

Director Donald Leow, a resident of Clifton, at work filming "The Senior Prank" movie.

"Senior Prank" Filmed in Area

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Drum Roll, Please
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LCAC Partners with Halley Elementary

SCHOOLS, PAGE 8

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ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 13

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Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and daughter Leann, 5, lead dignitaries in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance during the 11th annual Springfield BridgeWalk on Tuesday, Aug. 28. (From left) Del. Vivian Watts (D-39); Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large); Fairfax County School Board Representative Tammy Kaufax; Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield); Sen. George Barker (D-39); and U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8).



PHOTOS BY ALAN GOLDSTEIN

Drum Roll, Please

11th Annual Springfield BridgeWalk celebrates community support of Fort Belvoir's soldiers.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
 THE CONNECTION

For a few minutes on Tuesday Night, the only sound on Veteran's Bridge in downtown Springfield was the rhythmic drum roll and piercing call of the fife as the Ft. Belvoir Fife and Drum Corps led a contingent of soldiers, civic leaders and community participants across the bridge in the 11th annual Springfield BridgeWalk.

"To me this walk symbolizes the renewal of the relationship we have with the Springfield community," said Col. Gregory Gadson, who became the new garrison commander of Fort Belvoir in June, which houses 46,000 soldiers, civilians and their families.

IN 2007, while serving in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Gadson lost both of his legs when he was injured by a car bomb. He also served during Operation Desert Storm, as well as in Bosnia and Afghanistan.

Before becoming the leader of Fort Belvoir, Gadson served as the director of the Army's Wounded Warrior Program. "My faith, my family and my friends got me through this. My faith has allowed me to expect things I can't explain," Gadson said.

Gadson, a 20-year Army veteran who has been awarded three Bronze Star medals and a Purple Heart, joined Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and other community leaders in signing the Army Community Covenant, which affirms the community's support for the Armed Forces.

McKay, who hosts the annual Lee District event, read the covenant to the crowd of about 150 people gathered on the grounds of Springfield's American Legion Post 176 after the ceremony:

"We the community, recognize..."

*The commitment soldiers and their families are making every day.

*The strength of soldiers comes from the strength of their families.

*The strength of families is supported by the strength of the community.

*The strength of the community comes from the support of employers, educators, civic and business leaders and its citizens."

"The evening's bridge walk is especially significant to all of us because we are honoring our good friends from Fort Belvoir by renewing the Army Community Covenant," McKay said.

"We grew up together, and it's a special relationship the community has with Fort Belvoir," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisor's Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large).

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) told the crowd that the significance of the event "hit home" for him after attending the funeral earlier in the day of United States Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Ryan Jeschke of Herndon.

"It's especially meaningful for me to be here tonight to renew this covenant and honor the sacrifice and commitment of our young men and women who serve every day in our military," Herrity said.

Other dignitaries who made brief remarks included U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8), Sen. George Barker (D-39), Del. Vivian Watts (D-39), and Fairfax County School Board Representative Tammy Kaufax.

THE EVENT included patriotic music from the Kings Park Concert Band, light refreshments and door prizes. But the focus of the evening was clearly on Gadson, who received cheers and handshakes from hundreds of community leaders and residents.

Nicole Carrello, a sixth-grader at Crestwood Elementary School, attended the event with her parents and grandparents. She said her uncle served in Iraq.

Her father, Santiago Carrello, said he attended the event to show his "support for our troops."

"It's important to support soldiers like Col. Gadson," Carrello said. "Look what he sacrificed for us."

"It's an honor for me to be here and talk to people in the community," Gadson said. "It's wonderful to feel the community's support, because that means everything to the men and women in uniform who are fighting."



The Fort Belvoir Color Guard and the Fife and Drum Corp led participants on a march across Veterans Bridge during the 11th annual Springfield BridgeWalk on Tuesday, Aug. 28. Participants included members of Springfield's American Legion Post 176, VFW Post 7327, the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, the Fort Belvoir Motor Cycle Department and the Buffalo Solders Motor Cycle Club.



The Veteran's Memorial at American Legion Post 176 in Springfield.

Feedback Sought on Emergency Communications

Fairfax County online survey now available.

After filing a report last week with the Federal Communications Commission on Verizon's 911 outages, Fairfax County officials are looking at how to improve their own communications during emergencies.

The county wants to know how it can better communicate with residents and businesses in a disaster like a derecho, hurricane or terrorist attack. Officials are seeking feedback in a short, online survey.

"We're asking for every resident to provide input, as well as business owners," said David McKernan, coordinator of the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management. "It's impor-

tant for us as emergency planners to learn how this storm affected our residents, businesses and infrastructure so that we can implement corrective measures and plans for a better response for future storms."

To take the survey, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/fairfaxemergencyinfo>. This survey is part of the county's official review of its response to the July 2012 derecho.

However, this storm is not the last time that the county could experience widespread, long-lasting power outages.

Hurricane season lasts until Nov. 30 in the Washington, D.C. area, and forecasts calls for five to eight hurricanes in the Atlantic this year. It's not only the Gulf Coast that's at risk, officials say. In 2003, Hurricane Isabel left thousands in the area without power and water for days.

—VICTORIA ROSS

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TUESDAY/SEPT. 4

Citizens' Advisory Committee.

7:30 p.m., in the West Springfield District Station, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. Join for a presentation from Captain Joe Hill on "State of West Springfield." <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/westspringfield/>.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 5

Encore Creativity for Older Adults. 1:30-3:30 p.m., at Messiah United Methodist Church, 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. The Encore Chorale rehearses on Wednesdays. www.encorecreativity.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 8

Yard Sale and BBQ. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Rd, Alexandria. 703 971-5151.

MONDAY/SEPT. 10

Disability Accessibility Presentation. 7:30-9:30 p.m. 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-324-5421. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/dspd/.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 12

NARFE Springfield Chapter Meeting. 1 p.m. American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave, Springfield. 703 313-9387, jkadelg@yahoo.com.

THURSDAY/SEP 20

NVRPA Strategic Plan Meeting. 6:30 p.m. 5400 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority releases its draft five year Strategic Plan. executiveoffice@nvrpa.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 22

Flu Shot Clinic. 10-11 a.m. Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Rd, Alexandria. Cost is \$30 (cash or check) or Medicare B (bring your card). bbartolain@yahoo.com.

'Somebody Else' Didn't Come

BY DEL. DAVID ALBO
STATE DELEGATE (D-42)

Starting a small business comes with some amount of risk. Even the most diligent and talented owner faces challenges that could ground a business before it takes off. I can speak to that from experience. I started my own business 20 ago. My law firm started with me and my partner and now we provide approximately 20 jobs in Virginia. I am no Steve Jobs or Mark Zuckerberg, but I am proud of what I have been able to do.

As a small business owner, I experienced the ups and downs of getting a business off the ground. To push a business to success, you need to quit your steady paying job and "roll the dice" on a business that may or may not pay the bills. At first, there is no money coming in the door. The startup phase by definition means that all you have is money going in the business and none coming out. Is it risky? The whole venture involves risk—a lot of risk. Months of dinner consisting of just spaghetti or beans and rice. Constant choices of whether to pay your mortgage or your car payment. Lying in bed at night wondering if you have enough money to pay your employees. Not being able to take a vacation because there is no one else to run your business while you are gone... and the list goes on and on and on.

First-hand knowledge of this makes me very concerned about the president's recent statements towards business owners. He stated that "if you've got a business—you didn't build that. Somebody else made that happen." To be honest, that statement makes me very angry. During the startup years of my law firm, "somebody else" did not make my car payment when I was short. "Somebody else" did not say, "Dave, let me take you to a restaurant for a decent meal." "Somebody else" did not come help me out so I could go on vacation. My business succeeded



through hard work and sacrifice from myself, my law partner, and my employees.

Business owners make the sacrifices that create new products, open up new markets and provide jobs for their communities. I don't know why business success is all of a sudden a bad word. I don't know why the president is not congratulating entrepreneurs for their hard work and success.

There is no doubt that the economy is struggling. While we are doing much better in Virginia, the rest of our country is struggling. The most recent jobs report found unemployment hovering at 8.2 percent with stagnant job growth. This is the 41st straight month with unemployment over 8 per-

cent. American families cannot continue to sustain unemployment this high.

I never met an unemployed person that gave someone a job. The only people who provide jobs are successful business people. So why are some politicians trashing them? If we want to see unemployment and job growth figures turn for the better, we need to encourage business owners, pat them on the back, give them a high five—not attack them. Even better, pass laws that encourage success, not tax it. Eliminating the "Bush Tax Cuts" is a jobs killer. I guarantee you that I would have never started my law firm 20 years ago if my reward from Washington was higher taxes when I became successful!

I have never met our president, and I say "our president" because of the respect I have for him and the presidency. And to be honest, he seems as though he "practices what he preaches." You have to honor a person who tells people what he believes. But he and I just don't see eye to eye on business. I want to encourage entrepreneurs and let them know that there are rewards for creating jobs. He seems to believe business leaders as lucky people who were given their success by "Somebody Else."

Football Stadiums Raise Banners Against Underage Drinking

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) high school football stadiums will sport new banners this fall encouraging parents and adults in the community to report underage drinking parties to the police. The banners, donated by the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County (UPC), are a part of the UPC's Parents Who Host, Lose the Most education campaign.

While there has been a decline in reported alcohol use by high school seniors from 2005 to 2010, the 2010-11 Fairfax County Youth Survey showed that 36.5 percent of high school seniors report they have used alcohol in the past 30 days and 20.5 percent reporting binge drinking during the past two weeks.

The main message of the campaign encourages parents and adults to support alcohol-free events

and to report parties with suspected underage drinking to police. Parents and adults may call 703-691-2131; these calls can be anonymous.

Each FCPS high school has received a banner for its football stadium and gym, as well as Parents Who Host (PWH) fact cards about underage drinking laws with tips for parents for distribution at parent events, PWH posters for school offices frequented by parents, a poster on risks of underage drinking for posting in student areas, and a print advertisement for homecoming and football programs and for school and booster club websites.

The nonprofit UPC partners with more than 50 community organizations to prevent violence, alcohol, and other drug use by youth and young adults.



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First Day of School Coming Up

And never too early for parents to get involved.

The first day of school in most of Northern Virginia is Tuesday, Sept. 4. We don't agree with having the General Assembly dictate the first day of school, requiring the start date to be after Labor Day, but starting school after Labor Day does seem more hospitable than the Aug. 27 start in many other areas.

EDITORIALS Attending Back to School Night and making contact with teachers is one of the most important things parents can do to set up the school year for success. Back to School Nights begin the first week of September. Find the date for yours:

Fairfax County <http://www.fcps.edu/news/backtoschool/>.

This school year will be the last for superintendent for Fairfax County Public Schools Jack Dale, who has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2013. The School Board will

spend much of the coming months in the search and selection of the new superintendent.

In Fairfax County, students will be encouraged to BYOD. That's "bring your own device." With written parental permission, students will be allowed to connect to school wireless with their smart phones, tablets and laptops. Students and parents should remember that school officials will be able to examine those devices and discipline students for content and activities that are in violation of conduct rules and act accordingly. More at <http://www.fcps.edu/it/byod>.

Reminder: Check Voter Status

While Northern Virginia has remarkable rates of voter registration, many changes to polling places, political district boundaries and rules for voting in Virginia, make it worth double checking your status now. Virginia's front seat role at the Republican National Convention serves as a reminder that every Virginia vote cast will count in November.

To vote on Election Day, you must be registered at your current address no later than Oct. 15, 2012. You can check your registration status online by going to www.sbe.virginia.gov. There you can also download a voter registration form and mail it to your local elections office address.

Every Virginia voter should expect a new voter identification card in the mail at the beginning of October, very close to the Oct. 15 deadline, so better to check now.

Mail or FAX updates to your local Electoral Board.

Fairfax County Board of Elections
703-222-0776, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/
12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Suite 232, Fairfax, 22035; FAX 703-324-2205; email voting@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Correction: Last week's *Newcomers and Community Guide* omitted the name of an independent candidate, Mark T. Gibson, running for U.S. House of Representatives in the 11th District. The same paragraph also mistakenly referred to that district by the wrong district number in a second reference. The correction have been made in our online and PDF editions.

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

COMMENTARY

Our Health Depends on the Air We Breathe

BY JIM MORAN
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (D-S)



For too many Americans and Virginians, simply breathing the air can be dangerous. That's especially the case for the 306,000 Virginia children and 96,000 adults who battle asthma, the 1.1 million with cardiovascular disease, the 154,000 with chronic bronchitis and the estimated 411,000 who live in poverty. But it is true for all of us and it's that way because of soot in our air.

Soot, or fine particulate matter (PM2.5), is composed of a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets, usually made up of several different types of harmful chemicals. It's easy to recognize as it contributes significantly to the haze that blankets many cities and national parks. Smokestacks and tailpipes churn out soot and we breathe it in, every day.

The body reacts to it in much the same manner as it does to tobacco smoke. Smaller than a grain of sand and only visible with a micro-

scope, tiny soot particles travel deep into the lungs when inhaled and swiftly penetrate the bloodstream, immediately increasing the risk of severe respiratory distress, heart attacks and strokes.

Soot kills; leads to hospitalizations; triggers asthma attacks, heart attacks and strokes; and has been linked to causing permanent lung tissue and airway damage, reproductive complications and cancer.

For decades, the Clean Air Act has helped protect the air we breathe by letting us know and track what pollutants make it into our air and allowing us to set targets, make plans, and have accountability for reducing those pollutants over time. And perhaps most importantly, it requires that we review those standards as science helps us understand new risks.

That's happening now with soot. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is reviewing the current standard for soot, last set in 1997. Since then, more than 10,000 studies have demonstrated that soot is a public health

threat and that we must ensure that fewer smaller particles are able to get into the air and into our lungs.

Earlier this summer, the EPA proposed a new stronger standard for soot and is accepting public comments on these standards until the end of August. What are the potential benefits of enacting the strongest standard? By cleaning up soot, we can prevent 35,700 deaths, 23,290 visits to the hospital and emergency room, 2,350 heart attacks, 1.4 million cases of aggravated asthma and 29,800 cases of acute bronchitis every year. An estimated 2.7 million days of missed work and school due to air pollution-caused ailments would be avoided annually.

It's August in Washington and the humidity makes it hard enough to breathe for even the most healthy among us. While we see the haze of air pollution on really bad days, we do not see the particles within it. And those particles are a threat to our health and the health of our families and neighbors. I hope all Virginians and Americans will join me in asking the EPA to stand strong for a strong soot standard. We'll all breathe a bit easier when you do.

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SCHOOLS

LCAC Partners with Halley Elementary

After-school program targets at-risk students.

By VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

When the school bell rings at the end of the day at William Halley Elementary School in Lorton this year, more than 350 students will be going to a new after-school program instead of going home.

"Research documents that high-quality after-school programs have an important positive impact on the lives of children, and intervention at the elementary level is crucial," said Linda Patterson, executive director of the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC).

"However, for many low-income families in the greater Lorton area, the lack of transportation and limited funds translate into no, or extremely limited, access to after-school or enrichment programs."

In an effort to address that need, LCAC is partnering with William Halley Elementary School to offer a free after-school program two afternoons per week at the school, which is providing the space at no charge.

Patterson said the program is designed to serve more than 350 children in 4th through 6th grade, along with their younger siblings who are most at-risk in their classroom performance. Halley Elementary has an enrollment of about 750 students, and 30 percent are participants in the free and reduced lunch program.

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS are often seen as an effective way to keep children safe and supervised as more parents continue to work outside the home. Education experts also believe that the after-school hours are an opportunity to further engage students in academic, social and physical activities. As former U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley noted, "Children's minds don't close down at 3 p.m."

"I can't tell you how thrilled I am with this program," said Patterson. "For families who are already stretched to the limit, perhaps working two jobs, this takes barriers like transportation and cost out of the equation and provides safe, quality after-school programs."

Part of each afternoon will include homework help and a snack. Children will have the opportunity

to register for specific enrichment activities and clubs, including engineering, environmental club (the Green Team), math, peer mediation, physical fitness and hobbies and games, such as chess, photography, knitting, etc.

Patterson said a bi-monthly community service component will provide students the opportunity to interact with people from local public resources, including librarians, police officers, firefighters and EMTs, as well as other professionals and local businesses. The after-school program will be staffed with highly qualified teachers and counselors who have substantial experience in youth development and are employed at Halley Elementary.

"The program at Halley is a great opportunity for the school to provide after-school enrichment for kids who couldn't otherwise participate," Patterson said. "It provides options for kids who want ballet or who get jazzed the Green Team or photography. Everyone benefits from after-school enrichment programs."

Several studies have found that after-school programs do have positive effects on children's academic performance as well as on other factors. The U.S. Department of Education conducted a study on after-school programs across the country in 2008 and found student-achievement gains in several districts across the country.

THE INCREASE in after-school options seems to be just what parents want. In a 2009 Mott Foundation survey, 92 percent of parents thought "there should be some type of organized activity or place for children and teens to go after school every day," and 86 percent said after-school programs were a "necessity." Principals of public schools that offer after-school programs also value their after-school options for students. More than 75 percent of principals think that it is "extremely important" for schools to maintain their extended-day programs, according to the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Patterson said she has been meeting with principals at various schools in Lorton to launch similar programs. "When I talk with principals, they want the programs to be contextual to the school. We can't create a one-size-fits-all program," Patterson said, adding that LCAC is hoping to expand the program to at least one



Jess Brindisi, of Vulcan Materials, presents an after-school funding check to Linda Patterson, LCAC's Executive Director.



Tim Sargeant, of Dominion Power, presents an after-school funding check to Linda Patterson, LCAC's Executive Director.

"The program at Halley is a great opportunity for the school to provide after-school enrichment for kids who couldn't otherwise participate."

— Linda Patterson, executive director of the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC)

more local elementary school for Spring 2013.

But she added that funding is key.

The partnership with Halley is funded by donations from various individuals, community groups and corporations, including the Dominion Foundation, Vulcan Materials, Davis Industries, the Moose Family Center and the William Halley PTO. Anyone interested in supporting the program should contact Linda Patterson or Andrea Cochrane Tracey at 703-339-5161.

For additional information about LCAC, please call 703-339-5161 or visit www.lortonaction.org.

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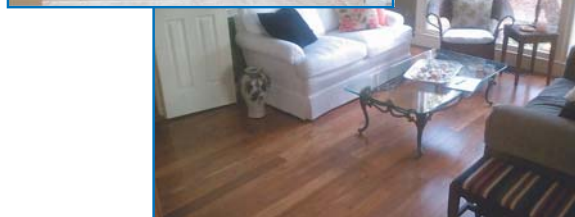
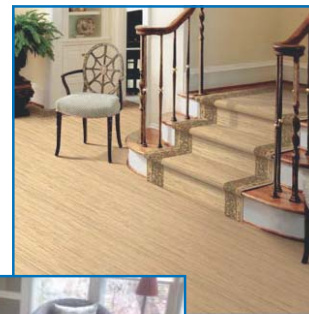
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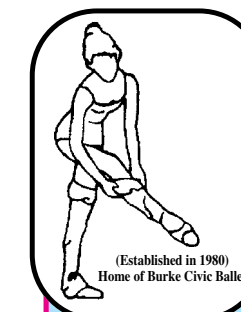


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To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Steve Hogan at 703-778-9418 or e-mail the info to shogan@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

CALENDAR

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

FRIDAY/AUG. 31

Slightly Something. 7:30 p.m. Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. Pop. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.
Alte Kameraden "AUG-toberfest" Concert. 7:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, Springfield.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 1

Public Reception: Han-Mee Artists, Blurring Boundaries. 5-7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The Korean American Artists Association of Greater Washington, DC, an organization for artists of Korean heritage. Exhibit open Aug. 31-Sept. 23. www.workhousearts.org.
Screen on the Green. 7:30 p.m., at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. See Bottle Shock on the lawn on a large outdoor projector screen. Bring a blanket, picnic, and enjoy your favorite wine while watching. Adults. www.paradiseparkwinery.com.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 5

Encore Chorale of Springfield. 1:30 - 3 p.m. Messiah United Methodist Church, 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. For singers age 55+. <http://encorecreativity.org>

SATURDAY/SEPT. 8

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>.
Workhouse Education Open House. Noon-5 p.m., at the Lorton Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Come learn about classes and workshops with demonstrations, on-site registration and instructors to answer questions. lortonarts.org.
Senior Solo Exhibition. 5-7 p.m., at the McGuire Woods Gallery, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts Center invited art students from the area to participate in an opportunity to have a solo exhibition in the McGuire Woods Gallery—this years exhibition features Threshold Consciousness, an exhibit of 12 large prints with sound elements accompanying. workhousearts.org.
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.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 9

Rally Day Cookout/Family Fun. Noon - 3:00 PM. Living Savior Lutheran Church, 5500 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Free. All are welcome. 703-352-1421. <http://www.livingsaviorlutheran.org>.
Broadway Art Gallery presents Art Uncorked. 2-5 p.m., at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. See an installment of Broadway Gallery hosts a meet and greet art show with local artists featured all month on the walls of the winery. www.paradiseparkwinery.com.

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The filming of "The Senior Prank."

'Senior Prank' Filmed in Area

Local talent recruited for "The Senior Prank."

The community has rallied together behind the new local film in progress, "The Senior Prank." Director Donald Leow, who also directed previous film "For the Glory," has brought in cast and crew from all over the country, while recruiting local talent for his film as well. Many members of the Fairfax community have gathered to be extras, show their talent on screen, help with tech, or just support the film.

Part of the excitement for the film comes from bringing in the talented actor of the hit 2011 movie "Courageous," Ben Davies, to play lead role Brandon.

"The Senior Prank" is the story of a group of popular teenagers who decide to elect a girl with Down's Syndrome as their homecoming queen for a joke. This family drama with a Christian basis is sure to touch hearts as it displays the horrible truth of bullying.

The movie itself was filmed all over the area, in places like Manassas Baptist Church, The Kings Chapel in Clifton, Word of Life Christian Academy in Springfield, and even Great Harvest Bread in Lorton. Many locals have opened up their homes to the cast and crew for housing as well as to provide backdrops to shoot scenes.

The local participation and location in filming "The Senior Prank" makes the community very integrated and rightfully excited to see it on the silver screen.

—HANNAH BUNTING



Ben Davies (Brandon) and Frank Stephens (Ben), play brothers in the movie.

Carys Meyer, who plays Carly, getting her make-up done before shooting.



Ben Cook in the debut show of Billy Elliot National Tour, in Louisville, Ky.

Lorton Teen Takes The Role of Billy Elliot

Metropolitan Fine Arts Center's (MFAC) former student, Ben Cook, 14, is featured in the national tour of the Tony Award winning musical "Billy Elliot" in the lead role of Billy Elliot. Over the next six months, he will perform in 11 cities nationwide, including Baltimore from Dec. 18-30.

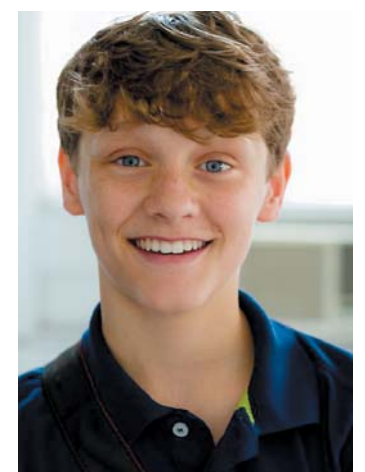
Cook is an alumnus of Lorton Station Elementary School in Lorton, where his family still resides. At age 7, Cook began theatre/dance training at Metropolitan Fine Arts Center in Alexandria and began to regularly audition for professional theatre at 9 years old.

"Ben was a natural performer from the very beginning...we helped hone his skills for dance and singing, creating a platform for him to jumpstart his career," said Melissa Dobbs, founder and executive director of Metropolitan Fine Arts Center of Alexandria and Fairfax Station. "We're thrilled to see Ben shine in Billy Elliott, as it's always exciting to see one of our students perform on a national stage," said Dobbs.

Cook trained at MFAC for more than two years, before they encouraged him to find a local agent in 2007 and begin auditioning. He moved to New York in 2009 for the Broadway revival of "Ragtime," performed in the "Billy Elliot" ensemble for 15 months, and attended the Professional Performing Arts School in New York City for two-and-a-half years before joining the tour last fall. He is on the road with a guardian and is tutored for school.

Billy Elliot National Tour cities include: Boston, Detroit, Memphis, Buffalo, N.Y., Toledo, Ohio, Saint Paul, Minn., Indianapolis, Omaha, Neb., Austin, Texas and Baltimore.

Metropolitan Fine Arts Center (MFAC) of Alexandria and Fairfax Station is a multi-disci-



Ben Cook, 14, of Lorton.

plinary performing arts organization in the Washington, DC area that has taught dance, music and theater to more than 10,000 students since its opening in 2001. Founder and executive director, Melissa Dobbs, was classically trained at Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, DC, George Mason University and the Royal Academy of Dance in London, where she became a registered teacher. Noted for its world-class instructors, MFAC offers high quality performing arts training in a ground breaking, holistic learning environment that cultivates creativity, builds community and empowers students. MFAC was featured in Dance Teacher magazine and Washington Families magazine. Many students go on to perform in prestigious arenas including Broadway, National Tours, The Julliard School, The Alvin

Ailey American Dance Theater, The Washington Ballet, The American Academy of Ballet, Universal Ballet Academy, The Kirov Ballet, The Hartt School, Marymount University (New York), Ford's Theater and Mark Morris Dance Company. MFAC is also affiliated with its non-profit company, Metropolitan Performing Arts Alliance. Call 703.339.0444 or visit www.metrofinearts.com, Facebook or Twitter.

SPORTS

Woodson junior Alex Lightfoot, right, competes for the ball against a Hayfield player at the “Under the Lights” tournament on Aug. 25 at Lee High School.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/ THE CONNECTION

Jarrell Leads Woodson Field Hockey Cavaliers fell short of regional tournament in 2011.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

First-year Woodson head field hockey coach Meg Jarrell isn't much older than her players, but that hasn't stood in the way of the 22-year-old trying to light a competitive fire under the Cavaliers.

Jarrell took over a program that qualified for the state tournament as recently as 2009, but failed to advance to even the regional tournament in 2011. Woodson is off to a 3-1-2 start in 2012, including a 2-0-2 effort at the “Under the Lights” tournament Aug. 24-25 at Lee High School. Jarrell, a 2008 Lake Braddock graduate who played field hockey at Davidson College, said the Cavaliers have responded to her max-effort teachings.

“The girls, although the record might have been down [last season], they're a very disciplined squad and they're very talented, but I think they kind of [developed] this attitude, ‘We win some, we lose some,’” Jarrell said. “Right from the get-go, our first scrimmage, I really made the impression on them a loss is not OK when you don't play your best. They've really taken that to heart and wins mean more to them and the losses hurt—and I want the losses to hurt because I want them to learn from them, not just go home and say, ‘All right, we'll go out the next day and do whatever.’”

“A team with this much talent not making it to the regional tournament is not acceptable and they know that, and they hold pretty high expectations.”

Jarrell said having a small age gap between coach and players helps her relate to the Cavaliers, and athletes still show her the respect of an elder.

After defeating Chantilly, 2-0, in their season opener on Aug. 22, the Cavaliers faced the Chargers again on the first day of “Under the Lights” and finished in a 1-1 tie on Aug. 24. Junior midfielder Alex Lightfoot scored Woodson's goal.

“I think we're definitely improving with every game

we play,” sophomore midfielder Isabel Obregon said after the tie against Chantilly. “We started off slow at our first scrimmage, but each game we've played I think we've gotten better and we're becoming more of a team.”

In Woodson's second game of the day, the Cavaliers defeated T.C. Williams, 4-1, with goals from Jasmine Kim, Kelly Stegner, Obregon and Maddie Browning.

Woodson started strong on the second day, beating Hayfield, 6-1, on Aug. 25. Stegner, a junior midfielder, scored a career-high three goals against the Hawks.

“Once she learns to keep the ball moving as fast as her legs, she's going to be incredible,” Jarrell said.

“I've only had her for two or three weeks if you go all the way back to the beginning of tryouts, and she's made incredible leaps and bounds. She's so fast and so athletic. She's been told she's one of the best athletes in the school and it shows.”

Molly Wecker scored a pair of goals against Hayfield and Coco Armstrong added one.

Woodson closed the tournament with a 2-2 tie against Thomas Jefferson. Stegner and Kim scored goals for the Cavaliers.

On Aug. 27, Woodson lost to three-time defending Liberty District champion Fairfax, 1-0.

Defensively, Jarrell said junior right back Claudia Muratore and senior goalkeeper Jessica Peckins should be standouts for Woodson. At midfield, Jarrell described Lightfoot as “just a total brick wall.” Senior forward Meghan Smiga, one of the team's top players, is out with an injury.

Woodson will travel to face Westfield at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 7. The Cavaliers' next home game is Sept. 12 against Oakton. Woodson will open Patriot District play on Sept. 14 against South County.

“I think we'll do really well,” Stegner said. “Our coach is really solid, she has a lot of plays for us to do and we have really productive practices. I think we're going to go really far. I'm excited.”



Meg Jarrell, a 2008 Lake Braddock graduate, is in her first season as Woodson head field hockey coach.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/ THE CONNECTION

West Springfield senior Tasy Novopachennaia battles for the ball against two Chantilly players during the “Under the Lights” field hockey tournament on Aug. 25 at Lee High School.

Spartans Win 4 of 6

Spartans looking for first district title in nearly four decades.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The West Springfield field hockey team is in search of its first district championship since 1973. While the Patriot District tournament is more than five weeks away, the Spartans started their journey by winning four of their first six games, including a 2-1-1 performance at the “Under the Lights” tournament Aug. 24-25 at Lee High School.

After beating Mount Vernon at home, 2-0, during its season opener on Aug. 22, West Springfield opened its “Under the Lights” competition with a 6-1 victory against Thomas Jefferson on Aug. 24. Natalie Ha scored a pair of goals for the Spartans, and Casey Nelson, Tasy Novopachennaia, Brittan Muir and Kara Kachejian each scored one. Later in the day, West Springfield tied Mount Vernon, 1-1, in a rematch with the Majors. Novopachennaia scored the Spartans' lone goal.

West Springfield faced TJ on Lee's turf field and played Mount Vernon on the outfield grass of the Lancers' baseball field. The Spartans' home field is turf, and fourth-year head coach Rosie Donaldson said the

team needs to better adapt to playing on grass.

“The first game we did very well,” Donaldson said. “...The second game didn't go as well as I would have liked it to go. I think we need to adjust on the grass—we practice on turf and we play on turf—we need to adjust on grass and we just didn't do that very well. We played well enough—we didn't lose—but I think we have to learn how to adjust a little better because we are going to face some teams on grass this year.”

On Aug. 25, the second day of the tournament, West Springfield defeated Oakton, 2-1, and lost to Chantilly, 3-1. On Aug. 28, the Spartans defeated McLean, 3-2, improving their record to 4-1-1.

Muir, a sophomore, and Novopachennaia, a senior captain, are two of the Spartans' top offensive threats. Marissa Trujillo, a senior, is one of the team's top defenders. Nelson, a senior, is also a captain. Julia Schwabenbauer, a senior, is the Spartans' starting goalkeeper.

West Springfield will travel to face Stuart at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 31. The Spartans will open Patriot District competition at home against Lake Braddock on Sept. 10.



West Springfield sophomore Brittan Muir plays center-midfield for the Spartans field hockey team.

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The Workhouse People's Choice Awards

Three artists from the Workhouse Associate Artists (WAA) were chosen as People's Choice Award winners for their current exhibitions in the Vulcan Gallery (Building W16) at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton. The winners were chosen during the Workhouse's monthly Second Saturday Art Walk on Aug. 11. The winners are Maria Bennett Hock (1st place), Jack Dyer (2nd place) and Richard Mallory Allnut (3rd place).

FIRST PLACE went to Maria Bennett Hock, of Burke, for her piece Barefoot Ballerina. She specializes in painting portraits and figurative pieces that convey emotion. Her work has been shown at numerous galleries including locations in Dupont Circle, Washington, D.C, in Alexandria and Solomon's Island, Md.

Bennett Hock currently exhibits at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center. Along with commissions and gallery exhibits, she is a member of the Portrait Society of America, Springfield Art Guild, Torpedo Factory Art Center and volunteers as a docent at the Workhouse Art Center in Lorton.

SECOND PLACE went to Jack Dyer, of Springfield, for his piece Lotus Blossoms. Dyer paints outdoors, on site, in various weather and values a chance to see, smell, listen, walk around, even to touch the subject, evoking a painter's response unobtainable in the studio. He graduated from the Massachusetts College of Art and worked as a newspaper artist and art teacher in Boston before he came to Virginia as the curator of art for the U.S. Marine Corps Museum. His work may be seen on a regular basis at the Lorton Workhouse's Vulcan Gallery W-16 and at



The first place winner, Barefoot Ballerina, by Maria Bennett Hock of Burke.

the Artists Undertaking Gallery, 309 Mill St., Occoquan.

THIRD PLACE went to Richard Mallory Allnut, of Fairfax Station, for his piece Ice Fishing. A British-born photographer based in the United States, he focuses primarily on portraiture, but his passions for aviation and the natural world also play a strong role in his repertoire. His images have been published in books and magazines such as JazzTimes, Swing Journal, Smithsonian Air & Space and Capitol File. Allnut has also worked as a set photographer on several motion picture films. He currently works primarily in Washington, D.C., New York, Ottawa and London.

You can find more information about the Workhouse Art Center at www.workhousearts.org. The gallery is located at 9601 Ox Road, Lorton.



Lotus Blossoms, by Jack Dyer of Springfield, won second place.

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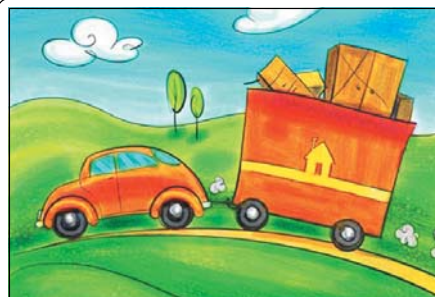
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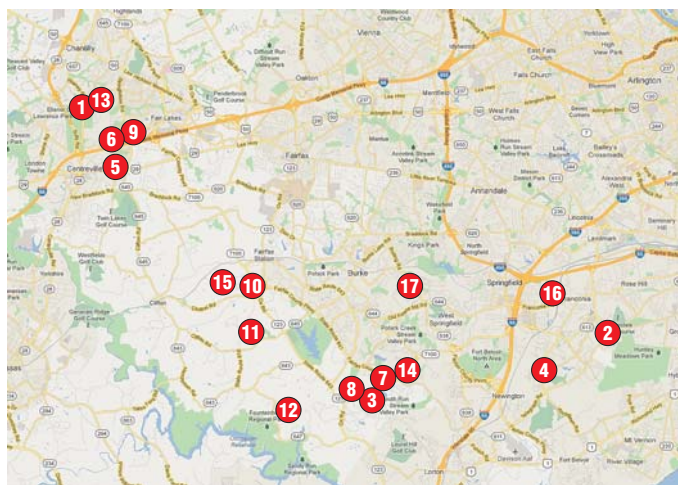
3 7925 Hollington Place, Fairfax Station — \$739,000



9 5021 Veronica Road, Centreville — \$720,000



16 6221 Willowfield Way, Springfield — \$700,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 4720 WALNEY KNOLL CT	4	3	1	20151	CHANTILLY	\$740,000	Detached	0.42	20151	POPLAR CORNER	06/04/12
2 7000 CLIFTON KNOLL CT	5	3	1	22315	ALEXANDRIA	\$740,000	Detached	0.23	22315	CEDAR KNOLL	06/29/12
3 7925 HOLLINGTON PL	5	4	1	22039	FAIRFAX STATION	\$739,000	Detached	0.29	22039	BARRINGTON	06/01/12
4 6420 CALEB CT	4	4	1	22315	ALEXANDRIA	\$735,000	Detached	0.13	22315	KINGSTOWNE	06/22/12
5 13477 CONEFLOWER CT	4	4	1	20120	CENTREVILLE	\$730,000	Detached	0.19	20120	FAIRCREST SOUTH	06/28/12
6 5101 HIRST VALLEY WAY	4	3	1	20120	CENTREVILLE	\$730,000	Detached	0.24	20120	FAIR LAKES CHASE	06/29/12
7 9011 SCOTT ST	4	3	1	22153	SPRINGFIELD	\$725,000	Detached	0.35	22153	SOUTH RUN FOREST	06/22/12
8 7902 GLENBARR CT	4	3	1	22039	FAIRFAX STATION	\$720,000	Detached	0.26	22039	BARRINGTON	06/29/12
9 5021 VERONICA RD	5	4	1	20120	CENTREVILLE	\$720,000	Detached	0.16	20120	FAIRLAKES CROSSING	06/29/12
10 6118 UNION CAMP DR	5	3	1	22039	FAIRFAX STATION	\$719,900	Detached	0.46	22039	FAIRFAX STATION	06/08/12
11 11200 SPLIT RAIL LN	5	3	1	22039	FAIRFAX STATION	\$710,000	Detached	5.00	22039	THE HOLLY FOREST	06/22/12
12 10609 TIMBERIDGE RD	4	2	1	22039	FAIRFAX STATION	\$708,000	Detached	5.00	22039	FOUNTAINHEAD / TIMBERLANE	06/29/12
13 4715 LEIGHFIELD VALLEY DR	4	3	1	20151	CHANTILLY	\$705,000	Detached	0.38	20151	POPLAR PARK	06/25/12
14 7700 WHITE WILLOW CT	4	3	1	22153	SPRINGFIELD	\$705,000	Detached	0.21	22153	WHISPERWOOD	06/29/12
15 11640 HAVENNER RD	4	3	1	22039	SPRINGFIELD	\$700,000	Detached	0.58	22039	FAIRFAX STATION	06/01/12
16 6221 WILLOWFIELD WAY	6	3	1	22150	SPRINGFIELD	\$700,000	Detached	0.20	22150	HIGHGROVE ESTATES	06/22/12
17 8626 JAMES CREEK DR	5	4	1	22152	SPRINGFIELD	\$700,000	Detached	0.17	22152	JAMES CREEK	06/29/12

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