

# 'Ace' Takes Post-graduate Journey

**PET CONNECTION**

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PET CONNECTION, PAGE 10

**Eileen O'Connor of Burke takes "Ace" for a walk on hot July evening. Ace will be accompanying Eileen to Philadelphia this fall as a companion on her post-grad adventures.**

## A Brush With Kindness in Burke

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## Making Sure Children Don't Go Hungry

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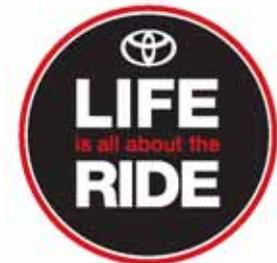
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## Making Sure Children Don't Go Hungry

**Our Daily Bread provides meals for children during summer break.**

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

**F**or most children, summer means the end of homework and tests, and the beginning of cookouts and carefree summer vacations. For thousands of children from low-income families, summer can also mean going hungry.

Free and reduced food programs—which provide children access to nutritious breakfasts, lunches and snacks—end along with the school year, leaving many students at risk for hunger over the summer months.

“Summer is a very difficult time for parents who are depending on the school’s free or reduced lunches,” said Lisa Whetzel, executive director of Our Daily Bread, a Fairfax County volunteer-based nonprofit. “As a community, it’s important to make sure that children have access to the healthy food they need during the summer months.”

To help meet that need, Our Daily Bread launched a new program this summer to provide healthy meals and household supplies to 42 families whose children attend three local elementary schools—Marshall Road, Cunningham Park and Louise Archer.

According to Fairfax County Public Schools, 47,874 students—more than 26 percent of the school system’s total student population—received free and reduced lunches during the 2012-2013 school year.

Whetzel said the program is an extension of ODB’s Food4Thought program, which began in 2011 in partnership with concerned parents at Marshall Road Elementary School. Volunteers created packages of non-perishable food and drinks to send home each weekend with 19 children in the school who participated in the federal food subsidy program. Volunteers collected donations within the school and supplemented it with food from Our Daily Bread’s Vienna Pantry.

“This new partnership with Marshall Road is successful because there is a champion within the



**Volunteers and staff of Our Daily Bread, a volunteer-based nonprofit that helps low-income residents in Fairfax County, collect food at its Vienna pantry.**

school,” Whetzel said. “If there is not a willing social worker and PTA, it cannot work. We applaud Jean Wyman and the PTA for seeing the need in their school and reaching out to ODB to make this work.”

**“As a community, it’s important to make sure that children have access to the healthy food they need during the summer months.”**

— Lisa Whetzel, executive director of Our Daily Bread

“What makes the summer program unique is that it addresses a problem that schools participating in the weekend program have been trying to figure out,” said Christina Garris, food manager with ODB. “The social worker, Jean, and their strong PTA is the reason they felt they could attempt trying the summer program.”

Our Daily Bread is also working with Daniels Run Elementary School in Fairfax City, and hopes to expand Food4Thought and its summer extension program to more local schools as they gain more funding, community support and resources.

“We welcome working with as many schools as request our assistance. We can help them get started by explaining the process,” she said.

For more information on Our Daily Bread’s programs, go to [www.odbfairfax.org](http://www.odbfairfax.org). To donate to the Vienna food pantry, contact Christina Garris at 703-273-8829.

**Louise Archer Elementary School in Vienna is one of the schools benefiting from Our Daily Bread’s summer food program, an extension of the nonprofits Food4Thought weekend program.**



**Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) welcomed six new TAGS buses during a ribbon-cutting ceremony July 17 on the rooftop penthouse terrace of Metro Park in Alexandria.**

## New Buses Join Springfield Service

**L**ocal and state officials gathered on the penthouse terrace at Metro Park in Alexandria last week to announce the addition of six new state-of-the-art buses to the Springfield Circulator Service.

The fleet is owned by the Transportation Association of Greater Springfield (TAGS), and the larger buses meet the growing demand for the downtown Springfield circulator, according to transportation officials.

“We’re here today to say this does work,” said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large).

“It’s a proud moment because it really shows how this area evolved,” said Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay.

U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) and Virginia Delegates Mark Sickles (D-43) and Vivian Watts (D-39) also attended the ceremony.

“We recognize that there’s not a ‘one size fits all’ approach to commuting,” said McKay. “TAGS has played and will continue to play a vital role in keeping Springfield moving. TAGS was the first ‘circulator’ bus service in Fairfax County and has grown to serve approximately 400 riders a day.”

The TAGS bus service started in 1999 to ease traffic congestion during the Springfield “Mixing Bowl” construction. The “little green bus” was so popular that service continued after the interstate construction was completed. The service is an effective way of reducing

congestion in the Springfield area.

In addition to managing the shuttle service, TAGS works with local businesses to market transit services and alternative commuting options, and hosts programs to educate the community on transportation-related issues. TAGS supports local community events, including Springfield Days, the Springfield Community BridgeWalk, and the Lee District concert series.

“Investing in public transit is an investment in Northern Virginia’s future – every dollar we invest in public transportation yields four dollars in economic activity,” said Moran.

TAGS is a non-profit, public-private transportation management association in the Greater Springfield area. Established in March 1999, TAGS includes business owners, community leaders, and transportation organizations including the Virginia Department of Transportation, Department of Rail and Public Transportation, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), and Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC).

WMATA/Metro operates the TAGS buses. Stops include Metro Park, the Franconia-Springfield Metrorail station, Springfield Mall, and the Springfield Hilton. Buses run every 15 minutes from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

—VICTORIA ROSS

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## NEWS

**Democrats Stacey Kincaid and Mark Sites participated in a debate last Wednesday, hosted by the Fairfax County Young Democrats and moderated by George Burke (center), chairman of the 11th Congressional District Democratic Committee.**



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/ THE CONNECTION

# Kincaid Wins Democratic Nomination for Sheriff

**Kincaid promises to push for pay parity and reach out to diverse community.**

“When I say diversity, I am talking about diversity of thought, values and beliefs, not just skin color,” Kincaid said. “We need the office to respect and reflect the diversity in our community. ... Listening and learning is an important part of forging a relationship with the community.”

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**S**tacey Kincaid, a 26-year veteran with the Fairfax County Sheriff’s Department and self-proclaimed “rookie politician,” handily won the Democratic nomination for sheriff during a special election Tuesday night, July 23 at W.T. Woodson High School. The final vote was 605 to 315 votes, according to Democratic officials who counted each ballot by hand.

Kincaid competed against interim Sheriff Mark Sites for the Democratic nomination. Sites was sworn in as sheriff on July 1 after former Sheriff Stan Barry retired, and he will serve until a new sheriff is elected in November.

“I was humbled and honored,” Kincaid said Tuesday night after her victory. “Mark Sites ran a spirited campaign, so, yes, I was surprised by the vote count.”

A graduate of Frostburg State College, Kincaid began her career with the Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office in 1987. She said a summer internship at the sheriff’s office “sparked my interest in a career as a deputy sheriff.” In 2008, she received the agency’s highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award.

**LAST WEDNESDAY**, July 17, Kincaid and Sites participated in a debate hosted by the Fairfax County Young Democrats and moderated by George Burke, chairman of the 11th Congressional District Democratic Committee.

Kincaid said that while she is focused on the three main functions of the sheriff’s office—running the county’s jail, performing security at the courthouse and serving civil process—she also wanted to “bring the agency forward.”

“As the largest sheriff’s office in Virginia, we should be the role model for the commonwealth,” she said, adding that she wanted to focus on diversity inside the department as well as in community outreach efforts.



**Stacey Kincaid, a 26-year veteran with the Fairfax County Sheriff’s Department, won the Democratic nomination for sheriff during a special election Tuesday night at W.T. Woodson High School.**

Kincaid said she supported President Barack Obama’s position to expand background checks and place a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

The sheriff’s office has historically processed applications and performed background checks for people who want clearance to buy machine guns and silencers, Sites said.

“If you want to own a gun to keep yourself safe, I’m not sure that you need an arsenal or weapons of that magnitude to do so,” Kincaid said.

Kincaid said one of her first acts if she wins the general election in November is to sign the civil service agreement.

“It lets employees know that they will not be terminated for an unjust reason. It protects them from political intervention,” she said.

She said she would also make pay parity a priority and make the promotion and hiring process more fair and equitable. “I do not believe our budget is sufficient, and it hasn’t been for many years,” Kincaid said. The sheriff’s budget is currently \$63 million annually.

**KINCAID**, who has served on the governing board of the county’s Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness, was endorsed by the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, members of the Fairfax County School Board and the public safety unions, including SEIU Virginia 512, Fairfax Deputy Sheriffs Union, and the Fairfax County Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics-Local 2068.

“I’ve been impressed by her desire to integrate the office into the community while always looking to save taxpayer dollars,” said State Senator Chap Petersen (D-34), who endorsed Kincaid along with Sen. David Marsden (D-37). “She’s focused on making the sheriff’s office the best around. I’m proud to endorse her for sheriff,” said Petersen.

“It’s been a challenging profession, but it’s also been very rewarding,” Kincaid said.

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During a meeting at Lee High School, Fairfax County Health Director Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu told the community that “there is no reason to restrict activities or attendance at Lee High School because of the expansion. All activities at the school can continue as usual and Lee High School students who are undergoing testing can continue to participate in all activities.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

# TB Investigation Expands at Lee High School

## Health officials say “no reason to restrict activities.”

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

On Monday, Fairfax County Health Department officials announced they are expanding the tuberculosis (TB) investigation at Robert E. Lee High School, in the wake of reports that as many as 430 students and faculty could have been exposed to the disease.

In June, the health department reported three people within the Lee High School community had been identified as having active TB. One person was diagnosed in December 2012, and two were diagnosed in June. One of the June cases was linked to the December diagnosis.

The health department now recommends screening and testing for TB infection for all Lee High School 2012-2013 students, faculty and support staff. In addition, approximately 20 others have been identified as meeting the health department’s exposure criteria, which is based on having spent a significant amount of time in the school on multiple occasions and in places where TB transmission may have occurred during the 2012-2013 school year.

While there is no ongoing transmission of TB at Lee High School, and the vast majority of the Lee High School community was not at high risk of exposure to TB, the health department—out of an abundance of caution—concluded that the “expansion is prudent based on multiple factors that included a higher-than-expected skin test positivity rate among those who have been tested so far,” said health de-

### TB TESTING SCHEDULE AT LEE HIGH SCHOOL

Skin Test: Saturday, Aug. 3, 8 a.m.-noon. Return for Results: Monday, Aug. 5, noon-4 p.m.  
 Skin Test: Saturday, Aug. 3, noon-6 p.m. Return for Results: Tuesday, Aug. 6, 8 a.m.-noon.  
 Skin Test: Monday, Aug. 5, 8 a.m.-noon. Return for Results: Wednesday, Aug. 7, noon-4 p.m.  
 Skin Test: Tuesday, Aug. 6, 8 a.m.-noon. Return for Results: Thursday, Aug. 8, noon-4 p.m.  
 Skin Test: Saturday, Aug. 10, 8 a.m.-noon. Return for Results: Monday, Aug. 12, noon-4 p.m.

For more information about TB, go to:  
 Health Department Facebook  
 Health Department Twitter  
 Fairfax County NewsWire  
 Fairfax County Emergency Blog

partment officials on Monday.

“This expanded level of testing will ensure that everyone who may have been exposed to TB is identified,” said Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, director of the Fairfax County Health Department.

The health department recommends that only individuals who received a letter plan to attend one of the special clinics that will be held at Lee High School on the dates listed. Because the TB test is a two-step process, it is important that when selecting a date for the skin test, the individual is also able to return on the corresponding date for a health care worker to determine whether the test is positive or negative. Returning any other time will require that the skin test be repeated.

“There is no reason to restrict activities or attendance at Lee High School because of the expansion,” Addo-Ayensu said. “All activities at the school can continue as usual and Lee High School students who are undergoing testing can continue to participate in all activities.”

Lee High School parents who have questions should call the health department’s call center at 703-267-3511.

# Unlocking the Door to Affordable Housing

## County considers establishment of residential studio option to assist with housing affordability.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

Like most areas that have seen explosive growth in the past 30 years, Fairfax County’s stock of affordable housing has dwindled as it’s grown into one of the nation’s wealthiest counties.

One of the obstacles to affordable housing are zoning regulations that ban what used to be the bottom end of the private housing market—rooming houses, the in-law-apartment, student housing and studio apartments.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova said Tuesday she is “hopeful” the board is ready to move forward on a plan to make housing more affordable throughout the county.

“Our board has been exploring the establishment of residential studio housing for about 10 years. I think it’s a good way to provide more affordable housing options for county residents. By advertising this for public hearing, we will initiate the process for engaging the community in the discussion,” Bulova said.

She added that the board could advertise for public hearings as early as its July 30 meeting.

“Let me just say, my feeling is we really need to move this for-

ward,” Bulova said.

Donna Pesto, the county’s senior assistant zoning administrator, said the proposal would not change the building codes, and would apply to rental units only. She also said there could be no more than 75 residential studio units in a building and a minimum of 80 percent of units have to be affordable to low-income earners, those making about \$45,000 per year or less. The maximum square

footage for the units would be 500 square feet, including one bedroom and a kitchen.

“We see this use as very similar as assisted-living apartments and nursing homes, which are all carefully reviewed and require case-by-case approval by

the board,” Pesto said. “The standards are pretty stringent.”

While many similar developments serve individuals at risk of homelessness, particularly those linked with supportive services, small efficiency apartments also provide an affordable housing option for seniors, students, recent graduates and single professionals, providing diversity and vibrancy to communities.

“There’s a lot of buzz now about micro-units that are 300- to 500-square-feet,” Bulova said.

“This is the hot housing product,” Pesto added.

“I think it’s a good way to provide more affordable housing options for county residents.”

— Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova



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# OPINION

## Stemming Gun Violence

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM  
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

While President Obama in his statement about the Trayvon Martin case reminded us, "we are a nation of laws, and a jury has spoken," he went on to say that "we should ask ourselves if we're doing all we can to stem the tide of gun violence that claims too many lives across this country on a daily basis." Not only are we not doing enough, but we are seeing actions on the part of congressmen and senators and state legislators fearful of the gun lobby that may well result in more gun violence. When handguns used in the commission of crimes were traced to Virginia in such great numbers that the state became known as the "gun-running capital of the east,"



the state legislature put in place a limitation of one handgun purchase per month. This year the General Assembly repealed that law. If 12 pistols were too few a year, one can now buy however many are desired!

According to a USA Today editorial, in 1981 19 states prohibited people from carrying a hidden weapon in public, "but a powerful gun lobby has turned that system upside down." Four states now allow persons to carry hidden firearms without a permit, and in 35 states, including Virginia, officials must issue permits to just about anyone who applies unless they have committed a felony. Hidden guns are now allowed in restaurants and bars and public places.

Most frightening of all are the changes in state law to allow persons to stand their ground and use deadly force in any location one is legally

allowed to be without first attempting to retreat. Florida was the first state to adopt such a law that had been drafted by the National Rifle Association and promoted by the American Legislative Exchange Council to almost two dozen states. The instructions to the jury in the Zimmerman case made it clear that if "he had a right to be where he had a right to be, he had no duty to retreat." Efforts to enact a "stand your ground" law have been made in Virginia and are likely to continue until successful. Not only is there a proliferation of guns, but laws are being rewritten to expand the instances in which they can be used against another.

There were the tragedies at Virginia Tech, Columbine, Newtown and thousands of other instances of gun violence. What will be the tragedy that will cause us to wake up and insist that no constitutional right can be argued that reduces the safety of others and enhances the potential for violence?



### PEOPLE AND PETS

**Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova with Frodo and Sam.**

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Meet Frodo and Sam

Lou and I adopted Mister Frodo from Home Alone Cat Rescue about two years ago. We have a soft spot for big orange cats. Frodo is part Maine coon (large with furry feet) and part American bobtail (large with short tail). A description of the American bobtail breed on the internet says they are "born scared"—which sums up Frodo. He is the proverbial "fraidy cat." For the first few weeks after we adopted him, Frodo refused to go into the living room, dining room or master bedroom for fear of our ceiling fans, even when they weren't moving. When he accidentally escapes the house, he comes scurrying right back when birds chirp at him. Despite being timid, Frodo is very playful. He "races us" up and down the stairs and loves to chase Lou's laser toy.

Last year I decided Frodo might benefit from the company of another cat. When I ran into Lee District School Board Representative Tammy Derenak Koufax at the Lee District Bridge Walk last summer, she showed me a photo of three kittens she and her children, Matthew and Halle, were fostering as part of a School Project. They

were less than a month old and adorable. Sam looked like a little tiger cub! Her siblings, solid soot grey, looked like little bears. They had been found living behind a restaurant in Washington D.C. My husband and I fell in love with Sam at first sight.

Once Sam was old enough to come home with us, we introduced Sam and Frodo over a few days, keeping Sam separated in the guest room. It took a few months for them to work out "dominance issues," but now they are chasing each other around the house and amusing each other. Sam has a fascination with water. We have to keep her water bowl upstairs in the tub because she splashes the water all over the place. When she does this, Frodo looks at her as though she is completely uncouth. It's hard to believe Sam was a feral kitten. She is very affectionate and loves to have her head stroked.

Pets definitely add an important dimension to our lives!

—SHARON BULOVA AND LOU DEFALAISE

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Wrong Priorities

To the Editor:

We seem to have money for everything these days—bank bailouts, congressional investigations, even potential invasions of Syria. Just not our kids. We slash food stamps and cut early education and our elected officials just whistle past the graveyard. New polling shows Virginians think these priorities are all wrong, and expect our leaders to invest in our kids. We should make those running for office in Virginia this year tell us where they stand on these issues.

**John Horejsi**  
SALT Coordinator  
Vienna

## Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

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**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**  
To discuss ideas and concerns,  
Call: 703-778-9410  
e-mail:  
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**Kemal Kurspahic**  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

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

**Victoria Ross**  
Community Reporter  
301-502-6027  
rosspinning@yahoo.com

**Jon Roetman**  
Sports Editor  
703-778-9410  
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com  
@jonroetman

**ADVERTISING:**  
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**Steve Hogan**  
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**Debbie Funk**  
National Sales  
703-778-9444  
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
703-778-9433  
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com  
@MaryKimm

**Executive Vice President**  
Jerry Vernon  
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

**Editor in Chief**  
Steven Mauren  
**Managing Editor**  
Kemal Kurspahic  
**Photography:**

Deb Cobb, Louise Krafft,  
Craig Sterbutzel

**Art/Design:**  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly

**Production Manager:**  
Jean Card  
Geovani Flores

**Special Assistant to the Publisher**  
Jeanne Theismann  
703-778-9436  
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com  
@TheismannMedia

**CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427**  
**Circulation Manager:**  
Ann Oliver  
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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## PEOPLE

Frank Wheaton (right) with fellow scout at collection site outside St. Bernadette Catholic Church.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Soon-to-Be Eagle Scout Aids ECHO

Frank Wheaton is a Life Scout since 2009 with Boy Scout Troop 995, which meets at St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Springfield. Every Life Scout, besides earning merit badges, can choose to organize and lead a service project as part of the rank advancement requirement for Eagle Scout.

As of Saturday, June 8, Frank began that process as he pulled up to St. Bernadette Catholic Church to begin his "Small Appliance Collection Drive" to benefit ECHO (Ecumenical Community Helping Others) in Springfield.

He chose this particular project, wrote his mother Joan Wheaton in an email to the Connection, "because he has volunteered at ECHO in the past and realized how valuable the organization is to the community."

Four days of collection drives in Springfield were held in conjunction with mass times at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, Saturday and Sunday, June 8 and 9, and at St. Raymond of Penafort on Saturday and

Sunday, July 6 and 7.

Frank advertised the collection drives through announcements in the churches one week prior to the collection dates. About a week after the collection drives, Frank had Scouts gather at his house where the appliances were inspected, cleaned, tested and then delivered to the ECHO building.

The items collected included small microwaves, toasters, blenders, irons, rice cookers, pots and pans, flatware, serving utensils, sewing machines and much more.

The items the Boy Scouts collected are given out to ECHO clients on an as-needed basis, depending on supply. The clients are mostly from the Springfield and Burke area. From the ECHO website, ECHO-Inc.org, Frank used the description "ECHO, an all volunteer charity, gives food and financial help to people with short-term emergencies, and provides clothes and household items to people with low incomes."

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PET CONNECTION

# Cats Waiting for Adoption

At Pet Nutrition Center in Burke it's all about finding the right family.

BY ELIZABETH CASEY  
THE CONNECTION

If you are in the market to adopt a cat, the Pet Nutrition Center in Burke is the place for you. These furry friends come straight from a no-kill Prince William Shelter in Woodbridge and are available at a low adoption rate. Cat adopters are in greater need around this time of the year because of the influx of kittens that are born.

David Shaw, an informative employee at the Pet Nutrition Center and member of the Board of Directors of the Prince William Humane Society Animal Advocacy Committee, defines a "no-kill" shelter as one in which there is an "adoption guarantee" and the "shelter will not euthanize any animal that is adoptable or has a correctable health issue." All cats brought to the Burke Pet Nutrition Center will be adopted. No cats are sent back to the shelter no matter how long it takes for them to find a family. With this policy the



**Billy is 1 year old and currently up for adoption at the Burke Pet Nutrition Center.**

Pet Nutrition Center sees a variety of cats that come in and out of their doors. The location in Burke, which has been open since late October, has had kittens and full-grown cats of all shapes, sizes and breeds adopted. Cats have stayed at the Burke Nutrition Center anywhere from a few days to five months before they have been



**Ellis is 9 years old and currently up for adoption at the Burke Pet Nutrition Center.**

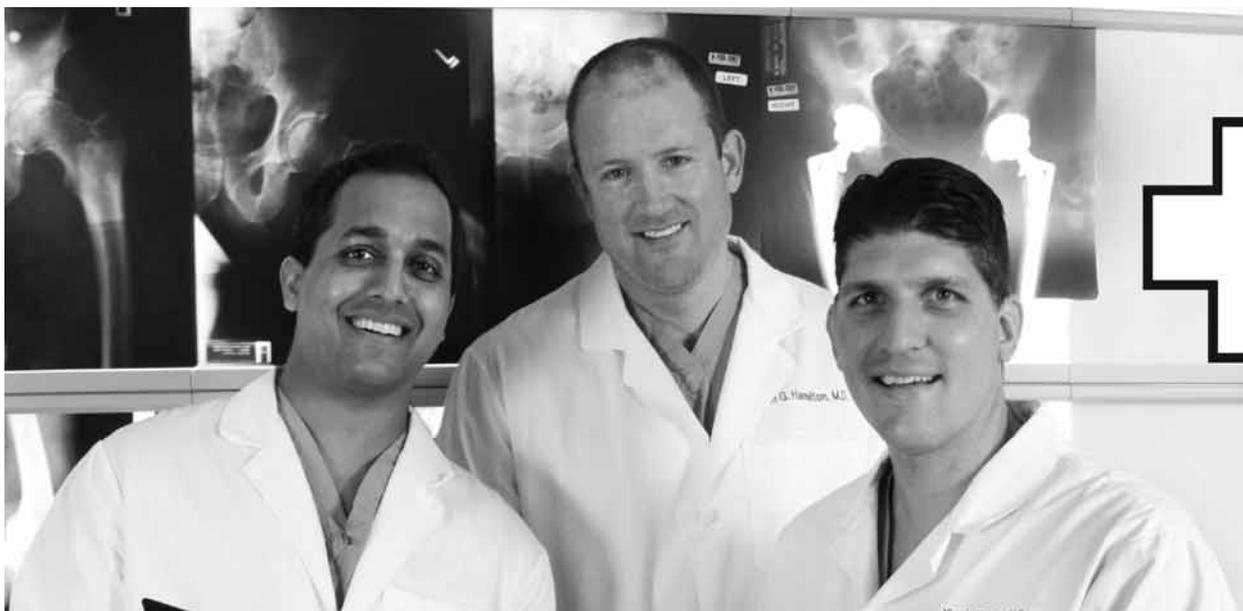
adopted. Shaw says "you never know" how long the cats will stay. It is all about finding the right family.

The cats up for adoption at the Pet Nutrition Center, which are received from the Prince William Shelter, are previously screened. Each cat has been given all their shots, spayed, neutered, tested for HIV,

along with other necessary health tests. The cats are also equipped with tracking microchips that aid in situations in which the cat cannot be located. The adopter will also receive a copy of the cat's health records. The adoption fee is a mere \$45 despite the on average \$260 it takes to get a cat ready to be taken home to a new family.

Shaw says the Burke store sees a lot of traffic looking at the cats up for adoption. Billy, a black cat, and Ellis, a white and cream cat, are currently up for adoption at the Burke Pet Nutrition Center. Billy is about 1 year old and loves to climb around while Ellis, a plump cat about 9 years of age, is a cuddly friend waiting for a family to come get her.

The Burke Nutrition Center is located at 9546 Burke Road in Burke. A second location in Woodbridge also has cats available for adoption regularly. You can find the Pet Nutrition Center on Facebook also.



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# PET CONNECTION



Jamie when he was 12 years old with Hobo.

## Hobo's Forever Home

When our son Jamie was 3 years old he was frightened by a large dog. Over the years, his fear of large dogs became a fear of any size dog. By the age of 9, Jamie would watch from a distance as his sister Katie hugged and played with neighborhood dogs. But even with words of encouragement, Jamie wouldn't go near a dog. Being dog lovers, we didn't want our son to be afraid of dogs, so we decided to adopt from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Fortunately, we found a yellow lab-mix puppy at the shelter and our kids named him "Hobo." At first, Jamie

was very tentative around Hobo and would only pet him briefly on the back. But with his gentle nature, Hobo earned Jamie's trust. Now Hobo has his bed in Jamie's room, and our son greets him first thing in the morning and when he comes home from school, even before greeting any family members. When we're away on vacation, our son misses Hobo, wonders how he's doing and can't wait to get back home to him. We are so grateful that Hobo found his forever home with us.

—DON AND AUDREY CURRAN OF BURKE

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Hobo



Jamie, Katie and Hobo.

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# PET CONNECTION

## 'Ace' Takes Post-graduate Journey

Stories on people and pets in Burke area.



Eileen O'Connor of Burke takes "Ace" for a walk on a hot July evening.



Katelin Chappell and Alyssa Firth with "Miles and Molly."

BY ELIZABETH CASEY  
THE CONNECTION

Even in one hundred degree weather, a dog needs his/her walk: That's what Ace and his owner, Eileen O'Connor, were spotted doing one hot July evening. Ace is a friendly puppy who loves playing with new friends and chewing on anything he can get his paws on. Ace recently started dog training classes in the evenings on top of the training Eileen has already began at home.

Recently adopted this summer, Ace is lab mix who is thought by his owner to be part Dalmatian due to the growing number of black spots on his white back, and

part terrier due to the resemblance of the breed in his face. Although entering the O'Connor household this summer in Virginia, Ace will be accompanying Eileen to Philadelphia this fall as a companion on her post-grad adventures.

### Four New Friends

Brienne Tyler and her family are no strangers to cats. They have had their full-grown cats, Kobe and Flick, for many years now, but just this summer added four new friends to the house, kittens Stix, Scampy and Rocky, and their once stray mother, Swizzle. The kittens are a wonderful addition to the family, and although initially the plan was to try and find a home for

them, Stix, Scampy and Rocky have since become full time members of the family for the time being. The three love to play together and especially love playing with and chewing on toys or anything that resembles one. The kittens have turned the Tyler's basement into an imaginary amusement park with their newfound love of climbing and jumping on anything. They may have found their way into the hearts of the Tyler's, but into the hearts of long time family members Kobe and Flick: to be continued.

Katelin Chappell and Alyssa Firth like to take their dogs Miles and Molly on walks at Burke Lake for the exercise, but also for the cool dips these avid swimmers get to take in the water on the way. Miles and Molly love to swim and on the hot and humid days Burke has been having lately, Burke Lake is the place to be with areas

Alissa Hamby and "Humphrey."

### Swimming at Burke Lake

Burke Lake is a wonderful place for pets, and even in the summer heat, the shaded trails and water are great for dogs. Friends



Brienne Tyler and "Stix."



"Scampy" and "Rocky."



to dip their belly in the water along the trails. These pit bull mixes love to chase squirrels and run around in fields, and even meet new friends at doggy daycare. Both under the age of 3, Molly and Miles keep Katelin and Alyssa busy with their active lifestyle in the hot summer months.

### Friendliest of Friends

One of the most social puppies in Burke, Alissa Hamby's mutt Humphrey is also one of the friendliest dogs around. His favorite pastime is to "rip things apart," but only in the name of love. Humphrey takes his job as the neighborhood watch very seriously and looks out for deer and foxes on a regular basis. Humphrey loves people as well as other dogs and loves to meet new friends at his recent spot at Burke Lake, "Just for Pets" doggy daycare, and the South Run Dog Park. Although the Hamby's just got Humphrey a little over a year ago, he is now a permanent family member who deeply misses Alissa every time she leaves for college at James Madison after breaks. But they both have a blast while together and Alissa takes advantage of her time at home to put her teaching skills to work as not only as an elementary teacher, but also a dog trick trainer, Humphrey's favorite being the full twirl on his two hind legs.

**DOG DAYS of SUMMER!**

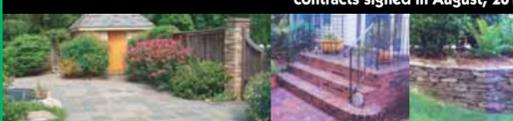


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# PET CONNECTION



This is Jill, a former “lost dog” who joined the Howell family and inspired their volunteer work with Lost Dog.



Princess is one of many foster dogs taken in by Marcia Tiersky, president of the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation, over the past 10 years.



This kitten, fostered by Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation volunteer Beth Stevens, is “a polydactyl,” meaning she has extra toes.



Parker, formerly a “lost dog,” was adopted by Beth Stevens before she became a Lost Dog volunteer.



This dog, called Batman, was a foster in Lisa Marie Czop’s home.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## Helping Save Lives, One Pet at a Time

### Area residents explain their dedication to the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation.

BY AMBER HEALY  
THE CONNECTION

Behind every adoption successfully completed by the Arlington-based Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation, there’s a volunteer with a happy heart.

There’s a small volunteer army across Northern Virginia that turns out every weekend to help cats and dogs find homes, but there’s never a shortage of others looking for a safe place to be fed, sheltered and loved. Volunteers are what make the organization run, from walking dogs at adoption events to petting cats to making sure adoptable animals have safe transportation

from rural shelters to this area for medical care.

These volunteers are playing, and will continue to play, a major role in Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation’s participation in the ASPCA/Rachael Ray \$100,000 challenge, an ongoing competition in which the rescue group and others across the country are trying to surpass the number of animal adoptions recorded between June 1 and Aug. 31.

But why do people agree to share their limited free time with animals? What brings them in, and what makes them stay?

Here are a few of their stories:

**A FAMILY EFFORT.** Diane McIntosh and her family have been involved with fostering dogs for the foundation for three years, not to mention the two other rescue groups she helps.

The former federal government employee of 38 years was recruited by her niece, who told her about the organization and its need for temporary homes for dogs.

“Then they needed someone to work the adoption table at an event in Alexandria, and sometimes while I’m working the table, I’ll need to hold a dog or two,” she said.

McIntosh also helps bring dogs from other animal shelters to be examined by a veterinarian for Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation before their photos are uploaded onto the rescue’s website and they are made available for adoption. She



Barbara Hutcherson and Marcia Tiersky help dogs out of the transport crates loaded into a van used by the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation to bring them to the 11 adoption events the rescue group hosts each weekend.

PHOTO BY AMBER HEALY/ THE CONNECTION

### The Challenge: Joining Together to Save Animals

There are dozens of animal welfare organizations across the country working to secure “forever homes” for dogs and cats of all ages. And while there’s a general camaraderie amongst them, stemming from their common cause, what’s a little friendly competition amongst peers?

For the past few years, the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) has sponsored a nationwide contest to challenge shelters to see how many more animals they could adopt between June and August beyond the total the year before.

The idea was to “spur innovation, increase public support, empower staff and, most importantly, save more lives,” said Bert Troughton, ASPCA’s vice president and a leader of what has become the ASPCA/Rachael Ray \$100K challenge.

The organizations that adopt the most animals above totals from June to August the year before wins not only in terms of putting cats and dogs in loving, happy homes, but a sizeable chunk of change to save even more.

“We know that the contest can help save more lives in the long-term too, because all of

the added attention and support contestants earn during the contest can be harnessed for continued life-saving,” Troughton said.

ASPCA started the challenge in 2010, and in 2012, TV personality and animal lover Rachael Ray joined up with the organization, as she did again this year, allowing the organization to offer more than \$600,000 in prize grants:

A \$100,000 grand prize grant will be awarded to the organization that reports the largest increase in adoptions over the total from the year before. Other awards include a \$25,000 “community engagement award,” and \$25,000 to the first place finisher in each of five divisions, as well as \$15,000 to the second place finishers. Lost Dog is in eighth place overall and second place in their division as of Monday, July 22.

“It’s a whole lot of work and a whole lot of fun because every single life saved is a victory — regardless of who wins the grant prizes for the biggest increases,” Troughton said.

This year, 49 organizations in 30 states are competing for the grants, he said. To see the challenge details, visit [challenge.aspcapro.org](http://challenge.aspcapro.org).

— AMBER HEALY

is so often called on to help transport animals, she recently purchased a new SUV purely because it can fit nine animal crates at a time.

“If I’m taking dogs and cats, I can fit a few in the front seat too,” McIntosh laughed.

She and her husband have three dogs of their own, including one, Rusty, who would fall under the knowing title of a “foster failure.” Rusty was supposed to be a foster dog, staying with the family in their Springfield home only temporarily, but soon became a permanent resident.

“The entire trip from the shelter, he stayed with his head on my shoulder,” McIntosh recalled. “He was found in a coal mine in West Virginia. We had him two and a half years.”

Her family tends to foster, or adopt, older dogs and currently has a 13-year-old Labrador/Shepherd mix named Glen who “doesn’t have teeth and is getting cataracts. We didn’t have plans for a third dog, but I’m past the puppy stage. He just wants to have a nice place to live,” and McIntosh and

her family are happy to provide him with that.

She continues to volunteer with Lost Dog “because I believe in them,” she said. “Sometimes it’s very crazy and frantic, but it’s an organization near and dear to my heart. It’s one of the best rescue organizations around. I’d do anything for Lost Dog.”

**CALL HIM THE CAT MAN.** Harry Shubin and his wife, Julie, know what it’s like to get sweet-talked into taking on more responsibility.

“Always a cat person,” Shubin, a Fairfax resident, was introduced to Lost Dog through a secretary at work when his family was looking to adopt a kitten after the loss of a cat he’d had for 16 years. He was more interested in adopting an older cat, but his family had other ideas. So they went to an adoption event. Within a little time, he had “managed to convince everyone that we should come home with an adult cat too.”

SEE VOLUNTEERING, PAGE 13

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

# Volunteering Saves Lives

FROM PAGE 12

It took a while to find the right cats, and Friday nights became the family's time to go to adoption events, chat with volunteers and spend time with the animals. During an adoption event about six months after they started going regularly, someone asked Shubin if he was interested in adopting.

"Before I could say no, someone opened up and said no, they're just volunteers," he said.

A year later, Shubin, officially a volunteer with cat adoption events at the Tysons Corner PetSmart, was asked to help find a cat volunteer coordinator for the center in the store, where cats sometimes live before they're adopted.

"We had about 30 volunteers at the time," and Shubin said he made it clear — at least to him — that he was not interested in being responsible for keeping track of which volunteers had which cats at which time. But something happened and, before he knew it, Shubin was put in charge of the cat volunteers, a team he now counts at about 400 people.

"I refused twice," he said with a laugh. He's not alone in being drafted to help out. His wife and daughter are both cat adoption counselors, meeting with prospective cat owners before paperwork is signed and formalized.

Other rescue groups might cringe at the thought of allowing an adoption to be made the same day people meet a cat, but Shubin believes that's the best way to go. "We'd rather adopt more cats to 85 percent perfect people than wait for that 99 percent perfect house," he said.

**A RESCUE DOG MADE HER FAMILY COMPLETE.** Since the age of 4, Beth Howell has had a dog. She doesn't remember how she found Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation, but for the past eight years, she's been helping with dog adoptions in Fair

Lakes.

However, she's most grateful to the organization for bringing her dog Jill into her family's life.

After losing a dog she'd had for 16 years, her family went to a Lost Dog event with the idea of maybe someday adopting a new puppy. After spending upwards of two hours with the adorable pup, Beth Howell gave Jill a new home.

"She makes us smile all the time," Beth Howell said. Jill is a "blend" of breeds, the family found after having her DNA tested, just for fun. "There are traces of German shepherd, Yorkshire terrier, spaniel and about seven other breeds in there," all in a dog that weighs about 30 pounds.

"I always wanted to contribute in some way, and I love helping animals," Howell said of her inspiration for becoming a volunteer. She helps get dogs ready for some special events, including 5K races that sometimes serve as fundraisers or outreach events for Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation. There have been times when passersby have approached Howell to tell her they adopted their dog from the foundation, and how happy they've become.

**MONEY WON EQUALS LIVES SAVED.** All volunteers interviewed were asked what Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation's winning the \$100,000 challenge would mean to the organization, and the response was unanimous: winning that money would mean more animals could be saved.

*Editor's note: Writer Amber Healy is an occasional cat volunteer with Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation.*



**Mason, a Lost Dog cat, strolls on a leash during an adoption event.**

## Lost Dog: For the Love of Animals

In 2001, there were too many dogs without homes and too few people to help them.

That wasn't acceptable to Pamela McAlwee and Ross Underwood, lifelong animal lovers who wanted to save dogs and cats alike from shelters where their futures were non-existent if they weren't adopted.

McAlwee and Underwood were a few years into running a gourmet take-out pizza deli on Washington Boulevard in the Westover neighborhood of Arlington, when McAlwee went to help a friend find a dog to adopt. While visiting a shelter, she saw six dogs that were about to be put down within a few days. She promptly took all six home that night. She got them spayed or neutered and cleaned up and put a classified ad in a newspaper, and in between orders for pepperoni and cheese and vegetarian pizzas, she worked to find good homes for them all. She did this several times, adopting dogs about to be euthanized and finding homes for them.

That's how the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation was born, out of the take-out phone number for what's now the original location of the Lost Dog Cafe. McAlwee had worked with other rescue groups before, but she wanted to focus more on finding good homes for the animals instead of waiting for a "perfect" placement. The rescue group started with 25 dogs.

Now there are 150 dogs at a ranch in Sumerduck, Va., owned by Lost Dog, as the rescue organization is known, along with 20 cats and an assortment of other animals, including a horse. Other dogs and cats live with fosters — more than 100 dogs are currently in temporary homes until they're adopted.

### How to Help

To learn more about the ASPCA/Rachael Ray \$100,000 challenge, find a new pet, donate or volunteer with the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation, go to [www.lostdogrescue.org](http://www.lostdogrescue.org).

"It's amazing what we accomplish with an all-volunteer base," said Barbara Hutcherson, Lost Dog's adoptions coordinator.

Lost Dog is the only organization in Northern Virginia participating in the ASPCA challenge. The rescue had to verify its numbers and qualify in order to

participate, proving the volunteer base and "the commitment to really take this challenge and run with it," Hutcherson said.

If Lost Dog wins one of the grants provided through the challenge, the winnings likely will be used for vet bills. "It's difficult when you're looking at a list of shelter animals and you have to ask if you can afford the big vet bill for one animal" compared to smaller fees for multiple animals, Hutcherson said. "We want to take them all. It's uncomfortable, but we want to do every single thing we can."

Funding for the rescue comes from adoption fees, donations, and from proceeds from the four Lost Dog Cafe locations across Northern Virginia and the Stray Cat Cafe, next to the original Lost Dog Cafe in Westover.

— AMBER HEALY

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**AREA ROUNDUPS**

**College Drinking To Be Discussed**

Fairfax County college-bound students and their parents are invited to attend "The Perils of the College Drinking Culture," an upcoming screening and panel discussion on a powerful, award-winning documentary, "HAZE," which looks at the crisis of binge drinking and hazing on college campuses. Parents and students are encouraged to attend together the forum on Wednesday, July 31 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) at the Ernst Community Cultural Center in Annandale. This is the last of four forums organized by the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County, in collaboration with the Fairfax County Police Department, Fairfax County Public Schools and NVCC.

Among those who will take part are: Fairfax County Deputy County Executive David Rohrer; Casey Ligan, chief deputy commonwealth's attorney for Fairfax County; William Hauda, M.D., Inova Fairfax Hospital; Fairfax County Police Sgt. Daniel Pang, school resource officer supervisor, Community Resources Division; Mary Ann Sprouse, director, George Mason University's Wellness, Alcohol and Violence Education and Services (WAVES); Jeff Levy, father of a student who died following drinking at a college party; and Samara Kimmelman, a GMU graduate student.

For more information, visit [www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org](http://www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org) or call 703-938-8723.

**FCPD Helicopter Unit Honored**

Members of the Fairfax County Police Department's Helicopter Unit were awarded the annual Gus Crawford Air Crew of the Year Award on Saturday, July 20. The award was given for the rescue of two missing boys in Spotsylvania.

On Jan. 25, two brothers, 10 and 5, went outside to play in the newly fallen snow with their dog. When a parent went to check on them 30 minutes later, it was discovered that footprints from the boys led into the dense woods bordering the family's home. Deputies from the Spotsylvania County Sheriff's Office began searching for the boys and requested assistance from the Fairfax County Police Helicopter, "Fairfax One."

Communicating with deputies below, the helicopter performed an extensive search using the infrared camera in the waning light of a winter afternoon with sub-freezing temperatures. With only 10-15 minutes remaining for Fairfax One to remain on the scene, a small heat source was located under a fallen tree next to a creek. Using the high-definition camera, the crew was able to spot the two missing boys huddled together under the tree and directed search-team members to their location.

The three officers who were recognized were Pilot Garrett Wymer, MPO Paul DeHaven and PFC Timothy Schilling. The Gus Crawford Air Crew of the Year Award is given annually by the Airborne Law Enforcement Assn., which was founded in 1968 and has 3,500 members worldwide. The rescue video from Fairfax One may be viewed at <http://youtu.be/iBwd2qFCM-Q>.

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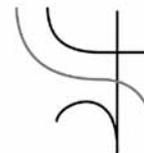
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Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

**The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center**, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

**Fairfax Baptist Temple**, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a Bible Study Fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and Children's Church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or [www.fbtministries.org](http://www.fbtministries.org).

**First Baptist Church of Springfield** offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or [www.fbcspRINGfield.org](http://www.fbcspRINGfield.org).

**Clifton Presbyterian Church**, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

**Lord of Life Lutheran** offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:15, 9:45 and 11:15 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or [www.LordofLifeva.org](http://www.LordofLifeva.org).

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### 21 Announcements

**Public Notice – Environmental Permit**  
PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow the release of treated wastewater into a water body in Fairfax County, Virginia.

### 21 Announcements

Public comment period: June 13, 2013 to August 26, 2013  
Permit name: Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit – Wastewater issued by DEQ, under the authority of the State Water Control Board

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APPLICANT Name, address and permit number: Colchester Utilities, Incorporated P. O. Box 379, Dunkirk, Maryland 20754, VA0029416

Name and address of facility: Colchester Utilities, Inc. WWTP 10609 Greene Drive, Lorton, VA 22079

Project description: Colchester Utilities, Inc. has applied for a reissuance of a permit for the private Colchester Utilities, Inc. WWTP. The applicant proposes to treat sewage wastewaters from residential areas at a rate of 0.080 million gallons per day into a water body. The sludge will be disposed by hauling it to Noman M. Cole, Jr. Pollution Control Plant (VA0025364) for incineration. The facility proposes to release the treated sewage wastewaters into Massey Creek in Fairfax County in the Potomac River watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. The permit will limit the following pollutants to amounts that protect water quality: pH, cBOD5, TSS, Ammonia as N, Dissolved Oxygen, E. coli, Chlorine, and Total Phosphorus.

HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing by hand-delivery, e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requester, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

Contact for public comments, document requests and additional information: The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ-Northern Regional Office by appointment, or may request electronic copies of the draft permit and fact sheet.

Name: Joan C. Crowther  
Address: DEQ-Northern Regional Office, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193

Phone: (703) 583-3925 E-mail: joan.crowther@deq.virginia.gov Fax: (703) 583-3821

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# SPORTS

## Setting Records Straight

**F**airfax Station resident Brandon Fabian (age group 13-14) broke four Colonial Swim League (CSL) Yard records this summer, swimming for the Barrington Blue Fins Swim Team.

On June 22, Brandon swam the 50-yard Backstroke with a time of 26.73 seconds beating a record set in July 2008. On July 13, Brandon surpassed two CSL records that stood for 34 years. He swam the 50-yard Butterfly with a time of 24.87 seconds, beating the record that was set in June 1979. He broke this record twice this summer, with this being his best time. Also on July 13, Brandon swam the 50-yard Freestyle with a time of 22.95, beating the record also set in June 1979. This season, Brandon also bested the 100-yard Individual Medley record set in July 2011, with a time of 56.60 seconds.



Brandon Fabian in a backstroke race.

Brandon Fabian is a rising sophomore at South County High School. On Saturday, July 27, Brandon will be swimming Freestyle, Butterfly and Individual Medley in the CSL Blue Divisional Meet.

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER K. WALL SMETER



The Northern Virginia Nereids synchronized swim team after they participated in the finals at Age Group National Synchronized Swimming Championship in Riverside, Calif.: Connie Polnow (Lake Braddock Secondary School), Monica Olivo (Lake Braddock Secondary School), Margot Baden (Woodson High School), Jackie Hafner (Robinson Secondary School), and Mikaela Voegelé.

## Nereids Synchronized Swimmers 9th in Nation

**T**he Northern Virginia Nereids synchronized swimming team just returned from the Age Group National Synchronized Swimming Championship in Riverside, Calif. The Nereids' team, Connie Polnow of Lake Braddock Secondary School, Monica Olivo of Lake Braddock Secondary School, Margot Baden of Woodson High School, Jackie Hafner of Robinson Secondary School, and Mikaela Voegelé, qualified for the finals event and finished as the 9th place team in the country. Angel Oh and Alex Marini

also joined the Nereids in the duet category. The Nereids had strong showings in all of their routines. The Northern Virginia Nereids are based in Annandale and practice at Wakefield Recreational Center. Team members range from ages 8-16 and compete in various skill divisions. The team will have "Try Synchro" days in the fall for anyone interested in trying out the sport—all are welcome to join. For more information, go to [www.nvnsynchro.com](http://www.nvnsynchro.com) or email [president@nvnsynchro.com](mailto:president@nvnsynchro.com).



PHOTO BY MICHAEL K. BOHN/THE CONNECTION

Thomas Lim of Moorpark, Calif., teed off on the 12th hole at Laurel Hill Golf Club on the first day of the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship on July 15. Laurel Hill was built on the grounds of the former District of Columbia prison, and one of the old guard towers is in the background.

## College Athlete Takes Championship in Lorton

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN  
THE CONNECTION

guess, for any golfer, any junior golfer, any amateur golfer."

**A** U.S. national golf title was on the line last week, and outside of golf's inner circles, virtually no one knew about it. Jordan Niebrugge from Mequon, Wis. won the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship at Laurel Hill Golf Club in Lorton. Niebrugge defeated Michael Kim 1-up in the 36-hole final match on Saturday, July 20.

The Public Links tournament is the fourth oldest national championship sponsored by the U.S. Golf Association, one that began in 1922. The USGA began staging the "Publinx" in order to offset its discrimination against non-private club amateurs that began in 1895 and lasted until 1979. Public course players couldn't enter the U.S. Amateur during that period, so the USGA created another championship for them.

Three thousand players attempted to qualify for the championship at 71 sectional tournaments in June. Of those, 156 made up the starting field last week, and 36 holes of medal play produced the 64 golfers who began match play. After five rounds of matches, only Niebrugge and Kim remained.

Yet despite its history, the Publinx, will disappear in a year. In an unexpected move, USGA officials announced last February that they will discontinue the championship, as well as the Women's version, after the 2014 championships.

The two players reached the 36th hole, the par-5, 599-yard 18th, with Niebrugge leading 1-up. Kim played first and went for the green in two, but splashed his hybrid approach. That allowed Niebrugge to play for a conservative par and the championship.

USGA vice president Tom O'Toole said in February that since the Amateur has been open to all comers for the past 34 years, the Publinx "no longer served that original purpose or mission."

Niebrugge is a rising sophomore at Oklahoma State University. Kim, from Del Mar, Calif. and a rising junior at University of California-Berkeley, was the low amateur in last month's U.S. Open.

But there are other forces at work. Applications to play in the men's championship have decreased in the last 15 years, partly because of increasingly stricter USGA handicap limits; entrants must have a 4.4 or better now. There aren't many 3- and 4-handicap players at Pine County Golf Course and Water Slide Park. However, there are plenty of college golfers with that kind of game.

While the championship trophy is nice, another perk normally earned by the Public Links winner has a bit more spice—an invitation to the Masters next spring. When asked after the final match about playing Augusta National, Niebrugge said, "I mean, to play in it, I mean, it's just a dream come true, I

The last 17 Publinx champions, including Niebrugge, have been college, or college-age players. The championship created for the working man is now dominated by "student athletes."

# CALENDAR

To have community events listed, send to [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416 with questions. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication; we recommend submitting your event two weeks ahead of time. To see more entertainment events, go to: <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2013/may/22/fairfax-county-calendar/>.

## THROUGH SUNDAY/JULY 28

**Mystical Arts of Tibet.** Various times, at Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. See a live exhibition of an elaborate Peace Mandala sand painting and related music, dance, lectures, multiphonic singing and promotion of healing through performing art. \$0-\$20. <http://www.unityoffairfax.org/auspicious-event>.

## THURSDAY/JULY 25

**Emily Hearn.** 5-6:30 p.m., Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Emily Hearn, a 21-year-old singer/songwriter currently based out of Athens, Ga. with charming, lighthearted melodies. [www.emilyhearn.com](http://www.emilyhearn.com).

## FRIDAY/JULY 26

**Tom Principato.** 7:30-8:30 p.m., at Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. Tom has been playing around the globe performing dozens of blues hits and making music enjoyed by fans everywhere. [www.tomprincipato.com](http://www.tomprincipato.com).

## MONDAY-FRIDAY/JULY 29-AUG. 9

**Stage Door Camp.** 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. An acting camp for youth; signup in June. [www.RobinsonDrama.org](http://www.RobinsonDrama.org).

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 27-28

**2nd Annual Earth 2100 Conference.** George Mason University, Johnson Center, Dewberry Hall South, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax.



**The fashion and accessories shop at Fairfax's Mosaic District hosts a day of giveaways and sales Sunday, Aug. 3, with a styling bar, sweets and drinks to benefit The National Race to End Women's Cancer.**

Participants explore global environmental issues and interact with representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme and four key think tanks. \$50 including two meals and a reception on July 11. [http://www.ourtask.org/earth\\_2100\\_conference](http://www.ourtask.org/earth_2100_conference).

## SUNDAY/JULY 28

**Community Eat-for-Heat Pancake Feast and Water Play.** Jewish Community Center of

Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. This pancake breakfast features food, arts and crafts, playground time, and water play to raise funds to prevent hypothermia. \$6 per adult, \$4 per child, free for children up to 2 years old. 703-323-0880 or [LaurieA@jccnv.org](mailto:LaurieA@jccnv.org) for details.

## THURSDAY/AUG. 1

**Little Red & The Renegades.** 5-6:30 p.m., Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Little Red is American music, with a heavy emphasis on zydeco and Cajun. [www.littleredandtherenegades.com](http://www.littleredandtherenegades.com).

## SATURDAY/AUG. 3

**Lou Lou Day-Shop to Give Charity Event.** Shop to support the Foundation for Women's Cancer and the Society of Gynecologic Oncology for the National Race to End Women's Cancer. [www.loulouboutiques.com](http://www.loulouboutiques.com) or [twitter.com/LouLouBoutiques](https://twitter.com/LouLouBoutiques).

## THURSDAY/AUG. 8

**The Simon & Garfunkel Songbook.** 5-6:30 p.m., Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Since 1972, Rex Fowler and Neal Shulman have spent a lifetime making music together as the folk/rock duo Aztec Two-Step. [www.aztectwostep.com](http://www.aztectwostep.com).

## FRIDAY/AUG. 9

**American Idol LIVE! 2013 Tour.** 7:30 p.m., George Mason Patriot Center, 4400 University Dr, Fairfax. A showcase of American Idol's past-season finalists comes to the local Patriot Center.

## THURSDAY/AUG. 15

**Ryan Montbleau Band.** 5-6:30 p.m., Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government

Center Parkway, Fairfax. In their 10-year career, this band has built their catalog by introducing new songs to their live set, before committing to a definitive version. [www.ryanmontbleauband.com](http://www.ryanmontbleauband.com).

## FRIDAY/AUG. 16

**IONA.** 7:30-8:30 p.m., at Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. High-energy, pan-Celtic weave of the traditional music of Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall (England), Brittany (France), the Isle of Man and Galicia (Spain), featuring fiddle, vocals, flute, guitar and percussion. [www.ionamusic.com](http://www.ionamusic.com).

## SATURDAY/AUG. 17

**DC Fest With Newsboys.** 3 p.m., George Mason Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A range of performers take the local stage in this Christian musical festival.

## SUNDAY/AUG. 18

**27th Annual Pakistan Independence Day Festival.** Noon., at 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. The Pakistan Independence Day Festival includes musical performances, rides and games. [www.pakistanfestivalusa.com/](http://www.pakistanfestivalusa.com/).

## THURSDAY/AUG. 22

**Natty Beaux.** 5-6:30 p.m., at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Natty Beaux is a new combo featuring musicians from Billy Coulter Band, The Junkyard Saints, Alexandria Klezmet and Western Bop. [www.nattybeaux.com/about.html](http://www.nattybeaux.com/about.html).

## FRIDAY/AUG. 23

**Inaugural Golf Tournament.** 2 p.m., Fort Belvoir Golf Club, 2920, 8450 Beulah St., Alexandria. Prizes include a chance to win \$5,000 for a hole in one, year-long BMW lease and several door prizes. 703-470-2137 or [www.fairfaxnaacp.org](http://www.fairfaxnaacp.org).

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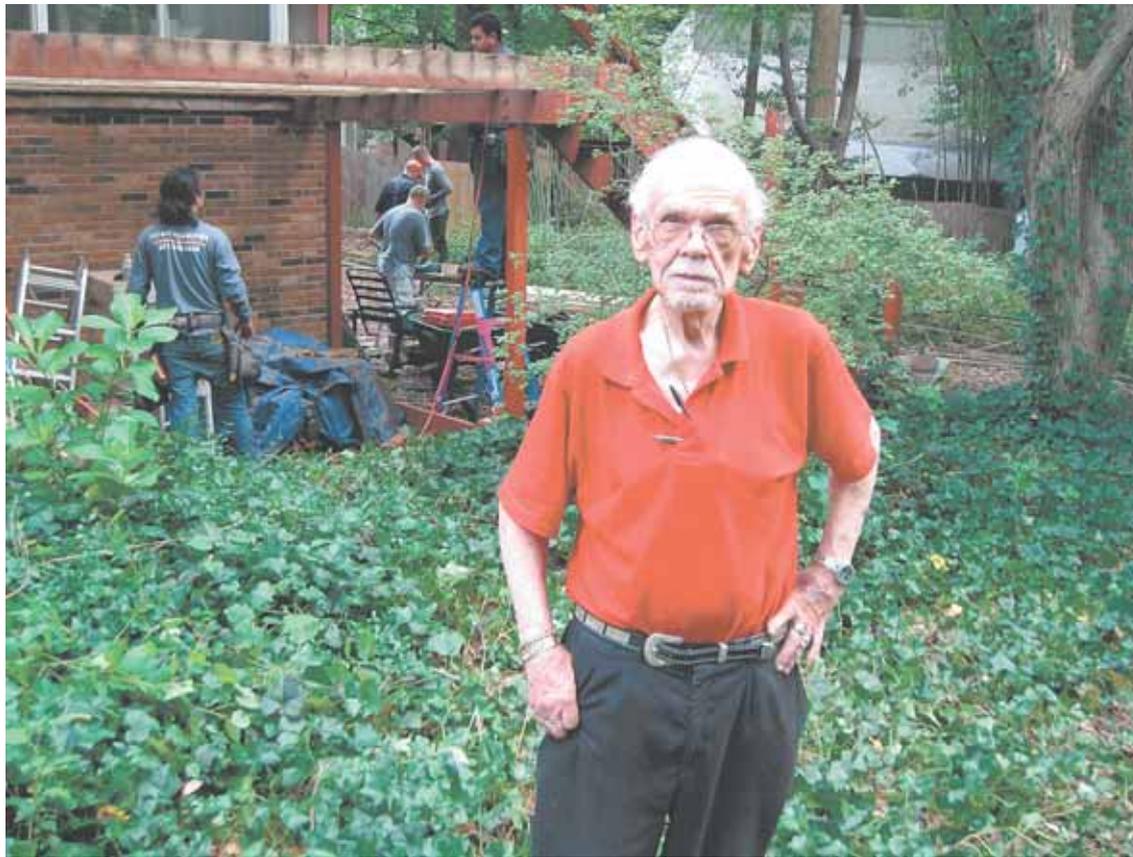
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Widower John McAuslan, 81, has lived on Raintree Road in Burke for 37 years.



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Wilfredo Benitez, 37, and his brother William, 23, of Woodbridge build a deck floor and handrail.

## A Brush With Kindness in Burke

Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia repairs John McAuslan's property.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

**J**ohn McAuslan, 81, of the Lake Braddock community in Burke is a widower with a heart condition and a bad back. Semi-retired from his own pest control business, he lives on Raintree Road with his daughter Leanne but is unable to maintain his home and property.

On Monday and Tuesday, July 22-23, about 30 people from A Brush With Kindness came to McAuslan's aid, helping to build a new deck, remove overgrown bamboo and ivy, rake leaves and debris, and remove ground cover from a path. A Brush With Kindness concentrates on outdoor cleanup and is part of Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia.

In addition, the volunteers repaired the

front wood steps, installed a sliding glass door, replaced a basement window, installed a window well, and changed door locks and weather stripping.

"I think it's a real blessing," said McAuslan. "I feel gratified. I could never have afforded it."

This is Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia's eighth renovation project in 2013, said Jennifer Mulchandani, marketing and communications manager. It averages about 12 home renovations per year locally. Currently, projects are in the works for Centreville and Falls Church.

She said a "sandlot gang" of experienced carpenters, framers and demo experts help train thousands of volunteers at the work sites, but that no experience is required. Habitat gets all the necessary building permits and follows strict building codes for

Fairfax County.

"We do the critical stuff that homeowners need in order to stay in their homes," said Mulchandani.

**EACH PROJECT** is budgeted at roughly \$5,000, with major donors like E-Trade Bank, Capital One Bank and the Stafford Foundation supporting the cause. They also rely on in-kind donations and work with suppliers to receive discounts.

Most of the senior-level GS-15 volunteers who cleaned McAuslan's yard were from the Strategic Studies Group, directed by David E. Johnson, Ph.D., of Falls Church. They are part of Gen. Raymond Odierno's command, office of the chief of staff of the Army, stationed in Crystal City.

"I think it's a good way to bring a new group of people together with something that matters," said Johnson.

The Brush With Kindness projects provide a team-building exercise for companies like the Strategic Studies Group, which signed a sponsorship agreement and brought 27

people to the Burke site.

"We're really pleased to see government employees band together for a project," said Mulchandani. "We find that important and meaningful."

Architect Romana Sanchez of Alexandria was director of construction on this project, which cost about \$3,000, and covered the cost of a dumpster and porta-potty. "I enjoy helping someone get a handle on maintaining their house," she said. "It's just great to give someone a lift."

Volunteer John Gross of Reston said McAuslan's back yard was completely overgrown with about 25 years of bamboo growth. "We're basically getting the homeowner's yard back to where it's safe and functional again."

**ALSO HELPING** to clear the bamboo and brush was Col. E.J. Degen of Catlett, Va., a former carpenter before he joined the U.S. Army. He has been doing volunteer work for 35 years and adds: "I like the satisfaction of helping somebody who needs help."



About 30 members of the chief of staff of the U.S. Army's Strategic Studies Group worked on John McAuslan's yard in Burke.



Paul Thomas of Springfield takes bamboo to the dumpster.



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