

# Springfield CONNECTION

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Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), who has been instrumental in pushing the Springfield Mall project forward, looks back at the demolished exterior of the mall. Vornado kicked off exterior demolition of the mall on Monday, Nov. 26.

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PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

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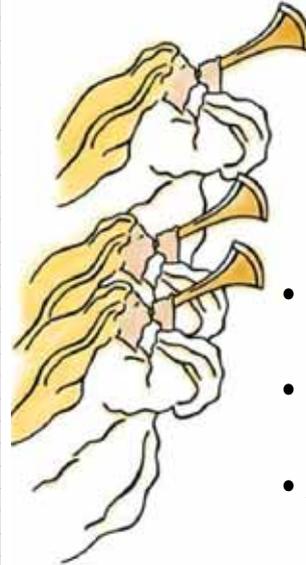
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**Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), who has been instrumental in pushing the Springfield Mall project forward, looks back at the demolished exterior of the mall. Vornado kicked off exterior demolition of the mall on Monday, Nov. 26.**



VORNADO REALTY TRUST

**An architectural drawing of the grand entry plaza near the Loisdale Road entrance.**

# RIP Springfield Mall

## Demolition signals transformation of Springfield Mall into \$200 million town center.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**F**airfax County Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) could not have been happier as chunks of steel and concrete began falling off Springfield Mall Monday morning, Nov. 26.

“This is the biggest thing to happen in Springfield since the Mixing Bowl,” McKay said, watching as the CAT excavator began demolishing what was once Garfinckel’s department store.

McKay, who has been instrumental in pushing the Springfield Mall project forward for several years, joined Vornado/Charles E. Smith President Mitchell Shear and other civic leaders to kick off the exterior demolition of the mall, a visible sign that the 1970s-era “fortress” mall will be transformed into Springfield Town Center in 2014.

Holding a rock-sized piece of Garfinckel’s in his hand, McKay said it will be a relief to be able to tell constituents that the project, which the board of supervisors approved three years ago, is finally underway.

“It’s the first question everyone always asks me. Not why, but when,” McKay said.

“People have doubted this project,” said Nancy-jo Manney, executive director, Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce. “We are all excited to see the new re-done project.”

In July, mega-developer Vornado shuttered all of the interior stores

as the first phase of the \$200 million renovation began. But the project had lurched forward in fits and starts for so many years that many in the local business community were skeptical they would ever see a new mall.

Faiqa Bahtti, who works in sales at the Hilton across from the mall, walked over to the construction site on Monday morning to take photos of the demolition. “It’s exciting to finally see it happen. People wondered if this day would come,” she said.

In 2006, Vornado Realty purchased the mall for \$171.5 million. In 2009, the board of supervisors approved rezoning of the property to permit Vornado’s development plans. Soon after, any sign of redevelopment came to a halt. No construction equipment materialized, and shoppers saw the mall continue its slow decline.

In 2010, Vornado defaulted on its mortgage of \$171.5 million, and then refinanced the mall for \$115 million, a strategic way to alleviate debt.

“People have been disappointed in the past,” McKay said, “but when everything is complete, the final product will knock your socks off.”

**THE NEWLY-RENOVATED MALL**, which Shear said would open in the fall of 2014, will include an addition of roughly 700,000 square feet of retail, restaurants, a food court and a state-of-the-art movie theater. The 20-foot-tall brown numbers that indicated the mall’s six main entrances—a hallmark of the 1970s-

era mall—will be replaced with one central grand entranceway.

Though Shear said it was too early to disclose potential new tenants, he said the new center will have a more “upscale” tenant mix and the three anchor stores—Macy’s, Target and JCP—will remain open during construction.

“There will be much more in terms of variety of shops,” said Vornado’s project manager, Bob Byrne, adding that the mall will be turned “inside-out,” with outward facing storefronts in keeping with the town center look of the mall.

Later phases of the renovation—expected to take about 10 to 15 years—will complete the town center look, with a mix of upscale retail and commercial development, a 225-room hotel, pedestrian plazas, recreational facilities, 2,000 residential units and transportation improvements.

McKay and other county leaders have called the mall’s renovation “the most important redevelopment project in Springfield.”

Jerry Gordon, executive director of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, agrees.

He said Springfield has all the right pieces in place to experience a “rebirth” and create a vibrant new identity, despite its ubiquitous name.

“Every state has a Springfield, and Springfield, Virginia, has always been a bedroom community. Now it’s changing, and that’s exciting,” Gordon said. “I think Jeff McKay has shown a great deal of leadership on this.”

**“The final product will knock your socks off.”**

**—Supervisor Jeff McKay**



**“People have doubted this project,” said Nancy-jo Manney, executive director of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, standing next to Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and Vornado/Charles E. Smith President Mitchell Shear during the exterior demolition of the mall on Monday, Nov. 26.**

Gordon said the time is right for the community’s transformation.

“You have transportation in place with the Mixing Bowl and a Metro station, and the jobs coming—an estimated 16,000 new jobs and \$8-10 million in construction as a result of Ft. Belvoir’s Base Realignment and Closures (BRAC)—and the next thing are the amenities, such as the new Springfield Town Center... This all contributes to a higher quality of life.”

**MCKAY SAID** he was looking forward to new shops that cater to children, since he has two young children, “and good restaurants that my wife and I can enjoy.”

He said the chunk of Garfinckel’s—a place he remembers shopping with his mother, and being “bored to tears”—will take its place on a shelf in his office with other pieces of Springfield’s past, such as Chi-Chi’s Mexican restaurant and Circuit City.

# AREA ROUNDUPS

## Fatal Crash in Springfield

A 62-year-old woman died when her car veered off the road and struck a tree. The driver, Dinh Quy of the 6200 block of William Edgar Drive in Alexandria was operating her 2009 Toyota Corolla in the parking lot of the shopping center on the southeast corner of Rolling Road and Old Keene Mill Road. On Tuesday, Nov. 27 shortly after 7 p.m. Quy left the parking lot and headed north in the southbound lanes of Rolling

Road. After passing through the intersection of Old Keene Mill Road, the car veered to the left and struck a tree on the west side of Rolling Road. Quy was pronounced dead a short time later.

It is not yet known if a medical condition, alcohol or speed were factors contributing to this crash and it is still under investigation.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](mailto:www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call

Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

## Police Collect Toys for Ill Children

For the 26th year in a row, the Fairfax County Police Department motorcycle squad is working collaboratively with the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, Fairfax City Police, Falls Church Sheriff's Office, and the Town of Vienna Police to collect and distribute toys for sick children, as well as local charities such as

the Ronald McDonald House.

Please consider donating a new, unwrapped toy, game or book at any Fairfax County Police station before Monday, Dec. 10. Donations are also being accepted at the Fairfax County Police Headquarters at 4100 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax.

The motorcycle officers' "Santa's Ride" collection will take place on Dec. 11; distribution of gifts will take place at Inova Fairfax Hospital on Dec. 12 and Georgetown Hospital on Dec. 13.

SEE ROUNDUPS PAGE 5

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# Avoiding Holiday Debt

Plan now to prevent post-holiday bills.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**F**estive store displays mean the holiday shopping season is in full swing. While a recent survey by the National Retail Federation is estimating that consumer spending will be conservative this year, the group predicts that the average shopper is planning to dole out \$421.82 on family members, \$75.13 on friends and \$23.48 on co-workers.

"The holidays bring on a feeling of consumption on the part of individuals to provide gifts to families and friends," said Charles W. Miller, associate professor of finance at Marymount University in Arlington. "Often, when monies are not available, people turn to the path of least resistance which is the credit card."

While the holidays mean increased spending for many, financial setbacks can be avoided. Local money experts offer strategies for those determined to emerge from the season with minimal or no debt.

McLean-based financial advisor Kristan Anderson said, "Avoiding holiday debt is all about setting a budget and being creative about gifting options," she said. "The budget should be an amount that does not require the additional use of credit cards for short-term financing."

Potomac, Md. resident Linda Berg-Cross, a researcher and professor of psychology at Howard University suggests, "Avoid developing a consuming style based on what the media is selling. Media literacy is critical for financial savvy in today's world."



**To avoid accumulating credit card debt during the holidays, financial experts say plan ahead, develop a strict budget and stick to it.**

professor of finance at George Mason University advises consumers against going shopping without a methodical plan. "Stores have colorful displays and holiday lights that lure shoppers," he said. "Before going shopping you have to sit down and decide how much money you are going to spend on each person. Make a list and take it with you to help resist overspending. Don't charge more on credit cards than you can afford to pay off easily in three months."

For those having financial difficulties Anderson says, "It is worth having a discussion with family members and opting to not exchange gifts outside the immediate family. Or just have a simple gift exchange where each person has only one person to buy a gift for. Don't underestimate the value of a homemade gift, either."

Berg-Cross recommends that consumers use money-saving tactics like "holiday shopping at resale stores, waiting for sales, cutting coupons, and [internet] surfing to comparison shop."

Theresa Wansi, Ph.D., professor of finance at Marymount University adds, "You can go to a store like Bloomingdale's and look around and then go to a discount store and find the same items at a much lower price."

Anderson says avoid waiting until the last minute to purchase gifts. "Starting early...allows you to spread the costs out over a few months or more," she said. "Some stores are offering layaway, which is another option that avoids increasing credit card debt."

Steve Pilloff, Ph.D., assistant



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**Before writing a check to a charity, experts say make sure that the organization is ethically and financially sound.**

## Tips for Year-End Charitable Giving

Financial experts offer suggestions for ensuring one's donations are well spent.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**T**is the season for giving, and that includes donations to charities. According to a recent survey, charities report that year-end contributions make up nearly 40-percent of annual donations.

"With regard to your tax planning, if you're in a favorable position and can afford to do so, this is a good time to give to charity," said Charles W. Miller, associate professor of finance at Marymount University.

Money experts say there are a few things that one should consider before donating to a charity. Potomac resident Glen J. Buco, president, West Financial Services in McLean, says, "Your first thought with regard to charitable gifts is that you need to support charities and groups that you would like to support and the tax deduction should be a secondary factor."

Steve Pilloff, Ph.D., a professor of finance at George Mason University in Fairfax, encourages potential donors to make sure the charity's priorities are consistent with one's philanthropic goals. "Look at the mission of the charity," he said. "Does it feed hungry people? Does it provide funds for medical research? I am always more comfortable with a charity that I'm familiar with."

**RESEARCH A POTENTIAL CHARITY** to learn how one's donation will be spent. "There are websites where you can go to see how much of every dollar given goes to charity and how much goes



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

**Steve Pilloff, Ph.D., a professor of finance at George Mason University in Fairfax, encourages potential donors to make sure the mission of the charity is consistent with one's philanthropic goals.**

to administration," said Buco. "One more point to note, you need written acknowledgment from the charity for gifts over \$250 in order to deduct the donation."

Make sure the charity of one's choice has high ethical standards. "Unfortunately, you always read about scams," he said. "There are charities that are not fully legitimate, but have names that sound similar to established charities to try to confuse people. When someone is going to make a donation they should try to make sure that their money is going to where they think it is going."

Buco adds, "In the wake of [Hurricane] Sandy, you have to be especially careful of scams. The IRS (Internal Revenue Service) has a website called "[Exempt Organizations] Select Check" where you can look up a charity to see if they are registered with the IRS."

Consider local charities. "There are a lot of local organizations and groups that really don't get the funding that they need, so it is nice if you can support local charities," he said.

### AREA ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 4

For more information, contact the Public Information Office, 703-246-2253

#### Adopt a Shelter Animal

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter is offering a free spay or neuter for the first 100 cats, kittens, dogs or puppies adopted from the shelter through Dec. 31. The special offer is part of the shelter's annual Home for the Holidays adoption celebration to help homeless animals leave the shelter for stable, new homes in time for the holidays.

The shelter has cats and dogs available for adoption, in addition to rabbits, small mammals, reptiles and birds. To view animals available for adoption, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animalservices/> and click on adoption. The shelter is at 4500 West Ox Road in Fairfax. Regular adoption hours are Tuesday-Friday, noon-6:30 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For more information, call 703-830-1100.



**Dai Dai the cat needs a good home.**

#### Cold War Competition to Benefit Veterans

CrossFit Liberation in Lorton hosts The Cold War II Competition—its second annual CrossFit competition for the Mid-Atlantic Region. The Cold War competition comprises both team and individual competitor divisions, featuring more than 200 CrossFit athletes from across the Mid-Atlantic region competing in the two-day challenge. Event participants include many active duty personnel and reservists, as well as military veterans and wounded warriors. The CrossFit program was developed to enhance an individual's physical competency in order to prepare them for dealing with life's challenges. A portion of the Cold War II competition proceeds will go to Hidden Wounds, a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide interim and emergency counseling services to ensure the psychological health and well-being for combat veterans and their families, as well as the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) to support bipolar research.

Saturday, Dec. 1, team registration begins at 5:15 a.m. The first heat of athletes goes out at 7 a.m.; the second is Sunday, Dec. 2, at 5 p.m. at South Run Recreation Center, Reservation Drive in Springfield. [www.thecoldwar-midatlantic.com](http://www.thecoldwar-midatlantic.com).

# OPINION

## Learning in a Global Community

### Students in Fairfax County speak 160 languages.

This week our ongoing series about immigration in Fairfax County takes a look at county schools, and some of the joys and challenges of having a diverse student body that speaks as many as 160 different languages at home.

Find the series compiled online at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Immigration/>.

For the director of language acquisition in Fairfax County Public Schools, the 44 percent of students who speak a foreign language at home present an opportunity to create language immersion classes where half a kindergarten is learning Spanish or Korean while the other half is learning English.

For principals of some elementary schools where more than half of their students are not proficient in English, the need to have students meet benchmarks in a variety of subjects is a relentless process. In addition to limited English, immigrant students come from varied backgrounds, some with good basics in their

own languages and some with limited previous education in any language. The parents of these students are similarly varied.

Meanwhile, representation of Latino and African American students in Fairfax County's top instructional centers for gifted students lags dramatically.

#### EDITORIAL

FCPS is conducting two critical sets of public meetings this week and next. The call for public input is not specifically about growing diversity in the schools, but related challenges make both the possible expansion of centers for the county's most talented students and the selection of a new superintendent of schools that much more important.

A fast moving proposal to expand the number of centers to provide "advanced academic" services is the topic of meetings this week. The meetings will run from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27, in the Westfield High School cafeteria; Wednesday, Nov. 28, in the Lee High School cafeteria; and Thursday, Nov. 29, in the Kilmer

Middle School cafeteria.

Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Jack Dale will be retiring in June of 2013. The School Board has hired a search firm, Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates, which will be gathering community input. Many of the challenges facing the new superintendent will revolve around growing diversity, and a track record of open communication and achievement in this will be key to success.

#### SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- ❖ Dec. 3 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, South County HS, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, VA 22079.
- ❖ Dec. 4 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, Langley HS, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101.
- ❖ Dec. 5 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, Robinson SS, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax, VA 22032.
- ❖ Dec. 6 - 10 a.m. Gatehouse Administration Center, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA 22042 Room 1600.
- ❖ Dec. 6 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, Annandale HS, 4700 Medford Drive, Annandale, VA 22003.
- ❖ Dec. 6 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, Groveton Elementary School, 6900 Harrison Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306.
- ❖ Dec. 7 - 1 p.m., Gatehouse Administration Center, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA 22042 Room 1600.

#### FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION

## Immigrants and Today's Faith Response

BY JOHN HOREJSI, COORDINATOR  
SOCIAL ACTION LINKING TOGETHER (SALT)

The presence of increasing numbers of immigrants is a challenge to the Fairfax County faith community commitments. The challenge is to be a faith community with open arms.

Historically the churches in the United States have been immigrant churches. Who among us cannot trace one's ancestors back to a country outside the U.S.? The church's care and concern for countless European immigrants is well known. Today, we the faith community are called to welcome immigrants with similar hospitality.

The situation of immigrants is often desperate. Entering a culturally strange and different land, and struggling financially is as scary today as it ever was in the past. Perhaps it is even more so because of the quickened pace of American life.

Those who are fortunate to connect with helpers are settled within a few years. Others remain in transition the rest of their lives as families struggle with complex adjustments. All face major problems in housing, employment, health care, legal assistance, and a difficult new language.

Immigrants frequently face the additional obstacle of cruel prejudice and racism. Non-immigrants often want to exclude them from the benefits of a free country, yet are eager to use cheap and reliable labor of immigrants.

The immigrants and other refugees keep coming, not necessarily because they want to,



but as one, fleeing from war and persecution, put it, because of "the persistent advantage of life over death."

Presently, many Hispanics from Central America are located in Northern Virginia. About 65 percent are Salvadoran, 15 percent Honduran, and 10 percent each are Guatemalan and Nicaraguan. The faith community in Northern Virginia has not been unaware of the presence and plight of these immigrant refugees.

Nationally, for more than 65 years, Catholic Charities agencies have responded to the needs of people who come to this country in search of a better life. Thousands of refugees have

been settled. Over 90 percent of Catholic resettlement services are provided through Catholic Charities, which is one of the keys to the future of migration ministry in the U.S.

In Northern Virginia, one of the responses of the faith community has been through Hogar Immigrant Services, a program of Catholic Charities. Hogar assists immigrants in participating more fully in their everyday lives. Information referrals, legal information services, and educational opportunities are just some of the aids. The aim is to help the Northern Virginia immigrant population become knowledgeable, participating individuals in society.

Yet much remains to be done, especially in and by the faith community. What are the elements of this challenge?

- ❖ Recognizing the contributions of the immigrants to the community;
- ❖ Providing a greater voice to the immigrant community in decision-making within the community;
- ❖ Supporting programs designed to improve the quality of life for newcomers;
- ❖ Serving as advocates to create a favorable public opinion out of which good things can happen; and
- ❖ Seeking to raise consciousness for solidarity with the poor and the stranger.

Our response must be to acknowledge by word and action that the spirituality of the faith community and the spirituality of the immigrant communities are interdependent. Through love, kindness, service and advocacy for each other both stand to gain.

### Write Us

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor, The Connection  
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-917-6444. ❖ [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com)

## Springfield CONNECTION

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Learning From Diversity

To the Editor:

Diversity is a wonderful part of living in Northern Virginia. It is fabulous that my husband, daughters and I have opportunities to learn about various cultures. As the workforce development director at Infant/Toddler Family Day Care, a nonprofit, state licensed, family child care system representing approximately 28 countries and 15 languages, my family and I have the opportunity to get to know individuals that have immigrated to the United States recently and others that did so long ago. Founded in 1983, the organization started to see diversity early on, around 1985. Women immigrating from all around the world were looking to combine their love of children, need for financial stability and desire to be at home. I am honored each time I have the

opportunity to visit a new home and hear stories of immigration and the struggles some have gone through. Each time I get another perspective on what it means to have our freedom. Even if a family does not have a lot of resources they often want to make sure they feed me or send me home with food for my family. The caring and nurturing family child care providers I work with have changed who I am and allowed me to expose my family to opportunities that may not otherwise be possible. This best kept secret in Northern Virginia has supported and empowered our very diverse community for almost 30 years and I hope it continues celebrating differences for many more.

**Lisa Farinholt-O'Brien, LCSW**  
Springfield

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### MONDAY/DEC. 3

**Personal Safety Seminar.** 7 p.m. at 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Franconia District Station will hold a seminar at the Richard Byrd Library. This seminar will be in English.

#### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 5

**Personal Safety Seminar.** 7 p.m. at 7250

Commerce St., Springfield. Franconia District Station will hold a seminar at the Richard Byrd Library. This seminar will be in Spanish.

#### SUNDAY/JAN 13

**Baseball Camp.** TBD, at Lee High School, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. A six week baseball camp with Head Coach John Dowling of Lee High School and with the U.S. Baseball Academy practicing advanced hitting, pitching, catching, fielding and baserunning; for players in grades first through 12th, six players per coach only. Register now. \$99. 866-622-4487 or [www.USBBaseballAcademy.com](http://www.USBBaseballAcademy.com).

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**Learn More & Sign Up**  
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In 2011, more than 100 employers representing 3,000 employees participated in this community-wide give-back initiative. Help us boost those numbers in 2012!



# 35th Annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Show

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At Wakefield Park**  
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Annandale, VA 22003

**Saturday, December 1st**  
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Sunday, December 2nd**  
10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Admission: \$2, children 12 and younger free**  
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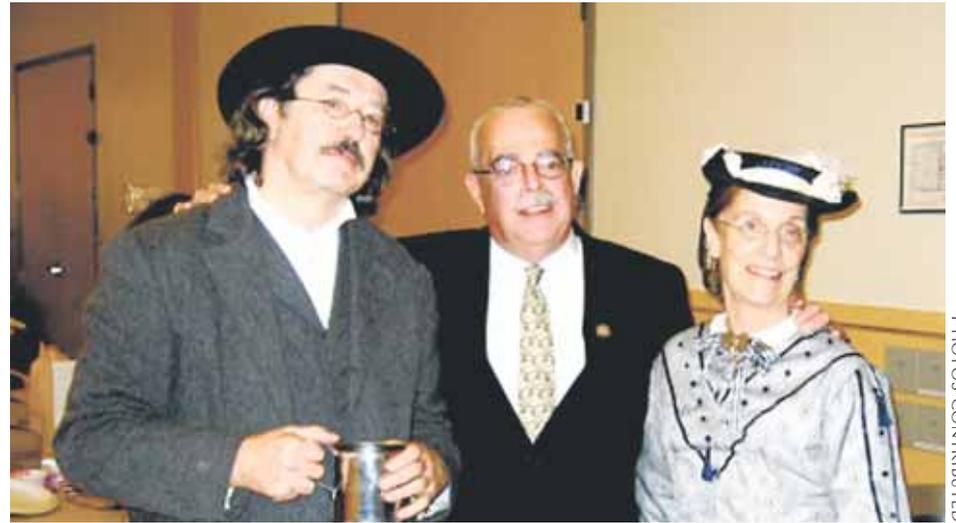
For Accommodations, please call  
703-324-8563, TTY 703-803-3354

~ Bring in coupon/ad for \$1 off admission ~





Pictured here are authors Ed Trexler, Chuck Mauro and Don Hakenson. Steve Sherman is a member of a media company, HMS Productions, and a member of the Fairfax County History Commission. Standing is Jon Vrana, president of the Burke Historical Society and a re-enactor who participated in the re-enactment of the "Secession Vote in Fairfax" conference production.



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) visits with Jon Vrana, president of the Burke Historical Society and Darby Colwell from the Victorian Society of Falls Church at the Eighth Annual Fairfax County History Conference, "Conflict & Courage: Sites & Stories of the Civil War in Fairfax County," on Nov. 10 at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center in the City of Fairfax.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

# History Conference Focuses on Conflict and Courage

## Local historians honored.

The eighth Annual Fairfax County History Conference was held on Saturday, Nov. 10, at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center in the City of Fairfax. A record 120 participants were in attendance to enjoy the theme of "Conflict & Courage: The Civil War in Fairfax County." Over 20 authors and exhibitors also attended and the day was filled with living history, including the re-enactment of the "Secession Vote in Fairfax County" by the Jon Vrana players.

The passion of both sides was clearly portrayed, including the reminder of the silence women endured in not being able to share a voice in local or national elections. Other living history presentation included the premiere of Chuck Mauro's play, "Chantilly: After the Storm" depicting three survivors from the Battle of Ox Hill/Chantilly on Sept. 1, 1862. Award-winning author and speaker Greg Clemmer spoke on "Why the Civil War Still Lives" and captivated the audience by numerous references to how present the Civil War is in our daily lexicon—including the comparison of all presidential speeches to the Gettysburg address and the presence of Civil War music still used in Hollywood today—with "Dixie" being the most commonly used song in movies. Kevin Knapp captured the audience's attention with his period dress and stories of Thaddeus Lowe—the Reconnaissance Balloonist who landed a balloon in our own Vienna, and literally launched the First American Air Force. Letters written by Clara Barton were read by Susan Rosenvold, an educator at the Clara Barton Medical Museum.

The Fairfax County Park Authority sent three of its premier historians, Mike Henry, John Rutherford and Jim Daniels to speak on, "Echoes Still – This Land = Our Land"—a review of the many sites and stories that are the backdrop to Fairfax County's parks today. The "Seeds of Independence" historic



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) and Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova present awards to local historians. From left—the producers of "HiStory—the History of McLean/Great Falls from 1607 to the Present," Evelyn Fox, Wanda Hill, Joan Morton, Virginia Norton and Gail T. Nields, David G. Farmer, V. Denise Barrett and Lisa F. Becker. Awards Committee Chairperson Lynne Garvey-Hodge looks on.

preservation group from Gunston Hall shared their video which had been released earlier this year, "The Story of Free Blacks Living on Mason's Neck During the Civil War"—a fascinating look at a prosperous and now forgotten part of Fairfax County—where numerous "free" blacks lived, owned homes, property and business establishments—yet who unfortunately got caught up in the horror of the war as it took place around them. The conference ended with a passionate "Appeal" from President Abraham Lincoln—masterfully re-enacted by Fairfax County School Board member Dan Storck.

**GUESTS INCLUDED** retired news correspondent Roger Mudd and Del. Ken Plum (D-36). U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) joined with Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova to present awards to local historians who had contributed to document and preserve the rich history of Fairfax County this past year. It is the custom of the Fairfax County History Commission to present Annual Awards to citizens who have given of their time and

talents to create a document or media presentation that serves to preserve and protect the history of the vast historic resources of Fairfax County. The Fairfax County History Commission this year presented the following Awards:

Heritage Awareness Awards:

❖ C. Denise Barrett—The Nan Netherton Award for her work in researching and writing a narrative about Lakewood Estates in the neighborhood off Wolf Shoals in SW Fairfax County. She included information on the prehistory of the county—early land acquisitions, the American Revolution and the Civil War and on into 20th century life. This is all documented with 304 endnotes and a bibliography of 26 sources. She will also receive a \$500 prize for her efforts.

❖ Lisa Friedrich Becker—The CJS Durham Award for her nomination to the National Register of the Sydenstricker School—which she has also been extensively involved in renovating and "resurrecting" as a well-received community project. She will also receive a \$250 prize.

❖ David G. Farmer—The Beth Mitchell Award for his Automation/Indexing of the

collection of Flint Hill Cemetery Records—reflecting its use back to 1875. His summary Excel spread sheet consisted of 3,500-plus lines of data and a collection of information from more than 2,100 tombstones. He will also receive a \$500 prize for his research and documentation efforts.

### Recognition Awards:

❖ Distinguished Service Award—for the casting, performing and presenting three times as well as producing a video of same of a play called "Captain John Smith: a HiStory of McLean & Great Falls Virginia." It honored the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown and subsequent events that occurred in the McLean area. Copies were distributed at local McLean schools and libraries. Evelyn Fox was the coordinator (and attended the conference with her husband, Shawn, as a special trip from Texas—where she now resides). Assistants for the production are Wanda Hill, Joan Morton, Virginia Norton & Gail T. Nields.

❖ Lifetime Achievement Award—Suzanne Levy. For her 30-plus years of service in the Virginia Room of the Fairfax City Library and her efforts to promote history, genealogy and historic preservation in the region. (Information is also available on the Fairfax County History Commission web site: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/histcomm/awardsprogram.htm>).

Committee members who coordinated efforts for the conference included, Barbara Naef, Dr. Liz Crowell, Susan Gray, Esther McCullough, Naomi Zeavin, Sallie Lyons, Carole Herrick, Mary Lipsey, Mike Irwin and Rob Orrison. The Awards Committee includes Jack Hiller, Elise R. Murray, Robert Beach and Naomi Zeavin. Fairfax County History Commissioner Lynne Garvey-Hodge chairs both the Conference Planning Committee and the Awards Committee. The Ninth Annual Fairfax County History Conference is scheduled for Nov. 9, 2013 and will also be at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center in The City of Fairfax.

# NEWS

## Three Narcotics K-9s Support the Force

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT



Leroy



Lucy



Vegas

**L**eroy, Lucy and Vegas are trained and ready for duty. With their keen sense of smell, they are experts at scanning wide varieties of locations and assisting patrol officers with requests for service on a 24/7 basis. These dogs are busy, industrious professionals.

Last year, officers assigned to the Fairfax County Police Department Organized Crime and Narcotics Unit were responsible for 392 arrests and removing 263 pounds of drug material from Fairfax County.

Canines and their handlers play a key role in helping keep Fairfax County safe and drug-free. According to the unit's commander, Captain Mike Wall, "The K-9 teams are an invaluable resource to our detectives. Suspects often intentionally carry their drugs in ways that are difficult to detect through a chance encounter with a police officer. The dogs are frequently able to alert our detectives to the presence of narcotics that would likely never have been found

without their trained sense of smell. Many of our drug seizures and arrests can be attributed to the work of our K-9 partners."

All of the K-9s were bred and raised by Green Collar K9 in Greensboro, N.C. and all understand commands in English. Each K-9 has a personality and a work ethic that is unique; here are some details about each dog:

Leroy; a one-year-old yellow Labrador retriever started work in July 2012. He replaced retired K9 Jazz, who he lives with, along with another black Labrador named Tebow.

Lucy; a three-year-old Red Fox Labrador who loves to work. She also loves children, lying on the floor, and getting petted. She lives with retired K-9 Otis and another dog named Molly.

Vegas; a two-year-old Labrador has been sniffing out narcotics since December 2010. She lives in a home with another 7-year-old Labrador.

### SCHOOL NOTES

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

**Nick McGovern** of Springfield has been selected to play Jack for the University of Mary Washington production of "Into the Woods."

McGovern is the son of Michael and Julie McGovern of Springfield and is a 2010 graduate of Robert E. Lee High School. A junior majoring in business administration and theatre, McGovern is a member of UMW's varsity baseball team and the Improv Troupe. He has been named to the Dean's List.

**Rosanne M. Kysar**, of Spring-

field, graduated from Boston University with a Master of Science in computer information systems in September 2012.

The following students were named semifinalists in the 2013 National Achievement® Scholarship Program: **Hayley V. Harris** and **Warren D. Smith** from Centreville High School; **Tommie A. Banks** from West Springfield High School.

The following students were named semifinalists in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program: **Emily R. Costigan** of South County Secondary School; **Benjamin D. Sando** of Centreville High School; **John B. Hyde**, **Victoria L. Irvine**, **Yeser Kim** and **Alexander C. Moree** from West Springfield High School.

**Air Force Airman 1st Class Peter L. Nguyen** of Springfield graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Nguyen is the son of Kim Le of Springfield, and stepson of Dwight Rider of Stafford. He is a 2006 graduate of West Springfield High School. He earned an associate degree in 2010 from Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria.

**Jessica Marsh** has been named to the spring 2012 dean's list at Montana State University.

**Cole Mitchell** has been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at Randolph-Macon Academy. He is the son of Taylor and Sue Mitchell of Springfield.

## Be a Part of CHILDREN'S (& TEENS') CONNECTION



Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The Springfield Connection turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: [ChildrensSouth@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:ChildrensSouth@connectionnewspapers.com), or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) by Dec. 5, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.

**THE CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS

## OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 & 2

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](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com) and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

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9750 Rehanek Ct.....\$550,000.....Sun 1-4.....Doris Crockett.....Weichert..703-615-8411  
9417 Ulysses Ct.....\$414,950.....Sun 1-4..Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808  
12213 Wye Oak Commons Cir.....\$364,900.....Sat 1-3.....Kimberly Neff.....Avery-Hess..703-802-8200

### Clifton

8209 Cub Den Ct.....\$1,125,000.....Sun 1-4.....John Cooney.....Fairfax..703-989-9969  
14018 Marleigh Ln.....\$595,000.....Sun 1-4.....Ed Duggan.....Century 21 ..703-989-7735  
6324 Deepwood Farm Dr.....\$589,000.....Sun 1-4.....Ed Duggan.....Century 21 ..703-989-7735

### Fairfax Station

7513 South Reach Dr.....\$849,950.....Sun 1-4..Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808

### Falls Church

3804 Munson Rd.....\$829,000..Sat/Sun 1-4.....Patrick Kessler..Keller Williams..703-405-6540  
7937 Freehollow Dr.....\$571,000.....Sun 1-4.....Christine Shevock.....RE/MAX..703-475-3986

### Lorton

9529 Peniwill Dr.....\$989,900.....Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365

### Manassas

9800 Grant Ave.....\$159,000.....Sun 1-4.....Veronica Kressel..Samson Props..703-819-9804

### Springfield

6025 Queenston St.....\$429,500.....Sun 1-4.....Dilip Kinra.....DNK..301-515-0766  
7205 Layton Dr.....\$425,000.....Sun 1-4.....Trong Trinh.....TMT..703-237-6779  
8453 Millwood Pl.....\$409,900.....Sun 1-4.....Leland Lambert.....ERA..703-742-6900  
6505 Castine Ln.....\$405,000.....Sun 1-4.....Monica Adams.....RE/MAX..703-434-9400  
6207 Middlesex Ave.....\$390,000.....Sun 1-4.....Joni Koons.....Weichert..703-549-8700  
8518 Springfield Oaks Dr.....\$324,928.....Sun 1-3.....Darla Colletti.....RE/MAX..703-971-5555

### Woodbridge

727 Harbor Side St.....\$416,000.....Sun 1-4.....Diane Lenahan.....Wolf Run..703-283-7328

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Erin Peck at 703-778-9449 or E-mail the info to [epeck@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:epeck@connectionnewspapers.com) All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.



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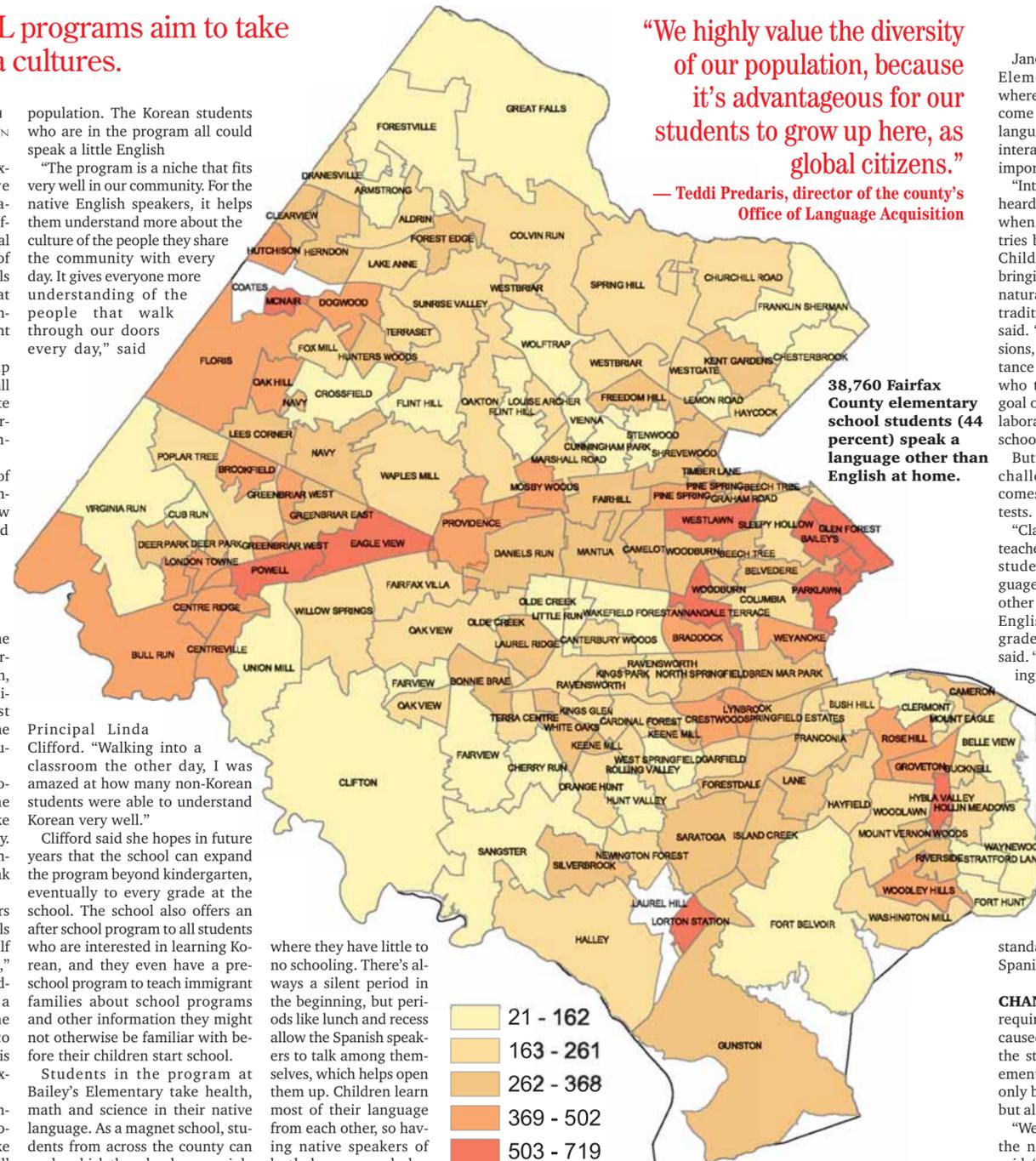
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## FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION

# Schools Using Diversity for Student Benefits

Immersion, ESOL programs aim to take advantage of area cultures.

**“We highly value the diversity of our population, because it’s advantageous for our students to grow up here, as global citizens.”**  
— Teddi Predaris, director of the county’s Office of Language Acquisition



**38,760 Fairfax County elementary school students (44 percent) speak a language other than English at home.**

**George C. Marshall High School has a student population representing more than 90 nations.**



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ / THE CONNECTION

**“Marshall has an international student body from all walks of life, from the four corners of the world . . . We are the face of what Fairfax County is in 2012.”**

— George C. Marshall High School Principal Jay Pearson

By ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**A**s Fairfax County has experienced massive growth in its international population, its effects have spread to its educational institutions. Forty-four percent of the Fairfax County Public Schools students come from homes that speak a language other than English, which includes 160 different languages.

In 2006, the county came up with the goal to eventually have all graduates be able to communicate in two languages. The county currently offers 11 different languages.

“We highly value the diversity of our population, because it’s advantageous for our students to grow up here, as global citizens,” said Teddi Predaris, director of the county’s Office of Language Acquisition. “We believe it’s a huge asset for our students in their future endeavors.”

Approximately 28 percent of the county’s current population are foreign born, with Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Arabic, Urdu and Chinese/Mandarin being the most common languages spoken in the homes of elementary school students.

The county’s kindergarten two-way immersion program is one method used by schools to take advantage of increasing diversity. The program consists of half English speakers and half who speak the immersion language.

“In this program, the teachers and students are language models for each other, and they spend half the day working at each language,” Predaris said. “Our criteria for adding these programs is having a large enough population of the non-English speaking group to make a 50-50 mix possible. This is one of the models we hope to expand in coming years.”

The county has five Spanish kindergarten two-way immersion programs, at Bailey’s, Braddock, Lake Anne, London Towne and Rose Hill Elementary Schools. New this year is a Korean two-way immersion school at Colin Powell Elementary School in Centreville.

**THE PROGRAM AT COLIN POWELL** was designed to take advantage of the area’s large Korean

population. The Korean students who are in the program all could speak a little English.

“The program is a niche that fits very well in our community. For the native English speakers, it helps them understand more about the culture of the people they share the community with every day. It gives everyone more understanding of the people that walk through our doors every day,” said

Principal Linda Clifford. “Walking into a classroom the other day, I was amazed at how many non-Korean students were able to understand Korean very well.”

Clifford said she hopes in future years that the school can expand the program beyond kindergarten, eventually to every grade at the school. The school also offers an after school program to all students who are interested in learning Korean, and they even have a pre-school program to teach immigrant families about school programs and other information they might not otherwise be familiar with before their children start school.

Students in the program at Bailey’s Elementary take health, math and science in their native language. As a magnet school, students from across the county can apply, which the school uses mainly to fill its English-speaking requirement.

“The native Spanish speakers come to Bailey’s with a wide range of English skills, depending on where they come from,” said Assistant Principal Rachel Charlton. “Some come from very rural areas

where they have little to no schooling. There’s always a silent period in the beginning, but periods like lunch and recess allow the Spanish speakers to talk among themselves, which helps open them up. Children learn most of their language from each other, so having native speakers of both languages helps both groups immensely. Each group of native speakers gets to be the language role model for half a day, with the other students learning from them. It really boosts their confidence.”

**COUNTY SCHOOLS** also feature

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS**  
Students who speak a language other than English at home

immersion programs in Japanese, German and French at elementary and middle schools.

Janet Funk, principal of Gunston Elementary School in Lorton, where approximately 300 students come from a home where another language is spoken, says everyday interaction with new cultures is an important part of early education.

“Interesting conversations can be heard in the lunchroom, especially when students from other countries bring their food from home. Children are very interested in bringing their favorite foods, which naturally flows to a discussion of traditions and celebrations,” she said. “With these informal discussions, the students learn the importance of accepting classmates for who they are. This supports our goal of cultural acceptance and collaborative interaction among our school community.”

But with such diversity comes challenges, especially when it comes to Standards of Learning tests.

“Classroom teachers and ESOL teachers work diligently to help the students learn the English language. Many of our students from other countries are still learning English and are reading below grade level expectations,” Funk said. “These students receive reading instruction in the classroom setting and the ESOL classroom. They are receiving a ‘double’ dose of reading on a regularly scheduled basis. However, when it comes time to take the SOL tests, they are required to take the test on grade level in a language in which they are not proficient.”

In Virginia, SOL tests must be taken in English, but in Texas, for example, standardized tests can be taken in Spanish.

**CHANGES** to the state’s licensure requirements this year have also caused some difficulties. This year, the state required teachers in elementary school programs to not only be licensed in their language, but also for elementary education.

“We’ve struggled this year due to the new requirement,” Charlton said. “We’ve had to use some long-term subs until as recently as two or three weeks ago before we had enough full time teachers that met qualifications. Now I think the universities are aware of the change, so it might be better in future years, but it can definitely make it difficult to find people.”

## Marshall High Is the Face of Fairfax County

Over 90 countries represented by student population.

VIEWPOINTS

What was your biggest concern or fear when moving to U.S. schools?

—DONNA MANZ

By DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he schools that feed into George C. Marshall High School are the academic home to children from all over the world. It’s not surprising, then, that Marshall is an international community, a Tysons Corner United Nations, so to speak. Many of the students come from the prestigious I.B. (International Baccalaureate), but most are in the Marshall district, which embraces students from Vienna. From Italian to Swahili, there is a myriad of languages native to Marshall’s students, who represent more than 90 nations.

“Marshall has an international student body from all walks of life, from the four corners of the world,” said principal Jay Pearson. “Our kids cross so many boundaries. We don’t refer to it as ‘diversity,’” Pearson said. “For our students, this is the norm. These kids are very accustomed to moving between groups of students from everywhere, so, there aren’t ‘cliques.’ “We are the face of what Fairfax County is in 2012.”

**FIVE INVITED STUDENTS** gathered in a roundtable discussion at Marshall recently. What they agreed on is that American schools are less-intense academically, less-academically pressuring than schools outside the U.S. In other countries, it is

academics-only that define your future, a selected group of students said in the recent discussion with Pearson and an interviewer. In the U.S., the students said, you have extracurricular programs that enhance the total person. What the U.S. does not have, however, that international schools stress, is an emphasis on foreign language fluency.

English is a compulsory curriculum in many school systems the world over. Some students, such as Kasthury Paramiswaran, a Marshall senior from Malaysia, speak multiple languages, fluent in each. Kasthury’s family moved around the world as part of her father’s job, and Kasthury mastered four languages in her journeys. She said she still works very hard in her I.B. subjects, getting “A’s in every one of her classes. She is applying to colleges in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

Jia Loh, a Malaysian native who has been in the U.S. for two years, said the transition to schools here was “hard,” even though the academic environment is less intense than in Malaysia.

“I had to adjust to different cultures. It was hard to find friends who share my culture.”

Dalila Ferrara’s family moved around Italy; her father is in the military there. In the early 1990s, he was assigned to a U.S. base in Texas and his experience there was not a good one. “He warned me not to tell people I’m Italian,” Dalila said. “He told me not to be proud

SEE CURRICULUM. PAGE 12

**Kasthury Paramiswaran, senior, Malaysia**

“I had a close group of friends there and I didn’t know anybody here,” on leaving Malaysia when she had made friends in her native high school. “I still work very hard in my [I.B.] classes.”



**Dalila Ferrara, junior, Italy**

“Actually, I was really happy to move here. My only fear was that I wouldn’t be accepted. That didn’t happen. My biggest dream is to get an MBA from Harvard.”



**Millan Mbise, senior, Tanzania**

“The cultural aspect. For example, in Tanzania there is little interaction with teachers. The teachers are strict, classes are very intense. It’s not like that here. I played varsity soccer last year and that helped me a lot with the transition to Marshall.

“I figured out what I wanted to do with my life when I moved here. I want to be a pharmacist.”



**Jia Loh, senior, Malaysia**

“My biggest fear was finding friends. Still find it hard



to join cliques. Most of my friends are international students. I’m still working on that part of the transition. My dream is to find a high-paying job I like, accounting or law.”



**Amber Helder, senior, Panama**

“My biggest fear was that I wouldn’t

have the same friends throughout my academic career. My dream is to establish a music education system that would produce more diverse, well-rounded musicians, not just musicians who are skilled in just one instrument.”

# We Are the World, at Garfield

Teachers discuss challenges of teaching English as a Second Language.

BY MICHELLE KAIN  
THE CONNECTION

**G**arfield Elementary School in Springfield, like all of Fairfax County, has a population that reflects a wide range of backgrounds. With 33 languages spoken, the school's ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) program has had to expand. The school has a first grade class of 60 students, 58 of whom are ESOL students ranging from levels one through four.

Jane Cofie-Raczko, who has been a teacher for the past 13 years, teaches one of three first grade classes in which all 20 of the students have English as a second language.

The majority of these students are from Hispanic or Middle Eastern backgrounds and common languages include Spanish, Arabic, Urdu, Farsi, Korean, Chinese and Vietnamese. The challenges involved with teaching these students depend on their proficiency with the English language.

"For students who speak almost no English, it can be difficult to communicate to the students that you want them to succeed and that you are there to help them. It can also be difficult to get the students to ask for help, mostly due to their lack of confidence in their speaking ability. For students with a better knowledge of the social language, it can be tough to give them a similarly strong academic language. Add the already difficult material to learning English for the first time and it can be very challenging," said Cofie-Raczko.

"The success of the students with the curriculum and their preparedness for middle and high school depends on the schooling they received in their home country as well as when they enrolled



Jane Cofie-Raczko gives her first grade class the details regarding their upcoming test.

at Garfield," said Rozi Khakpour, an ESOL teacher at Garfield Elementary.

Students who have attended Garfield from the start get the opportunity to develop oral language at an early age through programs such as Lunch and Bunch in which kindergartners with English as a second language meet twice a week to have lunch and practice this important skill.

The program, along with others, have proven to be successful as "students who have been at Garfield since kindergarten often exceed in high school and earn positions on the honor roll," Khakpour said.

"Another thing that has proven to be helpful," said Kirsten Howard, another first grade teacher, "is Garfield's social curriculum." This social curriculum, which concentrates on teaching students cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self-control, has given students a greater awareness outside themselves and has helped them in middle in high school as demonstrated by their willingness to take on leadership positions.



**Mariana Del Cid-Quintanilla, Spanish, parents from El Salvador**



**Anmul Jan, Pashtu, born in Pakistan**



**Michael Opuni, Akah, parents from Ghana (Michael born in US)**



**Yusuf Ouanina, Arabic, Morocco**



**Tracy Huynh, Vietnamese, Vietnam**



**Mohammed (Jafar) Abdulridna, Arabic, Iraq**

PHOTOS BY MICHELLE KAIN/THE CONNECTION

## FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION

# 'Hidden Curriculum'

FROM PAGE 10

of being Italian." Dalila carried that warning with her when she entered Marshall. The dire warning turned out to have no basis at her new school. "When I tell people here I'm Italian, they say, 'oh, I love Italy' and then, I'm so relieved. Yes, I am proud to say I'm Italian here."

In Italy, it was always school and studying through late evening, Dalila said. She had no social life there.

"When I came here, it was such a relief," she said. "I was so happy I finally had time for myself."

Millan Mbise, from Tanzania, was pleasantly surprised by the degree of interaction between students and teachers. Teachers are less approachable than in the U.S. Millan, whose native language is Swahili, grew up speaking English,

up their native language.

"Studies show that bilingual students do better academically."

Bloom said the school helps newly-immigrated students to transition by embracing the families as they enter the school. Relationship-building is how he refers to the partnership. "When you establish that relationship with new families from other countries, you get rid of a lot of hurdles. When you do that, the families feel valued and a part of the Freedom Hill family. We have students learning from one another simply from their exposure to each other."

The children of Freedom Hill Elementary School are so accustomed to establishing relationships within the classroom, they don't recognize barriers, Bloom said. "It's a representation of the world."

Bloom refers to the school's di-

**"There's so much value in having a school where children from all over the world can come together."**

— Scott Bloom, Freedom Hill principal

as well. English is compulsory in the schools, and, Millan calls it the "unofficial" language of Tanzania.

Millan is bused from Marshall daily to Falls Church High School for a class in "pharmacy technology." He learned what he wanted to do with his life while living here and attending an American school. He wants to be a pharmacist some day.

**FREEDOM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** feeds into the Marshall pyramid. Like Marshall, Freedom Hill is the world in microcosm. There are more than 42 languages spoken in the students' homes and the children of Freedom Hill represent more than 53 countries. Some Freedom Hill students are from diplomatic families, already bilingual or multilingual with English exposure. Others are new to English. The school, through its many ESOL levels, works with these students to help them adapt to English.

"Within the realm of school, the kids are held accountable to communicate in the English language," said first-year Freedom Hill principal Scott Bloom. As the kids interact with their peers, they pick up English.

"I like to think we also recognize the importance of kids having that dual-language skill," Bloom said. "We want them to learn English, but, we don't want them to give

versity as a "hidden curriculum."

"There's so much value in having a school where children from all over the world can come together," Bloom said. "You set the stage for the children to share their history, backgrounds, culture, and experiences. "There's so much power in bringing all these different cultures together that I think it's justified to call it a hidden curriculum."

"The kids don't even know they're learning from this diversity."

Marshall's roundtable students eager to discuss their new lives all said that school life is more pressured in their native countries with little opportunities within the school system to learn nonacademic things. Schools do not promote extracurricular activities as they do here.

"Students are pushed by their parents to excel academically in Malaysia," Kasthury said. "Many of these kids commit suicide. They're told, 'if you're not the best, you'll never succeed.'"

Amber Holder has found a multitude of extracurricular activities to engage in. In Panama, there was only a single option. Here, she said, she's involved with the marching band, the literary magazine and other programs. "In Panama, you have to find one place to fit in. But, here, you can fit in in many places."

## ENTERTAINMENT

# 'All I Want for Christmas'

Encore dancers present annual holiday show.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

A great way to kick off the holiday season is by seeing Encore Theatrical Arts Project's new show, "All I Want for Christmas." This song-and-dance extravaganza aims to delight audiences of all ages.

Show times are Dec. 8 and 15 at 1, 4 and 8 p.m.; Dec. 9 and 16 at 1 and 4 p.m.; and Dec. 14 at 8 p.m. at NOVA's Annandale campus at 8333 Little River Turnpike. Tickets range from \$17-\$30 at [www.encore-tap.org/](http://www.encore-tap.org/) or call 703-222-5511.

"The sets are huge and glorious, the costumes are colorful and there's a lot of acting, plus both old and new songs," said the director and choreographer, Raynor van der Merwe. "We have everything from dancing reindeers and elves to sophisticated Rockette-style numbers—one done with lighted wreaths."

The 31 dancers have been training and rehearsing 18 hours a week in preparation, and van der Merwe says they're "enthusiastic, talented and giving performers." Rounding out the cast are acting veterans Tina and Dan Delafield who portray the head elves, Margaret and Marv.

"The girls have worked incredibly hard and have been a joy to work with," said van der Merwe. "And the upbeat numbers will have the audience dancing in their seats."

**THE SETS WILL SHOW** New York's Rockefeller Center and the North Pole. Designed and painted by Tabitha Dees, they're 50 feet wide and 20 feet high and she put in 18-hour days for six weeks to complete them. But she says the long hours and hard work are all worthwhile.

"They have lights, real working windows and doors, and there's even snow," said Dees. "One of my favorite parts is when the curtain goes up and the audience gives a collective gasp. For a moment, they're transported to another place."

"That's part of the magic of theater," added van der Merwe. "For a little while, you're all on the same journey together."

Centreville's Logan Floyd plays Mistletoe the elf. "She starts off as a good elf, but makes the mistake of opening a letter meant for Santa—which she's not supposed to do," explained Floyd. "Because of it, she's infected with the Gimme-Gimme Flu and becomes selfish." She then passes it on to the other elves and they have to find an antidote.

As Mistletoe, Floyd likes transforming from a good to a bad elf. "Everyone else is such a good character, so it's fun getting to explore a different type of character," she said.

With Encore since age 2 is Fairfax's Grace Crybskey, a sixth-grader at Oak View Elementary. In the show, she acts and dances in six numbers. "I play a little girl talking with her friends about Santa," she said. "She thinks Christmas is only about getting presents. I also play an elf named Jinkxie. At first, she's a regular elf and then she turns evil, and it's fun playing both characters."

Crybskey's favorite number is "Winter Wonder-



Dolls and a train are at the North Pole in Encore's annual holiday show.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDA HELMS

land" because "it's about how Christmas is a winter wonderland and it'll snow while we're dancing." She said the audience will enjoy the whole show because "the script is well-written, very funny and entertaining." She loves dancing because "it's a way to express myself and you get to be onstage, share your talents with others and make them happy."

**FAIRFAX RESIDENT** Christina Mastracchio, 14, is a 10-year member of Encore. "When I'm onstage, it's the most amazing feeling," she said. "I love performing and seeing people's reactions when I do something cool."

She especially likes the song, "Dolly," because "we get on a train and the sound effects are really good, and the tap dancing is very crisp." Overall, she said, "The audience will like the show because the dancing is professional, the singing is amazing and so is the acting—and everything just comes together."

Teen Audra Avery, who's homeschooled, joined Encore at age 6. She said van der Merwe taught her "how to show the audience with your expression how much you love to dance—which I do." Playing an elf named Twinkle, when the story starts, she's in charge of getting things ready for Christmas. But she's eventually infected with the flu, as well, which makes her want to keep all the presents for herself.

"I usually play the nice elf," she said. "But Twinkle's character changes, so it's like playing two parts. And I love the costume—it's a short blue, pixie-type dress; all the costumes in this show are really amazing. My favorite number is 'Reindeer;' we wear brown and have antlers, and the song has a lot of leaps and is really high-energy. I think the audience will also like our new, winter set for the North Pole and the storyline."

Alia Artieda of Centreville loves dancing because, she explains, "I can express myself about everything." She also likes the "Cool Yule" number because it's done with a smaller group and "it's bluesy, which is more my style."

Chantilly High sophomore Renee Griese says it's "an amazing feeling being up on stage and having people clap afterward. It gives you a really good sense of accomplishment." Calling the show "kid-friendly," she said, "When the curtain goes up and you hear all the little kids, they think everything they see onstage is real and are totally entertained by it."

"All the girls in this production want it to be great as much as I do," added van der Merwe. "It's a full cast focused on a common goal, and that's what makes it special."



PHOTO BY CHIP CHERIZOG

From left, Blake Phillips as Ralph Herdman, Ryan Clark as Leroy Herdman, Brendan Dure as Charlie Bradley, and Jody Parker as Imogene Herdman in rehearsal for the Providence Players of Fairfax production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever."

## Buoyant Holiday Fare

Providence Players present "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever."

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

A delightfully boisterous, but controlled chaos lit up a recent rehearsal of the Providence Players' next production, the family-friendly holiday treat, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." Over a dozen joyously energetic middle school and high school students were rehearsing their roles under the watchful eye of Director Beth Whitehead (Mantua).

Written by Barbara Robinson, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" has been a magazine article, a book and a play. It is a comic, heartwarming tale focused on children considered some of the most incorrigible in town. Then they are cast in the local church's annual Christmas pageant.

Fully expecting the worse, the entire town shows-up, just waiting to see an expected car-crash. Will the Christmas pageant be ruined? Or will some kinder, gentler virtues somehow surface?

Whitehead noted that there was an open call to cast the 30-actor production. It includes about 20 children; over 50 children auditioned for the roles.

Blake Phillips, a freshman at Woodson High School greatly likes the theater. "I can express myself in a theater production. I get to show feelings and emotions as an actor." He wanted to be in "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" since "it is a unique show, family-centered, kids-centered show. It can teach good lessons. And the audience can watch children transform as they hear the Christmas Story

## When and Where

Providence Players of Fairfax perform "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" at the James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Performances are on Dec. 7-16, 2012, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$15-\$18. Call 703-425-6782 or visit [www.providenceplayers.org](http://www.providenceplayers.org).

for the first time. They truly begin to change before the audience's eyes."

Hazel Thurston has a very key role, she narrates the evening's entertainment.

She is from Kenmore Middle School in nearby Arlington. Thurston loves theater and being in this production. "There are lots of funny lines. . . . And there are good lessons to be learned. Don't judge people by what you first see on their outside; there may be great kindness and niceness hidden away longing to get out."

One of the early members of the Providence Players, now celebrating its fifteenth year, is Dave Schwartz performing as a reverend lending a hand to help the children understand the Christmas Story. "It is a fun show with so much energy. Really, the whole family will enjoy it."

This holiday family fare production of the Providence Players will benefit the generous, charitable work of the Young Hearts, a group of Fairfax County teens who raise funds to battle blood cancers and other diseases. As a co-production of the Young Hearts, Prince McLaughlin is taking on the responsibilities of production co-producer.

# HOT GIFTS

MEET 300 JURIED ARTISANS IN PERSON!



## Sugarloaf Crafts Festival

**DEC. 7, 8, 9, 2012**  
**Dulles Expo Center**  
**Chantilly, VA • RT 28 AT WILLARD RD**  
 Admission \$8 online, \$10 at the door - good all 3 days  
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## CALENDAR

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

### THURSDAY/NOV. 29

**Richard Byrd Library Sale.** 1-9 p.m., at 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Find 10,000-plus books, many like new, from fifty cents to \$3, on the topics of cooking, hobbies, children's books, fiction, art and nearly everything else with an especially rich history collection. The sale continues through Saturday, Dec. 1. 703-451-8055.

**The Diary of Anne Frank.** 7 p.m., at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Presenting "The Diary of Anne Frank," the famous story of a young Jewish girl forced to go into hiding with her family during the Holocaust. \$5 students; \$10 adults. <http://www.fcpsdrama.com/>.

### FRIDAY/NOV. 30

**Richard Byrd Library Sale.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Find 10,000-plus books, many like new, from fifty cents to \$3, on the topics of cooking, hobbies, children's books, fiction, art and nearly everything else with an especially rich history collection. The sale continues through Saturday, Dec. 1. 703-451-8055.

**Drumming with Dishes: The Holiday Edition.** 10:30 a.m., W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. An adventurous toddler invites her shy imaginary friend to a kitchen where the two cook up music and see what makes the holiday season the most



The annual Model Train Show is a mecca of gauges and train displays for the whole family.

## Twenty-Third Annual Model Train Show

On Saturday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station, moving gauges, a garden-themed gauge, a caboose, gift shop and many train displays make a festive day. Bring your own model train problems to "The Train Doctor" and see Model A autos, weather permitting. \$5, adults; \$1, children. 703-425-9224 or [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org).

wonderful time of the year; the play is a 35-minute interactive, non-verbal show with two adult actors and a musician, geared toward children ages 2-6. \$8 (children under 12 months, free). [www.artsonthehorizon.org](http://www.artsonthehorizon.org).

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### SATURDAY/DEC. 1

**Drumming with Dishes: The Holiday Edition.** 9:45 a.m., 11:15 a.m., at the W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. An adventurous toddler invites her shy imaginary friend to a kitchen where the two cook up music and see what makes the holiday season the most wonderful time of the year; the play is a 35-minute interactive, non-verbal show with two adult actors and a musician, geared toward children ages 2-6. \$8 (children under 12 months, free). [www.artsonthehorizon.org](http://www.artsonthehorizon.org).

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**A Magical Christmas.** 1 p.m., at the W-3 Theatre, the Lorton Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Santa hasn't stopped in the town of Believe for three whole years and doesn't even know the place exists—can Joy's grandfather turn the town Christmas spirit around? \$8, children; \$12, adults. [www.lortonarts.org](http://www.lortonarts.org).

**The Diary of Anne Frank.** 7 p.m., at West Springfield High School, 6100

Rolling Road, Springfield. Presenting "The Diary of Anne Frank," the famous story of a young Jewish girl forced to go into hiding with her family during the Holocaust. \$5 students; \$10 adults. <http://www.fcpsdrama.com/>.

### SUNDAY/DEC. 2

**South County HS Holiday Craft Fair.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Unique holiday gifts, entertainment, concessions and silent auction; benefits the All Night Grad Party. \$2; \$1, seniors 65-plus; ages 12-and-under, free. [scscscraftfair@yahoo.com](mailto:scscscraftfair@yahoo.com).

**Drumming with Dishes: The Holiday Edition.** 11 a.m., W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. An adventurous toddler invites her shy imaginary friend to a kitchen where the two cook up music and see what makes the holiday season the most wonderful time of the year; the play is a 35-minute interactive, non-verbal show with two adult actors and a musician, geared toward children ages 2-6. \$8 (children under 12 months, free). [www.artsonthehorizon.org](http://www.artsonthehorizon.org).

**The Diary of Anne Frank.** 2 p.m., at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Presenting "The Diary of Anne Frank," the famous story of a young Jewish girl forced to go into hiding with her family during the Holocaust. \$5 students; \$10 adults. <http://www.fcpsdrama.com/>.

### TUESDAY/DEC. 4

**Benefit Breakfast for Area Children Living in Foster Care.** 10-11 a.m., at Long & Foster Real Estate Springfield office, 7202 Old Keene Mill Road. Bring a toy or clothes for tot to teen to be distributed by Fairfax County's Department of Health and Human Services for Christmas. Checks or cash also welcomed. Call 703-452-3905 for advanced pick up. [LongandFoster.com](http://LongandFoster.com).

### FRIDAY/DEC. 7

**Drumming with Dishes: The Holiday Edition.** 10:30 a.m., W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. An adventurous toddler invites her shy

## THIS IS "HOWARD"



Stop the presses...Howard needs to get his picture on the front page so he can show the world how adorable he really is. This incredible fella is long, low and a total loverboy. He loves everyone and is gentle enough for even a baby to cuddle with. He's 5 years young and still loves a game of fetch...though you may be the one getting the most exercise! His ears alone will have you under his magic spell, and his soulful expressions will seal the deal. Come and meet the best pal you'll ever have!

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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

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## Sweeney Todd—The Demon

**Barber of Fleet Street.** 7 p.m., at Thomas Jefferson High School, 6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria. The student choir along with the TJ faculty, parent and alumni choirs perform the Sondheim classic about the vengeful London barber and his landlady's mysterious meat pies. \$10. [www.tjchoir.org](http://www.tjchoir.org).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 8

### Drumming with Dishes: The

**Holiday Edition.** 9:45 and 11:15 a.m., W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. An adventurous toddler invites her shy imaginary friend to a kitchen where the two cook up music and see what makes the holiday season the most wonderful time of the year; the play is a 35-minute interactive, non-verbal show with two adult actors and a musician, geared toward children ages 2-6. \$8 (children under 12 months, free). [www.artsonthehorizon.org](http://www.artsonthehorizon.org).

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1 p.m., at the W-3 Theatre, the Lorton Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Santa hasn't stopped in the town of Believe for three whole years and doesn't even know the place exists—can Joy's grandfather turn the town Christmas spirit around? \$8, children; \$12, adults. [www.lortonarts.org](http://www.lortonarts.org).

### 2nd Saturday Art Walk.

6-9 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Meet each building's featured artist, a reception in W-16 from 6-7 p.m. and more. [www.WorkhouseArts.org](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org).

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### A Season of Joy.

7:30 p.m., at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 5800 Backlick Road, Springfield. The Northern Virginia Chorale, accompanied by a chamber orchestra, will perform Vivaldi's Gloria, as well as seasonal favorites by Handel, Rutter and others, along with the Chorale's traditional carol sing-along. Advanced tickets \$15 at [www.northernvirginiachorale.org](http://www.northernvirginiachorale.org); at the door \$10 students (12-24); Under 12 free.

### Fairfax Symphony Orchestra:

**Masterworks III.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Christopher Zimmerman and pianist James Dick perform Rossini's Overture to La Gazza Ladra plus Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 and Symphony No. 6, "Pathétique." \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or [www.fairfaxsymphony.org](http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 9

### Drumming with Dishes: The

**Holiday Edition.** 11 a.m., W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. An adventurous toddler invites her shy imaginary friend to a kitchen where the two cook up music and see what makes the holiday season the most wonderful time of the year; the play is a 35-minute interactive, non-verbal show with two adult actors and a musician, geared toward children ages 2-6. \$8 (children under 12 months, free). [www.artsonthehorizon.org](http://www.artsonthehorizon.org).

## FAITH NOTES

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### Advent Holy Communion

**worship service,** 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays Dec. 5, 12 and 19 at LivingSavior Lutheran Church, 5500 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. All are welcome—join to celebrate the season. 703-352-1421. <http://www.livingsaviorlutheran.org>.

**On Tuesday, Dec. 25,** a Christmas Eve Candlelight Holy Communion Service takes place at 6:30 (family) and 8:30. All are welcome—come to celebrate the season. 703-352-1421. <http://www.livingsaviorlutheran.org>.

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

ture 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.fbcspringfield.org).

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

### St. Andrew the Apostle

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# SPORTS



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



**West Springfield junior Caroline Alcorta, seen at states on Nov. 10, advanced to nationals by placing ninth at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships South Regional on Nov. 24 in Charlotte, N.C.**

**Robinson junior Macey Schweikert, seen at states on Nov. 10, finished 21st at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships South Regional on Nov. 24 in Charlotte, N.C.**

## Four Northern Virginia Harriers Heading to Nationals

**Lake Braddock's Chase, West Springfield's Alcorta earn trip to San Diego.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**C**hantilly senior Sean McGorty and Lake Braddock senior Sophie Chase were the best in the state of Virginia this year, each winning a VHSL AAA cross country championship on Nov. 10.

Two weeks after capturing state titles at Great Meadow, McGorty and Chase took their running show on the road to compete at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships South Regional on Nov. 24 in Charlotte, N.C. They experienced familiar results.

McGorty won the seeded boys' race with a course-record time and Chase won the seeded girls' race, earning each a spot at nationals on Dec. 8 in San Diego. McGorty, who is committed to Stanford University, finished with a personal-best time of 14:28, and Chase recorded a time of 17:05 at McAlpine Greenway Park. McGorty's effort broke the record of 14:32, set in 2004 by Andrew Bumbalough of Brentwood, Tenn.

"My performance was all I could have hoped for," McGorty wrote in an email. "To run that fast on the course was amazing and I couldn't be happier with my performance. . . . My time was a course record and this means so much to me. The course has such history and to hold the record there is truly an awesome feeling. I went out pretty hard so I knew that I had a chance at the record, but I really thought I had it in the last 200 meters."

This was McGorty's fourth year competing at the Foot Locker regional meet and his third year running in the seeded boys' race. As a sophomore in 2010, he finished 35th. McGorty placed sixth as a junior last season, earning him a trip to nationals. The top 10 finishers advance to the national championship meet. McGorty went on to place 10th at nationals in 2011.

**CHASE COMPETED** in the girls' seeded race at Foot

Locker regionals each of her four years of high school. She placed 41st as a freshman, eighth as a sophomore and second as a junior. At nationals, Chase finished 38th as a sophomore and 11th as a junior.

Chase wasn't the only girls' harrier from Northern Virginia to advance to nationals. West Springfield junior Caroline Alcorta placed eighth (17:19) and Oakton sophomore Allie Klimkiewicz finished ninth (17:29), securing their places in San Diego.

Alcorta's time was a personal best.

"It's unbelievably exciting and nerve-wracking all at once," Alcorta wrote in an email. "Making it to Foot Locker Finals has been one of my goals ever since the beginning of the season and I can't believe it's actually happening! It's like a dream come true!"

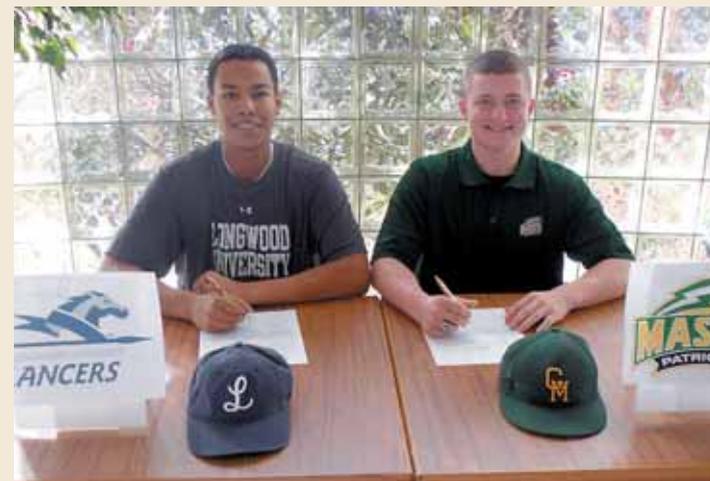
Alcorta knew about two-thirds of the way through she had a chance to crack the top 10.

"Somewhere around the two-mile mark, I realized that there was only seven of us in the pack," she wrote. "I was shocked there was only seven (later I was caught by another girl), but I came to the realization that we were all going to make it. We had all worked and pushed ourselves so hard that we were able [to] pull away from the rest of the field, and after that I decided I was not going to let this opportunity just slip by, I had come too far to lose it."

Alcorta placed 23rd at last year's Foot Locker South meet with a time of 17:52. She remembers the experience.

"Last year, I didn't really have any goals in mind except to try and finish top 30 (top 30 is considered to be 'All South'), and felt like I was running just to run and maybe even PR," she wrote. "I remember during the race the top 10 girls just flying away from me and thinking, 'Off they go!' After that, I knew I'd have to stick to that group the next and upcoming year if I had ever wanted a chance to try and qualify for the Finals. This year, I feel like I knew what to expect and knew what I needed to do in order to have a shot at making top 10."

**LAKE BRADDOCK** senior Nick Tuck finished 14th in the Foot Locker South seeded boys' race with a time of 15:15. In the girls' race, Robinson junior Macey Schweikert finished 21st with a time of 18:00. West Springfield senior Maddie Wittich was 22nd with a time of 18:01.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Lake Braddock baseball players Alex Lewis, left, and Garrett Driscoll signed letters of intent to play in college.**

## Committed to Play

**Two Bruins baseball players college-bound.**

**A**lex Lewis and Garrett Driscoll, two members of the 2012 Virginia state champion Lake Braddock Bruins, saw their hard work pay off as they signed their NCAA National Letters of Intent to play Division I baseball. Lewis will be heading to the Big South (Farmville) as part of the Longwood Lancers, while Driscoll will be staying close to home and playing for the George Mason Patriots. Not only have they been teammates in high school, but over the years, they have played travel baseball

together. They were both an integral part of the Bruins success this past season, winning the first state championship for Lake Braddock Bruins baseball. This is a culmination of years of hard work by both boys.

Lewis played third base for the Bruins and is likely to have an opportunity to start as a freshman and make an immediate impact. He was 2012 first team All-Patriot District and LBSS 2012 Defensive MVP. In addition, Lewis was a member of Championship 2012 VA Commonwealth North Team.

"There were other schools who had interest but in the end I chose Longwood because it was a good fit for me," Lewis said. "It is a rapidly growing baseball program and I have a good chance to start as a freshman. I like the coaching staff and how they approach the game and I really liked the field and campus."

Garrett Driscoll is the catcher for the Bruins. He was second team all-Patriot District and received the 2012 Mike Muresco Award for Commitment from LBSS. Earlier this month, Driscoll completed his travel season with an invite to the MLB sponsored "South Atlantic Border Battle" in Burlington, N.C. where he played for the Virginia team coached by the MLB Braves.

"It has been my goal to play college baseball since I played Little League," Driscoll said. "I have been fortunate to get to know Coach Brown and the rest of the coaching staff over the years. I can't think of a better baseball program to play for. I have had a chance to spend some time on campus because my sister, Mckena, is there too. It will be great to spend my first two years there with her. George Mason is an outstanding school and I look forward to getting an excellent education as well as contributing to the Patriots on the field."

**"It has been my goal to play college baseball since I played Little League."**

— Garrett Driscoll

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**Mike Wilder of Centreville, Virginia** passed away on November 12, 2012 on his 48th birthday. Mike was born in Knoxville, TN. He grew up in Lake Ridge, VA and graduated from Woodbridge Senior HS in 1982.

Mike attended George Mason University and later Marymount University where he received his Bachelor's degree in Communications while working at AT&T part-time. Through a program offered by AT&T, Mike got his Master's degree in Human Resource Development from American University. Mike met his wife Sonja at AT&T in 1988. They were married in 1992. They have two daughters, Rachel and Erica.

Mike continued to work at AT&T until he transferred to Concert. He later joined Nextel Communications and was working as a Senior Manager when his illness occurred.

Mike was diagnosed with a brain tumor in August 2002. He had surgery to remove the tumor on August 15, 2002. Through the years, he never fully recovered from the initial surgery and as a result of his injuries never worked again. He had several recurrences of the brain tumor. In June 2012, the tumor returned and was nearly as large as the initial tumor. The doctors determined that the only treatments they could offer this time were palliative.

Mike's mom passed away in 2001. His dad passed away in 2008. His brother, Dave, lives in Lake Ridge, VA with his wife, Jane, and daughter Kristi.

Mike touched many people's lives before and after his illness. He was adored by friends, co-workers, and caregivers. He had a quick wit and made funny comments right up until his last day.

A funeral Mass will be held at St. Timothy Catholic Church, 13807 Poplar Road, Chantilly, Virginia 20151 on Friday, November 30, 2012 at 2 p.m.

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4DR, 4-SPD AUTO



**0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS<sup>3</sup>**

**\$999 DOWN**

**\$209 PER MO.<sup>2</sup>**

**\$1999 DOWN**

**\$179 PER MO.<sup>2</sup>**

**\$2999 DOWN**

**\$159 PER MO.<sup>2</sup>**

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**\$0 DUE AT SIGNING**  
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4DR, 6-SPD AUTO



**0% APR FOR 36 MONTHS<sup>3</sup>**

**\$999 DOWN**

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**\$0 DUE AT SIGNING**  
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4DR SUV, ELECTRONIC 4-SPD AUTO



**0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS<sup>3</sup>**

**\$999 DOWN**

**\$259 PER MO.<sup>2</sup>**

**\$1999 DOWN**

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**\$2999 DOWN**

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