

Chantilly CONNECTION

Fair Oaks ❖ Fair Lakes

Home LifeStyle

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

APRIL 10-16, 2014

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS



Drug dealers often mix bags of cocaine with Kool-Aid to disguise it and prevent drug-sniffing dogs from detecting it.



Marijuana plants.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE

Deadly Dangers of Drugs

Narcotics officer shares information with parents.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Lt. Jim Cox is a 26-year member of the Fairfax County Police Department. From 1995-2001, he was a detective in the Organized Crime and Narcotics (OCN) Division; and since 2004, he's been an OCN supervisor.

But the ever-changing world of illegal drugs still keeps him on his toes — and battling to take down the dealers who ruin lives for profit.

"I know a lot about narcotics," he said. "But every day, something new comes on the market."

Cox was speaking before a recent meeting of the Sully District Police Station's Citizens Advisory Committee, and the topic was drugs and organized crime. He said the OCN has three units dealing with street crimes (gangs), narcotics and money laundering.

The narcotics detectives handle the "higher-end drug cases" involving substances such as heroin and meth. They also work with the FBI and other federal agencies. And Cox noted that the OCN's 40-caliber guns were paid for by seized drug money.

He discussed various drugs, starting with marijuana. In Virginia, he said, medical marijuana prescribed by a doctor has been legal since 1950. And he described a big marijuana bust police here made in 2007.

A man had a "grow operation" on 10 acres off of Union Mill Road in Clifton, where he rented a house just for that purpose, while living in Fairfax. "Our helicopter used its flare over the house to sense the heat from the operation," said Cox. "And once inside the house, the marijuana smell was overwhelming."

"There was a closet next to the refrigerator in the kitchen; and when you pushed on the door, there were steps leading to the basement where the plants were," he continued. "He had 175 plants, and each one yields 1 pound of marijuana. One ounce of marijuana costs \$600-\$700."

According to Cox, "kind bud" and "chronic" marijuana sell for \$8,000 or \$9,000 a pound and "give a powerful high. So there's more of a demand now for marijuana than crack cocaine — and they're sending it through the mail."

He said marijuana is often disguised as something else to avoid detection by the authorities and also to make it more appealing. THC is the main, mind-al-

tering ingredient in marijuana, and Cox said dealers take liquid marijuana and liquid THC and "make candy out of it or put it on cigarettes. They'll also make marijuana butter and use it to make cookies, brownies or Rice Krispie Treats to sell to high-schoolers."

So he advised parents to ask their children if they're using drugs. "Have a conversation with them," he said. "Check your kids' phone and Internet; you need to know what they're doing 24/7."

Cox said meth is also available in Fairfax County. "You can go into any drugstore and buy everything you need to make it," he said. "You can get enough to stay high for 14-16 hours." But police know what goes into meth and are alert for anyone buying those ingredients in large quantities.

For example, he said, "We found out that drums of certain chemicals were going to a townhouse near the Burger King off Route 28 [in Centreville]. We made an arrest and [the recipient] was convicted."

Some of the meth-making elements parents should watch for, said Cox, are acetone, alcohol, salt, batteries, lye, matches, engine starter, drain cleaner, iodine, coffee filters, propane tanks and a solvent called toluene. He said they should also be on the lookout for common-cold pills containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine or muriatic acid, used to clean brick and stone.

And he warned residents not to make coffee in a hotel or motel room. "Because toxic waste is created when people make meth, they often cook it in coffee pots in hotel rooms," said Cox. "But it leaves a toxic residue in the pot, even after it's washed out."

Furthermore, he said, "Meth oil is often imported in bottles of tequila. Crystal meth is often transported across the U.S. as colorful bath gel — and this meth ice is the most powerful form. Meth users feel like they have bugs inside them and try to scratch and peel them off."

Cox said 99 percent of the drugs here, except for marijuana, are imported from other countries. "Tell your kids, friends and family that 70,000 people in Mexico died over cocaine in recent years," he said. So, said Cox, people who use cocaine are perpetuating the tragedy. He also said one way dealers smuggle it into the U.S. is by putting Kool-Aid into bags with the cocaine "to defeat the drug-sniffing dogs" at the airports.

Regarding heroin, he said, "The saddest day of all is the day you lose your kid to drugs. So tell your kid, 'You just don't know what you're putting in your body.' Cocaine is not made at CVS [Pharmacy], and

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'Victims' Rights Are a Necessity' Honoring crime victims with walk, words and candlelight vigil.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Siohban Russell was just 19 when her ex-boyfriend killed her. Ron Kirby, a noted regional transportation planner, was murdered in his Alexandria home in November by an unknown assailant.

And on Sunday evening, April 6, they and other crime victims were honored with a 5K walk, remembrance ceremony and candlelight vigil. The Fairfax County Law Enforcement Foundation and the county Police Department's Victims Services Section held the event at Fairfax Corner.

Before the walk, Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Morrogh addressed the crowd of more than 100 people gathered in the shopping center's outdoor plaza. He praised the detectives who investigate criminal cases and said the men and women of Fairfax County's police department are the best in the country.

"I can't help but think, on a day like this, of [Arlington's] Linda Franklin, killed [in October 2002] by the D.C. Sniper, or Vanessa Pham [a Falls Church teen murdered in 2010]," he said. "We're always going to have victims and there's always going to be sadness. But I love my job as a prosecutor and it takes all of us to support these victims."

THE EVENT kicked off National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 6-12. The purpose is to promote victims' rights and acknowledge crime victims and their advocates. It also marks the achievements made on crime victims' behalf since passage of the Victims of Crime Act in 1984, providing support and including them in the justice process. Participating Sunday were victims' friends and relatives, plus the professionals who support local victims of homicide, trauma, sexual and domestic violence, child physical and sexual abuse, stalking, human trafficking and suicide.

"We're blessed in Fairfax County to have great community support for the victims of crime," said county Police Chief Ed Roessler Jr. "These victims provide valuable input to our Victims Services Section so we may be better advocates for the needs of victims and survivors."

"Victims Services helps victims cope with



Will Marling: "Victims should have equal footing under the law."

the trauma and the aftermath of victimization," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova. "It also lessens the inconveniences often associated with participation in the criminal justice process. Crimes against persons, property and society are all down again this year in Fairfax County. And with public safety as one of our highest priorities, we intend to keep it that way."

Also speaking was Will Marling, executive director of the National Organization for Victim Assistance. "Victims' rights aren't a luxury, but a necessity, and there's a state commitment to provide dignity and respect to those impacted by crime," he said. "Under the U.S. Constitution, the accused has 23 protections, but those impacted by a crime have none. We're hoping to change that with U.S. House joint resolution 30."

"Victims' rights don't cost that much and don't violate the rights of the accused," continued Marling. "Victims should have equal footing under the law, and Virginia has a commitment to this. I'm honored to be here today with you."

Attendees wore or carried signs telling who or what they were there to honor. Some bore the name of a loved one and others acknowledged victims of particular crimes. Michele Putnam, who works in Vienna, was there to honor sexual-assault victims.



People of all ages participate in the candlelight vigil for crime victims.

"It's important to recognize the victims and the support in the community," she said. "A lot of times, the focus is on the criminal and the case investigation, but we need to make sure the victims aren't lost. It's also important to raise awareness of these crimes to prevent re-victimization."

There with Putnam was Rob Twitchell; his friend's daughter was struck by a drunk driver at age 3. "She had severe brain trauma and is now a special-needs child," he said. "She'll never be the same."

Sully District Police Station Chaplain Duke Bendix said, "Wrong actions can sow in our hearts the seeds of despair, hopelessness, anger and hatred."

But we must be vigilant to guard against these feelings from taking root in the soil of our hearts." He then prayed to God to be a "fortress and salvation" to crime victims and their loved ones. "Minister comfort, consolation, grace and perspective into the hearts of those who've been victims or know someone who has," he said. "Bring hope into their hearts and draw them into your peace and love."

DURING THE CANDLELIGHT VIGIL, several people came to the podium and gave the name of the person they were honoring. Others said they were there to remem-

ber the victims of crimes including human trafficking, homicide, stalking, robbery, domestic violence and drunk driving.

Wendy Claunch, a family friend, came in honor of the organization, Dating Abuse Stops Here (DASH), and Oak Hill teen Siobhan Russell, murdered by her ex-boyfriend in 2009. She said Sunday's event signified that "victims are not forgotten."

"We need to raise awareness that memories of the victims are still there and their lives had meaning and purpose," said Claunch. "One reason we started DASH was to keep Siobhan's memory alive. And as her parents say, 'If we can stop one other person from becoming a victim of dating abuse, then her death won't have been entirely in vain.'" Through DASH, teens learn the early warning signs of an unhealthy and potentially dangerous relationship, such as stalking, possessiveness and controlling behavior.

For more information, go to www.datingabusestopshere.com.

Wearing her DASH jacket adorned with a photo button of Siobhan in her cap and gown after graduating from Mountain View High, Claunch said, "She was killed nine weeks after graduation. She was moving on with her life without her ex-boyfriend and he didn't like that."

The Seven Faces of Erin Peterson

Annual Gospel Celebration of Life is this Sunday, April 13.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Nearly seven years have passed since Centreville's Erin Peterson — an 18-year-old freshman at



Erin Peterson

her.

To make sure the Westfield High grad's

Virginia Tech — was killed in a massacre there, along with 31 others. But although short, her life counted; and each year, the local community gathers to remember

legacy lives on, her parents, Grafton and Celeste Peterson, established the Erin Peterson Fund in May 2007 to continue their daughter's dedication to education and to helping those less fortunate. They also began an annual Gospel Celebration in her memory and to raise money for the fund.

This year, the 7th Annual Erin Peterson Gospel Celebration of Life will be held Sunday, April 13, at 4 p.m., at Mount Olive Baptist Church, 6600 Old Centreville Road

SEE ANNUAL, PAGE 5



Erin Peterson hugging her dad after graduating from Westfield High in 2006.

ROUNDUPS

Chantilly Pyramid Art Show

Featuring the artwork of Chantilly High and its feeder schools, Chantilly High will host the annual, Chantilly Pyramid Art Show. It's this Thursday, April 10, from 6-8 p.m., in the front halls of the school at 4201 Stringfellow Road.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, April 10 and April 24, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed.

However, because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

Craft Fair April 12

New Life Christian Church's Passion 4 Community is sponsoring a craft show with local artisans. It's set for Saturday, April 12, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the nZone, 14550 Lee Road in Chantilly.

There'll be about 70 vendors total for the event, food will be available for sale and there'll be activities for children. Admission cost is a non-perishable food item for local families in need.

Correction

The story, "The Goal is to Spot Kids in Crisis," (Centre View, March 27), should have said there were 15 teenage suicides since 2012.

Prevent Thefts from Vehicles

In light of recent events in the Sully District over the last week or so, Sully District police are offering some safety tips to local residents. They've seen an increase in items being stolen from unlocked cars, as well as vehicles that have been stolen because keys were left inside them or in another car parked at the same residence.

Police urge residents to remove all valuables from their vehicle. These include removable navigation systems (GPS), laptops, iPods, cell phones, tablets, weapons, briefcases, jewelry and loose change. In addition, do not store a spare key in the car or a key for a vehicle garaged at the same residence. People who can't park at or in front of their home are advised to park in a well-lit area.

And most importantly, says Sully District Station Crime Prevention Officer Tara Gerhard, "Lock your vehicle. And remember, you are the eyes and the ears of our community. If something seems out of place or suspicious to you, please call the non-emergency number, 703-691-2131."

Food Donations for WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' food pantry urgently needs donations of Ramen Noodles, spaghetti sauce, fruit juice, canned vegetables (no green beans), cooking oil; canned pasta, sugar, flour and canned fruit and meat. Also needed are diapers in sizes 5 and 6, toothpaste, deodorant and baby wipes. (WFCM clients cannot purchase toiletries with food stamps).

Bring all items to WFCM'S food pantry, weekdays, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at 13888 Metrotech Drive, near Papa John's Pizza and Kumon Learning Center, in Chantilly's Sully Place Shopping Center.

Thrift-store needs include spring and summer clothing, quality shoes and like-new houseware. The store is at 13939 Metrotech Drive. In addition, Thrift Store volunteers are needed for two-hour shifts Saturdays, anytime between 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 8

NEWS



Standing near some bonsai in Chuck Croft's yard are (from left) Joe Gutierrez, Gary Reese and Chuck Croft with Judi Schwartz (seated).

PHOTOS BY
BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Bonsai Show at Garden Center

Learn about, see and vote for favorite trees.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The Northern Virginia Bonsai Society will hold its Spring Show this weekend at the Merrifield Garden Center. It's at 12101 Lee Hwy. in Fairfax and the free show runs Saturday, April 12, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, April 13, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bonsai experts will give demonstrations, and attendees may vote on the trees they believe should then compete at the Potomac Bonsai Association show at the National Arboretum.

"Most, if not all, bonsai trees are regular trees that, if planted outside, would grow to full size," said club member Dr. Joe Gutierrez. "But we keep them in a small pot and purposely train them to stay small. We do it by repotting into appropriate-sized pots and pruning the roots and branches."

"The trunks get bigger and older-looking, but the roots get smaller because small roots feed a tree best," said member Gary Reese. "And the bonsai are planted in inorganic, ground-up rock." Formerly on the Fairfax County School Board and the 67th District delegate, he's a 30-year member of the club.

They have 62 members from throughout Northern Virginia. "We educate ourselves, the public and new members about the styling and horticulture of bonsai," said Burke's Chuck Croft.

Club President Judi Schwartz said no experience is necessary because they have a mentoring program for those new to the art. "We bring in some of the best bonsai experts in the world to give lectures and workshops," added Reese. "You can bring in your own trees and they'll give you advice; it's a tremendous, eye-opening experience."

Bonsai are planted in crushed lava, baked clay and

pumice. "The most important thing is that they drain well," said Croft. "So we have to feed and water them regularly."

"You have complete control over the tree's water and nutrients," said Gutierrez.

"That's why people joke that the definition of 'bonsai' is to almost kill a tree," said Reese. But, said Croft, the actual definition is "tree in a pot."

The art began in China and is more than 2,000 years old. "It spread to Japan through the Buddhist monks," said Croft. "And the Japanese established rules, called bonsai, for designing and styling trees. The Chinese version, called 'penjing,' is a little more free form."

"But thankfully, when it came to the U.S., we used those rules more as guidelines and used trees that grew here," said Reese.

"Bonsai is the technique of miniaturizing trees," said Gutierrez. "The foliage and tree should be in scale with each other." "I tell people the tree's going to tell you what to do by its own shape and the way it's growing," said Croft. "We like to work with trees that nurseries have left over and nobody else wants, or half-dead trees, so they sell at reduced rates. Then we can nurse them back to health and style them around the character they've developed."

Their trees stay outdoors year 'round. "We keep the wind from drying them out," said Schwartz.

And, added Croft, "If it's warm enough and there's enough precipitation, you don't have to water them during the winter." Gutierrez said freezing temperatures don't hurt them as long as

the soil has moisture in it when it freezes.

However, said Schwartz, "Indoor tropical trees cannot survive outside in this climate. So they go indoors and need special lighting and watering, plus regular care. But they're fun because you get to play with them all winter."

"There's no special, single, bonsai tree," said Croft. "Any woody plant can be turned into a bonsai. The

SEE BONSAI, PAGE 8

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Chuck Croft's 80-year-old Japanese white pine.

Annual Gospel Celebration of Life This Sunday

FROM PAGE 3

in Centreville. The theme is "Keeping Hope Alive: The Seven Faces of Erin – Daughter, Sister, Friend, Mentor, Visionary, Peacemaker, Inspiration."

"The word Gospel means good news, and it is good news that we are spreading in Erin's name and because of the beautiful legacy she left for us," said Celeste Peterson. "Erin was an exceptional person and a wonderful daughter. She had a tremendous zeal for life, a commitment to excellence and a passion for serving others. She made you want to be a better person, and we honor her legacy through the Erin Peterson Fund."

This nonprofit organization awards scholarships and grants to help students with the same dreams and aspirations as Erin. "Since its inception, more than \$120,000 in grants and scholarships have been awarded."

So although Sunday's event is free and open to the public, donations are welcome. All money collected during the program will help provide further educational scholarships and grants for deserving students.

Each group or individual participating in the celebration will perform two selections. The performers include the Mount Olive Baptist Church Praise Team, as well as Sonya Williamson, a soloist and 14-year member of the church.

Also entertaining will be Voices of Tomorrow (Today), a choir comprised of males, ages 13-25, who are part of the congregation of First Baptist Church of Manassas. This group serves as Mount Olive's praise and worship team on the second Sundays of the month. Accord Ministries, a small Gospel group from the Word Alive Church International in Manassas, will also perform. These young men serve as Mount Olive's praise and worship team on the fourth Sundays of the month. Koreakos, a praise team from the Community Praise Center in Alexandria, is participating, too. The group's name means "belonging to God." And always popular is Unspoken Praise from Mount Olive. It's comprised of both male and female teenagers who worship through mime.

"Erin was a woman of faith," said her cousin, Tracy Littlejohn, who's also organizing the event. "She demonstrated her faith by the way she lived her life, how she treated people, supported and encouraged them. She was a true blessing to our life, and we pray that the work of the foundation will be a blessing to others."

Scholarships in Erin's name go to graduating seniors at Westfield and Falls Church high schools or students who attend Mount Olive Baptist Church. And almost 100 percent of the grant money goes

directly to Westfield for its Boys Leadership Group Today for Tomorrow, which serves and supports at-risk young men attending that school. For more information about the Erin Peterson Fund, go to www.ErinPetersonFund.org or call 703-830-8769.

"I just think the Gospel celebration is a wonderful way to remember her," said Littlejohn. "It is al-

ways such an uplifting experience and something positive for the community.

I believe that is why choirs, soloists, gospel groups and liturgical dancers from throughout the region have participated. I am also grateful to the Mount Olive Baptist Church family for their continuous support of this event, our foundation and our family."



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Officer Discusses Drugs

FROM PAGE 2

heroin laced with *fentanyl* is what killed Philip Seymour Hoffman."

"When you're buying heroin, coke or weed from your local drug dealer, it may not be those things," said Cox. "The bad guys don't care about you — they care about making money. If your child dies, there'll be someone else waiting behind him to buy these drugs."

He said police don't see much LSD in Fairfax County, but "we see some of it. It's a hallucinogenic drug, and these hallucinations can be exciting or frightening — so the users are going to act violently to protect themselves. It's sold in colorful stamps, each with four hits of LSD on it." As for ecstasy, also hallucinogenic, it comes in colorful pills. "We don't see it as much here, but it's still out there," said Cox.

"The bad guys don't care about you — they care about making money."
— Lt. Jim Cox, FCPD

"Mollies [amphetamines] come in capsules and psilocybin is on mushrooms. We also see a little bit of PCP use, plus prescription drugs." Also troubling, he said, is K2. It's sold as herbal incense or potpourri for \$35 for a 3.5-gram pack. "It's synthetic THC and we still see this in Fairfax County," said Cox. "They changed the molecules so it's not illegal. They're marketing it to kids, so check your kids' Internet for any purchases made overseas."

He also advised parents to go to the Office of National Drug Control Policy Website, <http://www.streetlightpublications.net/misc/ondcp.htm>, to learn the street terms and slang for drugs and stimulants. That way, he said, "If your kids are mentioning these things on their cell phones, you'll be aware."

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Connection Papers Win Awards

Reporting, photography, design and editorial cartoons commended at annual Virginia Press Association meeting.

“Great work exposing serious challenges and obstacles in the way of the public’s access to public information. The articles are well written and well researched, providing concrete and compelling examples of the flaws in the systems.”

That was what the judge said when awarding first place for In-depth or investigative reporting to Michael Lee Pope in the Arlington Connection.

The Virginia Press Association announced its press awards for 2013 at the annual meeting on Saturday, April 5, in Richmond.

Pope also won first place for education writing, for business and financial writing, and awards for health, science and environmental writing and for government writing. Stories appeared in the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette and the Connection papers.

Bonnie Hobbs won first place for general news writing for her coverage of the proposed roundabout in Centreville. “Good work getting all viewpoints of the issue without assigning judgment to who is right and who is wrong,” wrote judges.

Jeanne Theismann won first place for public safety writing and for public service writing in the Alexandria Gazette Packet.

Connection Newspapers won first place for information graphics for the 2013 Insiders Guide to Fairfax County Parks, designed by Jean Card with photos by Renee Ruggles and Craig Sterbutzel.

First place for special sections went to the Connection’s HomeLifeStyle pullout.

Victoria Ross won for feature series/continuing coverage for coverage of foster care. Judges note: “Fantastic blend of fact and narrative, and it packs an emotional punch. The stories are very well-researched, tightly written and highly effective.”

Ross also won for personal service writing for her coverage of “digital legacy,” and control of one’s online content after death.

Cartoonist Steve Artley began cartooning for

the Alexandria Gazette Packet in December 2013, with only three cartoons in the year, but two of them won awards. His cartoon on the threatened use of eminent domain in the City of Alexandria drew this comment from the judge: “One of the best examples of editorial cartooning I have seen in years and reminiscent of editorial cartoons poignant and relevant enough to still be included in history texts today. Wonderful use of the paper boat as the flagship of eminent domain with tons of little touches which push the entry even higher.”

Alex McVeigh won an award for investigative or in-depth reporting in Great Falls. Donna Manz won for her feature stories in Vienna.

The annual Insiders/Newcomers edition of the Alexandria Gazette Packet won third place for special edition, including work by Steven Mauren, Jeanne Theismann, John Bordner and Jean Card.

Editorials written by Mary Kimm won second and third place awards.

For a complete list, see www.connectionnewspapers.com

Winners

FIRST PLACE

First Place for Investigative Reporting, Uncovering Secret Government. Michael Lee Pope, Arlington Connection — Judge’s comment: Great work exposing serious challenges and obstacles in the way of the public’s access to public information. The articles are well written and well researched, providing concrete and compelling examples of the flaws in the systems.

First Place for Education writing. Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Alexandria Education Dollars. Judge’s comment: This is by far the best entry in the contest. Michael Lee Pope wrote several strong articles on the cost of administration in his market. He did a very nice job of making a numbers story interesting.

First Place for Business and Financial writing. Michael Lee Pope, Mount Vernon Gazette

— Judge’s comment: The story about car title loans offers an interesting look at this industry, which is proliferating due to a change in state law. Kudos for looking at how much the industry contributes to state legislators’ political campaigns. Business taxes — is it fair to charge higher rates for certain professions? Pope provides a balanced look at the pros and cons. The story on a transit study covers the debate over urban vs. rural development in Mount Vernon. Pope combines thorough reporting with competent writing.

First Place for Public Safety Writing, Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Judge’s comment: Creative, compelling ledes.



Michael Lee Pope



Steve Artley



Bonnie Hobbs



Victoria Ross



Jean Card



Mary Kimm

First Place for General News Writing, Bonnie Hobbs, Centre View — Judge’s comment: The creative lede pushed this one over the top. Good work getting all viewpoints of the issue without assigning judgment to who is right and who is wrong.

First Place for Personal Service Writing, Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Judge’s comment: Each story is an interesting and vivid snapshot of the deceased with good use of quotes and anecdote to bring the subject’s personality to life and also convey why he or she was valued in the community. It is hard to write about someone who has died in a way that is upbeat and positive, but this writer has achieved this.

First Place for Informational Graphics for Insiders Guide to the Parks, Jean Card, Laurence Foong, Renee Ruggles and Craig Sterbutzel, Mount Vernon Gazette — Informational graphics: Fairfax County parks.

First Place for HomeLifeStyle, Mary Kimm, Laurence Foong, Geovani Flores, Marilyn Campbell, John Byrd, Tim Peterson and Jean Card, The Vienna/Oakton Connection — Specialty pages or sections: Judge’s comment: Clean design and easy to read. Choice of fonts work well together.

SEE VIRGINIA, PAGE 7

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Newspaper of
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Fair Oaks / Fair Lakes
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Mother’s Day Photos

Mother’s Day is May 11, 2014, and every year at this time, we call for submissions to our Mother’s Day photo gallery. Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children. Please name everyone in the photo, the approximate date, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. (We will not print your full address or contact information.)

Send photos to
editors@connectionnewspapers.com

Readers can also submit poetry, poetry about mothers and photos celebrating mothers directly through our website at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

Virginia Press Association Awards

FROM PAGE 6

OTHER AWARDS:

Steve Artley, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Illustrations — Eminent Domain. Judge's comment: One of the best examples of editorial cartooning I have seen in years and reminiscent of editorial cartoons poignant and relevant enough to still be included in history texts today. Wonderful use of the paper boat as the flagship of eminent domain with tons of little touches which push the entry even higher. In-depth, investigative reporting, Alex McVeigh, Great Falls Connection — Judge's comment: Great work continuing to follow an important environmental story that had the potential for far-reaching impacts. These articles also do a good job explaining the nature of the underground contamination and, in understandable terms, the geology behind the way they spread.

Alexandria Gazette Packet, Insiders/Newcomers Guide. Steven Mauren, Jeanne Theismann, John Bordner, Jean Card, Geovani Flores and Laurence Foong, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Judge's comment: A good package of information for newcomers. A good array of photos of community members.

Health, Science and Environmental Writing, Michael Lee Pope, The Arlington Connection — Judge's comment: Good solid stories on interesting subjects. A lot of good historical background adds significantly to the sterilization story. The lead on the chicken story was very good.

Government Writing, Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Judge's comment: We preach to our reporters to follow the money. Michael Lee Pope does great job of following the money trail to great news stories. Continue to keep them honest.

Feature Series/Continuing Story, Victoria Ross, The Burke Connection — Feature series or continuing story. Judge's comment: Fantastic blend of fact and narrative, and it packs an emotional punch. The stories are very well-researched, tightly written and highly effective.

Personal Service Writing, Victoria Ross, The Fairfax Connection. Judge's comment: Good job using the individual story and relating it to the wider issue. Would have liked more follow-up details about whether the social media companies are complying with the law and what the parents found on the son's social media sites.

Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria

Gazette Packet — Column writing. Judge's comment: These columns were well written and informative as well as entertaining.

Editorial writing. Mary Kimm, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Editorial writing. Judge's comment: Very well done. Writer does an outstanding job presenting the paper's stance on the issues of the day. Editorial writing. Mary Kimm,

The Fairfax Connection — Judge's comment: These editorials were articulate and to the point.

Education writing: Michael Lee Pope, The Arlington Connection — Judge's comment: Concise, well put thoughts.

Page Design, Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette — Judge's comment: Good job taking something that can be boring and hard to fol-

low and making it interesting and easy to navigate.

Cartoon, Steve Artley, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Illustrations. Judge's comment: The shackles of the tea party! Ol' Ebenezer Elephant will be surely listening for the chimes of the hour after this ghost appeared before the foot of his bed. Fantastic work all the way around.

Feature photo. Louise Krafft, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Summer Fun. Judge's comment: Sweet found moment.

Feature writing portfolio Donna Manz, Vienna/Oakton Connection — Feature writing portfolio. Judge's comment: Powerful ledes (and a great one for the 'puppies' story) and captivating narratives. Well-informed and well-written.

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Ask the Board of Supervisors to support the Green Energy Park



ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 4

Drive Seniors to Appointments

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and link to Volunteer Solutions or email VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Meals on Wheels Volunteers

Fairfax County needs Meals on Wheels drivers in Chantilly and group Meals on Wheels coordinators in both Chantilly and Fairfax. Contact Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 711, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm.

How to Help the CLRC

The Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC) needs volunteers to lead vocational training workshops to increase the workers' job skills. A Wednesday morning ESOL instructor is also needed; contact Molly Maddra at coordinator@centrevilleLRC.org for more information.

In addition, end-of-year contributions to CLRC may be made at www.centrevilleimmigrationforum.org. The organization is supported totally by grants and donations; it receives no government funding.

Long-Term Care Advocates

The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in assisted living and nursing facilities. Training is provided in March. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Give Caregivers a Break

Fairfax County needs Respite Care volunteers throughout the county to give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Volunteers are matched with families in or near their own neighborhoods. Support and training is provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

How to Hire CLRC Workers

The Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC) serves businesses and homeowners needing help with just about any home remodeling or maintenance project. And local residents who'd like to hire a worker from the CLRC may do so easily. Either call 703-543-6272 or go to www.centrevilleLRC.org and click on the "How to Hire" link. Tell what kind of work is required, how many workers are needed and when.

The CLRC will match the needs to its registered workers' skills and set up the job. The price for work will be negotiated. After the job is completed, employers are encouraged to provide the CLRC with feedback to ensure that the work was done well and to their satisfaction and to make sure the workers are fairly paid.

Women's Self Defense Program

The Fairfax County Law Enforcement Foundation is partnering with the Fairfax County Police Department to offer the Women's Self Defense Training program. It's based on the SAFE program formerly provided by the Police Department, but now being taught by C&J Security Corp.

The program is a two-day class that will meet on consecutive Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:15-9:30 p.m. It's currently offered free and all class materials are included. Program funding is provided through the Fairfax County Law Enforcement Foundation.

The course is offered to females, age 13 and older. A female guardian must accompany girls 13-18. No men other than the instructors are permitted to be present during a class. For more information, call 703-246-7806, e-mail WSD@fairfaxfoundation.org or go to www.fairfaxfoundation.org.

Bonsai Show at Garden Center

FROM PAGE 4

trees most forgiving of mistakes [with their care] are Japanese maples, conifers, azaleas and boxwood."

Reese said pine trees also work well, although they require "an entirely different technique to miniaturize their needles. Anyone interested in learning how should come to our group."

A 21-year club member, Croft said, "I enjoy the people and working with bonsai trees. It's relaxing and stress-reducing. Some of us have even traveled to other countries to see other people's bonsai. They all have different ways of displaying their trees. Some put a tree in a setting, beside a small stature, or place a painting behind it."

Schwartz does bonsai because "it's an art form and I'm proud of what I can create. I'm especially proud when I get flowers to bloom on something difficult. I've been with the club since 1998 or '99; it's like a second family and I enjoy meeting people."

Gutierrez, the club's longest member, has been with it since 1974. "I like the camaraderie, plus the intellectual challenge of keeping plants alive," he said. "I'm a retired surgeon and I'm interested in the plants' physiology. And like I enjoyed doing surgery, I enjoy doing surgery on the plants."

He's nicknamed "The Magician," because of his way with bonsai. And, said Reese, "Joe can turn a scrap tree into a beautiful work of art." Schwartz and Reese each have 25-30 trees, Croft has 100 and Gutierrez has 257.

As for Reese, he loves bonsai because of the trees. "They show you what you've done right and wrong, teach



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

A satsuki azalea trained by Dr. Joe Gutierrez.

you patience and give you comfort," he said. "And if you're on the School Board or in the legislature, you need patience and comfort. Bonsai also teaches you persistence, focusing on the long-term result."

Celebrating 45 years, the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society meets the second Saturday of the month, 9 a.m., at Walter Reed Community Center in Arlington. No experience needed; new members are welcome.

See www.NVBS.US or email greese67@msn.com or 571-239-8821.



Dr. Joe Gutierrez's prize-winning, 800-year-old Douglas fir.

WHS Presents 'Little Shop of Horrors'

Westfield High presents its spring musical, "Little Shop of Horrors," Friday-Saturday, May 2-3 and 9-10, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 4, at 2 p.m., in the school theater. Tickets are \$10 in advance at www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com or \$12 at the door. Tickets with valid student IDs are \$10 in advance and at the door.

Directed by Shannon Lynch, this show is a comedic look at how far one man will go for fame, fortune and love. It's based on the 1960 film directed by Roger Corman and takes place on skid row in a florist shop owned by the angry Mr. Mushnik (Zack Walsh).

Mushnik's geeky florist assistant, Seymour (TJ Vinsavich), stumbles across a new breed of plant that he names Audrey II (voice by Eni Oyeleye), after his co-worker crush, Audrey (Samantha Dempsey).

Seymour soon discovers that, instead of need-

ing soil or water to survive, this plant thrives on human blood. As the shop becomes famous because of the plant in the window, Audrey II transforms into an arrogant carnivore with designs of world domination. Seymour must decide if he can sacrifice it all in order to save the world from this alien plant and its sinister plans.

Featured songs include "Suddenly Seymour," "Skid Row" and "Little Shop of Horrors." Supporting cast members are: Selena Clyne-Galindo, Emily Tobin, Estella Massey (Trashettes), Brandon Sanchez (Orin Scrivello), Andrew Sharpe (Bernstein), Shaina Greenberg (Ms. Luce), Connor Rudy (Snip), and Julian Sanchez (Narrator/Interviewer/Martin).

The ensemble includes Porsche Amaya, Ian Booe, Allie Bush, Emily Cervarich, Sarah Damers, Caitlin Egan, Kaley Haller, David Koenigsberg, Evan Kohnstam, Skye Koutstaal, Gabrielle Moses and Ruby Tippl.

Clean for Spring

Local organization experts offer tips to help with spring cleaning.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Betsy Fein found herself in the middle of a spring fling in Fairfax recently. She wasn't at a festival or involved in a new romance, but in the midst of organizing a cluttered bedroom that was littered with piles of shirts, pants, shoes and books.

Spring often means renewal and local organizers like Fein are offering suggestions for clearing out winter clutter. From closets that are overstuffed with wool sweaters and down coats to kitchen drawers overflowing with batteries and appliance manuals, they offer suggestions for getting organized without getting overwhelmed.

"Spring is a time when you have all the winter stuff in your closet and you want to change it out for summer, so you're flinging it out," said Fein, of Clutterbusters!! (www.clutterbusters.com) in Rockville, Md.

"Because this child was younger, we suggested that they hang a lot of things," said Fein of her recent project. She also advised the parents to install a second rod in the closet. "They could have shirts on top and pants on bottom."

Fein recommended using photographs to help with organization. "They can take a picture of a pair of socks, for example, and put it on the drawer so the child can see that socks go in that drawer."

She even included an idea for outgrown clothes. "Keep a colorful bin on the bottom of the closet, so when you realize that clothes don't fit any more you can toss them in the bin and donate them."

The idea would work for adults, too. "Pack away all your winter clothing and unpack your spring and summer items," said Susan Unger, of ClutterSOS (www.cluttersos.com) in Vienna. "Be sure to evaluate each item and ask yourself ... 'Does it fit? Do I love it? Is it in good shape? Do I feel good in it?' If all these answers are 'yes' and it is a keeper, then place it in your closet or drawers."

"Be sure to group like items together such as skirts, dresses, t-shirts, [and] shorts. Decide if the discards should be tossed or donated depending on the condition," she said. "Be sure to keep a list of new items to buy."

When you store those bulky winter clothes, make sure you use sealed containers. "Store them in bins and make use of vertical space that is hard to reach or other rooms [like the] basement," said Jody Al-Saigh of Picture Perfect Organizing (www.pictureperfectorganizing.com) in Arlington. "Before storing clothes for next winter, be sure they are laundered first. A little-known fact [is that] moths don't actually go after the clothing fibers but rather the human perspiration and dander that build on clothes."

An easy place to start spring cleaning is your file (or pile or drawer) of appliance manuals and instruc-



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLUTTERBUSTERS!!

Inexpensive frames are a simple way to display a child's artwork and help eliminate clutter.

tion booklets. "Store them all in an accordion file, by brands, by type of appliance, by room or area," said Al-Saigh. "Or look up the manual online, download and toss the paper one."

Be sure to purge often or when new items are purchased. "Don't toss warranties or receipts for warranties or rebates. Keep those in your file," said Al-Saigh. "Keep the accordion file somewhere handy like the garage shelf [or on] top of fridge."

NOW THAT THE END of the school year is growing closer, piles of children's artwork are growing taller. "We did a family room that had a bookshelf and toys, kids' artwork and stuff all over the place," said Fein. "We had to help the parents make decisions about what to keep. We used a method called the three Fs: Frame-worthy, flush (or toss) and file. With kids' art, you have to be ruthless and realize that it is not all a Picasso."

For frame-worthy artwork, Fein suggests tape frames or inexpensive acrylic frames. "Tape frames are sticky on the back, but they look like real frames. You can swap out the artwork and reuse them."

For artwork that can be filed, Fein suggests using a keepsake box or creating a photo book. "You can take digital photos of the art work and put together a book on Snapfish or Shutterfly. ... Your child will be proud and you won't have stuff all over the place."

Spring's mild weather also makes it an ideal time to clean out a garage. "It's not too hot and not too cold," said Al-Saigh. "Wait for nice weather, take everything out and sort it in the driveway."

Al-Saigh suggests using sidewalk chalk. "Section off areas for piles for items to keep, donate and trash," she said. "When putting back the keep stuff, group items together and create zones such as tools, gardening, sports equipment, camping, bicycles. The more you can hang on hooks on the walls or from the ceiling the better. Floor to ceiling shelving is good to maximize the vertical space."

"Get creative. Use old barrels to store hockey sticks upright, hang a mesh bag full of soccer balls," she added. "Remove things that don't belong in your garage like photos, paperwork, fragile memorabilia."

Fein points to a Potomac, Md., garage that she recently helped a client reorganize. "It was a normal looking garage where stuff was everywhere," she said. "Bikes and sports stuff were all over the place, so it was a matter of putting like things together."

It helps, Fein said, to make organizing fun. "Don't think of it as a chore. ... Play music and get the whole family involved. Play games with your children, like beat the clock or beat the time."

Start small. "A lot of times people think 'I have to organize my whole basement and I have 40 years of stuff,' said Fein. "If you have decided to spend the whole weekend, three hours in you say this is too much and you quit. Maybe start with a drawer."

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— Betsy Fein

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BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos welcome.

COUNSELORS-IN-TRAINING

The Fairfax County Park Authority is seeking applicants (age 14-17) to serve as Counselors-in-Training during the 2014 summer Rec-PAC program. Counselors-in-Training work as part of a team during the summer Rec-PAC program. The cost is \$135 for six weeks of training, but CITs can commit to as little as one week of camp from June 30 through Aug. 7. During the summer, students will be assigned to a site and work daily from 8:15 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec-pac/cit-volunteer.htm or call 703-222-4664 for more.

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE

Tax Help. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, will hold free tax help hosted by AARP Tax-Aide on Tuesdays 4-8:30 p.m. and Wednesdays 1-5 p.m. Free. For taxpayers with low- and middle-income and special attention to those age 60 and older. Bring photo ID, social security card and prior year's tax return.

Tax Help. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, will host

free tax help with IRS-certified volunteers for taxpayers who earned up to \$52,000. On Thursdays at 6 p.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. Call 703-502-3883.

MONDAY/APRIL 14

ESL Book Club. 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults learning English meet to discuss a book. Call 703-830-2223.

TUESDAY/APRIL 15

English Conversation Group. 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with other students. Call 703-502-3883.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 16

Palliative Care Conversation. 1 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Palliative Care at INOVA Fair Oaks Hospital explains how they try to help families deal with serious illnesses. Call 703-502-3883.

THURSDAY/APRIL 17

Republican Women's Club. 6:30 p.m. at the Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly.

Liberty Republican Women's Club meeting with Del. Jim LeMunyon as guest speaker. Everyone is invited to attend. Social hour from 5:30-6:15. Free. Call 703-378-2519.

eBook Help. 5 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Get eBook questions answered. Bring a tablet or digital reader and library card. Call 703-502-3883.

Diagnosis: Dementia ... Now What? 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Christi Clark, education and outreach coordinator at Insight Memory Care Center, presents information on how to adjust to life with someone who has dementia. Call 703-502-3883.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with other students. Call 703-502-3883.

SATURDAY/APRIL 19

English Conversation Group. 3:30 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Conversation practice for adult learners of English. Call 703-830-2223.

SUNDAY/APRIL 20

Easter. Fairfax County Public Libraries

are closed for the Easter holiday.

MONDAY/APRIL 21

Registration. Lees Corner Elementary School is gathering information on children who will be 5 years old by Sept. 30, 2014 and live within the school's boundaries. Boundary information can be accessed at www.fcps.edu/boundary. Call Mrs. Nolan at 703-227-3500 if you have a child who meets these requirements. Registration will be held 2-7 p.m. Enrollment information and forms will be mailed out prior to the registration. For more about FCPS visit www.fcps.edu/parents/start/kindergarten.shtml.

Wellness Presentation. 7 p.m. at the Cale Community Center (formerly the Greenbriar Community Center), 4615 Stringfellow Road. GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman's Club (WFCWC), will host "Take Charge of Stress in Your Life." Dr. J. Goodlett McDaniel, the Associate Provost for Distance Education at George Mason University, will discuss how action allays anxiety and helps us survive the stressors of life. Guests welcome and admission free. Visit www.wfcwc.org, call Marion Brown at 703-631-7093, or email westernfairfaxcountywc@gmail.com.

ESL Book Club. 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200

St. Germain Drive. Adults learning English meet to discuss a book. Call 703-830-2223.

Garden Club. 7 p.m. at Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Centreville Garden Club presents "Vermicomposting - Want to improve your soil?". Theresa DeFluri, Native Plant Society Member and Certified Interpretive Guide, will display an actual Vermicomposting bin. Visitors welcome. Learn more at centrevillegardenclub.blog.spot.com, email centrevillegardenclub@gmail.com, or call 703-266-9233.

TUESDAY/APRIL 22

English Conversation Group. 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with other students. Call 703-502-3883.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 23

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm for meeting materials, archives and more. Call 703-324-8662.

THURSDAY/APRIL 24

Registration. Lees Corner Elementary School is gathering information on children who will be 5 years old by Sept. 30, 2014 and live within the school's boundaries. Boundary information can be accessed at www.fcps.edu/boundary/. Call Mrs. Nolan at 703-227-3500 if you have a child who meets these requirements. Registration will be held 4-7 p.m. Enrollment information and forms will be mailed out prior to the registration. Visit www.fcps.edu/parents/start/kindergarten.shtml. **English Conversation Group.** 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with other students. Call 703-502-3883.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26

LRWC Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-1p.m. at the Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Liberty Republican Women's Club meeting yard sale: rain, shine or snow. Call 703-378-2519.

MONDAY/APRIL 28

Kindergarten Registration. 2-4 p.m. at Virginia Run Elementary School, 15450 Martins Hundred Drive, Centreville. Virginia Run elementary will hold kindergarten registration. Forms will be available on-site. A child is eligible for kindergarten if the child reaches his or her fifth birthday on or before Sept. 30, 2014. Call the school office at 703-988-8900.

Kindergarten Orientation/Registration. 2:15 p.m. at Greenbriar East Elementary, 13006 Point Pleasant Drive, Fairfax. Greenbriar East Elementary will be having their Kindergarten Orientation/Registration. Call 703-633-6400.

"Building the Brain." 6:30 p.m. at the Manassas Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 6901 Sudley Road, Manassas. Mark Finley presents "Building the Brain." Free, open to the community. Contact iCAD Project Manager Michael Carrington at mcarrington@nvcc.edu or 703-257-6555.

TUESDAY/APRIL 29

Kindergarten Registration. 4:30-6 p.m. at Virginia Run Elementary School. See April 28 description. Call the school office at 703-988-8900.

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MAUNDY THURSDAY ~ April 17 ~ 7:30 p.m.

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GOOD FRIDAY ~ April 18 ~ 7:30 p.m. ~
"The Seven Last Words of Jesus"

EASTER MORNING ~ April 20

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ENTERTAINMENT

Email announcements to chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos welcome.

ONGOING

Easter Bunny. Bunnyville will be located in the lower level of the Fair Oaks Mall's H&M wing, opposite Charming Charlie and Payless ShoeSource. Bunnyville will welcome visitors Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. and Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. through Saturday, April 19. Fair Oaks will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 20. All children who visit the Easter Bunny at Fair Oaks' new Bunnyville will receive a gift from the Bunny just for visiting. Visit www.shopfairoaksmall.com or call 703-359-8300.

FRIDAY/APRIL 11

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Large selection of adult and children's fiction and non-fiction, including Korean books, and DVDs, CDs and audio books. Sponsored by the Friends of the Chantilly Regional Library to fund special programs, renovation projects, activities and equipment for the library. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Call the library at 703-502-3883 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events.

SATURDAY/APRIL 12

Passion4Community. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the nZone, 14550 Lee Road, Chantilly. Cost of Admission is a can of food or other non-perishable item, which will be used to help families in need throughout our local

communities. Visit <http://artscraftsfair.weebly.com>.

Spring Upscale Resale. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Salvation Army Fairfax, 4915 Ox Road, Fairfax. The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary of Washington is holding a Spring Upscale Resale. For sale will be new and gently used purses, scarves, jewelry, lamps, art, silk floral arrangements, Christmas and home decor, glassware, knick-knacks, kitchen goods, toys, furniture, sporting goods and more. Visit www.SalvationArmyNCA.org.

Masters Demo Day. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Westfields Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave, Clifton. Gear from top brands, beverages, coverage of the Masters Tournament, and deals are just a few of the things that will be going on at the 2nd Annual Masters Demo Day. Visit www.westfieldsgolf.com for more.

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Large selection of adult and children's fiction and non-fiction, including Korean books, and DVDs, CDs and audio books. Sponsored by the Friends of the Chantilly Regional Library to fund special programs, renovation projects, activities and equipment for the library. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Call the library at 703-502-3883 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events.

Bonnet/Fedora Decorating Contest.

Noon at Fair Oaks Mall. Girls and boys 10 years of age and under will find decorating tables full of feathers, sequins, glitter, stickers, eggs and more. The annual Fair Oaks Children's Easter Bonnet-Making Contest will be held in Bunnyville,

the home of the Easter Bunny, located in the lower level of Fair Oaks' H&M wing. Each child will receive their choice of a bonnet or fedora on which to create their decorating designs. Call 703-359-8300 or visit www.shopfairoaksmall.com for more.

Chocolate Bunny Adoption. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, 4500 West Ox Road. Shelter visitors will receive a chocolate bunny, a packet of information on rabbit care and a certificate for a half-off adoption fee on a rabbit or guinea pig, which can be used through April 19. Open Tuesday-Friday, noon-7 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. To see available pets online, visit www.fairfaxcounty.com/animalshelter to see available pets online.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 12-13

Bunny Paws. Fair Oaks Mall will host two 'Bunny Paws in Bunnyville' dates for pet photography with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, April 12, 8:30-9:30 a.m., and Sunday, April 13, 6:30-7:30 p.m. The popular 'Bunny Paws' events require all pets be on a leash or in a lightweight cage or pet carrier with a harness. Pets and their owners may enter Fair Oaks after hours from the lower level south east entrance only, adjacent to Todai Japanese Sushi & Seafood Buffet. Visit www.shopfairoaksmall.com or call 703-359-8300.

SUNDAY/APRIL 13

Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a T-TRAK (table

top) train show of N gauge model trains. \$4/ adults 16 and over; \$2/ children 5-15; free for children under 5 and for Museum members. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or 703-425-9225.

Used Book Sale. 1-4 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Large selection of adult and children's fiction and non-fiction, including Korean books, and DVDs, CDs and audio books. Sponsored by the Friends of the Chantilly Regional Library to fund special programs, renovation projects, activities and equipment for the library. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Call the library at 703-502-3883 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events.

MONDAY/APRIL 14

Eric Energy: Spark Attack. 2 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Fun science experiments involving electricity, lasers and sound, with lots of audience participation. For ages 6-12. Call 703-830-2223.

Bookalicious. 2:15 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. A book discussion group for students in grades 3 and 4. Call 703-502-3883.

Writers of Chantilly. 6:45 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. A supportive environment for adults to share their work, give and receive feedback. Call 703-502-3883.

TUESDAY/APRIL 15

Toddlin' Twos. 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy

storytime with stories, songs and activities. Age 2 with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

Time for Tots. 11 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories and activities for children ages 2-3 with adult. Call 703-830-2223.

Pajama Party. 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Storytime for children ages 3-5 with adult. Wear pajamas, bring a stuffed animal and a blanket. Call 703-502-3883.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 16

Duplo Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Duplo play storytime helps develop and reinforce early literacy skills for children ages 3-5 with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

Bouncin' Babies. 3 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities for babies up to 11 months with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

Small Wonders. 4 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities for children 12-23 months. Call 703-502-3883.

Eric Energy: Spark Attack. 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Fun science experiments involving electricity, lasers and sound, with lots of audience participation. For children from kindergarten through 6th grade. Call 703-502-3883.

Starlight Storytime. 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories for children ages 4-8 with adult. Pajamas and stuffed animals welcome. Call

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

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GAYLORD NATIONAL RESORT



Westfield senior midfielder Tori Donahue will play for Radford University next year.



Centreville senior Jenna Green (12) gets tangled with Westfield goalkeeper Maggie Barron during an April 3 game at Westfield High School.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Fary's Goal Lifts Westfield Girls' Soccer Over Centreville

Bulldogs have three athletes who will play Division I soccer.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Westfield assistant girls' soccer coach Derek Donahue said the Bulldogs got caught up in a game of "kick ball" with conference rival Centreville after the team's April 3 meeting. But thanks in part to Westfield's advantage in depth and strong performance by goalkeeper Maggie Barron, the Bulldogs escaped with a victory.

Westfield senior forward Brittany Fary scored the game's lone goal in the 53rd minute and the Bulldogs defeated Centreville 1-0 at Westfield High School.

Donahue said the Bulldogs allowed themselves to play Centreville's style as the Wildcats tried to get the ball to standout forward Jenna Green. But Westfield has its own talented goal-scoring trio, and Fary's was enough to get the win.

"We're strong up top," Donahue said. "We've got three DI soccer players ... that's where our strength is and that's where we're going to get our power. Our defense is a little young and you'll see those guys drop back more than what they should to kind of compensate for it. We're just a better possession team, but sometimes they just panic a little bit."



Westfield senior forward Brittany Fary, right, scored the game-winning goal against Centreville on April 3.

"I think we're right there in the mix with everybody else. Every year we always put together a strong team. We've got the people who can make goals."

— Westfield assistant girls' soccer coach Derek Donahue

Fary will play college soccer at East Carolina next season. Senior midfielder Katherine Bukovsky will play at James Madison University and senior midfielder

Tori Donahue will play at Radford.

Derek Donahue said he was also pleased with Barron's effort.

"I thought our goalie played amazing, again," he said. "She's only a sophomore, Maggie Baron. She's saving the day. [Centreville] had some good plays on us, but [you can survive] when you have a good goalie."

It was Westfield's third straight victory to start the season. However, four days later, the Bulldogs lost to Lake Braddock 1-0, dropping their record to 3-1.

Westfield, led by head coach Kristi Williams, posted a 14-2-1 record last season. The Bulldogs finished runner-up in the Concorde District, losing to Chantilly in the tournament final. Westfield lost to Yorktown

in the region quarterfinals, a loss they avenged on April 1, beating the Patriots 1-0.

"The most inspiring thing about our team is the amount of heart everyone always brings," Tori Donahue said. "We don't have the most talent ... not even close to what we were last year, but it's the amount of effort that everyone brings. ... Beating Yorktown ... was definitely a big step for us considering they ended our season last year. That was definitely inspiring."

The loss was Centreville's second in four games and second time they've been shut out, including a 2-0 season-opening loss to Woodson on March 19.

"[Westfield] played with a little more urgency than we did," Green said. "... We're a young team and I think a lot of it is that they need to learn that we need to play with urgency because I remember my freshman year thinking, 'Oh, I have another year.' My sophomore year [I thought], 'I have] another year.' Now, here I am, senior year, [and

we have] nothing on the banner. We're a great team. We've been a great team for so many years and we've just got to get it done. We have to score, we have to hit every chance we get. We have to play with urgency."

Westfield faced Herndon on Wednesday, after press deadline. The Bulldogs will host West Springfield at 7 p.m. on April 21.

"I think we're right there in the mix with everybody else," Derek Donahue said. "Every year we always put together a strong team. We've got the people who can make goals."

Centreville faced Robinson on Wednesday, after Centre View's/The Connection's deadline. The Wildcats will travel to face McLean at 7 p.m. on April 22.

PEOPLE

Dillon and Kelly Engaged

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Edward Kelly III of Midlothian, Va., happily announce the engagement of their daughter, Caitlin Wood Kelly, to Zachary Matthew Dillon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Byron Matthew Dillon of Centreville.

Caitlin is the granddaughter of Mrs. Francis E. Kelly Jr. of Glen Cove, N.Y., and the late Mr. Kelly, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Leon Goldstein, formerly of Nashville, Tenn.

Zach is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall A. Mauck of Heathsville, Va., Mr. and Mrs. Gregory P. Dillon of Vail, Ariz., and the late Mrs. Gail Dillon, formerly of Colorado Springs, Colo.

Caitlin graduated from Collegiate School. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, and her Master of Arts from Teachers College, Columbia



University. Zach graduated from Westfield High School and received his Bachelor of Sciences from Virginia Commonwealth University. He served in the Navy as a Fleet Marine Force Medic and was deployed to Iraq during Operation

Iraqi Freedom in 2008.

Caitlin and Zach will receive their M.D. degrees from St. George's University School of Medicine in June.

A May wedding in Richmond is planned.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Look for Ways To Cut Budget

To the Editor:

The following open letter was addressed to Sharon Bulova, chairman, Board of Supervisors; Ilyriong Moon, chairman, Board of Education, and Michael Frey, Sully District Supervisor.

We want to protest the increases in the budget that amounts to more than twice the rate of inflation. The County Executive has proposed for FY 2015 General Fund Disbursements totaling \$3.704 billion which will increase \$118.02 million or 3.29 percent over the FY 2014 Adopted Budget Plan. This is an increase over twice the current inflation rate which, for the first two months of 2014, is 1.3 percent. Of course, these increases over twice the inflation rate have been going on for at least 40 years that we have been involved in reviewing the budget of Fairfax County. The FY 2015 General Fund Direct Expenditures of \$1.361 billion will increase by \$51.89 million or 3.96 percent over the FY 2014 Adopted Budget Plan. Again, this is three times the current inflation rate. All of this data is quoted from the "County Executive Presentation of FY 2015 Advertised Budget Plan."

Much of these increases are brought about in retirement and health benefits. Isn't it time for the county officials to change the retirement plan for new employees to a 401(k) type retirement plan and raise the retirement age to 62? The Federal Government changed their retirement plan for all new employees from the generous Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) in 1986. FERS is a hybrid retirement plan much less generous than the CSRS.

The County Executive has provided a list of \$20 million in possible cuts. Supervisor Herrity has also provided a proposal to cut \$34 million. Cuts can also be made in the School-Aged-Child-Care program (SACC) to make it more cost neutral for the county. Currently, the SACC program only recoups about 80 percent of its costs.

The county should make the residents who use the SACC pay the full price. If the county officials can-

not figure out what to cut in the entire \$7 billion budget, then implement a 5 percent across-the-board cut.

Superintendent Garza has proposed a \$98 million increase in the school budget or 5.7 percent which is more than three times the inflation rate. In a letter in the Centre View dated Feb. 6, 2014, "Paying for the Schools", the writer mentioned that there are approximately 6,000 students of illegal parents in the Fairfax County School Public System. We have been informed by the FCPS budget office that the average cost per pupil for 2015 is \$13,535. For English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), the cost per pupil cost is \$14,264. For Special Education, the cost per pupil is \$21,721.

If you take the average of the two cost factors (\$14,264 + \$21,721 = \$35,985 divided by 2 = \$17,992 x 6,000 students of illegal parents) and compute this you will get about \$108 million that cost the FCPS per year.

Then send the bill to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for reimbursement. This is a Federal problem and the Federal Government should be paying for this. This sure would cover the budget shortage in the FCPS.

The FCPS officials should be reviewing why the higher officials in administration are receiving greater pay increases than the teachers? Why are their cluster directors? What purpose do they serve? Why do they need so many assistant principals? There could be some cost cutting in these areas.

According to the Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance (FCTA), between FY2000 and FY2015 public school spending and staff will have increased faster than enrollment.

The school budget increased 32 percent while the school staff increased by 25 percent. In the meanwhile, enrollment increased by 22 percent during this period. Why is this happening?

We look forward to your comments.

Charles McAndrew
Linda McAndrew
Oak Hill

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"I Thought You Were a Goner"

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



So has said my longtime oncology nurse, Ron, who has tended to me since June, 2009. Originally, I had been assigned to a different oncology nurse, Holly, with whom I developed an immediate rapport. She cared for me from the beginning, early March 2009, when I began my every-three-week chemotherapy infusion through June, when she transferred from the Infusion Center to a different unit (oncology does take a toll). Initially, after Holly's departure, Jane, another nurse in the unit, took me on as a patient. However, and this is where the details get sketchy, within a subsequent infusion or two, I was told one day upon my arrival at the Infusion Center, that Ron, still another oncology nurse, who I had certainly seen there previously but with whom I had minimal interaction, would be taking over for Jane – who was not transferring out – and henceforth would be my new oncology nurse. Apparently, I had been traded. For another patient? For future considerations? For a lunch-to-be-paid later? To this day, nearly five years later, I've never been able to uncover the truth. I got along fine with Jane; I'm a very low-maintenance patient/person; I don't think I did anything to precipitate such a decision. Nevertheless, a deal (my word) had been struck.

To the extent to which assigning nurses to oncology/chemotherapy patients is not random, given the ongoing and serious nature of the types of treatment, Ron's assignment – to me – was genius. We are alike in so many ways. We're the same age and have the same wise guy-type personality. We both use humor at every opportunity and love Yiddish and shtick as well; also we're both Jewish. In addition, we're both from the Northeast and love sports. He's interested in me and I'm interested in him. I know about his family. He knows about mine. Our relationship has evolved from nurse-patient to close friend. I trust Ron with my life.

That fact was never clearer to me than this past August 2nd, a scheduled infusion day for me, when I arrived at the Infusion Center for my usual chemotherapy. Ron noticed how ashen gray I was and after talking to me, further realized how much difficulty I was having breathing. Initially, he walked me around the unit while monitoring my oxygen levels; they were not merely low, they were no-chemotherapy-for-me-that-day really low. Immediately, Ron went to "Plan B:" assessment by a doctor in the Emergency Care Department. I needed medical help, that day. Ron then spent the next few hours coordinating care and managing the necessary steps to finding me a hospital bed. Later that day, I was "ambulanced" to Holy Cross Hospital where I was admitted. Two days later, I had 4.5 liters of fluid drained from my left lung which subsequently collapsed. I then spent the next five days recovering in S.I.C.U. In total, I was hospitalized for eight days before being released the following Friday. If not for Ron's hands-on and professional approach to my deteriorating condition, it's likely, as he's fond of joking, that I was a "goner."

But I'm not a "goner." I'm a "still here-er." In fact, at my last infusion, Ron told me that as of my five-year anniversary in late February, I'm now his longest-surviving cancer patient. And I'm still alive for many reasons, one of which is most definitely due to the depth of the relationship I have with my oncology nurse, Ron "Choo, Choo" Chubin (he's also a train guy). I wouldn't be here without him because, as he's also fond of saying, he's where I need him to be. Thank God!

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF CLIFTON PLANNING COMMISSION

APRIL 22, 2014

Notice is hereby given that the Clifton Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 7:30 P.M. at the Acacia Lodge, 7135 Main Street, Clifton, VA 20124 to consider the amendment and revision of the Town of Clifton's Zoning Ordinance resulting from the revision of Section 9-13 of the Zoning Ordinance which contains provisions pertaining to Parking in the Town. The proposed revision to Section 9-13 of the Zoning Ordinance is available for review and downloading on the Town's website at www.cliftonva.us and a hard copy of the proposed Zoning Ordinance changes may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend and express their views with respect to the proposed amended and revised Section 9-13 Parking of the Town of Clifton Zoning Ordinance.

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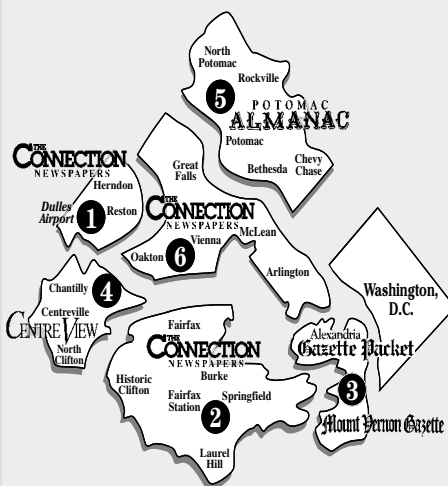
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THURSDAY/APRIL 17

Girl Scout Day Out. 1-4 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Scouts can practice skills while exploring the history of Sully. Hear stories, play games, sample sweets and more. No badges will be completed, but components of several badges will be offered. \$16/scout. Tours for adults are \$5. Reservations must be made by March 26. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully or 703-437-1794.

Game Zone. 2 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Video games and food provided for teens. Call 703-830-2223.

Storytime. 2 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy program with stories and activities for children age 3-5 with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

Friends of the Library. 6-8:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14220 St Germain Drive. The Friends of the Centreville Library will hold an open house to recruit volunteers to support the May Used Book Sale. Volunteer opportunities are available April 26-May 7. No experience necessary. Call the library at 703-830-2223 or visit www.facebook.com/centrevillefriends or friendsofcentrevillelibrary.blogspot.com.

The End (Or Is It?) Book Club. 7:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. A book discussion for 5th and 6th grade students. Call 703-502-3883.

FRIDAY/APRIL 18

Boy Scout Day Out. 1-4 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Scouts can practice skills while exploring the history of Sully. Hear stories, play games, sample sweets and more. No badges will be completed, but components of several badges will be offered. \$16/scout. Tours for adults are \$5. Reservations must be made by March 26. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully or 703-437-1794.

Ready for School Storytime. 1:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy storytime program for children age 4-5 who are ready to be on their own without caregivers or siblings. Call 703-502-3883.

Bouncin' Babies. 3 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities for babies up to 11 months with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

Small Wonders. 4 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities for children 12-23 months with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

SATURDAY/APRIL 19

Kaleidoscope Adaptive Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Stories, songs and movement for families and children on the autism spectrum and those who have other developmental challenges. For all ages. Call 703-502-3883.

Chocolate Bunny Adoption. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, 4500 West Ox Road. Shelter visitors will receive a chocolate bunny, a packet of information on rabbit care and a certificate for a half-off adoption fee on a rabbit or guinea pig, which can be used through April 19. Open Tuesday-Friday, noon-7 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. To see available pets online, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter to see available pets online.

Eggstravaganza. 1-3 p.m. at Fairfax Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway (grassy area behind building). Jubilee Christian Center is having its annual Eggstravaganza for children 11 and under. There will be an egg roll, moonbounce, games, face painting, and door prizes, and activities are free. Call 703-383-1170 or visit www.jccag.org for more.

SUNDAY/APRIL 20

Easter. Fairfax County Public Libraries are closed for the Easter holiday.

MONDAY/APRIL 21

Bouncin' Babies. 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities for babies up to 11 months with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

Award-Winning Connection Newspapers

More Reasons the Connection Newspapers are the Best-Read Community Papers
Winners of Awards in the 2013 Virginia Press Association Editorial Contest

First Place Winners

- ❖ **Bonnie Hobbs**, *Centre View* – General news writing.
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, *Arlington Connection* – In-depth or investigative reporting: •Uncovering Secret Government
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Education writing: •Alexandria Education Dollars
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, *Mount Vernon Gazette* – Business and financial writing: •Car Title Loans
- ❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Public safety writing.
- ❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Personal service writing.
- ❖ **Mary Kimm**, **Laurence Foong**, **Geovani Flores**, **Marilyn Campbell**, **John Byrd**, **Tim Peterson** and **Jean Card**, *Vienna/Oakton Connection* – Specialty pages or sections: •HomeLifeStyle
- ❖ **Jean Card**, **Laurence Foong**, **Renee Ruggles** and **Craig Sterbutzel**, *Mount Vernon Gazette* – Informational graphics: •Fairfax County parks



Second Place Winners

- ❖ **Steven Mauren**, **Jeanne Theismann**, **John Bordner**, **Jean Card**, **Geovani Flores** and **Laurence Foong**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Special sections or special editions: Insider's Guide.
- ❖ **Steve Artley**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Illustrations – Eminent Domain.
- ❖ **Jean Card**, *Mount Vernon Gazette* – Page design.



Michael Lee Pope



Bonnie Hobbs



Jeanne Theismann



Jean Card



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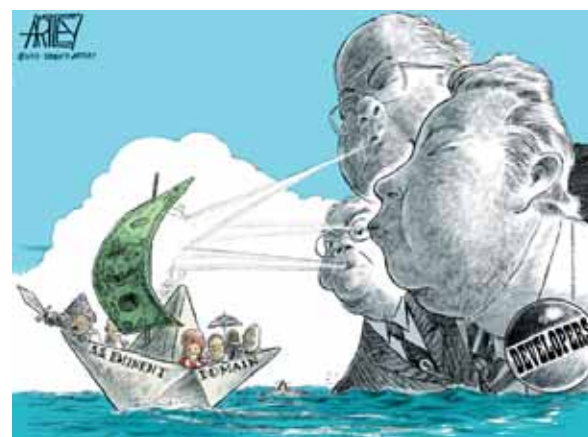


Craig Sterbutzel

- ❖ **Mary Kimm**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Editorial writing.
- ❖ **Alex McVeigh**, *Great Falls Connection* – In-depth or investigative reporting.
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, *Arlington Connection* – Health, science and environmental writing.
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Government writing.

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Steve Artley, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Illustrations – Eminent Domain.

- ❖ **Victoria Ross**, *Burke Connection* – Feature series or continuing story.
- ❖ **Victoria Ross**, *Fairfax Connection* – Personal service writing.
- ❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Column writing.



Louise Krafft, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Feature photo: Summer Fun.

Third Place Winners

- ❖ **Steve Artley**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Illustrations.
- ❖ **Mary Kimm**, *Fairfax Connection* – Editorial writing.
- ❖ **Louise Krafft**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Feature photo: Summer Fun.
- ❖ **Donna Manz**, *Vienna/Oakton Connection* – Feature writing portfolio.
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, *Arlington Connection* – Education writing.