

From left, back row—Autumn Guckert, a junior from Clifton, Will Rowson, a sophomore from Fairfax, RJ Holtzman, a sophomore from Clifton, Shannon Lopynski, a senior from Clifton. Front row—Melina Arriaza, a junior from Clifton, Jessie Bond, a senior from Fairfax Station, MegMarie Stanchi, a freshman from Burke, and Angela Vasquez, a junior from Fairfax. The students are members of the Student Government Association committee that organized the 26 Acts of Kindness campaign at Robinson Secondary.

Animal Control
Officer Nabs
Elusive Shih Tzu
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Promoting Kindness At Robinson

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Children 'Dress Up With Grown-ups'

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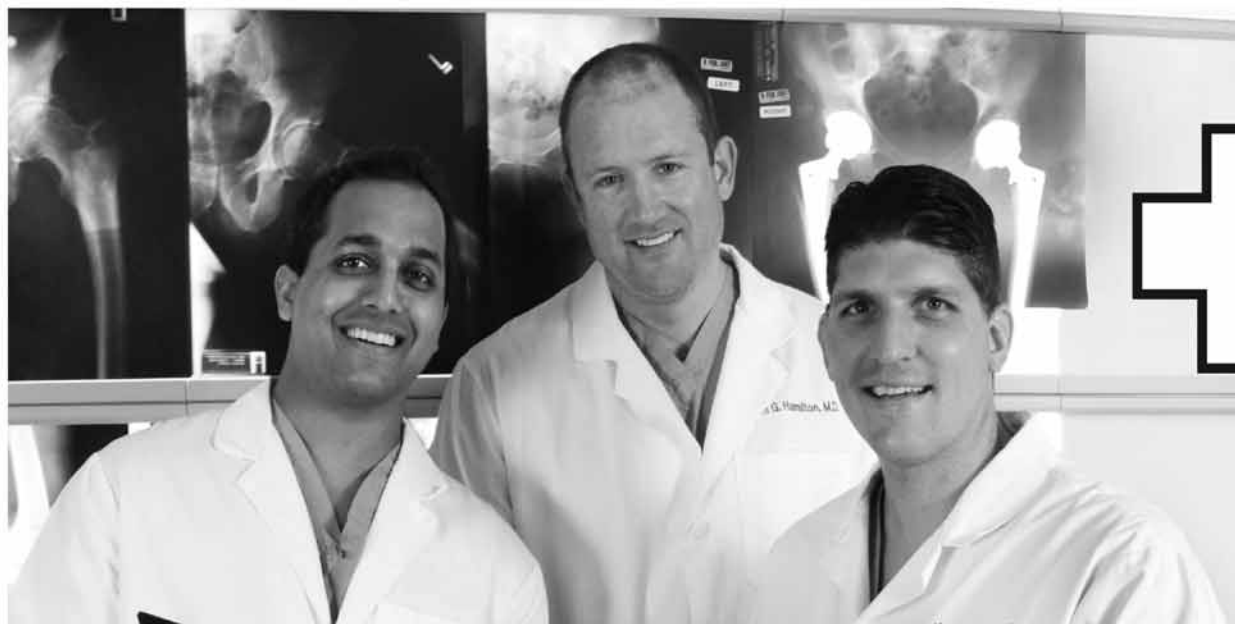
NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

GOP Women Discuss Second Amendment, Voter Fraud and 'Being a Republican Today'

Republican Women of Clifton guest speakers Ron Meyer, Celia Bigelow, Milt Clary and Reagan George, seated in the front row with RWC President Alice Butler-Short, discussed the Second Amendment, voter fraud, and "Being a Republican Today" at the March 20 monthly meeting. They are joined by RWC board members.



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NEWS

LORTON/FAIRFAX STATION/CLIFTON CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHC
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PHOTO BY JUSTIN HAYES/THE CONNECTION



Dr. Tehreem Butt, who started Family Dentistry of Fairfax in 2008, received the Dr. Jorge Arnoldson Award for his “compassion and willingness to provide free dental services to children in need.” He attended the gala with his wife and children. (From left) Amna Tehreem, a student at George Mason University, Dr. Tehreem Butt, wife Naima Tehreem, Labibah Tehreem, a sophomore at Centreville High School, and Zukhruf, 14, a freshman at CHS



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) and Penny Bladich of Vienna, the vice president and treasurer of the M CCP board, hold a doctor Build-A-Bear. The Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation donated 40 bears, all dressed in medical attire, for the gala’s silent auction.

Children ‘Dress Up With Grown-ups’

Medical Care for Children Partnerships funds medical, dental care for children of uninsured working families in Fairfax County.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Men donned tuxedos; women wore glittering formal dresses, and children dressed in their cotillion finest.

But stuffiness was not invited to this black-tie gala.

As MC Andrew laid down hip-hop, old school and swinging Sinatra tunes, dozens of children and their parents danced and partied at the annual “Dress Up with Grown-ups Gala,” hosted by the Medical Care for Children Partnerships (MCCP) at the Mason Inn Saturday night, April 6.

Former Redskin player Charles Mann, the master of ceremonies, and Dr. Angel Cabrera, president of George Mason University, welcomed 250 guests to the annual fundraiser, which included many Northern Virginia business leaders and local legislators.

“Children’s health is our mission, and children are a special part of our celebration tonight,” said Alan Harbitter, president of the MCCP Foundation Board of Directors. “We really want everyone to have a fun and memorable time.”

Judging from the laughter and smiles on the dance floor, they did.

Although the gala was a child-centered celebration—featuring a magician, caricaturist and fire truck—the MCCP Foundation has a serious mission.

THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

funds healthcare for the children of uninsured working families in Fairfax County. MCCP-eligible children, many of whom are immigrants, have working parents who don’t have access to health insurance and whose incomes are too high for Medicaid but too low for adequate, regular healthcare. For a family of four in Fairfax County, the annual income level cut-off is about \$55,000, said MCCP Executive Director Margery Leveen Sher.

“We want these children to have the care that any other child has,” Sher said. “It’s a great cost savings for the community, because without MCCP they would go to the emergency room, and probably be a lot sicker and need more care. We are often the last safety net.”

Sher said the nonprofit foundation currently provides medical and dental care to approximately 2,500 uninsured children in low-income families in Fairfax County, and last year spent \$172,000 on children’s dental care alone. She said approximately \$600 covers the dental care needs for one child, and estimates about 9,000 children need the help of MCCP.

The MCCP Foundation also marked a milestone at the gala: providing \$1 million in healthcare costs to Fairfax County’s children of low income, uninsured families.

“I like the combination of corporations, healthcare providers and public entities coming together to provide a leveraged model for taking care of the healthcare needs of Fairfax County’s working poor. ... It’s an enriching, rewarding, innovative or-

ganization,” MCCP Foundation board member Harry Klaff said.

Partners of MCCP include Fairfax County government, corporations and individual financial supporters. Kaiser Permanente and 300 doctors and dentists provide low or no-cost care to MCCP children. Sher said Fairfax County provides case management for families, and support that includes transportation, language assistance and help accessing specialty care.

“MCCP is a unique partnership between healthcare service providers, like Kaiser Permanente, the county and the foundation that fills a critical need in our county—health and dental care for children that would not otherwise have access to it,” said Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), who attended the event with his wife Nancy.

Herrity said MCCP “has a special place in my heart” because of his father’s involvement in its formation more than 25 years ago. “It is a great example of personal and corporate responsibility and giving.”

ONE OF THE EVENING’S HIGHLIGHTS was the presentation of the Dr. Jorge Arnoldson memorial award. Arnoldson, a pediatrician who passed away in 2009, was one of the original doctors of the MCCP program in 1988. The award is given to a person who embodies Dr. Arnoldson’s credo that “giving is a matter of conscience.”

Dr. Tehreem Butt, of Fairfax Family Dentistry, received the award.

“Dr. Butt has provided a welcoming dental home to our children for many years, and he is always willing to provide care in an emergency,” Harbitter said. “He always treats our children just like other patients in his practice, with kindness and compassion.”

“I like to see children smile,” Butt said as he accepted his award. “I want to help them stay out of pain. When they come to my office, sometimes they are kicking and screaming, but they leave happy. That’s the best part of my profession.”

Born and raised in Lahore, Pakistan, Butt attended dentistry school at the Nishtar Medical College in Multan. In 1986, he emigrated to the United States and completed a two-year dental program at New York University. In 2007, he and his family moved to Centreville, and he opened his Fairfax practice in 2008.

“Since then I have had the pleasure of treating children referred by MCCP. This experience has given a totally new meaning to my dental profession,” Butt said. “To me, children are the most beautiful creatures of God and there is nothing comparable to being able to give them a healthy and happy smile.”

Event sponsors included: Kaiser Permanente, Jones Lang LaSalle, Quest Diagnostics, INOVA, ICF International, Reston Hospital Center, and CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield.

To find out more about MCCP and how to support it, visit mccpfoundation.org.

Animal Control Officer Nabs Elusive Shih Tzu

Officer's dogged pursuit saves sly pup from life on the streets.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Just 13 pounds of matted fur and fluff, "Biscuit," a sly shih tzu, evaded capture in the Franconia area for nearly two years, porch-surfing and stealing cats' food to survive.

Until Enna Lugo got on the case two months ago. A Fairfax County Animal Control officer, Lugo was dogged and determined to rescue the rogue pup.

According to police, Biscuit got his name from neighborhood children, who routinely caught glimpses of this lonely pup as he foraged for food or moved from one hiding place to another. Private citizens and rescue groups had been trying to catch Biscuit for many months when Lugo launched a doggie dragnet.

"Whenever I came to catch Biscuit, neighborhood residents would tell me the last place they had seen him," said Lugo, who has a shih tzu of her own. "Everyone tried to help get him off the streets."

She used several methods to try to catch



Before and after: Biscuit's hair was dirty and matted, and filled with ticks when Animal Control officer Enna Lugo nabbed the elusive shih tzu on Saturday, April 6. At the vet, Biscuit was sedated and shaved, and treated for a skin infection. Other than that, he was found to be in good health and was estimated to be around 3 to 4 years old.

him, including trapping and tracking. "He would always find an escape route," she recalled. "When we tried to trap him, he would lie next to the traps but he would never go inside."

His origins are a mystery. Some residents said his owner had died and he had been left to fend for himself; others claimed that his owners moved away and left him behind.

Lugo said she knew that she needed man-



COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE

power to catch the pup. This past Saturday, April 6, she and Animal Shelter staff worked together to assemble a team of officers and volunteers to bring Biscuit to safety.

When they arrived on the scene off of Manchester Boulevard and Beulah Road Saturday around 8 a.m., Biscuit was not in his usual spot under a residential patio, and Lugo was concerned that he had fled the area.

But he was soon spotted nearby, huddled

in a nest of leaves where he had made a bed. Animal control officers and volunteers surrounded him, caught him with a net and transported him to the veterinarian.

At the vet, Biscuit was sedated and shaved. The vet removed more than 40 ticks and treated him for a skin infection. Other than that, he was found to be in good health and was estimated to be around 3 to 4 years old.

"Most surprisingly, Biscuit allowed Officer Lugo and the veterinary staff to hold and pet him. He seemed to know that his struggle was over and that he was in caring hands," said Tawny Hammond, director of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

Lugo has offered to foster Biscuit to help him acclimate to living in a house with human companions. He will be available for adoption after he has had some time to re-adjust.

"Officer Lugo's initiative and tenacity exemplify the Fairfax County Police Department Animal Services Division's commitment to fulfilling our mission; her work ensured safety of the citizens of Fairfax County and the compassionate rescue of an animal in need," Hammond said.

Lugo said she was happy and relieved at the outcome. "I told the residents that even if it took me a year, I would catch Biscuit and get him to a loving home."

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NEWS

Police Receive Alarming Number of Tax Fraud Reports

As annual tax returns are being calculated and submitted in a last-minute furor across the country, Fairfax County Police have received an alarming report of 75 to 100 cases of tax identification fraud in recent weeks. Detectives are warning residents of the scam and urge them to take precautions to prevent being victimized.

In this recent series of crimes, taxpayers don't discover they've been victimized until after they file their tax returns and are told that the IRS has already received and documented their returns. Confused and perplexed, victims are told to contact the Financial Crimes Investigative unit to report the matter and that their security numbers have been stolen or compromised. Victims must handle the arduous process of clearing up the financial mess created by these swindlers.

Detectives stress that while there is little that can be done locally to track suspects in these cases, education and prevention are key factors that can help prevent identity

theft. They issue the following precautions:

- ❖ Limit the occasions you share your social security number with others.

- ❖ Do not voluntarily give your social security to others.

- ❖ Closely monitor your credit reports to catch potential fraud early.

- ❖ As odd as it sounds, closely monitor your children's credit reports as well; thieves are known to steal children's social security numbers as well.

- ❖ Virginia residents can have a customer identifier on their driver's license in lieu of their social security number.

- ❖ Shred all personal information at home prior to trash disposal.

- ❖ Opt out of pre-approved credit applications by calling 888-567-8688.

For more information on financial crimes, check <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/financialcrimes/>. To schedule a group presentation with a financial crimes expert, contact the Public Information Office at 703-246-3271.

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SCHOOLS

Robinson Students Commit to 26 Acts of Kindness

The number 26 is in honor of the 20 students and six staffers killed during the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Even if only 10 percent of Robinson Secondary School's almost four thousand students accept the Student Government Association (SGA)'s 26 Acts of Kindness Challenge during the month of April, that would still mean 10,400 random acts of kindness and courtesy added to the world. Not a bad achievement.

"Oh, no, we're going for them all!" declared the eight students who form the 26 Acts of Kindness SGA Committee. They have already run out of the custom-made t-shirts that read "26 Acts of Kindness" on the front and contain 26 lines on the back for each wearer to fill in daily between the 1st and the 26th of April with their participatory kindness (not to worry, more on the way!)

The number 26 is in honor of the 20 students and six staffers who were killed during the tragic Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting on Dec. 14 last year in Newtown, Conn. One of those lost lives be-

longed to Lauren Rousseau, cousin of Robinson Student Services Counselor Kirsten Wiley. Sophomore committee member RJ Holtzman said, "That connection just made us even more determined to do this right. Ms. Wiley means a lot to all of us. She's really a beloved counselor to so many of the kids here. Maybe this can make her feel just a little better, and we've already done one act of kindness then."

THE IDEA of performing 26 Acts of Kindness to honor the Sandy Hook victims was proposed in an article and via Twitter by NBC news correspondent Ann Curry and quickly went viral. The kids at Robinson are taking it to a new level and making sure that neither the victims, nor the notion of remembering them by spreading kindness, gets lost in the noise of the next news cycle.

To get things started, the SGA crew produced a video that was made available to the entire student body and later uploaded to YouTube. Twenty-six students and members of the school's staff, captured in poignant black and white, were filmed



Robinson students signing the Pledge Banner while participating in the 26 Acts of Kindness campaign.

throughout the campus, each holding the picture of one of the Sandy Hook victims. In the video, each picture is slowly turned to reveal an Act of Kindness that had been performed by the participant in memory of the lost person whose image they carry.

"We worked on that video for months," said Jessie Bond, a senior from Fairfax Station. "Not just because it was technically difficult, but because we wanted to respect the victims and we wanted to make something that would show people how important kindness is."

"You don't know what even the smallest act of kindness might mean to someone," added Shannon Lopynski, a senior and resident of Clifton.

Next on the agenda was a Pledge Banner that accompanied talks about the project. The banner now takes up the back of the SGA's classroom, filled with signatures and even a painted handprint or two.

The T-shirts serve several purposes. "One of the goals of the SGA," said Autumn Guckert, "is to promote unity among the students at Robinson. On the last day of our 26 Acts of Kindness challenge, we plan to get everybody together for a giant panoramic photo, all wearing their filled-in kindness t-shirts. What a way to show how all of us at Robinson pulled together to make a difference. Every time someone wears one of those shirts, the message gets broadcast again, maybe inspiring someone else to do something on their own."

The students plan to send the photo,

SEE KINDNESS, PAGE 7

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SCHOOLS

PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



Daniel Clements and Alison Neun co-sponsor the SGA class at Robinson: Clements teaches science and Neun is in special education.

Robinson Promoting Kindness

FROM PAGE 6

along with a story about their efforts and words of encouragement, to Sandy Hook Elementary. "And, of course," said Will Rowson, a sophomore from Fairfax sounding very much like the next generation's business leader, "you know that things that get written and recorded are the things that get done."

Guckert also knows how to work the press and the social media avenues to get the message out. The junior from Clifton contacted several media sources, including the Connection Newspapers and the local NBC affiliate. "It's not about recognition for us," said Guckert. "It's a way to take this effort to a larger audience, even beyond the walls of Robinson." The group was amazed that their 26 Acts of Kindness Twitter account "exploded on April 1st," as Shannon Lopynski described it. "We started the day with 20 followers. Before the end of the day we were over 200." At last check, there were 600-plus following the postings that good deed-doers were reporting. A browse through that Twitter log shows students and staff and friends and relatives excitedly adding their efforts to the quickly expanding list. "I made dinner for my family last night," read one tweet. "I am writing Thank You notes to teachers." "I made a donation to Autism Speaks." "I just helped our janitor clean up a mess—and thanked her for what she does!"

"I bought a Starbucks for the stranger in line behind me!" Scrolling down, good deeds, big and small, keep adding up.

"Sixty-two students will be cutting their hair to donate to Pantene's Beautiful Lengths program that collects human hair to produce wigs for cancer patients," said Alison Neun. Neun is a special education teacher at Robinson and the teacher co-sponsor of the SGA along with Daniel Clements, who teaches science. Neun and Clements both commented on how proud they were to be associated with the SGA. "All of them," said Clements. "They all participate," commented Neun. "They all support each other and the individual projects and campaigns they are working on. And they support the entire school by leadership and showing up for events, games, performances, everything across all stereotypical boundaries."

ROBINSON'S 26 ACTS OF KINDNESS campaign will come to its official close on April 26th, but if the members of the Student Government Association and the troops they have rallied throughout the school have anything to say about it, that date will not mark the end of the story—just the first chapter of a long series. Check out their YouTube video (search for 26 Acts of Kindness Robinson) and watch the good deeds multiply on their Twitter space at twitter.com/26Acts_Kindness.

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OPINION

Voting Again

Every year is election year in Virginia, and it's a bit much.

The most hotly contested race for statewide office in Virginia, the Republican contest for lieutenant governor, will be decided at a statewide convention on May 18. That's about a month from now.

A statewide Democratic primary will take place June 11.

On Nov. 5, all eyes will turn to Virginia to follow the conclusion of a fascinating race for governor. Democrat Terry McAuliffe will face Republican Ken Cuccinelli in a contest that will appeal to more conservative Republicans and more liberal Democrats.

The race will feature massive efforts to turn out the vote. Mailboxes will fill up with glossy mailers. Airwaves will no doubt reflect the election.

Wait, didn't we just do this?

Yes, but in 2013, Virginia will choose governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, and all 100 members of the House of Delegates. Arlington voters will also elect one member to the county board and one member to the school board. City of Alexandria voters will also elect a commonwealth's attorney and sheriff.

And it won't be simple.

Right now it appears that there are seven Republican candidates, two Democratic candidates and an Independent Green candidate running for lieutenant governor.

Republicans will choose from their seven can-

didates at a statewide convention on May 18. Here are the names of the seven: Jeannemarie Devolites Davis (R), former state senator and wife of former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis; E.W. Jackson Sr. (R); L. Scott Lingamfelter (R), state delegate; Steve Martin (R), state senator; Pete Snyder (R); Corey Stewart (R), Prince William County Board chair, and Susan Stimpson (R), Stafford County Board chair.

Democrats will choose a candidate for lieutenant governor in the statewide primary on June 11; candidates are Aneesh Chopra (D) and state Sen. Ralph Northam (D).

EDITORIAL

Two Republicans and two Democrats appear to be running for attorney general: Democrats Justin Fairfax and state Sen. Mark Herring would face off in the June 11 primary. Republicans would choose between candidates Del. Rob Bell (R) and state Sen. Mark Obenshain (R) at the state-wide convention May 18.

Town of Vienna voters will elect three members of its town council on May 7.

Virginia has a General Election every year on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November; that's Nov. 5, this year. Federal offices are elected in even-numbered years. State and local offices are elected in odd-numbered years. If primaries are called by the political parties, they are held on the second Tuesday in June; that's June 11, this year.

This is a formula for election fatigue, alter-

nating record voter turnout with tepid voter turnout. Realigning Virginia's election calendar so that the critical statewide races took place in presidential election years would increase voter participation, although this change is not simple and not likely.

The Virginia General Assembly voted this year to impose much more stringent voter identification requirements starting in July 2014, an unnecessary step that suppresses the votes of poor, elderly and minority voters. Instead, they should fund an annual mailing to all registered voters that summarizes what and who will be on the ballot. This would increase the integrity of elections, giving all voters a chance to arrive at the polls informed and engaged.

Here are some good sources for information on upcoming elections:

Virginia State Board of Elections, www.sbe.virginia.gov/.

Virginia Public Access Project, www.vpap.org/candidates?display=state.

Fairfax County Board of Elections, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/ecalendar.htm.

Alexandria Board of Elections, www.alexandriava.gov/Elections.

Arlington Board of Elections, www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationMain.aspx.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

COMMENTARY

Paving the Way

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

The Reconvened Session of the General Assembly that met last week concluded work for this year on the most significant funding program for transportation infrastructure approved by the legislature since the historic special session in 1986. The bill that had previously passed the legislature in the 2013 Regular Session was sent to the governor for his approval and signature. He proposed a series of amendments that were voted on last Wednesday, April 3, and approved by the House and the Senate. The governor will now sign the bill into law.

There is no getting around the fact that the new law will cost the motoring public some extra dollars. One advantage of the bill is that it raises most of the money from those who use the roads. The more vehicles you buy, the more gas you use, or the more cars you title the more you will pay for the construction and upkeep of the roads. This very point allowed some legislators who were opposed to raising taxes to vote for the bill, for they considered the new revenues to be coming from "user fees." By whatever name is necessary to develop public understanding, the new law establishes a framework for revenue growth that will help keep up with the cost of inflation and growth. The cents per gallon gasoline tax for example will be replaced with a sales tax on the wholesale price of gasoline. It is doubtful that there will be a noticeable change in gasoline prices at the pump considering the fluctuations in gas prices that already occur based on market factors.

The purchase of new cars has always had a reduced sales tax rate. The current 3.5 percent will become 4 percent on July 1, 2013, and will increase slightly each year until it reaches 4.15 percent on July 1, 2016, still below the sales tax on all other purchases. For the special needs of Northern Virginia there will also be a "congestion relief fee" of \$0.15 per \$100 value of the net sales price of a home. A transit occupancy tax on hotel rooms at the rate of 2 percent is also established for Northern Virginia. While the new law strengthens the statewide maintenance and construction fund, it recognizes the unique needs of the suburbs of Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads and provides that the special funds that are raised in those regions stays there for use in the region. No more sending money to Richmond with a percentage of it not making its way back. Language in the law also requires that priority be given to projects that offer relief from congestion.

There is a strong mass transit component to the law that provides funding for inter-city rail and \$300 million off the top to help with the funding of the Silver Line. The additional funds should help keep tolls to a more reasonable level on the Dulles Toll Road.

The governor offered an amendment at my request and the urging of others that the alternative fuel fee be eliminated or reduced. He chose to reduce it from \$100 to \$64. The House leadership has committed to a study of the fee during this year to consider if it should be re-assessed and if so, the amount, and the special vehicles to which it should apply. I expect major revisions on this issue in the 2014 session. The job is not totally complete in other areas as well. Clearly, though, we have paved the way for Virginians and the future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Alarmed by School Names

To the Editor:

Am I the only one alarmed by the presence of high schools named after confederate leaders? After our nation's long and divisive war, symbols of bigotry abound; this, however, is only amplified as a problem when the symbol is a high school.

To be clear, the "War of Northern Aggression" (as it is ridiculously called in some areas), and Virginia's part in it, are things to be ashamed of, not to glorify. Forcibly legitimizing treasonous villains, and allowing our children to be the recipient of our preposterous revisionism is wrong.

For example: The following high schools should be changing their names immediately:

Robert E Lee High School

JEB Stuart High School

Fairfax High School (Rebels)

Stonewall Jackson High School

To erroneously fight your country is wrong. To erroneously fight your country for your right to enslave is worse. To glorify those who have erroneously fought their country for their right to enslave is the worst thing we could be doing.

Kiran Hampton
Great Falls

Fairfax Station,
Lorton & Clifton
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Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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AREA ROUNDUPS

Smoke Alarms Alert Residents To Townhouse Fire

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded to a townhouse fire, Monday, April 8, at approximately 6:45 a.m., in the Lorton area of Fairfax County. The single family home is located at 9667 Potters Hill Circle.

Firefighters encountered heavy smoke coming from the garage, and light smoke from the windows in the rear of the three-story, middle unit townhouse upon arrival. Firefighters mounted an aggressive interior and exterior fire attack and brought the fire under control in approximately 10 minutes. Extensive overhaul and salvage operations were conducted throughout the home. Sounding smoke alarms provided early warning for the occupants, all escaping unharmed. Several adjacent townhouses received light smoke damage and were able to reoccupy after ventilation efforts by firefighters. Three adults and four children have been displaced. Red Cross is supporting the occupants. One firefighter was transported to the INOVA Lorton HealthPlex for a non-life threatening injury.

Damage is estimated at \$150,000, including a vehicle inside the garage.

According to the incident commander, the fire was accidental. The fire originated in a trash receptacle in the garage.

Police-involved Shooting in Franconia Area

Shortly before 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, police were called to a home in the 6600 block of Thurlton Drive in the Alexandria area of Fairfax County for the report of a possible suicidal subject. Officers arrived and encountered a 37-year-old man. Details are limited at this time; however, during that encounter, the man was shot by police. At least one officer performed CPR until Fairfax County Fire and Rescue arrived. The man was subsequently transported to a local hospital with life-threatening injuries.

No officers were injured during the incident.

Detectives from Homicide and Internal Affairs, along with Crime Scene technicians responded to the scene.

The officers involved in this incident will be placed on routine administrative leave as the department begins parallel criminal and administrative investigations.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.



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HomeLifeStyle

A Family Home Evolves

Sun Design Remodeling helps a local engineer find the indoor/outdoor solution he dreamed of for 25 years.

BY JOHN BYRD

Sometimes a good opportunity isn't obvious at first. To see what's possible, one must look past surfaces. The facade of a 3,400 square foot frame house at the end of a Fairfax Station cul-de-sac, for instance. The year is 1987. Engineer Scot Minesinger, then in his late 20s, is thinking about the future. At a glance, there are many things about the frame house Minesinger doesn't like, starting with a faux cross-gabled roof line that seems to have no reference in any architectural style. The "spindly" front porch and the

white vinyl siding are also detractors, as is the facade that's not so much understated as "bland." Around back, Minesinger finds nearly 60 linear feet of rear elevation varied only by smallish, builder-grade windows — a peculiar glazing design, given the lovely woodland setting all around. Still, the house had been on the market for two years, and Minesinger is looking for something to build his dreams on — a place where a future family might thrive in the fullness of time. Considered from this perspective: a house on two rolling acres



The front facade to the house Scot Minesinger purchased in the late 1980s was undistinguished, even bland. The engineer found the cross-gabled roof line particularly misconceived, but hoped to eventually introduce a more cohesive architecture.

has a lot to offer, the only real problem being to figure out how that emergent "family home" — redesigned to taste — will actually look. "I wasn't in a hurry," Minesinger



The Colonial-style elaboration developed by Sun Design Remodeling explores resonant 18th century detailing, starting with the cultured stone cladding on the lower level and chimneys. Decorative entablature above windows, crown molding and period railing spindles build a style-appropriate profile, yet the existing windows and shutters were re-used.

said, explaining the 25-year gap between the dream and its fulfillment. "I wanted a more sustainable home energy system first. And while I saw the potentials in the rear of the house, I was looking for the combination of suitable influences that would move the project forward." So the big picture unfolds incrementally. In 1996, after occupying the house for six years, Minesinger designed a geothermal-based energy system, which he installed in the front yard. "My winter utility bills dropped to about half," he said. "It was a step towards independence that makes other changes possible."

That said, it may be unsurprising to learn that one so ardently methodical eventually discovered how he wanted his house to look by hiring a design build firm to help him think it through. "My wife, Carolyn, had been clipping stories from magazines for years," Minesinger said. "We wanted the house to be appropriate to this terrific setting, but we needed people with real experience to help us shape our ideas."

ENTER SUN DESIGN REMODELING of Burke, a residential design/build firm recognized for innovative whole-house makeovers. "It was critically important to me to find a process through which Carolyn and I could explore our thoughts together. In this regard, the 3-D space modeling approach offered by Sun Design made everything much easier,"

Minesinger said.

The first breakthrough: recognizing that the existing, vaguely "eclectic" front facade needed to firmly define itself — as classic colonial with distinctive early American accents.

"The architectural identity became fairly obvious once we sat down with Sun Design," Minesinger said. "Carolyn's interest in using stone nudged us in a style direction that really fits the setting. In fact, you can still see this kind of stone work in historical homes nearby — especially as you head west into hill country."

Thus, the spindly porch supports have been replaced by sturdier columns with a more stately profile. Porch railings are now period-specific. Decorative entablature crown each window.

At ground level, cultured stone cladding graces the exposed lower level, the new porch support piers and the chimneys. A second chimney has been added to the front facade, an architectural salute to Virginia's classic Georgians. Likewise, new siding — in tan and khaki with bright white trim — accentuates the new facade's textured warmth.

Meanwhile, on the rear elevation, Sun Design developed a distinctive indoor/outdoor plan purposed to multi-generational requirements.

And that works. The three children are now teens. Clever "zoning" solutions confer both the pri-

More

Sun Design Remodeling sponsors tours of recently remodeled homes as well as workshops on home remodeling topics. Headquartered in Burke, the firm recently opened a second office in McLean. Call 703-425-5588 or visit www.SunDesignInc.com.

vacy and easy interaction needed to satisfy the family's varied, and foreseeable, needs

"The patio room evolved logically," Minesinger said. "It's directly linked to the dining room; a great spot to take in the view ... without getting your feet wet."

Still, the room is, by definition, "transitional" to the outdoor experience. Though it's over 400 square feet, there was no corresponding modification to the home's HVAC system. Instead, the design calls for two-ply insulated glass on three-sides, and features a floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace.

"The enclosure stays really comfortable without any additional heating or cooling support," Minesinger said, referring to the spaciouly open addition as "a second family room."

Overhead, a private balcony linked to the master bedroom suite gives the adult Minesingers a quiet treetop perch from which to take it all in.

Exiting the patio room through French doors, the open-air plan unfolds as a series of terraced activity zones: a 12-by-16-foot deck; a cozy covered porch cooled by a

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HADLEY PHOTOGRAPHY



The entrance from the driveway emphasizes the soft, yet textured elements that characterize the design as a whole.

pair of overhead rotating fans.

Both structures, in turn, segue along their respective low-rise staircases to a flagstone patio where the family generally gathers to enjoy grilling and warm weather dining.

Rounding out the picture: a 1196-square-foot two-level outbuilding created to shelter

Minesinger's collection of vintage 1970s Cadillacs.

As with every other aspect of the project, the design called for carefully scaling-back the new structure's mass, concentrating on architecturally sympathetic rooflines and elevations.

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42344 Astors Beachwood.....\$800,000.....Sun 1-4.....Chris Pezzana.....Weichert..703-447-1662
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12130 Sangsters Ct.....\$1,425,000.....Sun 12-3.....Leslie Thurman.....Long & Foster..703-895-6000
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6205 Simpson Patent Ct.....\$710,000.....Sun 1-4.....Christine Shevock.....RE/MAX..703-475-3986

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3804 Munson Rd.....\$819,000.....Sun 1-4.....Patrick Kessler.....Keller Williams..703-405-6540
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Burke/Burke Cove \$249,950
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Fairfax Sta/South Run \$839,950
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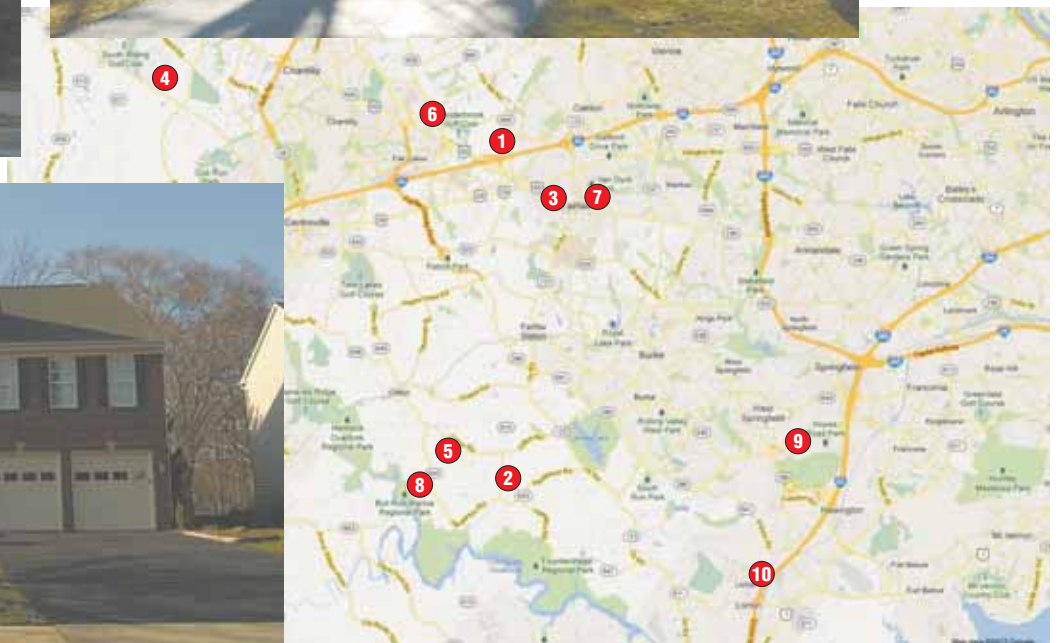
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26 Antiques

109 Prof. Services

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY

THERESA MARIE PATCHAN "Terre"

Of Burke, VA passed on April 3, 2013; unexpectedly at her home. Born in Philadelphia, PA. Beloved wife of Peter D. Patchan; devoted mother of Ambeth (Benjamin) Griffin, and Peter T. Patchan; daughter of Thomas and Florence Staker; sister of Thomas, Patricia, Cathleen, Steven and Jane. She is also survived by one grandchild Natalie; and aunt to many loved nieces and nephews. She retired after 30 years as a Teacher with Fairfax County Public Schools. Mass of Christian Burial was held at Church of the Nativity of our Lord, 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke, VA 22015 on Monday, April 8, 2013 at 1 p.m. Interment to follow at Fairfax Memorial Park. In Terre's honor, donations may be made to Cherry Run Elementary Library, 9732 Ironmaster Drive, Burke, VA 22015.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

According to the Lease by and between (1112) Alan Cottrell and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the Manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: boxes, furniture, TVs, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on April 18, 2013 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

According to the Lease by and between (2028) Andre W Hicks and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the Manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: bike, chair, boxes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on April 18, 2013 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

According to the Lease by and between (24032) Shirley Jones and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the Manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: totes, boxes, clothes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on April 18, 2013 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

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21 Announcements

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COMMUNITY

Republican Women of Clifton to Discuss Prevention of Voter Fraud

The Republican Women of Clifton (RWC) will feature Crystal Wright, editor of www.conservativeblackchick.com, who will address "How Can the GOP Move Forward and Become a Winning Party Again?" and Hans Von Spakovsky, a senior legal fellow at the Heritage Foundation, who will talk about "Preserving Democracy—Election Reform and the Dangers of Voter Fraud" at its April meeting. The event will be on Wednesday, April 17, at the Fairview Elementary School, 5815 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, and the social hour will begin at 7 p.m. when refreshments will be served. President Alice Butler-Short will open the business meeting at 7:30 p.m., after which the speakers will present their topics and answer questions.

Crystal Wright is a black conservative woman living in Washington, D.C. Some would say she is a triple minority: woman, black and a Republican living in a Democrat-dominated city. She's contemplating moving back to her home state of Virginia. By day, Wright is a communications consultant as well as editor and publisher of the website, conservativeblackchick.com.

As a senior legal fellow at the Heritage Foundation and manager of the Civil Justice Reform Initiative in the Center for Legal and Judicial Studies, Hans von Spakovsky concentrates on voting, elections, campaign finance, civil justice and tort reform, civil rights, immigration enforcement and government reform. He is the author, along with John Fund, of *Who's Counting? How Fraudsters and Bureaucrats Put Your Vote at Risk* (Encounter Books, August 2012). Von Spakovsky served as vice chairman of the Fairfax County Electoral Board, respon-



Crystal Wright



Hans Von Spakovsky

sible for administering elections in the largest county in Virginia from 2010 to 2013.

"The future of the Republican Party and prevention of voter fraud are timely and important issues," said Butler-Short. "We are pleased to have such knowledgeable people talk about these topics."

Attendance is open to RWC

members and their guests, members of other Republican women's clubs interested in becoming associate members, husbands of members interested in becoming associate members and all Republican women interested in becoming members.

For more information, visit www.cliftongop.com.

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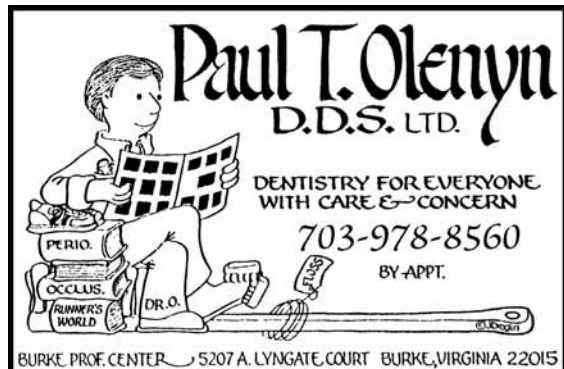


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THE CONNECTION



Challenger league players are ready to play ball as they wave from their float during the kick-off parade on Saturday, April 6, Fairfax County Little League Opening Day.

Opening Day

Fairfax County Little League kicks off a news season.

The Fairfax County Little League held their Opening Day festivities on Saturday, April 6, at Chilcott Baseball Field on Oak Street. Area dignitaries—from state delegates to Fairfax City and County representatives—took part in the parade as well as hundreds of players, family members and volunteers.

Lake Braddock freshman Kayley Anna Manarchuck sang before the Fairfax County Little League Opening Day Game Saturday, April 6.



Challenger players Leslie Spittery and Michael Hudson are ready to play on Opening Day of the Fairfax County Little League, Saturday, April 6.



Artistic Duo IV

Watercolor artist Carolyn Grossé and photographer Stephen Gawarecki exhibit their work at a joint show at Green Spring Horticultural Center Gallery, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, through Sunday, April 28, daily from noon-4:30 p.m. Grossé's paintings range from realistic to abstract and Gawarecki's work features a window series as well as moody landscapes. The artists' reception is on Sunday, April 7, from 1-3:30 p.m. 703-642-5173.

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/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 abuse. www.womansclubofspringfield.org.

Annual Congressional Art Competition. 2-4 p.m., at the McGuireWoods Gallery, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. An exhibition of Virginia high school art submitted for the Annual Congressional Art Competition from the 11th Congressional District; one young artist from the Workhouse exhibit will have his/her work exhibited in the U.S. Capitol. www.workhousearts.org.

The U.S. Army Chorus Community Concert. 5 p.m. at Westwood Baptist Church, 8200 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. This is the fourth time in recent years that the chorus has performed at the church. www.westwood-baptist.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 16

Glory Days Grill Celebrates 17th Anniversary. Local Glory Days Grill locations (18 in total) will donate 10 percent of all food sales to LLS to help fund their mission to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma. <http://www.glorydaysgrill.com/#whats->

new/news/2012/partner-leukemia-lymphoma-society.

THURSDAY/APRIL 18

21st Anniversary Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards. 8-10 a.m., at the Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. One of the largest community-wide recognition events honors 154 volunteers with 400 guests expected in attendance; tickets available through April 12. \$40 for individuals; \$60 for corporate guests. www.volunteerfairfax.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 20

Standing Room Only. 11 a.m.-7 p.m., at the Vulcan Gallery, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A selection of 20 artist-customized bike seats. This show will transform the everyday and familiar seat into a work of art; what is usually seen as a tool for sitting and part of the bicycle unit will become an object of display and will be exhibited as such, standing on pedestals as purely an art object. www.workhousearts.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 21

NTRAK display and N Gauge Trains. 1-4 p.m., at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax. Display of the Northern Virginia NTRAK (T-

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 17

FAITH NOTES

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

Knollwood Community Church Fellowship Center. 10000 Coffey 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.

Reverend Russell D. Heiland, Jr. has been appointed senior minister by the **Unity of Fairfax Board of**

Trustees. During interviews at Unity of Fairfax, Rev. Heiland shared his enthusiasm for youth, family and campus ministries. He finds young adult ministry to be especially rewarding and invites church leaders to think, act and be outside the box.

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.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 16

TRAK layout). \$3 for adults. \$1 for children. 703-425-9225 or www.fairfax-station.org.

MONDAY/APRIL 22

Kindergarten Orientation. 2-3:30 p.m., at Rolling Valley Elementary School, 6703 Barnack Drive, Springfield. Rising kindergarten students and their parents are invited to tour the school, meet the teachers, see the classrooms and meet other students. 703-923-2700.

TUESDAY/APRIL 30

Event Planning Expo Open House. 4:30-7:30 p.m., at Empire Nightclub, 6335 Rolling Road, Springfield. Area vendors share information from open exhibit stations; exhibitor space available. lori@empire-nova.com or www.empirevenue.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 11

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Masterworks VI. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Christopher Zimmerman, tenor Brennen Guillory and soprano Joni Henson perform Wagner's "Prelude and Liebestod," Tristan und Isolde and Prelude to Act 3, Lohengrin; Verdi's Overture to La Forza del Destino, Overture to I vespri siciliani, Love Duet Finale Act I Otello, "Dio ti giocondi, O Sposo" Otello, "Dio mi potevi, scagliar" Otello, Willow Song Otello and "Libiamo," La Traviata. \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 17

The Enchantment of Beauty and the Beast. 7 p.m., at Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. The Rose Hill Players will perform the play "The Enchantment of Beauty and the Beast." \$5 for adults; \$3 for children.

SATURDAY/MAY 18

The Enchantment of Beauty and the Beast. 7 p.m., at Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. The Rose Hill Players will perform the play "The Enchantment of Beauty and the Beast." \$5 for adults; \$3 for children.

THURSDAY/MAY 30

Friends of Richard Byrd Library Book Sale. 3-9 p.m., at Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Find media offerings of all kinds, many in pristine condition, to use as a gift or to start a summer reading stack; credit cards accepted. rbfriends@gmail.com.

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SATURDAY/JUNE 1

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SPORTS



Lake Braddock shortstop Jack Owens had a pair of doubles against West Springfield on April 5.



Lake Braddock senior Thomas Rogers has been cleared to pitch on a limited basis.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock Baseball Getting Healthy

Bruins blast West Springfield as team bounces back from injuries.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

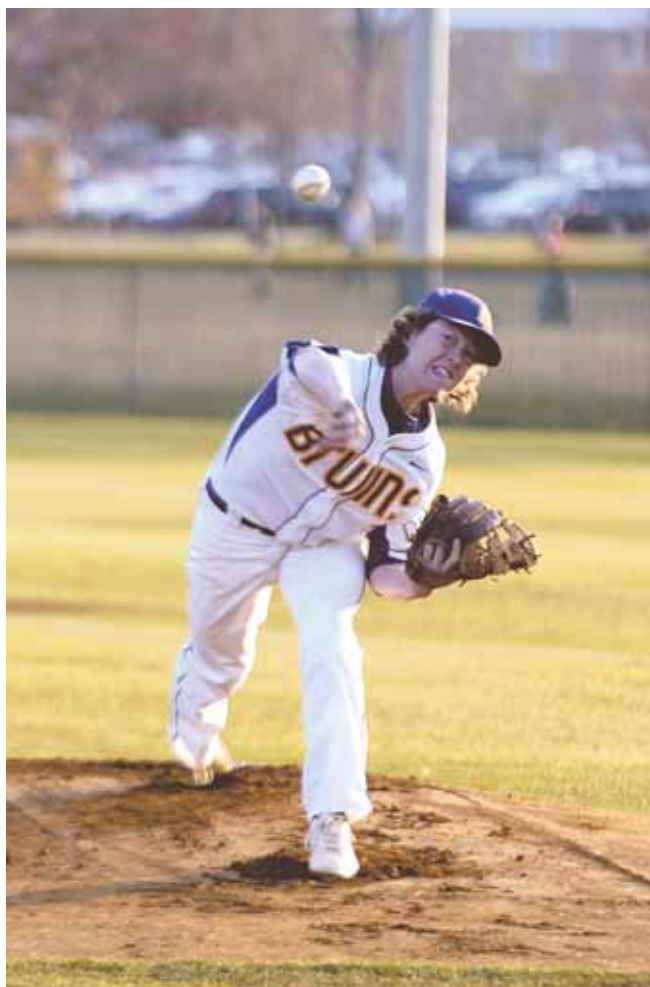
The Lake Braddock baseball team has labored through a slew of injuries early in the season, with several key athletes either missing time or limited in their contributions.

The Bruins lost two of their first five games after entering the season ranked No. 12 nationally by MaxPreps.com. Last season, when Lake Braddock won the program's first state championship, the Bruins started 9-0 and did not suffer their second loss until game No. 19.

Now, nearly one month into the season, Lake Braddock is starting to get some players healthy. Left-handed pitcher Thomas Rogers, who threw a four-hit shutout in last year's state championship game, is cleared to pitch on a limited basis after having Tommy John surgery on Aug. 27. Sophomore pitcher Matt Supko returned from a back injury with hopes of becoming a key contributor on the mound.

As others progress, Lake Braddock figures to improve. But even though the Bruins aren't at full strength, they were plenty good enough on April 5 to avenge last season's loss to rival West Springfield in the Northern Region championship game.

LAKE BRADDOCK, ranked No. 2 in the latest Northern Region coaches poll, defeated West Springfield 11-1 in five innings at Lake Braddock Secondary School. After beating the Spartans twice during the 2012 regular season and again in the Patriot District championship game, the Bru-



Lake Braddock junior Joe Darcy earned the win against West Springfield on April 5, allowing one unearned run in four innings.

ins lost to West Springfield in the region final before running the table at states. On Friday, junior pitcher Joe Darcy limited the Spartans to one unearned run in four in-

nings while earning the victory. The right-hander allowed two hits while walking one and striking out three.

"He did good," Lake Braddock head coach Jody Rutherford said. "He's one of the guys that's getting healthy. I really wasn't expecting him to go four. He kept his pitch count down which ... got him deeper into the game."

"I wouldn't say [we're] hitting our stride. We've still got our best ball in front of us."

— Lake Braddock baseball coach Jody Rutherford

At the plate, junior shortstop Jack Owens had a pair of doubles and an RBI. Senior third baseman Alex Lewis had a hit and three RBIs. Rogers finished with a double and an RBI, Supko had a two-run single and Darcy had an RBI single.

"It's been tough, but I think it's made us a better team," Owens said about the Bruins dealing with injuries. "The chemistry in the dugout, we've all gotten strong. Kids who normally wouldn't play [when others are] healthy ... have played and they got a taste for what it's like ..."

While things are looking up for Lake Braddock, Rutherford said the team has room for improvement, including finding

someone other than senior Nick McIntyre to step up from a pitching standpoint.

"I wouldn't say [we're] hitting our stride," Rutherford said. "We've still got our best ball in front of us. I thought we played a pretty good game against South County [on April 3]. I was pleased that we came out and performed good today."

West Springfield, on the other hand, is struggling. The Spartans got the leadoff man on base in the first inning when shortstop Taylor Boyd led off with a single, but they came up empty. In the bottom half of the inning, a two-out Spartan error opened the door for three Lake Braddock runs.

Starting pitcher Blake Bird allowed eight runs — three earned — and six hits over four innings. The left-hander hit four batters and struck out two.

"We've got a lot of growing up to do," West Springfield head coach Jason Olms said. "We're inexperienced, we're young, but those are just excuses. We've got to get better. We're nowhere near we need to be right now. ..."

"I think Blake did a pretty good job. We're going to need him to go longer, but I think he did a pretty good job — we didn't help him out at all. He kept guys off balance and threw strikes for the most part, just ended up getting a little tired in the fourth."

WEST SPRINGFIELD lost to South County 5-1 on Tuesday, dropping its record to 3-7 overall and 0-4 in the Patriot District. The Spartans have dropped five straight and were outscored 29-3 by T.C. Williams, Lake Braddock and South County.

West Springfield will host Lee at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 12.

Lake Braddock defeated West Potomac 8-2 on Tuesday to improve to 8-2 overall and 4-0 in the district. The Bruins have won five in a row and will host Woodson at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 12.

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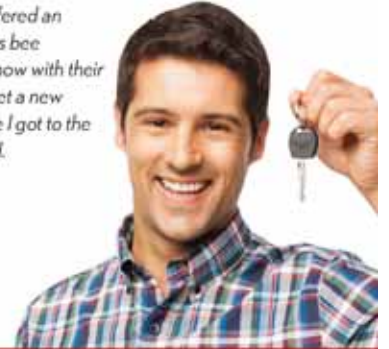
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