

SkateFest Supports Children's Hospital

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Walking Tall

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Housing's
Roaring
Rebound?

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Josue Lozano, 18, of Springfield practices his skateboarding jumps off the ramp in between competitions at the 7th Annual SkateFest - Sk8 for a Cause skateboarding event held Friday and Saturday at Wakefield Skate Park.



Thank you to the 2013 LBSS PTSA All Night Grad Party Supporters!

The Lake Braddock Senior Class of 2013 and their families would like to thank the following businesses, organizations and individuals for their support of the PTSA sponsored alcohol and drug free All Night Graduation Celebration which was held on June 19th, 2013, at the Audrey Moore RECenter at Wakefield Park. We are grateful for their generous contributions and commitment to the young people of our community. Please support these organizations that invest in the success of Lake Braddock Secondary School.

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We'd like to thank the faculty and staff of LBSS and especially, the LBSS PTSA for support of our All Night Graduation Celebration.

A huge thank you to our volunteers: the parents, friends and relatives of the Classes of 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department and the Fairfax County Police for their vital presence at our party. Finally, we'd like to thank the staff of the Audrey Moore RECenter for all their help in making the night run smoothly.

Make plans now to support our 2014 party on June 23rd, 2014. Also, mark your calendar for our mulch sale March 29th and 30th, 2014.



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.



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.

Housing’s Roaring Rebound?

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

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

In 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 8



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.

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NEWS

Col. Gadson Comes to Sangster

Wounded Warriors inspire young audience.

Movie buffs might know him from his role in the 2011 blockbuster "Battleship" as Mick, the gruff wounded vet who helps save the world from aliens, but to the students at Sangster Elementary School in Springfield, he is known as real-life hero Col. Gregory D. Gadson, Ft. Belvoir garrison commander and Purple Heart recipient.

Col. Gadson, who lost both legs in 2007 as the re-

sult of an improvised explosive device (IED) in Iraq, spoke to Sangster students on June 13 as part of the school's Field Day activities. The Chesapeake, Va. native and 1989 West Point graduate inspired Sangster's fourth through sixth graders with a message of duty, teamwork and perseverance. "Don't think about being the best," Col. Gadson stressed. "Think about doing your best."

"When I lost my legs, I had to find out who I was," Col. Gadson said of the roadside bombing that cost him both his legs while leaving others completely

SEE SANGSTER, PAGE 5



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NEWS

Meeting Heroes at Sangster

FROM PAGE 4

unscathed. "I learned that I was not my legs, and my legs weren't me. How you look is not important. What's important is in our hearts, our souls and our heads."

Col. Gadson, a former West Point linebacker, encouraged the students to take advantage of opportunities available in what he called "the greatest country on the planet."

"This life is precious. You only get to do it once. The real challenge is to make the most of it every day." He also urged the young audience to think about things greater than themselves. "Life's not about getting, it's about giving. If you give, you'll get so much more back. Life's not just about you. It's about your school, your team, your community and your nation."

When asked if he would go back and change what happened, Col. Gadson responded without hesitation, "I wouldn't change a thing. My injuries came as a result of leading soldiers in service to our country. Our experiences make us who we are. Adversity helps us grow, learn, and prosper."

Students were also eager to hear about Col. Gadson's movie role. Before filming "Battleship," he had no experience as an actor, joking that he "never even played a tree in a school play." He recalled the hard work and long hours that went into making the movie, and while he stopped short of calling his time on the set "fun," he again stressed the importance of teamwork. "The best thing was being part of a team. The grips, the wardrobe and makeup people ... it was teamwork that made the movie come together."

Accompanied by Col. Gadson were fellow Purple Heart recipients Capt. Matt Staton (ret.) and Sgt. Brian Beem, who echoed the colonel's message as they visited individual classrooms. Sgt. Beem spoke of overcoming adversity and revealed that he only took up skiing after he lost a leg in Iraq in 2006. Added Capt. Staton, "It's important to think about people for their abilities rather than for their disabilities."

The Wounded Warriors were hosted by the school's Military Spouses' Group, a support network and outreach group for military families at Sangster. "It was amazing to see the soldiers interact with the students at Sangster,"

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Col. Gregory D. Gadson answering questions from the fourth, fifth and sixth graders.



Chris Summers, principal of Sangster, thanking Col. Gadson and two other Wounded Warriors, Matt (to left of Col.) and Brian (on end).

said Event Coordinator Juliet Johnson. "They truly inspired us with their positive attitude and ability to embrace life no matter what challenges they may face."

Military Spouses' Group President Stacy Cheshire agreed, saying, "I was so inspired by Col.

Gadson and all of the speakers for sharing their personal stories. That extended hand from Ft. Belvoir to the military families outside its gates makes a large community feel smaller and more tightly knit."

—NANCY LAVALLEE

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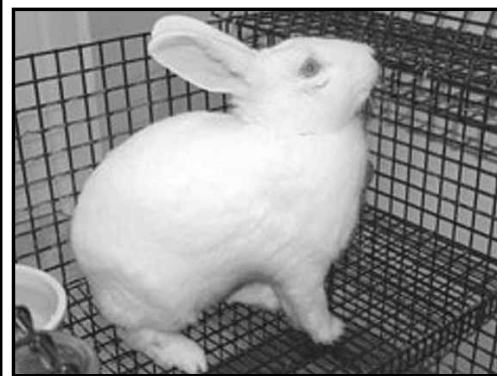
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OPINION

Ready for Your Pet's Close-up?

The 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, or submit photos and stories directly on our website at 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, or contact Ginny Snaider, LCSW, NVFS training and placement supervisor, at 571-748-2557 or 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.

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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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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Tuberculosis Clinic Set Up At Lee High School

Following reports that as many as 430 students and faculty at Robert E. Lee High School could have been exposed to tuberculosis, Fairfax County Health Department officials set up a special clinic on Friday, June 21, to provide testing and information on the infectious disease.

Three people within the Lee High School community have been identified as having active TB. One person was diagnosed in December 2012, and two were diagnosed in June.

"Currently, the Health Department has asked approximately 430 people who have been identified as potentially exposed to individuals with active TB disease in the school to get tested at special clinics being held in the high school June 21 and June 24-28," said Glen Barbour, the Health Department's public information officer.

"These 430 individuals are being tested at this special clinic because they met the time and proximity TB exposure criteria that the Health Department is using in this investigation," he said.

Only those Robert E. Lee High School individuals who received a

letter from the Health Department need to attend the special clinics at the school.

According to Fairfax County health officials, families who received a letter from the Health Department should call 703-267-3511, TTY 711 to make an appointment. Families who have questions about the investigation or the disease should call the same number for information.

Individuals who did not receive a letter from the Health Department are not considered at risk of exposure and therefore do not need to be tested; however, individuals that want to be tested may do so with their health care provider or at one of the Health Department's five District Offices.

On June 20, the Health Department, in cooperation with Fairfax County Public Schools, initiated a broad tuberculosis (TB) investigation at Lee High School to identify people who may have had contact with three individuals at the school who have been diagnosed with active TB disease. The first individual was diagnosed in December 2012 and an investigation was initiated and completed at that time.

—VICTORIA ROSS

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Jim Souvagis
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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.



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 de-

mand 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 condo-

miniums 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

SEE REBOUND, PAGE 13

CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. For more entertainment events in the county, go to: <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2013/may/22/fairfax-county-calendar/>.

FRIDAY/JUNE 28

Rock-N-Kidz Summer Program.

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at Empire, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Sing and dance with Conductor Brii & Quentin every other Friday; for ages 5-10. \$5 show; \$10 for lunch and show. 703-569-5940.

Lillian Axe. 6 p.m., at Empire, 6335 Rolling Road, Springfield. The seasoned band plays songs from their 11th album, XI: The Days before Tomorrow. \$15. www.empire-nova.com.

City of Fairfax Main Street Community Band. 7:30-8:30 p.m., at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. The Main Street Brass Quintet repertoire ranges from Baroque to Beatles including works by Gabrieli, Stephen Foster, Holst, as well as some arrangements by members of the group. www.fairfaxband.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 29

Peter Pan and Captain Hook in the Fairies. 1 p.m., in the W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Vianlix Mestey's original adaptation of the fairy tale, in which the magic clock of Neverland begins to wind down and Peter Pan and Hook must work together to stop it. \$12 for adults; \$8 for children under 12. <http://workhousearts.org/events/performing-arts/peter-pan-and-captain-hook-fairies-land>.

Conditions. 5 p.m., at Empire, 6335 Rolling Road, Springfield. A post-hardcore/melodic rock band singing impassioned anthems. \$12-\$14. www.empire-nova.com.

90s Night Dance Party. 10 p.m., at Empire, 6335 Rolling Road, Springfield. A 21-plus party with 90s music and nostalgia. \$5-\$10. <https://www.facebook.com/events/171986569627199/>.

Sierra Hull. 7-8 p.m., at Workhouse Arts Center at Lorton, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A virtuoso on the mandolin, Sierra Hull is one of the brightest new stars in bluegrass. www.sierrahull.com.

Soul of Langston. 8 p.m., at the Lorton Workhouse in the W-3 Theatre, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A play centered on the life of the legendary poet of the Harlem Renaissance, by Daron P. Stewart, presented by the DC Drama Department. Reservations recommended. \$15. www.workhousearts.org.

SUNDAY/JUNE 30

Impending Doom with Everyone Dies in Utah. 7 p.m., at Empire, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. The Christian metal band opens. www.empire-nova.com.

FRIDAY/JULY 5

Kings Park Band. 7:30-8:30 p.m., at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. The Kings Park Band has grown to a full concert band of over 55 adults with a paid professional conductor. www.kingsparkband.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 6

Yoga on the Quad. 8 a.m., at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A free, 45-minute long yoga class held

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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NEW HOMES

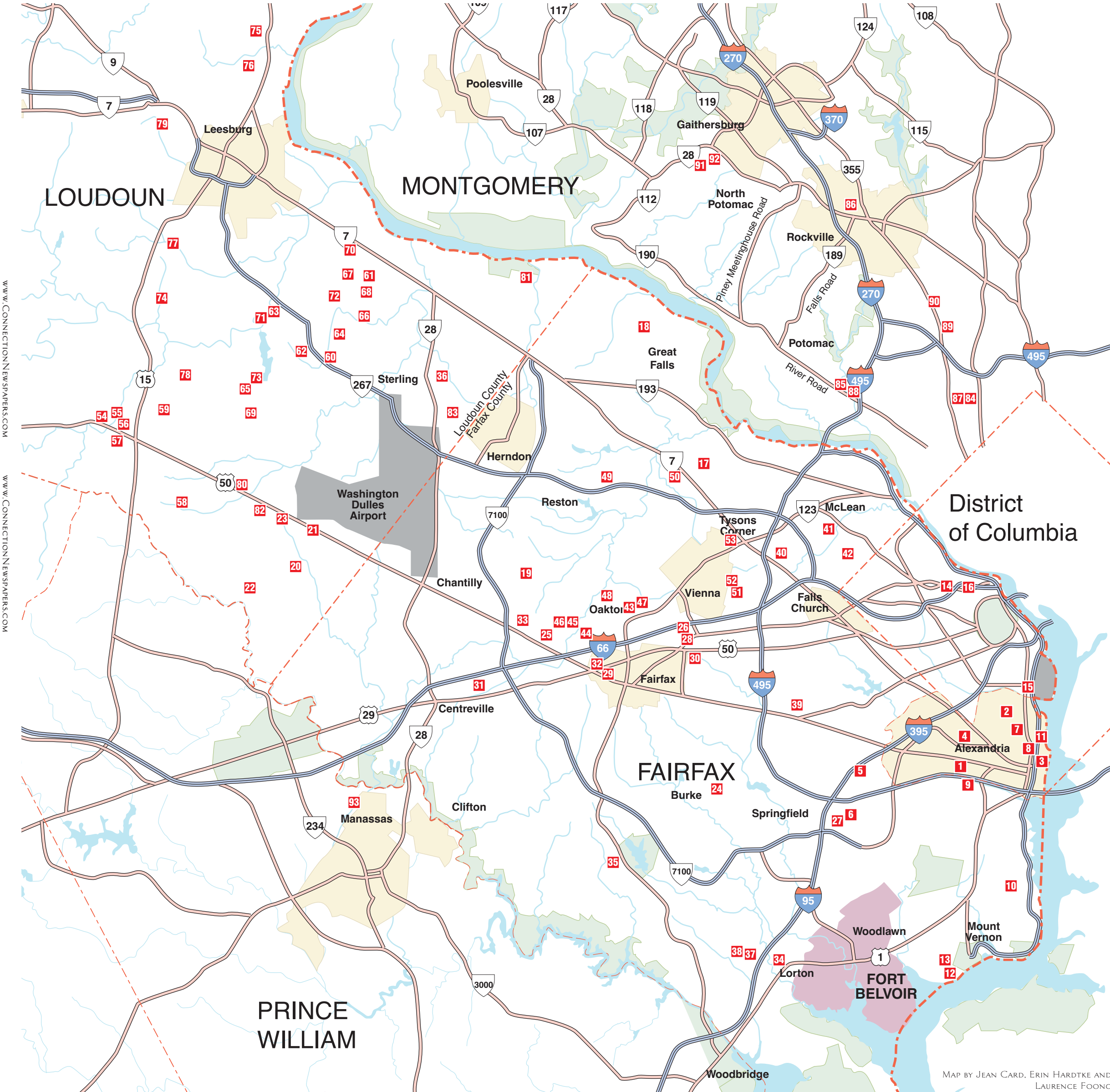


26 Metrowest, Fairfax, VA 22031 — From \$542,890 — PULTE HOMES



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

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



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MAP BY JEAN CARD, ERIN HARDTKE AND LAURENCE FOONG

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	RYAN HOMES	From \$800,000	Fairfax County	22039	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	INTEGRITY 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	DEL WEBB	From \$350,000	Hayfield	22601	67 One Loudoun	CAMBERLY HOMES	From \$450,000	Ashburn	20147
6 Poters Glen	EVERGREENE HOMES	From \$500,000	Alexandria	22310	37 Spring Hill	PULTE HOMES	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	CHRISTOPHER COMPANIES	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	CARR HOMES	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	MADISON 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	KESWICK 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	EVERGREENE 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	CHRISTOPHER COMPANIES	From \$930,000	Alexandria	22309	44 West Oaks	CAMBERLY HOMES	From \$1,400,000	Oakton	22124	75 Selma Estates	STANLEY MARTIN	From \$549,990	Leesburg	20176
14 Dominion Heights	COMSTOCK HOMES	From \$300,000	Arlington	22207	45 The Reserve at Waples Mills	WINCHESTER HOMES	From \$1,479,900	Oakton	22124	76 Raspberry Falls	VAN METRE	From \$600,000	Leesburg	20176
15 The Eclipse at Potomac Yard	EVERGREENE HOMES	From \$500,000	Arlington	22202	46 The Reserve at Waples Mills	STANLEY MARTIN	From \$709,990	Oakton	22124	77 Stone Fox Estates	CRAFTMARK HOMES	From \$700,000	Leesburg	20175
16 Court at Lyon Village	RESWICK HOMES	From \$900,000	Arlington	22201	47 Oakton East	CAMBERLY HOMES	From \$709,990	Oakton	22124	78 Greene Mill Preserve	STANLEY MARTIN	From \$759,990	Leesburg	20175
17 Marquette	CREEKSTONE	From \$2,300,000	Great Falls	22066	48 The Estates at Stuart Mill	NV HOMES	From \$1,599,900	Oakton	22124	79 Shenstone Reserve	TOLL BROTHERS	From \$829,995	Leesburg	20175
18 The Pond at Beach Mill	EVERGREENE HOMES	From \$2,800,000	Great Falls	20171	49 Hunting Crest	BASHEER AND EDGEMOORE	From \$1,200,000	Vienna	22182	80 Westend at Stone Ridge	VAN METRE	From \$250,000	Lorton	20105
19 Reserve at Oakton	M/I HOMES	From \$900,000	Herndon	20171	50 Maymount	COURTLAND HOMES	From \$1,500,000	Vienna	22182	81 Overlook at Lowes Island	STANLEY MARTIN	From \$499,990	Potomac Falls	20165
20 East Gate	COMSTOCK 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	RESWICK HOMES	From \$300,000	Chantilly	20152	52 Pickett's Reserve	BASHEER AND EDGEMOORE	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	22033	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	22033	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	INTEGRITY HOMES	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	22031	58 Willowsford Vintage Series	STANLEY MARTIN	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	COMSTOCK HOMES	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	DEL WEBB	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	VAN METRE	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		From \$300,000	Ashburn	20148	93 Heritage Crossing	STANLEY MARTIN	From \$242,990	Manassas	20109

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SATURDAY/SUNDAY, JUNE 29 & 30

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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

Burke

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 Hermendorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812
12048 Winding Creek Ct.....\$698,000....Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermendorfer.....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

To add your Realtor-represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Erin Peck at 703-778-9449 or E-mail the info to epeck@connectionnewspapers.com
All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

HOME SALES

In May 2013, 198 Springfield homes sold between \$875,000-\$155,000. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$419,000-\$155,000 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	.....	Postal	City	Sold	Price	Type	Lot	AC	PostalCode
8215 SOUTHWATER CT	3	..3	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$419,000	.....	Townhouse	0.04	.....	22153
9054 GAVELWOOD CT	3	..2	2	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$419,000	.....	Townhouse	0.06	.....	22153
7215 CALAMO ST	4	..3	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$417,000	.....	Detached	0.54	.....	22150
6209 JULIAN ST	3	..1	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$415,000	.....	Detached	0.28	.....	22150
6922 FLOYD AVE	3	..2	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$415,000	.....	Detached	0.24	.....	22150
5218 MONTGOMERY ST	4	..2	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$415,000	.....	Detached	0.25	.....	22151
7204 HIDDEN RIDGE CT	3	..3	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$415,000	.....	Townhouse	0.04	.....	22152
6316 GREELEY BLVD	4	..2	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$415,000	.....	Detached	0.27	.....	22152
6724 HOPEWELL AVE	3	..1	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$411,000	.....	Detached	0.31	.....	22151
7303 ESSEX AVE	3	..1	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$410,000	.....	Detached	0.23	.....	22150
7931 BIRCHTREE CT	3	..3	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$410,000	.....	Townhouse	0.04	.....	22152
6818 ROLLING RD	4	..2	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$410,000	.....	Detached	0.25	.....	22152
7212 RESERVOIR RD	3	..2	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$407,000	.....	Detached	0.25	.....	22150
8428 RAINBOW BRIDGE LN	3	..1	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$402,000	.....	Detached	0.14	.....	22153
7517 HAVELOCK ST	4	..2	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$400,000	.....	Detached	0.31	.....	22150
5915 AUGUSTA DR	3	..2	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$400,000	.....	Detached	0.33	.....	22150
5813 BRUNSWICK ST	4	..2	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$399,950	.....	Detached	0.21	.....	22150
5205 CANNES CT	4	..3	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$399,000	.....	Townhouse	0.03	.....	22315
7712 BARTLEY WAY	3	..2	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$398,000	.....	Townhouse	0.03	.....	22315
7418 FLORA ST	3	..2	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$395,000	.....	Detached	0.26	.....	22150
6202 GREELEY BLVD	4	..2	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$393,500	.....	Detached	0.25	.....	22152
5251 DUNSTABLE LN	4	..2	2	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$389,000	.....	Townhouse	0.03	.....	22315
5227 CANNES CT	4	..2	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$387,900	.....	Townhouse	0.03	.....	22315
7954 HIDDEN BRIDGE DR	3	..2	2	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$385,000	.....	Townhouse	0.04	.....	22153
7942 GAMBRILL CT	2	..3	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$381,300	.....	Townhouse	0.12	.....	22153
7007 BRADDOCK MEWS PL	4	..2	2	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$380,000	.....	Townhouse	0.04	.....	22151
5221 MONTGOMERY ST	3	..1	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$380,000	.....	Detached	0.27	.....	22151
5203 LONSDALE DR	3	..3	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$380,000	.....	Townhouse	0.04	.....	22151
7423 GOLDEN HORSESHOE CT	3	..2	2	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$380,000	.....	Townhouse	0.04	.....	22153
7305 FALMOUTH ST	3	..2	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$375,000	.....	Detached	0.24	.....	22150
7705 GLENISTER DR	3	..3	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$375,000	.....	Detached	0.24	.....	22152
8205 SPRINGFIELD VILLAGE DR	5	..2	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$375,000	.....	Detached	0.28	.....	22152
6614 BRIARLEIGH WAY	2	..2	2	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$373,000	.....	Townhouse	0.03	.....	22315
8471 CANYON OAK DR	3	..3	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$372,000	.....	Townhouse	0.05	.....	22153
8742 COLD PLAIN CT	3	..2	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$372,000	.....	Detached	0.26	.....	22153
7620 BOULDER ST	3	..1	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$370,000	.....	Detached	0.37	.....	22151
9046 GOLDEN LEAF CT	3	..2	2	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$365,000	.....	Townhouse	0.06	.....	22153
5943 DUNGENESS LN	3	..2	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$365,000	.....	Townhouse	0.02	.....	22315
6636 GREENLEIGH LN	2	..1	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$365,000	.....	Townhouse	0.03	.....	22315
7303 FOXE PL	3	..1	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$362,500	.....	Detached	0.33	.....	22151
7713 BRISTOL SQUARE CT	3	..2	2	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$362,500	.....	Townhouse	0.06	.....	22153
9049 GOLDEN LEAF CT	3	..2	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$362,500	.....	Townhouse	0.07	.....	22153
6330 OVER SEE CT	2	..2	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$361,000	.....	Townhouse	0.04	.....	22152
5908 CAMBERLY AVE	3	..2	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$360,000	.....	Detached	0.36	.....	22150
7008 BEVERLY LN	4	..2	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$360,000	.....	Detached	0.50	.....	22150
6398 SHAUNDALE DR	3	..2	2	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$360,000	.....	Townhouse	0.08	.....	22152
8966 ASTONGALE CT	3	..2	2	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$360,000	.....	Townhouse	0.06	.....	22152
5210 SAINT GENEVIEVE PL	3	..2	2	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$360,000	.....	Townhouse	0.03	.....	22315
5913 SIR CAMBRIDGE WAY	3	..2	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$359,900	.....	Townhouse	0.03	.....	22315
8322 UXBRIDGE CT	3	..2	2	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$355,000	.....	Townhouse	0.04	.....	22151
9163 FOREST BREEZE CT	3	..2	2	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$355,000	.....	Townhouse	0.04	.....	22152
8856 CORK COUNTY CT	3	..2	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$355,000	.....	Townhouse	0.08	.....	22152
8910 SHAMROCK CT	3	..2	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$355,000	.....	Townhouse	0.08	.....	22152
7403 SPRING TREE DR	3	..2	2	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$355,000	.....	Townhouse	0.04	.....	22153
8531 GAMBEL OAK DR	2	..3	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$355,000	.....	Townhouse	0.03	.....	22153
8527 JENNER CT	3	..2	2	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$354,000	.....	Townhouse	0.05	.....	22153
6362 SHAUNDALE DR	4	..3	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$352,000	.....	Townhouse	0.04	.....	22152
7662 NORTHERN OAKS CT	3	..3	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$349,995	.....	Townhouse	0.05	.....	22153
7020 BEULAH ST	2	..1	0	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$349,500	.....	Detached	0.42	.....	22315
7417 HOGARTH ST	3	..1	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$342,000	.....	Detached	0.24	.....	22151
7937 FOREST PATH WAY	2	..2	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$340,000	.....	Townhouse	0.04	.....	22153
6823 HEATHERWAY CT	3	..2	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$339,500	.....	Attach/Row Hse	0.03	.....	22315
8176 CURVING CREEK CT	3	..2	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$336,000	.....	Townhouse	0.06	.....	22153
7756 EUCLID WAY	3	..3	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$335,000	.....	Townhouse	0.04	.....	22153
8483 KITCHENER DR	3	..2	2	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$332,500	.....	Townhouse	0.04	.....	22153
7301 ROLLING OAK LN	3	..3	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$329,000	.....	Townhouse	0.06	.....	22153
8013 STEEPLE CHASE CT	3	..2	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$325,000	.....	Townhouse	0.03	.....	22153
8054 TOPPER CT	2	..2	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$323,000	.....	Townhouse	0.03	.....	22315
5608 KIRKHAM CT	3	..2	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$315,000	.....	Townhouse	0.04	.....	22151
8671 HICKORY RIDGE CT	3	..1	2	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$313,000	.....	Townhouse	0.06	.....	22153
6816 HOPEWELL AVE	3	..1	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$310,000	.....	Detached	0.28	.....	22151
8123 PARKDALE CT	3	..1	2	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$310,000	.....	Townhouse	0.03	.....	22153
8203 BURNING FOREST CT	3	..2	2	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$310,000	.....	Townhouse	0.03	.....	22153
8013 EDINBURGH DR	2	..1	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$300,500	.....	Townhouse	0.05	.....	22153
8185 CURVING CREEK CT	3	..2	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$300,000	.....	Townhouse	0.03	.....	22153
7704 DURER CT	3	..1	2	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$300,000	.....	Townhouse	0.04	.....	22153
6507 OLD CARRIAGE WAY	2	..1	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$289,489	.....	Townhouse	0.03	.....	22315
7503 ASHBY LN #D	2	..2	0	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$289,000	.....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	22315
7513 ASHBY LN #K	2	..2	0	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$286,500	.....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	22315
7668 NORTHERN OAKS CT	2	..3	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$285,000	.....	Townhouse	0.03	.....	22153
8486 LAZY CREEK CT	2	..2	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$280,000	.....	Townhouse	0.02	.....	22153
6310 SUNSET TER	2	..2	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$275,000	.....	Townhouse	0.02	.....	22153
8300 ROCKY FORGE CT	2	..1	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$272,000	.....	Townhouse	0.09	.....	22153
6583 GRANGE LN #302	3	..2	0	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$268,000	.....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	22315
8246 CRESTMONT CIR	2	..1	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$262,000	.....	Townhouse	0.02	.....	22153
7744 LEMOYNE LN	3	..1	2	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$260,000	.....	Townhouse	0.04	.....	22153
8314 DARLINGTON CT #459	3	..2	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$255,000	.....	Townhouse	.....	.....	22152
6469 ROCKSHIRE CT	3	..2	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$237,500	.....	Townhouse	0.04	.....	22315
5900E KINGSFORD RD #428	3	..2	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$235,000	.....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	22152
6801 BRINDLE HEATH WAY #280	1	..1	0	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$227,000	.....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	22315
6003D ELLESMERE CT #D	1	..1	0	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$175,000	.....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	22315
5902K SURREY HILL PL #708	1	..1	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	.....	\$155,000	.....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	22152

REAL ESTATE FOCUS



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."

Housing's Rebound

FROM PAGE 8
want to leave."

Builders Are Optimistic

"Builders, I think they are as clued into 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."

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Rock-N-Kids is a summer program filled with singing and dancing held every other Friday beginning June 28 at 11:30 a.m. at Empire in Springfield.



CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

outside; bring your own yoga mat.

workhousearts.org/events/general-events/free-yoga-quad-0.

Patriotic Fireworks Show. 9 p.m., at the Quad, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Bring your family, friends, blankets and lawn chairs and come watch as the colors lights up the sky. The Workhouse Arts Center is presenting patriotic

fireworks show. 703-584-2900 or <http://workhousearts.org/events/general-events/patriotic-fireworks-show>.

Frank Solivan and Dirty Kitchen. 7-8 p.m., at Workhouse Arts Center at Lorton, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Solivan, who sings lead vocals and plays mandolin and fiddle, performed for six years with the U.S. Navy's bluegrass group before leaving the service to play the civilian bluegrass circuit. www.dirtykitchenband.com.

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PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

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

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.

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

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ment is applying to the VIR-
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TROL (ABC) for a Wine and
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Clifton Wilcox, member
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21 Announcements

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metal file cabinet, plus housewares, décor items, 5' artificial
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

(Back row): Nurse's aide Saint Kankam, grandmother Nadine Balenger, dad Steve Balenger, grandmother Rejane Quirion, and mom Sylvie Balenger with Nick Balenger (front row) after Lake Braddock's graduation ceremony at the GMU Patriot Center.



Lake Braddock Principal David Thomas congratulates Nick Balenger on the stage at GMU's Patriot Center on Wednesday, June 19.

Walking Tall

Nick Balenger, paralyzed after a swimming accident, walks at the Lake Braddock graduation ceremony.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Every Lake Braddock senior who walked across the George Mason University Patriot Center stage for a diploma received applause and praise for 12 years of hard work.

But only one student received a standing ovation for simply walking.

Nick Balenger, a pitcher for the Lake Braddock Bruins baseball team, was paralyzed in a diving accident in Hawaii last summer. His doctors told him he might never walk again.

Balenger was determined to prove them wrong.

On Wednesday, June 19, in front of nearly 700 classmates and their families, Balenger did just that.

Leaning forward in his wheelchair throughout the ceremony, Balenger was focused and a little nervous as he waited for the awarding of the diplomas. When his row was called, he stood up with the help of a walker and took about 50 steps up the ramp to the stage where he waited for his name to be called.

When it was, he walked across the stage and accepted his high school diploma. For the first time that morning, the Burke teen smiled. Switching to a cane, he began walking down the steps of

the stage, and the crowd came to its feet in a thunderous standing ovation.

"I feel great, very relieved," Balenger said after sitting back down. "I was kind of nervous, but I practiced this morning. This has been my goal, to walk across the stage on graduation day. I'm just glad it's over."

"It was so emotional to see him walking again. Everyone is so proud of him," said Debra Brown, a student counselor at the school, as classmates gathered around Balenger.

"He is a force of nature," said neighbor Chris Bachman. "We were all cheering for him."

"He has worked so incredibly hard to get to this point," said Sylvie, Balenger's mother. "It was quite a sight to see him walking across that stage to get his diploma."

FOR THE PAST 11 MONTHS, Balenger has spent every day pushing himself to move. Every time he felt a sensation in his fingers, his hands or his feet, he doubled and tripled his "repetitions" in physical therapy to make certain he would not regress.

"My doctors thought I probably wouldn't be able to move my legs, let alone walk, but I did not want to be one of the patients who could not get out of the wheelchair. So I just kept moving," Balenger said.

Balenger said he plans to attend James Madison University, his father's alma mater, next fall, after another year of intense physical rehab.

Last June, Balenger was actively recruited by many colleges as a star athlete, and he was looking forward to a "dream" summer. A pitcher for the Lake Braddock Bruins baseball team, Balenger was ecstatic when the team won their first baseball state championship.

He said he was looking forward to spending an "awesome" summer vacation with his family on the island of Maui, where he was born.

But on July 25, 2012, his first day in Hawaii, his vacation took a tragic turn: Balenger dove into a wave and broke his neck in two places. The accident left him paralyzed from the neck down.

"I was pulled out of the water by my dad. In an instant, [everything] was ripped away. Most of my family was 6,000 miles away, my baseball career was over, the chances of me walking again were next to none and school was the least of my worries. I thought my life was over," Balenger has said.

On July 31, 2012, Balenger spent his 17th birthday in the same hospital where his life began.

After two surgeries to stabilize and fuse his spine, Balenger spent 19 days in an ICU on Maui, and 67 days as an inpatient at a rehabilitation hospital in Washington, D.C.

Two-and-a-half months after his accident, Balenger took his first tentative steps. Two months after that, he began moving around his house, walking hundreds of steps in therapy and he began to walk

VIEWPONITS

Lake Braddock Graduates Discuss: Where are you going next and where do you see yourself in 10 years?

—JASMINE KANG



Bridget Marcinkowski, Burke
"I'm going to Virginia Tech and I just got accepted into the Leadership Program. I plan to major in biology and minor in leadership and plan to go to med school. From there, I want to become a research doctor and study cancer research."

Chloe Shoemaker, Burke
"I'm going to NoVa and will hopefully become a vet."



Haram Yoon, Springfield
"I'm going to UVA and I have no idea."

Austin Wolfe, Burke
"I'm headed to Michigan State on an Army ROTC scholarship, so in 10 years, I can see myself in the Army."



Julian Olive, Burke
"I'm going to Marymount Manhattan College. In 10 years, I see myself in the city working in media or entertainment."

Max Weber, Springfield
"I'm headed to LSU and I see myself as being an engineer."



up stairs.

"Doctors have been amazed at his progress," said Steve Balenger, Nick's father. "We see his progress a little bit every day, but when the doctors see him, after three or four weeks, they can't believe how far he's come. This kid works his butt off. He inspires me."

BALENGER ALSO INSPIRED HIS CLASSMATES. Throughout his senior year at Lake Braddock, he used a wheelchair to navigate the halls, so most of his classmates did not know he was determined to walk again.

"It was so awesome to see him walk across that stage," said

graduating senior Lynne Baker.

In her honor graduate address, student Sophie Chase, who is headed to Stanford University in the fall, talked about the strength, kindness and humility that were hallmarks of the Class of 2013.

"You have continually inspired me and I always loved coming to school. We've learned so much together. I know a student who played baseball, and I know he will play baseball again," Chase said.

She ended her remarks with a line from the popular teen film "The Perks of Being a Wallflower," a line that could easily apply to Balenger.

"In this moment, we are infinite."

SPORTS

Lake Braddock Grad Rodi Headed to Hillsdale College

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

Kyra 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 —



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

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

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 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.

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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.

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Value Has an Address! It's the number of this Middlebridge colonial sitting pretty on a lush, flat cul-de-sac lot. Make this house your home by adding your personal touches & updates. 4 large bedrooms, 2.5 baths, finished lower level w/den, all awaiting a new family to love! Sunny deck w/portico, brick patio & 2-car garage come too. Hurry, this model usually sells for much, much more! Call Catie & Steve to see it today!

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