



Photo courtesy of Volunteers of America Chesapeake

### Precious gifts

Volunteers organize and shoppers shop at a Precious Gifts Boutique April 17. The event allowed clients of a homeless shelter and other supportive services to shop for clothing and other items free of charge. The event was run by volunteers from Save & Sell of America - a group committed to helping children from all walks of life excel through leadership and community service - and the Volunteers of America Chesapeake Loudoun Homeless Service Center.

### Grounds Committee wants power back

By Crystal Owens  
The Loudoun Board of Supervisors and several board members after a year's period. Members of the Loudoun Board of Supervisors in November when the committee decided a request by the Loudoun Board of Supervisors. "We knew that we were going to have to take a hit," the board members said.

### Supervisors approve green plan

By Crystal Owens  
The Loudoun Board of Supervisors on April 20 unanimously approved plans for a hybrid energy plant that, once constructed, will host the state's largest photovoltaic solar array.

Green Energy Partners, a Hamilton-based business owned by Fisher and Associates and John Andrews, submitted the application for the 101-acre facility in May 2009.

The \$800 million park southeast of Loudoun Executive Airport would generate electricity by using treated wastewater, natural gas, steam and solar energy.

"I believe it's going to be one of the world-class facilities on the East Coast," John Andrews said.

Developers have estimated the plant would generate \$5 million to \$12 million in annual local tax revenue.

Approval for the plant came after months of debate among county planners and board members.

In addition, on April 20, Supervisor Kelly Burk (D-Loudoun) asked that the board continue talks on 18 conditions of approval she proposed for the company, including safety, environ-

ment and other concerns. The company is now in discussions with the Town of Loudoun to purchase its wastewater. The company, he said, wants to sell the energy generated by the plant while sale to utility companies, such as Dominion Virginia Power and Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative.

Andrews said he expects to announce a partnership within the next two months. "When I started this did I think I would get a 9-0 vote?" Andrews said. "No. But I think that sends a strong message that Loudoun County is prepared to take the responsibility of the needs of electricity, not only by its residents but its business and commercial base."

The proposed site already has two natural gas lines and two transmission lines.

It also will use up to 5 million gallons per day of wastewater effluent for cooling water, eliminating up to 2 billion gallons of effluent per year that otherwise would be discharged into the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay, according to a company statement.

Andrews said Green Energy Partners is now in

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