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Cynthia Almendarez, 10, stands with public safety communicator Cheryl Dean of Lorton, (holding Christopher Vanegas, 2), who took the fifth-grader's 9-1-1-call that helped saved Christopher's life when he stopped breathing last summer. Almendarez and her family were honored during the 7th annual Department of Public Safety Communications Awards Ceremony on Monday, April 9 at the Fairfax County Government Center.

A Life-saving Call

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Roy Oliver, assistant director of Fairfax County's Department of Public Safety Communicators, gives Christopher Vanegas, 2, a fist bump during the department's 7th annual Safety Communications Awards Ceremony on Monday, April 9 at the Fairfax County Government Center. Oliver recognized Cynthia Almendarez, 10, (center, holding Christopher's hand) for saving Christopher's life by calling 9-1-1 and translating CPR instructions from English to Spanish when her nephew stopped breathing last summer. Standing with Almendarez (from left): her sister, Maria Celaura Almendarez, 12; her mother, Maria Isabel Almendarez; Cheryl Dean, the 9-1-1 dispatcher who took her call; and Digna Suyapa Vanegas, Christopher's mother.



PHOTO BY CHRISTIE SOSNA

Franconia Fifth Grader Honored for Saving Nephew's Life

Cynthia Almendarez, 10, called 9-1-1 when nephew, 2, stopped breathing.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

On the morning of July 13, 2011, Franconia Elementary fifth-grader Cynthia Almendarez was at home with her mother and 12-year-old sister when she noticed something odd.

Her 18-month-old nephew, Christopher, who was usually cruising around the house and making typical toddler sounds, was quiet and gasping for breath.

"I was scared because his face started to turn purple," Almendarez said. But she remembered something she learned at school.

Don't panic. Call 9-1-1.

Almendarez quickly picked up the phone and reached operator Cheryl Dean, who was just starting her shift.

What the 10-year-old did next saved Christopher's life.

On Monday, April 9, Almendarez and her family were honored at Fairfax County's Department of Public Safety Communication's (DPSC) 7th annual awards ceremony at the Fairfax County Government Center.

She was recognized for demonstrating exceptional bravery and heroism to save a life in a critical time using 9-1-1.

"I was surprised by her composure," Dean said, giving the little girl a hug after the ceremony. "I had to trust that she could convey the information I gave her. She remained calm until EMT's arrived on the scene. She's pretty amazing."

Christopher, whose breathing problems were caused by an infection, turned two-year-old last November. When Dean picked him up, he squirmed to get down and run around the lobby.

"He's a typical, healthy two-year-old, thanks to Cynthia's composure. She saved valuable time and Christopher's life," said Roy Oliver, Assistant Director of DPSC. "I can't even comprehend putting myself on that side of the phone," Oliver said.

Oliver said Dean, who has been with the county for two years, was pretty amazing too.

A Life-saving Call

Following are excerpts from an audio of the 9-1-1 call:

❖ Almendarez: "Hello, um, our nephew is not breathing...he's not breathing. My mom said if you can hurry up. Please."

❖ Dean: "I'm going to ask you some questions and give you some instructions, okay? He's not breathing at all? Does anyone there know CPR?"

❖ Almendarez carefully answers Dean's questions in English. Switching to Spanish, she tries to calm down her mother, Maria Isabel, and sister, Maria Celaura, who can be heard wailing in the background and frantically yelling, at times drowning out the voice of Almendarez.

❖ Dean: "Get the phone close to him, and I'll assist you in giving him CPR. I need you to listen to me, okay? Get the phone close to your nephew."

Dean struggles to hear the little girl over the din of other voices.

❖ Dean: "Okay, I need everybody who is not trying to help the baby to stop talking. Tell them to stop talking...Put the baby on the floor, on his back. Nothing behind his head or shoulders. Take his shirt off... Push down on the forehead and pull up on the chin."

❖ Almendarez translates Dean's precise CPR instructions to her mother. About halfway through the eight-minute call, Almendarez stops translating as Christopher erupts in sobs.

❖ Dean: "Is he crying now? Is that him crying?"

❖ Almendarez: "Yes...he's crying now. Can you come?"

The paramedics arrive a few seconds later, and the 10-year-old breaks down crying for the first time.

❖ Almendarez: "They're here...They're taking him now..."

❖ Dean: "It's okay, you did a really good job, okay? You did a really good job."

❖ Almendarez: "Thank you, Thank you."

"She was doing what she always does. She didn't think anything of it until a supervisor listened to the tape, and realized that there was a special story here," Oliver said.

Since July, Almendarez has received numerous awards from local and national 9-1-1 agencies, as well as a commendation from the Board of Supervisors. In December, she received the "9-1-1 for Kids" award at Franconia Elementary. Inspired by her story, DPSC employees gave her family Christmas presents.

"I don't think I'm a hero," she said, even though many friends and family would disagree. "I'm just really happy that he's okay. I love spending time with him."

Herrity Recovering Well "Famous sense of humor" intact, friends say post open-heart surgery.

After undergoing open-heart surgery last week, Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) is recovering well, and his "famous sense of humor is intact," according to friends and family members.

"He was able to walk a couple of laps around the ward yesterday and is making good progress. He also wanted to wish everyone a belated happy Easter," said communications director John Nolan.

Herrity, 52, underwent surgery to repair a cardiovascular defect Thursday, April 5 at Inova's Heart and Vascular Institute. The surgery



Herrity

was performed by Dr. Alan Spier and Dr. Niv Ad, who informed the supervisor's family that the surgery went smoothly, and he is expected to make a full recovery.

According to the surgeons, it will be four to six weeks before Herrity can resume everyday activities.

In November of 2011, Herrity said he began hav-

ing abnormal heart rhythms called atrial fibrillation (A-Fib). While A-Fib itself is not dangerous, and he did not have a heart attack or any heart damage, his doctors discovered an aortic aneurysm, a potentially life-threatening condition. After consulting with his doctors, Herrity said he made the decision to have both conditions addressed in surgery.

According to his staff, Herrity was in good spirits before the surgery, and he released the following statement:

"I am optimistic about the surgery and look forward to

working towards a full recovery. I am fortunate to be young for a heart surgery patient; I am active, regularly swimming and playing ice hockey; I have two

world-class surgeons performing the procedure, and I have the love and support of my wonderful family and many friends and supporters. It is truly amazing how many people

have come up to me to wish me their best and tell me that they too have had heart surgery. It is very encouraging."

Herrity's staff will be posting updates about his recovery through email and social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter. To subscribe to those feeds, visit www.facebook.com/patherrity and www.twitter.com/patherrity. Send cards to: The West Springfield Governmental Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA 22152.

— VICTORIA ROSS

"I am optimistic about the surgery and look forward to working towards a full recovery."

— Supervisor Pat Herrity
(R-Springfield)

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NEWS

Candle Causes Fire

Neighbor rescues Lorton family minutes before home collapses.

A neighbor rescued two women, one juvenile and a dog from a house fire Saturday, April 7, in Lorton, minutes before the home collapsed, according to officials with the Fairfax County Fire Department. The cause of the blaze was an unattended candle.

Around 5 p.m., Fairfax County Fire and Rescue responded to a house fire at 9204 Forest Greens Drive in Lorton. Firefighters encountered heavy smoke and fire coming from the entire two-story home upon arrival. The Incident Commander struck a second alarm, bringing more than 60 firefighters to the fire scene.

A neighbor called 911 around 4:50 p.m., according to fire officials, and then entered the home to alert occupants, helping them to safety prior to firefighters arriving on scene. One firefighter was transported to the hospital for observation, but there were no other injuries reported.

Firefighters battled the fire from the interior and exterior of the home, however, the volume of the fire was so overwhelming and intense the order to withdraw all inside crews was given. The second floor collapsed minutes later. Firefighters fought the fire from the exterior using elevated master streams, and brought the fire under control in approximately 25 minutes. The residual heat of the fire caused major damage to the vinyl siding to an adjacent home. The high winds also started several brush fires nearby.

The home is a total loss. According to fire investigators, the fire was accidental. An unattended candle on the wraparound front porch caused the fire.

—VICTORIA ROSS

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THE COUNTY LINE

Interest in Budget Slows as Economy Picks Up

Employee compensation, human service funding compete for attention.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Rising property values, a relatively low unemployment rate, and the lack of hot button issues — such as full-day kindergarten — have reduced public involvement in Fairfax County's proposed \$6.7 billion budget compared to recent years, according to county leaders.

During last year's budget cycle, Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) said she heard from nearly 1,000 constituents advocating for their portion of the pie. This year, that number plummeted to 30.

"At budget time, I clear the decks to see as many people as possible," Bulova said. "My dance card is full."

Attendance at town hall meetings on the budget has also been low, according to several supervisors.

"The number of people who have signed up to speak is way down from last year," said Supervisor John Cook, (R-Braddock). "There is no one issue that's got people riled up. People are not scared. Things have stabilized. We're in a flat spot after several years of cuts."

Next week, the public will have the opportunity to weigh in on County Executive Anthony Griffin's proposed \$6.7 billion budget for the county's 1.1 million residents.

And supervisors want residents to know that their voice matters.

"Often testimony has caused us to adopt changes to the advertised budget," Bulova said. "It is critical that the community is engaged and at the table with us as we con-

"It is critical that the community is engaged and at the table with us as we consider changes to what has been advertised."

— Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large)



"The number of people who have signed up to speak is way down from last year. There is no

one issue that's got people riled up. People are not scared. Things have stabilized."

— Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock)

sider changes to what has been advertised."

BUDGET BASICS

In his final year as county executive, Griffin has proposed a budget based on the current property tax rate of \$1.07 for every \$100 of assessed value, which means the average homeowner will pay \$4,801 in property taxes, \$33.85 more than last year, and \$45.36 less than in fiscal year 2007.

The proposed General Fund total is \$3.5 billion, up \$143 million over fiscal year 2012. More than half of the budget (52.5 percent or \$1.85 billion) is earmarked for the school system.

To mitigate potential shortfalls, the board voted to advertise a 1-cent tax increase to \$1.08 per \$100 of assessed value. Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence) called the one-penny increase an "insurance policy" against any funding shortfalls.

In addition to allowing the rise in property taxes, Griffin's budget also imposes several new fees, including a storm water fee would increase from 1.5 cents for every \$100 of assessed value to 2.5 cents for every \$100 of assessed value.

FAIRFAX COUNTY BUDGET MEETINGS

Public Hearings on the FY 2013 advertised budget plan and the FY 2013-2017 Capital Improvement Program will be held in the board auditorium of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax, on the following dates and times:

- ❖ **Tuesday, April 10** at 6 p.m.
- ❖ **Wednesday, April 11** at 3 p.m.
- ❖ **Thursday, April 12**, at 3 p.m.

OTHER IMPORTANT BUDGET DATES

- ❖ **Friday, April 20** – Budget Committee Meeting Pre-Markup Session
- ❖ **Tuesday, April 24** – Fiscal Year 2013 Board Budget Markup Session and approval of FY 2012 third quarter budget
- ❖ **Tuesday, May 1** – Formal adoption of FY 2013 Budget

SIGN UP TO SPEAK

To sign up to speak at one of the public hearings, call the Clerk to the Board's Office at 703-324-3152 or 703-324-2391 (TTY – 771). To access the sign-up form online, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speaker_bos.htm. The public may also send written testimony by email at clerktothebos@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The 2013 advertised budget is available on the Fairfax County website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/.

Reference copies of all budget volumes are available at all Fairfax County public libraries. CD versions of all budget volumes are available from the Department of Management and Budget. For more information, call the department at 703-324-2391.

The board can approve a rate lower than the advertised rate, but they cannot adjust the tax rate without first advertising a higher rate. The \$1.08 rate will provide some wiggle room and – if adopted – add \$19.95 million to the county executive's proposed budget. Each 1 cent increase in the real estate tax rate impacts the average residential taxpayer's annual bill by approximately \$45.

Budget analysts expect revenue in the county to increase a moderate 3.4 percent in 2013, and continue at that level for the next several years.

Although that's the fastest rate of growth since fiscal year 2007, it's still less than half the average annual growth in revenue during the boom period from 2000 to 2007.

"I agree we're seeing a mild recovery — not strong or vigorous," Bulova said. "I think that Tony Griffin has done a good job hitting the high notes. There are still cuts, but not as many and not as severe."

That doesn't mean, however, that this year's budget is without its share of challenges and competing interests.

Two groups, the Fairfax County Alliance for Human Services and the Fairfax County Government Employee Union, have signaled their commitment to keeping their issues front and center as the board moves toward adopting a the final budget on May 1.

Both groups want to see the board adopt the advertised tax rate.

EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

The largest new spending measure on the table is Griffin's proposed 2.18 percent market rate adjustment for the county's 10,000-plus employees. If approved by the board, the adjustment will cost more than \$22 million.

SEE CHAMBERS, PAGE 7

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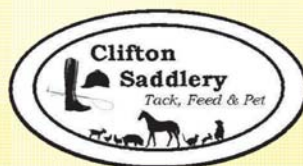
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NEWS

Ed Long Named County Executive

Long, former deputy county executive, begins April 25.

"Fairfax County is truly fortunate that Ed Long has agreed to come out of a well-deserved retirement to take the position as our new county executive," said Board of Supervisors Vice Chairman Penny Gross (D-Mason). "Ed's enthusiasm for the county, its employees and its services is undeniable, and he is a worthy successor to outgoing County Executive Tony Griffin."

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors appointed Edward L. Long Jr. as county executive on Tuesday, April 10. Long, who will replace Anthony H. Griffin on April 25, has more than 34 years of experience with the county, and retired as deputy county executive and chief financial officer in May 2011.

"Ed is known as a steady and trustworthy leader," says Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large). "I believe that his skills and management style will continue to foster the culture of excellence for which Fairfax County is so well known."

In his role as deputy county executive, Long oversaw all of the county's financial and human resources functions, including tax administration and assessments, revenue collection, management of county debt, retirement funds administration and more.

Under Long's leadership, Fairfax County maintained the highest credit rating possible for a local government. As of February, only eight states, 39 counties and 34 cities in the nation had triple-A ratings from all three investor services.



Edward L. Long, Jr.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) issued a statement April 10 on the hire of Long: "He is the right man at the right time, and I am thrilled he will be our next county executive...Nobody has a better understanding of our financial challenges than Ed Long."

Long began his county career in 1977 as a budget analyst and became the director of the Department of Management and Budget in 1989. He currently serves as an adjunct professor at George Mason University and American University.

Long received the 2012 Distinguished Local Government Leadership Award from the Association of Government Accountants, and in 2006 he received the A. Heath Onthank Award – Fairfax County's highest employee award.

Long has a bachelor's in political science from Emory and Henry College and a master's of arts in urban studies from the University of Maryland. He will receive an annual salary of \$257,282.

— VICTORIA ROSS

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Workers remove the traffic signal on the Fairfax County Parkway Tuesday, April 10, to make way for the new overpass that is part of the last phase of the Fairfax County Parkway project.

Fairfax County Parkway Overpass Opens

Donegal Lane access shuts down.

On Tuesday, April 10, VDOT closed Donegal Road in Springfield as part of phase III of the \$23 million Fairfax County Parkway project.

Workers removed the traffic signal and opened the new overpass that will carry vehicles from the Hooes Road side of the Fairfax County Parkway to Rolling Road, which was relocated over the parkway. This is intended to improve the flow of traffic for cars going to I-95 and the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency.

This overpass is a major portion of phase III of the \$174 million parkway project. In the coming weeks, motorists will see the ramp heading from the Fairfax County Parkway to the new section of the parkway widened to two lanes, and the access to Rolling Road improved as well. Before the project is complete in mid-July, the section of the parkway that narrows to one lane will be widened to two lanes.

The 35-mile parkway stretches from Leesburg Pike (U.S. Route 7) in Dranesville to Richmond Highway (U.S. Route 1) in Lorton.

For more information on the Fairfax County Parkway Phase 3 Project, visit the website at: www.fcparkway.com/index.htm

— VICTORIA ROSS

THE COUNTY LINE

Chambers Seek Support for Human Services

FROM PAGE 5

Griffin said employees are “getting anxious,” about compensation, adding that this will be the fourth year public safety employees will not get a step increase and county employees will not get a pay-for-performance bonus.

“Many of these budget reductions, some of which were quite painful, directly impacted many of our residents,” Griffin said.

“It’s absolutely on my radar screen,” Bulova said. “We’re hearing frustration from our county employees. ‘How much longer can we go without a pay increase?’”

In the advertised budget, Griffin said it was critical for the county not to “lose ground competitively” in its compensation and benefit packages.

Cook, a Republican endorsed by the Fairfax County Government Employees Union, agreed.

He said employee compensation is one issue all the supervisors are looking into, because many don’t see a market-rate adjustment as a true raise.

“We are beginning to have morale issues. This is where the board will struggle for this year, and the next three years,” Cook said, adding that he is concerned Fairfax County is not keeping up with other jurisdictions.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), who called county employees “our most important asset,” said employee morale was wearing thin after three years without pay-for-performance or step increases.

Cook said he will encourage his colleagues to use their individual budget requests – which total about \$8.5 million – to bump up employee salaries beyond the market-rate-adjustment in the proposed budget.

“I think we need to sharpen the pencil and find the money,” Cook said. “Look, if you want top services, you have to pay for top employees.”

Bulova said the board is keeping its eye on what other jurisdictions are proposing for employee compensation. “We don’t want to lose our best employees. We want to do right by our workforce.”

FUNDING HUMAN SERVICES

Fairfax County’s Alliance for Human Services, a non-partisan partnership that advocates for public and private human service providers, is also lobbying the board to adopt the advertised tax rate, and use the additional \$19.95 million to fund “unmet human service needs.”

“While Fairfax County’s poverty rate is better than most (5.8 percent in 2011), it still translates to nearly 63,000 people living below the poverty level,” the AHS said in a letter to the board.

“What I think is important to recognize is that it’s not just one year of cuts, it’s the accumulation of cuts since 2007, and the resulting increase in demand,” said Amanda Andere, executive director of FACETS, a nonprofit that provides emergency shelter, food, and medical needs, as well as educational, life skills and career counseling programs.

“We’re all concerned about our employee’s salaries, but the bigger issue is what services have been cut,” Andere said.

Linda Patterson, executive director of the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC), which provides food and other services in the south county area, said any additional cuts in services have the potential to make those who are already struggling more vulnerable.

“I am especially concerned about the Community Services Board (CSB) cuts. Mental health

services are vital for the well-being of our community. Any cuts not only stress the county system, but trickle down to non-profits like LCAC,” Patterson said.

Lisa Whetzel, executive director of Our Daily Bread, a nonprofit that helps residents avoid homelessness, said ODB continues to get more requests for assistance than it can handle. Whetzel said ODB is encouraging supporters to attend Wednesday’s budget hearing.

“The Board of Supervisors should vote to follow through with fully funding the 10-year plan to end homelessness,” Whetzel said.

Both the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce have pledged support for the county’s Housing Blueprint. Adopted by the board in 2011, the blueprint bolsters the county’s goal to prevent and end homelessness by 2018 by mapping out strategies to create 2,650 housing opportunities. It reflects the philosophy of the board that affordable housing is a continuum ranging from the needs of the homeless to first-time

homebuyers.

In a joint letter to the board, Eileen Curtis, president and CEO of the Dulles chamber and Mark Ingrao, president and CEO of the Reston chamber urged the board to provide funding to support the proposed investment in the Housing Blueprint as follows:

❖ \$4.1 million (continuing authorization) for the Bridging Affordability Program

❖ \$5 million (\$3 million from Fund 319/\$2 million from the General Fund) to support acquisition of 200 units that address the Blueprint housing goals

❖ \$2.61 million in rental subsidies, matched by nonprofit partners who provide the housing and services to address underfunded goals outlined in the Blueprint.

“As chambers of commerce representing the leading businesses in Fairfax County, we recognize that housing policy is an essential factor in economic development,” Ingrao and Curtis stated in the letter.

“A lot of folks are concerned about human services,” Andere said. “These are things that are worthy of some investment.”

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers three Sunday services and a host of musical, educational, outreach, and fellowship ministries to enrich spiritual growth. 7:45 a.m. Worship Service without music; 9 a.m. Worship Service, Children’s Chapel and Children’s Choirs; 10 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum; and 11 a.m. Worship Service with Adult Choir. 703-759-2082.

Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean, Sunday worship services are at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults is at 9:30 a.m. and for children during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Youth Group for grades 7-12 meets Sundays at 6 p.m. A 20-minute service of Holy Communion is held each Wednesday at 12 p.m. 703-356-3312 or umtrinity.org.

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

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org for schedules and registration information.

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OPINION

On Funding the Silver Line

Commonwealth will collect the dividends, but refuses to invest; Northern Virginia pays.

Northern Virginia localities should together commission a study now to determine how much growth is stimulated by the opening of the Metro stations in Tysons and along the toll road out to Dulles, how many new jobs created, quantify how much that growth leads to increased income and sales tax, and how much revenue (taxes) would get shipped off to Commonwealth coffers.

There should be a way to keep that money here in Northern Virginia.

Residents from around the region will pay for the majority of the construction of rail to Dulles via the Dulles Toll Road.

Virginia is all too happy to benefit from one of the biggest drivers of the Northern Virginia economic engine, Dulles Airport. Rail to Dulles, part of the plan for the airport since its conception, is a key part of supporting the expected volume growth in passengers and other commerce at the airport. But at every turn, the state has pushed paying for the rail line onto Northern Virginia, onto Fairfax and Loudoun county

EDITORIAL

governments, onto property owners in the corridor and especially onto drivers on the Dulles Toll Road.

While Virginia had committed to contributing an additional \$150 million to the rail project, and at various points the governor and the General Assembly dangled \$200-300 million, it now appears that money will not be forthcoming. It was never enough.

This is one more example of the Commonwealth of Virginia happily collecting revenues, including income and sales taxes, generated from the economic vitality of Northern Virginia, then forcing Northern Virginia residents to pay for the infrastructure of that economic activity out of local funds and personal pockets.

The most recent Virginia Department of Aviation report identifies at least \$17.5 billion in annual economic activity in Virginia from Dulles and Reagan National airports, with Dulles providing the majority of that. The num-

ber of jobs created and maintained by this activity is staggering, and in Virginia, the state collects 100 percent of the income tax; there is no local income tax.

The state collects the income tax from the good jobs generated here in Northern Virginia by the airports, by the high tech firms, by the business innovators, by proximity to the Pentagon and the federal government. Then the governor celebrates the result, that Virginia is top ranked as business friendly.

The Commonwealth collects much of the tax revenue that results from this activity, but would pay only three percent of the \$6.2 billion cost of rail to Dulles. This will force more than 80 percent of the costs of building rail to Dulles to local drivers and property owners. The toll road contribution is projected at 57 percent of the total.

Having major airports adequately served by rail and other transportation options is more than an amenity, it is part of sustaining the economic benefit that comes from major airports. The question is not whether we should be building rail to Dulles, but about who benefits and who pays.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Upholding Our Unalienable Rights

To the Editor:

It seems that some are taking the opportunity to rehash the age-old abortion debate based on a quip by Delegate Dave Albo a few weeks ago on the floor of the General Assembly. While I will not comment on Delegate Albo's statement concerning his relationship with his wife, I will address the "personhood" issue of abortion. First I disagree with the premise in the Letter to the Editor by the Women's Strike Force about ceding jurisdiction of the law to the General Assembly. It is counterintuitive to say that, "when you cede jurisdiction over your body to the General Assembly to say you cannot have an abortion, then you have given them the jurisdiction to say with the stroke of a pen, you must have an abortion." That argument is as absurd as saying that if the General Assembly imposes a law to forbid first degree murder, then they can also summarily force first degree murder. Second, defining life at conception is the most logical time to define when life begins. Before the onset of technology and medical advances, life was thought to begin much later. With digital high tech

machines and intrauterine procedures, science has caught up with jurisprudence and revealed how much actually takes place at conception. There has to be some point in time in which life begins. The most logical and non-discriminative point in time is conception. Better to err on the side of a human life than some arbitrary and capricious date set forth by politicians or special interest groups.

"To restrict a woman's right to decide what happens to her body when she is pregnant," is considered intrusive by some pro-choice activists. Clearly, what the state is attempting to promote is the safety and well-being of the life inside the mother which is unable to advocate on his or her own behalf. The state must look out for and protect the lives of the young, the elderly, those with special needs, etc. so that their rights and freedoms are not sacrificed. Currently, if a woman is pregnant, and another individual intentionally harms her and the baby does not survive, the pregnant woman will be able to sue for the loss of her child here in the state of Virginia. We need to be consistent, and if it is considered a life in some circumstances, then it must also logically be considered a life in other circumstances. In the Declaration of Independence, it states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that

all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Because all people have the right to "Life," the General Assembly has the authority and the obligation to protect the lives of the unborn. Thank you, Virginia General Assembly, for considering HB1 and HB 462 and for your commitment to upholding and defending these same principles fought for by our founding fathers.

Laura Murphy
Fairfax Station

Missing in Abortion Debate

To the Editor:

A constant theme among letters to the editor is that of abortion activists eager to advance the cause of liberal women to abort arguably future Democrat voters, which is the ultimate oxymoron. The espoused opposition theme to any effort to educate the public seems to be, as stated by a reader in the March 22-23 edition of this paper, "restricting a woman's right to decide what happens to her body when she is pregnant." And that is the problem. The issue is not the woman's body; it is the body of a totally different person

sharing half of her chromosomes, but only half, who resides within her body. This fetus, an unborn child, is not the woman's body once conceived, but a totally separate human being within her body very much alive on its own for whom the abortion-choosing woman wishes death, often for her own convenience. Now regardless of one's position on this issue, the fact that liberal abortion advocates seek to hide this fact in every public pronouncement is nothing more than the highest form of deceit. Ironically, every person in whose presence I have heard make such a pronouncement has also, when asked, been staunchly opposed to the death penalty for the most violent and heartless criminal, who has been tried, convicted, and sentenced to death, another oxymoron of epic proportions. Killing one's own child for convenience is what abortion actually is and most often the creation of the child in question is also a result of one's own actionable sexual pleasure rather than involuntary rape. If this issue is to be debated honestly, these facts must be in the forefront. Liberals never offer up the truth because it detracts mightily from their position which is indefensible.

Christopher Thompson
West Springfield

Fairfax Station,
Lorton & Clifton
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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
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Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Amna Rehmatulla
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
arehmatulla@connectionnewspapers.com

Victoria Ross
Community Reporter
703-752-4014
vross@connectionnewspapers.com
@ConnectVictoria

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter
703-778-9438
south@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor
703-778-9410
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
@jonroetman

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Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Deb Cobb, Louise Krafft,
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Production Manager:
Jean Card
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Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
Circulation Manager:
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Creating a Dream Bathroom

Local pros share the latest design trends for this essential space.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Updating or renovating a bathroom can be a daunting project. From selecting tile and fixtures to choosing a tub and vanity, options are overwhelmingly plentiful. One source of inspiration when transforming a boring bath into a luxurious, spa-inspired retreat is the newly released National Kitchen and Bathroom Association's annual design trend survey. The 2012 list offers a snapshot of the latest in bathroom decor. Local designers and association members discuss the list and share their ideas for making stunning visual statement in this essential space.

FREESTANDING TUBS. The focal point of any bathroom is the tub. Local designers say a freestanding tub can transform a bathroom into serene sanctuary. "It is like your master bathroom is like a hotel," said designer Megan Padilla of Aidan Design. "We're seeing the emergence of the bathroom as a retreat or spa experience."

POLISHED CHROME. Bathroom accessories are increasingly bright and shiny as polished nickel and chrome finishes gain popularity. "Polished chrome tends to work especially well with grays, blues and white. It is also an easy choice if you are budget-conscious," said Falls Church-based designer Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling. "Another choice is polished nickel. It has nice brown undertones that can pair well when you're going outside the traditional white and grey tones."

Some designers say that brushed metal finishes are still a practical choice for many homeowners. "Many people prefer brushed nickel because it shows fewer water spots and looks cleaner," said David Doughton, kitchen and bathroom designer at the Kitchen and Bath Factory in Arlington.

WATER CLOSETS Designer April Case Underwood of Case Design/Remodeling has seen a spike in the demand for bathrooms with a separate room for the toilet. "If the bathroom is large enough, a lot of people like to add water closets. Even though they are sharing a bathroom with a spouse or partner, water closets give them the opportunity to be a little bit more private when they are using the toilet."

MEDICINE CABINETS. As homeowners look for effective ways to add additional storage space, shelving and cabinetry in the bathroom, the time-tested medicine cabinet is making a re-emergence after a decline in popularity. "In [the Washington, D.C. area] where bathrooms are small, every inch of space is premium," said Doughton. "Medicine cabinets are definitely a must in this area. I've even made units that are 60 inches tall that go behind a door to give people the ample amount of storage space."

Another option is a furniture-style vanity cabinet. "They are different from traditional cabinets because they look like a piece of furniture and can add a 'wow' factor to a bathroom," added Doughton.

SOLID SURFACES. When it comes to vanity tops, granite, quartz and marble are the top choices.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CASE DESIGN

April Case Underwood uses an open shower and large tile to make bathing in this Alexandria bathroom a spa experience.

"Quartz vanity tops are low maintenance, but some people want the natural look of granite," said Doughton.

As an alternative, Mann suggests an engineered stone known as Cambria. "It is man-made and is a good solid surface," said Mann. "It is not a porous material and does not require a lot of maintenance."

A National Kitchen and Bathroom Association survey found that another trend is the use of glass vanity tops. "It gives a bit of flair," said Mann. "It adds a little bit of interest to the space and gives it a little bit of charm and personality."

SHADES OF GRAY. While whites and off-whites continue to be the most popular color for bathrooms, gray is gaining ground as a versatile option. When used skillfully, gray color schemes can provide a distinguished backdrop without overpowering a design. "What's nice about gray finishes is that it can accent just about any palette, especially blues or greens," said Doughton.

Mann used gray paint and white marble to turn an Arlington bathroom into a tranquil sanctuary "Gray is pleasing and calming," she said. "It has become the new neutral. [Designers] say it has become the new beige."

TRANSITIONAL OVER TRADITIONAL. For the first time since the National Kitchen and Bathroom Association began tracking annual trends, traditional is no longer the most popular design style. Replacing it is transitional style, a combination of traditional and contemporary elements that creates a classic, timeless design.

"I think some people may be afraid to commit to one style over another," said Doughton. "Transitional allows them to incorporate things that they like from both realms and blend them together. What you pair with it really determines which way it sways on the line between modern or contemporary or traditional."

LARGE TILE. Local designers say that large tiles for the floor and walls of the shower are a practical and popular choice. "What people like about larger tiles is that there is less grout involved so there is less maintenance and cleaning. It ends up looking like you have one piece of solid flooring in your bathroom," said Doughton.

MULTIPLE SHOWERHEADS. Multiple showerheads can turn a daily activity into an indulgent luxury.

"They can create a spa-like feel, but there are also practical and great for young families with little kids," said Padilla. "You can use the hand held hose and rinse the shower down like you would in a sink to clean it out."

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Gini and Bob Mulligan enjoy the new, wide front porch that came with the remodel that turned their split-foyer into a French colonial style home.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL



PHOTO BY JUSTIN KNIE

The new kitchen interior by Sun Design Remodeling boasts an easy in-door-outdoor continuum, ideal for warm weather entertaining — or just everyday living.

From Home to Dream Home: Split Foyer to French Colonial

Sun Design Remodeling's design solution for Mulligan home tops category in "Contractor of the Year" Awards.

BY JOHN BYRD
SPECIAL TO THE CONNECTION

Tastes change; so, too, an owner's requirements of their home. In the early 1960s, for instance, no floor plan concept seemed better suited to the demands of modern life than the split level — which deployed half-levels to apportion interior space into sleeping zones, family gathering rooms and service areas.

Carrying the social engineering a step further, designers next introduced the "split foyer" which directs traffic up and down from a locale between two floors — giving equal value to kitchen and bedrooms above; family recreation and laundry below. But such schemes aren't for everyone and, more to the point, after years of application, restrictive rules — like walls — can wear thin.

Consider, for instance, the case of Gini and Bob Mulligan, 25-year occupants of a circa-1960s split-foyer situated on a wooded setting in Fairfax.

"We were really attracted to the extraordinary country setting when we bought this house in 1988," Gini Mulligan said. "It's very private, wooded acreage that really brings your attention to the beauty of nature. We were less attracted to the house itself, but thought, well ... we can make some changes once we're settled in."

Fast-forward a couple of decades, and the re-thinking process is still underway. "We solicited ideas from a lot of remodelers, but modifications to a split foyer that worked for us weren't easy to come by. In the end, we decided that our surroundings called for a farmhouse with a big welcoming porch. Unfortunately, the conceptual drawings we received mostly just showed we weren't being heard. It was very frustrating."

Compounding the issue was the couple's extensive "wish list" — which included a large master bedroom suite; a gourmet kitchen; substantially enlarged living and entertainment spaces; private places for billiards and studio painting, and lots of natural light and visual continuum in all directions.

Ranked above all this, however, was a call to dramatically re-design the front façade. "A split foyer puts the front door midway between the first and second levels," Gini Mulligan said. "How do you modify a feature like that?"

Enter Craig Durosko, founder and chairman of Sun Design Remodeling.

"A split foyer is a fascinating challenge," Durosko said. "For starters, you have to eliminate the mid-level front-facing stairwell, and create alternatives that really advance the owner's vision. Typically, this is going to entail structural changes and a re-definition to the home's



Before

PHOTOS BY BRYAN BURRIS



After

Sun Design's makeover — which includes a rear dormer — opens up living space possibilities on the third floor level. A cathedral ceiling with window wall invites natural light and a look into the rear-facing gourmet kitchen.

basic architecture."

The starting point is to concentrate on solving functional considerations, Durosko said. This drives the search for an architectural language that satisfies a broad criteria including the appropriateness

of the home's design to its setting. Interesting, then, that what evolves out of routine space-planning is a rural variant of French Colonial style, associated with Louisiana and the Delta states — places where the indoor-outdoor compo-

nent is a lifestyle essential.

"Relocating the front door to the second floor main level wrapped by a porch called for distinctive front stairs," Durosko said. "We designed the pavilion roof to reconcile the porch to the higher pitch of a new third level hipped roof. Three dormer windows — needed for natural light — followed from this."

THE NEW STYLE emerges in the details. The entry way is a glass-facing double French door. Six divided light windows now grace the re-imagined front elevation. Porch support piers are perfectly aligned with its roof columns. The broad flaring stairway narrows towards the top. Old brick was deployed to extend the existing chimney. In its essence, Durosko and team create a spot-on evocation of a "raised rural" French Colonial, a look originally created in the 18th century for just such a country setting.

By contrast, the remade interior explores "open" floor plan sensibilities — emphasizing uncluttered sightlines and easy circulation.

A footprint above the garage is allocated to a sizeable master suite with 15-foot cathedral ceilings and generous views of the leafy lot from front and back. Three small bedrooms on the home's south side are converted into a generous guest suite complete with its own rear entrance. Front-facing rooms are converted into a library (which accesses both suites) and the new locale for a mid-house staircase linking both the existing lower level and a new third floor.

Other small changes expand the home's primary living area. Deleting just 90 square feet of mid-level foyer permitted designers to reconfigure the living room and

dining room into an L-shaped "great room" wrapping a new gourmet kitchen which opens on two sides.

The kitchen's cathedral ceiling — crowned with an extensive window wall — invites natural light and visual continuity. As Gini Mulligan tells it: any seat in the primary living area is visually linked to the wooded setting from all sides.

On a similar note, relocating the stairwell and opening some walls transforms the lower level into a light and airy family entertainment center. The third floor — which Gini Mulligan plans to use as an art studio — likewise, gains light from dormers in both the front and the back.

For the Mulligans, though, what really matters is how well the new house validates a long-foretold personal vision.

"Rocking on the front porch in the morning or the evening surrounded by trees is just deliciously satisfying," Gini Mulligan said. "The house is a perfect realization."

On this point, others concur. The makeover was recently named the region's best residential addition in the \$100,000-\$250,000 category by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry's metro Washington chapter.

Design with Children in Mind

BOWA Builders share tips for design that works for the whole family.

BY JOSHUA BAKER
SPECIAL TO THE CONNECTION



Whether it's a closet, the kitchen or a study area, there are numerous ways to incorporate child-friendly design into any space, and children today are becoming more and more involved in the process. Even if the child is toddler-aged, simple tasks, such as picking colors, themes or bedding, can help them feel that they are part of the process. Besides being used more frequently, greater input in the planning stage should result in more pride in the space later and a desire to keep it neat and tidy.

STUDY SPACES. A well-designed study area can be invaluable when it comes to helping a child stay focused and motivated. The kitchen is a popular

choice for such a designated area, as parents are readily available to answer questions, keep their young scholar on task, and supervise internet usage.

Have a wide hallway or nook elsewhere in the home that doesn't receive a lot of traffic? As another option, consider transforming this unused space by placing a desk against the wall, adding wall cabinets or shelving above it for holding supplies, and providing the area with adequate lighting.

A recent project in Vienna features a whimsical study that was built in one of the turrets of the house. The study opens up from the bedroom into an octagonal room, and includes a storage bench for additional seating, lots of windows streaming in natural light, and a high ceiling with three-dimensional hanging stars.

In another recent project, a reading nook was carved out under the stairs. This little hideaway features

a daybed with big, comfy pillows and built-in shelving for holding the children's favorite books.

STORAGE SPACES. Children have stuff. Lots and lots of stuff. Books, toys, clothing, sports, hobby and school stuff. The question is: where to put it all? Collecting it as soon as it comes through the door can help to avoid it being strewn all over the place, as children (and their clutter) come home in a whirlwind of excitement from school, games and play dates.

Individual cubbies for each child in a foyer or mudroom can help to keep family members organized and prevent any mix-ups of belongings. A closet that features built-ins with plenty of drawers, cubbies, hooks and shelving will help encourage independence by giving children the ability to grab what they need and easily tidy up too. Some parents choose to remove the doors to make a closet even more inviting for their little ones to use. Hanging a set of curtains or draping fabric from a rod can add color and complement the overall design scheme, while hiding the contents at the same time.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB NAAB, PHOTOGRAPHY & BOWA BUILDERS

BOWA kitchen remodel features child-friendly seating at the end of the island.

KITCHEN DESIGN FOR THE SOUS CHEF. There are a number of things to do to help a future chef feel at home in the kitchen.

If it's time for a kitchen renovation, consider creating a set of counters at a lower, child-friendly height so they can help with the cooking. As children grow, this area will continue to come in handy when baking and doing other tasks.

SEE DESIGN, PAGE 14

Free Remodeling & Design Seminars!

Sat., April 14th — 10am-2pm

Where: 5795B Burke Centre Pkwy, Burke, VA 22015

Thinking of remodeling? This event is the perfect opportunity to take advantage of free expert advice with no obligation. Learn about the hot topics you should consider when remodeling.

Saturday's Seminars:

- Universal Design - Planning Ahead
- 10 Tips for a Stress-Free Remodel
- Reinventing Your Home for Today's Lifestyle

Seminars run from 10am-Noon. Lunch to follow. Please arrive at 9:45am for check-in.

Seating is limited. Call Sara at 703.425.5588 to reserve your seats!

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Immac home w/ 3000+ sq ft w/ large kit w/ island w/ granite cntrs, dramatic familyrm w/ vaulted clngs & skylts, recently fin bsmt, MBA w/ double sinks & sep tub & shower, deck, fenced yard, replaced roof, siding, a/c, some windows, garage drs & much more.

\$569,950

Fairfax Sta/South Run
Open Sunday 4/15 1-4
Lovely home on premium flat 1/2 acre w/ fence, deck & patio, remodel kit w/ Silestone, SS appl, glazed cabinets w/ slide out shelving, fabulous remodel MBA w/ jetted tub & sep shower + granite cntrs, finlrm w/ gas frplc & custom blt-in, hrldw flrs, replaced furnace, roof, siding, garage dr & more.

\$784,950

Burke
Remodeled Kitchen & Baths
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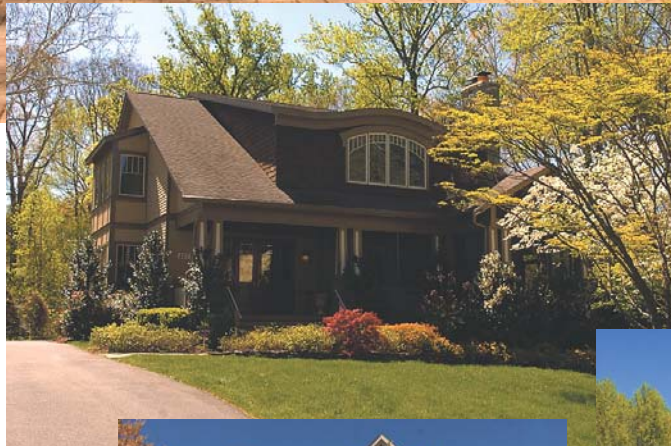
Top Sales by Town in February, 2012



**1 701 Gouldman Lane,
Great Falls — \$3,650,000**



2 1880 Massachusetts Avenue, McLean — \$2,400,000



**8 207 McHenry
Street Southeast,
Vienna — \$1,550,000**



**16 7951 Kelly Ann Court,
Fairfax Station — \$1,075,000**



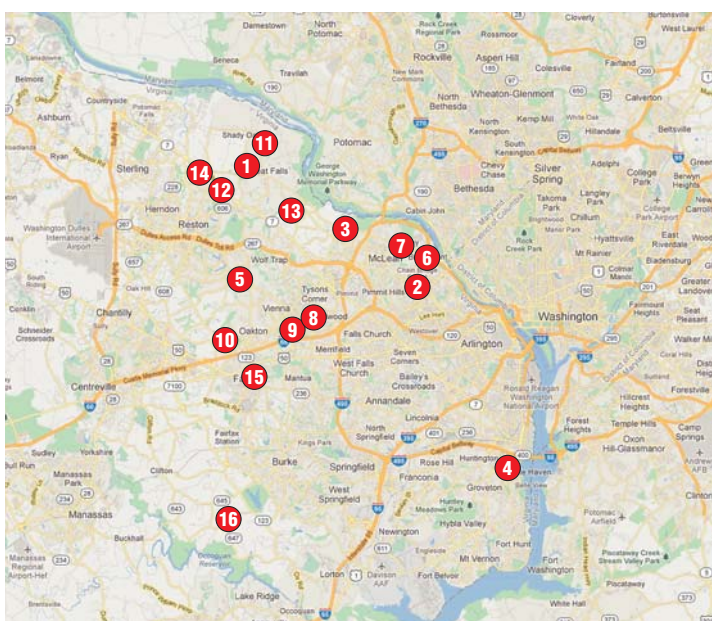
**15 3813 Daniel's
Run Court,
Fairfax —
\$1,120,000**



**14 11660 Preference Way,
Herndon — \$1,250,000**



**10 3359 V Lane,
Oakton — \$1,500,000**



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1 701 GOULDMAN LN	5	..	7	. 2	GREAT FALLS	\$3,650,000	Detached	5.39	.. 22066	GOULDMAN ACRES	02/09/12
2 1880 MASSACHUSETTS AVE ..	5	..	5	. 2	MCLEAN	\$2,400,000	Detached	0.57	.. 22101	FRANKLIN PARK	02/28/12
3 7820 LOUGHRAN RD	4	..	3	. 2	MCLEAN	\$2,300,000	Detached	1.17	.. 22102	GARFIELD PARK	02/17/12
4 6238 RADCLIFF RD	7	..	6	. 2	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,865,000	Detached	0.26	.. 22307	BELLE HAVEN	02/29/12
5 1671 HUNTING CREST WAY ...	5	..	5	. 1	VIENNA	\$1,786,175	Detached	1.81	.. 22182	BACHMAN PROPERTY	02/29/12
6 6000 CLAIBORNE DR	7	..	7	. 0	MCLEAN	\$1,700,000	Detached	0.45	.. 22101	POTOMAC HILLS	02/15/12
7 6507 RIDGE ST	6	..	5	. 1	MCLEAN	\$1,600,000	Detached	0.34	.. 22101	LANGLEY FARMS	02/13/12
8 207 MCHENRY ST SE	5	..	5	. 2	VIENNA	\$1,550,000	Detached	0.46	.. 22180	MC HENRY HEIGHTS	02/21/12
9 122 KINGSLEY RD NE	5	..	4	. 1	VIENNA	\$1,528,705	Detached	0.63	.. 22180	VIENNA ACRES	02/28/12
10 3359 V LN	6	..	5	. 1	OAKTON	\$1,500,000	Detached	0.83	.. 22124	WESTOAKS	02/19/12
11 405 WALKER RD	5	..	4	. 1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,450,000	Detached	1.73	.. 22066	RIVER BEND WALK	02/16/12
12 1155 FIELDVIEW DR	5	..	4	. 1	RESTON	\$1,365,000	Detached	0.58	.. 20194	ESTATES AT WYNDHAM HILLS	02/15/12
13 1036 LEIGH MILL RD	5	..	6	. 2	GREAT FALLS	\$1,275,000	Detached	5.64	.. 22066	COLD STREAM FARMS	02/07/12
14 11660 PREFERENCE WAY	5	..	5	. 2	HERNDON	\$1,250,000	Detached	0.86	.. 20170	CARIS GLENNE	02/16/12
15 3813 DANIEL'S RUN CT	5	..	5	. 1	FAIRFAX	\$1,120,000	Detached	0.20	.. 22030	FARRCROFT	02/03/12
16 7951 KELLY ANN CT	5	..	5	. 0 ..	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,075,000	Detached	5.00	.. 22039	BRIARIYNN ESTATES	02/22/12

SOURCE: MRIS, INC. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MRIS, VISIT WWW.MRIS.COM

AREA ROUNDUPS

South County HS Theatre Presents 'West Side Story'

South County Secondary School Theatre Department is ready to rumble as the popular musical, "West Side Story," hits its stage in May. Set in the mid-1950s, the play tells the story of two rival gangs, the Sharks and the Jets, who fight for the same territory in New York City. Tony, a previous leader of the Jets who wants something more in his life, agrees to attend a

WHEN AND WHERE

Friday and Saturday, May 4 & 5, 7:30 p.m.

Friday and Saturday, May 11 & 12, 7:30 p.m.

General admission is \$10, and \$9 for senior citizens and students. Get tickets at the door or discounted tickets online at southcountytheatre.org.

Location: Dale S. Rumberger Auditorium, South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, VA 22079.

dance and support the Jets as they challenge the Sharks to a rumble. At the dance, he meets Maria, the younger sister of Bernardo, the leader of the Sharks. Bernardo steps in and sends Maria home. Tony searches the streets for Maria and finds her on her balcony. They pledge their love to each other and plan to meet the next day. The Sharks and Jets agree on a rumble site and meet

to fight. Tony steps in to break up the rumble and his best friend Riff is killed by Bernardo. Tony then kills Bernardo in a rage. Tony must then face Maria, as the two of them try to find a way to still be together.

Featuring a cast and crew of more than 58 high school students, the production includes the talents of Dean Maldonato as Tony, Whitney Turner and Katie Murray as Maria, Kathryn Moore and Claire Gallagher as Anita, Nikko Custodio as Riff, Yusuf Alizo as Bernardo, Angel Hernandez as Chino, and Jack Gereski as Action.

Celebrating Japanese Art And Culture

The Workhouse Arts Center will present Japanese Art and Culture Day at the Workhouse, Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Gift of Trees, National Cherry Blossom Festival. On Saturday, April 21 from 11:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., visitors to the Workhouse Arts Center will find an array of interesting, educational, entertaining, and free activities celebrating the art and culture, both ancient and modern, of Japan. A ceremonial planting of cherry trees will kick-off the event at 11:30 a.m. The trees have been provided by the Merrifield Garden Center.

Activities include demonstrations of the ancient and living art of bonsai, Ikebana, the traditional Japanese art of flower arranging, and the art of the Edo period (1615-1868) featuring Ukiyo-e prints. More modern art and culture offerings include the culi-

nary art of vegetarian sushi making, and the Japanese art of Anime, being presented in the screening of the film 5 Centimeters Per Second. Children can learn about and participate in traditional Japanese games, crafts and dress being offered by The Japan-America Society of Washington, DC.

In celebration of the 100th Year of the Gift of Trees, the day will begin with a presentation featuring the ornamental Asian trees. Keith Tomlinson, manager of Meadowlark Gardens in Vienna, Virginia will take a look, through the lens of the deeply held relationship between humans and nature, at how these trees attract our collective passion as an aesthetic icon of spring and societal renewal.

Presenters for this celebration of Japanese art and culture include the Virginia Museum of Fine Art, Ikebana International, The Potomac Bonsai Association, and the Workhouse Arts Center's Studio Artists. This celebratory festival runs from 12PM to 4PM at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton, VA. For more information on the festival offerings visit WorkhouseArts.org.

Clifton Student Participates in Free Enterprise Championship

Meredith Rigby of Clifton, was among the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team members from Susquehanna University, Pa., who claimed a league championship at the SIFE USA Regional Competition in Baltimore on April 4.

SIFE members use business concepts to develop community outreach projects that improve the quality of life and standard of living for people in need. Regional competitions identify which teams had the greatest impact on their communities. Participating teams distribute an annual report and make a live presentation to a group of executives serving as judges.

During the academic year, the Susquehanna University SIFE team has logged more than 2,100 hours designing and implementing 21 projects that have helped more than 23,000 people in the community. These projects included working with elementary- and secondary-school students on educational ventures, assisting the local community and its businesses, and supporting the Susquehanna campus with "go green" initiatives and corporate partnerships.

Rigby is majoring in communications with an emphasis in communications studies at Susquehanna and is a 2010 graduate of Centreville High School. She is the daughter of Susan and Peter Rigby.

SIFE is an international nonprofit organization that brings together the top leaders of today and tomorrow to create a better, more sustainable world through the positive power of business.

BULLETIN BOARD

THURSDAY/APRIL 12

Springfield Christian Women's Connection. 11:30 a.m. Springfield Golf & Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. With Encore Consignment Boutique owner Virginia Barlow and former teacher and social worker Irene Hall. \$17. Reserve by April 10 at 703-590-6562 or SpringWmConn@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 14

Little Hunting Creek Cleanup. Sequoyah Condominiums Parking Lot, 7950 Seven Woods Drive, Alexandria. Volunteers needed. Organized by Delegate Scott

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

Surovell. 703-850-8618.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 18

Let's Talk Alzheimer's. 1:30 p.m. Alzheimer's Family Day Center, 2812 Old Lee Highway, Suite 210, Fairfax. Learn communication skills that can help ease the frustration and lead to successful interactions. Free. 703-204-4664.

SATURDAY/APRIL 21

Health and Safety Fair for Adults. 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Messiah United Methodist Church, 6215 Rolling

Road, Springfield. Over 20 groups on health, wellness, and community safety. Classes, free health screenings and door prizes. kbenton@messiahumc.org or 703-569-9862, ext. 105.

THURSDAY/APRIL 26

Fairfax County presents Does Mom Need to Move? 7 p.m. Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Free. Register at 703-324-5205, TTY 711, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices or caregiver@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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CALENDAR

To have community events listed, send to south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416 with questions. Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks prior to event.

FRIDAY/APRIL 13

Bonita Lestina Performance Series: Linn Barnes and Allison Hampton. 8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. European and American folk and Celtic music. Free admission. 703-352-2787 or www.fairfaxarts.org. www.barnesandhampton.com.

Singer/Songwriter Carrie Newcomer. 7 p.m. Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. www.burkpreschurch.org.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot circle, Fairfax. "Fully Charged." Pre-show Party one hour before show time, free to ticket holders. \$14-\$30. 800-551-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com.

Tommy Stinson (from Guns n' Roses & The Replacements) and The 27s. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Rachel Barton Pine. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

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

SATURDAY/APRIL 14

5th Annual Run for the Arts 5k and Fun Run. Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. 7-8 a.m. Packet Pickup at Encore Circle Lounge, 8:30 a.m. 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk, 8:30 a.m. 5K warm-up, 8:45 a.m. 5K Race shotgun start, 9-11 a.m. Finish Line Festival with live entertainment. Proceeds benefit Wolf Trap Foundation's arts and education programs. www.wolftrap.org.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot circle, Fairfax. "Fully Charged." Pre-show Party one hour before show time, free to ticket holders. \$14-\$30. 800-551-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com.

Children's Show: Gustafer Yellowgold. 10:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.



Local hip-hop music producer "Wolfpac Music," also known as Mustafa Sediqi of West Springfield High School, will be performing on Thursday, April 12 at 7 p.m. at Empire, 6355 Rolling Road in Springfield. His instrumental music is targeted to hip hop fans and appropriate for all ages. Tickets are \$10 online, \$13 at the door. 703-569-5940 or www.empire-nova.com.

Love146 Awareness Concert with TheRuinCity, The Atlantic Light, Crush Atlantic and Semper Fly. 1:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Civil War History Talk. 4 p.m. Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. John Quarstein, Director of the Virginia War Museum in Newport News, will discuss "Battle of the Ironclads—the Monitor and the Merrimac." The naval battle fought March 8-9, 1862 in Hampton Roads was the first combat meeting of ironclad warships. 703-591-0560.

Spring Upscale Resale. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Salvation Army Fairfax, 4915 Ox Road, Fairfax. All proceeds benefit the Salvation Army's Harbor Light Center, a residential treatment program helping homeless individuals overcome drug and alcohol addiction. 703-893-1113 or 703-356-4058.

Bandhouse Gigs' Tribute to Rod Stewart: Back to Gasoline Alley. 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

Antiques and Trinkets Appraisal Show. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Young at Heart Senior Center, Green Acres

Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Verbal appraisals. Admission \$4 including 1 item, additional items \$2 each, limit 2. Sponsored by the City of Fairfax. 703-273-6090 or 703-359-2487.

Microsoft Excel. 2:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Introduction to creating spreadsheets. Adults. 703-293-6227.

eBook Clinic. 11 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn to use the library's eBook collection and compatible e-book readers with our one-on-one technology volunteer. Registration required. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Swing Dance. Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Drop-in beginner swing lesson 7:30-8 p.m., dance 8-11 p.m. Music by The Fabulettes. \$15. <http://gottaswing.com>.

Little Sprouts Workshops: Teaching Kids the Love of Gardening. 10 a.m. Burke Nursery & Garden Centre, 9401 Burke Road, Burke. Hands-on experience for ages 4-7. Free. Pre-registration is required at burke9401@aol.com or 703-323-1188.

Local Family Band The Big Cheese. 8 p.m. Epicure Cafe, 11213A Lee

Highway, Fairfax. New originals, covers and more from their albums "Rumble in the Dairy Aisle: It's All Gouda" and "Little House." The Big Cheese plays a mix of eclectic fiddle, banjo, mandolin and guitar music. www.TheBigCheeseMusic.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 15

Swan Lake. 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Ernst Theater, NVCC Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. With the Classical Ballet Theatre. \$15 adults and seniors, \$12 military, students and children. www.cbtnva.org/swanlake.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot circle, Fairfax. "Fully Charged." Pre-show Party one hour before show time, free to ticket holders. \$14-\$30. 800-551-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com.

Gungor- Ghosts Upon the Earth Tour. 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Tea and Chocolate Program. 2 p.m. Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Frances and Ginger Park will read from "Chocolate Chocolate" and share stories of their Washington, D.C. chocolate shop. \$20, includes modified tea menu. Reservations and pre-payment required. 703-385-8415.

Russian Storytellers. 3 p.m. Center for the Arts at George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. American Youth Philharmonic, Daniel Spalding, conductor. Liadov's Baba-Yaga, Op. 56 and The Enchanted Lake, Legend for Orchestra, Op. 62, Tcherepnin's The Distant Princess, Op. 4, Rimsky-Korsakov's A Night on Bald Mountain, Fantasy for Orchestra and Stravinsky's Petrushka (1911). \$14 adult, \$10 senior, \$10 student. www.aypo.org, events@aypo.org or 703-642-8051.

MONDAY/APRIL 16

Children's Music Performance Series. 10:30 a.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. First and third Mondays of each month. Free admission. 703-352-2787 or www.fairfaxarts.org.

Set If Off and Divided By Friday. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Chess Club. 3:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Learn the rules and strategy by playing the game. Age 8-16. 703-

644-7333.

Origami Workshop with Josh Diaz. 7 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Create amazing origami sculptures. Ages 13-18. 703-644-7333.

Potomac Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club Monthly Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the Dunn Loring Firehouse, 2148 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. Col. Wallace H. Pedé, CEO of the Senior Conformation Judges Association, will discuss the inconsistency in judging shelties. Refreshments and raffle. Free and open to the public. www.potomacvalleyssc.com.

TUESDAY/APRIL 17

The 6th Degree, Atlas and Grand Revival. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Genealogy Databases. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Search for ancestors using the library's genealogy databases and other free Internet databases. Adults. 703-293-6227.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-293-6227.

Evening Book Discussion. 7:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Tuesday Night at the Movies. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Call for title. Light refreshments available. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Book Discussion Group. 1:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tinkers by Paul Harding. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Book Discussion Group. 6:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Smoot. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Book Club Kids: The End. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Activities and fun centered around The End by David LaRochelle. Children should be familiar with this story before coming. Age 3-6 with adult. 703-644-7333.

Evening Book Discussion Group. 7 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. The Paris Wife by Paula McLain. Adults. 703-644-7333.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAY/APRIL 14

Order Sons of Italy in America #2517. 6:30 p.m. Knights of Columbus Hall, St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. "Living and Working in Matera, Italy" with recent GMU graduate, Lauren-Claire Kelley. www.italianheritagelodge.org or 703-385-0814.

SATURDAY/APRIL 21

Liberty Republican Women's Club Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Piero's Corner, 9959 Main St., Fairfax. With a Financial Crimes Detective on crimes by scammers, who oftentimes prey on senior citizens with requests for money for emergencies for medical expenses, or bail money for relatives. 703-378-4190.

Health and Safety Fair for Adults. 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Messiah United

Methodist Church, 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. Over 20 groups on health, wellness, and community safety. Classes, free health screenings and door prizes. kbenton@messiahumc.org or 703-569-9862, ext. 105.

Ram-Rebuy Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Community wide yard sale. Proceeds benefit Robinson's Leadership Training. robinsonsga@gmail.com.

Financial Fortitude Symposium. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. present Wesley E. Watkis, The W&W Group LLC and Jerry D. Murphy CFP™, JDM Financial and Investments, Inc. to discuss financial and estate planning among other financial topics. FinancialFortitude@fcacd.org or 703-539-2813.

Home Life Style

Design with Children in Mind

FROM PAGE 11

Also consider placing light-switches at lower heights for a youngster's easy reach, or installing light-switches with automatic sensors to avoid bumps in the dark.

Worried about a little one climbing on the countertop? Providing children with their own set of dishes in a base cabinet will eliminate the need for them to reach those items on high shelves.

In addition, placing the microwave at a lower height allows for easier accessibility and can help foster an earlier sense of autonomy for one's loved one. Consider having a pull-out drawer-style microwave installed for easy access. A designated "kid's drawer" in the refrigerator is a great way

for them to conveniently grab snacks without risking spillage from a high shelf or pestering mom and dad.

And throughout the home, soft-close drawers and door dampers will help avoid pinched fingers.

Designing for children requires creativity, innovation and the input of an experienced remodeler, as the space should be fun and functional. Whatever the space is, and whether remodeling existing space or creating an addition, a residential design build contractor can help in figuring out the best options for a family's needs, budget and lifestyle.

Josh Baker is founder of BOWA, learn more at www.bowa.com.

Bruins off to Super Fast Start in Baseball

Rutherford's Lake Braddock team preparing for season's second half.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The wins have just kept on coming over the first half of the season for the Lake Braddock Secondary baseball team, which is competing locally in Northern Virginia over this week's spring break week.

But the Bruins, a traditional power in the Northern Region, realize that their season will ultimately be successful based on how they do in the postseason. That's how it always is for the region's top tier teams, especially in the ultra tough Patriot District where some of Virginia's traditionally best high school teams, such as Lake Braddock, West Springfield, and defending region champion South County, dwell.

"I hope to finish in the top two in the district regular season so we can get a buy into the regional tournament," said Bruins head coach Jody Rutherford, of his club.

While baseball, even the relatively short Northern Region high school spring season, is considered a marathon with the best teams ultimately rising up to or near the top by season's end, Rutherford, fully realizing there is still a long way to go, has to love the way his squad has played over the first six weeks going into spring break.

Lake Braddock, behind solid mound work thus far from pitchers Michael Church and Thomas Rogers, who were both 3-0 going into this week, and strong hitting from Alex Gransback and others, had a perfect 9-0

record following a spring break tournament win over Oakton on Monday, April 2.

The Lake Braddock versus Oakton meeting brought together two of the top three teams in the Northern Region Top 10 Coach's Baseball Poll, which had the Bruins sitting at No. 1 and Oakton at No. 3 behind No. 2 Madison.

In Lake Braddock's first spring break tournament game last Saturday, March 31, Rutherford's squad handed Marshall High (Liberty District) an 8-4 loss. The Bruins were scheduled to play their third and final spring break game against another one of the region's top clubs, McLean, on Tuesday, April 3 of this week.

LAKE BRADDOCK, on March 13, opened the regular season with a 5-3 road game win over private school opponent St. John's of Washington, D.C. before going up against a couple more metropolitan private school teams at the Paul VI Preseason Invitational (March 16-17), hosted by Paul VI (Fairfax City), which is a member of the talent-rich Washington Catholic Athletic Conference (WCAC).

There, on the first day of action, the Bruins defeated Georgetown Prep, a member of the Interstate Athletic Conference (IAC), by a 10-0 score. In its second and final game of the Invitational, Lake Braddock defeated the home team Panthers, who have developed into a dominant Virginia prep school power over the years under longtime head coach Billy Emerson, by an 8-1 score.

Emerson, who earlier in his head coaching career led the traditionally-weak T.C. Williams High team to a trip to the Northern Region semifinals, recently announced that this season, his 10th at the helm of Paul VI baseball, will be his final season as the Panthers' head coach. He did not rule out one day coaching again but is quite busy

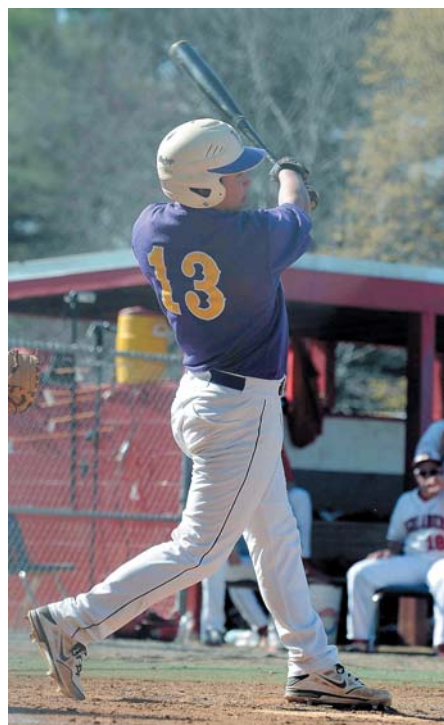


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock junior center fielder Alex Gransback had a single during the Bruins' loss to McLean on April 3.

with his duties as the Paul VI athletic director. Emerson, during his previous nine years as the Panthers' baseball skipper, has led the program to three state private school titles and two WCAC crowns.

Following the three straight games against private school teams to begin the season, Lake Braddock, in its fourth game, opened up Patriot District play with a lopsided 19-1 road win at Lee High School on March 21. The Lancers, under new head coach John Dowling, are rebuilding following some tough seasons of late, including a two-win season last spring. Lee, earlier this spring, won a game over Edison High, 5-2, at the Langley

High Ice-Breaker on March 16.

The game with Lee was the first of four straight in the district for Lake Braddock, which followed the uneven victory over the Lancers with district home wins over T.C. Williams, 5-2, on March 23; struggling West Springfield, 11-1, on March 27; and W.T. Woodson, 4-2, on March 29.

Following this week's spring break, Lake Braddock will resume district play next week with a road game at Annandale High on Wednesday night, April 11 followed by a Friday night home game versus West Potomac on April 13. Both district games are scheduled to begin at 6:30.

Lake Braddock is coming off a 2011 season in which it went 21-5. During last year's postseason, the Bruins lost to South County, 5-3, in the district tournament finals. But they came back strong at the 16-team regional playoffs with wins over Langley, Oakton, and Stone Bridge, the latter semifinals win over the Bulldogs automatically qualifying the Bruins for states. In the region finals, Lake Braddock fell to South County, 9-5.

MEMBERS of this year's 2012 Lake Braddock roster are: junior pitcher/outfielder Thomas Rogers; senior infielder Dylan O'Connor; freshman infielder/pitcher Matt Supko; sophomore infielder Jack Owens; senior infielder Matt Spruill; junior pitcher Nick Balenger; sophomore outfielder Ryan Henderson; junior infielder Alex Lewis; senior outfielder Chris Granito; junior outfielder Alex Gransback; sophomore infielder/pitcher Joe Darcy; junior infielder Mitch Spille; junior pitcher/infielder JP Anthony; senior pitcher Daniel Napier; senior pitcher Michael Church; junior catcher Garrett Driscoll; senior outfielder Chuck Feola; senior outfielder Nathan Parker; and sophomore catcher Ian Reilly.

Fairfax Rebels Softball Enjoying Strong Start to Season

The team, under coach Hoffert, is ready for the tough district schedule ahead.

BY ALEC HAVÉUS
THE CONNECTION

After winning four of their first six games to open the current season, only losing to Liberty District opponents Madison and McLean High, the Fairfax Rebels girls' softball team seems to be adapting well to their new coach, Matt Hoffert.

And Hoffert has a clear view of what he would like to accomplish with his team this spring, explaining that he sees this season as one where his players will continue learning how to practice better and improving as a team.

Losing their first game of the season by a 9-1 score to visiting Madison on March 20, Fairfax managed to win four

in a row after that - versus guest Dominion High of the Dulles District, 6-3, on March 22; at Liberty opponent Langley High, 4-2, on March 23; at home over W.T. Woodson, 14-4, on March 26; and at Liberty opponent Jefferson in a high-scoring game, 13-12, on March 27.

However, the Rebels experienced a defeat, 5-1, against visiting district rival McLean High on March 30.

THE REBELS have shown great results in their opening six games and first-year coach Hoffert continues to have confidence that his players, if they keep getting better as a team each day, can have continued good success. The coach stresses that Fairfax, in order to achieve a winning season and do well at districts and regionals later in the

season, has to play its best every time the Rebels step out on the field.

And his philosophy has led the way to some good results. Comparing the opening six games this spring - a 4-2 record, 39 runs scored to 35 allowed - to the opening six games last spring-season - 0-6 start, 17 runs scored, 83 allowed - is proof of the importance coach Hoffert has emphasized about the team playing together.

While the team has talented players such as catcher Farren Tashjian and pitcher Caitlin Buchanan playing particularly well, Hoffert is pleased with the Rebels as a whole. Everyone, from senior centerfielder Tiffany Balbuena to junior infielder Abby Sisson, has contributed to the team's winning ways.

After a week of spring break, in which

the team chose to stay at home and do maintenance work on their field, the Rebels were preparing to play district games this week against visiting Marshall on Tuesday, April 10, and at South Lakes this Friday night, April 13 at 6:30. In taking on the Statesmen and Seahawks, Fairfax had high hopes of winning their fifth and sixth games of the season.

The team's upcoming games will go a long way in determining if the Rebels really are a district contender or if they are simply off to a strong start behind the momentum of having a new coach. Whatever the case, coach Hoffert has made a great effort pulling the team together and encouraging the Rebels to play as well as they have.



Shelter staff & volunteers, along with staff from the Shenandoah Valley are awarded for their TNR program.

Animal Rescue Recognition

Fairfax County Animal Shelter recognized for animal rescue and programs.

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter received accolades from the Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG) for two programs and a large-scale animal rescue in 2010 - 2011.

The Fairfax County Animal Services Division won the Council of Governments' Animal Rescue Story of 2010 - 2011 award for a case that involved the rescue of more than 160 cats. These cats were found in a single family home in which animal control officers

worked for several days to remove. Shelter staff and volunteers provided care and treatment for the cats throughout a five-month period to get many of the cats adopted or transferred to rescue organizations.

The shelter also received the Community Impact Award for its spay/neuter program which provides high-quality, low-cost spay/neuter for citizens' animals and free trap, neuter and return (TNR) for feral cats. To date, more than 4,200 animals have been spayed or neutered with feral cats comprising nearly 45 percent of the total animals going to the low-cost clinic. The TNR program has resulted in nearly a 10 percent decrease in the intake of the offspring of feral cats requiring foster care, a 41 percent decrease in neonatal kitten intake and a 58 percent decrease in feral kitten intake



Theresa Baker comforts a scared pit bull puppy.

into the foster program in 2010 versus 2011.

Shelter volunteer Theresa Baker also received the council's Humane Education Award for her efforts with the shelter's pit bull adoption program. Baker spends countless hours fostering pit bulls providing training to ready them for adoption. She also goes on nearly every home visit the shelter conducts, more than 40 so far, for these adoptions to provide advice and answer citizen questions.

The shelter's partner, the Shenandoah Valley Spay/Neuter Clinic, received the council's Veterinarian Award for their staff's role in providing low-cost spay/neuter to two COG jurisdictions. The clinic has provided high-quality, affordable spay/neuter to more than 85,000 animals since it opened its doors in 2005.

Animal Control Officers helped save cats lives.



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21 Announcements

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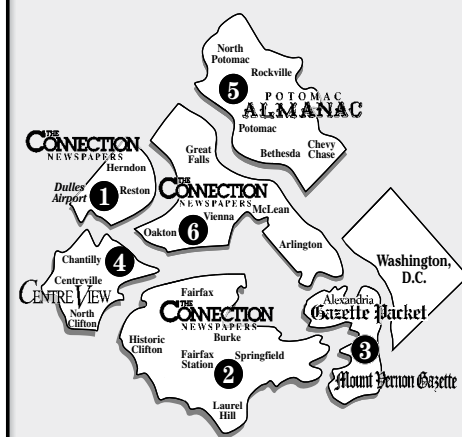
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