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Sean Rizzo

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News



Demolition progresses on the old Springfield Mall as excavators, barbed wire, sand trucks and other demolition equipment turns the mall into a construction site. Photo taken Thursday, March 14.

Going, Going, Almost Gone?

Signs of progress as old Springfield Mall gets torn apart.

> By Victoria Ross The Connection

've never been happier to see mass destruction." Fairfax County Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) was joking—sort of—as he described the feeling of seeing the old Springfield Mall finally being torn apart.

Exterior demolition of the 1970s-era "fortress" mall officially began last November, when mega-developer Vornado held a news conference with McKay and civic leaders to kick off a long-awaited \$200 million renovation project.

"This is the biggest thing to happen in Springfield since the Mixing Bowl," McKay said in November, as the CAT excavator demolished what was once Garfinckel's department store.

McKay, who has been instrumental in pushing the Springfield Mall project forward for several years, said he is relieved to see the large-scale destruction going on now at the property.

"The more they tear it apart, the happier I get," McKay said last week. "The mall has to be completely rebuilt. Even after they held the news conference in November, I was concerned we would end up with the cheap version. This destruction confirms that it's the real deal, and not just a new coat of paint."

In 2006, Vornado Realty purchased the mall for \$171.5 million. In 2009, the Board of Supervisors approved rezoning of the property to permit Vornado's development plans. Soon after, any sign of redevelopment came to a halt. No construction equipment materialized, and shoppers saw the mall continue its slow decline.

In 2010, Vornado defaulted on its mortgage of \$171.5 million, and then refinanced the mall for \$115 million, a strategic way to alleviate debt.

The newly renovated mall, which is slated to open in the fall of 2014, will include an addition of roughly 700,000 square feet of retail, restaurants, a food court and a state-of-the-art movie theater. The 20-foot-tall brown numbers that indicated the mall's six main



The old Springfield Mall sign, near Loisdale Road, indicates the anchor stores are still open during the demolition.

entrances—an ugly hallmark of the 1970s-era mall—will be replaced with one central grand entranceway. The mall's current three anchor stores—Macy's,

The mall's current three anchor stores—Macy's, Target and JCP—will remain open during construction.

"There will be much more in terms of variety of shops," said Vornado's Project Manager Bob Byrne, adding that the mall will be turned "inside-out," with outward facing storefronts in keeping with the town center look of the mall.

Later phases of the renovation—expected to take about 10 to 15 years—will complete the town center look, with a mix of upscale retail and commercial development, a 225-room hotel, pedestrian plazas, recreational facilities, 2,000 residential units and transportation improvements.

McKay and other county leaders have called the mall's renovation "the most important redevelopment project in Springfield."



The whole cast of Dancing with the Greenspring Stars, including the judging panel and masters of ceremony.

Dancing With the Greenspring Stars

The event serves as a fundraiser for the community's Benevolent Care Fund.

n Tuesday, March 5, Greenspring hosted a "Dancing With the Greenspring Stars" event to benefit the Benevolent Care Fund at the community. Throughout the year, various events are held at Greenspring to raise funds to provide support to residents who, despite careful planning, outlive their financial resources. The money raised for the fund allows residents to continue living at Greenspring and continue receiving the care that they need. The last time this event was held in 2010, Greenspring raised \$30,000 for the fund.

This year, seven couples competed in the event; each couple included one staff member and one resident at Greenspring. During the next two weeks, residents and staff may vote on their favorite couple by donating money to the Benevolent Care Fund. When voting is completed, the couple with the most votes will be crowned

champion of "Dancing With the Greenspring Stars". If the results are close, judges' scores will be incorporated to determine the ultimate winner. This year, the judging panel included Dr. Les Brandwin (physician at Greenspring's Medical Center), Cynné Simpson (ABC 7/WJLA-TV Good Morning Washington anchor), and Jeff Watson (Erickson Living's director of operations).

During the competition, dancers competed in a variety of styles including tango, waltz, cha cha, twist, merengue, paso doble, rumba and swing. The audience also saw special performances from Greenspring's Line Dance Group and Greenspring resident, Elisabeth Burnett. Burnett, a ballroom dancer since 1985, received the title of U.S. International Standard Senior Champion in Las Vegas in 2008. At the event, she and partner Mike Gordon danced a slow fox trot before the show's conclusion.



The judging panel: Dr. Les Brandwin (physician at Greenspring's Medical Center), Cynné Simpson (ABC 7/WJLA-TV Good Morning Washington anchor), and Jeff Watson (Erickson Living's director of operations).

THE COUNTY LINE

Sequester's Impact in Fairfax County? TBD

Local leaders say "uncertainty" biggest fallout of sequester so far.

"From the perspective

of business community,

businesses are adept

what's coming. They

uncertainty is driving

-Jerry Gordon, president of the

ment Authority (FCEDA)

Fairfax County Economic Develop-

see a problem; they

solve it. The

them crazy."

when they understand

By Victoria Ross The Connection

airfax County businesses have been feeling the chilling effect of the \$87 billion acrossthe-board spending cuts triggered March 1st for several months.

In anticipation of the original "fiscal cliff" deadline at the end of 2012, apprehensive business owners had begun taking preemptive measures, such as tightening budgets, and implementing hiring and pay freezes.

"Small and large companies are taking more conservative approaches to hiring, and government contractors, a large segment of the Fairfax County economy, could see their contracts reduced or ter-

minated," said Sharon Bulova (D-at-large), chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

But what has rattled Fairfax County businesses is not specific cuts in the sequester, but the uncertainty of what the cuts will be and when they will take

"One of the most impactful effects of sequestration thus far has been the uncertainty that is preventing growth in the local economy, "Bulova said.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), who is a founding partner of the Fairfax law firm Cook Craig & Francuzenko, said his practice and Fairfax County are hurt by the uncertainty factor.

"The biggest problem in Fairfax County is not the se-

quester, per se, it's the uncertainty. If this continues, that's huge," Cook said. "Businesses can deal with bad news. They can adjust to declining revenues, increased costs, what have you ... but not knowing what will happen is crippling. Congress and the president can't do their job, and you and I are going to be paying for this for a long time."

"From the perspective of business community, businesses are adept when they understand what's coming. They see a problem; they solve it," said Jerry Gordon, president of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA), "The uncertainty is driving them crazy. Prime contractors, such as SAIC and Northrop Grumman, they can translate their skill sets to non-federal applications. My fear is for the sub-contractors and the sub-sub-contractors, where a single contract can make or break a business."

Economic Forecast: Grim and Grimmer

While every state stands to lose, Northern Virginia's close ties to Washington and the federal spigot have the region squarely in the crosshairs of the sequester.

"With nearly 40 percent of our region's economy tied to the Federal Government, Northern Virginia will be especially hard hit," said Congressman James Moran (D-8) in a recent letter to constituents.

While only 1 percent of Fairfax County's General Fund revenues come from the Federal Government, the human services system in Fairfax County receives 20 percent of its revenue base from federal funding. In 2011, Fairfax procured more than \$26 billion in federal contracts.

"The Washington Area economy has grown tremendously thanks to Federal Government spending. In 2010, total federal spending accounted for nearly 40 percent of the region's GDP," said economist Stephen S. Fuller of George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis.

The region's strength is also its "Achilles heel,"

Fuller said and warned the area "faces a sea change" as federal spending decreases.

According to economic forecasters, the outlook is grim and grimmer. Most of the fiscal apocalypse, they say, is related to government-worker furloughs, which could begin as early as next week. In addition to eroding consumer confidence, the furloughs could trigger a domino effect that impacts everyone.

"If the feds are furloughed two days a week, no more housing purchases, no more dinners out, everyone hunkers downs, consumer housing starts to slow down and things come to a grinding halt and everyone is affected," Gordon said.

Some economists take the worst-case scenario further. If the sequester lingers, they predict airport-security lines will get longer because TSA agents will work one fewer day every two weeks; fewer commercial planes will fly because of furloughs to air-traffic controllers; prisons will be locked down because Bureau of Prisons staff will be sent home; terrorists may go undetected because fewer FBI agents and counterterrorism analysts will be working.

While Fairfax County has its weak points, Gordon said the county is still entering the sequester from "a position of strength.

"Our unemployment is only 3.6 percent, far lower than the national average of 7.7 percent," Gordon said. "We've been working toward a diversified economic base for more than 20 years. We are a center of information technology, software development, telecommunications, aerospace and the Internet. Our workforce is highly skilled. We have an outstanding public school system. ... All this has factored into the development of an economy based on technology and professional services. Yes, I think we're going to take hits, but we're in a better position than in most communities."

The Bad News, The Good News

Q&A with Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee)

Q: What are you hearing from your constituents about sequestration concerns?

A: "Where are the grownups?! I don't think most folks are focusing on the economic or political impact, although there are certainly concerns about furloughs and potential job losses from those who work for the Federal Government or contractors that do business with the Federal Government. Most people seem to be shrugging their shoulders and commenting on Washington idiocy."

Q: As the supervisor of the Lee District, where most of Fairfax County's federal jobs are located, what are you most concerned about?

A: "The financial impact primarily—while we are seeing a great deal of caution in the business community, the direct impact on the county will come next year. And the longer the sequestration (or other deep cuts) goes on, the harder the impact will be.

My biggest concern is the economic impact—not only what we may lose directly from capital appropriations and grants, but also the trickle-down effect. What will we lose from the state as it, in turn, loses federal funding?

Our Fairfax County general fund is heavily dependent on real and personal property taxes, as well as sales taxes. If residents cut back on expenses, we'll feel that. And should the still shaky economic recovery head back into recession, property values would tank—and that would be a direct economic hit. (About 76 percent of our General Fund comes from those sources.)

The corrosive impact to faith in our government is one of the non-tangibles that concern me. When people's health, safety and livelihood are threatened by political behavior that my kids know better than to engage in, we have a serious problem and one that could take a generation for recovery."

Q: What is the worst-case scenario for our area?

A: "Recession—with everything that implies at the government,



Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee)

business and personnel level. Also, it could accelerate the loss of smaller businesses that do not have the wherewithal to hold out until we get past this period."

Q: It's hard to imagine, but are there any impacts we haven't considered?

A: "The law of unintended consequences is alive and well. We could be hit with severe weather like the derecho or snowmaggedon. Or any other natural or man-made disaster. Most of the discussion seems to be around the financial impact. I think we need also to consider the impact on our social compact—it is not a good thing when people see their government as a bunch of buffoons."

Q: What do you think puts Fairfax County in a strong or weak position in terms of weathering the storm?

A: "Even though our economy has such strong ties to federal contracting and procurement, we have been diversifying for years and are well positioned to grow. The opening of the Silver Line is a definite plus. The good news is that Fairfax County's General Fund only receives about 1 percent of its budget from the Federal Government and our revenue stream is fairly resilient. The bad news is that residents and businesses within the county will also be affected and that will affect growth and substantial recovery in the real estate market, consumer consumption and business expansion. Contraction or even no growth in these components of the county's economy will negatively affect real estate, personal property, sales, and Business, Professional and Occupational License (BPOL) tax revenues.

News

Sequestration: Local Perspective

Springfield small-business owner tackles the sequester.

he uncertainty is the worst thing. How did we get into this? How do I survive and make sure my employees have a good standard of living? It's mind-boggling," Tony Coombs, owner of TC Associates—a Springfield-based cyber-security and professional consulting firm—said during an interview at his headquarters last week.

With 600 employees, Coombs said he was just starting to compete with larger companies for big federal contracts when the sequester loomed over the horizon.

Born in the Bronx, where his Jamaican parents both worked menial jobs for little pay, Coombs decided to join the U.S. Marine Corps after high school as a way to get an education and get out of poverty. After his stint as a marine, he joined IBM in Tysons before starting his own company 11 years ago.

At the time, he had four children in high school, all headed to college, and a new house.

"You can imagine how my wife felt when I ripped the IBM logo off my chest. There goes the security," he said, smiling. "But I wanted to be in a position to offer my children something I never had. I wanted them to go through college debt-free."

Coombs said all of his children have college degrees and work in his company in one form or an-

"This is a family-connected place. There's not someone here who doesn't have some family connection. We encourage that and embrace that."

But the sequester has caused serious setbacks to his company and employee morale.



Photo by Victoria Ross/The Connection

Tony Coombs, owner of TC Associates, in his Springfield office.

"I started preparing myself and my company last November. We consolidated where we could, we froze bonuses and pay raises. We are now on a month-tomonth lease," Coombs said. The worst aspect for Coombs is disappointing his 600 employees. "We've had to rearrange our teams to use less people, and that's the worst thing because everyone knows my employees always come first," Coombs said.

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WEEK IN SPRINGFIELD

Design Your Own County Budget?

Want to see a new dog park in Fairfax County? Or would you prefer your favorite rec center to stay open a little longer? The Fairfax County budget is now in your hands. Temporarily.

The Board of Supervisors is currently in the process of crafting the FY 2014 budget, and they want

"We wanted to put you in the chair of a member of the Board of Supervisors, so we created this budget simulation to let you craft your ideal Fairfax County budget," said Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock).

Before you is the FY 2014 budget proposed by the county executive. Your job is to amend it as you see fit. Are you satisfied with county services? Are you satisfied with the proposed tax rate? If not, here's your chance to show us what you'd

You may find the rules constraining.

"That's because in real life they are as well," Cook said. "We hope this exercise will help you understand the budget process better, and pro- West Springfield Government Center (Police Stavide the Board with some ideas on how we should tion) located at 6140 Rolling Road in Springfield. approach this effort in real life."

Get out your calculator, and go to these links to get started on your budget:

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/pdfs/ letter-simulation.pdf,

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2014/ advertised/fy2014-reductions.pdf,

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2014/advertised/cex-memo-bos-reductions-not-taken.pdf.

-Victoria Ross

Herrity to Host Town Hall Meeting March 26

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) will be hosting a budget town hall on Tuesday, March 26, (previously scheduled for March 6 but postponed due to snow) to give residents an opportunity to better understand how Fairfax County is spending their money and to have their questions addressed.

County Executive Ed Long and representatives from the Department of Management and Budget will present the budget and will be available to answer questions. The town hall begins at 7 p.m. and is being held in the Community Room of the

SEE WEEK, PAGE 7



OPINION

Say Yes to Health Coverage

Governor, state panel must accept coverage for 400,000 Virginians without health insurance.

ore than 140,000 residents of Fairfax County have no health insurance. That's more than 13 percent of the slightly more than 1 million people who live in the wealthiest county in the nation. Arlington and Alexandria have similar percentages of uninsured

These are some of the 400,000 people in Virginia who could receive health coverage under an expansion of Medicaid if only officials in the commonwealth are gracious enough to accept on their

Virginia's current eligibility requirements for Medicaid are so strict that although it is the 11th largest state in terms of population and seventh in per capita personal income, Virginia ranked 43rd in Medicaid enrollment as a proportion of the state's population and 47th in per capita Medicaid spending, according to a 2013 Fairfax County report.

Virginia has the option to add new coverage, at least 90 percent funded with federal dollars, that would extend to individuals earning less than about \$15,000 per year and families earning less than about \$31,000 per year, to low income teens who lose Medicaid when they turn 19, and adults with disabilities not currently eligible.

It isn't as if there is no health care cost for these currently uncovered residents. EDITORIAL

Right now, they access health care when they are very sick by going to an emergency room, where the hospital

spreads the cost of care around. But this is inefficient, expensive and unhealthy. Expanding Medicaid coverage would allow far less expensive preventative care and lead to better health outcomes. Uninsured people don't receive preventative care; they seek treatment later in illnesses when the costs are much higher, and the consequences in terms of lost days at work and other productivity are also much higher.

Expanding Medicaid to 133 percent of the poverty level would generate state general fund savings and new revenues that would total more than \$2 billion and more than offset the state's share of expansion costs over the next eight years, plus provide significant numbers of new jobs and economic growth, according to multiple reports including the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association. Expanding health care is a job creator, and would add tens of thousands of new jobs.

Virginia stands to lose more than \$9.2 billion in federal funds over the first five years of the new law if it opts out of the provision that expands Medicaid.

Turning away federal money to provide healthcare to uninsured Virginians makes no more sense than declining federal funds for transportation because you don't like the feds telling you to wear your seatbelt.

If Gov. Bob McDonnell and members of a General Assembly panel considering whether to accept funding to expand Medicaid decide against this benefit for 400,000 Virginians, perhaps they and their families should go for a year without health insurance as well.

- Mary Kimm,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

GUEST EDITORIAL

March Madness on Homelessness

While some say programs for the poor will be exempted from sequestration, that is not how things

are playing out.

By Kerrie Wilson CEO/Reston Interfaith

his year, March is not reserved for sports madness alone. With Congress unable to come to agreement on the federal budget, the "unthinkable" has happened with sequestration and the start of \$85 billion acrossthe-board cuts on domestic and defense programs. Without a new game plan, the reductions in federal housing programs at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will fall entirely on highly vulnerable individuals and families, putting them at risk of becoming or remaining homeless and leaving nothing for other ba-

County for a 2BR apartment at our high cost of living area, subsi-\$1,550/month, one would have to earn \$62,000 a year to afford housing and other basic needs (www.nlihc.org). Nearly one-quarter of Fairfax County households earn less than that, and 8.4 percent or 33,000 households in Fairfax County earn less than the most vulnerable—will be ex-



Kerrie Wilson (center), CEO of Reston Interfaith, talks with volunteers about their experiences finding and documenting the lives of homeless individuals during Registry Week in Fairfax County Feb. 25.

\$25,000 per year, surviving on near poverty level wages.

Housing assistance is arguably the most important home court advantage for Reston Interfaith and the Fairfax County Partnership organizations working to prevent and end homelessness. For homeless, disabled, elderly and low-in-With average rent in Fairfax come working families living in dies are the stabilizing force, and stable housing the number one predictor of future self-sufficiency, no matter what other challenges an individual or family is facing.

While some say programs for the poor—like housing assistance for

empted from sequestration, or that the effect will not be immediate, that is not how things are playing out. When the freeze play was called on Capitol Hill, it had the effect of benching our neighbors. Fairfax County, like other jurisdictions dealing with the uncertainty and fickle nature of the current situation, has put a hold on the release of new vouchers that we were counting on to help our neighbors.

Jeri is 70 years old, frail and lost her home after a long illness. Her Social Security payments are insufficient to meet her living expenses without help. She is sleeping on a cot in our overflow program and is effectively unsheltered after March 31 because the landlord is waiting on the release of the project-based voucher that will help pay her rent.

A single mom, Kara has three children under the age of seven has struggled with homelessness for years after leaving the abusive relationship with her children's father. She never finished high school but is smart and determined. She tries to think beyond her current situation and talks of going back to school and training to become a bookkeeper. She cries at night because a shelter is no place to raise her children. She had been approved for a voucher and we found a landlord willing to overlook her poor credit and past evictions. He will have to move on to another renter.

Investments in affordable housing provide stability and opportunity for working families and a safety net for extremely low-income households and our neighbors with special needs. At a time when businesses, governments, communities and families are craving certainty and predictability to help adjust to a "new normal," why aren't we calling a timeout to adjust the call for homeless and vulnerable neighbors like Jeri, and Kara and her children, who are ready to go home? It's madness.

_Springfield

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FAITH

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.

Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke, holds an Easter season Bible study in the Free Faith tradition Wednesdays from 7:30-9:30 p.m. on March 13, 20 and 27. The purpose of the study is to gain a deeper understanding of American culture's single most cherished book with a focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus and to serve as a class for those who want to know more about Unitarian Universalism and how the religion looks at the Bible. 703-503-4579 or administrator@accotinkuuc.org.

Knollwood Community Church Fellowship Center, 10000 Coffer Woods Road, Burke, holds a 12-week Stretch Your Faith-themed yoga class series through Saturday, May 16, on both Tuesday evenings from 6:15-7:30 p.m. and Thursday afternoons from 1:30-2:45 p.m. All levels are welcome; bring a yoga mat, towel and optional yoga strap and blocks. The first class is free. \$72 (one day per week) or \$8 drop-in rate. 571-239-3416, sandyro@holyyoga.net or www.facebook.com/holyyoganova.

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a Bible Study Fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and Children's Church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100, www.fbtministries.org

Lord of Life Lutheran offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:15, 9:45 and 11:15 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service. 7300 Gary Street, Springfield. 703-451-1500 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 Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

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

Bulletin Board

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

THURSDAY/MARCH 21

Book Donations. Until April, the Robert E. Lee High School Library is accepting donations of gently used books for their annual book sale—bring in fiction, nonfiction, children's books, cookbooks, college textbooks and the like to benefit new materials and computers for students. 703-924-8370.

SATURDAY/MARCH 23

Muslim Women in STEM. 1-3 p.m., at the Lorton Community Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. A presentation on Muslim women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics sponsored by the Nubian Benevolence Association in observance of Women's History Month; light lunch included. RSVP. nubianbenasc@yahoo.com.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 27

Navigating Difficult Relationships: Loving Boundaries. 10-11:30 a.m., at

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Pkwy., Springfield. Counselor Joanne Owens helps define what a difficult relationship is, what healthy boundaries look like and how to speak emotions without attacking—even to one's own mother; includes coffee, tea, homemade breakfast fare and childcare. \$7. RSVP. MomsOnTheRun4@gmail.com.

WEEK IN SPRINGFIELD

From Page 5

Animal Shelter Seeks Volunteers

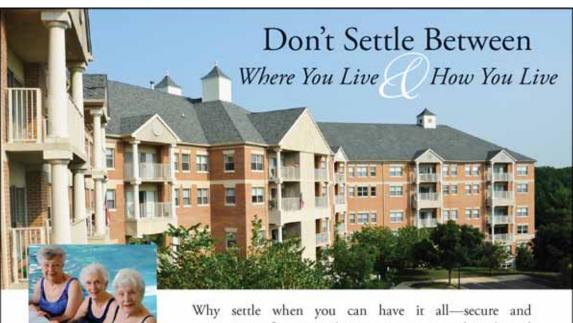
The Fairfax County Animal Shelter is looking for people with spare time who'd like to help improve the quality of life for homeless animals. Currently, the shelter has around 100 volunteers, but it's trying to double that number by attracting senior citizens to lend a hand.

Walking dogs, greeting shelter visitors and helping with community outreach, animal socialization and the fostering programs are some of the many tasks available to volunteers. (The shelter is at 4500 West Ox Road in Fairfax).

"Fairfax County seniors have so much to offer in the way of business, communication and animal care skills and experience," said Community Outreach Program Manager Kristen Auerbach. "They're a wealth of information and support for shelter staff and animals."

Shelter staff members also offer tours for senior groups, plus outreach programs in senior communities and centers. "We've found that animals have such a strong impact on the quality of life," explained Auerbach. "Bringing them into senior centers and offering tours of the shelter are great ways to share the incredible animals we have."





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The Sound of Music

Enhancing your child's music education during Music in Our Schools Month and beyond.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL The Connection

rom the powerful sounds of a high school band to the soothing melodies sung in a kindergarten music classroom, local music educators are using the month of March to raise awareness of the benefits of learning music.

In fact, the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) designates March as Music In Our Schools Month, and local music educators echo the significance of the annual celebration.

"The reason Music in our Schools Month is so important is because it heightens awareness ... that school music programs help provide important and healthy musical alternatives to the sometimes disturbing messages that children inadvertently hear in the ... music they may encounter in popular culture," said Brian C. Wuttke, Ph.D., director of music education at George Mason University in Fairfax.

Even if formal music lessons are not an option, local musicians and music educators say that parents can encourage and

inspire their children's musicality with simple activities at home. "Research suggests that parental involvement in a child's music activities can not only pique a child's interest in music, but it can positively impact motivation and achievement in music," Wuttke said.

So how can parents support a child's musical talent or interest? "I think playing music with your kids would be the number one way to enhance their musicality," said Elizabeth Lasko of the National Association for Music Education. "Of course, a parent may not play an instrument, but there is always singing."

Lasko encourages parents to allow children to experiment with instruments. "As kids, we used to sing with our grandmother's player piano," she said. "Singing with recorded music is another option. Learning songs from different eras and genres can open up new worlds to kids." According to Lasko, inexpensive percussion instruments like shakers or tambourines can help children develop rhythm while having

Shannon Melideo, Ph.D., chair of the Edu-



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

Local musicians and music educators say parents can encourage and inspire children's musicality with simple activities at home.

cation Department at Marymount University in Arlington, says exposure to music should be a priority. "[It] is critically important," she said. "Sure, you want them to listen to 'your music' as a parent, but listen to as much diverse music as possible and talk about it informally."

Lasko agrees and encourages parents to look for local performances that are designed for young audiences. "Lots of children love to attend musical performances that are geared toward their own age, especially if there is fun interaction between the performers and the audience," she said. "Many communities offer inexpensive performances. Some [are offered] at schools. Seeing kids their own age or slightly older perform music can be very inspiring for children."

Parents don't even have to leave home to find musical inspiration. "For young children, simple, everyday household items can be used to make a functional musical instrument that the child can decorate and compose a song on," said Wuttke.

He added that parents should encourage their children to participate in school music programs. "Praise the student for their efforts," he said. "Ask the student to sing or play a song on an instrument they are working on in school for family members."

Finally, technology offers convenient options. "There are many iPad applications, for instance, that are musical in nature and help kids learn about different instruments and how to record music," said Lasko.

Book Drive Benefits Area Youth

Committee of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Children's Book Drive through Friday, April 12, 2013. Area businesses will serve as collection points for children's books appropriate for young readers through grade six. Books can also be donated at chamber events. Residents and businesses are encouraged to participate by dropping books off at designated collection points. "Every child should have books they call their

he Community Affairs own," reminds Karen Brown, co-coordinator of the Chamber's Book Drive. "I know our business community is ready to help."

This annual book drive has provided many books for children in the Fairfax County Public School system who otherwise may not have had their own to enjoy. "Reading research has proven that children who have access to books and read on a consistent basis fare better in school and are better readers overall," said Tina Simons, reading specialist at Saratoga elementary. "That's really hard to do when books are scarce."

The children's book drive continues to grow. In 2011, 19 chamber member businesses volunteered as collection points. In 2012, that number rose to 24, and this year, there are 31 participating businesses. New and gently used children's books may be dropped off at participating locations through April 12. Chamber volunteers will pick up collected books as donation boxes fill and prepare them for distribution to young residents in the Greater Springfield community. Book drive hosts include:

Accelerated Physical Therapy **Brain Injury Services** BTW images **CALIBRE** Colonial Animal Hospital Courtyard Springfield Douglas Crab Cakes FCPS ACE—Plum Center Hard Times Cafe Liberty Tax Service—Burke & Springfield offices **NOVA Pediatrics NVCC Medical Education Campus** Office of Braddock District Su-

pervisor RE/MAX Allegiance—Burke & for more information.

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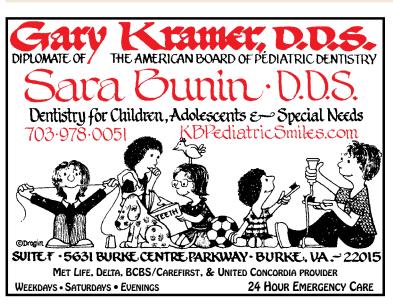
The Swiss Bakery—Springfield The Villages at Belvoir TITLE Boxing Club Springfield

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HOME SALES

In February 2013, 93 Springfield homes sold between \$775,000-\$155,000.

Address	DD I	D L	IP Poetal City	Cold Dwine	Tima	Lot AC	PoetalCo.	do Subdivision
7107 AYERS MEADOW LN								
5495 CLONMEL CT								
5649 TOWER HILL CIR								
8108 DEERCREEK PL								
7602 GRALNICK PL 8415 GAMBRILL LN								
7001 DREAMS WAY CT								
7110 ROLLING FOREST AVE								
8007 ROCKWOOD CT								
6238 WINDHAM HILL RUN								
8002 ROCKWOOD CT	. 5	3	1 SPRINGFIELD	\$515,000	Detached	0.21	22153	SARATOGA
7103 KINSDALE CT N								
7938 JANSEN DR7459 GILLINGHAM ROW								
7304 WICKFORD DR								
7737 RACHAEL WHITNEY LN								
8112 EDINBURGH DR								
8002 POINT DR								
7621 WEBBWOOD CT								
7822 DESIREE ST								
6347 SIMMER CIR								
7915 VALLEYFIELD DR								
7203 WICKFORD DR	4	2 2	2 SPRINGFIELD 1 ALEXANDRIA	\$456,000	Detached	0.07	22315	WICKFORD
6105 THOMAS DR								
7103 TANWORTH DR								
8362 MAGIC LEAF RD								
6102 KERKAM CT								
8367 MILLWOOD DR								
7227 HADLOW DR 9015 GOLDEN SUNSET LN	. 3	3 I	U SPKINGFIELD 1 CDDINCEIEI D	\$440,000 \$427.500	Detached	0.34	22152	COMEDCET AT COLUMN VALLEY
7657 LONG PINE DR	. o ·	o	1 SPRINGFIELD	\$437,300 \$435.750	Iowilliouse	0.04 0.47	22155	MORTH SPRINGFIELD
5303 LAKE COVE CT								
8429 MILLWOOD DR								
6411 EASTLEIGH CT	. 3 :	2 :	2 SPRINGFIELD	\$427,000	Townhouse	0.06	22152	RHYGATE
5512 MARGATE ST								
6121 WRENLEIGH ROW								
6397 ENGLISH IVY WAY								
6209 ABBOTTSBURY ROW6806 RUSKIN ST								
8891 EAGLE ROCK LN								
6562 KELSEY POINT CIR								
7118 RESERVOIR RD	. 4	3	0 SPRINGFIELD	\$409,000	Detached	0.26	22150	
6505 HUBBARDTON WAY	. 3	3	1 SPRINGFIELD	\$408,000	Townhouse	0.04	22150	WESTHAVEN
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5808 CHANNING RD								
7959 GAMBRILL CT								
9118 GALBRETH CT 7114 RESERVOIR RD								
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8030 BETHELEN WOODS LN								
8573 TYROLEAN WAY								
8021 SKY BLUE DR	. 2	3	1 ALEXANDRIA	\$355,888	Townhouse			
7068 LEEWOOD FOREST DR	. 3	2 :	2 SPRINGFIELD	\$350,000	Townhouse			LEEWOOD FOREST
7796 BALLSTON DR								
6103 HIBBLING AVE 7402 GOLDEN HORSESHOE CT								
6561 GRANGE LN #303								
6357 MICHAEL ROBERT DR								
7372 STREAM WAY								
7406 KELVIN PL								
7378 STREAM WAY								
8533 GWYNEDD WAY								
7972 REVENNA LN								
9077 TIFFANY PARK CT 8072 TRIBUTARY CT								
7316 GARY ST								
7407 AXTON ST								
6565 GRANGE LN #401	. 2	2	0 ALEXANDRIA	\$306,000	Garden 1-4 Flo	oors	22315	CHANCERY OF KINGSTOWNE
7130 DIJOHN COURT DR	. 2	1	1 ALEXANDRIA	\$300,000	Townhouse	0.07	22315	D EVEREUX WEST
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6887 BRIAN MICHAEL CT								
5519 MITCHAM CT								
8482 SUMMER BREEZE LN 8628 SPRING CREEK CT								
6635 SUMMER GRAPE CT								
8161 DARK DEN CIR								
5353 HARBOR COURT DR	. 2	2	0 ALEXANDRIA	\$280,000	Townhouse	0.03	22315	D EVEREUX WEST
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8008 REVENNA LN								
8309 BARK TREE CT								
8223 WHITE STONE LN 8345 BARK TREE CT								
6396 SHAUNDALE DR								
6007 ELLESMERE CT #G								
6601 NETTIES LN #1807	. 2	2	0 ALEXANDRIA	\$242,000	Garden 1-4 Flo	oors	22315	CONDO AT ISLAND CREEK
6844 HEATHERWAY CT	. 2	1	1 ALEXANDRIA	\$241,000	Townhouse	0.03	22315	D EVEREUX WEST
5833 ROYAL RIDGE DR #943	2	1	1 SPRINGFIFI D	\$224 505	Townhouse		22152	CARDINAL FOREST
5837 ROVAL RIDGE DR #045								
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OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, MARCH 23 & 24

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

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

Burke										
6060 Ridge Ford Dr\$51	9,950Su	ın 1-4	Tom & Cindy & Assoc	Long & Foster703-822-0207						
6614 Bestwicke Ct\$49	9,900Su	ın 1-5	Maria Delgado	Premier703-455-0200						
5969 Mount Burnside Way\$43	4,500Su	ın 1-4	Deb Gorham	Long & Foster703-581-9005						
6427 Fenestra Ct \$29	9 000 50	ın 1-3	Heidi Ellenherger-Jones	Keller Williams 703-915-6038						

Centreville

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Rich Triplett

6544 Skylemar Trl\$274,900Sun 1-4......Rich Triplett......Samson Props. 703-217-1348

Chantilly

42344 Astors Beachwood...\$830, 000....Sun 1-4.......Sari Karjalainen......Weichert ..571-643-6039

Clifton

 12130 Sangsters Ct.......\$1,425,000....Sun 1-4......Leslie Thurman......Long & Foster..703-439-1921

 12646 Water St......\$1,125,000....Sun 1-4......Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812

 6420 Stonehaven Ct..High \$600,000s...Sun 1-4......Ed Duggan.........Century 21 ..703-599-1351

Fairfax

5312 Windsor Hills Dr......\$560,000..Sun 12-4.....Lena Restivo.......Weichert..703-855-7341

Fairfax Station

9803 Thorn Bush Dr......\$1,298,900...Sun 1-4.......Eileen Lanser...........E-Realtors..703-625-9058 7131 Twelve Oaks Dr......\$1,295,000...Sun 1-4............Pat Richter..Residential Preferred..703-239-1234

Falls Church

3804 Munson Rd......\$819,000....Sat 1-4......Patrick Kessler.....Keller Williams..703-405-6540

Kingstowne/Alexandria

Lorton

Manassas

6525 Davis Ford Rd........\$625,000....Sun 1-4.......Carol Hermandorfer......Long & Foster..703-503-1812

Springfield

11 Pyracantha Ct........\$515,000...Sun 1-4.....Lana Hartmann......ERA..703-359-7800

To add your Realtor-represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Erin Peck at 703-778-9449 or E-mail the info to epeck@connectionnewspapers.com

All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.



Au pairs from Clifton, Fairfax and Fairfax **Station** prepare to host the Town of Clifton's Easter egg hunt set for Saturday, March 23. The au pairs helped stuff approximately 3000 eggs full of candy and trinkets.

HOTO COURTESY DARIECE RAU

Easter Egg Hunt on in Town of Clifton

Au pairs from Clifton, Fairfax and Fairfax Station have stuffed nearly 3,000 eggs full of candy and trinkets in preparation for hosting this weekend's Town of Clifton Easter egg hunt, set for Saturday, March 23.

The egg hunt begins promptly at noon at Clifton Town Park on Main Street, between Chapel and Chestnut Street. Registration costs \$5 and is open for toddlers through fourth grade students up until 11:45 a.m.; cost includes a collection bag for children to use during the egg hunt (use of personal baskets is not allowed) and a 4x6 commemorative photo.

The hunt is divided into three age groups: toddlers through preschool-aged children, kindergartners through second graders, and third and fourth

In the event of inclement weather, the egg hunt will be rescheduled for Sunday, March 24, at 2 p.m. (with registration ending at 1:45 p.m.).

For further details or to hear more about the au pair program call 703-944-3907.

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

SATURDAY/MARCH 23

Barrel Room 2012 Futures

Tastings. Noon-5 p.m., at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Enter the barrel room and taste future Paradise Springs wines from the 2012 vintage; learn how oak influences wines, how vineyard site selection affects flavors and the like; groups leave every 20 minutes and sample six to eight wines paired with light fare. \$25.

SUNDAY/MARCH 24

Barrel Room 2012 Futures

Tastings. Noon-5 p.m., at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Enter the barrel room and taste future Paradise Springs wines from the 2012 vintage; learn how oak influences wines, how vineyard site selection affects flavors and the like; groups leave every 20 minutes and sample six to eight wines paired with light fare. \$25. 703-830-9463.

FRIDAY/APRIL 5

Battle of the Bands. 7-9:30 p.m., at South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Local rock bands compete for prizes at a night benefitting the South County HS Class of 2013 All Night Graduation Party; raffles, door prizes and concessions are available. \$7. SoCoANGP@cox.net.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6 Asian Art and Culture Day. 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. On National Cherry Blossom Festival and Asian Art and Culture Day the Workhouse hosts workshops, demonstrations, performances, talks and exhibitions featuring Asian art and culture. Join for a Japanese tea tasting, origami workshops and film, brush painting demonstrations, artist talks, cherry tree planting and more. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 13

Spring Faire. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carleigh Parkway, Springfield. Jewelry, fashion, home decor, kitchen, garden, gourmet foods, door prizes and more to benefit Bethany House's work to help victims of child

www.womansclubofspringfield.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 18

2013 Fairfax County Volunteer

Service Awards. 8 a.m-10 p.m., at Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. The Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards serve as a community-wide celebration of volunteerism and the awards honor individuals, groups and organizations that have given outstanding volunteer service. Nominations, online application are due: Feb. 4 by 4 p.m. 703-246-3825 or www.volunteerfairfax.org

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March 24 - Palm Sunday worship at 8:15, 9:30, and 11:00 am March 28 - Holy Thursday service at 7:30 pm March 29 - Good Friday service at 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday Celebration at 8:00, 9:30, and 11 am ASL interpreter available at 9:30 am

Sunrise Service at Springfield Golf & Country Club at 6:30 am

Assembly of God Harvest Church... 703-971-7070 Word of Life Assembly of God...703-941-2312 Baha'i Faith Baha'is of Fairfax County Southwest... 703-912-1719

Baptist

Community of Faith Tabernacle... 703-455-4594 Fellowship Baptist Church... 703-569-5151 First Baptist Church-Hayfield...703-971-7077 First Baptist Church-Springfield... 703-451-1500 Franconia Baptist 703-971-4475 South Run Baptist

Church...

703-455-4521

Westwood Baptist Church... 703-451-5120 Bible

Immanuel Bible Church... 703-941-4124

Catholic

St. Bernadette's Catholic Church... 703-451-8576

Christian Science

First Church of Christ, Scientist...703-866-4325 Central Christian Church... 703-971-0277

Springfield Church of Christ...703-451-4011

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints... 703-451-0631

Disciples of Christ Springfield Christian Church...703-354-4994 **Episcopal**

St. Christopher's Episcopal... 703-451-1088 Evangelical Covenant Community Covenant Church...

703-455-4150 Jewish

Congregation Adat Revim... 703-569-7577

Ohev Yisrael Messianic Congregation.. 703-550-0888

Jehovah's Witness Springfield North Congregation... 703-971-2936 Lutheran

Prince of Peace Lutheran... 703-451-5855

St. John's Lutheran Church... 703-971-2210 St. Mark's Lutheran Church...

703-451-4331 Immanuel Lutheran Church...

703-549-0155 Methodist

Messiah United Methodist Church... 703-569-9862

Springfield United Methodist... 703-451-2375

St. John's United Methodist... 703-256-6655 Sydenstricker United

Methodist...703-451-8223 Non-Denominational Love International Church...

703-354-3608 New Life Open Bible Church...

703-922-7577 New World Unity Church...

703-690-7925 International Calvary Church... 703-912-1378

Preshyterian Grace Presbyterian Church...

703-451-2900 Harvester Presbyterian Church... 703-455-7800

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church... 703-451-5320

To Advertise Your Community of Worship, Call 703-778-9418

Bulletin Board

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

THURSDAY/MARCH 21

Book Donations. Until April, the Robert E. Lee High School Library is accepting donations of gently used books for their annual book sale—bring in fiction, nonfiction, children's books, cookbooks, college textbooks and the like to benefit new materials and computers for students. 703-924-8370.

SATURDAY/MARCH 23

Muslim Women in STEM. 1-3

p.m., at the Lorton Community Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. A presentation on Muslim women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics sponsored by the Nubian Benevolence Association in observance of Women's History Month; light lunch included. RSVP. nubianbenasc@yahoo.com.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 27 **Navigating Difficult**

Relationships: Loving

Boundaries. 10-11:30 a.m., at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Pkwy., Springfield. Counselor Joanne Owens helps define what a difficult relationship is, what healthy boundaries look like and how to speak emotions without attacking—even to one's own mother; includes coffee, tea, homemade breakfast fare and childcare, \$7, RSVP. MomsOnTheRun4@gmail.com.

News



Terry McAuliffe, Democratic candidate for governor, speaks at the 19th Annual St. Patrick's Day Fete sponsored by U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) at the Kena Shriners Temple in Fairfax on Sunday evening, March 17. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and Congressman Connolly are pictured behind McAuliffe.

St. Patrick's Day With Connolly

More than 1,400 attend Congressman's St. Patrick's Day Fete.

record-breaking crowd of more than 1,400 packed the shamrock-festooned Kena Temple ballroom Sunday night for Congressman Gerry Connolly's 19th Annual St. Patrick's Day Fete.

As dozens of elected officials and Democratic candidates lined the stage behind him, Connolly announced the winners of the straw polls for Virginia's Democratic candidates for lieutenant governor and attorney general.

In the contest for lieutenant governor, Aneesh Chopra garnered 70 percent of the votes, while Senator Ralph Northam received 30 percent. Results were closer in the attorney general's contest with Senator

Mark Herring receiving 52 percent to Justin Fairfax's 48 percent.

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe opened the gathering. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova handled the master of ceremonies duties and the introduction of the lengthy list of elected officials and candidates who joined Connolly for the annual celebration.

Connolly began hosting the event when he was first elected to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 1995 and has continued the tradition ever since through his 10 elections. The annual St. Patrick's Day event started as a small gathering in Connolly's Fairfax home. Soon tents had to be erected behind the Connolly house to accommodate larger crowds, but it outgrew that venue too. It has been held at the Kena function hall in the heart of Connolly's district ever since.

Kaelin Jennison of Fairfax helps people with the straw pole at the 19th Annual St. Patrick's **Day Fete** sponsored by Congressman Gerry Connolly on Sunday evening, March 17.



While attending the 19th Annual St. Patrick's Day Fete sponsored by Congressman Gerry Connolly on Sunday evening, Penny Rood of Fairfax votes in the straw poll, which is one of the featured activities in the annual event.





Terry Mansberger of Fairfax helps people with the straw poll at the 19th Annual St. Patrick's Day Fete sponsored by Congressman Gerry Connolly on Sunday evening.



Terry McAuliffe, democratic candidate for governor, speaks with Bill Sudow and Kathleen Murphy at the 19th Annual St. Patrick's Day Fete sponsored by Congressman Gerry Connolly at the Kena Shriners Temple in Fairfax on Sunday evening. Murphy is a Democratic candidate for the 34th district of the Virginia House of Delegates.

SPORTS

Hyland's 8 Goals Help Rams Edge Bruins

Junior scores game-winner with 16 seconds remaining.

> By Jon Roetman The Connection

obinson junior Maggie Hyland was having a career-best night when she took a lacrosse stick to the face with less than three minutes remaining in a

tightly-contested rivalry match-up against the Lake Braddock Bruins.

Lake Braddock sophomore Jade Samec was sent off the field with a red card for clocking her opponent. Hyland returned to the offensive end, moving her jaw up and down to assure everything was in working order.

"I thought I was going to have to be taken out," Hyland said after the game. "That hurt. ... I didn't want to get taken out. That was the last thing I wanted to do, so I just fought through it."

Hyland stayed in the game. As a result, it was the Bruins who were taken out.

HYLAND SCORED from free position with 16 seconds remaining, giving the midfielder a career-high eight goals and lifting the Robinson girls' lacrosse team to a 13-12 victory over Lake Braddock on Tuesday night at Robinson Secondary School. Hyland scored five goals in the second half, including the Rams' final three.

"She's definitely our go-to girl," second-year Robinson head coach Liz Case said. "She definitely has the moves. She's a phenomenal player; it's almost like a magnet with her stick. ... It's one of those things, too: She needed to take that lead on the attack and she definitely stepped up and she did phe-

Hyland's goal with 9:52 remaining gave the Rams a 12-11 lead. Both teams went scoreless for the next nine minutes before Lake Braddock junior attack Kristen Gaudian delivered her sixth goal of the evening, tying the score at 12-all with 45 seconds remaining. Robinson called timeout after the goal and Hyland responded with the game-winner.

Lake Braddock defeated Robinson 16-10 last season. It was the Bruins' first victory over the Rams in at least a decade. On Tuesday, Lake Braddock built leads of 3-0, 5-1 and 6-2, but Robinson responded by scoring the final five goals of the first half and led 7-6 at halftime. Gaudian scored back-to-back goals to give the Bruins an 11-9 lead with 16:19 remaining in the contest, but the Rams answered by scoring four of the final five.

team led by more than two goals during the final

"We did great," Lake Braddock head coach Victor Chen said. "We did very well. We executed. Couldn't ask for anything more. Got to give Robinson credit, [the Rams are a] very-well coached team and I knew



Robinson junior Maggie Hyland scored a career-high eight goals against Lake Braddock on Tuesday.



Lake Braddock junior Kristen Gaudian scored six goals in a loss to Robinson on

they'd be out for this one. We did the best we could. We've got to make some adjustments, obviously, and we'll use this game as a good learning experience ... and we'll come back from it."

Case said she has stressed solid defense and eliminating fouls to the Rams. Robinson wasn't carded on Tuesday, while Lake Braddock received three yellows and a red.

"The red card was just kind of a motivation for me," Hyland said. "It was saying they're being rough and illegal and we are not. We went through this whole game with no yellow cards, no red cards [and] barely any illegal checks, which was awesome for us-that was an improvement. Our coach was very proud of us at the end for that."

Freshmen Taylor Caskey and Kaitlin Luccarelli each scored two goals for Robinson and senior Megan Barlow added one.

Junior attack Grace Youn scored three goals for Lake Braddock. Samec finished with two goals and freshman Kyra Hayden scored one.

LAKE BRADDOCK dropped to 0-2, including a 14-5 season-opening loss to Oakton on March 15. The Bruins will face Cape Henry Collegiate at 4 p.m. on Friday, March 22, during the North vs. South Invitational at Cape Henry.

"We're exactly where I wanted to be at this point of the season, anyways," Chen said. "... Our goal is to peak at the district tournament. It's a tough loss The game included five lead changes and neither to swallow, no doubt, but we're not going to hang our entire season on this one particular game."

Robinson improved to 2-1. The Rams opened the season with a 10-6 victory against Paul VI on March 13 and lost to Stone Bridge 15-10 on March 15. Robinson will travel to face Marshall at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 21.



South County freshman leadoff hitter Jade Williams had a three-run triple against Oakton on March 15.

South County Softball Beats Oakton in Opener

Stallions looking to advance past region semifinals.

By Jon Roetman The Connection

he South County softball program has won six consecutive Patriot District championships and brought home the 2009 Northern Region title.

But while the Stallions have experienced sustained success, their last three seasons have ended in a fashion that has head coach Gary Dillow wanting more.

South County has lost in the Northern Region semifinals three straight years. Each time, the Stallions failed to score a single run and went home one win shy of the state tournament. Dillow said recently the team needs to improve its hitting against quality pitching in order to advance further in the region tournament.

Whether South County finds a way to get it done at regionals will be determined in late May. On Friday, the Stallions got an early start on coming up with clutch hits.

South County defeated the Oakton Cougars 4-0 in its season opener on March 15 at South County High School. In the fourth inning, junior catcher Haylea Geer gave South County a 1-0 lead it wouldn't relinquish with an RBI double. In the bottom of the fifth, freshman leadoff hitter Jade Williams gave the Stallions some insurance with an oppositefield three-run triple to right.

South County will be looking for the same kind of hits in the postseason.

'We've been to the regional semifinals three years in a row and lost," Dillow said. "That really is our focus, to take that next step and get to the regional finals and qualify for states. I

think we need to hit better, more consistently against really good pitching."

On Friday, the hitting started with junior shortstop Whitney Burks, whose two-out single up the middle set up South County's first run. Burks, who is verbally committed to Stanford, stole second base and later scored when Geer smoked a double to deep left field.

"[Burks] makes everything go," Dillow said. "... Even when she gets out, she hits the ball hard. She's one of the best players in the region and the state right now."

Geer's double came on a 0-2

Williams, a freshman outfielder for the Stallions, came through with a bases-clearing triple in the fifth inning.

"I was nervous," Williams said about playing in her first varsity game. "I've been playing since I was 5, so it should be second-nature to me, but I was nervous."

Dillow has confidence Williams can produce at the top of the order.

"Crazy coach sticking a freshman in the leadoff spot," Dillow said, "but she's ... playing really high-level travel and hits the ball well, so I knew she could do it."

Four runs was more than enough offense for junior pitcher Rebecca Martin, who earned the victory in the circle. The third-year varsity hurler surrendered two hits and walked two while striking out 11 in six shutout innings.

South County faced T.C. Williams on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Stallions will compete in a tournament in Myrtle Beach, S.C., March 25-27 and will return to local action at home against Lake Braddock on April 3.

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Community members interested in establishing and serving on a RAB are asked to contact Mr. Patrick McLaughlin, Directorate of Public Works, Chief, Environmental and Natural Resources Division, at imcom.fortbelvoir.dpw.environmental@us.ar my.mil, 703-806-3193, or 9430 Jackson Loop, Building 1442, Suite 200, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5116. If enough interest is generated Fort Belvoir will form a RAB and provide information on membership and responsibilitie

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BA house w/2-car garage. Updated kitchen with new cabinets, granite counters and SS appliances. Updated baths, too.
Freshly painted. Beautiful sunroom overlooks level lot. Easy access to East Falls Church Metro, only 2.3 miles.

Barbara Nowak 703-473-1803
Gerry Staudte 703-309-8948



Spacious waterfront property sited on nearly 1.5 acres surrounded by majestic trees and overlooking the Occoquan Reservoir. With three finished levels this home sparkles



\$1,049,900 Waterfront Gated Community, 5BR, 6.5 BA luxur standards. theatre room, so many top-of-the-line upgrades to mention.
This home is a MUST SEE! Liz Wilson 540-226-6475

Centreville \$359,900 Updated and upgraded with everything including hardwood flooring. ties, lighting fixtures and more. 2 master suites, 2 full and 2 half baths, walkout basement, deck, garage and more.
Ellie Wester

703-503-1880



Lake views from huge wrap porch. Open floor plan, soaring ceilings, tile floors, granite. 2 two-car garages. Boat house w/280 ft of waterfront.

Toni McQuair 703-795-2697



\$340,000 Backs to Trees. Well maintained 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA Colonial on 1/4 acre lot, backing to trees and cree Hardwood floors in LR/DR. 1st floor FR and finished RR in walkout basement. Gerry Staudte 703-309-8948

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