23.24 percent) for a total of 412,065 votes cast.

“The projects the bond referendum will pay for are community priorities that essentially enhance our quality of life,” said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large). She said Fairfax County's triple-A credit rating—one of only 39 counties in the country to earn the rating—allows the County to borrow money at a low cost to pay for public facilities and infrastructure.

She said the County has a fiscally conservative policy of rapid debt retirement and strong debt management. Since 1978, the County has saved more than \$543.28 million on bond and refunding sales as a result of the triple-A ratings. Bulova said none of the bonds are expected to raise tax rates for residents.

“The County has benefited from the low cost of construction to make these kinds of improvement to our parks, libraries and public safety facilities. It's the silver lining, so to speak, in the economic downturn,” she said.

Because the bonds spell out the type and cost of projects, Bulova said money cannot be shifted around for other projects. “When you vote, you will know exactly where your money is going,” Bulova said.

In Fairfax County, bonds typically have a high rate of passage and, for the most part, have bipartisan support from the Board of Supervisors.

“All residents benefit from parks, libraries, and, of course, the courthouse renovations. Efficient handling of court cases come from better facilities. Park and library funds are spent in an order established based on needs. Over time that covers the whole County,” said Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock).

Bulletin Board

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Calendar

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THURSDAY/NOV. 8

Celebrating the Season of Art. 9 a.m.-8 p.m., at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. A new holiday art exhibition runs through early January, 2013, and features contemporary artwork from 19 artists. A reception on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 6-9 p.m. provides a chance to meet the artists. www.FairfaxVA.Gov/CommCenter/CommCenter.asp.

FRIDAY/NOV. 9

Major Works Concert. 4 p.m., at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The Robinson Choral Department features the Select Women's Ensemble performing Shona Mass and the Robinson Singers singing African Sanctus; the two join to sing Freedom Trilogy. \$9, adults; \$5 students/seniors. www.robinsonsings.org.
Bye Bye Birdie. 7:30 p.m., at Woodson High School Auditorium, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Get nostalgic

as Albert Peterson, the handsome rock star Conrad Birdie's manager, tries to get out of debt by cashing in on a farewell party for Birdie in which he has to kiss one lucky fan on the Ed Sullivan Show before the actor leaves for the army. www.wtwdrama.org/current.

SATURDAY/NOV. 10

American Freedom Festival and the 2nd Annual Veterans Career Hire. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 7:30 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Part of a nationwide initiative to help veterans find jobs—companies like Accenture, Northrop Grumman, InfoReliance and many more talk, accept qualifications and give on-the-spot interviews. The freedom festival kicks off at 7:30 p.m., featuring Chicago and Kansas. \$39.50-139.50 (for concert). www.affhiringevents.com or www.patriotcenter.com.
Holiday Express Boutique. 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m., at St. Mary of Sorrows Church Hall, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Thanksgiving and Christmas gifts, sweets for sale, a silent auction and a raffle. 703-426-8092.

Bye Bye Birdie. 2 p.m., 7:30 p.m., at Woodson High School Auditorium, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Get nostalgic as Albert Peterson, the handsome rock star Conrad Birdie's manager,

tries to get out of debt by cashing in on a farewell party for Birdie in which he has to kiss one lucky fan on the Ed Sullivan Show before the actor leaves for the army. www.wtwdrama.org/current.

Winterizing Your Home. 2-4:30 p.m., Green Acres Community Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. The City of Fairfax's Sustainability Committee brings area experts together to talk about the best places to caulk your home, how to install a programmable thermostat and how to reap year-round energy savings; children's station with fun activities hosted by Fairfax High School Green Team. 703-385-7805 or Kelly.O'Brien@fairfaxva.gov.

SUNDAY/NOV. 11

Holiday Express Boutique. 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at St. Mary of Sorrows Church Hall, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Thanksgiving and Christmas gifts, sweets for sale, a silent auction and a raffle. 703-426-8092.

MONDAY/NOV. 12

Inspirational Talk on Creativity. 7-9 p.m., at the Gunnell House, Truro

Church, 10520 Main St., Fairfax. Capital Christian Writers present a talk from a 13-book author, contributor to the blog MomLifeToday.com and Today's Christian Woman magazine columnist Susan Alexander Yates. 703-803-9447 or www.ccwriters.org.



The JCCNV 7th Annual Jewish Book Festival

Lots and lots of readings, events and discussions at various times, at 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia hosts a festival through Sunday, Nov. 11 to celebrate Jewish writings and Jewish authors. Ticket prices vary. Visit www.jccnv.org for online registrations and a full list of events.

TUESDAY/NOV. 13

A Taste of Americana. 7 p.m., at Donald Heet Auditorium, Paul VI Catholic High School, 10675 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax. A patriotic concert honoring veterans presented by the Bands and Strings of Paul VI Catholic High School including selections from the works of Irving Berlin, John Philip Sousa, sing-alongs and fiddle tunes; veterans will be given special seating and are encouraged to wear medals and dress in uniform. pvmusicboosters@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 14

Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry. 6:30 p.m., at the Johnson Center Cinema, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The film screening and Q&A with University of Maryland Professor Hasan Elahi explores the artists' blurring of the boundaries of art and politics. gmunfans@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/NOV. 15

Shine a Light on Lung Cancer. 6-8:30 p.m., at Dewberry Life with Cancer Family Center, 8411 Pennell St., Fairfax. Guest speaker Nisa Natrakul, manager of Advocacy Relations for the Lung Cancer Alliance speaks following a discussion on current treatments in lung cancer. 703-776-3777.

FRIDAY/NOV. 16

Friday Night Film Series. 7-9 p.m., at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10215 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Filmmaker Katrina Browne joins with spectators for a showing of her film *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North*; the audience is welcome to bring dinner and friends. 703-503-4579 or www.accotinkuuc.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 17

Community Awareness Day. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Little River Glen Senior Center, 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax. Meet neighbors, enjoy entertainment and refreshments, donate non-perishables to Our Daily Bread, walk the cake walk, win prizes and check your blood pressure. 703-503-8703 ext. 711.

Northern Virginia Mineral Club's 21st Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the HUB in the Student Union Building II, George Mason University, Fairfax. There will be gems, minerals, fossils, meteorites and crystals for sale. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$3 for senior citizens (65+) and teens (13-17); and free for children (12 and under), Scouts in uniform and GMU students with ID. rockclctr@aol.com, www.novamineralclub.org, or 703-281-3767.

Reception: Celebrating the Season of Art. 6-9 p.m., at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. A new holiday art exhibition runs through early January, 2013, and features contemporary artwork from 19 artists; meet the artists at the reception. www.FairfaxVA.Gov/CommCenter/CommCenter.asp.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Masterworks II. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Ken Woods and violinist Benjamin Beilman perform Beethoven's Overture to Coriolan, Op. 62, Symphony No. 2 and Violin Concerto. \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

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'Climb Every Mountain, Ford Every Stream'

'Sound of Music' at Lord of Life.

By Bonnie Hobbs
The Connection

The Lord of Life Lutheran Church will be alive with "The Sound of Music" when its Lord of Life Players perform the classic show of the same name. The church is at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, off Union Mill Road, just past Centreville High.

Show times are Nov. 8 and 9 at 7:30 p.m., and Nov. 10 at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$15; for reserved seats and advance tickets, call Annie Jenks at 703-347-2613. They may also be available at the door.

"It's probably one of the most popular and beloved musicals of all time," said Director Suzy McCarthy. "The Rodgers and Hammerstein music is glorious, and it's based on the true story of the von Trapp family."

"The cast is fantastic, with beautiful voices and awesome acting abilities," continued McCarthy. "We have delightful von Trapp children, plus six other children who play orphans and sing with Maria. There'll be familiar faces from our production of 'It's a Wonderful Life,' plus new people, so it's truly a community effort."

THE CAST AND CREW of 60 includes a live combo and members from the church's locations in both Centreville/Clifton and Fairfax. Professional artist Kari Cannistraro and McCarthy designed the sets. The scenes take place in the Alps, the von Trapps' house, the abbey and Maria's bedroom.

The music director is Bobby Jasinski, who was McCarthy's student when she was Lake Braddock Secondary's choral director. Producer Judy Treichel, who started Lord of Life Players in 1990, calls the cast "disciplined, talented and wonderful to watch."

"It's such a happy story, but also one of God's love and commitment and the importance of family," said McCarthy. "People's hearts will be blessed with the 'Sound of Music.' I guarantee people will leave with smiles on their faces."

Catherine Kyriakakis plays Maria, who goes from wanting to be a nun to taking care of the von Trapp children. "She's spunky, optimistic and always finds the good in situations," said Kyriakakis. "She has a wide-eyed innocence, yet is smart. And she loves God, the von Trapp children and, eventually, their father."

Calling it a "dream role," Kyriakakis said, "I've wanted to play Maria since I first saw this movie on TV at age 5. I'm a private voice teacher, so I've sung my whole life, and this music is just beautiful and timeless. Maria's so full of hope that you want to put your heart out on the stage, every time."

She said the story "touches your heart. It's sad and poignant, yet leaves you feeling that, with God, you can rise above any circumstance and survive. And the children are a joy to work with. It's a show for all ages."

Playing Capt. von Trapp is Paul Denfeld. The story takes place just before Germany invaded Austria, and von Trapp is an officer in the Austrian Navy. "His wife has died, so it pains him to be around his children or have music in his life because they remind him of his wife," said Denfeld. "So he runs his house like he runs his ship—strict and stern."

Almost by accident, Maria reintroduces music into his house when she becomes his children's governess. He discovers what he's been missing and, eventually, falls in love with her.

www.ConnectionNewsletters.com



Photo by Bonnie Hobbs/The Connection

Playing the von Trapp family are (back row, Paul Denfeld and Catherine Kyriakakis; (second row, from left) Amanda Harvey (with guitar), Sebastian Vander Ploeg Fallon and Christopher Jenks; (third row, from left) Sarah Qualley, Kathryn Jenks and Jessica Bryant; and (front) June Johnson.

Kate Ives, a member of the church's Fairfax congregation, portrays the reverend mother, head of the abbey. "She's patient and has a wonderful sense of humor," said Ives. "She can appreciate Maria's individuality and treasure her gift for joy. I picture her as having once been married, losing her husband in WWI and then dedicating her life to God as a nun. She also appreciates Sister Berthe's advice that Maria doesn't belong there."

Ives enjoys her role because "she's a lovely, dignified woman who's the balance for everyone else. And it has a great number to sing—I get to close the first and second acts with 'Climb Every Mountain.' Range-wise, it challenges the whole voice, and it has a powerful message—find something to commit your entire being to, and that's what God wants for you. I like that kernel of truth in this musical."

AMANDA HARVEY, a junior at the Fairfax Academy, plays 16-year-old Liesl, the eldest von Trapp daughter. "She's idealistic and sheltered, but gains an understanding of the world," said Harvey. "She's maternal toward her siblings and a little suspicious of people when she first meets them."

Harvey called Liesl "a ton of fun" to portray. "She's such a lively, happy teenager," said Harvey. "She also gets to do lots of marching and dancing and wear nice costumes." Her favorite song is "Do Re Mi" during which "Liesl makes a great transformation from skeptical and unkind toward Maria to more accepting. She finally has fun again with music and a trust forms."

Harvey says attendees "will be blown away by Catherine and Kate's voices; and June Johnson, who plays Gretl, will enchant the audience. I also think people will sympathize deeply with the von Trapps. Paul does a great job of making the captain seem more tormented than cold. He'll really endear the audience to him. People will take something away from this musical that's very personal."

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Sports

West Springfield's Alcorta Finishes Region Runner-Up

Junior breaks 17 minutes at Burke Lake Park XC course.

By Jon Roetman
The Connection

West Springfield's Caroline Alcorta was frustrated after the Northern Region cross country championships at her inability to keep pace with event-winner Sophie Chase of Lake Braddock.

Alcorta was only "kind of mad," however. After all, her consolation prize was having her name listed among the all-time great performances at Burke Lake Park.

Alcorta finished region runner-up with a personal best and school record time of 16:58 on Nov. 2. It was also the eighth-best girls' time in the history of the course. Chase won her third consecutive region title with a personal-best and school-record time of 16:42, which tied for the third-fastest in the history of the course. Langley's Erin Keogh set the course record of 16:09.7 at the 1985 Northern Region championships.

"I'm kind of mad because in the beginning I think I was supposed to stick with Sophie a little longer and then let her go do her thing, but I dropped off too quickly," Alcorta said. "But I'm still really happy."

Alcorta became just the ninth girls' runner to break 17 minutes at Burke Lake Park.

"That was an 'A' race," West Springfield Head Coach Chris Pellegrini said. "The goal all along was to see if she could push sub-17 and try to stay as close to Sophie as possible. I think at this point, that's more of a confidence thing than anything else. If she starts believing she can hang on, hang on, hang on, I think her ability is there to be pretty close. Sixteen [minutes], 58 [seconds] is outstanding."

Alcorta has finished at least second in each race in which she has participated this season. She has her sights set on continuing that streak at states on Saturday, Nov. 10 at Great Meadow.

"I'm really excited considering last year I don't think I did as well as I probably could have," said Alcorta, who placed eighth at states in 2011. "I think this year I could try and get runner-up. I've been lucky so far this season not finishing worse than second, so I really want to keep that going."

Alcorta's effort at regionals helped the West Spring-



Photo by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection

West Springfield junior Caroline Alcorta's time of 16:58 at the Northern Region cross country championships on Nov. 2. was the eighth-fastest girls' performance in the history of the Burke Lake Park course.

field girls' team place fourth and earn a state berth. The top four teams and top 15 individuals qualify for states.

The Spartans finished with a score of 116. Lake Braddock won the event with a total of 38, followed by Oakton (92) and Chantilly (109).

Maddie Wittich placed ninth for West Springfield with a time of 17:45. Katie Kennedy (18:21) finished 16th, Erin Falk (19:13) was 46th and Jessica Simmons (19:25) was 54th.

Wittich, a senior, earned all-region honors and said her time was a 20-second personal best.

"I'm excited with my race," she said. "I've been waiting for this the entire season. I went out there and I knew it was my last chance, so I gave it everything I had and I couldn't be happier."

"That was an 'A' race."
— West Springfield XC coach Chris Pellegrini about Caroline Alcorta



South County senior Alexis Schramm assisted the game-winning goal against Fairfax in the Northern Region Field Hockey semifinals on Nov. 1, which gave the Stallions a state tournament berth.



Fairfax senior Shannon Cosgrove scored a team-high 18 goals this season.

Photos by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection

South County Field Hockey Loses at States

The South County field hockey team's season came to an end on Nov. 6 when the Stallions lost at Stafford, 2-1, in overtime of the state quarterfinals.

South County reached the state tournament each of the last two seasons. The Stallions qualified for states by beating Fairfax, 1-0, in overtime in the Northern Region semifinals on Nov. 1 at Washington-Lee High School. With Fairfax down a player after a yellow card, Abby English scored the game-winner on an assist from Alexis Schramm.

"Erica Smedberg had the perfect pass to me at the top of the circle," Schramm said after the game, "and I just passed it down to Abby and she had the nice tip on it."

Two days later, South County faced Westfield in the region final for the second consecutive season. After beating the Bulldogs last year, the Stallions came up short on Nov. 3, losing 4-1.

South County finished the season with a 17-7 record.

Senior forward Schramm, sophomore forward English, junior midfielder Smedberg, junior forward Sydney Southard and junior forward Isabel Josephs were each named first team All-Patriot District.

Fairfax Field Hockey Falls to South County

For the fourth straight year, the Fairfax field hockey team ended its

season with a loss to South County in the Northern Region Tournament.

This year, the Rebels lost to the Stallions, 1-0, in overtime in the semifinals, falling one win shy of the state tournament.

Fairfax went down a player in overtime after a yellow card and South County scored the game-winner.

"It was supposed to be rebuilding year," Fairfax Head Coach Amber Beaudoin said. "When we first started winning ... you're sort of like, 'Wow, how did we do this?' ... We lost eight starters off of last year's team and to get all the way back here, I think that shows you the power of the seniors that we have and their leadership. I think the younger players expect to win now."

"I'm not saying we're the New England Patriots yet, but we sort of walk on the field and they sort of expect to get to this point. It's a little tiring to lose to the same team all the time."

Fairfax finished the season with a 19-2 record, losing only to the two region final participants: South County and Westfield. The Rebels won their first 11 games and captured their fourth consecutive Liberty District title. Senior forward Shannon Cosgrove led the team with 18 goals.

"It definitely hurts the worst," Cosgrove said, comparing this year's postseason loss against South County to the previous three. "All the girls the year above us, since we were so close to beating them last year, they were really pulling for us and all week they've been texting us and it's just hard to go back and tell them that we lost again."

Cosgrove, junior defender Sara Allen, sophomore midfielder Meg Robertson and senior midfielder Sam Zelenack

were named first team All-Liberty District. Beaudoin was named district Coach of the Year.

Cross Country Runners Advance to States

The Chantilly boys' and Lake Braddock girls' teams won titles and produced individual champs at the Northern Region cross country championships on Nov. 2 at Burke Lake Park.

The Chantilly boys' captured the team title with a score of 39. Oakton finished second (85), followed by Robinson (87) and Lake Braddock (124). The top four teams and top 15 individuals qualified for states, scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 10 at Great Meadow.

Chantilly's Sean McGorty won the event, followed by Lake Braddock's Nick Tuck, Chantilly's Logan Miller, Edison's Louis Colson and Oakton's Jack Stoney.

Madison's Matthew Calem, Robinson's John Tolbert, Chantilly's Faris Sakallah, Stone Bridge's Brady Guertin and Chantilly's Ryan McGorty completed the top 10. Herndon's Bradley Heuer, South County's Alec Jones, Lake Braddock's Alex Corbett, Marshall's MacKenzie Haight and Washington-Lee's Hailey Damsie also earned all-region.

Lake Braddock won the girls' team title with a score of 38, followed by Oakton (92), Chantilly (109) and West Springfield (116).

Lake Braddock's Sophie Chase won the event, followed by West Springfield's Caroline Alcorta, Lake Braddock's Hannah Christen, Oakton's Allie Klimkiewicz and Robinson's Macey Schweikert.

Lake Braddock's Katie Roche finished sixth, followed by Chantilly's Alexa Cowne, Robinson's Lauren Berman, West Springfield's Maddie Wittich and Lee's Bailey Kolonich. Washington-Lee's Sarah Angell was 11th, and Edison's Jennifer Flack, Lake Braddock's Katy Kunc, West Potomac's Katie Genuario and Westfield's Sara Freix closed out all-region honors.



Robinson's Lauren Berman (158) and Macey Schweikert (162) finished eighth and fifth, respectively, at the Northern Region cross country championships on Nov. 2 at Burke Lake Park.

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Joe Java Coffee, LLC trading as Silver Spoon Caterers, 12450 Fair Lakes Circle, Fairfax, VA 22033. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Mixed Beverage Caterer Limited license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Audrey Lustre owner

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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21 Announcements

OBITUARY
Anne E. Green, age 89, of Great Falls, VA died on October 14, 2012 at her home, surrounded by her family.

"Annelie" Kuhn was born on January 13, 1923 in Fritzlar, Germany. In addition to her native German, Anne spoke French, English, and Spanish. She met her beloved husband, the late COL. Frank R. Green USAF retired, in the first months after World War II when Anne was assigned to work as a translator with the dashing young Army Air Corps pilot. They fell deeply in love and Frank became the first field grade officer to be granted permission to marry a German citizen after the war. Frank and Anne sailed off to a new life in the USA and Anne took to the life of a US military officer's wife immediately, becoming an active participant and even president, of the officers' wives clubs wherever Frank served. They enjoyed traveling the world with the USAF and also as private tourists. Anne even rented a car and took her young daughters on a month-long trip of a lifetime through Europe so she could share her European heritage with them. Her language skills, ebullience and extraordinary energy made life and travel with Anne a cherished adventure. After retirement, Frank and Anne lived initially in the Lake Barcroft area of Falls Church, moving to Great Falls in 1978. In Great Falls Anne was active in the Republican Women's Club and the Great Falls United Methodist Church. She also raised funds for the telecommunications for the deaf program.

Anne was the devoted mother of Anne Green Baughman of Vienna, VA and Barbara J. Green of Cohasset, MA. She also is survived by her two grandsons, Stephen R. Baughman of Arlington, and Philip W. Baughman of Great Falls, who cherished their extremely close relationship with their grandmother, and by her son-in-law, William W. Baughman, Jr.

A Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, November 11th at 3pm at the Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066. Funeral Services at Ft. Myer Old Post Chapel will be held on Monday, November 26th at 3pm, with graveside services immediately following at Arlington National Cemetery.

The family suggests that memorial contributions may be made to the Military Officers' Association of America (MOAA) Scholarship Fund (www.moaa.org, 201 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314), or to the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum (www.mightyeighth.org, P.O. Box 1992, Savannah, GA 31402), or the Air Force Memorial Foundation (www.airforcememorial.org, 1 Air Force Memorial Drive, Arlington, VA 22204). Please view and sign the family guest book at www.moneyandking.com. Arrangements by Money and King Funeral Home, Vienna, VA.

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21 Announcements

Request for Public Comment
The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority is seeking public comment on proposed enhancements to the existing 4-mile long advanced loop of the Mountain Bike Trail at Fountainhead Regional Park in Fairfax Station, Virginia. The project will rehabilitate 1.0 mile of existing trail, close 2.8 miles of unsustainable trail, and build 4.5 miles of new trail using International Mountain Bicycling Association sustainable trail building standards. Please visit our website at www.nvrpa.org or contact (703)352-5900 for more information. Written comments must be received by 5pm December 7th, 2012 at NVRPA, 5400 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039 or by email at plandev@nvrpa.org.

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