

Robinson Receives Six Cappie Nominations

News, Page 8

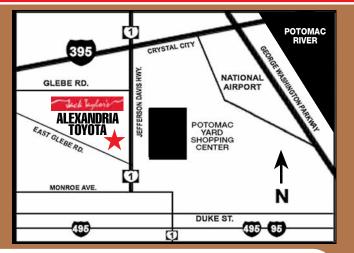
Bhinge and Deepak Bhinge.

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News

Fairfax Connection Editor Kemal Kurspahic 703-778-9414 or South@connectionnewspapers com



Artist's rendition of the Old Town Square plaza in downtown Fairfax.



Artist's rendition of the interactive fountain with pergola in the background.

This'll Really Put Us on the Map'

Fairfax City Council OKs \$4 million Old Town Square project.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

he Fairfax City Council has green-lighted the long-anticipated, Old Town Square project and awarded a \$4 million contract to F.H. Paschen Techtonics Corp. to make it a reality. But for awhile, it was touch-and-go.

In fact – concerned about the cost and whether two water features were necessary – the members initially voted no. But after taking a break, holding a work session and getting further information from City staff, they approved it unanimously.

"This'll be a landmark because of what it'll do for our downtown," said Councilman Dan Drummond. "It'll help the businesses, bring foot traffic, give us a gathering place and really put us on the map."

THE PROJECT INCLUDES two parking lots with permeable, brick-paver parking; ADA-compliant, brick, pedestrian walkways; a two-tiered plaza; storage sheds with a connecting pergola; an interactive water feature and a cascade water feature; a memorial garden area; preservation and enhancement of the existing Kitty-Pozer Garden; landscaping; lighting; and utility-infrastructure improvements.

In addition, a 90-foot, pedestrian safety barrier will be built along the north face of the Auld Shebeen restaurant where the sidewalk grade is lower than the adjacent North Street travel lanes. And the gravel Amoco parking lot at Main/East streets will be paved for better public parking. The pedestrian barrier costs about \$230,000, and the parking-lot resurfacing, about \$65,000. The remaining \$3.7 million is for the park.

At the May 13 City Council meeting, Drummond noted how much community



Diagram of the Old Town Square site plan.

involvement by various groups and committees went into this project. "I look forward to the groundbreaking and the community going there," he said.

"I've been concerned with the escalating costs," said Councilman Michael DeMarco. "But I believe it'll be an economic benefit to the City and help draw people to it. And the additional hardscape of the water feature, when not in use, will also be a place where we can hold events."

However, Councilwoman Ellie Schmidt said she was "a little surprised at the amount of money we're spending on this. I'm in favor of the park, but do we need two water amenities?"

"It'll bring a diverse group of people downtown, so I support it," said Councilman Steven Stombres. "We need to work with the downtown community to address the significant need for parking, but I think this park will be an incredible asset to the community."

Councilman David Meyer said he, too, favored the project and noted the public hearings and meetings the City had held on it. Calling the downtown area a "work in progress," he said it needs "multiple draws" to make it a success and this project is just

one of them. And, he added, "I don't believe the interactive water feature is appropriate for this site."

Mayor Scott Silverthorne agreed with him about that water feature. However, he said, "Five City Councils have endorsed this project [and], on balance, I think this is good for downtown and the City."

But when they voted, it was a 3-3 tie – Schmidt, Meyer and DeMarco voted no – and Silverthorne also voted no and placed the item on an upcoming agenda. Yet it didn't end there; instead, the members took a brief break, reconvened into a work session and, with Silverthorne saying, "It seems to me, there's room for compromise," tackled it again.

Councilman Jeff Greenfield asked Director of Public Works David Summers the financial impact of a change order to remove one water feature, how it would affect the construction schedule and if the project would have to be re-bid if they changed it.

"Both water features have a fairly complicated infrastructure – drain pipes, water supply, valves, electrical, etc.," said Summers. "So we'd have to provide the contractor with information on what would be taken out of the drawings." Then, he said,

the City would have to pay to have the drawings revised and the contractor would have to revise his bid accordingly – possibly delaying the project six weeks.

Summers also figured the City's savings would be about 15 percent of the project cost. "That's a material-enough change that you might need to re-bid the entire project," added City Attorney Brian Lubkeman.

"So the savings we could potentially realize by removing these features we could actually lose by the process of rebidding this," said Greenfield. Summers said that's right and also noted that "the City would no longer be able to hold the contractor to the original completion date" if changes were made.

"We've been at this for a very long time and the project today is a compromise," said Greenfield. He said the same number of parking spaces there now would remain and a downtown destination would be created, plus "some synergy between the library and downtown. And we have the ability to turn off [the water feature], put chairs and tables over top of it and still utilize that space."

Stombres said this project might not be perfect, but the community didn't expect the City to reject it. And if that happened, he said, it would discourage investment in Fairfax. So he encouraged his colleagues to reconsider their votes.

"There are parts of this project that each of us don't like," said Stombres. "But I feel that, if we don't go forward with it, we're making a pretty significant mistake."

Agreeing, Drummond said changing the design would cost another \$80,000, and "I think the community would be disappointed in us. There's a sacred bond we have with the community; when we say we're going to do something, we do it. This is an investment in the City, in our community and in our economy."

WHEN THE COUNCIL RECONVENED

into a regular meeting, DeMarco, Schmidt and Meyer said they hadn't realized the financial and time ramifications of changing the project now. They and their colleagues then approved it unanimously.

WEEK IN FAIRFAX

Embezzlement Is Charged

City of Fairfax police have charged an employee of a City business with embezzling from her employer. She is Terri Wade, 44, of Landover, Md. Police were contacted May 28, at 8:34 a.m., by the owner of Affordable Primary Care, 10721 Main St. in Fairfax. They say he reported that an employee had allegedly written fraudulent checks on his business account and also made several unauthorized charges to a credit card account used by the business.

After an investigation by the Patrol Division, the employee, Wade, 44, was arrested and taken to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. She was then charged with one count of embezzlement and three counts each of uttering and forgery. She was held on \$7,000 bond.

Amoco Lot Now Closed

E.H. Paschen is constructing the Old Town Square project at the previous Amoco Lot at the southwest corner of the Main/East streets intersection, and at the block bounded by Main Street, University Drive, North Street, and Old Lee Highway. It will also include some street improvements at the southeast corner of the Chain Bridge Road/North Street intersection. As of Wednesday, June 4, the Amoco lot will be closed for construction for about 30 days.

How to Reduce Stress

To reduce stress and improve focus and performance, many people practice mindfulness. Two experts will explain it Monday, June 9, at 7:30 p.m., at Woodson High. A program called "Managing Stress: How Mindfulness Training in Our Schools Can Benefit Students, Educators and Parents," will be held in the school auditorium, 9525 Main St. in Fairfax. This free event is a partnership between MINDS, The Josh Anderson Foundation and FCPS. For more information, contact info@mindsincorporated.org.

City Council Meeting June 10

The next meeting of the Fairfax City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, at 7 p.m., at City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. in Fairfax.

Rudnicki Wins Technology Award

City of Fairfax Emergency Coordinator Ken Rudnicki has received the Innovation Award for Technology from the Virginia Emergency Management Association. It was for his development of the NOVA Damage Reporting Tool. The free application (for iOS and Android) allows Northern Virginia residents to use their Smartphone, computer or tablet to report damage or flooding. For information, call 703-385-4856.

Tai Chi Expert Offers Chi Cultivation Workshop

Learn how to gather, condense and pack chi (energy) into the body at a hands-on workshop with Tai Chi expect David Cohen from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 7 at Green Acres Center in Fairfax.

Cultivating chi provides the body with better relaxation and chi sensitivity for healing and martial arts application. Chi, which translates to "spirit" or "energy of life," is considered to be "the energy inherent in all things."

The workshop, which costs \$30, is offered through the City of Fairfax Parks and Recreation Department. Students can sign up online via the City of Fairfax website (www.fairfaxva.gov/parksrec) or by calling 703-385-7858. Click here for a direct link for the class description and registration: https://apm.activecommunities.com/fairfaxcityrecdept/Activity_Search/adv-skills-tai-chi-workshop/7035

Cohen also teaches multiple Tai Chi classes for the city. One class, held at 5:45 p.m. Mondays, is for adults of all ages. Seniors are invited to take his class Friday mornings at the Green Acres Senior Center through the City of Fairfax Parks and Recreation Department.

For more information about Tai Chi, contact David Cohen at 703-638-0172 or getinshapewithdavid@gmail.com.

News



Rohil Bhinge calls "on your marks..." to participants at the starting line of his first Fun Run event.

Photos by Meena Bhing

Fifth Grader Honored as Lord Fairfax

Mosby Woods Elementary student Rohil Bhinge earns award for excellent community volunteering.

By Thomas Friestad The Connection

erhaps no individual embodies the old adage "big things come in small packages" more closely than Rohil Bhinge.

At this point in Rohil's 10-year-old life, thas already accumulated a series of high achieve-

he has already accumulated a series of high achievements. He has entered the Advanced Academic Program at Mosby Woods Elementary, become a member of American Mensa Gifted Youth and competed at the state level of the National Geographic Bee. Most recently, as of Tuesday, Rohil has been recognized as Lord Fairfax, an award presented to one individual from each district who has demonstrated superior volunteer service, heroism or other special accomplishments.

Over the past two years, Rohil and his family have organized two local Fun Runs, with a third planned for this Saturday. Thus far, he has raised approximately \$3,200 for the Fairfax County Park Foundation. This money will be allocated toward the Chessie's BIG Backyard project, a community playground allowing for children and adults with disabilities to play together.

"I just like to help people who don't have enough opportunities, so Chessie's BIG Backyard will allow for this," Rohil said. "The playground is designed for disabled people, and allows people to play with both non-disabled and disabled people together."

Rohil said his greatest challenge about organizing Fun Runs is worrying about the attendance of runners at his events.

"Most people sign up one or two days before a Fun Run, and for the Fun Run I'm having Saturday, only two families have signed up, although other people are all going to come too," Rohil said. "That's one of the challenges I face, worrying that not enough people are going to come, and that we won't raise enough money for the park." and approximately approximately and approximately approximate

ROHIL'S FATHER, Deepak Bhinge of Fairfax, said Rohil was inspired to start organizing Fun Runs when he discovered at a ribbon-cutting event for Phase One



Alongside Sharon Bulova, Rohil Bhinge, 10, speaks about the cause for which he is holding his Fun Run: to fund the Chessie's BIG Backyard project and offer disabled citizens an accessible playground.

of Chessie's BIG Backyard that Phase Two would only begin development when it received adequate funding.

"When he found out more money was needed for Phase Two, he asked 'How can I contribute?" Deepak said. "He's always got this helping nature, and even in school, he's mentoring little children in reading and running. That's his main thing."

Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman, who nominated Rohil as a Lord Fairfax candidate, said she attended his Fun Runs and appreciated his service efforts.

"I think the organizational skills for a young man of his age are just exceptional," Bulova said. "Not many kids are thinking about others in the way Rohil does, so that kind of compassion is just pretty exceptional."

Roberta Longworth, Fairfax County Park Foundation Executive Director, said Rohil's service greatly benefits the Park System by increasing its ability to

SEE HONORED, PAGE 10

News

Saluting the Seniors

Ceremony in Fairfax recognizes high school seniors who are enlisting in the military.

By Emma Harris
The Connection

s high school nears its end for the many seniors of Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties, students are faced with countless options of what will be their next step in life.

For a small group of seniors, this step means one thing — enlisting in the military. In the fourth annual Enlistee Recognition Ceremony, the Northern Virginia chapter of Our Community Salutes, along with over 200 community members, gathered at George Mason University Thursday, May 29 to thank and support about 50 seniors who have chosen to enlist in the military after graduation. "No matter what branch of service you've chosen, what you've done is an honorable thing and something you should be proud of," said Marine Corps Sergeant Major Mark Byrd, a guest speaker. "Not many take on this challenge," he said, adding that only half a percent of Americans enlist to serve their country.

"You are a special group of people," Byrd said, "and you will be the heroes that your siblings and family members will try to emulate."

"We are proud to have such fine men and women

defending our country," said Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, commending the enlistees for sacrificing their personal needs and desires for their country. "You all are an inspiration," she said. Aaron Gilchrist, an NBC4 news anchor and master of ceremonies, then read the names of the enlistees as they walked across the stage to be individually recognized.

OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES, a national organization, was brought to Northern Virginia when Christine Zinser of Fairfax decided that high school seniors who decide to enlist were not getting their well-deserved thanks, she said. In 2011, her son Philipp enlisted in the Marine Corps, and Zinser organized the first of the Enlistee Recognition Ceremonies.

"It's the right thing to do," she said, so Zinser continues to organize the ceremonies.

"They're doing a big thing, and it deserves big recognition," she said.

Every year the ceremony gets bigger, Zinser said, adding that eventually she would like to see the ceremony be held at a Nationals baseball game.

"The parents are bursting with pride, and so am I," she said. During the ceremony, Sharon Stark, district director for the office of Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), stood to recognize Zinser. On behalf of Connolly, she read a Congressional Record Statement that commends Zinser for her efforts in creating the Northern Virginia chapter of Our Community Salutes, as well as making sure that enlistees of Northern Virginia receive proper recognition from their community.



Guest speaker Major General Robert Dyess of the United States Army talks to enlistees and their parents at the fourth annual Our Community Salutes Enlistee Recognition Ceremony Thursday, May 29.



The Marine Corps enlistees of Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties stand with their recruitment officers at the fourth annual Our Community Salutes Enlistee Recognition Ceremony Thursday, May 29.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAY/JUNE 7

Chi Cultivation Workshop. 12-3 p.m. Green Acres Center,

Fairfax. Learn how to gather, condense and pack chi (energy) into the body at a hands-on workshop. \$30. Register at www.fairfaxva.gov/parksrec.

Dog Adoption. 12 - 3 p.m. at PETCO, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. 703-817-9444. hart90.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 14

Dog Adoption. 12- 3 p.m. PETCO, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. 703-817-9444. hart90.org

ONGOING

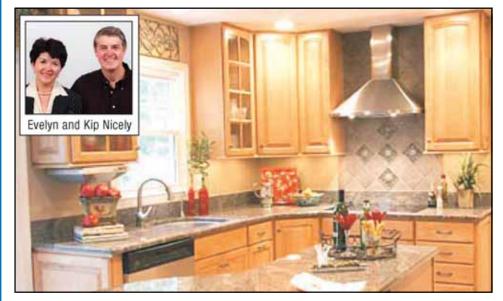
Singers Wanted for the Celebration Singers. The

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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

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OPINION

On Voting in the 8th

Vote this week at your convenience in person absentee, or be sure to vote on Tuesday.

EDITORIAL

hances are that if you are a registered voter in the 8th Congressional District, your mailbox has been letting you know that many candidates are running in next week's Democratic primary.

The 8th Congressional District is currently represented by retiring U.S. Rep. Jim Moran, and seven candidates are running for the right to replace him. There is no runoff, so even if the top candidate gets considerably less than 50 percent of the vote, he or she will

move on as the Democratic nominee in November, facing Republican Micah Edmond. Given the voting history in

the 8th district, the Democratic nominee will most likely move on to serve in Congress.

(Our region is losing its two longest serving members of Congress to retirement, Moran and U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10). Voters in the 10th Congressional District will choose between Republican Barbara Comstock and Democrat John Foust in November.)

The 8th Congressional District includes all of Arlington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon, plus parts of Tysons, McLean and Vienna to the north, Springfield, Lorton and Mason Neck to the South.

Candidates include Don Beyer, Lavern Chatman, Mark Levine, Patrick Hope, Adam Ebbin, Bill Euille and Derek Hyra. Three other names will appear on the ballot even though

the candidates have withdrawn from the race because they withdrew after the ballot was printed/set.

Election Day is Tuesday, June 10, and regular polling places will be open 6 a.m. - 7 p.m. Voters who qualify to vote absentee can vote in person early until June 7. But be sure to

vote by primary Election Day, June 10. Anyone who might working and commuting for 11 of the 13 hours polls will be open on

Election Day, 6 a.m.-7 p.m., qualifies to vote absentee. You can vote absentee if you are: a student or spouse at an academic institution, absent on business, absent

for personal business or vacation, unable to get to the polls due to a physical disability or illness, a caretaker of a confined family member, a precinct election officer, have a religious obligation or conflict, active duty uniformed service or merchant marine or a dependent, regularly employed outside the U.S. or a dependent, and several other special cir-

In Arlington, vote absentee-in-person at Courthouse Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 320, through Saturday, June 7; weekdays 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

In Alexandria, vote absentee-in-person at the Office of Voter Registration & Elections, 132 North Royal Street #100 through Saturday, June 7, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. http:// www.alexandriava.gov/Elections



In Fairfax County, two options:

- ❖ Fairfax County Government Center, Office of Elections, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Suite 323, Fairfax, through Friday, June 6, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., and Saturday, June 7, 9 a.m. - 5
- ❖ Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, through Friday, June 6, 3:30 - 7 p.m. and Saturday, June 7, 9 a.m. -

Read extensive previous coverage about the candidates at

http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/ news/Election/National/Representatives/

Father's Day Photos

Father's Day is June 15, and as in years past, The Connection will publish a gallery of photos of fathers, grandfathers, great grandfathers and sons and daughters. Send your photos, including names of everyone in the photo, ages of children, town of residence and a brief description of what is happening to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

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Have You Had a Taste of Asia?

By Wonhee Kang

wo years ago, the Taste of Asia event was created through a partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington and the Asian American Chamber of Commerce to celebrate Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. This year's event, Saturday, May 10, enjoyed a new location thanks to a new partnership with Everest College, Tysons Corner.

A wet weather forecast for the day had some committee members anxious about how the event would operate in both the indoor and outdoor locations needed for the event. Throughout a morning full of setting up; including transforming the normal every-day college classrooms into Asian celebratory places full of dragon decorations, colors, and shapes from a far eastern part of the world and collecting food from eight dif-Fairfax County, which truly brought the taste of Asia to the cultural interactions.



ferent restaurants located in The Taste of Asia at Everest College in Tysons on May 10 included many demonstrations, as well as food and other

college location, the committee asked mother nature to keep the rain drops away.

We celebrated the event with an impromptu 'Day Light Dance' initiated by Robert Lee, the event's Master of Ceremony, which was joined by everyone from the youngest dancers to the oldest, praying for the rain to stay in the sky. After the greetings, Sanjana Srikanth presented an Indian dance followed by an impressive presentation from a group from Taekwondo. The audience was mesmerized by these works of art from people of Asia.

The original Taste of Asia event was created to share the culture of the Asian countries and this ¬ year's event shared the Asian food, performances, cultural arts and friendships with 200 people of varying backgrounds including many young people.

Along with the "taste" of Asia, which included food from eight restaurants and Coca-Cola's Spon-

SEE TASTE, PAGE 15

News



Photo by Janelle Germanos/The Connection

'Fight the Bite' in Fairfax County

June has been designated as "Fight the Bite" Awareness Month in Fairfax County. Gloria Addo-Ayensu (third from left), director of the Fairfax County Public Health Department, dressed as a tick to raise awareness to the dangers of Lyme disease. Fight the Bite is an educational campaign that teaches residents about ways to avoid mosquitos, which can carry the West Nile Virus, and ticks.



Photo by Janelle Germanos/The Connection

Supervisors Declare Pride Month

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors pose with Brian Reach (first row, fourth from left), president of Northern Virginia Pride, after declaring June to be Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month in Fairfax County. June is recognized as LGBT pride month nationwide. Supervisor John Foust, who introduced the proclamation, said that Fairfax County has a diverse LGBT community, but that there is still work to do in Fairfax County and Virginia to prevent discrimination.

BULLETIN BOARD

From Page 5

Online Scavenger Hunt. Visit
Fairfax tasks those interested in becoming "citizen ambassadors" to the county (those informed on fun, creative weekend outings in the area) to find two Fairfax County Ambassador icons hidden throughout the fxva.com website in order to join the ambassador team; those who find all five hidden pins will receive a complimentary gift. www.fxva.com/online-

ambassador. Senior Fall Prevention

Classes. 1:30-2:30 p.m., at the Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Tuesday and/or Thursday classes in a heated pool designed to work on balance and core muscles for injury prevention. \$10. 703-667-

American Red Cross CPR,

First Aid and AED. Various times, at 2720 State Route 699, Suite 200, Fairfax. One-year certification, digital or print materials and continued education on Mondays through Thursday and Saturday. \$70-110. www.redcrossnca.org.

Dementia Care Givers Support

Groups. Various times, at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The groups are for those caring for someone with dementia or for those interested in learning more about providing care giving to a person with a disorder that affects memory and cognition and may impact behavior and physical abilities. 703-451-8626 or Eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

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Passport to Global Music and Dance

Fairfax High student in Encore' The World at your Feet.'

> By Bonnie Hobbs THE CONNECTION

Broadway-style, musical adventure is on tap in Encore Theatrical Arts Project's new show, "The World at Your Feet."

It'll be presented Saturday, June 14, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, June 15, at 3 and 6 p.m., at NOVA's Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike in Annandale. Tickets are \$22, adults; \$18, students and senior citizens, at www.encore-tap.org.

dozen different schools, and Director/Choreographer Raynor Mariana Artieda. van der Merwe says they've been "a joy to work with. The actors are terrific, the story's coming together great and the dancers are doing wonderfully. It's a family-friendly show for audiences of all ages."

The story's about a New York girl who doesn't want to try new things, unlike her adventurous friends. But that all changes when she meets a woman with a bag full of magic hats that can take her anywhere.

"It's a really engaging and fun show," said van der Merwe. "You know what to expect, but that's part of the enjoyment. And the audience will enjoy the variety of music and different genres of dance in each country the girl

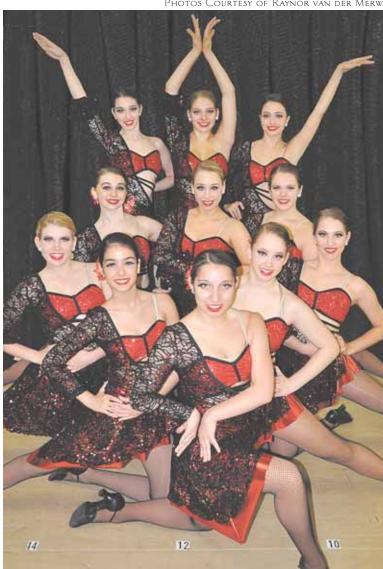
Eighth-grader Margot Vanyan plays the lead role, Katie. "She's shy and uptight and doesn't like to try new things," said Vanyan. "But she gradually becomes more open and gets excited about them. And each time she goes to a different country, she's interested in learning more about it."

Vanyan likes her part because "I get to sing and my character is funny. And I've learned about the countries, too, while playing Katie. My favorite song is 'Together Again for the First Time.' I sing and dance in it with a few other people, and it's a really hilarious number."



A visit to China: (Back row, from left) are Logan Floyd, The cast of 56 singers and Emma Konnick, Mikaela Vasconez, Sara Avery, Alia dancers comes from at least a Artieda; (middle, from left) Renee Griese, Claire Griese, Jenna Frisby; (front row, from left) Jessy Dawson and

Photos Courtesy of Raynor van der Merwe



Dressed for the cha cha number are (Back row, from left) Monica Brown, Renee Griese, Alia Artieda; (third row, IN HER THIRD YEAR with from left) Jenna Frisby, Emma Konnick, Claire Griese; Encore, Vanyan's danced since (Second row, from left) Jessy Dawson, Mariana Artieda, age 4. "We're going to put on an Sara Avery, Logan Floyd; and (in front) Mikaela Vasconez.

amazing show," she said. "The dancing's great and the singing's absolutely phenomenal."

Clifton's Emily Dillard, a freshman at Fairfax High, plays Lily, Katie's best friend. "She likes to try new things and she appears in different countries as different people," said Dillard. "So I also play an African village leader, a French artist and a tour guide in China. Lily's very dramatic and has an outgoing personality, and it's fun playing a variety of parts within the same

With Encore six years, Dillard finds dancing relaxing. "Once you know what you're doing, it's very calming," she explained. "Whenever I can't focus at school, I tap under my desk and it helps me." She's also learned that, "When you get corrected, instead of feeling down on yourself, you should come back with more energy and sharpness. And sometimes rehearsing is almost more fun than the performance because you get to experiment and try new things."

In the upcoming show, Dillard says the audience will "definitely enjoy the dancing, especially the can-can number. That's some of the most impressive dancing I've ever seen, especially for high-school stu-

Westfield High senior Caroline Bond, with Encore three years, has danced since age 7. "It helps me get out my energy and I really like performing," she said. "At Encore, I've learned time management – even outside the studio. I'm here over 14 hours a week, minimum, so I've had to manage dancing with school and my volunteer work."

IN THIS SHOW, she's in several numbers, but "Chop Suey" is her favorite. "It's a tap routine to a catchy song, and we wear Chinese-takeout boxes," she said. Overall, said Bond, "There's a cool storyline that will entertain the audience and probably make them want to try new things, too."

Renee Griese, a Chantilly High junior, has danced with Encore's performing company since sixth grade. "If I've had a bad day, I can forget about it and escape for awhile through dancing; it's very relaxing," she said. "In this show, I play a French waitress, but I'm mainly a dancer and

Robinson Receives Six Cappie Nominations

Honored for its production of 'Curtains.'

By Bonnie Hobbs Rome. "The entire cast and crew

sional theater's Tony awards. And Robinson Secondary School received six Cappie nominations for its production of the musical comedy, "Curtains."

The winners will be announced Gala at The Kennedy Center in their work recognized in the Spe-Washington, D.C. Robinson's nominations are as follows:

- Special Effects/Technology: Lindsey Rubin, Naod Haddish.
- ❖ Orchestra: The Kansasland
- ❖ Male Dancer: Elijah King. Supporting Actress in a Musi-
- cal: Hannah Sikora. ❖ Supporting Actor in a Musical: Jamie Green.
- ❖ Lead Actor in a Musical: Spencer Boyd.

"I am tremendously proud of my students who were nominated for Supporting Actress in a Musical, Cappie awards," said Director Chip this time playing the tough-minded

FAITH NOTES

south@connectionnewspapers.com or cal 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated

announcements should be submitted at

Graduates' Recognition Sunday

Greater Little Zion Baptist Church

10185 Zion Drive in Fairfax, will host Dr

James A. Williams, Assistant Professor at

James Madison University and author of "From Thug to Scholar: An Odyssey to

Unmask My True Potential," as the guest

speaker for their Graduates' Recognition

Sunday. Sunday, June 8, at the 8 a.m.

and 11 a.m. services. The event and is free and the service is open to the pub-

lic. For additional information, contact

the church Admin Staff at 703-764-9111.

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the cor-

ner of Fairfax County Parkway and

Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study

fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by

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First Baptist Church of Spring-

field 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.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City

least two weeks prior to the event.

Send notes to the Connection at

Additionally, he said, "Our cast

includes some really talented leads who were nominated and really put the comedy in musical comedy. Hannah Sikora, who led us to our Cappies win last year for 'Hairspray' has been nominated for

THE CONNECTION worked really hard on the show, and it came out just great. I'm n the realm of high-school thrilled that our orchestra was theater, the annual Cappie nominated for only the second awards are akin to profestime; it's a great pat on the back to our new conductor. Eric Hoang. and his pit musicians." "Having a show with 'flying' in it

is always a great adventure – one that must be taken very seriously to keep everyone safe," continued June 8 at the 15th annual Cappies Rome. "So it was gratifying to have cial Effects category." Regarding the dance nomination, he said it's difficult to find male dancers among high-school students, so he was "delighted [that] we were able the stage every time she steps on to showcase the skills of Elijah

she's the producer - literally." Noting that Jamie Green previously portrayed the "wimpy, wannabe-famous" Seymour in "Little Shop of Horrors." Rome said he "really shone as the egotistical, famous, theater director Christopher Belling. Jamie has a pitchperfect sense of comic timing and never shies away from strong char-

Looking for good reviews of their play are (from left) Stephen Diggs, Hannah Sikora, Alex Bulova and Katie Rogers in Robinson's production of 'Curtains.' stage, mother/producer of the acter choices – and he had the au-

play-within-a-play. Hannah has dience eating out of the palm of

fits the role of Carmen, who owns

great stage presence, so she really his hand in scene after scene." However, Rome said that show really belongs to Detective Cioffi. it, both figuratively and – since "It's a huge role, and Spencer Boyd really expanded his range with this tour de force, balancing between capable, serious detective and the effervescent theatre lover who wants to save the show," said

> Complicating matters, Cioffi falls in love with Maddy Ingram's Nikki, one of the understudies. "Spencer's joyful enthusiasm was clearly con-



Sharing a fantasy dance in Robinson's production of 'Curtains' are Maddy Ingram and Spencer Boyd.

tagious, and I just loved the chem- deserve to win," he continued. "But istry between him and Maddy," however it comes out on June 8, said Rome. "He was great to work we know we were successful givwith, totally reliable and both a ingour audience a theater producresponsive and creative actor."

tion of which our entire cast, crew "In my humble opinion, they all and musicians can be proud."

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News

Honored by the Board

From Page 4

provide citizens with quality facilities.

"Thanks to the work of Rohil and people like him, we're able to build accessible playgrounds and really improve offerings through the Fairfax County Park System for all the residents and visitors," Longworth said.

ROHIL'S MOTHER, Meena Bhinge of Fairfax, said she believes Rohil's most admirable quality as shown in his work is his desire to serve his community.

"He always wants to do something in any way; any cause where he can help people, he wants to do it," Meena said. "He's very honest, he always wants to try new things, and he's very creative, so he thinks of lots of ideas. The Fun Runs have been a mix of ideas from him, my husband, my youngest son and I. We were hoping, by doing the Fun Runs, more children would get inspired to do them and to raise money for the Fairfax County Parks, which we use all the time. It's our way of giving back to the community."

Rohil's brother, Samik Bhinge, 9, of Mosby Woods Elementary, said he is extremely proud of his brother's achievements, and does his part to help him when he can.

"I help him by telling all of my friends to come to the Fun Runs and by inspiring people to start running," Samik said. "Rohil's award means to me that both of us have done a good job in helping to raise money. It absolutely feels good to see him honored."

oney. It absolutely feels good to see him honored." Rohil said he hopes people remember him as a



Photo by Meena Bhingi

Standing alongside Roberta Longworth and two-time Olympian Moses Joseph, Sharon Bulova gives Rohil Bhinge a donation check following his first Fun Run event.

role model for providing service to the community.

"I'd like to be remembered as an example so that other people can do the same thing as me," Rohil said. "That way, Chessie's BIG Backyard will be finished more quickly."

Longworth said she absolutely expects to see more greatness from Rohil as he grows older.

"He's certainly one to watch; he's going to be doing some incredible work as he grows up," Longworth said. "I would not be surprised if he ran for public office in the future."



Public Hearing Notice Fairfax County Secondary Six Year Plan

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and The Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, in accordance with § 33.1-70.01 of the Code of Virginia, will conduct a joint public hearing in the Board Auditorium, Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035 at 4:00 PM on June 17, 2014.

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive public comment on the Secondary Six Year Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2015 through 2020. Copies of the proposed plan may be reviewed at the VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030.

Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate in this hearing should contact the Virginia Department of Transportation at 800-367-7623. Persons wishing to speak at this public hearing should contact the Office of the Clerk to the County Board of Supervisors at 703-324-3151.





To honor dad on Father's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your dad and The Connection will publish them in our Father's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail photos, send to:

fairfax@connection newspapers.com

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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

THURSDAY/JUNE 5-SUNDAY JUNE 8

Celebrate Fairfax! Festival. Fairfax County Government Center. Northern Virginia's largest community-wide celebration. Twenty-five acres of vendors, exhibitors, rides, and nightly fireworks. Call 703-324-FAIR (3247) for all details.

THURSDAY/JUNE 5

Summer Used Book Sale. 1-9 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Over 8,000 books in every genre - kids, history, mystery, romance, popular fiction and more on sale.

FRIDAY/JUNE 6

Cool Cow Comedy Presents: Jared Logan and Kara Klenk. 8 p.m.

Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. Headliner Jared Logan appears with Kara Klenk for a night of comedy. Due to material, all patrons must be 18 years old to attend the performance. Admissions: \$15-\$20. www.workhousearts.org 703-584-2900.

Summer Used Book Sale. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Over 8,000 books in every genre - kids, history, mystery, romance, popular fiction and more on sale.

Summer Concerts in the City. 7 p.m. Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax.

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> Рното COURTESY OF Celebrate FAIRFAX



FRIDAY/JUNE 6-SUNDAY/JUNE 8

Cabaret Series: One Night at the Moulin Rouge. Friday-Saturday 8 p.m. Sunday at 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. Our vocalists celebrate the music and humor of the famed Parisian hot-spot with songs from inspired by the

cabaret style.
Although performers are fully costumed, it is recommended for adult audiences due to suggestive humor and some language.

Admissions: \$25-\$30. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-

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SATURDAY/JUNE 7-SATURDAY/JUNE 14

Children's Theatre: Princess and the Pea. 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. This

original musical adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale is presented by Pandemonium Theatrical Productions. Admissions: \$9-\$12. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

SATURDAY/JUNE 7

Spring Festival. 12 – 4 p.m. Fellowship Baptist Church, 5936 Rolling Road, Springfield. Activities will include a petting zoo, moon bounce, obstacle course, RC race course, games for all ages, crafts, cake walk, prizes and refreshments.

Bukas Loob sa Diyos of Washington presents Leyte Dance Theater Philippines in **"Bayan Ko".** 3-5 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Proceeds with benefit the various programs and outreach projects of BLD Washington and the Leyte Typhoon Victims. \$20-\$50. 703-203-

Mount Vernon Nights: April Verch (**Bluegrass**). 7-8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Internationally touring Canadian fiddler, step dancer and singersongwriter April Verch will be performing on the quad. Picnic baskets, lawn chairs and blankets are welcome, but outside alcohol is not permitted. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

Summer Used Book Sale. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Over 8,000 books in every genre - kids, history, mystery, romance, popular fiction and more on sale.

Bingo.1-3 p.m. Parish Center Gym, St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Tickets: \$12.00 each, which includes 2 Bingo Cards that can be played for the entire event, and complimentary beverages and snacks. Additional cards may be purchased on site-\$1.00 per card per game. To purchase tickets, please call Lisa Carroll, 703-426-2824.

Edible Container Gardens. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria Learn to grow vegetables and edible plants in containers for your deck or patio from edible garden expert Cindy Brown.

Includes take-home plant to get you started. \$18. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ greenspring or 703-642-5173.

Trees of Green Spring. 10-11:30

a.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Master gardener docents lead a walking tour that explores the secrets of our largest garden residents: the trees. \$15. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ greenspring or 703-642-5173

Arts from the Turkic World

Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m 3950 University Drive, Fairfax. The exhibition will feature a collection of works from various Turkic countries and territories as well as the works of featured artists of Turkic descent.

SATURDAY/JUNE7-WEDNESDAY/JULY2

Arts from the Turkic World

Exhibit. 3950 University Drive. Fairfax. The exhibition will feature a collection of works from various Turkic countries and territories as well as the works of featured artists of Turkic descent.

SUNDAY/JUNE 8

World War II: D-Day through the Battle of the Bulge. 2 p.m.

Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. This program marks the 70th Anniversary of the successful invasion by the United States and allied forces and Nazioccupied France on June 6, 1944. Free. 703-591-0560.

Garden Fairy Tea. 2-3:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Did you know that fairies inhabit Green Spring Gardens? Don a pair of fairy wings and craft a fairy wand at our family tea and then follow the fairy dust on a fairy-find in our enchanted gardens. \$15. 703-642-5173.

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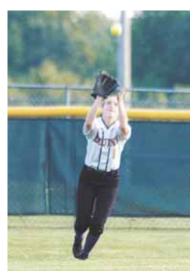
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Lake Braddock pitcher
Ashley Flesch allowed one
run in 13 innings during
the Bruins' 2-1 victory over
Madison in the regional
quarterfinals on June 2.

SPORTS

Lake Braddock catcher Caroline Jones drove in the game-winning run against Madison in the regional quarterfinals on June 2.



Lake Braddock center fielder Jenna Edwards threw out a Madison runner at the plate in the 13th inning of the Bruins' regional quarterfinal victory on June 2.

Lake Braddock Softball Outlasts Madison in Quarterfinal Marathon

Bruins catcher Jones delivers game-winning RBI.

By Jon Roetman
The Connection

ith runners on first and second with nobody out in the bottom of the ninth inning, Lake Braddock catcher Caroline Jones swung at the first pitch she saw and popped out via the infield fly rule. The next two Bruin batters would strike out, keeping Monday's 6A North region quarterfinal softball contest against Madison locked in a scoreless tie.

"I [knew we] would score," Lake Braddock pitcher Ashley Flesch said later that evening. "It was just a matter of time."

As it turned out, Flesch, who battled Madison's Katie Vannicola in a lengthy pitcher's duel, was right. After the Bruins scored once in the bottom of the 10th to keep their season alive, Jones would get another opportunity with a runner in scoring position in the bottom of the 13th. This time, the sophomore slugger would send Lake Braddock to the semifinals.

Jones hit Vannicola's 202nd pitch of the evening back up the middle for an RBI single, giving the Bruins a 2-1, 13-inning victory over the Warhawks on June 2 at Lake Braddock Secondary School. Jones' hit was one of just four the Bruins managed against Vannicola, but Lake Braddock found a way to outlast the Warhawks.

"It was definitely a battle," Jones said. "Katie is an amazing pitcher, Madison is an amazing team. We knew that if we slipped once, the door is wide open for them, so we had to stay strong as a team and we finally pulled through."

LAKE BRADDOCK left the door open in the top of the 10th, when Madison left fielder Jordyn Pistilli broke a scoreless tie with a one-out RBI single. However, the Bruins countered in the bottom half, when a single by freshman third baseman Patty Maye Ohanian and a Warhawk error tied the score at 1-all, sending the marathon contest into the 11th inning.

LAKE BRADDOCK GIRLS' SOCCER FALLS IN PKS

The Lake Braddock girls' soccer team lost to Battlefield in penalty kicks during the 6A North region semifinals on Tuesday.

The Bruins defeated Osbourn 4-0 in the opening round on May 28 and beat Robinson 1-0 in the quarterfinals on May 30.

Lake Braddock finished the season with a 13-6 record and a Conference 7 championship.

Madison had a chance to take the lead in the top of the 13th, but Lake Braddock center fielder Jenna Edwards threw out the potential go-ahead run at home plate after the Warhawk runner attempted to tag up on a fly ball.

Jones' single in the bottom half of the inning ended the game.

"The character of the kids is outstanding," Lake Braddock head coach George Rumore said. "They just don't quit. They love to play and they hung in there. We know that if Ashley ... is holding us in the game, that we just have to keep playing good defense and keep making plays, and then we hope we get somebody across the plate

DESPITE THE EXPERIENCE of losing to South County, Flesch said she believed the Bruins would eventually score during Monday's contest against Madison

"She had a lot of endurance," Jones said. "She keeps hitters off balance, she's very hard to hit and she's very deceptive. ... She's a warrior out there. She fights for us and she never gives up."

Vannicola suffered the loss on Monday. The right-hander allowed two runs — one earned — and four hits in 12 2/3 innings. She walked eight and struck out 17. Vannicola threw 202 pitches, including 119 strikes.

Lake Braddock first baseman Amanda Hendrix doubled in the ninth inning. Ohanian had a pair of singles for the Bruins, and Jones had one.

Lake Braddock improved to 23-1. The Bruins won their second consecutive Conference 7/Patriot District title this season, beating South County in the championship game on May 23.

Lake Braddock advanced to the region semifinals, where the Bruins faced Langley on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline.



Photo by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection

David Symmes (4) and the South County boys' lacrosse team finished the 2014 season with a 15-2 record.

South County Loses in Regional Quarterfinals

Patriots limit Stallions to lowest goal-scoring output of 2014.

By Jon Roetman The Connection

orktown senior Cason Liles controlled the faceoff, maintained possession down the field and scored his first goal of the season late in the first quarter of Thursday's 6A North region quarterfinal contest against South County.

Liles' goal led to cheers from his teammates. Liles' faceoff dominance throughout the contest, however, helped give the Patriots a historic achievement to celebrate at the end of the night.

The Yorktown boys' lacrosse team defeated South County 13-6 at Lee High School in Springfield, securing the Patriots' first trip to the regional semifinals in program history. South County entered the contest with a 15-1 record and averaging 14 goals per game, but thanks to Liles' faceoff dominance and a strong defensive effort led by sophomore Conor Shears, junior Timothy Aldinger and sophomore goalkeeper Mason Pollack, the Patriots limited the Stallions to their lowest goal-scoring output of the season.

"It's huge," Liles said. "We came out here with a chip on our shoulder. I think we were just so hyped up and so ready to play this game. None of the seniors wanted their season to end. I couldn't be prouder of my team right now."

Yorktown led 7-2 at halftime. South County goals by Austin Fitzmaurice and David Krein cut the Patriots' lead to three midway through the third quarter,

but Yorktown scored six of the next seven goals to pull away.

"[Liles] was the difference," Yorktown head coach Greg Beer said. "We did very well on faceoffs and that was the difference tonight, I believe. Other than that, I thought we were pretty even. We were able to control possessions and ... sort of limit their offense, considering how much firepower [South County has] between Symmes, Quigley and the rest of those guys."

Tyler Alexander scored two goals for South County.

Symmes praised Yorktown's defense, but said South County might have been guilty of overlooking the Patriots.

"No one was outright saying, 'Oh, yes, easy game, just take it off, we'll just coast through," Symmes said. "No one was saying that, but I think maybe, subconsciously, we weren't taking this game as seriously as we should have. Shoulda, woulda, coulda, though."

Yorktown improved its record to 15-4. The Patriots, who defeated Oakton in the opening round, traveled to face Robinson (14-3) in the regional semifinals on June 4.

South County finished the season with a 15-2 record and a Conference 7 championship.

"I'm proud of the way my guys played," first-year South County head coach Dale Nalls said. "Going 15-2 on the season, that's an impressive season. Obviously, we had our sights set on a bigger prize than going 15-2, but I think South County is a relevant state championship contender. We just didn't play like it tonight."

WELLBEING

Healthy Cooking with Children

Local foodies say cooking with children can establish a lifetime of healthy habits.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

rom creating dough for freshly baked bread to squeezing lemons for a neighborhood lemonade stand, Michael Roll enjoys spending time in the kitchen with his children transforming ordinary food into nutritious culinary creations, particularly during the summer. He says that when parents cook healthy meals with their children they model behavior that can last a lifetime.

"The more 'from scratch' and processing raw food at home a child can see through their parents, the better understanding the child can develop in terms of what makes food healthy and unhealthy and where our food comes from," said Roll, director, Department of Culinary Arts and Food and Beverage Management at The Art Institute of Washington in Arlington. "These are fundamental things that can easily be lost in our very time-crunched worlds and long grocery store aisles of prepared and over-processed foods."

Farmers markets can offer a goldmine of inspiration for creating nutritious summer meals. "[They] bring us seasonal, fresh produce, grown close to home," said Christine Wisnewski, an instructor at Culinaria Cooking School in Vienna. "In contrast to the mad dash into the supermarket the rest of the year, the more relaxed summer schedule also gives us the chance to really look around and broaden our food

horizons."

Offering children a wide selection of fresh food and a chance to make their own selections broadens their culinary horizons. "In my experience, kids are more willing to try something new if they are given the opportunity to choose that new item themselves," said Wisnewski. "Challenge them to choose one new thing a week. "One week have them look for the most beautiful fruit or vegetable they can find at the market, next week have them find the ugliest. You might all be surprised with how that experiment plays out. The kids will gain exposure and you will gain experience. You were always curious about kohlrabi anyway, right?"

Roll encourages parents to approach cooking with an attitude of enthusiasm. "Baking chocolate chip cookies, even with my 6 year olds was fun because measuring flour, sugar, learning how to crack an egg were all exciting things for them," he said. "Licking raw batter and tasting warm cookies didn't hurt, but at 11, my son could probably make passable cookies without any help. My family's passion for cookies is why."

COOKING TECHNIQUES and the tasks children undertake in the kitchen should be age appropriate, said Roll. "For the really young, nothing beats funny shapes, layering yogurt and fruit and granola in a clear glass is magical to a child," he said. "For the older, make baking a chemistry lesson on baking soda [or] why flour in bread makes such a different product than flour in pancakes."

Roll added, "I think that starting simple helps, too. Chicken broth, chicken, carrots, celery and pasta,



Photo courtesy of Tiny Chefs

Students at Tiny Chefs Culinary Academy learn to prepare healthy meals.

"The more 'from scratch' and processing raw food at home a child can see through their parents, the better understanding the child can develop in terms of what makes food healthy and unhealthy."

- Michael Roll

with some seasoning still makes the best cold remedy there is. A child can peel a carrot. A child can test the doneness of pasta, a child can learn that a little salt is great, no salt is bland, and too much salt is a disaster."

With a little planning, parents can create delicious and healthy fare with their children that is handson, but safe. "Letting kids help cut fresh fruit for fruit salads is a great summer dish, said Beth Szymanski of Tiny Chefs, a culinary academy with locations in Fairfax, Arlington, Alexandria, Sterling, Ashburn, Reston, Herndon, Centerville, Va., and Potomac, Md. "Kids love to help cut food and having them use lettuce knives lets them really help out in the kitchen while keeping them safe."

Szymanski adds that there are simple short cuts to create substantial, low-maintenance meals. "Use an already cooked rotisserie chicken to create a chicken salad or pasta salad in the summer time to keep the kitchen cool without having to turn on the oven, plus the kids love to help shred and cut up the chicken," she said

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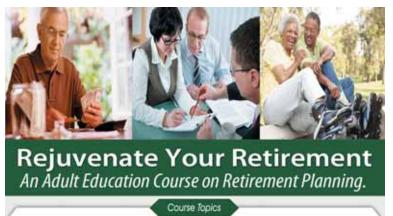
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Program Development and Implementation: Effectively implement and administer programs, services and activities for drop-in members and visitors; Monitor and evaluate programs, services and activities to ensure safety of members, quality in programs and appearance of the branch at all times. Prepare periodic activity reports.

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Mike, 61, passed away at home in Anthem, AZ from pancreatic cancer on March 19th, 2014. Mike was born in Philadelphia, PA on Aug. 28, 1952. Growing up he would spend summers in Long Island Beach on the Jersey Shore. He graduated from St. Vincent's College in Latrobe, PA. Mike nad a 30-year distinguished career in the FBI working in NYC and Quantico, VA. After retirement, he helped form Tactical Operations Support Services (TOSS) and served as an in-Operations Support Services (1055) and served as an instructor for the company. He was an avid sports lover and a huge Philadelphia Eagles fan. He is survived by his mother Anne, wife Shira, daughter Heather (Matt) Wilkey and stepdaughters Jessi and Amanda Calkins. He is predeceased by his wife of almost 20 years, Sherry Swank Bernacki. He was nis wile of almost 20 years, Sherry Swark Bernacki. The was a kind, compassionate man and a loving father. A graveside service will be held on Saturday, June 7th at 10:30 in the morning at Fairfax Memorial Park, 4401 Burke Station Road in Fairfax, VA (GPS address). In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests a donation be made to the Wounded Warrior Project

http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/.

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OPINION

Taste Of Asia

sorship, attendees had access to hands-on activities. With leadership from Ms. Lindsay Holt, arts and crafts tables were set up for origami (Japan), Cultural Masks (China), Weaving (Philippines), and Mandala (India/Tibet/South Asia). There was a table set up for Name Calligraphy where attendees' names could be written in Korean, Japanese, Chinese, Hindi, Thai and Tagalog. While these activities were happening, I could hear a lot of dialogue about the meaning of names and background, helping the attendees make meaningful connections to each other.

All participants had a passport to get their stamps to be sure they were not missing out any valuable experiences from the event. I trust all participants from this event tasted Asia in many ways and I am grateful for that. I thank 30 -plus volunteers that we had for the event and special thanks to our event committee members who helped build many positive bridges among people in this diverse county.

When I witnessed some kids from Ghana, trying on Korean, Chinese and Thai dresses and having a photo-op, I saw a glimpse of 'Promised Land," that once Martin Luther King noted. When I witnessed Chinese women helping Hispanic young people wearing their Chinese costumes, there was heartfelt welcoming and receiving of friendship built.

It was pleasure of seeing acceptance of each other and they are moving forward to learn about each other and they are reaching out and sharing their stories. Their hearts were wide opened to embrace each other for those moments. There was joy and happiness all around.

I saw what Dr. Martin Luther King dreamed: "that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at

I am committed to seed the dream that Dr. King once talked about by offering a column that would continue to offer a place for a "Taste of Asia" and I am very excited about this calling.

As E.M. Forster noted, that this column will bring humanism to our living. "The four characteristics of humanism are curiosity, a free mind, belief in good taste, and belief in the human race."

Wonhee Kang will write an occasional column for the Connection.

Chairperson of Taste of Asia

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