

Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ❖ Kingstowne ❖ Newington

SUMMER FUN 2012

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Over the Edge

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Hanan Awel, a graduating senior from Lee High School, served as one of two Senior Marshals for the school's graduation ceremony on Thursday, June 14, at the Patriot Center. The Lee High School Class of 2012 consisted of over 380 graduates.

Saying Goodbye at Lee High

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History Teacher of the Year

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JUNE 28 - JULY 4, 2012

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Thank you to the 2012 LBSS PTSA All Night Grad Party Supporters!

The Lake Braddock Senior Class of 2012 and their families would like to thank the following businesses, organizations and individuals for their support of the PTSA sponsored alcohol and drug free All Night Graduation Celebration which was held on June 15th, 2012, at the Audrey Moore RECenter at Wakefield Park. We are grateful for their generous contributions and commitment to the young people of our community.

Please support these organizations that invest in the success of Lake Braddock Secondary School.

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We'd like to thank the faculty and staff of LBSS and especially, the LBSS PTSA for support of our All Night Graduation Celebration.

A huge thank you to our volunteers: the parents, friends and relatives of the Classes of 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department and the Fairfax County Police for their vital presence at our party. Finally, we'd like to thank the staff of the Audrey Moore RECenter for all their help in making the night run smoothly.

Make plans now to support our 2013 party on June 19th, 2013. Also, mark your calendar for our mulch sale on April 6th and 7th, 2013.

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
CONNECTION



Over the Edge

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

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

Rose 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 first-time 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.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

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

Connolly Addresses 280 New Citizens

"You 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.

History Teacher of the Year

West Springfield's teacher Brian Heintz honored at state level, competes nationally.

By HOPE RACINE
THE CONNECTION

Brian Heintz, a teacher at West Springfield High, recently won the Virginia State History teacher of the year award.

Heintz has taught history and social studies in the Fairfax County Public School system for nine years, at both Westfield and West Springfield. An advocate of "hands on" teaching, Heintz employs various methods to engage his students in their studies and keep the lessons fresh and interesting.

"Brian creates a warm, fun atmosphere where learning American History was an obvious pleasure for his students," says Cynthia Szwajkowski, a former social studies chair at West Springfield and friend of Heintz. "He recreated board games to include only American History questions as a review strategy. He incorporated the menu at the colonial tavern where George Washington and crew celebrated the signing of the Constitution. Each Friday, he wore a T-shirt with a historical theme or witticism, giving the kids the sense that it was cool to be a history 'nerd.'"

This previous winter, Heintz even allowed his students to vote on which type of "historical beard" he would grow. After two months of not shaving, his students decided to have him shave it in the style of Ambrose Burnside, a 19th century senator and namesake of sideburns.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN HEINTZ

Brian Heintz (center) poses with his West Springfield High School students.

As Virginia state winner, Heintz received an award of \$1,000 and eligibility to win the National History teacher of the year award, which is picked in the fall.

According to Heintz, he didn't expect to win. When his friends and colleagues nominated him, he felt obliged to go along with the process. For his wife Jessica, however, the award was not as surprising.

"I've always known that he's an outstanding teacher, and is great at incorporating and keeping kids attention. I'm extremely proud of him."

SEE TEACHER PAGE 11

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JULY 23—JULY 27.....	MEGAMIND (PG)
JULY 30—AUGUST 3.....	RIO (G)

Attendees will receive a coupon for a dollar (\$1.00) Off a cup of frozen yogurt from JOSIE'S SELF-SERVE YOGURT

Virginia Department of Transportation

Interchange Improvements Fairfax County Parkway at Franconia-Springfield Parkway Fairfax County

Design Public Hearing

Wednesday, July 18, 2012, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Rolling Valley Elementary School
6703 Barnack Drive, Springfield, VA 22152

Find out about plans to widen the ramp where northbound Fairfax County Parkway traffic exits to continue north on the Parkway, just past the Franconia-Springfield Parkway.

Stop by between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn about the project. VDOT staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project details at www.vamegaprojects.com, at the meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-259-1723, 800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer questions.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR Part 771, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on the environment for the project based upon the approved Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA/FONSI and other information will be available at the hearing.

Give your written comments at the meeting, or submit them by **July 31, 2012** to Mr. Nassre Obeed, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax 22030. You may also email meeting_comments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Fairfax County Parkway at Franconia-Springfield Parkway" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the VDOT manager at the above phone numbers.

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News



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

From left: Park Authority Board Member Tony Vellucci, Braddock District representative; Patrick Gloyd, executive director of the Burke Centre Conservancy; Braddock District Supervisor John Cook; Kevin Morse, Burke Centre resident; Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Joe Osborne, Burke Centre resident; Kala Quintana, at-large member, Park Authority Board; Kemp Skudin, trails enthusiast; Chris Wells, pedestrian program manager, FCDOT; Steven Pryun with the Avon Corporation; Mark Avon, president of the Avon Corporation; Marc Flaster, vice president Burke Centre Board of Trustees; and Project Manager Tom McFarland. Others, not identified in the photo, took part in the inaugural bicycle ride along the trail.

Take a Hike!

Discover Burke VRE-Pohick Stream Valley Trail.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

On June 2, the 20th anniversary of National Trails Day, local officials and community residents “took a hike” and officially opened the Pohick Stream Valley - Burke VRE Trail.

The collaborative, \$814,000 project, funded by a 2007 transportation bond, created two new sections of trail and one stream crossing. The project connects the VRE station with local businesses as well as residential communities and other trails.

The project, according to Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), depended on the cooperation of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Department of Transporta-

tion (FCDOT), the Park Authority, the Burke Centre Conservancy, the Virginia Rail Express, the Facilities and Management Department and the Townes of Burke Homeowners Association.

“Trails are about connectivity. They link together our communities and bring us closer to the natural environment. Our trails are heavily used for walking, running, and biking, both for recreation and for mobility,” Cook said.

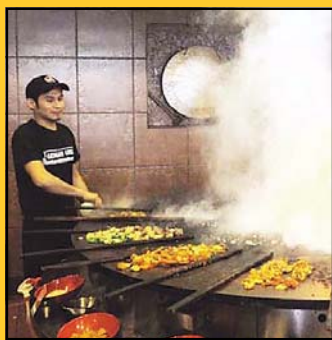
Each year, events are held to help promote awareness of the wide variety of benefits that trails provide, to encourage people to discover their local trails and to instill excitement for the outdoors. National Trails Day, sponsored by the American Hiking Society, is held every year on the first Saturday in June.

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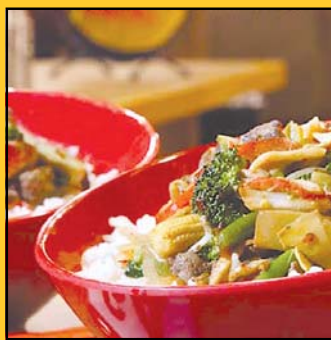
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The trouble with our times is that the future is not what it used to be.
—Paul Valéry

Gary Kramer, D.D.S.

DIPLOMATE OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY FOR CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS & THE HANDICAPPED

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OPINION

Case Closed. Why the Secrecy?

No reason for police to exercise “blanket” approach, shielding every document in every case.

Connection 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 document they can without any analysis of whether they should. Police chiefs and prosecutors from across the commonwealth 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

I’ve 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-



ment—have done our 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

that we’re hard-pressed to know just what we 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 private-sector workers early thisfall. Sequestration will likely make many federal contracts impossible to execute.

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

Springfield CONNECTION

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
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Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Amna Rehmatulla
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
arehmatulla@connectionnewspapers.com

Victoria Ross
Community Reporter
301-502-6027
rosspinning@yahoo.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor
703-778-9410
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
@jonroetman

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
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Steve Hogan
Display Advertising, 703-778-9418
shogan@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Deb Cobb, Louise Krafft,
Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
John Smith
Production Manager:
Jean Card
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



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 student."

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 of 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 state-of-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 others.

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.

This year's State of Schools Report courtesy of Apple Federal Credit Union



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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Children have a blast at the Our Special Harbor Sprayground in Franconia.



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

Left to right: Park Authority Vice Chairman Ken Quincy; Park Foundation Executive Director Roberta Longworth; Park Authority Board Chairman Bill Bouie; Lee District Park Manager Leon Plenty; Park Foundation Chair Craig Stevens; Delegate Mark Sickles (D-43); Jay Radcliffe, Lowe's Store Manager; Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay; Lee District Park Authority Board Member Edward Batten; Dana Kauffman, capital campaign chair; Ms. Wheelchair Virginia Stephanie Copeland; Park Foundation Board Member Harry Glasgow; Park Foundation Board Member Tim Walsh; At-large Park Board Member Kala Quintana; Park Foundation Board Member Cary Greenspan; At-large Park Board Member Janyce Hedetniemi; Park Foundation Board Member Cynthia Jacobs Carter; and Park Foundation Board Member Kathryn War celebrate the opening of Chessie's Big Backyard with children and parents from the community.

Chessie's Big Backyard Opens for Summer Fun

Fun-seekers can play, explore and splash around at Lee District Park.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Sunny skies greeted hundreds of children and their families during the June 16 ribbon-cutting ceremony for Chessie's Big Backyard Tiki Village playground, part of the Family Recreation Center at Lee District Park.

The playground, which includes a fully-accessible 2,000-square-foot tree house, complements Our Special Harbor spray ground, which opened last summer.

"The playground is phenomenal. People's jaws drop when they see it," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee). "The free Spray Park is already enormously popular. The playground is my district's biggest attraction this summer."

The opening of Chessie's Big Backyard marks the culmination of a collaborative project that brought together the government, the private sector and non-profit organizations. The \$600,000 project is funded through private and corporate contributions as well as park bonds.

McKay said Chessie's Big Back-

yard is just the first of two other playground phases and a fully-accessible carousel and picnic pavilion planned for the site as funding becomes available.

"Chessie's Big Backyard has all the bells and whistles, and, as funding permits, a fully-accessible carousel will grace this plaza as well," McKay said at the grand opening. "I'm proud to have it here."

Next to the playground is Our Special Harbor, the popular Chesapeake Bay-themed water "spray ground." Spray attractions include a water maze with changing pat-

terns, where children can run through the maze's massive columns of water for a solid drenching, water benches, a light house and a skipjack with tumbling buckets and water cannons that children can shoot. Three water-accessible wheelchairs are provided.

Lee District Park is located at 6601 Telegraph Road in Franconia. Due to limited parking, guests are invited to take a shuttle bus from Rose Hill Elementary School, located at 6301 Rose Hill Drive in Alexandria. Shuttle Service will run from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Left to right: Leon Plenty, manager of Lee District Park, Lee Supervisor Jeff McKay and former Lee District Supervisor Dana Kauffman at the grand opening of Chessie's Big Backyard.

Sock Monkeys Fan?

Welcome to Lee District nights summer concerts.

From jazz to big band, classic to blue bluegrass, and some vintage rock 'n roll, Lee District Nights is the place for music lovers of all stripes.

"Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and sit back and enjoy the show," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee.) "This is the place to enjoy a musical evening with family and friends."

McKay said volunteers are welcome to help with all aspects of the concert series. If you are interested in helping out, contact his office at 703-971-6262.

The series of free public concerts is held on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Lee Dis-

trict Park Amphitheater, 6601 Telegraph Road, Franconia. All concerts are held outdoors and attendees are encouraged to bring a picnic, blankets and lawn chairs. In case of inclement weather, call the concert hotline at 703-324-SHOW after 6 p.m. for performance cancellation updates.

Lee District Nights is made possible through the Lee District Supervisor, Friends of Lee District Park and the support of local businesses, including Cox Communications, Springfield Mall and Springfield Toyota.

Summer performances include:
♦ **July 11** – The NOVA Annandale Symphony Orchestra

(pop)

♦ **July 18** – Ryan Montbleau Band (R&B/pop)

♦ **July 25** – The United States Army Band "Downrange" (Rock)

♦ **August 1** – Larry Sparks and the Lonesome Ramblers (Bluegrass)

♦ **August 8** – The Nighthawks (Blues)

♦ **August 15** – The United States Navy Band "Commodores" (Jazz)

♦ **August 22** – David Gerald Band (Blues/R&B)

♦ **August 29** – Sock Monkeys (Rock)

— VICTORIA ROSS




The United States Army Band "Downrange."

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8 ♦ SPRINGFIELD CONNECTION ♦ JUNE 28 - JULY 4, 2012



Fairfax County, Virginia
Connect with America

Look for the Visit Fairfax logo for your app.

There's An App for That!

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

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

If your travel backpack is loaded down with maps, visitor's guides, and other 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, President 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 find a Yelp-reviewed Italian restaurant near the fireworks, just open the Visit Fairfax app.

The award-winning app offers interactive features such as mapping technology, consumer reviews, and special offers from area businesses. The comprehensive travel guide allows users to access thousands of local attractions, events, accommodations, restaurants, and special offers.

Users can also view descriptions, pictures, videos, ratings, 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 Virginia.
- ♦ Events: Instant access to all current and upcoming events in the area.

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 you explore parks like Great Falls National Park, national treasures such as George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens, and museums such as the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center," said Jackie Franchi, director of marketing for Visit Fairfax.

"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.

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

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

SPRINGFIELD CONNECTION ♦ JUNE 28 - JULY 4, 2012 ♦ 9

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CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/JUNE 28

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.

Learning English. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

Reptiles Alive. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. See a giant python, an alligator and other awesome reptiles from around the world. Age 6-12. 703-451-8055.

Workhouse Farmers Market. 3:30 - 7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Visit the Workhouse Farmers Market every Thursday for locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally raised meats and poultry, and local foods from breads and cheeses to salsa and sausage. www.workhousearts.org.

FRIDAY/JUNE 29

Anthony James Band. 7:30 p.m. Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. Southern rock. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

Radio King Orchestra. 7:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. With The Fabulous Pincurl Girls. Big band music. Free. 703-324-7469.

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

SATURDAY/JUNE 30

Community Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church/Sharon Chapel, 3421 Franconia Rd., Alexandria. www.sharonchapel.org

Public Reception: Military and the Arts. 5-7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A military-themed exhibition celebrating the troops. Exhibit open June 29-July 22. www.workhousearts.org.

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

Chopteeth. 7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Afrofunk. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

Bonsai Workshop. 9:30 a.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Artistic and cultural aspects of bonsai. \$90. Register at 703-642-5173.

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.

Commerce: Painting at the Workhouse. 7-9 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, Fairfax County's Premier Arts Center 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. New exhibition series featuring its studio artists in media specific and

thematic shows in the McGuireWoods Gallery. Free. www.workhousearts.org.

FRIDAY/JULY 6

Hui O Ka Pua ‘Ilima. 7:30 p.m. Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. Polynesian. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

SATURDAY/JULY 7

Cartoon Johnny. 7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A cappella. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

Flea Market. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. VRE Commuter Rail Parking Lot, 6900 Hechinger Drive, Springfield. Sponsored by Springfield-Franconia Lions Club. Vendor fee \$20 per parking space. Proceeds benefit local charities. 703-569-3074 or <http://sfhostlions.org/fleamkt.html>.

Art Out Loud 2012. 4-9 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Art Out Loud 2012 will feature an all-star cast of artists and musicians celebrating the impact of art on our daily lives. Free. www.workhousearts.org.

4th Annual Ice Cream Social. 12 p.m.-4 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Supports the Ceramics Program. Buy Handmade bowls created by students, instructors or resident artists for \$15. Free admission.

FRIDAY/JULY 13

Little Red & The Renegades. 7:30 p.m. Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. Zydeco. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

SATURDAY/JULY 14

2nd Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Meet each building's featured artist, a reception in W-16 from 6-7 p.m. and more. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

The David Kitchen Band. 7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Pop/Rock. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

31st Obon Festival. 5:30 p.m. Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lake Haven lane, Fairfax Station. Traditional Japanese folk dancing, a memorial candle ceremony, children's games and a taiko performance by Nen Daiko. 703-239-0500 or www.ekoji.org.

2nd Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The Workhouse showcases the diverse work of more than 100 visual artists in a unique historic venue. Free. www.workhousearts.org.

FRIDAY/JULY 20

Tommy Lepson Band. 7:30 p.m. Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. Blues/Soul. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

SATURDAY/JULY 21

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.

Jah Works. 7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Reggae. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

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NEWS

Lee graduates Lubna Qureshi, Jasmine Adams, Jordan Adams and Bezawit Fissaha greet each other at the start of their high school graduation ceremony on Thursday evening.



Saying Goodbye at Lee High

Over 380 Lee High School graduating seniors make their way to their seats for the Class of 2012 graduation ceremony at the Patriot Center in Fairfax City on Thursday evening.

PHOTOS BY
ROBBIE HAMMER/
THE CONNECTION



Christopher Williams and Natalie Heintz were presented with the Lancer Award during the Class of 2012 graduation ceremony. The Lancer award is presented each year to one female and male student and is voted for by their fellow classmates.

History Teacher of the Year

FROM PAGE 4

Instead of keeping his winnings, Heintz is donating the cash prize to a scholarship that he received while at school in Michigan.

"When I won the award, it came with a trophy, and not much money," said Heintz. Since the scholarship is still around, he believes his money will be a good addition to the award.

If Heintz makes it to the second round, however, and is named National History Teacher of the Year,

then he will win \$10,000 in cash and resources for his classroom. He and his wife haven't thought about what they would do with those winnings.

"I don't think I'll win that one though," admits Heintz. "There are a lot of great teachers out there doing amazing things who probably deserve the National prize more. I'm honored to have won the Virginia award, but I like to think that I'm just a pretty good teacher working in a good district with great students."

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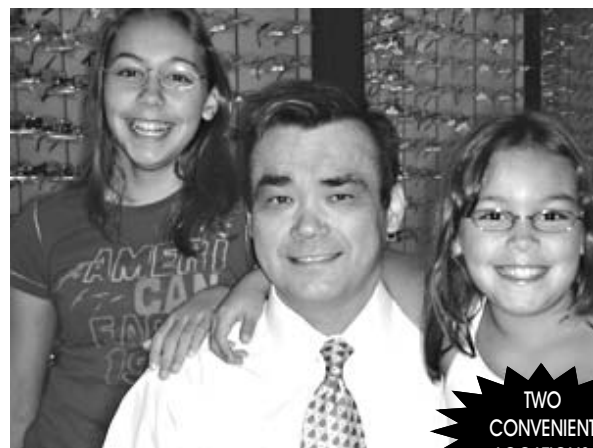
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All-District Baseball: The following local high school baseball players earned All-District accolades for this past 2012 spring season:

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

❖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 on the All-District First Team. Spartans named to the Second Team were Taylor Boyd (Shortstop) and Nick Stevens (Outfield).

❖From South County (Patriot District), Kyle Fairbanks (First Baseman) was named the Patriot



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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

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), Garrett 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 Galbraith, Christopher Card, Jack Galbraith, Julia Capobianco, Anna Keating, Phillip Sullivan, Darby Galbraith, Marcus Card, Alli Haufler, Tyler Hazard, Alex Saffran, Elaine Chua, Allen Frazee and Cory Hanson.



PHOTO/COURTESY OF ROBINSON BOOSTERS

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).



PHOTO/COURTESY OF THE BANDITS

The Bandits are made up players from throughout Northern Virginia.

Bandits Win Kyle's Kamp Tournament

The 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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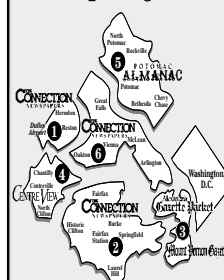
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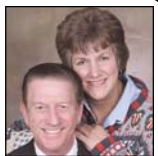
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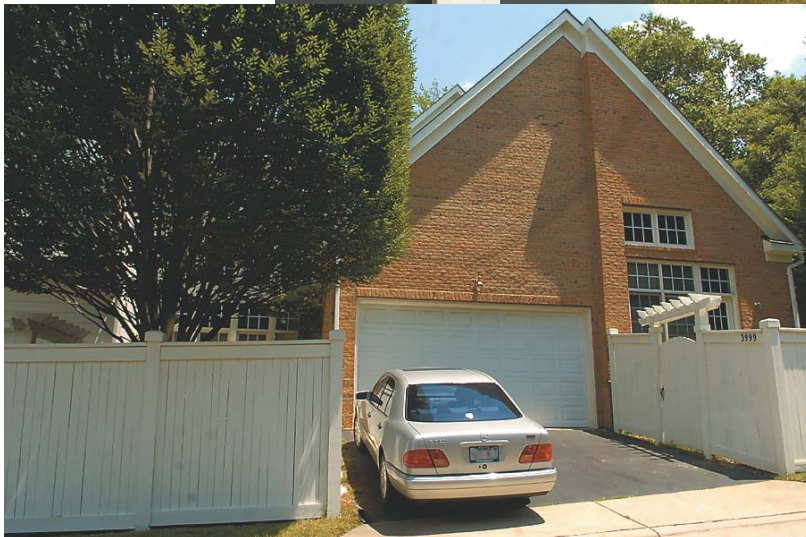
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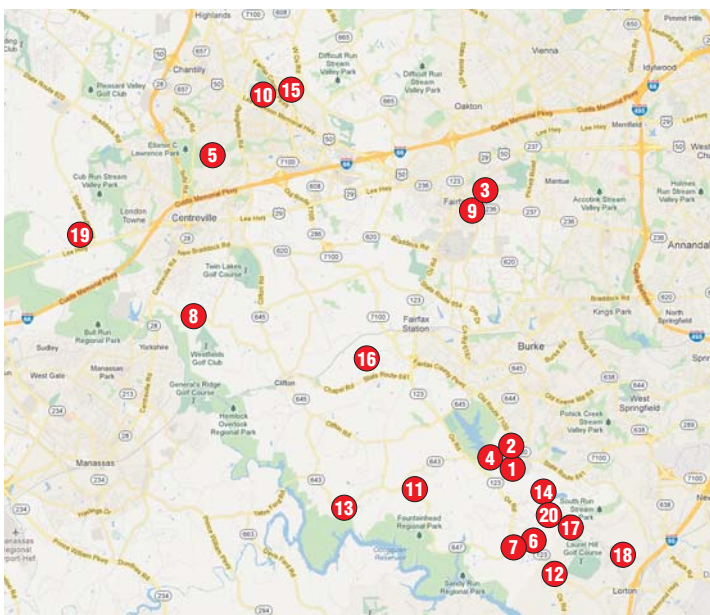


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5 4884 AUTUMN GLORY WAY ...	4	..	3	..	1	CHANTILLY	\$780,000	Detached	..	0.33	THE PRESERVE AT WYNMAR	05/17/12
6 8607 LARKHAVEN TER	5	..	3	..	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$762,350	Detached	..	0.39	CROSSPOINTE	05/30/12
7 8618 WOODWREN LN	4	..	4	..	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$759,000	Detached	..	0.24	CROSSPOINTE	05/14/12
8 6906 LUTON HILL WAY	5	..	4	..	1	CLIFTON	\$755,000	Detached	..	0.61	EVENING HILLS	05/02/12
9 3999 BALLYNAHOWN CIR	4	..	4	..	1	FAIRFAX	\$750,000	Townhouse	0.07	22030	FARRCROFT	05/30/12
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11 11110 HAMPTON RD	4	..	3	..	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$735,000	Detached	..	5.00	BRIARLYNN ESTATES	05/18/12
12 8709 CROSS CHASE CIR	4	..	3	..	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$734,000	Detached	..	0.26	CROSSPOINTE	05/24/12
13 12024 WINDING CREEK CT	5	..	3	..	1	CLIFTON	\$729,000	Detached	..	5.00	WOLF RUN ESTATES	05/15/12
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15 12648 DUSTY WHEEL LN	4	..	3	..	1	FAIRFAX	\$720,000	Detached	..	0.15	CENTURY OAK	05/21/12
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17 8516 OAK POINTE WAY	4	..	3	..	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$712,000	Detached	..	0.25	CROSSPOINTE	05/14/12
18 8140 AMERICAN HOLLY RD ...	5	..	4	..	1	LORTON	\$710,000	Detached	..	0.18	LAUREL HILL LANDBAY	05/29/12
19 6613 PELHAMS TRCE	5	..	3	..	1	CENTREVILLE	\$710,000	Detached	..	0.30	VIRGINIA RUN	05/07/12
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