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News



Vienna Police Chief Robert Carlisle

Vienna Police Chief to Retire Jan. 1

On Nov. 12, Vienna Police Chief Robert Carlisle notified the town manager of his intent to retire, effective Jan. 1, 2013.

Carlisle was hired as chief of the Vienna Police Department in February 2001 and has almost 35 years experience in law enforcement. He joined the Fairfax County Police Department in 1978 and held several positions throughout his tenure, retiring in 1999 as commander of the Criminal Investigations Bureau. Prior to his appointment with the Town of Vienna, Carlisle served as assistant chief with the Falls Church Police Department from 1999 to 2001.

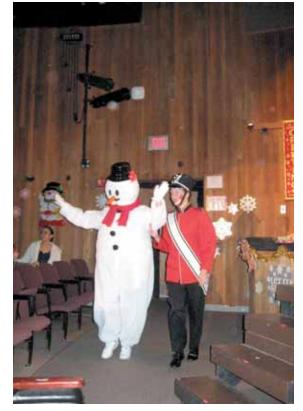
"Chief Carlisle has given many years of dedicated service to the Town of Vienna and in that time has transformed the way the police department does business. He has been an integral part of the Town's leadership team and has provided invaluable guidance not only in the field of public safety, but also in Town budgeting practices, emergency management efforts and in the selection of key department head positions. He will most assuredly be difficult to replace," said Town Manager Mercury Payton.

In his letter to the town manager Carlisle stated, "It has been an honor and privilege to serve in this position and something that I remain thankful for every day. This job and the police department have become a labor of love for me. I came here to a department that was under difficult circumstances and the initial challenges were many, but from challenges we created opportunities and we have made the most of every one of them. In almost every way, this department bears little resemblance to that which I took over: a credit to every employee who works here."

Upon retirement from the Town of Vienna, Carlisle will serve as vice president of security for Navy Federal Credit Union. In his new position, he will oversee worldwide security for the largest credit union in the world.

News

Vienna/Oakton Connection Editor Kemal Kurspahic 703-778-9414 or vienna@connectionnewspapers.com



Not only does the James Madison High School Tiny Tots Concert feature seasonal music, but it also welcomes special holiday icons.



Personalized ornaments are among the many festive crafts sold at the Northern Virginia Handcrafters' Guild Arts and Crafts Showcase held annually at the Vienna Community Center over the Thanksgiving weekend.

Holiday Events Sparkle in Vienna

Music, street parties and Santa visits make ways to celebrate the season.

> By Donna Manz The Connection

he heart of Vienna may be small geographically, but Vienna manages to pack a lot of special events into its heart. The town, during the fall holiday season, shines particularly bright.

There are activities and celebrations appealing to children, to families, to grown-ups who remember being kids.

Here's a sampling of what is going on in the Vienna area through the end of December.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA HANDCRAFTERS GUILD ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOWCASE

Thanksgiving weekend; Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street SE, Friday, Nov. 23 and 24, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Nov. 25, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More than 80 seasoned crafters take over the Vienna Community Center in this juried arts and crafts show, drawing customers from all over Northern Virginia.

The artisans offer a diverse range of unique products, from personalized ceramic and dough ornaments to fiber arts, woodcrafts, art and jewelry. It's a multi-generational outing for many families and kids appear to enjoy the child-focused ornaments. There are handcrafted soft dolls, handknit scarves and hats, and college alumni luggage tags.

Admission is \$3. For information on the Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild, go to www.nvhg.org.

CHURCH STREET HOLIDAY STROLL

Nov. 26, 6 to 9 p.m. Freeman House takes center stage as Church Street, from Mill to Lawyers Road, closes down for three hours to celebrate Vienna's annual Church Street Holiday Stroll.

Holiday Stroll. What can be more holiday-ish than Santa Claus, a lighted Christmas tree, fresh green wreaths, seasonal music and bonfires? Oh, you want more... well, then, throw in a petting zoo, free hot chocolate and decorated shops celebrating too.

Santa arrives on an antique fire truck at 6:15 p.m. and helps Mayor M. Jane Seeman light the holiday tree. While sitting on the porch of Freeman House, he listens to wish lists until the last child leaves.

The Freeman Store and Museum is dressed in holiday greenery crafted by gardeners of the Ayr Hill Garden Club. Open for the evening is the caboose, train station with its train layout, the Knights of Columbus Hall, formerly a First Baptist Church, and Vienna Presbyterian Church. The Town Green is lit, as well. Coldwell Banker is sponsoring a Toys for Tots collection.

The Church Street Holiday Stroll is sponsored by Historic Vienna, Inc. and the Town of Vienna.

Vienna, Inc. and the Town of Vienna.

For more information, call 703-938-5187 or visit www.historicviennainc.org.

WOLF TRAP HOLIDAY SING-ALONG

Saturday, Dec. 1, 4 p.m. at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts. It isn't often Wolf Trap hosts free musical spectacles, so, when they do, it's a rewarding opportunity to sit back, listening to Filene's Center's extraordinary acoustics, and to sing-along with armed forces musicians and singers and regional choirs. Especially festive are the glowing candles during the performance crescendo. Members of the Marine Corps will be on-hand to collect Troys for Tots.

Wolf Trap suggests guests remember to bring candles, bells and new, unwrapped toys.

There is no admission charge and no reserved seats. Come early, dress warmly and enjoy the music of the season.

See http://www.wolftrap.org/Home/ Find_Performances_and_Events/Event/Holiday_Sing.aspx.

THE 33RD ANNUAL TINY TOTS HOLIDAY CONCERT

Traditional seasonal music—holiday and winter—is performed by Madison High School's band. The concert features visits from loved seasonal characters, from Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and Frosty the Snowman to a red-velveted, white-bearded icon of the holidays. Expect to be greeted by toy soldiers.

The 2012 performances are on Thursday, Nov. 29 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., and on Friday, Nov. 30, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Admission is \$7 per person. Tickets sell out quickly.

Requests for reserved seating must be received by Nov. 21, and seats are assigned in the order requests are received. Seat reservation details are at http://www.jmhsband.org/

See Holiday Events, Page 11



Sara and Jansen Woo of Vienna brought their young children, 14-month-old Adeline and 3-year-old Abbey, to the Winter Walk of Lights. The children, Sara Woo said, loved that they could get close up to the lighted exhibits.

Winter Wonderland Opens in Vienna

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens presents seven weeks of lights festival.

By Donna Manz The Connection

n one of the season's more spectacular holiday gestures, the chairman of the board of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, Brian Knapp, ceremonially threw a switch at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna, illuminating hundreds of trees and scenes within Meadowlark's 100-acre parkland. From a lighted gingerbread cottage to illuminated horse and sleigh and Victorian skaters, Meadowlark created scenes and vignettes to delight children and adults alike.

Meadowlark's Winter Walk of Lights officially opened at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 16. The

Meadowlark Gardens Winter Walk of Lights

The illuminated winter wonderland of seasonal and nature scenes runs from Nov. 16 to Sunday, Jan. 6. Park is open for Winter Walk from 5:30 to 10 p.m. daily. Half a million LED lights decorate Meadowlark's expansive parkland. Admission fees for children over 3 and for adults. For fee details, see www.winterwalkoflights.com or phone 703-255-3631.

winter wonderland of sparkling lights runs daily until Sunday, Jan. 6, 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. each night. The park, off Beulah Road at 9750 Meadowlark Garden Court, is owned and man

See Walk, Page 4



Among the scenes at Meadowlark's Winter Walk of Lights was a horse-drawn sleigh. Nature, holiday and playful themes were born of 500,000 LED lights.



News

Walk of Lights at Meadowlark

From Page 3

aged by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

The featured paved path runs more than a half-mile, its displays lit by more than 500,000 LED lights. There are nature themes of animals and flowers, seasonal themes of gift boxes and reindeer, and playful themes of animated trees and fountains.

Unlike a drive-by light parade, where the tempo is determined by cars behind and front of you, a walk-through conforms to your own pace. You can even sit on a bench and watch the routine of an animated electronic light show.

A [very big] gingerbread boy and a snowman greet visitors, hugging children. Parents snap photos. It's a family fun event and an evening of awe for adults, as well.

"It's such a beautiful place with all these lights," said Anna Vilcatona of Fairfax. "It's a good place to come for winter. We need to tell our friends to come." Vilcatona's friend, Leticia Chavez of McLean, agreed. "It's awesome, so creative. Perfect for the Christmas season."

The Burke family drove in from Fredericksburg, bringing with them family from across the country. It was worth the money, they said

Seven-year-old Sydney Burke, wearing 3-D glasses from Meadowlark's Snowflake Shop, said the winter walk of lights was "really cool, especially with these glasses."

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority hosted a reception for park staff and the media on Saturday, Nov. 17. Refreshments were served in the Atrium, and then, around 5:15 p.m., everyone from the reception and the visitors' center, moved outdoors.

At 5:30 p.m., the lights at Meadowlark Gardens were switched on, bathing the landscape is a kaleidoscope of glowing color, reds and greens, purples, blues and yellows and crystal.

"We're really enjoying this," said Sara Woo of Vienna, with her husband Jansen and their two young children, Adeline, 14 months, and Abbey, 3. "The kids love it. They love that they can get close to the displays. And they like the little surprises."

Weekdays—Monday through Thursday—online admission fees are \$12 per adult, \$7 for children aged 3 to 12, and children under 3 are free.

Weekends—Friday, Saturday and Sunday—and holiday online admission fees are \$13 per adult, \$8 each for children 3 to 12, and children under 3 are free. Holidays include Nov. 22, Dec. 24, 25, 31, and Jan. 1. Use coupon code WINTERWALK when purchasing tickets and receive \$1 off per ticket.

A limited number of walk-in tickets may be available at \$14 per adult, \$9 per child aged 3 to 12, and free for children under 3.

Light refreshments, from hot chocolate to sweets, will be sold throughout the illuminations season from a tent on the grounds. A firepit burns for warming and for roasting marshmallows.

For details, see www.winterwalkoflights.com or phone 703-255-3631.

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People



Dan Lemieux

Vienna Resident Dan Lemieux **Receives Painter** Memorial Award

International awarded Vienna resident Dan Lemieux, a principal in the firm of Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates (WJE) Inc., the Robert J. Painter Memorial Award at the recent Performance of Buildings Committee meeting in Atlanta. This award, administered by the Standards Engineering Society, is presented to the person contributing the most outstanding service in a given year in the field of standards. WJE is an interdisciplinary firm of architects, structural engineers, and materials scientists that specializes in the investigation, analysis, testing and design of repairs for historic and contemporary structures. Since the firm's founding more than 55 years ago, WJE has focused on delivering practical, innovative and technically sound solutions across all areas of new and existing construction. WJE combines state-of-the-art laboratory and testing facilities, nationwide offices and knowledge sharing systems to provide solutions for the built world. For more information, visit wje.com.

School Notes

Send school notes vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Oakton High School athletes Camille Igal and Elizabeth Manner signed national letters of intent on Friday afternoon, Nov. 16.

Camille Igal of the Oakton Crew team signed a letter of intent to Division 1 Alabama of the SEC during the early signing period. Igal chose Alabama from among offers from George Mason and Minnesota. The senior has been in the Varsity boat since her sophomore year.

Elizabeth Manner of the Oakton Girls Basketball AAA State Champion Cougars is signing a letter of intent to Division 1 Stony Brook University of the America East Conference during the early signing period. Manner chose Stony Brook from among offers from Loyola (MD), Hartford, Robert Morris, Davidson, and others.

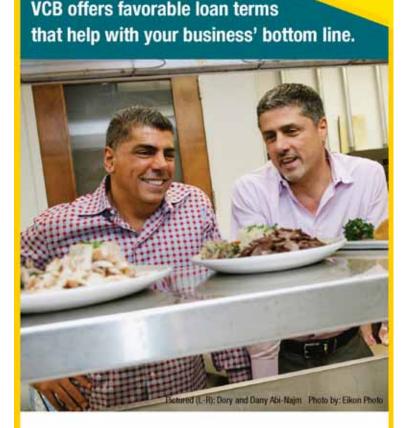
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Opinion Diversity Growing Tune in to our series on immigration.

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

It is a topic consistent with the original Thanksgiving story.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

> > — Mary Kimm, mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Be Part of Children's Connection

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

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

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

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

Some suggestions:

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

scanned and submitted in jpeg format.

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

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

Poetry or other creative writing.

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

News stories from school newspapers.

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

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

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

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

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

Focus on Immigration

Embracing Our Diversity

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

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

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

I tell them that America, a country of immigrants, is a place of



Connolly leads Pledge of Allegiance for new citizens.

your dreams and raise your famiproud families, I have the honor lies 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 opportunity where you can pursue 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.

Vienna & Oakton

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St. Mark's Mathletes

Representatives from St. Mark Catholic School participated in the Thomas Jefferson Intermediate Math Open on Saturday, Nov. 3. This is an elite mathematics competition open to seventh and eighth grade students in the Northern Virginia area who have a strong interest and ability in mathematics. St. Mark Mathletes were: Connor Morrissey, Sarah Lupinacci, Vale Tolpegin, Matthew Nguyen, Daniel Wright, William Waggoner and Nicholas Nguyen. Daniel Wright and Nicholas Nguyen both received second place awards in the Pre-Algebra category.



Marshall Road PTA Receives Grant for Artist in Residence

Marshall Road Elementary School (MRES) PTA is fully funding its 2012-2013 Artist in Residence program through an arts grant received from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The MRES PTA selected Bowen McCauley Dance (BMD), a professional dance company, as its second artist in residence. Earlier this month, Bowen McCauley Dance (BMD), an award-winning nonprofit organization located in Arlington, conducted arts-integrated workshops and multi-day dance tutorials for MRES students. The students learned professional choreography from the BMD repertoire including "Southern Girls" from Lucy's Local Playlist and "Coffee in a Cardboard Cup," excerpt from A Smile to Hide the Pain with music by Kander and

"This is our second year of having an Artist in Residence program and we are thrilled to have received this grant," said Beth Eachus, MRES PTA president. "We have been fortunate to partner with Bowen McCauley in the past and are building on that relationship. Every student in our school will have the opportunity to explore the art of dance."

Additionally, MRES partners with Bowen McCauley Dance for its Studio to Stage after-school program and will host a November evening performance featuring the professional dancers of BMD.

"We are excited to work with Marshall Road Elementary School and grateful to have received funding to help make this partnership possible," said Lucy Bowen McCauley, artistic director of Bowen McCauley Dance. "Providing an opportunity for students to experience the joy of dance and learn from professionals is really at the core of our mission."









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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.

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

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

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

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

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

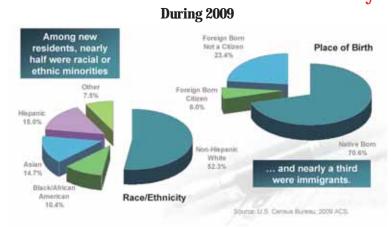
Srikanth Ramachandran came to towns—Chantilly, McLean, Vienna, America 14 years ago from India. Herndon and Centreville (which In 2002, he founded the Fairfax- did not yet have one major grocery based Multivision IT company; by store or drug store)—could look to 2007 the company employed 200 his left,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

Andy Ton came from Vietnam. He now owns Andy's Barbershop spoke English. in Vienna, where customers line up out the door on the weekends. Del. Mark Keam (D-35), the first Korean American and the first Asian-born a classmate who did not speak Enimmigrant to serve in the Virginia glish as a primary language, and General Assembly, is one of his whose parents or grandparents the number of migrants settling in the U.S. Census Bureau's 2000 regular customers.

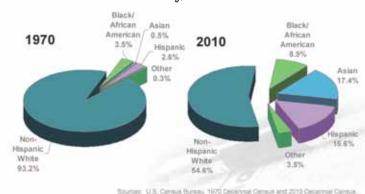
their own talents, culture, hopes, —in Africa...

In the span of one generation, nearly a third are immigrants.

Residents Who Moved to Fairfax County



Population by Race/Ethnicity Fairfax County, 1970 and 2010



Rosemary Osei came to In 1970, more than 93 percent of and really enhancing our culture," of 1970, a white 6-year-old child who, at least 90 percent of the time, looked like him and who

ementary school in Fairfax County would almost certainly encounter said. immigrated from places such as America. Individually, immigrants bring Vietnam, India, Korea or a country

sion in its immigrant population. is creating a richness and diversity

tor of the Diversity Research and Action Center at George Mason one of the county's developing changes in obvious ways and subtle It's not just Smith and Jones any-"There's a language change;

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 By 2010, a child entering el-day, 'It's not like it used to be.' Well, it's not, and that's positive," Bemak

"By 2020—and this is astounding—the children and adolescents — County elementary school students —a senior fellow in metropolitan —guages are spoken. "I believe we ——According to a 2006 study, "Unfears, sorrows, skills and needs. According to the 2010 U.S. De- of migrants will comprise one third currently speak a language other Collectively, they have permacennial Census, more than 46 per- of the U.S. population... one- than English at home. That's nearly nently altered the fabric of Fairfax cent of the county's population are third," Bemak said. "People don't 40,000 students who go home to **OPPORTUNITIES** of a racial or ethnic minority, and know that, if we're talking about households that speak one of more children... that's our future. And if than 100 languages. Fairfax County has seen an explo- "I think the migrant population" that's only 2020, imagine what Among new residents who

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 more," said Lee High School parent Paula Montero, who came with there's a cultural change; there's a 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 In comparison—from 1990 to spiked to 328,842, according to the 2010—the United States doubled American Community Survey and Decennial Census.

County Public Schools;

explore this topic.

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

In Upcoming Weeks

2000, the increase in the number

of foreign born in Fairfax commu-

nities included: Centreville, 323

percent; Herndon, 168 percent;

City of Fairfax, 88 percent, Spring-

field, 78 percent; Burke, 63 per-

❖ 19,301 (6.4 percent) immi-

grants in Fairfax County are self-

employed business owners who are

Between 1990 and 2000, Fairfax

County became an immigrant gate-

way—a place immigrants choose

report. The trend continues. In

County one of the nation's top

"Immigrants to this region come

eight gateways for immigrants.

U.S.-born Americans.

cent; and McLean, 10 percent.

were immigrants.

moved to the county in 2009, their residents typically respond in nearly half were racial or ethnic one of two ways to newcomers: minorities, and nearly one-third they either accommodate diversity or deflect immigrants through poli-❖ In the decade from 1990 to cies 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 employed business owners. This is mayor of the City of Fairfax in June, higher than the 4.1 percent of self- he made diversity a talking point, promising to recognize and reflect the city's growing diversity through representation on the city's boards

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

"When former Mayor Rob 2010, Kiplinger called Fairfax Lederer graduated high school, our minority population was just over 2 percent. When I graduated high school 10 years later, the minority from nearly every country in the population was 10 percent. Today, world, and some localities are it's 40 percent," Silverthorne said, home to people from more than noting that in the Fairfax County * Forty-four percent of Fairfax 100 countries," said Audrey Singer, school system, more than 100 lanpolicy at the Brookings Institution. have turned a blind eye to this settling Immigrant Geographies trend."

> Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County's ing of responsibility from the fed-Chairman of the Board of Supervieral government to localities for the According to scholars at the sors, has emphasized and cel-

of Allegiance and became naturalized American citizens at a ceremony on July 10, held in the Hayfield

Khatira Alvarez (left)

of Springfield, and Laura

Simon-Salzer

took the Oath

of McLean,

Photo by Deb Cobb The Connection

Secondary

rium.

cultures in a number of ways. In

2009, she supported Filipino advo-

cate Corazon Sandoval Foley's ef-

forts to organize and host the first

Naturalization Ceremony in the

Fairfax County Government Center.

signs of diversity in our commu-

nity," Bulova said. "And it's made

us a richer, stronger place. It's im-

portant that Fairfax County is rec-

ognized as a community that wel-

One of the basic ways that

Fairfax County reaches new immi-

grants is by publishing materials in

languages other than English, tai-

lored to specific immigrant com-

County Guide to Emergency Pre-

paredness, as well as many other

county brochures, is available in six

languages—English, Arabic, Farsi,

The growing immigration popu-

lation in Fairfax County has pre-

sented some challenges. While the

county's "politics of place" may be

welcoming, the realities of rapid

change, in particular the chal-

lenges and issues low-income immigrants face, can be daunting.

and the Politics of Scale," the shift-

See Fairfax, Page 12

Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese.

munities. For example, the Fairfax

comes people from all back-

"Everywhere you look, there are

diversity immigrants bring to Fairfax County.

grounds.

We encourage your letters and thoughts as we

School audito-

one of the best things about being an American." Although they have much in common, both women said they've learned important lessons from ❖ Part III examines politics of immigration; their differences. ❖ Part IV explores the religious and cultural

"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."

A Way Out of No Way

By Victoria Ross

osemary Osei, 22, and Lillie Reynolds, 61,

two women, who help teach special needs

students at a Vienna elementary school, are some-

They bonded over their faith — both are devout

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 citi-

"Voting is a powerful feeling," Reynolds said. "It's

times mistaken for mother and daughter.

Christians — and family values.

zen, and Reynolds was proud of her.

have been good friends for four years. The

The Connection

Two women—

other's eyes.

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." school's bathroom. Within a month, the 12-yearold yearned to return to Ghana.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"It took me to become an adult and to witness a black man become president of the United State 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 cul-

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

AND CHALLENGES Brookings Institute, localities and ebrated Fairfax County's diverse www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

8 Vienna/Oakton Connection November 21-27, 2012

Vienna/Oakton Connection * November 21-27, 2012 * 9

Entertainment

Send announcements 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.1 st stagety sons.org.

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

SATURDAY/NOV. 24

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

textiles and more. www.nvhg.org. **Altar Boyz.** 2 p.m., 8 p.m., at 1st

Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A cheeky, pop-rock musical comedy about a boy band of singing dancing heartthrobs from Ohio on the last night of their national tour. \$30; \$15, students. 703-854-1856 or

www.1ststagetysons.org.

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

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

SUNDAY/NOV. 25

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

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

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

November 23 - December 30, 2012

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

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.

> 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-

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

See Entertainment, Page 11



80 fine American artisans

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

Friday - Sunday Nov. 30-Dec. 2

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

Good all three days!

Friday: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday: 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Fresh Food Service Provided by La Madeleine French Country Cafe.

www.mcleancenter.org/special-events

The McLean Community Center 234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101 703-790-0123/TTY: 711

adult admission with this ad

Take \$1 off

See Entertainment, Page 11 VISIT These Houses of Worship To Highlight Your Faith Community, call Karen at 703-917-6468 Progressive & Welcoming ST. ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • Reston 7.45 a.m. Holy Euchartsi, Rite 1 9:00 a.m. Holy Euchartsi, Rite 11 10:00 a.m. Holy Euchartsi, Rite 11 9:00 a.m. Holy Euchartsi, Rite 11 10:00 a.m. Holy Euchartsi, Rite



SUNDAY WORSHIP, 7:45 AM & 11:00 AM CHURCH SCHOOL 9:30AM-10:30AM MIDWEEK SERVICES, WED. 7:00 PM

Disciples of Christ Antioch Christian Church ... 703-938-6753

Episcopal

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

alicate de la comparior de la c

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

Entertainment

The Downtown Fiction

On Sunday, Nov. 25, The Downtown Fiction plays at Jammin Java at 6:30 p.m., 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



Cameron Leahy, David Pavluk, Wes Dimond and Kyle Rodgers.

From Page 10

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

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

FRIDAY/NOV. 30

30th Annual McLean Holiday Crafts

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

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

SATURDAY/DEC. 1

The Chamber's 16th Annual

ReindDog Pageant. 8-9:30 a.m., at Langley Shopping Center, on Chain Bridge Road between Old Dominion Drive and Dolley Madison. 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 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-



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

The annual holiday singalong at Wolf **Trap National** Park for the **Performing Arts draws** people from all over the metro region. The audience participates with jingling bells and candles.



Photo courtesy of Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing

Holiday Events

From Page 3

index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=53:tinytots&catid=1:latest-news&Itemid=209. If seats are available on day of concert, they can be

purchased in the lobby of the school. For more information, e-mail tinytots@jmhsband.org

THE NUTCRACKER TEA AND

LIFE-SIZED GINGERBREAD COTTAGE

The Nutcracker Tea is served Saturdays, Dec. 1, 8 and 15, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton, Tysons Corner. The life-sized gingerbread cottage welcomes open-house visitors from Nov. 23 to Dec. 24, daily, from

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Yes, you read that correctly... a walkthrough gingerbread house... in a hotel. Located on the fourth floor, main lobby level of the hotel, the confectionary cottage is large enough for guests to walk around inside. If you have ever tried to put together a tabletop gingerbread house whose roof and sides do not cave in, you will marvel at the construction.

The Nutcracker Tea combines music, dance, toy soldiers, sugar plum fairies, and, of course, tea, sandwiches and sweets. Kids get to take home a nutcracker doll. Cost is \$75/person and reservations are required.

For Nutcracker Tea reservations, call 703-917-5498, and for more details on the gingerbread cottage and the tea, go to www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/TysonsCorner Information/Calendar/Default.htm.



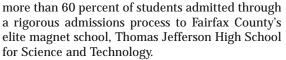
Focus on Immigration

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

VIBRANT CULTURE THROUGH IMMIGRATION

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

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

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



Frederic Bemak

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

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

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

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

CELEBRATING OTHER CULTURES

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

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

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

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

Samuel DeVera, a captain with the county's Fire and Rescue Department and a member of the Fairfax County Asian American Firefighters' Association, gave the keynote address, telling the audience his personal story of coming to America from the Philippines when he was 14 years old in 1983. After becoming a paramedic in 1994, he received a Valor award and, in 2010, scored first on the test to become a captain with the Fire and Rescue 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, 12 * Vienna/Oakton Connection * November 21-27, 2012 leading the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.



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

Viewpoints

Immigrants' Experiences: **Becoming Americans**

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

—Amiee Freeman



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

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



Jose Zalles, currently living in Woodbridge, originally from Bolivia

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



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

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



Bassam Ghazi, currently living in Ashburn, originally from Lebanon

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



Saaeddine Zaghbani, currently living in Burke, originally from Tunisia

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

Sports

Oakton Advances to Division 6 Final

The Cougars will face Westfield in the region championship on Saturday, Nov. 24.

akton quarterback Kyle Downer's touchdown tied the score with no time remaining on the clock. Moments later, he stared into the crowd as the game was decided on the field behind him.

Brian Burns' extra point gave the Oakton football team a 14-13 victory against Centreville on Nov. 16 in the Division 6 Northern Region football semifinals at Centreville High School. The Cougars will travel to face Westfield for the region championship at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 24.

Trailing 13-7 in the closing seconds with the ball near the Centreville 5-yard line, Downer said he ran for the tying touchdown after Centreville defended well against the pass. Downer credited right tackle Joe Cellini with throwing a key block on the

"I looked in the stands [during the extra point]," Downer said in a phone interview. "[I] saw their reaction and saw everyone storming the field."

Oakton lost to Centreville, 49-28, two



Oakton quarterback Kyle Downer, seen against Lake Braddock on Nov. 9, led the Cougars to a victory against Centreville on Nov. 16 in the semifinal round of the Division 6 Northern Region football playoffs.

weeks prior in the regular season finale. Downer credited the Cougar defense for stepping up in the rematch.

Oakton will travel to face the Westfield Bulldogs in the region final. Westfield won

the regular season matchup, 28-14, on Oct. 19. Downer said the Cougars defense needs to eliminate big plays and the offense needs to capitalize on its scoring opportunities.

"We didn't finish," Downer said about the

"We've learned how to finish, we've learned how to control the ball and we've done a pretty good job getting the ball in the end zone when we've needed to."

— Oakton quarterback Kyle Downer

Cougars' regular season loss to Westfield. "We've learned how to finish, we've learned how to control the ball and we've done a pretty good job getting the ball in the end zone when we've needed to."

Oakton won its first six games but closed the regular season on a fourgame losing streak. The Cougars entered the postseason as the Northern Region's No. 7 seed. Oakton beat No. 2 Lake Braddock, 20-13, in the quarterfinals on Nov. 9, thanks to three rushing touchdowns from Downer. After beating No. 3 Centreville, the Cougars will have to knock off No. 1 Westfield to reach the state playoffs.

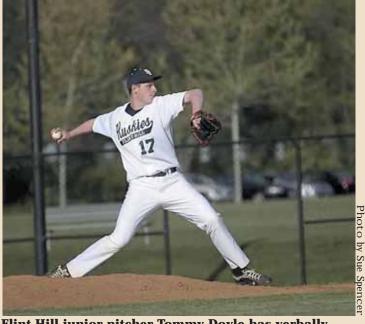
Flint Hill Pitcher Doyle Commits to UVa

lint Hill School on Nov. 13 announced that 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

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



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

Hill Head Coach Tom Verbanic, Doyle has a twin sister, who also played baseball for UVa. Katherine. He also has two "For the next two 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."

potential is unlimited," said Flint Son of George and Laura, older siblings, Claire and Matthew, who play collegiate lacrosse at Bucknell University and baseball at Harvard University, respectively.



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

he 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 matches.

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

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21 Announcements

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

License to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Evan Matz, Managing Member. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first two required newspaper legal notices.
Objections should be 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 alcoholic beverages. Donald Roden owner

NOTE: Objections to the issu-ance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Ob-jections should be registered 800-552-3200

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32 Lost



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

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

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

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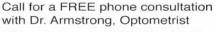




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Fairfax Water

NOTICE OF WATER RATE Public Hearing

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

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

- An increase in the Availability Charge from \$3,700 to \$3,850†.
- An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$9,000 to \$9,500.
- An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,000 to \$1,050†.
- An increase in the Account Charge from \$33 to \$35.
- An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$8.35 to \$9.201.
- An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$2.16 to \$2.29 per 1,000 gallons of water.
- An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.20 to \$3.45 per 1,000 gallons of water.
- An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$46 to \$50.

 An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and Peak Use Charge.
- 10. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$41 to \$44.
- 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, ment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

	\$1,000s	
Category	2012	2013
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$46,473	\$48,367
Power and Utilities	11,345	11,686
Chemicals	6,694	7,968
Fuel	916	960
Postage	547	460
Insurance	1,300	1,107
Supplies and Materials	3,976	4,233
Contractual Services	8,749	8,657
Professional Services	1,656	1,902
Other	2,005	<u>2,285</u>
Sub-Total	83,661	87,625
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(9,559)	(9,613)
Total	74,102	78,012

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$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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E-mail to: ChildrensNorth@connection newspapers.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.



