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# News



Jan Hedetniemi, (center) a Tysons Task Force member and Braddock district resident, led a discussion on land use and environmental management during the first Braddock District Citizen Governance Conference at Frost Achievement Finance Park on Saturday, May 5. She was joined by facilitators Jane Gwinn (left), a former county zoning administrator and Marlae Schnare (right), Supervisor Pat Herrity's land use aide. Bill Barfield, chair of the Braddock District Council (standing) volunteered to take notes.

# **Grassroots Government 101**

# First Braddock 'Citizen Governance Conference' draws future decision-makers.

"This conference is

Braddock's future."

— Supervisor John Cook

designed to make

you a decision-

maker on the

course of

By Victoria Ross The Connection

itting in a conference room discussing issues such as land use, aging and transportation may not seem like the perfect way to spend a sunny Saturday afternoon.

But the opportunity to have a voice in the future dential because of a cluster of commercial and inof the Braddock district drew nearly 75 residents to dustrial sites. The Mount Vernon district has the least

the first Citizen Governance Conference, hosted by Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) at Frost Achievement Finance Park on May 5

"It's exciting to think you can have input in the direction of your community," said Edie Kasper, a resident who attended the conference to learn more about land use and environmental issues.

"This conference is designed to make you a decision-maker on the course of Braddock's future," Cook told participants. "My goal is de-

velop the Braddock philosophy, not the John Cook philosophy."

Each attendee received a three-ring binder filled with more than 100 pages of facts, figures, and maps about Fairfax County and the Braddock district.

**THE MORNING SESSION** included a review of the current comprehensive land use and transportation plans for Braddock, and a panel discussion that featured Rob Jackson of the McLean Citizen's Association and Suzette Kern, who represented the Lee District Budget Committee.

Anne Cahill, Fairfax County's demographer, gave a presentation on the Braddock District's demographic characteristics, providing charts illustrating

how the Braddock District compared to Fairfax County's other eight magisterial districts on a number of fronts – from the median age and market value housing to racial and ethnic diversity.

Based on figures from the 2010 U.S. Census, the Braddock District is 55.6 percent residential, compared to the Sully district, which is 35.8 percent residential because of a cluster of commercial and industrial sites. The Mount Vernon district has the least

amount of residential space (24.6 percent), owing to the Fort Belvoir complex and the Route 1 commercial corridor.

By contrast, the Dranesville district, which includes the wealthy suburbs of McLean and Great Falls, has the most residential development - nearly 65 percent - as well as the highest median market value of homes at \$660,463. Braddock's median home value is \$422,299, close to Fairfax County's median home value of \$429,155.

"We specifically designed the first half of the conference to provide context and background information that will help create Braddock's new citizen-governance structure," Cook said.

Evan Braff, with the Fairfax County Department of neighborhood & Community Services, facilitated the brainstorming session on Braddock's future during the afternoon session.

During the second half of the conference, attendees picked one of five breakout sessions that covered a specific policy area: Land Use and Environmental Management, Transportation, Aging in Braddock, Education, and the Fairfax County Budget.

"I was impressed by how comprehensive it was,"

SEE CITIZEN GOVERNANCE, PAGE 5



Lake Braddock student Emmanuel Terkper dances with teacher Christine Raeuber at the "Day Prom" organized by Herndon High School and held in Fairfax at the Waterford at Fair Oaks.

# Day Prom at Waterford

Herndon School hosted a very special prom at the Waterford at Fair Oaks in Fairfax. Called the "Day Prom" the event is held for students with special needs that might not be able to attend their general education prom. "It is also a learning event. Students get a socialization experience and practice skills that will transfer to any social or family event, from the RSVP, to how to dress, to how to behave, dancing, eating and interacting with new people,"

said Kathy Khair of Herndon High High School, who organized the event. Now in its 11th year, the Day Prom was conceived by two teachers at Herndon High School: Chris Pascarella and Anna Albsta, and four schools attended. This year, 179 students from eight schools participated in the three-and-a-half hour event: Herndon High School, Oakton High School, Fairfax High School, Westfield High School, Lake Braddock High School, Kilmer Center School, South Lakes High School and Centreville High School.



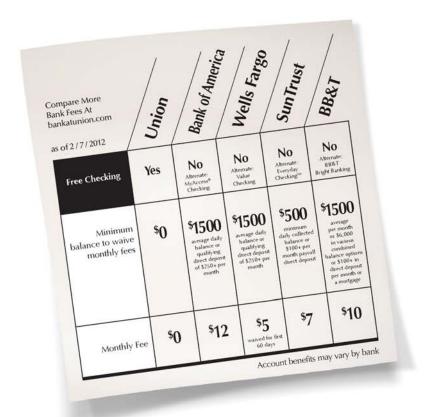
Fairfax High School students Amal Saleh (left) and Natalia Lopez take a breather during the "Day Prom".



Best friends Giselle Brito-Lopez of Fairfax High School and Teresa Petrizzo of Centreville High School get time to spend with each other at the "Day Prom".



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everything

-Johann

Wolfgang von Goethe

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# News

# Promoting 'Citizen Governance'

From Page 3

said resident Mark O'Meara, a Robinson Secondary School's Athletic Boosters, who was interested in the education committee.

"This is one of the most exciting things to happen in Braddock in a long time," said Jan Hedetniemi, a Tysons Task Force member and Braddock resident, who led the breakout session on land use and environmental management.

"You will have a say in what Braddock looks like in the future," Hedetniemi told participants of the land use session, clearly the most popular breakout session with more than 30 attendees. "We're on the cusp of developing the means to help the Supervisor get informed and comprehensive input on land use and environmental management.

"I want to foster a group that will develop expertise in land use issues," he said. "I don't think I should establish (land-use) policy or approach. It should be residents of the district."

Cook said an upswing in land use applications in the district was a motivating factor for holding the conference: His office has seen a spike in residential in-fill development applications, where developers seek to add small numbers of homes in still undeveloped lots.

In addition to residential development, the new part of the Braddock district, along Lee Highway from Shirley Gate to the Fairfax County Government Center, includes a swath of high-end commercial development.

Fairfax Corner - a mixed-use development that offers mainstreet style shopping, local boutiques, trendy restaurants, offices space and residential real estateis the type of development that brings opportunities and challenges.

"Fairfax Corner has significant land use activity," Cook said, adding that while commercial development increases the economic base and adds jobs, it also creates traffic congestion and impacts the environment, particularly storm water management issues.

### COOK SAID HIS GOAL WAS to

establish a committee with a nonpartisan, rational approach to land use and environmental management for the coming decade.

"Our new Braddock Land Use committee will have citizens review these applications, develop expertise in land use law and policy, and over time, establish a 'Braddock-style' approach to land use," Cook said.

Kiel Stone, Cook's chief of staff,



Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) dropped in on the transportation breakout session during the first Braddock District Citizen Governance Conference at Frost Achievement Finance Park on Saturday, May 5.



All in favor, say aye: Braddock residents John Rephlo and Edie Kasper raised their hands to signal their interest in serving on the newly-formed land use and environmental committee.



Tena Bluhm, chair of the Fairfax County Commission on Aging, helped to lead the breakout session on Aging during the first Braddock District Citizen Governance Conference.

said a lot of the "nuts and bolts" issues still need to be determined. "At the end of the day, there was vibrant communication and this conference will enhance Supervisor Cook's earlier citizen engagement initiatives."

Cook said the number of new

"Our new Braddock Land Use said a lot of the "nuts and bolts" faces he saw at the conference was ommittee will have citizens re- issues still need to be determined. the best part of the conference.

"Let's not let this drop today," he told the group during the wrap-up session. "Stay involved. Talk to your neighbors. A community of engaged citizens has the potential for extraordinary accomplishments."



Guiseppe "Joe" Ricciardi and his wife Sharon at their new restaurant, Dolce Veloce Cicchetti Wine Bar in Fairfax.

# Dolce Veloce Opens in Fairfax

Casual, elegant wine bar is located at 10826 Fairfax Boulevard.

By Victoria Ross The Connection

hen Guiseppe "Joe" Ricciardi and his wife Sharon were dating, they loved going to restaurants that served good wine and small plates of food.

"They call them 'cicchetti," said Joe Ricciardi, who came to the United States from Italy when he was 14-years-old. "They're like tapas, and they're typically served in cicchetti bars in Venice, Italy."

"We were young, and we didn't have a lot of money," Sharon Ricciardi said, "so we enjoyed going to wine and cheese places that were comfortable, a place where you could talk and eat."

Although Joe Ricciardi established himself as a successful chef and businessman when he opened Dolce Vita in the City of Fairfax in 1995, he said he always wanted to re-create the casual, intimate feeling of the cicchetti bars in Italy.

This year, he got his wish. He opened Dolce Veloce Cicchetti Wine Bar next door to the popular Dolce Vita. The new wine bar stocks more than 300 wines (40 by the glass), and serves an assortment of cicchetti, such as crisp Sicilian rice balls, Panini, fried zucchini, crab cakes, small pizzas, plates of olives, cured meats and Italian cheeses. He often uses herbs he grows outside his restaurant to flavor his dishes.

"He loves making people happy with good food and good wine," Sharon Ricciardi said. "He treats everyone like family, and he probably knows about 80 percent of the people who



Guiseppe "Joe" Ricciardi at Dolce Veloce Cicchetti Wine Bar in Fairfax, which stocks 300 wines and serves 40 by the glass.

come to the restaurant."

Joe Ricciardi said guests can enjoy wine tastings and cicchetti at the new wine bar, which features a modern, elegant dining room, or they can enjoy pre-dinner drinks if there's a wait at Dolce Vita.

Wine aficionados can also join the Dolce Veloce Wine Club. Club members receive free wine tastings of monthly features wines, invitations to wine events, monthly newsletters and more.

"The thing I love about being a chef is the creativity you can express, putting things together to create a wonderful dish, and making people happy," Joe Ricciardi said. "There's nothing better than that."

Dolce Veloce is located at 10826 Fairfax Boulevard in Fairfax. For more information about the wine bar or Dolce Vita, call 703-385-1226 or go to www.dolceveloce.com.

# OPINION

# Transparency, Technology and Tolls

With E-Z Pass transponder on the windshield, you should know what you're about to pay; whatever it is, it's going up.

espite the high number of drivers in Northern Virginia who already have an E-Z Pass transponder, when the HOT-Lanes open on the Beltway, there will be pressure for many more drivers to subscribe.

VDOT is now proposing to tack on an additional \$1 a month fee for each E-ZPass transponder. Note that is per transponder, not per account, so in a household with multiple cars and multiple transponders, the additional annual charge could be \$36, \$48 or \$60.

There are 900,000 transponders in use in Virginia now, with an expected need for more than 400,000 more coming with the new I-495 Express Lanes.

Driving through the E-ZPass lane on the Dulles Toll Road without stopping while cars without a transponder line up to slog through

### EDITORIAL

is one advantage. The two other places one can use the E-ZPass in Northern Virginia are the Dulles Greenway and, soon, the "express lanes" on the Beltway.

One of the disadvantages of using the E-ZPass is that you seldom know how much you are paying, and it's significant. Signs with full information about tolls are few and far between, and so far nonexistent on some roads.

Motorists will need an E-ZPass transponder to ride in the Beltway express lanes. Vehicles with three or more people will be able to drive in the express lanes for free if they have a Flex transponder which has a switch that identifies carpoolers, but which also costs more than a regular transponder.

It is worth noting that 100 percent of the tolls from the Beltway HOT-lanes will be collected by the private company that is building them, without any revenue sharing with the Commonwealth. If it is really VDOT's responsibility to maintain the system to collect those tolls, then that is a failure in the crafting of the contract to build the lanes. Apparently all E-ZPass account holders will be paying for the contractor's collection of funds.

Meanwhile, we're still not sure what it will cost to drive in the express lanes, but we do know that the amount will vary depending on traffic. We can only hope that signs will make it clear how much it will cost.

Today VDOT approved four new signs for the Greenway that will at least let drivers know how much they are paying. The answer is more than \$5 each way, not counting the new fee per transponder.

VDOT will not hold public hearings on this, although it should. It will be accepting emailed comments. Visit www.virginiadot.org/e-zpass directly or submit comments vdotinfo@vdot.virginia.gov.

— Mary Kimm,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Bunny Man Bridge: A Dangerous 'Attraction'

Some Fairfax County residents are aware of the Bunny Man urban legend in one form or another. Whether it be an axe wielding bunny man or an escaped convict or a depraved rabbit stew connoisseur, versions of the legend abound. Some versions are tied to Colchester Overpass, a Norfolk Southern Corporation (NSC) railroad overpass spanning Colchester Road in Fairfax Station. Colchester Overpass is sometimes referred to as Bunny Man Bridge. In nearby Clifton, t-shirts advertising Bunny Man Bridge as a local attraction are sold in the General Store. Though some are aware of this local curiosity, very few are aware of a very real danger there. Unconvinced? Just ask the individuals involved in the railroad trespass arrests that have occurred at Colchester Overpass since October 2011.

The recent string of arrests has little to do with legend and plenty to do with a matter of public safety. At the heart of this matter is an active railway. The railroad tracks at Colchester Overpass are the same tracks that run through Clifton. They are NSC tracks used by Virginia Railway Express (VRE), Amtrak, and NSC trains. Weekly VRE and Amtrak traffic

accounts for at least ninety trains. Add the NSC freight traffic and the weekly total is easily in excess of one hundred trains. As anyone that has waited at the Clifton Road rail grade crossing can attest, these trains speed by at fifty to seventy five miles per hour. They are moving at the same speed when they cross Colchester Overpass. Unlike the grade crossing at Clifton this is an overpass so there are no

warning signals and the trains offer no approaching whistle. Shouldn't be a problem since vehicular traffic travels underneath the overpass, correct? Think again.

Though vehicular traffic is safe, Colchester Overpass surprisingly receives an inordinate amount of pedestrian traffic on the active railway. How can this be? During April 2011, local residents discovered a disturbing fact on the Internet. While researching the Bunny Man legend, long embedded on the cyber sphere, multiple YouTube videos and various blogs promoting railroad trespass at Colchester Overpass (Bunny Man Bridge) were discovered. Normally, active railways are not advertised as destination locations. In this case, the location is "advertised" as a great place to experience a thrill on the

Curiosity seekers are drawn to the overpass through the Internet exposure. Perhaps unaware of the railway traffic they proceed onto the tracks, twenty five feet above

Colchester Road, endangering themselves in the process. Unknown, unattended and often occurring at night, this scenario had been in place for several years. The potentially lethal mix of pedestrians and trains was recognized as a very real public safety danger.

Discovery of this information led to several meetings. As a result, local residents teamed with law enforcement in implementing the following actions. First and fore-

enforcement at the overpass has been enhanced. The Sully District Police Station (FCPD) has always done an outstanding job in supporting the neighborhood at the overpass and continues to do so. Starting in October 2011, the NSC police department became engaged. Since then FCPD and NSC police have actively enforced no trespass at the overpass. Second, NSC installed additional No Trespass signage. This may not seem significant but it has increased the consequences of trespass enormously. What was once a Class IV misdemeanor for railroad trespass (\$250 fine) is now a Class I misdemeanor for Trespass on Posted Property. In Fairfax County, this is punishable by up to twelve months in jail and a fine of \$2500. Finally, in a public service announcement effort on the Internet, a new website has been created and can found www.colchesteroverpass.org. The informational website provides awareness of the safety danger and potential consequences at the

The actions taken to address the insidious Internet "advertisement"

for Bunny Man Bridge have changed the circumstances at this local curiosity. This affects not only local residents but others as well. Since October 2011, the string of arrests related to railroad trespass at Colchester Overpass has included both juveniles and adults. Many were

high school students from distant Fairfax County schools. Some were not old enough to drive but caught a ride. In April 2012 alone, five arrests were made. Ironically, by being

arrested, these individuals are being protected from themselves. Curiosity seekers of all ages from the greater Washington D.C. metropolitan area and beyond are get-

unexpected surprise when they trespass on the railroad tracks at Colchester Overpass.

Increased public awareness of the safety danger and potential consequences at the overpass could prevent additional arrests or most importantly, save a life.

> Randy M. Abeyta Fairfax Station

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to: Letters to the Editor The Connection 1606 King St. Alexandria VA 22314 Call: 703-917-6444. By e-mail: south@connectionnewspapers.com

# Burke

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# News

# County Launches Project To Combat Lyme Disease

Twenty feeding stations set up in two parks as part of three-year study.

> By Victoria Ross The Connection

fter an unseasonably warm winter, Fairfax County health officials are bracing for a proliferation of tick infestations as well as a potential surge in new cases of Lyme disease.

Lyme disease, which is spread through the bite of an infected blacklegged tick, has been on the rise in Fairfax County in the past decade.

"Northern Virginia is ground zero for Lyme disease," said Congressman Frank Wolf (R-10). "Anything that we can do to raise awareness and educate people is critically important."

This year, Fairfax County has a new tool in the arsenal to fight Lyme disease. In March, the county set up 20 deer feeding stations —five in Hemlock Overlook Regional Park in Clifton, and 15 in Sully Woodlands in Chantilly - that use corn to bait deer and treat the deer with a pesticide to kill ticks before they infect humans.

**THE FEEDING STATIONS**, called "4-Poster" deer treatment station, are part of a pilot study to control tick infestations on white-tailed deer at two test sites in the county using a "4-poster" deer treatment station technology.

According to Jeremy Everitts, an environmental technician in the county's Wildlife Biologist Office, a total of four posts that resemble paint rollers are placed on the corners of the station next to two shallow feeding troughs.

The posts are saturated with a pesticide (10 percent permethrin) used to kill ticks on the deer.

"A deer rubs its head and neck against the rollers as it lowers its head to the trough to feed on the corn at the station," said Everitts. "This direct contact results in a self-application of the pesticide on the deer. The pesticide is further spread on the deer's body during regular grooming activity."

Everitts emphasized that the "4-Poster" pilot study is a tick control study only, not a tick transmitted disease control or prevention study.

The Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist's Office is conducting the study to see if the pesticide will reduce transmission of ticks to humans and to research the practicality of the feedings stations. The threeyear study on controlling tick infestations will run until 2015 and will cost about \$380,000, according to county officials.

It's a program that Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) has been lobbying for since 2009 when he hosted a joint town hall symposium on Lyme disease with Supervisor Michael Frey (R-Sully) and Wolf that drew more than 200 people.

"It's about time we got this program started," Herrity said. "The Board of Supervisors approved the project in 2009."

Herrity said he became concerned about the prevalence of Lyme disease after hearing from many of his constituents afflicted with the disease.

"We have an epidemic that we're largely ignoring," he said.



Jeremy Everitts and Christina Bankert, with the Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist Office, show Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), one of the 4-poster deer bait stations at Hemlock Overlook Regional Park in Clifton on Monday, May 7. Herrity was instrumental in getting the deer bait stations up and running at the parks. "My hope is that we get through the pilot program, and get them on golf courses and other areas where there are concentrations of ticks," Herrity said.

### What to Do if Bitten

- Gently pull the tick straight out by grabbing the tick as close to the skin as possible with tweezers.
- Place the tick in a bottle or bag labeled with the patient's name, address and date the tick was removed.
- \* Have the tick identified and tested by a lab, health
- department or veterinarian ❖ Seek immediate treatment if tick tests positive for Lyme

Sources: The National Capital Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Association, Fairfax County Health Department

According to Fairfax County Health Department officials, 260 cases of Lyme disease were reported in Fairfax County in 2009, a record high. Officials with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said that 900 new cases of Lyme disease were reported in Virginia in 2009, a number the CDC acknowledges could be ten times higher due to underreporting and inaccurate diagnostic tests.

**IN 2011**, the number dropped to 146 reported cases in Fairfax County.

But Herrity said he expects this year to be as bad as or worse than 2009. "It's been a mild, dry winter, and I can already tell from being out in the woods that (ticks) are proliferating."

A deer tick takes about 36 hours to transmit Lyme disease, according to the CDC. The longer the disease goes undiagnosed and untreated, the greater the chances are for brain, heart and joint problems.

"For Swine Flu, we went on full red-alert, but more people are afflicted with Lyme disease, and it's time we take it seriously," Herrity said.

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# Home Life Style

(From left) Rob Airaghi, Lynne Garvey-Hodge, Joe and Vickie Luchini and Brant Baber hold the paintings of their homes done by artists Trudi Arnold and **Peggy Cranston. They were** honored Sunday at a homeowners' reception at the Fairfax Station home of Sharon and Mark Gottlieb. (Not pictured are Kathy Kalinowski and Lisa and Paul Brockman).



Рното в BONNIE HOBBS

# Clifton Rolls Out the Welcome Mat

### It's the 40th annual Spring Homes Tour.

BY BONNIE HOBBS THE CONNECTION

rench chandeliers, antique furnishings, original paintings and whimsical collections are among the delights awaiting all those attending the 40th annual Clifton Spring Homes Tour. It's slated for Thursday, May 17, from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., and includes a marketplace, silent auction and raffle, from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Paradise Springs Winery.

Lunch will be available at Clifton eateries; and the winery, at 13219 Yates Ford Road, will sell box lunches with advance reservations (made by May 15) at 703-830-9463. Culminating the day's events will be a "Wine Down," also at Paradise Springs, from 3-6 p.m., featuring a performance by the Steve Smith Blues Duo.

Tickets are \$25 in advance; \$30 on tour day; singlehome admission is \$10. There's no charge to enter the winery for the marketplace or silent auction. And Homes Tour Co-Chair JoAnne Gallo says it's a great way to have fun.

"We want people to enjoy visiting the homes," she said. "Then we hope they'll come to the winery after touring, buy lots of raffle tickets, meet their friends, husbands and significant others and stay for the wine and music."

Putting on the tour is the Clifton Community Woman's Club (CCWC), and all net proceeds support its Charitable Trust which contributes to several local charities, student scholarships, food banks and causes including the Yellow Ribbon Fund, which aids injured soldiers and their families.

The homes tour is the trust's primary fundraiser and generally attracts some 600 visitors from throughout the Washington Metropolitan area. As a result, over the past six years alone, the Trust has contributed more than \$120,000 to help others.

"Every year, we're able to donate approximately \$20,000 to our Charitable Trust," said Gallo. "We're a small club of just 80-90 members, and we work hard to make the money to donate to the trust."

This year's event features four homes, plus the newly renovated Acacia Lodge on Main Street. Opening their houses to the public are Kathy Kalinowski and Brant Baber, Lisa and Paul Brockman, Lynne



Luchini House - this is a yellow, New England saltbox in a wooded setting.



**Brockman House - family heirlooms make** this home warm and inviting.

Garvey-Hodge and Rob Airaghi, and Vickie and Joe

"This year, we have three homes older than 100 years," said event Co-Chair Diane Smith. "And our tour is fairly compact; people won't have to drive a long way between houses. The Acacia Lodge has never before been on the spring homes tour. And inside the lodge will be an information table with a video of what the CCWC does, plus cookies and lem-

For ticket-sales locations and more information about the features homes, go to www.cliftoncwc.org or contact Gallo at jgallo.jbg@verizon.net or Smith at mds727@cox.net.

There'll be a variety of vendors at the marketplace, offering items including hand-woven baskets, beaded

SEE CLIFTON HOMES, PAGE 11

### Free Remodeling & Design Seminars!



Sat., May 19th — 10am-2pm

Where: 5795B Burke Centre Pkwy, Burke, VA 22015 (behind Kohl's)

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

### Saturday's Seminars:

- Kitchen and Bath Trends
- Paint Colors Made Easy 10 Tips for a Stress-Free Remodel

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

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

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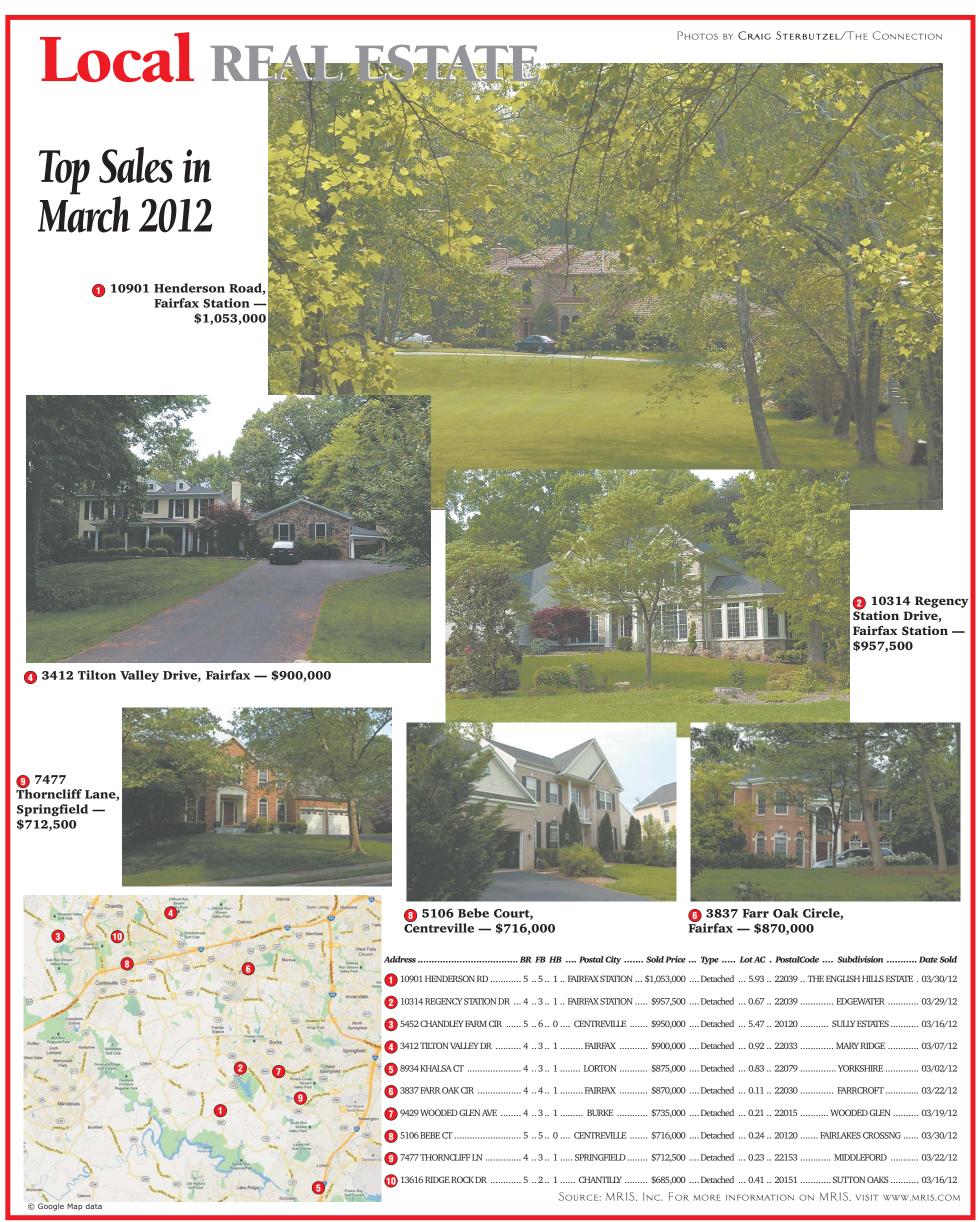




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# Home Life Style

Clifton Homes on Display

From Page 9

and wire jewelry, name art, ceramics, decorative glassware and tableware, handbags with interchangeable covers, skin-care products, fine-art portraits and pictures made of crushed/fused glass.

Items to be raffled off will include gift certificates and merchandise donated by restaurants, woman's club members and local businesses. Raffle tickets will be available at the winery.

At the silent auction, instead of gift baskets, attendees will bid on gift certificates for items such as golf foursomes, hair-salon and spa visits, fine dining, tickets for the GMU Center for the Arts, and a week at a time share.

All in all, said Gallo, "It'll be a wonderful day - a day to peek in other people's houses, get together with friends, have lunch, shop and have a really nice

### **BABER HOUSE**

Built in 1880, the Victorian farmhouse of Kathy Kalinowski and Brant Baber on Ford Lane boasts its original tin roof, white-oak siding, yellow-pine floors, banister and mantelpieces. A 19th-century gas chandelier (now electrified) adorns the two-story hall in the home they've lived in for three decades.

Also decorating the home are a Chippendale sofa, Queen Anne chairs, a gilded French-horn chandelier made in Paris, an antique French bookcase and a floor-to-ceiling mirror which once hung in an English manor house. There's a painting of George Washington which was in the Smithsonian 100 years



**Baber House - this charming, Victorian** farmhouse was built in 1880.

ago, plus an Andrew Copen painting of the Boston Market that came from John Kennedy's senate of-

### **BROCKMAN HOUSE**

Horses grazing in a field by a red barn, a columned porch and family heirlooms make the home of Paul and Lisa Brockman warm and welcoming. This 19thcentury farmhouse on Yates Ford Road contains a bookcase that belonged to Paul's father and now holds a collection of Lisa's grandmother's Quimper pottery. There's also a large, decorative pot from the Waldorf Astoria.

The house features many pieces of furniture custom-made from reclaimed wood, especially the farmhouse table and corner cabinet in the dining room. At each end of the table are wing chairs, upholstered

SEE SPRING, PAGE 12



Rudy Shields, Agent

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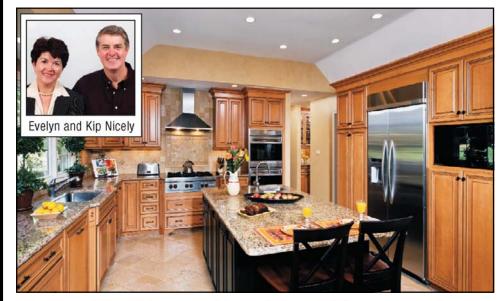
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When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. **Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times** 

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\$359,000....Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812 3243 Decourcey Ct.

### Burke

10605 Lakeside Oak Ct	\$367,000	Sat 1-4	Ali Farhadov	Solutions 703-750-1450
9507 Ashbridge Ct	\$368,900	Sat 2-4	Vladimir Gherman	Belinsky703-909-5487
6418 Birch Leaf Ct	\$334,900	Sun 1-4	Theodosia Dampier	

### Centreville

6505 Trillium House Ln	\$539,900	Sat 2-5	Stephen Lefave	.Samson Props.	703-896-5849
14215 Rock Canyon Dr	\$623,900	.Sun 1-4	Jeffrey Stein	Jefferson.	.703-539-8000

### Clifton

12208 Yates Ford Rd	\$549,000Sat 12-3	Harry HasbunK	eller Williams703-330-2222
13436 Compton Rd	\$589,900Sun 1-4	Dennis Hogge	RE/MAX703-830-2233
6701 Rock Fall Ct	\$685,000Sun 2-4	James Nellis	RE/MAX703-503-4375

### **Fairfax**

12560 Royal Wolf Pl	\$529,700	Sun 1-4	Carol Hermandorfer	Long & Foster703-503-1812
3436 Preservation Dr	\$1,124,999	Sat 1-3	Mary Thyfault Clark	RE/MAX703-563-2210
10020 Middlegate Dr	¢560,000	Cup 1.4	Dan Mloziva	DE/MAY 702 200 0015

### **Fairfax Station**

10830 Olm Dr\$99	9,4505un 1-4	Kon Griffin	Weichert 5/1-255-0/82
7209 Laketree Dr\$91	4,950Sun 1-4	Kathleen Quintarelli	. Weichert 703-862-8808

# Kingstowne/Alexandria

5620 Glenwood Dr	\$999,000Sun 1-4.	Janet PriceMcEnearney703-960-5858
5921 Founders Crossing Ct #304	\$329,000Sat 11-4.	Jorge GuillenKeller Williams703-563-1761
6001 Chicory Pl	\$349,999Sat 1-4.	
6036 Buttercup Ct	\$375,000Sat 1-4.	Ann-Marie GrotticelliColdwell Banker703-518-8300
6100 Gardenia Ct	\$360,000Sun 1-4.	Jim SouvagisLong & Foster703-919-9191
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> To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Steve Hogan at 703-778-9418 or e-mail the info to shogan@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

# Home Life Style

# Spring Homes Tour Returns May 17

From Page 11

by Lisa in old grain sacks. Whimsical touches include a picket-fence headboard, antique shoe-form collection, African headdress and bunny weathervane

### **LUCHINI HOME**

The Tepper Drive home of Vickie and Joe Luchini is a yellow, New England saltbox in a wooded setting. The couple designed it themselves to remind Vickie of the ones she loved so much in New York and Vermont. Visitors are greeted by a soaring stone fireplace, and the front-hall walls begin the home's color scheme of deep golds, greens and reds. Combined with the black-walnut floors and Oriental carpets, they create a dramatic backdrop for the Luchinis' collection of 18th-century, English oak fur-

Their oil paintings include impressionistic waterscapes by Kevin Fitzgerald, plus a rendition of West Virginia's Tygart River by Lynn Boggess. Scenes by Martin Poole hang on the staircase and in the den. Since Vickie loves British things, the home also features a pub sign embellished with the Royal Coat of Arms and a painted chest honoring Lord Nelson.

### AIRAGHI-GARVEY-HODGE HOME

Recently engaged, Lynne Garvey-Hodge and Rob Airaghi named their home on Blue Dan Lane "Amami Sempre" (love me forever). Overlooking rolling hills and paddocks, it's a serene setting for what was originally an 1870s farmhouse and is now adorned with



Blue Dan - this home features original paintings and items gathered around the world.

heart-pine floors and five-paneled doors, plus antiques in each room, such as quilts and needlework stitched by previous generations.

Lynne's own paintings, drawings, watercolors, oils many featuring scenes of the local area – abound. Also on display are her collection of snails in crystal, pottery and silver, plus international souvenirs from Rob's career as an Air Force officer in places such Berlin and Cairo. They include a massive, German cupboard and a decorative, 17th-century French mirror.

### **ACACIA LODGE**

The Acacia Masonic Lodge represents more than 130 years of Freemasonry in Clifton. It was originally built as a saw mill on Popes Head Creek in the 1870's. The Freemasons purchased the building in 1903 and moved it to Main Street in 1920. It was the first building in town with electricity and is registered as a Historic Landmark.

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## #1 Weichert Agent in Burke & Fairfax Station





### **Burke** \$574,950

**Premium Cul-de-sac Location** Immac home on quiet cul-de-sac w/ gorgeous new baths w/ porcelain tile, remod eat-in kit w/ hrdwd flr, tile splash & gas cooktop, fin basement, spacious master suite w/ vaulted clngs, walk-in closet & blt-in tv cabinet, new carpet, fresh paint, stone walk, replaced roof, windows & much more.

Kathleen Quintarelli



multi-lvl deck w/ hot tub, SUNROOM, 5BR, 4.5BA, spectacular kit w/ Wood-Mode Cabinets & Sub-zero & Thermador appliances, walkout bsmt w/ custom bar & office w/ blt-in desk, gorgeous remod MBA, Hardi-plank siding, new dual zone HVAC, walk to lake & more.



### Renovated to Perfection

Mint condition colonial on premium fenced lot backing to woods w/ deck, screen porch, remodeled eat-in kit w/ maple cabs, walkout bsmt w/ in-law suite, 4BR, 3.5BA, gas heat, updated baths, fmlyrm w/ blt-ins



### \$519,950



### **Remodeled Kitchen**

eat-in kit w/ maple cabs, granite cntrs, gas cooktop & double ovens, dramatic 2 story fmlyrm w/ frplc & skylts, deck, fenced yard, fin bsmt w/ full bath, huge master suite w/ sittingrm & cathedral clngs, MBA w/ sep tub & shower

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# My mom, Maria Kinzer, helping me, RuthElisa Kinzer do my homework on my laptop.



# Mother's Day Photo Gallery



Madi, Jade and Morgan in the back and Carolyn and Chloe in the chair. Christmas time at the Herrera's in Burke.



Stephanie Seeley and her 4-year-old little boy Mack Bell. The picture was taken after church on a beautiful Sunday afternoon in the backyard of their home.

Lonna Seibert Taylor, of Burke, with daughters Vivian (left) and Daphne on April 5, at Frying Pan Park.





# RETIREMENT SALE! EVERYTHING GOES! STORE CLOSING!

**Fixtures For Sale** 

## **50% OFF ENTIRE STORE!**

**50%** off Daymor, JSS and Toula Knits, Ursula, Jovani, and more! All After 5 gowns now half off!

**60%** off sportswear, separates, evening separates, cocktail dresses, pant suits, sweaters, and MORE!

**75-80%** off clearance and beaded dresses!

### **\$99 PROM DRESS SPECIAL!**

Fixtures for sale, everything must go!

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Sale ends June 2nd!

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Store Hours: Monday – Saturday, 10am to 5:30pm. Sale Terms: All Sales Final.
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Wall-To-Wall...Nothing Held Back!



Directions: NORTH on the Beltway take Exit 46B onto Rt. 123N.-McLean. Go 3 miles- Turn right onto Old Dominion Dr. (Rt 309). Go 1/2 mile thru two traffic lights. We are on the right next to Shell Gas. SOUTH from Md.- Cross over the Amer. Legion Bridge. Take the VERY first right k14.44 to VA 193 toward Langley - Go (/2 mile and turn right noto Balls Hill Rd. Go, 9th mile - Turn left onto Old Dominion Drive - Go thru 3 traffic lights - We are on the right next to Shell Gas. We are less than 5 minutes from the Bridge.



# CONCERT BAND

featuring soloists from the SINGING SERGEANTS!

# FREE CONCERT!

# Thursday, May 17 ~ 7:30 p.m.

"Salute to Armed Forces Day"

W.T. Woodson High School 9525 Main St., Fairfax, Va. 22031

No tickets needed. First come, first seated. For more information, call 202-767-5658 or visit our website.



# 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 10

Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. The Fairfax Village Gallery, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax. "Celebrating Beauty" with Larry Oskin. http://larryoskin.artistwebsites.com/news.html.

### FRIDAY/MAY 11

An Evening with The Avett
Brothers. 8 p.m. George Mason
University Patriot Center, 4500
Patriot Circle, Fairfax. \$39, available
at www.ticketmaster.com or 1-800745-3000. Accessible seating is
available for patrons with disabilities
at 703-993-3035.

**Melanie.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com

Friday Night Film Series. 7 p.m. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10215 Lakehaven Court, Burke. "Waiting For Superman," a documentary directed by Davis Guggenheim. Discussion follows. 703-503-4579 or www.accotinkuuc.org.

Ponderings: Snakes. 4:30 p.m. Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. For ages 6-10. Live animals and field studies. \$6. Register at 703-451-9588.

Book Sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Kings Park Library. All ages. 703-978-5600.

FM Williams. 6:30 p.m. The Vine, 2501 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. Songs from the album "Crowded Room." weston@keymgc.com.

### SATURDAY/MAY 12

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8

p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With pianist Adam Golka. Britten's Sinfonia da Requiem, Debussy's La Mer, Ravel's Concerto for the Left Hand, and Elgar's Enigma Variations. Free pre-concert discussion for ticketholders at 7 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$55. info@fairfaxsymphony.org.

Northern Virginia Chapter, International Plastic Modelers Society Model Classic 2012. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Fairfax High School,

3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Museum quality scale models, a modeling contest consisting of over 80 categories, model kit, book and supplies vendors. Raffle prizes, Make & Take event for children, doll houses, Lego, HO and N scale model railroads, radio control models and more. Food concession on site. \$8 adults, \$10 entire family. www.novaipms.org.

Celebrate Communication 2012.

10 a.m.-3 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The area's premier expo for the deaf and hard of hearing communities, with 50+ exhibitors on all topics relating to deafness and hearing loss, including the latest in hearing assistive technologies and wireless technologies. Free. boleary@nyrc.org.

boleary@nvrc.org.

Children's Show: Dirty Sock
Funtime Band. 10:30 a.m. Jammin'
Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna.
www.jamminjava.com.

Dancing Down Broadway. 8 p.m.
Woodson High School, 9525 Main
St., Fairfax. Dance music from
Broadway shows plus the scholarship
winner of Fairfax Band's Young
Artists Competition, in solo
performance with the City of Fairfax
Band. \$17, seniors \$11, students free.

### **Veterans Golf Classic Honors Heroes**

On Friday, May 18, Brian Thacker, US Army Recipient of the highest award, will be Grand Marshall Guest of Honor at the Veterans Golf Classic at Quantico's Medal of Honor Golf Course.

The golf benefit run annually by Burke VFW Post 5412, is focused on enjoying a day of sport, good food and honoring MOH Recipients as well as raising funds for the Burke VFW Veteran Relief Fund. Several

teams of Wounded Warriors will also be playing as guests.

The "Iron Mike" statue is traditionally given to the 1st place foursome and to special guests. An autographed Jordan Zimmermann baseball will be awarded in a free raffle at the awards lunch buffet. The baseball is valued at \$85.

For applications to play visit Www.VeteransGolfClassic.com or contact Co-Chairman David Meyers 703-209-5925.

christinarbianchi@gmail.com.

Fairfax Jubil-Aires Barbershop Chorus: A Salute to the Troops and Moms. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Ernst Theater, NVCC Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Barbershop chorus and quartet singing. \$20, military in uniform half price. www.fairfaxjubilaires.org or 703-

Master Gardeners. 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice for home gardeners. Adults. 703-293-

Microsoft Access. 2:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Introduction to creating, modifying and mastering databases using Microsoft's Access program. Age 13 and up. 703-293-

Book Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Kings Park Library. All ages. 703-978-5600.

Master Gardeners Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Answers to gardening questions. Adults. 703-978-5600.

**eBook clinic.** 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn to use the library's eBook collection and compatible e-book readers. Registration required. Adults. 703-

Murder in the Keys. 7 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Meet Key West characters, gather clues and figure out whodunit. Adults. 703-644-7333.

Adopt-A-Lab Event. 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Weber's Pet Supermarket, 11021 Lee Highway Fairfax. Meet Labs available for adoption from Lab Rescue of the Labrador Retriever Club. www.lab-rescue.org.

A Little Night Music. 7:30 p.m. Burke

A Little Night Music. 7:30 p.m. Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. With Mezzosoprano Tanya Ruth, pianist Michael Langlois and the BPC Youth Choir. Dessert reception follows. Free, donations accepted. 703-425-1980 or RnCBryan@gmail.com.

Bids Benefiting Kids Concert at 1:30 p.m.; An Evening with David Lindley at 7:30 p.m.; In The Lobby Bar with SNRG presents "Simple Variety" at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.janmminjava.com.

### SUNDAY/MAY 13

Ratcliffe-Allison House at 200

**Years.** Ratcliffe-Allison House, 10386 Main St., Fairfax. Guided tour of the oldest house in the City of Fairfax National Register Historic District including a new exhibit of artifacts related to Dr. Kate Waller Barrett, who saved the house from demolition in 1923. Free. 703-385-8414.

Virginia Chamber Orchestra Spring Concert "Sunday in the Woods". 4 p.m. Ernst Community Cultural Center, Northern Virginia Community College – Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Emil de Cou, Music Director. Two Debussy works as arranged for orchestra: Diane Overture and Operatic Love Duet from Diane au bois. Adults \$25, seniors \$20, students free. Reception to follow. 703-758-0179 or www.virginiachamberorchestra.org.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Gardening tips and advice. Adults. 703-644-7333.

Alleghany St., Dan Fisk, Crossover 757 and Brian Franke at 1:30 p.m.; Garrison Starr CD Release Show and Erick Baker at 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.janmminjava.com.

### MONDAY/MAY 14

Nature Quest: Snakes. 10 a.m. Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. For preschoolers. Learn about local animal species. \$6. Register at 703-451-

**Book Buddies.** 4 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Beginning readers practice with a young adult volunteer. Age 5-9 with adult. 703-293-6227.

Ladybugs Alive. 2:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Explore live ladybugs and release them into the library garden or your backyard. All ages. Registration required for each person. 703-644-7333.

John Parr (St. Elmo's Fire) and Anthony Da Costa. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.janmminjava.com.

### TUESDAY/MAY 15

Never Shout Never, Koji, Kurt Travis and Bearcat. 6:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Communicating with Health Care Professionals. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Information on your loved one's medical care and what questions to ask. Adults. 703-249-1520.

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

Evening Book Discussion. 7:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Still Alice by Lisa Genova. Adults. 703-293-

Book Discussion Group. 1:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The Constant Gardener by John Le Carre. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Paws to Read. 4 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice reading with Ralph, a trained therapy dog. Call or sign up online for a 15-minute session. Age 6-12 with adult. 703-978-5600.

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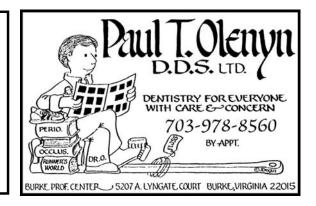
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# SPORTS

Burke Connection Sports Editor Jon Roetman 703-224-3015 or jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com

# Robinson Girls Advance to Regionals

Rams win Concorde playoff opener over Chargers.

By Rich Sanders
The Connection

oth teams showcased their scoring prowess last Friday evening, May 4 when Robinson and Chantilly met in a first round Concorde District girls' lacrosse playoff contest at Robinson Secondary.

With a Northern Region playoff seeding on the line and a chance to advance to the district semifi-

nals, both teams played with passion and determination. For the winner, it would be the first game of what could be an extended postseason. For the losing team, it would mark the end of the season.

In the end, Robinson, the six-team district tournament's No. 4 seed, held off a ferocious late game Chantilly rally and defeated the Chargers, 19-16

Robinson, with the win, advanced to a district semifinals meeting versus top seed Centreville earlier this week on Tuesday, May 8. There, the Rams lost to the powerful Wildcats. Robinson will next set its focus on next week's 16-team regional tournament. Centreville, meanwhile, will play in the district finals 5:30 this Friday evening, May 11at Chantilly High School.

"Friday's win over Chantilly was a nice victory and well played game by our talented group of student athletes on the Ram's team," said Robinson coach Liz Case. "The ability to play well together showed against Chantilly. We played a clean defensive game without any yellow cards and everyone played."

In the quarterfinals game, the action was fast-paced from start to finish as both Robinson and Chantilly continually moved the ball up and down the field. Over and over again, it seemed, both the Rams and Chargers were making strong moves to their opponents' net and getting off good scoring chances.

Both starting goalies, senior Elizabeth Graviano for Chantilly and junior Lauren Rauch for Robinson, made several nifty saves in the net throughout the game's 50 minutes. But the sustained pressure offensively by both teams was constant and there was only so much either net-minder could do to stop the scoring flow.

Robinson received an outstanding balanced attack as three players - senior attack Shannon Picard, sophomore midfielder/attack Maggie Hyland, and senior middie/attack Katie McHugh - each scored five goals. Senior midfielder Campbell Collier added three and junior midfielder Megan Barlow scored as well.

"Our attack, with Katie McHugh, Shannon Picard, and Maggie Hyland, has really started to connect with each other," said Case.

**CHANTILLY'S** Gonzalez sent a sizzling ball high into the right side of the net from close range to open the game's scoring less than two minutes into the start of play. Robinson's Hyland, off a pass from jun-



Robinson's Maggie Hyland protects the ball from a Chantilly defender. The sophomore was one of three Rams players to score five goals in last Friday's playoff win over the Chargers.

ior Catina Boster, countered with a close range chance just over a minute later to tie the score.

The two teams would continue to trade goals over the first 16 minutes of the first half. McHugh, a team tri-captain for the Rams, broke a 6-6 tie with a 10yard score from straight range with 8 minutes, 46 seconds remaining in the half.

As it turned out, Robinson would never lose the lead thereafter. Collier, another tri-captain for Robinson, scored less than 30 seconds after McHugh's tally off a picturesque, 14-yard sidearm shot from the right wing area while moving left to right across the goal to give the Rams an 8-6 advantage.

Chantilly's Cleary scored just over a minute later to get the Chargers within 8-7. Over the final seven-plus minutes of the half, however, the Rams would score four times to Chantilly's none. The Robinson goals during that stretch came from Picard on a driving, 12-yard bounce shot in traffic from the right wing; Collier, with 90 seconds remaining; Barlow, on a catch and shoot from eight yards out, off an assist from behind the net by Hyland at the 30 second mark; and Hyland from close range while moving across the goal area with seven seconds showing.

The Rams, over the first half's final nine minutes, outscored the Chargers six to one and carried a 12-7 advantage into the half. Robinson's lead ultimately reached eight - at 16-8 - following a score from McHugh nearly six minutes into the second half.

Chantilly answered with four straight scores, two of those coming from freshman Birnie, to get within 16-12. The Rams then scored three straight to make it 19-12 with less than 10 seconds remaining.

Again, the Chargers showed no quit in their game as they responded with the final four scores of the night, the last one coming with 3:32 remaining on a catch and shoot close range shot by Birnie to make it 19-16.

Coach Case was pleased with her team's play across the board against Chantilly. "We started the game off strong winning draw controls that are crucial in gaining possession of the ball," she said. "We have great ball handlers on the circle in our midfield with Campbell Collier, Megan Barlow, Kate Moody, and Sara Jones ready to get the ball. The other key points are our defense with Devon Schircliff, Sarah Koucheravy, Jessica Bond, Sarah Hylton, Lauren Bauch"

# Ready for Postseason

South County softball playing outstanding ball as regular season winds down.

By Rich Sanders
The Connection

ith one game remaining in the regular season, the South County girls' softball team is beginning to get geared up for the upcoming postseason.

The Stallions, one of the top teams in the Northern Region, are set to close out the season schedule with a Patriot District home game versus Lake Braddock on Thursday, May 10 of this week. Going into that game with the Bruins, South County was 17-2 overall and 12-1 in the district. The Stallions' lone district setback came to Lake Braddock, 3-2, in the first meeting between the two teams on April 17. South County's only other loss this season came way back in its season opener, a 4-2 loss at defending Northern Region champion Westfield on March 15.

The district tournament is set to begin next Wednesday, May 16 with quarterfinals round games. The Stallions have won the district tournament five consecutive years.

"I think we are peaking at the right time of the season," said South County coach Gary Dillow.

During one recent four-game stretch of play, all against district opponents, the Stallions won all four in shutout fashion. Those wins, in which South County scored 43 total runs, came at Lee High, 11-0, on April 24; home versus Woodson, 14-0, on April 25; home versus Annandale, 6-0, on April 27; and home versus T.C. Williams, 12-0, on May 3.

Earlier this week, the Stallions won district home games over West Potomac, 8-2, on Monday, May 7, and West Springfield, 10-0, on Tuesday, May 8. The game versus the Spartans on Tuesday was South County's Senior Night.

"Pitching and defense have been outstanding, and the hitting has been pretty consistent," said Dillow, whose team has nine shutout wins on the season.

The coach said playing a tough team like Lake Braddock is good for his squad.

"That should just help us be better prepared for the district



Sophomore shortstop Whitney Burks makes a play versus the Bruins.

and regional play-offs," he said, of playing talented teams in general

MOST TEAMS across the Northern Region view the postseason as the opportunity to put everything together and make strong playoff runs at their respective district tournaments and the region tournament. Four teams from each of the region's four districts (Concorde, Patriot, Liberty, and National) will qualify for regionals.

Once teams get to regionals, they are two wins away from advancing and competing at the festive Memorial Day semifinals games. The teams which win those region round of four contests advance to the region title game and also qualify for the eight-team Virginia State playoff field.

Last year, Westfield High captured the region crown with a title game win over McLean. South County, which has been among the region's top teams for several years now, enjoyed a successful 2011 season with a region playoff run to the semifinals.

There is lots of softball yet to be played and there is nothing wrong with teams dreaming about the postseason possibilities

"Our goal, as it is every year, is to qualify for regionals, win the district tournament, and to qualify for the state tournament by reaching the regional finals," said Dillow. "There are some very good teams in our district and in the other districts, but I feel, if we continue to play the way we are playing, we have a great chance of accomplishing all of our post season goals."

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### OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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