

Students from Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax perform their self-written play "Stages" at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. on May 11. Members of the ensemble include: John Anderson, Garrett Christian, Caitlin Cruz, Jennifer Della Santina, Rebecca Elrod, Abram Ghally, Whitney Gilliland, Maggie Hanover, Mady Hanton, Samara Hicks, Maddie Hughes, Julia Kuzin, Haley McAllister, Khanh Nguyen, Lauren Reamy,

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Education Learning Fun

Opening Doors For People in Need

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NEWS

TD Bank Plan Moves Ahead

West Springfield Civic Association concerns addressed.

> By Victoria Ross THE CONNECTION

D Bank, one of the nation's 10 largest banks, has moved a step closer to opening a drive-thru branch in West Springfield's Cardinal Forest Plaza shopping center.

The project faced initial resistance from neighbors who raised concerns about traffic, safety and environmental impact when they learned plans called for sitting the bank in the parking lot of the 1960s-era center, located at the busy intersection of Old Keene Mill Road and Rolling Road.

"Few citizens, if any, saw a need for another bank to be built in an area with five banks within one block of the intersection," said John Rephlo, a longtime Springfield resident who spoke on behalf of the West Springfield Civic Association during a May 3 planning commission public hearing on the project.

After several meetings involving Edens, the developer that owns the shopping center, civic association members, and staff from the Fairfax County Planning Commission staff and Braddock Supervisor John Cook's office, the developer agreed to several conditions addressing the concerns of resi-

"Since my community information meeting on this proposal in January, my office and the Planning Commissioner have worked tirelessly with the impacted neighbors to improve this project," Cook

"We have reduced the number of drive-thru lanes, closed a left

See Bank, Page 7

Help make Fairfax a little



SATURDAY, MAY 19

from 8 a.m. to Noon at the **Mason District Governmental Center**

(6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale)

Shred up to 5 boxes of personal documents at no charge. No film or electronically stored information will be accepted. Please remove all paper from binders and binder clips.

NOTE: This event is **not** for medical service providers - it **does not** fulfill HIPAA requirements for document destruction.



<u>SUNDAY, MAY 20</u>

from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the **I-66 Transfer Station**

(4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax)

Recycle televisions, computers and peripheral electronics - such as keyboards, scanners, printers, speakers, etc. along with unbroken fluorescent tubes & light bulbs.

There is no cost to participate.

These free events are available to Fairfax County residents only. For complete details, go online to

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling, or call 703-324-5052, TTY 711.



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News



From left, FACETS speaker Raven Bowden; Fairfax County Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), Amanda Andere, FACETS executive director; FACETS Board Chair John Martin of Great Falls and FACETS speaker Frank Somers at the nonprofit's annual benefit breakfast, held at the Waterford in Fair Oaks Thursday, May 10.



Amanda Andere, FACETS executive director, gives client Frank Somers a hug after FACETS annual benefit breakfast at the Waterford in Fair Oaks Thursday, May 10.

Opening Doors for People in Need

FACETS celebrates volunteers, donors at annual benefit breakfast.

By Victoria Ross The Connection

urrounded by nearly 350 business executives, politicians and community leaders in the chandeliered ballroom of the Waterford, Frank Somers - dressed in jeans, sneakers and a denim work shirt - looked a little out of place.

But it was Somers' voice that held the attention of the high-wattage crowd, as he took the podium and told the audience his story of homelessness during FACETS annual "Opening Doors Benefit Breakfast," on Thursday morning, May 10.

"I was down and out. You can't get more down and out than I was," the stocky 47-year-old told the audience. "I want you all to know how FACETS can change a life, how they changed my life."

Founded in 1988, FACETS helps Fairfax County's most vulnerable residents break the cycle of poverty and homelessness through various programs, services and partnerships with 100 faith communities, local businesses, other nonprofits and government agencies

"I used to consider myself lucky. I had it all," Somers told the crowd. "I had a good job doing landscaping, friends, an apartment..."

BUT IN 2008, Somers had a heart attack. He had no health insurance, and used what savings he had on medical bills. After spending nearly a month in intensive care at Fairfax Inova hospital, he learned that he had diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and had to take 13 different pills each day to survive.

He also found that he had no place to live and no job because of his health crisis.

- FACETS Community Impact -

In 2011, FACETS members and volunteers

♦donated more than 30,000 hours

*prepared and delivered more than 37,000 hot meals to people who live in motels, cars, the woods and on Fairfax County streets

provided more than 150 youth with backpacks filled with school supplies

*assisted 2,000 families with programs to prevent and end homelessness

moved 130 families and nine individuals into housing
 For more information on FACETS, and ways to volunteer or donate, go to www.FACETScares.org or call

"I was renting out the basement of my niece's house," Somers said. "When I got out of the hospital, everything was gone. She cleaned me out. I had \$87 in my pocket and nowhere to go."

Somers took the cash he had, and spent two nights at the Breezeway Motel in Fairfax, before becoming one of Fairfax County's homeless statistics. Still recovering from his surgery, Somers said he was too ashamed and depressed to reach out to friends and family. He bought a sleeping bag, and decided to sleep under a bridge in Annandale.

After two months of living under the bridge and looking for work during the day, he learned about FACETS through a social worker at the hospital.

"I called them on a Thursday. By Friday, they made sure I had a real place to sleep. They made sure I got transportation to and from my doctor's appointments... They always said yes," Somers said. A Chantilly High School graduate who once played high school football, Somers said he's still shocked he became homeless. "I want to work for what's mine. I never thought I'd be in that situation."

"The lesson learned," said U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), a longtime advocate for the homeless who gave the welcome address, "is that 'There but for the grace of God go I."

"Too many of our veterans are homeless, one in SEE FACETS. PAGE 10



The Burke Centre polling place at the Commons Community Centre preps for Election Day.

Planning to Vote?

Nearly 200,000 voter registration cards mailed this week.

By Victoria Ross The Connection

hether you are a Democrat or a Republican, if you are planning to vote in the June 12 primary elections in Fairfax County, check your new voter registration cards mailed out this week.

The Fairfax County Office of Elections wants voters to know the state is mailing new voter registration cards to approximately 195,000 voters in Fairfax County this week.

The cards are only being mailed to these affected voters:

*Congressional Redistricting - As a result of the 2010 Census, Congressional Districts were realigned to ensure that they are as equal in population totals as possible. Voters affected by this redistricting will receive a new card indicating the change in congressional representation. The voter card is the notice of your new district.

*Transition to Registered Voter Number - Some voters still hold a voter information card, which includes their Social Security Number (SSN). The State Board of Elections also mailed new voter information cards to those voters, replacing the SSN with a system-generated identification number.

If you have not received a new card, but would like to check your voter registration status and information, go to

the Virginia State Board of Elections at www.sbe.birginia.gov/

In addition, the new cards indicate a language preference.

"As a result of the 2010 Census, it was determined that Fairfax County now falls under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act," said Cameron Quinn, Fairfax County's chief elections official. "This requires Fairfax County to provide voting and elections-related materials in English and Spanish.

She said Fairfax County is now providing voter information and materials for Spanish speakers. In the meantime, the county's website www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections has a Google Translations line that can translate information into Spanish and several other languages.

Quinn said that while the Fairfax County and state websites are updated, not all voter election web pages and links have been updated with the new congressional district information.

"Those voters whose congressional district changed as a result of redistricting are currently being mailed a new voter card," Quinn said. "Whether or not you received a new voter card, if you have questions or to be certain you know your congressional district information, refer to the county or state election office's website for the correct information or call us at 703-222-0776."

Upcoming Elections and Voter Information

❖June 12, 2012, Republican Party Primary Election (U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, 11th District)

♦ June 12, 2012, Democratic Party Primary Election (House of Representatives, 8th District)

♦ For more information, go to:

Virginia State Board of Elections website at www.sbe.virginia.gov/
 Fairfax County Office of Elections website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections

♦Or contact the Office of Elections at 703-222-0776, TTY 711.



The grand entry plaza near the Loisdale Road entrance.



The two-story interior grand hall.

Springfield Mall - From Eyesore to Shopping Mecca

\$200 million Springfield Mall renovation set to begin in July.

> By Victoria Ross The Connection

hat about Springfield Mall?"
That's the question Su pervisor Jeff McKay(D-Lee) said he hears the most from constituents since mega-developer Vornado purchased what it called the "1.4 million-square-foot fixer-upper" in 2006 for \$171.5 million.

McKay may finally have an answer.

According to the Lee District supervisor, who has worked closely with the developer and county officials to move the ball forward on the project, all of the mall's interior tenants were given 90-days notice to vacate in March so the first phase of the renovation can begin July 1.

He said Vornado will leave anchor tenants Macy's, Target and JCPenney open as the New York-based company guts and renovates the cavernous interior space, launching the first stage of plans to transform the 1973 suburban mall into Springfield Town Center.

THE FIRST PHASE, which is expected to take two years, includes construction of one central entrance instead of multiple entrances, and the addition of a state-of-theart movie theater and food court.

"No one will be happier to see this move forward. We will pop open the champagne for this," McKay said.

Later phases of the renovation – expected to take about 10 to 15 years - will complete the town center look, with a mix of upscale retail and commercial development, a 225-room hotel, pedestrian plazas, recreational facilities, 2,000 residential units and transportation improvements.

Calling the project "the most important redevelopment project in Springfield," McKay has been instrumental in paving the way to ensure Vornado moves through



The new movie theater complex.

Fairfax County's final permitting process as quickly as possible.

"The great recession did its part to slow things down, but the County has expedited every element of the Mall project; it's been the private sector that has not acted," McKay said. "Finally, it looks like our waiting is over and construction is about to begin."

David Gahart, a longtime Springfield resident, said he remembers the mall during its heyday, when Princess Diana visited in 1985. "I still shop here, mostly at stores like Macy's, but this mall has needed a facelift for a very long time."

"It's an eyesore now," said Burke resident Pam Dean. "We go to every other mall but Springfield because it's depressing."

McKay said he's confident Vornado will begin the transformation of the 80-acre mall in earnest this summer, but admits the project has lurched forward in fits and starts.

In 2009, the Board of Supervisors approved rezoning of the property to permit Vornado's ambitious development plans.

After initial approval, any sign of redevelopment came to a halt. No construction equipment materialized; Vornado's public relations department stopped returning calls; and shoppers saw the mall continue its slow decline.

In 2010, Vornado defaulted on its mortgage of \$171.5 million, and then refinanced the mall for \$115 million, a strategic way to alleviate debt.

"I know it's been frustrating. People want to see something happening there, and they've been disappointed in the past," McKay said. **BREAKING GROUND** on the project is something everyone has been waiting to see, said Nancy-jo Manney, Executive Director, Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce. "Please, please let this be the #1 story of the year," Manney said in her 2012 wish list.

She noted that the mall has what developers crave: location and the right demographics. Located in central Springfield, the mall sits near the Mixing Bowl, a Metro station and is surrounded by numerous wellestablished neighborhoods.

McKay said the demographics of central Springfield support the kind of urban redevelopment that attracts upscale shoppers. Fairfax County records show the population within a three-mile radius of the mall have an average annual household income of \$115,000.

"If you had no retail experience and a blindfold on, you could make Springfield Mall a success," McKay said last year.

McKay said he's already pulled together a County team to ensure that Vornado moves through the County's final permitting process as quickly as possible.

"I'm looking forward to two Christmases from now when my children will be sitting on Santa's lap—at a revitalized Springfield Mall," McKay said.

Area Roundups

Older Cats Need Homes, Too

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter is hosting a special adoption event featuring senior cats. Shelter officials say they'll be "Rockin' n' Adopt'n with the oldies but goodies" during the event. Adoptions will take place Thursday-Friday, May 17-18, from noon-6:30 p.m., and Saturday, May 19, from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at the shelter at 4500 West Ox Road in Fairfax.

Special adoption fees for cats, 5 years and older, will be \$15 – half the normal fee. These cats will receive a free spay or neuter and will be current on all vaccinations.

Adopters will receive a Friends of the

Fairfax County Animal Shelter gift bag with a cat bed, food, scratching box and cat toys. Anyone adopting a cat, 7 years or older, will also receive a free full panel of blood work on that cat (provided by the shelter's contract veterinarian) to provide basic health information about the feline.

"Senior cats make great pets," says Karen Diviney, shelter director. "They're often overlooked in animal shelters, but [can be] wonderful additions to a family." For more information, call the shelter at 703-830-1100 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov and click on "animals."

SCHOOLS

County Students Win Technology Awards

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) middle and high school students won first place awards in 19 categories at the 2012 Virginia Technology Student Association (TSA) State Leadership Conference, held last week in Richmond. The three days of competitive events and displays of student work culminated in FCPS winning the Lynn P. Barrier Outstanding School Division Award for middle schools for the third consecutive year.

Winners will advance to the National TSA Conference, scheduled for June 21-25 in Nashville.

At the middle school level, FCPS students won 10 first place awards, 12 second place awards, and 11 third place awards. At the high school level, FCPS students won nine first place awards, six second place awards, and seven third place awards.

First place winners at the middle school level (level I), with their category in parentheses, include:

- Shawn Jassal of Franklin Middle School (Career Prep).
- Navya Kalale and Sahana Ramani of Carson Middle School (Challenging Technology Issues).
- * Arvind Chava of Carson Middle School (Electrical Applications).
- Arvind Chava, Sashank Thupukari, and Anant Tewari of Carson Middle School (Environmental Focus).
- Pranay Singh, Dhruv Gupta, and Rohan Pandit of Carson Middle School (Inventions and Innovations).
- ❖ Ashan Krishnakumar, Kim Mai, Sruthi Jayaraman, Thuy-Vi Nguyen, Amee Kapadia, Daniel Ruiz, Catherine Im, Ray Liu, Paul Dumitrescu, and Sadaf Kolia of Frost Middle School (Medical Technology Issues).
- Shawn Jassal of Franklin Middle School (Multimedia Production).
- Dhruv Gupta of Carson Middle School (Prepared Speech).
- ❖ Pavan Reddy and Josh Choe of Franklin Middle School (Structural Engineering).
- ❖ Kevin Geissler, Patrick Hammes, and Ben Spector of Herndon Middle School (Video Game Design).

First place winners at the high school level (level II), with their category in parentheses, include:

- * Taylor Evans, Jack Polo, Amy Rhodes, and Ryan Aitken of West Potomac High School (Architectural Model).
- ❖ Sherry Lee of Woodson High School (Career Comparisons).
- Angela Roller of Oakton High School (Desktop Publishing).
- ❖ Jackie Beckwith, Louis Litchford, Alex Hauser, Will Rupp, and Everett Lorentzen of West Potomac High School (Engineering Design).
- ❖ Sherry Lee of Woodson High School (Essays on Technology).

 Angela Roller of Oakton High
- School (Extemporaneous Presentation). Amy Vandenberghe and Brett
- Bowker of West Springfield High School (Manufacturing Prototype).
- * Elizabeth Roller of Oakton High School (Photographic Technology).
- Andy Artze, Exxus Altimus, and Michael Sherburne of Robinson Secondary School (System Control Technology).
- FCPS students and schools also won the following awards: Carson Middle School, first place,
- Chapter Excellence Level I; second place, Community Service Award Level I; second place, Arvid W. Van Dyke Outstanding School Award.
- ❖ Arvind Chava of Carson Middle School, Most Competitive Technosophere Participant, Middle School Level.
- * Briana Neuberger of Chantilly High School, Virginia Career Education Foundation Scholarship.

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OPINION

Most Endangered?

Potomac River has made ermen all show the confidence we now have in the integrity of the Potomac River. great strides, has miles to go to save the Bay.

nless your home is served by well water, you are almost certainly among the five million people in the Washington Metropolitan area who get their drinking water from the Potomac River.

This week, the organization American Rivers named the Potomac River as the most endangered river in the nation. The Potomac River is far cleaner than it **EDITORIALS** was 40 years ago when the Clean Water Act was enacted.

"Before the Clean Water Act was enacted in 1972, the Potomac was a cesspool of sewage and industrial pollution," says American Rivers. "Thanks to the Clean Water Act, the Potomac and rivers across the country are cleaner and safer for drinking, boating, and fishing. But ... a University of Maryland report card has given the river a 'D' grade for water quality for the past two years.

Now it's safe for high school crew teams to take to the river by the dozens. Kayakers and paddle-boarders join them in intimate contact with the water. Motorboats, marinas and fish-

Still, after a rain, stormwater washes agricultural waste, suburban and urban runoff carrying loads of pollution into our area's small streams, into the Potomac River and on into the Chesapeake Bay. Bacteria in the river after big rainstorms, from dog waste in suburban areas, agricultural runoff in more rural areas, has led to the recommendation by some that people avoid contact with the river for two-tothree days.

Slowing stormwater runoff, limiting the amount of "nutrients" that are swept down the river into the Chesapeake Bay, and improve-

> ments in methods of treating sewage are all critical to the ongoing health of our water supply.

Fish in the Potomac River also continue to show symptoms of exposure to endocrine disruptors, with male bass carrying eggs these abnormalities, and it is not known whether current water purification systems are removing those pollutants fully from the drink-

American Rivers called on Congress to kill any legislation that weakens the Clean Water Act or prevents the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from restoring protections for small streams

and wetlands under the Act. American Rivers also called on the Obama Administration to finalize guidance clarifying the scope of the Clean Water Act and issue a rule-making to ensure that all waters get the protections Americans expect and deserve.

The Potomac River continues to serve as the scenic backdrop to much of what we do here. Let's continue to push for improve-

> - Mary Kimm, MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Father's Day Photos

Every year at this time, the Connection puts out the call for photographs of fathers and their children, grandfathers and their children and grand children.

Father's Day is Sunday, June 17, 2012 and once again the Connection will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Send in photos as soon as possible, including names of everyone in the picture, the date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and sentence or two about what is happening and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to include your town name and neighborhood. Photos are due by June 8.

and other signs. Scientists suspect variety of pharmaceuticals and chemicals are causing

You can submit your photos south@connectionnewspapers.com.

Building Confidence in Ourselves

By John Cook FAIRFAX COUNTY SUPERVISOR (R-Braddock)

e face a myriad of challenges today, but perhaps no challenge is greater than overcoming a pervading loss of confidence.

At an international, national and state level, voters appear unsure what course of action will best lead their governments back to a level of prosperity. An unprecedented number of individuals find themselves without a way to provide for their families. Deep divides in philosophy about the role of government preclude even a discussion on issues of great national import. Economists tell us our economy cannot grow because companies and investors do not have "confidence." They are sitting on the sidelines with their money, waiting for more certain economic conditions that may never arrive.

Even locally, we see a grave uncertainty about how to fund transportation and development plans that will allow us to retain a vibrant county economy.

that government alone can lead us work. Their enthusiasm was con-

BRADDOCK REPORT



Cook

out of the morass. "We're from the government, and we are here to help" is an applause line for standup comedians, not an expression of confidence in government.

That is why, here in the Braddock District, I seek to build confidence someplace closer to home – in ourselves.

My Citizen Governance Initiative seeks to involve citizens in real policy-making, from land use and environmental management to transportation and aging. At my recent Citizen Governance Conference, a cadre of citizen leaders zealously grappled with these issues during the day-long event, and pledged to form citizen-led Nevertheless, it is folly to expect committees to continue their tagious, inspirational, and consequential.

For my part, I pledged that their work would not be ignored, but would form a foundation for future county policy proposals. Our new land use committee will review all development decisions, and author an updated land use plan for the district. Another group will study and make recommendations regarding transportation options. A third will look for ways we can keep our seniors active and engaged in our communities. It is my earnest hope that is just a be-

These citizens, and others who will join them, will make a real difference in their own lives, and their neighbors. Perhaps by building confidence first in ourselves, we can provide a foundation for renewing our confidence in our government and other cultural institutions. Citizen governance is about people taking charge of the government we own and making it more responsive to the citizenry.

I'm feeling a little more confident already.

Write

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:

> The Connection 1606 King St. Alexandria VA 22314 Call: 703-917-6444.

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News

A photo of the TD Bank located near the intersection of Little River Turnpike and Pickett. The architecture is similar to the one proposed for Cardinal Forest Plaza in West Springfield. The enhanced architectural façade was one of the conditions requested by members of the West Springfield Civic Association and agreed to by Edens, the developer and owner of the 1970s shopping center.



John Rephlo

Bank Branch Planned in Shopping Center

From Page 2

turn onto Old Keene Mill Road that was a source of many accidents and obtained a concession from the bank to change its façade to better reflect the architecture of Cardinal Forest Plaza."

Peter Melmed, vice president of construction and development for Edens, said the bank will actually improve storm water management and other issues at the center.

"The layout of the bank will increase open space and reduce impervious area," Melmed said. "Safety concerns have been addressed through a series of transportation improvements, including making the eastern entrance on Old Keene Mill Road a rightin, right-out only, as well as bringing that entrance up to current VDOT standards."

Melmed added that TD Bank will enhance the aging center, built in the early 1970s.

"The addition of TD Bank to Cardinal Forest Plaza reflects Eden's focus on enriching communities we serve by bringing highquality tenants into our retail centers, "Melmed said. "In fact, this location helps West Springfield residents avoid driving all the way

into Annandale or over to Fairfax, which are the nearest TD locations currently."

THE NEXT MEETING will be a "decision-only" session of the Planning Commission on May 31, where the commission will vote whether to recommend approval by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. After that, the case will go before the board, which will hold another public hearing to address any lingering community concerns.

During the May 3 planning commission public hearing, Rephlo said members of the civic association voted to accept the county's conditions, but wanted further study of some issues, including sidewalk improvements, employee parking, storm drainage and traffic impacts.

According to Rephlo, the final major issue revolves around the nonstandard (four-foot) sidewalk that borders the front of the center. He said the civic association wants the developer to build a sidewalk that is five-foot-width with a two-foot buffer installed between the sidewalk and the roadway.

"This is the right time to do the



John Rephlo, a 31-yearresident of West Springfield, spoke on behalf of the West Springfield Civic **Association during a May** 3 public hearing before the Fairfax County Planning Commission.

hard thing of bringing the shopping center frontage and sidewalk up to VDOT standards and bring the plaza into conformance with other shopping centers fronting Old Keene Mill Road," Rephlo said. "This is our 'West Springfield Town Center.' Although it may not be as new and fancy like Ballston, Clarendon or Reston, this is where we meet, go out to dinner and hang out.'

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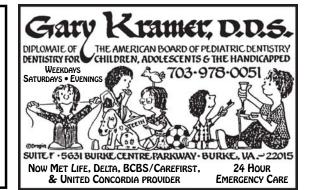
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Game On

George Mason University students develop video games aimed at curtailing gang recruitment in Virginia.

THE CONNECTION influences.

aw enforcement officials now have two unlikely weapons in the activity in Virginia: video games and college students.

Students in the Computer Game Design program at George Mason University partnered with Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli's office to create video games designed to show children the consequences of joining a gang. The result of the collabora-

tion is a series of interactive and educational computer games and mobile phone applications designed to reduce gang recruitment. The games were unveiled earlier this month on the George Mason

campus in Fairfax. "Gangs are constantly working to recruit new kids to replace those going to jail and getting killed. Their recruitment techniques are evolving, even to the point of using online gaming and other technologies. We have

to work even harder to stop them," said Cuccinelli. "The goal of this partnership with GMU is a novel approach in the war against gangs to beat them at their own

Students enrolled in the university's GAME 232 Online Gaming and Filesharing course presented game proposals to Cuccinelli's office. The attorney general's staff selected three:

❖ "A Second Family," created by Michael Katz, Romel Ramos and Brandon Miller. The game tells the story of Justin, who is trying to fit in at a new school and becomes involved with some questionable people. He is forced

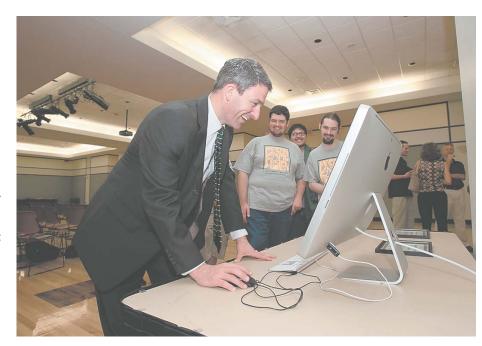
By Marilyn Campbell to overcome these negative

* "Influenced," created by Austin Fain, Tiffany Nguyen, Con Son and Lamesha Coley. In this game, the player chooses various scenarios in which he or she can either help or betray members of the local community, and influence the impact gangs have on the community.

❖ "New Kid on the Block," created by Stephen Berrigan, Steven Fernandez, Devin Gibson, John Murphy and Daniel Paquette. In this game, the player has just moved to a new town

practice and design of online games and smartphone applications. Throughout the semester, the students developed written scripts and storyboards, art and sound design, programming, coding and musical composi-

"I wanted the game to be fun for the player while teaching them about gang violence and how it can be harmful. Finding that balance wasn't easy, but ... we were able to create a game that's educational, but also fun to play," said Daniel Paquette, who helped design one of the games.



Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli plays a game created by George Mason Game Design students in Dewberry Hall at Fairfax Campus. The students created interactive and educational games aimed at teaching kids about the risks of joining gangs.

and has to assimilate into a new school. He or she must make the right decisions and find a trustworthy group of friends.

THE GAMES ARE TARGETED at middle and high school

students. "This is an attempt to reach kids using devices that they already have in their hands," said Arlington resident and George Mason adjunct professor Matt Randon. "The kids are already addicted to these devices so we have a better chance of reaching

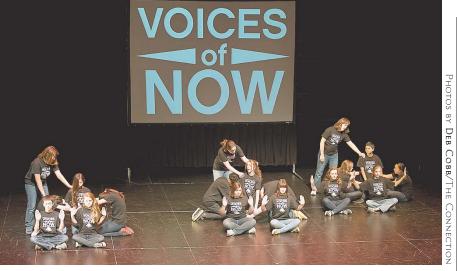
them with our message." During the course, Randon, who also works as an English teacher in Manassas, taught to rely on his friends and mentors students about the history,

THE GAMES will be available for mobile download free of charge by summer 2012. The games will also be available on the attorney general's website, as well as the websites for George Mason University, the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, and Virginia Rules.

"Games have a pretty bad reputation in the media. What I that they make learning fun ... which is a talent school systems around the world should look writer and narrative designer for "New Kid on the Block."



written play "Truth or Dare" at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. on May 11. Members of the ensemble include: Carol Boctor, Isaiah Brooks, Sam Cornbrooks, Melisa Dag, Bethel Elias, Zoe Forest, Drak Hawkins, Trae Hawkins, Ellie Milewski, Kayla Padilla, Caitlin Pao, Brian Perry, Alex Redding, Lexi Rhem, Andrea Rosa, Arta Shala, and Julia Stafford.



Students from Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax perform their self-written play "Stages" at the Arena Stage in Washington, D..C on May 11. Members of the ensemble include: John Anderson, Garrett Christian, Caitlin Cruz, Jennifer Della Santina, Rebecca Elrod, Abram Ghally, Whitney Gilliland, Maggie Hanover, Mady Hanton, Samara Hicks, Maddie Hughes, Julia Kuzin, Haley McAllister, Khanh Nguyen, Lauren Reamy, Haenaran Shin, Natalia Umana, and Tristan Varma.



Students from Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax perform their self-written play "Stages" at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. on May 11.

Joining Voices of Now'

Local schools perform at Arena Stage.

County Schools performed at the Arena ✓ Stage in Washington, D.C. as part of a youth drama program called "Vocies of Now." The tenyear-old program has three primary goals, said program director Ashley Foreman before the performance on Friday, May 1: to give voice to and create a dialog between people in the community; to develop theatre artists with a strong foundation in the technical underpinnings of the theatre as

ast week, drama ensembles from five Fairfax well as the creative; and to explore and learn about the "truth" in the lives of the artists, through the development of a performance based on their own

The six-month long program, tailored to middle and high school ensembles, provides students with a through exploration in the theatre arts, and concludes with a performance at the Arena Stage that is based on the participants' own writing that focuses on their experiences, feelings and ides.

Gail Zukosky Named Virginia Public Health Nurse of the Year

Gail Zukosky, a public health nurse who serves Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Cluster V schools, has been named Public Health Nurse of the Year by the Virginia Department of Health.

Zukosky, an employee of the Fairfax County Health Department, is known for her passion for working with children with intellectual disabilities.

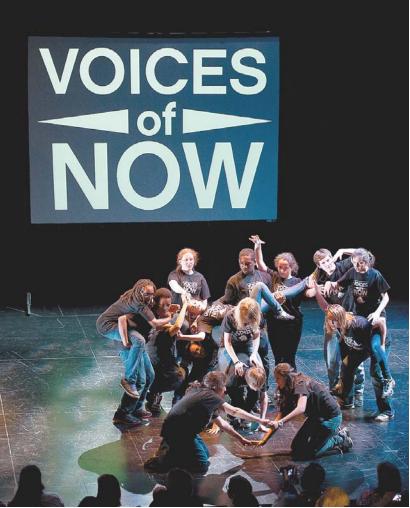
Zukosky dedicates much of her time working at Key Center, which educates children with emotional, cognitive, and physical challenges. Zukosky's leadership led to the creation of the Peer to Peer program which partners Key Middle School students with students at Key Center. She trains the students to understand the behaviors and developmental abilities of coordinating the school's the Center's children, which creates lasting relationships and enables the students to better understand children



Gail Zukosky

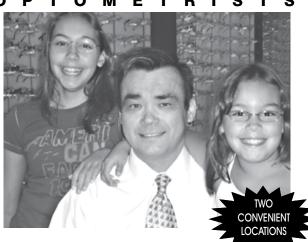
with disabilities.

Zukosky was also recognized for her work as care coordinator and case manager for students at Key Center, for dental screening and oral care program and establishing a dental care network for



Students from Key Middle School in Springfield perform their self-written play "Truth or Dare" at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. on May 11.

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CAPPIES REVIEW Fresh and Exciting

Hayfield's production of 'The Children's Hour.'

By Sveta Pyntikova Briar Woods High School

ehind every rumor lies some small ounce of truth. Hayfield Secondary School's production of "The Children's Hour" showed a small town turned upside down with a little white lie that was maybe not so little after all.

"The Children's Hour" was written by Lillian Hellman and opened on Broadway in 1934. It also had two sister movie versions, and all three received overwhelmingly positive reviews, which allowed the stage play to bypass New York's law against stage homosexuality at that time, even if it is only implied. Karen Wright and Martha Dobie are two young women who have worked themselves to the bone trying to make their small boarding school for girls profitable. Just as they are settling into a lucrative rhythm,

Hayfield's dramatic tragedy was anchored by the The stage was used well, using different layers and and doe eyes provided the perfect foil to her sharp- disaster that occurs.

tongued partner Fox, who was so biting that her characterizations seemed on the verge of being too modern. Despite her character's age, Taryss Mandt (Mrs. Amelia Tilford) matched their fast-paced interactions with a raw energy of her own, driving the rumors and the plot.

As a whole, the ensemble had excellent, wellmolded characters; yet they would occasionally withdraw too far into these molds and lose enunciation and projection. The contrasting array of characters kept the piece fresh and exciting, yet darting eyes and character inconsistencies proved problematic. The townspeople did unite in their intolerance of the two supposed lovers, displaying a melting pot of shock, disgust, hatred, and other emotions across many different levels. Daniel Kingsley as the grocery boy was the memorable synecdoche of the town's tumultuous feelings towards the scandal, commanding attention in his few short lines, delivered with deliberate hesitation and long stares at the women.

For what it lacked in size, the cast more than made up for in its intensity in presenting this emotionally challenging piece. The relationships between all of hope this project shows people is one spoiled brat runs away and resists returning by the characters were clearly defined and chock-full of that the greatest asset of games is accusing the two women of being lovers, and word chemistry even for the smallest roles. From costumes spreads until the school is deserted and Wright and to hair to set pieces, every element of the show was thoroughly detailed to the period.

into," said Stephen Berrigan, lead two principles, Paige Horwitz (Karen Wright) and levels of the antique furniture to liven the setting and Yvonne Fox (Martha Dobie). Horwitz's trembling voice give it a more quaint feel to contrast with the horrific

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News



Amanda Andere, (center), FACETS executive director, listens with other guests during FACETS annual benefit breakfast at the Waterford in Fair Oaks Thursday, May 10.

FACETS Honors Volunteers

From Page 3

four of our children receive free and reduced lunches, 1,600 children in Fairfax County are homeless," Connolly said, "Your presence and continued participation is so vital to FACETS."

Connolly noted that Fairfax County is one of the few communities in the nation to reduce its homeless population during the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. In 2008, under Connolly's direction as chairman

"I was down and out. You can't get more down and out than I was...I want you all to know how FACETS can change a life, how they changed my

life."

of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, the board initiated the 10-year-plan to prevent and end homelessness, and funded the county's first agency to carry out that mission. Since then, Fairfax County has reduced its homeless population by 16 percent.

"We are making progress," Connolly said. "That success is the result of the tremendous work of FACETS dedicated volunteers and community partners, but, as you know, much work is left to be done."

"At FACETS, we envision a day when everyone in Fairfax County **Frank Somers, a** has access to adequate **formerly homeless** and affordable housing **FACETS client** and nobody is homeless, "said Amanda Andere,

FACETS executive director.

"Each of us plays a crucial role in...opening doors for those suffering the effects of poverty. We ask you to continue supporting the thousands of individuals right here in our community who are faced with inconceivable challenges," Andere said.

THANKS TO FACETS, Somers is now living in an apartment in Reston, and looking for fulltime landscaping work while working part-time jobs. He also volunteers with FACETS, speaking at fundraising events and helping where he can, such as cleaning up campsites occupied by the homeless population.



Raven Bowden of Herndon shared her story of homelessness during FACETS annual benefit breakfast. She told the audience how domestic violence forced her and her child out of their home. With no money and no family support, they slept in their car for weeks. When she connected with FAC-ETS, the nonprofit helped her find a home, her self-confidence and a job working for the Fairfax County Department of Family Services. "When I first met my caseworker, I was truly broken. But the kindness and generosity of FACETS turned my life around," she said.

"Without FACETS, I don't know where I'd be. My health is better. I graduated from FACETS financial classes, to get myself back on track. I took classes to learn how to control my diabetes," Somers said.

A divorced father of five, Somers said the joy of his life is seeing his children and grandchildren. "My son takes classes at Northern Virginia Community College. We speak almost every day, and he helps me with my landscaping jobs when he's not in school. I'm very proud of him."

After the breakfast, several audience members gathered around Somers, chatting with him and shaking his hand. "I just want you to know you really inspired me," Carla McTigue of Fairfax said. "Thank you for sharing your story."

Calendar

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

FRIDAY/MAY 18

Wine Festival & Sunset Tour. 6-9

p.m. Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens. Celebrate the history of wine in Virginia with tours of the Mansion and cellar, appearances by "George and Martha Washington" and live jazz on the east lawn. Bring a blanket and relax on the lawn as they sample wines from 16 Virginia wineries. \$35 per person. Reserved tables with fruit and cheese platter. three bottles of house wine and table service \$1000. MountVernon.org.

"Rapunzel." 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Studio 3 Theatre for Young Audiences, Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A lost prince, a two-headed monster, an unscrupulous baker, a lonely witch and a flaxen-tressed maiden. \$8-\$12. www.WorkhouseArts.org

Workhouse Film: "Om Shanti Om." 7:30 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A Bollywood film classic directed and choreographed by Farah Khan. \$10. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

Bug-A-Boo! 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Friendly bugs and bugs to avoid. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

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

SATURDAY/MAY 19

Wine Festival & Sunset Tour. 6-9

p.m. Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens. Celebrate the history of wine in Virginia with tours of the Mansion and cellar, appearances by "George and Martha Washington", and live jazz on the east lawn. Visitors can bring a blanket and relax on the lawn as they sample wines from 16 Virginia wineries. \$35 per person. Reserved tables with fruit and cheese platter, three bottles of house wine and table service \$1000. MountVernon.org.

"The 39 Steps." 8 p.m. Workhouse

Theatre, Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A mysterious woman and an ordinary man are caught in an international espionage ring. \$15-\$20.

www.WorkhouseArts.org.

Spring Virginia Native Wildflower **Sale.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Proceeds benefit the Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society. 703-732-5291

Birding with Andy: Warblers and **More.** 8-10:30 a.m. Huntley Meadows Park, Harrison Lane and Lockheed Blvd. in Alexandria. With veteran birder Andy Higgs. \$6. Register at 703-768-2525.

Sunset Cruise. 6 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Cruiser the shores of Lake Accotink. Beverages served. \$6. Register at 703-569-0285.

Spring Festival. 12-4 p.m. Fellowship Baptist Church, 5936 Rolling Road, Springfield. Petting zoo, moon bounce, obstacle course, remote control race course, games, crafts, cake walk, prizes and refreshments. Free. 703-569-5151 or www.honoringGod.org.

Concerts from Kirkwood: 2012 **Young Artists Competition** Winners. 3 p.m. Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carleigh Parkway, Springfield. Performances by six young artists. Dr. Kelly Ker Hackleman, Artistic Director.

ejdowning@cox.net or 703-569-2887 Serenade with Strings. 7:30 p.m. St.



Storytellers at a recent Better Said than Done show. Better Said Than Done will perform on Saturday, May 19, 7 p.m. at Epicure Cafe, 11213A Lee Highway, Fairfax. A community of professional storytellers, presenting "First Encounters," stories of meetings, dates and the totally alien. Show intended for adult audience. Tickets \$10. Full dinner menu and bar available. 571-334-8652 or www.bettersaidthandone.com.

Mark's Lutheran Church, 5800 Backlick Road, Springfield. The Northern Virginia Chorale and a string chamber orchestra, will perform Bach's Cantata No. 4 and Schubert's Mass in G Major and a serenade by Mozart. \$15-\$20. www.northernvirginiachorale.org

5K Run/Walk for Youth Mental Wellness. 9:30-11 a.m. Lake Accotink Park, McLaren-Sargent Pavilion, 5660 Heming Ave., Springfield. Hosted by the Fairfax Partnership for Youth, Inc., the Josh Anderson Foundation, and the Befriend-A-Child Mentoring Program in celebration of National Mental Health Month and Foster Care & Adoption Month, www.active.com/ running/springfield-va/5k-for-youthmental-wellness-2012.

Spring Garden Day. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. More than 40 vendors of familiar and unusual plants for spring gardening needs. 703-642-5173 or

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

SUNDAY/MAY 20

Wine Festival & Sunset Tour. 6-9

p.m. Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens. Celebrate the history of wine in Virginia with tours of the Mansion and cellar, appearances by "George and Martha Washington", and live jazz on the east lawn. Visitors can bring a blanket and relax on the lawn as they sample wines from 16 Virginia wineries. \$35 per person. Reserved tables with fruit and cheese platter, three bottles of house wine and table service \$1000. MountVernon.org.

"The 39 Steps." 2 p.m. Workhouse Theatre, Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A mysterious woman and an ordinary man are caught in an international espionage ring. \$15-\$20.

www.WorkhouseArts.org. Art Reception. 2-4 p.m. Huntley Meadows Park, Harrison Lane and Lockheed Blvd. in Alexandria. Opening of wildlife artist B. J. Opfer's two-month show. Free. 703-768-

Seasonal Birding for Beginners. 8-11 a.m. Huntley Meadows Park, Harrison Lane and Lockheed Blvd, in Alexandria. \$6. Register at 703-768-

Canine Cruises. 6 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road. Springfield. Cruiser the shores of Lake Accotink with your dog. Limit one dog per person. \$6. Register at

Wakefield Chorale Spring Concert. 7 p.m. Ernst Theater. NVCC Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Show tunes,

patriotic, classical and spiritual numbers. Tickets available at door. 703-451-7917.

Herb Festival. 12-5 p.m. Heather Hill Gardens, 8111 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Learn to grow and use your own fresh herbs. Free. 703-690-6060 or www.heatherhillgardens.com.

MONDAY/MAY 21

Sabaton. 7 p.m. Empire, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or www.empire-nova.com.

Spring Fling. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Songs and stories. Age 12-23 months with adult. 703-339 4610.

Hidden Pond Monday: Pond Life. 2:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Discover what's hiding beneath the surface of a pond. Presented by the staff of Hidden Pond Nature Center. Age 6-12. 703-451-8055.

FRIDAY/JUNE 22

Joan Sebastian and Pepe Aguilar.

9 p.m. Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Latin music equestrian show. \$64-\$144, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 1-800-

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Practice and improve your English. Adults. 703-451-8055.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 23

ereader Clinic. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. How to access eBooks through your public library. Bring your ereader, tablet, or mobile device. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Learning English. 10:15 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

Travel Club. 1 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Bring lunch and enjoy a lively discussion. Adults. 703-451-

THURSDAY/MAY 24

Garden Stroll and Tea. 1-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. An elegant English afternoon tea. For age 13 and up. \$27. Register at 703-941-7987.

Story Time. 10 a.m. Caribou Coffee, 11947 Grand Commons Ave., Fairfax. With Miss Elise, children's director at Fairfax Circle Church, reading "Giraffes Can't Dance" by Giles Andrae. 703-815-2001.



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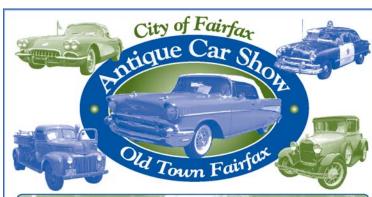


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SPORTS



Hayfield sophomore Emily Ryan scored a team-high three goals against Yorktown on May 10 during the National District girls' lacrosse tournament final.

Hayfield Girls' Lax Drops OT Heartbreaker to Yorktown

Hawks finish National District runner-up for third straight season.

> By Jon Roetman The Connection

ayfield girls' lacrosse teammates Paige Jurado and Leah Brennan kneeled on their home field after the National District tournament championship game against Yorktown and comforted one another with a hug. Head coach Sarah Burrowbridge's eyes welled with tears as she experienced a new level of frustration

Yorktown defeated Hayfield, 9-8, in sudden-death overtime on May 10, capturing its seventh consecutive district title. The Hawks held a 6-2 halftime lead and a one-goal advantage during the second overtime period, but couldn't fend off the Patriots.

After regulation ended in a 7-all tie, the teams played a pair of three-minute overtime periods. Neither team scored in the first period, but Hayfield grabbed an 8-7 lead when Emily Ryan scored with 1:16 remaining in the second. However, Yorktown's Kristen Somers scored 11 seconds later and the teams would head to sudden death, where Yorktown's Meaghan Galvin deposited the game-winner.

"Just frustrated," is the way Burrowbridge described what she was feeling after the game. "It's nothing like I've ever felt losing to Yorktown before."

IN THE THREE SEASONS since moving to the National District, Hayfield has reached the district final each year only to lose to the Patriots. This season, Hayfield beat Yorktown during an undefeated run through the district, earning the Hawks the No. 1 seed and the right to host the tournament final. Despite its top three offensive players being sophomores, Hayfield put itself in a position end Yorktown's run of district crowns, only to suffer a heartbreaking loss.

"The frustration feels like [a product of] it could have been anyone at the end, and we're the ones that haven't gotten it in so long," Burrowbridge said.

12 SPRINGFIELD CONNECTION MAY 17-23, 2012



Hayfield sophomore Brenna Thomas scored two goals during the Hawks' National District girls' lacrosse tournament championship loss to Yorktown on May 10.

"That's where I feel frustrated. It's not a frustration [about] the way my team played, at all."

Ryan led Hayfield with three goals. Brenna Thomas and Brennan each had two, and Mara Dorsey had one. Burrowbridge and Yorktown head coach Crystal Morgan praised the performance of Hayfield sophomore goalkeeper Jackie Bonfiglio.

"Jackie had an incredible game," Burrowbridge said. "... She dug deep and I thought she played excellent. She had a ton of free positions coming down her throat and she had a great game."

Brennan (midfield), Ryan (attack) and Dorsey (midfield) are each sophomores who earned first-team all-district honors. Senior defender Kyra Pruitt was also a first-team selection.

Burrowbridge had high praise for Brennan.

"I played top-10 DI lacrosse (at William & Mary), played in high school on a really winning team in [New] Jersey," she said, "and she's the hardest working child I've ever seen."

HAYFIELD RESPONDED to the loss by defeating West Springfield, 10-7, on May 15 in the opening round of the Northern Region tournament. The Hawks will face Concorde District champion Oakton on Thursday, May 17.

"We said all that matters is how we play at the end of the season," Burrowbridge said. "As a coach, I'm extraordinarily proud of the way they played at the end of the season."



South County senior Clinton Black (right) chest bumps the ball forward during a Stallions' Patriot District boys' soccer game versus T.C. Williams on April 24, a contest played in Lorton which ended in a 2-2 tie. Black earned All-District Honorable Mention accolades this spring.

2012 All-Patriot District Boys' Soccer Team

District Player of the Year: Manuel Benites, Senior Defender, T.C. Williams

District Coach of the Year: Andy Saffron, West Springfield

First Team Forwards: Michael Cherry, Junior, W.T. Woodson; Jannick Eckenrode, Senior, West Springfield; Joy Mainoo, Senior, West Potomac; Alex Mansaray, Senior, T.C. Williams

First Team Midfielders: Patrick Burns, Senior, West Springfield; Reynaldo Pastor, Senior, Lake Braddock; Luis Aguilar, Senior, Lee; Scotty Patterson, Junior, W.T. Woodson

First Team Fullbacks: Manuel Benites, Senior, T.C. Williams; Tyler Durbin, Senior, Lake Braddock; Jordan Fox, Sophomore, Annandale; Ezra Williams, Senior, South County

First Team Goal Keepers: Braden Horton, Junior, West Springfield; Carlos Canas, Jun-

ior, W.T. Woodson Wild Card: Nathan Reeb, Senior Forward, South County

Second Team Forwards: Angel Hernandez, Junior, Lee; Abdel Al Nimiry, Senior, T.C. Williams; Aaron Hollins, Senior, Lake Braddock; Mo Osman, Senior, Annandale

Second Team Midfielders: Josh Prosser, Junior, South County; Chris Fanet, Junior, W.T. Woodson; Cesar Flores, Junior, Annandale; Charlie Montaro, Sophomore, Annandale

Second Team Fullbacks/ Defenders: Byron Ortiz, Senior, Lake Braddock; Tommy Mead, Sophomore, West Potomac; Yafeet Teshone, Senior, West Springfield; Edgar Lopez, Junior,

Second Team Goal Keeper: Douglas Guitierrez, Junior, Lee

Wild Card: Mauricio Salvatierra, Senior, T.C. Williams

All-District Honorable Mention (by schools):

West Springfield: Jordan Petitt, Junior, Defender; Henok Yohannes, Senior, Midfielder; Tommy Abdoulhosn, Sophmore, Defender; Brian Le, Senior, Defender

T.C. Williams: Alex Wolz, Junior, Defender; Marcus Nin Man, Junior, Defender; Kelvin Marin-Solis, Senior, Midfielder

Lake Braddock: Adam Rothe, Senior, Midfielder; Zack Hopkins, Junior, Midfielder

W. T. Woodson: Christian Keppler, Junior, Defender; Matt Cumby, Senior, Defender; Connor Mulloy, Senior, Defender; Billy Metzler, Sophomore, Midfielder Annandale: Javier Aguila, Junior, Defender; Willie Labarca, Senior, Midfielder; David Belay, Junior, Defender; Marco Marquez, Junior, Defender; John Fuentes, Junior, Goalkeeper; Kyle Peich, Sophomore, Forward

South County: Clinton Black, Senior, Midfielder; Daniel Griggs, Senior, Defender; Brendan Reed, Senior, Defender

West Potomac: Jefferson Zelaya, Sophomore, Midfielder; Matt Kuhbach, Senior, Defender; Pace Woods, Senior, Defender

Lee: Solomon Alemu, Senior, Midfielder; Marlon Escobar, Junior; Midfielder; Young Lim, Freshman, Forward; Luis Mondragon, Junior, Defender Zone 2: • Burke • FAIRFAX • SPRINGFIELD

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