

From left – veteran students at Mason and members of the vetarn society: Nick Bogden, Michael Lillie, Jennifer Connors, Walter Sweeney, currents president, Chance Flemming, Kees Slot and former presidents Jacobo Flores and Joshua Lawton.



Mason Launches Veteran Scholarship

A much-needed \$6,000 donation helps kick-start the endowment into gear.

By Lisa Spinelli
The Connection

oshua Lawton, a now senior Lawton-Bel program analyst at the Department of Veterans Affairs, was watching a documentary on the WWII generation when an idea suddenly struck him—George Mason University (his university at the time) should start a veterans' scholarship.

"It's a great feeling to know that something you started is ready to start helping veterans," said Lawton, former vice president of the Mason Veteran Center Project Task Force.

Three years of fundraising have passed since Lawton thought up the idea, but in just four weeks a committee at George Mason University—comprising one representative from financial aid, one from admissions and one from military services—will determine the first ever winner of the Mason Veteran Scholarship Endowment.

The committee will pick a winner from a pool of 45 applicants (deadline was June 1), said Director of Military Services at George Mason Jennifer Connors. To be considered, the applicant must be an undergraduate student at Mason with a minimum 3.0 grade point average and must either be an active or former member of the military—no dependents. Special consideration is being given to decorated service members with combat experience who have demonstrated leadership in community activities.

A \$6000 donation in March topped off the required \$25,000 needed to create the endowment. The Beck family of Fairfax Station, founders of the Beck Foundation—a local charitable veterans organization, made the final donation.

"We live in a great country and we are just trying to give back a little bit," said Buddy Beck, co-founder of the Beck Foundation and a Vietnam War veteran.

While \$25,000 was needed to start the scholarship, the awarded amount is actually the interest on that principal. The winner of this upcoming scholar-



From the left: Jacobo Flores, Michael Lillie, Joshua Lawton-Belous.

ship will not receive a full \$25,000, but will receive about \$2600. There is a caveat, if the principal grows, future recipients could receive more, or Lawton could determine, along with the Military Services division at Mason, to split the fund into two separate (or more) scholarships, helping more than just one veteran per school year.

Since 2009, Lawton—who is also post commander for the Fairfax Station VFW Post 8469, has been working to help raise the funds. He helped create an annual 5K run at Mason from which all proceeds were donated to the scholarship, secured donations from a Monte Carlo casino night at the Fairfax City American Legion, and worked with Floyd Houston, a fellow VFW 8469 member, to secure sales from Houston's book called "Pillars of the Post" for the scholarship. Pillars continues to be on sale on Amazon and Createspace.com.

While the Montgomery and Post 9-11 G.I. Bills pay a substantial amount toward higher education for veterans—full in-state tuition for undergraduate or graduate courses, plus a stipend for books and living expenses under the Post 9-11 G.I. bill, Lawton felt that the benefits were not likely to keep with the rising cost of education (a 127 percent jump in the last two decades) and the cutbacks facing the Department of Defense.

"The G.I. Bill is great, but it doesn't pay for everything. If you have a family, \$1950 goes a long way, but doesn't cover everything," he said. "We know that with both of the wars ending, the federal government isn't going to keep pace with the rising costs of college tuition."

To help donate to the Veterans Scholarship Endowment, please send a check written to the GMU Foundation with the Veterans Scholarship Endowment in the memo. For any questions, call Jennifer Connors at 703-993-8243.

# **Tiny Dancers Camp**

Award-winning ballet, tap and hip-hop classes are now offered as well as week long mini-camps for children ages 3-5 at Tiny Dancers in Fairfax. These performance-based programs provide young dancers with outstanding training while emphasizing a fun, nurturing and motivating environment. The curriculum features enticing classical and popular music entwined with favorite stories and fairy tales. Over 500 custom made costumes and props enhance the experience as your children take "center stage" and dance the adventures of "Fancy Nancy," re-enact a day in the life of "Angelina Ballerina" or magically become the prince or princess in "Sleeping Beauty."

Each week-long camp session includes daily instruction in ballet, a snack, fine motor exercise through a theme-related craft and a unique story and dress-up dance interpretation. The session culminates with a recital and reception for family and friends on the last day of the camp week.

Tiny Dancers exciting line-up includes: July 9-13 (Fancy Nancy Camp), July 23-27 (Angelina Ballerina Camp), July 30 – August 3 (Happily Ever After Camp), August 6-10 (Girl Power Camp), August 20-24 (Princess Dreams Camp).

For more information, call 703-385-5580 or visit www.tinydancers.com.

### 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 30**

Dog and Cat Adoptions. 6:30-8:30 p.m. PetSmart Seven Corners, 12971 Fair Lakes Parkway, Fairfax. Every Saturday. Sponsored by Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. www.lostdogrescue.org.

"Art Camp in Burke" for 5-8 years and 8 years & up. Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Dr. and Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle. 703-250-6930. Register online: http://www.czartlessons.com/

## THURSDAY/JULY 5

### 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.

### SATURDAY/JULY 7

Brain Training Center's Grand Opening and Open Classes. 9:30

a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Power Brain Training Center, 3903 Fair Ridge Dr, Suite 217, Fairfax. Experience fitness, focus and fun through physical, cognitive and relaxation exercises. 703-359-7282 or info@ powerbrainedu.com.

## MONDAY/JULY 9

Mental Health First Aid. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Fairfax Government Center, 12011 Government Center Parkway, Suite 836, Fairfax. Two-day 12-hour certification course for general public, continued on July 16. Taught by staff of Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. Learn risk factors and warning signs of mental illness as well as information and resources to help someone experiencing a mental health crisis. \$25. 703-383-8430, TTY 711 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb.

### TUESDAY/JULY 10

## 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

"Art Camp in Burke" for 5-8 years and 8 years & up. Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Dr. and Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle. 703-250-6930. Register online: http://www.czartlessons.com/

## SATURDAY/JULY 14

Dog Adoptions. 1-4 p.m. PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Every Saturday. Sponsored by Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. www.lostdogrescue.org.

Brain Training Center's Grand
Opening and Open Classes. 9:30
a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Power Brain
Training Center, 3903 Fair Ridge Dr,
Suite 217, Fairfax. Experience fitness,
focus and fun through physical,
cognitive and relaxation exercises.
703-359-7282 or info@
powerbrainedu.com.

### MONDAY/JULY 16

### $\textbf{Senior Fall Prevention Classes.}\ 2$

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

### WEDNESDAY/JULY 18

Mental Health First Aid. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Fairfax Government Center, 12011 Government Center Parkway, Suite 836, Fairfax. Two-day 12-hour certification course for general public, continued on July 25. Taught by staff of Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. Learn risk factors and warning signs of mental illness as well as information and resources to help someone experiencing a mental health crisis. \$25. 703-383-8430, TTY 711 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb.

### FRIDAY/JULY 20

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

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

# NEWS

Fairfax Connection Editor Kemal Kurspahic 703-778-9414 or south@connectionnewspapers.com

Fairfax County Police Chief David Rohrer stands atop the Crystal City Hilton in Arlington, ready to rappel 100 feet down the side of the building on June 22. Although he spent eight years on a SWAT team, this rappel is a Special Olympics Virginia fundraiser called 'Over the Edge.'



PHOTOS BY
DEB COBB/THE

# Over the Edge

Chief Rohrer, rappellers raise \$60,000 for Special Olympics.

By Jeanne Theismann The Connection

ose Pleskow is not one to shy away from a challenge. The 22-year-old athlete competed in the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens, Greece, last summer, earned multiple medals in the 2012 Virginia Special Olympic Summer Games and recently competed in an 800-meter race in the waters around the Cayman Islands. But on June 22, she did something most people wouldn't dare: rappelling down the side of a 15-story building.

"It was exactly what I expected when I was doing it," said Pleskow, who participated in the first Northern Virginia "Over the Edge" fundraiser in Arlington. "I was nervous and excited at the same time. But I felt safe and it was great to look down and see my parents and friends cheering me on."

Pleskow joined area celebrities like DC 101 DJ Elliot Segal of "Elliot in the Morning" fame, ABC 7's Steve Chenevey and Fairfax County Chief of Police David Rohrer in dangling 250-feet from the side of the Hilton Crystal City in an effort to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics of Virginia.

"This was a great event," said Rohrer, a long-time regional coordinator and state chair for the Virginia Special Olympics Torch Run. "I spent seven years in SWAT and love to rappel. But I haven't done it in about 15 years now so it was great to get out there again for such a good cause."

Participants had to raise a minimum of \$1,000 for the "privilege" to go "Over the Edge" in the firsttime event in Northern Virginia.

"Nonprofits are facing a lot of challenges these days," said Paul Griffith, who started Over the Edge in 2004 as a one-time fundraising event for three local charities in his native Halifax, Nova Scotia. "There are only so many charity walks or runs you can do. Rappelling is something different and a more exciting way to bring awareness to an organization like Special Olympics."

Sixty-eight rappellers participated in the event, raising more than \$60,000 for Special Olympics of Virginia.



Special Olympics Virginia Athlete Rose Pleskow of Reston is relaxed and smiling as she descends 100 feet down the side of the Crystal City Hilton in Arlington on June 22. She is participating in the Special Olympics Virginia fundraiser 'Over the Edge' during which 68 people rappelled down the Crystal City Hilton raising \$60,000.

"This was a great success financially but just raising awareness means so much," Rohrer said. "The reality is that what we faced that day pales to what the athletes or anyone facing intellectual adversity or challenges faces every day."

Rohrer now serves on the Executive Board for Special Olympics of Virginia and is committed to helping raise funds and awareness for the organization and the athletes.

"I know a number of these athletes and am so proud of them," Rohrer said. "All they want is respect, opportunity and dignity. They are just incredible people and great role models for all of us."

For more information on Over the Edge or how to participate next year, visit www.OverTheEdgeVA.com or follow Special Olympics of Virginia on Twitter at @overtheedgeva.



Connolly meets with new citizens after the naturalization ceremony on June 22.

# Connolly Addresses 280 New Citizens

ou will help freshen America and help us remain a strong and dynamic society," Congressman Gerry Connolly told hundreds of new U.S. citizens and their families June 22 during a naturalization ceremony in a packed auditorium at Robinson High School.

Connolly delivered the keynote address and led the new Americans in the Pledge of Allegiance at the event where Kimberly Zanotti, Washington Field Office Director for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), administered the Oath of Citizenship to 280 immigrants from 63 nations, while their families and friends looked on with pride. The new U.S. citizens were feted by the Fairfax County Police Honor Guard's presentation of colors, while Officer Genevieve Kirk led them in singing the National Anthem, and President Obama welcomed them in a video message.

"America is a place of opportunity where you can pursue your dreams and raise your families without fearing that somebody's government is going to tell you what to think, how to express yourself, what to believe, or what to worship," Connolly said. "That is the beauty of our country. It is a place for those who share our love of freedom. Many of you come from countries where you've experienced suppression of thought and suppression of your right to participate in your government. You will appreciate our freedoms and you will help strengthen America."

Congressman Connolly told the new citizens, "We are a work in progress, America is never perfect. Our great Ameri-



Connolly addresses new citizens at Ceremony.

can debate is always about doing better to achieve the ideals embodied by our Founding Fathers in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Now you are part of it. You get to help us achieve those ideals."

As opposed to conventional smaller naturalization ceremonies, often held in bland government meeting rooms, USCIS has started holding larger ceremonies in Northern Virginia to administer the Oath of Allegiance to new citizens. The events are festive occasions with family members photographing and videotaping their new citizens, children holding small American flags, and the auditorium brimming with patriotic fervor.

Connolly strives to participate in naturalization ceremonies in Northern Virginia as much as his schedule allows. "Every American should try to attend at least one of these ceremonies. It renews one's sense of patriotism and serves as a reminder of how lucky we are to be Americans," he said after the ceremony.









At a ceremony on June 18, Gary Oswald (center), wife Rosemary (to his left) and daughter Amber are surrounded by six of the seven civilians and some of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department firefighters that worked together to save his life on Feb. 24.

# Fitness Center Members Receive Lifesaving Award

On June 18, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Battalion Chief Ed Brinkley presented Life Saving certificates to Mary Butler, Damian Hawkins, Nick Taktak, Sandy Weaver, Minh Huynh and Chuck Wright for their efforts to help save the life of fellow Fairfax County employee Gary Oswald on Feb. 24. A seventh person, Lori Jones, will also receive a certificate for her contribution to the life-saving effort that day.

"I feel very privileged to be here, and honored that people that I don't know would take an interest in me and help. It's very nice to meet them," said Gary Oswald at the ceremony. Oswald's heart stopped on that fateful February morning and it was the coordinated efforts of the seven Wellness Center employees and patrons to administer CPR and use the facility's Automatic External Defibrillator to keep his blood circulating. In addition to calling 911 and administering critical first aid, the group also found Oswald's locker, cut the bolt to retrieve his wallet, contacted his family to tell them of the emergency and went to meet EMS at the front of the Fairfax County Government Center.

"They were really looking out for his welfare. This is an example of county employees taking care of county employees," Sharon Arndt said, who at the time oversaw the operation of the Wellness Center.

— Deb Совв



Sandy Weaver, of Centreville, gives Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Battalion Chief Ed Brinkley a hug at a ceremony on June 18 as she is presented a Life Saving certificate for her part in the seven-person effort to save a colleague's life on Feb. 24. Weaver administered CPR to a colleague that collapsed at the Fairfax County Fitness and Wellness Center in the Fairfax County Government Center on February 24. "This changed my life completely. I live my life in a way that I appreciate everything now that I know life is so precious," said Weaver of the impact the event had on her life.

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# PEOPLE

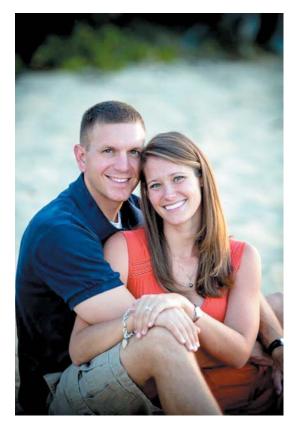
# Erin Greer Mealy Engaged to Matthew David Clark

ick and Peggy Mealy of Clifton are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Erin Greer Mealy, to 1LT Matthew David Clark, U.S. Army, son of David and AnnMarie Clark of Fairfax. The couple graduated from Robinson Secondary School, Fairfax, in 2004.

The future bride graduated from the University of Vermont with a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Sciences. Erin is currently working as a behavior therapist for children diagnosed with Autism in Oahu, Hawaii.

The future groom received a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Virginia in Religious Studies. Matthew is currently stationed at Schofield Barracks, Oahu, Hawaii and is serving as an Infantry Officer in the 25th Infantry Division

A July 5 wedding is planned at Waimanalo Bay, Hawaii and the couple will live in Hawaii until Matthew's next change in duty station.



Erin Greer Mealy and Matthew David Clark.



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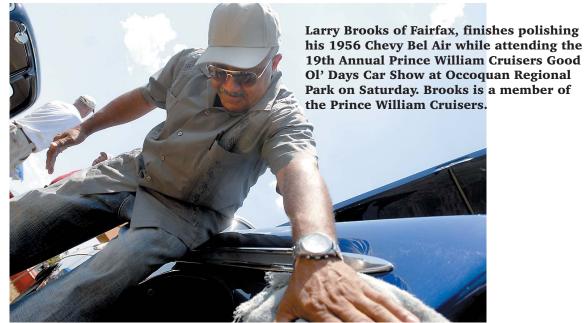


Good Ol' Days Car Show

> Charity and Adam Kapolka, of Woodbridge, attend the Good Ol' Days Car Show at Occoquan Regional Park with their children 5-yearold Christopher and 3year-old Camden on Saturday morning.

SCHEVROL T

Photos by Robbie Hammer/ The Connection





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# OPINION

# Case Closed. Why the Secrecy?

# No reason for police to exercise "blanket" approach, shielding every document in every case.

onnection readers know that we respect and appreciate our public safety professionals. Members of local police and fire and rescue departments are motivated by their deep commitment to serve and protect our local communities. We honor those with our coverage of valor awards, features on police efforts to curb drunk driving and distracted driving, and tragically sometimes a death in the line of duty.

While police earn and deserve a special consideration, police departments in Northern Virginia should let go of their relentless pursuit of secrecy. Police departments all over the country routinely allow access to police reports, incident reports and many other documents without harm, documents that police here refuse to allow the public to see.

The first paragraph of Virginia Freedom of Information Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1968, states that all public records "shall be presumed open." But the legislation includes an exception that allows police to withhold "complaints, memoranda, correspondence,

case files or reports, witness statements and evidence."

Police officials in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria have adopted what they call a "blanket" approach to using their exemption. That means they have decided to withhold any docu-

EDITORIAL ment they can without any analysis of whether they should. Police chiefs and prosecutors from across the com-

monwealth have spoken out against any effort to undermine their broad power of exemption.

Senate Bill 711, originally introduced in 2010 by state Sen. John Edwards (D-21) and up for discussion again this week, would limit the blanket withholding of information to ongoing investigations. This could allow for the public release of documents in closed cases such as the one conducted by the Arlington Police Department about the death of Hailu Brook. In December, 2008, Fairfax County police officers chased 19-year-old Hailu Brook across the county line into Arlington and shot him

dead. Brook, a senior at Yorktown High School, had reportedly robbed a BB&T in McLean

The autopsy report, one of the few documents his parents were able to obtain, shows that the teen was shot 20-25 times by three officers with large caliber handguns. Baffled by what happened to their son, the parents sought access to police reports and documents, but even now that the case is closed, their requests have been denied.

Police wield power unlike any other entity — the power to detain and question, the power to arrest, the power to respond with force when necessary, sometimes deadly force.

With that power, comes responsibility — the responsibility to operate openly and with transparency, the responsibility to make available the greatest possible amount of information, especially the responsibility to provide the public with a full picture of what happened when something goes wrong.

Somewhere along the way, police leaders in Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax have gone astray in their control of information.

— Mary Kimm, mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

COMMENTARY

# Reflections on Graduating Class of 2012

By Supervisor Jeffrey McKay
D- Lee District

Ye been at a lot of graduations over the years—my own high school and college graduations, of course, as well as those of family, and friends. It's an interesting situation, though, when you don a cap and gown and step onto the stage as an elected official but you see those young men and women through the eyes of a parent.

Our 2012 Lee District graduating seniors are like seniors everywhere. They've got one foot still in their childhood (although they probably don't see it that way) and the other in the bright new world of adulthood. Whether they're headed to more years of schooling, join the armed forces or the workforce, many of the choices that will shape their lives are still ahead of them. The parent in me hopes that we—their families, school system, and govern-



job right and given them not only the educational and moral foundation to make the right choices but also the resilience to deal with whatever life throws at them.

It'll be a long time before my daughter and son take their

seats on the graduation stage, yet as I watched those young adults file past to receive their diplomas I saw my children and I wondered about the world they'll find as young adults.

Generations of parents have worried about the world their children will inherit, but the world is moving so much faster now and technology has so changed how we communicate

ment—have done our that we're hard-pressed to know just what we job right and given should be worrying about.

We've been fortunate this past quarter century. Fairfax County has prospered - and so have our schools and other institutions. Now it seems that we and the entire world are heading toward a period of retrenchment where the services we've taken for granted will no longer be as readily available or affordable. Our resources aren't infinitely expandable. How will we allocate them? How will our schools fare when they're up against human service needs, transportation, public safety, libraries, parks and the like?

Perhaps every generation faces these questions and finds its own answers. Perhaps parents worry too much. I do believe that we'll find the right answers to these questions and that the young people setting out in life have the passion and creativity to create the world that I want for my children and everyone's children.

— Letters to the Editor -

# Deepening The Crisis

If you think the local economy is looking anemic now, just wait until we get Sequestration (the legal inevitable result of our legislators reaching no agreement about our national budget).

In Sequestration, all federal agencies will be forced to reduce their spending by 10 per-

cent. And since military personnel will likely be exempt, DoD civilians will be trimmed by 20 percent. Layoffs, pay reduction, forced unpaid leave, and hiring freezes will all play a part in reducing the civilian workforce.

Think this is crying wolf? If it is, why are all major DoD contractors pressing now to resolve the budget issue? It is because funding too many programs will take a big hit if no deal is reached, and they will have to start issuing layoff

notices (which they must do 60 days in advance) to their privatesector workers early thisfall. Sequestration will likely make many federal contracts impossible to

Just imagine all the people out of work in the D.C. Metro area alone.

Except for the top 1 percent (who have enough money to fund Tea Partiers' elections and buy their yachts), sales of all big-ticket items will stop. Then employees

on car lots, in grocery stores, and in the offices handling the paperwork for them will have no jobs either.

As the Tea Party Congress's primary goal is to show that government doesn't work, it will make sure no budget is agreed upon prior to the November election. And then let the fun begin.

**Dianne Thomas** 

Fairfax

# **CONECTION**

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# Fairfax County Public Schools FY 2013 Budget and New Schools Opening

### **New School Buildings Opening in September**

Students in three Fairfax County communities are eagerly anticipating the first day of school on September 4. Two new schools, Mason Crest Elementary School in Annandale and South County Middle School in Lorton, will open their doors for the first time. Graham Road Elementary School will move students from the old school location to a redesigned building previously used as an administrative building. All three projects were funded by bonds approved by Fairfax County voters.

### **Mason Crest Elementary School**

Mason Crest Elementary is located at the site of the old Lacey Instructional Center at 3705 Crest Drive in Annandale. Members of the community participated in naming the school which combines the name of the old Masonville school and the Broyhill Crest neighborhood.

"We are excited to already be working with our parents and our community," said Brian Butler, principal at Mason Crest. "Our mission is to ensure high levels of learning for all our students and it will take all of us, parents, teachers, and the community, working together to honor every

More than 470 students in grades K-5 are expected to attend Mason Crest. The school will

host programs and services including a Family and Early Childhood Education Program (FECEP/ Headstart), advanced academic local level IV services, special education preschool and School- Aged Child Care (SACC).

The two-story building was designed with sustainable and environmentally friendly features including a ground source heat pump, the first one installed in a Fairfax County Public School. The heat pump uses 96 geothermal wells buried 400 feet under the ground to exchange heat to or from water in pipes as it travels to and from the building. Electricity helps move the heat back and forth, but the pump does not burn fossil fuel. This process helps reduce the school's carbon footprint because there are no harmful emissions to the environment.

### **South County Middle School**

South County Middle School was built in one the fastest growing areas of Fairfax County. It sits on 40 acres of land located at 8700 Laurel Crest Drive in Lorton and was constructed on property obtained from Fairfax County Park Authority.

Many of the students attending the new middle school previously attended South County Secondary School (SCSS), which is adjacent to the new school property.

"We look forward to keeping many of our SCSS traditions as we create a new identity as a separate middle school," said Marsha Manning, principal of South County Middle School.

The middle school is a two-story building with more than 176,000 square feet. It will have 40 general education classrooms and additional elective rooms for students in grades 7 and 8. By obtaining land from the park authority and using the same design as was used for Glasgow Middle School, FCPS was able to achieve cost savings for the development and design of the project.

The new middle school will be home to stateof-the-art technology and facilities and host an Advanced Academic Level IV Center Program and a program for intellectually disabled students.

"We're thrilled to move into a new building that we will make into our home," said Manning. "We will strive to make every student feel capable, connected, and a contributor at South County Middle School."

## **Graham Road Elementary School**

Graham Road Elementary is moving to a new location that will increase the school's capacity for more students and provide improved athletic fields and playground facilities. The new location will be at 2831 Graham Road in Falls Church.

In 2008, the Fairfax County School Board decided it would be less disruptive to renovate the administrative center than to renovate the elementary school since students would not be on the campus during the renovation. The new site also offered less traffic congestion, better traffic flow, and an opportunity to keep the Head Start-Family and Early Childhood Education Program (FECEP) together with the K-6 students in one building.

"The opening of our new school building is very exciting for our students, parents, and staff," said Terry Dade, principal at Graham Road. "We are eagerly anticipating the day when the doors officially open and the students' faces light up as they enter a building that is bright and inviting and provides the latest technology and resources to enhance their learning. We sincerely appreciate the community support during this process and we're really looking forward to the first day of school in September."

The renovated building has been transformed with all new interior and exterior finishes, energy efficient windows, and a new roof. In addition, a new HVAC system has been installed along with a new fire alarm and other life safety systems.



# **Getting To Know Us**

# IT Operations Cathy Sells

As you watch a building being constructed over time, you notice the concrete being poured, the roof being built, and the windows installed. Each person working on the school building plays a significant role in the process and is relied upon by the whole team.

Opening a new school building requires coordination by a team of skilled professionals, from the areas of design and construction, transportation, food service, human resources, information technology, safety and security, instructional services, special services and many

Behind the scenes there is much going on that may not be visible or noticeable. Cathy Sells, director of operations for information technology (IT) at FCPS, works with the entire IT department to ensure that the technology required for a school building is available when and where it is needed.

"Technologies such as network connectivity, voice services, wireless access, data storage, computer equipment, printers, and copiers ensure a contemporary learning environment for 21st century instruction," said Sells.

"Our IT team works very closely with the school principal on the technology plan for the school. Our mission is to provide technology leadership and services to ensure a safe and secure environment for 24/7 learning.

"It is really fascinating to see the coordination of the people involved when we build a new school," she said. "Everyone works together to ensure that the new site will be the best possible place for the students and staff in that community. We all rely on each other and it's one of the best things we do as an organization."



### Fairfax County School Board Adopts FY 2013 Approved Budget

The Fairfax County School Board has adopted the Fairfax County Public Schools 2012-13 school year (FY 2013) Approved Budget of \$2.4 billion that includes:

- · compensation increases for employees.
- · the elimination of student athletic fees.
- more than 700 new positions to address enrollment growth.
- extended learning time for at-risk students.
- the expansion of the World Languages program in elementary schools.
- a phase in of mandated employee contributions to the Virginia Retirement System (VRS).

The FY 2013 Approved Budget is an 8.2 percent increase over the FY 2012 Approved Budget. For more information visit www.fcps.edu and click on FY 2013 Budget.



www.AppleFCU.org 703-788-4800 This year's State of Schools Report courtesy of Apple Federal Credit Union



2011BUSINESS PARTNER OF THE YEAR

# Summer Fun 2012 Party Like It's 1776

City of Fairfax Hosts 46th Star-Spangled Fourth of July Celebration.

> By Victoria Ross The Connection

ince 1776, Americans have celebrated our independence from the tyranny of King George III with parades, picnics and booming fireworks.

Rich with Revolutionary and Civil War history, the City of Fairfax has always made the Founding Fathers proud with a day of familyfriendly events and a stunning explosion of fireworks that draws more than 15,000 people to Fairfax High School's stadium

"The Fourth of July represents everything special about United States, and the City of Fairfax always tries to go the extra mile. Last year, it felt like there was a grand finale every minute or two during the fireworks," said City of Fairfax Mayor Robert Lederer, who officially handed over the reins to newly-elected Mayor Scott Silverthorne on Wednesday, June

"This year will be even more spectacular."

Lederer has been to every fireworks display in the city since it tradition was to get up at 6 a.m. began 46 years ago.

By David Siegel

roller coaster of fun and

story. It's about conquering our

basic needs and embracing our

said.

# Independence Day Schedule –

Wednesday, July 4, 2012

10 a.m. to noon - rain or

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 10209 Main Street

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. 10386 Main Street

Fireman's Day 12:30 p.m. 4081 University Drive

Fairfax High School, 7 to

only
7 p.m. City of Fairfax Band 8 p.m. Welcome remarks and presentation of awards by Mayor

9:10 p.m. City of Fairfax Band

"This is one of my fondest childhood memories," Lederer said. "We moved into Fairfax when I was two months old, and our family and put chairs out in front of T.T.

City of Fairfax

❖ Independence Day Pa-

Downtown Fairfax His-❖ Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center Open House

\* Ratcliffe-Allison House

Old-Fashioned Firefighter competition Food, beverages, games \* Evening Show & Fire-

10:30 p.m. 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax,

Rain date: July 5 - for fireworks

8:20 p.m. Leggz (favorites from Motown to classic Rock & Roll to 70's

'Big Love' Next for Hub Theatre

Hub describes "Big Love" as tak-

ing off as fifty brides flee their fifty

grooms to seek refuge in a villa on

Helen Haves award nominee

cality, poetry, and power," Pafumi you creatively and it challenges san Shields professor of dance at

the coast of Italy. The grooms track

emotion" is how Hub down the brides arriving by heli-

with comedic flair

plays using ancient texts as his ate a world onstage where all of in last season's "Stay."

Theatre Artistic Director copter in flight suits. All of this

Helen Pafumi described its next leads to the brides' rebellion with

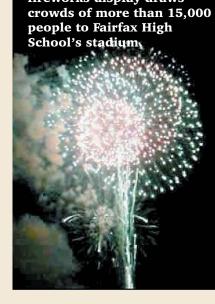
production, "Big Love" by Charles much mayhem. There are also

Mee. "An enduring and epic love much darker elements handled

better selves. And it tackles these Kirsten Kelly is directing "Big

difficult discussions with theatri- Love." "It asks really big things of

The City of Fairfax annual fireworks display draws people to Fairfax High School's stadium



9:30 p.m. (approximately) - Fire-

Note: Lawn chairs, smoking, alcohol and animals, with the exception of service animals, are not permitted on the football field. Exception: service animals. Items that may puncture the synthetic turf are not alowed on the FHS Stadium Field.

Reynolds. It's always great to see so many families enjoying this tra-

"The City of Fairfax works hard to ensure July 4th will be a day full of fond memories. Our parade, the

Where and When

Hub Theatre production of "Big

New School of Northern Virginia, 9431

Friday-Saturday 8 p.m.; Saturday and

\$25. Visit www.thehubtheatre.org or

unday matinees 2 p.m. Tickets: \$15-

Music and choreography are key

elements of the show. The chore-

ography will be developed by Su-

Love" at The John Swayze Theatre,

Silver King Court, Fairfax. Perfor-

mances July 13-August 5, 2012.

call box office at: 800-494-8497.

contemporary times and themes. wonderful, painful, raucous search as one of the brides, "The story and of the grooms, the production "is

Mee received an 2002 Off-Broad- for love is any director's dream to the characters are so rich and col- a highly energized piece full of

works Display
10 - 10:30 p.m. Leggz Finale

and our spectacular fireworks display at Fairfax High School, are great fun for you and your families. We are especially proud to honor Dr. Alan Merten, Mason's President, as our grand marshal and wish him well in his retire-

ment," Mayor Silverthorne said. The festivities for this year's "A Star Spangled Celebration" begin at 10 a.m. with a patriotic parade through historic downtown Fairfax. Events conclude with a bang during the evening show that includes

will see themselves in it."

minute or two."

best in the DC metropolitan area,

a spectacular fireworks display choreographed to music.

"The Fourth of July represents everything

special about United States, and the City

of Fairfax always tries to go the extra mile.

It felt like there was a grand finale every

Live performances include the City of Fairfax Band, which plays both patriotic and Americana fa-& roll cover band.

# Other Free **Summer Events:**

\* "Concerts at the Corner" Every Thursday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. until Aug. 23, Fairfax Corner's plaza stage hosts free familv-friendly concerts and "little tots" activities. For more information, go to www.FairfaxCorner.com.

The Fairfax

**Host Lions** 

Club drove an

eve-catching

caravan in the

City of Fairfax

Independence

Photo Contributed

Day parade.

### \* National Night Out -Tuesday Aug. 7

- Robert Lederer, retiring City of Fairfax Mayor Learn about public safety and meet the people who provide it during National Night Out (NNO). Held on the first Tuesday in August, participating neighborhoods celebrate NNO with a variety of events and activities of their choice, invorites, and The Leggz classic rock cluding block parties, cookouts, parades, flashlight walks, contests and youth programs. Participating neighborhoods receive visits from local police and fire departments with the opportunity to learn more about safety from those who provide it. For more information on local NNO events, go to www.fairfaxva.gov.



rom left, Sarah Douglas, Kristen Garaffo, and Jessica Aimone in the Hub Theatre's upcoming production of

to Courtesy of (

you to find huge heart, big theat- George Mason University who was human experiences—love and such strong statements about what songs from all generations; you can Charles Mee is an American play-rics, and intensely intimate connec-nominated for a Helen Hayes hate, strife and celebration. I think it is to be a man or a woman in expect a big party and a massively wright known for developing new tions. And to take big risks and cre- award for her choreography work that everyone who sees this play this world, while battling out the wonderful fight scene." While question; how can the two polar "bride" Jessica Aimone said, "We springboard, updating them into this comes together in a messy, According to Sarah Douglas cast For Michael Kevin Darnall, one sexes reconcile this crazy little have everything—fights, dance, singing, and dancing-all wrapped According to director Kelly, au- up in the cozy nest of a well-writorful; it's a banquette of different passionate characters who make diences "can expect 'Big Love' ten, funny, poetic script."

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Look for the **Visit Fairfax** logo for your

Fairfax County, Virginia **Connect with America** 

# There's An App for That!

Visit Fairfax launches app that helps visitors and residents navigate summer fun.

f your travel backpack is loaded down with maps, paper paraphernalia to plan your summer outing, just toss it.

A free app developed by Visit Fairfax - the county's official destination marketing organization - is the go-to device for savvy vacationers seeking summer fun. It even has a "backpack" function to store your favorite information. The app is free to download through either the Apple App

Store or the Android Market. "With the growing number of consumers who rely on their smart phones for information, a mobile app was one way to help both visitors and our own local residents connect with all of the amazing things to do in the area," said Barry Biggar, Presi-

dent and CEO of Visit Fairfax. For example, if you and your family are in Springfield on July 4th, and you want to locate the nearest fireworks display, and taurant near the fireworks, just

open the Visit Fairfax app. The award-winning app offers interactive features such as tate & Gardens, and museums mapping technology, consumer such as the Smithsonian's Nareviews, and special offers from tional Air and Space Museum area businesses. The compre- Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center," hensive travel guide allows us- said Jackie Franchi, director of ers to access thousands of local marketing for Visit Fairfax.

By Victoria Ross attractions, events, accommoda-THE CONNECTION tions, restaurants, and special

Users can also view descriptions, pictures, videos, ratings, visitor's guides, and other and reviews for all of the popular destinations throughout Northern Virginia. If you need help getting around, the Visit Fairfax app will guide you to every trip destination.

> Features include: Near Me: View all the points of interest that are nearest to

> your geographic location. Categories: View points of interest in a list or on a map by selecting any Category.

❖ Special Offers: Check out all of the special offers good for savings throughout Northern

❖ Events: Instant access to all current and upcoming events in

For more information on the app's functions, go to www.fxva.com/mobile

"It's a very cool device. You can keep the app in your pocket as your personal guide while find a Yelp-reviewed Italian res- you explore parks like Great Falls National Park, national treasures such as George Washington's Mount Vernon Es-

"With the growing number of consumers who rely on their smart phones for information, a mobile app was one way to help both visitors and our own local residents connect with all of the amazing things to do in the area." — Barry Biggar, President and CEO of Visit Fairfax

# **Public Meeting Set to Present 2012 Park Bond**

The Fairfax County Park Authority and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority will hold a joint public comment meeting on Monday, July 9, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in Rooms 106/107 of the Herrity Building located at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA. This meeting will provide an opportunity for residents to learn about plans for a bond referendum this fall and to comment on the bond program highlights.

In May, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors authorized a \$75 million Park Bond referendum as part of the Fiscal Year 2013 through 2017 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). This referendum, if approved by voters this fall, would provide \$12 million for the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and \$63 million for the Fairfax County Park Authority.

The Fairfax County Park Authority has worked hard to create a balanced approach to capital improvements. Using the Needs Assessment 10-year capital plan, facility condition assessments, park master plans and stakeholder input as tools for project selection, the allocation of park bonds would fall into three categories: stewardship and land acquisition, facility renovations, and park development. The project list balances priority needs, reinvestment in aging facilities, advancement of phased projects and improving the park experience.

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority utilizes a similar approach to allocating park bond funds, taking into account user needs, the capital improvement program, the strategic plan and existing facility conditions.

At the July meeting, staff will present the categorical highlights of the bond and will take public comment. Individuals and groups are welcome to speak. Individuals may speak for three minutes and representatives from groups may testify for five minutes. To sign up to speak in advance or for more

information, contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662. You may also sign up to speak at the meeting. The public may also submit written comments to the Park Authority at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927 Fairfax, VA 22035-1118 or at parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

To submit comments to the Regional Park Authority write to 5400 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039 or pladev@nvrpa.org. All comments will be taken until August 10, 2012.





If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least ten working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354 703-324-8700 • ONLINE : www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks • E-mail: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

Fairfax Connection \* June 28 - July 4, 2012 \* 11

way OBIE for "Big Love."

10 S Fairfax Connection S June 28 - July 4, 2012

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

# Summer Fun 2012

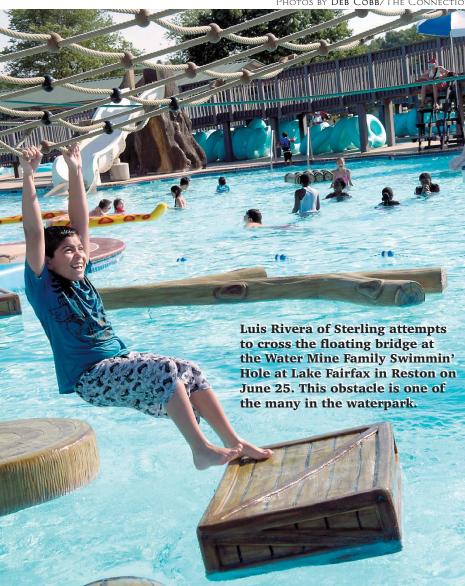


The Acevedo family enjoys the lazy river at the Water Mine Family Swimmin' Hole at Lake Fairfax in Reston on June 25. In addition to the lazy river, the park offers more than an acre of slides, flumes, sprays, showers, floatables, play structures and dumping buckets. Pictured from left: Sul Acevedo, Vladimir Acevedo, Sul Acevedo and Delmy Acevedo.

# Families Find Fun at Lake Fairfax







# Great Stories for a Great Cause

Better Said Than Done, a community of professional storytellers based in Northern Virginia, hosted a night of storytelling for a cause. In "Our Bodies, Our Selves," storytellers shared personal tales of tattoos, dealing with Alzheimers, marathon running and other crazy things we do and have done with our bodies. The event was a fundraiser for Friends of Reston.

Katie Shaw, from Friends of Reston, said "This was the third storytelling event hosted by Friends of Reston and Better Said Than Done at Nature House, and the best attended. We look forward to a fourth! The storytellers represent the diverse community that the Reston area is home to. With their broad range of experiences, their stories connect with different segments of the audience in meaningful ways, evoking everything from laughter to tears, fond remembrances and eye opening revelations. This event was a great kickstart to the summer fundraising season. The nearly \$1,000 raised will be used to send Reston children from low income families to Reston Association Camps."

Despite living in one of the wealthiest counties in the U.S., childhood poverty rates are actually increasing in Fairfax

County. Twenty-eight percent of all children attending Reston's eight elementary schools qualify for free and reduced-priced meals, a nationally recognized benchmark for poverty.

If you'd like to contribute to the Friends of Reston's Camp Scholarship fund, please send your check to ATTN: Katie Shaw, Friends of Reston, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston VA 20191 and write "Camp Scholarship" in the memo section.

Better Said Than Done's next show is bringing the fireworks. Join storytellers for "Independence Day - stories of freedom, declarations, and fireworks!" on Saturday, June 30 at Epicure Café, 11213 Lee Highway, Fairfax at 6 p.m. \$10 tickets at door.

The performance will feature entertaining performances of true, explosive stories. Storytellers include: Geraldine Buckley, Lisa Kays, Jessica Piscitelli, Mojdeh Rezaeipour, Adam Ruben, Ellouise Schoettler, John Tong and Michael Zhuang.

A full dinner menu and full bar are available during the show. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. The show is intended for an adult audience.

For additional information or to see videos of past shows, visit www.bettersaidthandone.com.



Better Said than Done's Jessica Piscitelli.

# 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/JUNE 28

**The Skatalites and Murphy's Kids.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna.

www.janmminjava.com.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice English with other adults and improve your skills. 703-249-1520.

### FRIDAY/JUNE 29

Marah. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.janmminjava.com.

Eric Brace and Peter Cooper. 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Country melodies and lyrics. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or www.wolftrap.org/TITW.

Wolf Trap Opera Company: Don Giovanni. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Preshow talk one hour before performance.

www.wolftrap.org.

www.wolftrap.org. **Cheryl Wheeler.** 7:30 p.m. Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. Folk music singer/songwriter. Free. 703-324-7469.

**Old Town Plaza: Fairfax Swing Band**. 7 p.m. 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax.

### SATURDAY/JUNE 30

Children's Shows: The Smithsonian and Jammin Java present Billy Jonas. 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

John Wesley Harding. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Eric Brace and Peter Cooper. 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Country melodies and lyrics. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or www.wolftrap.org/TITW.

The Great Zucchini. 10 a.m. Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax. Comedy and magic for children. Free. 703-324-7469.

Dream Big and Read. 2:30 p.m.
Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds
Oak Road, Burke. Magician Mike
Klee leads a magical adventure. Age
6-12. 703-249-1520.

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.

### SUNDAY/JULY 1

Wolf Trap Opera Company: Don Giovanni. 3 p.m. Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Preshow talk one hour before performance.

www.wolftrap.org.

Red, White and Blue Evening of
American Folk and Patriotic
Songs. 5 p.m. Bruen Chapel UMC at
3035 Cedar Lane, Fairfax. Sing
patriotic songs in preparation for the
236th birthday of the U.S. this Fourth
of July. Free. RSVP 703-560-1665.

### MONDAY/JULY 2

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. **Robinson Select Women's Chorus**to perform the music prepared for
the World Choir Games in Cincinnati,
Ohio. 7 p.m. Donations accepted to



The City of Fairfax annual fireworks display draws crowds of more than 15,000 people to Fairfax High School's stadium. [More on the July 4th event, Page 10]

help students with travel expenses. Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. erodgers@lordoflifeva.org

### TUESDAY/JULY 3

DinoRock. 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Giant colorful puppets created by the Emmy Award-winning puppet designer Ingrid Crepeau offer songs, skits and dances. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or www.wolftrap.org/ TITW.

### WEDNESDAY/JULY 4

**CFB, Morning Parade.** 10 a.m. Downtown Fairfax Historic District, and Evening Concert 7 p.m. Fairfax (FHS) 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax.

### THURSDAY/JULY 5

Elizabeth Mitchell. 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Smithsonian Folkways Recordings artist. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or www.wolftrap.org/TITW.

Wolf Trap Opera Company: Don Giovanni. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Preshow talk one hour before performance. www.wolftrap.org.

# FRIDAY/JULY 6

Elizabeth Mitchell. 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Smithsonian Folkways Recordings artist. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or www.wolftrap.org/TITW.

**Alte Kameraden**. 7 p.m. Fairfax City Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax.

### SATURDAY/JULY 7

**Elizabeth Mitchell.** 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Smithsonian Folkways Recordings artist. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or www.wolftrap.org/TITW.

Brain Training Center's Grand
Opening and Open Classes. 9:30
a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Power Brain
Training Center, 3903 Fair Ridge Dr,
Suite 217, Fairfax. Experience fitness,
focus and fun through physical,
cognitive and relaxation exercises.
703-359-7282 or info@
powerbrainedu.com.

Country-Western Dance. Accotink
Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125
Lakehaven Ct., Burke. Line dance
lesson at 7:30 p.m.; couples dance
lesson at 8 p.m. Open dancing from
8:30-11p.m. NVCWDA members \$10;
non-members \$12; children under 18
accompanied by a paying adult \$5;
PSDC members \$10. 703-860-4941.

Wolf Trap Opera Company: Don Giovanni. 7 p.m. Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Preshow talk one hour before performance. www.wolftrap.org.

### SUNDAY/JULY 8

Matisyahu and Dirty Heads. 3 p.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$38 in-house, \$29 lawn. www.wolftrap.com.

### TUESDAY/JULY 10

Coal Train Railroad. 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. A Nashville, Tennessee ensemble takes children and families into the world of jazz. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or www.wolftrap.org/TITW.

Meet the Author: Kimberly
"Kimba" Dalferes. 7 -8:30 p.m.
Join local author for a reading of fun
and quirky stories from her book "I
Was In Love With a Short Man
Once." Adults. Burke Centre
Community Library, 5935 Freds Oak
Road. <a href="http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/meettheauthor/">http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/meettheauthor/</a>

# FAITH NOTES -

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.

Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church,** 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is at 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.poplc.org.

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway in Springfield, supports a Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) program on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Meetings are 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the church. All mothers and children are welcome. The program provides mothers an opportunity to get to know other mothers through discussions and

craft activities. Register at 703-451-5320.

JCCNV Mother's Circle program, for women who are not Jewish but are raising Jewish children. Free education in Jewish rituals, practices and values, while respecting the participant's choice to retain her own religious identity. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax. Contact Laurie Albert, 703-537-3064 or LaurieA@jccnv.org.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria, offers traditional Sunday church services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. plus Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Childcare is available 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. There will be a Terry Hall Concert on Saturday, April 14 at 4 p.m. with old spirituals, classic hymns, southern gospel favorites and more. 703-971-5151 or admin@franconiaumc.org or www.franconiaumc.org.

# COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

# IMMANUEL BIBLE CHURCH MAKING POOM FOR GROWING FAMILIES

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### Assembly of God

Jubilee Christian Center 703-383-1170 Fairfax Assembly of God 703-591-4284 Way of Faith Assembly of God 703-573-7221

## Baptist

Braddock Missionary ... 703-830-4125 Calvary Hill... 703-323-1347 Fairfax Baptist... 703-273-1820 Fairfax Circle... 703-573-7372 Greater Little Zion... 703-764-9111 esia Bautista La Gran Comiscica... 703-323-5

Iglesia Bautista La Gran Comiscica...703-323-5858 Judah Praise Fellowship Christian...703-758-1456 Northern Virginia Primitive Baptist...703-255-0637

### Bible

Bancroft Bible Church... 703-425-3800

### Catholic

St. Leo the Great Catholic... 703-273-5369 St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church... 703-978-4141 St. Paul Catholic Church... 703-968-3010

Coptic Orthodox

St. Mark.../03-391-4444

Disciples of Christ
Fairfax Christian Church... 703-385-3520

Episcopal

Church of the Apostles 703-591-1974 Truro Episcopal...703-273-1300

**Jewish**Congregation of Olam Tikvah... 703-425-1880

# Chabad Lubavitch...703-426-1980 *Lutheran*

Bethlehem Lutheran...703-978-3131 Christ Lutheran...703-273-4094 Kings of Kings...703-378-7272 Lord of Life...703-323-9500

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# News



Natanael, Carmen and Jose Justiniano in January 2011.



Natanael Justiniano and his friends at Bonnie Brae Elementary on May 14, Natanael's first day back at the school since Jan. 24, 2011. From left are Will Talley, Catrina Sutherland, Hope Blahusch, Lucy Talley and Natanael.

# A Story of Courage and Survival

# Fairfax mother, son overcome lifethreatening illnesses.

By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

atanael Justiniano is just 11 years old, yet he's beaten leukemia twice and just celebrated his one-year anniversary of a lifesaving blood transplant. And before the school year ended, he returned to Bonnie Brae Elementary part-time to finish the last month of fourth grade with his classmates.

He lives in Fairfax with his single mother Carmen and his brother Jose, who just graduated from Robinson Secondary School. And together, they've faced seemingly insurmountable challenges with courage, grace and love. But it hasn't been easy.

"I had to push down all my feelings so I could keep a clear mind to make decisions," said Carmen Justiniano. "I had to take care of my kids. If I'd let myself feel the whole weight of the fear and terror of losing my child, I wouldn't have been able to cope."

**THEIR ORDEAL** began in August 2006, when Natanael, then 5, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) – a disease that came with a prognosis of an average of nine months left to live. But doctors fought hard and so did Natanael.

Over the next two and one-half years, he endured 24 spinal taps, 10 days of cranial radiation, months in Inova Fairfax Hospital and 694 rounds of chemotherapy. "I took 11 months off work after he was diagnosed," said Justiniano. "Our whole lives revolved around his treatment and protocol."

But then, in Oct. 2008, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and began her own battle. So while trying to be strong for

Natanael and take care of Jose, she had to deal with chemo, herself.

Luckily, "Natanael had resilience," said Justiniano. "He experienced a lot of pain, but quickly bounced back and was happy. He distracted himself with TV and video games. In his imagination, he was the character and was able to 'be outside and be free' while confined."

Natanael finally went into remission in February 2009 and made it almost two years before relapsing. The leukemia returned Jan. 24, 2011, sending him back to the hospital for 50 more rounds of chemo, in addition to spinal taps, bone-marrow aspirations and two surgeries.

"Because of his treatment for leukemia, he got a secondary tumor in his parotid gland," said Justiniano. "So in March 2011, it was removed; but it'll have to be monitored because it could grow back." Through it all, she said, "He's been like a hero. Natanael had the joy to live."

Two months later, on May 16, 2011, his wish took a big step toward reality when he received a cord-blood transplant at Duke University Children's Hospital in Durham, N.C. This time, though, said his mother, "He was more aware of the world he was missing. He was eager to be a normal boy and be around his friends."

First, though, Natanael had to get better; and little by little, he did. "I'll never know who donated the umbilical-cord stem cells for his transplant," said Justiniano. "All we know is that they were from a girl."

Today, doctors say his blood is 98 percent donor cells – signifying that the transplant was successful. But he still has to beware of any infections and must take more than three dozen medications a day.

Natanael's illness also affected his education. He couldn't attend kindergarten or first grade and, instead, received homebound schooling. He started second grade before his mother's diagnosis, but only went half a year, so she had him repeat second grade, the following year.

He relapsed during his first semester of



Natanael and Jose swimming together in January 2011. They'd just learned Natanael had relapsed, and his mother knew it would be a long time before he could go to a pool again.

third grade and had to be taught at home until he returned part-time, May 14, for the end of fourth grade. Now, he's attending summer school and will start fifth grade in the fall.

**NATANAEL LIKES** building with Legos, playing video games and watching movies and hopes to someday become a chef. "It feels really great to be back at school," he said. "I didn't like going to hospitals because you had to wait a long time and the [cancer] treatment was terrible. To pass the time, I'd watch the Food Network or the Cartoon Network on TV."

Meanwhile, although the family has medical insurance, not everything was covered and the Justinianos incurred a huge debt. "We've been through many years of medical expenses, and we've survived because of COTA's [Children's Organ Transplant Assn.] fundraisers," said Natanael's mother.

The nonprofit helped refund some of the transplant expenses but, when Natanael was hospitalized for the procedure at Duke for four months, Justiniano stayed nearby and had to pay for her own living expenses. "The entire family suffers when a child has cancer," she said. "Jose's college fund was used to pay for lodging and food."

"I'd been saving for him to go to college since he was in seventh grade," she continued. "But I had to wipe out both his and

# How to Help

A cord-blood transplant costs \$1 million, and 70 percent of families like Natanael's go into bank-ruptcy. While insurance covered some of Natanael's transplant cost, COTA expects his family's out-of-pocket expenses to reach as high as \$50,000. To donate to the Justinianos:

Go to http://cotafornatanaelj.com/ and see the "donate now" button.

♦ Make a deposit into the "COTA for NatanaelJ" account at any BB&T Bank branch. Use account number 0005108459729.

♦ Send a check payable to COTA and write "COTA for Natanael," on the memo line. Mail it to Children's Organ Transplant Association, 2501 COTA Drive, Bloomington, Ind. 47403.

Natanael's college funds when we went to North Carolina."

Nonetheless, Jose worked hard in school and graduated from Robinson with a 4.06 GPA. He's been accepted in the Honors program at Virginia Tech to study aerospace engineering. And he was invited to the summer academy of the Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Program at NASA in Virginia Beach.

Still, his mother, who's also in remission from her illness, feels sad that – because of both her cancer and Natanael's – Jose "didn't get the attention he needed" from her. "He's seen both his brother and his mother in treatment," said Justiniano. "The entire six years he's been at Robinson, there's been cancer, hospitalizations and chemo in his family."

A year has passed now since Natanael's transplant, but Justiniano can't quite let down her guard. "Now that it seems like he's safe, all these feelings I pushed down are coming back like a tsunami," she said. "The cloud of relapse is always over you, so it'll be awhile before I can relax."

Likening hers and Natanael's cancer battles to a war, Justiniano said, "My life and my younger child's life were threatened – and my healthy child was cheated out of all that time we couldn't spend together. Now he's going away to college, and I can't get back the past six years with him. But when I feel overwhelmed, I say to myself, if I can have six years of peace now, then maybe I'll feel like it's behind us."

# PEOPLE

# World Premiere Opera by Fairfax's Sean Pflueger

ean Pflueger of Fairfax, a 2012 Arts Council of Fairfax County Strauss Award recipient for music composition and performance will be presenting his world premiere of "Child in the Midst, A Horror Opera" at the Capital Fringe Festival. It will be sung in English.

Pflueger is a member of the Fairfax County-based Riverbend Opera company, a non-profit that brings professional opera productions to the local area. He has a voice studio in Burke, Virginia. He performs regularly with the Washington Savoyards and in the chorus of the Washington National Opera.

The musical is based upon the Sean Pflueger



short story entitled "The Midst" by Stephen King. It is a tale of supernatural Mist that traps a group of people, including a man and his son, in a small town grocery store. They are scared for their lives.

Pflueger received the rights to adapt Stephen King's short story "The Mist" through King's "dollar baby" program which was established to allow young writers the opportunity to adapt his works.

The show will be performed during the Capital Fringe Festival, Washington, D.C., on July 13 at 6 p.m., July 18 at 8 p.m. and July 21 at 2 p.m. at GALA Theatre at Tivoli Square in Washington, D.C. It is recommended for ages 13 and up. www.capitalfringe.org



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# DAR Recognizes Local Area Students

nna Maria Fitzhugh Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, recently presented several awards at local schools.

Gloria Williams, senior at Lake Braddock Secondary School, received the DAR Good Citizens Award. Gloria will be attending the University of Virginia where she will study chemical engineering. Gloria was also selected the Good Citizen Award winner for DAR District V which is composed of 28 DAR chapters in Northern Virginia.

Cadet Kateri J. OHare of Lake Braddock Secondary School received the DAR Bronze ROTC Medal.

The DAR Good Citizenship Medal was presented to one outstanding sixth grader at 11 local elementary schools.

**♦**Cardinal Forest Elementary School - Sofia O'Connor

❖Cherry Run Elementary School - Peter Chamberlin

♦Hunt Valley Elementary

- School Notes -

School - Isabel Hogg

❖Keene Mill Elementary School - Nithin

❖King's Glen Elementary School - Abby

**♦**Orange Hunt Elementary School - Martin Trompeta

**❖**Ravensworth Elementary School - Talia Enav

❖Rolling Valley Elementary School - Emma Jones

**♦**Sangster Elementary School - Meredith Nolan

**♦**West Springfield Elementary School -Brooke Elizabeth Higgison

♦White Oaks Elementary



Pictured are Anna Maria Fitzhugh chapter member Nancy Tarlano, a retired Lake Braddock teacher; Cadet Kateri J. OHare who received the DAR Bronze ROTC Medal, and National Defense Committee member Sandy Todd.

School - Elizabeth Moore

ementary School received the DAR Outstanding Work in American History Medal.

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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.

Fairfax residents Cara Bialek and David Hixon have been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at the Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, Ga.

Austin Lee has been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at Randolph-Macon Academy. He is the son of Leah Lee of Fairfax and Seung Kyu of Arlington.

Alex Tyler Price of Fairfax has been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at Hampden-Sydney College. He is the son of Tammi and Jay Price. Esther Froberg of Fairfax has been named to the fall 2011 dean's list with distinction at Grove

City College, Grove City, Pa. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Froberg is majoring in Spanish.

Brittney Ransdell has been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at Randolph-Macon Academy. She is the daughter of Denise Ralls of Fairfax.

Nathan Warren of Fairfax has been named to the fall 2011 honor roll at Loomis Chaffee School, Windsor, Ct.

Paul Anthony Polanski of Fairfax has earned a bachelor of science from Excelsior College of Albany, N.Y.

Marine Corps Pvt. Cameron T. Harshfield completed 12 weeks of basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C. He studied first aid, uniform regulations, combat water survival, marksmanship, hand-to-hand combat and assorted weapons training,

close order drill and operating as a small infantry unit during field training. Harshfield is a 2011 graduate of Fairfax High School.

Matthew Freiling of Fairfax has been named to the fall 2011 dean's list with distinction at Grove City College, Grove City, Pa. The Trinity Christian School graduate is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Freiling.

Elena Nadolinski of Fairfax was one of six young women invited to the White House as a winner in the National Council for Women in Information Technology Award Aspirations in Computing. Nadolinski was the vice president of Woodson's Computer Science Club, and president of its Robotics Club. While she was president of the latter group, her team placed second internationally in the Botball Robotics Tournament.

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# SPORTS

All-District Baseball: The following local high school baseball players earned All-District accolades for this past 2012 spring

❖From Edison High (National District), First Team All-District selections were Nick Ammeen (Second Base) and Connor Hall

SPORTS Roundups

(Utility). Second Team selections for the Eagles went to Robby Baird (First Base), Mike Lewis (Outfield), and

Cayman Hatton (Pitcher).

❖From Hayfield High (National District), Robert Banks was named First Team Outfielder and Cameron Lundmark made First Team Pitcher. Second Team selections for the Hawks were Ben Harris (DH) and George Palacio (Util-

❖From Robinson (Concorde District), three players earned First Team honors - Patrick Baker (Second Base), Chase Bailey (DH), and Denis Mikush (Pitcher). Mikush was also selected First Team at Utility.

Second Team selections for the Rams were Danny Herrera (Third Base) and Matt Spaulding (Third Base).

❖From Fairfax High (Liberty District), Brandon Ginch (Catcher) and Sean Ranson (Third Base) made First Team. Making Second Team for the Rebels was Kody Sherland (Outfield).

❖For Virginia State AAA champion Lake Braddock (Patriot District), six players were named First Team All-District. Those players are: Matt Spruill (Second Base), Jack Owens (shortstop), Alex Lewis (Third Base), Alex Gransback (Outfield), Thomas Rogers (Pitcher), and Michael Church (Pitcher).

Bruins pitching aces Rogers and Church were named the Patriot District Pitchers of the Year. Also, Lake Braddock head coach Jody Rutherford was named the District Coach of the Year.

Lake Braddock players to earn Second Team All-District accolades were: Garrett Driscoll (Catcher), Mitch Spille (First Base), and Nick Balenger (Pitcher).

❖From Northern Region champion West Springfield High (Patriot District), Donny Haeuptle (Catcher) and Connor Tagg (Pitcher) were both represented Spartans named to the Second Galbraith, Julia Capobianco, Anna Team were Taylor Boyd (Shortstop) and Nick Stevens (Outfield).

Baseman) was named the Patriot and Cory Hanson.



**West Springfield's Nick** Stevens was named Second **Team All-Patriot District** Outfielder this season in helping lead the Spartans to the Northern Region

District Player of the Year. He was joined on the All-District First Team by Stallion teammates Blake Thompson (Outfield), Cameron Thompson (Outfield), and Devin Gould (Pitcher). Andrew Rector of South County was named Second Team in the Outfield.

❖From W.T. Woodson (Patriot District), Eric Depew (DH) was named to the First Team. Cavaliers to make the Second Team were Jake Ferguson (Second Base), Danny Inmacolato (Outfield), Brant Thomas (Utility), and Charlie Weirick (Pitcher).

❖From Lee High (Patriot), Garret Shondelmyer (Outfield) and Will Smith (Utility) were both named to the Second Team.

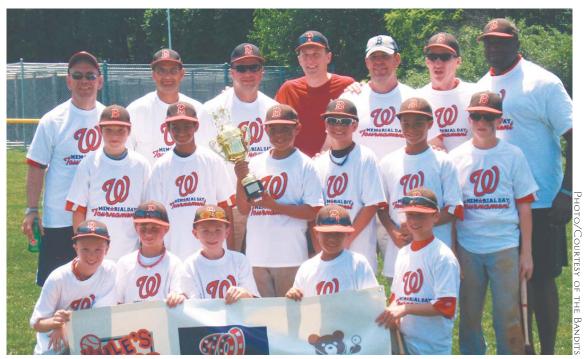
❖From Annandale High, Ryan Smith made First Team All-Patriot District Outfield, and fellow Atoms Carlos Marcelino (DH) and Joey Rainey (Pitcher) made Second Team.

Northern Virginia Swimming League (NVSL) Div. 2 action kicked off on Saturday, June 23 with the Vienna Aquatic Club (VAC) Gators hosting the Fairfax Station Flyers. The final score was: VAC 226.5, Fairfax Station 192.5. VAC double winners were: Gavin Levay, Leaya Ma, Julia Downing and Tyler Johnson. Fairfax Station double winners were: Kelly Broderick, James Anderson, John Orsa, Roman Lowery, Genevieve Munch, Bo Ilgenfritz, Katie Munch, Faith Lowery and Ashley Weldon. Single winners were Ella on the All-District First Team. Galbraith, Christopher Card, Jack Keating, Phillip Sullivan, Darby Galbraith, Marcus Card, Alli From South County (Patriot Haufler, Tyler Hazard, Alex District), Kyle Fairbanks (First Saffran, Elaine Chua, Allen Frazee



# Robinson Installs Two Turf Fields

School personnel, local officials and community athletics organizations participated in a groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday morning, June 19 at Robinson Secondary School. Two synthetic turf fields are being installed, including the stadium field and one practice field. The practice field will also have lights installed allowing for night events. Pictured, left to right: John Eskandary (President, Northern Virginia Soccer League); Steve Groff (Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services); Jeff Ferrell (Robinson Director of Student Activities); Steve Bergstrom (Treasurer, Braddock Road Youth Club); Daniel Meier (Principal, Robinson Secondary); Marcia Pape (Member, Fairfax County Athletic Council); Anita Hood (Secretary, Northern Virginia Soccer League); David Bulova (Member, Virginia House of Delegates, 37th District); John Cook (Fairfax County Supervisor, Braddock District); Sharon Stark (District Director, Office of Congressman Gerry Connolly, Va. 11); Mark O'Meara (President, Robinson Rams Athletic Boosters Club).



The Bandits are made up players from throughout Northern Virginia.

# Bandits Win Kyle's Kamp Tournament

he 10-under Northern Virginia Bandits baseball team outfought a talented SYA Mets team over the Memorial Day weekend to win the Kyle's Kamp Tournament. The Bandits finished third in pool play and then fought through three tough teams to gain the tournament trophy.

In the quarterfinals, the Bandits came back from a 6-0 deficit to oust the Manassas Mad Dogs. In the semifinals, Loudoun South nearly overcame a 6-0 deficit before the Bandits prevailed 8-7 in extra innings. And in the finals, SYA and the Bandits traded the lead five times before the Bandits went ahead for good in the fourth inning and then held on for a tense 6-5 victory.

The Bandits are a regional travel team that includes talented 10-year olds from around Northern Virginia. Players include Zach Perkins, Raden Perry, James Triantos, Brendan Albrittain, Garrett Newsome, Jack Hoeymans, Cal Begeny, Anthony Avvisato, Phlay Moravek, Jack Selman, and Rohan Cherukuri. The team is coached by Jim Triantos (manager) and assistants Frank Avvisato, Chris Albrittain, Leon Newsome, Ryan Perry, Dan Perkins, and Kiran Cherukuri.

Overall, the Bandits are 34-3 and have won 25 games in a row. They are currently in first place in the Future States Prospect Baseball League at 8-0.

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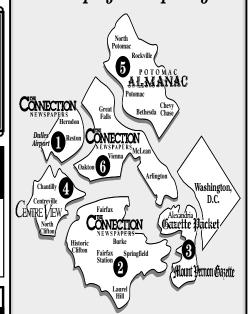
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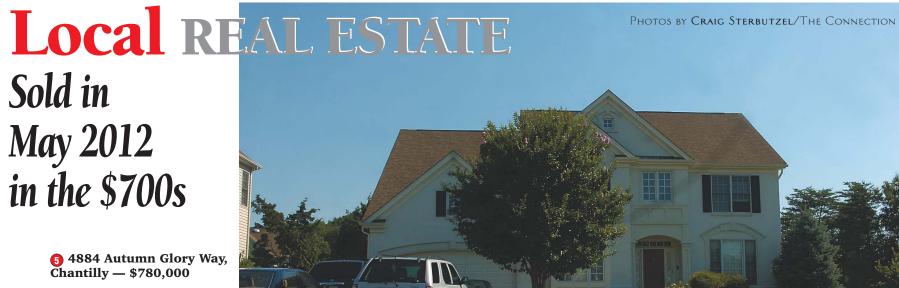
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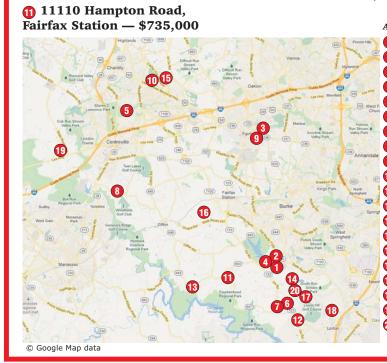


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1 7608 RUSTLE RIDGE C	T 6 4 . 0 FA	AIRFAX STATION \$79	95,000 Detached .	. 0.61 22039	SOUTH RUN	05/11/12
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3 3845 FARRCROFT GRN	1 3 4 . 1	FAIRFAX \$79	90,000 Townhouse	e 0.06 22030	FARRCROFT	05/03/12
4 7514 WILDERNESS WA	Y 4 2 . 2 FA	AIRFAX STATION \$78	81,000 Detached .	. 0.58 22039	SOUTH RUN	05/15/12
5 4884 AUTUMN GLORY	WAY 4 3 . 1	CHANTILLY \$78	80,000 Detached .	. 0.33 20151 . TI	HE PRESERVE AT WYNMAR	05/17/12
6 8607 LARKHAVEN TER	5 3 . 1 F/	AIRFAX STATION \$70	62,350 Detached .	. 0.39 22039	CROSSPOINTE	05/30/12
7 8618 WOODWREN LN	4 4 1 FA	AIRFAX STATION \$7	59,000 Detached .	. 0.24 22039	CROSSPOINTE	05/14/12
8 6906 LUTON HILL WAY	7 5 4 . 1	CLIFTON \$75	55,000 Detached .	. 0.61 20124	EVENING HILLS	05/02/12
9 3999 BALLYNAHOWN	CIR 4 4 . 1	FAIRFAX \$75	50,000 Townhouse	22030	FARRCROFT	05/30/12
10 3824 HIGHLAND OAKS	SDR 5 4 . 1	FAIRFAX \$75	50,000 Detached .	. 0.13 22033	HIGHLAND OAKS	05/02/12
11110 HAMPTON RD.	4 3 . 1 FA	AIRFAX STATION \$7	35,000 Detached .	. 5.00 22039	BRIARLYNN ESTATES	05/18/12
12 8709 CROSS CHASE CI	R 4 3 . 1 F/	AIRFAX STATION \$7	34,000 Detached .	. 0.26 22039	CROSSPOINTE	05/24/12
12024 WINDING CREE	KCT 5 3 . 1	CLIFTON \$72	29,000 Detached .	. 5.00 20124	WOLF RUN ESTATES	05/15/12
4 8122 BELLINGHAM CT	5 5 . 1 E	AIRFAX STATION \$72	25,000 Detached .	. 0.38 22039	BARRINGTON	05/14/12
12648 DUSTY WHEEL	LN 4 3 . 1	FAIRFAX \$72	20,000 Detached .	. 0.15 22033	CENTURY OAK	05/21/12
11680 CAPTAIN RHETT	TLN 5 3 . 1 FA	AIRFAX STATION \$7	15,000 Detached .	. 1.14 22039	FAIRFAX STATION	05/15/12
10 8516 OAK POINTE WAY	Y 4 3 . 1 F/	AIRFAX STATION \$7	12,000 Detached .	. 0.25 22039	CROSSPOINTE	05/14/12
18 8140 AMERICAN HOLL	YRD 5 4 . 1	LORTON \$7	10,000 Detached .	. 0.18 22079	LAUREL HILL LANDBAY	05/29/12
19 6613 PELHAMS TRCE .	53 . 1	CENTREVILLE \$7	10,000 Detached .	. 0.30 20120	VIRGINIA RUN	05/07/12
8304 CROSSPOINTE D	R 4 2 . 1 F/	AIRFAX STATION \$70	00,000 Detached .	. 0.24 22039	CROSSPOINTE	05/14/12
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