

Finding Home in Fairfax County

Focus on Immigration, Page 10

Dr. Barinder Singh Deu, during prayer services at the Sikh Foundation of Virginia in Fairfax Station on Thursday, Nov. 14. The Virginia suburbs are home to several thousand Sikh families, mostly middle-class professionals of Indian descent. In today's Connection, we begin an ongoing series on immigration and diversity in Fairfax County. During the next month, we explore the ways immigrants have impacted the county, with a particular emphasis on faith, politics, education and culture.

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The Virginia Department of Transportation has released the updated schedule for construction of a new bridge over Nichols Run on Beach Mill Road.



Photo by
Alex McVeigh/
The Connection

Beach Mill Road Plans Unveiled

New bridge will be installed summer 2013, contractor has incentives for early finish.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

The Virginia Department of Transportation will begin construction on the Beach Mill Road bridge over Nichols Run as early as next May.

The bridge was originally destroyed by flooding caused by the storm on Sept. 8, 2011, and a temporary box culvert was installed. While the bridge had been on a list of possible replacements, VDOT says that closing it for the next eight to 10 months was not an option, so a temporary structure was opened eight days after the storm.

While the temporary box culvert is structurally sound, it does not meet standards for hydraulic capacity during storm events. For a two-year storm event, the bridge is 18 percent undersized, and for a 10-year storm event the bridge is 40 percent undersized.

"I've gotten a lot of comments from the community, why can't the box culvert stay, it's certainly structurally sound, but it's completely inadequate for the hydraulic standards set forth by the Department of Conservation and Recreation," said Nick Roper, VDOT's district bridge engineer. "In the aftermath of [Tropical Storm] Lee, if we matched the size of the old bridge, we didn't have to go get additional permits for construction, it was an emergency situation, roads were closed all throughout the county."

"I've gotten a lot of comments from the community, why can't the box culvert stay, it's certainly structurally sound, but it's completely inadequate for the hydraulic standards set forth by the Department of Conservation and Recreation."

—Nick Roper, VDOT's district bridge engineer

THE BRIDGE was originally scheduled to be replaced from August to December of this year, but after community objections, the contract was cancelled in August and slightly modified.

The road will be closed the weekend after school lets out for the summer. The new contract offers an incentive of \$750 per day for a maximum of 45 days.

"The only way the contractor can get the full 45 days of incentives is if he takes advantage of some of those early weekends," Roper said.

The new contract also added several stipulations to accelerate construction, the most notable of which allows the contractor the option to close the road for four weekends before the end of the 2012-13 school year (with the exception of Memorial Day weekend) to perform preliminary site work.

"Closing the road for the weekend is typically from Friday night at about 9 p.m. to Monday about 4 a.m. I don't think the contractor would begin Friday night,

I don't see the benefit," Roper said. "We think he could be able to install H-columns, five or six per weekend, then bury it and re-open on Monday . . . we think the maximum of four weekends is more weekends than he needs to accelerate construction."

OTHER PROVISIONS that VDOT hopes will speed up construction include the use of pre-cast concrete and the relocation of a gas line located near the west abutment. There was also a provision added to the Route 7 widening project contract that

work cannot be performed on Georgetown Pike while the Beach Mill Road bridge is closed.

"I certainly hope the developer takes advantage of the early days, as long as we're notified in a timely manner," said James Anderson of Great Falls. "I think it's going to be easier to plan around in little bits than the huge chunk of time when it's closed."

The earliest date the bridge could open would be July 16, 2013, and a disincentive begins after Aug. 30. The bridge will cost about \$1.5 million.

Viewpoints

What are you thankful for on this Thanksgiving Day?

—Jennifer Benitz



Martha Martin, Great Falls

"There are so many things I am grateful for. I went to see a couple I've known for 41 years and I took the man a teddy bear. I told him it was a bear that was brown with a little white on it and told him it was out in the snow. It was just a humorous thing to make him laugh and break the ice. I am grateful I got to see someone I haven't seen

in a while and it gave me such a glow to connect with someone like that. I am grateful for life, for friends, for the way we support each other in such a warm and helpful way."



Gay Brock, teacher at Potomac School, Herndon

"I am grateful for my family, my life, my work; my whole deal. I have been dealt a very sweet hand."



Ben Such-Bear, 23, Great Falls

"I am grateful for opportunities—I just got a job, so I am grateful for job opportunities."



Nancy Glasglow, teacher at St. Francis' preschool, Great Falls

"I am grateful for my children and my husband. I am grateful for my mom, my job and my dog, too!"



Kirk Boyd, commercial real estate advisor, Great Falls

"I am grateful for family and friends; for health, Great Falls, and our troops that are serving for us and keeping us safe here. I am also grateful for the Starbucks—I've been trying to get one here for 10 years!"



Lori Schafran, realtor, Great Falls

"I am grateful for the good health of our family and generosity of our friends, and this wonderful community we live in. There have been a lot of changes and it keeps getting better."



Ann Lee, secretary, 26, Great Falls

"I am grateful to be healthy and to have good friends."



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News

Julie Casso, New Director of Great Falls School of Art

Great Falls Foundation for the Arts (GFFFTA) announced the appointment of Julie Casso as the executive director of the foundation and as the new director of the Great Falls School of Art. Casso will manage the school and its exciting offerings of art instruction classes and art workshops for adults and children. As executive director, Casso will advise and coordinate the activities of the foundation's committees, including development, events, web site, long term planning and facilities. Casso comes to GFFFTA from a career with non-profit associations and community volunteer and program development roles in Great Falls. Of the many positions she has held locally, most notable are Celebrate Great Falls 4th of July Parade chair, Friends of the Great Falls Library chair, PTA president of Forestville Elementary, and co-chair of the Parent Advisory Committee of Village Green Day School.

Great Falls School of Art's 2012 Fall Term still has a few remaining openings. For

more information on classes and registration go to the GFFFTA web site, <http://www.greatfallsart.org>, where the school bulletin (containing information on courses and instructors) and registration information can be found. Or, contact Julie Casso, school director at GFSchoolofArt@gmail.com or by phone at 703-232-1575. The classes will be held at the GFFFTA facility, 1144 Walker Road, Suite G, near Dante Ristorante in the Colvin Run commercial area of Great Falls.

Bulletin Board

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

FRIDAY/NOV. 28

Donate to the Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce Children's Fund to benefit the Sixth Annual Children's Holiday Party, which hosts up to 60 at-risk, homeless children, providing them with gifts from Santa, "wish list" items, and supplies for crafts for them to use to make gifts for family members. 703-281-1333 or tana@LNF.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 5

McLean Children's Academy Open House. 9:30-11:30 a.m., 6900 Elm Street, McLean. The Kindergarten Enrichment and the morning, afternoon and full-day preschool classes invite families to tour the school and register for fall 2013. 703-734-2353 or www.childrensacademy.com.

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Santa Picture Day

**Saturday December 1, 2012
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Riverbend Prepares for Budget Cuts

With five percent cuts looming, group looks to preserve 400-acre park.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

As Fairfax County prepares for a possible budget shortfall of \$100 million in Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015, all county agencies have been asked to submit budgets that cut five percent from FY2013 levels.

The Friends of Riverbend Park, a non-profit group of volunteers that advocate on behalf of the park, gave a presentation at The Grange Thursday, Nov. 15, expressing concerns about the park's future.

"At a time when we're trying to get kids away from video games, and into the outdoors, we're trying to enrich their minds with nature education by providing free access to our resources," said Tim Hackman, president of the Friends of Riverbend Park. "It seems to me that the Board of Supervisors and the park authority ought to be funding some reasonable level of staff."

The latest cuts would eliminate three of the four taxpayer-funded positions at Riverbend. The park authority had previously asked Riverbend Park to be 60 percent self-funded, and according to the Friends of Riverbend, the park currently



Tim Hackman, president of the Friends of Riverbend Park, speaks at The Grange Thursday, Nov. 15 about the state of park budgets and its effect on Riverbend Park.

Photo by
Alex McVeigh/
The Connection

sustains 54 percent of its annual costs.

Since FY2002, the Fairfax County Budget has increased from \$2.3 billion to \$3.5 billion, yet Fairfax County Parks have received an additional \$500 million.

"We think that there is great value to having Riverbend a free and open park that's easily accessed. One of the solutions [to budget problems] would be to have an entrance fee," Hackman said. "We're not sure that it's the right way to go, if we do go there, it would probably be a last resort."

Scarlet Parsons of Vienna, who comes to Riverbend about once a month, said a gate fee would change the way she thinks about the park.

"To me, the best part about Riverbend is that you can just drive in, no fee," she said. "As much as I love it, it doesn't have the falls, or even trails that I think are superior to Great Falls Park, but the fact that it's county and it's free is a major plus for me and my friends. I know there are budget issues, and I would support a lot of ways to

"It seems to me that the Board of Supervisors and the park authority ought to be funding some reasonable level of staff."

— Tim Hackman, president of the Friends of Riverbend Park

make up the shortfall, but a gate fee would be a major turn-off, and I don't think I'm alone."

John Dargle, director of the Fairfax County Park Authority, said the recent budget situations necessitate a more "business-like approach" to park funding.

"We are at a very critical point where being more business-like is what is going to make us sustainable," he said. "These are tough times for us."

He said that the five percent cut in their budget has been submitted to the county, but hasn't been examined by the Board of Supervisors, it's still being reviewed by the county executive.

"Our park board was not very comfortable with the staff's recommendations for the cuts," Dargle said. "As we prioritize our cuts, we're looking at things like, if we were to take staff away from a site like Riverbend Park, we would not be able to survive without the great things they're doing there."

Celebration of Lights

Saturday, December 1 ~ 5:30pm to 8:00pm

Great Falls Village Centre Hill

Join us for our Celebration of Lights! Watch Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive in an antique fire truck to light the Great Falls Tree. Enjoy the petting zoo, pony rides, fire pit, hot cider, hot chocolate and popcorn. And don't miss the beautiful, live nativity scene.

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5:30-5:50pm ~ The Langley Madrigals

6:00pm ~ Santa & Mrs. Claus arrive to light the Christmas Tree

6:15pm ~ Petting Zoo and Pony Rides

6:30-6:50pm ~ The Langley Madrigals

7:00pm ~ Live Nativity Scene

SHOP LOCAL! The Great Falls Center will be offering an Open House from 1:00 to 4:00pm.

For more information go to www.CelebrateGreatFalls.org





Holidays are HERE!

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

Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The Great Falls 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@connectionnewsletters.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.

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Opinion Diversity Growing

This week, the Connection kicks off 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 residents.

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-

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

If 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



Photo contributed

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.

Great Falls
CONNECTION

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

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

Chelsea Bryan
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
cbryan@connectionnewspapers.com

Alex McVeigh
Community Reporter
703-778-9441
amcveigh@connectionnewspapers.com
[@AMcVeighConnect](https://twitter.com/AMcVeighConnect)

Victoria Ross
County Reporter ♦ 301-502-6027
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National Sales
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Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Deb Cobb, Louise Krafft,
Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager:
Jean Card
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
[@TheismannMedia](https://twitter.com/TheismannMedia)

**CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
Circulation Manager:**
Linda Pecquex
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

Opinion

Disrespectful

'A concerned Great Falls citizen' sent us this picture of a large Romney sign stolen from a neighbor and planted in Arnon Cemetery in Great Falls. "I just wanted the community to see how we have devolved into an angry, disrespectful society," he said in an accompanying note.



McLean to Celebrate WinterFest on Dec. 2

On Sunday, Dec. 2, McLean residents will welcome in the holidays as more than 50 entries proceed down Old Chain Bridge Road for the 5th annual WinterFest parade. This year's Grand Marshal is Virginia Foley, who has contributed outstanding volunteer service to the community. The stage will be set in the center curb cut of Langley Shopping Center, with Peggy Fox from WUSA Channel 9 again calling the parade. Parade entries will begin at Fleetwood Road and proceed down Old Chain Bridge Road to Elm Street. Old Chain Bridge Road will be closed to traffic from 2:45 to 6:15 p.m. on the day of the parade.

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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
The Connection

Part one of an ongoing series.

Yesuf 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 endless."

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. The 22-year-old voted in her first presidential election this month, and works as a special needs teacher in Vienna.

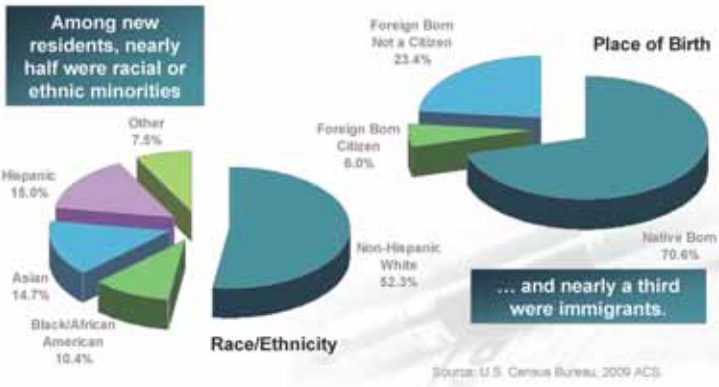
Srikanth Ramachandran came to America 14 years ago from India. In 2002, he founded the Fairfax-based Multivision IT company; by 2007 the company employed 200 people and had \$32 million in sales.

Andy Ton came from Vietnam. He now owns Andy's Barbershop in Vienna, where customers line up out the door on the weekends. Del. Mark Keam (D-35), the first Korean American and the first Asian-born immigrant to serve in the Virginia General Assembly, is one of his regular customers.

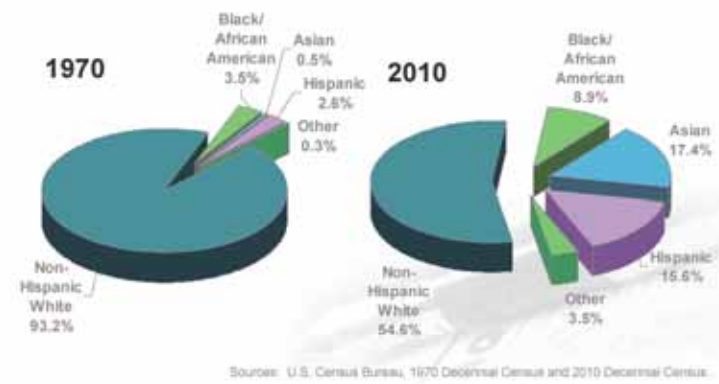
Individually, immigrants bring their own talents, culture, hopes, fears, sorrows, skills and needs. Collectively, they have permanently altered the fabric of Fairfax County.

In the span of one generation, Fairfax County has seen an explo-

Residents Who Moved to Fairfax County During 2009



Population by Race/Ethnicity Fairfax County, 1970 and 2010



sion in its immigrant population. In 1970, more than 93 percent of Fairfax County's population was white and middle-class. In the fall of 1970, a white 6-year-old child beginning elementary school in one of the county's developing towns—Chantilly, McLean, Vienna, Herndon and Centreville (which did not yet have one major grocery store or drug store)—could look to his left, or look to his right, and see a classroom full of children who, at least 90 percent of the time, looked like him and who spoke English.

By 2010, a child entering elementary school in Fairfax County would almost certainly encounter a classmate who did not speak English as a primary language, and whose parents or grandparents immigrated from places such as Vietnam, India, Korea or a country in Africa.

According to the 2010 U.S. Decennial Census, more than 46 percent of the county's population are of a racial or ethnic minority, and nearly a third are immigrants.

"I think the migrant population

is creating a richness and diversity and really enhancing our culture," said Frederic Bemak, PhD, director of the Diversity Research and Action Center at George Mason University. He said residents notice changes in obvious ways and subtle ones.

"There's a language change; there's a cultural change; there's a 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 day. It's not like it used to be." Well, it's not, and that's positive," Bemak said.

In comparison—from 1990 to 2010—the United States doubled the number of migrants settling in America.

"By 2020—and this is astounding—the children and adolescents of migrants will comprise one third of the U.S. population... one third," Bemak said. "People don't know that, if we're talking about children... that's our future. And if that's only 2020, imagine what

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 her parents from El Salvador when 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. In 2010, 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 U.S. Census Bureau's 2000 Decennial Census,

♦ Forty-four percent of Fairfax County elementary school students currently speak a language other than English at home. That's nearly 40,000 students who go home to households that speak one of more than 100 languages.

♦ Among new residents who



Khatira Alvarez (left) of Springfield, and Laura Simon-Salzer of McLean, took the Oath of Allegiance and became naturalized American citizens at a ceremony on July 10, held in the Hayfield Secondary School auditorium.

Photo by Deb Cobb/The Connection

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

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.

moved to the county in 2009, nearly half were racial or ethnic minorities, and nearly one-third were immigrants.

♦ In the decade from 1990 to 2000, the increase in the number of foreign born in Fairfax communities included: Centreville, 323 percent; Herndon, 168 percent; City of Fairfax, 88 percent, Springfield, 78 percent; Burke, 63 percent; and McLean, 10 percent.

♦ 19,301 (6.4 percent) immigrants in Fairfax County are self-employed business owners. This is higher than the 4.1 percent of self-employed business owners who are U.S.-born Americans.

Between 1990 and 2000, Fairfax County became an immigrant gateway—a place immigrants choose as their destination upon entering the United States, according to a 2006 Fairfax County demographic report. The trend continues. In 2010, Kiplinger called Fairfax County one of the nation's top eight gateways for immigrants.

"Immigrants to this region come from nearly every country in the world, and some localities are home to people from more than 100 countries," said Audrey Singer, a senior fellow in metropolitan policy at the Brookings Institution.

"When former Mayor Rob Lederer graduated high school, our minority population was just over 2 percent. When I graduated high school 10 years later, the minority population was 10 percent. Today, it's 40 percent," Silverthorne said, noting that in the Fairfax County school system, more than 100 languages are spoken. "I believe we have turned a blind eye to this trend."

Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County's Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, has emphasized and celebrated Fairfax County's diverse

their residents typically respond in 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 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 representation on the city's boards and committees.

"It's no secret that our community continues to diversify," Silverthorne said during his swearing-in ceremony.

"When former Mayor Rob Lederer graduated high school, our minority population was just over 2 percent. When I graduated high school 10 years later, the minority population was 10 percent. Today, it's 40 percent," Silverthorne said, noting that in the Fairfax County school system, more than 100 languages are spoken. "I believe we have turned a blind eye to this trend."

Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County's Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, has emphasized and celebrated Fairfax County's diverse

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.

"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 backgrounds."

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 shifting of responsibility from the federal government to localities for the

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.



Photo by Victoria Ross

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

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

Rosemary Osei, 22, and Lillie Reynolds, 61, have been good friends for four years. The two women, who help teach special needs students at a Vienna elementary school, are sometimes mistaken for mother and daughter.

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 Reynolds 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 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 believed my family and I would become rich and have more 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 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." She said she often cried, and ate lunch in the school's bathroom. Within a month, the 12-year-old yearned to return to Ghana.

"I wanted to go back 'home' to my friends. I was very unhappy because I wasn't being welcomed and accepted for who I am as a person," she said.

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.

Reynolds 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 black."

"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 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, and proud to live here."

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

"I am proud of so many things now. It makes me proud of America for how far we, as people, have 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 woman—but instead she is a stronger, independent black woman, who treats everyone with respect."

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 more than 60 percent of students admitted through 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 women generated nearly \$1 billion in revenue and



Frederic Bemak

Photo by Victoria Ross/The Connection

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 revenue—more than the total in 40 states, according to 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 Columbia.

Together these companies generated \$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 Department.

"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.



By Alex McVeigh/The Connection

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



Photos by 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 Korea

"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 Zagbani, 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."

Faith

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

The Knit, Purl Love ministry of Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park Street NE, Vienna, which knits and sends scarves to orphans in Eastern Europe, invites knitters, and those who wish to serve to help with the ministry, which as sent 1200-plus scarves to date and will deliver several hundred more in Ukraine in December. Call 703-938-9050 or www.metrochristianliving.com/monthly-columns/knit-purl-love-a-knitting-ministry/ to learn more.

A Walk through Ancient Bethlehem, Dec. 8-9, 2012. Walk through a replica of ancient Bethlehem during the time of Jesus Christ' birth. On Dec. 8 and 9, Parkwood Baptist Church of Annandale will present its 12th annual re-creation of Bethlehem. Tours conducted from 4 to 8 p.m. will feature costumed re-enactors including Roman soldiers and tax collectors, musical performances, and a nativity scene with live performers and animals. Activities and crafts for children and refreshments for all. No admission charge. 8726 Braddock Road, Annandale. Details available at www.bwalk.org or 703-978-8160.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, at the intersection with Westmoreland Street has Sunday worship with Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m., traditional style worship; 9:45 a.m., contemporary style worship; and 11 a.m., traditional style worship. Sunday School and Adult Forum is at 9:45 a.m.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, offers a rich and unique Religious Exploration (RE) program for all children, from pre-K toddlers

through high school seniors, emphasizing exploration of all religious traditions while developing a personal spiritual path. Registration for the RE program, which offers classes on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings, is now open by calling 703-281-4230.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers three Sunday services and a host of musical, educational, outreach, and fellowship ministries to enrich spiritual growth. Worship services are at 7:45 a.m. (without music); 9 a.m. Worship Service, Children's Chapel and Children's Choirs; 10 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum; and 11 a.m. Worship Service with Adult Choir. 703-759-2082.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, offers a 9 a.m. traditional service and a 10:30 a.m. contemporary service on Sundays. Also offers two services during the summer - both of which will include children's sermons. 703-356-3346.

Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean, Sunday worship services are at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults is at 9:30 a.m. and for children during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Youth Group for grades 7-12 meets Sundays at 6 p.m. A 20-minute service of Holy Communion is held each Wednesday at 12 p.m. 703-356-3312 or umtrinity.org.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. www.jssa.org/growth-learning.



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Crew Thanksgiving boxes.

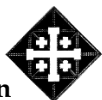
Langley Crew Gives Back

The Langley High School Crew Team recently worked with local charity groups to support the 2012 Thanks for Giving Thanksgiving Food Drive and charity event. Langley Crew provided manpower and donated supplies including winter clothes and holiday food staples to help over 100 families in D.C., Virginia, and West Virginia. The donations were collected at the Langley Crew Open House on Oct. 27 and were packed and shipped on Nov. 10.

Visit These Houses of Worship To Highlight Your Faith Community, call Karen at 703-917-6468

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Global Mission Church ... 703-757-0877
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The Light Mission Church ... 703-757-0877
Vienna Baptist Church ... 703-281-4400
New Union Baptist Church... 703-281-2556

Buddhist

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center... 202-331-2122

Church of the Brethren

Oakton Church of the Brethren ... 703-281-4411

Catholic

Our Lady of Good Counsel ... 703-938-2828
St. Athanasius Catholic Church ... 703-759-4555
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Christian Assembly ... 703-698-9777

Church of Christ

Berea Church of Christ ... 703-893-7040

Disciples of Christ

Antioch Christian Church ... 703-938-6753

Episcopal

Church of the Holy Comforter ... 703-938-6521

Church of the Holy Cross ... 703-698-6991
St. Francis Episcopal ... 703-759-2082

Jehovah's Witness

Jehovah's Witnesses ... 703-759-1579

Lutheran

Emmanuel Lutheran Church...703-938-2119
Christ The King Lutheran Church...703-759-6068
St. Athanasius Lutheran Church... 703-455-4003

Methodist

Andrew Chapel United Methodist ... 703-759-3509
Church of the Good Shepherd ... 703-281-3987
The Vine Methodist Church ... 703-573-5336
Epiphany United Methodist ... 703-938-3494
Great Falls United Methodist ... 703-759-3705
Oakton United Methodist ... 703-938-1233
Vale United Methodist ... 703-620-2594
Smith Chapel United Methodist ... 571-434-9680
Wesley United Methodist ... 703-938-8700

Non-Denominational

Celebration Center for Spiritual Living ... 703-560-2030
Christian Assembly Church ... 703-698-9777

Presbyterian

Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church ... 703-560-6336
Korean Central Presbyterian ... 703-698-5577
Vienna Presbyterian ... 703-938-9050

Quaker

Langley Hills Friends...703-442-8394

Seventh-Day Adventist

Northern Virginia Christian Fellowship ... 703-242-9001
Vienna Seventh Day Adventists ... 703-938-8383

Unitarian Universalist

Congregation of Fairfax ... 703-281-4230

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MIDWEEK SERVICES, WED. 7:00 PM



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

Entertainment

Send announcements to vienna@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.1ststage Tysonson.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.1ststage Tysonson.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.viennanapres.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. 703-938-1379.

Northern 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, hand-weaving, 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 non-perishables 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

November 23 - December 30, 2012
ALTAR BOYZ



Music and Lyrics by
Gary Adler and Michael Patrick Walker
Book by Kevin Del Aguila
Directed by Steven Royal
Musical Direction by Walter Bobby McCoy
Choreography by Jeremy McShan

Photo courtesy of 1st Stage

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.

www.1ststage Tysonson.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 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. 703-759-3309.

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 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

See Entertainment, Page 15

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



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Entertainment

From Page 14

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/pimmit-hills-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.1ststage.com.

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 Reindog Pageant. 8-9:30 a.m., at Langley Shopping Center, on Chain Bridge Road between Old Dominion Drive and Dolley Madison. 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/pimmit-hills-events>.

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. \$70 per child. www.ritzcarlton.com/tysons.

The Nutcracker Tea. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., at 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.

Djembe Drum and 50 Quilts for AIDS-Orphaned Children. 1:30-3:30 p.m., at Falls Church Episcopal, 115 East Fairfax St., Falls Church. View the first 50 quilts crafted by members of St. Peter's Episcopal



Photo Contributed

Emily Nesbitt sang at Colvin Run Community Hall on Saturday, Nov. 3, becoming the first "canary" in the Canary Program, offering talented soloists the opportunity to perform.

Catch A 'Canary' At Colvin Run

Langley High School junior Emily Nesbitt became the first "Colvin Run Canary" on Saturday, Nov. 3. Holding the dancers spellbound with her romantic interpretation of the 1940s favorite, "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square," Nesbitt was the first featured singer in the Colvin Run Community Hall's new youth outreach program.

Director Alane Dashner explains, "A 'canary' is the old-fashioned word for a woman who lent vocals to the jazz bands and big bands in the last century." Colvin Run's new "Canary" program offers talented young soloists the opportunity to perform both a capella and with a live band and ballroom dancers.

Interested high school-aged soloists (male and female) should email adashner@colvinrun.org for more details. A video of Nesbitt's performance can be found at www.colvinrun.org and at <http://youtu.be/yOOBYtR41Pg>.

Church, made for South African children orphaned by AIDS; refreshments and live music by Kofi Dennis, djembe drummer. stpeterslovequilts@gmail.com.

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.1ststage.com.

The 44th Annual Wolf Trap Holiday Sing-Along. 4-5:30 p.m., at the Filene Center, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Bring your brightest candle, your shiniest bell, a Toys for Tots gift and a grand holiday spirit; the president's own United States Marine Band and 400 voices from top area groups lead the audience in traditional holiday songs. www.wolftrap.org.

Christmas with FCS: Carols Through the Ages. 5 p.m., at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park Street NE, Vienna. Share Christmas with the Fairfax Choral Society; 300-plus voices belt out popular and unusual carols from

Christmases past. \$25, adults; \$15, students (in advance, adults are \$30 at the door). 703-642-3277 or www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org.

Great Falls Celebration of Lights. 6-8 p.m., at the Great Falls Village Centre Hill, off State Route 681/Walker Road, Great Falls. The 22nd annual tree lighting ceremony has not only a host of lights, but also a petting zoo, pony rides, Santa Claus with his old-fashioned sleigh bell, a live nativity, music from the Langley Madrigal Singers, hot cider and an open house featuring shops with treats, cookies, hot chocolate and coupons.

Big Sam's Funky Nation. 7:30 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. A general admission dance with "Big Sam" Williams and his troupe of urban jazz musicians. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

Ballroom Dance at Colvin Run Community Hall. 9-11:30 p.m., Colvin Run Community Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. DJ Bill Powers and TJ play ballroom dance music from the 1930s to today; includes light refreshments. \$4. www.colvinrun.org.

Did you know?
60% of adults in families that were homeless were employed



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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!

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Admission: \$2 adults
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Photo by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection

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 top-seed 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.



Photo by Louise Kraft/The Connection

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

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/?org=viennaflag.com>.

Flint Hill Pitcher Doyle Commits to UVA

Flint 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 tournaments.

"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



Photo by Sue Spencer

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.

Interviews and Recommendations

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

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

Mark 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 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? 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



Photo courtesy of St. Andrew's Episcopal School
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."

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."



The Langley High School Model UN Team at the College of William and Mary's 26th Annual High School Model UN Conference.

Winning Big

Langley's Model UN Team wins a collection of awards at annual conference.

The Langley High School Model UN Team attended The College of William & Mary's 26th Annual High School Model UN Conference and won a collection of awards.

Langley won the Best Large Delegation award, beating Thomas Jefferson High School for the first time in school history. To gain the title, Langley also defeated Model UN powerhouse UChicago Lab School.

The team also took a collection of individual awards, including: The Secretary-General's Committee on Negotiation (Ad Hoc), Best Delegate—Mujtaba Wani; Cabinet of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Best Delegate—Cynthia Ding; General Meeting of the English Premier League, Best Delegate—Jiho Kim; United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, Best Delegate—Jenna Smith; Best Delegate Organization of American

States (Spanish Speaking Committee), Best Delegate—Rachel Stone; International Maritime Organization, Best Delegate—Cameron Davis and Rachel Wu; Joint Crisis Committee: American Civil War: Union Cabinet, Outstanding Delegate—Brendan McConaughay; United Nations Environmental Programme, Outstanding Delegate—Shivali Marwaha and Sahar Ghamary; Joint Crisis Committee: American Civil War: Confederate Cabinet, Verbal Commendation—Gregory Adams; and International Atomic Energy Agency, Verbal Commendation—Natalie Fahlberg and Grace Sununu.

The Langley High School Model UN officers are Secretary-General Mujtaba Wani, Under-Secretary-General Jenna Smith, Treasurer Cynthia Ding and Communications Officer Hoonie Kim.

The team sponsor is Jillian Busath.

School Notes

Send School Notes to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

The following students were named semifinalists in the 2013 National Achievement® Scholarship Program: **Taylor N. Brown** and **Zakiy S. Gharad** from McLean High School; **Margaret C. Secor** from James Madison High School; **Misa C. Mori** from Oakton High School.

The following students were named semifinalists in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program: **Patrick F. Sanguineti** from Flint Hill School; **Katherine Fowler**, **Benjamin Haines**, **Thomas F. Lomont**, **Atussa Mohtasham**, **Jeremy K. Park**, **Amanda N. Rones**, **Abigail C. Skwara**, **Anna E. Stone** and **Faith C. Tetlow** from James Madison High School; **Bridget J. Bauman**, **Melissa C. Chang**, **Ambareesh Gorle**, **Tamera R. Lanham**, **Irene S. Lee**,

Andrew R. Seastram and **Stewart C. Silver** from Oakton High School; **Paul Bernstein**, **Ryan W. Cheng**, **Aimee A. Cho**, **Christie S. Goddard**, **Eunyoung C. Kim**, **Gene Kim**, **Margaret R. Mahoney**, **Yasmeen K. Mushtaq**, **Praveena Mylvaganam**, **Nadejda S. Nikolova**, **Kelvin Nui**, **Caitlin A. Rose** and **Mujtaba M. Wani** from Langley High School; **Taylor N. Brown**, **Shannon Chen**, **Maia D. Foster**, **Joshua D. Higbee**, **Annemieke L. Janssen**, **Vivek V. Kunnath**, **Lewis C. Milholland**, **Madelyn S. Paquette**, **Polina V. Tamarina**, **Nivetha Vijayakumar** and **Cedric Whitney** from McLean High School; **Stacey Y. Chiu**, **Charlotte A. Ferenbach**, **Julia L. Keller**, **Nicholas M. Kensinger** and **Caroline J. Resor** from Potomac School.

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21 Announcements

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ton, Virginia 22203-1853. The
above establishment is apply-
ing 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 iss-
uance 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 regis-
tered at www.abc.virginia.gov
or 800-552-3200

21 Announcements

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 alcohol-
ic beverages. Donald Roden
owner
NOTE: Objections to the iss-
uance of this license must be
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32 Lost



On Thursday, 8 November,
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She is a light color with dark spots
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lbs. She is missed very much and
hope that someone in the neighbor-
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21 Announcements

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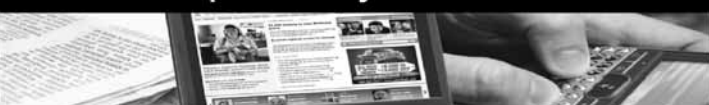
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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$3,700 to \$3,850†.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$9,000 to \$9,500.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,000 to \$1,050†.
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$33 to \$35.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$8.35 to \$9.20†.
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$2.16 to \$2.29 per 1,000 gallons of water.
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.20 to \$3.45 per 1,000 gallons of water.
8. An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$46 to \$50.
9. 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.
11. 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.

†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,
Fees, and Charges.

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 2013†.

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, invest-
ment 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	2,285
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	\$39,374,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
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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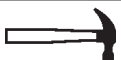
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