

Spooky Strings

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Strings teacher Stephanie "Transylvania" Trachtenberg with performers Rachel Eom and Jasmine Gao in the 33rd annual Spooky Strings Concert at White Oaks Elementary School in Burke on Wednesday, Oct. 31.

Fairfax Votes 'Yes' On Bond Package

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November 8–14, 2012

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Photo by Deb Cobb/The Connection

Reaction to the announcement that President Barack Obama has been re-elected at the Fairfax County Democrats Victory Party on Nov. 6.



Photo by Deb Cobb/The Connection

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) helps a Greenspring resident find election officials at the Greenspring Polling Station to determine whether he can vote in the election.

Area Votes for Obama, Kaine, House Incumbents

President Barack Obama wins second term, Kaine wins Senate seat, Moran, Wolf, Connolly re-elected.

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

In a bitter and historically expensive battle, President Barack Obama defeated Gov. Mitt Romney, winning a second term Tuesday after grabbing the key swing state of Virginia after midnight.

With the addition of the Commonwealth's 13 electoral votes—as well as those of Colorado, Iowa, New Hampshire and Wisconsin—Obama sailed over the electoral cliff with the critical 270 electoral votes he needed for victory.

More than 200 Democrats gathered at the Tysons Sheraton Tuesday evening—some cautiously optimistic, some nervous—about the Democrats' chances of another four years for Obama in The White House.

Mondana Nicksolat, an Obama volunteer from McLean, said she was so nervous about Obama's chances for victory, "I feel like I'm getting ready to take a final exam. . . . I'm nervous. I'm not sure he will win," Nicksolat said. But as the evening wore on, Nicksolat became more optimistic.

"Obama shouldn't be called a politician," she said. "He is a human being. He has a lot in common with the American people. We are not all rich; we all did not go to elite schools; some of us are immigrants and we're Americans. Obama is with us."

Close to midnight, the Sheraton crowd erupted in cheers, hugs and tears when news networks projected the win for Obama.

"The country and women are safe for four more years," one guest shouted.

According to the Fairfax County Board of

Elections, Obama won the County with nearly 60 percent of the vote.

Kaine Wins Senate Seat

It was one of the most competitive and closely-watched Senate races in the nation, but after 17 months of brutal campaigning, former Virginian Governor and DNC Chair Timothy M. Kaine grabbed the seat of retiring U.S. Sen. Jim Webb from former Governor George Allen. Kaine won 51.85 percent of the vote over Allen's 47.97 percent with 100 percent of the state's 2588 precincts reporting, according to the Virginia State Board of Elections.

The 11th District: Connolly

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) knows how close a race can be on election night, beating challenger Keith Fimian in 2010 by a razor-thin margin, but Connolly handily defeated Republican challenger Chris Perkins Tuesday night along with four other candidates: Chris DeCarlo (Independent), Mark Gibson (Independent), Joe Galdo (Green Party) and Peter Marchetti (Independent Green Party). Connolly received 60.05 percent of the vote, or 163,212 votes, compared to Perkins's 36.22 percent of the vote with 98,456 votes.

"Tonight our voters also sent a message about our politics. They want more functional government," Connolly said, standing with his daughter and wife at the

Sheraton. "They don't want more rabid, partisan rhetoric as a substitute for real solutions to real problems."

Connolly said he was honored "to have been reelected, by my widest margin ever, and to have received the thrust of our voters to represent them for the next two years. On their behalf I will fight for the values we share while seeking common ground to move our country forward."

Connolly also displayed his trademark wit when he told the crowd he had another announcement: "CBS News just called it for Tim Kaine. . . . Not so fast, Tea Party!"

The 10th District: Wolf

U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10), the most senior of the 11 members of the House of Representatives from Virginia, won his 17th consecutive term on Tuesday. This year, Wolf faced a challenge on two fronts: Democrat Kristin Cabral and Independent Kevin Chisholm fought hard to take his seat.

Wolf won 58.71 percent of the vote (194,817 votes) compared to Cabral's 38.38 percent of the vote (127,355 votes) with 192 of 195 precincts reporting at 1 a.m.

Wolf sits on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, where he is the chairman on the Commerce-Justice-Science subcommittee. In addition, he is the co-chairman of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, a bipartisan organization made up of more than 200 members of Congress who work together to raise awareness about international human rights issues.

The 8th District: Moran

U.S. Rep. James P. Moran won a 12th term in Congress, easily beating his Republican



Photo by Victoria Ross/The Connection

Ron Wiersma of Springfield and Caroline Smith of Reston celebrated with other Democrats at the Sheraton on Tuesday. "Look around you. This is America," Smith said. "Black, white, Asian, Latinos, men and women, young and old. . . . This is our America."

opponent J. Patrick Murray with 63.42 percent (174,974 votes) of the vote over Murray's 31.5 percent of the vote (86,910 votes). A senior member of the Appropriations Committee, Moran serves as the ranking member on the Subcommittee on the Interior and Environment and also serves on the Defense and Military Construction Subcommittees. Throughout his two decades of service in the House of Representatives, Moran has championed regional transportation solutions, the environment, women's issues, technology, fair and open trade, and fiscal discipline. He is also well known for his efforts to protect federal employees and military retirees.

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Military Notes

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 7703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Scott D. Myers, a Class of 1997 alum of Fairfax High School, graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Myers earned distinction as an honor graduate.

Midshipman 1st Class (senior) Zachary Patrick from Springfield was recently selected to participate in the Naval Academy Trident Scholars Program.

Patrick, a 2009 graduate of West Springfield high school and an honors systems engineering major at the Naval Academy, will research how multiple laser beams can be controlled in a directed energy weapon. For more information about the Naval Academy, please visit: www.usna.edu.

Navy Seaman Recruit Ajay Salwan, a 2006 graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary School, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

Navy Seaman Shawn P. Barnes, son of Karen L. Barr of Shepherdsville, Ky. and Patrick W. Barnes of Burke, was recently promoted to his current rank upon graduation from recruit training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. Barnes is a 2011 graduate of Bullitt Central High School of Shepherdsville, Ky.

Air Force Airman Andrew F. St. Pierre graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Nancy St. Pierre of Passageway Place, Burke. St. Pierre graduated in 2002 from Lake Braddock Secondary School, and received a bachelor's degree in 2006 from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Health Notes

Health notes are for support groups, exercise classes, blood drives and similar events open to the public at no or minimal cost. 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.

Aquatic Fall Prevention Classes. Fall prevention classes take place in a heated indoor pool Tuesdays and/or Thursdays 1:30 p.m. at The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Classes designed to work on balance and core muscles in order to prevent injuries and falls. Registration required. \$10 per class. Register at 703-667-9800.

Free health screenings are available Mondays-Thursdays, 8:30-12 p.m. for diabetes and high blood pressure, at Burke Internal Medicine & Research, 9243 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Appointments are preferred. 703-455-9711.

Alzheimer's Family Day Center, located at 2812 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, hosts various classes. Reservations are required, and classes are open to people who are caring for a relative or friend with dementia. 703-204-4664 or www.alzheimersfdc.org/classes.htm.



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Photos by Louise Kraft/Connection

Rob Whitfield and Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield).

Fairfax Republicans Come Together for Election

Losses by Mitt Romney, George Allen, Chris Perkins put damper on Republican Committee event.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

What started as a night of hope for the Fairfax County Republican Committee ended on something of a sour note, as Republican presidential, senate and congressional candidates were not able to oust incumbents.

"I think we got off to a great start, I was pleased to see some of the early big states go to Governor [Mitt] Romney, but when I looked up and saw it tied at 153 for about half an hour, I thought he might have run out of steam," said George Pindrell of Falls Church. "It just got hard to remain optimistic seeing states like Pennsylvania go to President Obama, and Mitt needed to win a few surprises to stay in the race, and those just never came."

"We did a lot of hard work thanks to a lot of dedicated people," said Committee Chair Jay McConville. "We knocked on about 130,000 doors since March, and it just wouldn't have been possible to reach and listen to so many people without our volunteers."

As Republican presidential candidate Romney built an early lead thanks to victories in several southern states, Republican senatorial candidate George Allen took an early lead over Democrat Tim Kaine as well.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), said he was energized by the feeling he got at the polls during the day.

"I haven't seen this much excitement within the party since we elected Bob McDonnell in 2009," said Herrity. "I felt it while knocking on doors the last several months, I felt it in the number of yard signs I saw in front yards across Fairfax County and I felt it at the polls today."

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Chris Perkins announces that he called U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly to concede the race.

Herrity said reports from his district were long lines throughout the morning, with a gradual slowing into the evening.

"That shows me that everybody, on both sides, felt the need to get out and vote as soon as they could," he said. "It's a great thing to make voting that kind of a priority."

The only candidate in attendance at the event was Republican challenger Chris Perkins, who ran against Gerry Connolly for the 11th district. As the precincts started rolling in, Connolly's lead became insurmountable, and Perkins conceded around 10 p.m.

"The numbers were just not there for us this time, but we fought a great fight, and it has been one of the most incredible experiences of my life," Perkins said. "It's hard to capture everything I'm feeling right now, but the gratitude for everyone who was with me on this experience is overwhelming."

Much of the crowd seemed to disperse after Perkins' concession, only to get excited one more time as it was announced that Romney won North Carolina, one of the east coast states that had been deemed "too close to call."

But soon the west coast Polls closed, handing Barack Obama California, Washington and Hawaii, bringing his total to 244 electoral votes. Just after 11 p.m. the news broke that Obama had won Ohio, virtually sealing his re-election bid.

"It looked for a bit there like things would turn out right, with Romney and Allen winning, but it went downhill pretty fast," said Chase Neil of Fairfax. "In the end, the only victory Republicans have was keeping Frank Wolf and the majority in the house, but we had those this morning. As people said in a campaign four years ago, we were ready for change."



Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), right, talks with Kevin and Linda O'Brien.



Christopher Smith of Tysons, Amethyst Polk, Lisha Viens, Meredith Delaware, Jane Pyrak and John and Kim Gibbons of Oakton watch the national results come in on an iPad.



Langley High School students Brad Jeter, Deanna Labring, Clayton Kennedy and Xavier Ryan spent the day campaigning for Romney.



Arlington resident Terill Coggins applauds with Mona Roise and Susan Fletcher who are visiting from Frisco, Texas.

Opinion



Barack Obama came to Northern Virginia on Saturday, Nov. 3 with Bill Clinton and Dave Matthews.



Mitt Romney packed the Patriot Center at George Mason University on Monday, Nov. 5. Anne Romney asked: "Will we be neighbors soon?"

Photos by Deb Cobb/The Connection

Feeling Important

Presidential campaigns traversed Northern Virginia on last days, marking the importance of every vote.

The images from the last weeks of the presidential election of 2012 make it clear that it would be hard to overstate the importance of voting, especially in Virginia, especially in Northern Virginia.

Every vote will be important. What I wish for today from Northern Virginia is record turnout and smooth sailing for voters casting their votes.

Writing this the morning of Election Day, it's still fair to say that the race for president and for the U.S. Senate in Virginia is too close to call. It's hard to overstate the difference it will

make when the election results are final.

Mitt Romney came to the George Mason University Patriot Center on Monday, also bestowing attention on Republican Senate candidate George Allen. It was one of several trips to the area.

President Barack Obama came to Prince William County on Saturday, along with Bill Clinton. On Monday, Vice President Joe Biden came to Claude Moore Park. Both visits gave a boost to Democratic Senate candidate Tim Kaine.

The money that has been spent—and raised—here in Virginia is daunting. At the end of Octo-

ber, in 2012, Romney had raised \$10.1 million and Obama \$8.2 million in checks of \$200 or more from Virginians, according to the Virginia Public Access Project. Inside the Beltway donors (different from Northern Virginia in VPAP's categories) gave \$3,193,148 to Obama and \$3,104,160 to Romney. Northern Virginia outside the Beltway gave \$2,694,030 to Obama and \$3,525,796 to Romney.

While either way, about half of voters will be disappointed by the outcomes here, no one will be sorry that this campaign season is over. It's been fun to be a favorite child in some ways, but it will be OK to go back to addressing local issues without the magnification of such an important election.

— Mary Kimm,

mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Letters to the Editor

Anti-advertisement

To the Editor:

As you drive down our roads, it is worthy to recall Michael Lee Pope's October 18th article "The Message is not the Median: Fairfax Roadsides Now Free of Political Speech."

In that article, Springfield Republican Delegate David Albo touted his new legislation which according to Springfield Republican Supervisor Pat Herrity clearly addressed and outlawed the posting of political placards in the medians on Fairfax County roads which have "bothered people for a number of years."

"When I see a political sign, to me that's an anti-advertisement," said Albo. "Here's a person who is running to write laws, and they are purposefully violating laws."

Just before I received an e-

mail from the Republican Party asking me to join Delegate Albo at the Springfield Baskin Robbins to campaign for Republican candidates, I saw this long line of 18 George Allen signs in the median just outside my neighborhood, one of many remarkably similar large groupings of Allen signs up and down the median in Braddock Road.

Unlike the very few scattered signs for other candidates, you can tell these placards were placed by an organized campaign by how many there are (they are expensive) and by the way they are spaced, maintained, and moved around as part of a strategy to ensure that they are noticed.

I agree with Delegate Albo on one thing at least: we should not be voting for the candidate whose name is on these signs.

Marc Greidinger
Springfield



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Photo by Eric Picirelli

The Ghoulish Gang performs spooky strings tunes for White Oaks Elementary School in Burke on Wednesday, Oct. 31.

A Spooktacular Strings Performance

Ghoulish Gang at White Oaks Elementary plays hauntingly familiar tunes.

The melodies were haunting as musical ghosts and goblins performed during the 33rd annual Spooky Strings Concert at White Oaks Elementary School in Burke on Wednesday, Oct. 31.

The concert featured the Chamber Strings playing scary songs for students in kindergarten through

fourth grade.

Strings teacher Stephanie "Transylvania" Trachtenberg, who has been leading the concert for more than three decades, said the event is an annual favorite.

"Everyone has a wonderful time," Trachtenberg said. "The Halloween-themed instrumental music concert featured seasonal, traditional music and entertaining narratives." She said Kindergarten students, wearing storybook character costumes, took part in a parade prior to the concert.

—Victoria Ross

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British Murder Mystery At Robinson Secondary

Theater students present "Night Must Fall."

By Bonnie Hobbs
The Connection

A British murder mystery, "Night Must Fall," is Robinson Secondary's upcoming play. It's slated for Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 15, 16, 17, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at www.robinsondrama.org and \$12 at the door.

"It's a psychological thriller set circa 1935 in Essex, England," said Director Chip Rome. "And it's off the beaten path from the productions most high schools do."

Cranky old Mrs. Bramson rules over a couple servants; but soon, the household dynamics change. Her niece Olivia comes to stay and

a man from Scotland Yard tells them all a woman is missing. As it turns out, she's been murdered. Meanwhile, a man named Danny arrives, gets the maid pregnant and charms his way into Bramson's good graces. But Olivia begins to suspect he was involved in the murder, and the tension keeps building.

"My mother passed away last June, and I remember prompting her, in the 1960s, when she played Olivia in community theater in Worcester, Mass.," said Rome. His cast and crew of about 30 have rehearsed since early September and he's pleased with their efforts.

"They're diving into the challenge of the accents and interpreting their lines and the way their characters evolve over time," he said. "It's been a delightful experience to have such a small cast because I can delve into character development in a way in which I can't in a larger production. This is a character-driven play."

"It takes the audience on a ride—with enough red herrings and change that they're not sure where they're going," continued Rome. "It's melodramatic, with the actions and scene transitions enhanced by music. Student Alex Bulova found the original music and, for only key pieces, he trained and conducted the school orchestra and recorded it."

He says the audience will be fascinated by Danny, whose character has several dimensions. "His attitude flips between quiet, silly, dangerous, charming and threatening," said Rome. "And people will like the atmosphere of another time and place, plus the building suspense of what misdeeds have been or might be done."

Sophomore Sarah Marksteiner plays Olivia. "She comes off as uptight, but really has more personality," said Marksteiner. "She writes poetry in her spare time and secretly longs for a more exciting life. She craves drama, but doesn't want to admit it."

"I absolutely love this role," said Marksteiner. "She has qualities that are almost an extreme version of me, and I like the way she evolves so drastically throughout the piece. I think the audience will really enjoy the tension that starts to develop, and they'll become attached to the characters."

Portraying Bramson is senior Carys Meyer. "She's in a wheelchair and is a crotchety old lady who wants people to do everything for her," said Meyer. "She



Rehearsing a scene are (back row, from left) Hannah Sikora, Brandy Skaddan, John Turner and Ivonte Milligan; and (front row, from left) Kolya Rabinowitch, Sarah Marksteiner, Lauren Rainford and Carys Meyer.

loves attention, wants to control her whole world and wants everything to revolve around her."

ENJOYING HER PART, Meyer called it different from her past characters and a complete departure from her own personality. "It's been interesting playing around with her voice and accent," she said. "And people push me around in a wheelchair, the whole show, so that's fun."

"The show has a lot of humorous moments, but the story will also keep the audience guessing," said Meyer. "Because it's a classic murder mystery, it'll be fun for the audience to try to figure out."

Senior Ivonte Milligan plays Danny. "He's a complicated guy and everybody loves him, except Olivia," said Milligan. "So he tries to get her to love the Danny he shows the public—but he slips up and shows the real Danny. He's like your average serpent." Milligan said the audience will like the set, the show's "dark and mysterious" lighting and mood, plus the overall suspense of the play.

Initially, he said, "I had to wrap my head around who Danny was and what his quirks were. But it's fun playing somebody crazy who's calm and collected one moment and blowing up, the next. This is my first lead and it's nice to have that responsibility; my mom, who's always supported me, is proud."

The lighting designer is junior Anna Ready, who created a vision of what the lights in Bramson's home would be like. "With a show so dramatic, I had to think of different colors and angles of lights that really set the mood for the scenes," she explained. "The lighting lets the audience know something's going to happen, without saying anything."

She said it took about 20 minutes to design, but a month to hang all the lights so they'd work exactly the way she wanted. She controls them by a computerized light board. "My freshman year, I talked with and watched the lighting designer, and it was fascinating," said Ready. "Then when he graduated, I took over."

TOUGHEST, she said, is angling all the lights because "if it's not just right, it's really obvious." But she loves the liberty she has "to do what I want with my design. And seeing it actually come to life is a really good feeling."



Photo courtesy of Fairfax County

A Huntington mom holds her daughter as she surveys the damage to her home that was flooded during Tropical Storm Lee.

Fairfax Votes 'Yes' On Bond Package

Total of \$155 million will be used to upgrade, renovate fire stations, libraries, parks and make storm water improvements.

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

On Tuesday, Fairfax County voters overwhelmingly approved \$155 million in bonds to upgrade and renovate libraries, parks, fire stations and courtrooms, and to make storm water improvements to address flooding in the Huntington neighborhood.

With 99 percent of Fairfax County precincts reporting at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 7, each of the four bonds passed by at least 70 percent of the vote.

♦**Libraries (\$25 million):** Funds will be used to renovate three libraries (John Marshall, Pohick and Tysons-Pimmit Regional) and either renovate or relocate the Reston Regional Library. Currently, the 30,000-square-foot library is located north of the Reston Town Center and near the planned Reston Parkway Metro station. Because that area may be redeveloped into a more urban, mixed-use center, the library may be relocated. The \$10 million project includes site studies, design and construction of a new library. The library bond passed with 288,519 "yes" votes (70.6 percent), and 123,300 "no" votes (29.4 percent) with a total of 412,787 votes cast.

♦**Public Safety (\$55 million):** The public safety bond

will raise a total of \$55 million, including \$35 million to replace three fire stations—Baileys Crossroads, Jefferson and Herndon—and \$20 million to renovate 22 courtrooms in the Jennings Judicial Center. The public safety bond passed with 307,217 "yes" votes (74.56 percent), and 104,824 "no" votes (25.44 percent), with a total 412,041 votes cast.

♦**Parks and Park Facilities (\$75 million):** The bulk of the funding, \$63 million, will go to the Fairfax County Park Authority for improvements to existing facilities and for purchase of land. The remainder will support the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. The Fairfax County Park Authority administers 23,194 acres of parkland and 420 individual parks. These include parks that provide countywide services, such as camping, golf, ice skating and swimming as well as RECenters. For community parks, the passage of the bonds mean a wide array of park and recreational facilities, including the first phase of improvements at Monticello Park, Hartland Road Park and White Gardens and continued phased development at Laurel Hill Park and Patriot Park. Countywide improvements in park signage and funding of the Mastenbrook matching grant program are also included.

See Bond, Page 16

Faith

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.

The Women's Ministry at Jubilee Christian Center is having a Fall Bible Study on Tuesdays, 9:45 a.m.-noon, each Tuesday through Nov. 20. The study is on "The Sower and the Seed," and there is no charge for the study. Jubilee is located at 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. 703-383-1170. www.jccag.org.

A Walk through Ancient Bethlehem, Dec. 8-9, 2012. Walk through a replica of ancient Bethlehem during the time of Jesus Christ' birth. On Dec. 8 and 9, Parkwood Baptist Church of Annandale will present its 12th annual re-creation of Bethlehem. Tours conducted from 4 to 8 p.m. will feature costumed re-enactors including Roman soldiers and tax collectors, musical performances, and a nativity scene with live performers and animals. Activities and crafts for children and refreshments for all. No admission charge. 8726 Braddock Road, Annandale. Details available at www.bwalk.org or 703-978-8160.

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

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service. 7300 Gary Street, Springfield. 703-451-1500 www.fbcspringfield.org.

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

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 Sun-

day mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is at 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.

A casual worship service with a praise band is at 9:45 a.m. at **Sydenstricker United Methodist Church**, 8508 Hooes Road in Springfield. www.sumcdisciples.org or 703-451-8223.

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carleigh Parkway in Springfield, supports a Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) program on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Meetings are 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the church. All mothers and children are welcome. The program provides mothers an opportunity to get to know other mothers through discussions and craft activities. Register at 703-451-5320.

JCCNV Mother's Circle program, for women who are not Jewish but are raising Jewish children. Free education in Jewish rituals, practices and values, while respecting the participant's choice to retain her own religious identity. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax. Contact Laurie Albert, 703-537-3064 or LaurieA@jccnv.org.

Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria, offers traditional Sunday church services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. plus Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Childcare is available 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. There will be a Terry Hall Concert on Saturday, April 14 at 4 p.m. with old spirituals, classic hymns, southern gospel favorites and more. 703-971-5151 or admin@franconiaumc.org or www.franconiaumc.org.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is for people interested in becoming Catholic or learning about the Catholic Church. A group meets at 7:30 p.m. on July 6 and 20 at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. A group will begin meeting every Wednesday starting September. Sessions are in the Old Parish Hall. All are welcome. Contact Carolyn Smith at 703-273-5369 or carolynsmith.stleos@gmail.com.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. www.jssa.org/growth-learning.

Metropolitan Community Church of Northern Virginia,

10383 Democracy Lane in Fairfax, presents worship services on Sundays at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. and choir practice (open to all) on Tuesdays at 7:15 p.m. www.mccnova.com or 703-691-0930.

Church of the Nativity offers a free general bereavement support group open to all adults on the first and third Thursday of each month 7:30-9 p.m. The church is located at 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke. Call 703-455-2400, ext. 17.

Arabic Bible Baptist Church is located at 6428 Ox Road in Fairfax Station. Services are on Saturdays at 6:30 p.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m. Pastor: Wissam Jamil. Call 703-273-5599.

St. Anthony's American National Catholic Church, 10383 Democracy Lane, Fairfax, holds mass for Contemporary Catholics every Sunday at 5 p.m. St. Anthony's is an independent Catholic parish, inclusive and accepting of all people. Experience true acceptance and true Catholicism. www.MySaintAnthonys.org.

Calvary Hill Baptist Church, 9301 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax, conducts practice in the Sanctuary every Wednesday at 7 p.m. All are welcome. 703-323-1347

The Fairfax Church of Christ, 3901 Rugby Road in Fairfax, has facilitators available to help those who are experiencing a separation or divorce. 703-63-200 or www.fxcc.org.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton, offers services on Saturdays at 4:30 p.m., in addition to Sunday services at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. www.uucf.org.

Congregation Adat Reyim, an independent Jewish congregation, offers services Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Hebrew School is Sundays at 9:30 and Mondays at 5:30 p.m. Hebrew school is Monday-Friday at 9:30 a.m. Adat Reyim is located at 6500 Westbury Oaks Court in Springfield. 703-569-7577 or www.adatreyim.org.

Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive in Burke, worship services are Saturday Coffeehouse at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. www.BurkePresChurch.org.

Faith Communities in Action meets the first Wednesday of every other month from 2-4 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Rooms 2 and 3, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

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Wellbeing

Cutting a Rug

Researchers say dancing can improve balance and mental ability in seniors.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

Springfield resident Fred Griffin enjoys a good hoe down and takes pleasure in doing a do-si-do. In fact, he has been square dancing since high school.

"At this time in my life, square dancing is the most enjoyable exercise activity, as well as the most consuming mind and body activity, that I participate in," said Griffin, a 76-year-old resident of Greenspring retirement community.

Researchers say dancing can improve mental and physical well-being in the elderly. According to studies published in *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience*, dancing can improve cognitive ability and balance, and decrease the risk of falling that often increases with age.

"The key to improving balance and coordination, regardless of age, is to challenge it," said Rita Wong, a professor of physical therapy at Marymount University in Arlington. "Dance can be a fun and effective way to challenge your balance and to improve the control and coordination of your muscles. [This gives you] better control of unanticipated challenges to your balance that occur in real life situations, which may result in a fall if the body is not able to quickly respond to a balance challenge."

Wong said dancing is effective because it requires using arms, legs, and torso in coordinated patterns.

"Ongoing dance classes should gradually increase the speed and complexity of the dance steps as participants improve with practice," she said. "The amount of challenge should start out geared to the physical activity level of the person."

Juanita Kuntz, a Springfield-based wellness coordinator, agrees: "Dance classes, just by their very nature, help maintain balance, coordination and agility. These all help reduce the risk of falling," she said. "Aerobic activity provides extra energy and helps you relax and sleep better."

Dancing, like other forms of exercise, can improve mental clarity: "Research shows that physical activity can positively affect connections between nerves in the brain, thereby improving attention and information-processing skills," Dominique Banville, director of George Mason University's Division of Health and Human Performance in Fairfax, said in an email.

Kuntz also said that dancing can be a pleasurable social opportunity for seniors: "Add the fun and friends to the mix of a dance class, and it is a near perfect activity for many...seniors."

"Dance classes, just by their very nature, help maintain balance, coordination and agility. These all help reduce the risk of falling."

—Juanita Kuntz, wellness coordinator



Springfield resident Fred Griffin has been square dancing since high school. Researchers say dancing can improve mental and physical well-being.

Congressman Gerry Connolly's Annual Health Plan Open Season Workshop for Federal Employees and Retirees



Sessions will feature FEHBP Experts including **Walt Francis**, Author of CHECKBOOK's *Guide to Health Plans for Federal Employees*

Where: W.T. Woodson High School
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When: November 17th, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

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Schools



Photo contributed

Jennifer Levy, The McLean Community Players chair, presenting the \$200 award check to Sofia Padilla, winner of McLean Community Players' "Last Summer" essay writing contest.

West Springfield Junior Wins Essay Contest

The McLean Community Players (MCP) opened the 2012-2013 theatrical season with A. R. Gurney's play "What I Did Last Summer."

In connection with this production, MCP sponsored an essay-writing contest for high school students

range 15-18 years old. Entrants were to submit a short essay of no more than 300 words on the topic "Last Summer". Entrants were tasked with describing a true experience that occurred during this past summer. The contest was promoted through MCP's See Memorable Moment, Page 13

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Schools

The Most Memorable Moment of My Summer

From Page 12

website, e-mail, social media and local outlets.

Essays received were evaluated by an impartial panel of three judges with the winning entry awarded a prize of \$200.

The McLean Community Players have announced that the contest winner is Sofia Padilla, a 17-year-old junior from West Springfield High School.

By Sofia Padilla, Age 17
Junior at West Springfield High School

The photographer motioned to me. The idea of getting my picture taken right now was preposterous. I felt like yelling at him, "Don't you understand I'm about to have a nervous breakdown?" but somehow my lips curved into a smile as the camera flashed. Toast time. My heart beat huge, rapid beats, as if Usain Bolt was sprinting back and forth inside me. My stomach flipped and whirled like a 7 year old on a trampoline. I commanded myself: breath. The DJ handed me a microphone and glass of wine. "I don't

drink...oh cider, right," but I already had a speech and microphone to hold; I can't hold three things at once. Nice seeing my brain still computed simple addition. "I don't want it," I repeated seventy times silently, but I didn't stop the DJ from thrusting it to me. The condensation threatened to blur the words I worked so hard to perfect. Anxiety washed over me until I had the sense to just set it down. This was only the agony leading up to the moment. Now, here I was voice shaking, knees trembling, speaking about my sister, the most beautiful girl in the world who just married the coolest, most generous guy whom I could finally call my brother. As I told the 200 faces smiling at me how perfect the bride and groom are and how lucky I am to call them family, I saw my sister shed a tear. At that point, finishing seemed impossible. My voice quivered. My eyes filled with tears. Finally, I ended, wishing them happily ever after, then ran to the bathroom sobbing. The overwhelming happiness I felt for the marriage provoked me to ugly-cry with my other sister for 15 minutes, yet it became the most memorable moment of my summer.

School 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.

Jeff Blevins of Burke has been named to the president's list at James Madison University for both the fall and spring semesters of his sophomore year. Jeff is a junior majoring in public administration with an Asian minor. He is a 2010 graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary School.

Robyn Gianiny of Burke was on the dean's list fall 2011 and the president's list spring 2012 at West Virginia University. She graduated from Lake Braddock Secondary School in 2011. She will be attending George Mason University this fall.

Christian Kosko of Burke has been named to the dean's list at Radford University. He is a sophomore majoring in Criminal Justice and is a 2011 graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary.

Michael McVay of Burke has been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at the University of Northwestern Ohio in the College of Applied Technologies. He is a 2009 graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary School.

Monica Zinn of Burke has been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at the Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, Ga.

Natchanon Ketram of Burke is among the Marymount University undergraduate students who have been selected as national outstanding campus leaders and are included in the 2012 edition of Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Ketram is majoring in Biology.

Kelsey Zinck of Burke has been

named to the fall 2011 dean's list at The College of New Jersey of Ewing, N.J.

Jonathan Austin Kilbourn of Burke has been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at Clemson University of Clemson, S.C. Kilbourn is majoring in history.

Franklin Shakespeare of Burke was named to the fall 2011 dean's list at Bryant University of Smithfield, R.I. He is a senior accounting major.

Caitlin Landsman of Burke has been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at Marist College of Poughkeepsie, N.Y. She is majoring in communications/public relations.

Alexandra Marie Froede of Burke has been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at Miami University, Oxford, Oh.

Mohit Nagaraja Iyyer of Burke has been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at Washington University School of Engineering and Applied Science in St. Louis, Mo.

Michael Del Toral of Burke has been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jose Del Toral.

Burke residents **Sarah Hughes**, **Mina Hamblet** and **Tester Test** have been nominated as National Youth Correspondents at George Mason University's Washington Journalism and Media Conference.

Joanna Peter of Burke has been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at Geneva College, Beaver Falls, Pa.

Israel Kassim of Burke has been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at Harpur College of Arts and Sciences at Binghamton University, Binghamton, N.Y.

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kiss one lucky fan on the Ed Sullivan Show before the actor leaves for the army. www.wtwdrama.org/current.

SATURDAY/NOV. 10

American Freedom Festival and the 2nd Annual Veterans Career Hire. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 7:30 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Part of a nationwide initiative to help veterans find jobs—companies like Accenture, Northrop Grumman, InfoReliance and many more talk, accept qualifications and give on-the-spot interviews. The freedom festival kicks off at 7:30 p.m., featuring Chicago and Kansas. \$39.50-139.50 (for concert). www.affhiringevents.com or www.patriotcenter.com.

Holiday Express Boutique. 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m., at St. Mary of Sorrows Church Hall, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Thanksgiving and Christmas gifts, sweets for sale, a silent auction and a raffle. 703-426-8092.

Bye Bye Birdie. 2 p.m., 7:30 p.m., at Woodson High School Auditorium, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Get nostalgic as Albert Peterson, the handsome rock star Conrad Birdie's manager, tries to get out of debt by cashing in on a farewell party for Birdie in which he has to kiss one lucky fan on the Ed Sullivan Show before the actor leaves for the army. www.wtwdrama.org/current.

Winterizing Your Home. 2-

4:30 p.m., Green Acres Community Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. The City of Fairfax's Sustainability Committee brings area experts together to talk about the best places to caulk your home, how to install a programmable thermostat and how to reap year-round energy savings; children's station with fun activities hosted by Fairfax High School Green Team. 703-385-7805 or Kelly.O'Brien@fairfaxva.gov.

SUNDAY/NOV. 11

Holiday Express Boutique. 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at St. Mary of Sorrows Church Hall, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Thanksgiving and Christmas gifts, sweets for sale, a silent auction and a raffle. 703-426-8092.

MONDAY/NOV. 12

Inspirational Talk on Creativity. 7-9 p.m., at the Gunnell House, Truro Church, 10520 Main St., Fairfax. Capital Christian Writers present a talk from a 13-book author, contributor to the blog MomLifeToday.com and Today's Christian Woman magazine columnist Susan Alexander Yates. 703-803-9447 or www.ccwriters.org.

TUESDAY/NOV. 13

A Taste of Americana. 7 p.m., at Donald Heet Auditorium,

See Calendar, Page 15

THURSDAY/NOV. 8

Celebrating the Season of Art. 9 a.m.-8 p.m., at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. A new holiday art exhibition runs through early January, 2013, and features contemporary artwork from 19 artists. A reception on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 6-9 p.m. provides a chance to meet the artists. www.FairfaxVA.Gov/CommCenter/CommCenter.asp.

FRIDAY/NOV. 9

Major Works Concert. 4 p.m., at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The Robinson Choral Department features the Select Women's Ensemble performing Shona Mass and the Robinson Singers singing African Sanctus; the two join to sing Freedom Trilogy. \$9, adults; \$5 students/seniors. www.robinsonsings.org.

Bye Bye Birdie. 7:30 p.m., at Woodson High School Auditorium, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Get nostalgic as Albert Peterson, the handsome rock star Conrad Birdie's manager, tries to get out of debt by cashing in on a farewell party for Birdie in which he has to

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Calendar

From Page 14

Paul VI Catholic High School, 10675 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax. A patriotic concert honoring veterans presented by the Bands and Strings of Paul VI Catholic High School including selections from the works of Irving Berlin, John Philip Sousa, sing-alongs and fiddle tunes; veterans will be given special seating and are encouraged to wear medals and dress in uniform. pvimusicboosters@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 14

Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry. 6:30 p.m., at the Johnson Center Cinema, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The film screening and Q&A with University of Maryland Professor Hasan Elahi explores the artists' blurring of the boundaries of art and politics. gmufans@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/NOV. 15

Shine a Light on Lung Cancer. 6-8:30 p.m., at Dewberry Life with Cancer Family Center, 8411 Pennell St., Fairfax. Guest speaker Nisa Natrakul, manager of Advocacy Relations for the Lung Cancer Alliance speaks following a discussion on current treatments in lung cancer. 703-776-3777.

FRIDAY/NOV. 16

Friday Night Film Series. 7-9 p.m., at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10215 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Filmmaker Katrina Browne joins with spectators for a showing of her film *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North*; the audience is welcome to bring dinner and friends.

703-503-4579 or
www.accotinkuuc.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 17

Community Awareness Day. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Little River Glen Senior Center, 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax. Meet neighbors, enjoy entertainment and refreshments, donate non-perishables to Our Daily Bread, walk the cake walk, win prizes and check your blood pressure. 703-503-8703 ext. 711.

Northern Virginia Mineral Club's 21st Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the HUB in the Student Union Building II, George Mason University, Fairfax. There will be gems, minerals, fossils, meteorites and crystals for sale. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$3 for senior citizens (65+) and teens (13-17); and free for children (12 and under), Scouts in uniform and GMU students with ID. rockclctr@aol.com, www.novamineralclub.org, or 703-281-3767.

Reception: Celebrating the Season of Art. 6-9 p.m., at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. A new holiday art exhibition runs through early January, 2013, and features contemporary artwork from 19 artists; meet the artists at the reception. www.FairfaxVA.Gov/CommCenter/CommCenter.asp.

Country-Western Dance! 7:30 p.m. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Ct, Burke. Come dance at Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association's Country-Western Dance! Lessons and open-dancing will be available along with snacks and drinks. Come two step, waltz, line dance, swing, cha cha, and more! Ticket costs are as



The JCCNV 7th Annual Jewish Book Festival

Lots and lots of readings, events and discussions at various times, at 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia hosts a festival through Sunday, Nov. 11 to celebrate Jewish writings and Jewish authors. Ticket prices vary. Visit www.jccnv.org for online registrations and a full list of events.

follows: NVCWDA members, \$10; non-members, \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult, \$5. www.nvcwda.org.

EDGEWORKS Dance Theater. 7:30 p.m., at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The

JCCNV hosts the all-male contemporary dance company of predominately African-American men, aiming to break down stereotypes through dance. \$27; \$22, JCCNV members and seniors; \$18, students and groups of 10-plus. 703-537-3000 or www.jccnvarts.org.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Masterworks II. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Ken Woods and violinist Benjamin Beilman perform Beethoven's Overture to Coriolan, Op. 62, Symphony No. 2 and Violin Concerto. \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

Fairfax Symphony: Beethoven. 8 p.m., at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Pre-concert discussion, free to ticketed patrons, followed by an evening of Beethoven's works. \$25-\$55, adults; \$5, students ages 6-18. 888-945-2468 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 18

Northern Virginia Mineral Club's 21st Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the HUB in the Student Union Building II, George Mason University, Fairfax. There will be gems, minerals, fossils, meteorites and crystals for sale. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$3 for senior citizens (65+) and teens (13-17); and free for children (12 and under), Scouts in uniform and GMU students with ID. rockclctr@aol.com, www.novamineralclub.org, or 703-281-3767.

N Guage Train Display. 1-4 p.m., at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRACK membes host a train display with running trains. \$3, adults; \$1, children. 703-425-9225 or jmitulla@verizon.net.

Burke Area CROP Hunger Walk. 2 p.m., Living Savior Lutheran Church, 5500 0x Road, Fairfax Station. Area residents walk together to support local and global efforts to fight world hunger and bring disaster relief to victims of recent disasters. Proceeds benefit international relief and development efforts of Church World Service and local Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO) in Springfield and Western Fairfax Christian Ministries in Chantilly. Nonperishable food collected for ECHO. Shuttle buses available. No entry fee; registration required. Walker envelope for sponsor donations available prior to walk or at registration at 1:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.burkecropwalk.org, call 703-455-9025, or e-mail burkeva.crop@cox.net.

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Church of the Good Shepherd 703-323-5400
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 703-455-2500

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Abiding Presence Lutheran Church 703-455-7500

Methodist
Burke United Methodist Church 703-250-6100
St. Stephen's United Methodist Church 703-978-8724

Baha'i Faith
Baha'is of Fairfax County Southwest 703-912-1719

Baptist
Preservation of Zion Fellowship 703-409-1015

Catholic
Church of the Nativity 703-455-2400

Non-Denominational
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Calvary Christian Church 703-455-7041
Knollwood Community Church 703-425-2068

Presbyterian
Burke Presbyterian Church 703-764-0456
Sansaug Korean Presbyterian 703-425-3377

Unitarian Universalist
Accotink Unitarian Universalist 703-503-4579

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Fairfax Voters Approve Bond Package

From Page 8

Nearly \$20 million of the money will include an expansion to Spring Hill RECenter, featuring new fitness space, renovations to the locker rooms, the addition of multipurpose activity rooms and a new gym area. Oak Marr RECenter will be expanded, featuring new fitness spaces and improved facility flow. Additional

features at the Water Mine at Lake Fairfax will be added to enhance the visitor experience and increase capacity. The park bond passed with 297,757 “yes” votes (72.13 percent of the vote) and 115,030 “no” votes, or 27.87 percent of the vote.

❖**Storm water Drainage Improvement Bonds (\$30 million):** Funding is earmarked

for a levee and other storm-water improvements in the Huntington community. In June 2006, 160 homes were flooded and 161 homes were damaged in 2011 during Tropical Storm Lee. Currently, there are 180 homes in the FEMA-designated floodplain that are at risk.

At Fairfax County’s request, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers studied the best ways to protect Huntington from future floods. The study examined a number of options, including dredging Cameron Run, buying the flood-prone properties and flood-proofing individual homes.

The study found that building a levee and a pumping station is the most cost-effective way to reduce flooding in the neighborhood. Bond funds are planned to pay to complete the design and build a 2,865-foot-long levee and pumping station, along with buying any land needed for this purpose.

The storm water bonds passed with 316,296 “yes” votes (76.76 percent) and 95,769 “no” votes (23.24 percent) for a total of

412,065 votes cast.

“The projects the bond referenda will pay for are community priorities that essentially enhance our quality of life,” said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large). She said Fairfax County’s triple-A credit rating—one of only 39 counties in the country to earn

“(These projects)...are community priorities that essentially enhance our quality of life.”

—Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

the rating—allows the County to borrow money at a low cost to pay for public facilities and infrastructure.

She said the County has a fiscally conservative policy of rapid debt retirement and strong debt management. Since 1978, the County has saved more than \$543.28 million on bond and re-funding sales as a result of the

triple-A ratings. Bulova said none of the bonds are expected to raise tax rates for residents.

“The County has benefited from the low cost of construction to make these kinds of improvement to our parks, libraries and public safety facilities. It’s the silver lining, so to speak, in the economic downturn,” she said.

Because the bonds spell out the type and cost of projects, Bulova said money cannot be shifted around for other projects. “When you vote, you will know exactly where your money is going,” Bulova said.

In Fairfax County, bonds typically have a high rate of passage and, for the most part, have bipartisan support from the Board of Supervi-

sors. “All residents benefit from parks, libraries, and, of course, the courthouse renovations. Efficient handling of court cases come from better facilities. Park and library funds are spent in an order established based on needs. Over time that covers the whole County,” said Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock).

Bulletin Board

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.

SATURDAY/NOV. 10

Women in the NAACP Meeting. 10 a.m.-noon, at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Rd., Burke. Meet and discuss the upcoming the NAACP holiday event, to be held Dec. 8.

College Bound: Road to Success. Noon-3 p.m., at the Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax. The Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., hosts the annual luncheon for high school junior and senior African American students; the event focuses on preparing students for the academic, social and financial transition from high school to college. RSVP. www.fcacdst.org/collegebound.

Dog Adoptions. 1-4 p.m. PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Every Saturday. Sponsored by Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. www.lostdogrescue.org.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 14

Where Do I Go For Help? 1:30 p.m., at the Alzheimer’s Family Day Center, 2812 Old Lee Highway, Suite 210, Fairfax. Learn about services available in Fairfax and the greater area for those facing Alzheimer’s. RSVP. 703-204-4664.

FRIDAY/NOV. 16

Dog Adoptions. 6:30-8:30 p.m. PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Every Friday. Sponsored by Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. www.lostdogrescue.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 17

Open Season Workshop. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main Street, Fairfax. For federal employees/retirees, FEHBP experts will present and answer questions on plan coverage and benefits before open season ends, Dec. 10. 703-256-3071 or www.opm.gov/insure/openseason/.

Dog and Cat Adoptions. 6:30-8:30 p.m. PetSmart Seven Corners, 12971 Fair Lakes Parkway, Fairfax. Every Saturday. Sponsored by Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. www.lostdogrescue.org.

Homeless Animals Rescue Team Dog Adoptions. 12-3 p.m. Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Every Saturday. 703-817-9444 or www.hart90.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 8

Women in the NAACP meeting. 10 a.m.-12 p.m., at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Please join the Women in the NAACP for a holiday event.

Dog Adoptions. 1-4 p.m. PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Every Saturday. Sponsored by Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. www.lostdogrescue.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 14

Dog Adoptions. 6:30-8:30 p.m. PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Every Friday. Sponsored by Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. www.lostdogrescue.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 15

Homeless Animals Rescue Team Dog Adoptions. 12-3 p.m.

Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Every Saturday. 703-817-9444 or www.hart90.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 29

Dog and Cat Adoptions. 6:30-8:30 p.m. PetSmart Seven Corners, 12971 Fair Lakes Parkway, Fairfax. Every Saturday. Sponsored by Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. www.lostdogrescue.org.

ONGOING

Drinking and Driving. Fairfax County residents of 18 years of age are asked to complete a brief survey on behaviors and attitudes about underage drinking, binge drinking and alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes. George Mason University will use data collected through Nov. 9 in the survey to develop and implement strategies to reduce the number of alcohol-related crashes for those 18-24, along with the nonprofit United Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County. www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org.

Senior Fall Prevention Classes. 1:30-2:30 p.m., at the Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Dr., Fairfax. Tuesday and/or Thursday classes in a heated pool designed to work on balance and core muscles for injury prevention. \$10. 703-667-9800.

Burke Lake Road KinderCare Tours. 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m., 9724 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The childcare facility for children ages six weeks to 12 years will show their variety of programs and classrooms to Burke and Fairfax area families who want to see how learning and play prepare young children for school success. Appointment required. 703-250-3854, or emurphy@klcorp.com.

OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10 & 11

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the “This Week in Real Estate” link.

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

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6100 Eagle Landing Rd. \$649,900 Sun 1-4 Carol Hermandorfer Long & Foster 703-503-1812
5720 Round Top Ln. \$349,900 Sun 1-4 Maria Quispe Weichert 703-409-1499

Centreville

6487 Trillium House Ln. \$999,900 Sun 1-5 Jean Marotta Birch Haven 703-402-9471

Clifton

8209 Cub Den Ct. \$1,125,000 Sun 1-4 John Cooney Fairfax 703-989-9969

Fairfax

4103 Halsted St. \$598,000 Sat 1-4 Herb & Adeline Medeiros Long & Foster 703-980-9769
10111 Blue Coat Dr. \$513,000 Sun 1-4 Herb & Adeline Medeiros Long & Foster 703-980-9769
3953 Kathryn Jean Ct. \$479,000 Sat 1-3 Kathleen Miller Samson Props 703-409-7637

Fairfax Station

6901 Wolf Run Shoals Rd. \$899,900 Sun 1-4 Carol Hermandorfer Long & Foster 703-503-1812
7507 South Reach Dr. \$869,950 Sun 1-4 Kathleen Quintarelli Weichert 703-862-8808
8451 Lake Mist Way \$719,999 Sun 1-4 Jim Agnew Avery-Hess 888-420-4554
11215 September Ln. \$642,500 Sun 2-4 Pat Fales RE/MAX 703-503-4365

Falls Church

3804 Munson Rd. \$849,000 Sat/Sun 1-4 Patrick Kessler Keller Williams 703-405-6540

Kingstowne/Alexandria

7100 Judith Ave. \$814,900 Sun 1-4 John Queaney Century 21 703-868-0061
5495 Clonmel Ct. \$759,950 Sun 1-4 Tom & Cindy & Assoc. Long & Foster 703-822-0207
6060 Piney Woods Ct. \$719,950 Sun 1-4 Tom & Cindy & Assoc. Long & Foster 703-822-0207
6600 Berkshire Dr. \$439,500 Sun 12-4 Mary Edwards Coldwell Banker 703-907-9800
6635 Rockleigh Way \$359,950 Sun 1-4 Tom & Cindy & Assoc. Long & Foster 703-822-0207

Lorton

5941 Kentia Trl. \$599,900 Sun 1-4 Patrick Coen Keller Williams 703-564-4000
8704 Susquehanna St. \$250,000 Sun 12-3 Bill Deibes Fairfax 703-752-3700

Springfield

7762 Camp David Dr. \$800,000 Sun 1-4 Dennis Mahafkey Keller Williams 703-562-1800
7316 Backlick Rd. \$429,900 Sun 1-3 Janine Ali Golden Key 703-910-7073
6832 Ridgeway Dr. \$369,900 Sun 1-4 Shanna Miller Weichert 703-615-3178

Woodbridge

727 Harbor Side St. \$424,500 Sun 1-4 Diane Lenahan Wolf Run 703-283-7328

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THE
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Chase Sets Lake Braddock Record at XC Regionals

Bruins girls', boys' teams qualify for states.

By Jon Roetman
The Connection

Lake Braddock senior Sophie Chase looked at the clock and realized she was on the verge of something special as she approached the finish line during the Northern Region cross country championships on Nov. 2.

Chase's resume already included multiple Patriot District and Northern Region titles and the 2011 AAA state championship. But as she neared the end of her final race at Burke Lake Park, Chase found a way to add achievements to her decorated career as a high school harrier.

Chase won her third consecutive region title, finishing with a school-record time of 16:42, which also equaled the third-best girls' time in the history of the Burke Lake Park course.

"I think the last thing I saw before I closed my eyes coming down the last straightaway because I was straining was the clock, and it was like 16:30, 16:31, 16:32," Chase said. "I was [thinking], 'Aaahhh, I've got to run!' I got through and then I knew I got [the school record], so I was really excited."

Chase broke Wendy Neely's Lake Braddock record of 16:49.2, set at the 1986 Northern Region championships. Chase's time of 16:42 tied Hayfield's Melissa Dewey (2004) for third-best all time. Langley's Erin Keogh set the course record of 16:09.7 at the 1985 Northern Region championships.

"There's been so much history on this course," Chase said, "that being able to finally be up there chasing those legends—like Wendy Neely, Erin Keogh, all those greats—it's incredibly surreal and just amazing."

CHASE'S EFFORT helped Lake Braddock win the girls' team championship. The Bruins finished with a score of 38, followed by Oakton (92), Chantilly (109) and West Springfield (116). The top four teams and top 15 individuals advanced to the state meet, scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 10 at Great Meadow.

Lake Braddock's Hannah Christen placed third with a time of 17:08. Katie Roche (17:33) finished sixth, Katy Kunc (18:08) was

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Lake Braddock senior Sophie Chase set a school record with a time of 16:42 during the Northern Region championships on Nov. 2 at Burke Lake Park.

13th and Misha Suresh (18:30) was 18th.

"What we keep telling girls is we can't take anything for granted," Chase said. "No matter how fast we ran today, no matter how good our team looks going into states, you can never take anything for granted."

EARLIER, IN THE BOYS' RACE, Lake Braddock captured the fourth and final state berth, finishing with a score of 124. Chantilly won the boys' championship with a score of 39, followed by Oakton (85) and Robinson (87).

Lake Braddock's Nick Tuck placed second with a personal-best time of 15:03. Chantilly's Sean McGorty won the race with a time of 14:19.

Tuck just missed becoming the first Lake Braddock boys' runner to break 15 minutes at the Burke Lake Park course.

"I ran as hard as I could," Tuck

said. "If I didn't break 15, it wasn't meant to be, but I'm so glad I ran that close to 15."

Tuck finished 44 seconds behind McGorty and 20 seconds ahead of third-place Logan Miller from Chantilly.



Lake Braddock's Nick Tuck placed second at the Northern Region championships, helping the boys' team finish fourth and earn a state berth.

"I did the same thing at the district meet, so it's something I'm familiar with," Tuck said about running alone. "I tried to do what I didn't do last time and stay awake during that middle mile. [That's where] I lost most of my time last

week. I focused more on that this time and that really helped."

Lake Braddock's Alex Corbett (15:43) finished 13th, Forrest Isenhour (16:06) was 37th, Kevin Monogue (16:12) finished 43rd and Ben Fogg (16:23) was 55th.

Photos by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection

Don Beyer
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Religious Program Coordinator

Our busy church is looking to fill a 3 hour a week position coordinating our Godly Play Program. Responsibilities include lining up volunteers and serving as a Storyteller each Sunday. Commitment to nurturing children and faith is a must. Christian education experience is a plus; Godly Play program training available. Contact Rev. Erin Sharp at 703-451-2900, extension 3.

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