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PET CONNECTION
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how my cat, Mimi, welcomes
me,' writes Kishwar Rafique
from Springfield.

COMING TO A SCHOOL NEAR YOU...

SUPERVISOR JEFF MCKAY'S 'I UNDERFUNDED SCHOOLS' TOUR

Teachers and education experts agree:

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"Politics at its worst."

"Kids deserve better."



After 4 years of underfunding Fairfax schools, Jeff McKay is putting on a **really big show**. He's visiting schools to hear about their "challenges."

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Bulova: 'This Will Be a Challenging Budget'

Fairfax County average homeowner will see tax bill increase \$330 under County Executive's proposed \$7 billion budget.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Executive Edward Long, Jr. unveiled a \$7 billion budget proposal Tuesday that reflects his "cautious and deliberative approach to budgeting," a result, Long said, of continuing uncertainty over federal spending and sluggish commercial tax revenues.

While Long's budget does not include an increase in the real estate tax rate from FY 2014, steady gains in the county's residential housing market mean the average homeowner will see a \$330 increase in their tax bill, or a 6.5 percent increase over last year's bill.

"The one area that is experiencing an upward tick is the assessed value of residential property in the county," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-Large), which will lead to the increase in homeowner's property taxes even if the tax rate remains steady, as proposed by Long.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) said "there's a lot of work to be done" before the final budget is approved in April, and the county needs to "eliminate barriers to the growth of our commercial tax base."

"While spending increased by 3 percent, the cost to our taxpayers is increasing over 6.5 percent due primarily to the reduction in our commercial tax base," Herrity said. "I am most concerned that this increase will hurt those in townhomes, condos and apartments the hardest — the citizens that can least afford it."

"This will be a very challenging budget," Bulova said, citing disappointing projected revenues from business taxes.

Among those disappointed with the proposed budget is Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Karen Garza, who last month requested supervisors send \$2.5 billion to the schools, an increase of 5.7 percent in annual taxpayer funding and \$98 million more than the schools requested last year.

SUPERVISORS have said they were willing to increase their transfer by only 2 percent, which accounts for 52.1 percent of the proposed county budget expenditures.

Garza's request is about \$64 million more than Long's budget recommendation of \$1.93 billion, a 2.07 percent increase (or \$39 million) over the current fiscal year.

Garza's budget proposal would have increased school funding, but also called for \$96 million in cuts, including classroom testing fees for high school students, large class sizes and staffing cuts.

Long's proposal also includes \$72.6 million in additional support for school services including Head Start, school health, resource officers and crossing guards, after-school programming, field maintenance and recreational programs, among others.

To show support for Fairfax County schools and teachers, the Alliance for Fairfax Public Schools held a "Fund Our Schools" rally at the Fairfax County Government Center before Long's budget announcement. The Alliance is a partnership of parents, stu-



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Board of Supervisors and Ed Long, county executive, answer questions during a news briefing held after the proposed budget presentation.

dents, and civic organizations including the Fairfax Education Association, Fairfax County Council of PTAs, and Fairfax County Federation of Teachers.

"Our schools are bursting at the seams, talented teachers are leaving, and already large class sizes could get even bigger. The supervisors must make our schools the priority," the FCCPTA said in an online petition addressed to the Board of Supervisors.

"It's absolutely stunning that supervisors put forth a budget that shortchanges students," said Kevin Hickerson, an FCPS teacher and parent-advocate who supported the rally. "Two percent is not enough."

To close that gap and fund other priorities, Bulova said she will consider advertising an increase in property tax rates, which would add about \$150 to the average homeowner's tax bill, on top of the \$330 jump resulting from higher assessed values this year.

Bulova said the board will set the advertised real estate tax rate on March 4; the advertised rate represents the maximum potential tax rate for FY2015.

"Through the budget process, the board may adopt a rate lower than the advertised rate, but cannot adopt a higher rate," Bulova said.

According to the County Executive's proposed budget, one penny of the tax rate is equal to roughly \$21.9 million in the general fund and \$50 for the average Fairfax County residential tax bill.

"As the county continues to face fiscal challenges, we must persist in our cautious and deliberative approach to budgeting, only funding items that are sustainable," Long said Tuesday, adding that almost all of the budget increase in his proposal will be earmarked for capital investment and employee compensation.

"These are two critical elements of our continued success," Long said.

But members of the County's Government Employees Union — SEIU Virginia 512 — called Long's proposed budget disappointing.

"We are disappointed that the county executive's proposed budget fails to meet the needs of our community, and we call on the Board of Supervisors to do more to invest in our future success," SEIU Virginia 512 Secretary-Treasurer Karen Conchar said.

SEE COUNTY, PAGE 5



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

To show support for Fairfax County schools and teachers, the Alliance for Fairfax Public Schools held a "Fund Our Schools" rally at the Fairfax County Government Center before Long's budget announcement.

Average Homeowner's Taxes, 2008-2015

❖ FISCAL YEAR 2008

Assessed Value of Residential Property - \$542,409
Real Estate Tax Rate Per \$100 - \$0.89
Tax Per Household - \$4,827.44

❖ FISCAL YEAR 2009

Assessed Value of Residential Property - \$525,132
Real Estate Tax Rate Per \$100 - \$0.92
Tax Per Household - \$4,831.21

❖ FISCAL YEAR 2010

Assessed Value of Residential Property - \$457,898
Real Estate Tax Per \$100 - \$1.04
Tax Per Household - \$4,762.14

❖ FISCAL YEAR 2011

Assessed Value of Residential Property - \$433,409
Real Estate Tax Per \$100 - \$1.09
Tax Per Household - \$4,724.16

❖ FISCAL YEAR 2012

Assessed Value of Residential Property - \$445,533
Real Estate Tax Per \$100 - \$1.07
Tax Per Household - \$4,767.20

❖ FISCAL YEAR 2013

Assessed Value of Residential Property - \$449,964
Real Estate Tax Per \$100 - \$1.075
Tax Per Household - \$4,837.11

❖ FISCAL YEAR 2014

Assessed Value of Residential Property - \$467,394
Real Estate Tax Per \$100 - \$1.085
Tax Per Household - \$5,071.22

❖ FISCAL YEAR 2015

Assessed Value of Residential Property - \$497,962
Real Estate Tax Per \$100 - \$1.085
Tax Per Household - \$5,402.89

* Source - Fairfax County Department of Management and Budget

Budget Event Schedule

FEB. 25

Release of the County Executive's FY 2015 Advertised Budget Plan (including Multi-Year Budget: FY 2015 and FY 2016) - 10:40 a.m.

FEB. 28

Ask Fairfax: Online Chat with County Executive - 2 - 3 p.m.

MARCH 4

Board of Supervisors' Meeting: Advertisement for FY 2015 Tax Rate and FY 2015 Third Quarter - 10:30 a.m.

MARCH 18

Budget Committee Meeting - Govt. Center (CR 9/10) - 1 - 3 p.m.

APRIL 1

Budget Committee Meeting - Govt. Center (CR 9/10)

APRIL 8

Effective Tax Rate Hearing (FY 2015 Budget) - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 3 p.m. *

APRIL 8

Public Hearing on FY 2015 Budget - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 6 p.m. *

APRIL 9

Public Hearing on FY 2015 Budget - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 3 p.m. *

APRIL 10

Public Hearing on FY 2015 Budget - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 3 p.m. *

APRIL 18

Budget Committee Meeting - pre-Mark-Up on FY 2015 Budget - Govt. Center (CR 9/10) - 1 p.m.

APRIL 22

FY 2015 Board Budget Mark-up and Approval of FY 2015 Third Quarter - 10 a.m.

APRIL 29

Formal Adoption of the FY 2015 Budget Plan - 10:30 a.m.

JULY 1

Beginning of FY 2015

* Opportunities for public comment

SPRINGFIELD CONNECTION ❖ FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 5, 2014 ❖ 3

PEOPLE

Local Author Publishes 'Meditations of the Heart'

**Q and A with
Burke resident
Deborah Gibson.**

Deborah Gibson is a professional counselor and pastor at Sup of the Lord Church, a bilingual church in Springfield. She has lived in Burke for 28 years. Gibson recently published a book, "Meditations of the Heart," and shares her story below.

Q: Why did you decide to write this book?

A: When I first started writing the articles, it was not with the intent of writing the book. I just started noticing that when I would think of certain things, it just came natural that I would see a spiritual connotation in what I was thinking about. So I started writing these little articles to put in our church bulletin, just so people could get to know me a little better. I started that in 2007. At first I changed it every week-I was writing an article every week. After a year or two, it became work intensive and I just continued writing them once a month. I started getting very good feedback on them, especially from the women. About a year and a half ago, I started thinking seriously about compiling them and putting them into a devotional format. But I didn't want them just for the sake of reading-I added a little biblical study connected with every one of the devotionals.

Q: Why did you decide on the title?

A: Because that is basically what it was. It was just different thoughts I would have and how I would go into a meditation on one thing. I was sitting in our backyard and reading, and I noticed in our evergreen tree there was a fight going on between birds. A much larger bird was trying to get into the nest of a small bird. The much smaller bird was just fighting for its nest, and chasing this bigger bird. I just started realizing, as parents, that's what we do, and even in the spiritual realm, that's what we do. That's the type of thought process that I have. Then I would just put it down in words.

Q: How was the process of getting a publisher?

A: That was scary. I talked with different people I know that have published books. Everything was a little scary for me, from how difficult it is to find a good publisher, how much money it costs and everything. I even went out and got myself "Publishing for Dummies"- that didn't help too much, I was even more confused. But I talked to a pastor friend of ours who has written and published many books. He does a lot of

educational type publications. He started talking to me about self-publishing, because that's how he started. So that's what I did. Mili Parra was a tremendous help for me. I don't think the book would be in existence without her. With her graphics company, Create, she was able to do the editing for me, the layout, the graphics, everything. It was so helpful for me to have someone that close to me walk me through the process.

Q: What was your favorite part about writing this book?

A: Just seeing my thoughts in print, and watching them flow. When the inspiration would come, just sitting in front of the computer and just letting the words flow was very relaxing for me.

Q: Did you draw a lot on your own life experiences in writing this book?

A: Definitely. Throughout the book, readers will meet my husband, they'll meet my children, and they'll even meet my grandchildren. Because it's all from my own life and things that I've experienced-hurts and joys, it's all there. I think a lot of it is really autobiographical, because it's really about my life.

Q: Who is the book for?

A: I would say it is for everyone, but it leans more towards women, just because it's coming from a women's perspective. I have gotten comments from men in the congregation who have read the articles and said they were moved by them. I would like to capture younger women, just to help them on their road a little bit.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Deborah Gibson signs a copy of her new book, "Meditations of the Heart," at its launch event on Jan. 11. Gibson said the Spanish version of the book should be published by May.

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News

County Faces a Budget Challenge

FROM PAGE 3

"The county executive's proposed budget falls short in protecting the county's jobs and services," said Joe Wilhelm, president of SEIU Virginia 512.

Wilhelm said Fairfax County employees have fallen behind peers in neighboring jurisdictions when it comes to pay, and Long's budget proposal fails to help employees catch up.

"As a result, the best librarians, social workers, engineers and more will continue to leave Fairfax County to serve in other jurisdictions, hurting the services residents depend on," Wilhelm said.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS of Long's budget proposal include:

- ❖ A 1.29 percent compensation increase for county employees based on a Market Rate Adjustment, effective July 1, 2014, as well as an increase in funding of health insurance and other benefits.

- ❖ Increase in capital construction funding, including capital renewal (planned replacement of aging roofs, electrical systems, HVAC systems, plumbing systems, etc. in county facilities), compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and athletic field maintenance.

- ❖ Increase in public safety funding, including 9-1-1 support and requirements, and full year funding of operations at the Wolftrap Fire Station.

- ❖ Increase in human services funding including behavioral health services for youth, school readiness for preschoolers and domestic violence services.

Public hearings on the proposed FY 2015 Budget are held in the Government Center Board Auditorium:

- ❖ April 8, 6 p.m.
- ❖ April 9, 3 p.m.
- ❖ April 10, 3 p.m.

Those wishing to speak at a public hearing can sign up online to place their name on the speakers list or contact the Office of the Clerk to the Board at 703-324-3151, TTY 703-324-3903. The public hearings will be held in the Board Auditorium, Fairfax County Government Center and will be shown live on Fairfax County Government Channel 16.

Residents can also provide feedback and comments on the proposed budget through mid-April at dmbinfo@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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Koinonia Foundation Provides Emergency Assistance

New executive director uses sales background to help others, increase awareness.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

The Koinonia Foundation, located in a building behind Franconia United Methodist Church, has been serving the Springfield area since the early 1960s.

Many area residents, however, are unaware of Koinonia's role in the community of providing assistance to those in need.

"A minority of people know who we are. The people we impact the most have no idea we are here until they come into us," said Robert Petitti, Koinonia's executive director. "But if you just grab someone on the street, they have no idea."

Petitti, who was named executive director in November, is hoping to change Koinonia's lack of recognition.

The new director has a marketing and sales background, and is using those skills to bring more attention to Koinonia.

"I'm a business man - I'm not a social worker," Petitti said. "This is sales and marketing on a different level."

While working as a sales person for laboratory supplies, Petitti used to go home at night thinking about how much money he made. Now, all he can think about is if he helped enough people.

"I do this because I feel better at night doing it, but the problem is sometimes I feel bad about it at night too because we can't always help everyone," he said.

KOINONIA would be able to help more people, Petitti said, if they could afford a bigger building.

"We're really cramped on space," Petitti said.

Despite its limited facility, Koinonia is still able to help those in need of food and clothing assistance.

At a recent Stuff the Bus event, Koinonia received over 2,500 pounds of food and \$500 in Giant



Robert Petitti, executive director of the Koinonia Foundation, stands in front of the organization's building in Franconia. Petitti said Koinonia is in need of a bigger facility.

gift cards. Gift cards help Koinonia purchase products like dairy and meat, which are hard to come by.

The majority of Koinonia's clients are Hispanic, but Petitti said they are starting to see a larger number of individuals from Arabic countries.

According to Jeannette Jere-Jones, Koinonia's social worker, clients come to Koinonia for a variety of reasons, including illness and job loss.

"Everybody's definition of a crisis is different. Usually they will tell you if they need food, clothing, or another type of assistance, and we ask them how they got to that point in life," Jere-Jones said. "Sometimes they just moved here and don't have a support system."

Affordable housing and well-paying jobs continues to be a major issue for clients of Koinonia.

"The rising cost of living is a problem. People's wages have not gone up but the costs have gone up. People who live paycheck to paycheck find it hard to make ends meet now," Jere-Jones said.

IN A RICH COUNTY such as Fairfax, many residents don't recognize the need of others and the presence of organizations such as Koinonia.

"Maybe because people are too busy, maybe because we don't have a huge monstrous facility, but

we want people to know we're here," Petitti said.

Petitti hopes to hire a financial advisor to conduct financial planning for clients. In addition to the food and clothing assistance, Koinonia conducts programs such as Hopper's Bikes. The program was named after a young child nick-named Hopper who died when he was nine.

"Every year he would donate his toys from Christmas. He died at a young age. Since that time, his parents have come to us and have given us enough money to buy two bikes each month for kids who have birthdays that month," Petitti said.

In addition to a larger space, Petitti said Koinonia is in need of men's clothing.

Koinonia is a Greek word found in the New Testament of the Bible, referring to the spiritual connection Christians have with God after receiving the holy spirit.

Petitti said he is thankful for the help of grocery stores, volunteers and churches in the area, and will continue to use his sales expertise to benefit Koinonia.

"I have to open up my mind a little bit to look at how to be creative to get people to volunteer. This is a 24/7 job. You wake up thinking about how to help people in the community, and you go to sleep thinking, 'Did I do enough?'"

Secrets of 911

Police agencies refuse to release audio from 911 calls, prompting questions about transparency.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION



MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION

When city officials in Alexandria released the audio of a 911 call in a high-profile murder case, many people interpreted the move as a step forward for transparency in a commonwealth known for opaque government. But then reality set in. The release was a mistake. The city attorney's office failed to consult with the police department, which carefully guards its privilege to withhold information from the public.

"It was a clerical error that the 911 call was released," said Crystal Nosal, spokeswoman for the Alexandria Police Department. "We didn't waive the privileges under FOIA, so they are not going to release it again."

Across Virginia, police agencies routinely deny access to basic information and documents available in other states. One key example of the lack of transparency is audio from 911 calls, which are regularly released in most states across America. But not in Virginia, which is one of the reasons why the commonwealth got a failing grade for transparency from the State Integrity Investigation in 2012. Advocates for open government say audio from 911 calls should be available to the public so people know how their government is — or isn't — working on their behalf.

"If anything, it seems the more public input that can be sought on this the better, and the more information the public has the better," said Emily Grannis, a legal fellow at Arlington-based Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. "This is a scary kind of case, and it's a scary kind of case to have open and the more the public can know about it the better the public will be equipped to be able to help police investigate."

POLICE AGENCIES in Virginia don't see it that way. The Virginia Freedom of Information Act gives them sweeping

Across Northern Virginia, police agencies routinely deny access to basic information such as audio from 911 calls.

power to withhold documents and information, a power that is unprecedented in any state in America. And even though part of the law talks about public records being presumed open, Virginia police officials tend to view them as presumed closed because they have the power to prevent the public from having access.

"A lot of the time, what you get with 911 tapes is someone calling in is someone who is afraid of being identified," said Dana Schrad, executive director of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police. "They want some kind of understanding that they are not going to have their name released."

Advocates for open government disagree with that perspective. They say 911 calls should be available to the public so people know how their government is working on their behalf. Instead of denying access to public records altogether, which is how Alexandria is now handling subsequent requests for the 911 audio in the Ruthanne Lodato murder, those who support public access to government documents say the information could be partially redacted to protect sensitive information. But that's not how the Alexandria city government is handling the situation. In response to a Freedom of Information Act request from Connection Newspapers, the city attorney's office said the record was being "entirely withheld" even though it was already released to the Washington Post.

"They can't discriminate from one media source to the next," said Ginger Stanley, executive director of the Virginia Press Association. "And they can re-

SEE 911, PAGE 9

WEEK

Driver Charged in Fatal Crash

A 20-year-old woman was charged with involuntary manslaughter after a fatal crash that occurred around 7 a.m. Sunday, February 23.

Luz F. Inscoe, of Lamar Drive in Springfield, was driving a 2002 Volkswagon Cabriolet northbound on Rolling Road near Terra Grande Avenue when she apparently lost control, slid across the roadway and struck a telephone pole. She was ejected from the vehicle and sustained non life-threatening injuries.

The front seat passenger was seriously injured and transported to a hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The deceased was identified as Vuthea Hiep, 20, of Rose Garden Lane, Springfield.

Detectives from the Crash Reconstruction Unit are continuing to investigate.

Detectives believe that alcohol and speed may be factors in the crash.

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Public Notice—Convention to Select an 11th Congressional District Republican Nominee for the U.S. House of Representatives and a Chairman of the 11th Congressional District Republican Committee

Republicans residing in Northern Virginia's 11th Congressional District will meet in a Convention on May 10, 2014, at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA, to select a Republican nominee for U.S. House of Representatives from the 11th Congressional District; and to elect a Chairman for the 11th Congressional District Republican Committee.

Any person seeking the nomination for U.S. Representative from the 11th Congressional District must notify, in writing, Mr. Mauricio J. Tamargo at 6448 Lake Meadow Drive, Burke, Virginia 22015, prior to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 25, 2014 (postmark shall not count), and at the same time convey to Mr. Tamargo a non-refundable filing fee of \$1,500.00, payable by check or money order, made payable to the 11th Congressional District Republican Committee. Further details are specified in the Official Call for the 11th Congressional District Convention; this Official Call can be found on the 11th Congressional District Committee's website (www.vagop11.org). Similar information pertaining to the submission and consideration of any Committee resolutions is also found in the Official Call.

Any person seeking election as Chairman of the 11th Congressional District Republican Committee must notify, in writing, Mauricio J. Tamargo at 6448 Lake Meadow Drive, Burke, Virginia, 22015, prior to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 25, 2014 (postmark shall not count). Further details are specified in the Official Call

for the 11th Congressional District Republican Convention, which is found on the Committee's website (www.vagop11.org).

Any Republican who is unsure as to whether he or she resides in the 11th Congressional District should consult his or her Commonwealth of Virginia Voter Card. If the notation "CONG 11" appears on the card, he or she is eligible to register and vote at the 11th District Convention.

Delegates to the Convention must register through their local county or city Republican Committees. Those 11th District Republicans living in Prince William County (PWC) will register through the Prince William County Republican Committee (www.pwcgop.org/wordpress). The PWC deadline for Registration is March 1st. Those having questions about this process can call 703-680-7388. Those 11th District Republicans living in Fairfax County (FC) will register through the Fairfax County Republican Committee (www.fairfaxgop.org). The FC deadline for registration is March 15th. Those having questions about this process can call 703-766-4467.

At this time, no registration procedures have been established for those 11th District Republicans living in Fairfax City. Those 11th District Republicans living in Fairfax City should monitor the Fairfax City Republican Committee's website (www.fairfaxcitygop.com) to obtain instructions for filing as a delegate to the 11th District Convention.

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OPINION

Budget Process: Get Involved

Chairman gives blueprint for community engagement in Fairfax County budget process.

BY SHARON BULOVA

In Fairfax County, when we adopt the budget, we are investing in the priorities and needs of the community. At the center of this open and transparent process is community engagement. It is critical that we have the community at the table with us when we are considering changes to the budget that the County Executive released for advertisement at our Board Meeting on Feb. 25. Below are some opportunities to learn about the budget, ask questions and make suggestions during the months of March and April. I look forward to hearing from you.

❖ **Ask Fairfax Chat:** The Ask Fairfax Chat is a great opportunity for residents to submit questions about the County's proposed Fiscal 2015 budget directly to County Executive Ed Long. The chat takes place online from 2-3 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 28. To submit questions and join the chat visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/askfairfax.

❖ **Track BOS Budget Questions:** You can view the answers to budget questions asked by the Board of Supervisors throughout the budget process at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/qa_search.htm.



❖ **Sign up to speak:** All public hearings take place in the Board Auditorium at the Fairfax County Government Center (12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035) and are open to the public. To sign up to speak at a hearing, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speaker_bos.htm or call 703-324-3151.

❖ **Important public hearing dates:**
Effective Tax Rate Hearing - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 3 p.m., April 8, 2014
Public Hearing - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 6 p.m., April 8, 2014
Public Hearing - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 3 p.m., April 9, 2014
Public Hearing - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 3 p.m., April 10, 2014

BUDGET FORUMS AND TOWN MEETINGS will be hosted by Supervisors and community organizations throughout the county. Below is a list of currently scheduled meetings. Information on additional forums, as well as a current full budget calendar, will be listed in the coming weeks at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb.

❖ **Hunter Mill District Meeting,** Frying Pan Park, 2709 W. Ox Road, Herndon — Sat-

urday, March 1, 9 a.m.

❖ **Dranesville District Budget Meeting,** Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls — Wednesday, March 5, 7 p.m.

❖ **Braddock District Budget Meeting,** Kings Park Library, Braddock Hall, 9000 Burke Lake Rd, Burke — Wednesday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.

❖ **Herndon Town Council,** Herndon Town Council Chambers, 765 Lynn Street, Herndon — Thursday, March 13, 7 p.m.

❖ **Mason District Budget Meeting,** TBD — Tuesday, March 18 - 7 p.m.

❖ **Providence District Budget Meeting,** Dunn Loring Admin Center, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring — Tuesday, March 18, 7 p.m.

❖ **Dranesville District Budget Meeting,** McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean — Thursday, March 20, 7 p.m.

❖ **Lee District Budget Meeting,** Franconia Government Center, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria — Wednesday, March 26, 7:30 p.m.

❖ **Braddock Town Hall,** Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax — Tuesday, April 1, 7:30 p.m.

I hope you will take the time to learn about and participate in this year's budget process. You can contact my office directly by calling 703-324-2321 or emailing chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Volunteering to Help Mentally Ill

To the Editor:

For Mary Anne Cummins, community and volunteering go hand-in-hand.

As a volunteer with the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) in Northern Virginia, she serves her local community through a partnership with a local non-profit organization while being a part of a closely-knit group of other IVC volunteers doing the same. For Mary Anne, this combination of service and fellowship has enriched her retirement, deepening friendships and broadening her perspectives.

Mary Anne volunteers at Pathway Homes, Inc., which provides housing and care for members of our community with mental illness. Through her service, Mary Anne has become more in tune with the needs of those with mental illness and disabilities, and more familiar with local and national resources available to the mentally ill. She greatly admires the Pathway staff's dedication to and passion for their clients. Now, when she reads the newspaper and finds articles about the homeless

and those with mental disabilities, she feels a connection she did not feel before, inspiring her to become involved with the Community Services Board in Fairfax so as to learn more about how the county meets the needs of those with disabilities.

IVC is an organization that provides retired men and women the opportunity to serve the needs of the poor, to work for a more just society, and to grow closer to God through Ignatian spirituality. The volunteers work with local non-profits and use their individual talents to meet the needs of the Northern Virginia community.

Most IVC volunteers each provide over 600 hours in service every year to impact the lives of over 10,000 families in the area.

However, it can be easy for a volunteer to be exhausted by service. IVC's uniqueness comes in the combination of service work and encouragement from a community of fellow volunteers. Mary Anne says this community is vital to her volunteering as it helps to fuel her drive to serve others. Through the opportunity to reflect on her volunteer work in monthly meetings, Mary Anne finds even more meaning and inspiration from the work she is doing. "You

learn a lot about the community and about your faith," says Cummins. While working at Pathways, Inc., she says she is reminded often of the words of Teresa of Avila: "Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours."

Over the time she has served, the meaning of these words has changed for Mary Anne "I have learned not only how to be Christ to those that I serve, but how to let them be Christ to me through volunteering as a member of IVC."

If you would like to learn more about Pathway Homes, Inc. visit their website: www.pathwayhomes.org

If you are interested in volunteer service and becoming part of an active community of faith, you will find both through the Ignatian Volunteer Corps! Please contact our Regional Director, Joanie Coolidge at jcoolidge@ivcusa.org or (703) 352-4140 or visit our website (www.ivcusa.org/northern-virginia/) for more information.

Jenny White
City of Fairfax

Writer is Community Outreach Publicist and Assistant Editor/ Ignatian Volunteer Corps Intern

Volunteers Needed to Help Older Adults

Meals on Wheels needs drivers in Fairfax. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and link to Volunteer Solutions or email VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in assisted living and nursing facilities. Training is provided in March. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and link to Volunteer Solutions or email VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Little River Glen Senior Center in Fairfax needs help with special events and an arts and crafts instructor. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and link to Volunteer Solutions or email VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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OBITUARIES

Caroline Stackhouse Weiner, 32, Dies

Caroline Stackhouse Weiner, the school counselor at St. Bernadette School in Springfield, died unexpectedly on Feb. 4 at her home in Alexandria. She was 32 years old and wife to Justin Matthew Weiner and the mother of sons Brock, 5 and Cullen, 2; and 3-week-old daughter Caroline.

The Bishop Ireton High School graduate is also survived by her parents, Peter and Carol Stackhouse; brothers, Chad, John "Jed" and Graham Stackhouse; sisters, Claire Bartick, Anne Colby, Elizabeth "Liddy" and Mary Tyler Stackhouse.

In a letter to parents, Principal Michael Kelleher wrote, "It is with indescribable sadness, yet with hope of the resurrection, that I share with you the sudden death of our school counselor Mrs. Caroline Stackhouse Weiner. Mrs. Stackhouse pioneered our school counseling program. She worked tirelessly to listen, advocate and support the children in our school. She loved our school, our students and our team of teachers. Her unforeseen passing comes as a shock to all of us. We do not know the cause at this time."

A viewing was held Feb. 10 at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home and a Mass of Christian Burial was offered Feb. 11 at Blessed Sacrament Church with internment at Ivy Hill Cemetery. Memorial contributions can be made to ProLife Across America, P.O. Box 18669, Minneapolis, MN 55418 or prolifeacrossamerica.org/donate.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Caroline Stackhouse Weiner

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Robert Charles Truax to Be Inurned at Arlington National cemetery

Robert "Bob" C. Truax, Commander, Ret., USN, Oct. 15, 1936 – Sept. 1, 2013, of Rochester, Minn., Springfield, Va., and Inverness, Fla., will be inurned at Arlington National Cemetery at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 with military honors. Prior to the inurnment an 11 a.m. Catholic Mass assisted by the Knights of Columbus will be held at St. Bernadette's, 7600 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield.

Bob is survived by his two children Heidi Truax Radam and Scott Truax, five grandchildren, and four siblings. His Navy career, marriage to Patricia Clark, and community leadership have been an inspiration to many. Please provide remembrances to the American Lung Association.

Bob lived in Springfield for 25 years, retired from the Navy there, and was very active in the Knights of Columbus at St. Bernadette's.

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911 Controversy

FROM PAGE 6

dact parts of the call they think might jeopardize the investigation, but they aren't supposed to redact the whole thing."

IN VIRGINIA police agencies have the ability to withhold a variety of information from the public, including "documents and information, including complaints, court orders, memoranda, notes, diagrams, maps, photographs, correspondence, reports, witness statements, and evidence." Police agencies regularly use this part of the Freedom of Information Act to prevent the public to having free access to information.

"I think they are exercising their discretion too broadly," said Grannis. "This sort of information should be made public by default, particularly in this situation where they have already released the tape and it has already been made public, there really cannot be a justification for withholding it from future requesters."

Alexandria police officials say the justification is that the transparency was a mistake — that they never intended on sharing the audio with the public. Perhaps most importantly, police leaders underscored, they did not ever waive their privileges to withhold information from the public. Across Northern Virginia, government officials say the public's right to know is tempered by the government's desire for secrecy. That means that the presumption is that 911 calls associated with criminal complaints should be secret.

"If there are any kinds of criminal charges tied into a case or if it's an ongoing investigation, then it's exempt from release under FOIA and can only be released under a court order," said Erik Daniel, custodian of records for Fairfax County Department of Public Safety. "Once there's a criminal incident associated with a record, then it's exempt from FOIA."

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PET CONNECTION



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VETERINARY SURGICAL CENTERS

Dr. James Campbell (pictured with Dr. Katherine Crook), Veterinary Surgical Centers' staff neurologist and neurosurgeon treats animals with issues running the gamut from brain tumors to epilepsy.



PHOTO BY KEN OBERLE

Veronica Sanchez, M.Ed., (pictured with her dog Monty), a trainer and behavior consultant offers pet owners a variety of options when it comes to correcting undesirable animal behavior

Cutting Edge Veterinary Care

Local veterinarians and behavior specialists detail the latest advancements in animal care.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Four Bernese mountain dogs, victims of an Alexandria house fire were rushed into the Emergency and Critical Care Department at the Regional Veterinary Referral Center in Springfield in the middle of a frigid night last month. It didn't look good.

Dr. Melanie Galanis calls it one of the center's most traumatic cases in recent months. "The dogs had to be placed on oxygen," she said. "Just the number that came in at once and had to be put on oxygen made it dramatic. One of them required surgery to take away the burned tissue." Fortunately, all of the dogs survived. Galanis says that thanks to advancements in veterinary medicine, furry friends now have access to high-tech medical services that equal those of their human counterparts.

"We can do almost any procedure that is done on humans in an emergency situation except that the wait time is shorter," said Galanis. "We can do a rapid assessment within the first 10 minutes. We have the ability to mechanically ventilate dogs for severe pneumonia, neurological diseases that affect brain and the dog's ability to breathe."

IN FACT, ADVANCEMENTS in

10 ♦ SPRINGFIELD CONNECTION ♦ FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 5, 2014



Dr. Jim Taylor, a staff surgeon at Veterinary Surgical Centers, says that there are many advancements in veterinary surgery on the horizon.

veterinary technology have led to more precise diagnoses, treatment and ultimately survival. "In addition to X-rays, we can do EKGs (electrocardiograms), ultrasounds. We have CT (computerized tomography) scans and MRIs (magnetic resonance imaging) in house," said Galanis.

Dr. Jim Taylor, a staff surgeon at Veterinary Surgical Centers, a veterinary surgical referral practice with offices in Vienna, Woodbridge, Leesburg and Winchester, Va. said, "There are many advancements currently, and on the horizon, for companion animals in the realm of small animal surgery. Many diseases are treatable with excellent outcomes, some curable."

Lynn Chiappane, spokeswoman for the Regional Veterinary Referral Center, said the center even offers a "rehabilitative therapy program complete with underwater treadmill."

Galanis said that the most com-



PHOTO BY MATTHEW LANGLEY

Dr. Melanie Galanis, of Regional Veterinary Referral Center, says that advancements in veterinary medicine now offer animals access to high-tech medical services that equal those of their human counterparts.

mon ailments that bring dogs into veterinary emergency rooms are vomiting and diarrhea. "Dogs come in after ingesting things that they shouldn't like a foreign object or foods like chocolate."

"A common thing that we see are animals with bleeding in their abdomen," she said. "Tumors on their spleen and they will bleed internally." Galanis says warning signs are when an animal becomes weak or collapses.

Other leading causes of emergency room visits are more traumatic, such as injuries from animal fights or animals that have been struck by automobiles.

Most patients are referred to Veterinary Referral Center by their regular veterinarians to see the board-certified veterinary specialists on staff, including a cardiologist, dermatologist, internist, ophthalmologist, radiation oncologist and radiologist, as well as general surgeons, including one with special training in surgical oncology.

The Springfield center isn't the only local facility for specialized animal care, however. Dr. Anke Langenbach, chief surgeon and owner of Veterinary Surgical Centers, says her center performs a range of specialized surgeries, including orthopedic, neurosurgery and soft tissue surgery. Her center also offers rehabilitation services.

Dr. James Campbell, Veterinary Surgical Centers' staff neurologist and neurosurgeon, treats animals with issues running the gamut from brain tumors to epilepsy. However, the most common are disk issues. "It's usually from a bulging disk in the back. It can present as back pain or being wobbly or being unable to move their legs. It usually results in emergency surgery, often in the middle of the night."

MEDICAL ADVANCEMENTS for pets are not limited to veterinary specialty services. Veronica Sanchez, M.Ed., a trainer and behavior consultant with Vienna-based Cooperative Paws, LLC, offers pet owners a variety of options when it comes to correcting undesirable animal behavior.

"I had a client with a mixed-breed puppy who was afraid of everything, including her owner," said Sanchez. "The puppy would not walk in a new environment or even exit her crate voluntarily."

Sanchez recommended several different strategies, including teaching the owner how body language could help the puppy relax. "We also used clicker training to teach the puppy to exit the crate," she said. "The owner was very committed and worked hard. Her puppy gained confidence and she developed a great relationship with her puppy."

Giving Bianca a Second Chance

A Fairfax County Animal Shelter happy ending.

Bianca, a 9-year-old, female, German shepherd mix dog, had been living her life on the end of a chain in a rural part of Virginia. In late January, an unknown stray dog approached Bianca and attacked her. Bianca's owner came outside and in an attempt to stop the attack he hit both dogs with a shovel, striking Bianca over the head and injuring her. Rather than pursue vet care, the owner drove Bianca to the local pound and surrendered her. For the next 36 hours, Bianca sat with no medical care, until a sympathetic staff person called the shelter's rescue partner at

the Highland County Humane Society in rural Virginia.

Highland County Humane Society rescued Bianca from the pound and got her emergency medical treatment. She was taken to a foster home to recover and receive further treatment and was transported to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter on Valentine's Day. She was made available for adoption and her story was shared on the shelter's Facebook page, where it caught the attention of a long-time shelter supporter and adopter. The woman's beloved dog Princess (adopted from the shelter in 1999), died on Valentine's Day at the age of 18, on the same day that Bianca's story was posted. She knew that she was meant to help give poor Bianca a second chance. She immediately contacted the shelter and made plans to come and meet Bianca. Bianca went home with her new mom on Feb. 19, and she is doing great.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Bianca playing with toys at her new home: she went home with her new mom on Feb. 19, and she is doing great.

Hollywood Comes to Fairfax

How to use Hollywood-style portrait techniques to photograph adoptable animals.

Rani Hart, a volunteer at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, "wrangles" a rabbit during a photo workshop on Feb. 23.

By DEB COBB
THE CONNECTION

Animals at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter were given the celebrity treatment on Feb. 23 when a team from the non-profit Shelter Art Foundation taught shelter staff and volunteers how to use Hollywood-style portrait techniques to photograph their adoptable animals.

"We believe that every animal is a celebrity. We want to give them the same exposure that we would give a budding star in Hollywood. We do this because it works. Great portraits get actors and actresses noticed and leading roles. We want these animals to get leading roles in new homes," said Shelter Art Foundation founder Steve Sloop after the Sunday workshop. "We have conducted photo team workshops at 19 shelters in eight states, enabling these shelters to build the skills necessary to show off their stars. All of the shelters we have worked with have said that the better images make a difference," said Sloop.

"When I was a kid if you wanted an animal, you went to the shelter. And now, if you want an animal you go online. If the online image isn't beautiful and inviting and something you would want to have at your house, you'll keep clicking until you find it. But when you have that animal that looks at you and grabs your heart, you'll go into the shelter. That may not be the one that you come home with, but we've got you into the shelter so you can find the one you connect with," said Sloop of the concept that drove him to create the Shelter Art Foundation.

IN THE PAST YEAR, under the leadership of Tawny Hammond, the Fairfax County Animal Shelter has implemented a multi-faceted social media campaign to engage with the community in new ways and to increase adoptions. "A strong photography program coupled with a strategic social media program is paramount to success. With training and attention, we all can do it."



PHOTO BY BARBARA AUTREY

When the Shelter Art Foundation contacted Hammond about hosting a workshop, she said, "How soon can we do it?" Not only did volunteers from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter participate, but representatives from humane societies in the District of Columbia and Montgomery County, Maryland were also present.

The non-profit Shelter Art Foundation was founded in 2010 when Sloop realized that he and his volunteer photo team at the Monterey SPCA had figured out an easy to learn, low cost technique that combined advanced animal wrangling strategies with a basic studio photography setup. He founded the non-profit and started traveling to shelters around the country. "At first, I'd visit a shelter whenever I was traveling to see family or friends," says Sloop. In late 2013 he was contacted by Purina to see if support from them would enable the Foundation to expand their program. Once they conduct the workshop, they are able to provide the shelters they visit with the equipment needed to set up the shelter studio at no cost.

THERE ARE CURRENTLY 25 shelters in California, two in Nevada, one in Alabama, one in Louisiana, one in Missouri and one in Virginia scheduled for this spring.

"Our goal is to empower as many shelters and rescue organizations as possible with the training and equipment they need to improve their images," says Sloop. For more information about the organization, go to their website at www.ShelterArtFoundation.org.

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PET CONNECTION



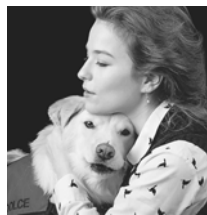
Erin Buckles and Solomon



Sarah Wishart and Darby



Alex Keefover and Kingsley



Natalie Kiddie and Dolce



Adam Campbell and Kenan



Joan Brady with Fred and Hank.

Making Connections

Service dogs and their “handlers” are teamed up through paws4pets.

BY JOAN BRADY

I was already one of those embarrassingly crazy dog people, when I first met Kyria and Terry Henry, founders of paws4people.org. But I had no idea how little I truly knew about the bonds possible between animals and their people.

After photographing puppies coming home for the first time, dogs sharing their favorite pastime and pets who are older and/or ill, I really thought I knew all about the animal/people connection.

But nothing prepared me for the emotional bonds that I began to capture for paws4people.org of dogs and the “handlers” who are the paws4people clients.

These were assistance dogs, trained to provide support in mobility, psychiatric service, educational and rehabilitative assistance, and social therapy. The dogs’ training is done largely in prisons by inmate trainers.

Children and adolescents, veterans and active-duty service members who are accepted into the program, meet with trainers and dogs at the prisons (called a “bump”), in hopes that there will be a match between each of them and a dog. When a match is found, the dog is trained specifically to the needs of his/her new “handler.”

If you have ever tried to photograph your pet, you know it requires patience, a quick finger on the shutter and fast equipment. Capturing the relationship between assistance dogs and their handlers, is something altogether different.

It’s about capturing the intimacy of two beings who live largely for each other. As a photographer, that means creating the right environment, without intruding too much on the moment.

Here are a few of the pairs I have photographed, and a little bit about each.

SONNY MORROW, of Alexandria, stepped on a land mine while serving in Vietnam. As he has aged, the injuries he sustained

have continued to limit his activities and those of his wife, Peggy.

When Sonny went to West Virginia for his “bump” at FCC Hazelton, four years ago, he didn’t know what to expect. Sonny was introduced to two dogs, one by one. Each dog took one look at him and walked the other way. Sonny had heard that you don’t pick the dog, the dog picks you. And he wasn’t getting picked.

Another dog, Jake, a black lab, was not felt to be ready to meet any of the “clients.” Maybe it was the way he looked at

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

Sonny from across the room, maybe it was just a gut feeling, but it was decided that Jake should meet Sonny. Within seconds, Jake was upside down in Sonny’s lap and it was clear they were meant for each other.

Sonny gives Jennifer, Jake’s lead trainer, a great deal of credit for thoughtfully questioning him that day on what he was going to need from his assistance dog and then making sure that Jake had the training that would allow him to meet his specific needs. They remain close friends to this day.

Sonny can’t imagine his life without Jake. Jake is not only a caring constant companion, but his practical skills are critical to Sonny’s well being. Jake is able to call 911 if Sonny gets into trouble and helps Sonny with his mobility and stability. Sonny describes Jake, with great pride, as being able to do absolutely anything.

DAWSON HAS BEEN WITH RACHAEL WESSELL about a year now. He helps her with daily tasks like picking up dropped

items, alerting her when someone is approaching her wheelchair from behind, helping her to balance when she needs to right herself, carrying bags, getting out her wallet or cell phone, getting help in an emergency. He is able to remove her socks and coat and will even bring her a hot pizza without scarfing it down himself. He lives for Mondays when Rachael rides at Lift Me Up therapeutic riding in Great Falls.

FOR ERIN BUCKLES, born a conjoined twin and separated as an infant from her sister Jade, having Solomon meant that she would no longer be the girl in the wheelchair at school in Northern Virginia. She would be the girl with the dog. And, she



Rachael Wessell and Dawson — who can deliver an entire pizza and loves his time at Lift Me Up in Great Falls while Rachael is riding.

PHOTOS BY JOAN BRADY

wouldn’t have to wait for someone to pick up a dropped pencil or bring her shoes to her.

ADAM CAMPBELL says he felt connected to Kenan as soon as they met at Lakin Correctional Center in West Virginia. “[it was] the way he looked at me, while he leaned into me, while I pet him. It was a moment I will never forget.”

SARAH WISHART, a veteran, and Darby were matched last July and both are still in training as of the writing of this column. They train together and Darby continues her training separately until they are both ready for Darby to go home with Sarah.

This training time is hard on Sarah, especially leaving Darby behind when she heads home. She can’t wait for Darby to come home with her. “She’s going to get me back out and helping my community again.”

At the paws4people.org annual reunion in October, Sarah struggled with her fear of crowds, related to her PTSD. Not only was she facing the crowded reunion, but that weekend marked the first anniversary of the death of one of her fellow soldiers.

He had been a true leader who was lost to an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan. To Sarah, he will always be known by his call sign, “Cowboy.” His memory and the knowledge of what he would want for her helps to propel her forward.

She was thankful to have Darby by her side.

GETTING TOGETHER with friends is challenging for Josh Gregor of West Virginia. Because of his medical needs, he is fed and/or receives medications through a tube throughout the day. He is sensitive to other kids observing the intimate details of his daily life and he always has to have a nurse or his mom nearby.

Mason, his assistance dog, has practical, life saving responsibilities like alerting adults when Josh’s tube gets

twisted, but what Josh cares most about is that now he has someone to play with all of the time.

NATALIE KIDDIE AND DOLCE, a psychiatric service dog, work as co-therapists at North Spring Behavioral Healthcare in Leesburg helping youths and adolescents with mental health impairments. Often it is Dolce with whom they feel comfortable sharing their thoughts.

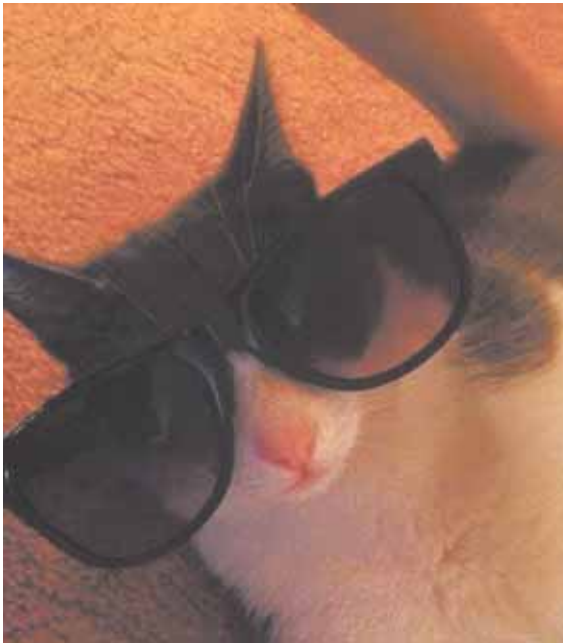
ALEX KEEFOVER AND KINGSLEY met when Alex was 16. This year, they started college. Like so many of the paws4people clients, Kingsley is Alex’s everything, “He’s there for me. If it’s picking up stuff, taking my coat off, stuff like that, and also the emotional support. If I’m having a bad day or worried about school, I just have to look at him and I’m laughing.”

Alex remembers well how he felt the day he met Kingsley for the first time, “When we got [to the prison] I was so nervous. ... then when I met the dogs, pure joy.”

Alex felt the connection to Kingsley the minute they met. He says that Kingsley’s only limitation is that he cannot type for him as Alex has much to say, but has speaking and typing difficulties.

Joan Brady is a professional photographer; mentor and advocate for current and former foster children; volunteer with paws4people, Fairfax Families4Kids, and others; and a resident of Great Falls. Reach her by email at joan@joanbradyphotography.com.

PET CONNECTION



Mimi looks fabulous!

— KISHWAR RAFIQUE, SPRINGFIELD



Mimi just flipping through some channels watching TV.

— KISHWAR RAFIQUE, SPRINGFIELD

Springfield People and Pets



Puppy love. Maria Nunez-Oliver with Charlie.

— ANN OLIVER, SPRINGFIELD

We left for two weeks and came home with a very active souvenir. Her favorite activity is playing fetch. Welcome to the family! Here Scribbles is being loved on by her new brothers: TJ, Ryan and Joshua.

— MICHELE BRANTLEY, SPRINGFIELD



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SCHOOLS



PHOTOS BY VERONICA BRUNO/THE CONNECTION

Zachary Korff as Archibald Craven and Craigles Goerginger as Dr. Neville Craven in Washington Irving Theatre Society's production of 'The Secret Garden: The Musical.'

Irving Theatre Presents 'The Secret Garden: The Musical'

The Washington Irving Theatre Society will present "The Secret Garden: The Musical" on Friday, Feb. 28, and Saturday, March 1. Both performances start at 7 p.m. at Washington Irving Middle School, located at 8100 Old Keene Mill Rd in Springfield. This production is perfect for children of all ages and designed with the whole family in mind.

Tickets are only \$5 and may be purchased at the door. Inspired by the famous novel and set in the Victorian era, the story centers around the girl Mary Lennox who goes to live with her uncle after the death of her parents. She embarks on reviving the secret garden while finding renewed life. Don't miss a chance to catch this little gem of a musical.



Ashtyn Spring as Mary Lennox and Jena Richardson as Lily Craven in Washington Irving Theatre Society's production of 'The Secret Garden: The Musical.'

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

FRIDAY/FEB. 28

American Red Cross Blood Drive. 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Massey Building, 4100 Chain Bridge Rd, Fairfax.

SATURDAY/MARCH 1

Dog Adoption. 12-3 p.m. PETCO, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy., Fairfax. 703-817-9444 or hart90.org
The 9th Annual Special Education Conference: Parents + Educators + Students = Success. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St, Fairfax.

FCPS staff and guest speakers Ann Dolin, Cathi Cohen, Kirk Martin, Dr. David Black, Dr. Samantha Hollins, Joyce Sharp and Dr. Joyce Cooper-Kahn will also present a variety of workshops for families and educators of students who receive special education services in Fairfax County Public Schools.

Parents can register online <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/conference/> or by phone at 703-204-3941.

Workshop for Parents. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Rd., Burke. Our workshops are designed to help parents understand their children developmentally and spiritually. The cost is only \$10 and we have

scholarships available. <http://www.ststephensfairfax.org/next-generation/family-map-day/>

TUESDAY/MARCH 4

"Legal and Financial Planning for Alzheimer's." 6:30-8:30 p.m. Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, 3701 Pender Drive, Suite 400, Fairfax. For individuals and families dealing with Alzheimer's. This program is for anyone who would like to know more about what legal and financial issues to consider and how to put plans in place. To register, call the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 5

Free Dual Seminar: 7 - 8:30 p.m. 12700 Fair Lakes Circle, Suite 120, Fairfax. Simplified Stock Investment Management and 1031 Tax-Free Property Exchanges. Register by calling 703-969-4966.

SATURDAY/MARCH 8

Dog Adoption. 12-3 p.m. PETCO, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax.

ONGOING

Singers Wanted for the Celebration Singers. The women's show choir is interested in new talent to perform at various Northern Virginia community sites. Practices are Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in Burke. Contact Gayle Parsons, 703-644-4485 or email gparsons3@cox.net.

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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.

THURSDAY/FEB. 27

6th Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser. 6 p.m. Sherwood Community Center, 3750 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. \$30 in advance (\$35 at the door) includes handcrafted bowl and a simple meal of soup and bread to remind us of the struggles of our neighbors in need. Children are welcome. \$10 for one child; \$25 for three or more children (handcrafted bowl not included).

FRIDAY/FEB. 28

Basic Gardening: Gardening for the Birds. 1:30-2:30pm. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Learn what plants you should grow to create a habitat that will encourage these delicate beauties to visit your garden. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring or call 703-642-5173. \$10/person.

SATURDAY/MARCH 1

Indoor Flea Market. 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Green Acres Senior Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Shop a variety of items and their bargain prices.

SUNDAY/MARCH 2

Know & Grow. 2-4 p.m. Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Learn how to plant and apply the most effective products to grow amazing roses.

SATURDAY/MARCH 8

Spring Fling. 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax. Springfield-Annandale American Association of University Women holds its annual Spring Fling, featuring



Four hundred bowls from local professional and amateur artists were available to take home as part of admission to the 2013 Empty Bowls event to benefit Our Daily Bread.

a silent auction, luncheon, and speaker Susan L. Burke on the topic of sexual assault in the military. RSVP by March 5: springfling@rclark.net

HooShir A Cappella. 8 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax.

Indiana University's premier co-ed a cappella group with Jewish roots, and Potomac Fever, a 13-voice a cappella close harmony pop ensemble from the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC (GMCW).

Tickets: \$29, \$24 JCCNV members and seniors (65+), \$19 students and groups of 10 or more. JCCNV Box Office: 703-537-3000, email: boxoffice@jccnv.org; website: www.jccnvarts.org

Annual Consignment Sale. 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Burke United Methodist Preschool, 6200 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke. Purchase or sell children's clothing, baby gear, toys, CD/DVD, other kid's items and help BUMP raise funds for their preschool program, too. From 1-2 p.m., there is a half-price sale where specially marked items are 50 percent off original price. bumpreschool.org.

St. Mary of Sorrows Church. 5222 Sideburn Rd, Fairfax, will begin a "Landings" program for returning Catholics and people considering returning to the practice of their Faith. Program starts March 4th for 8 weeks. Meetings are Tuesdays, 7:30 PM. Pre-registration required. Call 703-818-8618 or email annleggio@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 15

Fairfax City Regional Library Children's Book Sale. 10 a.m. -3 p.m. 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Thousands of gently-read books and nonbook media organized into categories including picture books, early readers, nonfiction, holiday, chapter books and more. \$.25-\$2.00. Some specials \$3 and \$4.

TUESDAY/MARCH 18- THURSDAY/MARCH 20

Annie Jr.! The Musical. 7 p.m. Kings Glen Elementary, 5401 Danbury Forest Drive, Springfield. Tickets cost \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door. Call 703-239-4000 today to purchase tickets in advance.

FRIDAY/MARCH 21

City Regional Library Book Sale. 10 a.m. -5 p.m. 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Thousands of gently-read books in all categories including art, history, cooking, gardening, foreign language, travel, spirituality, reference, classic and popular fiction. Plenty of free parking.

SATURDAY/MARCH 22

Fairfax City Regional Library Book Sale. 10 a.m. -4 p.m. 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Thousands of gently-read books in all categories including art, history, cooking, gardening, foreign language, travel, spirituality, reference, classic and popular fiction. Plenty of free parking.

SUNDAY/MARCH 23

Fairfax City Regional Library Book Sale. 1-3 p.m. 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Thousands of gently-read books in all categories including art, history, cooking, gardening, foreign language, travel, spirituality, reference, classic and popular fiction. Plenty of free parking.

SUNDAY/MARCH 30

Jeffrey Siegel, "The Romantic Music of Chopin." 7 p.m., George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, MS 2F5, Fairfax. The acclaimed pianist performs Chopin's compositions as part of his Keyboard Conversations series. \$19-38, Mason ID permits 1 free ticket on March 18. cfa.gmu.edu.

FAITH NOTES

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

The Cancer Treatment Centers of America, sponsored by the Cancer Support Team, Ministry of Greater Little Baptist Church, Fairfax, will present "Restore: The Journey Toward Self Forgiveness & Physical Health" on Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Greater Little Zion Baptist Church, 10185 Zion Drive, Fairfax. This is a free event. To RSVP, call the church at 703-764-9111 or email Cancer Support Team Ministry at cstm@glzbc.org

The speaker will be Rev. Dr. Michael Barry author of the Forgiveness Project and Director of Pastoral Care at Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Philadelphia, Pa.

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

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

Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

Lord of Life Lutheran offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive.

Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

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

Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

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

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music.

More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults.

The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.poplc.org.

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway in Springfield, supports a Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) program on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Meetings are 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the church. All mothers and children are welcome.

The program provides mothers an opportunity to get to know other mothers through discussions and craft activities. Register. 703-451-5320.

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Benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington,
Fairfax County Region

West Springfield Girls, Lake Braddock Boys Conference Champions

Senior Amy Berglund scores 28 points, grabs 10 rebounds, named tournament MVP.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Six minutes in to Friday's Conference 7 championship game, West Springfield standout Amy Berglund had as many fouls as she did points — two.

With Berglund having spent time on the bench, the sharpshooting guard totaled seven points at halftime and the Spartans held a slim two-point lead over T.C. Williams.

"My teammates did great in the first half," Berglund said.

No. 25 had a much bigger impact in the second half.

Berglund scored 21 second-half points, helping the West Springfield girls' basketball team pull away from T.C. Williams en route to a 70-58 victory at Lake Braddock Secondary School on Feb. 21. The Spartans won their fourth conference/district championship in the last five years, and beat the Titans for the second time in three tries this season.

BERGLUND finished with 28 points and 10 rebounds, earning tournament MVP.

"Maybe it gave her rest for the second half," said West Springfield head coach Bill Gibson, joking about Berglund getting in early foul trouble. "We might sit her more often in the first half."

West Springfield led 31-30 early in the third quarter when Berglund started to take over. She scored the Spartans' next 11 points, including a layup that gave West Springfield a 42-37 advantage with 1:41 left in the third.

"I had my opportunities [and] my teammates found me," Berglund said. "I knew I wanted to win this game. I knew I had to leave it all out there. It's my senior year."

While Berglund showed her perimeter-shooting skills, she also scored by attacking the basket, putting back offensive rebounds and getting to the free-throw line.

"She is very versatile," Gibson said. "She was shooting 57 percent from the floor and you don't get many kids like that. That's just phenomenal if you ask me. I don't think [West Springfield graduate and WNBA standout] Kara Lawson or anybody ever shot [that well]."

A bucket by sophomore Maura D'Anna in the closing seconds of the third quarter gave West Springfield a 49-40 lead.

The Spartans scored the first six points of the fourth quarter, including a pair of buckets by Berglund, and led by at least nine points for the remainder of the contest.

West Springfield senior Taylor Samuels



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The West Springfield girls' basketball team beat T.C. Williams on Friday and won the Conference 7 championship.

scored 14 points against T.C. Williams in the Conference 7 championship game on Friday. Samuels was named to the all-tournament team.

Taylor Samuels finished with 14 points for West Springfield. Sadie Schroeder knocked down a trio of 3-pointers for nine points and Shelby Haynes added seven.

Rejoice Spivey led T.C. Williams with 15 points.

Grace Peterson finished with 14 points, Tykera Carter had 13 and Angie Schedler added 12.

The Spartans won the first meeting between the teams this season, 54-53 on Dec. 13 at West Springfield.

The Titans countered with a 66-55 win on Jan. 28 at T.C. Williams, giving the Spartans their only loss to date. "I really think the only thing is heart," Samuels said when asked how to gain an edge against a familiar opponent.

"They know every single player, we know every single player. We just have to come out with passion."

Berglund (MVP), Samuels, Haynes, Carter, Spivey and South County's April Henson were named to the all-tournament team.

West Springfield defeated Fairfax 53-47 in the opening round of the 6A North regional tournament on Feb. 24, and beat Westfield 57-34 in the quarterfinals on Feb. 25. The Spartans will face Centerville in the semifinals at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 27 at Robinson Secondary School.

Gregorits hits game winner, named tournament MVP.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

With the score tied and less than 3 minutes remaining in Friday's Conference 7 championship game at Woodson, Lake Braddock senior Will Gregorits twice stepped to the free-throw line with a chance to give the Bruins a lead.

With 2:18 remaining, Gregorits missed the front end of a one-and-one. Twelve seconds later, he missed a pair.

"I choked down the end," Gregorits said. "... I missed those [three] free throws, but my team had my back."

Other Bruins made plays down the stretch, giving Gregorits a chance at redemption. With the Bruins down one and 13.5 seconds remaining, Lake Braddock went with the play "one down," which gave Gregorits a chance to attack the basket or dish to a perimeter shooter.

No. 33 didn't disappoint.

GREGORITS drove to the rim and scored with 4 seconds remaining and the Lake Braddock boys' basketball team held on to beat Woodson 62-61 at Lake Braddock Secondary School. It was the Bruins' second consecutive conference/district championship, and the first time Lake Braddock had repeated since winning three in a row in 1986-87-88.

"[Head coach Brian Metress] said go score it, because I know you will," Gregorits said. "It just happened to work and I'm so happy."

Gregorits' bucket put Lake Braddock on the winning side of a wild, back-and-forth finish.

Trailing by one, Woodson's Eric Bowles knocked down a pair of free throws to give the Cavaliers a 59-58 lead with 1 minute remaining. At the other end, A.J. Alexander made a pair from the foul line to put Lake Braddock back on top, 60-59, with 42.2 seconds left. With 13.3 remaining, Woodson's Andy Stynchula made both attempts from the charity stripe, putting the Cavaliers back in front, 61-60.

That's when Gregorits answered, giving the Lake Braddock a 62-61 advantage. After a Woodson timeout, Bowles missed a runner at the buzzer.

"It's 10-times better," Alexander said when comparing Friday's win with last year's district title. "It's the second time in a row, it's expected. It would have been a big upset if we would have lost — [to] us, at least. I don't know about everyone else around the district."

LAKE BRADDOCK improved to 3-0 against Woodson this season with the three victories coming by a combined eight points. The Bruins entered the tournament as the



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock senior Will Gregorits was named Conference 7 tournament MVP.

No. 1 seed and the Cavaliers No. 2. Last year, Lake Braddock upset top-seeded Woodson in the district semifinals before beating South County in the championship game. The Bruins went on to lose in the region quarterfinals, while the Cavaliers won the Northern Region title and reached the state semifinals.

"For us ... I thought maybe this year was a little bit more climatic because it was the 1 and 2 playing each other," Metress said. "Last year, we played South County, who was a very good team, but ... in basketball, it's Lake Braddock and Woodson."

John Nice led Lake Braddock with 15 points. Reagan Jones scored 13 points and Alexander finished with 11 points and 10 rebounds. James Butler scored 10 points and Gregorits finished with eight.

Bowles led Woodson with 21 points. Ayoub finished with 11 points and Stynchula finished added 10.

Gregorits (MVP), Alexander, Nice, Bowles, Ayoub and West Potomac's DeMornay Pierson-El were named to the all-tournament team.

Lake Braddock continued its winning ways in the 6A North regional tournament. The Bruins defeated McLean 77-44 in the opening round on Feb. 24, and beat Oakton 75-64 on Feb. 25 in the quarterfinals. Lake Braddock will face South Lakes in the semifinals at 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 28 at Robinson Secondary School.

Woodson is also still alive. The Cavaliers defeated Langley 66-47 in the opening round on Feb. 24 and knocked off Battlefield 59-56 on Feb. 25 in the quarterfinals. Woodson will face Herndon at 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 28 in the semifinals at Robinson Secondary School.

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In execution of a Deed of Trust from Cynthia Glacken and William Glacken, dated September 16, 2005, and recorded September 19, 2005, in Deed Book 17755 at page 1160 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Monday, March 10, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Lot 41, Section 2, London Towne, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 2711 at page 684, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, together with and subject to the provisions of the declaration of covenants and conditions (including membership in London Towne Homeowners Association) recorded in Deed Book 2788 at page 487 among the aforesaid land records.

Commonly known as 6258 Paddington Lane, Centreville, Virginia 20120.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$25,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 3.0 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or material-man's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

Sale is subject to post-sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of his deposit without interest. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee
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OBITUARY

On February 17th, 2014 Maria McClendon of Haymarket, VA passed away at her home peacefully surrounded by her family. She was a beloved wife of Bob McClendon for 27 years and a devoted mother of Ashley (Ryan) Donovan and Jamey McClendon. She is survived by a brother and sister Peter Marzocca and Ann Marie Little, brothers and sister – in – law Mike and Debbie Barefoot and Chuck McClendon, parents – in – law Jimmy and Frances McClendon, numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins, and a special cousin Mary Lynne Lubinger. Pre-deceased by her parents Joe and Grace Marzocca and brother – in – law Ted Little of Endicott, NY. She was an admired Fairfax County teacher for 35 years. The family would like to thank Dr. Anthony Felice and Reston Hematology and Oncology for their continued compassion and care during her long and courageous battle, and her colleagues for their unending support especially those present for the last few months. Family and friends may call on Wednesday February 19th, 2014, from 4-8pm at Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home, 9902 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22032. Funeral Mass will be Thursday February 20th, 2014, 11am Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 8213 Linton Hall Road, Gainesville, VA 20155. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to a charity of your choice or to the family for a pending scholarship fund in her honor.

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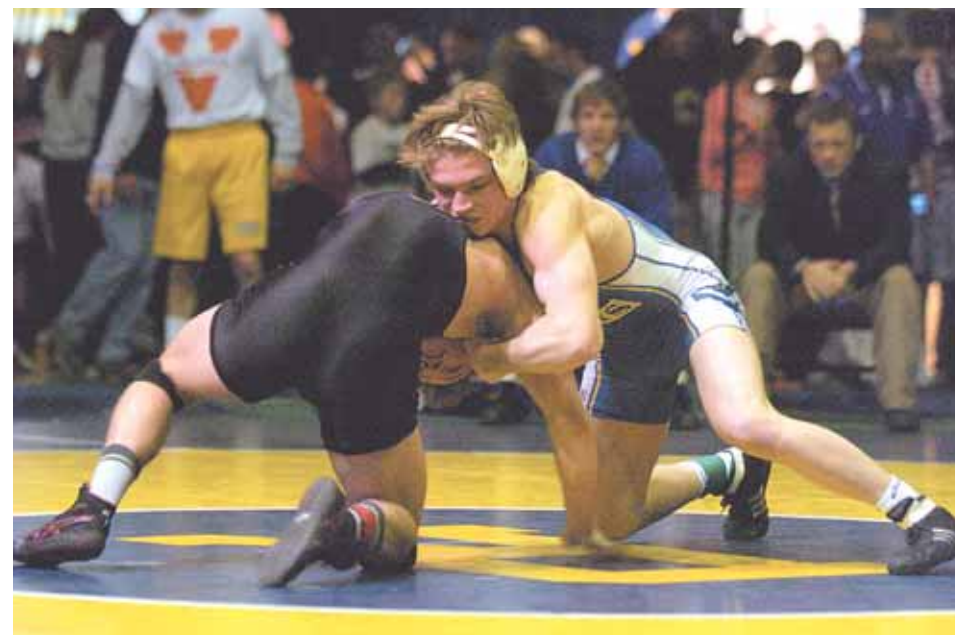


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Robinson senior Jack Bass reached his fourth state final on Feb. 22 and won his first championship during the 6A state meet at Robinson Secondary School.

Robinson Wrestling Wins State Title

Senior Bass wins first state title in four tries.

BY JON ROETMAN

THE CONNECTION

Jack Bass's first three trips to the state tournament ended in runner-up finishes and missed opportunities. The Robinson grappler knew he was good enough to win, but lacked the necessary discipline or focus to get the job done.

"I've won national tournaments," Bass said, "but every year at state, I've never taken it as serious as I should."

On Feb. 22, Bass made his fourth appearance in a state final. This time, he added the title of "VHSL State Champion" to his decorated wrestling career, which includes four region championships.

Bass defeated Battlefield senior Justus Weaver via 8-2 decision to win the 152-pound 6A state title during the 5A/6A state wrestling meet at Robinson Secondary School.

"This year, it feels amazing because I've never won this tournament and I've been to every national tournament for high school," Bass said. "... Every year I've lost to someone I could beat, just simply because I overlooked them. I don't think I was as focused as I should have been the last three years. It changed this year. I kind of came in here more focused. I really wanted it this year."

Bass' victory helped Robinson capture its third team state championship in the last four years. The Rams finished with 152.5 points. Colonial Forge finished runner-up with 132.5. Lake Braddock was sixth with 77.

Robinson produced four individual state champions: Bass (152), Zak DePasquale (160), Cole DePasquale (182) and Jake

Pinkston (285). Zak DePasquale beat Grassfield senior Taylor Misuna via 6-3 decision. Cole DePasquale defeated Hayfield's Antonia Agee by 3-1 decision, and Pinkston beat Stafford junior Sebastian Silva via 3-1 decision.

Lake Braddock Has Three Reach Finals

The Lake Braddock wrestling team had an individual reach the finals in each of the first three weight classes. Darius Wiles won the 113-pound championship moments after watching his twin brother, Dante Wiles, lose a 15-14 decision to Cox's Oleksiy Onufriyenko in the 106-pound final.

"It was really tough," Darius Wiles said. "It was all mental. I couldn't let his match affect my match. ... It made me feel bad, but I had to fight through it."

Darius Wiles defeated Cox's Landon Loalbo via 2-1 decision.

After the Wiles brothers, Lake Braddock's Ryan Haskett wrestled in the 120-pound final, but lost to Colonial Forge's Joshua Nail via 7-3 decision.

South County's Manley Wins State Title

South County's Hunter Manley made his fourth trip to the state tournament and came away with his first state championship.

The senior grappler defeated Robinson junior Austin Riggs by injury default to win the 132-pound championship.

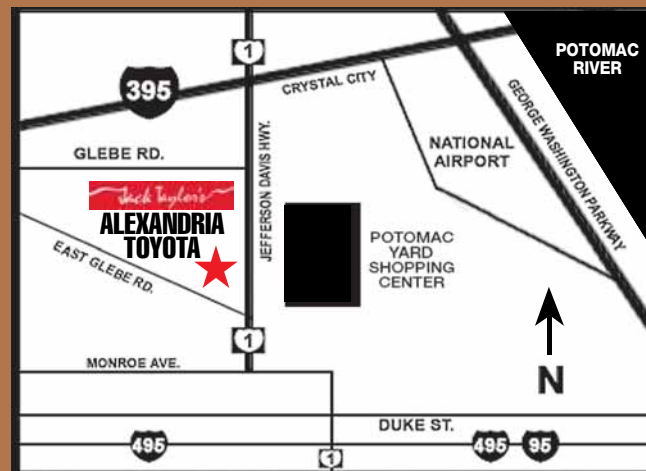
[Coming up short at states] kept me working hard, definitely," Manley said. "It's also good that I've been here so many times, it just felt like another tournament."

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Golf Club 55+ gated comm, 5BR, 4.5BA, m/lvl MBR, 2nd MBR up, w/out LL w/in-law suite & Kit, Din, Liv rm w/Gas Fpl, Sun Rm, Loft, 2-Car Gar. POSSIBLE IN-LAW SUITE!

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