Burke

Three-Point Play Lifts Bruins

Sports, Page 12

Lake Braddock senior Caitlyn Mandela scored five points against Woodson on Jan. 27.

Winter Fun, Food & Entertainment

Entertainment, Page 10

oto by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection

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County Rescues Lorton Arts News, Page 5

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NEWS Taking a Trip Back in Time

Burke Historical Society leads lectures on area history.

By Janelle Germanos The Connection

f it weren't for a group of concerned citizens in the 1950s, Burke could have very well been the site of a major airport.

This revelation, along with many others concerning Burke's opposition to an airport, was the topic at the latest meeting of the Burke Historical Society.

Burke residents and historical society members Mary Lipsey and Christie Zinser took the audience back to the 1950s, when the federal government considered Burke for the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area's next major airport.

Although Chantilly was chosen for the site of Dulles Airport, the debate over the airport's location in the 1950s shows a lot about the area's history, including the work of dedicated citizen organizations.

"We often study what has been," said Jon Vrana, president of the Burke Historical Society. "This is a history of what wasn't."

On June 13, 1951, a notice from the federal government was posted at the Burke Post Office, located next to today's fire department. The notice stated that the gov-



Christine Zinser and Mary Lipsey of the Burke Historical Society presented the background to many Burke residents' opposition to an airport in the community in the 1950s.

ernment would begin condemning land, 4,500 acres to be exact, in Burke for use for an airport.

According to Lipsey and Zinser, planes would be flying right over Silas Burke's house. It was the opposition to this airport that led to the creation of the Burke Civic Association.

The condemnation of land would largely affect farm owners, who owned large amounts of land in the Burke Area.

"The idea of the airport split people's friendships," Lipsey said. "People moved out of town. Some people actually moved their

homes."

According to Zinser, who was fascinated by Burke's involvement in this series of events leading to Chantilly being chosen as the airport's location, Burke was a serious contender for the location because of monetary interests, as groups like the Washington Board of Trade and Chamber of Commerce supported the airport in Burke.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Burke Citizen's Association were opposed to Burke as the location for many reasons, saying that the airport would decrease property value, increase noise pollution, and impact more citizens than if another location was chosen.

On Jan. 14, 1958, Chantilly was selected, which Zinser and Lipsey said is because the federal government didn't think they would get as much resistance from citizens of the small town of Willard, which was largely African-American.

The impacts of Burke almost being the site of a major airport can still be seen today. Many of the old farmhouses were purchased by the federal government and were offered for sale after Chantilly was chosen, but most homeowners could not afford to buy back their property. The current location of Burke Lake Park is on land originally intended for the airport.

Willard will be the topic of discussion at an upcoming Burke Historical Society meeting, which Vrana encourages residents in the area to join.

"Members can go on field trips. We recently went on a tour of the U.S. Capitol that was supposed to last 30 minutes, but ended up being three hours," Vrana said.

According to Vrana, there are a variety of aspects of history that members are interested in.

"I enjoyed researching the debate surrounding the placement of the airport, and finding out what wasn't apparent," Zinser said.

Membership allows for countless research opportunities, Vrana said, and is a good resource to have for genealogy projects.

West Springfield Renovations Still Years Off

Citizens question Capital Improvement Program funding.

By Janelle Germanos The Connection

est Springfield High School freshman Rylie Smedley said her school's need for renovation doesn't impact her everyday life at school too much, but that repair is obviously needed.

"A lot of the bathrooms don't work," said Smedley.

It was this state of disrepair that led Eric Hawkins, a resident of West Springfield since 2001, to join other parents and community advocates in 2008 to create SOAR, a group dedicated to ensuring West Springfield High School renovations by 2016.

Fairfax County Public School's current Capital Improvement Program only allows for one high school to be renovated every educational bond, which is bi-annual.

This has led to a queue of schools in line to be funded for renovation. West Springfield renovation is due to begin in 2016, www.ConnectionNewspapers.com but Hawkins said this timeline negatively impacts students and teachers currently at West Springfield.

"Some classrooms are freezing cold while others are steaming hot on the same day. It is as basic as bathrooms not functioning properly, to huge temperature fluctuations in classrooms on the same day," Hawkins said. "Most importantly, the school does not provide an optimal learning environment. The facility of West Springfield does not provide optimal learning environments and does not even meet the educational specifications of Fairfax County Public Schools."

According to Hawkins, schools in need of repair are forced to wait for years before renovation can take place.

"No Fairfax County high school facility should ever be in the situation that West Springfield is in today. The most unfortunate reality is that not only is it West Springfield. Behind West Springfield in the renovation queue is Oakton, Herndon and Falls Church," Hawkins said. "If you think forward, and you can only fund one of these every other year, you are literally saying that all of these other high schools are not going to be renovated until the mid-2020s."

IN 2013, the Infrastructure Financing



Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity and Del. Dave Albo, both graduates of West Springfield High School, work closely with SOAR to ensure the renovation of the school.

Committee was created to discuss capital needs of both Fairfax County Public Schools and county government.

Hawkins said SOAR had been advocating for a collaborative group between the schools and the county for four years before it was finally established in 2014.

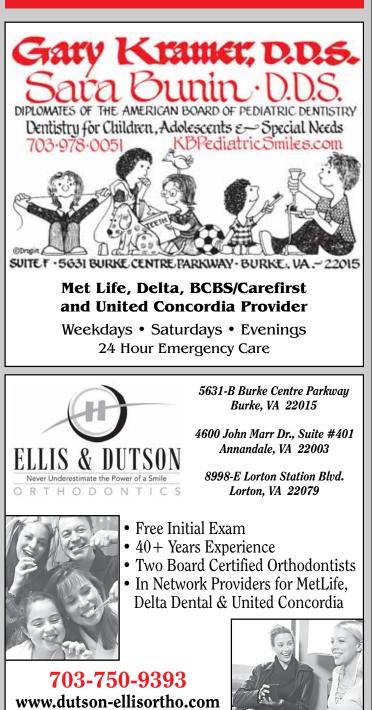
"We wanted schools and the county to work together to what we saw, even at that time, as an impending crisis of unmet and unfunded infrastructure and capital needs. Community groups like ours saw that impending crisis three or four years ago," Hawkins said.

SOAR has been working for the past four years with their elected officials, including Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity, a graduate of West Springfield High School.

SEE WSHS, PAGE 14

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News Federal Grand Jury Indicts Fairfax Man

Accused of producing child pornography.

By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

46-year-old Fairfax man is facing more than a decade in prison after being in dicted last week by a Federal grand jury in Alexandria. He is Padraic Collins, and he was indicted Thursday, Jan. 23, on a charge of production of child pornography.

According to U.S. District Court documents, he was in possession of videos containing child pornography while he tried to cross the border into Canada. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Washington received information from HSI Toronto regarding Collins at the Lansdowne, Canada Port of Entry.

He was arrested by the Canadian Border Services Agency and charged with importing and possessing child pornography files on a handheld video camera and a laptop. Authorities say the seven videos confiscated reportedly show Collins engaging in sexual activity with an underage girl.

HSI Washington, in coordination with HSI Toronto and the Ottawa Provincial Police, determined the identity of the 11-year-old child in the videos. Court documents state that she allegedly identified Collins as her abuser and confirmed the details of the sexual abuse. According to authorities, the girl reported that the crime happened in Springfield. The indictment lists the alleged offense date as Dec. 18, 2011. It also states that the visual evidence documenting it was contained on Collins's Sony Handycam video camera and his Dell Latitude laptop computer.

If he is convicted, Collins could be sentenced to anywhere from a mandatory minimum of 15 years behind bars to a possible maximum of 30 years. He's scheduled for arraignment this Friday, Jan. 31, at 9 a.m., before Judge Claude Hilton in U.S. District Court in Alexandria. His plea or trial date should be set at that time.

The investigation was conducted by HSI Washington, with assistance from HSI Toronto, HSI Buffalo, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Ottawa Provincial Police and the U.S. Marshals Service. Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Alicia J. Yass, a trial attorney with the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the U.S. Justice Department's Criminal Division, is prosecuting the case on behalf of the United States.

Dana J. Boente, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Scot R. Rittenberg, Acting Special Agent in Charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), HSI Washington, made the announcement about Collins after the grand jury returned the indictment against him to U.S. Magistrate Judge T. Rawles Jones Jr.

This prosecution is part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Little Money for School Renovations

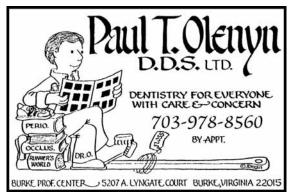
Aging schools collide with budget crunch.

By Lisa Spinelli The Connection

hile the 2015 to 2019 Capital Improve ment Program (CIP) passed at the Fairfax County Public School Board meeting on Thursday, Jan. 3, many board members expressed concerns with the program.

"Our funding is inadequate and has been inadequate for many years," said Mount Vernon district school board member Dan Storck about the school's capital improvement budget — which has an annual cap of \$155 million.

Fairfax County public schools are bursting at the seams. An influx of 20,000 school-aged children enrolled in the system within the last eight years and there is no end in sight to the growth rate. With many buildings reaching 50-plus years old and enrollment projected at 184,500 for next school year, overcrowded schools are becoming a mainstay.



The CIP five-year plan includes a queue of which schools have planning funds and construction funds approved, and includes the construction of two new elementary schools as well as one new high school. The total bill for this CIP is \$697.7 million, with \$371.7 million of that unfunded.

One of the major sticking points among board members was the treatment of legacy high schools: Falls Church, Herndon, Langley, Oakton and West Springfield. All these schools were built in the 1960s, and none have received a full renovation. Some are still not in the queue to receive funds for upgrades as of this CIP.

"We're stuck between a rock and a hard place," said Providence District Representative Patty Reed citing not enough funding and too many schools in need.

At the meeting last week, an amendment to the CIP passed to further examine renovations needed at legacy high schools.

While the CIP focuses on renovating/enhancing existing schools and building new schools, the Facilities Planning Advisory Committee — and some members at the board meeting — suggested examining the entire process for which the board determines the renovation priorities.

The facilities planning committee suggested in a January report that an overarching study on school boundaries and changing those boundaries by 2018 could help alleviate much of the overcrowding in schools across the county — especially high schools. With the current CIP, Facilities Planning Advisory Committee wrote that in just five years 45,397 children will be attending schools at more than 115 percent of capacity — approximately one in four students. Currently, there are no ongoing or planned boundary studies in place, said John Torre, public information officer with FCPS.

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News

New Leadership for Workhouse Arts Center

Board of Supervisors continues to debate future success of center.

> By Janelle Germanos The Connection

aura McKie, a volunteer at the Prison Museum at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center, said she doesn't expect the museum's everyday operations to change too much as Fairfax County takes greater control over the center.

"I think everything will carry on as normal," McKie said.

McKie is referring to the Jan. 14 Board of Supervisors' decision, which will abolish the current Lorton Arts Foundation Board. Fairfax County will assume \$30 million in debt, settling the agreement with Wells Fargo Bank, which the Lorton Arts Foundation has entered into a debt of \$60 million.

Still, county officials such as Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity question the Jan. 14 Board of Supervisors' decision.

Herrity, who was the only Supervisor who dissented in the decision, said that foreclosure could have been avoided, even without Fairfax County assuming the Foundation's debt.

"We had more time and we didn't take it," Herrity said. "This wasn't our loan. We had no legal obligation to pay off this debt."

Braddock District Supervisor John Cook, however, said before the Board of Supervisors decision that if the decision to assume the loan was not made, foreclosure would have been inevitable.

"The fact of the matter is, if this deal was not made today, the bank was going to foreclose on that loan this month, and we had to act," Cook said.

Cook said before the Jan. 14 vote that the Lorton Arts Foundation failed, something Herrity disagrees with.

"The Lorton Arts Foundation didn't fail. They did the best they could with the situation," Herrity said.

Herrity said that circumstances were tough, however, especially considering the location of the arts center.

"Even the Torpedo Factory in Old Town Alexandria isn't surviving," Herrity said.

In 2002, Fairfax County purchased 2,440 acres of federal land, which was the site of the historic Occoquan Workhouse Prison, for \$4.2 million. In 2006, the Lorton Arts Foundation renovated the former prison into an arts center after approval from the Board of Supervisors.

Chairman Sharon Bulova has attended many events at the Workhouse Arts Center. McKie, who organized the "American Women: The Long and



The Board of Supervisors voted Jan. 14 to assume \$30 million of the Lorton Arts Foundation debt and to abolish the current board, although Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity said this could have been avoided.

Winding Road" lecture series at the Prison Museum, said Bulova attended the first lecture and will participate in the event in March.

"She is a big supporter of our program," McKie said.

Bulova issued a statement following the Board of Supervisors decision, stressing the economic difficulties faced by the Lorton Arts Foundation.

"However, like many nonprofits and businesses alike, the LAF has not been immune to the economic recession and slow recovery. Simply put, the past few years have proven an intensely difficult time to raise money for the arts, and the Workhouse Arts Center's operations have not generated enough revenue to cover expenses, especially debt it incurred for capital renovations," Bulova said in the statement.

Herrity said he is opposed to spending \$30 million of taxpayer's money, and believes Fairfax County should look at longer term solutions.

"We shouldn't be bailing out a bank because it made a bad loan," Herrity said. "We should be looking at monetizing the surrounding land."

Cook, however, said that nobody is being bailed out with this agreement, and that the agreement was necessary to avoid litigation.

"It is not true that there was no potential legal liability to the county. We own the land. We own the buildings," Cook said.

Lee District Supervisor Jeffrey McKay supported the decision in order to protect the county's investment in the Workhouse, and suggested opportunities to make land use changes in the area to attract more people to the facility.

"This is a county with over a million people. We ought to have an arts center in this county, but we ought to have one that is fiscally well-managed and controlled, and one that we have some lever of oversight with," McKay said.

News Briefs

Delegate Mark Sickles to run for Congress

nounced his candidacy for the 8th Congressional District on Monday

Sickles has been endorsed by Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, State Senator Toddy Puller, and Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay.

Sickles released the following statement on Monday:

"Congressman Jim Moran casts a long www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Delegate Mark Sickles (D-43) an- shadow on the civic and legislative landscape of Northern Virginia. His ability to make things happen – and his seniority on key committees important to our region and Commonwealth - cannot be replaced. I worked on his first campaign for Congress in 1990 and have been part of his team for the last 24 years, and am announcing my candidacy today to succeed him in the House of Representatives.

I will bring meaningful federal, state,

and local experience to a very divided Congress, as well as the ability to work with people across the political spectrum. I am now in my 11th year in the Virginia House of Delegates and serve as our Democratic Caucus Chair. In my career, I have come to know the federal system as an advocate for infrastructure investment, and will fight tirelessly for the federal workers - like my father, who had a 39-year career in the federal government - who are the heart and soul of our economy.



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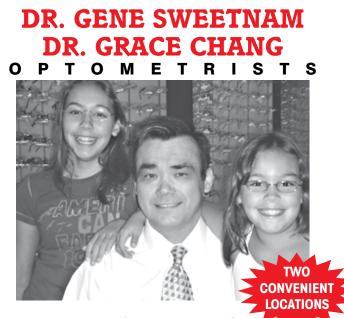
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OPINION For Nonpartisan Redistricting

Virginia is a purple state, gerrymandered to bleed red.

onsider that in statewide elections, Virginia voters have chosen Democrats in the last two presidential elections, for U.S. Senate, for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General.

Almost none of these elections was by a wide margin, but it's clear that Vir-EDITORIAL ginia is a purple state leaning blue. Here are the actual numbers:

2013

McAuliffe (D) 1,069,789; Cuccinelli (R) 1,013,389 Northam (D) 1,213,155; Jackson (R) 980,257 Herring (D) 1,103,777; Obenshain (R) 1,103,612

BULOVA REPORT

By David Bulova

Delegate, 37th Virginia House District

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is hard to believe that we are already entering our third week of session. Floor debates are starting to get longer (and more interesting) as bills move their way through the committees. Sen. Chap Petersen and I are looking forward to sharing what is going on in Richmond and answering your questions at our Town Hall meeting on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 9-10:30 a.m., at the Fairfax City

2012 Obama (D) 1,971,820; Romney (R) 1,822,522

Kaine (D) 2,010,067; Allen (R) 1,785,542 It's reasonable to assume that a state so evenly divided would be about evenly divided in political representation.

How is possible then that Virginia House of Delegates consists of 67 Republicans and 33 Democrats?

Why is it that Virginia's delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives consists of 11 Republicans and three Democrats?

The split in the Virginia Senate makes sense, a 20-20 split with a Republican Lieutenant Governor breaking tie votes the

last four years and a Democratic Lieutenant Governor poised to break ties in the coming four years (pending this week's recount in the special election in District 6 to

replace Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam). Virginia's 11 Congressional districts should

be split about evenly. You could understand a split five Dems and six Republicans; or five Republicans and six Democrats. A four and seven split would smack of some unusual circumstance. But three and eight?

The answer is gerrymandering.

Both political parties have been guilty of this when in power, although new technology and better data have made the process more egregious, the effects more damaging.

Political parties should not control the drawing of political districts. Gerrymandering thwarts the will of the electorate. It is especially damaging in a Dillon rule state, like Virginia, where localities have only the power explicitly granted to them by the General Assembly,

> — Mary Kimm, MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Progress in Richmond

Hall. We hope you can join us.

I am also happy to announce that I will be holding my second annual Constituent Day on Monday, Feb. 17. We will meet at 10 a.m. and then visitors will get a behind-the-scenes tour of the General Assembly Building and the State Capitol. Send me a quick email at info@davidbulova.com if you are interested in attending.

I appreciate the many responses that I received regarding HB848, which would allow Dominion Virginia Power to assess a small additional fee to recover the cost of

undergrounding significant por-Northern Virginia and that we weren't simply sending money to other parts of the state. Dominion confirmed that over a quarter of the undergrounding projects will be here in Northern Virginia.

A second concern was that, if we are being asked to pay more now, customers should be able to share in the long-term savings. While the more immediate payoff will be to businesses and residents in the form of quicker restoration time, customers will also enjoy longterm savings under the rate review process established by the State Corporation Commission. The bill passed the House 95 to 1 this past Thursday with me voting yes.

Another major issue on which I have received a great deal of communication is the proposed repeal of the extra tax on hybrid vehicles. The tax was part of the transportation funding compromise enacted last year. While I did not support the hybrid tax, I voted for the package with the understanding that we had a better chance of repealing the tax than having another opportunity to pass a comprehensive transportation bill. I am pleased to say the House voted to repeal the tax this past Thursday. The measure now goes to the Senate, where identical legislation has already passed.

MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM REFORM

This year the General Assembly is tackling much needed reform to our mental-health system. While the need for reform has been widely acknowledged, the issue took on additional urgency when Sen. Creigh Deeds was stabbed by his son, who then took his own life. Hours before the tragedy, the son had released from custody after a psychiatric bed could not be found within the state-mandated time limit.

See Progress, Page 14



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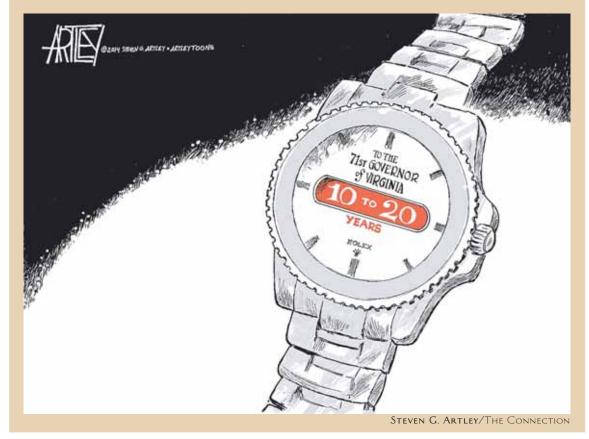
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tions of its infrastructure to increase power reliability. The feed-with a few important caveats. The first concern was to make sure that the benefits would be felt here in

News Debate Over School Budget Continues

Later start times, class size among topics at School Board public hearing.

By Janelle Germanos The Connection

ater start times, class size, and cuts to needsbased staffing were major themes of the testimony given at the Jan. 27 public hearing on Superintendent Karen Garza's proposed budget.

Members and representatives of SLEEP in Fairfax, Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, Coalition of the Silence, and many other groups spoke at the public hearing.

Several SLEEP advocates at the hearing said that Fairfax County should follow the example of other school systems in the area and adjust middle and high school start times, beginning in Fall 2014.

Catherine Pournelle, an eighthgrader at Lake Braddock Secondary School, said most teenagers only get around seven hours a sleep per night, which leads to several problems while in school.

"I know from experience that this then causes us all to feel drowsy and not pay attention as well during morning classes. It especially becomes hard when homework piles up, causing us all to get to bed later and creating a spiral of sleepiness until the weekend," Pournelle said. "Overall it does not create a healthy environment for leaning."

Stuart Orloff, a 10th-grader in Fairfax County Public Schools, agreed. "School is a great idea. Sure there are flaws, but it is an important part of growing up. The problem is, I'm only half awake to experience it. In class, I can hardly focus because I'm trying too hard to stay awake," Orloff said.

Another concern several speakers have with the budget is the cuts to need-based staffing. Dr. Lolita Mancheno-Smoak of Coalition of the Silence stressed the importance of closing the achievement gap in Fairfax County, which she said cannot be done with the proposed budget.

"We all accept the premise that education is the great equalizer. However, over the years, we keep seeing budget cuts that weaken the progress towards leveling the playing field for all children," Mancheno-Smoak said.

Mancheno-Smoak said. Avis Catchings, also of Coalition www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



THE CONNECTION Janet Laubgross and Stuart Orloff at the hearing.

of the Silence, said that while COTS supports some aspects of the budget, including the decision to pay teachers fairly, she is disappointed with some of its other aspects.

"This is about life choices for COTS kids. When COTS kids fail in school, too often they also fail in life," Catchings said. "Proposing any cuts to needs-based staffing when the FCPS student population has increased by the thousands, and when most of this growth is in our neediest communities, is just not a good choice."

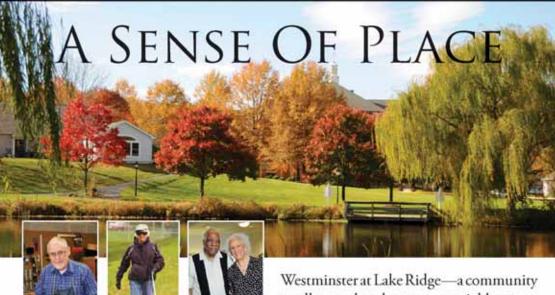
Several students also advocated for children who are underrepresented and disadvantaged. Alanna Brown, a ninthgrader at Lake Braddock Secondary School, spoke about the digital divide in Fairfax County.

Brown said she thinks that while digital textbooks are helpful, it is unfair for poorer students who don't have access to the internet at home.

"Although there are low-income students at Lake Braddock, I don't believe there are that many, but there are other places like Alexandria and other areas in Virginia that have many more poor students," Brown said.

At the hearing, Steven Greenberg, president of the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, praised Garza for her budget proposal. "Dr. Garza's budget is the best lemonade anyone could possible make, considering the rotten lemons we've been given," Greenberg said.

However, former school board member Tina Hone, a founder of Coalition of the Silence, said that the organization is struggling with the proposed cuts to need-based staffing.



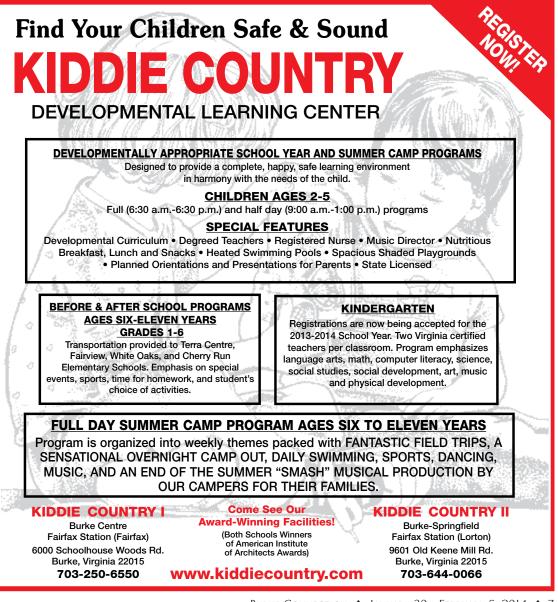
Westminster at Lake Ridge Northern Virginia's Best Kept Secret in Retirement Living

6

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Burke Connection & January 30 - February 5, 2014 & 7

WINTER FUN, FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT Staying Warm and Entertained in Burke

Check out GMU's Center for the Arts for winter fun.

B urke Residents have been interacting with members of the George Mason University Fairfax Campus for some time. One of the benefits of this relationship includes use of Mason's many cultural and entertainment events at the Patriot Center and the Center for the Arts.

In February, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra will be coming to the Center for the Arts, featuring conductor and violinist Pinchas Zukerman.

At Mason's Art and Design Building's Fine Arts Gallery, "Black and White and Thread All Over" will be displayed until Feb. 21.

The exhibit, arranged by Virginia Commonwealth University Professor Sonya Clark, uses textiles, combs and hair as a commentary on race, culture and identity. An artist lecture and reception will take place in the Fine Arts Gallery Feb. 4, 1:30 p.m. Other events at Mason include the Haifa Symphony Orchestra of Israel, Walnut Street Theatre's "Driving Miss Daisy," and Mark Morris Dance Group.

Ticket prices vary. Visit cfa.gmu.edu for more information.

Burke residents can also travel to the City of Fairfax for the 2014 Chocolate Lovers Festival, taking place Feb. 1-2. Learn more at chocolatefestival.net

— Janelle Germanos



Under the baton of Maestro Boguslaw Dawidow, Haifa Symphony Orchestra of Israel will be coming to George Mason's Center for the Arts this Saturday, Feb. 1 at 8 p.m.

Winter Fun with Local History

Civil War memorabilia.

house with free admission.

room.

The Franconia Museum has a simple mis-

sion: to promote the heritage of the

Franconia area. The museum is heavy in

THE HISTORICAL LAUREL GROVE

SCHOOL, a couple minutes from the

Franconia Museum down the road on

Beulah Street, offers another historical

glance at life in the area. Every Saturday in February, the museum is offering an open

Laurel Grove School was a one-room

school house for African-American children

in Franconia from 1882-1932. Visitors to

the school can learn about what it was like

to go to school with multiple grades in one

Fairfax County Historical Commission, will

also be present to ask questions.

The museum curator, Phyllis Ford of the

"We decided to have an open house ev-

Take a break from the cold to learn about the Franconia Museum and Laurel Grove School.

By Janelle Germanos The Connection

f tired of spending another cold winter day at the movie theatre or bowling alley, try something educational for a change. Take a step back in time this winter by visiting the Franconia Museum, located at the Franconia Government Center on Franconia Road. This museum, founded in 2006, offers information about the Franconia area that dates back to the Civil War.

Pictures, artifacts and stories are abun- ery Saturday in February for Black History

8 & Burke Connection & January 30 - February 5, 2014

dant in the museum, bringing visitors back in time to an era when life was simpler. More Information

Franconia Museum Address: 6121 Franconia Rd., Franconia, VA 22310 Phone: 703-971-4984 Hours: Monday-Wednesday, 10-2 p.m., Saturday 10-2 p.m.

Laurel Grove School Address: 6840 Beulah Street, Alexandria, 22310

Phone: 703-322-0833 Open House: February 1, 8, 15, and 22, 11-3 p.m., no admission fee

Month. We're mostly opening up for the community to tell some of the history of how the school got started, and talk about the history from slavery to the Jim Crowe Period," Ford said.

Visitors can see a map from the 1860s showing where families lived in the area.

"We are trying to get three women who went to the school to visit on Feb. 22," Ford said.

"On the other Saturdays, we will be showing a video of the women."

VIEWPOINTS

What do you like to do for fun in the wintertime? ^{- JANELLE} GERMANOS



Rylie Smedley, 9th grader at West Springfield High School

"I like going to D.C."

Morgan Geer, student at South County Middle School "I like drinking warm drinks and baking cookies."





Emma Henderson, 12th grader at South County High School "The Gaylord Hotel Ice Sculpture is really fun to look at. It's nice being so close to D.C."

Violet Smith, student at South County Middle School "My family likes to go skiing a lot."





Olivia Hoffmaster, student at South County Middle School "I like hanging out with friends."

Jimmy Luehers, student at George Mason University "I like to eat."



Derrik Marrow, student at George Mason University "I like sleeping and relaxing."

Laura Jasso, educator, JCC of Northern Virginia "I love to play in the snow and sled."



Erez Cramer, student at George Mason University "I like to sled and hang out in the snow."

WINTER FUN, FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT Chocolate Lovers Festival in Fairfax, this Weekend

By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

or anyone who likes chocolate, the City of Fairfax is the place to be, this coming weekend. The 22nd annual Chocolate Lovers Festival is Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 1-2, with tasty treats and fun-filled events for the whole family.

The Taste of Chocolate — which attracts visitors from throughout the Washington Metropolitan area — runs Saturday, Feb. 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 2, from noon-4 p.m., on both floors of the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive. Admission is free. Inside are a variety of chocolate cakes, all kinds of chocolate candies and bars, chocolate-covered strawberries, fudge, ice cream and even chocolate fountains into which customers may dip fruit, cake or marshmallows.

Visitors buy pogs for \$1 each and then browse around the vendors' tables to check out all the chocolate treats being offered. When they decide to purchase something, they pay for it in pogs. Strollers may be left on the building's front porch, and a fully accessible entrance is at the door on Main Street.

Vendors at this year's Taste of Chocolate include: BaTer Chocolates, C & D Sweets, Cakes by Shelby, Cameron's Coffee & Chocolate, Capitol Chocolate Fountains; Chocotenago, Cocoa Vienna, Confection Connection, Dave's Candy Kitchen, El Ceibo/ Bolivia, Extreme Ice Cream, Fair Trade Winds, Fluffy Thoughts



One of the many creative entries in last year's Chocolate Challenge.

Cakes, Mike's Fudge, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Sugar Mama's, Virginia Chocolate Co. and Watergate Pastry. The Chocolate Challenge, a display of imaginative creations in chocolate art, cakes and cupcakes — takes place at the Nutrition Kitchen, 3950 University Drive. It runs Feb. 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Feb. 2, from noon-4 p.m.

Both professionals and amateurs participate, and judges and visitors judge them in various categories. Visitors may also vote for the People's Choice Award winner.

Saturday's many activities kick off with the annual, Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Fire Station 3, at 4081 University Drive. Then that evening will be the festival's firsttime, "Chocolate and a Movie" night, featuring the original "Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory." It'll be shown at 7 p.m. at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Hwy.

For more information about the festival and a complete schedule of events, go to

www.chocolatefestival.net or call 703-385-1661. A Chocolate Express will provide free, shuttle service between event locations. It'll run Feb. 1 from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Feb. 2 from 11:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Step Back in History While in Fairfax

As part of the Chocolate Festival, several historic buildings in the City of Fairfax will be open to visitors this Saturday, Feb. 1. They are as follows:

Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This structure was constructed in 1873 with bricks made at the Farr property across Main Street. The oldest brick, two-story school building remaining in Fairfax cost \$2,750 to build. Docents and volunteers now welcome visitors to stop in for chocolate goodies while learning about the city's colorful history. Admission is free.

♦ Ford House, 3977 Chain Bridge Road, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit the childhood home of Antonia Ford, a Confederate spy during the American Civil War. She provided Confederate military leaders with information gathered at her Fairfax home during the First Battle of Manassas. When she was imprisoned, she fell in love with her Union jailer, whom she later married, and their son built the Old Town Hall. The Woman's Club of Fairfax created the exhibit at the Ford House, which is currently used as an office building. Admission is free.

Legato School, Route 123/Chain Bridge Road, between Judicial Drive and Sager Avenue, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Learn about the noble heritage of chocolate and play some games at the one-room Legato School, the last of its kind in Fairfax County. It's been restored and is furnished as it was in the 1870s. Now operated as a museum, Legato School is located on the grounds of the historic Fairfax County Courthouse on Route 123. Admission is free.

Ratcliffe-Allison House, 10386 Main St., noon to 4 p.m. The oldest standing house in the City of Fairfax depicts the lives of everyday people in 19th century Fairfax. And during the festival, it'll offer chocolate treats. Built in 1812, it served a variety of purposes, including a stint as a cobbler shop.

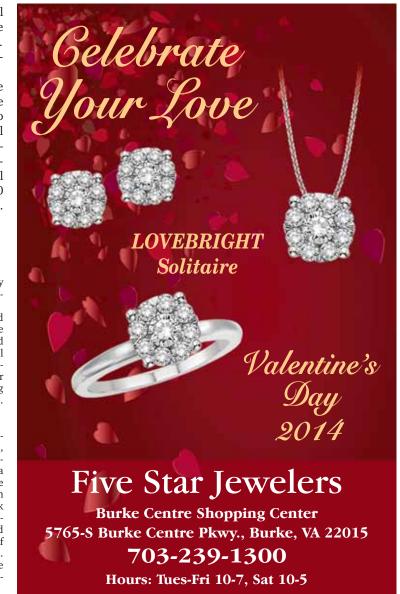
The house is furnished with period pieces collected by one of its owners, the late Kitty Pozer, a famed gardener and writer who lived in the house until 1981. The Ratcliffe-Allison House features the exhibit, "Dr. Kate Waller Barrett: Mother to Many." The adjoining Kitty Pozer Garden may also be visited. Admission is free.

♦ Historic Archives: In the Historic Archives in the Fairfax Courthouse, people may view historical legal documents such as The 1739 Land Grant; a page from polling done around the county as citizens voted to secede from the Union; the Civil War Rule Book filled with graffiti from the soldiers stationed here; as well as original deed books, court-order books and images of pages from George Washington's will. The Old Courthouse will be open to the public for the first time since its renovation.



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WINTER FUN Spend Winter at the Workhouse

Lorton's Workhouse Arts Center offers activities for friends and families to enjoy.

> By Amna Rehmatulla The Connection

S pending your weekends at home on these blistering cold days becomes boring after a while. Bundle up and venture off to the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton for a range of activities such as viewing art exhibitions, watching theatrical classics, laughing out loud to standup comedy, and creating your very own dinner from scratch with an experienced chef. Here is a list of events going on at the Workhouse Arts Center at 9601 Ox Road in Lorton.

Beauty and the Beast

Watch the classic Beauty and the Beast live onstage, where a self-centered prince is cursed to spend eternity as a hideous and frightening beast, will he ever find the way to break the spell? Show dates are Saturdays, Feb. 1-March 1 at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$9 for children under 12 years old.

Limited seating is available so advance ticket reservations are recommended for this event. Reserved tickets may be collected at Will Call beginning 30 minutes prior to event, doors open for seating 15 minutes prior. Purchase tickets at https:// reservations.workhousearts.org/ Info.aspx?EventID=9.

Cabaret Series: A Broadway Valentine

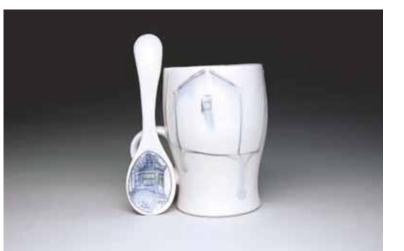
Performers Caren Hearne, Linda Rose Payne, Mary Payne and John Hollinger explore the romance of the Broadway songbook with this early tribute to Valentine's Day. Accompanist Brandon Heishman leads vocalists on a journey showing that, for characters on the

Calendar

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

SATURDAY/FEB. 1

- Youth Poetry Slam. 6 p.m. George Mason University, Johnson Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free admission. www.poetrynowVA.com A Broadway Valentine. 8 p.m.
- Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. The very popular Cabaret Series at the Workhouse will be



Nicole Aquillano's mug at Lorton Workhouse's International Ceramic Cup Show, "Drink This!"



Theo Uliano's mugs at the "Drink This!" exhibition. Don't miss your chance to view 71 works of art that offer a surprising sample of the many ways contemporary artists interpret the cup this weekend at Workhouse Arts Center.

stage, love is never easy, which is why some of the most memorable of music can be beautiful, tragic or even funny.

Tickets are \$25, includes planche campagnarde. The performance takes place on Saturday, Feb. 1 at 8 p.m. Purchase tickets at: https:// reservations.workhousearts.org/ Info.aspx?EventID=9

Drink This!

From the elegant tumbler to the comfortable simple mug, an exhibition of 71 works from five countries offers a surprising sample of the many ways contemporary artists interpret the cup in "Drink This!" Workhouse International Ceramic Cup Show.

Internationally recognized ceramic artist and professor Sam Chung said, "There were cups that told a story that transcended the object itself, while others created an innate craving for a drink that fit the cup's character. These were

exploring the romantic section of the Broadway songbook with a tribute to Valentine's Day. Tickets: www.workhousearts.org/

SATURDAY/FEB. 1- SUNDAY/FEB. 2 Fairfax's Chocolate Lovers

Festival. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive. Indulge in all things chocolate at this annual festival. www.chocolatefestival.net

SUNDAY/FEB. 2

A Broadway Valentine. 1 p.m.

the cups that pushed me over the edge." The exhibit runs through Feb. 2, in Building 8 at Workhouse Arts. Hours 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and 12-5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is free. For more information, call 703-584-2982 or visit www.workhouseceramics.org.

2nd Saturday Art Walk

The 2nd Saturday Art Walk at the Workhouse showcases the diverse work of more than 100 visual artists in a historic venue.

Guests can tour seven studio buildings, mingle with artists, buy original works of art, all while enjoying light refreshments and music.

These monthly events are perfect for family art outings. Admission is free. The Art Walk will take place on Saturday, Feb. 8 from 6-9 p.m.

Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. The very popular Cabaret Series at the Workhouse will be exploring the romantic section of the Broadway songbook with a tribute to Valentine's Day. Tickets: www.workhousearts.org/

TUESDAY/FEB. 4, 11

"Song & Character Study." 6-8 p.m. Truro Anglican Church, 10520 Main Street, Fairfax. Join CFTC for a four week class on song and character study. Cost: \$40-\$90. www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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WINTER FUN

Winter Fun in Lorton

Bundle up and enjoy the outdoors this winter.

By Janelle Germanos The Connection

airfax Station and Lorton residents have the Workhouse Arts Center, Gunston Hall, and several other arts and historic sites at their disposal for winter fun this season.

But what about a winter activity that is somewhat off the beaten path?

Being outdoors and hiking can be just as fun during the winter months, and the Fairfax Station, Lorton and Clifton area has a variety of great trails to keep people active.

It may seem cold, but winter is a great time to go hiking. There are fewer crowds, and if bundled up, short hikes can be rewarding during the winter season.

The Bull Run-Occoquan Trail is a great option for some hiking. The 18-mile trail goes along the Bull Run and Occoquan Rivers.

"If you did the whole thing, you would spend anywhere from seven to 10 hours hiking, and you'll maybe see a house, or maybe see a car. The only other people you will run into are other people hiking on the trail. That's how isolated it is,"

said Brian Bauer, the marketing and communications director Northern Vir-Reginia gional Park Authority.

Paul Gilbert, executive director of the Northern Virginia **Regional Park** Authority, said the trail is a hidden treasure in Fairfax County.

"It's like hiking the Appalachian Trail. You're just 10 minutes from Fairfax, in Fairfax County, and you feel like you are in the middle of absolute wilderness. It's really cool." Gilbert said.

Occoquan Regional Park in Lorton has a variety of short trails that offer beautiful views of the Occoquan River.

The park is also home to historic www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



For some winter fun in the South County area, bundle up and try a trail, such as this one at Occoquan Regional Park.



Occoquan Regional Park provides great views of the **Occoquan River.**

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pets in photos.

Submission deadline

is February 20.

brick kilns, which were used to build bricks for the Lorton Workhouse Prison.

"I love Occoquan in general," said Lorton resident Hau Chu, 20. "It's just really nice." Remember to wear layers, hats

and gloves, wool socks, "It's like hiking the Appalachian Trail. For ^{at} You're just 10 minutes dents brave Fairfax County, and you feel like you are

- Paul Gilbert, executive direcoffers several tor of the Northern Virginia events in the **Regional Park Authority** coming

from Fairfax, in

months, including comedy shows, art walks and more. Residents looking for educational fun this winter can try the Prison Museum at the Workhouse Arts Center, which details the history of the workhouse as a prison throughout the 20th century. Occoquan Regional Park is located at 9751 Ox Road, Lorton. It is open daily from 8 a.m. until dusk, Jan. 1- March 17. For more

information, call 703-690-2121.

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drink plenty of water, and bring snacks. resiwho don't want to the cold, there are several indoor events to keep busy, including the Workhouse Arts

in the middle of absolute wilderness." Center. The Arts Center

Sports

Lake Braddock Boys' **Basketball Beats Woodson**

Bruins, Cavaliers have become Conference 7's top teams.

> By Jon Roetman The Connection

ake Braddock boys' Basketball Coach Brian Metress stood down the hall from the Bruins' home locker room and praised Monday night's opponent.

"They're very good," Metress said about the Woodson Cavaliers. "They've beaten Robinson, they've beaten really good teams. I think they'll be there at the end. They're one of the top three teams in the region. We just want to be part of that.

"Woodson-Lake Braddock is becoming a big basketball game."

The Lake Braddock boys' basketball team defeated Woodson 56-50 on Jan. 27 at Lake Braddock Secondary School in the first of two regular-season meetings between what have become the top teams in the Patriot District/Conference 7. The Bruins improved to 10-3 while handing Woodson (13-4) its first conference loss of the season. Lake Braddock has dropped just one conference game - a controversial loss to Annandale on Jan. 10.

Woodson led 43-41 with six minutes remaining in the fourth quarter, but Lake Braddock took the lead for good with a 10-0 run, including three-pointers by freshman Corey Pelham and senior John Nice.

The Cavaliers pulled to within three with less than a minute remaining, but 6-foot-6 Lake Braddock sophomore James Butler grabbed an offensive rebound off a missed free throw and scored to extend the Bruins' lead to two possessions.

"It's one of those things where when the game is chaotic, certain guys can think, I might be able to get one here," Metress said about Butler's rebound and putback. "I think he was thinking all along, I might be able to get one of these. It was a big play."

ers with 15 points. Junior forward A.J. Alexander and Nice each scored nine points for the Bruins.

Senior point guard Eric Bowles led Woodson with 13 points. Junior guard Jackson Boehman finished with eight, and senior forward Andy Stynchula and junior guard Trey Johnson each had seven.

Last season, Woodson beat Lake Braddock twice during the regular season and finished atop the district standings. The Bruins countered by

finals before capturing the program's first district title ing the facility unplayable. If the floor is not fixed in in a decade. Woodson went on to win the Northern Region title and advance to the state semifinals.

On Monday, Lake Braddock made more plays in the fourth quarter.

"It's always a big win," Alexander said of beating Woodson. "Last year, they beat us pretty good in the regular season, we came back and beat them in the

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Photo by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection Lake Braddock sophomore James Butler had a key offensive rebound and putback late in the fourth quarter of Monday's win over Woodson.

Patriot District tournament. They're a great team. Everyone is talking about them every year. Bowles is a great point guard — much respect out to him, he kept them in the game. It's a fun game. It's good playing competitive teams that can score on us.

"It's fun beating teams by a lot, but always good to have a good crowd-pleaser."

Woodson closed the second quarter with a 10-0 Lake Braddock senior Will Gregorits led all scor- run and led 36-32 at halftime, but failed to widen its lead beyond six points in the second

half.

"Woodson-Lake

becoming a big

basketball game."

- Lake Braddock boys'

Basketball Coach

Brian Metress

Braddock is

"We had a chance to take control ... and it didn't happen," Woodson head coach Doug Craig said. "Give them credit. They made all the plays down the stretch and found a way to make enough plays to win the game. We had some opportunities and we didn't convert.'

The Cavaliers and Bruins are scheduled to meet again on Feb. 4 at Woodson High School. However,

beating the Cavaliers in the district tournament semi- a water pipe recently burst in the Woodson gym, leavtime, the game will likely be played at Lake Braddock or another facility.

While the Bruins got the best of the Cavaliers on Monday, Metress said there is still more work to be done.

"We're under no illusions," he said, "that this automatically gives us any more victories."

Mandela's 3-Point Play Lifts Bruins to Win

Lake Braddock girls' basketball edges Woodson.

> By Jon Roetman The Connection

ith her team trailing by two points late in the third quarter, Lake Braddock senior Caitlyn Mandela thought she was fouled on a shot attempt and informed an official of her displeasure with the no-call.

Mandela received a technical foul and Woodson capitalized by making one of two ensuing free throws, extending its lead to 30-27. Lake Braddock head coach John Giannelli had a talk with the forward before sending her back in the game.

"Caitlyn plays with a lot of emotion," Giannelli said. "Early in the year, I had her playing out at the [small forward] position and it was a little bit out of her game. Her game is more [suited for power forward or center] — the more contact, the more she's into the game and the more that fires her up.

"The thing with Caitlyn is her motor never stops. Sometimes I have to sit her down and say, let the game come to you instead of you go to the game."

Mandela didn't let the technical foul affect her aggressive approach. With the score tied in the final minute, No. 33 stepped up and made a play.

Mandela scored and was fouled with 33.9 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter. She converted the free throw and her three-point play proved to be the difference as the Lake Braddock girls' basketball team defeated Woodson 40-37 on Jan. 27 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

"I just saw an opening and took it," Mandela said. "I love driving to the basket."

The victory came three days after a 51-46 loss to Annandale and returned Lake Braddock to the winning side of .500 with an 8-7 record.

Woodson took a seven-point lead in the second quarter when a jumper by Jasmine Fasold gave the Cavaliers a 19-12 advantage with 1:50 remaining in



Lake Braddock sophomore Caroline Jones scored a game-high 12 points against Woodson on Jan. 27.

the first half. But Lake Braddock responded with a 9-0 run in 87 seconds, giving the Bruins a 21-19 halftime lead.

No team led by more than four points in the second half. A bucket by Claire Swanson gave Woodson a 37-35 lead with 2:13 left in the fourth quarter, but Lake Braddock tied the score with a pair of free throws by Marcia Altman with less than a minute remaining and took the lead for good with Mandela's three-point play.

"Any time you get a win in the conference it's a big boost," Giannelli said. "I honestly think we stole tonight's game because I think Woodson played better than us. I absolutely think Woodson played better than us and we just stole it. To be successful during the season, you need to steal a couple games. I think that helps."

Sophomore Caroline Jones led Lake Braddock with 12 points. Altman finished with seven, Nirali Shah and Christine McGrath each scored six and Mandela added five.

Gillie Andes led Woodson with eight points. Swanson finished with seven and Tianay Zeigler and Caitlin Patrick each had six.

Lake Braddock will travel to face T.C. Williams at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 30 and will host Robinson at 5:45 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1.

Woodson defeated Annandale 34-30 on Tuesday and improved to 4-12.





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Bulova Report **Progress in Richmond**

From Page 6

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Tuesday Noon

and the Governor's introduced budget includes \$38 million for mental health. It is important to note that this infusion of funding essentially places Virginia at the same level of support for mental health services before major cuts during the recent recession. However, in addition to funding, there are important structural reforms that need to be addressed.

The area receiving the lion's share of attention is how long someone in crisis can be held against their will under an emergency custody order. It is during this period when a person is evaluated and a determination is made whether the individual should be held for treatment pursuant to a temporary detention order. Current law allows a person to be held under an emergency order for four hours, with the potential for a two-hour extension. If a psychiatric bed cannot be found in that time frame, the individual is free to leave even if the situation hasn't been stabilized.

According to a report released by the University of Virginia School of Law, it took more than six hours to find a bed in 3.2 percent of cases. That is a relatively small percentage, but it means that our system is failing a significant number of real people who are in the greatest need. While there is wide agreement that an emergency custody order should be longer than six hours, there is significant debate over how long that time period should be extended.

A second issue is how to ensure that available beds can be easily identified. Currently, psychiatric services must be identified by a process that takes a lot of time. Virginia has been working on a real-time digital registry for several years. This is an absolute priority and will be essential to ensuring that individuals in need are linked with services in the least time possible.

Finally is the issue of how to treat mental health in the long-term — both to reduce the prevalence of reoccurring mental health crises and to keep those with mental health issues from ending up in our local and regional jails. A jarring statistic is that about 24 percent of the inmate population is known or suspected to be mentally ill. Nearly half of the mentally ill population has been diagnosed with a serious mental illness.

I want to thank the many constituents who have sent me e-mails and letters to advocate on behalf of this important issue. If you are interested in seeing what kind of bills have been introduced this session, the Virginia Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Health Illness website has a tracking chart of all legislation broken into topic areas. You can download the chart at http:// /namivirginia.org/ Bill%20chart%20122.htm.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance or if you have any questions. I will be sharing the preliminary results of my 2014 constituent survey at my Town Hall meeting next Saturday.

WSHS Renovations Still Years Away

From Page 3

Herrity said that it is problematic that Fairfax County has increased their debt by passing the storm water bond in 2012, but schools like West Springfield have still not been renovated.

"We told schools we don't have money and couldn't increase bonds for renovations, but then against the recommendation of staff, the storm water bond was increased in 2012," Herrity said.

Although West Springfield is on the queue to begin renovation in 2016, Hawkins said he hopes that the Infrastructure Financing Committee will address problems with the way schools are put on the list to be renovated now.

"Why has the school system communicated a goal of 25-year renovations cycles, if the county has never provided enough funding to make that goal attainable?" Hawkins asked. "The question we have for the Infrastructure Financing Committee is how can the county invest more to resolve these unmet and unfunded capital needs, that have been termed a crisis and the biggest challenge currently facing the school system, and how quickly can incremental

funding be provided?"

West Springfield PTSA President John Pastino, who has two children at West Springfield High School, said that although the school should have been renovated sooner, its faculty and staff, along with students, are what makes West Springfield a viable place to learn.

"The teachers and books are still the same, whether the infrastructure changes or not, you still have the same teachers, you still have the same books," Pastino said. "They've had issues over the past couple of years with maintenance. That obviously impacts the learning abilities of the students and the teachers to teach."

According to Pastino, West Springfield High School renovations will include larger classrooms, new windows, an increased parking lot size, and much more.

"We're being told it's going to look like a new school when it's done," Pastino said.

Hawkins hopes the IFC can make changes that will positively impact the timing of West Springfield's renovation.

"At the current rate, only children in second grade or younger will attend a completely renovated West Springfield High School," Hawkins said.





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