

Honored for Citizenship

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Home LifeStyle

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Robinson Secondary School Senior Katie Rogers is the recipient of the Thomas Lee Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award.



'Friends' Create Community of Hope

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Valentine's Day Fun in the Burke Area

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11



SHAME on You John Cook!



Fairfax Board of Supervisor **John Cook** is **underfunding Fairfax schools** again.

Underfunded schools hurt students, hold teachers back and mean less personal attention for your children.

For the fourth year in a row, Cook is rejecting the school board's request to increase school funding.

It's wrong.

Cook even said, "Are those cuts going to have an impact? Yes. Are they going to be devastating? No."

He's wrong.

It's *devastating* when our kids are crammed into classrooms.

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Amy Dozier, founding member of the Friends of Sadie gives a thumbs-up to donors along with Rebecca Manarchuck, with Inova Blood Donor Services and Caryn Franca of Clifton, who formed Band of Parents in honor of her son, Nick, who died of Neuroblastoma in May 2011 at age 21.



Sadie, now a thriving, healthy "almost five" year-old, gives friend Brady Wickham, 11, a kiss at her kissing booth during the 5th annual Friends of Sadie Valentine Blood Drive on Sunday, Feb. 9. Sadie's mom, Erin Morrissey-Lauer, said her daughter created the kissing booth to show her appreciation for her extended family of friends and neighbors.

'Friends' Create Community of Hope

Friends of Sadie collect record number of blood donations at fifth annual blood drive for childhood cancer.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Under dozens of rainbow-colored hearts and tables laden with Valentine's treats, friends and family greeted each other with hugs and kisses as children chased each other through the halls of the Woods Community Center on Sunday, Feb. 9.

The noisy, festive atmosphere was more like a family reunion than a community blood drive.

And in many ways, it was.

For the fifth year, hundreds of friends, neighbors and family turned out for the Friends of Sadie Valentine's Blood Drive, which has become a family-friendly, community celebration of hope and inspiration.

On Sunday, the group collected 245 units of blood, a record amount.

"We have been blown away by the community support year after year," said Amy Dozier, a founding member of the Friends of Sadie. "We live in an amazing neighborhood. We celebrate with each other; we grieve with each other, and we help each other out. We've created a family out of our neighbors and friends."

IN 2010, six Burke moms created the organization when they learned that Sadie, the youngest daughter of friends Ethan and Erin Lauer, was diagnosed with a life-threatening cancer called Neuroblastoma at three months.

To help Sadie and other children battling cancer, they organized their first Valentine's Day Blood Drive at the Woods Community Center in February 2010.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Laurie Florence, a member of the Friends of Sadie Planning Committee, displays the colorful paper hearts blood donors were given at the blood drive to write down the reasons why they were giving blood.

Their timing could not have been worse, they thought.

The event was planned in the middle of the history-making blizzard known as Snowmageddon that buried the region in more than three feet of snow. Despite their concerns that no one would show up, the Burke community rallied. More than 115 turned out, and the group collected 103 pints of blood.

"Not only did they generate blood donations, they created a welcoming community of friends and family," said Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), who comes out every year to donate blood.

SEE HOPE, PAGE 7

VIEWPOINTS

PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/
THE CONNECTION

Why do you think it's important to donate blood?

Lori Haussermann, Burke
"We think it's a great cause and donating blood sets a good example for your children. We've participated in several charity events for the Friends of Sadie. It's a wonderful group."

Alyssa Haussermann, 7, Burke
"If you give blood, it can help people with injuries, and maybe save their lives."



Ellie Mulvenon, 11, Friends of Sadie volunteer, a sixth grader at Fairview Elementary

"When I turn 16, I will be able to donate blood. It just takes a few minutes, and you can help a lot of people who need it."

Elizabeth Wickham, 14, Friends of Sadie volunteer, a freshman at Robinson Secondary

"I've learned that you don't have to be afraid to give blood. Just one person can save the lives of three people when you donate blood. It's a great experience knowing that you can save someone's life."

Brady Wickham, 11, Friends of Sadie volunteer, a sixth grader at Fairview Elementary

"Our family has known Sadie's family since before she was born, and we all wanted to help Sadie when we learned she had cancer. It's so important to give blood so that people who need it can have it."



Wayne Chiles, Burke
"I got to know Sadie's family through the Burke United Methodist Church. I wouldn't miss this opportunity. There are people who desperately need blood in our area, and Friends of Sadie gives people a welcoming place to donate for a great cause."



Madeline Huggins, 23, Fairfax Station, with Sadie's mother, Erin Morrissey-Lauer
"You wouldn't think that donating blood can be fun, but it is. The Friends of Sadie makes this a welcoming atmosphere for anyone to donate. You feel good knowing that you've helped a child battling cancer."



Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock)

"The Friends of Sadie have done a great job educating the community on the importance of donating blood. Many people come back year after year to give blood, and because this is a family-friendly event, their children are learning how crucial it is to donate blood. It's heartwarming to see."



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NEWS

Couple Excels Together

Bruce and Tanya Tyburski succeed in marriage and real estate.

BY SAL RUIBAL
THE CONNECTION

If you drive anywhere in Burke and Springfield, you'll see their faces on familiar red, white and blue Re/Max realty signs on lawns, at intersections, parking lots and pretty much everywhere.

When you shop at any of the major grocery stores along Old Keene Mill Road, your grocery cart probably will have that same color scheme along with a color photo of two smiling people. In the course of a year, you may see those faces a thousand times, maybe more. You don't have to read the words because you know who that happy couple is: "Bruce & Tanya."

Next to Washington political power couples such as the Obamas and the Clintons, Bruce and Tanya Tyburski are among the most familiar married couples in this area.

What you may not know is that there is a wonderful romance story behind those signs.

THEIR LAWN SIGNS don't give you the full perspective: Bruce is 6-feet-6 and Tanya is 5-2, give or take the size of her high heels. Bruce is calm and a bit serious, while Tanya is like sparkling champagne, bubbly and effervescent, tossing out ideas and memories of their life together.

She grew up in Vallejo, Calif., a few miles from the famous Napa Valley vineyards and wineries. During the summer months, Tanya worked in the fruit orchards where she learned the virtues of hard work.

Meanwhile, laconic Bruce was working his way through the ranks of the Marriott Corporation, eventually becoming the youngest general manager at the company's flagship restaurant in Berkeley, Calif.

While in college, Tanya applied to work at Bruce's restaurant. There was an immediate attraction between the couple, but because Marriott had rules forbidding managers from dating workers, Bruce would have lost his job had their romance been discovered.

So in 1983, he fired Tanya. In 1984, he married her.

That may have been Bruce's best decision ever.

After deciding to move back to Bruce's

SEE COUPLE, PAGE 5



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NEWS Couple

FROM PAGE 4

native Northern Virginia, Tanya worked as a waitress at night and in the daytime she was a window designer at the Woodward and Lothrop department store.

Tanya decided to go to real estate school, where she says, "I was addicted from the very first class. I didn't realize you didn't have to have \$112,000 cash to buy a \$112,000 house."

They had their second child, Max, in 1989 and Bruce decided he had enough of the restaurant business, as his 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. schedule made it hard for him to see their children. He took a six-month hiatus to figure out what he wanted to do. Because Tanya was doing so well in real estate, Bruce could think about his future while being a stay-at-home father.

After three months, Tanya had enough of Bruce hanging around while her business was booming, so in 1991 she convinced him to help her out. She couldn't train him, so he went to another firm for training.

"His first year, he surpassed me in sales," Tanya says. "That was it. We had to team up."

THEY STARTED ADVERTISING in the Connection newspapers and the business began to boom.



PHOTO BY SAL RUIBAL

Tanya and Bruce Tyburski succeed in marriage and real estate in the West Springfield and Burke areas and beyond.

Then came the idea of putting their names and faces on their signs.

"Tanya's a very visual person," Bruce says. "The signs were successful because people could see our faces. In real life we are a 'ying-yang' couple because she's 5-2 and I'm 6-6. People remember that."

They started out finding houses for friends and acquaintances in the West Springfield and Burke areas. They have expanded, but still focus on those areas.

Tanya's visual sense is what makes Bruce & Tanya seem like a much bigger company.

"We concentrate along Old Keene Mill and other roads in our

area," she says, but those signs are simple directional signs that guide potential buyers directly to the homes we list.

"That's the same for the grocery carts. It seems like we have a million of them but we just target the three biggest grocery stores in our immediate area."

"She's a marketing genius," Bruce says.

As their fourth and youngest child, Angela, is set to graduate high school this year, the couple is contemplating what to do with their own lives. But they are determined to remain a strong couple.

"We're like Sonny and Cher," Bruce says. "I got you babe!"



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Addressing Mental Health

Why are localities providing so much less for people who need mental health services?

While the General Assembly is making progress in fixing some of the egregious shortcomings of the way Virginia provides emergency services to people in mental health crisis, many fewer people are receiving mental health services in Northern Virginia.

State Sen. Creigh Deeds' son died of suicide late last year after the limitations in both the law and local communication resulted in him being released while still in the midst of crisis.

Deeds reports the progress on the bill that has passed the State Senate: "The omnibus bill will require subjects be held up to 24 hours under an emergency custody order, create a database of available psychiatric beds, and ensure people in need of hospitalization cannot be 'streeted' by establishing state hospitals as providers of last resort."

These are important steps.

Services to people with mental illness are provided on the local level by community services boards, and in Fairfax County in particular, those services have been dramatically cut back.

EDITORIAL

Reporter Michael Pope reports this week that since 2009, the number of people receiving mental health services in Fairfax County has declined by 39 percent. Alcohol and drug service have dropped 43 percent. Services for those with intellectual disability have declined 39 percent.

Officials quoted cite the recession and declining property tax revenues in explaining the reductions, along with some changes in the way services are counted.

No matter how services are counted, there is no question that they have been reduced significantly during a recession, a time when research shows the need for mental health services and alcohol and drug services actually increases.

In Arlington, the number of people who receive mental health services has declined by 6 percent. The number of people who receive substance abuse services has decreased by 13 percent.

"Stresses associated with rising unemployment, poverty and social insecurity will lead to upward trends in many national suicide rates, as well as to less readily charted increases in the prevalence of psychiatric illness, alco-

hol-related disorders and illicit drug use," according to a 2011 overview study on economic recession and mental health cited by the National Institutes of Health. "At the same time, mental health services are being cut back as part of government austerity programs. Budget cuts will thus affect psychiatric services adversely just when economic stressors are raising the levels of need and demand in affected populations."

As for blaming the budget, it's hard to see from raw numbers why the most vulnerable should be suffering. In 2009, before the effects of the recession, Fairfax County's budget expenditures were \$5.36 billion. The adopted 2014 budget calls for expenditures of \$6.75 billion.

"Proactive fiscal and social policies could, however, help to mitigate the health consequences of recession," the overview study reports. "Economic mental health care could best be achieved, not by decimating services but by planning and deploying these to meet the needs of defined area populations."

Elected officials and others in county government who have signed off on a set of priorities that punishes the most vulnerable populations have some moral accounting to do.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

School Budget: How to Pay?

To the Editor:

Every year this paper publishes liberals' letters about the Fairfax County school budget, which increases yearly without exception. One year it is teacher pay, the next year class enrollment, this year renovation costs.

The implication is that if the schools don't get what their administrators demand, Fairfax County will collapse. This despite a continuous decline in student performance. Furthermore, there is no quid pro quo; it is my way or the highway by those who claim sanctimonious justification.

However, like the Federal government, no consideration is ever made for how to pay for this; unlike the Federal government, Fairfax County cannot print money. So what will it be? Raise taxes, the favored Fairfax County school administrator way? Borrow money, another favored FC school administrator way? Or what will you cut from your budget to pay for these needed renovations, not the Fairfax County school administration way? Something has to give. Fairfax County is run by Democrat politicians for favored

Democrat constituencies.

One point all should recognize: there is a reason for the increasing student enrollment, one I have discussed with my delegate and for which the state legislature has statistics to confirm. There are on average 6,000 illegal alien children in the Fairfax County Public Schools. Now these children must be educated, will be educated and that is not in dispute by any sane person. However, that is where the growth is and in fact without these children, the school enrollment would decrease such that certain schools in places like Bailey's Crossroads, the Route One corridor in Mount Vernon, Herndon and elsewhere would actually be seriously viewed for closing.

Fairfax County should require that every child being enrolled in the public schools have one parent prove their legal residency, not just in the county but the country. The purpose of such is not to deny schooling to these children. Rather it is for Fairfax County schools to be able to calculate and present a bill to the Federal government demanding reimbursement for each child's education whose parent(s) are not in the county or country legally.

Finally, who believes that education bureaucrats are good stew-

ards of the tax-payers' money other than the usual suspects? Clearly, they did not go into the teaching profession with much respect or understanding for the

capitalist economic system that has brought this nation the greatest prosperity on the globe.

Christopher Thompson
West Springfield

Taking Exception on Medicaid Expansion

To the Editor:

The Connection editorial ["Extend Health Coverage in Virginia," (January 23-29, 2014) accuses the Republicans in the Virginia General Assembly of failing to accept increased taxes that would be assessed to pay the cost of Medicaid Expansion in Virginia. The editorial states that the cost of the Medicaid Expansion would be paid with federal funding for at least ten years so the expansion would be free to Virginia taxpayers for the immediate future. What the Connection avoids saying is that the federal funding is all derived from the taxes paid by the residents of the states including Virginia. In actuality 100 percent of the cost for expanding Medicaid in Virginia would be funded by the taxpayers of Virginia from day one.

Of the three branches of state government in Richmond, the del-

egates to the General Assembly most closely represent the positions of the residents across the entire state. The delegates are just the messengers of their constituency to the legislature in Richmond. It is a cop out to accuse any General Assembly delegate of being an obstructionist of when the member is faithfully representing the will of the constituency.

Instead of inciting Governor Terry McAuliffe to revolt against established authority in Richmond, the Connection should encourage the Governor to gain the trust and support of Virginians across the state. By winning the recent election, he earned the title of Governor, a rent free furnished office, and prepaid phone card, but he did not earn the consent of the governed, which is the basis of any democracy. McAuliffe re-

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News

Hope Floats in Burke

FROM PAGE 3

"Being here, you just feel the love and generosity from the people around you," said Elizabeth Wickham, 14, whose mom, Heather, is on the Friends of Sadie Planning Committee.

Educating the public about the critical need for blood donors, and taking the fear out of the donating, is a primary goal of the group.

"Before Sadie got sick, I was not aware of the importance of blood donation, especially donations from a person like me who has CMV negative blood and is O negative," said Mary Mulvenon, a founding member of the Friends of Sadie Planning Committee.

Unlike many "tribute" blood drives that lose momentum after the first year, the Friends of Sadie Blood Drive has increased both the number of donors and the pints of blood collected. According to the American Red Cross, just one donation can help save up to three lives, and every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.

"We need donors more than ever," said Rebecca Manarchuck, marketing manager of Inova Blood Donor Services. "Today the demand for blood is increasing while blood donation levels are decreasing. There is no substitute for human blood. It can only come from one place - a volunteer blood donor."

Manarchuck said Inova Blood Donor Services must collect more than 250 units of blood and blood products daily to meet the needs of patients in Virginia, Maryland and Washington.

Dozier said the group's success has inspired them to create a blood drive kit that other organizations can use to launch their own blood drive. "That's our next project. We want to 'pay it forward,'" she said.

Now held every year on the Sunday closest to Valentine's Day, the annual Valentine Blood Drive has become a family-friendly, community celebration of hope.

"Giving blood is universal, and everyone can give the gift of life," said Caryn Franca of Clifton, whose son, Nick, died of Neuroblastoma in May 2011 at age 21. "This is an amazing group of women," Franca said at the event.

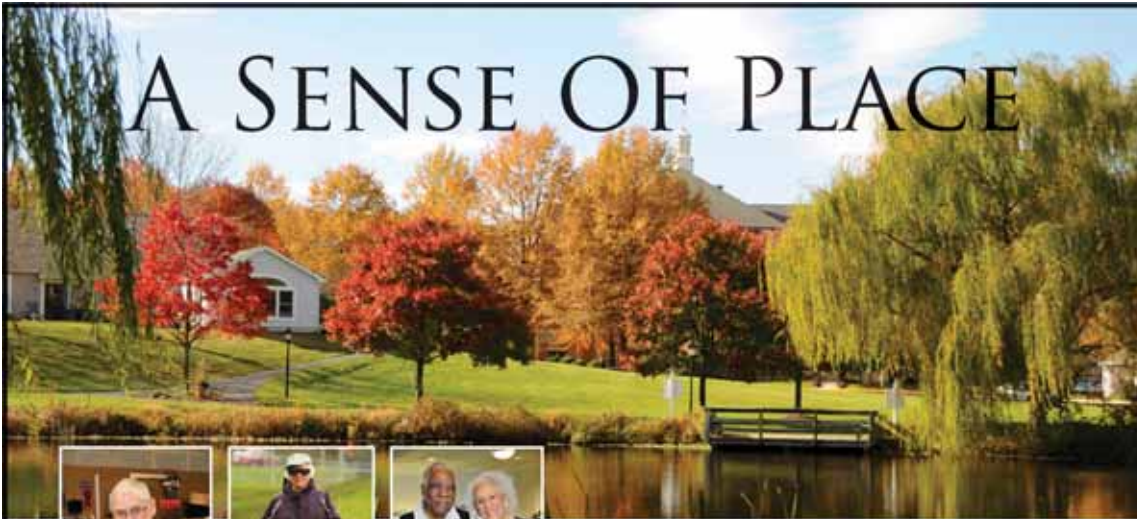
"Our kids have learned that cancer isn't just for old people, friends rally around each other in good times and bad, they have a voice and can contribute in their own way and so much more," said Laurie Florence, Friends of Sadie Planning Committee.




"From the day my mom first told me about the idea of a blood drive, I have gained so much more knowledge about cancer and how donating blood can help the patients battling it," Elizabeth Wickham said.

"We all love Sadie," said Brady Wickham, 11, Elizabeth's brother. "Everyone wants to support her, and other children who need blood donations."

FOR MORE DETAILS about Friends of Sadie, and to learn more about donating blood, go to <http://www.friendsofsadie.org/> or visit Inova.org/donateblood.

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PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

DAR member Sarah Dickens presents Katie Rogers with the DAR Good Citizen award, as DAR member Dori Stewart looks on.

Robinson Student Receives DAR Good Citizen Award

Katie Rogers awarded for patriotism, service, leadership and dependability.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION



Katie Rogers, a senior at Robinson, stands with her mother Mariana Vervena after receiving the DAR Good Citizen award.

Judy Erickson, a member of the Thomas Lee Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, has known for years that Katie Rogers would make a great candidate for the group's Good Citizen award.

Erickson met Rogers and her mother, Mariana Vervena, when Rogers was a child. The two are neighbors in Fairfax, and Rogers sold Erickson Girl Scout cookies for years.

"Every year I go down to the ladies on my street to sell them Girl Scout cookies, and a few years ago, Mrs. Erickson had mentioned to me that they give this award every year," Rogers said. "Since she has known me my whole life, she told me she would nominate me when I was old enough. She officially asked if I would like to do it this year."

Rogers is a senior enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program at Robinson Secondary School and is involved in numerous activities, including the school's dance team and drama department. She has been the lead in several school productions and won a Cappie award last spring.

Erickson said all of Rogers' ac-

tivities and the success she has with them made her a great candidate for the award. "I've seen her perform, I've seen her dance, I've heard her sing. She's been selling me Girl Scout cookies since I can remember. Everything she does at school and at church, she does it all so beautifully. She wouldn't do these things if she didn't want to. I'm very proud of her, and I'm only a neighbor," Erickson said.

According to DAR member Sarah Dickens, Rogers represents all of the characteristics of a good citizen, including leadership, dependability, patriotism and service. Rogers also participated in the Good Citizen national essay contest, which Dickens said was a great testament to Rogers' patriotism. "It really demonstrated her real understanding of our nation's history," Dickens said.

Rogers said she is thankful to receive the award and to grow up

in an area with so many opportunities to pursue the activities of her choice.

"Right now, my favorite thing that I'm doing, in both drama and dance, is being in a teacher-assistant position. I get to help with the class and help the teacher run the class. It's been already such a great experience. Being on the other side of things and letting myself be a role model for the younger kids is the best experience to have," she said. Rogers said she is inspired by both of her parents to do well in school. Her mother was her Girl Scout leader, which pushed Rogers to give back to her community.

"I have so many great adults in my life to guide me," she said. Rogers has a 4.296 grade point average and will attend the University of Virginia in the fall.

Home LifeStyle

Home Design: What the Pros Know

A look inside the homes of some of the area's top builders.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Remodeling industry professionals spend their days helping clients create dream homes, adding quartzite counter tops and outdoor, stacked stone fireplaces, turning ideas and photos into functional, chic living spaces.

But what about their homes? What materials do they choose for themselves? How do they make the most of their living spaces? Three local professionals from BOWA Builders, Inc. opened their doors and shared the secrets of their renovations.

When principal and owner George Hodges-Fulton and his wife, Alexandra, decided to remodel the galley kitchen in their Reston home, they decided to expand and change the flow of traffic, keeping the safety of their 6- and 10-year-old daughters in mind. "We wanted to open the house up more," said George Hodges-Fulton. "We took out a wall between kitchen and the dining room."

Alexandra Hodges-Fulton, a serious cook, added, "The sink and the stove were across from each other. Now the sink and the stove are next to each other, so I don't have to walk across the kitchen carrying hot pasta."

Plus, the new farmhouse sink is custom-made from honed granite. "I originally wanted soapstone, but over time that can scratch," she said.

The new kitchen also includes additional counter space. "I have more prep space," she said. "And everything I need is within arm's reach."

When it came to choosing finishes, "everything came from wanting to work with the [existing maple] floor," said George Hodges-Fulton. "We wanted to choose classic colors that weren't going to go out of style."

"I spent a huge amount of time looking at pictures of kitchens," said Alexandra Hodges-Fulton. "We added white Carrara marble countertops. ... We added a marble backsplash in a black, white and grey circular mosaic. That's the thing that everybody comments on when they come into the kitchen."

The project took a mere five weeks to complete. "Everything happened perfectly," added George Hodges-Fulton. "Having on-site supervision and knowing the end goal helped."

He says that having undergone his own renovation project, he now has additional insight when advising clients. "It makes a significant difference," he said. "We can say 'In my house I did this.' or 'I did this wrong in my house, so you might consider this.'"

When principal and owner Steve Kirstein first moved into his Potomac, Md., home with his wife and three children, he spotted several missed design opportunities. "We needed some of the spaces to do different things," said Kirstein. "We wanted a family gathering space and a display space upstairs."

The home had a two-story foyer, which Kirstein saw as the perfect location for a second floor family room. He added "flooring, sheetrock walls, built-in bookcases and display cases. Now it's a gathering space for the family upstairs and we still have a dramatic foyer downstairs."



Hodges-Fulton



Kirstein



Baker



View from the interior of BOWA founder Josh Baker's Great Falls home. Casual entertaining spaces include the open first floor and pool.

PHOTOS
COURTESY OF
BOWA BUILDERS, INC.

could eventually enjoy."

He advises his clients to similarly plan ahead and think about how their needs might evolve. "To make it a long-term home is to not think about just what you need now, but what you might need in the future," he said. "We designed a guest suite on the first floor with the idea that my wife and I could live on one floor once we're empty nesters." There is enough space for friends and extended family.

Baker said each time he and his wife updated the house, they did

those spaces. In our master bedroom, for example, we focused on walk-in closets. Even our master bathroom is spacious, but it is not vast." The Bakers designed their outdoor landscape to accommodate their penchant for relaxed entertaining. "We're informal folks," said Baker. "We like to entertain, so we developed our landscaping to include an expansive entertaining area and a swimming pool. We have a lot of outdoor parties. We can accommodate a large group in our yard as well."



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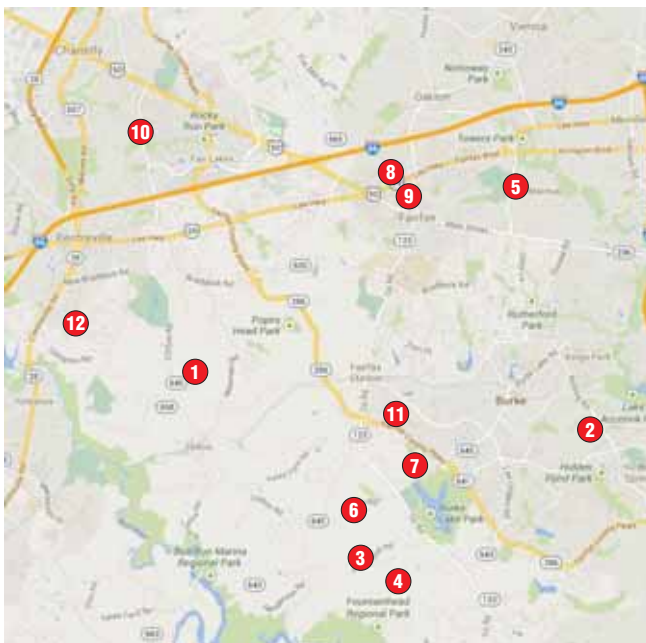
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2 6151 REZA CT	6	..	4	..	2	SPRINGFIELD	..	\$1,392,649	...	Detached	...	0.35	22152	CARDINAL ESTATES	11/07/13
3 11100 DEVEREUX STATION LN ..	4	..	4	..	1	...	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,225,000	...	Detached	...	5.01	22039	DEVEREUX STATION	12/05/13
4 10600 SANDY RUN TRL	5	..	3	..	1	...	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,225,000	...	Detached	...	6.03	22039	SHADOWWALK	12/16/13
5 3442 PRESERVATION DR	5	..	4	..	1	FAIRFAX	\$1,180,000	...	Detached	...	0.17	22031	PICKETT'S RESERVE	11/27/13
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12 6700 BAY VALLEY LN	5	..	4	..	0	CENTREVILLE	\$630,000	...	Detached	...	0.26	20121	GREEN TRAILS	11/15/13

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NEWS

Valentine's Day Fun in the Burke Area

Check out these events in southern Fairfax County.

Although it's only miles away from Fairfax County parkway and Ox Road, visitors to Paradise Springs Winery will find themselves with a beautiful view and a variety of fine dining and wine options.

As Valentine's Day approaches, the winery is offering a variety of specials, making a romantic weekend only a short drive away.

Paradise Springs Winery is the closest winery to Washington, D.C. and is offering several events this weekend.

Saturday, Feb. 15 is the annual Valentine's Day weekend wine dinner, which features four courses, along with Paradise Springs wine.

If the Valentine's Day weekend dinner is out of the question, those looking to visit the winery can check out the wine and chocolate pairing, which is available now until Feb. 17. Chocolates from around the world are paired with Paradise Springs Wines, including their sparkling wine and Swagger, the winery's signature port style wine.

"We'll have live, local music all weekend," said Paradise Springs owner and Clifton resident Kirk Wiles. "The winery is a good spot for a Valentine's Day date, whether it's an anniversary or a first date. A glass of wine can break the ice."

Paradise Springs also offers a Wine Club, which will be capped and a waiting list will be started.

Those looking for a family event this Valentine's Day weekend can participate in the "Share the Love" 14K Run and 4K Run and Walk at Burke Lake Park. Proceeds benefit The Assistance League of Northern Virginia.

Paradise Springs Winery

Live Music: Every Friday, 5-9 p.m.
"The Paradise Springs Winery Experi-

SHARE THE LOVE 14K RUN AND 4K RUN/WALK



FEBRUARY 16, 2014

THE AMPHITHEATRE AT BURKE LAKE PARK

Spend Valentine's Day weekend at Burke Lake Park.



Check out Paradise Springs Winery in Clifton for their Valentine's Day weekend dinner on Feb. 15.

ence" Production Tour and Tasting: Saturdays, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., Sundays, 3 p.m.
Chocolate and Wine Pairing/Tasting: Everyday through Feb. 17.
Valentine's Wine Dinner: Saturday, Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. Reservations required.

'Share the Love' 14k Run

and 4k Run/Walk

The Amphitheatre at Burke Lake Park 9:00 a.m.

Net proceeds benefit The Assistance League of Northern Virginia for their Weekend Food for Kids program, specifically targeting Lynbrook and Garfield Elementary Schools in Springfield.

PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO RUN AND WALK

PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

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. 15, 22

Laurel Grove "Colored" School Open House. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
6840 Beulah Street, Alexandria. Laurel Grove School is a one room school that served African American students in the Franconia Community of Fairfax County from 1882 to 1932. Visit the school to learn about families coming together to build a school

and the importance of educating their children.

SATURDAY/FEB. 15

Movie & Pizza Night. 6 p.m. Hidden Pond Park, 8511 Greeley Boulevard, Springfield. Friends of Hidden Pond are having a movie and pizza night in the Hidden Pond nature center. Pizza and drinks will be for sale followed by a showing of Over the Hedge (PG) on the big screen. RSVP to fohpnc@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 22

Mae Hernon & Celtic Font. 12-4 p.m. Auld Shebeen Restaurant & Pub, 3971 Chain Bridge Rd, Fairfax.

Traditional Irish singer will be performing alongside with another band.

7th Annual Lorton Monopoly

Tournament. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Gallery Building 16 - 2nd Floor, Lorton. Proceeds benefit the Lorton Community Action Center, a local human services nonprofit that assists individuals and families with emergency food and financial assistance, resources for improving life skills, tutoring and after-school programs. Registration Fee: \$25 (by Feb. 19). At the Door Fee: \$35. Minimum player age: 8. Maximum player age: None. LortonMonopoly.com

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SPORTS

Robinson Wins Conference 5 Gymnastics Championship

Freshman Burda, senior Gross finish top four in all-around.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

A talented freshman and a senior in her final conference meet helped the Robinson gymnastics team capture its second championship in three seasons.

Caroline Burda placed second in the all-around and Sarah Gross tied for third, leading Robinson to the Conference 5 gymnastics title on Feb. 6 at Centreville High School. The Rams won, or tied for first, in each of the four events and produced a total score of 135.4. Oakton finished second with a score of 132.575, followed by Westfield (130.575), Chantilly (129.65), Herndon (122.45) and Centreville (105.375). The top two teams, Robinson and Oakton, qualified for the 6A North region meet.

Robinson won the Concorde District championship in 2012. The six schools became Conference 5 after the VHSE's six-class realignment prior to the 2013-14 school year.

"It's amazing. We've worked so hard this season. It's just great to have it all come together."
— Robinson freshman Caroline Burda

"They definitely performed very well today," first-year Robinson head coach Charlotte Edwards said. "They were more consistent than they normally are. ... They're definitely peaking at the right time. Our first couple meets weren't that successful."

Burda, a freshman, placed second in the all-around with a score of 34.9. She finished first on beam (9.15), third on bars (8.625), fourth on vault (8.75) and tied for eighth on floor (8.375).

"She is only a freshman and she did a great job," Edwards said, "but there's definitely some things we're going to work on before regionals, so when we look at their score sheets we'll see if we can make some more adjustments so she can get a couple more points on some event."

Burda said beam was her best event.



The Robinson gymnastics team won the Conference 5 championship on Feb. 6 at Centreville High School.

PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION

She was one of just three gymnasts to score a 9 or better.

"I thought that I did the best I could and I'm really proud of myself," Burda said. "This has been my best meet so far this season."

Robinson's Sarah Gross, a senior, tied with Herndon's Alexa Bradley for third in the all-around with a score of 34.5. Gross placed third on floor (9) and vault (8.85), tied for fifth on beam (8.8) and finished 11th on bars (8).

"She performed very well," Edwards said. "Even on her [least]-favorite event, balance beam, she had a solid routine, so that was very exciting and I think that made a big difference in her all-around score."

Robinson freshman Emily Gross placed third on vault (8.85) and tied for sixth on floor (8.4). Junior Bailey Young tied for second on beam with a score of 9.

The top eight individuals and any other gymnasts who scored at least a 9 qualified for regionals in each event. In the all-around, the top four finishers and any other gymnasts with a score of 35 or better earned a regional berth. Westfield senior Katie Freix repeated as all-around champion with a score of 36.925. She placed first on floor (9.525), vault (9.5) and bars (9.1), and tied for fifth on beam (8.8).

"I had probably close to my best performances on all my events, except for beam," Freix said. "... I definitely had my best bar routine. I've been having trouble hitting bars recently, so it was really cool to actu-

ally hit the bar routine."

Oakton advanced to regionals with a runner-up team finish despite having the smallest roster in the conference with just eight healthy competitors.

"We feel that's where we differ from a lot of teams, especially being the smallest squad in our conference," Oakton head coach Frankie Orbacz wrote in an email. "Everyone has a ton of talent and everyone contributed equally to our fantastic team score. Most other teams have a few



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Robinson freshman Caroline Burda placed second in the all-around and first on the beam (9.15) at the Conference 5 gymnastics meet on Feb. 6 at Centreville High School.

standouts that lead the team and sweep the medals, but we really have so much talent in every girl. We are very well-rounded. Standings-wise, four of our eight girls medaled and placed, which means half of our team would have advanced to regions if we hadn't made it as a team. We were so impressed! That's a pretty fantastic showing."

The 6A North region meet was scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 12, after The Connection's deadline. The state meet is scheduled for Feb. 21-22 at Salem High School in Virginia Beach.

"It's amazing," Burda said of winning the Conference 5 championship. "We've worked so hard this season. It's just great to have it all come together."

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Woodson Gets New Football Coach

W.T. Woodson High School recently named Mike Dougherty its new head football coach.

Dougherty spent the last six seasons as head coach at Stonewall Jackson High School in Prince William County. Last season, as the No. 13 seed, Dougherty led the Raiders to the 6A North region semifinals, where they lost to eventual state champion Centreville.

Prior to Stonewall, Dougherty was the head coach at Dominion High School in Loudoun County for five seasons.

Dougherty takes over for Joe Dishun, who compiled a 7-23 record in three seasons as head coach of the Cavaliers. Prior

to Dishun's arrival, Woodson finished 3-7 in 2010 under then-head coach Trey Taylor. The program's last winning season was 2009, when Taylor led the Cavaliers to a 13-2 mark and a trip to the Northern Region championship game.

Lee Diver Hodges Places Third at Regionals

Lee High School sophomore Gerald Hodges recently placed third at the 5A North region dive competition. It is his first time qualifying for a VHSL state event.

Hodges, a sophomore, placed fifth during the Conference 13 meet.

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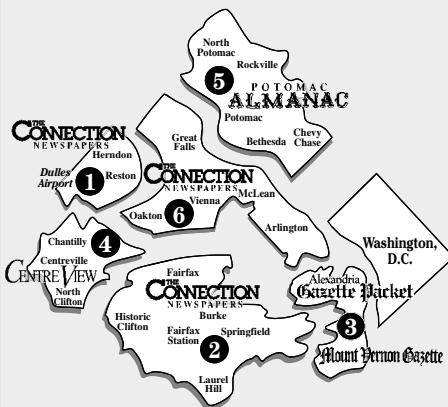
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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

ceived a majority of the votes in about 20
of the 96 counties in Virginia. The final
vote tally shows that McAuliffe collected
1,069,789 votes, which is less than 20 per-
cent of the approximately 6,000,000 eligible
voters in Virginia.

An analysis of the voting results shows a
clear split between rich counties and poor
counties, between consumers and provid-
ers, and between cities and rural areas.
McAuliffe was supported by a small major-
ity in the richer counties and cities while
his positions were opposed 3 to 1 in sev-
eral of the rural counties. He needs to fo-
cus his energy on gaining consent of the
remaining 80 percent of all Virginians and
preventing further division between the
demographic groups.

The Connection editorial implies that the
Governor need not consider the cost of ex-
panding Medicaid before he stuffs the bill
into a can and tosses it across the fence so
the Federal government can kick the can
down the road for payment by our grand-
children.

The Governor would like to add the cost
of services Virginians use today on top of
the tax bill for the services needed by our
grandchildren when they become taxpay-
ers.

What gives him that right? He needs to
work with our senators and representatives
in Congress to prioritize programs, identify
programs to be cut, and enable the federal
and state to fund Medicaid Expansion in
Virginia without adding to the rapidly grow-
ing national debt. Simply adding the bill
to the national debt for future payment is
no longer acceptable.

Imposing yet another tax increase on Vir-
ginians is counterproductive; you can't tax
people into prosperity. Does Governor Terry
McAuliffe have the courage to make the
hard decisions that will fund the highest
priority programs while protecting our
grandchildren from being taxed to pay the
bills that come due in 2014? If not him,
then who?

Edward Mills
Fairfax Station

Supporting Safe Hunting

To the Editor:

The bill before the State Senate to allow
hunting on Sundays applies only to private
property and will not impinge on anyone's
enjoyment of public lands. Most of us only
get the weekends off of work and it is silly
to prevent landowners from hunting on
their own property during half of their free
time.

Hunting brings numerous economic and
environmental benefits to all Virginians and
I encourage the editors and readers to view
the Virginia Department of Game and In-
land Fisheries list at: [http://
www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/benefits/](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/benefits/)

The safe practice of hunting should be
supported rather than discouraged.

Christopher Yurasko
Burke



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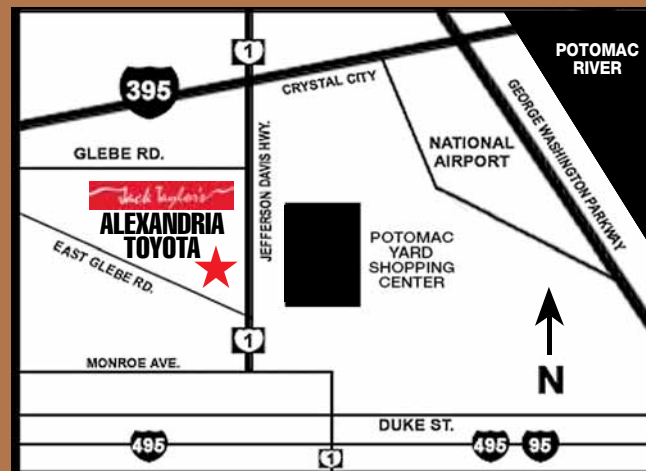
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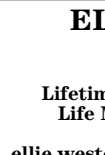
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