

# Chess Champ Wins by Strategy

Aasa Dommalapati, 9, is currently ranked fourth nationally in the U-9 girls chess category.

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## Miss Israel Comes To Fairfax

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## Saving Jobs in Hard Times

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# NEWS

PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION



Virginia Senator George Barker (D-39) stands with Fairfax County Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) during a Fairfax County Democratic Committee meeting last month.



David Balducchi, a national employment policy expert from Arlington, lobbies lawmakers to enact work sharing legislation.

## Saving Jobs in Hard Times

Virginia lawmakers will push work sharing legislation this session.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

When Springfield business owner Tony Coombs felt the “mind-boggling impact” the \$87 billion in budget cuts would have on his IT and cyber-security company, he began preparing his 600 employees for the fallout.

He froze bonuses and pay raises; he cut some employees’ hours by as much as 50 percent; he consolidated where he could and he began leasing his Springfield office building on a month-to-month basis.

“I wanted to do everything I could to avoid laying off employees,” Coombs said. “There’s not someone here who doesn’t have some family connection, and a feeling of family is something we’ve always encouraged and embraced.”

But the sequester caused serious setbacks to his company and employee morale, and after a few months of treading water, Coombs considered layoffs.

“We had to rearrange our teams to use less people,” Coombs said. “That’s the worst thing for me because everyone knows my employees always come first.”

Coombs, who participated in Congressional business roundtables to keep his company moving forward, learned about a government program adopted in several other states that help employers keep experienced workers on the payroll.

**CALLED WORK SHARING**, more than two dozen states are now using the program—a kind of unemployment insurance in reverse—which comes with free federal dollars to keep workers in their jobs instead of supporting them after they’re laid off. Instead of getting a pink slip during an economic downturn, workers have an opportunity to stay on the job and receive unemployment benefits for the hours they lose.

And thanks to national employment policy experts such as David Balducchi of Arlington, work sharing is getting a new look from employers across the country and the state.

“With work sharing, an employee’s lost day of work doesn’t have to mean a lost day of pay,” Balducchi said. “The hours of all employees are reduced instead of sacking some employees. Employees receive

### Virginia’s Potential Saving

According to David Balducchi:

❖ If Virginia enacted a work sharing law, the commonwealth is eligible for a U.S. Department of Labor planning and implementation grant of \$2,739,420. The cutoff date to apply for the U.S. Department of Labor grant is Dec. 31, 2014.

❖ Also, had Virginia enacted work sharing the commonwealth over the three-year period beginning with passing of the federal law in February 2012, it would have enabled Virginia to receive 100 percent of federal reimbursement of work sharing benefits. According to the center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR), the potential annual estimated saving in Virginia with federal financing of work sharing could reach \$14,506,300. CEPR says this is an annual saving.

partial unemployment benefits only for their lost hours of work. And employees keep working and don’t have to search for a new position in a bleak market.”

Balducchi has been crisscrossing the United States to educate lawmakers about work sharing and to help them enact legislation. In Washington State, for example, the program has paid dental technicians and plumbers at struggling companies. “The funds enable companies to hang on to experienced workers while they wait for the economy to improve,” Balducchi said.

State Senator George Barker (D-39), a proponent of work sharing, is urging fellow lawmakers to make Virginia the next state that adopts the legislation.

Barker, who said he is making work sharing legislation one of his top priorities for the 2014 General Assembly legislative session, worked with Balducchi and John Horejsi of SALT (Social Action Linking Together) to lobby other lawmakers to enact work sharing.

“Having been through the recession and recent slight increases in Virginia unemployment rates as federal sequestration takes effect, it is important that we give Virginia businesses all the tools we can to help them and their employees get through challenging times. This bill does that,” Barker said Tuesday.

The program, Barker said, is not a red state or blue state issue. In fact, the most recent states to pass some form of work sharing legislation this summer—Wisconsin and Ohio—are led by Republican governors.

“This is a bipartisan bill put forth by Republican Senator Bill Stanley from Franklin County and myself,” Barker said. “We have worked with the business community on this bill, including the Virginia Federation of Independent Businesses, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, and Virginia Association of Manufacturers as well as with community organizations. We have addressed the questions and concerns

SEE WORK SHARING, PAGE 5

## ‘Shared Work:’ A Win-Win-Win Solution

Preventing layoffs, maintaining the well-being of employees and their communities and keeping businesses competitive.

BY MARK COOPER  
TYSONS CORNER

PERSPECTIVES

How do we mitigate the devastating effects of layoffs on employees, employers and their communities? Is there a “win-win-win” solution?

There is most definitely such a solution and it is called “Shared Work.” Borrowed from a program called “Kurzarbeit” in Germany, a country considered one of the world’s perennial industrial economies who knows a thing or two about surviving business cycles, this concept can decisively help Virginia companies, both large and small, weather temporary downturns by keeping their skilled workforce intact and on the job.

I know. Before coming to Virginia, I was employed by and operated my own businesses in Germany from 1980 through 2008.

From Fortune 500 companies like Texas Instruments, my first employer, to global giants like Mercedes, Bosch and others, I have personally experienced the effectiveness of these programs. And they work. A survey conducted by the state of Bavaria’s Chamber of Commerce in July 2009, the depth of the Great Recession, revealed that 60 percent of respondents were able to avoid permanent layoffs, another 16 percent were able to come away with only minimal layoffs so that well over three quarters or 76 percent were able to keep all or most of their workforce through “Shared Work.”

How? By reducing the days worked per week from 5 to 4, as an example, the companies are able to reduce a sizable portion of their labor costs, in this case 20 percent, maintain their workforce and additionally avoid costly rehiring and retraining expense when business picks up. More importantly, communities keep their breadwinners employed, which in turn continue paying taxes and consuming local goods and services. This keeps the “doors



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mark Cooper

open” which in turn keeps families together.

While the employee will see a reduction in gross salary or wages, through the clever use of unemployment benefits which the employer has been contributing towards previously, take-home wage reduction would be not as pronounced. And that extra day would be a welcome respite to those families where both spouses are working full-time and could restore some work-life balance in the interim; or the employer could decide to use the extra day for retraining and skill improvement.

How do we proceed? In the U.S., 26 states have already adopted such “Shared Work” policy. Our commonwealth has not, to date, but the General Assembly should consider this proven public-private solution. Virginia’s labor market, like many others, is still languishing. “Shared Work” can prevent layoffs, maintain the well being of employees and their communities and keep businesses competitive over the long run.

This is an intelligent, tested policy that can truly provide a “win-win-win” for all Virginians.



Flanked by Fairfax County Fire Chief Richard Bowers and Local 2068 President John Niemiec, Joshua Jurack's boot is filled by U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, Supervisors Penny Gross and Pat Herry, and Del. Eileen Filler-Corn.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

# Firefighters Hit the Streets to Fill-the-boot

Connolly praised Fairfax County fire department as "one of the best in the nation."

Fairfax County Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics Local 2068 kicked off its annual Fill-the-Boot drive for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) on Wednesday, Aug. 28 at Fire Station 14 in Burke.

Year after year over Labor Day Weekend, the men and women of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department staff fill busy intersections across the county seeking donations to support MDA's worldwide research efforts, summer camps, medical equipment and families living with muscle-wasting diseases.

The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) has been a partner with MDA since 1954 and is its largest national sponsor. Thanks to the generosity of Fairfax citizens and visitors, Fairfax County Local 2068 is the largest contributor in the Greater Washington area, having raised more than \$4 million for MDA clinics, family support, and other MDA efforts in the region. Each year, the Fairfax Fire Fighters come in first or second in funds raised among IAFF affiliates across the nation.

Fairfax County Fire Chief Richard Bowers and Local 2068 President John Niemiec were joined by dozens of fire fighters, paramedics and retirees, MDA families and elected officials including U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), County Supervisors Penny Gross and Pat Herry, and Del. Eileen Filler-Corn.

Niemiec thanked the public for their strong support of the Fill-the-Boot campaign year after year.

Congressman Connolly said the success of the Fairfax County fire fighters and paramedics' Fill-the-Boot effort reflected their dedication to the public and to a fire department he described as "one of the best in the nation."



**U.S. Rep Gerry Connolly (D-11) said the dedication of the men and women of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department help make it one of the best in the nation. Connolly was speaking to county firefighters, paramedics and others gathered at Fire Station 14 in Burke to kick off the annual Fill-the-Boot drive.**



**John Niemiec, president of Fairfax County Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics, thanked Fairfax County residents for their generosity and support for the annual Fill-the-Boot drive for MDA.**



A view of the Clifton car show from a hill overlooking the town.

## Cool Cars, Hot Day in Clifton

Crowds braved 90-degree heat to attend the 14th annual Labor Day Car Show, Monday, Sept. 2, in Clifton.



**Marshall Mauck Jr. of Fairfax with his 1941 Willys and its 454 fuel injector.**

PHOTOS BY  
BONNIE HOBBS/  
THE CONNECTION



(From left) Fairfax brothers Jack and Ben Schiesl look at a 2007 Ford Mustang.



## NEWS

# Work Sharing Gains Support

FROM PAGE 3

raised by legislators.”

**UNDER THE BILL** proposed by Barker, the legislation would establish a shared work program that provides employers with the option of reducing the hours worked by employees, while permitting the employees whose hours are reduced to receive partial compensation for lost wages. Program participation requires Virginia Employment Commission approval of a plan, which must provide that the reduction in hours of work is in lieu of a layoff of an equivalent percentage of employees and that employees’ fringe benefits cannot be reduced or eliminated during the plan.

According to U.S. Department of Labor data, work sharing has saved 61,299 jobs in a combined 19 states in 2012. Some states, like Colorado and New Hampshire, saved less than 100 jobs, while California, Texas and Washington each kept between about 10,000 and 21,000 employed, according to a Justice Center report.

Balducchi said work share programs are gaining momentum with employers nationally because it gives them flexibility during an economic downturn. Instead of laying off highly-trained, experienced employees—which may save employers money in the short term—they have the flexibility to reduce hours and maintain a specialized workforce, which ultimately benefits employers in the long term.

For an employer like Coombs, who has invested significant time and money in training top-rated cyber-security employees, the program gives him and his employees some breathing room.

“If I have to lay off people, I’m not going to 7-11 and find the talent, training and security level my clients expect. ... This business revolved around a qualified team of people,” Coombs said.

The Department of Workforce Development estimates work-share programs will save the unemployment reserve fund \$4.9 million.

“We almost got it passed in 2013 and look forward to success next year,” Barker said, adding that he remains optimistic the bill will pass in 2014.

“We will rally the troops next year,” Horejsi said. “We are energized by the prospects for success for this commonsense legislation.”



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# Later Start Times for High School

**It's past time to act;  
let this year be the year.**

**T**uesday morning, Sept. 3, the first day of school in Fairfax County, Dr. Karen Garza began her official day at 6:30 a.m. at Chantilly High School. While Garza was making herself available for interviews before the first class started at 7:20 a.m., many students were already on the school bus.

That means the students, and most likely their sleep-deprived parents, were rousted out of bed before 6 a.m., a time that is essentially the middle of the night for teenagers.

The science on teenagers, sleep schedule, health, learning and more all points in a single direction.

"The scientific evidence is irrefutable: chronic sleep loss and disruption in circadian

**EDITORIAL**

rhythms associated with early high school start times are associated with negative consequences including poor academic performance, increased sport-related injuries, and potential long-term increases in cardiovascular and metabolic (i.e., type 2 diabetes) health risks, said Judith Owens, MD, director of Sleep Medicine at Children's National Medical Center. "We know that delaying high school start times increases total sleep time and positively impacts academic achievement and school attendance. There are also documented mental and physical health benefits for students that include reductions in rates of depression and fewer drowsy driving crashes."

Children's National Medical Center's Division of Sleep Medicine has been contracted by the Fairfax County School Board to develop a plan to delay high schools' start time to 8 a.m. or later.

A 2011 survey showed that more than a quarter of 10th and 12th grade students were get-

ting less than five hours of sleep on school nights, about half of the recommended eight-and-a-half to nine-and-a-half hours of sleep for teenagers.

Sleep deprivation can also affect teen mood and ability to cope with stress. About a third of Fairfax County students surveyed in the last county student youth survey reported feeling depressed, with more than 15 percent reporting that they had considered suicide in the past year.

Fairfax County Public Schools, with a new superintendent supportive of later start times, is poised to do the right thing. It's time to make this the last year that high school begins at 7:20 a.m.

For more information see <http://smartschoolstart.wordpress.com/> and <http://www.sleepinfairfax.org/>.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

**LETTERS**

## Heading to Polls

To the Editor:

Thanks to the Connection and reporter Victoria Ross for the "Every Year is Election Year in Virginia" information in the Aug. 28 edition. I hope that readers will clip and save the article and then go to the polls and vote on Nov. 5.

I would like to add two points that were not mentioned in the article:

❖ Virginia citizens who have a current Virginia driver's license or ID card issued by the DMV can now register or update their registration information online by going to: <https://www.vote.virginia.gov>.

❖ The Fairfax County Office of Elections will need over 2,000 election officers to work at the polls for the Nov. 5 election. Persons with fluency in several languages are especially needed. Persons able to spend election day plus several hours for training to "help make democracy work" can sign up by calling the Office of Elections at 703-324-4735 or going to the office's website at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/working.htm#electionofficer>.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) will be at the Reston Multi-Cultural Festival at Lake Anne Plaza on Sept. 28 to register voters and provide (nonpartisan) election information. Stop by.

**Therese Martin**  
LWVFA First Vice President

**COMMENTARY**

## The Children Fairfax Shouldn't Leave Behind

BY JOHN COOK  
SUPERVISOR  
(R-BRADDOCK DISTRICT)



**I**t's the beginning of a new school year, and we in Fairfax are justifiably proud of our schools, which we proclaim are "among the best in the nation." But what we don't discuss enough is whether they are the best for all of our children.

When we measure FCPS's success, we often talk about the number of AP classes taken, high SAT scores and admissions to the best colleges and universities. These "US News and World Report" statistics measure how high our best students can go, but what about the rest? We have a minority student achievement gap. It's narrowing but is still significant. Last year Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) reported that approximately 40 percent of FCPS graduates attending NVCC needed remedial help in either math and/or English. NVCC has helped reduce this gap by imbedding guidance counselors in Fairfax high schools to work with many students, beginning in their junior year—if not sooner, to ensure they are taking the right classes to be college ready. It may be time for FCPS to focus more on these youth as well.

Further, 40 percent of all disciplinary cases that reach the Hearings Office involve students with special needs, even though they comprise only 14 percent of the student population. Does that reflect a school system using the disciplinary process to avoid a more robust accommodation and Individualized Education Program (IEP) process that includes parents in decision-making? Many parents (myself included) who have tried to navigate the IEP process for children with learning disabilities have found the process overly bureaucratic and seemingly geared toward getting test scores that make FCPS look good, rather than making sure all students are learning.

Compounding matters is a challenging demographic picture that is not always adequately considered and calls out for a re-examining of priorities. One-quarter of the student body receives free or reduced priced lunches (a measure of poverty) and one-third are from homes in which one of 150 languages other than English is the primary language spoken. Yet last year, among FCPS's priorities for new spending were expanding the advanced academic and world languages (teaching foreign language in the first grade) programs. These programs have noble goals, but they primarily help those who are already doing well. Instead, what about more English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for students and parents? Parents who can't speak English can't help their children with homework or communicate with teachers, making it more difficult for their children to succeed. Or what about more help for special needs students and for children living in or near poverty, whose parents can't afford tutors or even a learning-based preschool?

Sure, it's nice to make the cover of US News. But the real measure of success should be whether all our students are getting a solid education that provides them with true opportunity in a competitive world.

## Write

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

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The Connection  
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com)

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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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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A Candidate Who Takes Notes

To the Editor:

Thanks to your newspaper I learned that Patrice Winter is running for delegate in the 37th District. On Aug. 31, I walked to her first listening session with voters. As a successful small business owner, Patrice knows it's important to help others get started, so she chose the new American Bistro in downtown Fairfax. Thanks to Winter I now know it's open.

I moved to Fairfax County 15 years ago. Knowing what I do now, I should have moved to Fairfax City because it's better run. That is due in large part to the city council, of which Winter was an active member for six years.

Winter is an engaged listener who considered comments from the audience and offered insights from her small business owner, city council or single mom perspective. She enthusiastically embraced

new ideas and, where appropriate, suggested variants or enhancements. We discussed nine viable, low-cost transportation solutions for our county and how her experience on the Transportation Planning Board of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) could make them a reality in the House of Delegates in Richmond. We talked about the car tax and giving voters control over how some of their state income tax is spent. Making government more accountable to voters and elder care were other topics covered. Winter demonstrated an eagerness to work for all voters in the 37th District. Unlike other candidates who are content to nod in agreement with whatever you say to them, she took copious notes and was genuinely approachable. A 25-year resident of our area, she under-

stands the problems facing us and has tackled many of them on the city council, the COG Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, Economic Development Authority, and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Her six years on city council means she has already given voice to 38 percent (the six city precincts out of the 16 total precincts) of the district. As your paper noted, Patrice hasn't yet raised as much money as her entrenched opponent. So, this retiree went home and wrote her a check for \$25. I haven't made a political contribution in years.

I urge 37th District voters to talk with her every Saturday from 10-11 a.m. at the new American Bistro at 10470 Main St. and vote for Patrice Winter on November 5.

**Mike Shumaker**  
Fairfax

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

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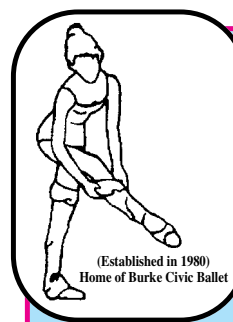
##### Homeless Animals Rescue Team.

Noon to 3 p.m., at Petco, 13053 Greenbriar Towncenter, Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. A dog adoption event. 703-817-9444 or www.hart90.org.

#### SUNDAY/SEPT. 8

##### Out of the Darkness Community

Walk. 9 a.m., at Fairfax Corner Shopping Complex, Fairfax Corner, Fairfax. Walk to support those at risk of suicide. http://afsp.donordrive.com/event/NOVA.



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## WELLBEING

# How to Set Realistic Goals

Local experts say the key to success is setting achievable goals.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**L**aura Wheeler Poms, of Fairfax, set out to earn a doctorate degree and make a career change. As a wife, mother and working professional, the goal, she said, often felt lofty.

"Writing my dissertation at times felt overwhelming, especially if I looked at it as one huge project," said Poms, who now holds a Ph.D. in industrial/organizational psychology and is an assistant professor of global and community health at George Mason University in Fairfax. "I set goals like writing one page or doing one analysis each day and I was able to get it done. I also gave myself little rewards along the way."

While Poms set and achieved an ambitious goal, she and other psychologists say many people do not. Whether one desires to make a career change, set boundaries in an unhealthy relationship or lose weight, setting and achieving goals is difficult for some.

"The biggest reason people fall off the bandwagon is that they pick goals that are outside their behavioral repertoire, that are environmentally impossible or that they don't have the skills to accomplish," said Linda Berg-Cross, Ph.D., a therapist in private practice and a professor of psychology at Howard University in Washington, as well as a Potomac, Md., resident. "If you say, 'I'm going to ex-



**Laura Wheeler Poms, Ph.D., of George Mason University in Fairfax, says if a person's goals are motivated by guilt, fear or regrets, they are less likely to be achieved.**

ercise an hour a day,' but you have a full-time job and children, you really don't have time to exercise for an hour."

Poms says that a person's reasons for waiting to make a change could affect his or her success or failure. "If your goal is motivated by guilt, fear or regret, you're less likely to achieve that goal," she said. "If someone tells you that you need to lose weight, unless that realization has come home to you, it is not very useful. ... If you don't see the need, you're not going to be motivated to accomplish it."

To make lasting changes, experts say, one must be prepared for the work involved in making the shift. "Sometimes when people want to make a change, they are not quite ready," said Amy Van Arsdale, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington and a therapist in private practice who lives in



**Amy Van Arsdale, Ph.D., of Marymount University in Arlington, says people often fail to fulfill their goals because they are not ready to make changes.**

your perseverance.

"If someone starts to give up," said Van Arsdale, "I recommend that they do a check-in and ask 'What is going on that makes me want to quit?'"

**"The biggest reason people fall off the bandwagon is that they pick goals that are outside their behavioral repertoire, that are environmentally impossible or that they don't have the skills to accomplish."**

— Linda Berg-Cross, Ph.D.

Assessing how much control one has over the situation is another key tactic. "A person should look at what they can change and what cannot change," said Van Arsdale. "When setting a boundary with another person, for example, a person could say, 'Maybe I can change how often I call my mother, but I



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

**When working to make behavioral or physical changes, experts recommend dividing one's goals into small, gradual steps.**

can't control how often she calls me so I need to change how I respond, because I can only control myself."

Berg-Cross recommends small, gradual changes. "Make the teeniest changes you can think of that are part of your normal routine," she said. "It is not making behavioral changes, it is fading from one behavior to another on a long continuum, little by little." Van Arsdale said that sometimes she asks clients to think in reverse. For example, "If I didn't lose weight and I didn't get in shape, what is the worse part?" she asks. "I am hav-

goals to go to the gym five days a week and that it isn't happening, instead go three times a week. Hanging in there and tweaking goals so that they work for you is better than giving up."

Poms recommends a SMART (specific, measureable, achievable, realistic, time-based) model when setting and working to reach goals. "Set small, achievable goals and get excited when you meet your goals," she said. "Accentuate the small things that you've done."

Van Arsdale said, "Think how your life will change if you make the change, but be realistic. Saying I want to lose 10 pounds is vague. Saying 'I really want to be able to walk a 5K race with my friend' is more doable."

This strategy also works in interpersonal relationships. "You have to figure out what it is about the other person that makes you feel the need to set the boundary," said Poms. "You have to figure out deep down what is the source of the irritation and then set a boundary, but you want to try to talk to that person first." Get support from friends and family for any challenging goal. Also, "Don't set too many goals at once because it gets overwhelming," said Poms. "You need practical solutions for dealing with things."



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**More than 300 runners—and walkers—participated in last year's PVI Runfest.**

## Runfest 5K Race Returns to Fairfax City

The Paul VI Catholic High School (PVI) Runfest 2013 will be held on Sunday, Sept. 15, at 8 a.m. Last year's race marked the successful return of PVI Runfest to the Paul VI neighborhood, with over 300 runners (and walkers) participating.

"If last year's race is any indicator, then PVI Runfest 2013 should be competitive and fun; in fact, we're expecting close to 500 participants," said Maureen Ashby, race chairman. "Once again, we have a very enthusiastic and eager group of volunteers looking forward to continuing this race as a Fairfax City favorite."

This year's race will continue the Runfest tradition of raising the funds for PVI's nationally recognized Options Program for students with intellectual disabilities. Additionally, a portion of the proceeds will benefit the PVI cross country and track programs.

The 5K course is a 2-loop route with a few gentle hills that



**This year's race will be chip-timed for accuracy.**

starts and finishes in the PVI parking lot, located behind the school at 10675 Fairfax Boulevard. The course has just been re-certified by the US Track and Field Association.

For the first time in several years, this year's race will be chip-timed for accuracy. There will be traditional top-finisher and age-group prizes and random prize drawings for all participants. All race registrations, with the exception of race

day, can be submitted online at <http://tinyurl.com/pvirunfest2013>. The entry fee for PVI students and faculty is \$15 and \$25 for all others. Registration on race day is \$35 for everyone.

Full race details, including T-shirt and packet pickup locations, are available at the website above or by contacting Maureen Ashby at [mmhpashby@verizon.net](mailto:mmhpashby@verizon.net).

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## FAITH NOTES

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

**Rally Day at 5500 Ox Road, Fairfax Station**, provides free family fun, a BBQ, moon bounce, water slide, face painting and games for children, from noon to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 8. The festivities are open to the greater community. 703-352-1421 or www.livingsaviorlutheran.org.

**The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center**, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit http://www.guhyasamaja.org.

**Fairfax Baptist Temple**, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Mission-

ary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

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

**First Baptist Church of Springfield** offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspRINGfield.org.

**Clifton Presbyterian Church**, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided.

Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

**St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church**, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

## CALENDAR

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

### THURSDAY/SEPT. 5

**Reception for "Watercolors" by Leonard Justinian.** 7-9 p.m., at the Rotary Gallery at The Sherwood, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. View the local and national watercolor artist and TV celebrity's work at the community center with a reception.

### THURSDAY-SATURDAY/SEPT. 5-14

**Walking Tours of Old Town Fairfax.** Reservations (90 minute tour), leaving at 11 a.m., from Ratcliffe-Allison House, 10386 Main Street, Fairfax. The walk includes a tour of the historic house and stops at the Fairfax County Courthouse (1800) and several antebellum buildings. \$5/adults; \$3/youth, ages 6-12, under 6 free. Family rate: \$15. 703-385-8414.

### THURSDAY-FRIDAY/SEPT. 5-20

**"Magnitude," by Jennet Inglis concurrent with School of Art Faculty Exhibition.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday, at The Fine Art Gallery, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Jennet Inglis's work shows where supernovae, quantum mechanics and human emotion intersect; the faculty exhibition shows drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, graphic design, sculpture and new media from GMU's art professors. 703-993-8898, avt@gmu.edu or facebook.com/gmu.soa.

### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 7-8

**Burke Centre Festival.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, at 6060 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke. With mistings tents, a craft fair, a wine garden, wildlife demonstrations, performances galore and much more, the festival lures children of every age; it's free. www.burkecentreweb.com.

### SUNDAY/SEPT. 8

**JCCNV 4th Annual Cycle Fest.** 7:30 a.m. registration, at the JCCNV, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Fees include a Cycle Fest t-shirt, rest stop with treats, vehicle and mechanical support and light food; choose from a 30, 50 or 65 mile ride to benefit



**CycleFest, JCCNV's fourth annual ride to benefit the Wounded Warriors Project and Hazon, which creates healthier, more sustainable communities, is set for Sunday, Sept. 8. Ride 30, 50 or 65 miles, beginning at 8 a.m.**

Wounded Warriors Project and Hazon, which works to make communities sustainable. 703-323-0880 or www.active.com.

### WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 11

**Day of Observance Screening of "Where Soldiers Come From."** 4:30 p.m., at the Johnson Center Cinema, GMU, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Q&A with director Heather Courtney and subject Dominic Fredianelli follows the Emmy Award-winning documentary showing. http://fams.gmu.edu/events/3592.

### SUNDAY/SEPT. 15

**Jeffrey Siegel's "Gershwin and Friends."** 7 p.m., George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, MS 2F5, Fairfax. Steinway Piano Gallery of Washington, D.C. sponsors the acclaimed pianist's performance of American music. \$19-\$38, Mason ID permits 1 free ticket. cfa.gmu.edu and HyltonCenter.org.

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

**18th Annual CCÉ Irish Folk Festival.** Noon-8:30 p.m. Sherwood Center at Van Dyck Park, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax; 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. All are invited to enjoy the music, dance, language, and athletics of the Irish culture. Free admission and Parking. 703-919-1031 or http://www.ccepotomac.org.

### THURSDAY-SATURDAY/SEPT. 26-28

**Friends of the Burke Centre Library Fall Used Book Sale.** 1-9 p.m., Sept. 26; 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sept. 27; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sept. 28 at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak

Road, Burke. A variety of books will be sold at discounted prices. 703-249-1520.

### ONGOING

**"Share the Pie."** Through Sept. 15. Paisano's Pizza, 5765 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke; 12715 Shoppes Lane, Fair Lakes; 10330 Main St., Fairfax. Mention "Boys and Girls Club" when ordering so that Paisano's will donate 10 percent of the order to support the Club. www.pizzapaisanos.com.

**Farmers Market.** 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, at the parking lot at the intersection of West and Main Streets behind Wells Fargo Bank in Fairfax. Every Saturday there are fresh produce, goods and wares at the market. church@sovgracefairfax.org or www.FairfaxSaturdayMarket.com.

**Fairfax Mosaic Wednesday Rides.** 6:30 p.m., at Fairfax Mosaic Freshbikes, 2910 District Ave., Fairfax. Weekly bike rides leave from the Fairfax Mosaic store. www.freshbikescycling.com.

**Northern Virginia Shag Club.** 6:30-10 p.m., at the Elks Lodge Fairfax, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Dance for two hours every Wednesday with free lessons starting at 7:30 p.m. and dancing preceding and following; no partners needed. \$4. www.nvshag.org.

**Jewish War Veterans of the USA.** The Burke Post E 100 at 5712 Walnut Wood, Burke, invites Jewish veterans and service members to join. 703-209-5925.

**NVSC Dance.** 6:30-10:30 p.m., at the Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Lessons at 7:30 p.m. and a buffet dinner preceding. \$4; \$5 additional for buffet dinner. www.nvshag.org.

# COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

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Fairfax Assembly of God

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Calvary Hill...703-323-1347

Fairfax Baptist...703-273-1820

Fairfax Circle...703-573-7372

Greater Little Zion...703-764-9111

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

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

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

### Buddhist

Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center... 703-774-9692

### Bible

Bancroft Bible Church... 703-425-3800

### Catholic

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

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

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

### Coptic Orthodox

St. Mark...703-591-4444

### Disciples of Christ

Fairfax Christian Church... 703-385-3520

### Episcopal

Church of the Apostles

703-591-1974

Truro Episcopal...703-273-1300

### Jewish

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

Chabad Lubavitch...703-426-1980

### Lutheran

Bethlehem Lutheran...703-978-3131

Christ Lutheran...703-273-4094

Kings of Kings...703-378-7272

Lord of Life...703-323-9500

### Methodist

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

Fairfax Community Church... 703-323-0110

Sovereign Grace Church...703-691-0600

Jesus Christ Crucified...703-385-9015

Metropolitan Community Church

703-691-0930

Salvation Army...703-385-9700

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

Word of Life Church International... 703-978-7101

### Pentecostal

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

### Presbyterian

Christ Presbyterian Church...703-278-8365

Fairfax Presbyterian...703-273-5300

Korean Presbyterian...703-321-8090

Providence Presbyterian...703-978-3934

New Hope...703-385-9056

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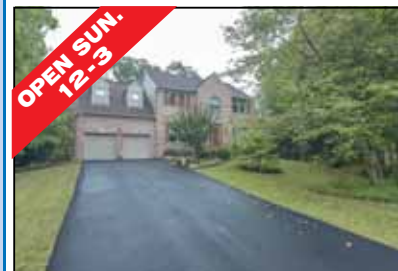
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## NEWS

# Miss Israel Comes to Fairfax

The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia hosts meet and greet with Yityish Aynaw.

The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia will host an evening with Miss Israel, Yityish Aynaw, the first Ethiopian-born woman to win the Israeli beauty pageant, on Tuesday, Sept. 24, at 7:30 p.m. at the JCCNV, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The event is free and open to the public. Donations are welcome.

Ms. Aynaw, who will make a stop in Fairfax during her U.S. tour, will speak about her journey from growing up in a small Ethiopian village to becoming an Israeli beauty queen. Her message — welcoming and celebrating ethnic diversity — is compelling.

Aynaw was born in Chahawit, a small village in northern Ethiopia, near the city of Gondar. Her father died when she was young, and she lost her mother to a painful illness when she was 12. Heartbroken, she arrived in Israel with her brother to live with their Ethiopian Jewish grandparents. While still a child, Aynaw was suddenly faced with a new language, a new culture and all the rest of the challenges that come with starting a new life in a foreign country. Like the estimated 125,000 Ethiopian Jews who have gone in waves over the years to Israel, Aynaw experienced the same struggle to assimilate into her new environment. But she threw herself at it, not shying away from all that her adopted country expected of her, including mastering Hebrew and serving in the Israeli army after school.

"It (was) three of the most significant years in my life," says Aynaw about her time in the military.



"There I learned a lot about myself; there I developed," she adds. "I was a girl of 19 and the army gave me structure."

After finishing her army service, Aynaw started working as a sales clerk in a clothing store. Tall and beautiful, she long had her eye on becoming a model but she never thought about taking part in a pageant. Instead, it was a friend of hers who entered her name into the Miss Israel competition. Her win in February changed her life instantly. Within a matter of weeks, her name and image were splashed across newspapers and websites, both in Israel and abroad.

The publicity also caught the attention of

one of her heroes: Aynaw was invited to an exclusive state dinner for Barack Obama in honor of his first visit to Israel as U.S. president.

Aynaw says she had never expected something like this would happen to her. "Suddenly I thought about the little girl who had suffered and the little girl whose only dream was to run and play the whole day. The pain I went through; I saw it all," she says.

This program is made possible through the support of the National Juneteenth Christian Leadership Council (NJCLC) ([www.njclc.com](http://www.njclc.com)), Rev. Ronald V. Myers, Sr., M.D., founder & chairman and sponsored through donations to the Myers Foundation ([www.MyersFoundation.net](http://www.MyersFoundation.net)). NJCLC sponsors the National and World Day of Reconciliation & Healing from the Legacy of Enslavement and hosts the 2014 Israel Juneteenth Reconciliation Tour.

pedestrians and bicyclists. Commuters should expect increased congestion throughout the week and build extra travel time into their schedules.

Residents may also notice police officers posted in school zones and near bus stops to help ensure pedestrian safety, plus safe loading and unloading of students. Drivers are reminded that, when bus lights and stop signs are activated, vehicles must stop in both directions, unless they're separated from the bus by a median.

## Freedom Fund Banquet On Sept. 22

Fairfax County NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet is Sunday, Sept. 22, from 2-5 p.m. at Waterford Springfield, 6715 Commerce St. in Springfield. The theme is "Together We Stand." Tickets are \$65 for adults and \$45 for youth 16 and under. The guest speaker is Rev. Dr. Kenny Smith, and emcee is Sheila Stewart of Radio-One DC. You can mail your payment by using the form at [www.fairfaxnaacp.org](http://www.fairfaxnaacp.org).

## AREA ROUNDUPS

### Robinson Band Goes to Indianapolis

The Robinson Secondary Symphonic Band has been selected as a featured band for the 2014 Music for All National Concert Band Festival, part of the 2014 Music for All National Festival, which will be held in Indianapolis in March 2014. Selection of featured bands was competitive; Robinson Band Director Andrew Loft submitted a recording of selections from the state concert band assessment for consideration. Robinson's Symphonic Band is made up of 60 students and will be one of 16 bands from across the country performing as a featured band. Students will begin rehearsing for the performance once the 2013-14 school year begins. Contact event liaison Andrew Loft at [aeloft@fcps.edu](mailto:aeloft@fcps.edu).

### Be Alert for Students

Now that school is back in session, Fairfax County police urge motorists to be even more vigilant for

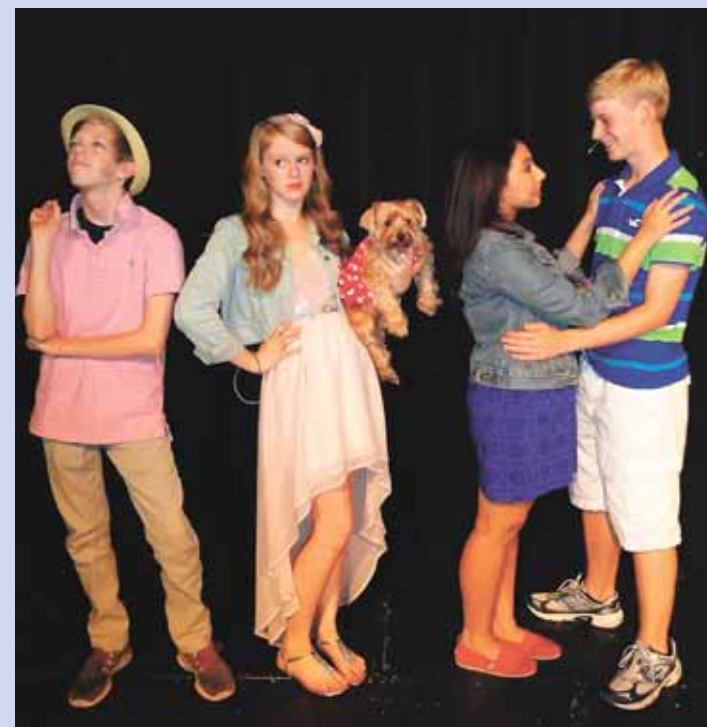


PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

(From left) Drew Sharpe, Amanda Holsinger, Hana Tawil and Jacob Nelson rehearse a scene from "High School Musical 2 Jr."

## Woodson's Jacob Nelson Is Starring in Musical

Student has lead role in "High School Musical 2 Jr."

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Woodson High junior Jacob Nelson has the lead role of Troy Bolton in CentreStage Community Theatre's production of "High School Musical 2 Jr."

Show times are Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 12, 13 and 14, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Sept. 15, at 2 p.m., at Centreville Presbyterian Church, 15450 Lee Highway in Centreville. Tickets are \$12 at [www.centrevillepres.com](http://www.centrevillepres.com).

The 60-person cast and crew have been rehearsing since May, and the actors hail from 10 different schools. Director Rachel Harrington said things are going really well and it should be a great show.

"The kids are having lots of fun and the production team is enjoying working with them," she said. "Everyone's very talented, and that's why it's such a terrific cast—they each bring something different to the table. There's also a five-person pit orchestra."

"It's a family show and a really nice way to cap off the summer," continued Harrington. "It's colorful, fabulous and entertaining and is great for all ages. And one of the coolest things is the community the children have created onstage

and off."

She said the theater company is also trying to do more community service, so it's collecting canned goods at the show to donate to a local food bank.

As Troy, Nelson portrays the popular high school jock. "In the first 'High School Musical' movie and play, he's introduced to musical theater," said Nelson. "It's now the following summer and he's struggling between choosing which friends to be with and following his dreams. He's a well-liked and nice guy, and is trying to do the right thing, but he has inner turmoil."

Thrilled to have this role, Nelson said, "It's my first lead and I enjoy taking it my direction. Troy's an average, friendly teen and an expressive, confident character. And it's fun interacting with the other characters, portraying different emotions and showing Troy's growth as a person."

Nelson's favorite song is the opening number, "What Time is It?" because "it's super high energy as the students start their summer break." As for the audience, he said, "They'll be able to connect with the various characters, and the plot has many sides and is really intricate, so they'll be able to see it from a variety of different perspectives."



# SPORTS

## Chess Champ Wins by Strategy

At the age of 9, Fair Lakes Crossing resident is ranked 4th nationally.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

**A**t the age of 9, Aasa Dommalapati, a fourth-grader at Greenbriar West Elementary, competed against the top chess players in Brazil and Canada during the summer months. She is currently ranked fourth nationally in the girls U-9 category.

Representing the U.S. for U-10 girls, she took third against nine challengers at the Pan American Youth Chess Championship in Brazil. Then it was off to Toronto in mid-August where she competed in the North American Youth Chess Championships and placed 22 out of 31. She was also part of a team of 80 players from the U.S. who played in Slovenia last year — her first international experience. She has qualified to play in Dubai at the World Youth Championship this coming December. The child wonder won her first national tournament in 2009 in Dallas while she was in kindergarten.

Since that time she has been tutored on Skype by Vempati Kameswara Rao, 33, from Hyderabad, India, who also uses the website MyChessGuru.com. He has a FIDE rating of 2088 in the Worldwide Chess Federation and is a national arbiter for chess tournaments.

He calls Aasa an “attacking” player. “I’m expecting her to become a Woman Grandmaster,” he adds. “That is a long-term goal. The short-term goal is World Youth Champion.”

Aasa also gets help from her dad Anand, who was chairman of the Greenbriar West Elementary Chess Club for four years.

**BEFORE TOURNAMENTS**, he often takes three hours of prep time to coach and prepare his children to win. “Usually we don’t know these people,” said Anand. “We get a basic idea of what to expect ... the coach can work with them to come up with an alternative solution and what to expect.”

For strategy, Aasa says she breaks down chess matches into three parts: openings, middle and end games. Her strategy is to use different tactics and attacks, she says: “We think of a plan and we just play it.”

If that doesn’t work, she says she tries another plan, and plays that. “And if he stops it, we think of another plan. And it goes on and on. And if he defends the plan, then we change it,” she adds.

During the Brazil tournament, she played nine rounds for almost four hours each. “I was expecting a little more, but I think I did pretty good,” said Aasa. “I played two U.S. players, from Washington state and California.”

Brother Abhinay, 14, is a freshman at Chantilly High who has been playing chess since second grade. He’s traveled all over the U.S. competing in state and national tournaments. He says he always learns something new with every chess game he plays. “I like to defend at first—then I like to attack when my



**Mom Santhi, daughter Aasa, 9, brother Abhinay, 14, and dad Anand Dommalapati of the Fair Lakes Crossing community.**

opponent is not expecting,” he said. “I don’t just attack or defend—I do both.” At Rocky Run Middle, he maintained a 3.9 GPA and was in the e-Cyber Mission Club and Model U.N.

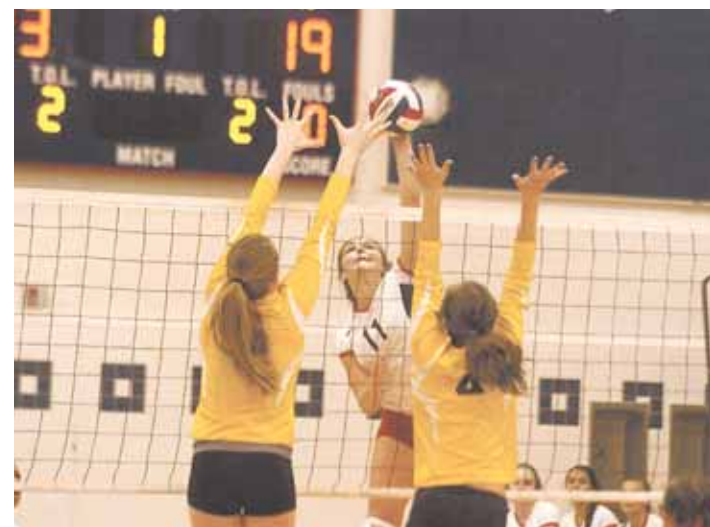
The GBW Chess Club, which is coached by Paul Swaney, meets Mondays and Thursdays for students in grades second through sixth. An advanced club has 20 students who meet on Mondays.

“We group the strong with the strong,” said Anand, of the Fair Lakes Crossing community, of organizing the club. He is a certified USCF—United State Chess Federation senior tournament director. He also works as an employee for BAE Systems, Inc.

**FOR CHESS PRACTICES**, he’ll organize five minutes of fast games called a “Blitz” just for fun. He also organizes simul-chess or simultaneous chess, and “Bug House,” or team chess for fun.

“Basically by doing that they get to play the stronger players,” he said. “So when one tournament is over, you’ll have players with four to zero points. Those with zero points get moved into another section where they are paired with others with similar strengths.

The GBW Chess Club is now taking registration for the new school year, with 90 children maximum. They are split into two groups that play from September through January, and then February through June. The 90 are split into five or six sections, with about 16 children in each section, based on ratings. On Thursdays, students play four rounds in a tournament. Students with the highest scores win trophies and medals. During the entire season, the club plays three to four tournaments.



**Woodson senior Eliza Fisher (11) finished with 31 kills against Robinson on Sept. 3.**

## Woodson’s Fisher Totals Career-high 31 Kills

**Cavaliers beat Robinson in five sets.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Woodson volleyball team on Tuesday night, Sept. 3, dropped two of three sets to the Robinson Rams for the second time in four days.

There was no chance for recovery on Aug. 31 as Woodson’s 2-1 deficit meant Robinson secured a victory during a best-of-three tournament match. On Tuesday, however, the Cavaliers used intensity, positivity and career-best performance by senior Eliza Fisher to bounce back and win the regular season best-of-five rematch.

Fisher amassed a career high 31 kills as the Cavaliers won the final two sets to capture a 3-2 (25-19, 22-25, 22-25, 25-18, 15-9) victory over Robinson at Woodson High School.

“On fire. That’s all you can say,” Woodson head coach Len Palaschak said about Fisher’s performance. “She’s an amazing ball player.”

Fisher, a left-hander, tallied five kills in the fifth set, including the final two points of the match. She also totaled five aces during the contest.

“The thing about our team is when we get into ruts, we’re really good at bringing each other out of it,” Fisher said. “We’re constantly being posi-

tive. It’s very easy to get frustrated, but we’re always trying to uplift people and always try to have something positive to say.

“... [W]e were out for blood. We were mad that they beat us. ... We were just really pumped to play this game.”

Woodson’s Mackenzie Reed finished with eight kills, Dara Stevens had six kills, Bella Brahm had four kills and Kaelin Jennison and Jennifer Scott each had three.

Palaschak said Jenna Yost, who switched to the libero position late in the match, performed well. Yost will play for the University of Mary Washington.

“Jenna Yost did an amazing job,” he said. “She got to everything. She made a couple great saves.”

Woodson won back-to-back Patriot District championships in 2011 and 2012. Even though the Cavaliers are now a member of Conference 7 (same teams that were in the Patriot Dis-

trict, minus Lee) after the VHSEs six-class realignment, Fisher, a four-year varsity athlete, has her sights set on a three-peat.

“I would love to get another district championship,” she said. “Our banner is right over there and we got our very first district championship ever my sophomore year, we got another one last year [and] I’d love to continue the streak with my senior year.”

Woodson will host Oakton at 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 9.

**“She’s an amazing ball player.”**

**—Woodson volleyball coach Len Palaschak about Eliza Fisher**



# Silence of the Court

Justices deny public access to shield personal conversations.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

The Virginia Supreme Court operates in silence, denying public access to audio recordings of its oral arguments. Unlike the U.S. Supreme Court, which denies video recordings but allows audio recordings, the commonwealth's top appeals court has a complete blackout on public access to proceedings. In a written response to questions from Connection Newspapers, the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Virginia Supreme Court explained that audio records were once public, but the installation of new equipment in January 2008 created new concerns for justices.

"The new digital recording equipment is more sensitive so that the recordings now include any confidential comments any justice makes to another justice during the oral argument," wrote Katya Herndon, director of legislative and public relations for the Office of the Executive Secretary. "Accordingly, the recordings, which are for the internal use of the justices, are no longer made available to the public."

That's unacceptable, according to several advocates for open government and freedom of the press. Virginia Press Association executive director Ginger Stanley said that she would raise the issue next month during a meeting of the Rights and Responsibilities Subcommittee of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council. During the meeting next month, members will be discussing whether or not to look at parts of government that are not subject to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, which includes the State Corporation Commission and the Virginia Department of Corrections. Stanley said the August meeting would be an ideal opportunity to challenge the lack of transparency at the Virginia Supreme Court.

"I don't believe that new technology should stand in the way of transparency," said Stanley. "If this is new technology, then it should be able to block the parts that are considered private conversations."

**THE LACK** of transparency at the Virginia Supreme Court fits into a pattern of behavior for the commonwealth, which has a reputation for shielding basic information

from the public. Last year, the State Integrity Investigation ranked and graded each of the 50 states on government accountability, transparency and corruption. Virginia got an F, largely because police agencies use an exemption clause in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to withhold basic documents — even in cases that are closed. Now advocates for open government say it's a mistake for the Virginia Supreme Court to operate in secret.

"It just seems unnecessary to allow the justices to make private comments like that that don't serve any function in the hearing and use that as an excuse to keep the entire thing confidential," said Gregg Leslie, legal defense director for the Arlington-based Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. "If they really have that concern they need to have better microphones that are off unless the justice pushes a button to turn them on."

Some lawyers see the lack of transparency as a necessary and expected part of the court system.

"If a judge leans over to another judge and says something during the oral argument, to me that's part of the deliberation," said Ed Weiner, a Fairfax County attorney with 33 years of experience. "And I just don't think that the public should be invited into chambers during deliberations."

**THE COURT** is an infamously closed operation. No video records are allowed. No audio recordings

are permitted. Visitors to the court are not allowed to enter the building with a cell phone. The court does not even produce transcripts of the oral arguments. Some say the failure to allow public access to audio recordings is a mistake that should either be fixed with some kind of tweak to the recording system or by a new law forcing the courts to allow more sunshine into the dark corridors of power in Richmond.

"The recordings should be made public," said Del. Scott Surovell (D-44). "These cases are some of the most important cases in Virginia, and it's important to have as much sunshine on the public part of that process as possible."

That's a bipartisan view. Courts of Justice Chairman Del. David Albo (R-42) says the Virginia Supreme Court should allow public access to oral arguments or face an effort from the General Assembly to force transparency.

"They are denying the public recordings because they chose crappy technology," said Albo. "I just don't see why they shouldn't give them out. People are allowed to be there. It's a public forum."

**"The new digital recording equipment is more sensitive so that the recordings now include any confidential comments any justice makes to another justice during the oral argument."**

— Katya Herndon, director of legislative and public relations, Office of the Executive Secretary

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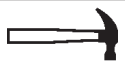
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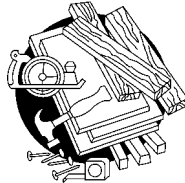
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(1) DUE AT SIGNING INCLUDES DOWN PAYMENT (COROLLA: \$2,199, CAMRY: \$2,699, RAV4: \$2,999), FIRST MONTH'S PAYMENT, \$499 PROCESSING FEE AND NO SECURITY DEPOSIT. NOT ALL CUSTOMERS WILL QUALIFY. TAX, REGISTRATION AND INSURANCES ARE EXTRA. CUSTOMER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXCESSIVE WEAR AND EXCESS MILEAGE CHARGES OF \$0.15 PER MILE IN EXCESS OF AGREEMENT'S MILES (COROLLA/RAV4: 36,000 MILES; CAMRY: 24,000 MILES). OFFER AVAILABLE ON APPROVED CREDIT TO QUALIFIED CUSTOMERS FROM TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES. (2) 0% APR FINANCING AVAILABLE FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS ON SELECT MODELS. OFFERS FOR WELL-QUALIFIED BUYERS WITH APPROVED TIER1+ CREDIT THROUGH TFS. 60 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF \$16.67 PER \$1,000 BORROWED. (3) PURCHASERS CAN RECEIVE UP TO \$2,750 CASH BACK FROM TOYOTA OR CAN APPLY CASH BACK TO DOWN PAYMENT. AMOUNT VARIES PER MODEL. (4) BASED ON BLACK BOOK TRADE VALUE MINUS EXCESS MILEAGE AND RECONDITIONING. (5) COVERS NORMAL FACTORY SCHEDULED SERVICE FOR 2 YEARS OR 25K MILES, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. THE NEW VEHICLE CANNOT BE PART OF A RENTAL OR COMMERCIAL FLEET. SEE PARTICIPATING DEALER FOR COMPLETE PLAN DETAILS. VALID ONLY IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND ALASKA. (6) COLLEGE GRAD AND MILITARY REBATE AVAILABLE ON TOYOTAS WITH APPROVED CREDIT THRU TFS. ELIGIBLE CUSTOMERS MUST BE IN ACTIVE DUTY STATUS IN U.S. MILITARY TO RECEIVE REBATE. (7) 2012 OR 2013 EPA-ESTIMATED MILEAGE. ACTUAL MILEAGE MAY VARY. (8) CUSTOMERS CAN RECEIVE A \$500 INCENTIVE FROM TOYOTA UPON LEASING A NEW 2013 RAV4 AND TRADING IN A TOYOTA VEHICLE. (†) WHICHEVER COMES FIRST FROM DATE OF TCUV PURCHASE. (††) FROM DATE OF TCUV PURCHASE. (†††) 1.9% APR FINANCING ON ALL CPO VEHICLES FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS WITH APPROVED CREDIT ON SELECT MODELS THROUGH TFS. 60 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF \$17.05 PER \$1,000 BORROWED. ONE INCENTIVE PER TRANSACTION. ALL OFFERS EXPIRE 9/30/13.





# LONG & FOSTER® # 1 in Virginia

703-425-8000



**Oakton** **\$629,850**  
Immaculate 4 bedroom, 3 bath brick rambler on gorgeous half acre lot in Foxvale Estates! 2 car oversized garage with workshop, large family room off eat-in kitchen, formal living room with fireplace, deck overlooking private back yard, huge Rec room, and much more.  
**Steve Childress 703-981-3277**



**Alexandria** **\$779,000**  
Classic colonial with beautifully renovated kitchen and updated baths! First floor den or bedroom with full bath. Family room and "Florida" room across the rear of the home. Many updates including roof, windows, hot water heater, furnace & AC. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, 3 finished levels. Gorgeous landscaping & fully fenced rear yard.  
**Betty Barthle 703-425-4466**



**Clifton** **\$675,000**  
Custom log home on 5 gorgeous acres with a winding creek.  
**Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949**



**Burke Centre** **\$415,000**  
This home is a wonderful option to have everything you want in a sought-after neighborhood; all at an affordable price! Stylishly updated top to bottom plus privately set backing to treed common area. Great floor plan, lots of storage; you'll be proud to call this home!  
**Mary Hovland 703-946-1775**  
**Cathy DeLoach 571-276-9421**



**Gainesville** **\$389,900**  
Heritage Hunt 55+ (age 50+ ok). Investment Opportunity - leased until 2016. Want to live in HH but not ready yet? Consider buying at today's price and be ready to move in 2016. 1-level, 3BR, 2BA, Hdws, Gourmet Kitchen w/island, backs to trees! Call me for more info.  
**Amanda Scott 703-772-9190**



**Woodbridge** **\$425,000**  
Cool Pool! Stunning 3-level, 4 BR, 3 1/2 BA Colonial features upgraded kitchen and baths. 1st floor family with fireplace and French doors leading to ceramic deck and in-ground pool, and much, much more!  
**Barbara Nowak 703-473-1803**  
**Gerry Staudte 703-309-8948**



**Springfield** **\$1,125,000**  
7,500+ sq. ft. of well thought out living space. MBR with 2 sitting areas, main level BR with full bath, gourmet kitchen w/island and breakfast area.  
**Ngoc Do 703-798-2899**



**Woodbridge/Lake Occoquan** **\$825,000**  
Waterfront with two docks and beautiful lot. Numerous renovations. 4/4/1 including a main floor bedroom with bath. 42" cherry cabinets and granite counters and island. Brazilian cherry hardwoods on the first floor. Stone gas fireplace in the family room and a brick gas fireplace in the lower level.  
**Lee Scalzott 703-250-0728**



**Clifton** **\$624,900**  
One Level Living! On 1.48 acre wooded lot with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths. All new SS kitchen appliances and remodeled bathrooms.  
**Dwight Bardot 703-888-8263**



**Manassas** **\$498,900**  
Premium 1/2 acre lot on cul-de-sac in Meadowbrook. 5/3/1 Col., 3 fin. levels, private suite with 2nd MBR, kitchen, LR, bath, W/O on lower level. Granite, hardwoods, office, patio & deck. Close to Quantico, Ft. Belvoir, VRE.  
**Mary LaRoche 703-919-0747**



**Stafford** **\$291,000**  
Great Starter Home! This SF detached home, located on a half-acre lot, features 3 BR, 2FB, large LR/DR with vaulted ceiling and sliding glass door to deck and spacious yard, plus 2-car garage and extra carport.  
**Barbara Nowak 703-473-1803**  
**Gerry Staudte 703-309-8948**



**Fairfax** **\$672,000**  
Fantastic addition graces this colonial, sited on a cul-de-sac lot! You'll love the main house kitchen w/granite counters, SS appliances, checkered floor, HW floors throughout & finished LL. Delight in the huge addition w/its 2-levels of upgrades, including HW floors, separate kitchen & laundry, 2 full baths & dream bedroom with a sitting room. Huge screened-in porch co-joins both residences!  
**Catie Morales 703-278-9313**



**Lake Anna** **\$325,000**  
Winter water view, 3 bedroom 2 bath, open floor plan, oversized two car garage, full unfinished basement, 1.3 acres.  
**Jamie Brown 540-903-2500**



**Woodbridge** **\$272,000**  
Gorgeous 4 Year Young 3 Level Condo. House Has 3 Bdrms, 3 Full & 1 Half Bath. Granite Countertops, Hardwood Floors, W to W Carpeting, Custom Blinds, Crown Molding, Spacious Eat In Kitchen with Large Side x Side Fridge, 1 Car Garage, Samsung Washer/Dryer, Walk Out Lower Level, and Much More.  
**David Levent 703-338-1388**



**Woodbridge** **\$179,900**  
Mooring of Occoquan. Attention Investors! This lovely two bedroom one and a half baths is a great way to jump start your portfolio. With a tenant in place and ready to sign a up to a two year lease who could ask for more. It's centrally located across from a commuter lot, marina, shopping, and dining. It features large bedrooms, a great size kitchen, nice patio for those sunny days, extra storage, and more.  
**Jody Levinson 703-678-5639**



**Lake Anna Waterfront!** **\$760,000**  
Must see this 4 bedroom Landscaped Waterfront Home! Has everything you could want + beautiful trees, gardens, flowers & list goes on. Cross over the bridge on your lot to boat slip in common area.  
**Eileen Heusser 540-223-0296**



**Herndon** **\$254,900**  
Updated 3rd floor condo with almost 1000 sq. feet finished space. Hardwood floors in the living and dining room areas, upgraded kitchen, washer and dryer in unit. Walk to pool, weight room and club room. Minutes to Park and Ride on Monroe Street. New Metro coming in 2018.  
**Ellie Wester 703-503-1880**



**Alexandria City** **\$196,000**  
Great View, Great Space and Covered Parking Too! 1000 sq ft with eat-in kitchen, separate dining room, walk in closet, washer and dryer in unit, close-in location and fabulous view!  
**Cheryl Hanback 703-864-4321**



**Gainesville** **\$549,000**  
Custom 3BR/3BA with luxury appointments in award winning 55+ Heritage Hunt community. 2 MBRs, loft, gourmet kitchen w/6 burner gas stove, marble, granite, hardwoods, designer lighting, brick planters & patio. Call to view this unique home. See www.marylroche.com.  
**Mary LaRoche 703-919-0747**



**Clifton** **\$699,900**  
Sited on 5.46 wooded acres, this updated 4 BR contemporary offers open living space with scenic views. Gourmet Kitchen, vaulted ceilings, and gleaming hardwoods throughout are just a few of this home's special features.  
**Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949**

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