

Springfield CONNECTION

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Newington

Choral Festival Fills Hayfield

ENTERTAINMENT,
PAGE 6

Inside



Summer Camps
Education & Activities

Sixth grade students from all across Fairfax County participated in the choral festival at Hayfield Secondary School.

Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber Celebrates 60 Years

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Fairfax County Honors 'Superheroes'

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DON'T LET ESI FOOL YOU

ESI's Lorton Landfill is NOT "Green Energy"

FACTS:

- ESI is proposing to bury Construction and Demolition Debris (CDD) waste for an additional 16 years at its Lorton Landfill and increase the capacity of the landfill!
- 85% of the material ESI will bury in the landfill could be recycled.
- The additional 16 years will generate approximately 4 million new truck trips to the site, generating millions of tons of CO2 emissions and adding trucks to the already congested Beltway and I-95.
- 55% of the debris tonnage coming to Lorton Landfill is from out-of-state – bringing heavy trucks filled with debris into Fairfax County instead of recycling it in those states.
- The "Green" elements of ESI's proposal are mostly in the later phases and the language is filled with loopholes allowing ESI to get out of their green energy commitment.

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AND

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AND ASK THEM TO **VOTE NO ON ESI'S PROPOSAL**

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Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova addresses a crowd of over 500 people gathered at the FACETS Opening Doors breakfast on April 24.



Amanda Andere, the executive director of FACETS, addresses a crowd of over 500 people gathered at the organization's Opening Doors breakfast on April 24.

Opening Doors to Hope

Previously homeless individuals share stories at FACETS Opening Doors Breakfast.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

FACETS clients Carol Brown and Sandara Perry, sharing their stories to a crowd gathered at the FACETS Opening Doors breakfast on April 24, confirmed the unfortunate fact that homelessness and poverty do exist in Fairfax County.

But because of the help of FACETS, a Fairfax-based organization seeking to end poverty, and its many supporters and volunteers, the two were able to get back on their feet and are looking forward to a bright future.

Carol Brown was a nurse for 27 years who became sick and was unable to work. She was forced to spend her savings on medical needs and lived in her car when she wasn't in the hospital.

"I lost my place, I lost my savings. It was very difficult, very scary," Brown said. "It can happen to anybody."

Brown, who is planning to return to work as a nurse after she regains health, said that without FACETS and the help of Latoyl Whittington, she wouldn't have known what to do.

"All homeless people are not on drugs, they aren't alcoholics-it can happen to anyone. FACETS helped me get out of the car and get into a place. They truly are there to help people," Brown said.

After being homeless for nearly four years, Sandara Perry, 29, recently moved into permanent housing through the FACETS TRI-



Carol Brown, a FACETS client, speaks about her experiences with homelessness at the Opening Doors breakfast on April 24.

UMPH II program, which provides permanent homes for chronically homeless individuals.

Perry told the audience gathered at the breakfast that she grew up in a poor family and was put into foster care after her mother fell into addiction. She also faces health problems of her own and has experienced abusive relationships. Without FACETS, Perry said, she wouldn't have her apartment, or her goal of returning to college to study art.

"I had no clothes except the clothes on my back. I had nothing. I had no support at all. And then I ran into FACETS," Perry said. "Without the support of FACETS, I would still be on the street. I would not be standing here today if it were not for the help and support of FACETS."

The answer to homelessness and the solution to ending poverty is not more temporary shelters, but permanent housing, advocates say.

"We know the answer to the urgent question of how we end homelessness is not more temporary shelter, it is not more tempo-



Sandara Perry, a FACETS client who just moved into TRIUMPH II housing, shares her story at the FACETS Opening Doors breakfast on April 24.

rary housing, it is a permanent, affordable place to live that will allow mom and dad to get ready for work in their own bathroom, a kid who has been doing his homework in a motel room to have his own quiet place, and a veteran living in the woods for over 15 years to have the dignity of a bed to sleep in," said FACETS executive director Amanda Andere.

A home not only changes clients' lives, but saves their lives, Andere said. "Our community's most important and urgent question is how do we go from charity to change? How do we go from help to giving people hope? How do we turn that hope into working with others to realize the dreams we all have for ourselves?"

According to the results of the 2014 point-in-time count of homeless individuals in Fairfax County, on January 29, 2014, there were 1,225 people who were homeless in the county, a reduction of 125 people from the 2013 count. However, more permanent housing is needed in order for this reduction to continue at this rate.



Kat and Anna Hayes, middle, receive the Family Volunteer award from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for their service with the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program in Clifton.

Fairfax County Honors 'Superheroes'

22nd Annual Fairfax County Service Awards presented.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

Maybe they don't wear capes and flashy uniforms, but local volunteers are superheroes.

That was the theme for the 22nd Annual Fairfax County Service Awards, where more than 100 volunteers were recognized for their work with breakfast Friday, April 25, at The Waterford in Springfield.

More specifically, this year's theme was "Ordinary People, Extraordinary Impact," which was reflected in the comic book-inspired table decor and introductions by master of ceremonies Jeff Goldberg, Virginia Bureau Chief for ABC7 and News Channel 8.

"You make this a better place to play, to live and to work," said Volunteer Fairfax Executive Director Jeanne Sanders. "Every year, this is the most humbling event."

In addition to the 16 competitive awards, the organization

recognized volunteers who contributed more than 100 volunteer hours. According to a fact sheet, seven individuals clocked between 100 and 249 hours, 25 contributed 250 to 499 hours, six made between 500 and 999 hours and three clocked in more than 1,000 hours last year.

In all, 164 people nominated for awards donated more than 122,500 hours outside of their work and school hours.

Winners of the competitive awards were:

- ❖ Patti Schule - Adult volunteer under 250 hours
- ❖ Ashleigh Soloff - Adult volunteer over 250 hours
- ❖ Friends of Richard Byrd Library - Adult volunteer group
- ❖ Doris Crawford - Senior volunteer
- ❖ Food for Others - Volunteer program
- ❖ Jonah Basl - Youth volunteer
- ❖ Cherry Blossom chapter of the National Charity League - Youth Volunteer Group

SEE SERVICE, PAGE 7



Bill Shuttleworth, left, receives his Community Champions award from Lee District Supervisor Jeffery McKay, right.

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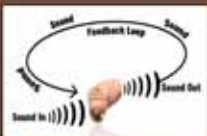
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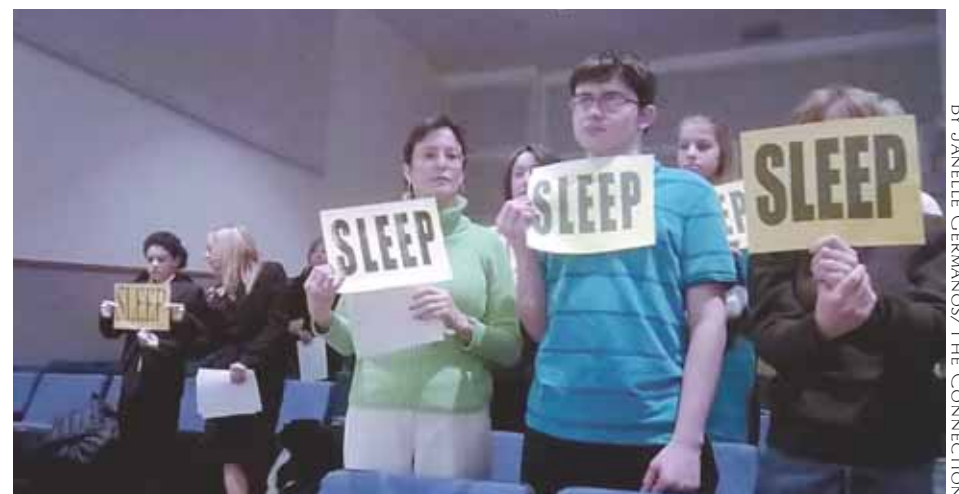
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By JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

SLEEP advocates gather at a school board public hearing. The Fairfax County School Board is examining options for later start times, to be implemented in 2015.

School Board Examining Later Start Times

High schools could start as late as 9:15.

By JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

Two years after the Fairfax County School Board adopted a resolution in favor of later start times, exhausted teenagers are one step closer to getting a full night's sleep.

The Children's National Medical Center recently presented the school board with options for later start times, of which the school board selected four for public discussion. The new start times could be implemented as early as the 2015-2016 school year.

The four options, which include start times as late as 9:15 a.m., will be discussed at public meetings in the area in May and June. The most expensive option, at \$7,645,208, requires 60 additional buses. The least expensive option would require 25 additional buses at \$2,759,749. The school board is expected to vote on these options in the fall.

"Given all our research and discussion with stakeholders over the past 12 months, our team strongly believes that later bell changes for Fairfax County Public Schools can be achieved at a reasonable cost in the 2015-16 academic year," said Judith Owens, director of sleep medicine at the Children's National Medical Center.

In Virginia, 72 of 95 counties start high schools past 8 a.m. Members of SLEEP in Fairfax, which has been advocating for later start times since 2004, say that the 7:20 a.m. start time of high schools in Fairfax County is having a devastating effect on students' health and well-being.

"The middle 67 percent of students who fall into the normal category of sleep need would benefit, which is a large, large percentage," said Daniel Lewin, associate director of the pediatric sleep medicine program at the Children's National Medical Center.

Earlier this year, the school board passed a motion recommending that Superintendent Karen Garza identify savings from the 2014 annual bus route review and earmarks those savings to offset the possible cost of implementing later high school start times.

"This has been an evolution, and it will continue to be," said Jeffrey Platenberg, assistant superintendent of facilities and transportation services for Fairfax County Public Schools.

After the researchers from the Children's National Medical Center presented the options, school board members voiced their concerns and opinions. Dranesville district School Board member Jane Strauss voiced her concern that the later start times could cause extra-curricular activities to start early in the morning. Other members were

concerned that some options still left school starting too early.

"The one that has high school starting at 9:15, in my view, that is the only one that is either scientifically honest, or politically honest, because that's the one that actually moves high school times later. The other ones are poking at the margins," said school board member Ted Velkoff (at-large.)

According to Owens, the studies show that bedtimes would remain the same, but if the start times change by an hour, students receive an additional hour of sleep.

"This change can be accomplished in school districts such as Fairfax that are large and complex," Owens said.

"The middle 67 percent of students who fall into the normal category of sleep need would benefit, which is a large, large percentage."

—Daniel Lewin, Children's National Medical Center



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Becoming an Eagle

Kevin Allen Wilson, from Troop 150 in Annandale received his Eagle rank on April 5. In this photo, Kevin is receiving congratulation from Del. Kaye Kory (D-38).

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Cancer had act one. Isabel received the encore.

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“I’m Isabel
and I like
to dance.”

Isabel Doran
Promising ballerina



NEWS



Sixth grade students were recognized at the beginning of the program.

Choral Festival Fills Hayfield

More than 900 middle school sixth-graders participated in the all-Fairfax county choral festival on Saturday, April 26. The festival featured 120 schools in the county. With so many students, the auditorium at Hayfield Secondary School was filled to capacity.

Fairfax County sixth grade students sang spiritual songs such as “I Will Rejoice” and “The Light that Shines in Me” as well as traditional songs “Hush! Somebody’s Callin’

My Name,” and “Walk Dem Bones.” There was even a little French thrown in with the piece “J’entends le Moulin.” The concert ended with a rousing “This is My Country” by Dan Raye and arranged by Al Jacons and Roy Ringwald. The choral festival co-chairs were Lee Larsen and Marian Schultz and the concert was sponsored by the Fairfax General Music Educations Association.

— VERONICA BRUNO

Conductor Joshua N. Pedde acknowledges the audience. With all the county schools participating, the auditorium was filled to capacity.

PHOTOS BY
VERONICA BRUNO
THE CONNECTION



Fairfax County middle schools students took part in the all-county choral festival at Hayfield Secondary School.

NEWS

Service Awards Presented

FROM PAGE 3

- ❖ Ana and Kat Hayes - Family volunteer
- ❖ Roberto Quinones - Integrate individual
- ❖ St. Stephen's United Methodist Church - Integrate group
- ❖ John Bauer - Fairfax County volunteer
- ❖ Ready to Read Volunteer Program - Fairfax County Volunteer Program
- ❖ BB&T - Corporate Volunteer Program
- ❖ Sharon Page - RSVP Northern Virginia Award
- ❖ Nicholas Hartigan - Rising star
- ❖ Ramona Watson Morrow - Lifetime achievement

"Upon hearing my name announced as the award winner, I was shocked and still trying to process that announcement, when the award was handed to me on stage," said Page, of Herndon. "When you volunteer, you never think about being recognized in such a big way for the help you give to people."

She is the senior co-coordinator for the Hogar Immigrant Services English as a Second Language program at the St. Joseph's



BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION

The founders of Amy's Amigos pose with Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova.

Catholic Church Parish in Herndon.

Hartigan was also surprised to have won an award — the Rising Star award. As the founder of Reston Young Professionals, he provides young Restonians the opportunity to volunteer in their community. He was nominated by Reston Historic Trust board member Lynn Lillenthal.

"I thought it was kind of cool," he said. "I do a lot in the community and it's nice to be recognized once in a while."

He said several people spoke to

him at the end of the ceremony with hopes to connect with his group.

Schule, of Herndon, said she began volunteering once a week at the Cornerstones Hypothermia program with his Floris United Methodist Church group serving meals. Five years later, she volunteers about 25 hours a month to the program.

"It was quite an honor, and I'm inspired to work even more with Cornerstones," she said.

— REENA SINGH



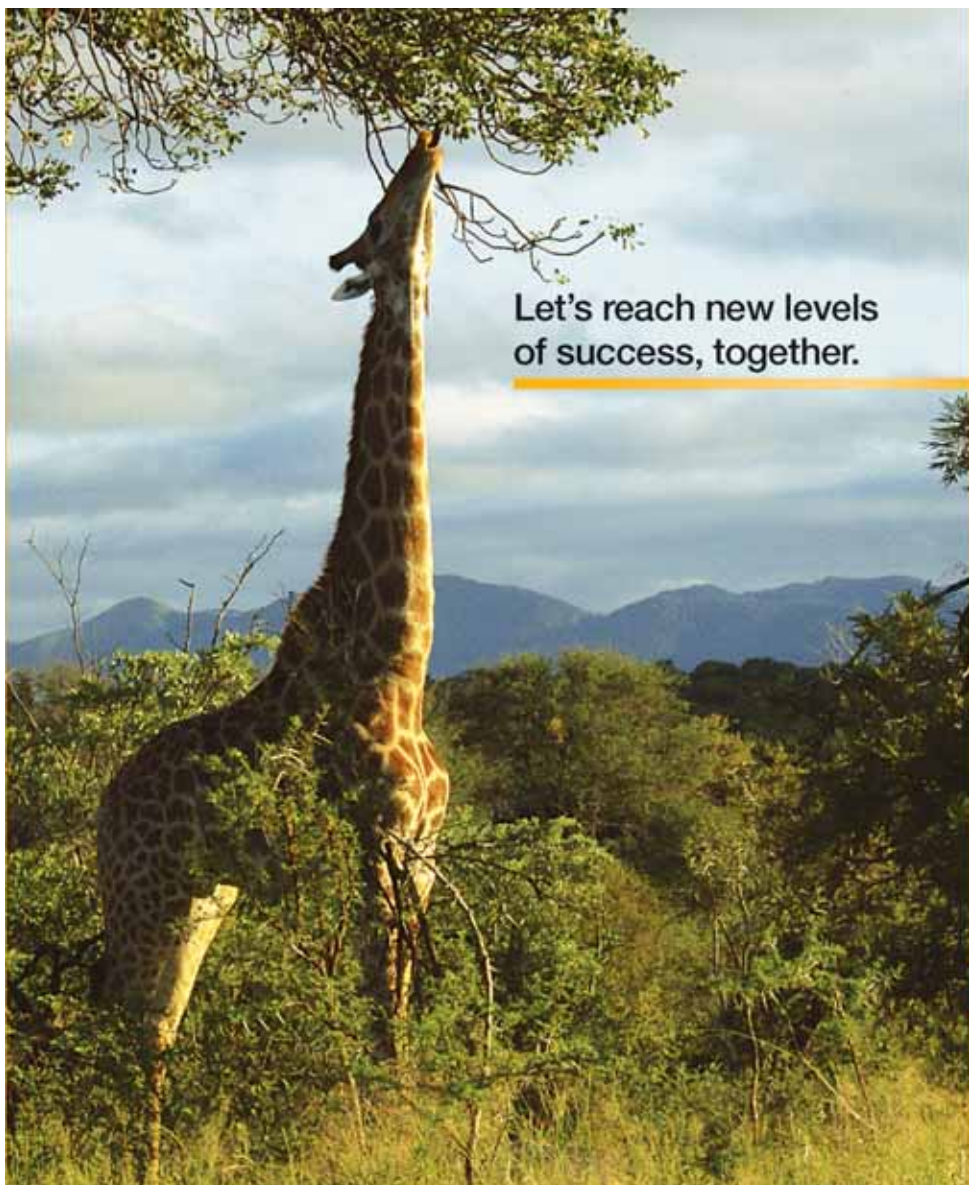
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OPINION

Trending in the Right Direction

Commitment to ending homelessness shows progress, but more affordable housing is needed.

On one night in late January, local jurisdictions in our area fanned out to count the number of people who were literally homeless. Fairfax County released its numbers last week; Arlington and Alexandria will do so in the near future.

In Fairfax County, the commitment in 2010 to end homelessness in 10 years has resulted in significant progress, even in the wake of the great recession. The number of people literally homeless decreased by a third from 2008 to 2014, from 1,835 to 1,225 counted this year.

Many non-profit organizations have partnered to prevent homelessness one family or individual at a time for those on the brink and to house chronically homeless individuals. There is so much still to be done.

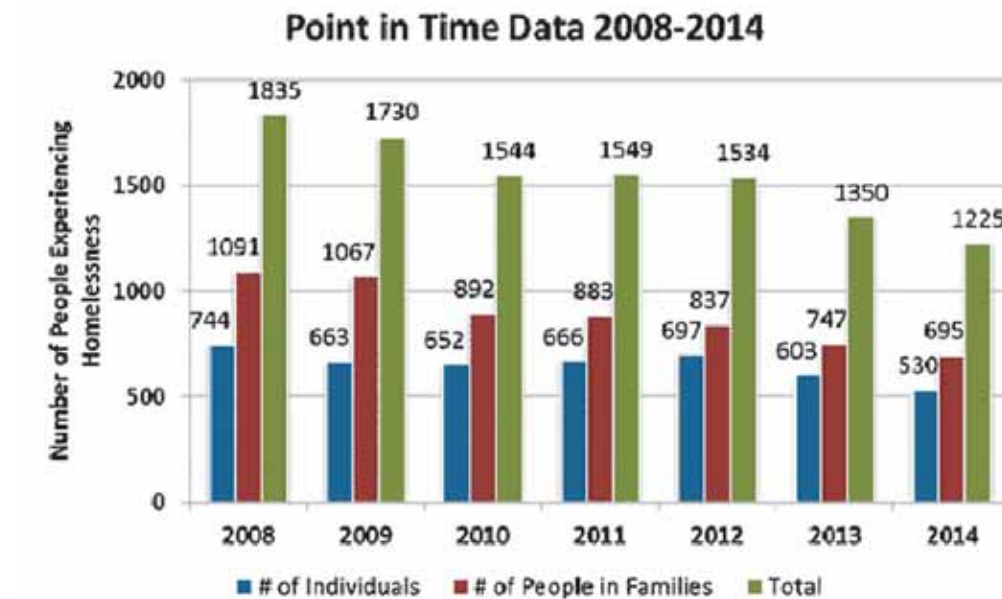
On the night of Jan. 29, 2014 there were 1,225 people who were literally homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church community, a 9 percent reduction from January 2013, or 125 fewer people.

The 2014 point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness includes people who are described as “literally homeless,” those who are in shelters, in time-limited transitional housing programs, or unsheltered and living on the street at one “point in time.” It does not count the individual who might be homeless but is sleeping on a friend’s sofa or the family squeezed into an uncle’s “spare” bedroom after being evicted from their own apartment.

Two sentences from the county report are worth repeating, even if they are obvious:

“The results would be even more substantial if additional housing options were available. The reduction in homelessness will not continue at the same pace in the future without significant increases in the availability of affordable housing.”

A year ago, the coalition of partners committed to ending homelessness embarked on the local piece of a nationwide effort to provide housing for the chronically homeless people in our community. There were an estimated 150 such individuals, living in the woods and in cars and on the street, in the county, and a year later, FACETS and others met this



Point-in-time data on the number of people literally homeless 2008-2014.

year’s milestone of bringing 50 such individuals into housing. These are people who need a continuum of services get on their feet.

Despite the good news on the steady decline, the past few months have been marked by push-back from some residents about allowing more affordable housing in the form of efficiency apartments and by several members of the Board of Supervisors expressing lack of support for even the concept of providing more affordable housing.

This misguided attitude on the part of some county leaders ignores the fact that this region cannot be economically vibrant if there is no place affordable to rent even for households who make \$50,000, never mind the households that get by on less than half of that.

Two full-time \$10 an hour positions yield \$40,000 a year. Last year, a family needed an annual income of \$56,472 to afford to pay the \$1,412 per month rent on the “fair market rate” for a two-bedroom apartment in Fairfax County. Rents have continued to rise.

Many working families living in Fairfax County struggle financially, balancing choices every month between rent, transportation, food, medical costs and other expenses that are not optional.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM

After being homeless for five years, Sandra Perry, left, recently moved into permanent housing with ongoing support provided by FACETS. Perry grew up on Route 1 in Mount Vernon, and was placed in foster care while her mother struggled with addiction. Without support to make the transition from foster care, Perry struggled with alcohol and abusive relationships. She shared her story at the FACETS annual breakfast last Thursday, April 24, and she is pictured here with FACETS Executive Director Amanda Andere.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fighting for Tigers

To the Editor:

As a senior at Penn State University, I am taking a course on human geography and sustainability. As a citizen of Virginia, I am concerned. There is an international issue that is threatening one of our greatest, most majestic creatures in the world, and we are not doing enough to protect and preserve them. While

the tigers that we nobly admire at the National Zoo are safe and secure, the wild tiger population of Southeast Asia is being poached to near extinction. As my class has taught me this semester, it is our duty as human beings to sustain the environment for future generations, thus making it our duty to put an end to the illegal poaching and trading of tigers throughout the world. While it is simple to adopt an “out of sight, out of mind,” mentality with these creatures, the rapidly declining tiger

population will directly impact our future generations here in the Washington, D.C. area. If we want our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren to admire the majesty of a tiger, we need to take responsibility for human action and strive for change. The keeping of tigers for pets, the illegal hunting, the black market for tiger bones - these are all actions of humans that are directly contributing to the inevitable extinction of the tiger population. But how can we help? We aren’t the ones

buying tiger bones for ancient medical practices, or poaching tigers in the wild. We are, however, the ones with the significant financial and political means to end this global epidemic. As an American, I urge you to donate to organizations such as World Wildlife Foundation, write letters to your congressmen, and generate as much attention for this issue as possible. We must fight for the tigers.

Allison Baker
Oakton

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LETTERS

School Board Found Voiceless

To the Editor:

First, I want to thank Megan McLaughlin and Elizabeth Schultz, the only two School Board Members who sought to give voice to Fairfax County in front of the Virginia Board of Education.

On April 10, Megan McLaughlin (Braddock) and Elizabeth Schultz (Springfield), Democratic and Republican endorsed respectively, sought to move two school hours from June 25 to June 23 making that Monday a full instructional day for elementary students and saving Fairfax County \$300,000 in fuel costs by making Tuesday, June 24 the final school day.

All instruction and testing will be completed well before June 25. The expense now is only necessary for compliance with a bureaucratic rule. The School Board may formally request a waiver from the rule.

How productive can this time be for students on June 25? As you know, the first and last hour of work are typically the least productive as you settle in and then prepare to leave. No students will stare at the clock counting seconds before summer break. Not in Fairfax County, right? Adding two hours to the shortened Monday schedule would have been more effective time management as well as money management.

Speaking of money, have you heard? Fairfax County Public Schools does not have funds to waste. With our priorities, we never have money to waste. In fact, as you likely know, we are expecting a \$21 million reduction in support from Richmond while increasing our student population by over 3,000 new students at an increased cost of over \$25 million.

The request for a waiver from the Virginia Board of Education allowing Fairfax County Public Schools to invest time and funds more wisely would have cost us nothing and saved us \$300,000 at least. When pinching pennies, every piece helps.

School Board Members Moon, McElveen, Velkoff, Strauss, Hynes, Derenak Kaufax, Evans, Storck, Reed, and Smith each voted to deny Fairfax County a voice to make the reasonable request.

If they will not use the platform we provide and advocate our community's best interests, why should they be trusted with our voice or our vote?

I remain curious what actions would have been taken by Chris Braunlich, president of Virginia

Board of Education, former Fairfax County School Board member and vice president of the Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy where he promotes free markets, limited government and individual responsibility, if asked to help Fairfax County better manage our time and \$300,000 from taxpayers by granting the waiver.

The irony, of course, now June 25, 2014 is another day Fairfax County students cannot run off to spend money supporting Virginia's tourism industry at King's Dominion unless their families skip the last non-curriculum school day and further undermine the argument for wasting \$300,000 in fuel costs.

Will Radle
Franconia

Mother's Day Photos

Mother's Day is May 11 and every year at this time, we call for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery. Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children. Please name everyone in the photo, the approximate date, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. (We will not print your full address or contact information.) You can upload photos and information directly to our website at www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/ or email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, May 2.

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PHOTOS BY VERONICA BRUNO/THE CONNECTION

Jennifer Lewis-Copper, a PROTECT coordinator for the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County, talked about the factors that lead to drug and alcohol abuse among high schoolers.

Protecting Youths Against Substance Abuse

Panel shares stories and advice.

BY VERONICA BRUNO
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County's Unified Prevention Coalition sponsored a forum on the effects of substance abuse on the county's middle and high school children. The resource fair and panel discussion was led by parents, young adults and professionals from the coalition's PROTECT (Parents Reaching Out To Educate Communities Together) task force.

"It's been so long, I'll still be emotional about it," said Greg Lannes about his daughter's heroin overdose in 2008. Alicia Lannes had been 19 when she died and had always been a model student with straight A's. He pointed to the lone framed photo of her on the table and asked the audience, "Does that look like a heroin addict? How did she get to that point?"

Lannes urged the parents at the meeting to get involved as early as middle school. "Don't let go of your kids too early. They need you to be involved."

Taylor Gibson initially rebuffed peer pressure to abuse substances in high school. After her mother's health problems she was left to her own devices and started working in a restaurant with college-aged peers. As she became used to being around them, she was more influenced by their casual attitude about drugs and alcohol. What began with a minor marijuana habit quickly progressed into other serious drugs.

"I was introduced to more drugs. I started using drugs regularly and often." She talked about being arrested several times. After having been given chances half a dozen times, she entered an out-patient program and was sentenced to community service and served a small jail sentence. She told the applauding audience that she'd been clean for five years.

The coalition brings in professional help to assist these youths and help them recover. Jennifer Lewis-Cooper, a PROTECT coordinator, outlined the many contributing factors to help youngsters and teens succeed in feeling worthy. (See sidebar). With these



Taylor Gibson addressed her years of substance abuse.



Bill Fulton, a Fairfax County police officer and a father of three, described his experiences dealing with this issue as a school resource officer coordinator.

keys to success, "their risk goes down," said Lewis-Cooper. These are "simple, common-sense things." According to the UPC, these "assets" build strength and skills in youth, parents and communities.

Bill Fulton, a school resource officer coordinator and a Fairfax County police officer, discussed experiences he's had dealing with substance abuse in the schools.

"School resource officials have their hands full," said Fulton. He educated the audience on some of the disturbing trends he noticed among school-age youths and substance abuse. Among those issues, he discussed the rise in bullying, particularly cyber bullying. He also mentioned the increase in teen domestic violence.

He told the audience "it doesn't mean your kids are bad. We're all on the same page." Echoing a strong theme of the evening, he encouraged parental involvement and suggested to start early. "It shows you care," he said.

Fulton instructed parents on current trends within the drug abusing communities such as slang terms and social media outlets like Instagram. Fulton noted that parents "are not sitting down and eating dinner with you anymore." He encouraged parents to be as engaged as possible. He noted, "They'll walk away respecting you. It shows that parents care."

Desiree Gordon, a clinical supervisory with the Falls Church Youth & Family Services, illustrated community statistics on the drug scene in Fairfax County. She also provided advice to reduce the potential for substance use.

"Parents, you have to be available for your kids. You need to know where they are. Be real clear and set consistent limits. Teachers need to take notice and give credit when credit is due. The community needs to make extracurricular activities available to kids. Parents, you don't have to figure it out yourself. Be a part of their life."



PHOTO BY JESSICA MCKAY

Staff member, Diane Gatsis Havinga, was named "Greenspring Environmentalist of the Year" by the resident-run Environmentalists group. Diane has biked to work at Greenspring for over 10 years and estimates that she bikes roundtrip about 8 miles to and from the community.

Greenspring Celebrates Earth Day

On Tuesday, April 22, Greenspring retirement community celebrated Earth Day. The event included several highlights including a display of fuel efficient vehicles, an assortment of exotic animals from Reptiles Alive!, a Shred-It vehicle, and informational booths and representatives from Green Spring Gardens, Fairfax County Park Authority, the Sierra Club, Greenspring's own Tillagers gardening group, and many others.

During the event, the Greenspring Environmentalists resident group named a "Greenspring Environmentalist of the Year." The award went to staff member, Diane Gatsis

Havinga, who has been riding her bike to work at Greenspring for over ten years. Diane estimates that she rides about 8 miles roundtrip per day to and from the community.

A number of fuel efficient and energy efficient vehicles were also displayed including a Nissan Leaf, a few Toyota Prius models, and a Lexus CT hybrid. Additionally, resident Ed Dulaney displayed and permitted trial rides on his four-wheel pedal driven car called a Rhoades car. Dulaney drives the Rhoades car throughout Greenspring; it has no motor, no fuel requirement, produces no exhaust fumes or carbon emissions, and allows for good exercise.



PHOTO BY ELKE MARTIN

Greenspring residents Ed Dulaney (on his Rhoades car), Bill Weiler (who bikes 10 miles to Accotink Park several times a week), and Linda Kato (of the Environmentalists group) enjoy Earth Day activities at Greenspring.



Sean O'Connell, president of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, talks about the history of the chamber and how the area has changed at the group's 60th anniversary celebration.



Michael Gailliot, former chairman of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, inducted the new board members and officers at the chamber's 60th anniversary celebration.

Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber Celebrates 60 Years

Chamber reflects on history and looks forward to future area revitalization

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

Of all that was discussed at the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce's 60th anniversary celebration, Michael Gailliot's announcement that the planned Wegman's at the corner of Beulah and Telegraph Roads at the Hilltop Village received their building permit on April 24 was among the most exciting for those in attendance.

A wave of applause and cheers swept through the audience after this was announced, and was met with equal excitement as Lee District Supervisor Jeffrey McKay said that even though it may look like it still has a long way to go, the Springfield Town Center could open as early as October 2014.

"When it reopens I think you'll be really proud of Springfield Mall again. It will be state of the art and first class, and it's what we deserve," McKay said.

AT THE CELEBRATION, the chamber reflected on its 60 years in operation and looked forward to revitalization and future projects coming to the Mount Vernon-Lee districts.

One of these major projects is the Route 1 Multimodal Transportation Alternatives Analysis, which will determine the best option for transportation along Richmond Highway from the Huntington metro to the Occoquan River.

Curbside bus rapid transit service, bus rapid transit service in the median, light rail transit, and Metrorail/bus rapid transit hybrid are being considered, and a recommendation will be made this summer.

McKay said at the 60th anniversary celebration that while metro rail may be in the long term goals for Route 1, a solution is needed now. A middle cross-section such as the one that is being constructed in the widening of Route 1 in Fort Belvoir should be replicated all the way up to the City of Alexandria, McKay said.

"I for one am not willing to look at something that is 40, 50 or 60 years away, and in the meantime destroy the Route 1 corridor," McKay said. "We need to be really careful here as we approach this and looking at it in a phased perspective."

Another important project is the construction occurring at the intersection of King's Highway and Telegraph Road.

The combination of the completion of this project and Mulligan Road, which McKay said has been a frustrating project, will improve traffic in the area.

"When it is done, it will be a massive improvement to traffic flow on Telegraph road," McKay said.

New apartments in one intersection in the Penn Daw area will also allow for road improvement projects in the area where King's Highway meets Route One. Later this month, a plan will be presented for fixing the traffic in that area, which is fully funded by developer proffers and county money.

"We've been waiting for decades to fix that intersection and without these three cases coming through, we wouldn't be able to do it," McKay said. "I think it's



New officers and board members are installed into the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce at their 60th anniversary celebration.

going to change the whole feel of the Penn Daw area."

As for the Fairfax County FY 2015 budget, McKay said he isn't happy with it, but thinks it's the best decision for the masses.

"The downside of the budget this year was that if you were in the middle of the political spectrum, nobody liked you," McKay said.

CHAMBER PRESIDENT Sean O'Connell took attendees back in time with a presentation of how life has changed since 1954. This included a look at old photos from the area, including the Beacon Hill airport, as well as a glimpse into the past with the Beatles, the Ford Mustang, and the Watergate Scandal.

"The future will hold even more opportunities for service as we link arms and walk the path to a stronger community," O'Connell said.

Gailliot, former chairman of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, swore in new board members and officers at the celebration.



Lee District Supervisor Jeffrey McKay speaks at the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce's 60th anniversary celebration.

PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

ENTERTAINMENT

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/MAY 1

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Season Preview Event. 7 p.m. Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Tickets: \$10.

THURSDAY/MAY 1-SATURDAY/MAY 3

William Shakespeare's "Antony & Cleopatra." May 1 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, May 2, at 8:00 p.m., and Saturday, May 3, at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Lake Braddock Theatre, 9200 Burke Lake Rd., Burke. Tickets are \$11 at the door, and also available online at Lbtheatre.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 2

Cinder-Rachella. 7 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Set in a magical Jewish summer camp, a naive young girl is teased and called Cinder-Rachella. Her only comfort is a book that contains the hopes and dreams of her father. www.jccnvarts.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 2-SATURDAY/MAY 3

"Pride & Prejudice." Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. www.vtwdrama.org to purchase tickets.

FRIDAY/MAY 2-SUNDAY/JUNE 1



Jewels like this will be sold at the 4th Annual Fairfax Fine Art Festival on May 2-3 at Fairfax Corner, 11901 Grand Commons Ave., Fairfax. Watch as Grand Commons Avenue blossoms into an extraordinary outdoor art gallery showcasing the original handmade work of artisans from 17 states.

The Fantasticks. Fridays & Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. The Fantasticks is a funny and romantic musical about a boy, a girl, two fathers and a wall. Tickets: \$15.

FRIDAY/MAY 2—SUNDAY/MAY 18

"Failure, A Love Story" Play. Performances: April 25-May 18. Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. John Swayze Theatre at the New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Tickets: \$20-\$30. Call 1-800-494-8497 or www.thehubtheatre.org. Note: For

ages 10 and up.

FRIDAY/MAY 2- SATURDAY/MAY 3

"The Producers." 7 p.m. South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. A musical performed by South County High School students that will provide laughter and comedy. PG-13. General admission at the door is \$12 and \$10 for senior citizens and students. Discounted tickets can be purchased in advance at southcountytheatre.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 2, 3, 9, 10



PHOTO BY HELEN PAPUM/HUB THEATRE

From left: Tia, Shearer, Carolyn Kasner, Maggie Erwin in Hub Theatre's production of "Failure: A Love Story." The play runs through May 18 at John Swayze Theatre at the New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax.

"Be Our Guest." 7:30 p.m. May 3 and 10 at 1:30 p.m. Burke Community Church, 9900 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Step into the enchanted world of Disney's Beauty and the Beast. For tickets please visit NVPlayers.com.

can't do — even in a man's world. Outrageous, thought-provoking and even a little romantic. PG-13. Tickets are \$10 online at www.fxplayers.org, and \$15 at the door.

SATURDAY/MAY 3- SUNDAY/MAY 4

4th Annual Fairfax Fine Art Festival. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Sunday. Fairfax Corner, 11901 Grand Commons Ave., Fairfax. Watch as Grand Commons Avenue blossoms into an extraordinary outdoor art gallery showcasing the original

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

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SATURDAY/MAY 3

West Springfield Baseball Fest and Alumni Game. 10 a.m. -3 p.m. West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. WSHS Faculty playing a spirited game of softball starting at 10 a.m., the first pitch of the WSHS Baseball Alumni game being thrown at 12 p.m. Carnival games, bounce house, dunk tank, raffles and a silent auction.

Movie Magic. 7:30 p.m. St. Mark's Lutheran Church 5800 Backlick Road, Springfield. The Northern Virginia Chorale and the NVCC Annandale Chorale, accompanied will present favorite songs from the silver screen. Purchase tickets online at: www.northernvirginiachorale.org or call 703-239-2180. Adults - \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door; Students (12-24 years) - \$10; Children under 12 years are free.

Model Train Show. 12-5 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. www.fairfax-station.org. 703-425-9225.

Cabaret and Comedy in Fairfax City. 7 p.m. Fairfax City Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax.

Cinder-Rachella. 11 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Set in a magical Jewish summer camp, a naive young girl is teased and called Cinder-Rachella. Her only comfort is a book that contains the hopes and dreams of her father. www.jccnvarts.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 4

Model Train Show. 12-4 p.m. Fairfax



Step into the enchanted world of Disney's Beauty and the Beast, playing May 2-10 at Burke Community Church, 9900 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke.

Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Admission is \$4 for adults 16 and over; \$2 for children 5-15 and free for Museum members and children under 5. For more information on the Museum events, www.fairfax-station.org. 703-425-9225.

Family Spring Celebration/Open House. 12-4 p.m. Living Savior Lutheran Church, 5500 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Free family fun and entertainment, including a BBQ picnic, moon bounce, balloons and face painting.

Historic Colonial Church Service at Gunston Hall Plantation. 11 a.m. Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. A colonial

Anglican Service of Morning Prayer will be held at Gunston Hall.

WEDNESDAY/ MAY 7

William T. Clothiers Grand Opening. 4:30 p.m. 10389-A Main Street Fairfax. Ribbon cutting ceremony with Mayor Scott Silverthorne.

FRIDAY/MAY 9- SATURDAY/MAY 10

"The Producers." 7 p.m. South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. A musical performed students that will provide laughter and comedy. PG- 13. Discounted tickets can be purchased in advance at southcountytheatre.org.

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.

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 Carleigh 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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springfield@connectionnewspapers.com

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Martin Leads SoCo Softball over Lake Braddock in 13-Inning Thriller

Bruins pitcher Flesch allows just one hit, strikes out 19.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

In a battle of the top two teams in Conference 7, South County pitcher Rebecca Martin shut out the Lake Braddock softball team for 12 innings, only to have Bruins hurler Ashley Flesch answer every step of the way.

Frame after frame, Martin and Flesch matched one another with goose eggs on the scoreboard during a memorable pitching duel.

While Martin's right arm had kept the Stallions alive against the undefeated Bruins, it was her bat that would put an end to the Thursday night marathon.

With two outs and a runner on first in the bottom of the 13th, Martin doubled to deep left, driving in the game's only run as the Stallions defeated the Bruins 1-0 at South County High School.

Martin's walk-off knock was South County's only hit of the night against Flesch, who suffered the tough-luck loss. Flesch, a senior right-hander, walked one, hit two batters and struck out 19 in 12 2/3 innings prior to surrendering Martin's game winner. Flesch threw 154 pitches, including 112 for strikes, and tossed a first-pitch strike to 27 of 42 batters faced.

MARTIN, A SENIOR RIGHT-HANDER, received a no decision, allowing eight hits in 12-plus shutout innings. She walked five, hit one batter and struck out 13. She threw 183 pitches, 119 for strikes. She threw a first-pitch strike to 34 of 52 batters faced.

"Ashley is such a great pitcher," Martin said. "It's always really fun whenever we play Lake Braddock because it's always such a close game. You have to really focus hard and not make any mistakes. If you miss one pitch or throw it right down the middle, that's going to give up the game, so you have to really keep focused for the entire game."

South County improved to 12-1 overall, including 5-0 against conference opponents. Lake Braddock dropped to 12-1, 5-1 against conference foes.

After throwing 12 shutout innings, Martin allowed a leadoff triple to Lake Braddock left fielder Danielle Newman in the top of the 13th. South County head coach Gary Dillow opted to replace Martin with junior right-hander Riley Wilkinson, who started the game at first base.

"[I] just felt like we needed to change it up there [after] the triple," Dillow said, "and just show them something a little different because they had been up so many times against Rebecca tonight."

The move paid off as Wilkinson struck out right fielder Emma Rakaowski, retired shortstop Amanda Patterson on a comebacker and struck out third baseman and leadoff batter Patty Maye Ohanian to leave Newman stranded at third.



South County pitcher Rebecca Martin shut Lake Braddock out for 12-plus innings on April 24.

"She had a phenomenal finish," Martin said.

While Wilkinson earned the win with a clutch relief appearance, Martin did the heavy lifting for South County in the pitcher's circle. It wasn't the first time in her career she was locked in scoreless, extra-innings duel. As a freshman, Martin threw a 12-inning, one-hit shutout against West Potomac in the 2011 Patriot District championship game. On that night, she struck out 17 and needed 178 pitches to out-duel then-Wolverine senior Morgan Maniglia as the Stallions won 2-0 at West Springfield High School.

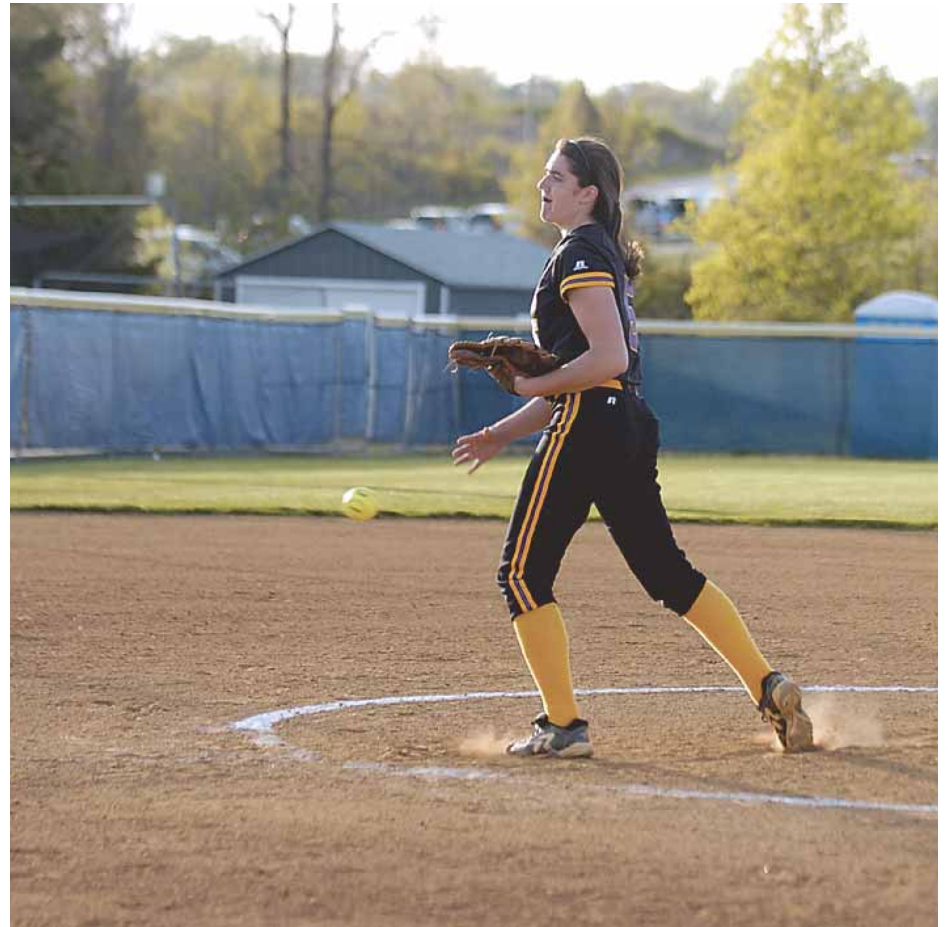
Martin said the experience as a freshman helped with her mental approach.

"[Martin] just competed her butt off," Dillow said. "She pitched a great game. [The Bruins are] one of the best teams in the state, I think, easily, and she held them to no runs through 12-plus. ... The ball is always moving. She doesn't throw much of anything straight. ... She just keeps people off balance, she hits her spots and she just competes."

Martin pitched well, but the Bruins had their opportunities.

LAKE BRADDOCK left 16 runners on base, including seven in scoring position. The Bruins loaded the bases with one out in the 10th, but Martin got out of the jam with a strikeout and a fly out to left field.

"We lost it because we stranded those runners," Lake Braddock head coach George Rumore said. "We definitely stranded more runners than they did. Then we had the girls at third base with less than two outs and we just couldn't get them in, so there's your



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock pitcher Ashley Flesch struck out 19 and surrendered just one hit in 12 2/3 innings against South County on April 24.

"It's always really fun whenever we play Lake Braddock because it's always such a close game. You have to really focus hard and not make any mistakes. If you miss one pitch or throw it right down the middle, that's going to give up the game, so you have to really keep focused for the entire game."

— South County pitcher Rebecca Martin

ball game right there."

While Lake Braddock had several chances to score, South County had just three batters reach base against Flesch prior to Martin's walk-off hit.

Shortstop Jade Williams was hit by pitches in the fourth and 13th innings, and came around to score the winning run. Right fielder Carley Kastner drew a leadoff walk in the seventh. Kastner put a charge into a ball in the 12th inning, but flew out to deep left, just a few feet shy of the fence (220 feet).

"[Flesch] was great," Rumore said. "Rebecca Martin was great, too. Both pitchers did an outstanding job, there was no question."

Flesch went 2-for-3 at the plate with a pair of singles. She reached base in five of six plate appearances, drawing three walks. Center fielder Jenna Edwards went 2-for-5 with a pair of singles. Second baseman Katherine Plescow, catcher Caroline Jones and Rakowski each had one hit for the Bruins.

Jones hit the ball hard several times dur-

ing the contest but fell victim to solid South County defense.

With runners on first and second and two outs in the sixth, Jones lined a 0-2 pitch to the left side, but Stallions shortstop Williams snagged the line drive to keep the game scoreless. Jones flew out to deep left in the eighth inning and, with a runner on first and one out in the 12th, Jones again hit the ball hard to the left side of the infield, but South County third baseman Caitlin Maglich made a nice pick and threw to second base for a force out.

"We're fine," Rumore said. "We've each got to play each other three times, probably, so we're fine. Nobody expects to go undefeated. It takes a huge effort to do that."

The Stallions and Bruins were scheduled for a rematch on April 29 at Lake Braddock Secondary School, but the game was postponed due to inclement weather.

"They're a great team and it's so much fun playing against them," Dillow said, "because we always have epic games."

SPORTS

West All-Stars Win Cap Classic

Lake Braddock's Gregorits, Woodson's Stynchula score in double figures.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

W.T. Woodson head coach Doug Craig convinced the West all-stars to play unselfish basketball prior to their matchup against the East all-stars at the 41st Annual Capital Classic.

The result was an early offensive explosion and one more victory in the prep basketball careers of nine Northern Virginia athletes.

The West all-stars scored 46 points in the first quarter and built a 33-point first-half lead en route to a 126-115 victory during the second of three games at the Capital Classic on April 26 at T.C. Williams High School. Eight of the nine athletes on the West roster scored in double figures, led by a 25-point performance from Herndon's Brandon Alston, who earned game MVP honors.

"We told them before the game, just everybody share the ball with each other because everybody here can play," said Craig, who coached the West all-stars after leading Woodson to a second consecutive region championship. "If we share the ball, everybody will score, everybody will look good and we'll get a 'W.'"

The West roster was composed of athletes from Northern Virginia schools, including Lake Braddock's Will Gregorits, Woodson's Andy Stynchula and Edison's Marcus Brumsey, Jr. Gregorits, whose Bruins finished 6A North region runner-up and reached the state tournament this season, scored 13 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. He will play next season at the University of the Sciences, a Division II school in Philadelphia.

"We played great," Gregorits said. "No one on the team was really selfish and that's what really helped us win. Everyone was willing to share the ball and they didn't care about the individual part of it. It was a lot of fun."

What is the 6-foot-7 Gregorits most looking forward to about playing in college?

"The physicality," he said. "I can't wait for that side of it. This year, a major part of my game was to get more physical and I've al-



Lake Braddock senior Will Gregorits scored 13 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for the West all-stars during the 41st Annual Capital Classic on April 26 at T.C. Williams High School.



Woodson senior and West all-star Andy Stynchula goes up for a dunk during the 41st Annual Capital Classic.



Woodson boys' basketball coach Doug Craig led the West all-stars to a 126-115 victory over the East all-stars during the 41st Annual Capital Classic.

ready started that aspect of it. I can't wait to get up there and just bang around." Stynchula, who was part of two region championship teams at Woodson, scored 10 points for the West all-stars.

"It's always nice when one of your kids gets rewarded with an all-star game appearance at something like this," Craig said. "Andy had a great career for us at Woodson and I'm real proud of him. He played well tonight, too, I thought."

Brumsey finished with 10 points and five assists.

Bishop Ireton's Patrick Moseh scored 18 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for the West. Moseh

played his freshman season at Lee High School before transferring to the private school in Alexandria. He will play college ball at Wheeling Jesuit University.

"I thought I was rusty but I think I did a good job," Moseh said. "... When I was a freshman, I never imagined I'd be here. I think the transition to the WCAC ... helped me be more aggressive."

Earlier in the day, the North all-stars defeated the South 109-106. Robinson's Joe Bynum was named to the South team, but did not play due to injury.

The U.S. all-stars defeated the Capital all-stars 139-134 in the main event.

Chris
Zimmerman,
Music Director,
Fairfax Sym-
phony Orchestra.



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'Carmina Burana' At Mason Stage

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra and Fairfax Choral Society join forces to present 'a compelling piece of music.'

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Where and When

The heat of musical fire is arriving soon thanks to the combined artistic forces of Fairfax County's own Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) and Fairfax Choral Society (FCS). Together, the partnership will bring musical and vocal hip and cool into our own backyard. Both Fairfax-based organizations have been entertaining audiences in the area for over five decades.

Now, add sizzling, sultry and dramatic to what is in store as the FSO and FCS reach-out to current audiences familiar with their work and to new audiences who are unfamiliar and want to take a look.

"Fairfax can and does produce entertainment at the very highest level - you don't need to look elsewhere for outstanding performances and great experiences," said Christopher Zimmerman, music director, FSO. On May 10 at the Center for the Arts, the FSO and FCS will bring the "enormity of their performing forces" to stage the famous "Carmina Burana," said Douglas Mears, artistic director, FCS. If you don't recognize that name, remember the music underscoring the recent Hershey's Spreadable Chocolate television advertising or excerpts heard in films ranging from "Excalibur" to "Natural Born Killers" to the trailer for "Glory," even an episode of "Glee."

Carol Orff's "Carmina Burana" is an exciting and very dramatic piece. It is a "roller coaster ride from start to finish," said Mears. It is "a fantas-

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra and Fairfax Choral Society performing at George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance: Saturday, May 10 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25-\$60. General information visit: www.fairfaxsymphony.org or www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org or call 888-945-2468 for tickets.

tically compelling piece of music." There will be hundreds of vocalists and musicians singing and playing live to enthral audience members.

"Carmina" has a wide variety of musical styles. "It has a tremendous drama and sense of momentum to it, it feels like something amazing is about to happen," said Zimmerman. Mears called it "a wildly exuberant and ecstatic musical setting of the poetry of wandering medieval monks, who believed that in both life and love, man is the pawn of capricious fate." Paired with "Carmina" will be a performance of Argentine musician Astor Piazzolla's delightful "The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires." This work was revolutionary in bringing jazz elements into traditional tango when written in 1965. It is music with multiple tempos and energy; impatient and melancholy, calm and vigorous, mirroring the urban setting and seasons that are Buenos Aires. Internationally renowned violinist Guillermo Figueroa will join the FSO to perform with own special "flair" noted Zimmerman.

There will be something for everyone as the rafters of the Center for the Arts shake and tremble.

VDOT Holds Six-year Improvement Plan Hearing

Public input sought on transportation improvement plan.

By ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

It was Northern Virginia's turn last week when Virginia Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) held a public hearing at the offices of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in Fairfax. The CTB is conducting meetings throughout the state to garner public opinion before their scheduled June vote on the state's Six-Year Improvement Plan 2015 - 2020 (SYIP). Various entities have held numerous meetings in recent months, particularly since HB 2313 — the first comprehensive transportation funding bill in the state for more than 27 years — passed in the General Assembly last year. Those meetings were often standing-room-only affairs, could witness dozens of citizens lined up to comment on particular projects or to suggest others, and frequently got a bit heated.

The April 24 CTB hearing featured more representatives from local jurisdictions and organizations than individual citizens. More praise and invitations for cooperation may have been heard than in the past and there was less of the "stop sign on this corner, please! wishlist" atmosphere that marked many of the open transportation meetings of late. There were even several acknowledgements of VDOT's efforts to keep Virginia roads clear and safe during the recent long, snow and ice-filled winter.

Not to say that those who spoke for the record weren't there to support the projects of particular interest to their constituents, or that there weren't some negative comments on parts of the plan or on the process.

LAYNE INTRODUCED the attending members of the CTB as well as guest panelist Martin Nohe, chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, who noted that his inclusion shows the level of cooperation being fostered between the state and the region. Layne summarized the agenda and the discussion on the table. Recently passed HB 2 received a large share of Layne's remarks. The new law, which takes effect on July 1, mandates a prioritization process for transportation project selection. "Congestion mitigation is the most heavily weighted factor by law when analyzing projects to be selected and funded in urban areas," Layne said. Other factors include economic development, accessibility, safety and environmental quality. "HB 2 is designed to inject more objectivity, to help ensure that the funds are used wisely," he added. Exempt from the scoring process would be projects already under way, and those funded by revenue sharing.



Virginia Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne hosts the Commonwealth Transportation Board's (CTB) public hearing at the Virginia Dept. of Transportation offices in Fairfax.



David Snyder, in his role as vice-chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, addressed the Commonwealth Transportation Board. To read Snyder's testimony go to www.thinkoutsidethecar.org.



Douglas Stewart represents the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club at the Commonwealth Transportation Board's public hearing.



Members of the Commonwealth Transportation Board listen to the public's comments Six-Year Plan 2015-2020.

Layne warned that there were challenges ahead. "We may not get this all right the first time. And there is the threat looming in August with about \$1 billion in federal funds up for re-authorization." He commented that most in the room had probably heard something about a budget scuffle going on in Richmond, referring to the state's budget impasse, largely over the inclusion of a full rollout of Medicaid, which the Governor supports but House Republicans oppose. "What we are working with here are mostly non-general funds, so they will not be significantly impacted by the budget discussions."

Before opening the floor to testimony on the SYIP, several of the panelists provided facts and figures about current or upcoming projects for regional transportation improvements. Charles Kilpatrick, the state's new Highways Commissioner noted \$700

million underway today, while newly appointed director of the state's Department of Rail and Public Transportation Jennifer Mitchell outlined spending allocations for VRE capital funds, the new Potomac Shores station, and other transit station improvements, including the allocation of 80 percent of the \$365 million for transit and rail work next year.

Some of the speakers to address the CTB panel included:

state Del. Jim LeMunyon, (R-67), whose comments included the need to fully fund and move forward with the I-66/Route 28 expansion and improvements, and to avoid any options that put more traffic on to Route 50.

Loudoun County Board Supervisor Suzanne Volpe (R-Algonkian District) said the county felt "blindsided" by some of the proposals in the SYIP Draft that would sig-

nificantly cut certain funds for road maintenance and improvement. Volpe also wanted the CTB to know that with the Draft only becoming available on April 18 — six days prior to the hearing — the timing of its release made any real review and analysis virtually impossible and that further review and commentary would be forthcoming.

David Snyder, vice mayor of Falls Church and the vice-Chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) read a statement for the record, presenting an economic case for increased and sustained funding for transit in Northern Virginia.

"This is a whole new generation today. They want transit that isn't cars and highways," he said. Snyder outlined "core capacity investments" that "will remove

SEE CITIZENS, PAGE 18

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF CLIFTON MAY 13, 2014

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Town Council and Planning Commission will hold a joint Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Clifton Community Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton, Virginia. The purpose is to consider amendment and revision of the Signs regulations within the Zoning Ordinance, found in Chapter 9, Article 2 General Regulations, Section 9-14 of the Code of Town of Clifton, Virginia. The proposed revision is available for review on the Town website <http://clifton-va.com> under the Town Council - News from the Council drop-down menu. A hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton, Virginia. All interested parties are encouraged to attend the Public Hearing to express their views with respect to the proposed amendment and revision of the Signs section of the Zoning Ordinance.

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Citizens Debate Transportation

FROM PAGE 16

35,000 cars from the road.” The NVTC was all in favor of a metrics system to evaluate projects, but stated that “the calculation of trips in the operating formula unfairly excludes trips made by tourists and many trips taken from airports, and uses a formula that only counts trips made by Virginians who live in Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) jurisdictions. Snyder said that the NVTC would continue to work cooperatively to see these issues addressed in the final version of the SYIP.

Arlington County Board member Mary Hynes, like Snyder, urged the CTB to emphasize the multi-modal approach to project approval. “Walking, biking, and transit for Arlington are not optional,” said Hynes, “to ensure the economic health of all the region, as well as the quality of life of Arlingtonians. With the highest job density and the second highest population, Arlington is unique, acting as something of a funnel for people on the move through and to and from Arlington.”

THE REPRESENTATIVE from the citizens' organization “Arlingtonians for Sensible Transit” was there to protest the planned Columbia Pike Streetcar project, calling it a “staggering waste of money,” and seeking more buses to handle the area's traffic needs.

The citizens of Vienna also worry that their quality of life and the “Main Street Village” they have worked for years to protect are being endangered by any plans that don't place transit over more cars, especially as the Tysons Corner development continues. Vienna Vice-Mayor Carey Sienicki was there to represent the Town.

Bob Chase, president of the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance voiced appreciation for all the hard work put in to date, but cautioned that the “plan is an enigma to the average citizen,” citing difficulty in wading through the VDOT website, the 55 pages of Northern Virginia projects and all of the related information and articles. Chase also stressed that it was important not to lose a sense of urgency as a result of the passage of HB2. “We've already been waiting a real long time,” he reminded the panel.

As the meeting concluded, the audience was reminded that VDOT was still conducting additional hearings, and that public commentary was most welcome for consideration. If unable to attend one of the public hearings, contact information is available on the website at www.vdot.virginia.gov. Comments must be received by June 2 to be considered prior to the vote on the SYIP. Also on the website is a list of all the projects being considered for approval in the current SYIP. Click on Northern Virginia as the “District” for the projects database.

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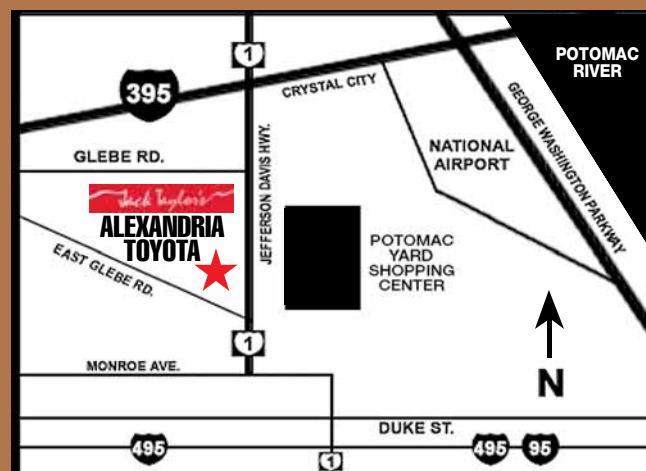
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Choosing a Summer Camp

Now is the time to register for summer camp; nearly infinite choices.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Many families with school age children will plan to have their children spend some of the much-anticipated summer season in camp. If you haven't yet selected camps for your children, now is the time.

"Popular classes and programs always fill early," said Kevin Rechen, camp director of Summer at Norwood in Potomac, Md.. "Families that are choosing a camp based on a specific program or class should register as soon as they can."

Whether you choose a traditional day camp, a specialty camp or a sleep away camp, the Washington, D.C. region has a multitude of offerings. The array of options can be overwhelming for some parents, but summer camps can be an important part of a child's development.

"Summer camp is an opportunity for children to develop social skills with their peers," said Linda Gulyn, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington, Va. "Camps give the benefits of social interaction in a more relaxed setting."

When selecting a camp, there are factors that parents should keep in mind. "When parents are looking for a camp they should try to find a camp where they're comfortable with the facility, the programming and counselors and staff," said Rechen.

"Developmentally, as children get older they get more specialized in their skills and interests," said Gulyn. "Summer camp is an opportunity to hone in on those skills. Go with the child's interest and skills and further develop those because they are an important part of a child's identity."

Specialty camps can help children develop creative thinking and problem-solving skills.

For example, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria offers camps that include Quadcopters and Video Editing, MiKiDo Mixed Martial Arts, CSI Detective, Hunger Games, Civil War, Fantasy Battle Gaming, Filmworx Movie Making, Eco-Adventures, Junior Musical Theater, Zooology, [and] Junior Veterinarian, said Linda Stratton of SSSAS.

OTHER SPECIALTY CAMPS include cooking camps, yoga camps and sports camps that run the gamut from tennis to hockey.

At George Mason University, high school juniors and seniors will have an opportunity to attend a camp that will give them a



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

Campers at Hidden Oaks Nature Center find something interesting while exploring the creek.



MADEIRA SCHOOL PHOTOS

Activities from summer camps held at Madeira School in McLean.

head start on college. "It's not your parents' summer camp," said Sudha Kamath. "Mason is giving high school juniors and seniors the chance to take some rare classes for college credit, covering everything from insects that crawl underground to objects that spin through outer space."

Cathy Evans, director of special projects at George Mason University said, "Subjects include astronomy, biology, chemistry, computer science, economics, environmental

science, ethics, global affairs, health behavior, history, mathematics, nutrition and public speaking. The sky's the limit as students explore topics like 'Stars, Galaxies and the Universe' and 'The Ecosphere.'"

Camp Greenway at The Madeira School offers three options for two-week camp sessions, said Laura Temple, spokeswoman for school in McLean, Va. "Water sports, games, team sports, music, arts and crafts, and MAD Science are all part of the daily action

for campers."

The Fairfax County Park Authority offers camps nature camps that are designed to immerse children in the outdoors. "We want the children to connect with the world around them," said Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer, Fairfax County Park Authority. "When they leave camp, we hope that they have a deeper appreciation for the world around them for and the environment." You don't need to be a resident of Fairfax County to attend the camps, Pedersen said.

ANOTHER OPTION is sleep away camp, which can sometimes be a nerve-wracking but rewarding experience for both a parent and a child.

How does a parent know that their child is ready for to make this leap? "It is going to vary from child to child and family to family," said Michele C. Garofalo, Ed.D., assistant chair, Department of Counseling and a professor of Psychology at Marymount University in Arlington. "I think if a child has spent time having sleep overs with friends and has done ok, and is independent and feels comfortable sleeping at friends' houses then it should be fine."

Garofalo suggests that the first sleep away camp experience should be brief.

"I think you want to do a shorter experience to get them ready. The first summer, send them to a four-day camp to test the waters. Their first experience should be at a camp that is close to home. Don't send them to a camp in California the first time."

An open dialog between parent and child is key. "Explain to the child that they are going to be on their own and tell them what will be expected of them," said Garofalo. "Parents can prepare their children and have an honest conversation about what will happen at the camp."

Those who think they can't afford the cost of summer camp should research financial aid options. "Many summer camps offer financial aid and there are foundations that give grants for camps," said Rechen.

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Local Farm Provides Fresh Food for Underserved

Arcadia hosts mobile market and camp for children.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

For many, spring symbolizes fresh flowers, new beginnings and baseball, but for those who work at Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture, located on the grounds of the Woodlawn Estate in Mount Vernon, spring means another season of working to ensure that all members of the community have access to fresh, healthy food.

"All of our programs start up again in spring," said Morgan Maloney, farm education manager.

Arcadia runs a camp where children from ages 6-11 get to experience life on a farm and learn about the source of their food. Arcadia officials are raising money to offer financial assistance to those who need it.

"Campers spend most of their time in our educational garden," said Maloney. "One fourth of the farm is specifically designed for that age group and is called the groundhog garden."

"I am really excited because we have 30 farm camp scholarships, but we still need more money to make it happen for families who would not be able to send their children to camp," said Hess.

She is passionate when she talks about her mission to ensure that all children are able to attend a camp where they are safely immersed in the outdoors. "This camp counteracts nature deficit disorder," she said. "There are no electronics. The children are



PHOTO BY GENE BUONACORSI

Arcadia runs a camp where children from 6-11 years old get to experience life on a farm and learn about the source of their food.

sweaty and happy. They have a lot of independence and freedom to make choices."

Arcadia offers other educational opportunities for children. "In the spring when school is in session, I am running field trips," said Maloney. "Kids come to the farm for purpose of hands-on learning."

"We have efforts going on right now to expand all of the organization's services," said Hess.

OTHER PROGRAMS, which advance Arcadia's mission and serve the community, include the Arcadia Farm, which serves as an example of environmentally and economically sustainable growing practices; the Mobile Market, which distributes fresh, affordable food to underserved D.C. area

neighborhoods; the Food Hub, which provides services that support and promote local sustainable farms, and the Farm to School program, which provides healthy, local food for school meals as well as hands-on food and farm education.

"There is always a lot of work to do in the off season," said Benjamin Bartley, mobile market director. "It is exciting because we've been able to expand our services each year. We've expanded our number of stops to 10 this year. I feel particularly good about the way that we've gone. I feel pretty prepared for the market season."

"The mobile market is very effective," said Pam Hess, Arcadia's executive director. "They are in the right places, our prices are great, the food is fresh. We get first quality

How to Get Involved

For more information on becoming a member of Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture, The Arcadia Mobile Market Seasonal Cookbook, the Arcadia Farm Camp, Spring Dinner or any of the organization's other programs, visit <http://arcadiafood.org/>.

ARCADIA FARM CAMP

- ❖ **Farm** — Campers learn about daily farm life. From morning chores like watering, harvesting, and collecting eggs to planting seeds and tilling garden beds, kids get to be the farmers at Arcadia Farm Camp.
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- ❖ **Fun** — Farm camp combines learning and play in a safe, interactive outdoor environment. Each day includes free time in the Groundhog Garden and Natural Play Space, as well as active, educational games led by experienced staff.

food and bring it to low income people. We don't take leftovers like mushy apples or bruised bananas and give it to them."

"It is easy to eat well in this town if you have money," she continued. "One thing we've learned from our customers is that they care about eating healthy, but have less economic power to make those wishes known."

The staff is also excited about their new cookbook, "The Arcadia Mobile Market Seasonal Cookbook," written by Arcadia's culinary educator and mobile market outreach coordinator JuJu Harris.

"We put together seasonal recipes that incorporate ingredients that are WIC (The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) staples," said Bartley. "We are going to be giving these away to those who use food assistance programs. We're looking forward to getting it into the hands of those who it was written for."

Summer Learning Activities

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When summer vacation begins and school ends in a few weeks, learning doesn't have to take a hiatus. Students can keep their academic skills sharp without entering a classroom or even sitting down with a pencil and paper.

Local educators say opportunities for reading, math, science and history skills are plentiful and none require that children set foot in a school. From a walk in the park to a trip to the grocery store, teachable moments are virtually everywhere.

"There are a thousand ways to do it, but reading is critical," said Marjorie Myers, Ed.D., principal, Francis Scott Key Elementary School in Arlington. "I think the most important thing to do is read in a fun way. Read as a family. Parents can read challenging books to their children. Go to your local library and take advantage of fun ac-

tivities there.

Some elementary schools encourage their students to read and discuss what they are reading with their parents.

Blake M. Giliotti, staff development teacher at Potomac Elementary in Potomac, Md., said, "We ask kids to read and then have discussions with their parent about what they are reading. We don't ask them to do anything written because we don't want them belabored by school work during summer."

The book discussions or questions that parents ask their children about books don't need to be complicated, Giliotti said. "It can also be as simple as saying, 'Tell me about what you are reading.' Engaging in a natural conversation about a book can give you insight into what your child understands and helps build oral communication skills," she said.

WHEN IT COMES TO science, Len Annetta, Ph.D., professor of Science at

George Mason University says he and his wife Jennifer spend a lot of time at the Smithsonian museums with their two children, Samantha, 13, and Joey, 11.

"We particularly like the Air and Space Museum," he said. "It keeps them engaged in science. We walk around together and we ask them questions after we leave a museum. When they get home they get to go online and do more research on things that interest them."

There are subtle science lessons to be learned even when taking a summer stroll. "We're out for a nature walk and we see an animal or plant and we start talking about it," said Annetta. "We also look at and talk about grasses and trees and animals."

For parents who don't have a science background, Annetta suggests looking up information on a smart phone during a walk or museum trip.

A shopping trip can also be an opportunity for a math lesson, said Myers. "Take

your children to the grocery store and use actual money instead of credit cards, so the children can see a value for money and numbers," she said. "Give children an allowance so they can make the connection between money and the cost of things they want to buy. Sitting in a class room with fake money doesn't quite get it."

This area offers an abundance of locations for history lessons. "I go out to the battle fields near Manassas," Anetta said. "There are placards that help describe what is going on. There are a lot of local museums that offer the same opportunities."

Keeping a journal is another way to keep skills sharp outside of a structured setting.

"Keeping a travel or camp journal is a fun and easy way to support academic skills," said Benita Cathey, director of admissions at Grace Episcopal School in Alexandria. "A travel or camp journal reinforces writing, geography and social studies and organizational skills."

Prepare for New SAT

This summer, read challenging books.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Linda Mitchell and her 15-year-old daughter, Alexis, say they don't really know what to expect when Alexis sits for the SAT college admissions exam in 2016, but they're not too worried at this point. Two years is a long time.

"I'm just going to make sure she gets the best education possible," said Mitchell, who lives in Great Falls. "There's nothing else that I can really do at this point."

Local experts said that Mitchell's strategy is wise, explaining that the best way current ninth grade students (and those who are younger) can prepare for the test is to become strong readers and writers.

"It would appear that College Board's recent announcement regarding the redesigning of the SAT will indeed have some impact on how students, mainly current ninth graders, will prepare for standardized tests in the coming years," said Michael R. Hude, a college counselor at The Heights School in Potomac, Md. "The best way to prepare for any standardized test is to work hard in everyday coursework and to read as many



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SEE SAT, PAGE 7

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Ideas for Summer

Avoid those dreaded words: 'I'm bored.'

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Molly McAlister enjoys the freedom of summer, but there are three words she dreads hearing: "Mom, I'm bored." Creating activities to keep her three children busy during the summer is a task she enjoys, but it isn't always easy.

"I love taking the kids swimming or on bike rides, but sometimes I run out of ideas," said McAlister who lives in Centreville.

Many parents allow "screen time" to keep children happy, but it's important to interact with them as well.

"Some parents will give their child an iPhone or an iPad to entertain them," said Michele C. Garofalo, Ed.D., assistant chair, Department of Counseling and a professor of Psychology at Marymount University in Arlington. "Interacting with children and being involved with them rather than giving them electronic activities is important. It is important for kids to figure out how to interact with their parents and friends."

"Summer is a wonderful time for parents to get to know their kids and interact with them in a different way," said Garofalo, who lives in McLean.

One way that families can spend quality time together is by creating art, said Dabney Cortina of the McLean Project for the Arts in McLean. In addition to summer camps, McLean Project for the Arts offers family workshops where parents and children create art together.

"The whole process of creating is so important to a child's development and it's so important to be with your children and create something together," said Cortina. "I see the smiles as the children and adults put their heads together to create things. I think it's also a wonderful release for adults."

"Summer is a wonderful time for parents to get to know their kids and interact with them in a different way."

— Michele C. Garofalo, Ed.D

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS are a great way to spend time and help children learn during the summer.

"Let them spearhead a yard sale," Garofalo said. "Kids gather the items, make flyers and put the flyers in everyone's mailbox. They can donate the money to charity so you can tie in a service project."

Spend time in the kitchen. "You and your children can do a lot of baking and donate the items to a homeless shelter," said Garofalo. "With parental approval and guidance, kids can also do dog walking or water flowers for neighbors who are away."

For families who want to spend time in nature, Len Annetta, Ph.D. Professor in the College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University suggests the Manassas National Battlefield Park. The park, which is home to more than 160 species of birds, has been recognized National Audubon Society as an Important Bird Area.

"Our area has so much history," said Annetta. "Most of these place don't cost money but can immerse students in something educational, which is really critical."

FOR PARENTS who plan a summer of varied activities, specialty camps as well as parent-child activities are worthy options. Even one or two sessions of week-long specialty camps can add to a child's summer.

Deb Burger of the Potomac Horse Center in North Potomac, Md., said they offer camps where children learn equestrian skills and are given information about the history of horses, breeds, colors, markings, anatomy, horse care and grooming. "Campers also do horse-related arts and crafts," said Burger. "They have a good time, make friends, increase their love of horses and improve their ability to ride. Kids come from Maryland, Virginian and even overseas."

Tony Castrilli, Director of Public Affairs for Fairfax County says the county is offering nature camps during the summer.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SSSAS

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School's Physics is Fun! Camp



PHOTO COURTESY OF SSSAS

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School's Lower School Academic Enrichment Camp



MADEIRA SCHOOLS PHOTO



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

Hidden Pond Nature Center campers use nets to catch and identify critters living in Pohick Creek.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



Campers at Hidden Oaks Nature Center marvel at a crayfish they netted.

Summer SAT Prep

FROM PAGE 5

Test Prep

of words,” said test preparation expert Harriet Broder of Break-through Test Prep. “If you’re a strong reader, you’re going to do well on the test.”

So how can parents help their children become more effective readers? “I have had students who say they hate reading,” said Broder. “One thing that parents can do, for example, for children who don’t like to read, is if their child wants to go see a movie, the parent can say ‘Read at least two or three reviews about this movie and the tell me why you want to see it.’ That is the place to start for non-readers.”

“There’s no magic SAT fairy dust,” she said. “Students should be exposed to different types of writing,” said Broder. “They will be able to apply their skills more comfortably.”

Broder also said improving reading speed and learning to recognize an author’s main point and how the author had developed that point are critical skills. “Kids need to be trained to read to learn the author’s thesis,” she said. “Some students can read a chapter in a school book and can answer questions at the end, but they can’t tell you the main point the author is trying to make.”

Broder said an improved reading ability can be accomplished with “step-by-step ... strategies in critical reading, problem-solving [and] vocabulary development ...”

Officials at Bishop O’Connell High School in Arlington said they will focus on professional development strategies for teachers so they can help prepare students for the new test format.

“The proposed changes to the SAT will definitely have some impact in the way students prepare for the exam. The elimination of more obscure vocabulary words, free online test prep materials and aligning the test to coincide with what students actually learn in high school will allow students to focus more clearly on what they need to know to do well,” said Kristina Herbst, the school’s director of college counseling. “Also, the elimination of the penalty for wrong answers will make the test more user-friendly and help eliminate much anxiety over guessing while taking the test.”

For those concerned about how the revised test might impact their admittance to their top college choices, officials at Marymount University in Arlington said they don’t foresee a large adjustment.

The College Board has partnered with Khan Academy, a not-for-profit educational organization; to provide free, supplemental test preparation resources for those taking the soon-to-be redesigned SAT in 2016. By spring 2015, students will have access to state-of-the-art, interactive learning tools. Those taking the 2014 or 2015 SAT can gain access to hundreds of previously unreleased math, reading and writing questions from real SATs and more than 200 videos that show step-by-step solutions to each question. Visit www.khanacademy.org/sat.

“When we evaluate applicants, we look at the applicant holistically and consider not only their high school GPA and rigor, but their letters of reference and the level of engagement at their school and/or community,” said Francesca Reed, associate vice president for enrollment at Marymount.

“In an age when colleges are considering test-optional admissions, standardized tests will need to demonstrate that they provide admissions offices with resources that otherwise wouldn’t have been determined through grades and other requirements.”

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Holiday/Spring/Teacher Workday Camps → Interactive Xergym & Sport Climbing Wall → Kidfit* → Birthday and Team Parties* (using our climbing wall, XERGYM, and/or pool) → Kids Nite Out* (4 hours of fun & play give Mom and Dad a "date night") → KidZone*

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Musical, Murder Mystery Whodunnit Comedy

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A whodunnit, murder mystery, musical comedy, "Curtains" is Robinson Secondary's upcoming Cappies play. Show times are Thursday-Saturday, May 8, 9, 10, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 at www.robinsondrama.org.

There's a show within the show, and the lead actress of that play, "Robbin' Hood," is murdered on opening night at the end of her performance. So the cast and crew are kept in the theater for questioning because they're all suspects. The story happens over 48 hours as the actors are replacing the lead, rehearsing and fixing their show, while trying to solve the murder.

There'll be a 22-piece orchestra, plus a cast and crew of 85 that's been rehearsing since January. "We wanted a show that was a little off the beaten path, had a large cast and was light, frothy fun with music," explained Director Chip Rome. "And since it's about the theater, it's particularly fun for us to do and the audience should enjoy it."

IT TAKES PLACE at Boston's Colonial Theatre in 1959 and is PG-13 for language, violence and sexual innuendo. Nili Bassman, a former Robinson theater student, was an understudy in the Broadway show directed by another Robinson alumnus, Scott Ellis. So, said Rome, "It's an appropriate show for us to do."

Delighted with his cast, he said, "I have talented people in the leads – and everyone who auditioned for a lead role was so good that they're either a lead or in the ensemble." And for the first time, audiences will see what the backstage really looks like and will watch the stage manager and crew move the sets into position.

"There are numerous costume changes, ranging from formal wear to cowboy duds to pajamas," said Rome. "The audience will like the broadly drawn, fun characters and the plot's surprises. They'll also love the

jazzy music, and the dancing is fabulous."

Jamie Green portrays Christopher Belling, "Robbin' Hood's" director. "He's British, egotistical and takes credit for what others do," said Green. "He's witty, but sarcastic. He hated the victim, as did everyone else, because she was mean and not talented. It's fun playing him because he has so much attitude and I have the freedom to decide how to treat the other actors."

Green's favorite song is "In the Same Boat," a big number that's sung three times because the "Robbin' Hood" composers keep rewriting it. "The final version is amazing and so much fun to watch," he said. "The whole show keeps you on your toes, trying to figure out who's the killer. There's happy-go-lucky, upbeat, square-dancing music and some lyrics have double entendres. And people's priorities to solve the murder get put aside to fix the play they're rehearsing."

Playing the detective's love interest, Nikki Harris, is senior Maddy Ingram. "She's the stereotypical, naïve ingénue," said Ingram. "She loves theater more than anything and is hardworking and passionate about what she does. She's a bit ditzzy, but there's more to her than meets the eye." It's Ingram's first lead at Robinson and the most challenging because of her big dance number. "Nikki has her fun moments, and I like playing a love interest and flirting," said Ingram. "And I relate to her because musical theater's what I want to do, too."

SHE LIKES THE SONG, "Tough Act to Follow," because it's cheerful and theatrical and "the choreography's cute and quirky. The show's very clever; it gives an inside view of what theater's like. There are a lot of mess-ups along the way, but the final product is really good."

Senior Spencer Boyd portrays Lt. Frank Cioffi, a Boston police detective trying to solve the murder. "He's a fun character because he's trying to be serious and do his job, but he has a tremendous love of theater," said Boyd. "So he's giddy to be onstage and has to find that balance and stay pro-



Looking for good reviews of their play are (from left) Stephen Diggs, Hannah Sikora, Alex Bulova and Katie Rogers.

fessional. He also does community theater whenever he can."

Boyd loves his part because "I like playing comedic roles and my character has some great one-liners." As for the audience, he said, "It's a fun show to watch. Everyone has lots of energy and there are great jokes and musical numbers. It's just a good time at the theater."

Playing Georgia Hendricks, half of the "Robbin' Hood" songwriting team, is senior Katie Rogers. "She's mature, but pretty sassy," said Rogers. "Her composing partner is her ex-husband Aaron [Stephen Diggs], so it's tense working with him. But she's also a caring person who comforts the others after the murder. She gets to have married-couple arguments with Aaron and returns to the stage after the murder. She also has a really big, song-and-dance number, 'Thataway,' where people are standing on tables and doing back flips. And it's been so much fun doing that number as Madame Marian in 'Robbin' Hood.'"

Overall, said Rogers, "The audience will love that it's a murder mystery that's funny, campy and lighthearted. And each character has their own back story, so the audience gets to know them throughout the show."



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION
Sharing a fantasy dance are Maddy Ingram and Spencer Boyd in Robinson Secondary's production of 'Curtains.'

Camps●Notes

Hiring Staff for Summer

The Fairfax County Park Authority has scheduled open hiring sessions to recruit summer staff for its Rec-PAC (Pretty Awesome Children) program, a six-week structured recreational program for elementary school children that runs from June 30-Aug. 7, 2014. An open hiring session will take place at the Park Authority's headquarters in Fairfax, and another session will take place at Navy Elementary School, also in Fairfax.

Rec-PAC will operate at 50 elementary school locations around Fairfax County on weekdays this summer. Staff will be assigned to a site and work daily from 8:15 a.m.-3:45 p.m. or 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Applicants must be at least age 18 and bring an original social security card and a DMV photo I.D. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/

rec-pac/rec-pac-open-hires.htm for more information and applications.

Open hire sessions are scheduled on Wednesday, May 14, 5-7 p.m. at Navy Elementary school and Thursday, May 29, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on the first floor of the Herrity Building. The Herrity Building is located at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035. Navy ES is located at 3500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22033.

For additional information, contact the Rec-PAC office by email at Recpac@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Summer Reading

Find suggested summer reading lists by grade level on the Fairfax County Public Schools website at www.fcps.edu/is/summer/reading.

The Fairfax County Summer Reading Program encourages children and teens to read for pleasure during summer vacation. It is held in cooperation

with Fairfax County Public Schools. The summer reading program runs June 20-Aug. 30. Children from birth to sixth grade read 15 books. Students in grades 7-12 read eight books. Learn more about the Fairfax County Public Library summer reading program www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/srp.

In order to encourage and support reading achievement, every student who will be entering FCPS grades six through 12 in the fall must read at least one book over the summer. The follow-up in the fall will be determined by each school. The Summer Reading lists contain suggestions for reading; although students may read any other book that is approved by their parents, except where individual schools have issued their own summer reading requirements. Any school-based requirements supercede the County requirement.

Some schools and courses, particularly at the high school level, have additional summer assignments. Parents and students should inquire about summer assignments when registering at the

school. Most of these assignments are posted at the individual school web sites.

FCPS students can access online digital books (ebooks): www.fcps.edu/is/libraryservices/books.shtml

The Fairfax County Public Libraries have lists of many good books for readers of all ages: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/reading/

Connections reading is designed to assist teachers, parents, and others working with children in selecting books that reinforce the Virginia Standards of Learning in the four core content areas of English, history, math, and science. The books in the Connections database represent a wide variety of books available for children; however, it is not inclusive of all the books available. Remember, not all books are appropriate for use with all children; read and familiarize yourself with a book before you decide to use it with children. <http://itweb.fcps.edu/connections/index.cfm>