

Burke CONNECTION

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PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock senior Michael Church earned the win against Woodson on May 1, allowing two runs in six innings.

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NEWS

PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION



Breakfast of Champions: Fairfax County Supervisors stand with their nominees for the Community Champion award for outstanding community leadership at the 20th annual Volunteer Service Awards ceremony Friday, April 27 at the Waterford in Springfield. The event was sponsored by UnitedHealthcare.

Value of Volunteer Hours: \$4.5 million

Legacy of Community Service? Priceless.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

“Volunteers aren’t paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.” Eleanor Roosevelt’s famous sentiment was echoed by numerous community and civic leaders who gathered at the Waterford in Springfield Friday, April 27, to celebrate 118 Fairfax County volunteers during the 20th annual Volunteer Service Awards hosted by Volunteer Fairfax.

“When you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in,” said Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-11), who delivered a short address to the more than 400 guests attending the region’s largest celebration of volunteers.

“Even when the earth shakes us, we stand behind the enduring legacy of service in this community,” said Jeanne Sanders, Volunteer Fairfax executive director, who showed

a slide of the small bungalow on Page Street in Fairfax that serves as the nonprofit’s headquarters. The building remained standing even after last summer’s magnitude-5.8 quake rattled the region. “Nothing shakes our volunteer spirit,” Sanders said.

Established in 1993, the Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards honors individuals, groups and organizations which have donated time and energy to a broad range of activities and programs.

“Whether they are helping neighbors in need or building communities, volunteers are always finding new ways to continue the legacy of service,” Sanders said, adding that this year’s nominees volunteered 205,688 hours of service to the community, equivalent of eight hours a day, five days a week for one year, totaling \$4.5 million.

Volunteers were nominated in three categories: a competitive Volunteer Service Award; a Community Champion Award for outstanding community leadership, submitted by each member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; and a Benchmark Award for volunteers who achieve a certain number of service hours performed in a calendar year.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) strikes a bipartisan note of support for community volunteerism with State Sen. George Barker (D-39) at the 20th annual Volunteer Service Awards ceremony Friday, April 27 at the Waterford in Springfield. The event was sponsored by UnitedHealthcare.



Community Champions

Julie Clemente - nominated by Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large)

Julie Clemente founded Friends of Clemyjontri Inc. in 2006 to raise money for park improvements. In 2011, Clemente organized and headed the effort to create the Friends of Clemyjontri website; worked with CapitalOne to create a credit card with a photo of Clemyjontri on the front to help raise funds for the park, and has created opportunities to raise additional funds. She raised nearly \$100,000 with the 2010 Concert in the Park (the 2nd Concert in the Park had been rescheduled from 2011 to April 21, 2012). The funds raised in 2010 and 2011 have allowed the park to purchase new equipment including a Liberty Swing (a wheelchair accessible swing), a new picnic structure, shade canopies, a new bike rack, musical drum circle, and other improvements. Her volunteer service has impacted many people, including local civic groups, local Boy Scouts earning badges and completing Eagle Scout projects, returning veterans known as ‘wounded warriors,’ and parents who have physically-disabled children.

The success of Clemyjontri Park has inspired the creation of the Family Recreation area at Lee District Park, including the Our Special Harbor playground and Chessie’s BIG Backyard playground and accessible tree house

“Julie Clemente has touched many lives in Fairfax County,” said Bulova. “Thanks to Julie’s energy, dedication, generosity and compassion people of all abilities have the opportunity to share in recreational activities and enjoy the beauty of our community.”

Greg Sykes - nominated by Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock)

Always wanting to learn more about nature, Greg Sykes has been a prominent face of Royal Lake Park as a volunteer leader for more than five years with the Invasive Management Area Volunteer Program. An environmentalist in both his personal and professional life, Sykes is involved with additional causes such as habitat restoration, sustainability, natural resource protection, and Chesapeake Bay watershed clean-up efforts. His work as a volunteer leader has received recognition through the 2008 Volunteer Excellence Award and the Elly Doyle Special Recognition Award in 2010.

“Greg Sykes is the kind of engaged citizen we hold up in Braddock as a great example to his neighbors. He has a passion for the environment and he’s not afraid to get his hands dirty working on projects to make our community more in concert with Mother Earth,” Cook said.

Don Hakenson - nominated by Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee)

It has been said that you can’t know where you’re going, if you don’t know where you’ve been. As a founding member of the Franconia Museum, Hakenson currently serves as the organization’s Vice President of History. Particularly known for his “Both Sides” Civil War bus tours, he has utilized his passion



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bulova awards Julie Clemente of McLean the at large Community Champion award at the 20th annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards Friday, April 27.



Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) awards Greg Sykes Community Champion for the Braddock District for his efforts supporting habitat preservation, sustainability, natural resource protection and Chesapeake Bay Watershed cleanups.



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) awards Don Hakenson Community Champion for the Lee District for his volunteerism for numerous historical and civic organizations.

SEE CHAMPIONS, PAGE 8

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NEWS

University Mall Begins Transformation

**Fairfax center
will double in size
and include new
Giant Food store.**

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax - After five years of planning, shovels will be ready to hit the ground this June for the \$30 million top-to-bottom transformation and expansion of the University Mall Shopping Center in Fairfax.

"Everything you see here today, every tree, every table, you will not see when it's done," said Richard Wolff, president and CEO of George H. Rucker Realty Corporation (GHRRC), owner of the mall, during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, April 21.

"As people drive by next year, they're going to say 'Holy cow! That's a cool looking place.' It really is a complete transformation," Wolff added.

The 125,000 square-foot mall, built in 1978, will be converted from a series of interior-facing drab brown buildings to a 200,000 square-foot urban "streetscape" center, with an outdoor courtyard, striped awnings, and art deco architectural features, such as three lighted towers and sleek aluminum and glass storefronts.

"By right we could have done something double that size, but we wanted to keep it a community shopping center attractive to the neighborhood and GMU. It's going to look fabulous," Wolff said.

A white articulated roofline that meets "green" standards, as well as an aluminum parapet wall to screen mechanical units, will contribute to the overall aesthetics, Wolff said. And to enhance the feeling of being outdoors, the developer is adding an open courtyard with a fountain, covered tables, benches and trees.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), as well as Supervisors John Cook (R-Braddock) and Pat Herry (R-Springfield) attended Saturday's event.

"In Fairfax County, our future is in redevelopment," said Bulova.

"This project started before the recession, and now it's finally happening as we come out of the recession," said Cook. "Lots of good things are going to happen in this area, including the western bypass and other improvements in addition to the shopping center."

Located near the campus of



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS

Ribbon-cutting in May, shovel-ready in June: From left, Sallie Brodie, chairman of the George H. Rucker Realty Corporation (GHRRC) helps to cut the ribbon on the \$30 Million University Mall expansion and renovation project during a ceremony on Saturday, April 21, with Richard Wolff, president and CEO of GHRRC; Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova; Braddock district Supervisor John Cook; Springfield district Supervisor Pat Herry; and Kathleen Whatley, one of the project partners.



COURTESY PHOTO

Architectural rendering of the new courtyard at University Mall.

George Mason University, between Ox Road and Braddock Road, the mall's main draw has been the University Mall Theaters, a second-run discount theater, and a hub of restaurants such as Fat Tuesday's, Café Ima, Brion's Grille and Saxby's Coffee house.

The aging Giant food store will almost double in size - from 36,000 square foot to 64,000 square feet when everything is expected to be complete in the fall of 2013.

"Giant is going to blow out the Ox road side of the store and add 28,000 square feet of space... Basically, it will rival any store Giant has in the area. People will be impressed," Wolff said.

Cliff Keenan, vice president of the Country Club View Civic Association - the 450-home neighborhood nearest to the University Mall - said the developer has addressed most of his and his neighbors' concerns, which included traffic congestion, light pollution and storm water detention.

"I think it's safe to say the entire community favors the re-development of University Mall..." said Keenan who has lived in Country Club View since 1978. "All in all, we look forward to this project finally moving to reality."

"If something doesn't work, we'll

be there...We're a community developer; we see our projects through from development to management, and this will be an inviting retail center for shoppers and neighborhood residents," Wolff said.

In the coming months, residents will see demolition of one existing retail and office buildings, replaced by two new buildings - a 5,000-square-foot space for retail or restaurants and a 20,000-square-foot, two-story building dedicated to office space on the top floor, and a hardware center on the bottom.

Teddy Bear Day Care will move to a new 16,000 square foot office building, where Children's Medical Associates will be housed on the upper floor. The childcare center will also have 6,000 square feet of play area and a stockade fence for privacy. The developer is providing a 1,000-square-foot rent free community space.

Other leases that have been negotiated are for Wendy's fast food restaurant, a Verizon or T-Mobile store, Josie's Yogurt and a 6,000 square-foot Italian restaurant.

Herry, who noted the center is home to his son's and daughter's pediatrician, said it's important to patronize the shopping center during the redevelopment.

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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.

MONDAY/MAY 7

Senior Fall Prevention Classes. 2 p.m. The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Classes designed to work on balance and core muscles to prevent injuries and falls; Instructor certified in back and hip rehab. Every Monday and Friday in a heated indoor pool. \$10. Registration required at 703-667-9800.

TUESDAY/MAY 8

Interfaith Communities for Dialogue: Coming to America: The Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Experience. 6:30 p.m. John Calvin Presbyterian Church, 6531 Columbia Pike, Annandale. With Rabbi David Kalendar, Imam Johari Abdul-Malik, Fr. Horace Grinnell. 703-324-3453.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 9

Faith Communities in Action. 2 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Conference Center Rooms 2 & 3, Fairfax. A panel of community food providers and county human service staff will discuss how food is distributed in Fairfax County, who is providing it and how it is accessed. The panel will talk about the various ways faith communities are involved. NCSInterfaith@fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY/MAY 10

FACETS Breakfast on Poverty and Homelessness Efforts in Fairfax. 7 a.m. Waterford at Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Help families and individuals who suffer the effects of Poverty. Free. Register at www.FACETSCares.org or 703-352-3268.

SATURDAY/MAY 12

Dog Adoptions. 1-4 p.m. PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Every Saturday. Sponsored by Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. www.lostdogrescue.org.
Divorce Workshop. 9 a.m. Fair Oaks Courtyard Marriott, 11220 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. The legal, financial, family, property and personal issues of divorce. Free. www.secondsaturdayfairfax.com.

TUESDAY/MAY 15

Fairfax County presents Communicating with the Doctor. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Free. Register at 703-324-5205, TTY 711, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices or caregiver@fairfaxcounty.gov.
Senior Fall Prevention Classes. 1:30 p.m. The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Classes designed to work on balance and core muscles to prevent injuries and falls; Instructor certified in back and hip rehab. Every Tuesday and Thursday in a heated indoor pool. \$10. Registration required at 703-667-9800.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 16

Minimizing and Dealing with Challenging Behaviors. 1:30 p.m. Alzheimer's Family Day Center, 2812 Old Lee Highway, Suite 210, Fairfax. Free. Reserve at 703-204-4664.

FRIDAY/MAY 18

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

SATURDAY/MAY 19

Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. 11:30 a.m. Fairfax Country Club, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax. Brigadier General Gwen Bingham will be guest speaker. Open to the public. \$40. Reserve at mayweek@fcacdst.org or www.fcacdst.org.

PHOTO GALLERY! "Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

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Or to mail photo prints, send to:

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Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

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Reminders to Press Ahead for Housing

Spring discussion on hypothermia shelters could help preparations for winter.

In February, 2007, 59-year-old Robert Bruce Miller was found dead outdoors in Chantilly. Miller was homeless, known to businesses and residents in the area. He died of hypothermia, exposure to the cold.

Since that time, houses of worship and non-profit organizations have stepped into the gap, providing shelter from the storm on a “no-turn-away” basis from November to March.

In Fairfax County, about 35 houses of worship provide shelter to approximately 1,000 homeless men and women 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. Similar programs operate in Arlington and Alexandria.

An alarm went up over the past month as

some churches that have been providing hypothermia shelter heard that they could be barred from providing the service due to fire-code violations. While some faith leaders said they had heard as many as 18 would be unable to reopen, Sharon Bulova said that just four might have insurmountable fire code violations for serving as emergency shelters. Obviously no one wants to put both church volunteers and those seeking shelter at risk.

“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.

It’s important to recognize that providing shelter from life-threatening conditions is in fact a government function. Faith-based organizations and nonprofits are stepping in on this issue and many others to provide leadership, inspiration and services, saving local governments enormous sums of money.

The county should consider if it might be appropriate for firehouses with capacity might be open in rotation as hypothermia shelters, staffed with church volunteers, if some

churches cannot make the changes needed by fire code regulations.

More important is to recognize the need for hypothermia shelters as an indicator that we have not ended homelessness. Providing housing first to people who need a variety of services saves money and makes the most effective use of scarce resources.

Amanda Andere, head of FACETS, Catherine Hudgins, member of the Board of Supervisors, and others reminded the group concerned about the shelters that the real issue is housing.

“Shelter is a temporary solution. We need housing,” Andere said.

It is telling that many services are provided to the homeless men and women who come to the hypothermia shelters.

Housing advocates continue to press for more affordable housing. It’s a goal that is urgent to keep in mind as Fairfax County looks at what is likely to be its last massive growth in development, the increased density and building around the county’s coming Metrorail stations.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Protecting Student Loan Rate

Interest rates for student loans will double on July 1 unless Congress acts soon.

BY GERRY CONNOLLY
U.S. REP (D-II)

Rarely do I attend a gathering that includes Northern Virginia parents or high school and college-age students where I don’t hear concerns about the rising cost of attending college and the financial strain it puts on so many families. Those concerns are magnified at the moment because interest rates for student loans will double on July 1 unless Congress acts soon to renew the current 3.4 percent interest rate.

I have cosponsored legislation in the House to retain the lower interest rate so today’s college students and future students are not weighed down with additional interest debt, equaling about \$1,000 per year, as they strive to repay their loans for years after they graduate. Many young men and women are already struggling with repayment of their student loans for years after they enter the workforce. We shouldn’t put an additional financial burden on their shoulders.

The current interest rate for Stafford direct student loans was locked in 2007 when a bipartisan majority in Congress passed the loan bill and President Bush signed it into law. That legislation expires on July 1 and the rate will jump from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent on July 1 unless Congress acts to block the increase. Unfortunately, the House majority’s Ryan budget plan, which I opposed, specifically includes an increase in the rate.

Late last week, the House Republican leadership reversed itself and pushed through a



bill to maintain the lower rate for just one year. Unfortunately, they added a poison pill to the legislation that would cut health screening and prevention programs for women and children, including breast and cervical cancer screenings. This will never

make it into law.

If Congress fails to renew the lower interest rate, the ramifications will harm not only 7 million student borrowers nationally, but it also will slow the momentum of our economic recovery from the worst recession since the Great Depression. In Virginia alone, 177,000 students will face increased financing costs of \$145 million next year. That is on top of the average 8.3 percent increase in college tuition costs last year.

Further increasing out-of-pocket costs for higher education will siphon money away from other activities that stimulate the economy, and it will depress enrollment in our colleges and universities at the very time we need to spur greater interest in higher education and innovation to remain competitive. Already, U.S. colleges and universities rank 27th globally for the number of graduates they turn out with science or engineering degrees.

I am committed in ensuring that Congress stops this rate increase. We cannot afford to scale back the historic investments our nation

has made to make college more accessible to students and their families.

I was proud to support increasing the maximum Pell Grant award to the current level of \$5,550, and I opposed the recent House majority budget proposal to cut Pell Grant funding by \$166 billion and reduce benefits for 9 million students. In addition, I was pleased to help pass an increase in the tuition tax credit from \$1,800 to \$2,500. That tax credit alone has helped 4 million low-income students and their families achieve their dreams of attending college. Further, I supported legislation to allow qualified borrowers to deduct up to \$2,500 on interest paid on their student loans.

Congress must act soon to preserve the American dream of attending college. Access to higher education is essential for today’s young people if they are to succeed in the modern, global economy.

Expanding access to and the affordability of higher education benefits is important not only for our young people and their families, but also for our nation’s economic competitiveness and security.

Write Us

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

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The Connection
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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:

burke@connectionnewspapers.com

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

301-502-6027
rosspinning@yahoo.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor

703-778-9410
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
@jonroetman

ADVERTISING:

For advertising information

e-mail:

sales@connectionnewspapers.com

Steve Hogan

Display Advertising, 703-778-9418
shogan@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith

Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk

National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

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,

Craig Sterbutzel

Art/Design:

Laurence Foong, John Heinly,

John Smith

Production Manager:

Jean Card

Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher

Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427

Circulation Manager:

Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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NEWS

Community Champions

FROM PAGE 3

of the past to educate others by presenting to numerous historical and civic organizations throughout the region. We are lucky to have Don Hackenson—his thorough and precise historical scholarship AND his ability to make our history come alive is a wonderful asset,” McKay said.

Ned Foster – nominated by Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield)

Whether removing numerous tires, a truck cab, or various sized mattresses, Foster's work with the Friends of Little Rocky Run has had a positive effect on all residents of Fairfax County. His clean-up efforts have removed more than 3,000 garbage bags— that's more than 50 tons of discarded waste being cleared from Little Rocky Run's watershed, providing the community with cleaner water and a beautiful landscape.

Adult Over 250 hours - Terri Baker of Fairfax

To volunteer in the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, it is a given that the person should love animals. However, it is important to enjoy working with people as well. To ensure a match, Baker spends as much time as necessary so that each animal has created a strong bond with their potential adopter. Along with her volunteering on site, she also takes her work home. In 2011 alone, she fostered 15 pit bull pups; more than any other dog foster at the shelter. Baker's impact has been, and continues to be far-reaching. New volunteers benefit from her years of experience and thorough knowledge of the shelter. Members of the public receive top-notch customer service and detailed advice on shelter dogs. Each dog receives the kind and caring attention of a tireless canine advocate.

“Terri's passionate advocacy for shelter dogs is tempered by the realities of the challenges we face. She has wisdom and grace, and I have found myself admiring her more and more with each interaction,” said Rebecca Jewell, Volunteer Coordinator at the shelter.

Fairfax Volunteer Program - Fairfax County Animal Shelter Foster Program

Whether bottle-feeding neonatal animals, training puppies, or caring for turtles, the Fairfax County Animal Shelter can always depend on their Foster Program volunteers. In 2011, 410 animals were loved and cared for by dedicated foster volunteers in their own homes, many whose health would have been challenged had they stayed at the shelter until they reached adoption age. Because of the foster program, the shelter is no longer constrained to helping animals just within its four walls. Through their efforts, these animals are returned to the shelter and adopted into loving homes. Residents of Fairfax County who adopt a fostered animal benefit from the labor of love that is foster care.

PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION



Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) awards Ned Foster Community Champion for the Springfield District for his efforts helping remove more than 3,000 garbage bags from Little Rocky Run.



From left: Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) and Chris Mullens, executive director of UnitedHealthCare, present Terri Baker of Fairfax with a Volunteer Service Award. Baker was recognized for volunteering more than 250 hours last year at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.



Members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors award Rebecca Jewell and Kat Cornell a Volunteer Service Award. Jewell and Cornell accepted the award on behalf of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter Foster Program, which helped foster 410 animals in 2011.

“I see all the wonderful things that volunteers do for the animals in our care. For four and a half years, I managed the foster program and truly believe that each foster volunteer is a personal hero to the animals in their care. At times, I find it almost unbelievable that our organization is so lucky to benefit from such truly compassionate, selfless and giving individuals. The lives saved through their efforts number in the hundreds,” said Rebecca Jewell, Volunteer Coordinator of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

SCHOOLS

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).

❖ Alexandria Sutton of TJHSST (medicine).

❖ Mickeal Taylor of TJHSST (electrical engineering).

❖ Bryan Williams of TJHSST (computer science).

Each of the students received \$2,500 National Achievement Scholarships supported by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the NASP, with the exception of Tate, whose educational plans or other awards preclude receipt of a monetary scholarship. Her name is included in the public announcement in recognition of outstanding performance in the competition.



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Northern Virginia Residents Honored for Volunteer Efforts

Four locals receive Community Champions Awards for Health Care and Social Services to the Community.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Four Northern Virginia volunteers were honored for their charitable efforts recently. Edward Shahin of McLean, Marie Markey of Alexandria and Mattie Palmore and Kari Warren of Mt. Vernon received the Molina Healthcare Community Champions Award during a ceremony at the at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center in Fairfax.

"We are pleased to celebrate Marie, Ed, Mattie and Kari — individuals who have made such a positive impact in the lives of others through their selfless work," said Dr. Jean Glossa, medical director of the Fairfax County Community Health Care Network (CHCN) for Molina Healthcare. "Each of their stories is so inspiring, and the work

that they do to better the health and well-being of their communities is so important. It is our pleasure to not only recognize these four winners, but also to be able to support their worthy causes."

Palmore and Warren were honored for their work to support victims of domestic violence through their organization, the Women's Group of Mt. Vernon.

"This award means that the work that we do is not done in vain," said Palmore. "We don't do the work that we do for recognition. We do it to help the victims."

Markey, a volunteer at Annandale Christian Community for Action, is the coordinator and chair for the group's Family Emergency Assistance program. As a retired physical therapist, she also provides free physical therapy for clients at local free clinics.

"I believe that helping people is what one

should do if one has the time and the opportunity," she said. "The 'haves' should help the 'have-nots.'"

Shahin is a senior citizen from McLean who advocates on behalf of other Fairfax County seniors through his volunteer work at Lewinsville Senior Center and as one of the elected members of the McLean Community Center Governing Board.

"We don't do the work that we do for recognition. We do it to help the victims."

— Mattie Palmore, Mount Vernon

"I retired three times," said Shahin. "I was afraid to retire until I could fill my life with worthwhile pursuits. I have taken up causes on behalf of seniors and it is the most worthwhile thing that I have done. I am more proud of this award than any award that I have received for anything in the past because it is giving of myself to help others."



Four Northern Virginia volunteers receive Community Champions Awards for their service to the community. Pictured are: Dr. Jean Glossa of Fairfax County Community Health Care Network; Mattie Palmore and Kari Warren of Mount Vernon; Marie Markey of Alexandria; Ed Shahin of McLean; and Gloria Calderon of Molina Medical Group.

The winners were nominated by community-based organizations and received \$1,000 grants to donate to nonprofit orga-

nizations of their choice. Markey donated her grant to Annandale Christian Community for Action. Shahin gave his to the

McLean Rotary Club Foundation. Palmore and Warren gifted their grant to the Women's Group of Mt. Vernon.

Local Safety Net Clinics Seek a Few Good Doctors

Specialty care physicians and other medical professionals needed to serve low income, uninsured patients.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When Marie Markey of Alexandria retired from U.S. Air Force as a physical therapist, she rolled up her sleeves and went to work helping those in need. Markey works as a volunteer twice each week at the Arlington Free Clinic, offering physical therapy to the clinic's low income and uninsured patients.

"The clinic fills a huge gap," said Markey. "We have people who walk in who don't have access to medical care for basic illnesses like high blood pressure and diabetes."

Markey is motivated by a sense of responsibility to give back to the community. "If everyone did their part, the world would be better place," she said. "I had a patient once who was a construction worker. He'd had back surgery and needed physical therapy to recover fully. He

didn't have insurance and couldn't afford to pay for therapy. If he hadn't received free therapeutic services to help him recover, he would have lost his job."

NOVA SPECIALTY ACCESS, a project of the Northern Virginia Health Services Coalition is looking for more volunteers like Markey to provide medical services to low-income, uninsured patients from local "safety-net" clinics. The project matches patients with local medical specialists who volunteer their services.

The coalition has reserved several days in May and June for medical professionals, such as specialty care doctors, nurses, and nurse practitioners, to volunteer at Head to Toe Specialty Clinics. The clinics will give patients enrolled at area safety-net clinics an opportunity to receive specialty health care services, including diabetic eye

screening, foot care, diabetic nutrition counseling and audiology testing.

"The event is ... an important initiative where community members have the opportunity to get the health screenings they need," said Sterling resident Karen Rudat, nurse manager for Fairfax County Community Health Care Network.

Project officials say their most urgent shortage is of physicians: "Our greatest volunteer needs are for audiologists, podiatrists and ophthalmologists," said Ulrich. "If there are other specialists that come forward, we would add other services as well. The program is ongoing and we're hoping to generate interest even if it is not on these specific dates."

Health care professionals must hold a Virginia license and volunteer in an area that is consistent with their licensure.

VOLUNTEERS ARE CRITICAL to the mission of the clinics.

"We work with a fantastic group of volunteer physicians, mostly specialists. We are so grateful for their generosity as they give their time and talent to increase the quality and ac-

Volunteers Needed

"Head to Toe" Specialty Clinic for low income, uninsured patients.

♣ Saturday, May 19th - Loudoun Free Clinic, 224-B Cornwell St, Leesburg g.Va.

♣ Saturday, June 2nd-2: Community Health Care Network, Bailey's Crossroads — 6196 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church, Va.

♣ Saturday- June 30th- Prince William Area Free Clinic, St. Margaret's Clinic, (also for patients of the Family Health Connection) 13900 Church Hill Drive, Woodbridge, Va.

Two volunteer shifts: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. noon and 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Volunteers needed to fill the following slots:

♣ Registration Volunteers

♣ Translators

♣ Audiologists

♣ Nursing Volunteers

♣ Podiatrists

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♣ Volunteers must be 16 years or older.

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TO VOLUNTEER CONTACT: manager@novaspecialtyaccess.org or call (571-) 235-3577

cess to care," said Dr. Jean Glossa, medical director, Community Health Care Network of Fairfax County and Molina Healthcare^o "Without them, I don't know how some of our most vulnerable patients would be able to get the specialty care they need when they need it



Alexandria resident, Marie Markey, volunteers her time to low-income uninsured patients at the Arlington Free Clinic. Local safety-net clinics are looking for volunteers particularly specialty care doctors and nurses.

the most."

Services and availability vary from clinic to clinic. To be eligible for service at the safety-net clinics, patients must be adults who have a household income of 200 percent or less than the federal poverty level and no health insurance.^o Ulrich suggested that those interested in the services visit <http://novaclinics.org> to find a clinic that is right for them.

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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.

THURSDAY/MAY 3

Company of Thieves and Chris Merritt And The Dirty Girls. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.
Lupe Fiasco. 8 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$35-\$45, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 1-800-745-3000. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities by calling 703-993-3035.

FRIDAY/MAY 4

"Alice in Wonderland." 7:30 p.m. W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. \$5-\$10. 703-503-4759 or wtdrama.org.
Super bob and Almost Kings. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.
Robinson Crew Team Annual Plant Sale. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Burke Nursery & Garden Center, 9401 Burke Road, Burke. Proceeds benefit the Robinson Crew Team, a non-funded Fairfax County sport. Pre-purchase \$10 certificates from a grower or print out a flyer at www.robinsoncrew.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 5

Fairfax Civil War Day. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Historic Blenheim Estate, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Commemorating the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. \$5 adult, \$3 age 12 and younger. Proceeds benefit the restoration of the Historic Blenheim Estate. www.fairfaxva.gov or 703-591-0560.
❖ Demonstrations on blacksmithing with an 1862 traveling forge, railroads, naval artifacts, medicine, jewelry, toys, slave life and soldier research.
❖ Re-enactors will portray General Robert E. Lee, General Ulysses S. Grant, General George B. McClellan, Colonel John S. Mosby, photographer Matthew Brady and a "Yankee Schoolmarm."
❖ Talks on generals Lee, Grant and McClellan; Germans; and soldiers' ID tags.
❖ Demonstrations of a Howitzer cannon artillery gun, "boot camps" for children, author/vendor tents and more.
❖ Wagon rides through soldier camps, period music by Southern Horizon and period dancing.
❖ Guided tours of the first floor of the Blenheim house, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
"Alice in Wonderland." 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. \$5-\$10. 703-503-4759 or wtdrama.org.
HO Scale Model Trains and Lego Model Trains. 12-5 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Displays and running trains. \$3 adults, \$1 children. www.fairfaxstation.org or 703-425-9225.
New Dominion Chorale. 4 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Mendelssohn's Elijah, featuring soprano Esther Heideman, alto Laura Zuiderveen, baritone Timothy LeFebvre, tenor Issachah Savage and the New Dominion Chorale. Tickets \$5-\$30, available at cfa.gmu.edu/tickets, 703-993-2787, www.tickets.com or 888-945-2468.
Fairfax County Women in the NAACP Meeting. 1 p.m. Burke Center Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-470-2137, fairfaxvawin@aol.com or



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Molly Jacob and Gilbert Louis Braun III as, respectively, Alice and the Cheshire Cat in Woodson's "Alice in Wonderland in Steampunk." [See listings Friday and Saturday, May 4-5]

www.fairfaxvawin.com.
Yard Sale and Document Shred. St. Peter's in the Woods Episcopal Church, 5911 Fairview Woods Drive, Fairfax Station. Yard sale 8 a.m.-1 p.m., document shred 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Proceeds benefit church mission and outreach programs. www.spiw.org or 703-503-9210.
Spring Craft Sale. 4-6:30 p.m. St. Mary of Sorrows Parish Hall, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. All proceeds go to the parish. 703-323-6232 or 703-426-8092.
Women's Car Care Clinic. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Moore Automotive, 776 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax. Includes brunch. 703-352-3535 or www.mooreautomotive.com.
Salvation Army Fairfax World Services Dinner and Silent Auction. 5 p.m. 4915 Ox Road, Fairfax. Dinner tickets \$10 adults, \$5 age 2-10. 703-385-8700 ext. 21.
Ancient Technology Expo. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Discover ancient Native American technology as seen by Captain John Smith in 1608 with hands-on and Make & Take activities. Make an ancient style pot, grind corn, try spear-throwing (atlatl), create shell/bone jewelry and more. Enjoy archaeological artifact exhibits and photo galleries. \$3, under age 5 free. 571-258-3700.

SUNDAY/MAY 6

HO Scale Model Trains and Lego Model Trains. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Displays and running trains. \$3 adults, \$1 children. www.fairfax-

station.org or 703-425-9225.
Illuminare: Bouquet of Song. 7 p.m. Fairfax United Methodist Church, 10300 Stratford Ave., Fairfax. The Early Women's Music vocal ensemble Illuminare, directed by Vera Kochanowsky, presenting music by Morley, Weelkes, DuFay, Guerrero, Gabrieli and others. Free, donations accepted. 703-591-3120 or www.fairfaxumc.org.
Spring Craft Sale. 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. St. Mary of Sorrows Parish Hall, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. All proceeds go to the parish. 703-323-6232 or 703-426-8092.
Sanctuary Choir Abendmusik Concert. 4 p.m. Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main St., Fairfax. Music by Felix Mendelssohn, Gabriel Fauré, Egil Hovland, Ernani Aguiar, Ludwig van Beethoven, Sentences by Don Phillips of Franklin, Ken. and more. A string quartet will augment the church's 1978 Gress-Miles pipe organ. Free, donations accepted. 703-273-5300 or music@fairfaxpresby.com.
Choral Evensong. 5 p.m. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. A service of music, contemplation and prayer. Music of Herbert Howells and Craig Phillips by the St. Andrew's Adult Choir and organist Jay Wilcox. Free will offering. 703-975-5583 or libbyfike@speakeasy.net.

MONDAY/MAY 7

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.



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Teens Promote Diversity

Students find creative ways to promote diversity through volunteering.

By VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Joanna Shows remembers what it was like to be held back, just because she was a woman.

In the late 1940s, she told her college advisor that she wanted to be a world history teacher. He told her to stick to something “more appropriate for a woman,” insisting she could not possibly teach world history because she had not fought in any war.

The rebuke stung.

“It was that moment, and I think everyone has those moments, when I knew I wanted to do something to level the playing field,” Shows said.

To level the playing field, Shows, a retired Lake Braddock world history teacher, launched the annual American Association of University Women (AAUW) Diversity Awards ceremony for the Springfield-Annandale AAUW chapter.

“The community should be proud to know many high school girls, on a significant level, are consistently working to promote better understanding and appreciation of the differences among people in our society,” Shows said.

This year’s awards went to four high school juniors, who received grants from Apple Federal Credit Union. The ceremony was held Thursday, April 26, at the Braddock Hall in Burke.

The Winners:

❖ **Alishia Sampene** – Annandale High School

Sampene works with fourth graders at Bren Mar Park Elementary School. “I help with their homework, and I love the fact that they only look at inside of a person, not at the outside,” Sampene said. She also tutors students in Friends from Ghana two to three times each week. “I try to challenge them to make friends and give a helping hand,” she said. “I like to teach that when you give, it will be given back to you.”

❖ **Emily Domingue** – Lake Braddock Secondary School

Domingue, who has traveled the globe with her military family, recently lived in Indonesia before enrolling at Lake Braddock last year. “I went to an International School where there were most Korean students, so I was the minority. Diversity is such an amazing thing to me,” she said. To support various nonprofits that emphasize cultural diversity, she creates and sells origami art. She also created wristbands to help flood victims from Indonesia.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Diversity Award Winners: From left, back row: Emily Domingue and Sophia Kim; front row: Ji Young Lee and Alishia Sampene. The high school juniors were all American Association of University Women (AAUW) Diversity Award Winners during a ceremony at Braddock Hall in Burke on Thursday, April 26.

“The community should be proud to know many high school girls, on a significant level, are consistently working to promote better understanding and appreciation of the differences among people in our society.”

— Joanna Shows

❖ **Sophia Kim** – Robert E. Lee High School

Kim volunteers her time with a social and recreation club that helps teens with special needs that meets at Washington Irving Middle School.

“It’s a very diverse group. The students have taught me to be open-minded, and open my eyes to all the great people around me.”

❖ **Ji Young Lee** – West Spring-

field High School

Lee volunteers her time giving tours with the Smithsonian’s Korean Arts Foundation. Since 2010, she has given tours to promote the culture and language of Korea.

“It’s thrilling to think of people walking out of the tours with new information,” Lee said. “I give tours to all ages and nationalities – children, bored teens, adults, and grandparents, who usually give me a treat. It’s a wonderful way to broaden people’s views on other cultures.”

Area Students Win Top Honors in Virginia History Day Competition

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students from Springfield Estates Elementary School and West Springfield High School won top honors in their respective groups in the 2012 Virginia History Day competition, held recently in Williamsburg.

First place winners for their entry in the Junior Group Website category were Mekedas Belayneh and Michael Krause of Springfield Estates Elementary School for “What Hath God Wrought?” Deborah Witt is their teacher.

First place winner for her entry in the Senior Individual Exhibit category was Samantha Perlstein of West Springfield High School for “The Haitian Revolution.” Cathleen Boivin and Brian Planch are her teachers.

Also winning awards at the Virginia History Day competition were:

❖Karen Adjei of West Springfield High School, second place for “Black Panther Movement,” and Kris Kang of West Springfield High School, third place for “Dorothea Dix and the Asylum Movement” in Senior Individual Website.

❖Drake Dixon and Andrew

Han of West Springfield High School, third place for “Antibiotics” in Senior Group Website.

❖Amanda Nguyen, Morgan Akers, and Maggie Rabe of West Springfield High School, second place for “China’s One Child Policy” in Senior Group Exhibit.

❖Kylee Bush of Whitman Middle School, second place for “Suck It Up and Drive on Soldier—PTSD” in Junior Individual Exhibit.

❖Madeleine Poisson of Fairfax High School, second place for “We Will Not Be Silent: the German Student Resistance” and Megan Kitts of West Springfield High School, third place for “Baroque Music” in Senior Individual Documentary.

Lauren Miller, Miranda Grier-Spratley, and Marjorie Mika of Springfield Estates Elementary School, won a special award—the Naval Order of the United States Award in Naval History in the Junior Division—for their entry, “The Revolution of the Steamboat.”

Students who earned a first or second place award are eligible to compete in the National History Day competition at the University of Maryland, College Park, in June.

Burke Residents Recognized

Volunteer Fairfax, along with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, honored 117 local volunteers during the 20th Anniversary Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards sponsored by UnitedHealthcare on Friday, April 27, at the Waterford at Springfield in Springfield. The Awards is one of the largest community-wide recognition events for volunteers.

In Burke, the following residents have been nominated for a Fairfax County Volunteer Service Award:

❖Shavonn Austin volunteered at Shelter House, and is nominated for the Adult Volunteer 250 Hours & Under Award.

❖Doris Crawford volunteered at Special Olympics Virginia, Northern Virginia, and is nominated for the Senior Volunteer Award.

❖Carol Devery volunteered at Northern Virginia Training Center, and is nominated for the Adult Volunteer 250 Hours & Under Award.

❖Peggy Emery volunteered at Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program, and is nominated for the Adult Volunteer 250 Hours & Under Award.

❖Denise Kaelin volunteered

at MVLE, Inc., and is nominated for the Adult Volunteer 250 Hours & Under Award.

❖Sandra Koontz volunteered at Fairfax CASA, and is nominated for the Adult Volunteer 250 Hours & Under Award and the Benchmark 250 Award.

❖Ralph Soto volunteered at South Run RECenter, and is nominated for the Benchmark 250 Award.

❖Allison Wulff volunteered at Special Olympics Virginia, Northern Virginia, and is nominated for the Youth Benchmark 100 Award.

The Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards honors volunteers who are dedicated to improving life in Fairfax County. Whether they are helping neighbors in need, or building communities, volunteers are always finding new ways to continue the Legacy of Service, the theme of this year’s event. Individuals and groups will be honored for their work supporting such causes as mentoring children, the arts, healthcare programs, therapeutic recreation, animal rescue, homelessness and hunger.

For more information about this year’s nominees, or to purchase tickets, visit volunteerfairfax.org.

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21 Announcements

28 Yard Sales

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21 Announcements

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Mervyn Demello is requesting authorization to construct a 96-foot long by 6-foot wide, non-riparian, timber pier with a 280-square foot T-head and four (4) associated mooring piles adjacent to an easement granted by the Gunston Manor P.O.A. to the owner of Lot number 38 Block 17A, described as 5816 Mallow Trail situated along the Potomac River in Fairfax County.

Send comments/inquiries within 15 days to: Marine Resources Commission, Habitat Management Division, 2600 Washington Ave., Third Floor, Newport News, Virginia 23607.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Eastern Trading, Inc trading as Eastern Wholesale, 7942 Cluny Court #N, Springfield, VA 22153-2810. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Beer Importer, Wine Importer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Tok Son Na, President.
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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21 Announcements

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PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County does it again – from left: The 2012 Tree City USA Banner is unfurled by Jim McGlone of the Dept. of Forestry, Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (D-At-Large), Supervisor Linda Smyth, Providence District, Supervisor and Vice Chairman Penny Gross, Mason District, Supervisor John Cook, Braddock District, Virginia General Assembly Delegates, Vivian Watts, (D-39) and David Bulova (D-37) and State Senator David Marsden (D-37).

Celebrating Earth Day

Clean Fairfax Council hosts 2012 celebration.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

A fundamental part of the mission of the Clean Fairfax Council is to “encourage environmental stewardship and urban sustainability” in Fairfax County, working in partnership with numerous governmental agencies and volunteer groups. As the organizers of the Fairfax County Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration for more than 10 years, the Council insured that the 2012 event, held on Saturday, April 28 at the Fairfax County Government Center was loaded with educational workshops, demonstrations, exhibits, food and fun.

According to Ben Boxer, Public Information Officer with the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, every day is Earth Day/Arbor Day. It's just a matter of spreading the word. “Earth Day is about what we can do, not just what a government department can do,” said Boxer. “Most people are happy to participate. They just don't know what they can do as individuals,” he added.

Boxer and colleagues manned a tent that showcased their work on the eleven Certified Green Buildings in the County, including the vegetative roof at the Dolley Madison Library in McLean. The younger crowd was entertained by an educational “fishing hole” and a puppet show. The DPW also sponsored secured document shredding.

The Fairfax County Urban Forestry Management Division and

Virginia Department of Urban Forestry conducted tree identification walks and pruning and planting demonstrations throughout the day. Representing the animal kingdom of the County were staff from Reptiles Alive and the Wildlife Center of Virginia who took to the stage with some of their slithery and furry friends, introducing the audience to some of our native non-human neighbors.

Despite the chill in the air and the threat of rain, there were plenty of dignitaries on hand. Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, began the reading of the Board's unanimously approved Earth Day/Arbor Day Proclamation.

For more information, visit Cleanfairfax.org.

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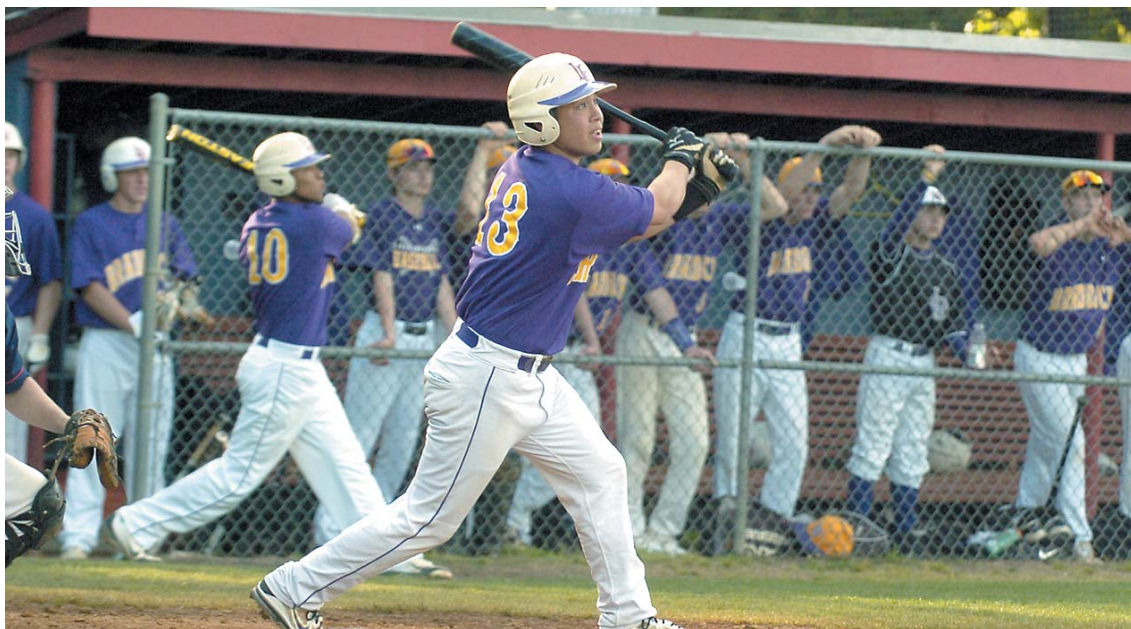


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock junior Alex Gransback hit a grand slam against Woodson on May 1 during the Bruins' 9-2 victory.

LB Baseball Versatile in Victory

Bruins beat Woodson with power, pitching and execution.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

After falling behind early in Tuesday's game at Woodson, the Lake Braddock baseball team put on a third-inning display of offensive versatility.

First it was sophomore Jack Owens loading the bases by laying down a sacrifice bunt so well-placed it turned into a hit. Two batters later, junior Alex Gransback cranked a grand slam over the center-field fence. Junior Alex Lewis then doubled off the fence in center and later stole third. After junior Mitch Spille delivered an RBI single, senior Matt Spruill executed a perfect hit-and-run, rolling a single through the right side of the infield where the Cavaliers' second baseman once stood.

LAKE BRADDOCK tallied six runs in the frame and cruised to a 9-2 victory on May 1 in Fairfax. The win improved Lake Braddock's record to a Northern Region-best 16-1, and showed how many different ways the Bruins can beat an opponent in the batter's box and on the base paths.

"We have the opportunity on offense to be able to win games in a lot of different ways," head coach Jody Rutherford said. "Tonight, we were able to do a couple things. Really, the situation of the game dictates what we're going to do. It's good to have options offensively."

With so many weapons at his disposal, Rutherford faces the challenge of not over-thinking his options.

"It's one of those things where you feel like you overdo it every time you get thrown out stealing a base or something like that," Rutherford said. "It's great when the hit-and-run works, but if the guy swings through it and we get thrown out, it doesn't work. You've got to not force the issue and let it come to you in the right situations based upon who's at bat and who's on the bases."

While craftiness and execution played a role in the Bruins' offensive output, the most influential blow delivered by the Lake Braddock lineup was a product of power. With the bases loaded and one out in the top of the third, Woodson pitcher Mike Thomas was one strike away from inching closer to escaping

a monumental jam. Instead, Gransback launched a 3-2 fastball to deep center, giving the Bruins a lead they would not relinquish.

"I think it just really changed the momentum of the game," Gransback said. "We were down [by two runs], not as loud and intense ... and it just shifted from there."

WOODSON ENTERED each of the first four innings with a different pitcher and used seven throughout the contest. Head coach Chris Warren said spreading the workload among the Cavaliers' staff was a way to deal with a three-game schedule this week. The strategy didn't stop Lake Braddock from producing at the plate.

"They're a good team and they put the ball in play," Warren said. "... We didn't really do the things we needed to do to stay in the game. At the end of the day, when you play a good team, you have to make plays, you have to eliminate mistakes and unfortunately, we just didn't do that tonight."

Lake Braddock senior Dylan O'Connor, Owens, Spille and Spruill each had two hits.

"I thought it was kind of a good idea," Gransback said of Woodson's pitching strategy. "I've never seen it. It worked for a few innings."

While the Lake Braddock offense produced nine runs, starting pitcher Michael Church bounced back from allowing two in the second. Woodson had five hits in the frame, including a pair of infield singles, but Church wasn't rattled. After the Bruins took the lead with six runs in the top of the third, Church retired the next seven batters he faced and 11 of the final 13. He pitched six innings, allowing seven hits and two walks while striking out five on his way to a win.

"I've always been taught to keep my composure on the mound," said Church, who will play at James Madison University next season. "If you show emotions on the mound, [an opponent is] just going to feed off that. ... [Gransback's grand slam] was huge. Down 2-0 — and I had a lot of pressure on me before that — but then after that it gave me a two-run lead, gave me some insurance runs. I'm just happy to have such a good offense to work with."

Woodson will travel to face Lee at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 4. Lake Braddock will host Annandale.

Poised for Big Postseason

Rams finish regular season over .500 at 6-5.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

It has been a season of streaks for the Robinson Rams boys' lacrosse team, which has won or lost this spring in bunches. But the Concorde District squad has been playing a good brand of lacrosse of late and appears to be at a good place with the postseason set to begin this Friday night with the start of the six-team district tournament.

"We were making poor decisions and turning the ball over, but we seem to be coming together as a group at the right time," said Robinson head coach Matt Curran, whose team closed the regular season with a close 6-5 loss at district opponent and defending Northern Region champion Chantilly High last Friday night. The loss snapped a three-game win streak by the Rams and put their record at 6-5 on the season.

Robinson, to start the season in mid-March, won its first three games - at Liberty District teams Stone Bridge, 10-9 on March 16, and Marshall, 18-6 on March 19; and at home over local rival Lake Braddock (Patriot District), 12-3, on March 20.

But that was followed by a string of four straight losses - at home to Woodson (Patriot District), 6-5 on March 26, and non-region opponent Kettle Run (Northwestern Region) of Nokesville, 12-10; and on the road at Concorde opponent Westfield, 7-6 on April 12 and perennial private school power Landon (Interstate Athletic Conference), 12-5 on April 14.

"We came out pretty hot, starting the season 3-0 with a great win in our first game against Stone Bridge," said Curran. "We then went on to lose four in a row. We played some good teams during that

stretch, but we were certainly not putting it all together in those games."

ROBINSON BROKE the four-game losing streak with a season-altering 7-6 district home win over Oakton in overtime on April 17 in the Rams' second district contest of the spring, improving their overall record to 4-4 and their mark in the Concorde to 1-1.

"I think the highlight of the season thus far was the overtime win against Oakton," said Curran. "We showed perseverance and were able to pull that



PHOTO BY LIZ SHAW

Hunter Jasien makes his move with the ball during the Rams' Concorde District home game.

one out."

In that hard-fought win over the Cougars, senior Clark Pietruszka, who made a switch from attack position to midfield, scored four goals, including the game-winner.

Robinson followed the dramatic win over Oakton up with district triumphs in its next two games - at Herndon, 13-7, on April 20, and home versus Centreville, 10-6, on April 24 before the three-game win streak was snapped with the one-goal loss to Chantilly on Friday.

Curran said key seniors such as Pietruszka; midfielders Hunter Jasien and Sean McShea; attackman Alex Barber; and defenseman Brady George have played outstanding over the spring.

Curran is looking forward to this week and next week's district tournament as well as the upcoming 16-team regional playoffs. The Rams will be a tough opponent for any team they face this postseason.

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Rarely available 6 BR, 2 1/2 BA Split Foyer on 1/4 Acre w/new roof, siding, windows & AC. Refinished 1st Flr HW. New Kit Flr & LL carpet.



Richard Esposito

703-503-4035

Richard@LNF.com

Service is the difference I provide



Fairfax Station **\$899,999**

This stunning colonial has over 5,000 sq. ft on 3 levels. It has 5 BR's 4.5 BA's and sits on 5 wooded acres. The spacious rooms are highlighted by the breath-taking views. One that must be seen! Richard Esposito 703-503-4035

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Annandale **\$534,900**

New Listing in Woodson HS
Five bedroom rambler with new kitchen, hardwood floors, family room addition, and much more. Backs to parkland and walking distance to elementary school.

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