

A 'Mind-Blowing' Honor

NEWS, PAGE 6

Reception
Honors
Mayor Lederer
NEWS, PAGE 3

A Father's
Factor
NEWS, PAGE 2

Sean Pugerude, Paul VI Catholic High School, senior captured the Cappie for Lead Actress in a Musical for her portrayal of matchmaker Dolly Levi in "Hello, Dolly."

Home Life Style
PAGE 16

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ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 14 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 12

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THE COUNTY LINE



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Social worker Calvin Robertson, with Fairfax County's Department of Family Services, teaches the Fathers in Touch class at South Gate Community Center in Reston. The 12-week program, a partnership with Fairfax County and the Capital Youth Empowerment Program (CYEP) in Alexandria, helps men become more engaged and loving fathers.

The Father Factor

Fairfax County's "Fathers In Touch" program teaches men how to be fathers.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Calvin Robertson slams his fist down on the table and barks instructions to the 11 fathers seated around the table at the South Gate Community Center in Reston.

A large black man with a booming voice, Robertson wants them get a sheet of paper and start writing. Now.

"Did you hear what I said? I'm not telling you twice. Let's go! I just told you what to do," he yells, sounding like a drill sergeant.

The men, ranging in age from 20 to 46, look startled.

Robertson takes a deep breath, pauses, and then asks in a quiet voice.

"Okay, so how did all that anger and rage make you feel?"

"It stresses us out, man," said one young father.

"It gets us in trouble," ventured another.

"You say things you don't mean..." one man said quietly. "You hurt people you care for."

"Is it productive? I mean, imagine how a child feels when you talk like that," Robertson said.

THE MEN, who call Robertson "Mr. Calvin," are part of the Fairfax County's Fathers in Touch (FIT) program, a 12-week parenting class designed to develop committed, responsible fathers – men who are learning they can just as easily give their children a hug instead of a slap

In addition to the weekly two-hour sessions, the program includes three supervised visitation activities with children designed to promote strong relationships between fathers and their children.

"I know I'm successful when I see them

interacting with their children in positive way," Robertson said. "That's really the heart of this program. Watching these men show love and attention to their children."

Launched in 2010 through the Fairfax County's Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP3) in partnership with the Department of Family Services, the FIT program was created by the Capital Youth Empowerment Program (CYEP) to address the "fatherless home epidemic prevalent in our society," according to CYEP literature.

Held three times a year throughout Fairfax County, the FIT program draws men from various walks of life, for many different reasons. Some men participate because they have to; a family court judge has mandated the program before they can visit their children again.

Some fathers are involved in vicious custody battles and want the FIT certificate to expand their custody and visitation rights. Some volunteer for the program because they want to be better fathers.

"I want my family back," said Joe Apkarian of Springfield, a 42-year-old father of three who, after serving a jail term, is fighting to regain custody of his young children from foster care. Apkarian has a 3-year-old biological daughter and two stepchildren. His goal is to show a judge that he is responsible and caring enough to raise all three together.

"This is for me to say I've done everything possible to get my kids back," Apkarian said. "My word is my promise, and I told my children I'd never let them be separated, but I had to hand my son over to a social worker when he was 9-months-old. You know how a lot of people say they wish they could win the lottery, win a million bucks? I don't care. I just want my kids back."

Marc Dixon of Reston, who has a 5-year-



Calvin Robertson (center), a social worker with Fairfax County's Department of Family Services, teaches the Fathers in Touch class at South Gate Community Center in Reston. He is standing with participants, from left, Marc Dixon of Reston, Jim Henson of Springfield, Joe Apkarian of Springfield and Mohamed Osman of Annandale.

About Fathers in Touch (FIT) Fatherhood Classes

From January 2010 to April 2012, 59 fathers with 120 children graduated from Fairfax County's FIT program. Results of pre and post inventories completed by 2010 FIT graduates revealed:

- ◆ 94 percent of the fathers reported significant increases in positive involvement with their

children over a 12-week period.

- ◆ 100 percent reported significant improvements in their perception of their role as fathers (i.e., improvement in at least two of four areas: investment, integration, competence, satisfaction).

For more information on FIT, go to www.cyep.org

old son, said he wanted to be a better father, and to show his son the love he rarely got from his own father. "My son means the world to me. I want him to know that I'm here for him," Dixon said.

Robertson, who was a probation officer before becoming a social worker, is also a single father of three daughters. "I can relate to these guys. I know how stressful it gets, but I try to teach them how to calm down, and to listen and to see things from a child's perspective," Robertson said. "With three daughters, you can bet I'm a good listener."

BEFORE EACH SESSION, Robertson calls the fathers several times to establish a rapport with them, and to make sure they are committed to the program.

He said each session addresses a theme, such as male stereotypes, self-esteem or anger management. But the first session always tackles the biggest elephant in the room: the men's relationship – or lack of relationship – with their own fathers.

"Sometimes there are tears, and a lot of pain, when we explore that relationship," Robertson said. "Many of the men have to overcome what they've been taught, 'don't show emotion,' 'only girls cry,' 'a man can't show weakness.'"

Robertson said some of the men come from abusive homes or homes where the father was absent, so they have no role models.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 24

million children in America, about one in three, lived apart from their biological fathers in 2009, up from 11 percent in 1967. For African-American children, the figure was 64 percent in 2009.

Research from the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) has demonstrated father absence has a negative impact on many areas of a child's life, including crime, teen pregnancy, child abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, education, and childhood obesity.

The NFI also reported that adolescents who have lived apart from one of their parents at some point in their childhood are twice as likely to drop out of high school, twice as likely to have a child before age 20 and 1.5 times as likely to be out of school or work by their late teens or early 20s.

Acknowledging the critical role fathers' play in a child's life, President Barack Obama asked U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to create a "Fatherhood Re-Entry Court" that would help fathers leaving prison get jobs and services they need to start making child support payments and reconnecting with families.

"Our children don't need us to be superheroes," Obama said, when he announced the program in 2011. "They don't need us to be perfect. They do need us to be present. They need us to show up and give it our best shot, no matter what else is going on in our lives. They need us to show them — not just with words, but with deeds — that they, those kids, are always our first priority," he said.



Joseph Harmon, chairman of the City of Fairfax Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Mike McCarty, director of the city's Parks and Recreation Department, hold up a collage of photos for retiring Mayor Robert F. Lederer.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Members of the City of Fairfax Police Department during a reception honoring Mayor Robert F. Lederer on Tuesday, June 12 at the City Hall Atrium. Lederer, who is stepping down after 10 years in office, leaves a legacy of reviving Old Town Fairfax while maintaining the city's small-town charm. (l-r) Ben Whitney, Captain Andrea Clark, Keith Brits and Amy Beecher

Reception Honors Fairfax Mayor Robert Lederer

Retiring mayor praised for redevelopment of Old Town Fairfax.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

When Kim Luckabaugh's young son was in the hospital, fighting a battle with cancer, she would frequently stop by Sweet Life Café in the City of Fairfax to get him some ice cream to take to the hospital. The owner of the popular ice-cream parlor knew her situation and would never let her pay.

"He said it was a gift, and insisted that anytime I was visiting my son, I should stop by and take a gallon of ice-cream for him," Luckabaugh said. It was a neighborly gesture that Luckabaugh never forgot.

On Tuesday, June 12, Luckabaugh joined several hundred community residents, civic leaders and elected officials to celebrate the former owner of the Sweet Life Café – Mayor Robert F. Lederer, the city's five-term mayor who officially steps down later this month.

"He's a unique man," Luckabaugh said. "He takes an interest in people, and the city maintains a small-town feel because of him."



City Councilmember Dan Drummond and wife Kerry attended the reception honoring Mayor Robert F. Lederer.

A lifelong resident of the city of 22,565, many praised Lederer, 56, for his vision and leadership in the redevelopment of Old Town Fairfax and the trendy Main Street Marketplace. The city's historic main street corridor now includes a spacious new library, an upscale shopping center, and townhomes on Chain Bridge Road.

"Rob is passionate about this city," City Councilman Dan Drummond said. "He put the city on a path that people will appreciate in the next decade, and he leaves behind a legacy of significant accomplishments. He has continued the growth of the city, while retaining its small-town charm and 'sense of place.'"

During Lederer's tenure, the city achieved AAA bond status and was ranked by Forbes Magazine as one of the top three places to live in the United States. Last year, the city celebrated its 50th anniversary during the Mayor's Ball at the new state-of-the-art Sherwood Community Center, which was built under Lederer's leadership.

Lederer was first elected mayor in 2002 and served five consecutive terms. He also served five terms on the Fairfax City Council.

During the victory party for Mayor-elect R. Scott Silverthorne on May 1, Lederer said he was willing to step down after serving five terms only "when I knew Scott was willing to step up to the plate."

"Knowing the quality of leadership Scott will bring made the decision easier for me," Lederer said. Silverthorne will be sworn in on Wednesday, June 27.

"I've lived here all my life," Lederer said during the reception. "and there's a good reason we were listed as the third best place to live in America by Forbes. We have a sense of place here that's second to none. We have a something special, a sense of pride and civility."

"He will be greatly missed," said Assistant Fire Chief Andrew Wilson, "He did a great job for our city."

"He was born and raised here," said his wife Maureen. "He wanted to make sure this was a place where people wanted to raise their children. I think he accomplished that."



City of Fairfax Mayor Robert F. Lederer and his wife, Maureen, during a reception in his honor Tuesday, June 12 at the City Hall Atrium.



City of Fairfax Mayor Robert F. Lederer welcomes guests Kathy Neilson (left) and Kim Luckabaugh (right), during a reception in his honor Tuesday, June 12 at the City Hall Atrium.



Fairfax County Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) and Page Johnson, Fairfax City's Commissioner of the Revenue, attend a reception honoring Mayor Robert F. Lederer on Tuesday, June 12 at the City Hall Atrium. Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), also stopped by the reception.



Del. David Bulova (D-37) and Betsy Rutkowski during a reception honoring Mayor Robert F. Lederer on Tuesday, June 12 at the City Hall Atrium. Lederer, who is stepping down after 10 years in office, leaves a legacy of reviving Old Town Fairfax while maintaining the city's small-town charm.



Cook

Community Engagement Includes Philanthropy

BY JOHN COOK
FAIRFAX COUNTY SUPERVISOR
(R-BRADDOCK)

Corporate and individual philanthropy are critical elements of engaged communities. Carnegie, Mellon, Vanderbilt, Rockefeller, and more recently, Gates, are names not only reflecting the achievement of the American dream, they are permanently ensconced in history through universities, entertainment centers, art museums, concert halls, and programs for the less fortunate which bear their names. Many other charities and initiatives that help solve problems such as workforce development, environmental sustainability, education and human services are sustained by businesses small and large, as well as our citizens.

Here in Fairfax, great examples of philanthropy abound. The Peterson Family founded Life with Cancer at Inova Health System to support families of those stricken with cancer. Interstate Relocation Services was recently recognized by the Salvation Army for its help with the "Angel Giving Tree" program. Northrop Grumman recently gave \$1 million to George Mason University for its VISTA (Virginia Initiative for Science Teaching and Achievement) program. ExxonMobil generously supports the Library Foundation, and Sotera Defense Solutions has made key contributions to our parks. These examples are powerful, but our work is far from over.

I know in my district, our summer concert series, Braddock Nights, is two weeks shorter this year due to a drop in corporate sponsorships. The Lorton Arts Center, like many arts venues across the country, is teetering on bankruptcy, in part due to lower than expected philanthropic support. And the list goes on.

Recently, the Fairfax Chamber hosted the first in a series of seminars on Corporate Social Responsibility to help businesses align their giving with

key community priorities. As we emerge from the recession and be-

gin the journey to a "new normal," we must work to bring philanthropic giving back to – and above – pre-Recession levels. Government programs should not be seen as a replacement for the obligation individuals and businesses have to support those in need and the opportunity we each have to support community needs. Government cannot do it alone. A strong, caring society needs an appropriate level of governmental support, supplemented with vibrant private philanthropy.

There are resources to help. Look to the Office of Public Private Partnerships in our Government Center, the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia or the Fairfax Chamber to understand better how you can get involved by understanding key community needs and priorities. Let's take philanthropy to a new level in the County and stop the loss, or potential loss, of key community opportunities.

BRADDOCK REPORT



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

During a news conference in Lynchburg on June 7, Supervisor Pat Herryty (R-Springfield), who chaired the Governor's Task Force for Local Government Mandate Review, joined Governor Robert McDonnell in the ceremonial signing of nine bills to eliminate "burdensome state mandates" on localities.

McDonnell Signs Bills to Eliminate Mandates on Localities

Supervisor Pat Herryty, chair of Governor's task force, said legislation will streamline local government.

While visiting Central Virginia Community College in Lynchburg last week, Governor Robert McDonnell ceremonially signed nine bills that streamline or eliminate burdensome state mandates on local governments.

Supervisor Pat Herryty (R-Springfield), who chairs the Governor's Task Force for Local Government Mandate Review, said the signing marked a milestone in the work of the task force.

"With the full support of Governor McDonnell, we accomplished a great deal in a very short period of time. The success in this session is only the beginning as...the task force begins to address the fundamental challenges of the funding and service delivery relationship between the Commonwealth and localities," Herryty said. "I was also especially pleased to have delivered on mandate relief for the vast majority of mandates identified by Fairfax County on this history-making day."

IN SEPTEMBER 2011, Governor McDonnell announced the creation of the task force. The mission of the five-member task force was to review state mandates imposed on localities and to recommend temporary suspension or permanent repeal of those mandates. In January 2012, the task force completed its work and made recommendations to the General Assembly about mandate changes that could be enacted. The bills signed June 7 are a result of that work.

"I understand the challenge local governments face when trying to balance their budgets and conduct the people's business during complex financial times and with limited resources. This difficulty is exacerbated when the state places burdensome mandates on localities," McDonnell said during the news conference last week. "I am pleased to ceremonially sign these bills into law to help ease the burden on localities and to streamline mandates so local governments can focus on their core services."

A third of the recommendations dealt with education, including removing the requirement that

schools must offer online Standards of Learning (SOL) testing in middle schools.

"In Fairfax County alone this program costs over \$4 million to set up, then an additional \$4 million plus per year to run," Herryty said. "While online testing is a worthwhile objective, an additional \$4 million a year would enable FCPS to hire nearly 60 new teachers."

The task force also set a goal for the Department of Education to reduce "unnecessary" state and federal reporting requirements for Schools by 15 percent, such as abolishing the mandate for annual reports on remediation programs.

OTHER LEGISLATION proposed by the task force includes:

- ❖ Removing the mandate for state inspections of erosion and sediment control programs where localities have inspections.

- ❖ Eliminating the mandate that requires VDOT approval of the location of locally-placed red light cameras.

- ❖ Eliminating the mandate for localities to give first priority for vending contracts to the Department of Blind and Visually Impaired.

Herryty said that by streamlining or eliminating these requirements wherever possible, "we are able to make local governments more efficient and responsive to their citizens."

"The elimination of these 20 mandates is truly historic in that never in the Commonwealth's history has anywhere near this many mandates been repealed in a single session," Herryty said. "These Bills represent common sense-solutions that will provide fiscal relief to localities and the Commonwealth and will enable both to more efficiently serve Virginia's residents."

The laws ceremonially signed by Governor McDonnell will go into effect July 1, 2012. The full report from the Task Force for Local Mandate Review is available at: www.governor.virginia.gov/utility/docs/Interim_Report_1_16_12.pdf

— VICTORIA ROSS

WEEK IN FAIRFAX

Neighborhood Watch Training

City of Fairfax police will conduct Neighborhood Watch training, Thursday, June 14, at 6:30 p.m. at police headquarters. It will cover the best practices and safety of the volunteers involved in the program.

There'll be a PowerPoint presentation, and information will also be available at the training session. The Lock, Take and Hide program and a guide to being a good neighbor will also be discussed, and information regarding crime prevention and quality-of-life issues will also be discussed.

Police Launch Summer HEAT Campaign

Fairfax County Police are adding a little bit of heat to summer 2012 as they enact their new traffic safety campaign targeting unsafe aggressive, driving behaviors. Operation Summer HEAT (Help Eliminate Aggressive Traffic) kicks off June 15 and runs through Sept. 3, 2012.

Officers will target moving violations such as reckless driving, speeding, improper passing, disregarding signs and lights, following too closely, and failing to yield right of way in an effort to help make county roadways safer.

In 2011, officers cited 142,263 drivers for traffic safety violations in these categories, an increase of 1,621 over 2010. "Clearly, motorists in Fairfax County have very busy lives and are often frustrated with heavy traffic. Just one fender bender caused by an aggressive driver makes a difficult situation even worse; we're trying to do something about this ongoing problem," said Captain Susan Culin, Commander of the Traffic Division.

Statistics show an increase in such unsafe violations as disregarding stop signs; from 4,484 in 2011 up from 3,919 in 2010. Reckless driving went from 2,788 up to 2,863. So far in 2012, officers have issued 11,906 speeding citations.

The Summer HEAT program involves three major enforcement waves in June, July and August. Many officers will place Summer HEAT car magnets on their cruisers in an effort to remind the public of this campaign and to be mindful of safe, careful driving this summer.

"We're hoping drivers will make safe driving a habit," said Captain Culin. For more information about the Summer HEAT program, contact the Public Information Office.

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Make-up, Brianna Weiner, W.T. Woodson High School, "Alice in Wonderland."



Costumes, Abby Deatherage and Anna Mendelson, W.T. Woodson High School, "Alice in Wonderland."



Creativity, Arjun Baxter, Composer, W.T. Woodson High School, "Alice in Wonderland."



Comic Actress in a Musical, Alexandra Nicopoulos, Fairfax High School, "Sweeney Todd."



Lead Actress in a Musical, Sean Pugerude, Paul VI Catholic High School, "Hello, Dolly!"

Local Schools Win Six Cappie Awards

Paul VI takes Lead Actress in a Musical honor.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Woodson High won three awards, and Fairfax, Paul VI and Robinson Secondary, one each, at Sunday night's 13th annual Cappie Awards at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Overall, Westfield High won the most Cappies, garnering 10, including Best Musical, for "Crazy for You." The Best Play winner, McLean High, took home five awards, including Lead Actor and Lead Actress in a Play, for its production of "A View from the Bridge."

Paul VI senior Sean Pugerude captured the Cappie for Lead Actress in a Musical for her portrayal of matchmaker Dolly Levi in "Hello, Dolly." Afterward, the jubilant senior said, "This is totally mind-blowing; it's such an honor. Maybe what set it apart was that PVI's actors had a lot of challenges –

we were doing a period piece and playing characters a lot older than we were." Pugerude is now headed to VCU to major in theater.

"Sean deserved this award," said her proud director, Katherine Miller. "We had nothing but faith in her. If there was ever a girl born to play a part, it was her to play Dolly."

Winning the Cappie for Comic Actress in a Musical was Fairfax junior Alexandra Nicopoulos for her role in "Sweeney Todd." Surprised, but delighted, she said, "I really wasn't expecting this; I still can't believe it. I thank my parents and the entire cast of 'Sweeney Todd' – this is for them. They're the biggest support system of my life."

Woodson's starry statuettes were for Makeup, Costumes and Creativity for its production of "Alice in Wonderland in Steampunk."

Senior Brianna Weiner said she was "completely shell-shocked," but happy about her Cappie for Makeup. "I've seen the work of

the other shows' makeup artists and was blown away by it," she said. "My crew did an amazing job and, if I asked them to modify things, they did. I'm just so proud of them."

Accepting their award for Costumes, seniors Ana Mendelson and Abby Deatherage thanked their crew, Director Terri Hobson and their theater family. "It's hard to believe we won because the costumes were made from parts of things in my basement," said Mendelson. "We used bottle caps, backpacks, cereal boxes and bike chains."

"For two years, we've dreamed about bringing a Costume Cappie to Woodson," said Deatherage. "Ana and I and our crew worked so hard on our costumes and put a lot of time and detail into everything."

Senior Arjun Baxter won the Cappie for Creativity for composing all the music for the show. It took him two months to do, and he said the hardest part was putting author Lewis Carroll's words to music.

"I read the play script and book and saw the movie multiple times, listening to the words to get a feel for them," he explained.

"Then I wrote several songs, as well as the transfer music between scenes. I was especially influenced by Dvorak; his work inspired the main theme and the string feel I was going for." This fall, Baxter will attend the Eastman School of Music Conservatory to double major in upright-bass performance and composition.

Robinson's honor was for Ensemble in a Play for the Mechanicals in its production of "Ken Ludwig's Midsummer/Jersey." Comprising the ensemble were Jamie Green, Molly Johnson, Brandy Skaddan, Carys Meyer, Sarah Marksteiner and Mary Turgeon.

"It's very exciting," said Johnson. "We never expected to win, but hoped to. We're all so close with each other so we could play off each other's energy." And, said Meyer, "Our characters were so big and exaggerated that we could have fun with them, and the audience did, too." Green said what made their roles so great was that "since we weren't part of the main story, we got to play around with our characters." "[Playwright] Ken Ludwig gave us a lot of freedom to change things in the show," Johnson added.

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NEWS

Amanda Andere Named Northern Virginian of the Year

Leadership around preventing and ending homelessness cited.

Amanda Andere, the executive director of FACETS, a nonprofit that opens doors by helping parents, their children, and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in Fairfax County, was selected by Northern Virginia Magazine as a 2012 Northern Virginian of the Year for her outstanding leadership that is helping FACETS grow its efforts to end homelessness as well as her community commitment.

"I am so humbled and honored to be recognized in this way. Northern Virginia is my home, and I'm committed to making it a better place to live and work for all of our residents. In a county that has more than 1,700 people who are homeless, FACETS's work is critically important. Accolades such as this provide a way for us to help the community understand that poverty is a real and serious issue in our very wealthy county," explained Andere, who started with FACETS in 2009.

Andere is on one of six to be honored in the story, which runs in the June edition of the magazine. The piece notes her accomplishments in leading FACETS' efforts in reducing Fairfax County's shelter wait list and in helping lessen the impact of poverty on county residents.

The story also cites Andere's extraordinary volunteer commitment as a reason for the recognition. Her involvement includes serving on the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance Advisory Committee; the Nonprofit Roundtable's Future Executive Director Fellowship Advisory Committee; as co-chair of the Fairfax County Region Four Human Service Network Group; and as chair of Nonprofit NoVA's Program Committee. She also serves on the board of the Fairfax County Alliance for Human Services and Take Heart Association Project, and teaches Sunday school at Martin Luther King Christian Church in Reston. In addition, Amanda serves on the Reston Association Board, representing the Apartment Owners, a majority of which provide affordable housing to Reston's diverse community of 60,000 residents. She is also adjunct professor at George Mason University, teaching nonprofit management.

With the second largest homeless population in the region, homelessness is a real problem in the Fairfax County-Falls Church community. A majority of the homeless are in working families with children. With critical help from volunteers and partnerships with the faith and business communities, FACETS works to prevent and end homelessness throughout Fairfax County by offering a full spectrum of services, such as basic needs and financial assistance, counseling and outreach, educational enrichment programs and permanent housing.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Amanda Andere

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OPINION

Partnerships That Make a Difference

Strategic partnerships with businesses, community organizations, benefit public good and fill gaps since government cannot do it all.

A few weeks ago, the Connection was lucky enough to be included in a group of Fairfax County organizations honored for their efforts in giving back to the community.

Fairfax County and the Fairfax County Public Schools recognized their business and community partners for their continued contributions to the community at the Celebrate Partnerships awards ceremonies on May 21 at the Mason Inn. More than 55 businesses and community groups were nominated for these annual awards which focus on individuals and groups who partner with the County and FCPS to give back to the community.

The mission: "The Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP3) develops partnerships between the business community and local community organizations that address critical

needs in Fairfax County. ... to stimulate positive change in the community and encourage civic involvement and responsibility. One of the goals of OP3 is to bring together resources between the public and private sectors to effectively transform the quality of life in the community."

Those efforts in the county and in the schools were on display at the awards. It was remarkable to hear about how partnerships between organizations, schools, businesses led to thousands of hours of volunteer work and millions of dollars raised. The benefits are tangible, significant and a part of what makes Fairfax County a leader in many areas.

The Connection award was based significantly on our special edition on homelessness in Fairfax County, but also cited the Connection's dedication to covering the com-

munities we serve.

This year Anthony Griffin was given a special award for his work with partnerships. Other business honorees include MV Transportation, Helios HR, Nadar por Vida, Great Falls Friends and Neighbors, Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce and Doug Brammer of Verizon.

The event was attended by more than 380 people who heard from Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova; Fairfax County Schools Chair Janie Strauss; Jorge Haddock, Dean of the School of Management, George Mason University; Fairfax County Executive Ed Long, and Superintendent of Schools Jack D. Dale. To find out more, visit <http://www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org>

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Partnering with Communities

The Connection was nominated by Dean Klein, Executive Director of the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, and the award springs from the Nov. 13 special edition coverage about the complex challenges of the homeless in Fairfax. Coverage of the issues included a "moving array of impactful photos and informative articles" that conveyed the scope of the challenges faced by those who are homeless in our community and the collaborative work of Partnership to End Homelessness. The award also cited other examples of the Connection's community partnership including "weekly highlights of neighborhood school activities and events, Thanksgiving story called 'Season of Giving' that featured 12 gifts that give back to the community, and extensive coverage of the Stuff the Bus Food campaign."

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In photo, Sharon Bulova, Victoria
Ross, Mary Kimm, Deb Cobb, Ed Long.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS



Leadership Award Winner

Bruce Oliver Leadership Award
winner Faithleen Henderson,
Installation Army Volunteer Corps
Manager.

"Faithleen Henderson supports Lee High School's Work Awareness and Transition program which helps students with disabilities autism, intellectual disabilities, and learning disabilities learn to work and succeed in a real job setting."

Fairfax CONNECTION

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FATHER'S DAY PHOTO GALLERY



Thomas and Wilson Friestad shared a great day of kayaking with their dad, Scott Friestad, on the island of St. Lucia over spring break. They kayaked from Marigot Bay up the Roseau River and back.



"This is my dad, Scott Friestad. We are at a Nationals game and Nationals Park on July 4, 2011. It was a great time with my Dad, and the Nats won!" writes Thomas Friestad of Fairfax.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

First Woman U.S. Public Printer

Congressman Gerry Connolly shares a light-hearted moment with Fairfax resident Davita Vance-Cooks, the Acting Public Printer for the United States. Vance-Cooks previously served as Deputy Public Printer and Chief of Staff for the Government Printing Office. She is the first woman to lead the agency.

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CALENDAR

To have community events listed, send to south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416 with questions. Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks prior to event.

FRIDAY/JUNE 15

A Night for Americans: The Pietasters and Sunny Ledford. 8:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

"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.

Riverdance. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Final performances. www.riverdance.com or www.wolftrap.org.

"Romero." 7 p.m. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Discussion follows film. www.accotinkuuc.org.

Picnic Time! 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice your English conversation skills. Adults. 703-978-5600.

SATURDAY/JUNE 16

Sunset Cruise. 7 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Cruiser the shores of Lake Accotink. Beverages served. \$6. Register at 703-569-0285.

For Mercy Reunion: Benefit Concert for One Voice at 7 p.m.; **Defakto, Actual Proof and DJ Mercury** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Riverdance. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Final performances. www.riverdance.com or www.wolftrap.org.

"Seussical The Musical." 7 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.

CSS Virginia: Before, During and After the Battle of Hampton Roads. 7 p.m. Old Firestation #3 Restaurant, 3988 University Drive, Fairfax. Hosted by Frank Stringfellow Camp #822 Sons of Confederate Veterans. Open to the public. Free. 703-250-8705 or stringfellowbuva@att.net.

Master Gardeners. 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice for home gardeners. Adults. 703-293-6227.

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

eBook clinic. 11 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn to use the library's eBook collection and compatible eBook readers with a one-on-one technology volunteer. Registration required. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Inova Blood Drive. 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Photo ID required. Appointments preferred, call 1-866-256-6372.

Father-Daughter Dance. 6-9 p.m. Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Fairy tale guests, dancing, prizes, food, games and more. \$25 per person. Registration required at 703-



PHOTOS BY CAROLINE PATTON/THE CONNECTION

Playing a group of jungle animals, the younger members of the cast gather on stage around Horton the Elephant played by Samuel Conner Sr. (Fairfax) and his infamous clover. They will present "Seussical The Musical" Saturday and Sunday, June 16-17, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road in Burke.

385-7858 or www.fairfax.gov/parksrec.

SUNDAY/JUNE 17

Father's Day Cruises. 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Cruiser the shores of Lake Accotink. \$5 Dads, \$6 other adults, \$5 children age 3 and up. Register at 703-569-0285.

Canine Cruises. 7 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 703-569-0285.

Eric Lindell (at The Hamilton). 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Riverdance. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Final performances. www.riverdance.com or www.wolftrap.org.

"Seussical The Musical." 3 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.

Antique Car Show. 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. More than 400 antique and classic cars, automotive flea market, live music, food available for purchase and more. \$7-\$10. 703-437-1794.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 1-4 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and advice. Adults. 703-644-7333.

MONDAY/JUNE 18

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.

Jon McLaughlin CD Release Show. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Chess Club. 3:30-5 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Learn the rules and strategy by playing the game. Drop in any time. Age 8-16. 703-644-7333.

TUESDAY/JUNE 19

Author Edward L. Cox. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. The author of Grey Eminence: Fox Conner and the Art of Mentorship will discuss Major General Fox

Conner and his impact on the careers of Generals Eisenhower, Marshall and Patton. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Balloon Fun. 5 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Join us to celebrate the beginning of the Summer Reading Program. Balloons by Mike will be twisting balloons into fun shapes. Children and teens. 703-293-6227.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-293-6227. Evening Book Discussion. 7:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Any title by Dorothy Sayers. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Book Discussion Group. 1:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Book Discussion Group. 6:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and advice. Adults. 703-644-7333.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 20

Counting Crows. 7 p.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$48 in-house, \$30 lawn. www.wolftrap.com.

Spin, Pop, Boom. 2:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Mad Science presents genes in a bottle, boom box in a tube and more. Age 6-12. 703-293-6227.

Student Volunteer Training Session. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Students receive training from library staff and sign up for volunteer hours. Bring completed application. Grades 7-12. 703-293-6227.

Hula with Mokihana. 7 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Experience traditional Hawaiian music. All ages. Sign up each child and adult separately. 703-644-7333.



Students perform a Korean fan dance during the Fairfax Academy's Creative Works Showcase.

Student Talent on Display

Fairfax Academy holds annual Creative Works Showcase.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Students in the Fairfax Academy displayed their signature projects last Tuesday, June 5, during the annual Creative Works Showcase. They sang, danced, played music, showed films they'd made and displayed their graphic-art, fashion, foreign language and photography skills.

For their project, seniors Ji Won Kim and Moses Yim dressed in traditional, Korean garb and served visitors colorful kimbab, which is similar to sushi but without fish. They represented Korean III and IV, the highest level of Korean-language classes at the Academy.

"We're reading Korean novels, writing paragraphs and speaking only Korean in class," said Yim. "I took it to learn the correct grammar and because I wanted to be able to listen to Korean better so I'd understand it faster."

Senior Analise Peterson showed her work for Professional Graphics, a design and animation class. "It's a graphics design I did, plus concept art - the outline before the finished



Maeve Griffin stands by a display of Chinese scenes.

project," she said. "I worked on a mixture of graphic design and 2D animation.

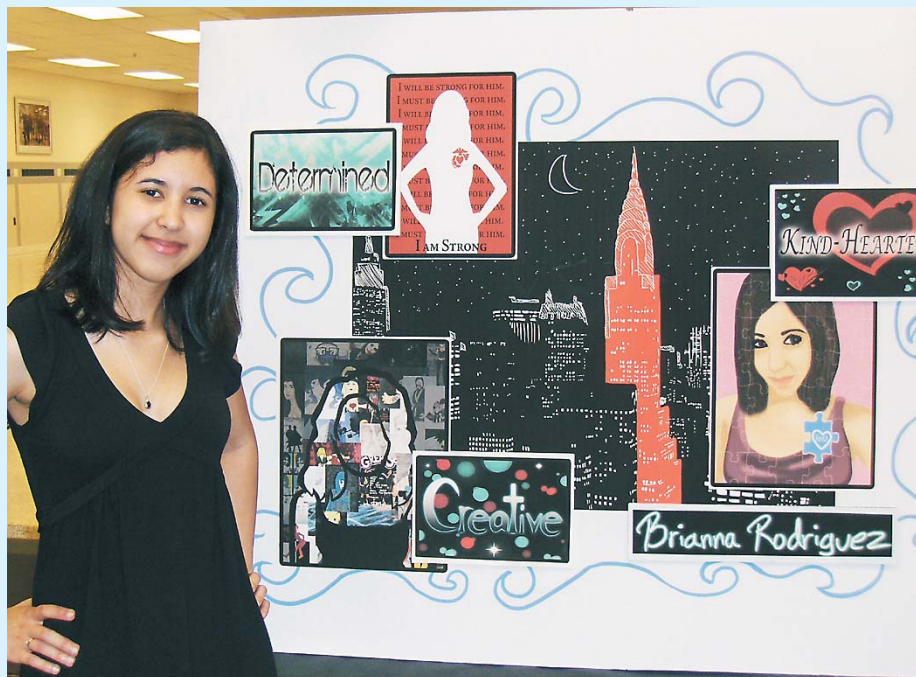
Classmate Brianna Rodriguez did her project on a computer and drew it on a tablet, using Photoshop and Illustrator. "It represents me as a person," she explained. "I lived in New York for 10 years, so I drew its skyline and buildings to really stand out. There's a drawing of my sister Kayla, who has autism; and the drawing titled 'I am Strong' shows me being strong for my boyfriend in the Marines. There's also a drawing of my work and my head to show my work is me and I am my work."

For her Chinese-language project, sophomore Maeve Griffin prepared a display showing the sights of China, plus items reflecting the country. "I grew up in Nepal and Bangladesh and always had an interest in Asian culture," she said. "Chinese is going to be one of the biggest languages in the world, so I'm preparing for the future and a job hopefully working internationally for the U.N. Since this class is every day, it's as close to full immersion as you can get, so it's become second-nature to me."

Senior Haley Reynolds did her signature project for Fashion Design II. "In class, we learn the ins and outs of the fashion business - garment construction, pattern-making, illustration and CAD work on the computer for a more professional look to the design," she said. "It's an accurate look into the industry and how challenging it is."

In Professional Photo, level II, senior Alysa Baird learned how to download photos, edit them correctly and change the light balance. Most importantly, she said, "We learned how to use studio lighting to make the subject look better and also how to Photoshop things into a picture. We also learned how to work with clients and pose models." Baird displayed her photographs at the showcase; she plans to eventually go into engineering and do professional photography on the side.

Classmate Jesse Colligan showed her photographs, as well. She plans a career in psychology or counseling, but enjoys photography and wants to continue doing it on the side. "My favorite thing is taking portraits of children because they all have different personalities," she said. "So to be able to capture that in a portrait is really cool."



Brianna Rodriguez displays her graphics project illustrating her life.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW



(From left) Ji Won Kim and Moses Yim wear Korean garb and hold a plate of kimbab.



Alysa Baird poses with a display of her photographs.



Haley Reynolds with her signature project in fashion design.



Jesse Colligan especially likes photographing children.

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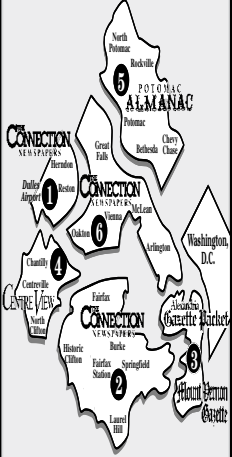
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Lake Braddock junior Thomas Rogers hit a solo home run and drove in a run with a sacrifice fly during the Virginia AAA baseball state final on May 9 at Westfield High School.



Lake Braddock senior Dylan O'Connor slides safely into home plate during the seventh inning of the Virginia AAA baseball state final against Kellam on May 9 at Westfield High School.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Rogers Leads Lake Braddock to State Baseball Title

Junior left-hander throws four-hit shutout, hits home run.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock junior Thomas Rogers is committed to the University of Georgia as a pitcher, but with the Bruins playing for a state championship on May 9, No. 1 showed he can swing the bat, as well.

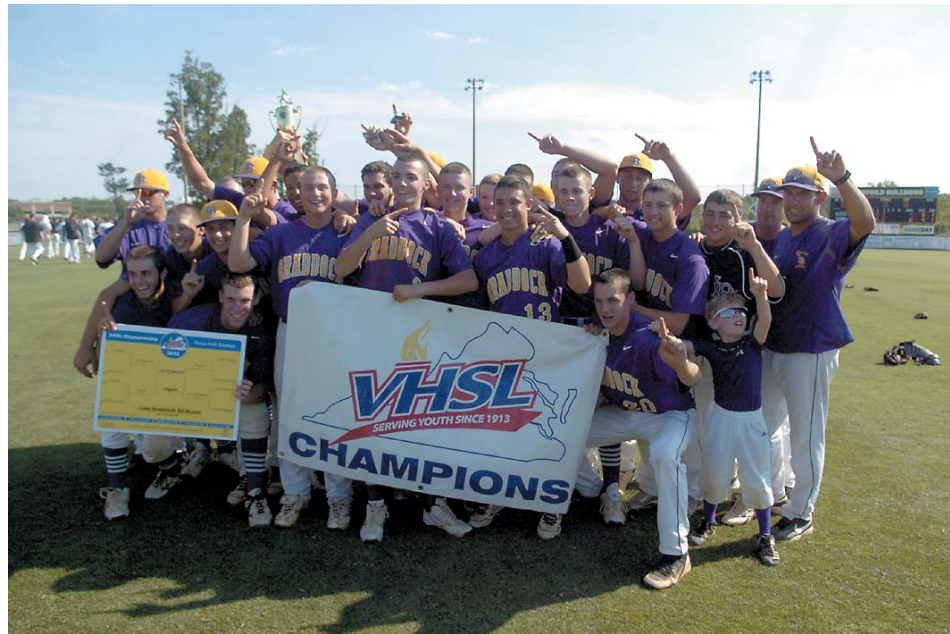
Rogers smashed a solo home run to right-center field in the top of the third inning, giving Lake Braddock a 1-0 lead against Kellam in the Virginia AAA state baseball final. Rogers spent the rest of the afternoon using his prized left arm to ensure his long ball was the only run the Bruins would need. Rogers tossed a four-hit shutout as Lake Braddock captured the first baseball state championship in school history with a 4-0 victory at Westfield High School. The Bruins had also reached the state final in 1997, 1993 and 1988, but the 2012 team was the first to walk away a winner.

"It puts another banner in our gymnasium," Rogers said, "up there with [the school's other] state champions."

ROGERS STRUCK OUT 10, including seven called third strikes. He said the Bruins' scouting report on Kellam said to attack the Knights with inside fastballs. The plan worked as Rogers did not allow a Kellam runner to reach third base.

While Lake Braddock head coach Jody Rutherford credited Kellam southpaw Mitch Moynihan with pitching a good game, Lake Braddock's lefty was better.

"[Moynihan] did a hell of a job. Thomas just stepped it up after that ... first inning and said, listen, I'm a pretty good pitcher,



The Lake Braddock baseball team captured the first state championship in program history with a 4-0 victory against Kellam on May 9 at Westfield High School.

too," Rutherford said. "[He] pounded them inside with the fastball a couple times, got some strikeouts looking and once we see Thomas throw like that, everybody knows we're good to go."

Junior catcher Garrett Driscoll said Rogers was at his best toward the end of the season.

"He was on today," Driscoll said. "In his past two or three starts, including this one — I've been playing with him since Little League — that's the best I've ever seen him pitch."

Driscoll extended Lake Braddock's lead to 2-0 in the third inning when he smacked a run-scoring double off the fence in left-center field. Senior left fielder Dylan O'Connor delivered an RBI double in the seventh. Senior second baseman Matt Spruill (double) and junior third baseman Alex Lewis (single) also had hits for the Bruins.

"He was on today. In his past two or three starts, including this one — I've been playing with him since Little League — that's the best I've ever seen him pitch."

— Lake Braddock catcher Garrett Driscoll about Thomas Rogers

The previous day, Northern Region Pitcher of the Year Michael Church started his final game for Lake Braddock and earned a win, throwing a complete game during a 7-4 victory against C.D. Hylton in the semifinals at Westfield. Lake Braddock's run through the state tournament, which

included a 9-0 victory at Cosby during the quarterfinals on June 5, came after the Bruins were upset by West Springfield, 3-2, in nine innings in the Northern Region championship game.

"To be honest, I think it was a good time to lose," Church said after the Bruins' state semifinal victory. "We were still in the [state] tournament, and in the past we've lost and then [responded by winning] a good amount of games. It was probably the perfect time to lose."

LAKE BRADDOCK will graduate seniors Church, O'Connor, Spruill and outfielders Chris Granito, Chuck Feola and Nathan Parker, but will return the majority its players in 2013, including all-region junior center fielder Alex Gransback, sophomore shortstop Jack Owens and freshman pitcher Matt Supko.

Lake Braddock posted a 26-3 record and won the Patriot District championship in 2012. The Bruins started 9-0 before losing to McLean on April 3. Lake Braddock finished the season ranked No. 42 nationally in the ESPN.com FAB 50 and was the only team from the Washington, D.C.-metro area to be ranked.

Driscoll credited Rutherford with getting the most out of the Bruins' talented roster.

"He's probably one of the best coaches I've ever had if not the [best]," Driscoll said. "He pushed us to our max."

For Rutherford, who took over as head coach in 2002 and has been with the program since 1998, winning the state championship helped solidify an already successful career.

"I would be a liar if I said, no, I didn't need [a state title]," Rutherford said. "... This is what I've worked for. In my coaching career, as good as we've been and as successful as we've [been], not to be able to accomplish this, [would have been] kind of the open puzzle; it's like the quarterback without the Super Bowl."



Junior Charlotte Guthey



Senior Angelina Mamkung

PHOTO BY ANNE LISE JENSEN/THE CONNECTION

End-of-the-Year Art Show at Woodson

BY ANNE LISE JENSEN
THE CONNECTION

On June 6, Woodson High School's art students of all grades showcased their artwork for the community at the Woodson's annual end-of-the-year Art Show. Senior art students enjoyed their last high school art show, while others experienced their first public showing.

Woodson High School's auxiliary gym was filled with hundreds of parents, students and community members crowding around each display. Well over two dozen stu-

dents' artwork was on display. Students of all grades and art levels presented their style of art including analog and digital photography, ceramics, sculpture, computer graphics, animation, printmaking, painting, drawing, and mixed media. Woodson's art teacher and Art Show coordinator, Jayne Matricardi-Burke, said the Art Show has been a great success. "We've been working hard for years to build a good program," Matricardi-Burke said.

AP Art student, junior Charlotte Guthey, said her digital photography is "therapeutic" by helping her

express herself. Another student conveys her strong attachment for her art. "I wouldn't want art as a career because I wouldn't want to make it for anyone else, but myself," says senior Anna Beyer.

One of the main pieces featured was senior Angelina Mamkung's award winning art. She has received a Silver Award at the 2012 Scholastic Art Awards and an honorable mention for her artwork at the 11th District Congressional Art Competition. She will be heading to Carnegie Mellon University in the fall on a Merit Based Scholarship.



Senior Anna Beyer

"I really suck at writing, so this is the only way I can express myself" says Mamkung. Moments later a woman admiring Mamkung's art tells her, "You inspire me to do my own art".

Prints of student artwork will be available for sale. Raffle tickets for hand-painted chairs and guitars were featured, all the proceeds going towards the school's Art Booster program.



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Home Life Style

Trends in Landscape Design

Local tastemakers offer suggestions for making the most of backyard space.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Whether creating a tapestry of bold colors, a sanctuary to escape stress or simply a low maintenance landscape, local designers say taking a backyard from dull to dazzling is easier than one might think, and offer insight into hottest landscape elements as well as trends in sustainable design.

“The biggest overall trend is that people are cocooning — that is, people are staying at home and creating multi-use spaces,” said landscape architect Mark White, owner of Garden Wise in Arlington. “They want to be able to cook outdoors and have a dining area. They might want a water feature. They are creating a place for a mini-vacation in their backyard.”



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

Landscape designers say yards that incorporate both edible and decorative plants are popular. Herbs and patio vegetables are ideal for small outdoor areas.

“Given the state of the economy and the fact that people are leading hectic lives, many are wanting calm spaces in their backyards.”

— Mark White

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE. From custom waterfalls to simple, self-contained systems in an urn, fountains and ornamental water features are surging in popularity as homeowners strive to create a tranquil oasis in their backyards.

“Given the state of the economy and the fact that people are leading hectic lives, many are wanting calm spaces in their backyards,” said White. “They are using water elements to create soothing sounds.”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GARDEN WISE

Landscape architect Mark White uses ornamental water features to create a soothing space in the backyard of this Arlington home.

LET IT RAIN. Rain gardens are popular as eco-minded homeowners look for ways to decrease water pollution. Rain gardens allow rainwater runoff from surfaces like roofs, driveways and walkways to be absorbed into the ground instead of storm drains.

Landscapers at George Mason University in Fairfax, created rain gardens across campus using water-loving, native plants. The gardens help alleviate storm-water runoff and pollution.

“Also, rain gardens help to eliminate standing pools of water that might otherwise have been the perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes,” said Archie Nesbitt, landscape supervisor at George Mason.

HARVESTING RAINWATER. “Many people are now collecting rainwater in rain barrels and using it to water their plants,”

SEE BACKYARD TIPS,
PAGE 17

Backyard Tips from Local Tastemakers

FROM PAGE 16

White said. "You can connect a hose to the barrel and use it to water your garden."

HOW DOES ONE'S GARDEN GROW? Landscapes that incorporate both edible and decorative plants are popular now and serve dual purposes: providing both food and beauty. "There has been a huge interest in vegetable gardens, container gardens and fruit gardens, especially dwarf fruit trees, tomatoes, peppers and herbs," said Sherrye Schenk of Potomac Garden Center in North Potomac.

MAKING ROOM. Designers can make accommodations when space is scarce.

"Because many of the yards in this area are small, people don't have the space to dedicate to a larger garden, so we're putting plants in containers and growing what is known as 'patio vegetables,' which don't get as large," said White. "For example, there are certain varieties of tomatoes and eggplants that are suitable for a smaller space."

KEEPING BAMBI AT BAY. Homeowners who live in areas where deer abound also search for plants that don't attract these four-legged friends.

"Anything that is deer resistant is popular now," said Alex Dencker of Behnke Nurseries in Potomac. "Nandina and cherry laurel are deer resistant. 'Green giant arborvitae' works if you're looking for screen plants to create privacy. They grow tall very quickly."

LIVING IN FAIRFAX

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 20

Evolution of Fairfax Series. 7:30 p.m. The Mason Inn and Conference Center, George Mason University, Fairfax. Second of a three part series on where we were, where we are, and where we want to be, to be continued on June 20 and June 27. Presented by Chairman Sharon Bulova in partnership with the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce and Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. Free and open to the public. Reserve at 703-324-2321 or chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Ladies Night Mixer: Beauty With a Cause. 6-9 p.m. First Impressions Salon, 10955 Fairfax Blvd., Suite 104, Fairfax. Join the ladies of the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce for a night of beauty and relaxation: 10 percent of the proceeds will be donated to a local women's shelter. Register at www.cfcc.org.

GOING NATIVE. Designers say indigenous plants often grow beautifully with little maintenance and no fertilizer. "Whenever possible, allow things to be what they want to be ... the more a planted

area can be self-sustaining [and] not require upkeep, the better," said Nesbitt.

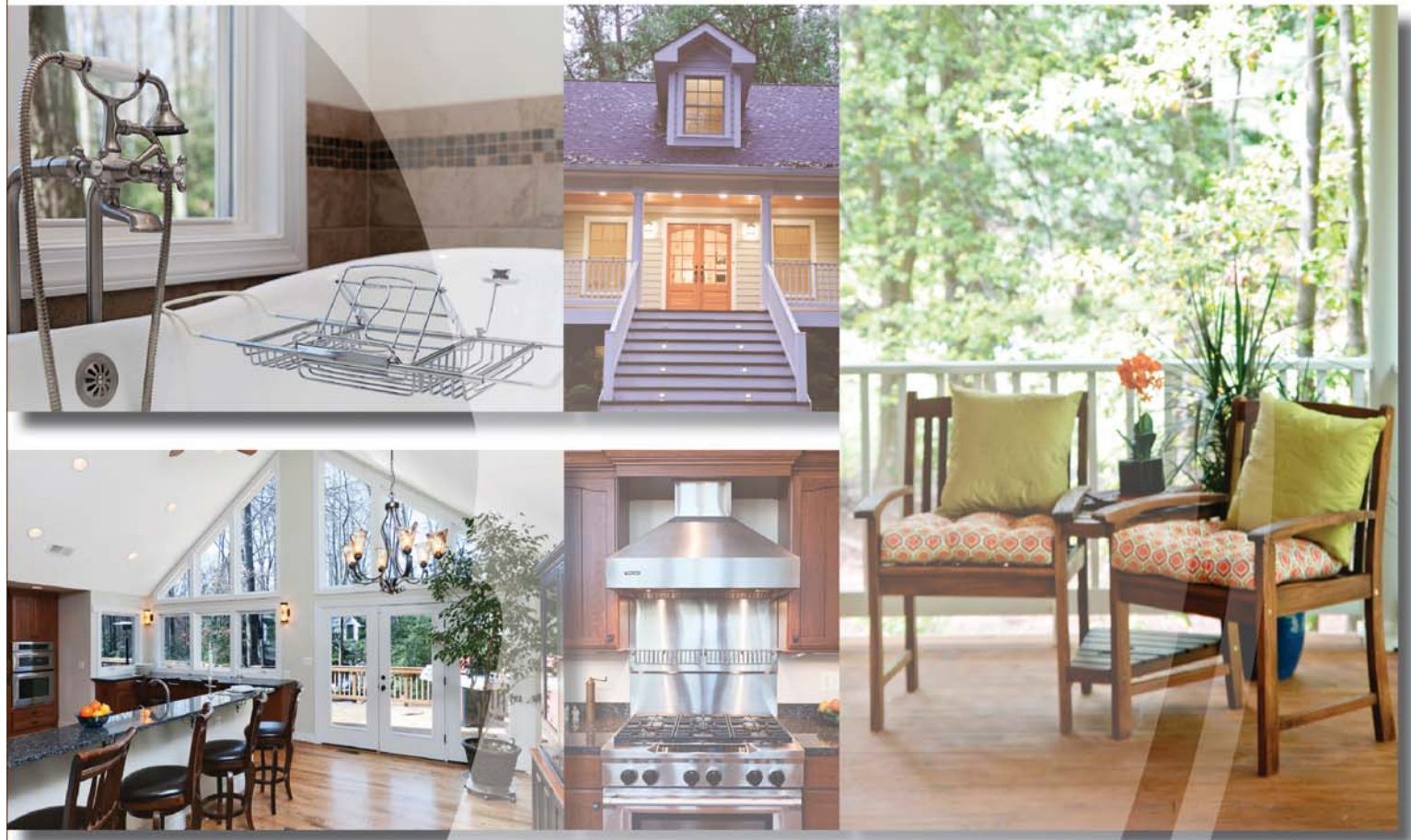
Drought tolerance is another bonus that makes native plants favorites among homeowners and

landscape designers. "Purple cone flower are popular, as are creeping phlox which blooms early, provides great ground cover and requires little maintenance," said Dencker. "Black-eyed Susans and

redbud trees are also native plants that have colorful buds. There are so many birds and other critters that need our native plants to survive. That is another reason why our native plants are so important."



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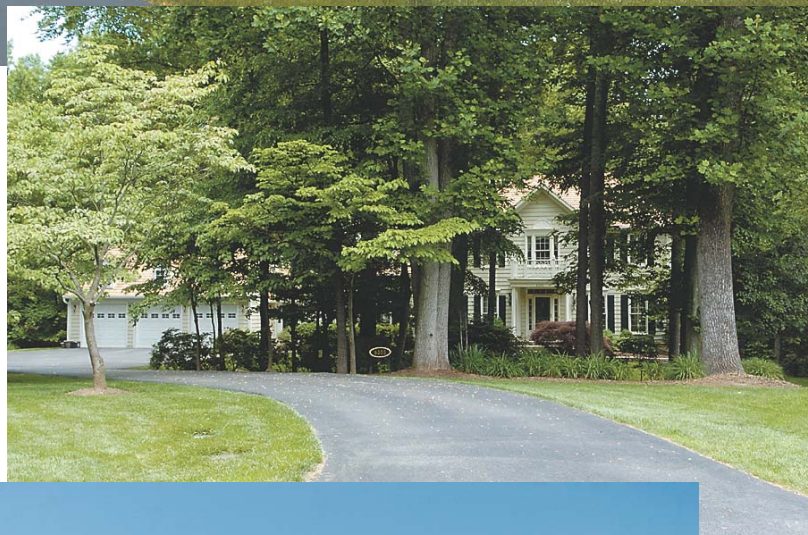
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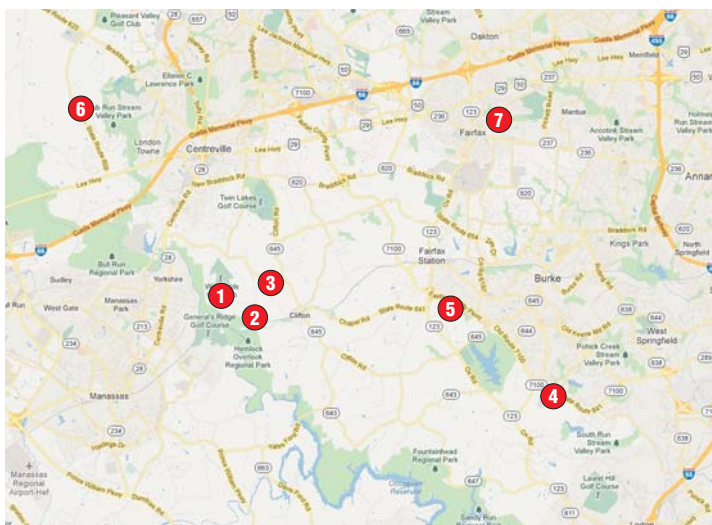
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2 7079 BALMORAL FOREST RD	5	.4	.1	CLIFTON	\$1,032,500	Detached	3.04	20124	BALMORAL GREENS	04/11/12
3 13155 COMPTON RD	5	.5	.1	CLIFTON	\$950,000	Detached	5.00	20124	CLIFTON IVAKOTA	04/30/12
4 7510 RED HILL DR	6	.5	.1	SPRINGFIELD	\$925,000	Detached	0.29	22153	BELMEAD	04/17/12
5 6303 BARSKY CT	5	.3	.1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$918,000	Detached	1.22	22039	FAIRFAX STATION EAST	04/12/12
6 5884 IRON STONE CT	4	.4	.1	CENTREVILLE	\$908,000	Detached	0.91	20120	THE RIDINGS AT VIRGN RUN	04/16/12
7 10094 DANIELS RUN WAY	5	.4	.1	FAIRFAX	\$898,500	Detached	0.16	22030	FARRCROFT	04/04/12

SOURCE: MRIS, INC. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MRIS, VISIT WWW.MRIS.COM

Home Life Style



PHOTO BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION

Herndon's Gardens on Display

Annual garden
tour highlights
creativity of local
gardeners.

The Town of Herndon's Cultivating Communities initiative will host their annual Garden Tour Sunday, June 24 from noon to 4 p.m. The tour will feature five different stops within the town borders, all representing a variety of approaches to suburban residential gardening.

"There will be a variety of looks at gardens, and they're all ones that don't require huge yards," said Diane D'Amico, committee chair for the tour. "People tend to enjoy seeing how realistic it is to put a beautiful garden in a regular neighborhood, you don't need a sprawling property in Middleburg."

Tickets are \$10 in advance and can be purchased at the Herndon Community Center (814 Ferndale Avenue), the Herndon Florist (716 Lynn Street) and ArtSpace Herndon (750 Center Street). They can also be purchased for \$15 on the day of the tour from the community center and ArtSpace.

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OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 16 & 17



**7104 Ordway Road, Centreville • \$899,999 • Open Sunday 1-4
Lisa Clayborne, Long & Foster, 703-502-8145**

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

Annandale

8622 Hepplewhite Ct.....\$619,000.....Sun 1-4.....Jorge Martinez.....Long & Foster..571-505-4768

Burke

6208 Ormandy Dr.....\$549,900.....Sat 12-3.....Wendy Smith.....Coldwell Banker..703-608-1725
6358 Draco St.....\$319,999.....Sun 1-4.....Joe Lydon.....McEneaney..571-216-8713
9303 Poplar Spring Ct.....\$629,000.....Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365

Centreville

7104 Ordway Rd.....\$899,999.....Sun 1-4.....Lisa Clayborne.....Long & Foster..703-502-8145

Chantilly

41994 Kudu Ct.....\$737,000.....Sat 1-4.....Rich Triplett.....Samson Props..703-217-1348

Clifton

13206 Kilby Landing Ct.....\$795,000.....Sun 1-4.....Ed Duggan.....Century 21..703-989-7735
6609 Rock Lawn Dr.....\$669,000.....Sun 1-4.....Ed Duggan.....Century 21..703-989-7735

Fairfax

3950 Collis Oak Ct.....\$384,900.....Sat 11-3.....Myra Hiser.....Long & Foster..571-426-4391

Fairfax Station

11107 Hampton Rd.....\$1,695,000.....Sat 1-4.....Dana LaFever.....Weichert..703-609-3479
8288 Tabor Ln.....\$759,900.....Sun 1-4.....David Billups.....Long & Foster..703-967-8700
8303 Pinyon Pine Ct.....\$749,500.....Sat 1-4.....Christine Shevock.....RE/MAX..703-475-3986

Kingstowne/Alexandria

6254 Harbin Dr.....\$519,950.....Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207
6402 Gum St.....\$499,900.....Sat 12-3.....Beth Kinsella.....Avery-Hess..571-228-3434
5225 Harbor Court Dr.....\$369,950.....Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207

Lorton

5925 Kentia Trail.....\$420,000.....Sat 12-3.....Kristie Zimmerman.....McEneaney..703-286-1287

Springfield

6047 Forrest Hollow Ln.....\$349,999.....Sun 1-4.....Helen Grozbean.....Keller Williams..571-233-4287
7215 Jill Spring Ct, #21C.....\$209,900.....Sun 12-3.....Carol Mayer.....Avery-Hess..703-667-1048
7230 Jill Spring Ct.....\$230,000.....Sun 1-4.....Lana Hartmann.....ERA..703-359-7800
7406 Golden Horseshoe Ct.....\$354,000.....Sun 1-4.....Tonya Nelson.....Century 21..703-938-6070

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.



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Herndon \$465,000

Great location! Minutes to future metro station! 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, hardwood floors on the main level & new carpet on lower level. Recreation room/bedroom/den & exercise room on lower level with walkout to rear yard. Large country kitchen. Cozy living room fireplace. Relax on the enclosed porch or patio. Beautiful landscaping with decorative fish pond. Minutes to Fairfax County Parkway or Dulles Toll Rd.



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Cathy DeLoach
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\$1,295,000
NEW LISTING
Incredible, stunning custom home w/soaring ceilings & exciting roof lines - Private, over 5

acre grounds - main level master suite with sitting room & luxury bath opening to deck w/hot tub - 3 gas fireplaces - Beautiful gourmet, granite kitchen w/large butler's pantry - Pam Rm w/wet bar - Study/Library - 3 car garage - Public water - Premier Community.



Fairfax \$529,900
3 level split with soaring ceilings, unique floor plan, Formal LR & DR, 1st floor Family Room w/FP, Glass sliding doors lead to a relaxing deck, perfect for entertaining, 4 Nice size BRs, 2 1/2 Baths, and a lower level Recreation Room, plus a 2 car garage.



Springfield \$749,900
Superb design lets you live on just one level or enjoy all 3 finished lvls! Grand foyer, beautiful hwdwd flrs, 2 story family room w/fireplace, gourmet kitchen w/tons of granite countertops, breakfast room, large formal dining room & living room PLUS spacious master suite w/luxury bath on main level. Upper level features 3 BRs & 2 BAs and lower level is finished w/huge recreation room, large den/office and full bath plus tons of storage! 2 car side loan garage plus beautifully landscaped lot with trees! Just minutes to I95, metro, Ft. Belvoir, and shopping.



Fairfax \$519,000
Better than new! Renovated top-to-bottom 4BR/3BA Rambler in sought after Kings Park

West has it all - new stylish cabinetry, SS appliances, granite, new hardwoods, new windows, new roof, new bathrooms, great yard, and much more. Freshly painted throughout with many Decorator touches. Convenient to VRE, metrobus & top-school tier!



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Gainesville Heritage Hunt 55+
Sought-after 'Lakemont II', 3BR, 3 BA - 2 on main level inc. luxury Master suite. Den, gourmet Kit w/island & granite, Family rm off Kit, 2-sided gas Fpl, Live. Din, Sun rm, Hdws, 9'+ ceilings, sk lights, ceiling fans, Loft, 2 car Gar, Trex deck, Irrig syst. HOA fee inc. phone, cable, trash, fitness & pools. Sparkling clean & bright! Call for more info.

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PRICE REDUCTION



Springfield - Golf Community - \$449,900



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Fairfax Low 700's
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