

Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ❖ Kingstowne ❖ Newington

A+
PAGE 7

Finding Home in Fairfax County

FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION, PAGE 8

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.

New 495
Express Lanes
Open for Business

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PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

SCHOOLS

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Nick McGovern of Springfield has been selected to play Jack for the University of Mary Washington production of "Into the Woods."

McGovern is the son of Michael and Julie McGovern of Springfield and is a 2010 graduate of Robert E. Lee High School. A junior majoring in business administration and theatre, McGovern is a member of UMW's varsity baseball team and the Improv Troupe. He has been named to the Dean's List.

Rosanne M. Kysar, of Springfield, graduated from Boston University with a Master of Science in computer information systems in September 2012.

The following students were named semifinalists in the 2013 National Achievement® Scholarship Program: **Hayley V. Harris** and **Warren D. Smith** from Centreville High School; **Tommie A. Banks** from West Springfield High School.

The following students were named semifinalists in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program: **Emily R. Costigan** of South County Secondary

School; **Benjamin D. Sando** of Centreville High School; **John B. Hyde**, **Victoria L. Irvine**, **Yeser Kim** and **Alexander C. Moree** from West Springfield High School.

Air Force Airman 1st Class Peter L. Nguyen of Springfield graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Nguyen is the son of Kim Le of Springfield, and stepson of Dwight Rider of Stafford. He is a 2006 graduate of West Springfield High School. He earned an associate degree in 2010 from Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria.

Jessica Marsh has been named to the spring 2012 dean's list at Montana State University.

Cole Mitchell has been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at Randolph-Macon Academy. He is the son of Taylor and Sue Mitchell of Springfield.

Kayla Magaha, a student from Hayfield Secondary School, won a third place award at the Health Occupations Students of America State Leadership conference. Magaha won in the career health day category.

Heather Flint of Robinson Secondary School, **Nikki Paculan** of Lee High

School and **Kailee Tangen** of West Springfield High School won a fourth place awards at the Health Occupations Students of America State Leadership conference.

Sarah Elizabeth Davis of Springfield has been named to the fall 2011 honor roll at Gardner-Webb University of Boiling Springs, N.C. Davis is majoring in elementary education.

Rebecca Brandt of Springfield was named to the fall 2011 dean's list with honors at Northwestern College in St. Paul, Minn. Brandt is pursuing a degree in urban studies. She is the daughter of Randy and Julie Brandt.

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JEANS DAY 2012

Friday, Dec. 14

Putting the ZIP on Homelessness

Put the ZIP on Homelessness by wearing jeans December 14 in exchange for a \$5 contribution to the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent & End Homelessness.

Learn More & Sign Up

<http://jeansday2012.eventbrite.com>

In 2011, more than 100 employers representing 3,000 employees participated in this community-wide give-back initiative. Help us boost those numbers in 2012!







Mason Enterprise Center Expands

Ribbon cutting for updated facilities in Fairfax.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Throughout election season, the public was bombarded with ads criticizing the “other side” for being anti-small business, and not doing enough to encourage the growth of entrepreneurship. If the pols and pundits had bothered to cast an eye toward the City of Fairfax, they would have found the Mason Enterprise Center Fairfax (MECFairfax), a model incubator for the development and expansion of successful businesses.

The MECFairfax has been supporting and mentoring small business owners for more than 17 years. On Wednesday, Nov. 14, the staff hosted a well-attended ribbon cutting ceremony and open house to celebrate the recently completed remodeling and expansion of their facility at 4031 University Drive. The renovations began in May, doubling the size of the main conference room and adding updates like LCD monitors in all conference space, and additional copy/printing stations to the 29,000-plus square foot complex, which includes a professional reception area, 79 offices, an impressive mail room, and a variety of comfortable café and break spots.

THE FIRST FLOOR is home to the center’s main conference room, but also houses the offices of the George Mason University employees who operate the MECFairfax as well as the resources of an integrated network of programs like the Virginia Small Business Development Center, the Procurement Technical Assistance Program, the Mentor-Protégé Program, and the International Business Development Program. “There’s a real brain trust within these walls,” said Jody Keenan, managing director of the MEC in Fairfax. “And access to all these people and all these resources is readily available and included in the cost of office space rental here at the MEC.” About 33 companies currently reside at the center, renting one or more office units; 51 companies are “virtual” tenants. “They may just need a physical address, someplace to send mail, along with access to our support personnel. They can use conference space or meet with clients here. Whatever they need,” said Keenan. Hundreds have come through over the years. According to Keenan, the goal is to assist the fledgling company as it stabilizes and then grows. “Hopefully, they will outgrow us,” admitted Keenan.

MediaForce, the PR firm that handled the press material for the MECFairfax’s open house is one such graduate. “I started with one office here in 2005,” said founder and President Robert Gaudian. “One day I looked around and realized we were kind of crammed in 11 offices. Time to move on. What a wonderful complaint.” The perfect scenario, MediaForce is now located just two blocks away, keeping their business local.

Keith B. Segerson, executive director of the Mason Enterprise Center Network, which includes locations in Leesburg, Manassas, Spotsylvania, Springfield and Woodbridge in addition to the Fairfax center, opened



GMU Professor Roger Stough, GMU President Dr. Angel Cabrera, City of Fairfax Mayor Scott Silverthorne and Mason Enterprise Center Network Executive Director Keith Segerson make it official, cutting the ribbon to launch the renovated facility.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



Mason Enterprise Center Managing Director Jody Keenan answers questions from guests as she leads a tour of the recently renovated facility. “We can support new and growing business at every stage,” declared Keenan, “from planning, to capitalization, marketing, IT solutions and more.”



The MECFairfax hosted their own (and much friendlier) version of the TV reality show “Shark Tank.” Anne Rosenblum meets with “sharks” Scott Gorvett, Neil Agate and Bob Smith. Karen Sorber, owner of Micronic Technologies has some questions for the volunteer panel.

the ribbon cutting ceremony. MECFairfax Director Judy Barral added her welcome to the assembly, and thanked all of the event’s sponsors.

VIEWPOINTS

What Are You Thankful for on this Thanksgiving Day?

— MARY WITKO



Del. Dave Albo, (R-42), Fairfax Station:

“Every Thanksgiving my Dad says his famous quote, ‘If you were born in America and had a parent that loved you, you hit the lottery in life and should never ask for anything again.’ So that’s what I am thankful for. I am thankful that I grew up in West Springfield and had parents that loved me.”

John Chahine, owner and general manager of Paisano’s Burke, Burke

“The one thing I am truly thankful for is family. My family took a big risk one year ago by supporting me in opening... I have worked very hard to make sure our business will succeed. Since day one, my family has supported me through the stressful times and the good times. They are always there for me.”



Lauren Seger, student, George Mason University, Fairfax

“This Thanksgiving, I am especially thankful for my family—going to college has made me miss them more than I ever thought I would. I’m so glad I have them around to help me grow and provide me with unconditional love.”



Rabbi Bruce Aft, Adat Reyim Congregation, Springfield

“As leader of this congregation, I’m thankful for the devotion of a group of energetic young people who want to create an active spiritual community here.”



The Furlow Family (Londonn and Bryce, students; Chechena, real estate agent; Jerome, budget analyst), Lorton

Londonn: “I am thankful for my parents, my grandma, my house, my big brother who helps me with my homework, and the food God puts on our table.”

Bryce: “I am thankful for my parents, my home, my clothes, the school I go to and the food on our table.”

Chechena: “I am thankful to God that I have my mom home with me and my family for the holidays after a terrible fall where she broke her nose and had to have surgery.”

Jerome: “I am thankful for my loving family and for all the blessings that God gives us and the fact that we all will be together on Thanksgiving.”



Stephanie Lauria, student, South County Secondary School, Springfield

“It may sound cliché, but I truly am thankful for every single aspect of my life... from my family and friends to my experiences and opportunities. Life truly is a gift, and it’s hard not to be thankful for it.”





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.

PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

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

The 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 Department

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 ADMINISTRATOR 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.

Bibliophiles Rejoice

Richard Byrd Library Book Sale a holiday bestseller.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Booklovers, bargain hunters and holiday shoppers will find the perfect gift for everyone on their holiday list at the annual Richard Byrd Library holiday book sale beginning Thursday, Nov. 29.

With more than 10,000 books to sell, and more coming in, the sale is one of the largest used book sales in the area.

“Our children’s books are overflowing,” said Christine Peterson, president of the Friends of Richard Byrd Library, the non-profit fundraising arm of the library. “We have everything from board books for toddlers to the Hunger Games Trilogy and everything in between. Prices start at twenty-five cents so this is the perfect place to shop if you are a parent, grandparent or teacher.”

“We received an amazing variety of donated books last year, and many are almost new, so they make great stocking stuffers and gifts,” she said.

Peterson said the book selection includes every conceivable genre—from history, art and foreign language to medical science and science fiction—including rare, vintage and autographed books.

For adults, this year’s sale includes a special-collection donation from an Auschwitz survivor, which adds to the sale’s military history offerings of 500-plus books. Peterson said craft books, art and photography books and cook books are always bestsellers.

“And we have more fiction than you can imagine.

Greenspring Donates 800 Turkeys With Funds Raised From 10th Annual Turkey Trot

On Friday, Nov. 16, Greenspring residents and staff participated in the retirement community’s 10th Annual Turkey Trot, raising money to provide Thanksgiving turkeys to area families in need. Greenspring’s wellness and fitness staff organize the event each year, which continues to grow annually, according to Greenspring Wellness Manager Brad Hibbs.

“So many of the residents recognize that they are fortunate and are willing to help,” said Hibbs. “They are incredibly generous.”

Four Washington, D.C.-area mission organizations are receiving turkeys from Greenspring this year including SOME (So Others Might Eat), Central Union Mission, Gospel Rescue Ministries, and Southeast White House.

Representatives from each of the organizations joined residents and staff at the event, and expressed their appreciation for the generosity shown. “Thank you for spreading the love and joy of Thanksgiving,” said Greg Chudy, donation coordinator for SOME.

This year, Greenspring raised enough funds to purchase and donate 800 turkeys, totaling nearly 1800 lbs. and surpassing last year’s donation of 700 turkeys. About 75 residents and staff participated in the one-mile walk for the Turkey Trot, while many others made monetary donations.

More information about Greenspring can be found at www.ericksonliving.com.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Christine Peterson, president of the Friends of the Richard Byrd Library, displays crates with some of the more than 10,000 book donations the library has received this year for its annual holiday sale.

THE RICHARD BYRD LIBRARY BOOK SALE

Where: The Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield

When:

Thursday Nov. 29 from 3-9 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 30 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 2 from noon to 3 p.m. (Bag Sale)

Most fiction and nonfiction is from \$1 to 3. Wrapped all together—lots of selection, great prices, excellent quality and all for a good cause—your library,” Peterson said.

“This sale is a real community effort,” Peterson said.



Residents participating in the one-mile Turkey Trot walk.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



From left, Wellness Manager Brad Hibbs, Wellness Coordinator Juanita Kuntz, Fitness Specialist Marla Masakayan, and Fitness Specialist Sandy Latta.

SOUTH COUNTY HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

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Diversity Growing

Tune in to our series on immigration.

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 limited

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

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-VA)

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.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED




Kanga Mart Day at Keene Mill ES

On Friday, Nov. 16, the Keene Mill ES third graders held the annual Kanga Mart Day to coincide with their unit on economics. For Kanga Mart, the students decide on then create a product to sell to their classmates and other grade levels. Every item costs \$.25

and parents come in to be the “bankers.” The money collected will go to Food For Others, a food bank that distributes free food to those in need in northern Virginia.

—CAROL MILLAR


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TIME TO BUY

FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION

Finding a 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.

Y 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 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.

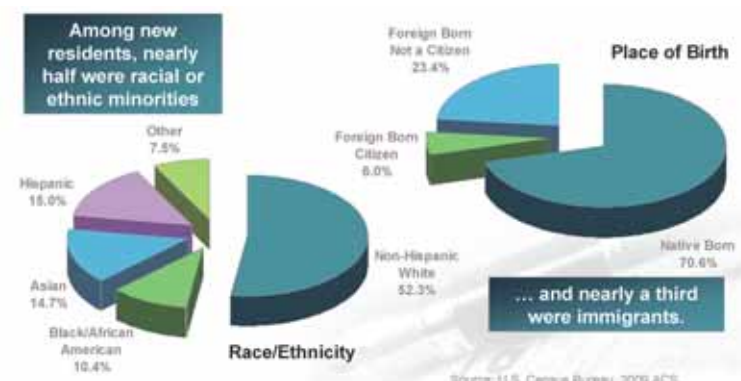
Srikanth Ramachandran came to America 14 years ago from India. In 2002, he founded the Fairfax-based Multivision IT company; by 2007 the company employed 200 people and had \$32 million in sales.

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.

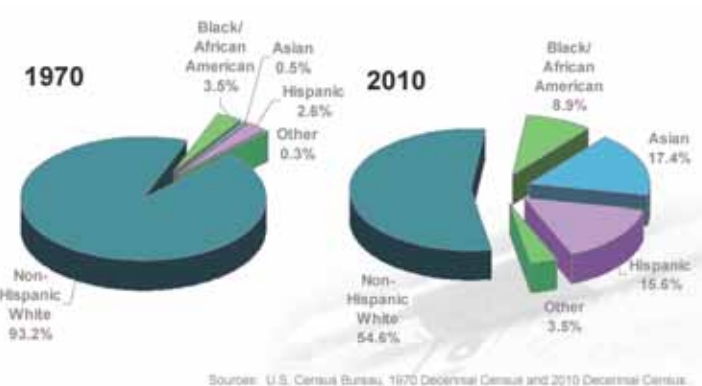
Individually, immigrants bring their own talents, culture, hopes, fears, sorrows, skills and needs. Collectively, they have permanently altered the fabric of Fairfax County.

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 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 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 County 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.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

According to scholars at the Brookings Institute, localities and

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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

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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 10

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 States 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 9

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 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."

CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 21

Historic Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service. 8 p.m., at Temple B'nai Shalom, 7612 Old Ox Road, Fairfax Station. The 26th annual special service, led by four women clergy, showcases B'nai Shalom and Abiding Presence choirs and brings the community together for fellowship at the reception following the service. www.tbs-online.org.

THURSDAY/NOV. 22

South Run RECenter Turkey Burn. 7-11 a.m., 7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield. A turkey trot around Lake Mercer with panoramic view atop the dam, challenging hills and flat stretches through the forest; supports ECHO, bring canned or boxed food, clothing or toiletries to donate. 703-866-0566 ext. 213.

FRIDAY/NOV. 23

South Run RECenter Zumbathon. 11:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m., 7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield. Dance away calories with a saucy group class. \$5. 703-866-0566 ext. 213.

Public Reception: 30x30: 30 Works in 30 Days. 5-7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. An exhibition that encourages artists to create 30 pieces on 6"x6" panels in 30 days. The Workhouse Arts Center's 2012 holiday exhibition featuring local



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The annual Model Train Show is a mecca of gauges and train displays for the whole family.

Twenty-Third Annual Model Train Show

On Saturday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station, moving gauges, a garden-themed gauge, a caboose, gift shop and many train displays make a festive day. Bring your own model train problems to "The Train Doctor" and see Model A autos, weather permitting. \$5, adults; \$1, children. 703-425-9224 or www.fairfaxstation.org.

artists who have been selected by jury. Exhibit open Nov. 23-Dec. 30. www.workhousearts.org.

Crystal Rodrigue: 2012 Collector's Showcase Winner Solo. 5-7 p.m., at the W-16 McGuireWoods Gallery, Lorton Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. An opening reception featuring the work of Crystal Rodrigue, winner of the 2012 Collector's Showcase exhibition. Rodrigue's exhibit of photos overlain on gilded metallic backgrounds is up

through Dec. 30. www.lortonarts.org.

Cool Cow Comedy Presents: Rob Maher. 8 p.m., at W-3 Theater, Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Must be 18. \$15. Purchase tickets at www.coolcowcomedy.com.

SATURDAY/NOV. 24

A Magical Christmas. 1 p.m., at the W-3 Theatre, the Lorton Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Santa hasn't

stopped in the town of Believe for three whole years and doesn't even know the place exists—can Joy's grandfather turn the town Christmas spirit around? \$8, children; \$12, adults. www.lortonarts.org.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 28

Holiday Wreath-making. 7-9:30 p.m., at Lee High School, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. Make an artificial wreath with silk flowers and a stuff animal; the result is a long-lasting, versatile piece of decor (bring wire cutter and scissors). \$35 per person. 703-222-4664 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/.

THURSDAY/NOV. 29

Richard Byrd Library Sale. 1-9 p.m., at 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Find 10,000-plus books, many like new, from fifty cents to \$3, on the topics of cooking, hobbies, children's books, fiction, art and nearly everything else with an especially rich history collection. The sale continues through Saturday, Dec. 1. 703-451-8055.

The Diary of Anne Frank. 7 p.m., at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Presenting "The Diary of Anne Frank," the famous story of a young Jewish girl forced to go into hiding with her family during the Holocaust. \$5 students; \$10 adults. <http://www.fcpsdrama.com/>.

FRIDAY/NOV. 30

Richard Byrd Library Sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Find 10,000-plus books, many like new, from fifty cents to \$3, on the topics of cooking, hobbies,

children's books, fiction, art and nearly everything else with an especially rich history collection. The sale continues through Saturday, Dec. 1. 703-451-8055.

Drumming with Dishes: The Holiday Edition. 10:30 a.m., W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. An adventurous toddler invites her shy imaginary friend to a kitchen where the two cook up music and see what makes the holiday season the most wonderful time of the year; the play is a 35-minute interactive, non-verbal show with two adult actors and a musician, geared toward children ages 2-6. \$8 (children under 12 months, free). www.artsonthehorizon.org.

The Diary of Anne Frank. 7 p.m., at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Presenting "The Diary of Anne Frank," the famous story of a young Jewish girl forced to go into hiding with her family during the Holocaust. \$5 students; \$10 adults. <http://www.fcpsdrama.com/>.

SATURDAY/DEC. 1

Drumming with Dishes: The Holiday Edition. 9:45 a.m., 11:15 a.m., at the W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. An adventurous toddler invites her shy imaginary friend to a kitchen where the two cook up music and see what makes the holiday season the most wonderful time of the year; the play is a 35-minute interactive, non-verbal show with two adult actors and a musician, geared toward children ages 2-6. \$8 (children under 12 months, free). www.artsonthehorizon.org.

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SPORTS

Stepka, Bowles Lead Woodson Boys' Basketball

Cavaliers focused on postseason success.

By JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Woodson boys' basketball team breezed through Patriot District opponents during the 2011-12 regular season, posting a 13-1 mark en route to the top seed in the district tournament.

From that point, however, things no longer ran smoothly for the Cavaliers. With starting guard Michael Hansler sidelined with an ankle injury and team chemistry faltering, Woodson lost to T.C. Williams, 49-48, in the district semifinals and fell to Fairfax, 54-51, in overtime during the opening round of the Northern Region tournament. Just like that, the Cavaliers, who went 20-3 during the regular season, were done.

"Our chemistry wasn't as good as it should have been last year," sophomore point guard Eric Bowles said. "... It wasn't anything the coaches did. Players, they were separated and stuff."

Nine months later, Woodson returns six of its top 10 scorers for the 2012-13 campaign. Led by 6-foot-6 sharpshooter Tommy Stepka and Bowles, the Cavaliers have their sights set on assuring regular-season victories translate to postseason success.

"Anytime you return a lot of experience from a team that had success last season, goals or expectations are high," Woodson head coach Doug Craig said. "... The goal is to kind of take that next step and play deep into the regional tournament."

STEPKA, a senior, was Woodson's leading scorer last season at 12.7 points per contest and shot better than 40 percent from 3-point range. Craig said he would like to see Stepka improve at the defensive end and become a better all-around player.

"Last year, I think he kind of snuck up on people," Craig said. "I don't think people realized until we played 15 or 18 games how good he was. ... I don't think he'll sneak up [on teams this season]."

Stepka said shooting should again be a strength for Woodson. How does a team that shoots a lot from the perimeter avoid struggling?

"You've just got to be focused and have confidence," Stepka said. "... Just stay confident."

Bowles (5-11) started at point guard as a freshman last season, averaging 6.8 points and five assists per game. Craig said he wants Bowles to improve his game at each end of the floor and take on more of a leadership role.

"I think we have a very experienced point



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Woodson senior Tommy Stepka was the Cavaliers' leading scorer last season.

guard even though he's only a sophomore," Craig said. "He started 25 games and had an outstanding year for us [last season]."

Bowles said he feels the same now as he did when he was a freshman and any nerves he experienced last season weren't the product of being a ninth-grader on varsity.

"I'm expected to do better than what I did last year. I shouldn't get worse," he said. "I'm just going to come out and play my game. You always get nervous when you're about to play your first game. [It wasn't] really about being a freshman and coming in. That first game is the nervous one and then once you play that, everything's fine after that."

Hansler, a 6-foot-2 senior, enters his third season on the varsity.

"He has the athletic ability," Craig said, "to be a real dominating player."

Seniors Peter Murray (6-4) and Alex Boock (6-4), and junior Andy Stynchula (6-4) also return for Woodson. Craig said Boock will miss four-to-six weeks after having surgery on his right pinky finger.

WOODSON'S RETURNING ATHLETES will have to overcome the loss of third-leading scorer Brandon Stepka (graduation) and second-leading scorer AJ Carr, a 6-foot-6 forward who transferred to Saint James School in Hagerstown, Md.

"I'm hoping a strength this year will be our experience," Craig said, "[and] the fact we played in a lot of big games last year."

Woodson will scrimmage at Paul VI at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 24 and will open the regular season at home against Robinson on Nov. 30.

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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:

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 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	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

¹ 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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(1) OFFERS INCLUDE VA TAX, FREIGHT, \$399 PROCESSING FEE, ACQUISITION FEE AND \$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT. 36-MONTH LEASE WITH 12K PER YEAR. (2) TOTAL DOWN PAYMENT PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$399 PROCESSING FEE DUE AT SIGNING. (3) 0% APR FINANCING AVAILABLE FOR 36 MONTHS ON NEW 2012 CAMRYS. 0% APR FINANCING AVAILABLE FOR 60 MONTHS ON NEW 2013 COROLLAS. OFFERS FOR WELL QUALIFIED BUYERS WITH APPROVED TIER1+ CREDIT THROUGH TFS. EXCLUDES \$399 DEALER DOC FEE. (4) BASED ON BLACK BOOK TRADE VALUE MINUS EXCESS MILEAGE AND RECONDITIONING. (5) COVERS NORMAL FACTORY SCHEDULED SERVICE FOR 2 YEARS OR 25K MILES, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. THE NEW VEHICLE CANNOT BE PART OF A RENTAL OR COMMERCIAL FLEET. SEE PARTICIPATING DEALER FOR COMPLETE PLAN DETAILS. VALID ONLY IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND ALASKA. (6) TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICE COLLEGE GRADUATE PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE ON APPROVED CREDIT THROUGH A PARTICIPATING TOYOTA DEALER AND TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES. NOT ALL APPLICANTS WILL QUALIFY. REBATE OFFERED BY TOYOTA MOTOR SALES, U.S.A., INC. REBATE WILL BE APPLIED ON LEASE CONTRACTS, FIRST TOWARD THE AMOUNTS DUE AT LEASE SIGNING OR DELIVERY WITH ANY REMAINDER TO THE CAPITALIZED COST REDUCTION OR TOWARD THE DOWN PAYMENT ON FINANCE CONTRACTS. ONE REBATE PER LEASE OR FINANCE TRANSACTION. (7) REBATE OFFERED BY TOYOTA MOTOR SALES, U.S.A., INC. REBATE WILL BE APPLIED ON LEASE CONTRACTS, FIRST TOWARD DUE AT SIGNING OR DELIVERY, WITH ANY REMAINDER TO THE CAPITALIZED COST REDUCTION OR TOWARD THE DOWN PAYMENT ON FINANCE CONTRACTS. ONE REBATE PER FINANCE OR LEASE TRANSACTION. NOT COMPATIBLE WITH THE TOYOTA COLLEGE GRADUATE REBATE PROGRAM. SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE DETAILS. (8) ELIGIBLE CUSTOMERS MUST BE IN CURRENT ACTIVE DUTY STATUS IN THE U.S. MILITARY. (9) 0% APR FINANCING AVAILABLE FOR 36 MONTHS ON PRIUS PLUG-IN FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS. (†) WHICHEVER COMES FIRST FROM DATE OF TCJV PURCHASE. (††) FROM DATE OF TCJV PURCHASE. (†††) 1.9% APR FINANCING ON ALL CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED VEHICLES FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS WITH APPROVED CREDIT ON SELECT MODELS THROUGH TFS. \$399 DEALER DOC FEE. SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE FINANCING DETAILS. (††††) UP TO \$5,000. ALL OFFERS EXPIRE 11/30/12.



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4 BR, 2.5BA
Colonial on quiet cul-de-sac! Large 2 car garage.
Gourmet Kitchen w/ granite and stainless steel!
Spacious and casual floor plan w/ 4 upper level

bedrms. Finished lower level, and landscaped profusely w/ seasonal gardens. Enjoy all Burke Centre amenities and walk to VRE, bus stop, and community center!

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Fairfax \$539,900
Lovely 5 BR, 3 1/2 Bath beauty in Beautiful Fairfax Club Estates.

Situated on a richly wooded lot on a pretty cul-de-sac. The interior boasts 1st floor FR w/Fireplace, Formal LR/DR, New SGD steps you out to quiet deck, perfect for entertaining, Remodeled Baths, Newer Kitchen, Lower Level w/Rec Room, 5th BR and full Bath, 2 car garage.

Sheila Adams 703-503-1895



David Lewis

703-980-3090

David.Lewis@LNF.com



Lake Anna Waterfront \$475,000
Property is 9.38 acres with Pasture and Woods. Great Horse Farm or Just Space to Enjoy the Waterfront views and the Quiet Evenings. Over 400 feet of Waterfront for your Dock and Boathouse. www.lnf.com/SP7681946
Call or email David 703-980-3090 or David.Lewis@lnf.com



Lake Anna Waterfront \$695,000
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Fairfax \$569,000
This center hall colonial will knock your socks off! It's all been done for you! Sited on a cul de sac and featuring a huge fenced in back yard, enjoy the spectacular kitchen with all the bells and whistles, gleaming hardwoods, sun room, 5 large bdrms, all baths have been updated, new carpet & paint, finished walkout lower level nothing has been spared!

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Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

September, 2012 Sales from \$625,000~\$650,000



2 5201 Dunleigh Glen Lane, Burke — \$641,000



1 14030 Eagle Chase Circle, Chantilly — \$648,800

3 6230 Sandstone Way, Clifton — \$634,000



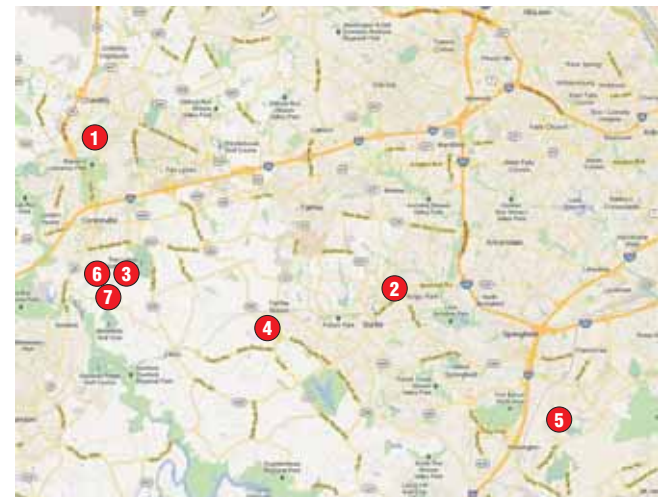
4 11024 Clara Barton Drive, Fairfax Station — \$633,000

7 6609 Rock Lawn Drive, Clifton — \$634,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 14030 EAGLE CHASE CIR	7	4	1	CHANTILLY	\$648,800	Detached	0.27	20151	WALNEY ROAD	09/24/12
2 5201 DUNLEIGH GLEN LN	4	3	1	BURKE	\$641,000	Detached	0.23	22015	DUNLEIGH	09/04/12
3 6230 SANDSTONE WAY	6	3	1	CLIFTON	\$634,000	Detached	0.30	20124	LITTLE ROCKY RUN	09/12/12
4 11024 CLARA BARTON DR	4	2	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$633,000	Detached	0.58	22039	FAIRFAX STATION	09/14/12
5 6357 ALDERMAN DR	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$633,000	Detached	0.10	22315	KINGSTOWNE	09/28/12
6 13910 MARBLESTONE DR	4	3	1	CLIFTON	\$631,500	Detached	0.20	20124	LITTLE ROCKY RUN	09/26/12
7 6609 ROCKLAWN DR	6	4	1	CLIFTON	\$628,000	Detached	0.23	20124	LITTLE ROCKY RUN	09/06/12

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