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CONNECTION

Clifton Celebrates Its 110th Birthday

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Residents enjoy
birthday cake and
lemonade in the
Clifton Town Park.

Supervisors
Endorse
Advertised
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APRIL 26 - MAY 2, 2012



Fairfax County Public Schools: Visual and Performing Arts

Coming Next Month: Summer Activities and Programs

The Power of Art

"If I were a rich man, ya ha deedle deedle, bubba bubba deedle deedle dum."

"If I Were a Rich Man," *Fiddler on the Roof*

A catchy show tune, a mesmerizing photograph, stunning computer graphics, a stirring orchestra rendition, an eloquent pencil drawing, or the graceful movements of a modern dance performance – each has the power to move audiences and transport them to a moment in time.

This Just In:

Fifteen Fairfax County Public School students received national medals for their entries in the 2012 Scholastic Art Awards sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers.

Whatever the talent or interest, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) provides students with a comprehensive arts education.

Students in grades K through 6 receive music and art instruction taught by certified art teachers. Middle school and high school students may choose to enroll in a variety of elective course offerings in all fine arts disciplines to include dance, music, theatre, and visual art. Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) art classes are offered for students in grades 11 – 12.

Art engages students in a process that helps them develop the self-esteem, self-discipline, cooperation, and self motivation necessary for success in life.

"Art making involves critical thinking and problem solving to create a product," said Aaron Stratton, art education specialist at FCPS. "In this sense, art is an authentic approach to providing students with essential skills they will need in the 21st century to

develop creative solutions to challenges. Creativity and problem solving are essential components of innovation which will feed the economy and industries of the future."

Art All Around Us

Students can explore many forms of art including art, music, photography, computer graphics, dance, orchestra, theatre, band, and more. Beginning in elementary school, students are introduced to concepts and processes that nurture creative thinking and problem solving through art and music classes.

"As they advance to the next grade level, students are exposed to recognized works of art and become actively involved in finding connections between images and ideas," said Stratton. "Emphasis is placed on exploring themes and concepts related to family and a sense of place. By participating in real and meaningful art experiences, students increase their understanding of the value of the visual arts to themselves, their family, and to the world in which they live."



Music to Your Ears

More than 40,000 FCPS students are enrolled in the music elective programs of band, chorus, general music, orchestra, and guitar. The vocal and instrumental ensembles are seen and heard worldwide. Locally, the ensembles perform at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, George Mason Center for the Performing Arts, and the White House among others.

"Music, through its inherent ability to develop intellectual and emotional communication skills, encourages cultural awareness and enriches society," said Tamra Ferreira, fine arts coordinator at FCPS. "The FCPS music curriculum provides opportunities for students to attain the knowledge and skills necessary to become musically literate, well-rounded individuals."

Let the Shows Begin!

Springtime theatre productions bring performance spaces alive throughout Fairfax County Public Schools. The study of theatre provides students opportunities for personal and academic growth, ways to create bridges to other subject disciplines and other cultures, and the development of skills which provide lifelong enjoyment. In middle school, FCPS students discover and explore the basic elements of theatre, and augment that study with a variety of theatre presentations and special events. At the high school level students develop and expand their knowledge, skills, and resources to create a high level of accomplishment in the classroom and in performance.

Go see a show at a Fairfax County Public School. Many events are free or inexpensive. Find out more at www.fcps.edu and click on the blue Events tab.



Getting To Know Us:

Herndon High School Theatre Teacher
Zoë Dillard

Zoë Dillard grew up around theatrical personalities, so it was an obvious choice when it came time to decide on a career. Theatre, of course.

Though she initially pursued acting roles, it was a request in 1982 from Falls Church High School to help them choreograph a musical that confirmed her love of working with young people in the theatre.

Today, she serves as the theatre director and teacher at Herndon High School.

Dillard believes theatre offers students a chance to discover themselves.

"High school is all about finding your niche. Some students come into the theatre to see what's

here and what's going on. Once they are here, they realize there are many opportunities," said Dillard. "They can direct children's theatre or participate in improv. They can be part of the ensemble or put their technical skills to work building sets. They can work with 5th and 6th graders in the children's theatre. They can also use their computer graphic design skills for publicity."

"I try to offer students many different kinds of opportunities in the theatre so they will grow," she said. "It's not just about acting."

"I love their energy," she continued. "By the time they are seniors, they've changed and grown. I find that inspiring to watch."

Did You Know?

More than 33,000 secondary students enrolled in fine and performing arts courses during the 2011-12 school year:

- Visual art – 12,400
- Music – 12,600
- Theatre – 2,600
- Dance – 200

Cappies: Award-Winning Performances



For those who would rather critique than perform, the Cappies, or Critics and Awards Program, is designed for high school theatre and journalism students who are trained as theatre critics, attend shows at other schools, write reviews, and publish the reviews in local newspapers and online. The international program was launched by FCPS in 1999.

Each spring, Cappies critics nominate actors and technicians for Cappies awards, which are presented, along with awards for critics, at the annual Cappies Gala at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

"The Cappies Gala showcases the amazing artistic talents of our high school students," said Judy Bowns, co-founder of Cappies and theatre arts and dance specialist at FCPS. "Student actors, backstage technicians, singers, dancers, and musicians are honored with a Cappie by their peers who acknowledge this excellence by their votes. It's the only student theatre awards program that is student-driven with no awards decided by adults."

The gala draws more than 2,000 theatre students and their families. For more information visit www.cappies.com.

This year's *State of Schools Report* courtesy of Apple Federal Credit Union



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2011 BUSINESS PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Anthony H. Griffin stands with his wife, Lucy, while the audience gives him a standing ovation for his 12 years as county executive on April 24, before the board of supervisor's budget meeting. Griffin served as the county's administrative leader since 2000, the second-longest tenure since the position was created in 1952. "I enter the next phase of my life with mixed emotions. I am excited but uncertain about my future, and I will miss continuing in my current capacity," Griffin said when he announced his retirement last year. "Fairfax County is a great community and a great organization."



Supervisors Endorse Advertised Budget

Highlights include restored funding for human services, libraries, employee pay.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

"Morning has broken, like the first morning..." Cat Stevens sang it in his 1971 hit, and Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova used it to sum up the board's 8-2 vote, endorsing the advertised 2013 budget during the April 24 budget session.

All seven Democrats on the board, and Republican Michael Frey (Sully), endorsed County Executive Anthony Griffin's \$6.7 billion advertised budget, which means a \$1.075 real estate tax rate, a \$0.02 storm water tax rate and a \$79 increase in the tax bill of the average county homeowner this year.

"Today, while not entirely out of the woods, we are beginning to see evidence of a recovery, a slow and sluggish recovery, but a recovery nonetheless," Bulova said. "Hopefully, we are beginning to see the dawn of a new day."

Bulova listed signs of a recovery, including:

- ❖ uptick in land-use applications,
- ❖ strengthening commercial leasing and building activity,
- ❖ projected increase in revenue growth at 3.56 percent,
- ❖ increasing home sales and declining foreclosures.

"This is quite a contrast from four years ago when we adopted a budget to the backdrop of what is now known as the 'The Great Recession'," Bulova said.

BUT NOT EVERYONE was singing the same sunny tune.

Republican Supervisors John Cook (Braddock) and Pat Herrity (Springfield) voted against the budget. Herrity, who recently underwent successful heart surgery, said the budget doesn't reflect the "new normal," and does "nothing to plan for the future."

"I cannot support this budget because it raises the tax rate at a time when our homeowners are still

struggling," Herrity said in a statement. "It continues to fund things that should not be on our priority list such as \$40 million for government subsidized affordable housing for people making up to \$120,000 per year."

Herrity has been a strident critic of the county Housing Blueprint, which lays out strategies for a variety of affordable housing options - from workforce housing to housing the homeless.

"(His) comments were like a broken record," Bulova said. "Something Pat does is roll workforce into affordable housing, and he can make it sound like we're spending money from the budget on people who are well-heeled, and that is just not correct."

Bulova said the county does not subsidize workforce housing, but encourages developers, through incentives such as increased density, to provide affordable housing for young professionals and others who want to live and work in Fairfax County.

Cook said there were many positives in the budget, but transportation was the sticking point for him.

"Our own County staff tells us we need \$3 billion over the next decade to meet our transportation needs. State and Federal governments will not provide it," Cook said.

Cook said that despite increased county spending, "not a penny of those additional funds will support transportation infrastructure."

"We have to bring programmatic expenses down, so we have funding to complete critical infrastructure projects. You can't just always keep adding on to the top, you've got to go back and reprioritize," Cook said.

He said he was disappointed the board did not adopt his proposal to transfer the county's vehicle registration fee - which provides about \$24 million per year - from the general fund to transportation projects.

"Board members have said that setting aside some money for transportation would mean there would be less funding available for other things. Yes, that's called setting priorities," Cook said.

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) pointed out that Cook and Herrity "are always saying they are for things like human services and raises for our employees but they don't agree to pay for them. It seems

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 5

Coming In from The Cold

Fairfax County hosts meeting on shelters' concerns.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County officials met with about 75 representatives from churches and other houses of worship Sunday, April 22, to address rumors and concerns that the County's Fire Marshal will shut down their hypothermia programs next winter - and shut out many homeless residents - because of fire code violations.

Held at St. Stephens United Methodist Church in Burke, the information session was hosted by county staff, elected officials and nonprofit partners. Panelists included Amanda Andere, executive director of FACETS; Kerri Wilson, executive director of Reston Interfaith and Deputy County Executive Patricia Harrison.

"I think the bottom line is that the fire marshal's office will work individually with houses of worship to make sure they are safe and up to code," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), who called Sunday's meeting.

"In some cases, it might be as simple as a installing a smoke detector or carbon monoxide detector," she said.

Currently, about 35 houses of worship provide shelter to approximately 1,000 homeless residents during the winter months. Each year, various churches, synagogues, mosques and temples take turns providing space to provide food and shelter for the homeless population during the winter months. Last year, there were no hypothermia-related deaths reported during the season.

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), who has been a longtime advocate for the county's homeless population, said she wants to see the county maintain a partnership with the faith community in a safe environment.

"But the more critical issue is how will we eliminate or reduce hyperthermia without the needed housing? Our faith partners are looking to us to do the heavy lifting by providing the housing so they can support the county by serving the clients," Hudgins said.

Sunday's meeting was prompted by concerns from some church leaders that they would be forced to shut down

their programs due to fire code violations.

On Monday, April 16, the Rev. Keary Kincannon of Rising Hope Mission Church in Alexandria sent out a press release stating the county will close 18 of 36 churches that host a hypothermia program.

"Nine churches will not be allowed to bring the homeless in from the cold under any circumstances. An additional nine require extensive work to correct code violations that may cost hundreds of thousands of dollars," Kincannon said in the release.

Last week, Bulova said four houses of worship may be affected by their inability to comply with fire codes, not 18, and stressed Fairfax County's longstanding support of the Hypothermia Prevention Program.

"I have been working with County staff to make sure safety concerns that arose during this program year are addressed before the 2012-2013 program begins," Bulova said in an email announcing Sunday's session.

"I am committed to finding solutions that do not put undue burden on houses of worship but still provide adequate safety for the vulnerable population that relies on the Hypothermia Program during the winter months."

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), who attended Sunday's meeting and met with faith representatives last week, said part of the concern was that some churches heard they were on the list (for code violations), but didn't know why.

"There was a real interest in churches to counter the rumor mill," Cook said. "The meeting was a good step in that regard."

Cook said other localities, such as Richmond and Virginia Beach, have encountered similar issues because the fire code is a state-wide set of regulations enacted by the General Assembly but enforced by local jurisdictions. Tensions arise because each jurisdiction has some discretion when interpreting the codes.

"Everyone has to take deep breath, and recognize that we have to work through a process," Cook said.

"Fairfax County has a unique partnership with our faith communities and non-profits. We are committed to serving the homeless population in a way that is compassionate and ensures their safety," Bulova said.



Masrur Hossain and his wife, Anannya, sign-up for a silent auction item while attending the annual City of Fairfax Mayor's Ball on Friday evening at the Sherwood Community Center. Hossain works for Cardinal Bank, which was a Platinum Benefactor for the fundraising event.



Former City of Fairfax Mayor John Mason presents a gift to retiring George Mason University President Alan Merten and his wife, Sally, at the City of Fairfax Mayor's Ball on Friday evening. The Mertens were honorary co-chairs for the event, to honor their service to the Fairfax community and for the arts.

Fairfax Celebrates Arts

City of Fairfax Mayor's Ball attracts hundreds.

Hundreds of people gathered at the Sherwood Center on Friday, April 20 to attend the 2nd Annual Mayor's Ball, and to celebrate the opening of the 27th year of Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts Festival.

Guests enjoyed a champagne reception and silent auction before a dinner accompanied by musical vignettes performed by students from the Fairfax Academy for Communications and Arts, Mason Opera and George Mason Department of Music. Guests also danced until midnight to the jazzy sounds of the Fairfax Swing Band.

All proceeds from the evening will go towards assisting local students to study arts related programs at George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College.

The 27th annual Spotlight on the Arts festival, which is dedicated to promoting local artists, will run until May 12. For more information on Spotlight, call 703 352-ARTS or visit www.fairfaxspotlight.org to view complete schedule with dates and times of events.

Highlights of the festival include:

- ❖ A premiere performance of Disney's "Winnie the Pooh" by Acting for Young People at the Sherwood Center
- ❖ "Forever Young" Art Exhibit at Adam Lister Gallery
- ❖ "SWING! SWING! SWING!" a Sherwood Center performance featuring swing music by the Woodson High School Jazz Band, as well as Tom and Debra of Gottaswing
- ❖ A Spring Arts Festival at Truro Church
- ❖ An FX Players (Fairfax High School) production of "Sweeney Todd," a Woodson Players (Woodson High School) production of "Alice in Wonderland" and a PVI Players (Paul VI High School) production of "Hello, Dolly!"
- ❖ "Wild Side Art Show" (The 2012 Earth Exhibit of Student Artwork) at City Hall, a display sponsored by the City of Fairfax Environmental Sustainability Committee and Twins Ace Hardware
- ❖ "Tea with Celtic Baroque" with the Sior-Óg Celtic music ensemble at Historic Blenheim Civil War Interpretive Center
- ❖ The 6th Annual Bluegrass Festival at Auld Shebeen

—VICTORIA ROSS



Jeanie Winslow, and his wife, Wendy, peruses the available items up during the silent auction at the City of Fairfax Mayor's Ball on Friday evening. The event is held each year to raise funds for the arts in Fairfax.



Fairfax Mayor Roger Lederer mingles with guests during the annual City of Fairfax Mayor's Ball on Friday evening at the Sherwood Community Center.



Daxx Wieser and Kaitlin Nelson perform a selection from the hit musical, A Chorus Line, at the City of Fairfax Mayor's Ball on Friday evening. The two are students at the Fairfax Academy for Communications and the Arts.



After having performed a selection of Gilbert and Sullivan's H.M.S Pinafore at the Fairfax Mayor's Ball, members of Mason Opera are high-fived by Dennis and Becky McNaughton of Fairfax.

PHOTOS BY
ROBBIE HAMMER/
THE CONNECTION

NEWS

County Budget Endorsed

FROM PAGE 3

to me they are for everything and willing to pay for nothing."

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS include:

For the first time since 2009, county employees are poised to receive a 2.5 percent merit increase on top of the proposed 2.18 percent market rate adjustment at a cost of about \$16.5 million.

"They deserve a raise," said Foust. "Their cooperation over the past couple of really tough years has enabled us to avoid draconian service cuts without increasing the tax burden."

The board also voted to move forward to restore funding for an array of human services programs at an added cost of \$1.36 million, including \$275,000 for the Department of Family Services Rent Relief Program; \$100,000 for the Adult Dental Program and \$300,000 for the Home Based Care program.

In addition, the advertised budget funds the board's Housing Blueprint for the acquisition of 200 new housing units and \$1.3 million for the county's portion of the Housing Blueprint Community Challenge.

The board set aside a \$4.2 million reserve to address critical state and federal reduction to the Community Services Board, which oversees the Infant and Toddler Connection and programs for intellectually-disabled adults, the homeless, and other vulnerable residents

The County's award-winning libraries also received funding support in the amount of \$674,359.

Noting that the libraries have "taken an inordinate hit" in the past few years, Bulova said the budget will restore nine hours each week at the county's regional libraries, and three hours each week at the county's community libraries. In addition, the budget includes funding 14 part-time positions to meet staffing needs at community libraries.

Although Fairfax County Public Schools initially requested an 8 percent increase in funding from fiscal year 2012, the board maintained the advertised transfer of a 4.5 percent increase over fiscal year 2012. The general fund transfer for school operations and debt service totals \$1.85 billion and represents 52.2 percent of the county's total FY 2013 budget.

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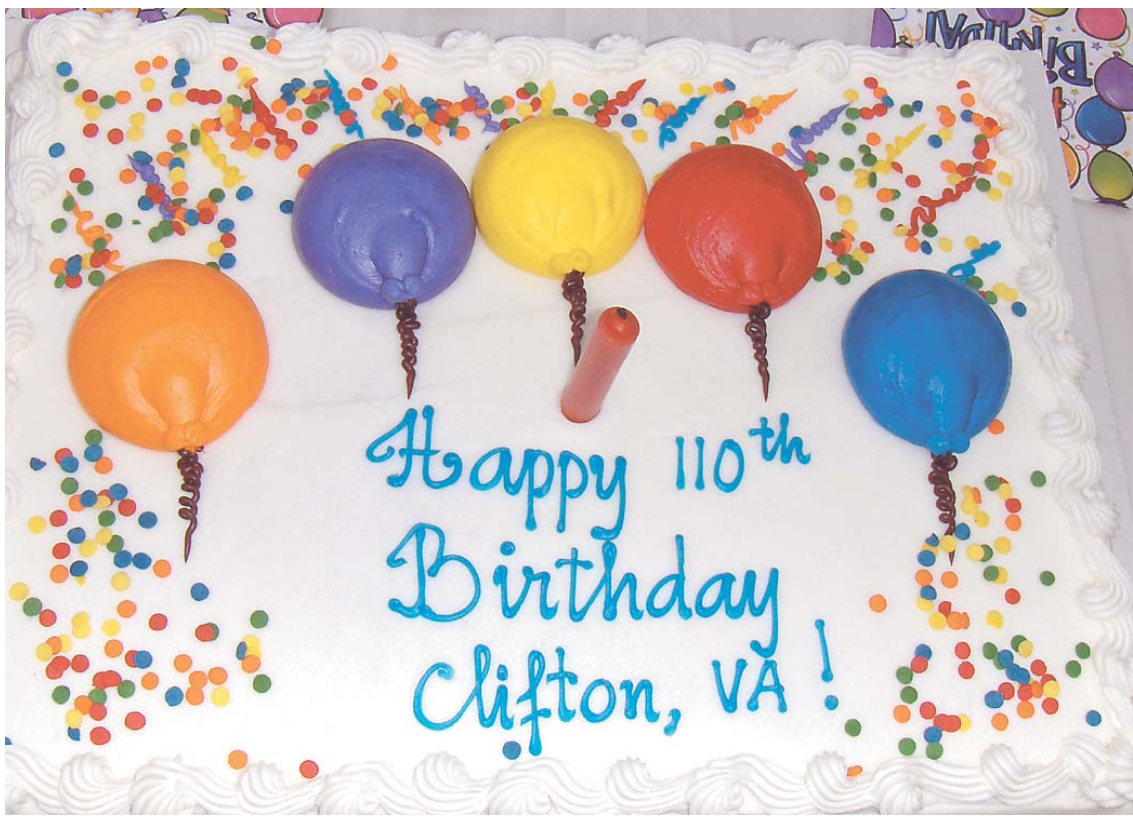
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PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

The vanilla birthday cake.

Clifton Celebrates its 110th Birthday

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

With balloons, two cakes and a bench-dedication, residents gathered Saturday afternoon, April 21, in the town park to celebrate Clifton's 110th birthday. Attendees included Sen. George Barker (D-39th); Peter Noonan, FCPS Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services; and former town Mayor Jim Chesley, all of whom live in Clifton.

Kicking off the event was the dedication of a bench by the gazebo to longtime Clifton residents Paul and Louise Longerbeam. Louise died 23 years ago, and Paul died three years ago, but both left their mark on the town.

"They were neighbors of my mother-in-law's," said Quinn McGrael, who organized the dedication. "Louise's family has been in this area for well over 100 years. Paul came here in 1932 at age 13. He had to support his family after his father left, so he worked on local farms for a dollar a day."

Eventually, he and Louise met and fell in love and were married 40 years. "Paul was known by many in

the 1950s and '60s as the best carpenter in Fairfax County," said McGrael. "He was also a selfless person. After working all week, he'd still help people and give them advice for free. He was also instrumental in the building of the original Clifton firehouse and recreation hall."

McGrael said Louise was also giving and charitable. "She baked pies and brought food to poor families in the area," he said. "She gave them presents at Christmastime, donated clothing to them and even gave them money to make ends meet."

Therefore, said McGrael, "I thought people should recognize all they did, and I wanted them to be remembered." So now they will be, by virtue of an inscribed plaque on the bench. People who knew the Longerbeams, as well as the Clifton Betterment Association (CBA), contributed the approximately \$900 that funded the bench's purchase and installation.

"Paul and Louise spent much of their lives helping others because they believed it was the right thing to do," said McGrael. "So we dedicate this bench to express Clifton's gratitude for their decades of public service and for the many lives that have been touched and improved by this most generous couple."

Chilling on the newly dedicated bench are Quinn McGrael, daughter Abby, 7, and twin sons Aidan (on left) and Evan, 3. (Not pictured is mom Wendy).



PHOTO BY TIM CAMARDA/THE CONNECTION

In the past, the Clifton Car Show has featured the cars seen in George Lucas' 1973 movie "American Graffiti." They are, from left, a 1932 Ford Deuce Coupe, a 1955 Chevrolet and a 1958 Chevrolet Impala.

Car Show Slated For April 29

All proceeds benefit children's hospital.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Besides being a longtime Clifton resident and its former mayor, Jim Chesley is also a classic-car aficionado. He's president of the Custom Cruisers of Northern Virginia, and the group is putting on a car show to benefit a children's hospital.

The event is slated for Sunday, April 29, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (rain date, May 20), outside the Jukebox Diner, 8637 Sudley Road in Manassas (across the street from Prince William Hospital). And all proceeds go to Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

"It'll be one of the first, big car shows in the area this year," said Chesley. "It'll be a lot of fun; there'll be plenty to eat and a deejay will play 1950s-'60s music." The event is free for the public to attend, and parking will be available in a designated lot at Prince William Hospital.

The show will feature a wide variety of cars, trucks and motorcycles, including a 1950 Mercury, 1931 Ford hot rod, 1957 Volkswagen convertible and a 1967 Nova. "There'll be everything from antique cars to

hot rods to new 'muscle cars' like Mustangs, Camaros and Corvettes," Chesley said.

Gift-card door prizes will be given by Jukebox Diner and Roy Rogers, and attendees may vie for a 50-50 cash raffle, with half the proceeds going to Children's National Medical Center and the other half to the raffle winner.

All registration will be done at the show; the cost is \$15 to participate. All participants will receive a commemorative dashboard plaque of the event for their vehicles. Twenty-five awards will be given to the best vehicles in various categories, and the participants will choose 20 of the winners.

"We want to turn this into an annual show here," said Chesley. "This will be the Custom Cruisers' 26th anniversary spring car show, but the first at this location. We hope this will grow into a huge event like Clifton's Labor Day Car Show."

For more information, call Chesley at 703-830-2129 or go to www.customcruisersnova.com.

"We're looking forward to a great turnout," he said. "We want to make as much money as we can for Children's National Medical Center."

AREA ROUNDUPS

Clifton Town Council Meeting

The Clifton Town Council will meet Tuesday, May 1, at 7:30 p.m., at the Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road in Clifton.

Crime to Report? There's an App for That!

Fairfax County Crime Solvers has provided an anonymous tip line for the public to report crime since 1979. In 2008 they introduced secure text and email capabilities. They are now proud to promote a new smartphone app to further the public's ability to report crimes anonymously.

The free app, TipSubmit, is the first app of its kind and works on both the iPhone and Android phones. It allows the public to anonymously submit tips to police through their local Crime Solvers program. This mobile app works with the existing TipSoft software already utilized by Fairfax County Crime Solvers for their text and email tips. However, the app offers even more because it has the ability to use GPS to auto-locate the nearest Crime Solvers program or law enforcement agency. Users may also manually select a location for their tip. Tipsters may include photos and videos with their tips.

In Virginia, tipsters and their information are protected under state law when their information is reported to a certified Crime Solvers program. (15.2-1713.1) For the tipster that fears retaliation, this state law is essential. It allows the tipster to communicate through a Crime Solvers program and still maintain their anonymity. As with the text and email capabilities, this app continues to promote that two-way communication, allowing real-time chat between the tipster and program. Smart phone users are encouraged to download this free app and use it when you have information on a crime or a wanted person. For additional information on this new app, please visit <http://tipsoft.com/index.asp?P=TipSubmitMobile>

For crimes occurring in Fairfax County, tipsters may continue to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS(8477), e-mail tips at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES(274637).

COMMENTARY

Good, Bad and Ugly in Virginia Budget

BY CHAP PETERSEN
STATE SEN. (D-34)

The Virginia Senate finally adopted the State Budget on a vote of 21-19 last week. It now goes to the Governor for his amendments.

Some parts are good, some parts are bad, and some parts are ugly. One part is missing:

The original Senate budget, which passed 35-4 with widespread support, inserted \$300 million in additional construction funding for Dulles Rail. That funding matched the \$150 million initially proposed to "buy down tolls" for northern Virginia commuters — a proffer that resulted after months of lobbying by Northern Virginia lawmakers. With that money missing, the State Budget is a failure.

Is this just a regional issue? Not hardly.

Dulles Airport connects Virginia to the world. With non-stop flights to the capitals of Asia, Europe and the Middle East, it is the nerve center of our international travel. It



Capital, has been stuck in the planning stages for too long. It was already "old news" as a state objective when I joined the Regional Commission as a young City Councilman in 1998. And yet it languished for years, as the Region fought through various recessions and other projects took priority.

During that time, Dulles Rail was the focus of criticism and controversy, particularly in the failure to tunnel through Tysons Corner or implement a Bus Rapid Transit system as an intermediate step. I'm aware of these criticisms, because I made them.

But let's not lose sight of the Big Picture. Dulles is Virginia's access portal to the 21st century. Along with the ports of Hampton Roads, it represents the focal point of our

has driven the unprecedented growth in western Fairfax and Loudoun Counties.

Dulles Rail, the rail line connecting the Airport with the Nation's

international trade and commerce. That trade is growing.

That brings us to the 2012 special session.

Heretofore, the Commonwealth has done little to support this critical state project, which is now completing "Phase I" of its construction. Instead, the project has been funded by local landowners, local governments, the Federal government and commuters in the Dulles Corridor.

Seeking to change this dynamic, the Senate — after significant debate — added the additional \$300 million in state money last month. Note that this is barely 6 percent of the overall project cost, which is more than \$5 billion.

Yet it's critical, especially as local governments like Loudoun County must decide in the next few months to commit their own money to Phase II of the project, which will link the Rail Line to the Airport and into Loudoun.

Is the project perfect? No. Is the Metro Washington Airports Authority, the operating authority, perfect? No. But no project ever is. (Read a history of the intercon-

tinental railroad, the most important infrastructure project in U.S. history, which was riddled with corruption).

But Virginia says it's broke. Where can these funds come from?

Just look at projects like the widening of Rte 460 in Southside Virginia, which is not supported by a single jurisdiction in southeast Virginia yet will cost \$500 million. In fact, the City of Portsmouth told us recently they don't want "this very costly capital project."

Why are we dumping money in a project nobody wants, and ignoring Dulles?

The Budget remains a unique opportunity to fix this situation. While transportation projects are not typically itemized in a biennial budget, it's not unprecedented. What is unprecedented is the lack of state support for a project that will bring billions in trade and revenue to the Commonwealth.

The Governor can still win this battle with a stroke of his pen, by making a fiscal commitment to Dulles Rail when he amends the State Budget. It's all in his hands.

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Virginia Korean Baptist Church...703-425-1972
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OPINION

Connection Wins Public Service Award for Homeless Coverage

VPA Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service; plus 44 other awards.

The Connection Newspapers was awarded the Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service last Saturday, April 22, “for exhaustive coverage of homelessness in the newspaper’s circulation area.” The award was announced in Roanoke at the press association’s annual convention.

The public service entries were judged by Robert Giles, former editor and publisher of The Detroit News and the immediate past curator of the Nieman Foundation.

Giles wrote of the Connection coverage: “Its stories gave voice to the homeless. Its stories effectively portrayed the plight of the poor living in tents and other makeshift shelters. It reported on how poverty and homelessness affects children. It examined the causes of homelessness and explained why people don’t have a place to live even when some have a job. It reported on the role of government and groups that advocate for the poor.

It provided extensive lists of community organizations with missions to help the poor and homeless, and told how individuals could volunteer.

“It invited knowledgeable citizens to contribute guest editorials that offered perspectives and fresh ideas for addressing the problems of homelessness.”

EDITORIAL

The online component of the homeless project also won first place in the multimedia category. Edited by Michael O’Connell, the project included stories, video and photos by Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs and Amber Healy.

The Connection Newspapers group, including the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and Centre View and Potomac Almanac, won 45 awards in all.

The Alexandria Gazette Packet won 17 awards.

The top award winner was Michael Lee Pope, who won 12 awards including first place for government writing; health, science and environmental writing; in-depth or investigative

Read the Winners

Many of the winning entries are posted at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/

reporting; breaking news and public safety writing.

In addition to her work on the homeless project, photographer Deb Cobb won individual first place awards for photo illustration for a cover depicting a vampire; for an online slide show of “wounded warriors at bat,” and for general news photo.

Bonnie Hobbs won two first place awards, one for education writing and one for feature portfolio. Alex McVeigh won first place for in depth or investigative reporting for his coverage of a land use issue in Great Falls. Montie Martin won two first place awards, one for business writing, the other for personal service writing.

The Children’s Connection won an award and judges said it was a “simple and elegant idea showcasing children’s artwork, a great way to attract young readers.”

While it is gratifying and fun to win awards, it reflects our mission to tell the stories of the local community. We welcome your ideas and suggestions about what we should be covering now.

MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM,

WWW.TWITTER.COM/MARYKIMM

American Smokeout, Getting into ‘Right Fit’ Private School; Judges comments: Trio of strong entries.

❖ Mike O’Connell, Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs, Amber Healy 2nd place, Fairfax Connection, Special Sections or Special Editions, End to Homelessness, Judges comments: “End to Homelessness” tab. It is nice to see a newspaper commit to a project such as this in the form of a special tab.

❖ Julia O’Donoghue, 2nd place, Fairfax Connection, Education Writing W2W06 31912 Judges comments: Very nice variety in these stories, again, like the first place winner, going much deeper into the multitude of possibilities available in coverage of education and schools.

❖ Kenny Lourie, longtime columnist and Connection advertising representative, won two 1st place awards from the Maryland Delaware DC Press Association, one for local column and one for sports column. Lourie has been writing about his odyssey with Stage IV lung cancer, and the judges noted: “Writer chooses tough subject, his own mortality, and handles it quite well. He gives us an honest look at a very personal issue.”

❖ Kemal Kurspahic, Laurence Foong, Amna Rehmatulla, 3rd place, Reston Connection, Special Sections or Special Editions W2M08 30698, Children’s Connection, Judges comments: Simple and elegant idea showcasing children’s artwork, a great way to attract young readers.

❖ Victoria Ross, 3rd place, Fairfax Connection, In-Depth Or Investigative Reporting

❖ Mary Kimm, 3rd Place, Burke Connection, Editorial Writing, Judges comments: Mary Kimm’s columns are strong, particularly the one taking to task a school board on its disciplinary procedures in light of a student’s suicide. The community is better for her work.

❖ Michael Pope, 3rd place, Mount Vernon Gazette, In-Depth Or Investigative Reporting

WINNING ENTRIES, CONNECTION, CENTRE VIEW

See a complete list of winners on page 12

❖ Virginia Press Association 2011 Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service

❖ Michael O’Connell, Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs, Amber Healy, 1st Place, Fairfax Connection, Multimedia Feature Report, An End to Homelessness, Judges comments: Wow. This is an amazing endeavor. The print and digital components complement each other nicely, although I would have liked to see some aggressive promotion of digital from print. The video and photo gallery provide nice layers to the overall storytelling. The webpage featuring your original coverage will be an excellent home to keep following this important topic. Well-done.

❖ Alex McVeigh, 1st Place, Great Falls Connection, In-Depth Or Investigative Reporting

❖ Bonnie Hobbs, 1st place, Centre View, Education Writing, Judges Comments: What the judges really appreciate about Bonnie’s stories is that each one is a unique, interesting and very readable story that makes the sometimes dry subject of education coverage appealing to readers. Much more than the “school board did this and the school board did that” type stories that so many newspapers publish, not to say that this coverage is not important. Bonnie’s work really made us want to read it. Good job, and congratulations.

❖ Bonnie Hobbs, 1st place, Centre View, Feature Writing Portfolio, Judges comments: These entries were fantastic. Great writing style really makes these unique stories shine. Nicely packaged final product. Well done!

❖ Deb Cobb, 1st place, Fairfax Connection, Online Slideshow, Wounded Warriors at Bat

❖ Deb Cobb, 1st place, Fairfax Connection, General News Photo, Warm Welcome, Judges comments: I love how every subject in this photo is engaged into a mo-



Victoria Ross



Deb Cobb



Robbie Hammer



Alex McVeigh



Bonnie Hobbs



Jon Roetman



Louise Krafft



Lashawn Avery-Simon



Jeanne Theismann



Michael Lee Pope



Marilyn Campbell

Fairfax Station,
Lorton & Clifton
CONNECTION

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NEWS

Five miles of pipes were laid near Lorton Road this winter for Fairfax County's Water Reclamation Project.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Going Green in Lorton

County uses reclaimed water to irrigate golf course, little league fields.

The fairways at Laurel Hill Golf Club in Lorton and the South County Little League fields are getting a little greener this summer.

Starting next month, more than 400 million gallons of reclaimed water – bath, sink and laundry water that would have gone into the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay – will be captured and reused to irrigate the golf course and little league fields. Reclaimed water will also be used for ball field irrigation at Lower Potomac Park and for energy processing at the Covanta Energy Resource Recovery facility.

In May, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will officially launch the water reclamation project at the Noman M. Cole Jr. Pollution Control Plant on Richmond Highway.

The project, which began in 2009, is partially funded by \$6.5 million in federal stimulus funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Clean Water Revolving Fund Loan Program.

More than 500 million gallons of treated reclaimed water will be stored at the Covanta Energy Resource Recovery Facility.

The use of reclaimed water means that Fairfax County can conserve drinking water, preserving an estimated two million gallons of drinking water per day, according to county officials, and will generate revenue.

"In the long run, the county will earn money from selling reclaimed water, helping to offset taxpayer costs. The Park Authority will be one of those customers this summer," said Brian Worthy, spokesperson for the county.

Golf course users will not notice much change.

Reclaimed water will be used for irrigation generally when the course is closed, when golfers may not be exposed to the water.

Signage on the course and stickers placed on golf carts will notify visitors about the use of reclaimed water. Reclaimed water will not be used in proximity to streams or bodies of water.

— VICTORIA ROSS



Second graders trying to do everyday fine motor tasks.

Autism Awareness at Union Mill Elementary

April is Autism Awareness month and students at Union Mill had an opportunity to participate in a sensory simulation activity during P.E. classes. Students experienced an obstacle course that simulated activities children with autism find helpful such as jumping, bouncing, pressure, etc. Students were

rotated to other stations that simulated challenges for some children with autism (perception confusion, fine motor challenges, and filtering out external stimuli). It was a great way for students to gain a better understanding of autism – and, with understanding, comes empathy and support.

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CALENDAR

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.

THURSDAY/APRIL 26

Fenwick Fellow Lecture and Reception. 2 p.m. George Mason University, Johnson Center Instruction Room, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With Dr. Michael Chang, 2010-2011 Fenwick Fellow, on "Service at the Manchu Court: The Young Kangxi Emperor and His Personal Advisors." Refreshments served. 703-993-2491 or dhogan1@gmu.edu.

Learning English. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

BC Friends Membership Meeting. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. With Robert Dorr, author of Mission to Berlin. 703-249-1520.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice your English with other adults. 703-249-1520.

FRIDAY/APRIL 27

"Oklahoma!" 7 p.m. Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Rogers & Hammerstein's musical drama. Adults \$8, students and seniors \$6. 703-924-8014 or www.edisondrama.com.

Preschool Storytime. 11 a.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-971-0010.

Moose on the Loose! 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories and activities about moose. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

Friday Friend's Book Club. 4 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. The Day of the Pelican by Katherine Paterson. Age 8-12. 703-249-1520.

"Wizard of Oz." 7 p.m. West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Based on L. Frank Baum's book. \$5-\$10. mjlevesque@fcps.edu.

Edison Pyramid Art Show. 6 p.m. Edison High School, Alexandria. With art from students at Rose Hill, Mt. Eagle, Franconia, Clermont, Cameron, Bush Hill, Twain and Edison. www.edisondrama.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 28

Public Reception: 2012 Congressional Art. 2-4 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A touring exhibition of Virginia high school art submitted for the Annual Congressional Art Competition. Exhibit open April 13-29. www.workhousearts.org.

Spring Faire. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carleigh Parkway, Springfield. Jewelry, fashion, home decor, kitchen, garden, gourmet items and more. Free admission and door prizes. Sponsored by the Woman's Club of Springfield, all profits benefit Bethany House to help victims of domestic violence. dianaleehooper@aol.com.

Community Coffee House. 6-9 p.m. Historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse, 8511 Hooes Road, Springfield. Local musicians, coffee and desserts. Free admission. info@sydenstrickerschoolhouse.org

Island Creek Elementary PTA 5K Croc Trot. 6 a.m. Island Creek Elementary, 7855 Morning View Lane, Alexandria. Proceeds benefit Island Creek Elementary PTA enrichment programs, technology renewal, cultural initiatives and more.



Molly Keeter as Glinda the Good Witch with Brittany Morgan as the Wicked Witch. Based on L. Frank Baum's book, "The Wizard of Oz" will be performed at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road in Springfield, at 7 p.m. on April 27-28 and May 4-5. There will also be a 2 p.m. ASL interpreted matinee performance on May 5. \$10 adults, \$5 age six or younger and age 65 or older, with the May 5 ASL performance \$8 general admission. mjlevesque@fcps.edu.

County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Musical drama about two rival gangs, the Sharks and the Jets. \$10, \$9 students and seniors. southcountytheatre.org.
"Oklahoma!" 7 p.m. Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Rogers & Hammerstein's musical drama. Adults \$8, students and seniors \$6. 703-924-8014 or www.edisondrama.com.

Virginia Ballet Company: Swan Lake. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College Ernst Cultural Center Theater, 4001 Wakefield Chapel Road, Annandale. Tchaikovsky's four-act full-length classic ballet, with local dancers Christine Gilmore and Eleni Thomas alternating in the role of Odette/Odile. www.virginiaballetcompany.org.

"Oklahoma!" 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Rogers & Hammerstein's musical drama. Adults \$8, students and seniors \$6. The 2 p.m. matinee will include a fundraiser to benefit the Koinonia Foundation, with post-production BBQ, drinks and dessert; \$20 per person. 703-924-8014 or www.edisondrama.com.

"Wizard of Oz." 7 p.m. West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Based on L. Frank Baum's book. \$5-\$10. mjlevesque@fcps.edu.

Container Gardening Workshop. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Heather Hill Gardens, 8111 Ox Rd., Fairfax Station. Bring a container or purchase one. Potting soil, fertilizer, and design advice provided. Free. 703-690-6060 or www.heatherhillgardens.com.

"Home." 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Studio 3 Theatre for Young Audiences, Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The story of footloose travelers, Florrie and Todd, searching for a home of their own. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 29

Virginia Ballet Company: Swan Lake. 2 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College Ernst Cultural Center Theater, 4001 Wakefield Chapel Road, Annandale. Tchaikovsky's four-act full-length classic ballet, with local dancers Christine Gilmore and Eleni Thomas alternating in the role of Odette/Odile. www.virginiaballetcompany.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 4

"West Side Story." 7:30 p.m. South

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Eight Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students have been awarded corporate-sponsored scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The students are part of a group of approximately 1,000 National Merit finalists chosen to receive scholarships financed by companies, foundations, and other business organizations.

Winners of the corporate-sponsored scholarships, with their probable career fields in parentheses, are:

✦ Kristin Edwards of Lake Braddock Secondary School (conservation research), National Merit CSC Scholarship.

✦ Debbie Pan of Langley High School (medicine), National Merit CSC Scholarship.

✦ Lindsey Joost of Madison High School (journalism), National Merit General Dynamics Scholarship.

✦ Weina Bao of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) (engineering), National Merit Lockheed Martin Academic Scholarship.

✦ Robert Campion of TJHSST (aerospace engineering), National Merit Honeywell Scholarship.

✦ George Liang of TJHSST (biological engineering), National Merit Macy's Inc. Scholarship.

✦ Marvin Qian of TJHSST (medicine), National Merit Northrop Grumman Scholarship.

✦ Mihir Srivastava of TJHSST (engineering), National Merit Accenture Scholarship.

Fourteen Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students are among more than 800 students nationwide who have won Achievement Scholarships from the 2012 National Achievement® Scholarship program (NASP). The Achievement Scholarships are awarded to Black American high school seniors to be used for undergraduate study at any regionally accredited United States college or university.

The FCPS students named National Achievement® Scholars, with their probable career fields in parentheses, are:

✦ Katherine Branche of Langley High School (medicine).

✦ Stephen Preston, Jr., of Langley High School (aerospace engineering).

✦ Brandon Allen of Marshall High School (biology-law).

✦ Nana-Kwabena Adjapong Abrefah of McLean High School (mathematics).

✦ Gabrielle Tate of Oakton High School (mechanical engineering).

✦ Beakal Gezahegn of South County Secondary School (medicine).

✦ Austin Chustz of South Lakes High School (medicine).

✦ Ian Crutcher of South Lakes High School (engineering).

✦ Chantelle Ekanem of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) (chemical engineering).

✦ Adrienne Ivey of TJHSST (engineering-computer science).

✦ Stephanie Pitts of TJHSST (medicine).

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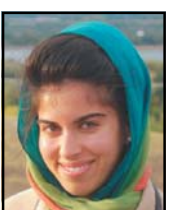
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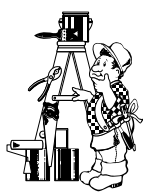


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Northern Region Well Represented at Capital Classic

Oakton's Katherine and Caroline Coyer scored six and five points, respectively, for the Virginia squad.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

West Springfield senior Logan Battle isn't accustomed to beginning a basketball game on the bench. The 6-foot-1 Spartan standout earned a scholarship to Georgetown by making plays on the court from the opening tip. But during the first game of the 39th Annual Capital Classic, a public school matchup between the Virginia All-Stars and the Maryland All-Stars, she started with a seat on the sideline.

That didn't stop Battle from having her usual game-changing impact.

Battle came off the bench to score 12 points and earn game MVP honors as Virginia cruised to a 74-49 victory on April 21 at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria. After a slow start by both squads, Virginia's second unit of Battle, West Springfield teammate April Robinson (Duquesne), Forest Park's Lexi Carpenter (Dayton), Stafford's Merritt Hempe (Georgia) and Fairfax's Liz



West Springfield senior Logan Battle won game MVP honors as the Virginia All-Stars defeated the Maryland All-Stars 74-49 during the 39th Annual Capital Classic on April 21 at T.C. Williams.

McNaughton (UMBC) sparked an 11-2 first-quarter run as the Commonwealth gradually pulled away.

"Sitting on the bench starting out gives me a chance to see how the other team plays and get a feel for what I'm supposed to be doing," Battle said. "...We've all seen each



Fairfax senior Liz McNaughton scored three points as the Virginia All-Stars defeated the Maryland All-Stars 74-49 on April 21 at T.C. Williams.

other play [and] played with each other during AAU or in other all-star games before. When we got on the court, we worked well together [because] none of us are selfish."

Each team had limited practice time prior to the contest, which tipped off the four-

game all-star event, but Robinson said the girls meshed well together on the floor.

"Everyone has the same goal and dream," she said. "We're just playing basketball."

FRED PRIESTER, who led Oakton to an undefeated season and the 2012 state championship, coached the Virginia All-Stars.

"There's always a little edge there," Priester said of the inter-state matchup. "We in the Virginia suburbs think we play pretty good ball, they think they play pretty good ball, so there's a little bit of bragging rights there."

Oakton's Katherine and Caroline Coyer scored six and five points, respectively, for the Virginia squad, playing their final high school game before suiting up for Villanova.

"It was a little bittersweet," Katherine Coyer said. "It was definitely great to get to represent Oakton High School one more time. Of course, it's sad that this is the last time we're going to be putting on these shorts and playing to represent Oakton, [but] even going forward, this isn't something we're going to forget."

T.C. Williams senior Gaby Moss, who will play at Georgia State, scored nine points on her home floor. Robinson scored six points, Edison's Ruth Sherrill (Hofstra) finished with five and McNaughton had three.

In the other girls' game, the Prep-Private All-Stars defeated the Interhigh All-Stars 76-67. Bishop O'Connell's Nicole Carty scored three points for the Prep-Private team.

Robinson Boys' Soccer Eyeing Big Games Ahead

Rams are 6-2 with games this week at Oakton and Woodson.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Through eight games, the Robinson Rams boys' soccer team has proven to be one of the more impressive teams in the Northern Region with a 6-2 overall record. But several big games lie ahead for the Concorde District team and there is still plenty to prove.

"So far, we are having a good season," said Robinson coach Jac Cicala. "We do have some nice wins but we have some really huge games remaining which will be key in preparation for the district tournament."

Robinson, 2-0 in district play, was scheduled to play road games on back-to-back nights this week - a district contest at Oakton on Thursday, April 26, and a non-district game versus W.T. Woodson (Patriot District) on Friday, April 27. Both games are scheduled for 7.

Woodson is undefeated and Oakton is also a ranked team in the metropolitan area

so the Rams will have a challenging week. But with just a handful of games remaining in the regular season before the start of the district tournament in the third week of May, Robinson will be aiming for the best possible seeding as possible for districts.

Thus far, the Rams have district wins over Chantilly, 4-0 at home on April 10; and Westfield, 5-0 at home on April 16. District contests with Centreville, Oakton, and Herndon remain, as well as non-district contests with Woodson and Washington-Lee.

TO BEGIN THE SEASON Robinson won its first three games - all at home and all by 3-0 scores over Lake Braddock (Patriot District) on March 19, Stone Bridge (Liberty District) on March 21, and First Colonial from Virginia Beach on March 23.

The team lost its next game on March 27 by a 1-0 score to local rival and visitor West Springfield (Patriot District). But the Rams came back two days later with a 2-1 win at South County (Patriot District) to put them at 4-1 on the season.

Following spring break, Robinson opened its district schedule with Chantilly at home on April 10, winning by the 4-0 score. A 2-1 non-district loss at Mount Vernon High (National District) followed on April 13.

But Robinson beat Westfield decisively in its following game to improve to 6-2.

Particularly strong play for the Rams up front this season has come from senior strikers Ryan Harmouche and Mikael Belay. The midfield play of junior Andrew Osiecki, senior co-captain Sam Yardley, and junior Ben Ferrell has been steady and solid. And in the back, defenders Evan Christian, a junior, senior Kyle Groth, and senior co-captain Alex Streitmater has been quite strong. In the net, senior Joshua Penn has done a good job.

Robinson has outscored its opponents 21-4 overall over its eight regular season games. The two goals allowed versus Mount Vernon was the lone occasion in which the Rams allowed more than one in a game.

Robinson will look to continue and even improve on its stellar play as the regular season winds down and the postseason looms ahead with districts and then the 16-team Northern Region tourney showcase.

"My expectation for the team is to make the regional tournament and get as far as we can," said Coach Cicala. "There are some very good teams in the region this year. It is a wide open field so hopefully we can make our way through the gauntlet."

SPORTS NOTES

More than **625 girls' lacrosse players** from the region will take the field for the postseason showcase wearing the same 'pink' attire, unified in their support for the breast cancer awareness cause. All of the players will be wearing pink hair wraps, pink ribbon shoe laces, and pink ribbon pins.

The multi-site, multi-team, near simultaneous effort is the first of its kind and one in which the Northern Region Girls Lacrosse Coaches Association hopes will become an annual event.

Fundraising for this year's district tournaments was left to each team. In the future, possible unified fundraising is under discussion as well as expanding the tournament by joining together with the 30 boys' lacrosse teams of the Northern Region.

This week's **Northern Region Top 10** Baseball Coach's Poll is as follows: Lake Braddock of the Patriot District remains at the No. 1 position, with a trio of Concorde District clubs - No. 2 Centreville, No. 3 Chantilly, and the No. 4 Herndon Hornets - following. The five through seven slots are filled by teams from the Liberty District with the McLean Highlanders at No. 5, the Madison Warhawks No. 6, and the Stone Bridge Bulldogs No. 7. The next two teams in the poll are defending Northern Region champion South County (Patriot District) at No. 8 and Oakton (Concorde District) at No. 9. Two teams, Langley High (Liberty District) and Westfield (Concorde) are tied for the No. 10 position. Other teams receiving votes were: W.T. Woodson, West Springfield, Robinson, and Marshall.

PEOPLE

Clifton Man Honored at Public Safety Awards Ceremony

Steve McMurrer, a Fairfax County public safety communicator, is the kind of employee other employees look up to. McMurrer is always helpful and voluntarily creates training materials for use throughout the center.

It was no surprise to his colleagues that McMurrer, of Clifton, received the Excellence in Training award during the 7th annual Department of Public Safety Communications Awards Ceremony on Monday, April 9 at the Fairfax County Government Center.

"Employees frequently ask for McMurrer's guidance, and he maintains a positive attitude whether the person he is training is a seasoned co-worker, a sit-along or a new trainee," according to department leaders. Currently detailed to the training academy, McMurrer was recently tasked with developing a training outline for the new Emergency Management Dispatch cards, an undertaking that his supervisors thought could be time



PHOTO BY CHRISTIE SOSNA

Steve Souder, director of the Department of Public Safety Communications, stands with Steve McMurrer of Clifton, winner of the department's Excellence in Training Award, and Cyndi Bird ShROUT, assistant director of DPSC.

consuming. McMurrer created an outline that was clear, concise and could be presented in one 30-minute roll call, said supervisors.

Since its formation in 2005, more than 350 of the department's employees have received professional awards and honors. The

awards ceremony opened with the presentation of the colors by the DPSC Honor Guard followed by the singing of the National Anthem by DPSC assistant supervisor Sherrie White.

— VICTORIA ROSS

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News

Cherry tree donors plant the first tree, as part of the official cherry tree planting celebration at the Workhouse Arts Center, Saturday, April 21, 2012."

PHOTO BY
DANNY CHU/
DIGIPIXART STUDIO



Workhouse Arts Center Hosts Japanese Art and Culture Day

The Workhouse Arts Center celebrated Japanese Art and Culture Day, in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Gift of Trees, National Cherry Blossom Festival. Visitors to the Workhouse Arts Center enjoyed an array of interesting, educational, and entertaining activities celebrating the art and culture, both ancient and modern, of Japan.

The event began with a ceremonial planting of 12 cherry blossom trees at the Workhouse. Following the planting, a presentation was given by Keith Tomlinson, manager of Meadowlark Gardens in Vienna, who offered a look at the relationship between humans and nature and how cherry blossom trees are representational of spring and renewal. Attendees were also invited to engage in many other

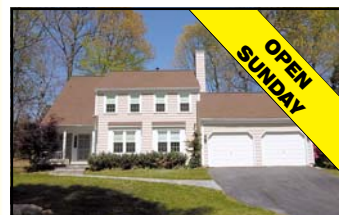
educational presentations that were given by The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Ikebana International, The Potomac Bonsai Association and the Workhouse Arts Center's Studio Artists.

An array of demonstrations highlighting both traditional and modern aspects of Japanese art and culture also took place in studio buildings across campus. Demonstrations included Sashiko design technique, Kumihimo, Sumi-e painting, Japanese tea tasting, and vegetarian sushi making. For the younger audience, activities involving Japanese games, crafts and dress were provided by the Japan-America Society of Washington DC. The all-day event ended with a film screening of "5 Centimeters per Second," which showcased the Japanese art of Anime.

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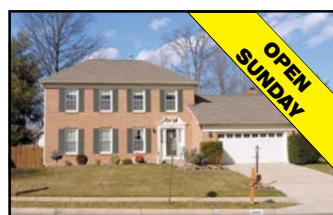


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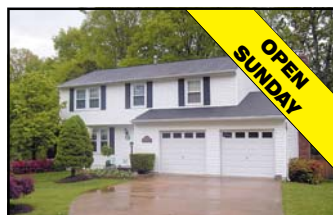
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Springfield **\$689,000**
Beautiful colonial in sought after neighborhood of Glenwood Manor. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, updated kitchen, baths, hardwood floors and carpeting. Additional undeveloped bonus room, walkout basement, underground utilities, situated on a wonderful cul-de-sac.
Pep Bauman 703-314-7055



Chantilly **\$719,000**
Beautiful 4 BR, 3.5 BA home with two story foyer, cathedral ceilings, gas fireplace, 1st floor MBR suite, open floor plan, spectacular in-ground pool.
Nancy Basham 703-772-2066



Fairfax **\$489,000**
Lovely 4BR/3BA split level with cathedral ceilings has newly updated kitchen with granite & breakfast bar, family room addition with walkout to deck & fenced backyard. The expanded master suite addition includes new bathroom & two walk-in closets. New carpet and freshly painted with decorator touches! Walk to Metrobus, shopping, Royal Lake/Lakeside Park, and community swimming pool!
Mary Hovland 703-946-1775
Cathy DeLoach 571-276-9421



Fairfax Station **\$739,900**
Elegant 5,100 SF Kendall model. 5 BR, 4.5 BA, updated kitchen with rich cherry cabinets & granite counters. Library with built-ins. Tall ceilings, palladian windows, hardwood floors. Finished basement with in-law suite.
Dave Billups
Virginia Clark Billups
703-690-1795



Clifton **\$1,497,000**
Stunning all-brick colonial sited on beautiful 5 acres in sought after Wyckland offers 3 fin levels, 5 BRs, 3 full & 3 half BAs, 5 Fireplaces, 4 car garage & in-ground pool. A private guest house includes full Kit, Office/Den/Fam Rm, 2 Bonus Rms, full BA, closet space & laundry!
Carol Hermendorfer 703-216-4949



Herndon **\$290,000**
Move In Ready
This 3 Level, 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA TH features Country Kitchen, with eating area and ample counter space, SGD to yard backing to trees. New carpet & paint.
Barbara Nowak
703-473-1803
Gerry Staudte
703-309-8948



Warrenton **\$599,900**
DC Side on 1.4 acres. Picturesque setting for this gracious colonial with over 4500 square finished space. Classic center hall with hardwood floors, first floor library, glorious sunroom and so much more! Finished lower level with walkout to decking and gazebo. Large workshop and kennel with electricity.
Ellie Wester 703-503-1880



Clifton **\$749,900**
Clifton Charm at Its Finest! Wonderful colonial on private, wooded 1.5 acres is loaded with outstanding updates! Gorgeous 4 season room and expansive deck, renovated kitchen, remodeled bath, & sparkling hardwoods are just a few of the gems this home beholds! For more information go to www.Hermendorfer.com
Carol Hermendorfer 703-503-1812



Falls Church **\$465,000**
Totally Renovated. This lovely 4 BR, 2 BA Cape Cod has been renovated top to bottom. UL finished w/2 BR's and full BA. New Kit w/SS appli, new cabinets and heated ceramic floor. And much more!
Barbara Nowak 703-473-1803
Gerry Staudte 703-309-8948



Springfield **\$780,000**
Superb design lets you live on just one level or enjoy all 3 finished lvls! Grand foyer, beautiful hwd flrs, 2 story family room w/fireplace, gourmet kitchen w/tons of granite countertops, breakfast room, large formal dining room & living room PLUS spacious master suite w/luxury bath on main level. Upper level features 3 BRs & 2 BAs and lower level is finished w/huge recreation room, large den/office and full bath plus tons of storage! 2 car side loan garage plus beautifully landscaped lot with trees! Just minutes to 95, metro, Ft. Belvoir, and shopping.
Pam Boe 703-503-1888



Lake Anna **\$639,000**
Lake Anna Waterfront. 2400+ Sq ft Rambler. Water views from both sides! 140' waterfrontage. 3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, Vaulted Family Room. Open to the Living Room, Dining Room & Breakfast Room. Large Deck, Summer Cabin and Boathouse. 2 car Garage & Carport.
David Lewis 703-980-3090



Fairfax Station **\$1,275,000**
This impressive custom home sits on five level, manicured acres w/great views. The gourmet kitchen, great room, covered porch, balcony, deck & pool create a resort environment for entertaining. With over 7000 sqft of well thought-out living space, the home offers 6 bedrooms including a main level bedroom, 6 full baths, a circular driveway and a 3-car garage.
Ngoc Do & Associates 703-798-2899



Fairfax **\$599,000**
Beautiful 4BR/3.5BA center hall Colonial in sought after Kings Park West. Renovated kitchen with 42" cabinets, granite, stainless appliances, and two pantries. Expanded Master Bath, walkout finished lower level, new windows, carpet, paint and more! Plus, screen porch & deck overlooking quiet wooded wonderland. Close to community schools & pool, GMU, & shopping!
Mary Hovland 703-946-1775
Cathy DeLoach 571-276-9421



Burke **\$274,000**
This attractive Townhome is nestled on a richly wooded lot. Home features 3 BRs, 1 1/2 Baths, New Glass Slider steps you out to a private Patio to enjoy your morning coffee. New Carpeting, New Vanity in half bath, and much more.
Sheila Adams 703-503-1895
Mary FitzHenry 703-503-1825



Gainesville **\$525,000**
Enjoy 55+ lifestyle in Heritage Hunt with activities, golf, pools, trails. 3 bedroom, 3 bath with finished lower level. Exceptional water view & one block to golf & clubhouse. See photos & other 55+ community listings at www.marylroche.com.
Mary LaRoche 703-919-0747



Woodbridge **\$307,000**
Lovely and spacious 3 level TH that boasts a view of the Occoquan River!! Spacious bump outs on all 3 levels. Large Kitchen w/o to deck. Glamour bath off MBR. Cozy finished LL Rec Room w fireplace that w/o to fenced backyard.
Cyndy Patrick
703-851-7198



Burke **\$575,000**
Peaceful setting awaits you with classic colonial on cul de sac with pond views. An oasis from your busy days. Renovated kitchen adjoins family room. Walk-out basement to patio. Enjoy summer in screen porch w/skylights & ceiling fan. Beauty of nature prevails in Burke Center paths near home. Pool & rec centers waiting for your summer fun.
Beth Jones 703-503-1869



Fairfax City **\$489,900**
Charming expanded Cape Cod in historic neighborhood. Lovingly maintained with original features on fantastic 1/2 acre lot. Convenient to George Mason University, major transportation routes, shopping, schools, and restaurants.
Betsy Rutkowski 703-503-1478



Lake Ridge **\$269,900**
Enjoy fantastic water views in this classic, distinctive townhome located in the Lake Ridge neighborhood of Woodbridge and backing to Lake Occoquan. This 3 BR, 2 FB, 2 HB townhouse boasts an open floor plan and an abundance of windows! Move-in ready with fresh paint and new carpet!
Cyndee Julian
703-201-5834



Fairfax **\$899,000**
Beautiful Carrington model in Hampton Forest. 5 huge BRs, 2 story foyer, curved stairway, crown & chair moldings, wood floors, additional formal living & dining rooms w/library & loft to enjoy for all. Huge basement w/professional built-in bar perfect for entertaining walking out to paved patio. BBQ on the trex deck and enjoy company in the trex gazebo. 2 car garage w/plenty of additional parking on driveway. Close to major routes 166, FFX County Parkway, Braddock Rd & Lee Highway. Lacks nothing but you. Join me at my Open House, 4/28 1-4pm and Welcome home!
Kinder Saund 202-369-5597

Access the Realtors' Multiple Listing Service: www.searchvirginia.listingbook.com