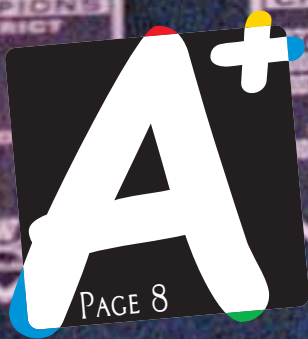


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CONNECTION



Robinson Offers Pair Of Children's Shows

A+, PAGE 8

Express Buses From Burke to Tysons

NEWS, PAGE 3

Career- High

SPORTS, PAGE 12

Woodson senior Alex Boock scored a career-high 20 points against South County on Jan. 15. Boock has played in four games after returning from a finger injury.

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FAITH NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at
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St. Leo the Great Church in
Fairfax offers a program for Catholics
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gling with church teachings or who
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faith by returning to the Sacraments; the
program, Welcome Home, is offered on
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March 3 and 10 at 7 p.m. in the St. John
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Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the
corner of Fairfax County Parkway and
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**First Baptist Church of Spring-
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followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship ser-
vice. 7300 Gary Street, Springfield.
703-451-1500 or
www.fbcspringfield.org.

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

**St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic
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conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m.,
8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It
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and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m.
703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

**Prince of Peace Lutheran
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Springfield, offers casual worship ser-
vices on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m.
featuring contemporary music. More
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day mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m.
Sunday School is at 9:45-10:45 a.m. for
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offers discussion groups for adults. 703-
451-5855 or www.popl.org.

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church,
8336 Carleigh Parkway in Springfield,
supports a Mothers of Preschoolers
(MOPS) program on the first and third
Wednesday of each month. Meetings are
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**Franconia United Methodist
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dria, offers traditional Sunday church
services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. plus
Sunday School classes for all ages at
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The Schedule

- ❖ Mornings departing from Burke VRE station, 10399 Premier Court, 6:30 to 9 a.m.
 - ❖ Midday from Tysons to Burke VRE station, 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
 - ❖ The new bus service will use the 495 Express Lanes
 - ❖ Buses will travel, on average, 55 mph on the Beltway, even during rush hour.
- For more information, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector/routes/expresslanes.

PHOTO BY LISA FRANCE

Cutting the ribbon on the new Express Connector Service, from left, Christin Wegener, planning operations manager, Fairfax Connector, County Board Chair Sharon Bulova, Supervisors John Cook (R- Braddock) and Pat Herrity (R- Springfield), VRE CEO Doug Allen, FCDOT Director Tom Biesadny.

Express Buses From Burke to Tysons

Fairfax County launches Express Connector Bus Service.

ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

With the expansion of Tysons Corner firmly underway, Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) is getting ahead of the commuting curve with the launch of its new Express Connector bus service utilizing the recently opened 495 Express Lanes to carry commuters from Burke to Tysons Corner. The service is the first in the county to use the express lanes, and the first public transportation offered between the two locations.

There were local officials, public and press on hand at the ribbon-cutting ceremony and inaugural bus ride on Saturday morning, Jan. 12, at the Burke Centre VRE station, where the service will originate week-day mornings. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova handled the scissors, assisted by Supervisors John Cook (R- Braddock) and Pat Herrity (R- Springfield), FCDOT Director Tom Biesadny and VRE CEO Doug Allen.

"This is exciting stuff," said Bulova. "It's a marriage between the VRE (Virginia Railway Express) and our Fairfax Connector system, working with VDOT and the Express Lanes. People have to pay tolls to use those lanes," Bulova reminded. "It's a tremendous opportunity for commuters, shoppers and business people."

"In survey after survey, the number one reason people say they take public transportation is for a time efficient commute," said Herrity. "This route provides just that." Cook added, "Giving people more choices ultimately makes everyone's living experience here in central Fairfax County better."

After the speeches and the acknowledgements of the efforts behind the scenes, it was time to get on board the brand new bus and experience the trip. Obviously, traffic patterns on Saturday morning dif-



Dave Courtney of Burke was heading to Crystal City via the VRE on Monday, Jan. 14, but he stopped to get some information from Christin Wegener, Fairfax Connector manager of Operations Planning and Customer Service.

PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER

fer from the weekday commute. FCDOT Director Biesadny says the average trip should normally run about 40 minutes one way. There are four different routes. Routes G and J are basically mirror images of each other, covering the major employers in the Tysons area and giving commuters a choice of directions depending on where they want to disembark. Route F is the longest, covering the largest portion of area. "M route is the one for you if you are heading to Tysons for the shopping," said Christin Wegener, manager of Operations Planning and Customer Service with Fairfax Connector.

As an introduction to the commuting public, FCDOT is offering the service for free for the first two weeks. Starting Jan. 26, a one-way fare will cost \$3.65 with a SmarTrip card, or \$4 cash. Additional routes are scheduled to begin service to Tysons in March from the Lorton VRE station and from the new Saratoga Park and Ride. The full schedule, route and other commuter resource information are available at www.fairfaxconnector.com/express.

Medicaid Reform Could Benefit All of Us

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN
COOK
(R-BRADDOCK)



Cook

COMMENTARY

Medicaid reform and expansion, in front of the General Assembly this year, could in the long run provide benefits to all Virginians while also relieving pressure from human service programs run by local governments.

Medicaid is a joint Federal/State program that pays for medical care for the poor. Each state determines its own eligibility rules and the Federal government picks up about 50 percent of the cost. Virginia's eligibility rules are some of the most restrictive in the nation. Non-disabled, childless adults are not covered at all, while parents are only covered if they make under \$6,915 a year, which is just 30 percent of the poverty level for a family of four. Disabled individuals who make under \$8,900 per year are eligible as well.

Those who are ineligible and unable to get insurance (either due to unemployment or jobs without coverage, or who can't afford or otherwise get coverage under a private plan) tend not to receive preventive care at all and often use emergency rooms as their general practitioner. Many end up receiving government benefits, usually through programs run by local government. Hospitals provide expanded "charitable" treatment as well. In fiscal year 2011, Reston Hospital provided \$34.8 million worth of uncompensated health care, and northern Virginia's non-profit Inova Health Care System provided \$174 million. Make no mistake—hospitals must recoup these costs, and that means you and I pay more. Medicaid expansion would reduce these pass-through costs by providing regular coverage.

The Affordable Care Act (commonly referred to as "Obamacare") offers states the option of expanding Medicaid to cover people earning up to 138 percent of the poverty level (about \$32,000 for a family of four), with the Federal government paying 100 percent of the cost for three years, and 90 per-

cent thereafter. Some Obamacare opponents oppose Medicaid expansion because they oppose anything connected to Obamacare. While I disagree with many aspects of Obamacare, Virginia's need for Medicaid reform predates its passage. Further, we will all pay the many new taxes imposed by Obamacare even if we reject the benefits of Medicaid expansion. Virginia's 10 percent share of expansion would cost about \$100 million per year, much less than just Inova's current uncompensated care expense.

Medicaid expansion is not without its downsides. Medicaid is already breaking states' budgets and without further cost control measures, an expanded version could be even more costly. States also worry that the cash-starved Federal government could reduce its commitment later. Governor McDonnell and dozens of other governors are seeking Federal flexibility to engage in cost control measures. They also sought Obama Administration permission to expand to only 100 percent of poverty, but were turned down.

Medicaid reform is complex, but the need is clear and the benefits would run to all who use the health system. The Federal government needs to give states flexibility to reform the system. Virginia needs to take a step forward and expand. All of us will see the benefit through healthier neighbors, reduced pass-through costs for uncompensated care and reduced impact on other locally funded human service programs.



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Calendar Listings

The Connection Newspapers contain a Calendar of Upcoming Events every week. While we cannot guarantee that every event we receive information about will be listed, here is the information we need for your upcoming event to be considered for the Calendar. We welcome photographs of similar events held previously, which sometimes appear with Calendar items.

Name of Event:

Day of the Week, Date and Time:

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Three Sentences Describing the Event:

Please submit your calendar information at least two weeks before your event. Clear photographs from similar previous events are always welcome. All events should be open to the public. We give first priority to free events. E-mail listings to:

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News

Scott Shipe, who lived in Springfield for 50 years before moving to Greenspring, is pictured second from left (top row) in this photo of West Point Military Academy cadets.



PHOTOS
CONTRIBUTED

Springfield Neighbors Recall Truman Inauguration in 1949

As Washington prepares for Presidential Inauguration, Jim Upp, Scott Shipe, and Gray Parks recount their experiences of 64 years ago.

BY JESSICA MCKAY

The inauguration of President Truman in 1949 produced many firsts—first to be nationally televised, first to be openly integrated, first to debut the current presidential seal.

It was also the first inauguration attended by 16-year-old Jim Upp, 20-year-old Scott Shipe, and 20-year-old Gray Parks. All three are now neighbors at Greenspring retirement community in Springfield, but also have in common the experience of participating in the 1949 parade. Upp was an Eagle Scout positioned along the parade route; Shipe and Parks were West Point cadets marching with their units.

"I know I was stationed somewhere between 7th and 11th streets," said Upp. "The inaugural officials used us for crowd control." Upp mentioned that in 1949, people generally didn't run out toward the parade vehicles as they passed, so inaugural officials lined up boy scouts along the parade route.

SECURITY at the inaugural ceremonies has tightened over the years. At President Barack Obama's second inauguration, planned Monday, Jan. 21, there will be a strong presence of ground, air, water and even Metrorail security provided by a variety of law enforcement officials and public safety agencies.

"We saluted as the president's vehicle passed by," said Upp. "I also remember it was very cold."



PHOTO BY JESSICA MCKAY

Greenspring residents Jim Upp and Scott Shipe recount their experiences at President Harry Truman's inauguration in 1949.



Greenspring resident Gray Parks during his years as a West Point cadet.

"I was able to watch the rest of the ceremonies with my dad after finishing my duty on the parade route that day."

—Springfield resident Jim Upp

According to records, it was a windy 38 degrees that day in the nation's capital. Upp noted that the scouts were asked to remove their coats in order to display their full uniform when they saw the parade vehicles approaching.

Upp grew up in Southeast Washington, D.C., and at age 14, was one of the youngest scouts to reach the rank of Eagle Scout. The 1949 inauguration was not the first unique opportunity that arose for Upp due to his scouting status. Just two years prior, he recalls being selected to serve as the escort for the young son of the president

of Mexico, Miguel Aleman, when he visited the U.S. in 1947. "We rode around in a Lincoln sedan and were thrilled to have discovered the power window buttons," said Upp.

Upp's neighbor at Greenspring, Scott Shipe, was a first-year plebe at West Point in 1949 when his unit, the first regiment, second battalion, marched in the inaugural parade. Also remembering the day as chilly, but sunny, Shipe recalls his presentation. "We were dressed in full dress uniforms with

SEE INAUGURATION, PAGE 5

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS

Toll Revenue Doubles in First Six Weeks

Commuters take Express Lanes average of 23,000 times daily.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The 495 Express Lanes opened a month early on Nov. 17, introducing the biggest change to the region's traffic patterns in more than 30 years. After some headaches for both commuters and Transurban, the company which operates the Express Lanes, traffic is steadily increasing and flowing more smoothly, Transurban officials report. And while there has been an increase in the number of E-ZPass users in the past 12 months, approximately 46 percent of Beltway travelers report not having an E-ZPass.

Following is an update from Transurban on the Express Lanes.

TOLLING AND TRAFFIC

❖ Traffic demand has ramped up over the first six weeks of operations with the percentage of new users each day increasing. During that period, toll revenue grew 99.1 percent from a daily average of \$12,212 in the first week of operations to an average of \$24,317 in the week prior to the Christmas/New Year holidays. Traffic for the same period increased 57.2 percent, from an average of 15,201 daily trips to 23,903 daily trips.

❖ As congestion increased, demand for the Express Lanes also increased, resulting in escalation of the dynamic pricing. To travel the full length of the Ex-



PHOTO BY LISA FRANCE

The inaugural run of the new Fairfax Connector Service from Burke Centre VRE station to Tysons Corner using the Express Lane loads up with passengers, including local officials, area residents and members of the press.

press Lanes, the minimum toll price for the period was \$1.65, and the maximum peak price was \$3.70. The average toll per trip thus far has been \$1.07.

❖ On average, 92.6 percent of trips are tolled trips.
❖ Revenue on the 495 Express Lanes in the week prior to Christmas was approximately double that of the opening week of operations in mid-November.

TRAFFIC AND REVENUE DATA (DECEMBER QUARTER)

Total Toll Revenue—\$828
Average Daily Trips—18,594 HOV Travel
Average workday trips—23,308

❖ High Occupancy Vehicles (HOV 3+) and exempt vehicles make up approximately 7 percent of users.

SAFETY ON THE EXPRESS LANES

❖ In the first few days of operations, there were some incidents in the area near the southern terminus of the 495 Express Lanes. Transurban and the Virginia Department of Transportation took actions to improve this area for travelers. To better highlight the start of the Express Lanes, they added new messages to dynamic signs, installed additional reflective posts and reworked and added pavement markings.

❖ Since its launch, the 495 Express Lanes Assist crews have been patrolling the Express Lanes to help travelers in case of an incident. They also patrol the Express Lanes for debris in order to keep the Express Lanes safe and clean for 495 Express Lanes customers. More than 85 travelers in disabled vehicles have been helped by the Express Assist crews.

Inauguration 64 Years Ago

FROM PAGE 4

rifles and bayonets," said Shipe. "We also wore our tar bucket hats with brass buttons on each side."

Shipe recalls marching in formation with the Corps of Cadets that day and being whisked back to West Point shortly afterwards. "We got right back on the train when the parade was over," said Shipe.

Shipe had attended Officer Candidate School for the U.S. Army before entering West Point and spent about 10 years in the U.S. Army in total. He graduated from West Point in 1952 and served in the Korean War before being medically discharged. Shipe then attended graduate school and a doctorate program in St. Louis, Mo. before moving to the Washington, D.C. area. Shipe and his

wife lived in Springfield for about 50 years, 30 of which were spent working with the Central Intelligence Agency. The couple moved to nearby Greenspring in December 2008.

Gray Parks, who also lives at Greenspring, was a classmate of Shipe's at West Point. Parks marched in the 1949 inaugural parade with the second regiment, second battalion from West Point and also remembers the chilly weather that day and visiting Washington, D.C. via train.

"I recall that we came down on a train and formed up rather early for the parade; we stood in ranks and waited quite a while," said Parks. "However, we were among the first groups in the parade so many waited longer than we did." Parks noted that he had another opportunity to see the president when he visited West Point upon

his and Shipe's graduation in 1952.

LIKE THE OTHER MEN, Parks lived locally for quite a while before moving to Greenspring just more than three years ago. Interestingly, however, none of the neighbors have attended another inauguration ceremony since Truman's in 1949.

"The ceremonies have become too crowded now," said Upp. They do, however, fondly remember their 1949 inaugural experiences. "I was able to watch the rest of the ceremonies with my dad after finishing my duty on the parade route that day," said Upp.

Parks also remembers the excitement, saying it was a "thrill when we did 'eyes right' to see the president and other famous people in the reviewing stand."

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OPINION

Transportation Money

Virginia, and especially Northern Virginia, is woefully short on funds for transportation. One reason is that its gas tax, a logical way to fund transportation infrastructure, is one of the lowest in the nation, and has remained flat since the '80s, since it is not indexed for inflation. So the buying power of the gas tax has been dwindling.

It seems obvious that one way to fix this is to allow it to rise with inflation, or change it to a percentage of the price of a gallon of fuel. Tying road funding to gas consumption is a logical connection, and the increase encourages conservation and more fuel-efficient vehicles.

Instead, Gov. Bob McDonnell has proposed eliminating the gas tax, replacing the funding with an increase in the sales tax plus a plan to shift money from other state spending, like education, human services and public safety,

to transportation.

With considerable agreement that Virginia needs about \$1 billion a year to pay roads and transit, this proposal would raise about one-third of that.

Part of the governor's plan also calls for a \$100 annual fee on vehicles that use alternative fuels.

Raising the sales tax to pay for roads is particularly unfair to the many residents of Northern Virginia who have chosen to live in Arlington, Alexandria and other areas that are walkable and provide easy access to public transit.

Penalizing drivers of hybrid and electric vehicles by charging them more than six times what other vehicles pay is not in the best interests of anyone who breathes the air in Virginia, and is a stark slap at innovation.

The entire proposal makes about as much

Eliminating the gas tax makes no sense.

sense as forcing a select few Northern Virginia residents, the drivers on the Dulles Toll Road, to almost single-handedly pay for rail to Dulles. Dulles airport is one of the key economic drivers for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Building rail to serve the airport is an economic investment that will have broad benefits in revenue for the state. A disproportionately small amount of that revenue will make it back to Northern Virginia. So it is welcome that the governor's proposal calls for diverting some of the "new" transportation money to Dulles rail.

The current proposal would make Virginia the only state without a gas tax. It seems unwise for a state with such dramatic transportation deficits to abandon the one source of funding that makes sense. More money is needed; that requires addition, not subtraction.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

A 10-Year Mission: End Homelessness

BY MICHAEL O'REILLY

Our Fairfax-Falls Church community is one of the most affluent in the country. Our schools are second to none. We are the home for many Fortune 500 businesses. Even with the challenging economy, our unemployment rate is among the lowest in the country.

Despite these strengths, our community also includes people who are homeless and are staying at emergency shelters, living in their cars or camping in the woods. Our community includes families with no place to sleep at night and children with no place to go after school. It saddens me to report that there were over 3,000 homeless individuals in our community this past year. It is unacceptable to have homeless men, women and children in our community.

Homelessness impacts every person in our community and each has a role in ending it. Through the good work of many non-profit and religious organizations, for many years we have directed our collective efforts to managing the homeless issues. However, little was done to find longer term solutions to prevent and end homelessness. That has now changed.

The leadership of Congressman Gerry Connolly helped to galvanize all of the energy and effort in the entire community. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors with leadership from Chairman Bulova and Supervisor Catherine Hudgins and all of our key stakeholders from the non-profit, government, faith and business community came together to develop an impressive 10 Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. The plan recognizes the right of all people to have a safe, affordable place in which to live. The plan envisions our entire community working together as partners to eliminate homelessness. We have some very steep goals and lots of hard work ahead to reach our goal of ending homelessness in Fairfax County by the end of 2018.

We have made huge strides in the develop-

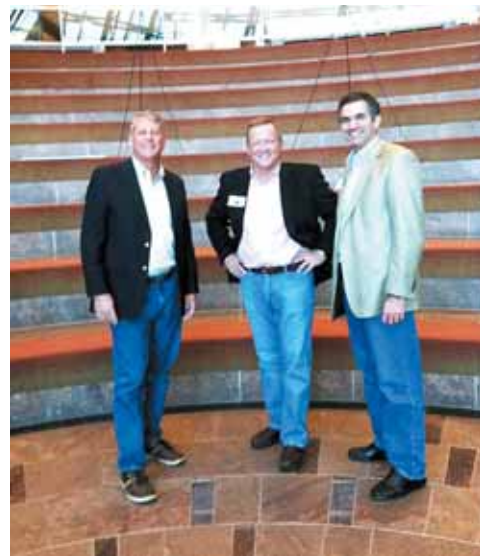


PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

From left — Michael O'Reilly, Jim Corcoran and Dean Klein during Jeans Day 2012.

ment of the governance structure called The Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness. The Office to Prevent and End Homelessness was established within Fairfax County. We have constituted a Governing Board made up of business leaders, elected officials, builders, clergy, law enforcement and others. We have created a new Consumer Advisory Council to ensure that currently homeless and formerly homeless have an active voice in the implementation of our plan.

We have much more work to do. We have recently moved our collective efforts to the plan's goal of creating 2,650 new housing units. We have supported and will continue to support efforts to amend the county's housing code to permit more individual housing options. We hosted a day long outreach program for our faith based communities which shows promise at increasing the housing stock.

Through our collective prevention and rapid rehousing strategies, community case management and the provision of other critical services, we prevented last year over 1,400 indi-

Editor's Note:

This month, The Connection begins featuring a monthly column written by community leaders involved in Fairfax County's nonprofit organizations. Every year, thousands of Fairfax County residents volunteer with nonprofits in a variety of ways, whether it's driving a senior citizen to a medical appointment or serving meals to the homeless in one of the county's hypothermia shelters. According to Volunteer Fairfax—a nonprofit that matches volunteers with service projects—individuals volunteered 205,688 hours of service to the community. We launch this series with a column by Michael O'Reilly, Chairman of the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness.

viduals from becoming homeless by providing community case management and other services. In addition, we have launched a Housing Locator Network to strengthen relationships with landlords and to help to move the homeless in our community more rapidly into permanent housing. Through the work of our partnership we have seen an impressive increase in homeless families and individuals placed in permanent housing from 482 in 2010 to 853 in 2012. Many adults and children have been positively impacted. This can only be attributed to the commitment that many in our community have made to end homelessness.

Our approach to preventing and ending homelessness is predicated on us doing so in partnership with a broad coalition of nonprofits, faith communities, businesses and government. Working together allows us to do amazing things.

I thank you for your interest and commitment and look forward to our continued work together with all of our partners in the coming years as we strive to prevent and end homelessness in our community. If you would like to become involved in this important work please go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless or call 703-324-9492 for more information.

Michael O'Reilly is Chairman of the Governing Board of Fairfax Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness.

Fairfax Station, Lorton & Clifton CONNECTION

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Promoting Burke Centre Station

To the Editor:

Amtrak recently posted rider numbers for 2012 and 2011 for every station in the nation. While ridership increased nationally 3.5 percent, Virginia's ridership increased a whopping 8.3 percent and boasted the third ("Lynchburg Train," stopping at Burke Centre) and fourth ("Newport News Train," stopping at Woodbridge) fastest growing of the country's 46 passenger services. However, Burke Centre laid claim to Virginia's fastest growing station and one of the nation's fastest: 38 percent!

This rapid climb in riders has resulted from many factors: 1) plenty of free parking, 2) great area roads, 3) nation's worst traffic, 4) a major population center, 5) reduction in VRE step-up tickets (\$10 to \$5), and 6) posting of eight "Amtrak" signs along nearby roads.

In 2013, area passenger rail advocates will be pushing long-overdue initiatives: 1) adding a "Welcome to VRE/Amtrak Station" sign at the station entrance, 2) erection of an outdoor Amtrak kiosk in front of station, 3) erection of Amtrak sign on the front of platform roof, 4) erection of Amtrak Display case on the platform, 5) posting a holder in the garage with VRE and Amtrak schedules, 6) publishing articles in local and national publications, and 7) posting youtube videos.

With greater publicity, ridership will again show a meteoric increase next year.

Dan Peacock, member
Virginia Association of Railway Patrons

Embracing Giving in 2013

To the Editor:

Living in a society where little kids now own cell phones, and even iPhones, we are used to everyone saying "I want, I want, I want!"

In every religion, giving thanks is not supposed to be reserved for the last Thursday in November, but rather something we do every day.

In the Holy Quran it says, "And We have established you in the earth and provided for you therein the means of subsistence. How little thanks you give!" (Ch. 7 Vs. 11).

As an American Muslim, reflecting on this year has brought me to bow my head in shame. Every year we make resolutions, but only a few of us actually go 365 days abiding by them. Even with that aside, I personally think that materialism is now taking our culture by storm. Long gone are the days where the norm was eating dinner with our families or going on monthly outings with our loved ones.

Is it really that hard for us to appreciate our loved ones a little every month? Let us all try to embrace giving in 2013 and make an

effort to spread the love.

Aneela Wadan
Fairfax

A Shameful Sight

To the Editor:

While home on Christmas break, I decided to take a nostalgic hike along the Little Rocky Run creek. Everything was as I remember with the exception of a small plateau on a steep hill face near the end of Marble Stone Drive. I saw scattered about the burned aluminum remains of a 24-pack of Natural Light, sprinkled with a healthy dose of glass bottle shards—all of which seemed to be a sort of sacrificial offering to the skull of a deer mounted on a stick at the center of the plateau. It was as if The Lord of the Flies went to college. It was a shameful sight, made even more shameful by the presence of a familiar blue and black wildcat paw-print spray-painted on the trunk of a tree bordering the campsite. This embarrassing display from what appears to be those representing my old high school is not only a danger to the wildlife living in these parts, but it also ruins the often wondrous experience that young people have when they hike through the woods for the first time (an experience I remember well). I know the faculty at Centreville High has taught us better than this. Be responsible, Wildcats.

Ben Salmon
Clifton

AREA ROUNDUPS

National Day of Service

President Barack Obama has designated Saturday, Jan. 19, as a national day of service. Volunteer Fairfax is partnering with Points of Light and Target to put on a signature, national-service project in Washington, D.C., linking the vision of Martin Luther King Jr. with inauguration events and engaging political leaders, celebrities and the community in service and dialogue.

Some 10,000 volunteers will gather at the D.C. Armory and, throughout the course of the day, they'll pack 100,000 toiletry care kits filled with necessities for deployed U.S. service members, wounded warriors, veterans and first responders. For more information, go to www.volunteerfairfax.org.

Schultz Hosts Town Hall Meetings on Education

Elizabeth L. Schultz, Springfield District School Board member, invites Springfield District parents, students, and community members to join her at one of three Town Hall meetings she is hosting in

January to discuss current education topics of interest, including school issues and priorities.

❖ Tuesday, Jan. 15, 7-8:30 p.m.
Robinson Secondary School, Recital Hall, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax

❖ Wednesday, Jan. 16, 7-8:30 p.m.
Centreville High School, Library, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton

❖ Wednesday, Jan. 23, 7-8:30 p.m.
West Springfield High School, Spartan Hall, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield
No registration is required.

Contact Melanie Turpin in the School Board Office at 571-423-1070 or by email at Melanie.Turpin@fcps.edu with questions.

Advocates Needed for Elderly

The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in assisted living and nursing facilities throughout the area. Training is provided in spring 2013. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.



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(From left) Graciela Perez, the Lorax; Matthew Cook, the young Onceler; Erica Denham, a Brown Bar-ba-loot; and Hailey Parker-Combes, a Humming-Fish, rehearse a scene.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

The fairies try to wake Sleeping Beauty (Annie Tkacik, wearing roller skates) in Robinson's children's show.

Robinson Offers Pair of Children's Shows

Presenting "Waking Sleeping Beauty" and "The Lorax" this weekend.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The only thing better than one children's show is two children's shows, and Robinson Secondary's Production Company class, RoProCo, is presenting a double bill this weekend.

"Waking Sleeping Beauty" and "The Lorax" will take the stage on Friday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, Jan. 19, at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$6 online at www.RobinsonDrama.org and \$7 at the door.

"What makes this more than just an acting class—but a real production company—is that the students also did the set design and construction, costumes, sound and lighting design, and execution," said Theater Director Chip Rome. "So every little piece is being done, not just by the tech students, but also by the actors themselves."

Each 25-minute play has 23 students in the cast and crew. Rome is overseeing things, but students are directing both productions. Zach Blake directs "Waking Sleeping Beauty" and Anna Turner and Mady Hanton direct "The Lorax."

"Waking" has a more contemporary feel than the original fairytale, said Rome. "For example, Sleeping Beauty wears roller skates and isn't very bright," he said. "And the spinning wheel is delivered to the king and queen by good intentions, not bad ones. The good fairy who gave it as a gift didn't realize it was cursed."

In this rendition there are eight fairies, including Mathilda, who is

well-meaning but not accepted by the others. There are also two princes, one good and one bad. Initially, that fools the fairies but good eventually triumphs over adversity.

Dr. Seuss's "The Lorax" is a retelling of what happened to the Onceler, a businessman who discovered truffula trees "from which he made 'thneeds'—which everyone needs," explained Rome. "But he made so many that he destroyed the forest and the environment; however, we do have a hopeful ending."

In addition, children from the audience will populate the Lorax's world and become the fanciful Brown Bar-ba-loots, Humming-Fish and Swomee-Swans. "They'll be reminded about the importance of taking care of our world," said Rome. "And they'll realize they can make it better in their own world."

Waking Sleeping Beauty

Freshman Matthew Cook portrays Prince Fauntleroy, the good prince. "He's charming, nice to everybody and willing to help others," said Cook. "He's supposed to wake up the sleeping princess, but is opposed by his twin brother Prince Balderdash, played by Elijah King. I like my role because Elijah and I have good chemistry and it's fun being captured in his net."

Cook said this play has a comic feel and will keep the audience guessing. "You can be really goofy in a children's show," he said. "You know you're going to get smiles and laughs and make them happy."



The queen and king, Mady Hanton and John Anderson, receive a spinning wheel from Anna Turner as fairy Mathilda during "Waking Sleeping Beauty."

Playing Mathilda is freshman Anna Turner. "The other fairies don't like her because she's different," said Turner. "She doesn't wear matching socks, she's a klutz and she always messes things up and gives the worst gifts. But she's happy and joyful and tries to do what she thinks is best."

Turner loves her part because "I can experiment, go out of my comfort zone and be crazy and outrageous. And it'll show the audience that, even if one person isn't like other people, they can still be included and be friends with them."

Senior Zach Blake is student directing. "Telling people where to stand, what to do, and how to say their lines was both challenging and fun after being an actor for three years," he said. "There are so many choices that you have to

know which one to pick to make the show the best it can be."

He said the more he's gotten to know the actors' capabilities, the easier it's become to put on the play. "I learned how much creative authority you have as a director and how to use it," said Blake. "Having the final say is surprisingly enjoyable."

The Lorax

Portraying the Lorax is freshman Graciela Perez. "He lives in the trees, is the keeper of the forest and speaks for the animals," she said. "He tries to stop the Onceler from cutting down the trees to make clothing from what's inside them. It's fun because he's both playful and strict, so I can play with his personality."

Initially, it was daunting for Perez to play such a well-known movie character, but she now likes having this new theater experience. She said children will enjoy the story because "it's colorful, there's audience participation and the characters are comedic." And she loves being in it because "when you're making kids happy, it makes you feel warm inside."

Since students are acting and doing tech for both shows, freshman Elijah King narrates this play as the 80-year-old Onceler, while a younger version of him is onstage. "He made a terrible mistake when he was younger and he keeps telling people his story, hoping that, somehow, one of them will restore his dreams," said King. "He seems mean to people, but eventually becomes nicer and tries to redeem himself and give back to the land he lives in."

King says the cadence of Seuss's lines can be difficult but, because they rhyme, it's like memorizing song lyrics. "I can have fun with the Onceler's voice, making it scratchy and old-sounding," he said. "And because it's a children's show, I get to act more cartoony and animated. The audience will like the message that, if they work hard enough, they can change the world."

Playing a Bar-ba-loot is freshman Erica Denham. "They're happy creatures, similar to bears," she said. "They play around the trees and eat their truffula fruits. But when the trees are chopped down, they no longer have food and have to leave."

Enjoying her role, Denham said, "We don't speak, but we overreact to what's happening around us. This show's message is to take care of and respect the earth. And children will like it because it's Dr. Seuss—and who doesn't like Dr. Seuss?"

NEWS

Memories of Clifton Holiday Art Show

Pat Lasus, of Clifton, spins some yarn while displaying her hand-made crafts at the first Holiday Art Show in Clifton on Dec. 15, sponsored by the Art Guild of Clifton. Featured were art demonstrations, a wine tasting and an art show.



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

I have seldom seen much ostentation and much learning met together.

—Joseph Hall

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HOME SALES

In November 2012, 64 homes sold between \$1,492,000-\$127,000 in the Clifton, Fairfax Station and Lorton area. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$1,492,000-\$302,000 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	...	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	PostalCode	Subdivision
11321 LONG MANOR DR	6	...	6	...	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,492,000	Detached	5.00	...	22039	THE ESTATES AT LONG MANOR
6640 RUTLEDGE DR	5	...	6	...	3	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,340,000	Detached	5.22	...	22039	WOLF RUN
12406 SHARI HUNT GRV	5	...	4	...	1	CLIFTON	\$995,000	Detached	5.67	...	20124	CLIFTON HUNT
7147 REDLAC DR	5	...	3	...	1	CLIFTON	\$950,000	Detached	6.56	...	20124	REDLAC FOREST
9301 ELKHORNE RUN CT	5	...	4	...	1	LORTON	\$925,000	Detached	0.86	...	22079	OCCOQUAN OVERLOOK
10830 OLM DR	5	...	4	...	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$830,000	Detached	1.15	...	22039	FAIRWOOD ACRES
7047 BALMORAL FOREST RD	5	...	4	...	1	CLIFTON	\$800,000	Detached	4.30	...	20124	BALMORAL GREENS
8306 PERIWINKLE PL	4	...	4	...	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$800,000	Detached	0.29	...	22039	CROSSPOINTE
11673 CAPTAIN RHETT LN	5	...	4	...	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$785,000	Detached	1.60	...	22039	FAIRFAX STATION
7655 CLIFTON RD	4	...	3	...	0	FAIRFAX STATION	\$777,500	Detached	5.73	...	22039	THE HOLLY FOREST
7543 BELMONT LANDING RD	5	...	4	...	1	LORTON	\$720,000	Detached	0.50	...	22079	BELMONT PARK ESTATES
8819 WESTERN HEMLOCK WAY	4	...	3	...	1	LORTON	\$700,000	Detached	0.18	...	22079	LAUREL HILL LANDBAY
11906 WOLF RUN LN	4	...	4	...	1	CLIFTON	\$690,000	Detached	6.10	...	20124	WOLF RUN
6100 HOUSATONIC CT	5	...	2	...	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$665,000	Detached	0.99	...	22039	FAIRFAX STATION
12454 HENDERSON RD	4	...	3	...	1	CLIFTON	\$625,000	Detached	3.90	...	20124	CLIFTON WOODS
10732 HAMPTON RD	4	...	3	...	0	FAIRFAX STATION	\$617,000	Detached	5.08	...	22039	FOXFIRE
6200 SALLY FORD CT	4	...	3	...	0	FAIRFAX STATION	\$610,000	Detached	0.75	...	22039	FAIRFAX STATION
8508 INDIAN PAINTBRUSH WAY	5	...	4	...	1	LORTON	\$600,000	Detached	0.26	...	22079	LAUREL HILL LANDBAY
9573 LINNETT HILL DR	5	...	4	...	2	LORTON	\$595,000	Detached	0.10	...	22079	VILLAGE AT LORTON VALLEY
7665 HENRY KNOX DR	4	...	3	...	1	LORTON	\$589,990	Detached	0.10	...	22079	LORTON TOWN CTR LANDBAY
11809 MALLARD RD	4	...	2	...	0	LORTON	\$578,500	Detached	0.86	...	22079	HALLOWING POINT RIVER ESTS
13651 SOUTH SPRINGS DR	4	...	3	...	1	CLIFTON	\$550,000	Detached	0.20	...	20124	LITTLE ROCKY RUN
6109 UNION VILLAGE DR	4	...	3	...	1	CLIFTON	\$545,000	Detached	0.20	...	20124	LITTLE ROCKY RUN
8012 OAK BRIDGE LN	3	...	3	...	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$540,000	Detached	0.20	...	22039	SOUTH RUN OAKS
9153 STONEGARDEN DR	3	...	3	...	1	LORTON	\$540,000	Detached	0.06	...	22079	LORTON TOWN CTR LANDBAY
9756 LORRAINE CAROL WAY	4	...	3	...	1	LORTON	\$525,000	Detached	0.12	...	22079	MASONS PASSAGE
6789 TIDDLE WAY	4	...	3	...	1	LORTON	\$525,000	Detached	0.20	...	22079	RACEWAY FARMS
9105 WILDWOOD ST	4	...	3	...	2	LORTON	\$500,000	Detached	0.74	...	22079	WILDWOOD
13000 COBBLE LN	3	...	3	...	1	CLIFTON	\$465,000	Townhouse	0.06	...	20124	ROCKPOINTE
8914 PINK CARNATION CT	3	...	3	...	0	LORTON	\$455,000	Detached	0.10	...	22079	SPRING HILL SENIOR CMP
9657 POTTERS HILL CIR	3	...	2	...	2	LORTON	\$440,000	Townhouse	0.05	...	22079	GUNSTON HILL
8862 CHEROKEE ROSE WAY	3	...	3	...	1	LORTON	\$438,000	Townhouse	0.06	...	22079	LAUREL HILL LANDBAY
9601 MASEY MCQUIRE CT	3	...	2	...	1	LORTON	\$430,000	Townhouse	0.05	...	22079	GUNSTON HILL
8369 DERWENT VALLEY CT	3	...	3	...	1	LORTON	\$425,000	Townhouse	0.04	...	22079	LORTON VALLEY NORTH
8894 PINION PL	3	...	3	...	1	LORTON	\$413,000	Townhouse	0.04	...	22079	LAUREL HILL LANDBAY
8037 HORSESHOE COTTAGE CIR	3	...	2	...	1	LORTON	\$400,000	Townhouse	0.04	...	22079	LORTON STATION SOUTH
5524 QUAIL CT	3	...	2	...	2	CLIFTON	\$386,900	Townhouse	0.06	...	20124	CENTREVILLE GREEN
9147 SILVERSHADOW CT	4	...	3	...	1	LORTON	\$375,000	Townhouse	0.03	...	22079	LAUREL CREST
9240 LORTON VALLEY RD	3	...	2	...	2	LORTON	\$364,900	Townhouse	0.04	...	22079	GUNSTON CORNER
8816 BENHAM ST	4	...	2	...	0	LORTON	\$363,000	Detached	0.32	...	22079	POHICK ESTATES
13500 DARTER CT	3	...	2	...	1	CLIFTON	\$360,000	Townhouse	0.06	...	20124	CENTREVILLE GREEN
7603 MAHONEY DR	3	...	2	...	0	LORTON	\$345,000	Detached	0.29	...	22079	POHICK ESTATES
9046 MARIE CT	3	...	2	...	2	LORTON	\$344,900	Townhouse	0.04	...	22079	SOUTH POINTE
8305 SOUTHERN OAKS CT	4	...	3	...	1	LORTON	\$340,000	Townhouse	0.04	...	22079	SOUTHERN OAKS
13679 WILDFLOWER LN	3	...	2	...	2	CLIFTON	\$316,500	Townhouse	0.03	...	20124	SEQUOIA LEA
8946 WALDREN WAY	2	...	2	...	2	LORTON	\$315,000	Townhouse	0.04	...	22079	WASHINGTON SQUARE
8772 NEWINGTON COMMONS RD	3	...	2	...	1	LORTON	\$302,000	Townhouse	0.05	...	22079	NEWINGTON COMMONS

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SCHOOL NOTES

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

Maggie Haynes of Fairfax Station, a freshman majoring in history, has been added to the dean's list for the fall 2012 semester at Bridgewater College.

The following students were named semifinalists in the 2013 National Achievement® Scholarship Program: **Hayley V. Harris** and **Warren D. Smith** from Centreville High School; **Tommie A. Banks** from West Springfield High School.

The following students were named semifinalists in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program: **Emily R. Costigan** from South County Secondary School; **Benjamin D. Sando** from Centreville High School;

John B. Hyde, Victoria L. Irvine, Yaser Kim and **Alexander C. Moree** from West Springfield High School.

Sean Padraig Brennan, a junior majoring in computer science at the University of Rochester, has been named to the Dean's List for academic achievement for the spring 2012 semester.

Brennan, a resident of Fairfax Station, is the son of John and Mary Ellen Brennan, and a graduate of South County Secondary School in Lorton.

Three residents of Fairfax Station graduated from Radford University at the end of the summer session. Earning a bachelor's degree in business administration was **David Michael Reeder**, accounting.

Earning bachelor of science degrees were **Katherine A. Kelley**, history and social science and, **Emily D. Wiggins**, interdisciplinary studies.

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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/JAN. 18

Rahmein Mostafavi. 8 p.m., 10 p.m., at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Rahmein Mostafavi brings his laughter-extracting musings on life to the Workhouse. \$15. www.coolcowcomedy.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 19

Concerts from Kirkwood. 3 p.m., at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carleight Parkway, Springfield. Award winning pianist Ina Mirtcheva will present "From Opera to Piano"; donations accepted. 703-451-5320 or concerts@kirkwoodpres.com.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Masterworks IV. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Christopher Zimmerman and flautist Christina Jennings perform Mozart's Overture to The Magic Flute, Leshnoff's Flute Concerto, Ives' The Unanswered Question and Brahms' Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68. \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

WEDNESDAY/ JAN. 23

RWC Meeting. 7 p.m., Fairview Elementary School, 5815 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. The Republican Women of Clifton will launch its 2013 Speaker Program with Former Congressman Arthur Davis talking about the recent election. www.cliftongop.com.

Preparing for the Storms of Life. 10-11:30 a.m., at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carleight Parkway, Springfield. Donna Spann, a former careerist and stay-at-home mom, talks on minimizing the stress and frustration associated with unexpected life events; homemade breakfast fare, childcare, coffee and tea provided. \$7. MomsOnTheRun4@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 26

Collectors Showcase 2013. 6-8 p.m., at the McGuireWoods Gallery, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A reception with painting, fiber arts, photography, ceramics, blown and fused glass and more from 100 studio and associate artists with "best in show" awarded by Joann Moser, deputy chief curator of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. www.workhousearts.org.

en Route! 7:30 p.m., at the Workhouse in Building W-3, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Next Reflex Dance Collective in collaboration with Furia Flamenca



Dancers from the en Route! touring dance project.

Diverse Professional Dance Companies 'en Route!'

en Route! is a touring dance project bringing professional dance artists together to share their work with new dance audiences presented by Next Reflex Dance Collective in collaboration with Furia Flamenca Dance Company, Janaki Rangarajan, Terra Dance Project and Starr Foster Dance Project. A 7:30 p.m. performance on Saturday, Jan. 26 will be at the Workhouse in Building W-3, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. \$25 general; \$20 for seniors/military; \$10 for youth/students. 703-584-2900 or <http://Reservations.workhousearts.org>.

Watercolor Strokes the Chinese Brush Painting Way

Hsi-Mei from Taipei, Taiwan has been fascinated with art since a little girl. She studied Chinese brush painting under well-known masters for several years and now shares her passion with the public, educating about the differences between Western and Chinese watercolor. The exhibit at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton is up through Sunday, Feb. 3. www.hsi-meichinese-watercolor.com.

Dance Company, Janaki Rangarajan, Terra Dance Project and Starr Foster Dance Project present a touring dance project bringing professional dance artists together to share their work with new dance audiences. \$25 general; \$20 for seniors/military; \$10 for youth/students. 703-584-2900 or <http://Reservations.workhousearts.org>.

TUESDAY/FEB. 5

Wakefield Chorale. 7:30-9:30 p.m., at the North Springfield Elementary School, 7602 Herring Court, Springfield. Join the local group of men and women who love to sing; no audition required, meet in school cafeteria. 703-255-3489 or susanp@repole.com.



Graceful, by Hsi-Mei Yates, Chinese brush painting.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Kelly Brinkley (holding the check on the right), the COO of United Way of the National Capital Area, awards the Community Impact Grant check at the first Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting of the year. Surrounding Brinkley are representatives from all the Fairfax/Falls Church grantees.

Nonprofits Awarded United Way Grants

18 Fairfax and Falls Church charities receive funds to continue work in education, health.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Several nonprofits providing health and education services in Fairfax County were awarded 20 grants totaling \$218,360 from the United Way of the National Capital Area (United Way NCA) during the Tuesday, Jan. 1, Board of Supervisors meeting.

The funds came through designations to the Fairfax/Falls Church Community Impact Fund in United Way NCA's annual workplace giving campaign.

Recipients included FACETS, Herndon-Reston FISH, Just Neighbors, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area, Main Street Child Development Center, Northern Virginia Family Services, Our Daily Bread, Shelter House, The Arc of Northern Virginia, United Community Ministries, and Western Fairfax Christian Ministries and others.

Our Daily Bread, which provides emergency safety-net services and financial literacy education to those living at or below the poverty level in Fairfax County, will use its grant to extend and expand the organization's financial literacy services.

"Our financial literacy program teaches basic budgeting skills and other financial tools that clients can use to remain self-sufficient for the rest of their lives," said Executive Director Lisa Whetzel. "Working families who are struggling to make ends meet need strong

budgeting tools to make every dollar they have work for them."

Each of the grants directly addresses United Way NCA's focus areas of education, health and financial stability. "United Way Community Impact funding is vital to ensuring that 24/7 crisis and suicide prevention services are available to anyone in Fairfax County and Falls Church," said Julia Stephens, executive director of CrisisLink.

Last year, member organizations submitted 88 proposals totaling \$1,751,700. Funding decisions are made by a volunteer, citizen-led task force that works together with area nonprofits, governments and business leaders to determine where there are gaps in services and where the funds will do the most good.

"The members of the selection committee are citizens first and professionals second," said Cassia Sookhoo, a credit analyst with Wells Fargo, who served on the Fairfax/Falls Church Community Impact committee for the second year in a row.

"The generous contributions from the Fairfax/Falls Church community, the teamwork of the selection committee volunteers, and the localized, collective power of the Community Impact Fund showcase what Living United is all about," said Bill Hanbury, president and CEO of United Way NCA.

For more information about United Way of the National Capital Area, visit www.unitedwaynca.org.

Workhouse to Host a Family Volunteer Day

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Workhouse Arts Center is hosting Volunteer Fairfax's fourth annual Day of Service on Jan. 21, 2013 at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road in Lorton (free admission).

Celebrate the remembrance of MLK day by joining Give Together: A Family Volunteer Day. Through this event, families and children will have the opportunity to create crafts and various service projects to support nonprofit organizations around the area. Projects range from writing cards to deployed military personnel, to making beaded bracelets for hospital patients.

The event will be divided into two shifts: the

first from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and the second from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Families of all shapes and sizes are welcome to attend this event, especially families with elementary-aged children. The experience allows children to witness the ease and satisfaction of volunteering first-hand. The goal of the day is to mobilize families throughout Fairfax County to complete projects that will support local agencies, and to reflect on the day, providing lessons of volunteerism.

Registration is available on the Volunteer Fairfax website at www.volunteerfairfax.org. For more information, please contact Meg Emery at memery@volunteerfairfax.org or 703-246-3533.

SPORTS



Woodson senior Alex Boock scored a career-high 20 points against South County on Jan. 15. Boock has played in four games after returning from a finger injury.



Woodson senior Tommy Stepka attacks the basket against South County on Jan. 15.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Woodson's Boock Sets Career High in Win Against South County

Senior scores 20 points in fourth game back from finger surgery.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Woodson senior Alex Boock scored two points against West Potomac during his return to action on Jan. 4. Four nights later, Boock hit his first 3-pointer of the season, helping his shooting rhythm return. On Jan. 10, he reached double digits, scoring 10 against West Springfield.

Prior to the season, Boock, a 6-foot-4 guard, suffered a torn ligament in the pinky finger on his right hand—his shooting hand—which required surgery. He missed the Cavaliers' first 11 contests before rejoining his teammates on the court. Boock improved his productivity during each of his first three games—a trend that continued when he made his first start on Tuesday night against South County.

Boock knocked down mid-range jumpers, produced points in the paint and buried a trio of second half 3-pointers en route to a career-high 20 points as the Cavaliers beat the Stallions 62-53 on Jan. 15 at Woodson High School.

"No matter what kind of shot it is," said Boock, whose taped pinky was not a shooting deterrent, "once you see the ball go through the net, your confidence really goes up."

THE CAVALIERS, talented enough to go 9-2 during Boock's absence, received a boost in potency with the return of an additional 3-point threat. His first 11 points against South County came inside the arc, but Boock eventually moved beyond the 3-point line, where he made more than 30 shots last season. His first two 3-pointers were daggers at the end of separate 7-0 Woodson runs in the third quarter. His third from behind the arc gave the Cavaliers a 50-39 advantage early in the fourth.

"[Boock is] definitely one of the better shooters on this team and he can stroke like he was doing it today," senior Tommy Stepka said. "That's what we need—scoring. It really improves our team [and]

spreads [the production] out."

Stepka, a 6-foot-6 guard, scored 14 points and sophomore point guard Eric Bowles added 12. Senior Peter Murray had four points and eight rebounds and senior guard Michael Hansler grabbed six boards.

"We have pretty good shooters—and we have tall shooters, which helps," Woodson head coach Doug Craig said. "... When you have guys who are 6-4, 6-5, 6-6, it really makes the defense come out. It opens up lanes for everybody else. Getting [Boock] back gives us another scoring option on the floor. We have some other guys who do really well defensively, we have some guys who are athletic and can rebound the ball, but you can never have enough guys who can put the ball in the basket."

The victory improved Woodson's record to 13-2, including 7-0 in the Patriot District. The Cavaliers went 13-1 in district play last season, only to lose to T.C. Williams in the district tournament semifinals and Fairfax in the opening round of the regional tournament. Woodson has hopes of postseason improvement, but first the Cavaliers have to get through the second half of their district schedule.

"We've been playing with a little chip on our shoulder, a little swagger, which is good," Craig said. "But at the same time, too, that swagger can kind of get out of control and I think the last week or so we've kind of gotten away from what made us good and we need to get re-focused."

While Woodson remained undefeated in district play, South County dropped to 2-5 in the Patriot standings. Senior guard Justin Hampton finished with a game-high 25 points, but required many shots to get there.

Along with a career-best offensive performance, Boock showed his defensive skills, as well.

"I actually thought Alex did a good job on [Hampton]," Craig said. "Justin had 25 [but] we really wanted to make Justin work for his points. He's a real good player and I thought we did a really good job with that tonight. He really had to work for his points."

Hampton grabbed seven rebounds. Senior forward Oren Burks finished with 10 points for South County and junior Mark Elliott grabbed six rebounds.

WOODSON will host Annandale at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 18. South County will host Lee at the same time.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Hayfield sophomore guard Raven Lott led the Hawks with 15 points against Yorktown on Jan. 14.

Hayfield Girls, Boys Lose to Yorktown

Hawks struggle at offensive end during doubleheader.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Hayfield girls' basketball team managed five field goals in the first 25 minutes of its Jan. 14 game against the Yorktown Patriots and went without a field goal for a stretch of 15 minutes.

While the Hawks set the bar low in terms of offensive execution, the boys' team followed suit later in the evening, producing just seven points in the first half.

Monday evening was a rough night for the Hayfield girls' and boys' basketball teams, with both teams losing to Yorktown during a home doubleheader. The girls' team started the struggles with a 44-33 loss. Yorktown led 17-14 at halftime but pulled away by outscoring Hayfield 11-1 in the third quarter. The Hawks went without a field goal for a 15-minute stretch spanning from the second quarter to the fourth quarter.

Sophomore guard Raven Lott led Hayfield with 15 points. Junior forward Courtney Miller finished with 10 points and nine rebounds.

The loss dropped Hayfield's record to 4-11, including 1-6 in the National District. The Hawks will host Stuart at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 17.

For the Hayfield boys' team, Monday was senior night as a front-loaded home schedule left the Hawks playing their final regular season home game in mid-January. Hayfield entered the evening on an 11-game win streak, but quickly fell apart en

route to a 70-42 loss. Yorktown opened the game on an 11-0 run, led 16-2 at the end of the first quarter, 36-7 at halftime and 54-23 at the end of the third.

"It was a combination of [a] bad night, [Yorktown] shooting well and us not playing at our potential," Hayfield head coach Carlos Poindexter said. "... They shot the hell out of the basketball—maybe 70 percent. It was ridiculous how well they shot the basketball. When that happens and we shoot bad and we're not playing defense, then you lose by [28]."

Because it was senior night, Poindexter's starting lineup consisted of five seniors, leaving the team's leading scorer, junior Amir Atkins, coming off the bench. Poindexter said this might have contributed to the slow start.

Brandon Lawson led Hayfield with 13 points. Atkins, who Poindexter said was averaging more than 17 points per contest, finished with one field goal and seven points.

Hayfield's record dropped to 11-4 overall, including 6-1 in the National District. Wakefield is tied with the Hawks atop the district standings, but Hayfield won the first meeting 50-49 on Jan. 4.

"These guys went on an 11-game win streak, so they don't necessarily know how to lose—a lot of guys crying and stuff," Poindexter said after the loss to Yorktown. "[I'm] just trying to keep the morale up a little bit."

Hayfield will travel to face Stuart at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 17.

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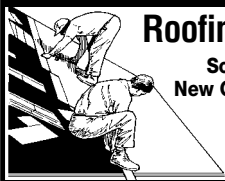
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