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ELECTION 2014

Gerry Gets Things Done

Democratic incumbent Connolly fends off Republican challenger Suzanne Scholte.

> BY TIM PETERSON The Connection

s Huey Lewis and the News' "Power of Love" poppy ballad led a soundtrack infused with '80s pop and modern country music, the mood at the DoubleTree Crystal City hotel in Arlington ebbed and flowed between elated cheers and frustrated boos.

Supporters, families and campaign staff of democratic candidates Mark Warner, Gerry Connolly and Don Beyer packed the rectangular event hall on Nov. 4. Two massive projection screens on either side of the main stage depicted race results from

around the country, gradually revealing the outcome that republicans had gained control of the Senate.

VICTORIES in the flesh answered the blow to democratic dominance. An impassioned Congressman Jim Moran started the evening introducing Don Beyer, who won the 8th District representative seat with 62.95 percent of the votes, according to the Virginia Public Access Project (vpap.org).

"Regardless of what may happen tonight, we don't know what the composition of the senate is going to be," said Moran.

"But what we do know is that this great nation will become more inclusive," he continued. "We will become more just. We will become more environmentally sustainable. Because it is our optimism, the optimism of the democratic party, our perseverance, that will continue to push this country forward."

While the onlookers and multimedia journalists from around Virginia hung on every tenth of a percentage point update in the Mark Warner-Ed Gillespie race, incumbent congressman Gerry Connolly gave the blue population another reason to cheer.

cepting the podium from Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, "to be able to say for the fourth time, I get to represent the wonderful people of the 11th district of Virginia."

Though republican challenger Suzanne Scholte hung around in the early reports of voting returns, Connolly won comfortably



Gerry Connolly's wife Cathy and daughter Caitlin Rose joined him on stage at the Mark Warner party held in the DoubleTree Crystal City Hotel in Arlington.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION



Connolly defeated Republican Suzanne Scholte to secure a fourth term in the House of Representatives.

"It is a great feeling," he said after ac- with 56.77 percent of the vote to Scholte's 40.30 percent, according to VPAP.

> In Fairfax County, the unofficial returns showed Connolly receiving 82,034 votes and Scholte with 60,133. Libertarian candidate Marc Harrold garnered 2,605 and Green candidate Joe Galdo received 1,405. Scholte planned to hold a party at the Em-



Photo by Vernon Miles/The Connection

Despite the election still being too close to call, U.S. Sen. Mark Warner gave his supporters at the Doubletree Hotel in Crystal City a full smile and a victory speech on Tuesday night, Nov. 4.

bassy Suites Springfield. She didn't respond to a request to comment.

CONNOLLY **ECHOED** Moran's acknowledgement of the Senate turnover, but alluded to hope for a Warner win.

"It may be a long night," he said, "but we're going to have another victory at this podium.

The re-elected congressman then addressed the need for more unity, across the board. "We're a divided country," said Connolly. "It's not just Congress that's divided; our communities are divided, our states are divided, and that's because we

ELECTION RESULTS

U.S. Senate

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D), 1,066,783, 49.12% Ed W. Gillespie, (R), 1,049,524, 48.33% Robert C. Sarvis, Libertarian, 53,414, 2.46% Write In, 1,968, 0.09%

VA 8th District U.S. House of Representatives

Democrat Donald S. Beyer Jr., 127,981, 62.95% Republican Micah K. Edmond, 64,175, 31.56% Independent Gwendolyn J. Beck, 5,420, 2.67% Libertarian Jeffrey S. Carson, 4,403, 2.17% Independent Green Gerard C. "Gerry" Blais III, 962,

VA 10th District U.S. House of Representatives

Republican Barbara J. Comstock, 125,643, 56.50% Democrat John W. Foust, 89,706, 40.34% Libertarian William B. Redpath, 3,392, 1.53% Independent Brad A. Eickholt, 2,433, 1.09% Independent Green Dianne L. Blais, 942, 0.42% Write In, 261, 0.12%

VA 11th District U.S. House of

RepresentativesU.S. Rep. Gerald E. "Gerry" Connolly (D), 106,726,

Suzanne K. Scholte (R), 75,760, 40.3% Marc M. Harrold (Libertarian), 3,263, 1.74% Joe Galdo (Green), 1,737, 0.92% Write In, 527, 0.28%

SOURCE: VPAP.org, unofficial results

Fairfax County Transportation Bond \$76

million for pedestrian projects; \$6 million for bike improvements; \$16 million for spot road improvements. \$100 million total. Yes, 214,344

No, 83,999

City of Fairfax Advisory Referendum

regarding length of term for Offices of Mayor, City Council and School Board, and whether the term of office should be increased from two vears to four years.

* All results unofficial as reported morning of Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014.

share some values and we differ in a lot of others. The elections are always about contrasts and choices."

In an interview after his speech, Connolly said he believes he was running more against a "climate than an opponent," one which he said was full of contrasts.

"Do we believe it's a woman's right to make choices about her own body or not?" his speech continued. "Do we think we need to revamp the immigration system in America and make it fair for everyone or not? Do we believe in global climate change or not? Because if the answer is yes to those and many other questions, then actually we have a responsibility to do something about

Delegate Mark Sickles was among numerous elected officials and staffers in the crowd. "Gerry was real strong, and it's been a tougher year for democrats," he said. "He's working hard for our region and I'm just thrilled for him really."

Connolly candidly remarked after his speech, "Hubert Humphrey once said, 'Defeat, like victory, is a passing phenomenon in politics.' You have to have that perspective."

Warner and Gillespie were still less than one point apart by the end of the event, with Warner clinging to a paper-thin lead. He declared victory, though Gillespie didn't concede the race.

SEE ELECTION 2014, PAGE 8

Proposal to Swap Offices for Condos

Part of a plan to redevelop Mantua Professional Center.

By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

early four acres of the Mantua Professional Center on Pickett Road are available for development, and the IDI Group Cos. hopes to build 80 condos there off Silver King Court. Details of the plan were presented during the Oct. 7 work session of the Fairfax City Council.

The site's zoned commercial planned development, meaning both office and condo uses may exist there. And the 3.8 acres on which IDI wants to build are currently vacant and, for the most part, heavily wooded.

"Instead of the 55,000 square feet of office space that could be built there, the applicant is proposing 80 condo units in two, four-story buildings," explained Paul Nabti, the City's senior planner. "There'd be underground parking underneath each building," plus a small surface lot and other parking spaces.

OPEN SPACE would be preserved, and 317 total parking spaces would be provided – 270 for the residents and the rest for the existing offices. The site currently has 181



Artist's rendition of the proposed site layout showing the two, new condo buildings.

spaces, plus some office buildings and the New School of Northern Virginia.

"The Comprehensive Plan recommends retail, office and hotel or mixed uses, but Pickett Road has recently become more residential," said Nabti. "Some issues to consider are the parking-space location for the

existing businesses, off-site stormwater impacts and shared maintenance [of the site]."

To move forward with its plans, IDI needs City Council's approval so it may obtain the needed General Development Plan and Comprehensive Plan amendments, plus a potential zoning-text amendment. "Our company was founded in 1975," said IDI Vice-President and counsel, Enrico Cecchi. "This would be our first project in the City of Fairfax." He also noted that his father developed the Watergate and other condo communities in the Washington Metropolitan area, as well as mixed-use projects including the Rosslyn and Ballston metro centers.

Basically, he said, "This is a redevelopment of the Mantua Professional Center." And although the site was previously approved for five other office buildings, he said they're "not economically feasible" now. "The recent activity around this area is compatible with residential," said Cecchi. "So we're proposing to replace the five office buildings with two condo buildings.

These condo buildings would be constructed on the area formerly envisioned for three of the office buildings. The land on which the other two office buildings would have been constructed will, instead, be preserved as open space. It would become a village green to be enjoyed by the residents, school and existing-office community.

"There's a lack of condo development in this part of the City," said Cecchi. "So this plan creates a desired, mixed-use environment. And because of the open-space pres

SEE OFFICES, PAGE 5

Exceptional Schools for Exceptional Students School Fair

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WEEK IN FAIRFAX

'Vision Fairfax Mason' Charrette

The City of Fairfax community and the Mason Nation are invited to attend some or all of a three-day planning workshop, or charrette, Nov. 6-8 by, the City of Fairfax and GMU. The event will explore various short- and long-term visions for the City's historic downtown area. It'll deal with several aspects of downtown planning, including transportation, community development/design issues, economic development and housing. The Nov. 6-7 sessions will be held at the Stacy C. Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Hwy. in Fairfax. The Nov. 8 session will be held at City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. On Nov. 6 at noon, speaker Chris Leinberger will discuss "Back to the Future: Downtown Fairfax Returns as a Walkable Urban Place." The complete agenda is at www.fairfaxva.gov/VisionFairfaxMason.

SafeAssured ID Kits

City of Fairfax police and the Optimist Club of Central Fairfax will prepare SafeAssured ID kits for children Saturday, Nov. 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the police station, 3730 Old Lee Hwy. Appointments are required; call 703-273-2889.

Donate New Children's Coats

The City of Fairfax Professional Firefighters and Paramedic Local 2702 and the City of Fairfax Fire Department have partnered with Operation Warm to provide brand-new, American-made, winter coats for local children in need. Not to be confused with a coat collection drive, this

SEE WEEK, PAGE 7

Offices for Condos

From Page 4

ervation and reduced number of parking spaces needed, the amount of impervious surface would be significantly reduced."

Jim Heffner of Heffner Architects said the condo buildings would have pitched roofs and differing roof planes to make them more visually appealing. And, he added, "We can save some of the trees to provide a nice screen between the road and the buildings."

Attorney David Houston, representing IDI, said the applicant will need a special exception to change from the current four units per acre allowed to 21 units per acre. The parking ratio would also need to shift from two spaces per unit to 1.6 spaces per unit.

"I'm pleased that you have a very solid reputation and do great products," Mayor Scott Silverthorne told Cecchi. "This is conceptual – to determine whether you'd like to move forward with creating some residential uses along the Pickett Road corridor."

Councilwoman Ellie Schmidt liked the concept of condos, rather than apartments, plus the tree preservation. However, she added, "We have some water-management issues in that part of town, so I urge you to pay attention to that."

Councilman Jeff Greenfield thanked Cecchi for his interest in developing here. "It seems like a lot for that small area, so size and scale will be important, as will high-quality building materials," he said. Greenfield also asked if the existing buildings would receive a "facelift," and Cecchi said it's not part of the plan, but is something IDI could look at.

"Stormwater management is critical," said Councilman Michael DeMarco. "There's currently a right [turn] into the site and a right out. Will there be a left out, going south onto Pickett?" Houston said yes, adding that the entrances and exits won't change.

"I also endorse the condos on this site," said Councilman David Meyer. "You should maximize the high-end architectural elements of these buildings, plus the advantages of the site, and be careful not to remove too many trees."

AGREEING, Councilwoman Janice Miller called the project "intriguing" and said Fairfax needs more condos. She also asked about the size and number of bedrooms the units would have. Cecchi said they'll be 1,200 square feet; about 20 percent will be one-bedroom; 60 percent, two-bedroom and 15-20 percent, three-bedroom.

"You all have the green light to proceed," said Silverthorne. "I think there's an opportunity for a phase two, should it work and sell well." Regarding the architecture, though, he said, "I'd like to see something a little bit more contemporary or blending well with Pickett's Reserve and Barrister's Keep and flowing well toward Fairfax Circle. The density's great and will blend well with the adjacent, residential neighborhoods."

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OPINION

Sometimes Perception Really Isn't Reality

By Joe Meyer EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/SHELTER House, Inc.

airfax County is home to one of the wealthiest populations in the country. Unbeknownst to many, the county is also home to the second largest population of homelessness in this region. In fact, more than 1,200

residents of Fairfax County are without stable and safe homes.

Homelessness in Fairfax County is a real problem and many cannot fathom an issue of this nature plaguing their community. There is a need for greater understanding of homelessness in Fairfax County. Some myths must be dispelled, especially if we want to end these cycles.

Homeless doesn't mean jobless. The 2014 Point in Time Data for Fairfax County states 59 percent of homeless adults in families are

tion states more than two thirds of Americans live paycheck-to-paycheck.

Shelter House is working to cure the epi-



demic of homelessness in our community. There are differing opinions on how to treat the symptoms, but Shelter House knows the most effective cure for homelessness is prevention. It requires an understanding of the root causes and a compassionate approach. Programs like Housing

First and Rapid Rehousing have proven most effective with the clients.

It is clear the emergency shelter system can only accommodate a small fraction of the growing number of homeless families. Many are forced to live in places unsafe or unsuitable for human habitation. Others move place to place with children, staying intermittently with others. Emergency shelters cannot provide intensive long-term assistance necessary to stabilize lives. While transitional housing provides assistance, families respond better to service interventions from a stable, permanent housing base. Thus the reason HUD's Housing First is a viable option.

SHELTER HOUSE is also finding success in

HUD's Rapid Rehousing Program. The program targets those who would find themselves homeless if not for the assistance. Financial assistance and supportive services are provided to prevent individuals and families from ever becoming homeless.

FAMILIES DON'T WISH TO BE HOME-

LESS. Many aren't interested in handouts, just a hand up. Accountability for a portion of their rent can help to build them up after being torn down by the weight of their world. Case management, financial literacy classes, and credit counseling gets them back on track. They are challenged and supported in developing realistic plans they can implement and see through. There's dignity in the ability to support your family in your own home. This program gives them that dignity. HUD reported 83 percent were still stably housed after two years.

People who are homeless are not a nuisance. We are all part of a community. If we work to change our perception, we can change their

If you want to be part of the solution in ending homelessness in your community please visit shelterhouse.org.

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November Is Adoption Month

Here's how you can help find a forever family for children and teens waiting in foster care.

> By Joan Brady THE CONNECTION

f you are lucky, you don't know what it's like to live in the precarious limbo that defines foster care in this country. A world where you go to sleep at night, not knowing if, in the morning, your social worker is going to show up and tell you that it's time to move, again. A world where each move is faced with the desperate hope that this new family will be the one who commits.

Not everyone is in a position or even interested in adoption. But anyone can help spread the word about specific children who are available for adoption. You could be the person who helps to connect a child to the family who will be there to support and cheer him/ her on through life.

November is National Adoption Month. Consider that regionally, there are about 3,000 children in our region without being adopted







foster care. About 300 teenagers age-out of foster care from around

or reunited with family every year. Three hundred may sound like a small number, but that's 300 rudderless kids every year, dumped into society. (Sources: The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS); The National Capital Region Annual Report on Foster Care by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, 2013.)

The Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG) and I have teamed up to create The PicMe Project. Each child is featured in a one-minute slideshow that introduces his/her story. Leveraging social media to distribute the slideshows, we hope that someone will see each story and want to learn more.

To succeed, we need a network of people. People willing to take just a few moments each month to share each child's story with his/her own network through Facebook, Twitter, friends and family and religious and professional organizations. For just a few minutes every month, you might be the person who helps to connect a child to his/her forever fam-

If you are interested in joining The PicMe Project network, con-Havlovick: tact Anne anne.havlovick@gmail.com

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

WEEK IN FAIRFAX

From Page 5

program is centered on only new coats and jackets. Bring donations of new coats and jackets to Fire Station 3 at 4081 University Drive in Fairfax. For more information, go to www.operationwarm.org/

Focus on Pedestrian Safety

Fairfax County police have just begun a new pedestrian-education initiative. Officers will distribute safety fliers to residents they observe violating pedestrian -safety laws. Over the past three years, more than 400 pedestrians have been struck and injured in crashes on county roadways. Typically, October is the highest month for pedestrian-involved incidents. According to Capt. Mike Grinnan, commander of the Traffic Unit, "This increase is likely due to a combination of factors, including decreased daylight hours." He urges walkers, motorists, and bicyclists to pay close attention to pedestrian-safety rules, such as crossing with a light and using a crosswalk. Grinnan also noted that some residents are running in the roadway where there are sidewalks, sometimes two or three people abreast. "This simply isn't a safe practice," he said. "Wherever there are sidewalks available, they should be used."

However, police stress that pedestrians and motorists are equally responsible for observing laws and safety practices related to pedestrian right-of-way. For more information about pedestrian safety, go to http://www.dmv.virginia.gov/safety/#programs/ pedestrian/index.asp.

Child Carseat Checks

City residents may have their children's carseats checked or installed by the City of Fairfax Fire Department. For an appointment, call 703-385-7830.

Needed: Used Laptops

Our Daily Bread is in need of a few gently used laptops no more than three years old. They'll enable ODB to have more office volunteers during the busy fall and holiday season. Anyone who'd like to donate a laptop in good condition should contact Mila Cobos at 703-273-8829.

Substance Abuse Forums to be Held Nov. 10 and 18 in FCPS

The signs and symptoms of teenage drug abuse, the actions parents can take, and where to find supportive resources will be shared at an upcoming "Protect Against Substance Abuse" community program, scheduled for Monday, Nov. 10, at South County High School, and Tuesday, Nov. 18, at Fairfax High School. The nonprofit Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County (UPC) and its work group, PROTECT (Parents Reaching out to Educate Communities Together), will present this educational program.

The Nov. 10 forum, hosted by the South County High School PTSO, begins at 7 p.m. in the silver box theater. The Nov. 18 program, hosted by the Fairfax High School PTSA, will begin at 7 p.m. in the choral room. Middle school and high school parents are encouraged to attend with their children.

"Our program makes an impact on each audience because of the very personal stories of the dangers of substance abuse told by our panel of parents, young adults in recovery, and professionals working in this area," said coordinator.

Paula King, intake officer with Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, will moderate both forums. Panelists will include Chris Leibowitz, a young adult in recovery; Bill Fulton, school resource officer coordinator, Fairfax County Police Department; and David Edleman, clinical supervisor, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Service Board Youth and Family Team.

For more information, visit www.unified prevention coalition.org.

Jennifer Lewis-Cooper, UPC's PROTECT



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Election 2014

BY TIM PETERSON THE CONNECTION

hen it comes to voting, paper is the past, the present and the future. The assistant chief election officer at Robinson Secondary school James Emery Jr. of Fairfax said paper is too valuable as a voting record to abandon.

"It's so there's a verifiable means to do a recount," he said. "You can run it all through the machines again. There's a paper trail: It's in the box, saved and archived."

The touch-screen voting machines available in previous more difficult. And trying to facilitate voting with both options down the entire process.

This year, paper is king across Virginia.

"They feel like for accountability purposes that's the way to go," said Chief Election Officer at Robinson Teri Ayres of Fairfax.

Working with only paper ballots requires a little more labor on the part of the election staff to prepare and make sure no one gets a double ballot. But still, she said, "We've seen lines go a little bit faster."

Chief Election Officers Bill Patterson at West Springfield High School and Ravi Udeshi at Centreville High School experienced similar levels of smooth operation thanks to the single voting option.

"The ballot box is new, it's flawless," said Patterson. a Springfield resident. "Things have been pretty notched 47.8 percent with 35,797 in-person votes and

Ayres said despite sticking with paper ballots, a new counting machine is helping improve efficiency this year. The DS200 Digital Scan Voting Systems box chines; it actually creates a digital image of both sides Robert C Sarvis' 6,652.

process voters. (From left) Chea Belfort of Burke, Pradeep Chaturvedi of Springfield, Jeanette Hantke of West Springsimultaneously led to confusion field, Vivina McVay of Burke, Chris Bolognese of Springfield for some citizens, which slowed and Nour Nourey of Alexandria.

of the ballot, and counts that.

None of the three locations' officials experienced many voters having trouble complying with the new people were informed, but some just weren't sure improvements and facilities. what the law stated," said Patterson.

after the polls closed. Official returns won't be available until later in the month. But according to the unofficial report, Braddock district had a 46 percent turnout, including 32,526 in-person votes and 2,975 absentees; Lee district saw 41.4 percent, with 25,815 in-person and 2,046 absentee; while Springfield 3,659 absentees.

The county swung hard for incumbent democrat Senator Mark Warner, with (again the unofficial report from Fairfax County) 175,687 votes to republidoesn't just make a head count like previous ma- can challenger Ed Gillespie's 122,790 and libertarian

What was the main issue for you in the election? How did you vote and why?

Curt and Bev Gilbert of Fairfax

He said, "Between the economy, border security, truth in government. There are a lot of things we haven't seen in the last six years. I voted republican across the board."



Kim Appich of Fairfax

"There are so many, but all the women's issues were important to me. The commercials lately really brought that to light. I'd rather not share how I voted."

Paper Trail Single voting method helps streamline the process. Fairfax City Votes

Voters turn out for mid-term election.

By Abigail Constantino The Connection

on Chu, of Fairfax City, entered the polling booth at Christ Lutheran Church on Meredith Drive, ready to experience civic duty in action. Except he is only 14. Accompanied by his grandparents, Chu is there to help them translate and understand, as they vote in Virginia's 11th Congressional District, on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

senatorial candidates—Incumbent Democrat Mark R. Warner, Republican Ed W. Gillespie, and Libertarian ID but he lives around the corner so he went home Robert C. Sarvis. For the House of Representatives, incumbent Democrat Gerald E. "Gerry" Connolly. Republican Suzanne K. Scholte, Green Party Joe F. Galdo, and Libertarian Marc M. Harrold, were the candidates for Congress in the 11th District.

spouse of any member of the armed forces who was killed in action, and another to allow the Board of identification legislation. "I think the majority of Supervisors to acquire funding for transportation

Christ Lutheran Church, as well as voting precincts Fairfax County released its unofficial returns data at Fairfax High School and Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, reported a steady flow of voters.

"It's a consistent turn out," said Christ Lutheran Church precinct election official David Gessert. "We've been having a nice steady flow throughout...about a voter and a half every minute.

Deputy chief of precinct 5, Fairfax High School, Matt Prestone said that almost 700 voters have gone through. "It's been steady," he said. At the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center precinct the busiest time as of 4 p.m. was from 10-11 a.m. "It should pick up slightly after work but not a whole lot," said election officer Sam Fisher.

All three precincts have had no major issue with the new voter identification requirements, which demand voters to provide a form of identification from a list of acceptable forms of identification. But each Voters in the 11th District chose from among three of the three precincts encountered one or two people who did not have proper ID. "One person forgot his and came back," said Gessert.

Unlike most of Fairfax County, the city of Fairfax did not use the new voting machines, which used a paper ballot that was also scanned. Instead, it used the machines used in recent previous elections. "Tried Two referendums were also on the ballot—one to and true," said Prestone. He said that the reason the exempt from taxation of real property the surviving county used the new machines is to make sure that there is a paper ballot.

The economy was a prime factor in voters' decisions. Johnette Peyton, of Fairfax, said she wants to make sure Northern Virginia's economy rebounds. But fulfilling one's civic duty was also prominent. Jake right to vote. "I think we take it too lightly," he said.



Carolyn Witek leaves precinct 6, Fairfax High School after voting on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

Photos by Abigail Constantino/The Connection



Precinct 6 at Christ Lutheran Church on Meredith Drive is one of the most central and easily accessible toward Quartuccio believes that everyone should practice the voters who are handicapped, said election official David

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What was the main issue for you in the election? How did you vote and why?

Tammy Pruett, with daugther Eva, 9, of Fairfax City

"I'm still irritated about the shutdown from last October. I'm not going to vote for anyone who thinks that it's a good idea to shut the government down. The government needs to function so people can work and services can be provided. So, I will not vote for a party that's gonna hold

Ana Cerezo,

daughter, 7, son, 11, Fairfax City

Mainly it's my kids

sure that I cast my

- Abigail

CONSTANTINO

vote today.'













economy [and] revitalizing it and making sure that Northern Virginia's economy rebounds. I'm going to vote Democratic because Connolly and I'm not that familiar with the other people."



Rebecca Orozco, Fairfax City

"Political party, age and past

looking out for the needs that I'm

most concerned about—healthcare

voting record. I vote mainly

Democratic. They seem to be

Lilia Oberman, Fairfax City vote. I guess it boils down to right to life. I'm not a pro-choice person. I want to preserve our country to be a godly country. We're being far removed from God, it's just being





Allen Griffith, Fairfax City

Senate. I think he's done a good

job... and I look forward to him

serving another six years.

"I did support Mark Warner for

Jake Quartuccio, Fairfax City "Reducing deficit spending, let fewer social programs, too. I don't know if that's the best allocation of our money. I think there needs to be more empirical studies to assess whether welfare works. I think social security should be eliminated and poor old people should be put onto welfare, instead." He voted Republican but leans towards libertarian principles.

Entertainment

Irresistible American Music from WWII Era

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra presents "I'll Be Seeing You."

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

t was a golden age for popular music, even as the guns of war were loudly sound ing. It was the era of music by Gershwin, Kern, Carmichael, Ellington done up to perfection by touring Big Bands. It was a time when some couples danced together and others kept in touch by letter with return address from faraway places in Europe or the Pacific.

Now the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of principal pops conductor Luke Frazier, is bringing those days to life with tunes from the 1940s. It promises to be an evening of enduring musical numbers and narrative bringing emotions of love, longing, loneliness and hope.

"We wanted to offer pops programs to round out our concert season with offerings of familiar



Fairfax Symphony Orchestra musicians.

music," said Frazier. "This program was particularly interesting in that it is based on real letters" written between Frazier's grandparents during World War II.

The show will include two singers; Broadway artist, Stanley Bahorek, who will be playing the role of Frazier's grandfather and up-and-coming star, Hayley Travers who will be playing the role of Frazier's grandmother. The concert will be semi-staged with the singers and the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) musicians joined together.

"This is a perfect program for new audiences to the FSO in that it offers a variety of musical styles along with a story that so many people of many different generations can connect," said Frazier. "Everyone knows the feeling of budding relationships and this show explores those feelings through very entertaining and familiar music and stories.

"I love to create programs that are not only musical experiences for audience members but personal experiences as well. Every program I create has a story that

Where and When

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra presents "I'll Be Seeing You" at the Harris Theater, George Mason University, 4400 University, Drive, Fairfax. Performance: Saturday, Nov. 8, at 8 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$60. Call 888-945-1468 or visit http://cfa.gmu.edu/calendar/1774/

allows audiences to connect to everything happening on stage," added Frazier.

For those less familiar with Frazier, beyond the FSO he directs and conducts performances around the country and has worked with luminaries such as Kevin Spacey, Chita Rivera, Darren Criss of Glee to Broadway's Lea Salonga.

"Stories of love, separation and longing are timeless. I want the audience to be able to recollect memories from their own lives as this story is universal," noted Frazier

Take it all in, music, singing, narrative; let yourself be swept away by this special gift from the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra at Mason's Harris Theater. You may well have your own family stories to remember, especially as Veteran's Day approaches.

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 greent

THROUGH FRIDAY/NOV. 3 Adventures in Learning. 9:30

a.m.-2:45 p.m. Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. This program is open to all adults age 50 or better. Registrants bring a bag lunch and stay for a full day of classes/activities and socializing, or pick and choose the classes that interest them the most. \$30. www.scfbva.org or 703-323-

THROUGHWEDNESDAY/DEC.31

War on the Doorstep: Fairfax Militia in the War of 1812. Exhibition. The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway. Open Tue.-Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free tours at 1 p.m. 703-591-0560.

THROUGH SUNDAY/FEB. 8, 2015

Dressing for the Occasion: An Exhibition of Costumes and Textiles Representing Fairfax Personalities and Events. Exhibition. Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center, 10209 Main Stree, Fairfax. Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 703-385-8414

FRIDAY/NOV. 7

Martha Graham Dance Company. 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets: \$28-\$46. For more information call 888.045-2468

SATURDAY/NOV. 8

Annual Christmas Craft
Bazaar. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Annandale United Methodist
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jewelry, ornaments, glass art,
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wear, pins greeting cards,
needle work, children clothes,
fabric art and blankets.

Fairfax County's 10th Annual History Conference. 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. The theme of the conference is "Fire, Flight & Fury!" The War of 1812 in Fairfax County-200 years later.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra presents "I'll Be Seeing You" by Luke Frazier. 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts,

University's Center for the Arts 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. For more information call 888-945-2468.

Fairfax County - 10th Annual

History Conference "Fire, Flight & Fury – The War of 1812 200 Years Later."
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Speakers will present the history of the War of 1812 and its impact on Fairfax County. Admission registration

is \$20. No registrations will be accepted at the door. A SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

'Uniform' Explores Hard Choices

Mason Hillel features Holocaust stories.

By Abigail Constantino The Connection

laywright Aaron Sulkin narrowed his eyes as he watched scenes he wants the cast to repeat during rehearsal of his play "Uniform" to be featured in Mason Hillel's Expressions of the Holocaust, Storytellers on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at George Mason University's Johnson Center Cinema in Fairfax.

He called out "Hold" to stop the rehearsal and often consulted with the cast—Caty Bensen, Brandon Herlig, Eric Schlein and Sam Taylor. "Does that feel weird?" he would ask the actors, when he saw a scene he felt needed to be performed differently. Bensen replaces Brittany Martz, who played the role of Zsuzsanna at the Capital Fringe Festival last July.

The rehearsal is collaborative between Sulkin and the cast. As the actors delved into the play, Sulkin remained silent, watching



Aaron Sulkin, seated, and, from left, Caty Bensen, Sam Taylor, Eric Schlein, and Brandon Herlig, discuss the changes in performance for "Uniform," which will be shown on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at the Johnson Center Cinema in Fairfax.

intently. The intensity of "Uniform"—a story about three Jewish siblings hiding in Hungary and the decision they have to make to trust a Nazi officer help them escape—becomes evident during these uninterrupted segments. "That's so good," Sulkin said, at the end of a pivotal scene.

Sulkin got the inspiration for his play two years ago, while a student at George Mason University, from his encounter at Temple Beth Torah, in Chantilly, with Kenneth Fried's father, a Holocaust survivor. He also wanted to write about people and their behavior when they have to make difficult choices—a "real picture of humanity in a really, really extreme situation," said Sulkin.

The three siblings have to make the difficult decision whether to trust Erik, the Nazi officer, who has promised to help them. However, Erik also has to make a decision to help the siblings or turn against them. Coloring each character's choices are issues of trust and loss.

Taylor, who plays Erik the Nazi officer, said that he would believe his character. "He's quite persuasive and I think I would follow him," he said. Ambiguity is an undisguised mechanism of the play. No one is really good or bad, said Sulkin. "Everyone is kind of the same, forced into this horrible circumstance."

"Arts have a way to communicate things that other ways maybe don't to some people," said Laura Fargotstein, a member of the community committee at Mason Hillel. "It's important to have events like [Expressions] to keep what happened in the forefront of people's minds, to feel it in their bones, to hear personal stories," she said.

Expressions of the Holocaust, Storytellers will feature Sulkin's play, a documentary, and a panel of Holocaust survivors. Admission is free to George Mason students, and costs \$36 to the public. For more information, visit http://hillel.gmu.edu/2014/10/05/expressions/.

WELLBEING

Mason Professors Win Virginia Center of Aging Grant

Funding will be used to study Alzheimer's disease.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

wo George Mason University professors recently won a prestigious and competitive grant that they hope will lead them closer to success in their fight against Alzheimer's disease.

Professor Joseph J. Pancrazio, chair of the Department of Bioengineering, and Professor Robin Couch, an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, were awarded grants from the Alzheimer's and Related Diseases Research Award Fund, which is administered by the Commonwealth of Virginia's Center on Aging.

"I am very appreciative to the Virginia Center of Aging for giving us the opportunity to pursue



PHOTOS BY EVAN CANTWELL/GMU CREATIVE SERVICES

Robin Couch

this new line of potentially high impact research," said Pancrazio.

Although they are using different approaches, both Pancrazio and Couch are studying ways to defeat or slow down the progression of Alzheimer's disease, which Couch characterizes as "the progressive deterioration of cognitive and functional abilities, leading to the loss of bodily function and death."

Pancrazio and his research team are looking at ways brain cells react to certain medications. "Our main research goal is to develop an engineering platform that can be utilized to study the underlying mechanisms of Alzheimer's disease and eventually to test new therapeutic options," said Pancrazio. "By growing brain cells, neurons, on a dish which is very similar to a computer chip, we can then measure the electrical activity of the cells and determine how the activity would change in presence of an Alzheimer's disease biomolecule such as amyloid beta peptide. We believe our platform



Joseph J. Pancrazio

provides a fast, non-invasive and accurate screening tool."

Electrical and computer engineering Ph.D. student Hamid Charkhkar is on Pancrazio's research team. "Every day, I feel more devoted to pursue this research, not only because it satisfies my scientific curiosity, but also [because] I am very hopeful that the outcomes of my research would potentially help patients with Alzheimer's disease," he said.

Couch and his research team are treating brain cells with molecules

to prompt them to release a "nerve growth factor," a protein that keeps neurons alive.

"While the pathology of Alzheimer's disease is related to the accumulation of protein deposits — or plaques — in the brain and the death of specific neurons, the currently employed therapeutics address the cognitive decline, but do little to halt or even slow the progress of neuronal decay," said Couch. "A radically different approach to the treatment [and] prevention of AD is known as neuroprotection, which involves the use of therapeutic agents, such as nerve growth factor, to defend the neurons from death. Nerve growth factor, naturally produced in the brain, binds to ... the neurons associated with Alzheimer's disease and promotes their survival." Justin B. Davis, who is the lead Ph.D. student on Couch's research team, said, "While the complexities of Alzheimer's disease and its progression make it an academically stimulating research topic, the gravity of the disease and its effects on the population are the true driving forces behind our efforts at George Mason."

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Calendar

From Page 10

continental breakfast, deli lunch and conference materials will be included. Local historical organizations and authors will have displays. Registration forms are available at: http://

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/histcomm/event.htm **Art Auction.** 6:30 p.m. King of Kings Lutheran Church, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. There will be art for everyone's taste and budget, in all media and price ranges. Event benefits the Preschool Scholarship Fund and the youth program. Admission: \$20 per person - \$35 per couple. For more information or to reserve your tickets call Judi Cooper at 703-378-7272, ext. 225 or email jhangen@kofk.org.

Teen Author-Kristin Bailey. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Young adult author of the Secret Order trilogy, teaches the art of storytelling through the power of Disney. Story structure of Disney's Tangled, Frozen, and Wreck-It-Ralph will be analyzed to see what works, what doesn't, and how you can apply Disney's story-telling techniques to your own writing. This workshop is designed for teen writers. It is recommended that participants watch all three movies before attending the workshop. Age 13-18. 703-249-1520.

SUNDAY/NOV. 9

Not Forgotten: The Story of the Offerings at the Wall. 2 p.m. Fairfax Museum, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. Megan Leining, Collections Manager with Fairfax County Park Authority, will talk about her former work with the National park Service of curating objects left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. For more information call 703-385-8414.

Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel: Three Great B's - Beethoven, Brahms, and Bartók. 7 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$24-\$40. For more information call 888-945-2468. **Taste of Greater Springfield**. 3-7 p.m. Embassy

Suites, 8100 Loisdale Road, Springfield. Will feature cuisine from 20 local restaurants. Tickets for adults are \$30 at www.togs.us Sponsored by the West Springfield Rotary Club Foundation. **Thanks for Giving Holiday Marketplace.** 5-9

p.m. Grevey's Restaurant and Sports Bar, 8130 Arlington Boulevard, Falls Church. Get a head start on holiday shopping while helping save rescued cats and dogs. Ten percent of proceeds will go to Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation.

MONDAY/NOV. 10

39 Clues Book Club. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. The 39 Clues series follows Amy Cahill and her brother Dan as they travel the world to hunt for Clues. The third adventure is The Sword Thief by Peter Lerangis. Activities and discussion. Age 9-12. 703-249-1520.

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.

SATURDAY/NOV. 8-SATURDAY/NOV. 22

NVRC Collecting Blankets for Refugees.

Several Fairfax County locations. Northern Virginia Regional Commission will collect blankets to help Syrian refugees. For more information, go to www.helpsyrianrefugees.net/

SUNDAY/NOV. 9

Recycling Event. noon-5 p.m. Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Recycle outdated electronics and save a dog's life. Questions on what to bring, info@aforeverhome.org. www.facebook.com/events/362845497196002/

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice your English. Adult. Gloria Monick, gsmonick@aol.com, 703-250-0877.

THURSDAY/NOV. 13

Library Resource 411. 6, 6:30, 7, 7:30, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 12

Civil War Forum, "Hard Times, The Confinement of Northern Virginians in Union Prisons During the Civil War." 7:30 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The forum is free and open to the public. For more information on Museum events, www.fairfaxstation.org, 703-425-9225.

S.T.E.M. Storytime. 10:30 a.m. 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. 703-249-1520.

FRIDAY/NOV. 14

Czech Philharmonic Orchestra. 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Czech Philharmonic Orchestra has maintained an outstanding international reputation on par with many of Europe's most prominent orchestras. Tickets: \$42-\$70. For more information call 888-945-2468.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 15-16

"The Nutcracker." 2 & 6 p.m. Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8133 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Come share in the magic of the holiday tradition and celebrate Burke Civic Ballet's 21st Anniversary Season. Featuring 3 year old miniature dolls to professional dancers courtesy of Colorado Ballet, this production will enchant all ages. Be mesmerized by a growing tree, magic tricks, leaping mice, toy soldiers, falling snow, authentic costumes made in the Ukraine, 75 dancing flowers and delectable confections from the Kingdom of the Sweets. Purchase tickets online at http:// www.buffas.com/burkecivicballet.html or group sales email burkecivicballet@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/NOV. 15

The 15th Annual Taste of Fall with FACETS. 7

p.m. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Sample delicious food and drinks from local restaurants, wineries and breweries; enjoy live musical entertainment; bid on unique items in the silent and live auction. Tickets are \$50 and include tastings of all food and beverages, including wine, beer and sodas. Register online at www.FacetsCares.org or at

MONDAY/NOV. 17

Children's Performance Series: Peter

McCory & His One Man Band. 10:30 a.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Peter McCory has been thrilling children and adults with his one-man band musical shows since 1996. A master of multi-tasking, Peter's feet play the drum set while his hands are busy on the guitar. For all ages. Free, but donations are accepted. 703-385-2712.

Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Sign up for one-on-one time to get help with using the library's physical and online resources for fun or to do research. Adult, all ages. 703-249-1520.

SATURDAY/NOV. 15.

NAACP Branch Election. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke (behind Kings Park Library). Election of branch officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee. To vote in the branch election, you must be a member in good standing and branch membership must be dated before Oct. 16, 2014. A form of ID is required. 703-591-4488.

MONDAY/NOV. 17

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice your English. Adult. Gloria Monick, gsmonick@aol.com, 703-250-0877.

on-One English Practice. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice speaking, reading and writing English with a volunteer partner. Ages 8 through adult are welcome. 703-249-1520.

Sports

Fairfax Field Hockey Advances to Region Final

Rebels beat Herndon, secure state tournament berth.

By Jon Roetman The Connection

hen Herndon's Jamie Wright tied the score with a goal in the second half of Tuesday's regional semifinal field hockey game, Fairfax forward Charlotte Duke recalled a memory from last season, when the Rebels squandered a lead against Westfield in the region final and lost in overtime.

"I knew," Duke said, "that we had to step it up ..."

While Duke had a flashback, Fairfax captain Meg Robertson's mood soured.

"I was mad," Robertson said. "They scored and I was like, I want this back. We're not tying this game, we're not losing it."

Luckily for the Fairfax senior duo, neither had to suffer through unpleasantness for very long.

Twenty-two seconds after Wright's goal tied the score at 1-all, Robertson put the ball in the back of the cage, scoring what proved to be the game-winning goal and the Rebels knocked off Herndon 2-1 on Nov. 4 at Fairfax High School. The Rebels earned a trip to the 6A North region final for the second year in a row and secured a state berth.

"We wanted this," Robertson said. "Once they scored, we were like, this isn't happening. We're coming back."

Fairfax will host Chantilly in the region championship game at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 6.

The Rebels and Hornets were locked in a scoreless tie until the final minute of the opening half, when Fairfax senior Olivia Cummings scored with an assist from Emily Deivert with 19 seconds remaining until halftime.

Clinging to a 1-0 lead in the second half, Fairfax surrendered the tying goal to Wright during a penalty corner with 20:31 remaining. Moments later, Robertson scored the game-winner.

"I think they felt that we deserved to win and we deserved to be here," Fairfax head coach Amber Beaudoin said about the Rebels. "Meg really is the emotional heart of our team and it was fitting that it was her [that scored the game-winner]."

Other than Wright's goal, Fairfax shut down a Herndon team with offensive standouts Sofia Palacios, a Penn commit, Taylor Stone, a Louisville commit, and Sammy Stone, a sophomore. Five days earlier, the Hornets scored eight goals during a regional quarterfinal victory over South County.

"What we've been preaching pretty much all year" "We put is it takes a team to win a regional crown, it's not Stone said.



Fairfax senior captain Meg Robertson, left, scored the game-winning goal against Herndon in the 6A North region semifinals on Tuesday night at Fairfax High School.

Photos by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection



Charlotte Duke and the Fairfax field hockey team will compete in the region championship game for the second year in a row.

about individual players," Beaudoin said. "They have several very good players, but I felt like the advantage for Fairfax was that we have 11 players."

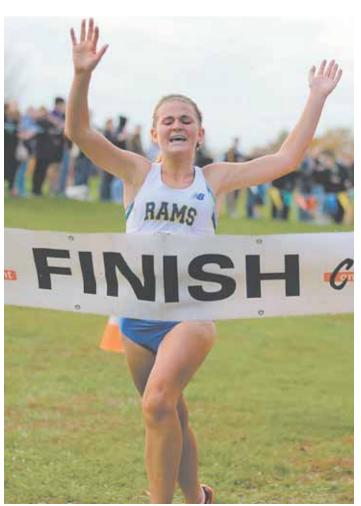
Fairfax improved to 19-3 and will take on a Chantilly team the Rebels have yet to face this season. The Chargers (14-3) lost to Herndon in the Conference 5 tournament semifinals, but bounced back with three straight shutouts in the regional tournament, including a 1-0 win over defending state champion Westfield in Tuesday's other region semifinal.

"It feels great. It feels like we can get our redemption from last year," Duke said. "Chantilly won their game, so Westfield's out. It's ours.

"If we put our minds to it and we play like we have in the Westfield game (Fairfax won 1-0 on Oct. 6) and in this game, then we can do anything."

Meanwhile, Herndon finished with a 19-3 record. The Hornets won the program's first Conference 5/district title since 1979, but ended its season with a loss to Fairfax in the region semifinals for the second year in a row.

"We put everything out on that field," Taylor Stone said.



Рното ву Ed Lu

Robinson senior Lauren Berman won the Conference 5 championship on Oct. 30 at Burke Lake Park.

Robinson's Berman Wins Conference 5 Title

Rams girls', boys' teams qualify for regionals.

By Jon Roetman The Connection

t took Robinson senior Lauren Berman about a year to recover from her ankle surgery in November of 2012.

For her hard work and dedication, Berman was rewarded with a first-time accomplishment near the end of her senior

Berman, a Virginia Tech commit, won the Conference 5 championship with a time of 17:39 on Oct. 30 at Burke Lake Park.

"It was great to end it this way," Berman said about her last conference meet. "... It feels awesome to not only prove it to myself but prove it to [my teammates]."

Berman said she entered the race with a goal.

"I wanted to break the tape really badly," she said. "I've never been able to do that."

Berman's performance helped the Robinson girls' cross country team secure a regional berth with a runner-up finish. Oakton won the team title with a score of 30, followed by Robinson (49), Westfield (83) and Chantilly (116).

Robinson's Mary Katherine Mastaler placed sixth with a time of 18:14. Maggie Larkin placed 11th (18:32), Lia Hanus finished 15th (19:19) and Paige Rathburn took 16th (19:20).

The Robinson boys' team also earned a regional berth, placing third. Chantilly won the title with a score of 47, followed by Oakton (52), Robinson (62) and Centreville (86).

Patrick Myers placed fourth for the Rams with a time of 15:28. Hunter Jutras placed sixth (15:29), Nicholas Hite finished 10th (15:47), Cory Runkel was 21st (16:23) and Gavin Camby finished 22nd (16:27).

The 6A North region meet was held Wednesday, Nov. 5 after The Connection's deadline.

The 6A state meet will be held Saturday, Nov. 15 at Great Meadow.

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