♦ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 13

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10

Greeting New 'Fellow Americans' News, Page 3

Fairfax Serving Areas of Burke

> PFC Brian Bowman uses binoculars to look at boat registration numbers, check children for personal flotation devices and look for other boating safety issues while PFC Matthew Grubb drives the Fairfax County Police Marine Patrol Unit in Belmont Bay on May 26. Memorial Day Weekend was the opening weekend for leisure boating in Fairfax County.

Daily Patrols Take to the Water

News, Page 3

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Fairfax Honors The Fallen News, Page 4

May 31-June 6, 2012

The County Line

Community Services Budget Under Scrutiny

\$8 Million budget hole threatens programs, public review underway.

By Victoria Ross The Connection

he Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, which provides social services to thousands of the county's most vulnerable residents and has come under fire for an \$8 million budget shortfall, was given a temporary reprieve by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

At its May 22 meeting, the board ultimately approved a plan that directs the Human Services Council to collect input from the public and social service advocates - a plan that temporarily takes critical services provided by the CSB off the chopping block.

But the decision was not a simple one, and came after vigorous debate and calls for more financial scrutiny of the agency, which administers social service programs to more than 22,000 county residents.

After the meeting, Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) said he would like to see an independent audit of the agency to examine the scope of the CSB's financial problems.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), in a May 25 letter to the Auditor of the Board, also suggested a financial review of the agency "to ensure that the CSB is not unnecessarily wasting money, considering their looming budgetary problems."

RELATIONS between the CSB and the board have been strained since the agency revealed a larger-than-expected budget deficit in early May. Some supervisors suggested the information about the financially troubled agency came too late in the budget process to adequately explore the reasons behind the shortfall and develop viable solutions.

"It troubles me that we're stuck with this here, stuck with this now, and we're not in budget (discussions) where we can do anything about it," said Herrity, who suggested that the CSB look to private health insurance companies to help to offset the cost of services. "We want people who don't have private health insurance to be able to get into the program."

During fiscal year 2013 budget hearings in the spring, the social services agency raised a red flag when it announced it had, for the first time in its history, started a waiting list in March for services delivered by the Infant &Toddler Connection.

The ITC provides evaluations and early intervention services for infants and toddlers (up to age three) who have a developmental delay. Therapies include physical, speech, occupational and vision and hearing. Any delays in treatment, according to medical experts, can compound and intensify developmental delays, creating signifi-



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-atlarge) and Supervisor Penny Gross (D-Mason) questioned George Braunstein, the director of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, about current and projected budget shortfalls that threaten the agency's programs.

-Public Meetings Start June 4-

At its May 22 meeting, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors directed the Human Services Council to offer the public a chance to review, evaluate and comment on the CSB's proposed budget management plan. There will be three public meetings:

Organizations and Advocacy Groups: Monday, June 4, at 7:30 p.m. in conference center rooms
 9 and 10 in the Fairfax County Government Center
 Families and Consumers: Monday, June 11 at 7 p.m. in rooms 230 A and B, 2nd floor of the

Families and Consumers: Monday, June 11 at 7 p.m. in rooms 230 A and B, 2nd floor of the Pennino Building. In addition, individuals may participate in a phone question session at this meeting by calling 703-324-2001.

♦ Organizations and Advocacy Groups: Monday, June 18 at 7:30 p.m. in conference center rooms 9 and 10 in the Fairfax County Government Center.

To sign up in advance to speak at the meetings, to request ADA accommodations or to submit written comments, contact Dwight Curtis at Dwight.Curtis@fairfaxcounty.gov. Or call 703-324-5630, TTY 711.

To submit comments online, visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/fairfaxfallschurchCSBplan. The Human Services Council will consider all input and present recommendations to the Board of Supervisors at its July 16 meeting.

cant learning problems when children enter school.

During the second tense meeting with CSB director George Braunstein on May 22, board members expressed unanimous frustration and disappointment that the agency was considering scaling back services for atrisk children, people with intellectual disabilities and substance abuse problems to address the current \$8 million shortfall that is projected to increase to \$9.4 million in the fiscal year 2013.

Supervisor Penny Gross (D-Mason) said earlier proposals by the CSB to close budget gaps – such as shutting down substance abuse treatment centers and facilities for adults and children suffering from mental illness - were unacceptable.

"I don't like being in this position because I've generally tried to be very supportive of things at the CSB, but I am really uncomfortable with these recommendations and I'd like to be able to say no because it cuts services," Gross said. "But if I vote no on recommendations, where else do we go? I guess I'm just venting, because I don't have a suggestion of what we need to do. I am extremely unhappy."

"I don't want anyone to think we're approving recommendations everyone is troubled by," said Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large). "We're looking for ways to mitigate the reductions that were presented."

Braunstein told the board a combination of factors led to the agency's deepening financial crisis, including reduced federal funding and a steep increase in demand for CSB services. The demand for ITC services has jumped 38 percent in the past two years, and 165 children are currently on the waiting list, Braunstein said.

"The CSB, at least during first three years, managed to absorb local budget reductions and not reduce access to services, "Braunstein said. "The strategies we used the last three years just didn't work this past year."

In fiscal year 2011, CSB expenditures totaled approximately \$155 million dollars. In February, the CSB notified the county of a potential \$8.3 million hole in its current budget, which prompted the board to establish a \$4.2 million cushion during the budget discussions.

Bulova noted that CSB programs in other parts of Virginia are funded with a combination of federal and state dollars.

"In Fairfax County, the reverse is true. We pay about 70 percent of CSB programs, and we do as much as we can because these are populations we care deeply about," Bulova said.

During the board's discussion, several supervisors questioned whether it was even necessary to approve any of the interim measures before them.

"The fundamental question I have is why



George Braunstein, the director of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, appeared before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for the second meeting on May 22.

are we acting on this period? Why does this need our stamp of approval," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

After some deliberation about the need for the board's approval, the board approved a "plan process" that includes public forums facilitated by the Human Services Council.

The Human Services Council will facilitate a public review process to prioritize, review, and evaluate the impact of the CSB's proposed budget management plan on individuals, families, provider network, and the human services system.

THE BOARD also authorized the following interim actions for the Community Services Board. The measures, Bulova said, are first steps before more comprehensive actions are taken to address the projected budget shortfall:

◆The Infant and Toddler Connection (ITC) early intervention services waiting list will be maintained while continuing CSBprovided assessment and facilitation of potential next steps and resume early intervention referrals as State funding is available.

Employment and day services will be initiated for 19 new high school graduates with intellectual disability who have urgent needs upon graduation.

The allocation of contract rate adjustment funds to CSB contractors will be suspended pending final carryover decisions by the Board of Supervisors.

♦ All measures to contain costs through further efficiencies and probationary staff reductions will be immediately taken.

"The CSB serves our most vulnerable populations in Fairfax County. In partnership with the CSB, Advisory Groups and organizations, and with our County workforce we will work our way through this challenge," said Bulova.

News

FAIRFAX CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHIC 703-778-9414 or south@connectionnewspapers.com

Greeting New 'Fellow Americans'

Fairfax County hosts fourth annual naturalization ceremony.

By Victoria Ross The Connection

y fellow Americans," U.S. Rep Gerry Connolly (D-11) said with gravitas, pausing to let the meaning sink in.

And when it did, 75 immigrants - from Afghanistan to Uzbekistan - who had just raised their right hand and taken the Oath of Allegiance to become American citizens, erupted with applause and tears, waving American flags and hugging family members. They were gathered at the Fairfax County Government Center Friday, May 25, for the county's fourth annual naturalization ceremony.

"You now join us...Every new wave of immigrants refreshes us, makes us stronger," Connolly said, leading the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

"I am happy for today," said Shahinaz Hassan, a recent immigrant from Egypt who lives in Fairfax. "Everything gets easier here," she said in halting English. She said she was looking forward to voting in the presidential elections this fall.

Yesuf Beshir, originally from Ethiopia, works as a government contractor in Springfield and brought his daughter, Kedja, 4, who was born in Virginia, to the ceremony. Beshir said he pursued American citizenship for many reasons.

"I am proud of being an Ameri-

can," Beshir said. "The main thing is democracy. Here, you can vote. You can be what you want in America. You can be president...If you want to be a doctor, you can be a doctor," he said, smiling at his daughter. "I tell her the possibilities are endless."

MODERATED by Corazon Sandoval Foley, the naturalization ceremony for 75 candidates from around the globe was part of the county's Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month celebrations. The event began with the Presentation of Colors by the Fairfax County Public Safety Honor Guard and the National Anthem sung by Captain Francis Mensah of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FCFRD).

Samuel DeVera, a captain with the county's Fire and Rescue Department and a member of the Fairfax County Asian American Firefighters' Association, gave the keynote address, telling the audience his personal story of coming to America from the Philippines when he was 14 years old in 1983. After becoming a paramedic in 1994, he received a Valor award and, in 2010, scored first on the test to become a captain with the Fire and Rescue Department.

"Look at me. The one thing I can say is work hard to make you and your families better," DeVera said. "If you're vice president of the company, aim to be president. I'm not here to encourage you; I want to challenge you."

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) leads 75 new U.S. citizens from 33 countries in Pledge of Allegiance at Friday's naturalization ceremony at the Fairfax County Government Center. In his remarks, Connolly told the newly-minted citizens "you are as American as I am."



Shahinaz Hassan of Fairfax, a recent immigrant from Egypt, said she was happy to be an American citizen, and was looking forward to voting.



Yesuf Beshir, from Ethiopia, who works as a government contractor in Springfield, poses for photos with his daughter, Kedja, 4.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) presented the Certificates of Naturalization to the new Americans.

"Some of you have endured hardships to arrive at this time and place," Bulova said in her remarks. "All of you have invested your time, money and efforts to become citizens. Many of you came here to escape war or endless poverty."

She said she was "proud" to see the growing number of small businesses being opened by immigrants.

"Fairfax County has a very strong sense of community. Our residents and corporate neighbors are highly engaged, with a seat at the table when decisions are made...You who are here today now officially have a seat at that table."

Andrew Eade from England received a loud applause and cheers from his family and friends when Bulova presented him with his certificate. A resident of Herndon for 16 years, Eade said he wanted to become a citizen so he could "fully participate in the system and vote."

'You want to feel like you are getting your voice heard," he said.

THE NATURALIZATION CANDIDATES originated from nearly 30 countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burma, China, El Salvador, Iraq, Iran, South Korea and Sudan.



The Fairfax County Police Marine Patrol Unit enforces a no-wake zone near Occoquan as part of its patrol area on May 26. PFC Matthew Grubb and PFB Brian Bowman find that boaters are generally glad to see them on the water and they always return a wave.

Daily Patrols Take to the Water Memorial Day weekend launches boating season.

By Deb Cobb The Connection

he warm holiday weekend brought the opening of boating season on the Potomac watershed and Fairfax County's inland lakes and waterways. In Fairfax and surrounding Virginia counties (Prince William, Alexandria, Arlington, Loudoun and Stafford) there are more than 4,000 registered recreational boats.

For three years, the Fairfax County Police Department has deployed a Marine Patrol Unit staffed with EMT-trained SWAT officers who have their Coast Guard captain's licenses to ensure the safety of boaters in Fairfax County waters. The unit operates two boats, a 35-foot Marlago and a special purpose 19-foot flat-bottom Carolina skip. The skip is used to patrol shallow areas like Lake Braddock and Lake Barcroft while the Marlago patrols the waters of Occoquan/Belmont Bay, Pohick Bay, Little Hunting Creek, Dogue Creek, Belle Haven and the 100 miles of Virginia shoreline that is in Fairfax County.

"Our mission is safety, education, and enforcement," said Police Officer First Class Mat-Marine Patrol Unit provides safety inspections of boats, spotting and addressing safety

violations of boaters, checking boat registrations, BUI (boating under the influence) checkpoints, wake-enforcement ----ensuring that boats are not speeding in no-wake zones, providing emergency response and assistance and coordinating with other emergency services on the water. In addition, the unit operates with the Fairfax County Dive Team.

The boating community is welcoming of the Marine Patrol Unit. Said Harbor Master Jim Brooks of the Belmont Bay Harbor Marina, "Any time you have a police presence, it cuts back on the no-gooders."

The unit is launching a program aimed at promoting boating safety among children. If a boat is stopped by the Marine Patrol Unit this summer and children are wearing their PFDs (personal flotation devices), they'll get a t-shirt. If the children aren't wearing PFDs, boater will get a warning or a summons. PFDs are required for all children under the age of 13.

"Last year we didn't have any drownings and we're shooting for that this year. Education is the main focus of the unit followed by enforcement. We hope to educate people about boating while intoxicated, and thew Grubb, a 10-year veteran we will have more BUI enof the FCPD and one of the full forcement this summer," said time Marine Patrol officers. The head of the Marine Patrol Unit Second Lieutenant Lance Schaible of the Special Operations Division.



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News

Mom of Five Teaches **Emergency** Preparedness

Will conduct a presentation at Fairfax Corner on June 6.

> By Jennifer Fedor The Connection

ccording to the American Heart Association, 70 percent of Americans either do not know how to perform CPR or their training is outdated. For this reason, Antonisha "Nisi" Bennett is passionate about training moms and other caregivers in lifesaving skills. She lived in New York during 9/11 and remembers how helpless many people felt as a result of the attacks. "People were just standing there and didn't know what to do," she recalls.

That tragedy, coupled with the impact of Hurricane Katrina and other natural disasters in this country, inspired her to make it her mission to teach others about emergency preparedness. "It takes EMS at least five minutes to respond [to a call]," she notes. The response time can be even longer if the emergency occurs at a difficult-to-pinpoint location, like a park or shopping mall.

Currently a resident of Woodbridge in Prince William County, Bennett is the mother of five children ranging in age from 1 to 17 and works as a Licensed Practical Nurse. In addition, she runs All Heart Training, a business that personalizes lifesaving training sessions to meet the needs of families, groups, or schools.

She believes it is crucial that community members educate themselves so they'll be better prepared in all situations. AHA's website highlights a startling statistic: about 92 percent of sudden cardiac arrest victims die before reaching the hospital. Bystanders with CPR skills quickly become lifesaving heroes when they intervene to help collapsed and unresponsive victims.

ON JUNE 6 at 7 p.m., Bennett will conduct a 10minute presentation on lifesaving skills at Fairfax Corner. Her demonstration, set to the BeeGees' popular tune, "Staying Alive", will include a discussion of what it means to have "emergency eyes," or an awareness of where emergency equipment is located in public places. She'll ask participants to note where the AED (automated external defibrillator) and first aid kits are the next time they head to the mall, for



Nisi Bennett, of Woodbridge, is a Licensed Practical Nurse and runs All Heart Training. She believes that emergency preparedness makes life more enjoyable.

example.

Her presentation will follow a Little Tots concert series performance, by Kidsinger Jim, at 6 p.m., ensuring there will be many families on hand to hear her message. She'll also be available afterwards, with practice dummies on display, to answer questions.

She hopes she will encourage participants to give CPR "a second look." Bennett notes that there is fear associated with performing CPR and her goal is to present this and other emergency techniques in a manner that is relaxed and memorable. She emphasizes fun when teaching these skills to children as well. She's made sure her own children are certified in CPR and teaches them first aid basics. She makes "emergency eyes" a game whenever they go out as a family, to see who can spot equipment first.

Bennett is a certified AHA CPR instructor, member of National Preparedness Coalition, and a registered MAT (Medical Administration Training) trainer through the Virginia Department of Social Services. "My desire is to empower mothers, which stems from the pure fact that mothers are life managers," she says. She hopes to share her knowledge so that mothers, other caretakers, and members of the community are ready for whatever life throws at them.

"I'm not an extreme survivalist," she stresses. But she does encourage families to build emergency kits for their homes. If the task seems overwhelming, she recommends breaking it down into smaller steps. "Go buy a box," she says. "The next time you go shopping, get water. Every time you go grocery shopping,

SEE EMERGENCY, PAGE 11





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Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) speaks at the Memorial Day ceremony.



Рнотоз ві KATHERINE HEATH/ The Connectio

Fairfax Honors the Fallen

Memorial Day ceremony held at old Fairfax courthouse.

By KATHERINE HEATH The Connection

n Monday, May 28, dozens gathered on the lawn of the old Fairfax courthouse for a ceremony honoring those who have died in battle. The American Legion Post 177 and VFW Post 8469 partnered for the service.

The ceremony took place alongside a rock, that many overlook, that has engraved the names of the local heroes that had passed in World War II, Korean War and Vietnam. Volunteer veterans lined up and took turns reading aloud the names of the fallen from the World War II, Korean War, Vietnam and the recent War on Terror at the podium and pausing briefly for the bell to toll in honor for each name.

Commander Joshua Lawton-Bekas of VFW Post 8469 led the ceremony and gave the opening prayer. Following him elected officials gave remarks commemorating the holiday and those who have served our country.

SEPA



Joshua Lawton-Bekus giving the opening prayer.

Ellie Schmidt said in opening remarks, "Memorial day is a day of remembrance of the ultimate sacrifice."

After the completion of the reading of the Fairfax Honor Roll there was wreath laid upon the rock by Comrade McAnaw.

Lawton-Bekas stated, "We still have war going on and since last year we have added one name to General Terence Hildner]."



Emily Schmidt reading the names of the fallen in World War II.

The ceremony concluded with Commander Bob Parli of the American Legion Post 177 giving a closing prayer and the playing of Taps by Comrade Hank Roeder.

Following the ceremony viewers could either accompany the VFW into Fairfax Cemetery for a remembrance of the departed comrades or the American Legion our Fairfax Honor Roll [Brigadier members march from Oak Street to the cemetery.

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Fairfax Connection I May 31 - June 6, 2012 I 5

OPINION Surviving through Summer

to graduation, and all the celebrations that come with it. It's lovely to think, from a distance, that this is a happy and uncomplicated time for teens as the school year winds down, many look forward to college in the fall and a summer of internships or other interesting activities.

Editorials

Few adults with clear memories of high schools would likely be willing to turn back the clock and relive that time, especially with the addition of mobile phone

videos and photos to accompany those awkward moments or more serious bullying or harassment.

We do know that many, if not most, teenagers will be celebrating, or possibly self-medicating, with alcohol, and that many will en-

t is that time again, the time from proms gage in binge drinking. While drinking and driving, or getting into a car with a driver who has been drinking, can kill, there are many other problems that come along with binge drinking. Parents owe it to themselves to talk to their teens about it, even as the teen turns away, rolls eyes, and otherwise indicates he or she is ignoring everything you say, some information will go in. They do hear you, and sometimes even make use of the information later.

> Keep talking. Tell them you love them. Tell them it's been too much work to get them to this point to risk losing them. Tell them not to text and drive. Tell them not to drink and drive. Tell them not to get in a car with anyone driving who has been drinking. Tell them you'll come pick them up anytime that they need a safe ride home, without grounding them for the summer.

Father's Day Photos

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

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.

You can submit your photos online at connectionnewspapers.com/fathersday or email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

— Victoria Ross

Norm Weaver, Nokesville, a member of the Washington Scottish Pipe Band

"For me, (Memorial Day) is about heading down to Arlington National Cemetery to pay my respects to the families who have given all."

Phil Scruggs, Burke, Scout-

master of Boy Scout Troop 1345

"Memorial Day is a day to be set

aside to honor the veterans who

fought and died to protect our

communities."



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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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VIEWPOINTS What Does Memorial Day Mean to You?

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) "What I've told my children is Memorial Day is more than a day for barbecues, sporting events and the opening of pools. It's a day to remember those who have fought for our freedom and are unable to celebrate with their families today. It's especially great to see the Boy Scouts here, understanding the true meaning of the day and being a part of this important ceremony."

Luanne Smith, Burke

"It's an important occasion for

us to acknowledge those who have

lost their lives defending our free-







doms."





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Brian Engler, president, Burke Centre Conservancy Board of Trustees

"As a community, Burke is proud to have this event remembering and honoring our men and women who died serving our country. My father, who is 90 years old, served in Iwo Jima, and my daughter is in the U.S. Navy.'



Rachael Goldman, Burke,

who sang the National Anthem during the Burke Memorial Day ceremony

"It means a day of remembering our fallen heroes. I like to use my voice in times of sorrow or joy as a way of paying respect."



News

Fairfax Academy: Talent on Display

Creative Works Showcase, awards program to be held June 5.

ignature Projects created by second year Fairfax Academy students will be featured at Fairfax Academy's annual Creative Works Showcase on Tuesday, June 5, 6:30-7:45 p.m. at the Fairfax HS Commons, followed by the Awards Program, 8 p.m. at the Fairfax HS Auditorium.

The showcase of original work, in the format of a culture and arts festival, will include dance, music, and theatre performances; Chinese and Korean language cultural displays; a film festival; photography, graphic design, and animation displays; and the fashion design collections of student designers. Students will be on hand to host the Showcase and answer questions about their creations.

Second year Signature Projects are culminating capstone projects that represent a student's body of work at the Academy – many are creative projects (choreography, music compositions, fashion collections, portfolios, films), others involve academic research. All Signature Projects are presented to industry professionals and/or invited educators for review and feedback, with the most outstanding projects honored at the Academy's Awards program. Many other accomplished students will also be recognized at the awards program.

The Academy's Awards Program will follow the showcase, beginning with Red Carpet Interviews streamed live into the auditorium by a crew of TV Production students, followed by a procession of Korean students on Samulnori drums and a performance by Dance students. Dan DeLuca, actor/filmmaker, will be the guest emcee to host the Awards program and recognize student honorees. The Grand Finale of the evening will be a fashion runway presentation of original designs created by second year Fashion Design students.

Admission to both events is free.







Fairfax County Public Schools Summer Learning and Enrichment

Coming Next Month: New FCPS Schools Opening in Fall 2012

www.fcps.edu

Explore Enrichment Opportunities

Do you have an aspiring musician, painter, or sculptor in the family? If you're looking for opportunities to help your student pursue a special interest, the Institute for the Arts (IFTA) likely has a class to help him or her focus on skills, concepts, and the artistic process

IFTA is a visual and performing arts program for students entering grades 7-12 in the 2012-13 school year. Dozens of enrichment classes, taught by professionals, help students grow and expand their knowledge of dance, music, theatre, cartooning, computer graphics, photography, and more.

The Elementary Institute for Arts (E-IFTA) offers enrichment classes for students entering grades 4-6 in the 2012-13 school year. Students experience total immersion in the arts as they rotate through exciting and stimulating classes in dance, drama, music, and visual art.

"Students develop skills and talents while exploring subjects or fields that interest them when they take enrichment courses," said Folly. "For example, Tech Adventure Camp gives students a chance to rotate through a series of eight classes including automotive technology, culinary arts, CAD/3D design, gaming, graphic arts, robotics, video and webpage design. It is great exposure to many forms of technology for students who have an interest in that area."

Young people interested in pursuing a career as models, fashion designers, makeup artists, or hair stylists will explore all that and more at Fashion Camp, July 9-13, at Fairfax High School. The camp is open to all students entering first grade through ninth grade. Campers will participate in activities designed for separate age groups. Campers will learn about fashion trends and create their own personally styled outfits, jewelry, and accessories in preparation for a fashion show at the end of the week.

Dive into a Good Book

Summer is a great time for children to explore books and discover reading for enjoyment. Students who read during the summer are more likely to improve their word recognition and reading comprehension skills. So encourage your child to pick up a book, discover a new subject or author, and have fun too! Many schools provide summer reading lists for students and the Fairfax County Public Library offers a summer reading program.

Summer Learning Fun

Splashing around in the pool, bicycle riding in the neighborhood, playing video games -- just a few ways children spend their summer days. Do you want to add some exciting, fun, and even educational activities to your child's summer?

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) offers many programs to keep students learning throughout the summer including fashion camp, art classes, drivers' education classes, foreign language camps, and more.

This Just In

Fairfax County

School Board adopted

the FY2013 budget of

\$2.4 billion. For details

Learn Languages and More Through ACE

everyone in the community.

ing their classes through ACE.

Spanish.

FCPS Adult and Community Education (ACE) offer a variety of classes for

Exploring world languages through games, art, songs, crafts, and activities

High school students who need classroom and behind-the-wheel training to

help students in grades K-6 learn other languages. The Foreign Language Experi-

ence (FLEX) Summer Camps provide instruction in Chinese, French, German, and

meet state driver education requirements can fulfill the requirement by complet-

visit www.fcps.edu

FY 2013 Budget

and click on

"Learning doesn't occur just between September and June," said Levi Folly, manager of FCPS summer programs. "Summer academic and enrichment courses expose students to subjects and areas they might not access during the school year and they provide opportunities for students to focus on areas of interest with likeminded students.

"Completing an academic course during the summer gives students more flexibility in their

To learn more about

all FCPS summer programs visit www.



fall schedule. In fact, most students who take an academic summer course do so to get ahead," he said.

Academic programs are available for students who want to accelerate their course of study during the summer, need to recover a credit, or pass a Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) end-of-course test.

The Summer Online Campus is open to FCPS students and non-FCPS students and includes mathematics, science, English, history, physical education, and Spanish courses. New online courses include creative writing, Algebra 2 head start, college essay writing, and rich writing.

FCPS also offers two summer sessions for students seeking SOL credit. An SOL writing test remediation session will be held July 9-20 and

a non-writing test session will be held July 9-24 for the following courses: Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology, Chemistry, World History-Geography 1, World History-Geography 2, and Virginia-US History.

Current FCPS high school seniors who need to earn one standard credit in Algebra 2, Geometry, English 12, or Virginia-U.S. government in order to graduate can enroll in the Term Graduate Academy to receive credit and graduate by August 31. The classes will be taught at Lake Braddock Secondary School July 9-27.

> Left: The go-cart was constructed in the Automotive Technology class "Start Your Engines" at Tech Adventure Camp last summer. The campers assembled and drove the go-carts.

spending several weeks each summer with young people in a high energy atmosphere.

He is the visual arts chairman for the Institute for the Arts (IFTA), a unique academic program for students who want to explore visual and performing arts during the summer. Courses in dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts offer students opportunities to explore various arts disciplines they may not experience in their regular school setting.

"The students are pretty spectacular," he said. "They come to IFTA excited about creating and processing their thoughts and they are excited to be with other students just like themselves who share the same interests."

IFTA students register to take four classes from a variety of course offerings. They are

encouraged to

Many FCPS high school ster clubs offer sun camps for students. Contact your school to learn m

Did You Know

enroll in one course from each discipline to grow and expand their knowledge of the arts during the month long program.

"It's a great experience for the students because they are with other students who want to excel and be challenged," said Dailey. "It's also rejuvenating for teachers to work with these students.

Students who enroll in IFTA can earn a half a credit for completing the program.

"IFTA will be an experience they won't forget," said Dailey. "The students are in their element, developing concepts and creating art. The experience from the process is very rewarding."

FCPS also offers an arts enrichment program for elementary school students in grades 3-5 through the Elementary Institute for the Arts (E-IFTA).

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News In Case of Emergency

A look at Fairfax County's 911 center.

By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

eing a dispatcher in Fairfax County's state-of-the-art, 911 center sounds like an exciting job. It's also stressful, tiring, rewarding and, at times, harrowing.

"Not everybody can do this," said Sherrie White, assistant training supervisor in the 911 call center, also known as the Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC).

"We work 12-1/2-hour shifts and handle calls about CPR, houses on fire, shootings – and this is what we deal with every day," she said. "It's hard to go home after days like that and leave it all behind us."

The 911 center is part of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) within the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (MPSTOC) on West Ox Road near Route 29 in Fairfax. And in the event of a national or weather-related emergency, the building will serve as a central command facility where state and county representatives will work together.

White, of Chantilly's Greenbriar community, gave a tour of the 911 center, April 18, to members of the Sully District Police Station's Citizens Advisory Committee. Also present was Capt. Purvis Dawson, that station's commander.

Unfortunately, said White, some people call 911 for the wrong reasons, telling the dispatcher, for example, "There's a raccoon in my trash," or asking, "How do I cook a turkey?" Obviously, these calls should not have been made to an emergency line.

BUT THE MAJORITY OF THE CALLS

are deadly serious, and the people receiving them are well-equipped for the task. "Our 10-week training is a model for other 911 centers across the country," said White. "We're trained to talk you back down from hysteria."

"These folks do a phenomenal job," said Dawson. "They miss out on family birthdays, holidays, children's soccer games and school plays – but they come back and do it, day after day. Behind that phone call to the police and fire departments are these people; it all starts here."

Callers don't have to speak English or be fluent in it to seek help. "Anyone can call 911, no matter what language they speak, and we'll help them," said White. "We'll connect them to a language line [for translation]."

What especially helps the dispatchers understand the nature of a caller's emergency is when that person clearly explains the situation. "I have to picture you placing a loved one on the floor so you can perform CPR," said White. "You have to describe your burning house and its exits so I can best tell you how to escape."

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



A bird's-eye view of the EOC operations floor for Fairfax County 911, police and fire dispatchers, VDOT and State Police inside the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center.



Sherrie White, 911 assistant training supervisor

The frustrating part is that it's similar to watching a movie or reading a book, but stopping before the ending. "We never know what happened [to the emergency] for which we received the call," said White. "For example, you take someone through chest compressions and then never know if the person lived."

But it's all part of the job, and 911 dispatchers frequently deal with matters of life or death. "If we get a 911 hang-up, often it's a domestic-violence situation; and with our enhanced system, all your [contact] information comes up," said White. "We have to return all these calls to make sure you're OK – and we've saved so many lives this way."

Also reassuring for area residents to know is that the 911 center doesn't close. "We're

Photos by Bonnie Hobbs/The Connection

Police Capt. Purvis Dawson

here all the time, 24/7, 365 days a year," said White. "We work weekends and holidays and don't get snow days off. But we love what we do for the people and the county."

There are 130 staffed positions working four permanent shifts – two during the day and two at night. In 2010, callers received 895,360 calls. Of that number, 485,681 were for legitimate emergencies; 397,982 were nonemergency. Others were towing and other reasons.

Once a dispatcher takes a call, that person routes it to police or fire personnel. "We've been taught to investigate and extract information from you about the incident," explained White. "We'll say, for example, 'Give me a description of the suspect and the gun; tell me which way he ran,' because first and foremost, we worry about

Call-Taker Job Details

- Applicant must successfully complete a battery of hiring tests, plus panel interview. Must also:
- hiring tests, plus panel interview. Must also:
 Be 18 and have a high-school diploma or GED.
 - ◆ Have a clean police record.
 - Pass a polygraph and background investigation.
 Comprehend the English language well.
 Type 30 words a minute and be able to multitask,
 - prioritize and make decisions. Callers receive 10 weeks classroom training, plus 6-12 weeks on-the-job training.
 - Shifts are 6:30 a.m.-7 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.-7 a.m. Starting salary is about \$38,000/year.

safety."

The same is true with a fire. "We have to send the information to the units as fast as we can," said White. "We're not perfect, but we try to be as close to it as possible."

"There's a purpose behind every question they ask," added Dawson. "We need to know what we're in for so we can be better prepared for it. But meanwhile, the first people have already been sent out."

In addition, everything a caller says is recorded. That way, said White, "We can go back and recreate sequences and listen to the call again if there's something difficult to understand. And if someone calls in with a non-prepaid cell phone, I can find them within 500 feet. Then officers can set up a perimeter to find their home. I type the information and send it to the officers."

White said police and fire supervisors are in the 911 center with the dispatchers to advise them, when needed. "We're all working together," she said.

"Police have CAD [computer-aided dispatch] terminals that they can take with them from their cars," said Dawson. "Once a dispatcher hits 'send,' we can read that message on our computer screens. But we practice every month doing it the old-fashioned way, without the computers. We still want our officers to know how to look into a map book, find a street and get there, in case their CAD goes down – and that's paramount to you all."

WHITE SAID THE 911 CENTER also has a backup dispatch system. "It's called pencil and paper," she said. "I'll take calls on a handset, if the regular system goes down."

After the Sept. 11, 2001 tragedy, she said, public safety personnel adopted plain language for communication, rather than describing incidents in numerical codes. That way, all agencies involved in an emergency can understand each other because all their employees are saying exactly what they mean. Said Dawson: "The goal was seamless communication and we've pretty much reached it."

White said dispatchers in the 911 center also have access to a full, gourmet kitchen and a gym within the building "to keep everyone sane and healthy. We take care of ourselves and each other. We have a great group of individuals here – you don't want anybody else to have your back."

At any given time, 28-38 dispatchers are on duty. "We should have 50, but we're short-staffed," said White. "They're usually here three to five years – and roughly 50-80 percent of the new recruits quit by the end of the first year."

"It's partly because it's such a stressful job," said Dawson. "And they often go on to become police, firefighters and deputies."

Basically, said White, "It's a calling. I've got 13 years in, and I will run this joint one day because I want to make a difference for the county I live in."

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAY/JUNE 2

Chris Cooley Football ProCamp. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Two-day camp. Register at www.ChrisCooleyCamp.com.

MONDAY/JUNE 4

Summer Exercise Sessions. 9:30 a.m. Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Exercise for strength, balance and flexibility using chairs. Seven weekly sessions; \$7 per session. Sponsored by The Shepherd's Center Fairfax-Burke. 703-323-5886 or www.fairfaxburkesc.org.

THURSDAY/JUNE 7

Senior Fall Prevention Classes. 1:30 p.m. The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Classes designed to work on balance and core muscles to prevent injuries and falls; Instructor certified in back and hip rehab. Every Tuesday and Thursday in a heated indoor pool. \$10. Registration required at 703-667-9800.

FRIDAY/JUNE 8

The Near-Term Future of **Tysons Corner: A Panel** Discussion. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Capital One Bank Headquarters, Capital One Bank Headquarters, 1680 Capital One Drive, McLean. Presented by the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce. With Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County Board Chairman; Walter Alcorn, Planning Commissioner and Chair of Tysons Committee of the Fairfax County Planning Commission; Barbara Byron, Director, Office of Community Revitalization and Reinvestment; Tim Steinhilber, 495 Express Lanes Project General Manager; and Marcia McAllister, Dulles Corridor Metro Rail Project Representative. \$25-\$40. Reserve at 703-356-5424 or www.mcleanchamber.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 9

Fairfax County Women in the NAACP Meeting. 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Help plan for upcoming events. New members welcome. 703-470-2137 or www.fairfaxvawin.org.

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 31

"A Foreign Affair" Concert. 7 p.m. Lake Braddock High School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Non-American musicians, including the Beatles, Queen, Adele, and more. \$5. spehrsson@cox.net.

FRIDAY/JUNE 1

Rocknoceros Happy Family Hour at 7 p.m.; The Mantras, Moogatu and Aarodynamics at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.janmminjava.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 2

Tribute to the Greatest Generation Concert. 8 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax Jazz trombonist and singer Eric Felten, vocal trio The Swing Set and the City of Fairfax Band. Pre-concert program at 7 p.m. Proceeds benefit activities of American Legion Post 177 and the City of Fairfax Band Association. \$20. www.fairfaxband.org or 703-587-3040.

Fairfax County Women in the NAACP Golf Tournament. Osprey Golf Course, 401 Belmont Bay Drive, Woodbridge. \$100 per golfer, sponsorships available. Proceeds support WIN activities. 703-470-2137 or www.fairfaxvawin.org.

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

Cartoon Johnny at 2 p.m.; Mary Fahl (October Project) at 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

SUNDAY/JUNE 3

Grand Finale Concert. 3 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. American Youth Symphonic Orchestra, conductor Carl J. Bianchi; American Youth Philharmonic, music director and conductor Daniel Spalding; pianist AnnaMaria Mottola. \$10-\$14. www.aypo.org or 703-642-8051.

Everything Falls CD/Video Release. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.janmminjava.com

MONDAY/JUNE 4

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

Rhett Miller & the Serial Lady **Killers and The Spring Standards.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.janmminjava.com

TUESDAY/JUNE 5

Trace Bundy "Elephant King" CD Release. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.janmminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 6

Lauren Shera and David Ramirez. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java. 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.janmminjava.com.

THURSDAY/JUNE 7

Alvin Youngblood Hart's Muscle



Celebrating Springfield Days

Carnival rides and cotton candy - a FamilyFest tradition will be at Springfield Mall May 31 through June 3 during Springfield Days 2012.

- Theory. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna.
- www.janmminjava.com. Friends of the Library Used Book **Sale.** 1-9 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.
- Get the Led Out. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Rock music. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/JUNE 8

- Struan Shields CD Release Show and Colin Healy at 6 p.m.; SNRG at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.janmminjava.com.
- Friends of the Library Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520
- "Seussical The Musical." 8 p.m. Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. Based on classic works by Dr. Seuss. \$15 adult, \$10 student, age 4 and under free. 703-323-5400 or www.goodshepherdplayers.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 9

- **McLean High School and** Longfellow Middle School Big Band Jam. 1:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna.
- www.janmminjava.com. Gospel Program. 6 p.m. Greater Little Zion Baptist Church, 10185 Zion Drive, Fairfax. Gospel artist Tanya Dallas Lewis, comedienne Simply Shirley and jazz with Rev. Dr. Dred Scott. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. 703-764-9111.
- Alexandria Harmonizers. 7:30 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Performing Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Spring barbershop concert and show of a 100+ member all-male a capella group. \$29-\$34. cfa.gmu.edu/calendar/1134/ or
- www.harmonizers.org. White Elephant Sale. 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. St. Mary of Sorrows Church, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. 703-323-0345.
- Friends of the Library Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520
- "Seussical The Musical." 3 p.m. Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. Based on vorks by Di \$10 student, age 4 and under free. 703-323-5400 or www.goodshepherdplayers.com.
- City of Fairfax Band. 7:30 p.m. Mary Louise Jackson Amphitheater, Northern Virginia Community College, 6901 Sudley Road, Manassas. "Springtime Pops," an

evening of light classics. 703-530-8298.

- "Annie Jr." 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With almost 60 local students. \$5-\$10. www.stagepresencenow.com
- Family Bingo Fundraiser. 1 p.m. Parish Center Gym, St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. All proceeds benefit the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke. Complimentary beverages and snacks. \$10. 703-426-2824 or www.fairfax-burkesc.org.

SUNDAY/JUNE 10

Fairfax County's Agricultural Roots. 2 p.m. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10029 Main St., Fairfax. Historian Yvonne Johnson from Fairfax County Park Authority's Frying Pan Park in Herndon on various phases of Fairfax's agricultural history, from tobacco to

- dairy farming. Free. 703-385-8414. Rachel Platten and Madi Diaz. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.janmminjava.com.
- White Elephant Sale. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. St. Mary of Sorrows Church, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. 703-323-0345.
- "Annie Jr." 3 p.m. George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With almost 60 local students. \$5-\$10. www.stagepresencenow.com.
- Fairfax County Watershed Friendly Garden Tour. 1-5 p.m. Visit gardens throughout Fairfax County featuring vegetated roofs, rain barrels, backyard wildlife habitat, composting, native plant species and more. Local residents open gardens and share experiences landscaping with water resources in mind. Free. 703-324-1423, TTY 711 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/ gardentour.htm

MONDAY/JUNE 11

Gary Jules CD Release and Mike Bram. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.janmminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 13

Sonia (from Disappear Fear) and Rachael Sage. 8 p.m. Jammin' 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna www.janmminjava.com.

THURSDAY/JUNE 14

An Evening with Willie Nile Trio. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.janmminjava.com.

Fairfax Baptist...703-273-1820 Fairfax Circle...703-573-7372 visit our website: www.jccag.org Greater Little Zion...703-764-9111 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax Bill Frasnelli, PASTOR 703-383-1170 "Experience the Difference" Iglesia Bautista La Gran Comiscica...703-323-5858 Judah Praise Fellowship Christian...703-758-1456 Northern Virginia Primitive Baptist...703-255-0637 Non-Denominational Bancroft Bible Church... 703-425-3800 Fair Oaks ... 703-631-1112 Fairfax Church of Christ..703-631-2100 St. Leo the Great Catholic ... 703-273-5369 Fairfax Community Church... St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church... 703-978-4141 703-323-0110 Sovereign Grace Church...703-691-0600 Jesus Christ Crucified...703-385-9015 St. Paul Catholic Church... 703-968-3010 **Coptic Orthodox** Metropolitan Community Church 703-691-0930 . Iark...703-591-4444 Salvation Army...703-385-9700 **Disciples** of Christ Shepherd's Heart ... 703-385-4833 Fairfax Christian Church... 703-385-3520 Word of Life Church International.. 703-978-7101 Church of the Apostles Pentecostal

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News

The City of Fairfax Band will present "Springtime Pops" on Saturday, June 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mary Louise Jackson Amphitheater at Northern Virginia Community College.



Photo Contributed

City of Fairfax Band presents 'Springtime Pops'

The City of Fairfax Band will present a free show Saturday, June 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mary Louise Jackson Amphitheater at Northern Virginia Community College, 6901 Sudley Road, Manassas. Parking is free next to the amphitheater. For weather-related cancellations, call 703-530-8298.

Under the baton of Music Director Robert Pouliot, the City of Fairfax Band will present "Springtime Pops," an evening of light classics, novelties, marches and selections from Broadway and Hollywood. The City of Fairfax Band has been entertaining audiences for more than 40 years and is a recipient of the John Philip Sousa Foundation Sudler Silver Scroll, the highest honor presented to an adult community band.

The performance is part of the Second Annual Summer Evenings Under the Stars series, funded by a grant from the NVCC Educational Foundation and sponsored by NOVEC. Upcoming shows include the Bull Run Cloggers on June 30, Old Bridge Chamber Orchestra String Quartet on July 14 and Prince William Community Band on July 28.

Sat., June 9th - 10am-2pm

Learn more about the band at www.fairfaxband.org.

Free Remodeling & Design

Seminars!

Facing Emergency

From Page 4

find something to go in your kit."

The week of May 25th is Hurricane Preparedness Week, and Virginians can obtain many emergency items, like batteries and flashlights, tax-free. Bennett says this is a great time to stock up on supplies for an emergency kit. "Your first mission is to take care of your own house," she says. "If you get your house in order, you can help a neighbor [in an emergency]."

A volunteer with the Medical Reserves Corp and Manassas CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), Bennett wants others to be better prepared for emergencies for selfish reasons, she notes with a chuckle. With her children involved in sports, she'd like the reassurance that the adults who are supervising them can handle any situation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about CPR, first aid, and other lifesaving skills, visit http:// www.allheartcprtraining.com/ or http://www.heart.org/ HEARTORG/.

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: 10 Tips for a Stress-Free Remodel How to Finance Your Remodel Reinventing Your Home for Today's Lifestvle 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! Special thanks to our sponsors: tailored living CLOSETS · GARAGES · PANTRIES TailoredLiving.com/Reston Todd Carter | 703-707-0009 DecorAndYouDC.com Sandra Hamblev 703-599-0648 SUN DESIGN design/build | additions | kitchens | baths | basements | outdoor spaces

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6511 Palisades Dr	\$399,900Sun 1-3	Jina Hwang	SJM Props703-256-1414
14519 Battery Ridge Ln	\$317,900 Sun 1-4	Ed Duggan	Century 21703-989-7735

Chantilly

13905 Castle Ct...... \$499,999....Sat 1-4...... Barb Chandler...... Keller Williams..703-679-1700

Clifton

6609 Rock Lawn Dr	\$669,000Sun 1-	4Ed Duggan	Century 21703-989-7735
7211 Main St	\$535,000 Sun 1-	4Monica Adams	RE/MAX703-434-9400

Fairfax

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To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Karen Washburn at 703-778-9422 or E-Mail the info to: kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

SPORTS



Bruins batter Jack Owens (6) had two singles and played a solid shortstop in the Bruins' win over McLean.

Dylan O'Connor put down a suicide squeeze bunt which won the game for Lake **Braddock on Memorial Day.**

Bruins Baseball in Semifinals

Clutch game-winning bunt by O'Connor; solid pitching by Church, Rogers lead Lake Braddock past McLean.

> By Rich Sanders The Connection

perfectly executed bases loaded suicide squeeze play by Dylan O'Connor saved the day for the Lake Braddock Secondary baseball team and provided the winning run for the host Bruins in their dramatic 6-5 extra innings victory over McLean in a Northern Region quarterfinals playoff game played on Memorial Day afternoon.

With the game tied at 5-5 in the bottom of the ninth inning, O'Connor, a senior left fielder and the Bruins' No. 7 batter in the lineup, came to the plate with one out and teammate Matt Spruill on first base. Early in O'Connor's at-bat, Spruill, a senior second baseman who had reached base on a fielder's choice, stole second. On the steal, Spruill was able to advance to third base as a result of a throwing error.

So, all of a sudden, the winning run was on third base for O'Connor.

Then, it happened. On a pitch from McLean reliever Jack Fant, O'Connor placed his bat in front of him and bunted a hard grounder towards the third baseman. But even as O'Connor was setting to bunt, Spruill was bolting towards home plate. When O'Connor successfully connected with the ball on the bunt, Spruill was more than halfway towards home and the Highlander infielder who fielded the ball had no chance to throw him out.

The winning run ignited a spontaneous Bruins celebration around the home plate area. McLean players, naturally disheartened, walked from their positions back to their dugout, their season ended.

"We practice it a million times in practice, the suicide squeeze play," said O'Connor. "I wasn't too nervous going up to the plate. Anyone on our team could have stepped up and done it. I'm just excited our season can continue on."

Wednesday, May 30 semifinals meeting versus Westfield. The Bruins-Westfield winner will play in the region title game at Madison High School in Vienna this Friday night at 7.

McLean, with the loss to Lake Braddock, saw its season end at 15-9. The Highlanders entered the 16-

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team regional tournament as the No. 2-seed from the Liberty District. They had defeated Centreville (Concorde District) in a first round region playoff game, 7-1, last Friday, May 25 at McLean.

That win over the Wildcats moved the Highlanders into the quarterfinals and a meeting versus Lake Braddock, the top seed from the Patriot District which had opened its play at regionals with a lopsided 22-7 home win over Wakefield (National District) last Friday. Although McLean went into the Memorial Day game with Lake Braddock as an underdog, the Highlanders had handed the Bruins one of their two losses during the regular season. So Lake Braddock knew it had a tough opponent in McLean.

And, indeed, McLean gave Lake Braddock, one of the region's annual powerhouse programs, a huge scare in the holiday affair. The Highlanders rallied from a 5-2 deficit to tie the game in the latter innings but, ultimately, fell to the Bruins.

IT WAS A RIVETING GAME in which both teams received gritty pitching efforts and displayed the fortitude of two well seasoned teams that refused to see their seasons end. The Bruins played a wonderful game and displayed the fortitude of a champion. So many players stepped up big for them.

Senior Michael Church, Lake Braddock's starting pitcher, struggled early on but, on the steamy hot day, went on to go a strong 6-1/3 innings in a nodecision. The right-hander, in the top of the first inning, struggled with his command, walking two and hitting one batter, as the Highlanders scored twice. A bases loaded walk plated the second McLean run that inning before a fly ball out got the Bruins out of the inning without further damage.

Lake Braddock's pitching was spectacular over the game's final three innings. Church got the first out of the seventh inning but left the game following a walk. Bruin southpaw Thomas Rogers took over in The win advanced Lake Braddock (21-2) to a relief. The junior walked the first batter he faced, putting Highlander runners on first and second with one out of the tie game. He then fell behind McLean hitter Donnie Eckrod 3-1 before getting a huge groundball out to first base for the second out. The next Highlander batter flew out to right field to end the inning.

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The Robinson boys' soccer team defeated **Mount Vernon** in the regional quarterfinals on May 24.

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Robinson Boys Reach Semifinals

Rams defeat Mount Vernon in penalty-kick shootout.

> By Jon Roetman The Connection

he Robinson boys' soccer team had taken control of a penaltykick shootout to decide its re-

gion quarterfinal match-up with Mount Vernon. Now the Rams just needed someone to make a play.

Thanks to memories from practices with his club team. goalkeeper Josh Penn stepped up and sent Robinson to the semifinals.

Penn made diving save to end the shootout and give the Rams a 1-1 (6-5) victory on May 24 at Mount Vernon High School. Robinson's Kyle Groth connected on a PK to give the Rams a 6-5 advantage. Mount Vernon's Damaro Dacosta, who was successful with an earlier attempt during the shootout, needed to answer Groth's PK to keep the Majors alive. That's when Penn's memory gave the goalkeeper an edge.

"Damaro used to be on my club team and every day before practice on our club team, we'd kick PKs," Penn said. "I kind of memorized where they'd [kick] and it came back to me. He went that way the first time so I just immediately guessed that way."

Penn dove to his left and made the save, sending the Rams into a celebration.

"We talked at length after we made it into the regional tournament about what it means to be an impact player," Robinson head coach Jac Cicala said. "An impact player can be anybody on the team that steps up and makes a difference in the game and Josh had to be that impact player on that PK."

Sam Yardley (twice), Ben Gomez, Alex Streitmater, Baris Safoglu and Groth each converted PK attempts during the shootout.

"You feel sorry. No game should end like this, but it's the nature of the beast," Cicala said, "and thank God we were on the right side of it this time."

Robinson faced Langley in the semifinals on May 30. Results were not available prior to The Connection's deadline.

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- Robinson boys' soccer coach Jac Cicala about goalkeeper Josh Penn



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