

Swim Coach Brittany
Henry of Fairfax facilitates
a playdate between ferrets
Steve and Skippy and
Samson the dog.

Ferreting for Fun

PET CONNECTION, PAGES 1-8

Express Lanes, Rapid-Bus Transit Planned for I-66

NEWS, PAGE 3

Apartments, Retail Planned: Kamp Washington Triangle

NEWS, PAGE 10



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Express Lanes, Transit Planned for I-66

Improvements will be made from Capital Beltway to Haymarket.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

Express lanes and rapid-bus transit could be coming to Interstate 66, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe announced on July 17.

"Interstate 66 is broken. Commuters are stuck in traffic, limited in the travel choices they can make and unable to predict how long their trip will take on any given day," McAuliffe said. "Giving Virginians more choices and a better, safer travel experience on I-66 is one of my top priorities, and today I am proud to announce the beginning of that effort."

The plan, which includes three regular and two express lanes in each direction, bus service, and improved commuter parking, would be implemented from the Capital Beltway to Haymarket.

"Today's announcement that we could be starting construction by 2017 on Express lanes like solution to I-66 congestion is outstanding news. I-66 is our most congested corridor and this gives me great hope that we can improve the quality of life for all Northern Virginians," said Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield.)

The project, which spans 25 miles, will cost an estimated two to three billion dollars. The express lanes would operate similar to those on Interstate 495 and those being constructed on Interstate 95, which base the cost of the



PHOTO COURTESY OF VDOT

This map demonstrates the area where express lanes and other improvements will be made along Interstate 66.



PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

The proposed express lanes for Interstate 66 would be similar to those on Interstate 495 and those being constructed on Interstate 95 in Springfield, pictured here.

toll on time of day and congestion.

"I have been a longtime advocate for an 'Express Lanes' like solution for I-66 which would open this corridor up to reliable time advantaged mass transit and carpooling, extend a growing network of lanes dedicated to mass transit and carpools, and ease congestion on I-66 and surrounding roads like Route 50, Route 29 and Braddock Road," Herrity said. "I want to thank Transportation Secretary Layne for continuing to keep this project a priority for the Commonwealth of Virginia."

Officials announced the plan at a meeting at VDOT's Fairfax office on July 17.

"Over the last couple of months the Virginia Department of Transportation has worked closely with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, the Office of Transportation Public-Private Partnerships and Fairfax and Prince William counties to devise a plan that will reduce congestion on I-66 by increasing capacity and giving travelers more choices. Today we kick off 17 months of rigorous environmental study and robust community involvement. By the end of 2016 our plan is to complete environmental work, identify funding sources, receive federal approval, and move forward on a plan to turn I-66 into the efficient, multi-modal corridor that Virginia's economy needs," said Virginia Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne.

Express lanes on Interstate 95, which will run from Stafford County near Garrisonville Road up to 395 near Edsall Road, are expected to open in early 2015. All drivers will be required to purchase E-ZPass or E-ZPass Flex in order to use the lanes, and only vehicles with three or more passengers can ride toll free.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FRIDAY/JULY 25

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice your English conversation skills. 703-978-5600.

Basic Computer Skills Training. 1-2 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn basic computer skills with our one-on-one technology volunteers. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/kp/> under "Events."

Genealogy Help Desk. 2-3 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bring your family history stumpers to genealogists and library staff. 703-293-6227.

SATURDAY/JULY 26

Genealogy Help Desk. 2-3 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bring your family history stumpers to genealogists and library staff. 703-293-6227.

SUNDAY/JULY 27

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 1-4 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and advice. 703-644-7333.

MONDAY/JULY 28

Library eBook Tech Help. 11 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Learn to use the library's eBook collection and compatible devices with a library staff member; please bring your library card, eBook reader and laptop. 703-293-6227.

Red Cross Blood Donation. 1:30-7 p.m. Truro Anglican Church, 10520 Main Street, Fairfax. The American Red Cross encourages all eligible blood donors to make an appointment to donate blood soon to help prevent a shortage. To make an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

TUESDAY/JULY 29

English Conversation Group. 5:15-6:15 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway,

Lorton. Practice your English conversation skills. 703-339-7385.

English Conversation Group. 7-8:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Practice speaking English with others and improve your skills. 703-293-6227.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 30

English Conversation. 10:15-11:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for people learning English. 703-339-4610.

English Conversation Group. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Practice speaking English with others and improve your skills. 703-293-6227.

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NEWS

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Regular volunteers Jack Murphy and Gene Barksdale help process medical supplies at the Brother's Brother Foundation warehouse.

Brother's Brother Celebrates Anniversary

Charity uses local resources, volunteers to reach overseas.

BY ALEXIS HOSTICKA
THE CONNECTION

With a mission to serve overseas, Brother's Brother Foundation is utilizing Fairfax and the D.C. area as a second home-base for its operations.

Brother's Brother Foundation is originally based in Pittsburgh and opened its Fairfax location in May 2013. On July 26 from noon-2 p.m., they are celebrating over a year of success with an open house at the warehouse featuring a keynote speaker, a cake cutting and heavy hors d'oeuvres.

According to Debbie Baucom, National Capital Area Office Co-Director, the event is open to the public and she invites anyone interested in finding out more about or getting involved in the work that Brother's Brother does.

Brother's Brother is non-profit organization founded in 1958 that sends medical and educational supplies overseas to countries and people in need. The organization works primarily by collecting supplies that hospitals can no longer use or no longer need.

"Supplies comes to us and there can be very good stuff that comes to us and items that were parts of kits or surgical packs," Brother's Brother president Luke Hingson said. "Or you have hospitals that are donating wheelchairs or IV poles and part of the reason for that is that they want to standardize."

Another reason that Hingson pointed out that hospitals can no longer use perfectly good equip-

ment is new weight capacities for U.S. hospitals. This type of equipment is great for Brother's Brother.

"For example they could give a wheelchair to us because it could hold 200 pounds but now they need to be able to handle a larger person, but it's not worn out, it just doesn't have the right capacity," Hingson said.

To collect, sort, organize, and pack the equipment from various locations, Brother's Brother uses the help of many volunteers.

"We need lots of volunteers," Baucom said. "We often get mixed supplies from hospitals. We have a big truck and it will all be mixed up and our volunteers will go through these boxes of supplies and rebox them with like items."

Much of what Brother's Brother receives is operating room packs. These packs often come with pieces missing or with pieces not compiled and hundreds of items must be sorted through. Ruth Anderson, National Capital Area Office Co-Director, said there are also volunteer opportunities in a more managerial way.

"There are people who help with publicity and management and event planning," Anderson said. "We love when volunteers join our event planning teams. (Volunteering with Brother's Brother) supports this global mission that we have whether it's an event planner or sorting medical supplies, it all supports the mission."

Anyone interested in helping Brother's Brother in some way can contact Anderson directly at randerson@brothersbrother.org.

"We couldn't function without our volunteers. They are the backbone of the organization," said Dr. Barry Byer, a board and trustee member for Brother's Brother. "We need them to provide the manpower to do the sorting inventory

SEE CHARITY, PAGE 11

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WEEK IN FAIRFAX

Farmers Market on Thursdays

Each Thursday, from 3-7 p.m., the Fairfax County Government Center hosts a farmers market in its parking lot. The Government Center is at 12000 Government Center Pkwy. in Fair Oaks, and the next markets are slated for July 24 and July 31.

Public Safety Training Event

The City of Fairfax Police and Fire departments is continuing its joint training event, July 24-25, from 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. each day, at Fairfax High, 3501 Rebel Run between Fairfax Boulevard and Old Lee Highway. As a result, part of the high school and surrounding parking areas will have restricted access and people may see multiple emergency vehicles in the area.

Main Street Community Band Concert

Live music will fill the air this Thursday, July 24, at 8 p.m. (weather permitting), at Veterans Amphitheater, outside Fairfax City Hall, at 10455 Armstrong St. Performing will be the Main Street Community Band, an ensemble of the City of Fairfax Band Assn. The program will be music for the whole family.

Rock the Block!

Free, live music concerts and block parties will be held on University Drive in Old Town Fairfax, from 6-9 p.m., on the fourth Fridays of the month in July, August and September – July 25, Aug. 22 and Sept. 26. Rock the Block! will feature popular, local bands playing covers of favorite hits, beginning July 25 with Gonzo's Nose. City restaurants and merchants will offer food, a beer garden, games and more. Attendees are advised to bring their own chairs.

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OPINION

Tragic Consequences

Money lost by refusal to expand health coverage, but also life, health and livelihood.

The Virginia General Assembly's refusal to expand Medicaid, extending health coverage to as many as 400,000 Virginians has resulted in the loss of about \$1 billion in direct payments.

But that understates the loss, failing to calculate the cost of the lost health of thousands of Virginians.

Consider one relatively young man, treated by the Health Wagon, who is losing his vision to untreated diabetes because he has no health coverage, his diabetes went undetected for years and can't afford monitoring or medicine. Once diabetes begins to take its toll, it cannot be reversed. Once the man is blind and unable to work, he will likely be covered by Medicaid because he is permanently disabled.

The Centers for Disease Control says chronic illnesses are "the nation's leading causes of death and disability, leav[ing] in their wake deaths that could have been prevented, lifelong disability, compromised quality of life, and burgeoning health care costs. ... Heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, obesity, and arthritis are among the most common, costly, and preventable of all health problems."

EDITORIAL

Consider the hundreds or thousands of Virginians who are not receiving routine care or screenings of any kind, whose cancer or high blood pressure or heart disease or diabetes, or even mental illness, rob them over time of their ability to work, to care for themselves or their families. Many will die of illnesses that could have been prevented or treated. The human toll is incalculable, unbearable and unnecessary.

It is unfair that health coverage depends on what state you happen to live in, that an ideologically driven General Assembly can determine your fate. If you are poor and live in a state that has chosen to accept expansion of health care with Medicaid, you have health insurance, for example in the bordering states of West Virginia, Kentucky and Maryland. But if you are poor and live in Virginia, or one of the other states that has refused to expand Medicaid, you are out of luck, out of health and possibly out of life.

Business groups and chambers of commerce around Virginia, including the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, support the expansion of Medicaid in Virginia under the Affordable

Care Act. One persuasive factor for the business community is that expansion would create an estimated 30,000 jobs and pump hundreds of millions of dollars into Virginia's economy. Hospitals support expanding Medicaid which would offset many of the costs of caring for uninsured populations.

In Virginia, Medicaid eligibility for adults without disability is almost nonexistent, limited to parents with incomes below 51 percent of poverty, or about \$11,900 a year for a family of four, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. Adults without dependent children remain ineligible regardless of their income.

Under the Affordable Care Act, people with incomes 100 - 400 percent of poverty qualify for subsidies on their health insurance premiums when they purchase coverage through a Marketplace. Because the Affordable Care Act envisioned low-income people receiving coverage through Medicaid, people below poverty are not eligible for Marketplace subsidies. As many as 400,000 adults in Virginia fall into the coverage gap because they don't qualify for Medicaid under Virginia's rules, among the most stringent in the nation, but earn less than the poverty rate, so not enough to qualify for subsidies.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

'Living Wage' Tough to Achieve in Northern Virginia

Housing and job opportunities needed to relieve poverty.

BY MARY AGEE

NORTHERN VIRGINIA FAMILY SERVICE PRESIDENT AND CEO

On the surface, Martha Ordon is living the typical Northern Virginian life. She works as a medical receptionist at a doctor's office in Fairfax, and talks proudly about her 16 year-old daughter, a socially-active junior who plans to study business in college when she graduates. The reality is a little bit more complicated.

Martha and her daughter moved to Fairfax in 2008 from Louisiana. Her friend had urged her to make the move to Northern Virginia, telling her about the fantastic quality of life: the great schools, the strong job market and the sense of community. What her friend hadn't mentioned was the high cost of living. In Louisiana, Martha had worked as a cook in a Catholic school and always made



Training Futures is a free program for adults who are determined to gain the skills to excel in professional, administrative roles.

enough to pay her bills. In Fairfax, she took a full-time job as a cook making \$10.50 an hour and a part-time job as a retail sales associate making \$8 an hour. With two jobs, Martha could pay her bills, but she rarely got to see her daughter. When Martha lost her job as a cook, she

began working retail full-time but could no longer make ends meet.

In 2012, Martha and her daughter were evicted from their apartment. They lived in a hotel until a space became available at a local family shelter. Martha recognized that in order to pull her life back

together and provide a stable home for her daughter, she would need a living-wage job. She also realized that her previous experience as a cook was not going to help her rise above the poverty

SEE OPPORTUNITIES, PAGE 14

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Realtors: Numbers Indicate Stable Housing Market

June home listings climb, with slight dip in sales.

The Northern Virginia market recorded increased inventories, providing buyers with more choices. Nonetheless, buyers are challenged by affordability and accessing credit. The June market in Northern Virginia continues the trend of sales numbers coming in just under those from one year ago at this time, but the signs of a stable market have led to an increase in sellers planting signs on their lawns. "It is all about managing expectations," said Lorraine Arora, Managing Broker at Long & Foster Real Estate in Springfield. "Some buyers are nervous. When houses are priced correctly, homes will sell." Arora explained that since there

was no activity in winter months, there was pent up demand for this region's early spring season. Now, she explained, prices are higher but not all sellers are getting their full price. Buyers are less willing to engage in bidding wars.

The housing affordability may continue to be a challenge in the region, said Mary Bayat, 2014 chair elect of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors. "While the slightly rising home prices indicate an improving market, people are just not making quick decisions to buy," Bayat, a broker/owner of Bayat Realty in Alexandria, also noted that the current tight mortgage regulations have been a drag on buyers' loan process. She noted that mortgage standards are under scrutiny by industry and housing groups at this time.

The Northern Virginia Association of Realtors reported on June 2014 home sales activity for Fairfax and Arlington counties, the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the towns of

Vienna, Herndon and Clifton.

A total of 2,174 homes were sold in June 2014, a 12.90 percent decrease below June 2013 home sales of 2,496.

Active listings continued to show an increase this month compared with 2013. Listings were up 47 percent over last year, with 4,777 active listings in June, compared with 3,247 homes available in June 2013. The average days on market for homes in June 2014 was 30 days, an increase of 25 percent compared to the 24 days on market for homes in June 2013.

Average home sale prices increased slightly this June to \$580,013. This is up 3 percent compared to June 2013, when the average price was \$563,223.

The median sold price of homes this June, which is \$505,000, rose by 1 percent compared to the median price of \$499,900 in June 2013.

The 2,047 new pending home sales in Northern Virginia in June is a decrease of 9.62 percent compared with 2,265 contracts that were pending in June of last year.

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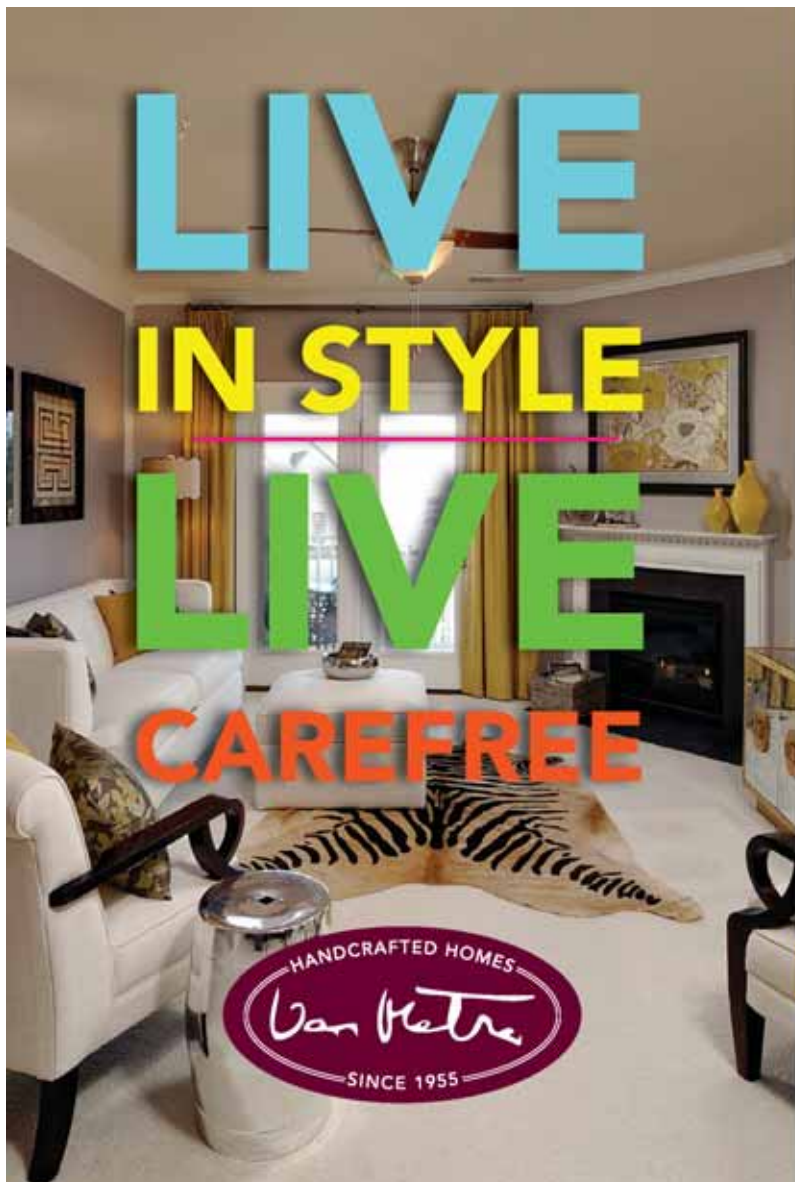
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NEWS

Tax and Wire Fraud: Three Years Prison

Fair Oaks tax preparer filed false returns with the IRS.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Although she received a sentence below the state guidelines, a former Fair Oaks tax preparer will be spending the next three years in prison. She is Thuy Tien Le, 40, who learned her punishment last Friday, July 18, in U.S. District Court in Alexandria.

She'd pleaded guilty April 30, 2014, to preparing false income tax returns and committing wire fraud. Le admitted to committing these crimes while running her Fair Oaks-based, tax-return preparation business called T2 Advantage Services LLC.

"Over 100 clients of hers were victims," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul Nathanson. "And they were particularly vulnerable because they didn't speak English. She caused them pain and stress that will continue as they try to straighten out their finances."

In a statement of facts filed with her plea agreement, Le, now of Sterling, admitted that, from 2005 through 2013, she owned and operated her business out of her home on 12808 Madeley Court in Fairfax. She prepared federal income-tax returns for her clients and led them to believe she'd electronically filed legitimate returns with the IRS, according to the statement. But before filing these returns, she altered them by adding false itemized deductions so she could generate large income-tax refunds. But instead of this money going to her clients, it instead went into her own pockets.

Le told federal authorities she'd prepared and filed the false income tax returns without her clients' knowledge or consent and that she had their refunds deposited electronically into her own bank accounts. She further admitted that the IRS sustained \$454,455 in losses because of what she'd done.

The investigation into her suspected criminal activities began in early July 2013 when Fairfax County police received a report from a resident that Le had prepared their income taxes. That person received the prepared documents, including a statement indicating exactly what federal and state refunds to expect.

Shortly thereafter, say police, the resident "was in the process of refinancing a mortgage and discovered that the tax documents the mortgage company obtained from the Internal Revenue Service were different than the ones Le provided to [him or her]."

Detectives, working with IRS special agents, eventually pieced together the details and extent of Le's illegal actions. Police arrested her Aug. 6, 2013, later turn-



Thuy Tien Le

ing over her case to federal authorities.

In court Friday, defense attorney Richard MacDowell said Le told him she "[allegedly] suffered from domestic abuse from her minor son's father" and her mother is unable to take care of that son, who's 8. So he asked U.S. District Court Judge Claude Hilton to consider giving his client a sentence below the 57-71 months guidelines or probation.

"Le's acts were done in part to flee domestic violence and to keep the family's finances together," said MacDowell. "She's already been punished. In 2007-08, they were victims of a Ponzi scheme and lost over \$250,000. She's had to file bankruptcy and lost properties."

He also said paying restitution will be a "huge burden" for her in the future. "Paying \$23,000/year, without interest, will take her 20 years," said MacDowell. "She's lost so much already. For her son's welfare, she asks for probation or house arrest."

But, countered Nathanson, "She has a history of recidivism. She committed fraud in the 1990s against the Fairfax County Federal Credit Union and [later] against the Fairfax County welfare program. And all the fraud proceeds [from her most-recent offenses] went into her bank account."

Before sentencing, Le stood and apologized, saying, "I'm sorry for all the pain and stress I caused my family and clients, and for defrauding the government." She then asked Hilton to consider letting her stay home to take care of her son.

But he declined to do so and, instead, sentenced her to prison. For preparing false income tax returns, he sentenced her to 36 months incarceration, followed by one year of supervised release. For the wire-fraud charge, the judge gave her another 36 months, plus 3 years supervised release.

Hilton then ran the sentences concurrently, for three years total to serve, on the condition that Le make \$200/month restitution payments, beginning 60 days after her release. "I'll waive the interest," he said. "And I'll recommend a [penal] facility near Northern Virginia."

Afterward, MacDowell called the sentence "understandable, under the circumstances."

ENTERTAINMENT

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

TUESDAY/JULY 22- AUG. 19

The Bodzin Art Gallery "Fine Arts Open Exhibition." Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. This annual show spotlights the many talents our own members, staff and creative community through the display of a variety of media. www.jccnvarts.org.

FRIDAY/JULY 25

"Pippi Longstocking: The Family Musical." 7:30 p.m. Lanier Middle School, 3801 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. A family-friendly musical comedy for all to enjoy. For ticket information, visit www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org.

S.T.E.M. Storytime. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (S.T.E.M.) Each month we will focus on one of the STEM subjects with stories, songs, and activities for preschoolers. Age 4-5 with adult.

Fun Flicks. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Watch movies based on children's books. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/po/> under "Events."

Keeping Up With Kids—Learn About Flickr, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and Skype. 2-3 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn the basics with our one-on-one technology volunteer about the social networking tools that can help you stay in touch with your kids and grandkids. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/kp/> under "Events."

FRIDAYS/JULY 25-AUG. 29

Braddock Nights Concert Series.

7:30-8:30 p.m. Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. Listen to musical performances in the great outdoors. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/ for location and schedule.

SATURDAYS/JULY 26-AUG. 23

Burke Arts in the Parks. 10 - 11 a.m. Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Entertain children, teach them the importance of protecting our natural resources, introduce them to live entertainment in an informal kid friendly atmosphere, and forge a connection between kids and parks. Call 703-323-6601.

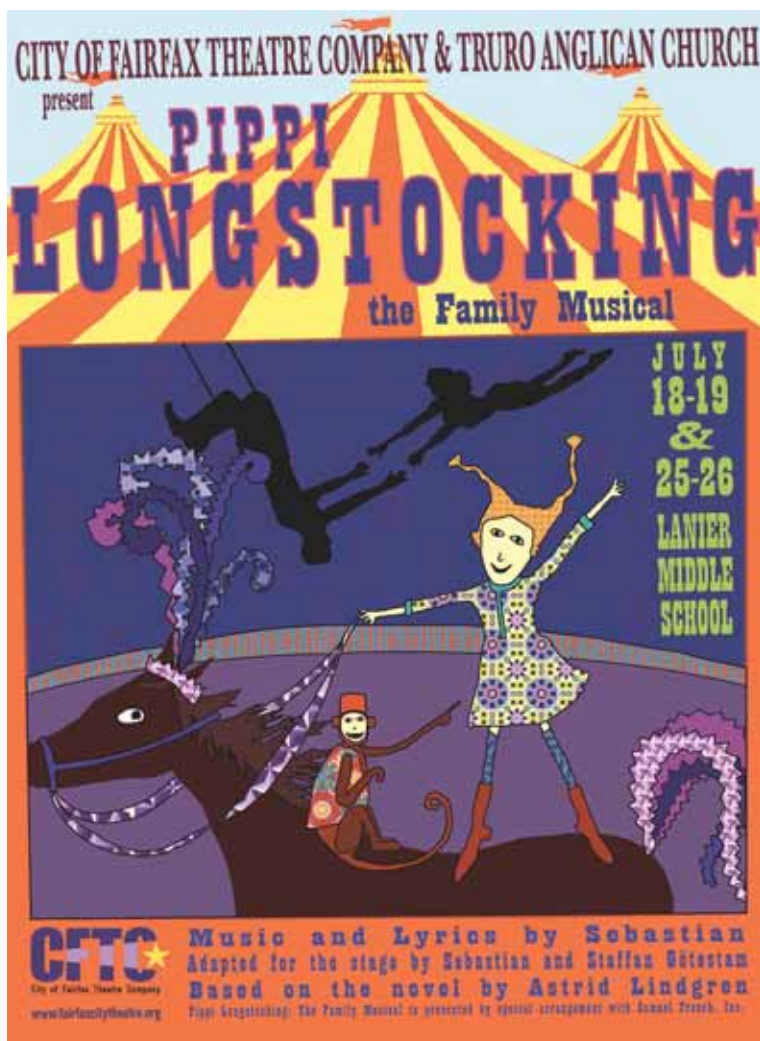
SATURDAY, JULY 26

Master Gardeners Plant Clinic. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Masters Gardeners from the Fairfax County Cooperative Extension will your gardening questions. 703-978-5600.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Master Gardeners provide horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice to home gardeners. 703-293-6227.

Dog adoption event by Homeless Animals Rescue Team. 12-3 p.m. PETCO, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Mem. Hwy., Fairfax. Come adopt a furry friend. Hart90.org.

Jeri Sager Concert. 7 p.m. Westwood Baptist Church, 8200 Old Keene Mill



Grab your hat and join the fun as pirates, circus entertainers, a few cops and robbers, and the world's most popular whippersnapper come to life this summer in the City of Fairfax Theatre Company (CFTC) and Truro Anglican Church's rollicking and whimsical Pippi Longstocking: The Family Musical, running July 25-26 at Lanier Middle School.

Road, Springfield. Broadway actress and singer Jeri Sager will offer a free concert to the public as part of the celebration of the church's 50th year. 703-451-5120.

"Pippi Longstocking: The Family Musical." 7:30 p.m. Lanier Middle School, 3801 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. A family-friendly musical comedy for all to enjoy. For ticket information, visit www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org.

SUNDAY/JULY 27

Sunday Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the parking lot at the intersection of West and Main Streets behind Wells Fargo Bank in Fairfax. Every Saturday there is fresh produce, goods and wares at the market. church@sovgracefairfax.org or www.FairfaxSundayMarket.com.

MONDAY/JULY 28

Walk-in eBook Clinic. 7-8:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Help with downloading library eBooks. Bring your device and its account ID and password. 703-644-7333.

Pohick Prose Society. 7-8:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Teens talk about books. 703-644-7333.

TUESDAY/JULY 29

Library eBook Tech Help. 2-3 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Learn to use the library's eBook collection and compatible devices with a library staff member; please bring your

library card, eBook reader and laptop. 703-293-6227.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 30

Diggers. 7-7:45 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Tracey Eldridge presents this interactive musical celebration of the creatures who sleep under our feet. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/> under "Events."

THURSDAY/JULY 31

Chairman Sharon Bulova's Evenings on the Ellipse Summer Concert Series. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center "Ellipse" (green lawn behind the building), 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. No matter what kind of music you like, bring your lawn chairs, blankets, families and dates. 703-324-7329.

Preschool Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Build your child's early literacy skills while enjoying stories, songs and activities; ages 3-5 with adult. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/> under "Events."

SATURDAY/AUG. 2-SUNDAY/SEPT. 7

4th Annual Workhouse Clay National. Workhouse Arts Center W-16 McGuire Woods Gallery, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. This exhibition represents the depth and breadth of contemporary ceramic artworks being created throughout the country. 703-584-2900.

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AUGUST 11—AUGUST 15.....MR. PEABODY & SHERMAN (PG)

AUGUST 18—AUGUST 22.....THE CROODS (PG)

AUGUST 25—AUGUST 29.WALKING WITH DINOSAURS (PG)

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Novus Fairfax Gateway: Artist's rendering of the view from Fairfax Boulevard.

Apartments, Retail Planned: Kamp Washington Triangle

Fairfax City Council concerned about density, affordability.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

It's still a work in progress, but Novus Fairfax Gateway LLC hopes to transform part of the Kamp Washington triangle between Fairfax Boulevard and Lee Highway into a modern, community-serving, mixed-use project.

Proposed on the 8.33-acre site are 423 multifamily apartments, 25,000 square feet of retail uses – including 12,000 square feet of first-floor retail and amenities for the residents, plus a 5,000-square-foot restaurant – and a 4,000-square-foot office space for use by a nonprofit.

The design includes a road network that could mesh with the future redevelopment of the rest of that triangle, while adding traffic-calming elements to reduce cut-through traffic in the nearby Fairchester Woods neighborhood.

Details were presented and discussed during a July 8 joint work session of the Fairfax City Council and Planning Commission. And while the project is impressive, City officials have several, serious concerns and say it's not yet ev-

everything they want it to be for that area and for Fairfax residents.

AT THE OUTSET, Community Development Division Chief Jason Sutphin said the City fire marshal is worried about “fire access to the backs of the buildings at the current plan configuration. “The plans don’t show turn or vehicular movements,” said Sutphin. “And the central traffic circle [roundabout] may have to be shifted to allow for traffic stacking.”

Then attorney Lynne Strobel, representing Novus, gave specifics of what’s proposed and said the applicant was there to elicit City feedback and listen to the response. She said four parcels were consolidated and a maintenance endowment was established for the nearby, historic cemetery.

“We’ve developed a pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use project introducing high-quality residential to Kamp Washington,” she said. “The site currently is a car-storage lot for Ted Britt Ford, generating \$90,000/year to the City. But when developed, tax revenue alone will be closer to \$2 million/year.”

Developer Rob Seldin, of Cafritz Interests, said the apartments are needed because “when GMU students graduate, there’s currently no place for them to live nearby where their friends are.” And Strobel said they’ll continue working on the proffers and will address the fire marshal’s concerns. “It’s still a conceptual plan,” she said.

The commercial space and

three- and four-story buildings would front on Lee Highway and Fairfax Boulevard. Five-story buildings would be central to the site, and a seven-story parking garage would have a half-story on top for a pool.

Planning Commissioner Janet Jaworski asked if there are plans to screen that pool, and Strobel said that detail will be worked out later in the design process. She also noted that the amenities for the apartment residents would be things such as a fitness center and a business center.

“I’d like the impacts of the 423 multifamily units considered on the two closest parks, when you’re making proffers,” said Planning Commissioner Joe Harmon. Colleague Tom Armstrong asked if they’d considered LEED certification, and Strobel said the buildings would include sustainable features.

“It’s about 20 percent of the triangle site,” said Councilman Michael DeMarco. “It would be nice to incorporate more commercial office space. You should consider providing shuttle buses to the Metro station for the residents. You need to be innovative in addressing affordable housing, and energy efficiency and stormwater management are important.”

Councilman Jeff Greenfield said he believes 423 housing units at this location are too many. “Why would somebody want to be here, when they could be at Fairfax Corner and walk to restaurants, movies and grocery stores?” he asked

SEE TRIANGLE, PAGE 11

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Artist's rendering of the Novus Fairfax Gateway development from Lee Highway.

Triangle Changes Discussed

FROM PAGE 10
the developer.

FURTHERMORE, said Greenfield, "I encourage you to submit a traffic plan showing you'll reduce the number of cars on the street – this seems to add to that number. What are you doing for inside bike parking?"

He also asked Novus to consider providing subsidized CUE fare cards or Metro bus shelters on Fairfax Boulevard or CUE bus shelters on Route 29. Greenfield said he hoped the developer will "take these suggestions to heart and come back with a substantive plan," and Strobel said they'd be addressed in the proffers.

Councilman David Meyer said residents want "high-quality retail in close proximity" to their homes, but the nearby Kamp Washington retail doesn't fulfill that need. And he said traffic should be prevented from traveling through the Fairchester Woods and Westmore neighborhoods. "I want this site to

have enough breathe-ability to accept new projects, either to the west or east," said Meyer. "And I'm also concerned about its density."

Councilwoman Nancy Loftus asked if the required amount of parking for the restaurant would be provided, and Strobel said they're only requesting a reduction in the number of residential parking spaces they have to provide.

Councilwoman Ellie Schmidt wanted more information about the project's fiscal impact, and colleague Janice Miller asked why there are so many residential units. "We're trying to achieve the goals of the Fairfax Boulevard Master Plan – retail with housing above," replied Seldin. "We see it as a key opportunity for urban growth."

Still, said Miller, "I have serious concerns with this project's density." Noting that the streetscape proposed along Routes 29 and 50 will encourage walk-ability, she asked Seldin to work with the Route 29/Jermantown Road shop-

ping center so residents would feel more comfortable walking there.

Miller said two-bedroom units would attract children in elementary school and there wouldn't be adequate space for them in the schools. And, she added, "I'm also concerned about affordability, plus accessibility for senior citizens or disabled veterans."

"I'm also concerned about the size and scope of this project," said Mayor Scott Silverthorne. He, too, worried about affordability. "This entire triangle area could be so much better than what's proposed here, in my view," he told the developer. "We might want to have an additional work session after you refine this thing."

Strobel said the feedback was helpful and they'd work with City staff on their proffers. "I'm concerned about the lack of retail – it should be bolder," said Silverthorne. "Lowe's is coming there soon, so when I hear there's not an appetite for retail, I don't think that's necessarily true."

Charity Marks One Year in Fairfax

FROM PAGE 4

and packing at the warehouse. We love them and they mean so much to the organization."

Byer became a part of Brother's Brother after being a part of Cross Link, a smaller organization in the D.C. area that did similar work. When Brother's Brother started the new location in Fairfax, it took over Cross Link to create a bigger and even more effective organization.

In addition to helping with work stateside, Byer is a physician and travels overseas to do hands-on medical work with his team.

"With the supplies and equip-

ment (Brother's Brother) provides we're able to do surgeries, some of which are life changing," Byer said. "My team has done cleft lips and palates. We've been doing children with crossed eyes who are a year to three or four years and they come in with their eyes crossed and the surgery takes 30 minutes and they leave with their eyes straight. That isn't life saving but it sure is life changing."

Byer takes two-three trips a year to Honduras and has been doing so for about 15 years. Through those many years and surgeries, Byer has an image that always stayed with him.

"What has stuck with me is that you have the mother coming in holding the child; the mother is very concerned and the child is just looking around the room," Byer said. "And after the surgery the mother sees (her) child's eyes and the child is typically crying but their eyes are straight. But the mother is beaming, she is elated. From those mothers we get these thank you's over and over and how much they appreciate us."

Visit the Brother's Brother Foundation website at www.brothersbrother.org for more information about the organization.

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Calendar Listings

The Connection Newspapers contain a Calendar of Upcoming Events every week. While we cannot guarantee that every event we receive information about will be listed, here is the information we need for your upcoming event to be considered for the Calendar. We welcome photographs of similar events held previously, which sometimes appear with Calendar items.

Name of Event:

Day of the Week, Date and Time:

Name of the Place Event will Be Held:

Address of the Place Event Will Be Held:

Name and Phone Number for More Information:

Three Sentences Describing the Event:

Please submit your calendar information at least two weeks before your event. Clear photographs from similar previous events are always welcome.

All events should be open to the public. We give first priority to free events. E-mail listings to:

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SPORTS

WSHS Grad Berglund to Play at Northwestern-St. Paul

Q&A: Sharpshooting guard fan of Minnesota Vikings, Twins.

Amy Berglund was a four-year standout sharpshooter for one of the top high school girls' basketball programs in Virginia.

As a freshman, Berglund received all-district honorable mention and helped West Springfield win the Patriot District title and reach the state semifinals. As the years went by, the accolades grew: second-team all-district as a sophomore, first-team all-district as a junior, and, eventually, first-team all-state and conference Player of the Year as a senior.

During her senior campaign, Berglund surpassed the 1,000-point milestone for her career and eventually finished second on the program's all-time scoring list. In a game at West Potomac, Berglund made 13 of 14 field-goal attempts for a career-high 30 points. The Spartans beat T.C. Williams to win the Conference 7 championship and advanced to the state tournament with a region runner-up finish.

Berglund, a 2014 West Springfield graduate, will continue her basketball career at the University of Northwestern-St. Paul. Berglund recently participated in a Q&A via email with The Connection.

***Connection:** What made University of Northwestern-St. Paul the right fit for you?

Berglund: All my family lives in Minnesota so I will be extremely close to them, the strong academics that also integrate faith/Christianity into the learning and the experience, and I loved the basketball program there with an amazing group of girls and coach. My parents approved since they got married at the chapel on campus.

***Connection:** What will your major be?

What position will you play?

Berglund: I plan on majoring in kinesiology with a minor in biblical studies and possibly business. I will be playing the 2/3 guard.

***Connection:** At what age did you start playing basketball? When did you realize playing college basketball was a possibility for you?

Berglund: I started playing around with basketball at age 6, following in the footsteps of two older brothers who played. Ever since I can remember, I dreamed of playing college basketball, but my ninth-grade year was when I realized it was something I could really accomplish.

***Connection:** Did you play any other sports at West Springfield?

Berglund: I played lacrosse my senior year and it was an awesome experience with great coaches and teammates!

***Connection:** What is your favorite memory of playing high school basketball?

Berglund: Meeting and competing with my best friends. Also, winning the Patriot Conference my senior year, because no one would have picked us to win it at the start of the season. Our team was so close off the court that we all played with amazing chemistry on the court.

***Connection:** If you could change one thing about your high school athletic career, what would it be?

Berglund: The only thing I would change is that it could have gone by slower because it was the best part of my high school experi-



Amy Berglund surpassed the 1,000-point milestone during her four-year career at West Springfield.

ence and I already miss being a Lady Spartan.

***Connection:** What kind of traits, physical or mental, does it take to be a good perimeter shooter?

Berglund: Physically, I think a good shooter needs to have running endurance and a lot of leg strength so by the end of the game they have enough left in them to get a good jump for the shot. Mentally, a good shooter needs to have the confidence to keep shooting even if the shots aren't

going in at first and the focus to keep making shots when they are hot during a game.

***Connection:** Did you have to put in a lot of work to become a good perimeter shooter, or did it come naturally?

Berglund: It did take a lot of work and hours of repetition to become a good shooter but it is what I love doing so I did not mind. I was lucky to have parents who would spend hours standing under a hoop rebounding for me.

***Connection:** What is your personal best for consecutive 3-pointers made?

Berglund: I recently made 31 3-pointers in a row when I was practicing with the goal to make a lot of them in a row.

***Connection:** What is your career high for points in a game at any age?

Berglund: My career high for points in high school was 30 which came during my senior season. I ended up shooting 13-14 that game and I missed my last shot which, ironically, was the easiest shot of the game, a layup.

***Connection:** Who is your favorite music artist? Why?

Berglund: Tim McGraw, because I love his voice and he has so many great songs.

***Connection:** What is your favorite movie? Why?

Berglund: 'Miracle on Ice,' because it is the greatest sports movie ever and so inspirational.

***Connection:** What is your favorite food?

Berglund: Cheeseburger.

***Connection:** What is your favorite hobby outside of basketball?

Berglund: I like to hike and camp.

***Connection:** What location is the farthest you have traveled from the Washington, D.C. metro area?

Berglund: The farthest I have been from D.C. was during a trip to Colorado.

***Connection:** Are you a pro sports fan? If so, who are your favorite teams?

Berglund: Minnesota Vikings and Minnesota Twins!

— JON ROETMAN

Swimming for a Cause at South Run Pool

On Sunday, July 13, the South Run Community Pool held their annual Swim-a-Thon charity event to raise funds and awareness for cancer, a cause that runs deep through this close-knit neighborhood community. On what felt like the hottest day of the summer thus far, participants gradually streamed in to partake in the 7th iteration of the Swim-a-Thon, which was coordinated this year by friends Ryan Kelly, Liam Kelly, Nick Porter, Michael Murphy, and Jordan Krug, all members of the South Run swim team.

With a tent and table set up in the corner of the pool deck to collect donations, dozens of people blanketed the pool, swimming laps "for the cure," with pro-

ceeds going to INOVA hospital's "Life with Cancer" program.

After people finished swimming, they recorded the number of laps they swam, and helped themselves to a snack and a cold beverage.

This year, 31 people swam a total of 1,270 laps, and donated almost \$1,500 on the day of the event, with money still being collected.

Swim-a-Thon was created as a way to engage the community in the fight against cancer; a fight that has deeply affected many South Run families over the years. Given another successful iteration of this event, the South Run community seems to be keeping that fight alive one stroke at a time.



From left: Ryan and Liam Kelly, Christina Moneyhun, Michael Murphy, Nick Porter, Andrew Peter and Chloe Shuddt.

Paycheck Gender Wars?

Across Northern Virginia, men pull larger paychecks than women; disparities larger than national average.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

When Lola Arce de Quintela first moved to Oakton 20 years ago, she noticed something about the way men and women arranged their professional careers around their family lives in Northern Virginia. Men took high-powered jobs with large paychecks, while women often dropped out of the workforce to take care of growing families. If women had full-time jobs, she says, they would often select positions that were not as demanding so they could focus their time and attention on their children while husbands and fathers pulled in six-figure salaries.

"The other women who live on my block are teachers," said de Quintela, a freelance translator. "Their husbands are attorneys or they work for the World Bank."

On a national basis, women make 77 cents for every dollar men make. But here in Northern Virginia the disparities are greater, especially in wealthier areas. Nowhere is this trend higher than 22124, the suburb of Oakton, where the average median income for full-time female workers is \$77,000. The men in that ZIP code pull in almost \$130,000. That means women who live in Oakton and are full-time, permanent workers earn 60 percent of what men earn.

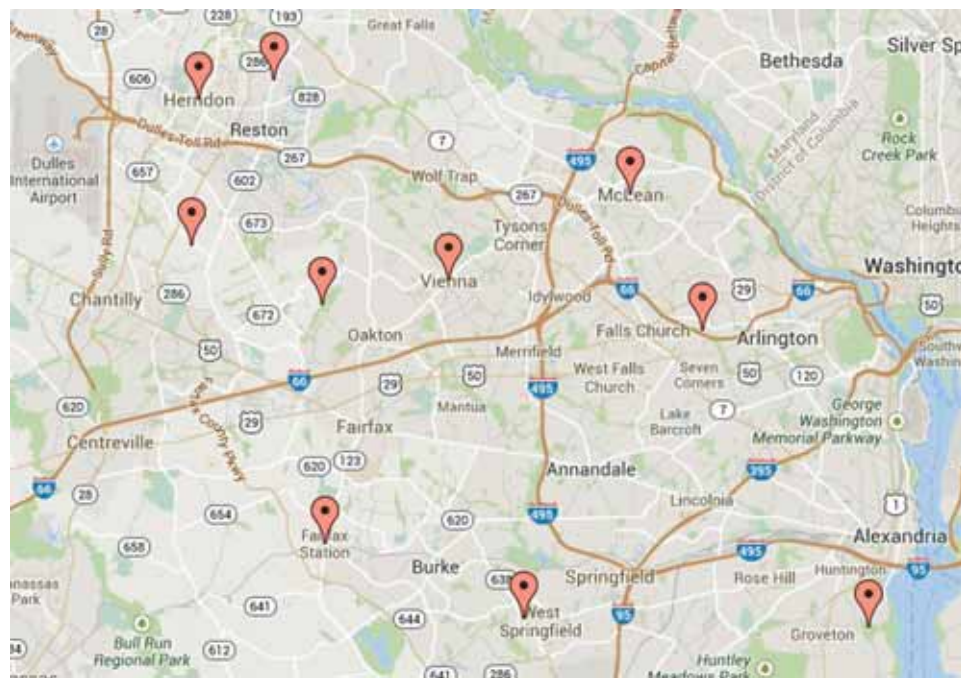
"It's very difficult to have a family and raise kids when you have two people with high-powered careers that demand a lot of time and attention," said de Quintela. "So a lot of women tend to find work that's more flexible and not as demanding, which means they earn less money. It's a trade off."

CENSUS RECORDS show disparities tend to be greatest where people earn the most money. In the Fairfax Station ZIP code 22039, for example, the average annual male median salary is \$134,000. That's one of the highest in Northern Virginia. By contrast, women in this area earn \$86,000 a year. That's still a high salary for the region, but women who live in Fairfax Station earn 64 cents for every \$1 the men who live there make.

Demographers say some of this may be explained by a concept they call "labor force attachment," which essentially means that women are less attached to the labor force than men.

"Given the traditional understandings about who cares for children or aging parents, what we often see is that women take

zip code	location	median female salary	median male salary	percentage women's median salary is of men's
22124	Oakton	\$77,421	\$128,808	60%
20171	Herndon	\$63,577	\$104,495	61%
22205	Arlington	\$70,755	\$115,729	61%
22152	Springfield	\$57,177	\$93,125	61%
22039	Fairfax Station	\$86,085	\$134,133	64%
20170	Herndon	\$49,325	\$74,714	66%
22102	McLean	\$71,113	\$105,995	67%
22182	Vienna	\$86,875	\$127,994	68%
22307	Alexandria	\$65,243	\$93,883	69%
20194	Reston	\$78,398	\$111,942	70%



"If you're looking at why men are earning more, it's because in those cases women who might have a higher earning potential are not in the labor force, they are staying home to raise a family."

—David Versel, senior research associate at the Center for Regional Analysis

on those roles," said Annie Rorem, policy associate in the demographics research group at Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia. "We often see differences in female and male earnings that are related to, although I would not necessarily say caused by, family structure."

This trend is less evident in ZIP codes where salaries are lower, and the roles are

even reversed in some of areas with the lowest salaries. In Bailey's Crossroads, for example, women earn \$59,000. But men earn \$46,000, the lowest salary of any Fairfax County ZIP code. That means men earn about 22 percent less than women here, a phenomenon that indicates workers here are attached to the labor force in a way that's different from people at the top of the earnings scale.

"What we are probably seeing in Bailey's Crossroads is women who are nannies of families that make a lot of money," said Veronique de Rugy, a senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. "They make a lot more money than their male counterparts who are working in construction or putting up drywall."

ACADEMICS WHO look at these numbers say the imbalance of salaries between men and women can be explained by looking at how the genders participate in the labor force differently. A recent study by the George Mason School for Regional Analysis concluded that Arlington County has the highest labor force participation rate for women in the region while the District of Columbia has the lowest. Meanwhile, suburban areas of Fairfax County have much lower female participation rates than urban areas such as Arlington or Alexandria.

"If you're looking at why men are earning more, it's because in those cases women who might have a higher earning potential are not in the labor force, they are staying home to raise a family," said David Versel, senior research associate at the Center for Regional Analysis. "That's obviously less true than it was a generation or two ago, but that's the easiest way of looking at this."

Although the disparity between salaries earned by men and women are glaring, researchers who look at the data warn not to jump to conclusions about gender inequality. These numbers show that men and women who live in the same ZIP codes earn different salaries, it does not say that they receive different salaries for doing the same work. They probably say more about how women and men approach the labor force differently than how employers choose to compensate their employees.

"This doesn't necessarily mean that we are talking about any active gender inequality in the sense of discrimination or men and women being paid different amounts for the exact same labor," said Rorem. "One thing that's important to keep in mind when you are looking at all full-time year-round workers is that one thing you don't pick up is experience between workers."

Eight FCPS Students Win College-Sponsored Merit Scholarships

Eight Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) graduates from the class of 2014 have been named winners of college-sponsored scholarships by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

Recipients of college-sponsored scholarships from the NMSC, with their probable career fields in parentheses, are:

- ❖ Celia Islam of Vienna, Marshall High School (medicine), National Merit George Washington University Scholarship.

- ❖ Brian Clark of Burke, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and

Technology (TJHSST) (engineering), National Merit Case Western Reserve University Scholarship.

- ❖ Adam Friedman of Fairfax, TJHSST (environmental science), National Merit Emory University Scholarship.

- ❖ Nicholas Jones of Round Hill, TJHSST (aerospace engineering), National Merit University of Central Florida Scholarship.

- ❖ Thomas Lunn of Potomac Falls, TJHSST (international relations), National Merit Bowdoin College Scholarship.

- ❖ Timothy Ruiter of Centreville, TJHSST (biomedical engineering), National Merit

University of Georgia Scholarship.

- ❖ Vishal Talasani of Alexandria, TJHSST (economics), National Merit University of Chicago Scholarship.

- ❖ Tony Xiao of Herndon, TJHSST (film production), National Merit Vanderbilt University Scholarship.

College-sponsored Merit Scholarships provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship. Nationwide, approximately 7,600 students have won Merit Scholarship awards in 2014.

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION FOR
AN UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) SITE
JUNE 23, 2014**

There has been a release from an underground storage tank system at:

Fairfax County Department of Vehicle Services
Newington Maintenance Facility
6900 Newington Road
Lorton, Virginia, 22079

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) has worked with Fairfax County to develop and implement a Corrective Action Plan to address cleanup of petroleum hydrocarbons at the site. If you have any questions regarding the cleanup please contact:

Randy Chapman, Environmental Specialist Senior Project Manager
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Northern Regional Office
13901 Crown Court
Woodbridge, VA 22193
703-583-3808
Randy.chapman@deq.virginia.gov
www.deq.virginia.gov

As part of the corrective action process a Corrective Action Plan was submitted to the Northern Regional Office of VDEQ on September 6, 2013. The Corrective Action Plan consisted of measures to be undertaken during the installation of storm sewers and other utility structures associated with site renovation activities at the Newington bus maintenance facility in Lorton, Virginia. The Corrective Action Plan was essentially composed of the following measures:

1. Petroleum-impacted soil encountered during site development activities was excavated, removed from the site, and properly disposed of;
2. Utility trenches located within petroleum impacted soils were lined with a polyethylene barrier to prevent petroleum migration into the utility trench or bedding gravel;
3. Confirmatory soil samples were collected at the base of the utility trench excavations and submitted to the VDEQ for review.

The Corrective Action Plan implementation was carried out between September 7, 2013 and December 7, 2013. If you would like to review or discuss the implementation of this Corrective Action Plan with the staff of VDEQ, please feel free to contact Randy Chapman who is listed above. You may also contact:

Kenneth Lim, Project Manager or Christopher Elliot
Department of Public Works and ECS Mid-Atlantic, LLC,
Environmental Services Consultant for Fairfax County
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 449 703-471-8400
Fairfax, Virginia 22035-0052
elliott@ecslimited.com
(703)-324-5826 www.ecslimited.com
Kenneth.lim@fairfaxcounty.gov

VDEQ Northern Regional Office will consider written comments for a period of thirty days from the first date of this notice regarding the Corrective Action Plan implementation and may decide to hold a public meeting if there is a significant public interest. Written comments should be sent to the VDEQ at the address listed above. VDEQ requests that all written comments should reference the tracking number for this case; PC # 2014-3041.

OPINION

WFCM Still Operating, Closing Thrift Store

To the Editor:

An open letter to the community

Dear Partner in Service:

For 27 years, Western Fairfax Christian Ministries has provided life-essential support to individuals and families in our community with the assistance of hundreds of volunteers, churches, donors, and partner organizations. In 1998, WFCM started selling clothing to the local community as a way to generate revenue to support the vital ministries we offer – this was the nexus of what has grown into our current thrift store.

Over the years, the community has been generous with their donations of time, clothing, and household goods to keep the thrift store running. We are immensely grateful for this support. Not only has the thrift store provided low-cost, quality goods for our customers, it has also allowed us to meet the clothing and household needs of our clients seeking assistance.

For the past couple of years, however, the thrift store has not generated enough revenue to cover the costs of its operation. A change in location presented challenges to the ministry. After months of prayerful consideration, the Board of Directors has determined that operating the thrift store is

no longer the right choice financially for WFCM. The thrift store will close Aug. 15.

This is a season of change for WFCM. The thrift store has been an important part of our ministry and we are grateful for your partnership. We know that needs still exist in our community for assistance with clothing and household goods. We know that a need also exists for our donors who desire to help others by contributing their used items. And, we will continue to work to meet those needs.

WFCM is developing partnerships with churches and organizations in our community with clothing closets who will be able to serve our clients and receive in-kind donations. We will distribute details on this new process when they are finalized.

We have enclosed a document to help address questions you may have, but please contact us if you have other questions or concerns.

Although the doors of the thrift store will be closing, WFCM is expectant to see what God has in store for us in the future as we seek to be an extension of God's love in this community.

Jeff Robertson

President, for the WFCM
Board of Directors

Creating Opportunities

FROM PAGE 6

line. During her shelter stay, Martha discovered Training Futures, the nationally-recognized, workforce development solution of Northern Virginia Family Service.

Training Futures is a free program for adults who are determined to gain the skills to excel in professional, administrative roles. The 6-month curriculum not only teaches college-level administrative skills such as the Microsoft Office Suite, customer service, records management, medical terminology, business English and business math, but also through a partnership with Northern Virginia Community College, offers eligible trainees the opportunity to earn up to 21 college credits and a Career Studies Certificate in Business Information Technology.

Trainees come to Training Futures Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., and often arrive early and stay late to master course work. They are outfitted in the Training Futures Clothing Closet and expected to wear business professional clothes every day. Each trainee reports to a “supervisor,” or staff member, who coaches them around attitude and business habits, encourages them and above all else, holds them to high “corporate” expectations. When trainees arrive for their first day at their new professional, administrative job, they not only have the skills to add value, but also look and act the part of an excellent employee. Martha knew she had found the pathway to the life she imagined for herself and her daughter. Within five weeks of graduating from this exciting program, Martha landed her position as a medical receptionist, making \$14 an hour.

While at the shelter, Martha was also re-

ferred to the Bridging Affordability Program. Bridging Affordability is administered by Northern Virginia Family Service in partnership with Fairfax County Department of Housing & Community Development. The program combines rental subsidies and case management supportive services with the intent of moving families forward toward self-sufficiency. Bridging Affordability has given Martha the time and financial breathing room to attend Training Futures and work towards a living wage. As Martha nears the end of her time in Bridging Affordability she is paying down debt which will allow her to purchase a car and further broaden her housing options. She has increased her income 57 percent since starting the program, thanks to the training and subsequent employment she found following Training Futures, but still needs to consider affordable housing options, which are rare in this area.

The comprehensive nature of NVFS programs, including Workforce Development and Housing Services, provide clients with a unique opportunity to achieve several substantial goals at one time. NVFS has made the investment to ensure that when clients who seek our services for one issue may access the full range of our programs to increase the odds of achieving self-sufficiency. In the community, NVFS has been working with partners in both the nonprofit and government sectors who recognize the cross section between these two service areas. Families will not be able to maintain stable housing without living wages, and our efforts to solve the housing program in Northern Virginia are contingent upon holistic solutions that address both of these issues, together.

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Zone 3: The Alexandria Gazette Packet
The Mount Vernon Gazette
Zone 4: Centre View North
Centre View South
Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac
Zone 6: The Arlington Connection
The Vienna/Oakton Connection
The McLean Connection
The Great Falls Connection

FAITH NOTES

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

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.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. 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.

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 8:30 and 10 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.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.

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.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin

mass at 7 p.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.poplc.org.

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PET CONNECTION



Top and bottom: Baby photos of future assistance dogs

Puppies Destined for Important Work

Bred, donated and/or rescued for assistance dog training by paws4people.org, these “baby pictures” will be shared with the children and veterans matched with each dog.

But until then, the puppies will receive comprehensive training. Training begins at the Training Center in Wilmington, Del. The specific training is proprietary, but includes learning how to navigate different surfaces and challenges and how to handle stress. At around six weeks, they curl up in a transport van and make the drive to the Puppy Development Center, currently in Georgia. There, they continue with socialization training as they work students who are autistic at the Lionheart school, with both puppies and students getting more comfortable with new situations and people.

At 16 weeks, they pile back into the van and are met by inmate trainers at Lakin Correctional, in West Virginia. It is here that the core of “command set” training happens.



PHOTOS BY JOAN BRADY/JOANBRADYPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Joan Brady photographs an assistant dog at work with a college student in West Virginia.

Each dog will learn 110 commands before being matched with a “client.”

After 12 - 15 months of socialization and command training, they will each be matched with either a child or a veteran. From that point, the puppies will be trained specifically to meet their new “handler’s” needs.

During that specialized training, the dogs remain in prison. These pictures will help the newly matched children and adults get through that initial separation.

Read more about [paws4people](http://paws4people.org) assistance dogs at joanbradyphoto.wordpress.com

— JOAN BRADY

Joan Brady is a professional photographer; mentor and advocate for current and former foster children; volunteer with paws4People, [Fairfax Families4Kids](http://FairfaxFamilies4Kids), and others; and a resident of Great Falls. Reach her at joan@joanbradyphotography.com



Becky and LuLu: A Special Bond

The relationship between dog and girl is strong, the bond never to break. I, personally, grew up — and am still growing up with — wonderful dogs. First, there was Leroy. I was born into the middle of his reign on the Randolph household kingdom, and he helped to raise me, the princess of his kingdom. I don't remember much of his life, because

he only lived to age 8, and he only spent six years with me. Leroy was an amazing part of the family. He was helpful, strong, and loving.

Once, I tried to ride him like a horse, and you really can't blame me — here I was, only about 3 years old, with a German shepherd Hound mix whose head still came above mine. Luckily, he tolerated me until my mom rescued him. I bet he couldn't thank her enough!

Next came Lacy, who was welcomed to the family when Leroy was about five and I was three. As a pup, this yorkie-bichon mix was a tiny little thing. When she was two, I would crawl around pretending Leroy was the daddy, I was the mommy, and Lacy was our little pup. Now at 7 years old, she still acts like a little puppy dog, and I honestly still remember the day we got her — all the pups in the breeder's pen, and

driving home with her snuggled in my lap the whole way home.

Now, LuLu is my most recent addition to the house-

hold. We got her when I was eight, almost nine, and now she's two, and I'm ten, almost eleven.

We got her on my parent's anniversary. My mom claims that LuLu is her dog, but I think she might be mine. However, I guess we share her. She and I train together at Krazy for K9s 4H club at Frying Pan Farm Park.

We do competitions and work together to solve problems. She and I run around in our backyard, play, watch TV, celebrate, eat, bake, and so much more together. I've even developed a cupcake tradition on her birthday. Sadly, little Lacy has to wait to celebrate her birthday — she

gets her party the same day as LuLu's.

LuLu and I share a special bond. Not any more special

than the bond I have or have had with any other of my dogs, but a bond all the same. I hope to accomplish a lot in the training field with her, because dogs deserve to go farther than just the end of your fence. But, I'm still working on her show name. Should it be Super Spot? Fluffy Spirit? I don't know. But we won't settle for just that — we want titles

at the end of our show name! We want our names in the headlines! And we want everybody to point at us and say, "Hey, look, there goes that bonded dog-girl pair!"

— REBECCA RANDOLPH



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rebecca Randolph, of Fairfax, with her dog, LuLu, at the 2013 4H fair costume contest.



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PET CONNECTION

Becoming Best Friends

Frodo and Sam have become best friends – sort of. My husband and I adopted Frodo from Home Alone Cat Rescue several years ago. He is part Maine Coon and part American Bobtail, with a funny short tail. He may have been mistreated by a previous owner because he is afraid of everything, especially ceiling fans. He quickly became comfortable in our home as an “only cat.”

We adopted “Sam” in September of 2012. She was an adorable tabby kitten, part of a feral litter living outside of a restaurant in Washington D.C. Lee District School Board Member Tammy Kaufax and her two high school aged kids, Halle and Matthew, were fostering the litter as part of a school project.

Tammy showed me a photo of the kittens in August of 2012 during the Springfield Bridge Walk and I fell in love with the smallest kitten with tiger markings. As soon as Sam had gained enough weight to be adopted we brought her home as a companion for Frodo.

It took a few weeks for the two cats to get used to each other, but now they play together and chase each other around all the time. They are so cute together, especially when Sam hides behind the bedroom door and ambushes Frodo when he walks into the room. Animals add so much to your life!

— SHARON BULOVA, CHAIRMAN,
FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Sharon Bulova with her cats: “Animals add so much to your life!”

Caring for Aging Pets

Jason Overman of Springfield Animal Hospital shares some best practices.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

Even for those pet lovers who pay close attention to the health and well-being of their pets, it's not uncommon for owners to be unaware of when their pet is reaching the point of becoming a senior.

Because the lifespan of pets can vary, it's important to do extensive research, and to take pets to the vet at least once a year.

Generally, smaller dogs are considered seniors when they reach ages seven or eight, and larger dogs are considered seniors around age five or six, said Jason Overman, veterinarian and medical director at Springfield Animal Hospital.

“For dogs, it can vary depending on the breed,” he said.

Common health problems for older dogs include arthritis, dental disease, kidney problems, cancer, heart problems and more.

“It's important to look out for a change in appetite and water consumption, and generally any behavior they may be doing that they typically haven't before,” Overman said.

Dental diseases are common among dogs, so it's important for owners to start using dental products on their dogs as soon as possible.

“Most people don't really think about what's going on in their dog's mouth. They really don't ever look at it until we show them here at the vet. They're usually very surprised,” Overman said.

Cats are generally considered seniors around age 7. Common problems in older cats include hyperthyroidism, kidney disease and arthritis.

According to Overman, there are sev-



PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

Springfield Animal Hospital Medical Director Jason Overman, who has been working at the hospital since 2010, advises pet owners on how to care for an aging pet.

“For dogs, it's important to put down rugs on any hardwood floor areas, and on stairs, putting down runners is helpful.”

— Jason Overman, Springfield Animal Hospital

eral things pet owners can do to help assure that their older pets are comfortable.

“For dogs, it's important to put down rugs on any hardwood floor areas, and on stairs, putting down runners is helpful,” Overman said.

For cats, comfortable and heated beds can be helpful. Both dogs and cats appreciate a high-quality bed, Overman said. Overman also advises pet owners to avoid giving their pets any over the counter medications without first consulting a vet, and to avoid any human medications. “Cats can be very sensitive to these and it can lead to other problems,” Overman said.

Pet insurance is also crucial for pets, as it can be more difficult to get insurance when pets become older. Fish oil supplements are also helpful for pets as they get older.

Nutrition can help dogs and cats live healthier lives, said Nikki Logan, manager at natural pet food store Felix & Oscar in Springfield. “A lot of senior pets are overweight. Foods that are higher in fiber and have less artificial ingredients can help keep a pet's weight to a minimum,” Logan said.

Matt O'Leary, a longtime pet owner and employee at Felix & Oscar, stresses that when it comes to caring for an older pet, knowledge is power.

“The more you know about the food, the better off your pet will be. A lot of it has to do with genetics, but making sure the pet is eating well is a great way to prolong a happy and healthy life,” he said.

Overman advises pet owners to visit websites like the American Animal Hospital Association at www.aahanet.org to read more about caring for pets at every age.

PET CONNECTION

Meet Best Friends of Fairfax

Canine companions bring happiness into owners' lives.

BY CAITLIN BARBIERY
THE CONNECTION

Close friends and neighbors, Judy Schnoeblen and Laura Gunson of Fairfax, only become closer through their dogs, Hunter and Archie, who are also very close companions.

Goldendoodle Hunter, a large, fluffy, black dog, with a kind face belongs to the Schnoeblen family, and Mutt Archie, a large dog with brown and white hair is a member of the Gunson family. These two families have known each other for years, consequently Hunter and Archie have been friends since they were puppies.

"When they were small Hunter let Archie drag him across our front yard by his lip," says Judy.

Meme Joins Family

Frantically running everywhere and eager to explore beyond the confines of her leash, Bichon Frise puppy Meme is a handful for her owners Maria and Fred Ingham of Fairfax. Introducing a puppy into a home is never easy but Maria and Fred are a long-time dog owners.

"She is trying to learn and that is what's really important," says Maria. They had owned their previous dog Coco for many years before she passed away. "Coco was a good dog who never barked and loved people. We know that with time Meme will get there too," says Maria. With more energy than a toddler, Meme is still learning to not jump on strangers or bark at

"They always play together."

A very smart dog, Archie performs tricks and is a fast learner. Tricks ranging from a simple sit to a Namaste Bow are some of Arches many talents. "Archie is more of a guard dog, smart with a loud bark," says Laura.

Both dogs are well behaved and good natured and love to travel. In the car Hunter will get as close

to the driver's seat as possible, "he is my husband's copilot in the car," says Judy. Archie, a very curious dog, often finds himself in unusual

places. "Once on vacation he had jumped on to a jet ski," says Laura.

These two families spend a lot of time together and never forget to include Hunter and Archie. Great companions to each other and their owners, these two dogs lead full lives alongside their families.

"When they were small Hunter let Archie drag him across our front yard by his lip"

— Judy Schnoeblen

"As soon as i saw her I knew she was my little dog"

— Maria Ingham



PHOTO BY CAITLIN BARBIERY/THE CONNECTION

Neighbors, Judy Schnoeblen (left) and Laura Gunson— of Fairfax - walk their dogs Hunter and Archie after a large storm.



Struggling to keep her puppy Meme still, Maria Ingham of Fairfax lovingly holds her.

Ferreting for Fun

Local ninth grader appreciates playful nature of Steve and Skippy.

BY THOMAS FRIESTAD
THE CONNECTION

Commonly known for their playfulness and pungence, ferrets have earned themselves the moniker of "the clowns of the animal kingdom" from sources like Animal Planet. City of Fairfax resident Brandon Henry, 13, of Robinson Secondary has greatly enjoyed this aspect of his two ferrets, Steve and Skippy, for the past two years.

"I asked for them two years ago for Christmas, and ended up receiving them as a gift from my parents," Henry said. "At the time, my sister always called random things 'Steve,' so I decided to name one of the ferrets 'Steve,' and the other one was always hopping around, so I named it 'Skippy.'"

Henry said his expectation prior to receiving the ferrets that they would be difficult to raise was proven wrong.

"I expected raising them would be a lot harder than it actually is," Henry said. "Taking care of the ferrets is also a lot more fun than I originally thought. I enjoy having them because they're not exactly like a normal pet; they're not like cats or dogs. The way they walk, the noises they make, the way they play. . .it's just really funny any cool."

Henry said his favorite thing about taking care of two ferrets was how funny they are as household companions.

"They always hop around, making funny noises, and run away with stolen socks, although I don't know where they're taking them or why," Henry said. "You can take them out of their cage and sit in a room with them, or let them explore the whole house, just so long as they don't go anywhere they're not supposed to or chew on furniture and cords."

Henry said he must keep an eye on his ferrets, or else their funniness might lead to them getting lost.

"One of them escaped outside into the yard once, and later, the same one got into an air vent," Henry said. "We had to



PHOTO BY BRITTANY HENRY

Brandon Henry holds up one of his ferrets after giving it a bath. Henry said, despite popular belief, the ferrets do not smell all that bad, so long as they are bathed regularly.



PHOTO BY KIM HENRY

Kirstie Henry, 15, of Robinson Secondary smiles as one of the ferrets climbs her shoulder.

make clicking noises, like the way you would attract a cat, to get him back to us."

Henry said, oftentimes, when he tells friends he owns Steve and Skippy, his friends think his pets are weird at first, but later come to understand them as unique, interesting creatures.

"When I tell people at school that I have ferrets, a lot of the time, they'll say it's weird," Henry said. "They're a different sort of pet, but it's fun owning a different sort of pet. When my friends meet Steve and Skippy, they usually change their minds and enjoy playing with them. They learn that they're

pretty cool animals, they don't really smell so long as you bathe them and clean their cage, and they're really slinky-like as well."

Henry said he used to own a special ferret leash that he could attach to one of his ferrets' small collars to walk them like a dog.

"We used to walk the ferrets before we lost their leash; they enjoyed going outside and seeing all of the new stuff," Henry said. "Walking a ferret is much different from walking a dog because you can't tell a ferret to 'come' or anything like that. You have to tug on them so they know where to move, but you have to be more



PHOTO BY KIM HENRY

From inside their cage, Steve and Skippy sip from their specialized water bottle.



PHOTO BY KIM HENRY

Swim Coach Brittany Henry of Fairfax facilitates a playdate between ferrets Steve and Skippy and Samson the dog.

gentle with them as well because it's a smaller creature."

Henry said his experiences with Steve and Skippy at a young age increase the likelihood of him experimenting with other unorthodox pets in the future.

"I think I see myself getting more ferrets later on because of how much I enjoy my two ferrets right now," Henry said. "They have made me more interested in looking into weirder pets as well, because they've shown me that they can be just as entertaining to keep as regular ones."

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Joy of 'Hide and Seek'

Walking down the street, being dragged in opposite directions by her dogs Sandi and Bella, Jackie Louie of Fairfax is an adamant animal lover.

"They are always there ready to play," says Jackie, who enjoys spending time with her two dogs and one cat. Her husband and children also have fun with the pets and consider them members of the family. Loyal and kind Sandi and Bella are full of energy and bring excitement to the house.

"Whenever someone new comes to the house they love to play 'hide and seek' to impress them," says Jackie, "it is hilarious to watch." Jackie explained that Bella, a much smaller dog than Sandi, can fit into smaller spaces, and despite Sandi's size she will still attempt to hide with Bella. Clearly the two dogs, though different breeds and sizes, are close companions.

Jackie views her pets as great stress relievers. They make her life more fun and bring happiness to her every day.

"I believe you can't ever be unhappy with pets," says Jackie. Having pets and being part of the community of pet owners also introduces people to others with similar interests.



Just finishing up an early morning walk, owner Jackie Louie, of Fairfax, is ready to start the day with her dogs Bella (left) and

"I have never had a close friend that does not own a pet" says Jackie. According to Jackie, dog owners have the best companions and also make for the greatest friends.

— CAITLIN BARBIERY

Loyal, Fun and Friendly

Working from home in a little yellow house with a picket fence, Christopher Ekvall of Fairfax is constantly surrounded by his closest companions, his three dogs Basil, Winston and Esther.

Small, slow moving dogs, with ears that hang low Basil and Winston are both Basset Hounds and Esther, a lively, light colored dog, is a Beagle. Ekvall can almost always be found out with the dogs, either playing in the yard or out on a walk.

"They are my exercise and my daily fun," says Ekvall. "Bassetts and Beagles are great dogs that I think everyone should have." The dogs provide Ekvall with unconditional companionship, which is what he values most. Basil, Winston and Esther are part of Ekvall's family and never fail to improve his day.

"They are always playing and happy and they make me happy," says Ekvall. Every day for Ekvall and his dogs is exciting, they provide entertainment, protection and "they are fun to look at." Living with his Basil, Winston and Esther there is



Basil (front), Esther (middle) and Winston (back) are eager to continue their walk with their owner Christopher Ekvall of Fairfax.

never a dull moment, they are loyal, fun, friendly dogs and lifelong companions for Ekvall.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE LEWIS

Daniel Tomlin, a family friend, gazes at Cory the corn snake.

Snake? Snake?!

Lewis family cares for female corn snake.

BY THOMAS FRIESTAD
THE CONNECTION

Indiana Jones may not enjoy slithering serpents all that much, but the Lewis family, on the other hand, welcomed corn snake Cory into the house 10 years ago, and has been caring for her ever since.

"When we got her, she was the size of a pencil," teacher Louise Lewis of Fairfax said. "Now, she's about four feet long."

Lewis said Cory was originally acquired from a reptile show in Maryland, after which she was used to help her son Jamie complete a requirement for the Reptiles and Amphibians Boy Scout merit badge. She said Cory quickly became established as a permanent fixture in the household not long afterward.

"For the merit badge, you're supposed to care for a reptile or an amphibian for 30 days," Lewis said. "We could have just borrowed someone's turtle or frog, but I never bothered to read the requirements. [The family] grew attached to this snake. They had planned all along to get and keep a snake, they just didn't tell me that plan."

Lewis said Cory is an appealing pet to keep because of her low-maintenance nature, as well as her captivating movements.

"You defrost a mouse a couple of times a week and feed her, and that's about it," Lewis said. "When she comes out, she's really pretty and kind of cool, the way she moves around and holds herself up. We've got some branches and a fake hippo doll in the cage, and she coils and



Daniel Tomlin reaches into Cory's cage to pick her up.

wraps around those as well."

Lewis also detailed the interesting nature of the Cory's feeding process.

"You defrost the mouse, then you wave it in front of her like a live thing, so she attacks it and swallows it, working it down in big gulps," Lewis said. "The jaw comes apart and swallows this huge thing, bigger than her head; it's fascinating, how she gets her jaws apart and pulls it down."

Lewis said her family may look into getting other reptilian pets like Cory sometime in the future.

"We probably will [get other reptiles] because Cory's very low maintenance," Lewis said. "We've had parakeets that have died, hamsters that have died, a mouse that had a seizure, a dog that got sick and died, a cat I got allergic to. We've kind of had psycho pets, and a snake seems to fit right in."

PET CONNECTION



Princess Diana

This is me and my newly-adopted spaniel, Princess Diana. I fostered her for a year before giving in and adopting her from the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation.

— MARCIA TIERSKY, FAIRFAX



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—Bernard M. Baruch

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This is my father and I, with my three foster failures (fostered dogs that I adopted) from the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation. The little black furball on the left is Zorro, Princess Diana is on Dad's lap and Gryphon is my right-hand dog.

This is Zorro and Gryphon, both adopted from the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation.



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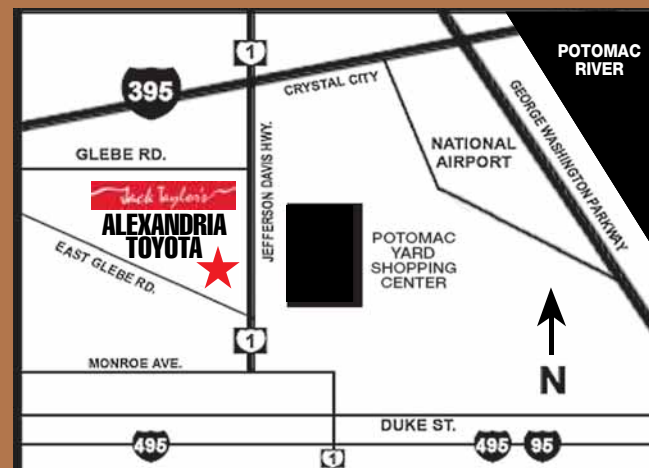


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