

# Springfield CONNECTION

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## HomeLifeStyle

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New Hunt Valley Principal David Fee with Summer SACC students (from left): Tina Lopez, Steven Le and Adrianna Reece.

# David Fee to Lead Hunt Valley

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## August in Antarctica Gets Warm Reception

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AUGUST 15—21, 2013

ONLINE AT [WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

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PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

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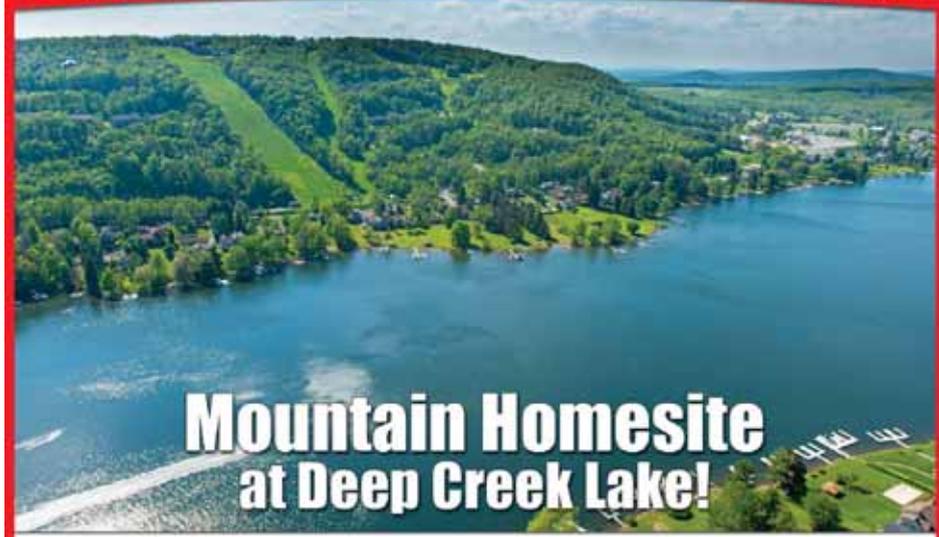
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## Fairfax County Public Libraries: Version 2.0?

Staff, volunteers urge supervisors to reconsider “disastrous” library reorganization plan that cuts staff and services.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**I**n a world where the Internet has replaced newsprint, e-books have supplanted paperbacks and the latest films stream directly to laptops, how do public libraries compete?

Like almost every other institution, public libraries are adapting. Self-check-out, online renewal and computer catalogues have replaced the fusty file drawers of index cards and leather-bound periodicals of the past.

“I think changes have to be made to the way libraries operate — to accommodate ways people get their information, do research and use libraries as community centers,” said Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman, on Monday, Aug. 12. She cautioned that any change, however, “needs to be done with the engagement of our staff and the community.”

But the changes proposed by the Fairfax County Public Library administration — which include reduced staffing and cross-training staff members — have sparked outrage among library volunteers, staff and patrons who call the plan “misguided,” and a “radical reinvention” of the library system.

**CRITICISM OF THE PLAN** has been building since July, when Library Director Sam Clay unveiled a program that would test a new organization model this fall at the Burke Centre Library and the Reston Regional Library, the busiest library branch in the county. The reorganization, Clay has said, streamlines staffing while retaining a high level of service.

“It includes a one-desk model of customer service, with cross-trained staff answering account and information questions, and increased programming conducted within the branch as well as in the community,” Clay said.

In response to questions and criticism of the reorganization, Clay and his staff prepared a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). In the document, Clay said there are multiple factors driving these changes.

“The way customers use the library has been changing over time; technology is having a major impact on library customers and staff with 76 percent of customers now checking out their own materials. The county is still undergoing a budget crunch, and the library is required to reduce its annual budget,” reads the FAQ document.

“Libraries in general are at a pivotal crossroads as we are called upon to meet the changing needs of our customers, brought on by technology and the Internet while providing resources with shrinking tax dollars. Libraries all across the country are trying new ways of operating,” Clay stated in the document.



PHOTO BY ELEANOR LAMB/THE CONNECTION

**Safari Bingo creates a gigantic bubble around the head of a librarian at a children’s event at Burke Centre Library in June 2013. The library was scheduled to be one of two libraries tested with a reorganization plan on Sept. 1. That plan has been put on hold after criticism from library volunteers, staff and patrons.**

Braddock Supervisor John Cook, who met with library supporters, said Fairfax County Public Libraries are facing the reality of budget restrictions and “are adjusting to the fact that with the Internet and electronic books, libraries are changing ....”

But critics of the plan maintain that the “sweeping changes” proposed by the library board will have “disastrous effects on the quality of library service that Fairfax County residents expect and deserve.”

On Aug. 3, a group called “Friends of the Library” launched an online petition urging the Library Board of Trustees to halt the reorganization plans and reevaluate the changes. The petition states:

“For the good of the community, this plan must be re-evaluated with thorough input from those who will be affected by the changes. This petition serves as a chance for library patrons, staff and friends to make their voices heard.” By Tuesday morning, Aug. 13, 547 people had signed the petition.

“The lack of input, transparency and respect is the greatest fatal flaw in the whole plan. ... This entire plan is hugely unpopular with staff, volunteers and patrons,” said Charles Keener of Oakton, an information assistant at Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library who has worked in the library system for nearly 40 years.

One widely criticized proposal in the reorganization: lowering the educational standards for librarians. Instead of requiring a master’s degree of library science for librarians, the job description will say that the advanced degree is “preferred,” but not “required.” Clay has said the change will allow more flexibility in hiring.

Keener counters it will “dumb down” the library and take the “librarian out of the library.”

Scott Railton of Great Falls, a long-time

library patron who contacted the Connection on Monday, agrees.

“Who would believe you can replace professionals with untrained clerks and retain quality? Current advancements in technology simply will not suffice to replace libraries and professional librarians,” Railton said.

“We are concerned that the drive to economize in this way will not serve the library, the county or the public in the long run,” said Jennifer McCullough, president of the Fairfax County Public Library Employees Association, who addressed the Library Board at its June 2 meeting. “Will a library system that does not require any librarians on staff flourish, or will librarians prefer employment in localities that still find an MLS degree necessary...?”

**LIBRARY STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS** have been meeting with Fairfax County supervisors — who appoint the 12 volunteer members of the Library Board of Trustees — urging them to hold off on tests and hold public hearings on the proposed changes.

“Those who use libraries and pay for libraries need to be included in decisions which will drastically change the character and quality of library services. Parents have a right to be part of any decision to eliminate youth services staff,” said Keener.

Kathy Kaplan, a Reston resident and library volunteer who is actively involved in Fairfax Library Friends, said the group is already working with the union on a post-card campaign, online petition, email campaign, web site and other ideas to reach out to the broader public and get their input on changes to the libraries.

“One reason staff and Friends are only now organizing a response is that they were unaware of plans until they were dropped like a ‘bombshell’ not long ago. People can’t

### Fairfax County Public Libraries—By the Numbers

#### USAGE STATISTICS—2012

(source: fairfaxcounty.gov/library/aboutthelibrary/factsht.htm)

- ❖ 495,831 registered customers.
- ❖ 5,246,854 visits to library branches.
- ❖ 13,034,816 items loaned.
- ❖ 4,162,599 visits to the library’s Internet website.
- ❖ 172,630 people attended 8,934 events.

#### PHYSICAL LIBRARY VISITS

Overall decreasing trend since 2008 with bump in 2009. (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2012/advertised/volume1/00152.pdf>)

- ❖ 2008: 5,794,036
- ❖ 2009: 6,128,289
- ❖ 2010: 5,685,827
- ❖ 2011: “over 5.4 million visits”

#### VISITS TO INTERNET WEBSITE

Overall increasing trend since 2008. (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2012/advertised/volume1/00152.pdf>)

- ❖ 2008: 16,732,257
- ❖ 2009: 17,483,534
- ❖ 2010: 22,025,596

#### BRANCH HOURS PER YEAR

Decreasing with budget. (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2012/advertised/volume1/00152.pdf>)

- ❖ 2008: 65,174
- ❖ 2009: 67,473
- ❖ 2010: 58,119

formulate a reasonable response to such a massive proposal overnight. It takes time for information to be absorbed, understood and reacted to,” Kaplan said.

Kaplan said the effort is picking up steam. Early Tuesday, Aug. 13, she said in an email that the fall calendar for the Fairfax League of Women Voters and the Fairfax libraries are on the schedule for Oct. 1 for discussion at all localities in the county, on an emergency basis.

“We are moving heaven and earth to delay this,” Keener said. “I have never seen lower morale or greater anxiety, fear, discouragement and anger from our staff. ... We want people to contact the library board and to contact their supervisor. Tell everybody breathing what’s happening at the library.”

It’s likely the Board of Supervisors will consider a motion at its Sept. 10 meeting, the day before the library board’s monthly meeting on Sept. 11, requesting further community outreach through public hearings or other forums, according to several Fairfax County officials.

❖ For more information on the petition, go to [www.ipetitions.com/petition/stop-and-re-evaluate-proposed-changes-to-fairfax/](http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/stop-and-re-evaluate-proposed-changes-to-fairfax/).

❖ To read the strategic plan on the library website, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/news/strategicplan.pdf>.

❖ To read a copy of the FAQ document, or to provide comments or suggestions regarding the Fairfax County Public Library, email [libcustomerservices@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:libcustomerservices@fairfaxcounty.gov).

# Preserving History's Jewels

County considers new "resident curator" program to save historic properties.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**G**eorge Washington slept here. He really did. And Mount Vernon, the first president's historic Northern Virginia estate, is the nation's most-visited historic home.

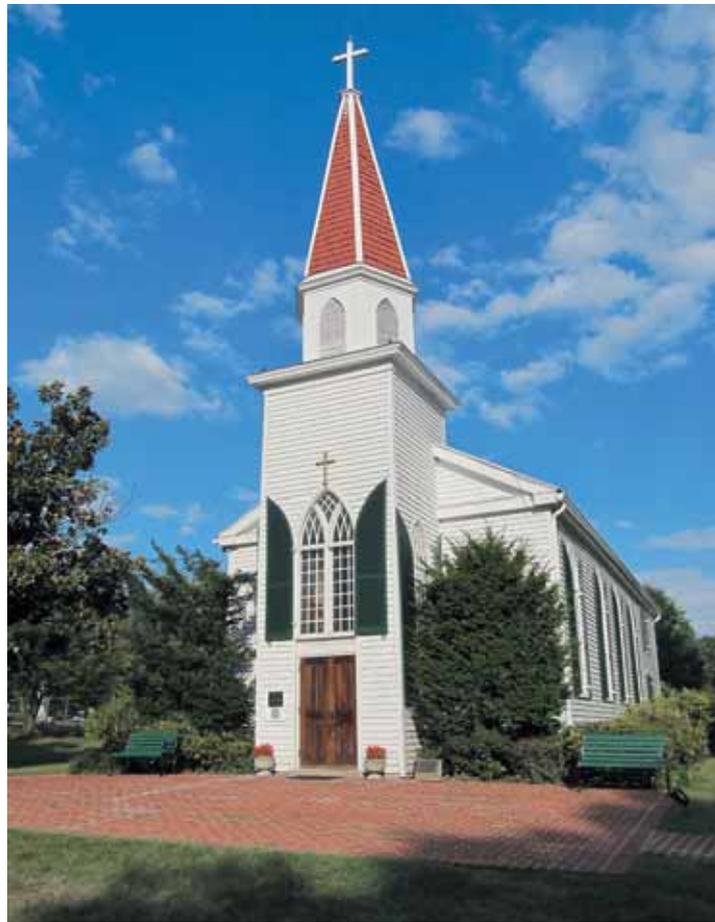
While not many properties can compete historically with Mount Vernon, Fairfax County is the site of many historic homes, farms and estates, from the Revolutionary War era through the American Civil War. But preserving historic homes can be prohibitively expensive, and are not for the financially timid.

In an effort to preserve publicly owned historic buildings, Fairfax County is currently drafting a plan for a resident curator program. If established, the county would make history as the first locality in the state to implement one.

**THE FUNDAMENTAL IDEA** behind the resident curator program is to take some of the burden of maintaining historic properties off taxpayers by offering individuals and entities the opportunity to rehabilitate and maintain deteriorating buildings, at their own expense, in exchange for a long-term lease for little or no rent.

"A successful resident curator program would allow the county to restore, maintain and protect important historic properties at little or no cost to the public," said Cindy Walsh, Fairfax County Park Authority's Resource Management Division director. "In return, a curator will have an opportunity to live or conduct business in a property in Fairfax County that perhaps offers a great lesson in the history of the county."

In addition to preserving significant historic buildings, Walsh said they could be put



**Historic St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church, which commemorated the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War last summer.**

to practical use as residential, office or commercial space depending on how they are planned and zoned, community input and other factors.

Under the program, curators would be required to provide opportunities for the public to visit and tour the properties in order to appreciate and understand their historic and architectural significance.

"Fairfax County, through a variety of means, continues to demonstrate its commitment to cultural stewardship and the preservation of historic places," Walsh said.

The county has hired a historic preservation firm to develop the plan, and will hold two initial public meetings later this

month to gather public input to determine how the program should operate.

After the resident curator plan is developed, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will determine the next steps for the proposed program.

"We encourage interested parties to join in the discussion and attend one of the two meetings," Walsh said. "We are interested in diverse viewpoints and suggestions and hope in the long run we will find the perfect blend of past and present."

The county hired John Milner Associates Inc. to write the plan, which is expected to be completed by May 2014. It will address a number of issues, including candidate properties and selection

## What is a 'Resident Curator Program?'

Resident curator programs identify publicly-owned historic properties with no immediate or practical public use and through an open and competitive process, select outside parties with skills, resources and vision to rehabilitate a property in accordance with accepted preservation standards for historic buildings. In exchange for rehabilitating the property, the curator gains use of the property and pays little or no rent. The county's plan will set out standards for properties to qualify for the program, as well as identify specific sites as candidates. At a minimum, they must be eligible to be listed in the county's Inventory of Historic Sites.

To learn more about the program, plan to attend one of two public meetings:

- ◆ Thursday, Aug. 22, 7 p.m., Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon
- ◆ Tuesday, Aug. 27, 7 p.m., Green Spring Gardens Park Horticulture Center, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria



**The historic Silas Burke House is the site of the Burke Historical Society monthly meetings.**

PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

criteria; how the program should be administered; potential tax incentives; and responsibilities for potential curators and the county.

**IN 2011**, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors directed staff to work with the History Commission to evaluate a Resident Curator Program. In conjunction with the commission, the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning and Fairfax County Park Authority are jointly managing this study.

For more information, visit the Resident Curator Implementation Study web page, or call the Park Authority Public Information Office at 703-324-8662, TTY 711.

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WEEK IN SPRINGFIELD

## American Red Cross Blood Drives for August

The American Red Cross Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Blood Services Region will hold blood drives in cities and towns throughout the region. Donors are encouraged to give all summer long, but especially near key summer holidays when donations decline. From May 23 to Sept. 13, donors, recipients and blood drive coordinators will be asked to share their inspirational videos and personal messages about how their lives have been touched by blood donation. Call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to schedule your blood donation appointment today.

Blood drive schedule for the area:

♦ Aug. 16, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax,

♦ Aug. 17, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church, Sharon Chapel, 3421 Franconia Road, Franconia,

♦ Aug. 20, 1:30-7:15 p.m. at American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield,

♦ Aug. 21, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Noman M. Cole Jr. Pollution Control Plant, 9399 Richmond Highway, Lorton.

### SCHOOL NOTES

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

**Jennifer A. Martinelli** graduated summa cum laude from Virginia Commonwealth University Dec. 8, 2012 with a degree in fine arts education. She has accepted a job as an art teacher with Fairfax County Public Schools and plans to start work in September.

**Melissa Martinelli-Brown**, a cancer survivor and alumna of Lake Braddock High School, graduated from Georgetown University Dec. 15, 2012, with a master's degree in nurse anesthesia. She has accepted a job at Fair Oaks Anesthesia Associates and works at Alexandria Hospital and Fair Oaks Hospital.

The following students are Scholarships for Military Children Program winners, all of whom received \$1,500 college scholarships, awarded at Fort Belvoir:

**Meredith Zettlemoyer** of Springfield, daughter of Mark and Gloria Zettlemoyer, plans to use the scholarship towards paying for her education at the University of Virginia.

**Molly MacDonald** of Fairfax Station, daughter of Anthony and Jennifer MacDonald, plans to use her scholarship towards paying for her education at High Point University.

**Cindy Le**, of Springfield, a student at Lee High School, became a member of The National Society of High School Scholars.



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# Library Mission

Further cuts to library budget must be analyzed for impacts on families in need.

The current proposal to “streamline” services at Fairfax County Public Libraries comes on top of disproportionate, and some would say Draconian, cuts since 2009.

Here is a summary of those cuts from the library department’s own strategic plan:

“In FY 2010, ... the library’s budget was reduced by 15 percent. Drastic adjustments to staffing levels occurred. Virtually all of the library’s exempt part-time staff were lost and with them, the flexibility needed to operate libraries under existing hours of operation. Consequently, hours of operation were reduced 19 percent. ... In FY 2011, the library’s budget was reduced an additional 6 percent. Additional staff were lost and operating hours reduced again by 9 percent. ... With a more stable budget outlook, the focus has shifted from survival, to becoming as vital to the lives of Fairfax County residents as possible.”

In 2012, Fairfax County libraries welcomed 5,246,854 visitors to library branches, and loaned 13,034,816 items.

In Fairfax County, where nearly 20 percent of the households have annual income of under \$50,000, about 8 percent live below the poverty line and more than 47,000 public school students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals, the public libraries are indispensable. Access to library resources goes beyond books, and includes the very digital

access that many people cite as a threat to libraries. Public access to computers and to the Internet for those who do not have other access is a critical service.

According to a 2010 report, Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from Internet Access at U.S. Libraries, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation:

❖ 44 percent of people in households living below the federal poverty line (\$22,000 a year for a family of four) used public library computers and Internet access.

❖ Among young adults (14–24 years of age) in households below the federal poverty line, 61 percent used public library computers and Internet for educational purposes.

❖ Among seniors (65 and older) living in poverty, 54 percent used public library computers for health or wellness needs. “People of all ages, incomes, races, and levels of education go to the library for Internet access

“This access has also proven to be critical in times of disaster, where libraries may be the only access point still operating that can provide a delivery point for government and social services to those displaced.”

Budgeting and restructuring must take into consideration the disproportionate effect of cutting library services on lower income households especially. But it is also true that the li-

braries are vital to all residents.

## On Federal Dollars In Virginia

We received some emails and phone calls about the expansion of Medicaid in response to last week’s editorial. Many asserted that Virginia should not accept federal dollars for its residents without health insurance in order to help control federal spending.

Virginia already receives more federal money per capita than any other state except Alaska. Virginia received \$136 billion in federal funds in 2010, more than \$17,000 from the feds per capita, and paid \$2,807 per capita in federal income taxes. (Data from Consolidated Federal Funds Report for Fiscal Year 2010 by State and County from the Census Bureau, analyzed by 247wallst.com)

Two examples: \$1.3 billion in federal transportation money came to Virginia. Virginia was on the receiving end of more than \$5,000 per capita in defense spending. Do the people (who almost certainly have their own health insurance) who think that we should turn away federal money to expand Medicaid think we should lobby to reduce defense and transportation spending in Virginia to help control federal spending?

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Skeptical on Medicaid

To the Editor:

Judging by your editorial [“Issues That Matter: Mental health services discussion gives insight into real differences between candidates,” Connection, August 7-13, 2013], gubernatorial candidate Ken Cuccinelli has a real problem with a key demographic: voters who believe in Santa Claus, the Tooth Fairy and the Easter Bunny. You fault Ken for being skeptical of what you see as Virginia’s opportunity to expand health care for poor residents, with the bill paid by the federal government. Would that it were so.

Ken is trained as an engineer and given the opportunity will be Virginia’s Innovation Governor. By training and experience he knows what works and what doesn’t in the real world.

Yes, the federal government is supposed to pay the full cost for Medicaid expansion during the first three years (2014-16) but the costsharing rate would be reduced from 100 percent to 92.8 percent by 2019.

Medicaid is already the largest budget item for the states, accounting for 22 percent of their budget expenditures as of 2010,

and recent studies such as that by Jagadeesh Gokhale of the Cato Institute suggest that for some states, even without any expansion, Medicaid expenditures are already unsustainable. Moreover, the unprecedented federal budget deficits projected through 2019 and beyond put Medicaid support for states and all other general revenue-supported federal programs at risk. Therefore, perhaps you will forgive Ken for looking forward a bit and being skeptical of what you apparently regard as free money.

With respect to mental health, Ken has an outstanding, demon-

strated record of personal dedication. He has served on the Virginia Supreme Court Commission on Mental Health in the Justice System and has personally represented individuals in Virginia’s civil, involuntary commitment process.

Finally, perhaps we should be at least a little careful as to what we wish for. A University of Virginia study shows that surgical patients on Medicaid are 13 percent more likely to die than those without any health insurance at all.

**Burton Jay Rubin**  
Burke

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### THURSDAY/AUG. 15

**Meals on Wheels: Urgent Volunteer Need.** Fairfax County’s Meals on Wheels needs drivers in the Franconia/Kingstowne, Lorton, Reston and Springfield areas; coordinators are needed in McLean. Find info under the Volunteer Solutions tab on the website. 703-324-5406, TTY: 711 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults.

#### SATURDAY/AUG. 17

**American Red Cross Blood Drive.** 9

a.m.-3 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church-Sharon Chapel, 3421 Franconia Road, Franconia. The American Red Cross Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Blood Services Region is taking blood donations by appointment or walk-in. 1-800-733-2767 or www.redcrossblood.org.

#### TUESDAY/AUG. 20

**My Pro Day.** 9 a.m.-noon at Lee High School, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. My Pro Day brings the excitement and fun of a pro baseball tryout experience to players of all ability levels. www.MyProDay.com.

#### American Red Cross Blood Drive.

1:30-7:15 p.m. American Legion Post

176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield. The American Red Cross Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Blood Services Region is taking blood donations by appointment or walk-in. 1-800-733-2767 or www.redcrossblood.org.

#### WEDNESDAY/AUG. 21

##### American Red Cross Blood Drive.

8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Norman M. Cole Jr. Pollution Control Plant, 9299 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The American Red Cross Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Blood Services Region is taking blood donation by appointment or walk-in. 1-800-733-2767 or www.redcrossblood.org.

#### TUESDAY/OCT. 8

##### Meet Candidates for State Delegate from Lee District.

7 p.m., at Franconia Government Center, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria. LDACO and League of Women Voters of Fairfax Area will co-host a meet and greet event for candidates for state delegate or their representative. LDACova.org.

#### SATURDAY/NOV. 2

**Bake and Craft Sale.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Lorton Senior Center, 7722 Gunston Plaza, Lorton. Browse 30 local artists, crafters and a terrific bake sale; bakers and crafters needed, reserve space now. 703-550-7195.

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## NEWS

# August in Antarctica Gets Warm Reception

People flock to Richard Byrd Library's 55th Anniversary Celebration.

BY ELEANOR LAMB  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Richard Byrd Library recently held a warm celebration for the Antarctic explorer for whom it was named.

The library's 55th anniversary celebration brought community members together to learn more about Byrd and the South Pole, and to appreciate the great impact the explorer had on the nation. The first of the two celebratory components was a talk by author Guy Guthridge, who was avidly received by a group of more than 115 adults. Guthridge discussed the life and legacy of Byrd, and explained his extraordinary expeditions in the South Pole.

"Byrd was always a very hands on guy. It's amazing what he did," said Guthridge. "The achievements of our country in the Antarctic is a world success story."

**THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** was not just geared for adults, though. On Saturday, Aug. 10, the library held a family day, which allowed children to experience all sorts of aspects of the South Pole, from how penguins insulate themselves with blubber to how explorers dress for the freezing cold. The Friends of Richard Byrd Library volunteers manned various stations throughout the library's meeting room that showed off some aspect of the South Pole. One of the most popular stations was where children could try on the Antarctic snow gear and admire themselves in a mirror.

"[My kids] love Arctic stuff and geography. It's really hands on and fun. Much better than video games," said Patty McCarthy of Alexandria.

McCarthy's children are not the only ones who have enjoyed learning about the South Pole. Many of the kids who flocked there appreciated seeing the aspects of Antarc-



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTINE PETERSON

**Del. Vivian Watts (D-39) and Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), attendees of Guy Guthridge's talk at the Richard Byrd Library, stand in penguin cut-outs.**

tica they loved brought to life.

"It's a good educational opportunity. It's hands on and [kids] get to talk to people who know about this kind of stuff," said Tom Smith, a father from Springfield. "My daughter's in the Summer Reading Program and has been reading about the Antarctic."

The volunteers who worked the stations enjoyed demonstrating the real-life nature of their activities as much as the kids enjoyed experiencing them. Beverly Clemens, a volunteer with St. Mark's Lutheran Church, was one of three women working the blubber glove station. In that activity, kids placed one hand in a normal plastic bag and one in a plastic bag layered with lard. Then, they submerged both hands into an icy tub of water to feel how the insu-

SEE CELEBRATION, PAGE 11



PHOTO BY ELEANOR LAMB/THE CONNECTION

**A young boy grins while his mother experiments with the blubber glove.**

Aug. 23-Sept. 1, 2013

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## David Fee to Lead Hunt Valley

Easy-going, approachable principal offers inclusive style of leadership.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

After 18 years in education, David Fee was named new principal of Hunt Valley Elementary School in Springfield on July 1, taking over the position from former principal Pat Small who retired on June 30.

There are 600 students projected to attend in September. The school's demographics are as follows: 58 percent white, 14 percent Asian, 7 percent black, 11 percent Hispanic, and 8 percent "other." Some 4.7 percent are on free or reduced lunches.

"I am going to continue building relationships with the community, staff, parents and students," said Fee who is often seen welcoming visitors and students in classrooms. "And commit to building strong, collaborative learning teams here at Hunt Valley."

**TO THAT END**, he added: "We focus attention on meeting the needs of all of our students, including our subgroups. ... And I always tell our staff not to forget that we're here for the kids in all our work."

Small worked with Fee for six years when he was assistant principal and called him "masterful" in his interpersonal skills. "He's smart, he's well planned, and his personality and his caring for everybody holds it all together," said Small. "He's going to be a great principal."

She said he can take any programs coming down the pike from the county, and is able to present them to the staff in a way that they'll understand, and a way that they will help to achieve county goals.

In addition to general education, the school offers an Enhanced Autism Program with four or five classrooms of students with autism and highly-trained Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) teachers, special-ed teachers and instructional assistants. The school gets countywide visitors who are establishing new autism programs at their own schools. Fee said, "I'm proud of our philosophy of inclusion and meeting the students' needs."

He calls the school's PTA strong and supportive, providing the funding for a new gravel track to be installed this summer. "The track will be a nice addition to our school and a way to build community involvement with neighbors," he said. "We met today with the PTA board to plan out the year."

PTA President Karen Layser of Bramblewood said people were secretly crossing their fingers when Fee applied for the slot. They respect him and see him as a fellow parent, she said: "He cares a lot about the school, the children and the families, and making sure anything they need is taken care of."

The school built in 1969 and renovated in 1996 is part of the West Springfield Pyramid. It offers the more rigorous Advanced Academic Program (AAP) services, which is the former Gifted and Tal-



New Hunt Valley Principal David Fee.

ented program, for all levels. An accelerated math program is offered in grades 3-6. There is also a year-round SACC program and an adapted physical education program. Students can take part in both the spelling bee and geography bee.

For a \$299 fee, Hunt Valley is starting new GLOBAL Language Learning classes, offering 20 sessions in French, German, Spanish for grades 1-3, and 4-6. The curriculum is aligned with FLES and taught after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning in October.

Once a year, second-graders visit Green Springs Retirement Community for a community service project. "They spend time with the seniors and reflect on their contributions to their lives," said Fee.

**FOR FOUR YEARS IN A ROW**, Hunt Valley received the Governor's Award for Educational Excellence, the governor's highest honor. "We have an excellent reputation at Hunt Valley in student achievement," said Fee. "And I want to continue to meet the needs of all of our students."

A military brat, Fee was born in Utah and moved throughout the South as a child. He attended Wilton Woods Elementary School in Alexandria in grades 1-4 and attended a DoDDS school in Germany. He graduated from high school in Alconbury, England. He got a degree in exercise physiology

in 1988 from ODU and worked as a fitness trainer and physical therapy aide at a sports medicine center. He went back for a master's from GMU in curriculum and instruction in 1995.

Fee's first teaching job was as a fourth-grade teacher at Bonnie Brae Elementary in Fairfax. After six years, he became a school-based technology specialist at Freedom Hill Elementary in Vienna. In 2007, he became assistant principal at Oak View in Fairfax, followed by assistant principal at Hunt Valley.

He is married to wife Jacki, a reading resource teacher in Fairfax County. The couple has two children: Brendan, 14, and Maddie, 11, both at Lake Braddock.

## Home Life Style

### Outdoor Elegance Meets Cutting Edge Technology

A design/build team explores fine architecture in weather-resistant materials.

BY JOHN BYRD

If anything in the summer of 2013 points to still evolving homeowner expectations, it may be the frequency with which locals are integrating screen porches, patios, fire pits and outdoor kitchens into original landscaping schemes that artfully marry the house to its setting.

Gone are the days of minimal outdoor improvements; today's homeowners are inclined to stay put and express themselves — which is why the traditional house as we've known it is becoming more personalized — in short, a home.

"It's a real renaissance," said Craig Durosoko founder and chairman of Sun Design Remodeling Specialists, and one of the housing industry's more prescient trend spotters.

"Interestingly, when we started this company in the 1980s our core specialty was opening up views and creating visual continuum, so indoor/outdoor solutions are just a logical extension of what our culture has always been about."

Asked about current projects, Durosoko said that Fairfax County's more affluent homeowners are actively seeking to better articulate the relationship of the house and grounds — an impulse which has gradually become a passion for outdoor spaces that can be used in both the hottest days of summer and fall's chilly nights.

"Homeowners want outdoor rooms — spaces that are wired for entertainment, useable for seven or eight months of the year, and so easy to maintain that the usual repair and replacement tasks are mostly eliminated," Durosoko said. "Naturally, the changes must also enhance the home architecturally."

To meet a rising criteria, Durosoko and colleagues constantly stay on top of a new generation of weather-resistant materials, absorbing and applying fine building techniques that will shape non-traditional materials into designs perfectly suited to the home's style and setting.

And as the standard has risen, so, too, the need to stay ahead of the curve.

**TYING A NEWLY-DESIGNED** outdoor feature to the existing home is fundamentally an architectural proposition, and one that Sun Design's Dawn Parker handles with practiced dexterity.

Starting with a blank canvas — the unadorned rear elevation to a Georgian-style brick home in McLean — Parker imagined a six-sided pavilion, with 10-foot ceilings and sweeping vistas.

The structure would segue from the pre-existing sunroom, courtesy of two sets of matching French doors. The white exterior trim is now crowned with a white balustrade visually connected to a columned "arbor trellis" that adds definition to the rear elevation. Since the high-ceiling interior the owners wanted precluded a conventional "pitched" roof — which would have ob-



Bringing the outdoors inside: a light-filled sunroom boasting views in all directions opens to a spacious dining deck. The sunroom features a gas fireplace and a custom-designed skylight that fills most of the ceiling. The owners find it an ideal spot for cool weather nature-watching.

structed a second floor window — Parker designed an inverted membrane ceiling that accommodates internal drainage tied into the existing underground system.

Rainspouts are concealed inside the trimmed porch columns and extended, unseen, along the ogee end "eagle head" trellis. The trellis "ends," in turn, continue as a decorative motif around the top of the porch.

The overall design, as Parker envisioned, perfectly elaborates the home's classic architecture while spotlighting the impressive "English garden" that dominates the backyard. The existing barbeque grill remains steps from either the kitchen or the porch, but now there are multiple dining venues. From the porch, in fact, the owners can keep an eye on the pool when the children are playing.

The patchwork design of the English garden, the old, flagstone patio, the small pond with running water, the crepe myrtles along the property line — all give the setting a refined textural elegance.

"I wanted the whole to look inevitable — as if the design had always been there," Parker notes. "This is what good architecture is always about."

**"WE THINK OF AN OUTDOOR** living plan is a creative response to an owner's personal requirements," says Bob Gallagher, whose extensive design/build portfolio extends back some 25 years. "The important point is not how much of it is open or enclosed, but how well the whole supports a lifestyle in which exposure to nature is the primary goal."

A recent dining decking plus sunroom solution in Oak Hill illustrates the point.

After years of occupying a home custom-designed precisely to exploit a pretty wooded setting, the owners had decided they wanted a still stronger link to the outdoors. Low-maintenance was an essential ingredient, but they initially envisioned an "outdoor room," free from insects — yet with dramatic views in all directions.

"They had looked at screen porches," Gallagher said. "The idea was an enclosed

space on the new dining deck. Something of a place apart. A transitional foot print between house and open air."

As the conversation developed, however, extending the room's seasonal usefulness gradually became a rising aspiration.

"If we could create a dramatic connectedness to nature and extend the room seasonally, we were heading to the right solution," Gallagher said.

At a glance, the resulting 10.5-foot by 12.5-foot sunroom is a neatly balanced space plan that seems neither closed nor overexposed to the elements. Floor-to-ceiling windows define the room on every elevation. Overhead, two skylights installed on a hipped roof allow 25 square feet of natural light. Ceramic tile flooring and other neutral finishes reinforce the natural, open ambiance, which is visually linked to the welcoming dining deck.

To preserve generous views on the existing rear elevation, Gallagher and team placed the sunroom directly off the kitchen to the left of the family room. Built-ins and a fireplace comfortably integrate the space to the existing interior. The room is a favored spot to watch the trees, and mostly opened-up for cross breezes on temperate days.

Since upkeep requirements were to be restricted to an annual pressure wash, even

the sunroom's exterior paneling is low-maintenance Hardiboard. Trex decking, aluminum balusters and vinyl-clad posts further an outdoor design scheme that is also easy to maintain.

**SOMETIMES DUROSKO'S FIRST CALL** from a homeowner comes when some weather-exposed part of an existing house has conspicuously failed.

To repair the front facade of a Fairfax home, for instance, Durosoko and team replaced a leaking flat roof portico with an architecturally-appropriate alternative that features a concave metal roof. In lieu of the original wood-trimmed front-window, the remodeler called for an aluminum-framed arch-topped window integrated with other exterior elements. For added weather-protection, new portico supports are trimmed in PVC.

In the rear, the outdoor living plan called for a 17-foot by 16-foot screen porch and a grilling deck, a ground-level patio and a stand-alone fire pit complete with cushioned wicker couches, table and settee.

"We were tasked with finding the best way to visually rationalize the whole," Durosoko said. "Views and focal points were considered essential to the project's success."

To keep sightlines from the kitchen uncluttered, for instance, Durosoko situated the grilling deck immediately outside the kitchen door, flanking the new screened porch to the right. From the grilling deck, a stairway descends eight steps before arriving at a landing where it splits in two directions.

"A steeper descent would have undermined the project's proportionality," Durosoko said.

At ground level, the staircase reconnects with a semicircular stone planter. Several "built" features were designed to accommodate new landscaping. The curvilinear patio segues to a second platform crowned with an eight-foot stone hearth perfect for fire gazing.

The screen porch, meanwhile, demonstrates how durable materials can be shaped to meet demanding aesthetics. A Trex "transcend" railing with black aluminum balusters was selected since it won't interfere with views by reflecting light. Fiberglass charcoal screen, likewise, preserves an element of privacy.

Pressure-treated southern yellow pine flooring undergirded with screen mesh assures that bugs stay out. A fir-beaded tongue-and-groove wood ceiling lends the open-air setting a natural burnish.

Durosoko chose paneled Hardiboard for the porch's inside wall — a neutral backdrop for the wide-screen plasma TV mounted next to a window that serves as a food and beverage pass-through.

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

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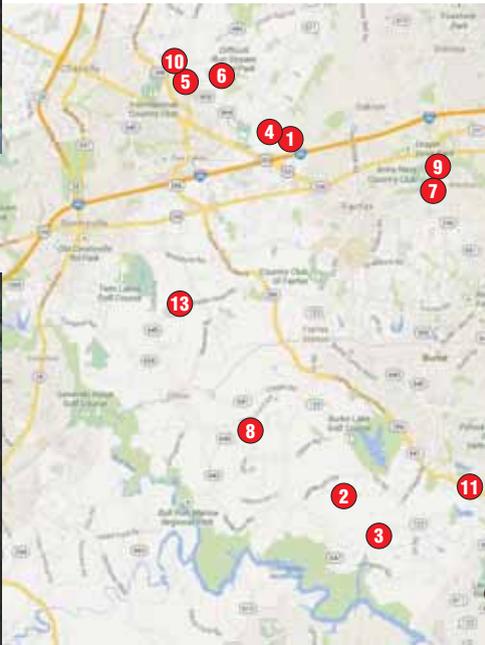
PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

## June 2013 Top Sales

**1** 11390 Amber Hills Court,  
Fairfax — \$1,582,924



**3** 9803 Thorn Bush Drive,  
Fairfax Station — \$1,230,000



**11** 9322 Castle Hill Road,  
Springfield — \$1,075,000



**13** 13100 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton — \$1,025,000



**14** 9040 Swans Creek Way, Lorton — \$1,000,000

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Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 11390 AMBER HILLS CT	4	4	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$1,582,924	Detached	1.00	22033	ESTATES AT FAIR OAKS	06/13/13
2 7820 MANOR HOUSE DR	4	4	0	FAIRFAX STATION	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,250,100	Detached	5.22	22039	THE ENGLISH HILLS ESTATE	06/26/13
3 9803 THORN BUSH DR	5	4	1	FAIRFAX STATION	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,230,000	Detached	5.21	22039	ESTATES AT ROSELAND	06/15/13
4 11388 AMBER HILLS CT	4	3	2	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$1,225,039	Detached	0.83	22033	ESTATES AT FAIR OAKS	06/27/13
5 12710 LAUREL GROVE WAY	4	4	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$1,200,000	Detached	0.83	22033	OAK HILL ESTATES	06/07/13
6 12185 WILD HORSE DR	5	4	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$1,180,000	Detached	0.61	22033	DARIMOOR WOODS	06/27/13
7 9507 SHELLY KRASNOW LN	5	4	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$1,175,000	Detached	0.18	22031	PICKETT'S RESERVE	06/13/13
8 7131 TWELVE OAKS DR	4	5	1	FAIRFAX STATION	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,175,000	Detached	5.00	22039	TWELVE OAKS	06/28/13
9 3436 PRESERVATION DR	4	4	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$1,159,000	Detached	0.17	22031	PICKETT'S RESERVE	06/28/13
10 12715 LAUREL GROVE WAY	5	4	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$1,115,000	Detached	0.93	22033	OAK HILL ESTATES	06/26/13
11 9322 CASTLE HILL RD	5	5	1	SPRINGFIELD	SPRINGFIELD	\$1,075,000	Detached	0.25	22153	LAKEWOOD HILLS	06/28/13
12 6609 PEACEFUL MEADOW LN	5	4	1	CENTREVILLE	CENTREVILLE	\$1,075,000	Detached	5.79	20120	FAIRFAX NATIONAL ESTATES	06/20/13
13 13100 TWIN LAKES DR	3	3	1	CLIFTON	CLIFTON	\$1,025,000	Detached	4.15	20124	TWIN LAKES	06/27/13
14 9040 SWANS CREEK WAY	4	4	1	LORTON	LORTON	\$1,000,000	Detached	0.90	22079	CRANDALL RUN	06/28/13

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# CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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/AUG. 16

**Cool Cow Comedy.** 7 and 9 p.m., W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Rahmein Mostafavi hosts five stand-up routines by touring comedians. \$15. <http://workhousearts.org/events/performing-arts/cool-cow-comedy-4>

## Combat Paper Project Workshop Exhibition/Closing Reception.

7-10 p.m., at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A closing night featuring prints on handmade paper made during the Combat Paper Project workshop.

[www.combatpaper.org/index.html](http://www.combatpaper.org/index.html)

## Falls Church Concert Band.

7:30-8:30 p.m., at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. This popular 50-piece community band performs movie theme songs, marches and other favorite tunes.

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

## Sixth Generation Concert.

8 p.m., Workhouse Arts Center, Rizer Pavilion, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The Sixth Generation performs music of the late 1960s. Seating is provided, but guests may bring their own lawn chairs. Tickets \$10-15; beer, wine, and concessions will be sold. [workhousearts.org/events/performing-arts/sixth-generation-concert-0](http://workhousearts.org/events/performing-arts/sixth-generation-concert-0)



**Gospel quartet The Dixie Melody Boys perform Friday, Aug. 16 at Mt. Calvary Community Church in Springfield, bringing their Grammy-nominated four-part harmonies to the stage at 7:30 p.m.**

**Set for Tomorrow.** 5-11 p.m., Empire-Alchemy Room, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Set for Tomorrow, HisNeway and City Skies perform Christian music. \$10. [www.ampedandalive.com/eventdetails.aspx?eventId=1177](http://www.ampedandalive.com/eventdetails.aspx?eventId=1177)

## FRIDAY/AUG. 23

**The United States Army Blues.** 7:30-8:30 p.m., at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. This group began in 1942 and since then, it has evolved into the premier jazz ensemble of the United States Army. [www.bands.army.mil](http://www.bands.army.mil)

## THURSDAY/AUG. 22

**Get Funked.** 7-11:30 p.m., Empire-Alchemy Room, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. The Prime Tribe, Scotts Run, Albino Rhino, and others perform acoustic, funk and fusion music. \$10. [www.ampedandalive.com/eventdetails.aspx?eventId=1181](http://www.ampedandalive.com/eventdetails.aspx?eventId=1181)

## SATURDAY/AUG. 24

**Free Nutritional Seminar.** 4 p.m. 3443 Carlin Springs Road, Bailey's Crossroads. Mikido Martial Arts presents a nutrition, exercise, and weight loss seminar led by personal trainers. 703-922-0060 or 571-344-9483.

## THURSDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 15-SEPT. 8

**3rd Annual Workhouse Clay National Exhibition.** Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. View a juried exhibition of ceramic art from across the country representing various styles and trends in the art field. <http://workhousearts.org/events/visual-arts/3rd-annual-workhouse-clay-national-2013>

## SATURDAY/AUG. 17

**Winnie the Pooh.** 1 p.m., W-3 Theatre, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A. A. Milne's characters encounter new neighbors and other adventures in the Hundred Acre Wood. \$8 for children under 12, \$12 for adults, runs 75 minutes with one intermission, appropriate for all ages, concessions available before the show and during intermission. <http://workhousearts.org/events/performing-arts/winnie-pooh>

**Alex Goot.** 6-9:30 p.m., Empire-Alchemy Room, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Alex Goot performs songs of the rock genre. \$15. [ampedandalive.com/eventdetails.aspx?eventId=1101](http://ampedandalive.com/eventdetails.aspx?eventId=1101)

**Lori Williams.** 7-8 p.m., at Workhouse Arts Center at Lorton, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Lori Williams, the lead vocalist of the Washington-based jazz ensemble Lori Williams & Friends, sings songs from her recently released CD "Eclipse of the Soul."

## SUNDAY/AUG. 18

**N Gauge Model Train Show.** 1-4 p.m., Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members (T-TRAK layout) hold a model train exhibit. Free, museum members and children under 4; \$4, adults 16 and over, \$2, children 5-15. 703-425-9225 or [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org)



**A brother and sister grin from penguin cut-outs at Richard Byrd Library's 55th Anniversary Celebration.**

## Library's Celebration

FROM PAGE 7

lated bag kept their one hand warm while the normal bag caused their other hand to chill.

"It's amazing what a little touch of reality can do," said Clemens. "The amazement on their faces [is great]."

Another popular area was the fake snow station. Two volunteers monitored two large bins of fake snow, which could be molded but was not cold. Kids played with toy penguins that were in the snow and sculpted shapes with the powdery substance.

"I like the fake snow because it's like real snow. I also like the

flag, because you can draw penguins. I made a print with my thumb," said 9-year-old Jeb Cui.

**CHILDREN WERE NOT** the only ones who were thrilled with the displays. As the volunteers working the snow bins noticed, parents pressed their children's hands into the snow and played with them. They relished the South Pole experience the library brought to their fingertips. "The parents are enjoying it as much as their children," said Shirley Edwards, a volunteer with the Upper Pohick Community League. "It's turned into a family activity."

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# SPORTS

## Lake Braddock QB Henderson Settling Into Comfort Zone

**Bruins loaded with talent entering 2013 season.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

In 2012, Caleb Henderson was a junior quarterback at Lake Braddock and a high-profile college football recruit.

He was also a kid getting acclimated to a new school, new classmates and a new offensive system while trying to decide where he would play at the next level.

Henderson played his sophomore season at West Potomac but transferred after his father, Eric Henderson, was informed he would not return as head coach. Caleb Henderson became the starter at Lake Braddock and led the Bruins to the Patriot District title and the No. 2 seed in the Northern Region playoffs. However, Lake Braddock lost at home in the opening round to No. 7 Oakton, which went on to win the region crown.

Nine months later, Henderson is entering his senior season as the Lake Braddock signal caller. He's familiar with his teammates, coaches and the Burke secondary school. He made a decision about his football future, committing to the University of North Carolina. He's playing in a different offensive system again, but he'll have a familiar face helping him along the way as Eric Henderson, who was the Bruins' defensive coordinator last season, has moved to offensive coordinator.

"He's comfortable with who he is and he's comfortable with being a Lake Braddock Bruin," head coach Jim Poythress said at a recent practice. "Last year, he was trying to transition, his brother [linebacker Jon Henderson] was here, his dad's trying to transition, but now they all have a year under their belt. They're familiar with everything we do. It's a lot easier. It's been much smoother that way."

**THE LAKE BRADDOCK FOOTBALL TEAM** is again loaded with talent and it starts with Henderson, who is ranked No. 186 in ESPN.com's list of the nation's top 300 recruits in the class of 2014. At 6-foot-4 and 217 pounds, he received four of five stars and a grade of 83 out of 100. ESPN ranks Henderson as the 11th-best quarterback in the class.

"I feel a lot more comfortable because I know everyone," Henderson said. "I know how I can throw to AJ [Alexander], I know how I can throw to Ryan [Antonellis], I know how I can throw to Vince [Sica]. They're all different players, they all catch the ball differently, they all run their routes differently, and now that I've had a whole year to get to know them and lift with them and run with them, it really instills confidence in me to know how I can throw to them."

Poythress said Henderson has matured. "Last year, he would just blow up when things didn't go his way," the head coach said. "I think he's much more in control of himself and he's friends with all these guys now. He had a whole year where he's hung



The Lake Braddock offense works during practice.



Lake Braddock quarterback Caleb Henderson is committed to the University of North Carolina.



PHOTOS BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION  
Junior receiver AJ Alexander is one of Lake Braddock's top pass-catching threats.

**"He's comfortable with who he is and he's comfortable with being a Lake Braddock Bruin."**

—Lake Braddock football coach Jim Poythress on quarterback Caleb Henderson

out with them and done things with them outside of school. They've played tons of seven on seven games, so there's some chemistry there."

Henderson played for his father at West Potomac, but Eric Henderson didn't call plays for the Wolverines that year. This season will be the first time the two have worked together from a play-calling standpoint at the high school level.

"Sometimes it gets heated just because

that's my dad," Caleb Henderson said of their quarterback/offensive coordinator relationship. "Sometimes I disagree with him, but usually—all the time—I'm wrong [and] he knows the offense a lot more than I do. First couple days were getting a little rough, but now I'm just getting through his play calls, learning what he wants me to see and just trusting him."

Eric Henderson said the two try to separate football from family time.

"When we go home and we're not watching film or doing something along those lines, we flip the switch and go to the other side," the elder Henderson said. "When it comes to football and practice and watching film and doing those things, I think our relationship changes."

What about disagreements?

"We don't butt heads," Eric Henderson joked, "I win."

"More often than not, if he can explain his way through something, then OK, fine, let's do it," Eric Henderson said. "[Caleb has] played a lot of football, he knows what he's doing."

**CALEB HENDERSON** will be playing behind a sturdy offensive line. Poythress, who is also the O-line coach, said each of the five starting linemen can squat at least 500 pounds. Junior center Randall Bills is one of the lighter players in the group at 250 pounds. Senior right guard Lance Hammond can bench press 380 pounds, and 340-pound senior left guard Reece Burnett can bench press 400. Junior right tackle Caleb Montemayor and senior left tackle Michael Wold will also start.

Alexander is one of the Bruins' top receivers. The 6-foot-3, 210-pound junior said he has received an offer from the University of Virginia. Sica and Antonellis are also pass-catching threats.

Senior Trevor O'Brien, junior Dejon Lee and senior Jon Carrier could see time at running back.

On defense, Poythress called senior Dwight Lomax a physical "specimen." The 225-pounder can bench press 350 and will move from linebacker to pass-rushing end. Junior edge rusher Ian Reilly could also be an impact player up front.

Tim Coulter and Kyle Edwards will likely be the safeties. Senior linebackers Kevin Hankton and Patrick Farrell could be impact players.

Lake Braddock will play in 6A North's Conference 7 after the VHSE's six-class realignment. The conference is composed of seven of the eight members which comprised the former Patriot District (Lee moved to 5A North's Conference 13).

The Bruins will travel to scrimmage Osbourn at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 15 and Seneca Valley (Germantown, Md.) on Aug. 23 before opening the season at Robinson at 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 30.

"I think there are certain years when you're hoping to get into the playoffs, and then there are years where you're expecting to get into the playoffs and then you're expecting to make a run," Poythress said. "I thought last year's team could move forward in the playoffs and we got Oakton first and they were kind of a buzzsaw. ... I think this group is more advanced than that group."

Caleb Henderson also believes in the Bruins.

"We have the talent and the physicality," he said. "If we stay consistent and do what we do and execute, we can beat anyone, I think."

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**Alexandria**  
**\$779,000**  
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**Springfield**  
**\$474,900**  
Beautifully updated split-level with 3 BR and a den on a quiet cul-de-sac. Freshly painted, new carpets, stainless steel appliances, granite counters, and a large pantry. Spectacular family room with floor-to-ceiling windows. Wonderfully landscaped front yard, private rear yard with a park-like setting and a large deck for entertaining.



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**Dunning End Townhome** \$2,350  
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**Fairfax**  
**\$3,600/month**  
This single family home features 4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bathrooms and is in the heart of Fairfax. Near VRE, Express Buses, I-495 and I-66. Located in Kings Park West and Robinson School pyramid.  
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**Lorton Highlands**  
**\$489,900**  
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