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# News



Santa Claus wraps up the first trip on the 495 Express Lanes on the new Westpark Drive bridge Friday, Nov. 16. The lanes opened to the public Saturday, Nov. 17, providing a new alternative for Beltway drivers.



Gov. Robert McDonnell cuts the ribbon on the 495 Express Lanes Tuesday, Nov. 13 at the Sheraton Tysons.

# New 495 Express Lanes Open for Business

Fourteen mile stretch of tolled lanes open from Dulles Toll Road to Springfield.

> By Alex McVeigh The Connection

he 495 Express lanes opened to traffic in the early morning hours of Saturday, Nov. 17, marking the completion of a project more than 10 years and \$2 billion in the making. The project adds two toll lanes on 14 miles of the Beltway in Virginia, in an effort to ease the road's traffic congestion.

"As this area, the economic engine of the state, continues to grow, the infrastructure has to keep up with that, and today is another sign we're willing to meet that challenge," said Gov. Robert McDonnell at the opening event Tuesday, Nov. 13 in Tysons Corner. "This project has pumped billions of dollars into the economy and put thousands of people to work, and hopefully it will begin to undo some of the gridlock in this area and give travelers a new choice."

The 14-mile stretch of express lanes starts just north of the Dulles Toll Road exit and goes south to the Springfield Interchange. Heading south, exits are at the Dulles Toll Road, Jones Branch Drive, Westpark Drive, Route 123, Route 7, Route 66, Lee Highway, Gallows Road and Braddock Road.

Several Tysons exits, such as Jones Branch Drive and Westpark Drive, are open only to express lanes users in order to allow drivers to access parts of Tysons Corner without using Route 123 or Route 7.

"On a Saturday, without rush hour traffic, that's the clear advantage of the lanes, that I could take Braddock Road right to the Westpark exit and get to the mall parking lot without going on any major roads," said Steve Smith of Springfield. "Coming from Braddock on a Saturday afternoon, I



The 495 Express Lanes opened Saturday, Nov. 17, providing two new toll lanes over 14 miles of the Beltway from the Dulles Toll Road to Springfield.

think I paid about \$1.20, \$1.30, something like that, which wasn't bad. If it's a weekday rush hour and that rises to \$3 or more, I'm not sure if I'd be willing to do that though."

On Monday, Nov. 19, at 9 a.m., traffic was flowing at a steady rate through the Beltway at almost the same rate as the weekend, and the rate for going the full length of the lanes cost \$1.65.

The price will range from 20 cents per mile to \$1.25 per mile depending on congestion. Officials estimate the average toll would be between \$3 and \$6, but it could be as more than \$15 if traffic is bad.

Speaking at the Nov. 13 opening event, Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) said it only took his trip from his district to the Tysons Corner Sheraton to show why this project was needed

"When I took the Beltway just this morning, it was a reinforcement that it shouldn't take an hour to get from Springfield to

Tysons Corner, and with this project open, I know it won't take an hour," he said.

THE EXPRESS LANES PRICE can change as quickly as every 15 minutes, as an algorithm will determine when to raise and lower the price. According to the I-95 Exit Guide website, which ranks traffic in real time on a scale of green (moving freely), yellow, red and black (at a virtual standstill), the Beltway was green over the weekend, and a complete trip across the 14 miles of express lanes cost around \$1.65. Drivers with three or more people in the car will not be tolled, if they acquire the new EZ Pass Flex and use it on HOV mode.

The project was built using private and public funds, with \$588 million coming from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loan program, \$300 million in other federal aid and \$600 million in private activity bonds. The Virginia Depart-

ment of Transportation and Capital Beltway Express will fund the remainder of the project.

"These public-private partnerships hold the key to leveraging scarce resources at the state level for major transportation projects," McDonnell said.

"You see pavement, I see jobs. We all know road construction does a lot of good when it comes to putting people back to work," he said. "During the heart of this economic crisis over the last four years, the 495 Express Lanes project pumped more than \$3.5 billion into Virginia's economy, and put more small businesses and women- and minority-owned businesses to work than any other transportation project in the history of Virginia."

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly also gave credit to past officials in the creation of the express lanes. "Three governors ... have worked hard to make today happen, as well as lots of local and state officials across party lines to create a new model for creating infrastructure in Virginia," Connolly said. "This project was also able to get funds to repair 58 bridges and ramps approved in an ancillary part of this project, \$300 million that we couldn't afford in the public sector."

**FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRA- TOR** Victor Mendez said the effects of the

project will reach much farther than just the areas surrounding the Beltway.

"The impact that this project will have is not just the commonwealth, but the entire capital region. People all over the country are looking at this, because it is the model of what could happen around the entire nation," he said. "Transportation is supposed to connect people, places and economies, but we're also looking for new ways to make those connections better."

More information on the 495 Express Lanes, including past and present toll rates and live traffic footage of current Beltway conditions, can be found at www.495expresslanes.com.

# News



McLean resident Scott Jenkins at Springer Mountain in Georgia, the southernmost point of the Appalachian Trail. Jenkins hiked the 2,100-plus miles of the trail from Maine to Georgia, joined on most of the trip by his son Tracy.



From left, Tracy, Scott and Lisa Jenkins of McLean, at Mount Katahdin in Maine, the northernmost point of the Appalachian Trail. Tracy and Scott Jenkins hiked from Maine to Harpers Ferry, W.V. on the trail, and Scott finished the entire 2,100-plus mile trip to Georgia in October.

# Family Makes it on the Trail

# Scott Jenkins, son Tracy hike Appalachian Trail over summer.

By Alex McVeigh The Connection

hile it's said that a journey begins with a single step, for the Jenkins family of McLean, their 2,000-mile plus journey began by literally climbing a mountain. Mount Katahdin in Maine, to be precise, the northernmost part of the 2,184-mile Appalachian Trail. Scott Jenkins, his wife Lisa and son Tracy all scaled the mountain in mid-May.

Scott and Tracy Jenkins had wanted to hike the trail for years, even doing a five-day 50 mile hike during one of Tracy's spring breaks that Scott says "only whetted our appetite."

They planned this trip about a year-and-a-half in advance to coincide with Tracy's graduation from William and Mary, and Scott was able to get a leave of absence from his job.

"I requested about five months off, I didn't know what to expect only that we wanted to start about May and be back by Thanksgiving," Scott Jenkins said. "I finished on Oct. 9, about six weeks early."

Due to their May start, they decided to go southbound, from Maine to Georgia, because a northbound trip wouldn't get them to Maine before it got too cold.

"It's harder to start in the North, because there's Mount Katahdin and then the 100mile Wilderness, a stretch that doesn't pass through any civilization," Scott Jenkins said. "We didn't really have our hiking legs yet, so the first few weeks we hiked our way into shape."

Tracy Jenkins said the mountains in Maine and New Hampshire were among the best sights of the journey.

"The views were great, just sitting on top

of a mountain where you don't see a single thing that was manmade," Tracy Jenkins said. "No roads, not even places that have been logged. It's hard to come back, just the other day I got the feeling in my bones, like I need to get out to the mountains instead of being stuck in the D.C. area doing schoolwork."

Since they were moving south while the majority of hikers were going north, Scott and Tracy's hike was largely solitary, only meeting hikers that crossed their path going north.

"We met a lot of people from the West Coast, and a lot of people from Germany, oddly enough," Scott Jenkins said. "The National Geographic Society created a documentary about the trail, which aired last fall in Germany, and it got a lot of people excited."

The two took a few detours, taking some time off to attend a wedding in New York, and Scott took some time to visit the family farm in Madison County, Va.

They also ran into their fair share of obstacles, whether it was a few close encounters with copperheads and rattlesnakes, or long stretches where the summer's drought left them without readily available water.

They were supported from afar by Lisa Jenkins, who spent the summer at home, but was able to send them supplies on the road and meet them on occasion.

"As the weather changed, they needed less warm clothes, less fleece and long johns, so I sent them lighter clothes," Lisa Jenkins said. "In about mid-September I sent their cold weather gear back, because it was starting to get cold again."

Scott Jenkins says he went through four pairs of boots during the trip, with one pair lasting only two weeks before the soles wore out.

**THE TWO QUICKLY LEARNED** how to tell the difference between essential and non-essential items, as every ounce in their backpacks became important as they lugged it over hundreds of miles.

"The little things ad up, things like my harmonica or my sunglasses were sent home pretty quick," Scott Jenkins said. "You carry literally what you need to survive, food, clothes, sleeping bags, that's it."

They quickly found themselves experiencing what hikers refer to as "trail magic," when they were able to find supplies left for hikers, and "trail angels," fellow hikers or people who live near the trails that provided them with everything from muchneeded water to a cold bottle of beer.

"One time we were outside of Pennsylvania and found a few empty water jugs, so we headed to a nearby ski lodge to fill them. And on the way, a man picked us up and gave us a ride, and he turned out to be the executive chef of the lodge," Scott Jenkins said. "He took us to the kitchen and loaded us up with fried chicken, corn, mashed potatoes, and packed up bags to go. For the next two days we were coming across fellow hikers and offering them fried chicken, and they thought we were joking until we pulled out the huge Ziploc bags from our packs."

Scott and Tracy benefited from trail magic, but they also did their part to help out as well

"One day we were hiking near Boiling Springs, Penn. and we came across a fire that hadn't been put out, and there was all this peat around that had been burning for days," Tracy Jenkins said. "We didn't have anywhere near the amount of water it would have taken to put it out, so we basically started digging and tried to smother

it with our hands and knives."

While on the trail the two were practically impervious to news that didn't involve trail conditions ahead of them. Election news, even baseball (of which Scott is a fan) news didn't make it to them.

"We did come into two towns on the trip and saw the flags at the local post office at half mast, which was scary, because who knows what could have happened," Scott Jenkins said. "The two occasions were the Colorado movie theater shooting, and the Sikh temple shooting in Wisconsin."

Tracy Jenkins had to start graduate school at the end of August, but was able to accompany his father from Maine to Harpers Ferry, W.V.

"Once I started hiking alone, it was a totally different mindset. I had to carry everything myself, and do everything myself, from setup the tent, to starting a fire, to hanging the bear bag," Scott Jenkins said. "I had to be much more cautious, much more thoughtful, because if I get hurt, or something happens, I'm out there alone.

"I thoroughly enjoyed this chance to bond with my son, to take on a challenge as equal partners," Scott Jenkins said. "It was a great opportunity to spend time together doing something we both love, and experiencing it together."

**SCOTT AND LISA JENKINS** say they hope to remain involved in the Appalachian Trail hiking community, maybe even looking for a chance to get a place nearby and become trail angels themselves.

"It's an experience that brings everyone to the same level, you have the same clothes, same equipment, you're going through the same trails as everyone else," Lisa Jenkins said. "Being able to access this remote wilderness is important in this society, and the trail is one of this country's great resources."

# Week in McLean

# Former Teacher Charged With Sex Assaults

Following a year-long investigation, detectives charged a 73-yearold McLean man with three counts of indecent liberties and one of abduction with intent to defile involving four of his former students. Christopher R. Kloman, of Julie Avenue, taught at the Potomac School in McLean from 1965 until 1994. Later, he taught at schools in Maryland and most recently worked there as a substitute teacher until the investigation began. Police arrested Kloman around 1 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 16 and transported him to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

The investigation began when police received a report in November 2011 from a woman who reported that she was molested by Kloman as a 12-year-old; 43-years earlier. He had been one of her elementary school teachers. She reported the incident to the Washington Episcopal School, where she ran into him and saw that he was teaching children.

The investigation revealed additional victims; all girls between the ages of 12 and 14 when the alleged offenses occurred between 1968 and 1969. While police believe there may be additional victims, they have no evidence indicating that any of these incidents occurred since the early 1980s.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

# McLean Community Foundation Supports Medical Care for Children

The Medical Care for Children Partnership (MCCP) has received a \$7,600 grant from the McLean Community Foundation. The grant supports MCCP's efforts to provide comprehensive care to medically underserved children of lower-income working families in the McLean district. MCF President Richard Sullivan said that "This is an unusual investment for the foundation in recognition of MCCF's important contribution in this time of high need."



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# Be a Part of CHILDREN'S (& TEENS') CONNECTION

Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The McLean Connection turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions. short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: ChildrensNorth@ connectionnews papers.com. or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) by Dec. 5, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name. age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information. call 703-778-9410.

# CONNECTION

Be a part of our **Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Questions? E-mail sales@connection newspapers.com or call 703-778-9431

# Viewpoints

# What are you thankful for on this Thanksgiving Day?

—Lori Baker



Lisa Joy, realtor from McLean

"I'm thankful for a loving family and great friends. I think the older I get, the more I appreciate those things."



Chris Roberts, government contracting firm CFO, from McLean

"Some of the things we can give thanks for are out of our control: the weather, the economy. But we're doing better than other parts of the world. I'm happy that the children are in a great school. We have great friends. We're in a strong community. It's just been a pretty good year. I'm also thankful that the natural disasters that have come through recently have managed to dodge us. I know how horrible it is because my wife's family is up in Long Island, and they're still without power. It's cold, it's dark, it's a very difficult time for them. We're fortunate."



Daniele Paul, owner of Hair for All Seasons salon, from McLean

"I am thankful for God, for my parents, and I am thankful for the USA. This country has given me a better life than what I had. I pray for peace, and that people have love in their hearts and respect for peace. And I have respect and love for the country where I grew up, Vietnam."



Sarah Allen, senior at Georgetown Visitation, from McLean

"This year I am especially thankful that I get to spend time with my family, because next year I'll be at college. So I'm just taking time to appreciate all the time I have with them, and as many memories as possible. My main focus is on my family because I won't get to be with them next year. And all my friends, because I guess we'll be going our separate ways next year."



**Susan Nolan**, programming VP for the Safe Community Coalition, from McLean

"I'm just thankful for all the blessings that I've received: my family, our health, and time with friends. It comes down to the simple stuff"



**Kim Romary**, interior designer, from McLean

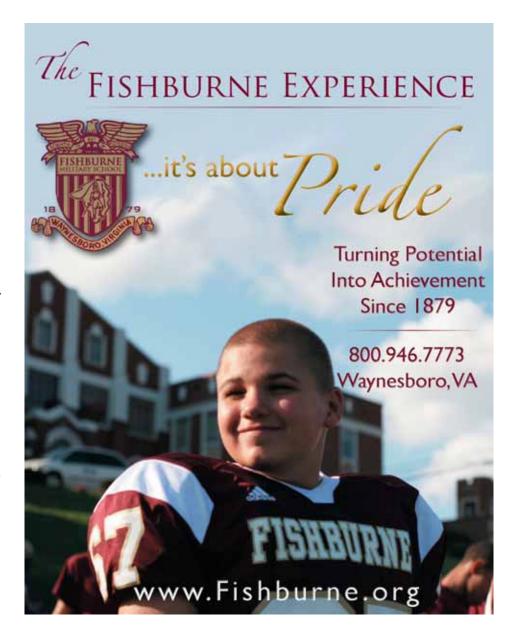
"I am especially thankful that my father is going to be 90 years old. He was born in 1922, and he's seen an amazing amount of changes in his life. In his lifetime he got to see an African American become president of the United States. I mean, how cool is that? He was born way before civil rights. And as a black man in this country, I'm sure he had a really, really hard time. He's full of life. He has a sense of humor. I would say that's probably the thing that I'm most thankful for."



Neil Smith, business consultant, from McLean

"I am really thankful for our family and close friends, who are like family. I think that's just heightened this year because all of the losses and near-losses that we've seen other families go through this year.

We've both been so busy this year at work, and the kids have been busy too. All of a sudden the kids have grown up. And so I think the losses just help us remember what's really important; and remember that although work is busy, we have to make time for family and friends."





# Opinion Diversity Growing

a series about immigration, diversity and the growing population of foreign-born residents in Fairfax County. County reporter Victoria Ross opens with a story that captures vignettes and statistics of the changing population.

It is a topic consistent with the original Thanksgiving story.

More than 28 percent of Fairfax County's population is foreign born; that's 317,000 resi-

Consider Yesuf Beshir from Ethiopia, who two years ago settled in Springfield and now works for a government contractor. In May, he became an American citizen. "The main thing here is democracy, the right to vote," Beshir said.

These residents include nearly 20,000 who are self-employed business owners, truly job creators, large and small. One of these is Shami Walia who emigrated from India in 1982, and now owns Burke Cigar Shop, a popular cigar lounge that's become a neighborhood fixture. One part of our series will look at the business impacts of the foreign-born population.

Fairfax County Public Schools are harbingers of change: 38,760 Fairfax County elementary school students, that is 44 percent of all elementary school students in public schools here, spoke a language other than English at home as of May 2009. And between them, they speak more than 100 different languages. Another part of our series will look at the challenges and opportunities in Fairfax County Public Schools.

Consider Hutchison Elementary in Herndon, where 63 percent of students have limited English. And Crestwood Elementary in Springfield, where 68 percent of students have lim-

his week, the Connection kicks off ited English. At Lynbrook Elementary, also in Springfield, 74 percent of students have limited English. At Mount Vernon Woods, in Mount Vernon, 52 percent of students have limited English. At Dogwood Elementary in Reston, 56 percent of students have limited English.

> Tune in and let us know what you think. You can submit a letter to the editor at connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/

> > Mary Kimm, mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

# Be Part of Children's Connection

During the last week of each year, The Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Please provide the submissions by Monday, Dec. 3.

Some suggestions:

Drawings or paintings or photographs of your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or

# Tune in to our series on immigration.

scanned and submitted in jpeg format.

Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What is one thing that you would change about school? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good parent? What makes a good friend? What is the best or worst thing that ever happened to you? What is the best gift you've ever given? Ever received?

Your opinion (50 to 100 words) about traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, etc.

Poetry or other creative writing.

Opinion pieces about family, friends, movies, traffic, sports, food, video games, toys, trends, etc.

News stories from school newspapers.

We welcome contributions from families, public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers.

Email submissions for the Vienna/Oakton, McLean, Great Falls, Reston and Oak Hill/ Herndon Children's Connections to kemal@connectionnewspapers.com.

Email submissions for Springfield, Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connections to South@Connectionnewspapers.com.

To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD to Children's Connection, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Please send all submissions by Dec. 3. The Children's Connection will publish the week of Dec. 27, 2012.

Focus on Immigration

# **Embracing Our Diversity**

By U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) Special to the Connection Newspapers

f you can ever find the time to attend a federal naturalization ceremony in Fairfax County for new citizens, do it. It reinvigorates one's patriotism and reminds us all how lucky we are to be Americans.

I've participated in several of the large swearing in ceremonies that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service holds each year in Fairfax. After leading the Pledge of Allegiance for the hundreds of newly-minted citizens and their proud families, I have the honor of addressing them about what it means to be an American.

I tell them that America, a country of immigrants, is a place of opportunity where you can pursue



**Connolly leads Pledge of** Allegiance for new citizens.

your dreams and raise your families without fearing that somebody's government is going to tell you what to think, how to express yourself, what to believe, or how to worship. Too often, we take these rights for granted, but many of our new neighbors do not. These new citizens come to

Fairfax from all over the world. Many come from places where they experienced violence or suppression of thought, or the suppression of their right to participate in their government. Many are professionals skilled in medicine, technology, and engineering, or entrepreneurs and small business owners who have worked hard and contributed to Northern Virginia's robust economy.

And when their day finally comes and they recite their Oath of Allegiance to earn the title "American citizen," their pride is palpable, the mood is festive, and the respect they show for their new flag and their new nation is inspiring.

The overall ceremony is an emotional and inspiring experience for everyone in the room, as small children clutch American flags, spouses hug, and tears well in the eyes of many of the family members in attendance.

These new Americans have helped change the face of Fairfax County and the Northern Virginia region in many ways over the last three decades. The diversity of our residents has enriched the fabric of our society and their efforts have helped our economy grow. Today, Fairfax County has the second highest median family income in the nation, some of the best public schools in the nation, a quality of life second to none, and we continue to create jobs in the county at a rate that outpaces most other communities across the nation.

Here in Fairfax County we have embraced the benefits that diversity brings to our community, and we are better for it.

# ■ McLean

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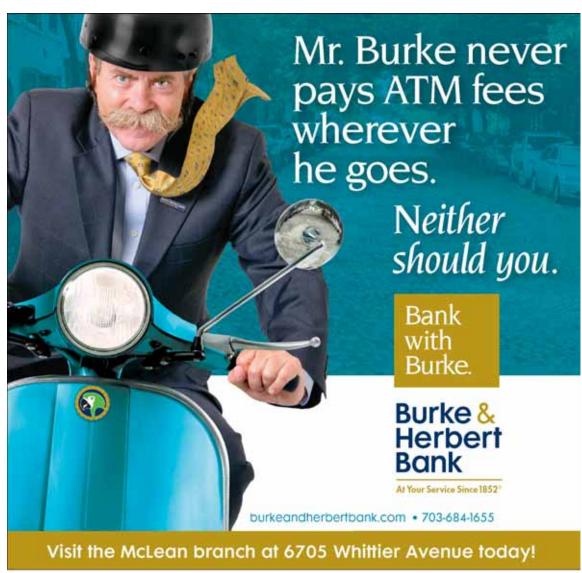
# People



Photo Contributed

# Carole Herrick Inducted Into Tennis Hall of Fame

Earlier this month, Carole Loop Herrick, center, was inducted into the National Women's Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame. To her right is Mildred West, curator of the Hall of Fame Museum and to her left is Betsy Nagelsen McCormack, former women's top grand slam player. Herrick was a nationally ranked top twenty U. S. player for several years. During her career she won the California High School Championship for her school, Pacific High. Playing for Los Angeles State College she won the California Collegiate Singles and, later, the California Doubles Championship with partner Billie Jean Moffitt (King). She was a finalist in the National Collegiate Championship and won the National Collegiate Championship with partner Connie Jaster.





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# Focus on Immigration

# Finding Home in Fairfax County

Fairfax County has become an immigrant gateway—a place immigrants choose as their destination.

By Victoria Ross

Part one of an ongoing series.

esuf Beshir spent nearly three years gathering the mountain of paperwork he needed to leave Ethiopia and emigrate to America. Two years ago, he settled in Springfield and now works as a government contractor. In May, he became an American citizen.

"The main thing here is democracy, the right to vote," Beshir said. "You can be what you want in America. You can be president. If you want to be a doctor, you can be a doctor. I tell my daughter that the possibilities in America are end-

Shahinaz Hassan of Fairfax, originally from Egypt, also became an American citizen in May. "I am happy for today. Everything gets easier here," she said.

In 1982, Shami Walia emigrated from India. He was 18 years old, and worked in "every job you can think of" all over Northern Virginia. "I didn't have anything when I came here, but I worked hard." He now owns Burke Cigar Shop, a popular cigar lounge that's become a neighborhood fixture.

Rosemary Osei came to Centreville in 2000 from Ghana. Fairfax County's population was said Frederic Bemak, PhD, direc-The 22-year-old voted in her first white and middle-class. In the fall presidential election this month, and works as a special needs beginning elementary school in teacher in Vienna.

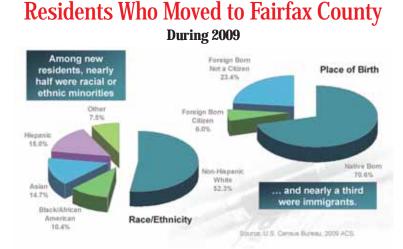
America 14 years ago from India. Herndon and Centreville (which In 2002, he founded the Fairfax- did not yet have one major grocery based Multivision IT company; by store or drug store)—could look to 2007 the company employed 200 his left, or look to his right, and people and had \$32 million in see a classroom full of children

Andy Ton came from Vietnam. He now owns Andy's Barbershop spoke English. in Vienna, where customers line up out the door on the weekends. Del. Mark Keam (D-35), the first Korean would almost certainly encounter said. American and the first Asian-born a classmate who did not speak Enimmigrant to serve in the Virginia General Assembly, is one of his whose parents or grandparents regular customers.

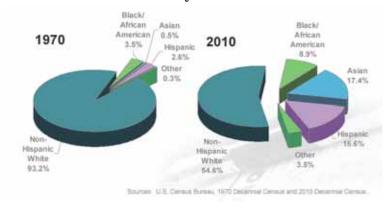
their own talents, culture, hopes, in Africa. fears, sorrows, skills and needs. According to the 2010 U.S. De- of migrants will comprise one third currently speak a language other policy at the Brookings Institution. have turned a blind eye to this Collectively, they have perma-cennial Census, more than 46 per-of the U.S. population... one-than English at home. That's nearly nently altered the fabric of Fairfax cent of the county's population are third," Bemak said. "People don't 40,000 students who go home to **OPPORTUNITIES** 

Fairfax County has seen an explo- "I think the migrant population that's only 2020, imagine what Among new residents who

10 \* McLean Connection \* November 21-27, 2012



# Population by Race/Ethnicity Fairfax County, 1970 and 2010



sion in its immigrant population. is creating a richness and diversity In 1970, more than 93 percent of and really enhancing our culture, of 1970, a white 6-year-old child one of the county's developing Srikanth Ramachandran came to towns—Chantilly, McLean, Vienna, who, at least 90 percent of the time, looked like him and who

Bv 2010, a child entering elementary school in Fairfax County it's not, and that's positive," Bemak glish as a primary language, and immigrated from places such as America. Individually, immigrants bring Vietnam, India, Korea or a country

tor of the Diversity Research and Action Center at George Mason University. He said residents notice changes in obvious ways and subtle

"There's a language change; there's a cultural change; there's a her parents from El Salvador when change as you walk down the street in the communities, there are changes in signs on the storefront because some of them are in different languages . . . or in churches, religious institutions. I hear it all

In comparison—from 1990 to 2010—the United States doubled

"By 2020—and this is astounding—the children and adolescents County elementary school students a senior fellow in metropolitan guages are spoken. "I believe we of a racial or ethnic minority, and know that, if we're talking about households that speak one of more In the span of one generation, nearly a third are immigrants. children... that's our future. And if than 100 languages.

2040 be like."

Bemak argues that a healthy process of acculturation and adjustment-when existing cultural features are combined, and new features are generated—is possible, but only when the non-immigrant culture reaches out.

"We know racism and discrimination have an impact on people's mental health. We say 'you've got to figure out how to be here,' [The work] is simultaneously with the larger communities. . . . Those issues have to be attended to at the same time we help people adjust, adapt, acculturate," Bemak said.

Bemak said he disliked the word "tolerance," because it suggests that we're just "tolerating" immigrants. "We need to respect and celebrate immigrants," Bemak said.

Parents often notice the increasing inflow of diverse cultures at their children's schools. Robert E. Lee High School in Springfield, for example, reflects the increasing diversity of the community in its student body. The school, which opened in 1958 with nearly all white students, now has students from 42 countries who speak more than 34 languages.

In the 2009-2010 school year, according to FCPS, Lee High School's student body was slightly more than 30 percent white, 26 percent Asian, 24 percent Hispanic and about 16 percent black.

"Go to a high school graduation and listen to the names being read. It's not just Smith and Jones anymore," said Lee High School parent Paula Montero, who came with she was 6 years old.

Statistics show the breathtaking breadth of change in diversity and

immigration in Northern Virginia: ❖ From 2000 until 2010, Fairfax County gained 91,165 immigrants. day, 'It's not like it used to be.' Well, In 2000, Fairfax County had 237,677 foreign-born residents; in 2010, the number of foreign-born spiked to 328,842, according to the American Community Survey and the number of migrants settling in the U.S. Census Bureau's 2000 Decennial Census,

Forty-four percent of Fairfax 100 countries," said Audrey Singer, school system, more than 100 lan-

**In Upcoming Weeks** 

During the next month, The Connection Newspapers will feature stories, viewpoints and columns about the significant impact immigrants have in Fairfax County.

❖ Part II focuses on immigration and Fairfax

minorities, and nearly one-third

❖ In the decade from 1990 to

2000, the increase in the number

of foreign born in Fairfax commu-

nities included: Centreville, 323

percent; Herndon, 168 percent;

City of Fairfax, 88 percent, Spring-

field, 78 percent; Burke, 63 per-

❖ 19,301 (6.4 percent) immi-

grants in Fairfax County are self-

employed business owners. This is

higher than the 4.1 percent of self-

employed business owners who are

County became an immigrant gate-

way—a place immigrants choose

report. The trend continues. In

County one of the nation's top

According to scholars at the

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

eight gateways for immigrants.

AND CHALLENGES

U.S.-born Americans.

cent; and McLean, 10 percent.

were immigrants.

moved to the county in 2009, their residents typically respond in nearly half were racial or ethnic one of two ways to newcomers: they either accommodate diversity or deflect immigrants through policies and procedures.

> The rate and intensity of immigrants settling in Fairfax County have pushed community leaders to acknowledge the scope of diversity and address the benefits, as well as the challenges, created by the rapid influx of immigrants.

When R. Scott Silverthorne became the 10th person to serve as grounds. mayor of the City of Fairfax in June, he made diversity a talking point, promising to recognize and reflect the city's growing diversity through Between 1990 and 2000, Fairfax representation on the city's boards

"It's no secret that our commuas their destination upon entering nity continues to diversify," Silverthorne said during his swearthe United States, according to a 2006 Fairfax County demographic

"When former Mayor Rob 2010, Kiplinger called Fairfax Lederer graduated high school, our minority population was just over 2 percent. When I graduated high "Immigrants to this region come school 10 years later, the minority from nearly every country in the population was 10 percent. Today, world, and some localities are it's 40 percent," Silverthorne said, home to people from more than noting that in the Fairfax County

Chairman of the Board of Supervieral government to localities for the sors, has emphasized and cel-Brookings Institute, localities and ebrated Fairfax County's diverse www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

County Public Schools;

**❖** Part III examines politics of immigration; ❖ Part IV explores the religious and cultural diversity immigrants bring to Fairfax County.

We encourage your letters and thoughts as we explore this topic.

> cultures in a number of ways. In 2009, she supported Filipino advocate Corazon Sandoval Foley's efforts to organize and host the first Naturalization Ceremony in the Fairfax County Government Center.

Khatira **Alvarez (left)** 

of Springfield, and Laura

Simon-Salzer

took the Oath

of Allegiance

and became

naturalized

citizens at a

ceremony on

the Hayfield

School audito-

Secondary

Photo by

Deb Cobb

July 10, held in

American

of McLean,

"Everywhere you look, there are signs of diversity in our community," Bulova said. "And it's made us a richer, stronger place. It's important that Fairfax County is recognized as a community that welcomes people from all back-

One of the basic ways that Fairfax County reaches new immigrants is by publishing materials in languages other than English, tailored to specific immigrant communities. For example, the Fairfax County Guide to Emergency Preparedness, as well as many other county brochures, is available in six languages—English, Arabic, Farsi, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese.

The growing immigration population in Fairfax County has presented some challenges. While the county's "politics of place" may be welcoming, the realities of rapid change, in particular the challenges and issues low-income immigrants face, can be daunting.

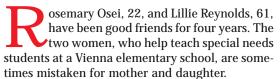
According to a 2006 study, "Unsettling Immigrant Geographies and the Politics of Scale," the shift-Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County's ing of responsibility from the fed-

See Fairfax, Page 12

# A Way Out of No Way

Two women one African-American and one from Africa—learn to see America through each other's eyes.

By Victoria Ross



They bonded over their faith — both are devout Christians — and family values.

Recently, they attended a rally for President Obama at George Mason University. The 2012 presidential election was the first time Osei was exercising her right to vote as an American citizen, and Revnolds was proud of her.

"Voting is a powerful feeling," Reynolds said. "It's one of the best things about being an American." Although they have much in common, both women said they've learned important lessons from their differences.

"We both experience being Americans in different ways. Rosemary came here because she wanted to come here," Reynolds said. "My family was brought here in chains. ... We've both found a way out of no way."

Osei spent the first 12 years of her life in Ghana. In 2003, she and her younger brother, Reuben, reunited with her family in Centreville. She became an American citizen on Aug. 25, 2012.

"In over nine years of living in the U.S., my proudest moment was on Nov. 6, 2012, when I waited in line for over an hour to help re-elect the president black.' of the United States. I am now proud to say I am an American citizen.'

**LIKE MANY IMMIGRANTS**, Osei said she grew up seeing America as a land of wealth and opportunity. She said there was always a celebration when family friends would come back from America, because they brought armfuls of clothes, candy and toys. "It was something special and magical to me," Osei said.

"Although I lived a comfortable life in Ghana, I believed that America would be a better place to live. To me America represents freedom and justice. Since the money is higher in America, I bemore money than we had in Ghana." Osei said.

She said she was disheartened when — as a 7th grader at Liberty Elementary School — she did not and proud to live here." receive the welcome she anticipated.

"In my country, when we saw white people, we welcomed them. We wanted them to think well of us and come back. I thought everyone would welcome me when I came here," Osei said. Instead, Osei said she felt out of place "as though I didn't belong because of the complexion of my skin color." school's bathroom. Within a month, the 12-yearold yearned to return to Ghana.

accepted for who I am as a person," she said.



Lillie Reynolds and Rosemary Osei in **Reston Town Center in November.** 

Reynolds said she understands that feeling all too well. She grew up in Mobile, Ala. in the 1950s and '60s, during state-sponsored segregation, a time when laws forced blacks and whites to use different drinking fountains, public parks, pools and transportation.

"I have a lot of friends from Africa. They didn't understand why I was so excited to be voting for President Obama the first time. I had to explain to them that we didn't always have the right to vote, and I didn't think I'd live to see the day I could vote for a black man," Reynolds said.

Revnolds said she remembers when she and her sister would walk to go shopping in downtown Mobile. "You could buy the clothes, but you couldn't try them on because white people didn't want to touch anything a black person wore," she said.

Osei said it was eye opening to learn about the United States' recent history of racial discrimination. "When Lillie tells me stories about growing up in America as a black girl in the '60s, it breaks my heart," Osei said.

"It's one thing to watch a movie on TV about how horrible African Americans were treated in the past, but it's another thing to know someone who lived through those experience.

"I was in my 40s, my 40s," Reynolds said, pausing, "before I stopped hating myself for being

"My daddy was a smart man," she said. "He was a lumber-checker, and he was really good at math. He did everybody's taxes in our part of town. But he couldn't ride in the front seat of a car with a white person or he'd get arrested. He was talked down to by white people, called 'boy.' ... I always felt hurt and angry for him.'

Reynolds said her grandmother had a saying that stuck with her "She would say nobody is better than you and you're no better than anybody else. My family was smart. I grew up strong in one way and beat down in another."

"It took me to become an adult and to witness a black man become president of the United State lieved my family and I would become rich and have of America before I could really feel proud about being an American," said Reynolds. "And make no mistake about it, I am proud to be an American,

> BOTH REYNOLDS AND OSEI said they like living in Fairfax County, where they get to experience the benefits of such a vibrant, diverse cul-

"I am proud of so many things now. It makes me proud of America for how far we, as people, have She said she often cried, and ate lunch in the changed for the better," Osei said. "Most of all I am proud of Lillie for not allowing her past experience turns her into a bitter person—an angry black "I wanted to go back 'home' to my friends. I was woman—but instead she is a stronger, indepenvery unhappy because I wasn't being welcomed and dent black woman, who treats everyone with re-

# Focus on Immigration

# Fairfax Becomes Immigrants' Gateway

From Page 11

integration, assimilation and social welfare of immigrants has caused frustration and some resentment.

In Fairfax County, slightly more than half of those who are classified as "foreign born" live below the poverty line. Minority students, according to FCPS records, are less likely to graduate from high school on time. The on-time graduation rate for the class of 2010 was 95.6 percent for white students, 94.5 percent for Asian students, 87.5 percent for black students and 75.3 percent for Hispanic or Latino students. On the flip side, Asian students make up

a rigorous admissions process to Fairfax County's elite magnet school, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

Immigrants are less likely to have health care coverage. Although immigrants comprise about 30 percent of the county's total population, they comprise 63.5 percent of the county's uninsured residents.

Immigrants are also more likely to experience housing discrimination. According to Fairfax County's Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs, the agency that enforces fair housing laws in the county, discrimination cases have been on the rise in Fairfax County in the past six years.

"Sadly, housing discrimination is alive and well and we've seen an uptick in complaints during the past six years," said Ken Saunders, executive director of Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs.

Although discrimination based on race remains an issue, Saunders reports that in recent years complaints received by his office are related to national origin or involve disability-related issues.

In contrast to national trends, discrimination based on nationality made up 25.6 percent of complaints from 2008 to 2010. In comparison, about 9 percent of complaints to HUD fall under this category. Discrimination complaints, Saunders said, are not filed by one particular group.

"It runs the gamut. We have complaints from Latin Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, individuals from the Continent of Africa," Saunders said. Saunders said Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs does a significant amount of education and outreach to communities with limited English proficiency, by hosting seminars aimed at various ethnic groups and by publishing and disseminating information in a number of languages.

## VIBRANT CULTURE THROUGH IMMIGRATION

Most community leaders and residents in Fairfax County agree the benefits of diversity and immigration outweigh the challenges.

"Fairfax County is proud to be a community in which companies of all descriptions can and do succeed to a greater extent than in the rest of the region, the state or the country," said Gerald L. Gordon, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority.

In September, the county was recognized as a successful market for minority-owned businesses in several national business publication rankings. Businesses owned by Hispanics, African-Americans and



Frederic Bemak

women generated nearly \$1 billion in revenue and provided more than 1,000 jobs, according to the Fairfax County Economic **Development Authority.** 

Eleven Fairfax County-based companies were among the 500 largest Hispanic-owned businesses in the nation based on revenuemore than the total in 40 states, according HispanicBusiness.com.

The Fairfax County companies comprise 22 from Virginia on the 2012 Hispanic Business 500 list. In the Washington area, eight companies are from Maryland and two are from the District of

Together these companies genmore than 60 percent of students admitted through erated \$655 million in revenue and employed more than 3,000 workers in 2011, according to Hispanic Business.

# **CELEBRATING OTHER CULTURES**

There are numerous ways to experience the cultural diversity of Fairfax County, but perhaps one of the most accessible is by attending one of the county's Naturalization Ceremonies.

"Immigrants bring talent and culture to our community in many ways, and make us who we are," said Bulova. "Every time I attend one of our Naturalization Ceremonies, I'm reminded of how important diversity is to Fairfax County."

On May 25, 2012, Bulova presented the Certificates of Naturalization to 75 new Americans in the Fairfax County Government Center. The board room was packed with immigrants and their families from every corner of the globe—Afghanistan, The Congo, Costa Rica, Burma, India, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, South Korea, the United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

"Some of you have endured hardships to arrive at this time and place," Bulova said in her remarks. "All of you have invested your time, money and efforts to become citizens. Many of you came here to escape war or endless poverty. . . . You who are here today now officially have a seat at that table."

Samuel DeVera, a captain with the county's Fire and Rescue Department and a member of the Fairfax County Asian American Firefighters' Association, gave the keynote address, telling the audience his personal story of coming to America from the Philippines when he was 14 years old in 1983. After becoming a paramedic in 1994, he received a Valor award and, in 2010, scored first on the test to become a captain with the Fire and Rescue Depart-

"Look at me. The one thing I can say is work hard to make you and your families better," DeVera said. "If you're vice president of the company, aim to be president. I'm not here to encourage you; I want to challenge you."

The room was quiet when U.S. Rep Gerry Connolly (D-11) stepped to the podium.

"My fellow Americans," Connolly said with gravitas, pausing to let the meaning sink in. And when it did, 75 immigrants, who had just raised their right hand and taken the Oath of Allegiance to become American citizens, erupted with applause and tears, waving American flags and hugging family members.

'You now join us. . . . Every new wave of immigrants refreshes us, makes us stronger," Connolly said, leading the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Ellen Graves leads newly naturalized citizens in the Pledge of Allegiance Saturday, Sept. 22 at Lake Anne.

# Viewpoints

# Immigrants' Experiences: **Becoming Americans**

On Sept. 22 at the Multicultural Festival on Lake Anne Plaza in Reston, 25 people participated in a naturalization ceremony that made them American citizens. Some of them talk about how they came to the U.S. and why they chose to become citizens.

—Amiee Freeman

### Xiomara Artola, currently living in Woodbridge, originally from El Salvador

'Since I was 18 I had thought about becoming a citizen. But I was young then. I have lived here since kindergarten and I went to school here. Now that I am 23 I felt that it was time to complete the naturalization process."



# Jose Zalles, currently living in Woodbridge, originally from Bolivia

"I came here as a very young person. My parents came here first and then I followed. I grew up here. My parents already spoke English. I never really felt the need to become a citizen until recently. During college I saw opportunities that were only available to citizens, so I thought it was time for me to become one.'



# Seung Il Kim, currently living in Falls Church, originally from South

"This is really a very special event. I have been a member of the community for a long time, but not really. Until now I never had the rights or responsibilities of a citizen."



# Bassam Ghazi, currently living in Ashburn, originally from Lebanon

"I came here on a visit 25 years ago and decided I would like to stay here. So, I got my green card. Now I will have time to travel and see more of the country."



# Saaeddine Zaghbani, currently living in Burke, originally from Tunisia

"From today I can say I am an American citizen. It is a big honor. For me it is a great opportunity. I can live my dream. My first step as a citizen will be to vote freely. I have visited 47 countries, lived in five of them. Here is where I want to stay."

# Entertainment

Send announcements mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com

### FRIDAY/NOV. 23

**Northern Virginia Handcrafters** Guild Holiday Market. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street S.E., Vienna. Eighty-plus juried artisans offer original, handmade arts and crafts, decorative paintings, fused, etched, painted and stained glass, ceramics and pottery, hand-painted silk, woodworking, hand-weaving, photography, paintings and drawings, clothing and functional

textiles and more. www.nvhg.org.

**Annual Gingerbread House.** Opening at 2 p.m., daily hours from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. A life-sized Gingerbread House with culinary artwork large enough to walk under, a place to shop for pastries and holiday treats, and on opening day, holiday confections, hot spiced cider, roasted chestnuts and hot cocoa; open through Christmas Eve.

www.ritzcarlton.com/tysons. Altar Boyz. 8 p.m., at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A cheeky, pop-rock musical comedy about a boy band of singing dancing heartthrobs from Ohio on the last night of their national tour. \$30; \$15, students. 703-854-1856 or www.1 st stagety sons.org.

The Grandsons. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. DC-based rock 'n' rollers play their annual post-Thanksgiving concert. \$18. www.wolftrap.org.

### SATURDAY/NOV. 24

**Northern Virginia Handcrafters** Guild Holiday Market. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street S.E., Vienna. Eighty-plus juried artisans offer original, handmade arts and crafts, decorative paintings, fused, etched, painted and stained glass, ceramics and pottery, hand-painted silk, woodworking, hand-weaving, photography, paintings and drawings, clothing and functional

textiles and more. www.nvhg.org. **Altar Boyz.** 2 p.m., 8 p.m., at 1st
Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A cheeky, pop-rock musical comedy about a boy band of singing dancing heartthrobs from Ohio on the last night of their national tour. \$30; \$15, students. 703-854-1856 or

www.1ststagetysons.org.

Messiah Sing-Along. 7 p.m., at the
Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., N.E., Vienna. The church orchestra combines with youth choirs from Lewinsville, Falls Church and Vienna Presbyterian Churches in a community-wide sing-along. www.viennnapres.org. **John Eaton.** 7:30 p.m., at The Barns at

Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The jazz pianist, vocalist and musicologist reinterprets American composers' classics; this particular night, Eaton plays the music of George Gershwin and Harold Arlen. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

### SUNDAY/NOV. 25

Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m.-noon, at the Vienna American Legion, 330 Center St., Vienna. Omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, bacon and more. \$8, adults; \$3, children. 703-938Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild

Holiday Market. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street S.E., Vienna. Eighty-plus juried artisans offer original, handmade arts and crafts, decorative paintings, fused, etched, painted and stained glass, ceramics and pottery, hand-painted silk, woodworking, handweaving, photography, paintings and drawings, clothing and functional textiles and more. www.nvhg.org.

Thanksgiving Food Drive at Wildfire. 11 a.m.-8 p.m., at Wildfire Tysons Galleria, 1714 International Drive, McLean. Proceeds from Wildfire sales on Thanksgiving Day go to Food for Others, the largest distributor of free food directly to people in need in Northern Virginia; the restaurant will also donate all unopened cans and boxes of nonperishables brought in on Sunday. www.wildfirerestaurant.com/mclean.

**Altar Boyz**. 2 p.m., 7 p.m., at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A cheeky, pop-rock musical comedy about a boy band of singing dancing heartthrobs from Ohio on the last night of their national tour. \$30; \$15, students. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststagetysons.org.

**Fall Concerts of Traditional Celtic Music.** 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. VA and Barnaby Productions, Inc. present the 10th season of family friendly, fall traditional Celtic concerts; Bruce Molsky, American Celt

# 1st Stage Presents Altar Boyz

The Altar Boyz are jumping for joy beginning Nov. 23 at 1st Stage in Tysons, From left - Jonathan Walker (Juan), Ted Nagel (Mark), Zach Powell (Abe), BJ Gruber (Matthew) and Derek Tatum (Luke). See calendar for more details.



Photo courtesy

of 1st Stage

Gary Adler and Michael Patrick Walke Book by Kevin Del Aguila Musical Direction by Walter Bobby McCoy Choreography by Jeremy McShan

Music and Lyrics by

extraordinaire, ties the Celtic influences that inform our own traditions into a fascinating concert. Tickets for all 5 concerts, \$65; \$15 each for individual concerts. All ages. Reservations must be made in advance at the Old Brogue. 703-759-

The Downtown Fiction. 6:30 p.m., Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. The band headlines a hometown show after coming home from a 33-city nationwide tour. \$15, general admission; \$30, VIP. www.jamminjava.com.

## MONDAY/NOV. 26

**Annual Church Street Holiday** 

Stroll. 6-9 p.m., on Vienna's Historic Church Street. Santa arrives at 6:15 in his fire truck to help the mayor light the tree, followed by musical

performances and strolling singers on the street. Historic churches including the Freeman House, Vienna Presbyterian's Old Chapel, the Knights of Columbus, the Caboose and the Train Station will be open along with a petting zoo, supervised bonfires with marshmallows to roast, shopping and a Toys for Tots collection. 703-938-5187 or www.historicviennainc.org.

### **WEDNESDAY/NOV. 28**

**Dialogue & Friendship Dinner: Education for Peace**. 6:30 p.m., Tysons Corner Marriott, 8028 Leesburg Pike, Tysons Corner. The American Turkish Friendship Association and the Rumi Forum Fairfax bring officials, leaders and

See Entertainemnt, Page 15

# Visit These Houses of Worship Join A Club, Make New Friends, or Expand Your Horizons... Anglean Restoration Agelson Caurch. 703-527-2720 Arlington Assembly of God. 703-523-1607 Calvary Gospel Charch. 703-528-2106 Baptist Church. 703-528-2107 Cherry Gospel Charch. 703-528-2107 Baptist Church. 703-528-2107 Baptist Church. 703-528-2108 Bisspites Charch. 703-528-2108 Bisspites Church. 703-528-2108 Biss Memoral Baptist Church. 703-528-2

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Charles Wesley United Methdist...
703-356-6336
Calvary United Methdist...703-892-5185
Cherrydale United Methodist...703-527-2621
Chesterbrook United Methodist
...703-356-7100
Clarendon United Methodist...703-527-8574
Community United Methodist...703-527-1085
Mt. Olivet United Methodist...703-527-3934
Weller Chenz United Methodist...703-527-3934

Walker Chapel United Methodist ...703-538-5200

United Church of Christ Rock Spring Congregational
United Church of Christ...703-538-4886

To highlight your Faith Community, call Karen at 703-778-9422

# Virginia Department of Transportation

# **Route 7 Widening** Fairfax County

Public Information Meeting

Wednesday, November 28, 2012, 6 - 8:30 p.m. Colvin Run Elementary School 1400 Trap Road, Vienna, VA 22182

Find out about an ongoing study to widen Leesburg Pike (Route 7) from four to six lanes between Reston Avenue and the west end of the bridge over the Dulles Toll Road, to improve capacity, decrease congestion, and improve safety, in conformity with the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan.

Stop by between 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the project. VDOT and Fairfax County staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project information at www.virginiadot.org, at the information meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-259-1793, 800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Give your written comments at the meeting, or submit them by December 8 to Mr. Douglas Miller, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email meeting\_comments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Route 7 Widening - Reston Avenue to Dulles Toll Road" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the project manager at the above phone numbers.

State Project: 0007-029-128,P102,R202,C502,B610 UPC: 52328

# Join us for two talks with Robin Hoagland

# Changing the Discourse -

Establishing harmony in health, home, and community
Friday, November 30 at 8 PM

# Real Relationships

in a Facebook world Saturday, December 1st at 4 PM

McLean Christian Science Church 1683 Chain Bridge Rd. McLean, VA 22101

For more information, call (703 356-1391



# Entertainment

## From Page 13

representatives from faith communities, businesses, media and academia together for dinner and speakers on education for peace. 703-267-5751 or rsvp@atfa.us.

### THURSDAY/NOV. 29

Tysons Regional Annual Holiday
Mixer. 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Bank
of Georgetown, 1850 Towers
Crescent Plaza, Suite 100, Vienna.
New member of the Tysons Regional
Chamber of Commerce, Bank of
Georgetown, kicks off the holiday
season at their new location in
Tysons Corner; food from Dutch Mill
Catering, networking and holiday
cheer included. \$15, members; \$20,
non-members.

Opening Receptions. 7-9 p.m.,
McLean Project for the Arts, 1234
Ingleside Ave., McLean. In the Edges
and Grids exhibit in the Emerson
Gallery is five artists' work which
incorporates elements of edges and
grids; in the Atrium Gallery is Ellyn
Weiss's Primordial Soup Kitchen, full
of paintings which evoke early forms
of life with tar; the Ramp Gallery
exhibit shows Ron Paras'
photographic works entitled Silent
Symphony: A Photographic
Composition in Four Movements.
703-790-1953 or www.mpaart.org.

### FRIDAY/NOV. 30

**30th Annual McLean Holiday** 

Crafts Show. 11 a.m.-7 p.m., at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. The show features fiber arts, wood, ceramics and pottery, jewelry, glass, holiday decor, items for children, gourmet foods, paper art, photography, soft sculpture, paintings and drawings. \$2, adults; \$1, ages 13 and under. http://www.pimmithills.org/pimmithills-events.

Altar Boyz. 8 p.m., at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A cheeky, pop-rock musical comedy about a boy band of singing dancing heartthrobs from Ohio on the last night of their national tour. \$30; \$15, students. 703-854-1856 or www\_lststagetysons.org

www.1ststagetysons.org.

Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul. 8
p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap,
1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Irish fiddle
prodigy Eileen Ivers joins bandmates
playing world music and traditional
and contemporary music.
www.wolftrap.org.

# SATURDAY/DEC. 1

The Chamber's 16th Annual ReindDog Pageant. 8-9:30 a.m., at Langley Shopping Center, on Chain Bridge Road between Old Dominion Drive and Dolley Madison.



Hydra by Ellyn Weiss, tar on panel.

# Three New Exhibits Open at McLean Project for the Arts

Edges and Grids, Primordial Soup Kitchen, and Silent Symphony: A Photographic Composition in Four Movements, comprise the three new exhibits opening at MPA on Thursday, Nov. 29. An opening reception from 7-9 p.m. serves as the unveiling at the McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. In the Edges and Grids exhibit in the Emerson Gallery is five artists' work which incorporates elements of edges and grids; in the Atrium Gallery is Ellyn Weiss's Primordial Soup Kitchen, full of paintings which evoke early forms of life with tar; the Ramp Gallery exhibit shows Ron Paras' photographic works entitled Silent Symphony: A Photographic Composition in Four Movements. 703-790-1953 or www.mpaart.org.

At the pet event of the season, dogs parade in holiday or creative attire for contest prizes while music, vendors, photo opps and Santa surround. A dog adoption event occurs simultaneously. 703-356-5424 or

www.members.mcleanchamber.org.
30th Annual McLean Holiday

Crafts Show. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. The show features fiber arts, wood, ceramics and pottery, jewelry, glass, holiday decor, items for children, gourmet foods, paper art, photography, soft sculpture, paintings and drawings. \$2, adults; \$1, ages 13 and under. http://www.pimmithills.org/pimmithills.org/s

**Gingerbread House Decorating Class.** 10 a.m., 1 p.m., at the Ritz-

Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Children ages 3-12 can explore the life-size gingerbread house at the hotel, then make their own sugary homes in a decorating class taught by the pastry chefs; includes all ingredients as well as a souvenir. S70 per child. www.ritzcarlton.com/tysons.

The Nutcracker Tea. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., at the the Ritz-Carlton Tysons
Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean.
Enjoy the Nutcracker Ballet with afternoon tea and treats while members of the Creative Dance
Center put a contemporary twist on the beloved classic and the pastry team tantalizes palates with tea sandwiches, pastries and sweets. \$75 (includes nutcracker doll for all children). www.ritzcarlton.com/tysons.

# Our Lady of Good Counsel presents... Holly & Ivy A CHRISTMAS MARKETPLACE Saturday, Dec. 1, 10-5 Sunday, Dec. 2, 9-3 Home Décor & Christmas Gifts Fine Stationery, Jewelry, Ornaments Childrens' Books & Accessories Gifts for Baby... and much more! Our Lady of Good Counsel Church 8601 Wolftrap Rd, Vienna, VA 22182 703.896.7424 • development@olgcva.org



# 80 fine American artisans

convene from across the country convene for this highly-regarded and much-anticipated juried show. This show features fiber arts, wood, ceramics and pottery, silhouette portraits, jewelry, glass, holiday decor, items for children, gourmet foods, paper art, photography, soft sculpture, paintings and drawings and more! Call for silhouette appointments now!

Friday – Sunday Nov. 30–Dec. 2

Admission: \$2 adults \$1 age 13 and younger

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Saturday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Fresh Food Service Provided by La Madeleine French Country Cafe.



The McLean Community Center 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101 703-790-0123/TTY: 711

www.mcleancenter.org/special-events

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# Sports



Alex Andrejev (12) and Caroline Mannon (8), seen earlier this season, and the Langley volleyball team lost to Kellam in the state semifinals on Nov. 15.

# Langley Volleyball Falls in State Semifinals

The Langley volleyball team ended its season with a 3-0 loss to Kellam in the semifinals of the VHSL AAA state tournament at VCU's Siegel Center.

The Saxons finished the year with a 24-6 record, won the program's first Liberty District title since 2007, finished Northern Region runner-up and defeated Patrick Henry, 3-1, in the state quarterfinals.

Langley won 19 of its final 22 matches.

# **Langley Football** Loses in Region Semifinals

The No. 5 Langley football team reached the Division 5 Northern Region semifinals before ending its season with a 33-14 loss to topseed Stone Bridge on Nov. 16.

According to stats from the Washington Post's Web site, Langley running back Philip Mun carried 15 times for 143 yards. He finished the year with 1,846 yards on the ground, second most in the Washington, D.C. metro area behind Robinson's Joe Wilson, who had 2,358. Mun was second with 290 carries (Wilson, 336) and the Saxons back scored 17 of his 18 touchdowns on the ground

Philip Novacki scored a rushing touchdown. Quarterback Nick Casso completed eight of 14 passes for 165 yards and a touchdown. Garrett Collier had four receptions for 75 yards, Novacki had two catches for 63 yards and Brian Ochoa caught a 20-yard touchdown pass.

Langley finished the year with a 7-5 record and defeated Hayfield, 21-14, in the opening round of regionals on Nov. 9.

# Basketball Season Approaching

The Langley and McLean basketball teams will be opening their 2012-13 seasons soon.

The Langley boys' team will host a scrimmage against West Potomac at noon on Saturday, Nov. 24 before opening its season against Centreville at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 29 at South Lakes High School. The girls' basketball team will host a scrimmage against Lake Braddock at 3 p.m. on Saturday before opening its regular season at Broad Run at 7 p.m. on Nov. 27.

The McLean boys' team will scrimmage at Wise on Nov. 26 and will open the season against Walsingham Academy at the Trinity Tip Off on Nov. 30. The girls' team will host a scrimmage against Elizabeth Seton at 1 p.m. on Saturday and will open its season at Woodson on Nov. 29.



Philip Novacki (2), seen earlier this season, and the Langley football team ended their season with a loss to Stone Bridge in the Division 5 Northern Region football semifinals on Nov. 16.



The Great Falls Beasts of Fairfax County Flag Association won the coed youth flag football league championship on Saturday, Nov. 10.

# Vienna Thunder and Great Falls **Beasts Win Championships**

Of all the teams in the Fairfax County Flag Association, The Great Falls Beasts emerged as the league champions on Saturday, Nov. 10 in the 5-8 Division. "It was a great game," wrote the wife of the team coach, Michele Verity.

The team celebrated at Brix in Great Falls on Tuesday, Nov. 13 at 6 p.m.

The Upper Division champ was the Vienna Thunder team. Fairfax County Flag Association, a coed youth flag football ?org=viennaflag.com.

league, aims to provide children with an environment fostering life skills like teamwork and good sportsmanship. All the coaches are volunteers who value and support community spirit.

The Reston Terminators placed as the 5-8 Division runner-up and the Reston Redskins the Upper Division runner up.

To learn more about the league, visit http:// leagueathletics.com/

# Flint Hill Pitcher Doyle Commits to UVa

lint Hill School junior Tommy Doyle verbally committed to play baseball at the University of Virginia. Doyle, a right-handed pitcher, gave his official verbal commitment to the program in October.

"Knowing that I will be a student at UVa and play baseball for such an exceptional program is incredibly humbling," Doyle said. "Ever since I thought I may have a shot at playing at the collegiate level, it's been my dream to play for Virginia."

Doyle was the No. 1 starting pitcher for Flint Hill last spring. During the offseason, he plays for Stars Baseball. The Northern Virginia-based club travels up and down the East Coast during the fall and summer seasons competing in showcases and tourna-

"Tommy has shown tremendous growth as a pitcher these past two years that I've coached him, and along with his natural ability and work ethic, his potential is unlimited," said Flint Hill Head Coach Tom Verbanic, who also played baseball for UVa. "For the next two



Flint Hill junior pitcher **Tommy Doyle has verbally** committed to the University of Virginia.

seasons at Flint Hill, we will count on him as the ace of our team and will look forward to seeing his career unfold at the University of Virginia."

Son of George and Laura, Doyle has a twin sister, Katherine. He also has two older siblings, Claire and Matthew, who play collegiate lacrosse at Bucknell University and baseball at Harvard University, respectively.



# Independent School Admissions: Interviews and Teacher Recommendations

Admissions officers at local schools offer insight into the application process.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

ark Fischer sat with his parents in the plush reception area of one of the region's elite independent schools, biting his fingernails and tapping his left foot while waiting to speak with an admissions officer for the interview portion of his application.

"Yeah, I'm a little nervous," he said. Admissions directors say the interview is

Private Schools a chance for both students and their parents to get to know the schools and for the school to become familiar with the applicants. But what do admissions teams want to learn

from interviews with applicants and their families?

"We really just want to get to know you better and hear what you have to say about your school year and thoughts for next year," said Ann Richardson Miller, director of admission and financial aid at The Madeira School in McLean.

"We like to see that the student is curious about life, what he or she is interested in and what they are passionate about," said Diane Dunning, director of admission and financial aid at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria.

Tim Simpson, director of admission and financial aid for Bullis School in Potomac, Md., adds that schools value sincerity. "Does the student talk about things that are important to them? Do they go into detail so that I don't have to dig? If I ask about a physics class, does the student go into detail about their own personal experience?



Instructor Laura Hoffman teaches a science class at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Md. Independent school officials say interviews with applicants and their families help identify students who fit "the personality of the school."

It is always exciting for me to hear different layers of a student's experiences," he said.

**COMPETITION TO GET INTO** independent schools can be fierce — some school admissions teams accept only one out of every 10 applicants — so parents may wonder if they should hire education consultants or coaches to help their children prepare for interviews.

Mark Sklarow, executive director of the Independent Educational Consultants Association, says it's not worth it: "A school is trying to get ... an understanding of who that student really is," he said. "They'll try to get past any planned or scripted answers."

Richard Moss of The Heights School in Potomac agrees. "It is often easy to tell when a student is not interested based on their knowledge of the school and the reasons for wanting to attend," he said. "The interview with the parents is important because you get a sense of the kinds of people you're

going to be working with. We want to make sure our parents are on board with what our instructors are trying to do."

Admissions directors say parents often ask how their families should prepare for interviews. "This is an opportunity to soul search about why they are interested in the school," said Moss, adding he notices a lot about a prospective student during an interview. "Does a student present well? Does he look sharp? Does he have a firm handshake? Does he thank you for having him? Does he look alive and engaged? Does he mumble?"

Sklarow says that while students should not over-prepare, they should know what to expect. "Every school is not looking for the same kind of student. Every school is not looking for the same answer. They are trying to figure out whether that student fits the personality of the school. They want to know if this is a student who will find friendships within the school and fit into the school community."

WHAT ROLE do the teacher recommendations play in admissions decisions? "Teacher recommendations give us a broader perspective on student effort and attitude, and often provide us with a different perspective than what the application alone might show," Michael Cresson, director of admissions, Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington.

"Families would be surprised by the thoughtful and insightful comments most teachers make on the recommendations," Miller said. "Trust the teachers. They have your child's best interest at heart."

Charlotte Nelsen, director of admission for the Potomac School in McLean said, "Potomac School takes a particular interest in the current teacher's recommendation for the applicant. We recognize a teacher has known the student far longer than we have."

Some experts say that reports from a student's current instructors can raise red flags as well. "Teacher recommendations can shed light on the difficult aspects of a student's personality that you don't see on a report card," said Moss. "Report cards don't necessarily tell you how hard a student is working, how generous he is or what his true abilities are.

"We realize that teacher recommendations are subjective, but they are important," Moss continued. "If a student is required, for example, to get a recommendation from a current English teacher and they have a terrible relationship with that teacher ... they should ... ask the previous year's English teacher to write a supplementary recommendation, just so they can balance out the negative one. The one thing you don't want to do is get a bad recommendation and say, 'Well this is a horrible teacher who doesn't like my son.'"

Julie Jameson, director of admission and financial aid at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac concludes: "The interviews and teacher recommendations offer multiple perspectives and wonderful opportunities to learn more about each applicant as part of the whole admission process."

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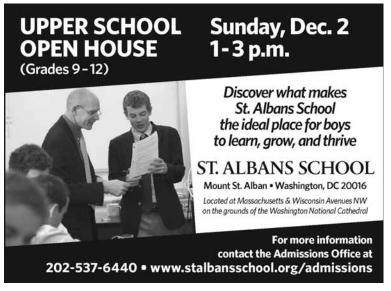
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trading as World of Beer, 901 N. Gleve Road, #105, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1853. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPART-MENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEV-ERAGE CONTROL for a Beer On & Off Premises & Keg

License to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Evan Matz, Managing Member. 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 two required newspaper legal notices.
Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov

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21 Announcements

**ABC LICENSE** 

ABC LICENSE
The Organic Butcher of Mclean, LLC trading as The Organic Butcher of Mclean, 6712 Old Dominion Dr., Great Falls, VA 22101. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and beer off premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Donald Roden owner

owner NOTE: Objections to the issu-ance 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. Ob-jections should be registered 800-552-3200

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### On Thursday, 8 November, a 3.5 year old Occicat went missing.

She is a light color with dark spots (see picture). She weighs about 10 lbs. She is missed very much and hope that someone in the neighbor hood has seen her.

Please contact Geoff at 703.731-8640 if you have any information regarding this lost cat. Thank you

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# Fairfax Water

# **NOTICE OF WATER RATE Public Hearing**

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2012, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2013, include the following

- An increase in the Availability Charge from \$3,700 to \$3,850†.
- An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$9,000 to \$9,500.
- An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,000 to \$1,0501.
- An increase in the Account Charge from \$33 to \$35.
- An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$8.35 to \$9.20†.
- An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$2.16 to \$2.29 per 1,000 gallons of water.
- An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.20 to \$3.45 per 1,000 gallons of water.
- An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$46 to \$50.

  An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and Peak Use Charge.
- 10. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$41 to \$44.
- An increase in the Returned Payment Charge from \$16 to \$17.

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our Web site at http://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates/index.htm. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017. Interested parties also may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

**Fairfax Water Public Hearing Comments** 8570 Executive Park Avenue Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 to be included in the record of the public hearing

<sup>1</sup>Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates

# Fairfax Water

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2013 BUDGET

Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) is proposing a \$143.4 million budget for calendar year 20131

On Thursday, December 13, 2012, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed 2013 Budget in its offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax. The public hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m.

A copy of the proposed budget can be viewed on our Web site at http://www.fairfaxwater.org/. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed budget should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

Revenues are expected to be \$143.4 million in 2013. Water sales are expected to provide \$124.6 million. Approximately \$18.8 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	\$1,000s	
	2012	2013
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$46,473	\$48,367
Power and Utilities	11,345	11,686
Chemicals	6,694	7,968
Fuel	916	960
Postage	547	460
Insurance	1,300	1,107
Supplies and Materials	3,976	4,233
Contractual Services	8,749	8,657
Professional Services	1,656	1,902
Other	2,005	<u>2,285</u>
Sub-Total	83,661	87,625
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(9,559)	(9,613)
Total	74.102	78.012

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

**Debt Payment** Improvement Fund General Fund \$14,068,000

Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

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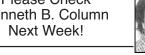
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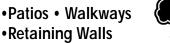
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