

# SkateFest Supports Children's Hospital

NEWS, PAGE 4

Nick Campero, 21, of Fair Woods in Fairfax, practices his skateboarding jumps off the ramp in between competition at the 7th Annual SkateFest – Sk8 for a Cause skateboarding event held Friday and Saturday at Wakefield Skate Park.

Meier Reflects  
On His Decade  
At Robinson

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Housing's  
Roaring  
Rebound?

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# CARING FOR OUR Watersheds™

## 2013 Contest Winners Announced

**Thank you to all the students, teachers and partners who participated this year!** Hundreds of area students in grades 6-8 competed to develop solutions to watershed issues. Classroom teams presented their proposals at the School Environmental Action Showcase on

April 24 at George Mason University in Fairfax. This program empowers students to imagine, develop and create solutions in their local watersheds, as they develop research, problemsolving, budgeting, community- involvement and presentation skills.

**Nearly \$12,000 was awarded** in cash prizes and school awards. Agrium is also providing \$10,000 to help implement student ideas.

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**Lanier Middle School** students won top honors for their project to prevent erosion on the school grounds.

### Alexandria/Arlington/Fairfax Finalists, Grades 6-8

Final Place	Award	Proposal Name	School
1	\$1,000	Loosening Erosion's Grip	Lanier Middle School
2	\$900	Frankenfish	H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program
3	\$800	Rain Gardens	Centreville Elementary School
4	\$700	Bean There Grown That	George Washington Middle School 2
5	\$600	Scare-Beasts Scare Geese	Kenmore Middle School
6	\$500	Rain Check	George Washington Middle School 2
7	\$450	Hit the Lights	George Washington Middle School 2
8	\$400	More White Oaks for a Greener Community	Kenmore Middle School
9	\$350	Rooftop Garden	Kenmore Middle School
10	\$300	Lincolnia Community Garden	Lincolnia Community Center

**CaringForOurWatersheds.com**





PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

**Oakton East, a Stanley Martin townhome development, is billed as a “downsizer’s dream.” The 35 “large, luxury townhomes” begin at \$700,000 for 2,700 to 3,800 square feet of finished living space. On Friday, construction crews began work early on the development, which is almost sold out. For more information, go to [www.stanleymartin.com](http://www.stanleymartin.com).**



**A construction worker frames the second story of a townhome in Pulte’s MetroWest development, a new Fairfax infill development of 50 homes that includes luxury condos and townhomes in the \$550,000 to \$800,000 range. For more information, go to [www.pulte.com/communities/va/fairfax/metrowest](http://www.pulte.com/communities/va/fairfax/metrowest).**

# Housing’s Roaring Rebound?

**Pent-up demand creates seller’s market for Northern Virginia real estate.**

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

**I**n February, Patricia Stack, a broker with Weichert Realtors, held an open house for a single-family home for sale in Vienna just listed for \$739,000. Within three hours, more than 70 people toured the home.

“The home went under contract substantially above list price,” Stack said. “2013 has started with a bang in Northern Virginia real estate. In fact, it appears to be a market more like 2005-2006 than anything we’ve seen since,” Stack said.

“Buyers seem finally to be realizing that prices have bottomed out and the current combination of low prices and historically low interest rates will likely not be repeated in our lifetimes,” Stack said.

Alison Sherman, an agent with Keller-Williams in McLean, is seeing the same trend. In the spring, she sold a home in Vienna in three days with multiple offers.

The 5-bedroom Colonial, built in 1976 on Ferol Drive, listed for just under \$1 million, and sold \$132,000 above list price.

“It’s a great time to sell your home. Statistics show the average sales price is up and the average days on market are down,” Sherman said.

**REAL ESTATE FOCUS  
SUMMER 2013**

Buoyed by low mortgage rates, low regional unemployment, growth in the number of households and rising consumer confidence, the residential real estate market in Fairfax County and the rest of Northern Virginia has rebounded in a big way.

Unlike the last five years, demand is up and supply is down. In fact, in some particularly desirable neighborhoods, the transition from a buyer’s market to a seller’s market is all but complete.

Call it the new “reality in realty.” “There is an oversupply of buyers and less inventory right now in the market,” said Anil Khanna, a real estate broker with Champion Homes Realty in Chantilly. “I have seen it to be a seller’s market based on the number of offers I have seen with the properties that I have bid on for buyers.”

Khanna added that low interest rates are beginning to rise, and that has created a sense of urgency with buyers.

According to Freddie Mac, the rate for a 30-year, conventional, fixed-rate mortgage rose to 3.54 percent in May from 3.45 percent in April.

“Many buyers are trying to purchase something this year rather than next, due to the anticipated increase in interest rates,” Khanna said.

Despite some similarities to the boom period in housing nearly a decade ago, market conditions that led to the housing bust are vastly different, according to national housing experts.

“The boom period was marked by easy credit and overbuilding, but today we have tight mortgage credit and widespread shortages of homes for sale,”

SEE DEMAND, PAGE 9



**Local developer John Sekas created Oakcrest Farms, an “ensemble of seven high-end single-family homes selling for more than \$1.5 million with at least 5,000 square feet.” The development is embedded in the original Oakcrest Farms community, which has 54 colonial-style homes built in the 1980s. Located off Hunter Mill Road between Vale Road and Route 123, the development has sold four of the seven homes, which feature gourmet kitchens, stone fireplaces and two-story family rooms, and optional media rooms. For more information, go to [www.sekashomes.com](http://www.sekashomes.com).**





Imoh Ekasi-Otu, 18, of Fairfax shows his moves in the 18-under Half Pipe event, where he placed third. He also placed third in the Street Course.



Richard Pastore, 18, of Fairfax competes in the 18-under Street Course.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

# SkateFest Raises \$11,500 for Children's Hospital

Skateboarders from all over compete in Sk8 for a Cause.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

Some 250 skateboarders from as far away as Missouri and Pennsylvania traveled to Wakefield Skate Park in Annandale Friday and Saturday, June 21 and 22, to compete in the seventh Annual SkateFest—Sk8 for a Cause, which raised \$11,500 for Children's National Medical Center in the district.

Most of the skateboarders were from Fairfax County and competed in five events, including the Street Course, Best Trick Contest, Half Pipe Jam, Fairfax Surf Shop Team Tryout, and Game of S.K.A.T.E events in the 19-over, 18-under, 14-under, and 11-under age groups.

The preliminary tryouts started on Friday with the two main festival events—the Game of S.K.A.T.E. and Sk8 for a Cause on Saturday. In the Sk8 for a Cause, participants skated through a check-pointed route through Wakefield Park and received free prizes as they rode along the route. Participants received \$20,000 in donated prizes, skateboard parts, T-shirts, hats and stickers. The event was presented by Fairfax Surf Shop and Wakefield Skate Park.



Dominic Doyle (left) and Luke Kennedy present a \$1,000 check to Children's Hospital from DK Skate.



The competitors at the seventh Annual SkateFest—Sk8 for a Cause skateboarding event held Friday and Saturday at Wakefield Skate Park.

And the winners are ....

## 11 & UNDER:

Half Pipe Jam  
First: Josh Herrmann  
Second: Jared Easter  
Third: Jonathan Chen  
Best Trick  
First: Josh Herrmann  
Second: Jared Easter  
Third: Angus Rieks  
Street Course  
First: Angus Rieks  
Second: Jared Easter  
Third: Josh Herrmann

## 14 & UNDER:

Half Pipe Jam  
First: Kwesi Un Holloway  
Second: Subway Alvarez  
Third: Jakie Kalina  
Best Trick  
First: Jason Nam  
Second: Subway Alvarez  
Third: Kwesi Un Holloway  
Street Course  
First: Kwesi Un Holloway  
Second: Jason Nam  
Third: Alex Steward

## 18 & UNDER:

Half Pipe Jam  
First: Maurio McCoy  
Second: Hugo Flores  
Third: Imoh Ekasi-Ota  
Best Trick  
First: Maurio McCoy  
Second: Bradley Cuelbaro  
Third: Patrick Parman  
Street Course  
First: Maurio McCoy  
Second: Kevin Ha  
Third: Imoh Ekasi-Ota

## 19 & OVER

Half Pipe Jam  
First: Dan Corrigan  
Second: Ian Mondragon  
Third: Elliot Mondragon  
Best Trick  
First: Dan Corrigan  
Second: Rom Ghobacci  
Third: Rick Berry  
Street Course  
First: Dan Corrigan  
Second: Elliot Katz  
Third: Zeek Rodriguez



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## Robbery and Shooting in Mantua

At approximately 9 p.m. on Wednesday, June 19, officers responded to the sound of gun shots in the 9300 block of Tovito Drive. An investigation revealed a 17-year-old boy was approached by four individuals known to him. They demanded his cell phone. A fifth suspect remained in a vehicle. The 17-year-old complied and was not injured. The five robbery suspects then confronted another 17-year-old boy, also known to them. During this altercation, the 17-year-old produced a handgun and fired it several times wounding one of the five individuals. All five fled the scene. One of the five, an 18-year-old young man, went to Inova Fairfax Hospital with non life-threatening injuries.

After an investigation, the 17-year-old, who allegedly fired the weapon, was arrested without incident, transported to the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center, and charged with malicious wounding and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

The investigation into the robbery continues.

## Countywide Transit Network Study

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation is conducting the Countywide Transit Network Study to determine the type of transit systems needed to accommodate forecasted growth throughout the county over the next several decades. The study has developed a proposed concept plan for where Metrorail should be extended, where light-rail systems are appropriate, and where dedicated lanes that allow buses to move faster could go. The study will also recommend how the system can be phased in and funded over time.

The public is invited to participate in the study's third public meeting and workshop to discuss the proposed High Quality Transit Network (HQTN) concept. It's slated for Wednesday, July 10, in rooms 4 and 5 of the Fairfax County Government Center. There'll be an open-house format from 6-9 p.m., with a 20-minute presentation at 7 p.m.

The public meeting will present preliminary recommendations for the HQTN corridors and describe the network's benefits for the county and its residents. For more

SEE WEEK, PAGE 6

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## Be Part of The Pet Connection in July

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or complete our online form at [fairfaxconnection.com](http://fairfaxconnection.com)

Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, and identify all people and pets in photos. Submission deadline is July 19.

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## WEEK IN FAIRFAX

FROM PAGE 5  
information, see  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/2050transitstudy](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/2050transitstudy) and join the conversation online via the IdeaScale discussion board at [www.fairfaxcountydot.ideascale.com/](http://www.fairfaxcountydot.ideascale.com/). The next steps in the study will be to respond to the commentary received on the proposed concept, consider and incorporate potential revisions and develop final study recommendations this fall.

## Chick-fil-A Seeks People to Dress As Cows

On Tuesday, July 2, at George Mason University's field house, the Northern Virginia Chick-fil-A restaurants will attempt to break the world record for the largest number of people dressed as cows. As part of the world record attempt that begins at 10 a.m., the restaurants are asking all participants to bring a nonperishable food item for donation to the Capital Area Food Bank.

The official count will begin at 11 a.m. To be "counted" as a cow, each participant must wear a one- or two-piece cow suit with a head-piece or decorated hood, plus a tail. All shoes must be black or white to match the cow suit. For participants interested in decorating a pre-approved costume, Chick-fil-A is providing one-piece cow suits at local restaurants while supplies last.

Chick-fil-A will also offer door prizes and giveaways at the event. The first 500 participants to arrive at the Patriot Center will receive a mini plush cow. If the record is broken, Chick-fil-A will randomly select 10 winners to receive one Chick-fil-A sandwich meal per week for a year (52 meals total).

Photographers, a deejay and children's activities will be part of the fun. The field house is at 4501 University Drive in Fairfax.



A playful kitten.

## Join the 'Extravacatza'

In hopes of encouraging people to adopt cats and kittens, the Fairfax County Animal Shelter has designated July as "Extravacatza." Adoptive families will receive half-off adoption fees, plus free spay and neuter, on cats and kittens. Senior cat adopters will receive gift bags.

The shelter is at 4500 West Ox Road in Fairfax; on Wednesdays, it's open until 9 p.m. for evening

adoptions. People already owning cats may come and receive advice on Saturdays, July 6, 13, 20 and 27, from a shelter cat expert. They may also learn proper cat-handling techniques and, on July 18, there's a social hour to talk about helping cats in Fairfax County.

For all July shelter events and classes, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/calendar/ShowCalendar.aspx>.

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## NEWS

### Community Leaders to Join Fairfax Library Foundation Board

Fairfax Library Foundation elected Jason Underwood of StrataPoint Financial to its board of directors and chose Brian Engler as its new chair of the board of directors. The foundation also added two new members to its advisory board: Dr. Binh T. Nguyen, F.C.C.P., of Walter Reed, and Dr. Gerald Gordon of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, both previously members of the Board of Directors.

Brian Engler, currently serving on the Board of Directors, was elected to the chair of the board after former chair Lieutenant Colonel Richard T. Brady of the United States Marine Corps resigned earlier this year due to his relocation to the Republic of Georgia.

Outgoing directors are: Duwain Ketch, who served as chair of the Scholarship Committee along with his duties as a board member, and will continue to sit on the Scholarship Committee; Dr. Binh T. Nguyen, who will serve on the advisory board; and Robin D. Thurman, of SRA International, who will continue to serve on the Advocacy and Marketing Commit-



**Brian Engler, Fairfax Library Foundation's newly elected chair of the board of directors.**

tee. Community members Ilyse Gart, Fran Millhouser, Travis White and Frank Whittington will join the Scholarship Committee as well, beginning Fiscal Year 2014.

The Fairfax Library Foundation welcomes community interest and support. Learn more at [www.FairfaxLibraryFoundation.org](http://www.FairfaxLibraryFoundation.org).

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JULY 8—JULY 12.....KUNG-FU PANDA (PG)  
JULY 15—JULY 19.....MONSTERS V.S. ALIENS (PG)  
JULY 22—JULY 26.....CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS (PG)  
JULY 29—AUGUST 2.....MEGAMIND (PG)

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



# OPINION

## Ready for Your Pet's Close-up?

**T**he Pet Connection, a bi-annual themed edition, will publish July 24. We invite you to send us stories about your pets, photos of you and/or your family with your cats, dogs, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your home or yard with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures. Can your dog catch a Frisbee 10 feet in the air, or devour an entire pizza when you turn your back for less than a minute?

**EDITORIALS** Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Tell us about your experience.

You can also take this opportunity to memorialize a pet you have lost.

Send photos and identify everyone in the photo including the pets and tell us what is happening in the photo, and include your ad-

dress (we will only print the town name).

Submissions should arrive by July 18.

Email [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com), or submit photos and stories directly on our website at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets/).

## Careful While Going Faster

If you have driven on the new 495 Express Lanes, you might wonder if the people who decided to raise the speed limit to 65 have driven on them. At the current prices, the Express Lanes are appealing whenever you really need to get somewhere and you have doubts about the flow of traffic.

But the first few times you drive on the Express Lanes, they are confusing. Which Tysons' exit do I take for the Ritz Carlton? Will it be on the left or the right? When I get off, will I have to deal with a stop light, a stop sign or a merge? What on earth is the

driver next to me doing?

The Express Lanes are not attracting as many drivers as predicted, so now there is the added incentive of being able to go faster in those lanes than on the rest of the Beltway where the speed limit is 55 even if there isn't backed up traffic on the other lanes.

## Changes July 1

Many actions of the 2013 General Assembly go into effect July 1.

Here are three things to know that kick in July 1:

- ♦ Sales tax increases to 6 percent in Northern Virginia to help pay for transportation.

- ♦ Texting while driving becomes a primary offense, meaning that you can be pulled over if an officer sees you using your phone or thinks you are texting because you are looking down.

- ♦ Mandatory minimum sentence of one year in jail for those repeatedly convicted of driving (or boating) under the influence. (Repeatedly in this case means the third time.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Foster Care Training Offered This July

To the Editor:

Every day, children come into the foster care system and need a temporary home. To ease the burden of moving and change, foster care programs make it a priority to place children within their own school system. With this goal in mind, Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS) is recruiting adults from every community in Northern Virginia to participate in its next foster parent training, July 13, 20 and 27, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the NVFS office in Oakton. Coffee and a light lunch will be provided.

The training is the first step into becoming a certified foster parent, and is also required for families interested in providing short-term weekend foster care. Trainees will learn about the foster care system; how NVFS supports foster parents, including round-the-clock access to case managers; and best practices in foster care. Families must complete a home study, and foster parents must be at least 21 years old.

To register or for more information about becoming a foster parent through NVFS, visit [www.nvfs.org/fostercare](http://www.nvfs.org/fostercare), or contact Ginny Snaider, LCSW, NVFS training and placement supervisor, at 571-748-2557 or [gsnaider@nvfs.org](mailto:gsnaider@nvfs.org).

Northern Virginia Family Service is a private, nonprofit organization

dedicated to helping vulnerable families and children. Each year, NVFS helps nearly 30,000 people find safe and stable housing, children and youth services, affordable health care, workforce development programs and emergency services through a variety of community-funded programs and initiatives. NVFS is an innovator of efficient and comprehensive service methods, and has been recognized nationally for its effectiveness in creating sustained financial and social independence for its clients.

**Jacqueline Pujol**  
Oakton

## Train To Help In Emergencies

To the Editor:

The National Capital Region's 3rd annual Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Convention, hosted by the Fairfax County CERT Team, will take place June 28-29 at the Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus.

CERTCon 2013 is a two-day seminar/functional exercise that offers training, networking and sharing of best practices to CERT members in the National Capital Region.

Saturday, June 29, will feature a lecture series from practicing professionals in the fields of emergency management, public health preparedness, and disaster psychology. The speakers are drawn

from a variety of organizations and agencies, including FEMA, NOAA, Virginia Task Force-1 (TF-1), and the National Association for Search & Rescue. Topics will include Stress and Trauma Management for First Responders, Pet First Aid, WMD & IED threat picture, Communications during a disaster, People with disabilities and disasters, Search and Rescue, Wilderness First Aid, Hazmat, and how to conduct Windshield Surveys.

Sunday, June 30, will feature a hands-on drill at the former Lorton reformatory which is now used as a disaster training site. This exercise will give the participants an opportunity to sharpen and advance their skills and work together as a multijurisdictional team.

CERT members go through 36 hours of training at their local Fire and Rescue academies. Training provides a basic understanding of fire suppression, search and rescue, disaster medical operations and team organization.

The CERT program began in 1985 in Los Angeles, Calif., after recognizing that large-scale disasters overwhelmed emergency response teams. Through FEMA grants to local jurisdictions civilians are trained to respond to emergencies or assist emergency responders arriving on the scene. All training and equipment is provided free of charge to the CERT participant.

This year CERTCon 2013 will host teams from Alexandria, Fairfax County and Fairfax City,

Arlington, Manassas and Manassas Park and Prince William County. Montgomery County and Prince George County team members will be attending and other Maryland CERTs as far away as Baltimore are expected. The District of Columbia is sending representatives from their team in addition to Georgetown University, American University and Gallaudet University CERT team members.

If you are interested in participating at CERTCon as an actor victim or a rescuer, visit <http://certcon2013.eventbrite.com>, to register.

To contact any of the Fairfax County CERT leadership, send the email directly to [fire.CERT@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:fire.CERT@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Mike Piccione**  
Fairfax County CERT team

## Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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The Connection  
1606 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-917-6444.  
By e-mail:  
[south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com)

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**2012**  
**AWARD**  
**WINNING**  
**NEWSPAPER**  
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# Demand Drives Northern Virginia Market

FROM PAGE 3

said Gary Thomas, president of the National Association of Realtors.

"The issue now is pent-up demand and strong growth in the number of households, with buyer traffic 29 percent above a year ago," Thomas said.

Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the National Association of Realtors, said existing-home sales are at the highest level since November 2009, when the market jumped to 5.44 million as buyers took advantage of tax stimulus.

Sales have stayed above year-ago levels for 23 months, while the national median price shows 15 consecutive months of year-over-year increases.

"The housing numbers are overwhelmingly positive, especially in markets such as Northern Virginia, where employment is strong," Yun said.

## New Construction Key Indicator of Housing Rebound

Adding to the good news about the housing market is the increasing number of infill developments and new construction, "housing starts," in Fairfax County. According to real estate economists, housing starts are one of the leading predictors of overall economic stability and growth.

A June 6 report released by Metrostudy, a national housing data and consulting firm, reports that housing starts are up sharply in Fairfax County: This year, there were 386 starts in the first quarter of 2013 compared to 143 in the first quarter of 2012, a 170 percent increase.

In addition to housing starts, almost every other housing indicator has trended up from May 2012 to May 2013 in Fairfax County, according to Real Estate Building Intelligence (RBI)—a company that analyzes market trends and statistics from the Multiple Listing Service.

In Fairfax County in the past year:

- ❖ The total volume of homes sold jumped 32 percent, from \$729 million to more than \$950 million.

- ❖ The average price for a home increased nearly 10 percent, from \$469,000 to nearly \$550,000.

- ❖ Average days on market dropped a steep 30 percent from 39 days to 27 days.

- ❖ New "under contracts jumped 31.56 percent, from 450 to 592.

## 'Buy Land. They Aren't Making Anymore.'

This famous quote could not be more apt for Fairfax County.

In the past decade, while new housing developments were being built in Prince William and Loudoun counties, Fairfax County was pretty much built out. If buy-



**Local developer John Sekas created Oakcrest Farms, an "ensemble of seven high-end single-family homes selling for more than \$1.5 million with at least 5,000 square feet." The development is embedded in the original Oakcrest Farms community, which has 54 colonial-style homes built in the 1980s. Located off Hunter Mill Road between Vale Road and Route 123, the development has sold four of the seven homes, which feature gourmet kitchens, stone fireplaces and two-story family rooms, and optional media rooms. For more information, go to [www.sekashomes.com](http://www.sekashomes.com).**



Anil Khanna



Patricia Stack



Alison Sherman

ers wanted a newly-built home, they had to tear down an old one.

While land is still at a premium in Fairfax County, new infill developments have been springing up in unlikely areas such as Vienna, Oakton, Burke and the City of Fairfax.

"Demand for housing is up, and so are development applications," said Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), who noticed the trend last year and formed a land use development advisory committee in his district in response to the rise in applications.

"Fairfax County is pretty much 'built out' and infill projects are more challenging to execute," Cook said.

Any existing pockets of land are small, and homes are often shoehorned into tight

spaces, and sometimes squeezed into existing neighborhoods. Storm water, setback, density, parking and other zoning issues become more challenging for builders.

"So, we are seeing more going on, but they are usually very difficult projects," Cook said.

Difficult, yes, but not impossible. The persistent demand for brand new housing, coupled with buyers willing to spend, has spurred high-end builders such as Pulte and

Stanley Martin to create luxury townhomes and condominiums project throughout the county.

In January, Stanley Martin Homes announced the opening of 35 luxury townhomes in Oakton.

"Stanley Martin is reaffirming the old

adage that in real estate it's all about 'location, location, location,' as it's tough to find a better Northern Virginia location than the charming and convenient town of Oakton," said Lauri Chastain, vice president of marketing for Stanley Martin.

Within weeks of news about the new Oakton East, there were more than 300 people on the "wait list for the homes that range in price from \$600,000 to nearly \$800,000.

Targeting empty-nesters who are looking for less square footage and less yard, but larger than the typical townhome, Oakton East offers 3,700-3,800 square feet of finished living space, a two-car garage and gourmet kitchens.

The homes "look and feel like single family homes—minus the yard work," Chastain said.

"Oakton is one of the premiere areas for brand new construction. Buyers prefer new homes over resale, but they are not easy to find," Realtor Pat Stack said.

MetroWest in Fairfax, a Pulte development, is one of the largest luxury townhome, condominium and apartment communities in Fairfax County, with a total of 2,248 residential units slated for development on 56 acres near the Vienna/Fairfax Metro.

In addition, plans call for 300,000-plus square feet of office space and 125,000 square feet of retail, service, institutional and governmental space. MetroWest will also feature community parks, courtyards, a rec center and at least 30 percent will be preserved as green space. Sales of the \$600,000 and up homes have been brisk.

While townhomes, condos and apartments are typical for infill developments—both because of their small footprint and the higher price per square foot builders can charge—there are several new single-family infill developments in the county.

Local developer John Sekas has created Oakcrest Farms, located off Hunter Mill Road near Vale Road, a development of seven high-end single-family homes selling for more than \$1.5 million with at least 5,000 square feet.

The development is embedded in the original Oakcrest Farms community, which has 54 colonial-style homes built in the 1980s. Construction began last year, and already four of the seven homes are sold.

Grant Johnson, a real estate broker for Sekas, said he has seen two types of buyers for the homes, which feature gourmet kitchens, stone fireplaces and two-story family rooms, and optional media rooms.

"We have transfers, who are coming here for the high-paying tech jobs, and buyers who live in the area who want to move up," Johnson said. "This is an attractive location. The schools are great, we're near Wolf Trap and Tysons, and people like it here and don't want to leave."

## Builders Are Optimistic

"Builders, I think they are as clued into SEE REBOUND, PAGE 12

**"The housing numbers are overwhelmingly positive, especially in markets such as Northern Virginia, where employment is strong."**

**—Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the National Association of Realtors**



# NEW HOMES

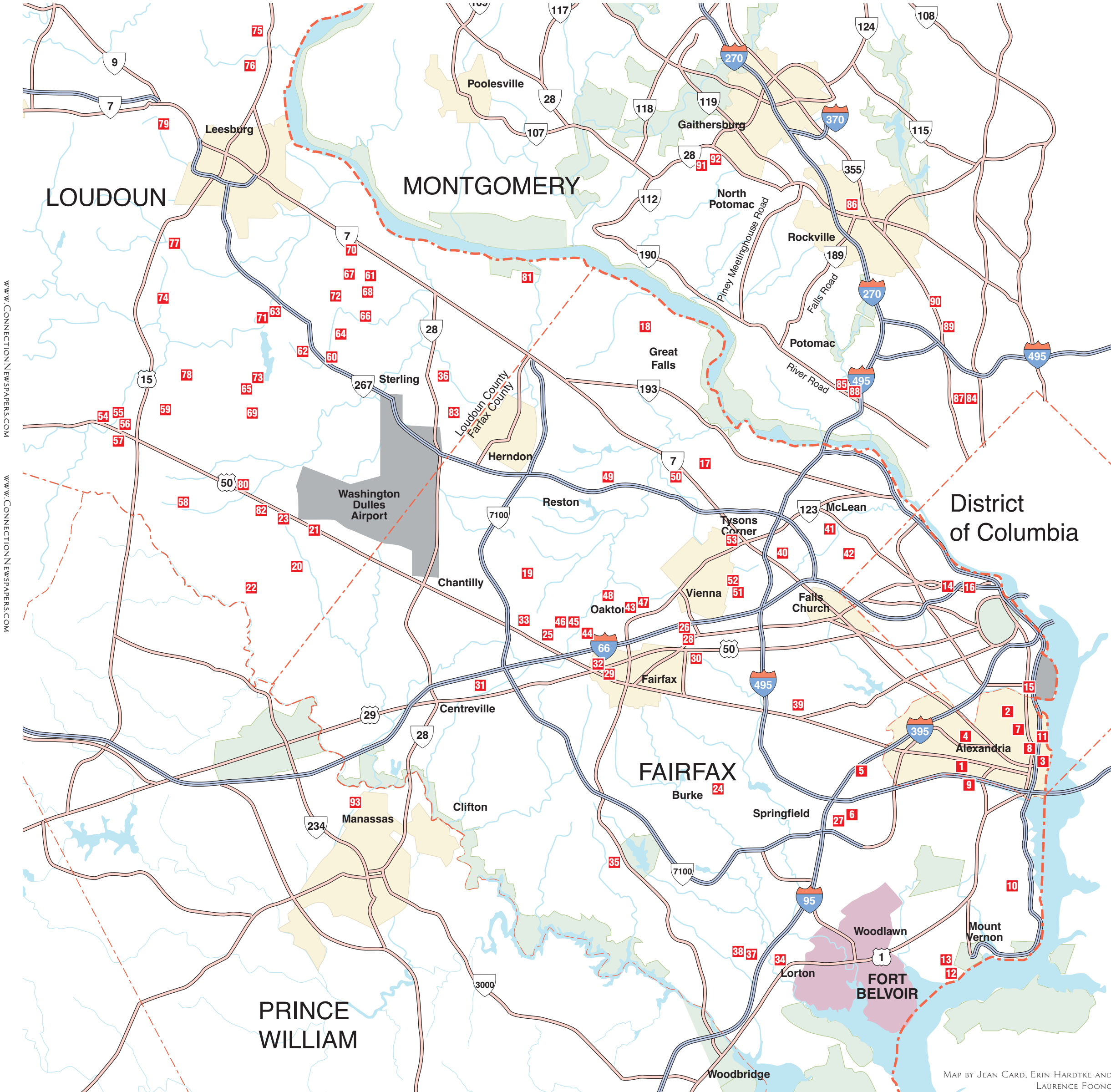


26 Metrowest, Fairfax, VA 22031 — From \$542,890 — PULTE HOMES



50 Maymount, Vienna, VA 22182 — From \$1,500,000 — BASHEER AND EDGEMOORE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



Community	Builder	Price	Postal City	Zip	Community	Builder	Price	Postal City	Zip	Community	Builder	Price	Postal City	Zip
1 Coopers Grove	CALVERT LUXURY HOMES	From \$1,029,900	Alexandria	22304	32 Fairfield Manor	STANLEY MARTIN	From \$859,990	Fairfax	22031	63 The Preserve Goose Creek Villas	LENNAR	From \$300,000	Ashburn	20148
2 Del Ray	CALVERT LUXURY HOMES	From \$1,399,900	Alexandria	22304	33 Autumn Willow	N.V.P.	From \$890,000	Fairfax	22033	64 Morley Corner	RYAN HOMES	From \$334,990	Ashburn	20147
3 The Oronoco Waterfront	EYA	From \$1,400,000	Alexandria	22314	34 Lake Hill Farms	N.V.P.	From \$800,000	Fairfax County	22079	65 Brambleton: Brownstone	MILLER AND SMITH	From \$400,000	Ashburn	20148
4 Oak Grove	CRAFTMARK HOMES	From \$2,134,900	Alexandria	22304	35 Hampton Reserves	RYAN HOMES	From \$879,990	Fairfax County	22039	66 Stonegate	NV HOMES	From \$400,000	Ashburn	20147
5 The Isabella at Monticello Mews	McWILLIAMS BALLARD	From \$269,900	Alexandria	22312	36 Meadow Branch	INTEGRITY HOMES	From \$350,000	Hayfield	22601	67 One Loudoun	CAMBERLY HOMES	From \$450,000	Ashburn	20147
6 Potters Glen	EVERGREENE HOMES	From \$500,000	Alexandria	22310	37 Spring Hill	DEL WEBB	From \$200,000	Lorton	22079	68 One Loudoun:Central Park West	MILLER AND SMITH	From \$450,000	Ashburn	20147
7 Potomac Yard	PULTE HOMES	From \$638,580	Alexandria	22301	38 Spring Hill Condos	PULTE HOMES	From \$208,990	Lorton	22079	69 Brambleton: Noble Pointe	MILLER AND SMITH	From \$550,000	Ashburn	20148
8 Old Town Commons	EYA	From \$700,000	Alexandria	22314	39 Harrison Hills	CHRISTOPHER COMPANIES	From \$650,000	Annandale	22009	70 One Loudoun: Downtown	MILLER AND SMITH	From \$550,000	Ashburn	20147
9 Burgundy Woods	NV HOMES	From \$720,000	Alexandria	22310	40 Tysons Overlook	CARR HOMES	From \$689,900	Falls Church	22043	71 Belmont Glen Village	CRAFTMARK HOMES	From \$600,000	Ashburn	20148
10 Hollin Hill Village	EVERGREENE HOMES	From \$900,000	Alexandria	22308	41 Chesterbrook Manor	MADISON HOMES	From \$1,675,000	McLean	22101	72 Ashburn Place	M/I HOMES	From \$600,000	Ashburn	20147
11 Printers Row	McWILLIAMS BALLARD	From \$949,900	Alexandria	22314	42 Grace Manor Court	KESWICK HOMES	From \$1,800,000	McLean	22102	73 The Boulevard at Brambleton	CAMBERLY HOMES	From \$300,000	Brambleton	20148
12 Riverwood at Ferry Point	NV HOMES	From \$990,000	Alexandria	22309	43 Oakton Heights	EVERGREENE HOMES	From \$1,200,000	Oakton	22124	74 Courtland Rural Village	LENNAR	From \$300,000	Leesburg	20175
13 Mount Vernon Park	NV HOMES	From \$930,000	Alexandria	22309	44 West Oaks	EVERGREENE HOMES	From \$1,400,000	Oakton	22124	75 Selma Estates	STANLEY MARTIN	From \$549,990	Leesburg	20176
14 Dominion Heights	CHRISTOPHER COMPANIES	From \$300,000	Arlington	22207	45 The Reserve at Waples Mills	CAMBERLY HOMES	From \$1,479,900	Oakton	22124	76 Raspberry Falls	VAN METRE	From \$600,000	Leesburg	20176
15 The Eclipse at Potomac Yard	COMSTOCK HOMES	From \$500,000	Arlington	22202	46 The Reserve at Waples Mills	WINCHESTER HOMES	From \$1,479,900	Oakton	22124	77 Stone Fox Estates	CRAFTMARK HOMES	From \$700,000	Leesburg	20175
16 Court at Lyon Village	EVERGREENE HOMES	From \$900,000	Arlington	22201	47 Oakton East	STANLEY MARTIN	From \$709,990	Oakton	22124	78 Greene Mill Preserve	STANLEY MARTIN	From \$759,990	Leesburg	20175
17 Marquette	KESWICK HOMES	From \$2,300,000	Great Falls	22066	48 The Estates at Stuart Mill	CAMBERLY HOMES	From \$1,599,900	Oakton	22124	79 Shenstone Reserve	TOLL BROTHERS	From \$829,995	Leesburg	20175
18 The Pond at Beach Mill	CREEKSTONE	From \$2,800,000	Great Falls	22066	49 Hunting Crest	NV HOMES	From \$1,200,000	Vienna	22182	80 Westend at Stone Ridge	VAN METRE	From \$250,000	Lorton	20105
19 Reserve at Oakton	EVERGREENE HOMES	From \$900,000	Herndon	20171	50 Maymount	BASHEER AND EDGEMOORE	From \$1,500,000	Vienna	22182	81 Overlook at Lowes Island	STANLEY MARTIN	From \$499,990	Potomac Falls	20165
20 East Gate	M/I HOMES	From \$350,000	Chantilly	20152	51 Wedderburn Estates	COURTLAND HOMES	From \$1,115,000	Vienna	22180	82 South Riding	TOLL BROTHERS	From \$342,389	South Riding	20152
21 Villas at East Gate	COMSTOCK HOMES	From \$300,000	Chantilly	20152	52 Pickett's Reserve	COURTLAND HOMES	From \$1,220,000	Vienna	22180	83 Autumn Oaks	RYAN HOMES	From \$404,990	Sterling	20166
22 Dawson's Corner	NV HOMES	From \$650,000	Chantilly	20152	53 Willow Oaks	BASHEER AND EDGEMOORE	From \$1,200,000	Vienna	22182	84 Little Falls Place	EYA	From \$1,300,000	Bethesda	20814
23 Arcola Center Townhomes	RYAN HOMES	From \$372,990	Dulles	20166	54 Virginia Manor	NV HOMES	From \$400,000	Aldie	20105	85 Quarry Springs	Can't determine builder	From \$1,800,000	Bethesda	20817
24 Burke Lake Crossing	CHRISTOPHER COMPANIES	From mid-\$700,000	Burke	22083	55 Lenah Mill- The Villages	TOLL BROTHERS	From \$559,995	Aldie	20105	86 Symphony Park at Strathmore	KOITZGROUP	From \$1,250,000	Bethesda, MD	20817
25 Penderbrook Square	COMSTOCK HOMES	From \$200,000	Fairfax	22031	56 Lenah Mill- The Carolinas	TOLL BROTHERS	From \$607,995	Aldie	20105	87 Little Falls Place	EYA	From \$1,349,900	Bethesda, MD	20817
26 Metrowest	PULTE HOMES	From \$542,890	Fairfax	22031	57 Lenah Mill- The Executives	TOLL BROTHERS	From \$688,995	Aldie	20105	88 River Quarry in Bethesda	CARTER BUILDERS	From \$1,000,000	N Bethesda, MD	20852
27 Foster, A&S Crest	STANLEY MARTIN	From \$567,990	Fairfax	22030	58 Willowsford Vintage Series	INTEGRITY HOMES	From \$704,990	Aldie	20105	89 Symphony Park	MICHAEL HARRIS HOMES	From \$1,000,000	N Bethesda, MD	20852
28 Cameron Glen	STANLEY MARTIN	From \$614,990	Fairfax	22030	59 Huntleigh at Creighton Farms	STANLEY MARTIN	From \$714,990	Aldie	20175	90 White Flint Station	TOLL BROTHERS	From \$422,995	N Bethesda, MD	20852
29 Main Street Residences	COURTLAND HOMES	From \$699,000	Fairfax	22030	60 Loudoun Station	COMSTOCK HOMES	From \$1399/month	Ashburn	20147	91 Hallman Grove	WINCHESTER HOMES	From \$692,900	N Potomac, MD	20878
30 Mosaic District	EYA	From \$700,000	Fairfax	22031	61 Potomac Green	DEL WEBB	From \$250,000	Ashburn	20147	92 Quince Trace	PULTE HOMES	From \$565,900	N Potomac, MD	20878
31 Autumn Willow	RYAN HOMES	From \$899,000	Fairfax	22033	62 The Villages at Broadlands	VAN METRE	From \$300,000	Ashburn	20148	93 Heritage Crossing	STANLEY MARTIN	From \$242,990	Manassas	20109



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9831 Pebble Weigh Ct.....\$439,000.....Sun 1-4.....Betty Desourdis.....Redfin..703-403-4552  
5964 Powells Landing Rd..\$410,000.....Sun 1-4.....Connie Forbes.....Long & Foster..703-451-5818

### Centreville

6615 Harness Hill Ct.....\$644,950.....Sun 1-4.....Barbara Blumer..Coldwell Banker..703-405-5993  
6018 Basingstoke Ct.....\$323,000.....Sun 1-3.....Joe Frangipane.....Long & Foster..703-628-4430

### Clifton

12421 Clifton Hunt Dr.....\$925,000.....Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812  
12048 Winding Creek Ct.....\$698,000.....Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812  
6743 Rock Brook Dr.....\$669,000.....Sun 1-4.....Greg Pappas..Coldwell Banker..703-338-1800  
13769 Laurel Rock Dr.....\$599,990.....Sun 1-4.....Josie Barondess..Coldwell Banker..571-217-7447

### Fairfax

12543 Cerromar Pl.....\$814,900.....Sun 1-4.....Christine Shevock.....RE/MAX..703-475-3986  
3818 Skyview Ln.....\$680,000.....Sun 1-4.....Dana LaFever.....Weichert..703-609-3479

### Fairfax Station

8309 Crestridge Rd.....\$1,445,000.....Sun 12-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365  
11107 Hampton Rd.....\$1,195,000.....Sun 1-4.....Leslie Davidson.....Weichert..703-909-9005  
10101 Van Thompson Rd..\$849,900.....Sat 1-4.....Margaret Bodge.....Keller Williams..571-249-6205  
9825 South Park Cir.....\$789,950.....Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808

### Franconia/Kingstowne

5809 Governors View Ln..\$880,000.....Sat 1-4.....Debbie Kent.....Cottage Street..703-740-7654  
4904 Apple Tree Dr.....\$739,000.....Sun 1-4.....Michael Fogarty.....HomeFirst..703-971-1800  
9342 Mallory Cir.....\$487,000.....Sun 1-3.....Johanna Baker..Coldwell Banker..202-741-1672  
6508 Rose Hill Dr.....\$409,950.....Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207  
5302 Harbor Court Dr.....\$349,900.....Sun 1-4.....Meghan Wasinger.....Jobin..703-828-5660

### Lorton

8181 Paper Birch Dr.....\$745,000.....Sun 1-4.....Pattie Mancini.....Avery-Hess..703-451-9797  
8970 Fascination Ct #315..\$363,101.....Sat 11-3.....Shawn Evans.....Long & Foster..703-790-1990

### Springfield

6507 Carrsbrook Ct.....\$549,500.....Sun 2-4.....Rick Wadsworth.....Weichert..703-395-2027  
7508 Havelock St.....\$484,500.....Sun 1-4.....An Nguyen.....Westgate..703-208-9999  
6808 Rolling Rd.....\$429,900.....Sat 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207

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All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

## REAL ESTATE FOCUS

# Housing's Rebound

FROM PAGE 9

the market as the rest of us. There is more confidence in the economy locally than we've seen in the past several years," said Stack.

A gauge of confidence among home builders jumped in June, hitting the highest level since 2006, according to data released June 17.

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo housing-market index rose to 52 in June—the first time the index has reached above a key reading of 50 since 2006—from 44 in May. Readings above 50 signal that builders, generally, are optimistic about sales trends.

"Builders are seeing better market conditions as demand for new homes increases," said Rick Judson, NAHB's chairman in the news release. "With the low inventory of existing homes, an increasing number of buyers are gravitating toward new homes."

That confidence doesn't surprise Gerald Gordon, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA).

"The economic base of Fairfax County has been sufficiently diversified over the years that declining revenues in federal contracting will not be devastating to the economy as a whole," Gordon said. "Corporate additions to Fairfax County in recent years give us balance."



**Location, location, location. Pulte's new MetroWest development in Fairfax boasts location as a draw for buyers. The 50-plus townhome development is next to the Vienna Metro and "two minutes from I-66."**



**Principal Bonnie Glazewski, Laura Armendaris, fifth grade gift winner, SCA President Lizzie Lawrence, Heji Chon, sixth grade gift winner, and Brad Snyder, parent and MarCom Group representative.**

## Postcards for Wounded Veterans

During May, for Military Appreciation Month, students at Oak View Elementary School (K - 6) wrote over 1,300 postcards to wounded veterans at Ft. Belvoir. This effort was in collaboration with the school's Student Council Association, the American Red Cross, and Brad Snyder, parent whose company MarCom Group, Inc (Fairfax) coordinated the effort.

After the postcards were delivered, Snyder randomly selected two postcards and thanked the students with gift certificates on Friday, June 7.



# CALENDAR

To have community events listed, send to [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416 with questions. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication; we recommend submitting your event two weeks ahead of time. To see more entertainment events, go to: <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2013/may/22/fairfax-county-calendar/>.

## THURSDAY/JUNE 27

**An Evening With Elliot Abrams.** 7:30 p.m., at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Join the community for an evening of discussion about the Israeli-Palestinian relationship during the critical years under President George W. Bush. \$5. 703-323-0880, [CarlaR@jccnv.org](mailto:CarlaR@jccnv.org) or [www.jccnv.org](http://www.jccnv.org).

## FRIDAY/JUNE 28

**The Hot Seats.** 7:30-8:30 p.m., at Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. The Hot Seats specialize in unearthing and inventing traditional music and twisting it into new styles. [www.thehotseats.net](http://www.thehotseats.net).

## SUNDAY/JUNE 30

**Book Release and Teaching.** 2-4 p.m., at Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St. Unit 108, Fairfax. The Tibetan Buddhist Center providing education and meditation instruction to the community hosts visiting teacher Venerable Gyumed Khensur Rinpoche Lobsang Jampa for the release of his first book in English, from which will give a teaching. <http://www.guhyasamaja.org/calendar.html>.

## MONDAY-SATURDAY/JULY 1-6

**Robinson Drama Curtain Call Camp.** 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m., at Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. The children's activities are centered; lunch program offered; sign up in June. [www.RobinsonDrama.org](http://www.RobinsonDrama.org).  
**Fun in the Theatre.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Campers collaborate on both scripted and devised performances.



**The Mystical Arts of Tibet event gives a live exhibition of elaborate Peace Mandala sand painting and performances of related music, dance, and lectures July 23-28 at Unity of Fairfax Church.**

[www.RobinsonDrama.org](http://www.RobinsonDrama.org).

## THURSDAY/JULY 4

**Fairfax Independence Day Parade.** 10 a.m.-noon., at Fairfax Historic District, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. Celebrate Independence Day in downtown Fairfax with a parade and fireworks later during the evening. <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/specialevents/idc/dayparade.asp>.

## FRIDAY/JULY 5

**Folsom Prisoners.** 7:30-8:30 p.m., at Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. Folsom Prisoners is a full time classic country and honky-tonk band. [www.folsomprisoners.com](http://www.folsomprisoners.com).

## THURSDAY/JULY 11

**The United States Air Force Concert Band w/ Singing Sergeants.** 5-6:30 p.m., at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Remaining true to the Air Force's pioneering spirit, the Concert Band has established an international reputation as a champion of new works for band, with dozens of world premieres to its credit. [www.usafbnd.af.mil](http://www.usafbnd.af.mil).

## FRIDAY/JULY 12

**Town Mountain.** 7:30-8:30 p.m., at Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. Featuring original bluegrass and roots country, Asheville, N.C.'s Bluegrass Band Town Mountain released their fourth album, "Leave the Bottle," in September 2012. [www.townmountain.net](http://www.townmountain.net).

# Fairfax to Celebrate Independence Day

The City of Fairfax has planned a host of activities for Thursday, July 4, including a parade in historic downtown Fairfax, and music and fireworks at Fairfax High School.

The 47th annual Independence Day parade steps off at 10 a.m. at 4100 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, rain or shine.

The parade loops around downtown Fairfax, along Chain Bridge Road, Main Street, University Drive and Armstrong Street. Among the entries in this year's parade are eight high school marching bands from as far west as Nebraska and Minnesota to the city's own Fairfax High School Marching Rebels. Other parade entries include many large inflatable parade balloons, horses and clowns.

The Grand Marshal is the Honorable Quin S. Elson, a long time community activist and Fairfax Police Youth Club (FPYC) volunteer. The Honorable Elson is being recognized for his dedication and commitment to the community.

After the parade, watch area fire companies compete using firefighting and emergency techniques and equipment in the Old Fashioned Fireman's Day from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive. This event also features food, beverages and games.

As the sun sets, enjoy music and dancing during the Evening Show at 7 p.m. at Fairfax High School (3501 Rebel Run). The show will feature the nine-piece band GrooveLine (favorites from the 50's to today's current hits) and the City of Fairfax Band. A fireworks display will follow with

a final performance by GrooveLine until 10:30 p.m. The rain date for the fireworks only is July 5. Items that may puncture the synthetic turf, smoking, alcohol and animals (except service animals) are not permitted on the football field.

Several historic properties will be open to the public on July 4, including the Fairfax Museum and Visitors Center (9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 10209 Main Street) and Ratcliffe-Allison House (11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 10386 Main Street).

Event sponsors include Fair City Mall and 97.1 WASH-FM.

Shuttle bus service for the parade runs from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. from George Mason University, Woodson High School and Fairfax United Methodist Church. Shuttles will return spectators to these locations after the parade.

On July 4th, for the evening show and fireworks, public parking is available at Fairfax High School. Please use shuttle buses available from 6-9:15 p.m. at Woodson High School (9525 Main Street) to Fairfax High School. Shuttles will return spectators to Woodson High School after the fireworks until 11 p.m. On July 5th, rain date for fireworks only, use shuttles available from 7-9:15 p.m. at Woodson High School. Shuttles will return spectators to Woodson High School after the fireworks until 10:30 p.m. Handicapped parking is available at Fairfax High School. For information, call 703-385-7858.

For additional information on Independence Day activities or to volunteer, call 703-385-7858 or visit the city's website at [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov).

## SATURDAY/JULY 13

**Obon Festival.** 5:30-9 p.m., at 6500 Lakehaven Lane, Fairfax Station. Learn about Japanese and Buddhist culture through traditional dances, art, and food. <http://www.ekoji.org/obon-festival-and-memorial-service-july-14-15-2012/>.

## MONDAY-FRIDAY/JULY 15-19

**Audition Boot Camp/Intro to Musical Theatre.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. musical, 3-5 p.m. audition camp, Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Campers are equipped to prepare more confident and successful auditions; or, in the longer program, youth can learn the basics of musical theatre. [www.RobinsonDrama.org](http://www.RobinsonDrama.org).

## WEDNESDAY/JULY 17-SUNDAY/JULY 21

**Cirque du Soleil's "Quidam."** 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday; 1 and 5 p.m. Sunday; 3:30 p.m. Saturday, at the Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Young Zoé is bored; her parents, distant and apathetic, ignore her. Her life has lost all meaning. Seeking and searching, she slides into an imaginary world where she meets characters who encourage her. \$32-\$115. 1-800-745-3000, [www.cirquedusoleil.com/quidam](http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/quidam) or

[www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

## THURSDAY/JULY 18

**King Soul.** 5-6:30 p.m., Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. King Soul brings you real Southern Soul, featuring original songs, gritty vocals, a slamming horn section and driving rhythms. [kingsoulband.com](http://kingsoulband.com).

## FRIDAY/JULY 19

**Bachata-VIP.** 7:30-8:30 p.m., at Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. Bachata is a popular form of latin dance and a romantic style of music that can trace its origins to the rural areas of the Dominican Republic. [www.bachata-vip.com](http://www.bachata-vip.com).

## TUESDAY/JULY 23-SUNDAY/JULY 28

**Mystical Arts of Tibet.** Various times, at Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road Oakton. The Mystical Arts of Tibet troupe conducts a live exhibition of an elaborate Peace Mandala sand painting and provides related music, dance, lectures, multiphonic singing and promotion of healing through performing art, as endorsed by the Dalai Lama as a means of promoting world peace. \$0-\$20. [www.unityoffairfax.org/auspicious-event](http://www.unityoffairfax.org/auspicious-event).

# COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

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Jubilee Christian Center

703-383-1170

Fairfax Assembly of God

703-591-4284

Way of Faith Assembly of God

703-573-7221

## Baptist

Braddock Missionary ... 703-830-4125

Calvary Hill...703-323-1347

Fairfax Baptist...703-273-1820

Fairfax Circle...703-573-7372

Greater Little Zion...703-764-9111

Iglesia Bautista La Gran Comiscica...703-323-5858

Judah Praise Fellowship Christian...703-758-1456

Northern Virginia Primitive Baptist...703-255-0637

## Buddhist

Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center... 703-774-9692

## Bible

Bancroft Bible Church... 703-425-3800

## Catholic

St. Leo the Great Catholic... 703-273-5369

St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church... 703-978-4141

St. Paul Catholic Church... 703-968-3010

## Coptic Orthodox

St. Mark...703-591-4444

## Disciples of Christ

Fairfax Christian Church... 703-385-3520

## Episcopal

Church of the Apostles

703-591-1974

Truro Episcopal...703-273-1300

## Jewish

Congregation of Olam Tikvah... 703-425-1880

Chabad Lubavitch...703-426-1980

## Lutheran

Bethlehem Lutheran...703-978-3131

Christ Lutheran...703-273-4094

Kings of Kings...703-378-7272

Lord of Life...703-323-9500

## Methodist

Bruen Chapel United...703-560-1665

Fairfax United...703-591-3120

Pender United...703-278-8023

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## Non-Denominational

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Fairfax Church of Christ...703-631-2100

Fairfax Community Church...

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Sovereign Grace Church...703-691-0600

Jesus Christ Crucified...703-385-9015

Metropolitan Community Church

703-691-0930

Salvation Army...703-385-9700

Shepherd's Heart...703-385-4833

Word of Life Church International...

703-978-7101

## Pentecostal

The Greater Pentecostal Temple...703-385-9426

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Danny Meier meets with a group of sophomores at lunchtime.



Danny Meier and some students in Robinson's front hallway.



Danny Meier at his desk.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

# Meier Reflects on His Decade at Robinson

## Search continues for school's new principal.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**R**obinson Secondary School still hasn't found a new principal—but then, Danny Meier is a hard act to follow. He retired recently after serving 29 years with FCPS, the last 10 as Robinson's leader.

"I'm proud of what we've done for the past 10 years," he said. "But Robinson was an outstanding school when I got here. So I've had an opportunity to polish this jewel and, hopefully, enhance it."

"I've tried to bring the talents and skills I have to make it even better," continued Meier. "And that'll be the challenge to the next principal—to make it one of the best schools in the world."

He and his wife Annie, a secretary in the superintendent's office, live in Fairfax Station and have four children. Mike, 24, a West Point grad, is an Army second lieutenant at Fort Sill, Okla.; Timmy, 22, and Joe, 20, are both cadets at West Point; and Mary, 18, just graduated from Robinson and, after college, plans to pursue a career in music.

There have only been five principals in Robinson's 42 years, and Meier's proud to have been among them. "I didn't grow up

wanting to be a principal, but I knew I wanted to work with kids," he said. "My father always said, 'Do something you love.' And in 35 years in education, I've never had a day when I didn't want to go to work. I stayed here five years beyond when I could have retired because I loved it so much."

Calling it "a blessing to work with our nation's youth and to touch the next generation," Meier said the greatest gift a former educator, counselor or coach can receive is when former students tell them he or she made a difference in their lives. "Many of them have done this to me and it's great," he said.

"I tell teachers it's not important that students like us now," said Meier. "It's important that they respect us, 10-15 years from now. Students remember the teachers who challenged them."

**BEFORE COMING TO ROBINSON**, he was director of student services and assistant principal at Herndon High, plus principal of Rocky Run Middle School. He was also head football coach at three different high schools, coaching three teams to Virginia state championships.

"When I left coaching, I realized it was my time to give back to teachers the support of principals I'd trusted and admired for 20 years," explained Meier. "And to be a good principal, you have to remember what it's like to be a good teacher."

So not surprisingly, one of his most meaningful honors came from the Fairfax Federation of Teachers, which rated him a top principal for five years. And in May 2012, the U.S. News & World Report named Robinson one of the top 100 high schools in America and in the top five in Virginia.

Still, what Meier's proudest of, he said, is "the climate of our school—a culture of confidence. The kids, teachers and parents love it so much. If the students see us laughing and having a good time, so do they. So I looked for opportunities to get involved with the kids and have fun. We have a lot of school pride and spirit, and Robinson is the hub of this community."

With nearly 4,000 students—2,700 in the secondary school and 1,200 in the middle school—Robinson is one of the largest schools in Virginia. But Meier did his best to get to know as many of the students as he could. He visited classrooms and kept in touch via Twitter, his blog on the school's website and Robinson's daily TV program.

He also attended all the school events and held regular, informal lunch meetings with different groups of students to hear their concerns. "It's not unlike being mayor of a small town," he said. "You've got to get to know your constituents and stakeholders."

While Meier was at Robinson, the school grounds were enhanced with avenue banners on light poles, new stadium entrances, gardens, a Robinson Ram statue, new

scoreboards, wall murals and a clock tower that plays songs and chimes the hours. He said they were to give "a sense of place and pride" to the school.

"But the most important thing a principal does is to hire the best and brightest teachers," said Meier. "We have a wonderful faculty and that's what makes a great school." He also passed on sage advice to the students.

At a recent lunch meeting, he told them, "If the good kids step forward when the knuckleheads are doing something wrong, we don't have to make rules that inconvenience all of you. It's being a good citizen and it makes the school atmosphere better for all of us."

Meier said it's exhilarating leading such a large school, but it's also "like having a wild animal as a pet. You may think you have it tamed, but things can happen at any time, so you always have to be prepared and never let your guard down." He also believes in helping students learn from their mistakes "so they won't make even bigger ones later."

**MOST SATISFYING**, he said, was "the outpouring of affection from students, faculty and staff since I announced my retirement. It's been heartwarming to see that I've connected with them and made a difference and they appreciate it. I feel like I'm leaving Robinson better than I found it; I tell the seventh graders to do that, and I've tried doing it throughout my career."

## Meier: 'A Supporter, Leader and Listener'

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**A**lthough Danny Meier's now retired as Robinson's principal, he left his mark on the school and his colleagues say he led it well.

"He's a great leader because he's quick at evaluating situations and has the background to make logical decisions," said school administrative assistant Sue Henderson. "It's also a great loss because I'll miss him as a friend."

Calling Meier a "fun person to have

around," she said, "He's fair, and it's been both wonderful and inspirational to watch someone work who loved his job as much as he did. He loved the kids so much and always made a point of guiding, encouraging and supporting them."

Social studies teacher Hernan Ruiz teaches world history and IB cultural anthropology and has known Meier since he came to Robinson a decade ago. Ruiz said many things made Meier such a good principal, but "the top reason is that Dan created an environment where everyone felt valued and part of a family."

Melissa Brady is the Science Department chairman of Robinson Middle School and teaches seventh grade science. She's also known Meier for 10 years and said he has a leadership quality that's "truly unique. He really listens to his faculty. He uses humor to put people at ease and respect to make them feel important. He makes rational decisions that benefit kids and he empowers his staff members to be the best in their fields."

Admitting she was initially upset when she heard Meier was retiring, Brady said he's given a large chunk of his life to Robinson and "it's now his time to do what he wants.

He can spend more time with his family, and I know how important that is to him."

"This place will never be the same [without him as principal], but he has taught many of us great things," said Brady. "Now that he will be the head football coach, I am excited to have him around."

Cluster VI Assistant Superintendent Leslie Butz said Meier "made this huge school personable through his visibility throughout the campus." While sad to lose him as Robinson's leader, she said, "We're happy he can enjoy the next phase of his life."



## ENGAGEMENTS

### Justin Paul Robinson and Sarah Catherine James Engaged

**M**r. and Mrs. Mark and Cindy Robinson of Ashburn announce the engagement of their son, Justin Paul Robinson, 24, to Sarah Catherine James, 23, daughter of Robert and Lucy of Metuchen, N.J.

The future groom graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science degree and is currently completing his Master of Science degree at George Mason University. He is also currently employed in the law enforcement field.

The future bride graduated from Marymount University with Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees and is continuing to pursue a second Master of Arts degree in clinical mental health counseling. She is currently employed in the mental health industry.

A September 2014 wedding is planned for the Washington, D.C. area and the couple will reside in Fairfax.



**Justin Paul Robinson and Sarah Catherine James plan to wed in September 2014 and reside in Fairfax.**

## Culture of the Spirit Tour SUMMER CONCERT

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# Lake Braddock Grad Rodi Headed to Hillsdale College

Rodi helped lead Lake Braddock to back-to-back appearances in the Patriot District championship match.

**K**yra Rodi was a four-year varsity player for the Lake Braddock volleyball team. A versatile athlete, Rodi played multiple positions during her career, starting as an outside hitter during her freshman season before moving to middle blocker and eventually settling on a combination of setter and opposite hitter.

Rodi helped lead Lake Braddock to back-to-back appearances in the Patriot District championship match. The Bruins won the district title in 2010 and finished runner-up in 2011. Former Lake Braddock volleyball coach Mike Clark said there's more to Rodi than her talent.

"Everybody wants to talk to me about how great of a volleyball player [Rodi] is," Clark said prior to the 2011 season. "I don't care. She's, like, the best person I've ever been around. I've learned so much from just being around her. She always takes the lead in things [and] she wants to learn. Even though she's the best player out here, she wants to learn more than anybody else does."

Rodi, who stands 6 feet 2, finished her Lake Braddock career as a three-time first-team all-Patriot District selection, and a three-time all-Northern Region performer, including first-team honors as a sophomore and a junior. Rodi will attend Hillsdale College, a Division II school in Michigan, where she will play volleyball in the fall. Rodi said she will be used primarily as a setter. She plans to study biology, with a focus on molecular/cellular bio, and minor in French.

*Rodi took part in a Q and A with The Connection via email.*

**Connection:** What made Hillsdale the right fit for you?

**Rodi:** "It's cool how many reasons I could list here. First of all, Hillsdale is an excellent academic school, which is one of the most important things about getting a college education. I knew for a while that I wanted to go to a small school, because I love the idea of being close with not only my classmates but my professors, as well. The volleyball program there is also outstanding, not only in terms of how they finish in the NCAA's (Sweet Sixteen this year with seven freshmen, Final Four the year before), but how they run the program and the values that they put the emphasis on —



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERNUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Former Lake Braddock volleyball player Kyra Rodi, right, will attend Hillsdale College in Michigan.**

hard work, team, sportsmanship, dedication — all those things that I try to be when I practice and play. And it's funny — being on the campus and with the team, the little things there showed me how perfect of a fit is for me, from the players to country music, and it just felt so right and natural."

**Connection:** Any word on playing time as a freshman?

**Rodi:** "As a freshman, I don't expect to get playing time right off the bat, as I will be learning to set such a fast offense, but hopefully through the year I will see some court time. It all depends though on how I progress as a setter."

**Connection:** Did you receive a scholarship? If so, what kind? Was it a full or partial?

**Rodi:** "I did receive a full ride, and it's a combination of academic money (I am a National Merit Scholar Finalist), athletic money, and an outside endowed scholarship. Hillsdale has a wonderful number of scholarships for all different interests and activities."

**Connection:** What is your favorite memory of playing volleyball at Lake Braddock?

**Rodi:** "Apart from all the fun times and jokes I've had with Lake Braddock volleyball, a couple of things stand out especially for me. Freshman year, we played Annandale High School in the district quarterfinals, and it was a big game for us, as we had lost to them the week before. It was going into that game that Coach Mike gave us a pep talk, and he said something like, 'this will be a game you won't forget,' and even though we've grown so much, that's one of the games that I'll remember for a while."

"Another memory is the run we went on at the end of my sophomore year, and winning districts as the fifth seed, surpassing everyone's expectations as the underdogs. Junior year, I have two that really stand out. First of all, we had four returning girls, and were told we would [stink], and then started off the year 16-0. That was really cool to prove everyone wrong again. My other favorite memory that year was the fourth game of the district finals — coming back from a 17-9 deficit to win that set. Those were probably ... the most intense, fun, and best 20 points I've ever played."

**Connection:** What are you most looking forward to about the transition from high school to college?

**Rodi:** "In terms of volleyball, I am so looking forward to the next level of the game — the speed of the game at college is so much faster and the play so much sharper, it makes it so much more fun. In terms of being a college student, I can't wait for the freedom and independence I get, and I'm excited to be able to go to school with my best friends."

**Connection:** At what age did you start playing volleyball? Did you imagine you'd one day play it in college?

**Rodi:** "I started playing volleyball in seventh grade, so at the age of 12. When I was little, I imagined playing in college, but that wasn't the goal for a while. [The goal] was to love playing and become the best I could become. It's funny though, I remember telling multiple people that I would never in a million years become a setter, that's how bad I was at the beginning."

— JON ROETMAN

## Register Early for Senior Olympics

Online registration opens July 1 for the 2013 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. Participants can register online at [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us) or by mail to compete in more than 50 events that will take place Sept. 7-19 at 17 different venues throughout Northern Virginia. Registration forms are available at senior centers, community centers and senior residences or by calling 703-228-4721. Deadline to register is Aug. 23 by mail or Aug. 30 online.

Adults 50 years of age by Dec. 30, 2013, residing in a sponsoring jurisdiction, are eligible to compete. The fee is \$12, which covers multiple events. Most events are divided into age categories and some by gender. Winners will be awarded gold, silver and bronze medals after each event.

Events include badminton, volleyball, cycling, track and field, swimming, diving, tennis, table tennis, golf, miniature golf, 10 pin bowling, Wii bowling, pickleball, bocce, racquetball, scrabble, cribbage, duplicate bridge, bunco, horseshoes, men's 3-on-3 basketball, men's and women's basketball free throw, team line dancing, yo-yo tricks, eight-ball pool, Frisbee throw and softball hit and throw and Mexican Train dominoes. New this year are handball and rowing.

NVSO is sponsored by the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William.

## Oakton High School Wins Wells Fargo Cup for Athletics

Oakton High School has won its first Wells Fargo Cup for Athletics, awarded by the Virginia High School League (VHSL) for excellence in athletics, for Group AAA for the 2012-13 school year.

The Wells Fargo Cup is awarded to the school in each of the three VHSL group classifications with the best overall record in VHSL state-level competition in 27 sports.

Oakton athletes scored a total of 405 points to capture the Group AAA crown. Strong finishes in boys soccer, girls tennis, baseball, boys outdoor track, girls and boys swimming, and girls indoor track helped the team win top honors. The school also won the Claudia Dodson Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Award.

Other Fairfax County public schools finishing in the top 20 were Chantilly High School in fourth place, Madison High School in eighth place, Lake Braddock Secondary School in ninth place, Robinson Secondary School in 17th place, Westfield High School in 18th place, and Langley High School in 20th place.



## FAIRFAX CONNECTION ♦ JUNE 27-JULY 3, 2013 ♦ 17



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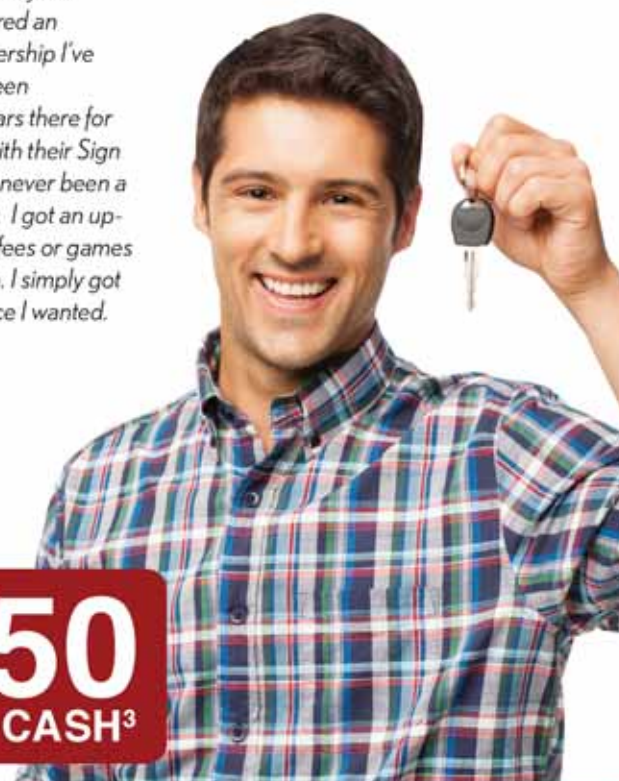
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