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Springfield Residents Save Neighbor's Life

Mary Ager and Dayna Cooper receive Citizen Recognition-Lifesaving Award.

> By Janelle Germanos The Connection

ichael and Carol Martinka, residents of South Run Crossing in Springfield, were clearing out their driveway yet again during one of the many snow days in Fairfax County this winter. Michael was clearing the driveway with a snow blower while Carol was at the front porch.

All of a sudden, Carol heard the snow blower stop and found her husband lying face down in the snow. Panicked, she screamed for help.

"I heard her screaming her husband's name, so I ran over," said neighbor Mary Ager, who was outside with her husband Gene at the time.

Fortunately for Michael, Mary Ager was a nurse. After she found that Michael was not breathing and had no pulse, Mary began to perform CPR while Gene called 911.

"I was real nervous, but it all came back to me,"

Another neighbor, Dayna Cooper, who is also a nurse, was made aware of the situation and ran out-

"My husband came in and said, 'you have to come now, they're doing CPR.' So I ran out of my house and began to assist Mary with CPR," she said.

THIS CONTINUED for ten minutes until the Fire and Rescue Department arrived. They continued the CPR, established intravenous access, gave Michael advanced life support medications, and inserted an advanced airway adjunct.

Soon after, Michael's heartbeat came back. He was taken to the hospital and diagnosed with 95 percent occlusion of the Left Anterior Descending Artery. Despite the cold conditions, Mary and Dayna's efforts, along with the response of Fire and Rescue, ensured that Michael survived.

"Dayna and Mary are true heroes that were in the right place at the right time, and acted quickly and decisively. Their and Fire and Rescue's actions have saved Mr. Martinka's life, and I am happy to have been able to help recognize their heroism. This incident demonstrates the value of knowing CPR; you never know when someone might need it," said Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity.

Neither Cooper nor Ager had ever needed to perform CPR on someone outside of their job as nurses, but said that everyone should learn CPR in case of emergencies such as this one.

"In the hospital, I've done it numerous times, so it



Supervisor Pat Herrity and Michael Martinka stand with Mary Ager and Dayna Cooper, who recently received Citizen Recognition-Lifesaving Awards for performing CPR on Martinka and saving his life.

was almost second-nature for me," Cooper said. "My concern was making sure what we were doing was effective."

The nurses were nominated for the Citizen Recognition-Lifesaving Award by Captain Carlton G. Burkhammer. Both said they were surprised when they found out they received the award.

"It was a very nice thing to receive, I'm very honored, but I didn't need an award. Everyone should know CPR," Ager said.

Martinka said he is happy to have neighbors like Ager and Cooper, and is very thankful to be alive.

"The timing on this was very good-they were able to administer CPR very quickly until the emergency crews arrived," he said. "They did an excellent job."

Things in the neighborhood have returned to normal, and both Ager and Cooper were happy that everything worked out.

"I see him in his yard now, with his wife, and he's able to enjoy his grandchildren. That was thanks enough for me," Ager said. "He'll get to experience more of their life now."

Cooper was ecstatic when she found out that their efforts had been successful.

"It wasn't until the next day that we got word that he was okay and had cardiac intervention at the hospital," she said. "We were so excited."

BOTH NURSES wouldn't have done anything any different-they said they just did what needed to be

"It's an honor to me that the county has a process to acknowledge citizens who do things like that. It made me proud to be part of the community," Coo-

Cooper, who served as a CPR instructor for several years, says she believes everyone should learn CPR and that as soon as her children are old enough, they will learn.

"Now my children know that it obviously works,"



Lloyd and Nancy Robbins pose with their boat on the Fifth Annual Pirates' Day Celebration at Pohick Bay Park in Lorton.

Pirates' Day Kicks off Summer

Fifth annual celebration followed by summer of camping, fun.

By Janelle Germanos The Connection

or the fifth year in a row, complete with cannons, ships and swords, pirates stormed the beach at Pohick Bay Regional Park in Lorton last weekend.

Springfield resident Susan Dix-VerStraten played Anne Bonny, famous female pirate of the 18th century, and said pirate re-enactments like this one are just a lot of fun.

"It's always a great time," she said. "Getting into character is

Dix-VerStraten, who has been participating in these re-enactments for over ten years, joined dozens of other pirates for this year's Pirates' Day in Lorton.

"Everybody loves pirates," said Paul Gilbert, executive director of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. "It captures the imagination of all

Pirates' Day started five years ago after the waterpark at Pohick Bay was changed to a pirate theme. Since then, attendance at the waterpark has increased by 500 percent, Gilbert

Kids of all ages enjoyed this year's re-enactment, which included an authentic sailboat that is identical to those found in the 18th century.

The boat is owned by pirate re-enactors Lloyd and Nancy Robbins, and has been featured in PBS and National Geographic television specials.

Being a pirate re-enactor requires a great deal of study into pirates' history, as well as an outgoing personality, Dix-VerStraten said. Safety is also required, as the cannons used are real and burns can sometimes happen.

"You have to be able to be outgoing and connect with children," she said.

This year, she said playing Anne Bonny was exciting, as she was a strong female pirate whose fate is unknown even to

The cannons were loud, causing many onlookers to plug their ears. After pirates sailed to shore and fought each other with swords and other authentic weapons, they later stormed Pirate's Cove Waterpark.

Pirates fight during Pirates' Day at Pohick **Bay Park** on June 7 in Lorton.



Eat. Drink. Pay? debates voters' appetite for another meals tax referendum. Fairfax County task force

By Victoria Ross The Connection

t has been 22 years since Fairfax County asked voters to approve a tax on restaurant meals, an issue that ignited protests, caused deep divisions among community leaders and threatened to melt down several political careers.

The reverberations of that epic failure what many consider the third rail of county politics - continue to echo in the ears of county politicians.

But after another punishing year of budget battles, and continuing shortfalls in revenue resulting from the recession, county leaders are once again eyeing the meals tax as a way to raise revenue for schools and other county services.

On April 22, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-atlarge) convened a task force to consider the pros and cons of putting another meals tax referendum on the ballot - possibly as early as this November.

Bulova said a four-percent tax on meals and beverages at the county's nearly 3,000 restaurants would generate approximately \$90 million in new revenue for schools. public safety, parks, libraries and human

She cited the fact that all of the cities and towns "around and within Fairfax County" have adopted a meals tax, and that there has been "a growing sentiment during recent years for our board to once again allow the voters to decide whether or not they wish to avail themselves of this additional source of revenue."

In Northern Virginia, similar meals taxes have been implemented in Alexandria, Arlington County, the City of Fairfax and other smaller municipalities.

However, Loudoun and Prince William county officials recently rejected the idea of a meals tax after restaurant groups successfully argued the tax would unfairly target an industry that is facing pressure to increase the minimum wage while still struggling to recover from the 2008 reces-

While much has changed in Fairfax County since 1992, the mere mention of a meals tax still stirs up vehement reactions.

"This is a charged issue," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) "The task force was set up deliberately to have a third-party group come to us with recommendations. We will have the benefit of public input from a fairly politically-balanced group. I think it's brilliant that Sharon got both sides that would not necessarily talk to each other together in the same room ... That's the Fairfax County way."

"Keep an open mind. And, listen to each other," Bulova urged the 40 members of the super committee during the first meeting on May 15.

Chaired by Kate Hanley, a former Democratic chairman of the board and Tom Davis, a former Republican congressman who



Kate Hanley, former Democratic chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors co-chairs the Meals Tax Referendum Task Force with Tom Davis, a former Republican congressman who also chaired the Fairfax County Board during the 1992 meals tax battle.



David Broder, (right) president of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU 512) makes a point during the May 29 meeting of the Meals Tax Referendum Task Force.



Marcia Twomey, of the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce, expresses frustration during the sometimes tense meetings of the meals task referendum task force.

chaired the Board of Supervisors during the 1992 meals tax battle, the task force was charged with answering three questions before delivering its final recommendation to the board on June 17:

- ❖ Whether or not to recommend the board put a meals tax referendum on the
- If recommending going to referendum, when should that referendum take place;
- ❖ If recommending going to referendum, should any revenues from a meals tax be dedicated to specific issues?

But the first meeting had barely begun before members began taking swipes at each other, arguing over marginal details

and data, and delivering doomsday proclamations if their side did not prevail.

The Fairfax County Federation of Teachers launched a series of newspaper ads asking readers to "Save Our Starving Schools," by supporting the meals tax. Steven Greenburg, president of the teachers union and a member of the task force, argued that the county's school system — which recently approved a \$2.5 billion budget for FY 2015 will be forced to lay off workers if the county does not transfer more money to the schools.

After the second meeting, Jim Corcoran, president of The Fairfax Chamber, issued a statement declaring the chamber's opposition to the tax.

Task Force Members

Task Force Co-Chairs:

Honorable Katherine K. Hanley and

Honorable Thomas M. Davis III Fairfax County Democratic Committee Rex Simmons

Fairfax County Republican Committee James Parmelee

Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce Jim Corcoran

Restaurant Association of Metropolitan

Washington Mark Tate

Visit Fairfax

Barry Biggar

Fairfax Federation of Civic Associations

Morgan Jameson

League of Women Voters Helen Kelly

Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance Arthur Purves

Fairfax County Council of PTAs

Ramona Morrow Fairfax County Education Association

Kimberly Adams Fairfax County Federation of Teachers

Steve Greenburg

Service Employees International Union (SEIU Virginia 512)

David Broder

Fairfax Library Foundation

Brian Engler Fairfax County Park Foundation

Bruce McLeod

Fairfax County Alliance for Human Services Frank Blechman Dulles Region Chamber of Commerce

Eileen Curtis

Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce Marcia Twomey

Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce

Mark Ingrao Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Doug Church

Mount Vernon/Lee Chamber of Commerce

Holly Dougherty Asian American Chamber of Commerce

Cindy Shao

Human Services Council

Kevin Bell

Northern Virginia Tea Party **Bob Parks**

National Active and Retired Federal

Employees, Fairfax Chapter Ralph Thompson

Virginia Hospitality and Travel Association

Eric D. Terry Falls Church Chamber of Commerce

Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce

Nancy-Jo Manney Fairfax County Police Employee Pay and

Benefit Committee

Fairfax County Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics

John Niemiec Braddock District Council

Barbara Varvaglione Providence District Council Gabriel Goldberg Dranesville Budget Task Force

Tim Hackman

Lee District Citizens Budget Advisory

Committee Suzette Kern

Arts Council of Fairfax County

Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Association Judy Harbeck Sully District Council of Citizens Associations

Joseph Johnston

South County Federation Christine Morin

Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce

Mark Rogoff

Hunter Mill District Citizen Budget Committee Barbara Loving

"We have been down this road before in Fairfax, and in almost every case, voters continue to oppose such measures," Corcoran said. "This is not a time for rehashing failed policies of the past. County leaders, the business community, and citizens all need to work together to grow and diversify the economy in Fairfax County, not tax our way to a solution."

> SEE MEALS TAX, PAGE 5 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

News



Meals Tax Debated

From Page 4

Hanley and Davis moderated the next meeting on May 29 with humor, easing some of the tension in the room.

"Kate and I come at this issue from different angles," Davis joked during the meeting.

"Is that why I voted for it the first time," Hanley said, pausing. "And you did too?"

"Hey, it passed in my precinct," Davis shot back.

Rex Simmons, who represents the Fairfax County Democratic Committee, drew applause when he thanked Hanley and Davis for "doing an excellent job summarizing the views of the task force ..." in the draft report.

But the warm feelings dissipated when a heated discussion began over the image of the restaurant industry, and the perception that restaurants don't support schools because the industry does not support a meals tax.

"It's an overall fairness issue," said Jim Wordsworth, owner of one of the county's first steakhouses — JR Stockyards Inn steakhouse in Tysons Corner. He argued that meals tax would drive customers away and could keep large restaurants from relocating to Tysons.

"When you have a meals tax, you know what else happens? New restaurants are less likely to come to Fairfax County," said Mark Tate, public affairs director for Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington.

"I don't want to present the image that www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mealstax/

only restaurants are opposing this tax. In 1992, there was a lot of animosity among teachers and PTO organizations to restaurants over this issue," Tate continued. "But if you look beyond this framework, local restaurants are incredibly generous to PTO groups and other county non-profits; they sponsor non-profit events and benefits; they care deeply about the community they live and work in."

Davis agreed that the restaurant industry is not the "bad guy" for opposing the meals tax. "I can't go to a school fair, a 5K race, or any other school event where local restaurants don't contribute in some way"

"Can we say 'restaurants are good corporate citizens'?" Tate asked, requesting a change in the task force document.

Greenburg and others who support the meals tax quickly took issue with Tate's statement.

"I don't feel like restaurants have supported us ...," Greenburg said. "And we're not here to write a polemic for the restaurant industry..."

"How about we try it this way," Hanley said, offering to rewrite a statement in the draft report: "Resistance to a referendum may create a false assumption that food services don't support government services.' What do you think?"

After the group signaled approval, Hanley encouraged them to "hang on.

"We're doing well folks, only 3 more pages to go"

For more information on the meals tax referendum task force, go to http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mealstax/

Supervisors' Comments on a Meals Tax Referendum

"There are many contradictions with the meals tax. We all complain about the county's over reliance on the property tax and talk about the need to diversify revenue sources, but don't do a meals tax! It's also a contradiction for Republicans to adopt party platforms, as we have at all levels, that call for greater use of initiative and referendum and trusting the people and yet we oppose putting the meals tax question before the voters.

I have consistently supported putting the issue to the voters, and I will do so this time. I have not taken any position on the tax itself and don't expect to. People are smart enough to make up their own minds without me sticking my nose in!"

— Supervisor Michael Frey (R-Sully)

"We have no revenue options other than the property tax and with assessments on homes rising there is no room, in my view, to increase the rate to get more revenue. The meals tax is the only other revenue option we have which is why we are looking at it. But we have not made any decisions."

— Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock)

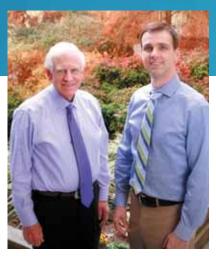
"I have and will continue to be adamantly opposed to a meals tax and any referendum on this issue as it is directed at a single industry. I believe this is the wrong time to add another tax on our county residents and while some of it will be paid by visitors the bulk will be paid by our county residents."

— Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield)

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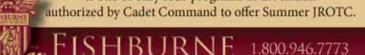
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OPINION

Clearing the Air on New Carbon Standards

By Congressmen Gerry CONNOLLY (VA-11) AND PAUL TONKO (NY-20)

Co-chairs, Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition

he EPA's new proposal to safeguard the air we breathe and contain a primary driver of climate change by reducing carbon emissions from existing power plants is the lynchpin to reducing our carbon footprint. As co-chairs of the House Sustainable Energy and Environmental Coalition, we welcome action on carbon pollution and look forward to working with all stakeholders in a responsible manner to advance a 21st century energy economy for America.

Power plants are responsible for 40 percent of U.S. carbon pollution. Without addressing this source of pollution our efforts fade in significance. Similar safeguards already exist for other hazardous pollutants such as lead, arsenic, and mercury. And they have worked. Why shouldn't the same apply for carbon? By targeting this source of pollution, we protect public health, the economy, and national security.

Unfortunately, there are those who would have us believe that these and other EPA safeguards threaten our shared national priorities. Just as they did when Congress, in a bipartisan fashion. adopted the Clean Air and Clean Water acts a generation ago, these critics offer the same hackneyed arguments they always make: they contend the public does not want these protections, they will kill jobs, bankrupt the economy, and cause electricity rates to double. This is the same crowd that waged deceitful campaigns warning of death panels, a government-run takeover of healthcare, and socialized medicine in the hopes of distracting us from the urgent need for the Affordable Care Act.

Such false and misleadi n g claims



Connolly

were shameful then, and if repeated, will jeopardize the tremendous strides we've made in protecting public health. Unfortunately, some took to attacking the EPA's latest proposal even before it was released. Last week, Speaker Boehner said the EPA is "hurting our economy" with such proposals, though he did note he was no expert on climate change and had not yet seen the proposed regulation. Let's move beyond such rhetoric and look at the facts.

Take the first claim that carbon pollution restrictions will kill jobs and devastate the economy. Evidence tells us that we can have both a clean environment and a strong economy. In a recent oped, Christine Todd Whitman, a Republican, who is the former Governor of New Jersey and was EPA Administrator under President George W. Bush, highlighted that "...between 1970 and 2006, U.S. GDP grew by 195 percent, yet thanks to regulatory changes annual emissions of carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, and lead all decreased significantly." In other words, economic growth and regulation can and do intertwine successfully.

Investing in new energy standards actually has helped fuel that economic growth. For example, since the Clean Air Act was passed in 1970, every dollar spent on compliance standards has yielded \$4-\$8 in economic return on that investment.

The fact is that these standards



Tonko

equipment, and the creation of thousands of domestic jobs. Employment in the American solar industry, for example, grew ten times faster than the national employment average rate last year.

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Another tired but predictable claim opponents will make is that electricity rates will increase. The Washington Post's fact checker, who does not take a position on EPA rules, debunked this allegation noting that "this [claim] does not pass the laugh test." The Clean Air Act amendments of 1990 also were assailed by similar attacks. So what happened to electricity rates? They decreased.

Between 1990 and 2006, electricity rates fell by 47 percent in Arkansas, 64 percent in Illinois, 28 percent in Indiana, 35 percent in Michigan, 30 percent in North Carolina, 18 percent in Ohio, 36 percent in Pennsylvania, 40 percent in Utah, and 36 percent in Virginia. Even the power companies agree. The CEO of American Electric Power, one of our nation's largest utilities, said that with enough time to prepare, the transition to a cleaner energy future can occur "without a major impact to customers or the economy."

Finally, these perennial alarmists will argue that the American public does not want the "boot of government regulation on their neck." To the contrary, when it comes to basic health protections, the American public overwhelmingly has said it doesn't want the threat of pollution on its neck. A 2012 American Lung Association report found that Americans support the Clean Air Act by a 2-to-1 margin. The same report found nearly 3 out of 4 respondents believe we shouldn't have to choose between health and safety standards and promoting the economy. They understand that the opponents are presenting them with a false choice and that we can and must do both. And when it comes to setting limits on carbon pollution from power plants, a February 2014 poll found 7 out of 10 Americans support these safeguards. Seventy percent!

But you won't hear the House majority reminding the public of these inconvenient truths.

They prefer reckless rhetorical arguments and irresponsible inaction. Reducing carbon emissions poses a significant challenge, and we look forward to working with industry, the environmental community, and stakeholders at the local, state, and federal levels to address this challenge. But first we must be willing to move beyond these campaigns of fear and deception.

Thankfully, there are indications that industry and the public understand this. For example, use of solar power by American companies increased by 40 percent last

Those businesses, and their customers, understand the value of investing in American ingenuity and innovation - a healthier environment, a sustainable source of domestic energy, creating new high-skilled jobs.

The Obama Administration has taken a bold step in proposing a 30 percent reduction from 2005 levels in carbon emissions from power plants. We support that effort and know that America's health and economic wellbeing will benefit immeasurably.

Springfield

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Opposing Medicaid Expansion

To the Editor:

(In response to Del. Ken Plum's Commentary "A Moral

Imperative, "Connection, May 29—June 4, 2014)

Rather than vilify Republicans in the House of Delegates who want separate debate on Medicaid expansion, Del. Ken Plum (Dto budget negotiations in the first place. Linking it serves only a political convenience for the Gov-

majority of Virginians oppose Medicaid expansion.

I ask Del. Plum: why would you want to shackle Virginia to a program that is inefficient and badly in need of reform? Why would you want to increase the federal debt? Why would you trust the federal government to keep its promise 36) should be reminded that about cost-sharing? Why would there is no imperative to link it you want to commit Virginia taxpayers to almost \$1 billion in net costs to the state over the next eight years? Why aren't you critiernor, who knows by now that a cal of the Virginia hospital lobby,

knowing that many hospitals operate at a profit even after

charity care? Why are you pushing a policy that a majority of Virginians oppose?

It is obvious by now that the Affordable Care Act, and Medicaid expansion, are tools to redistribute income and impose greater government control over citizens, rather than to improve quality healthcare.

Virginia should not rush a decision to expand Medicaid. Instead, lawmakers should support the Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission and others who are developing alternatives that actually improve healthcare without increasing the financial burden on Virginians.

Virginia should reject Medicaid expansion, and should support Medicaid reform.

> **Nancy Piotter** Fairfax Station

OPINION

Transitioning to Summer

By Amanda Andere Executive Director FACETS

ummer is a time of change — always welcomed by students. The break during the hottest months gives a chance for kids to de-stress and prepare for their next grade on their short path to adulthood.

After five summers at FACETS, I've had the opportunity to watch many children make this transition. What's fun for kids though, can be a huge struggle for their parents. Finding appropriate and affordable care, providing enough meals during the day, and incurring the extra costs of entertaining children can be an enormous challenge for families that FACETS serves. Everyday FACETS, a nonprofit that opens doors to people who suffer the effects of poverty in Fairfax County and City, meets families who are vulnerable emergency shelter, food and medical needs, helps them gain safe, sustainable and permanent housing and works with them to end the cycle of homelessness and poverty through educational, life skills and career counseling programs.

Through our Education and Community Development Program — which operates out of four affordable housing communities, we offer innovative programming at the community centers as a way to engage and strengthen families. To ensure that children in the communities are busy, learning, and eating, we provide an expanded program in the summer. We take field trips, have activities and work-



shops, host honor roll parties, and play games and music.

We also rely on older children to help with programming, giving them leadership roles. For instance, we send teen clients to the annual Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project (YADAPP) Conference leadership program. They return from this excellent leadership program and

produce a series of summer activities and workshops for the younger kids in the community. Having these older youth — most of whom have experienced poverty — take leadership roles is transformative for them. It's watching these transformations in our youngest clients that I have enjoyed most in my time at FACETS. As I too start a life transition to a new position with Wider Opportunities for Women, a national nonprofit that works on pathways to economic security and equality, I see the growth in these children and know that the FACETS' team and its corps of volunteers are changing the trajectory for these families. I also see a county that cares about its people and is diligently working to address poverty and end homelessness. Along with my colleagues, peers and partners, I know that we have made measurable progress in reducing the number of people who are waiting for shelter and services.

Best of all, I know that summers will be a time that brings fun and memories to more kids in Fairfax County. I leave FACETS in capable hands, understanding that more children will transition through summer to a successful new school year ... and ultimately a life with more and better choices.



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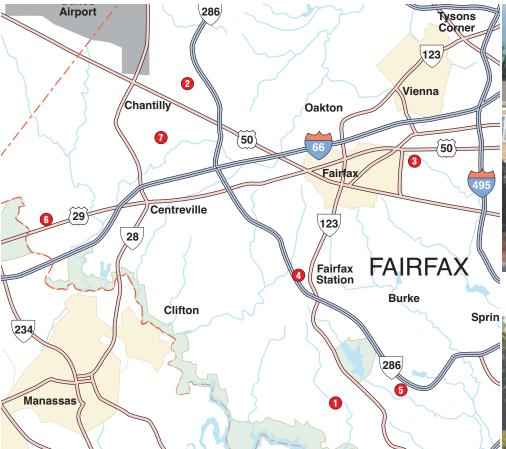
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Home LifeStyle

A Porch with a View

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL The Connection

hen a Great Falls ho meowner decided she wanted to breathe new life into her large covered porch after a long, cold winter, she called on Anna Kucera, owner and principal designer of Gracious Living by Design in Alexandria, Va., to give the space a fresh look in time for warm-weather gatherings.

"The client has an expansive porch with incredible views of Great Falls," said Kucera. "She [wanted] to refresh and update the outdoor living space while still allowing the vista to remain the focal point."

Kucera's goal was to create a space that was at once tranquil and invigorating, but also respected the home's architectural features, including stonework and wood siding. Kucera was careful to upholster the casual, but elegant seating with fabrics that were durable, heavily textured and able to withstand the elements.

"Although the porch is covered, we needed to select materials that could withstand moisture and sun exposure," said Kucera. "And considering the large quantity of cushions on the porch, it was prudent to select upholstery fabrics that would not become tiresome after a season or two."

The upholstered cushions were crafted from outdoor fabrics made of 100 percent solution-dyed acrylic. The main seating area is accessorized with custom-sized, flat-woven, polypropylene area rugs by Couristan.

"Both solution-dyed acrylic and polypropylene are inherently mildew and fade resistant," said Kucera. "We selected an off-white solid woven from Stroheim to cover the back and arm cushions. For the seats and contrast welt on the back cushions, we chose a neutral tone fabric with a subtle dot pattern designed by Wendy Tsuii and Linda Ueda for Perennials."

The rugs are perfect for alfresco gatherings: "Clients who enjoy entertaining outdoors and love natural sisal rugs are impressed with the way polypropylene rugs offer the same look with the added Kucera benefits of easy clean-up ... along with durability," said Nancy Hardy, a design associate at Gracious Living by Design.

Kucera used a neutral and time-



Photo by Veronica Bruno

objects and

works of art

that we look

carry are as

important

as the floral

arrange-

ments that

we create

because we

think they

should al-

ways work

together,"

said Kevin

Green,

owner of The Virginia

Florist

"Our clients

are inter-

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for

Alexandria, Va., based designer Anna Kucera created a covered porch space that was tranquil and invigorating, but also respectful of the Great Falls home's architectural features, including stonework and wood siding.

less palette as a backdrop for vibrant pops of color in accessories such as toss pillows. "We created emphasis by combining succulent gave the porch a polished aes-

citrus shades of green, orange and yellow," she said. "The mood could easily be changed with pillows by combining soothing tones of sea glass, green and aqua, or by boldly contrasting black and off-white."

To complete the рa picked up a few accent

pieces at The Virginia Florist of Alexandria. "I found accessories and finishing touches such as orchids

in cachepots, a sweet bird votive holder and greenery-filled urns."

These carefully chosen details thetic. "The

"We created emphasis by combining succulent citrus shades of green, orange and yellow. The mood could easily be changed with pillows by combining soothing tones of sea glass, green and aqua, or by boldly contrasting black and off-white."

— Anna Kucera, owner and principal designer of Gracious **Living by Design**

> just in flowers, but in decorating their environments, and we share that kind of holistic approach."

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FATHER'S DAY PHOTO GALLERY



Kendra, Rima, Kyle and Father Tintin of Springfield, swimming with the dolphin.



Bobby and Wayne Pereyra, of Springfield. "No love is greater than that of a father for his son."



Alex Pastino, John Pastino and Matt Pastino, of Springfield, going fishing.



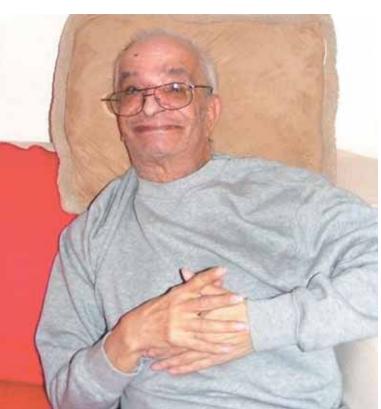
Dusty and Keifer Michael, of Springfield. "It is not flesh and blood, but heart that make us father and son."



The Christy's, Jerry, Nia, Dad Neil, Chanel and Cy of Springfield pose in front of Peter Christy **Street named** after their grandfather and hero.



Ryan Mahoney, 2, and his father Chris Mahoney, of Springfield, cutting the lawn.



He didn't tell us how to live; he lived, and let us watch him do it. Linley Michael (1939 -2011). RIP dear great one.



The party just got better. Dad, Jose, and Joaquin celebrating a very private moment.

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.

FRIDAY/JUNE 13

Basic Gardening: Shade Gardening. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Green
Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria. You can have beautiful color, ample texture and plenty of variety without full sun by giving attention to plant selection, soil preparation and watering. Learn from master gardeners the basics about shade gardening. \$10. 703-642-5173.

Summer Book Sale. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Your favorite books - in pristine condition plus numerous media offerings are waiting for you.

FRIDAY/JUNE 13-SUNDAY/JUNE 22

Some Girl(s). Friday and Saturday 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. This play by Neil LaBute tells the story of one man as he flies across the country in search of the perfect woman (whom he's already broken up with). Admissions: \$5-\$10. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-

FRIDAY/JUNE 13-SATURDAY/JUNE 14

"Princess Whatersername." 7 p.m. Thomas A. Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria, The story follows a girl lost in the forest who can't remember anything - not even her own name. On her journey to discover her identity, she meets Hansel and Gretel, Rumpelstiltskin, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and other beloved fairy tale characters who help her find her true identity as a princess. Tickets \$5 for adults, \$3 for children.

SATURDAY/JUNE 14

Family Fun: Bees, Beetles and More Bugs. 1-2 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, Green Springs Rd., Alexandria. Explore the mindboggling variety and outrageous adaptations of the insect world. Go on a safari to capture bugs and get a close look at insects in your neighborhood. \$6. 703-642-5173.

Garden Sprouts. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, Green Springs Rd., Alexandria. Meet some creepy, crawly friends as we explore the gardens for insects. Create a bug friend from natural materials and sample a slimy snack. \$6. 703-642-

Tasting Party: Teas of Korea. 10:30 a.m.- 12 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, Green Springs Rd., Alexandria. Korean teas reflect the country's rich forest landscapes. Sample and access some of these delicious tisanes served with traditional Korean foods. \$25 703-941-7987.

Once Upon a Time...(Costume Ball **Fundraiser).** 7:30-10 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. The evening includes music, dancing, silent auction, food, and performances by cabaret vocalists. Costumes with a fairy-tale theme are not required for entry, but there will be door prizes for the most imaginative costumes. Admission is limited, so early reservations are strongly recommended. Admissions: \$40. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

Summer Book Sale. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Your favorite books - in pristine condition plus numerous media offerings are waiting for you. Family Fun: Bees, Beetles and More Bugs. 1-2 p.m.



Photo courtesy of the Workhouse

Don't miss Unquiet Theatre Company's production of "Some Girls" at The Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton, this weekend June 13-15. The play is about a guy who decides to visit his ex-girlfriends before his imminent marriage.

Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Go on a safari to capture bugs and get a close look at the insects in your neighborhood. Family friendly programs for ages 5 and up; children must be accompanied by registered adult. \$6. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring or 703-642-5173.

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.

Yard Sale. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Calvary Christian Church, 9800 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Furniture, electronics, women's clothing housewares. All proceeds will be used to help feed needed school-age children in the local area during the summer months.

Art in the Courtyard. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Lorton Station Town Center. Artists from the Workhouse Arts Center, the Torpedo Art Factory and Historic Occoquan will be featuring their works including paintings, jewelry, sculpture, photography, blown glass, pottery, wood work, and digital artwork. Visit

www.lortonstationtowncenter.com/calendar-of-events.html for more. **Mount Vernon Nights: Alt**

Washingtonia (Bavarian). 7-8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Alt Washingtonia performs traditional Alpine dances from Germany and Austria. Performances include the long alphorns, yodeling and singing, cowbell-ringing, musical saw, button-box accordion, zither, and mountain dulcimer. Visit www.workhousearts.org or call 703-584-2900.

SUNDAY/JUNE 15

Summer Book Sale. 12 - 3 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Your favorite books - in pristine condition plus numerous media offerings are waiting for you. **Father's Day Cruise**. 1, 3, 5 and 7

p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Sit back and listen while your tourboat guide shares interesting facts about the history of the park, the lake and the surrounding area. Boarding Fees: \$3 for Dads; \$6 for other adults; \$4 Reservations and advance payment required. http:// www.fairfaxcountv.gov/parks/lakeaccotink/events.htm

TUESDAY/JUNE 17 Homeschool: Green and Growing Gardens. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. For children 3-5 years will learn about plant life cycles, investigate soil and earthworms and visit our vegetable garden to see how veggies grow. \$15. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ parks/greenspring or 703-642-5173.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 18

Workhouse Farmers Market. 3-7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton.

THURSDAY/JUNE 19-THURSDAY/JUNE 26

Garden Stroll & Tea. 1-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Rd, Alexandria. Tour some of the glorious demonstration gardens with a master gardener docent who will inspire you with stories of Green Spring past and present. Afterwards, traditional English afternoon tea served in 1784 historic house. Register online. \$29. 703-941-7987.

FRIDAY/JUNE 20 – SUNDAY/JUNE 22 Cooking Light & Health's The Fit

Foodie 5K Race Weekend. Mosaic District, 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax. The Fit Foodie 5K Race Weekend Series is jam-packed with celebrity chef tastings, cooking and fitness demonstrations, yoga sessions, and a Power Systems fitness boot camp, all led by celebrity trainers and fitness experts. For tickets and registration, visit http:// www.fitfoodierun.com/

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

Ballroom Social Dance. 7:30-10:30 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. Dress code is casual for both ballroom mini-lessons and open dancing. Mini-lessons begin at 7:30 and feature different styles, from ChaCha to Tango. Open dance begins at 8. All skill levels are welcome. Admissions: \$5-\$10. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

Wildflower Folklore & More. 10-11 a.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Naturalist Alonso Abugattas shares the identification, folklore, medicinal usage, ethics of collecting and other human interactions surrounding wildflowers. \$18. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ greenspring or 703-642-5173. **Boy Scout Plant Science Merit**

Badge. 12-4 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria.

Mount Vernon Nights: Bohemian Caverns Jazz Orchestra. 7-8 p.m. Workhouse, 9601 Ox Rd., Lorton. The new Bohemian Caverns Jazz Orchestra. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.



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SPORTS

Robinson Boys' Lax Beats Battlefield in State Semifinals

Sophomores Henry, Daniel propel Rams to first state final since 2007.

> By Jon Roetman The Connection

oubt crept in the mind of sophomore attackman Johnny Daniel after the Robinson boys' lacrosse team lost to Landon, 15-1, on March 31. Were the Rams, who had just lost three of their first four games, really that good?

More than two months later, Daniel was doubt free as Robinson faced Battlefield in the 6A state semifinals. In fact, No. 23 settled into a comfort zone with a longtime teammate.

Sophomore midfielder Austin Henry scored three first-half goals, each assisted by Daniel, and Daniel added a goal of his own in the second half as the Rams secured a berth in the state championship game with an 8-4 victory over Battlefield on June 10 at Robinson Secondary School.

"We've been on the same team since seventh grade and we've done everything together," said Daniel, who has more than 30 goals and 30 assists this season. "Whenever he does a little move ... I don't even have to look at him and he'll be wide open for a beautiful shot. That's a connection that I'm so happy that I've had and I'm going to have for the next few years."

Robinson led 4-3 at halftime, thanks to a first-half hat trick from Henry. After producing three first-half assists, Daniel scored with 10:01 remaining in the third quarter, giving the Rams a 5-3 advantage. Robinson led by at least two goals for the remainder of the contest. "They know each other really well," Robinson head coach Matt Curran said. "Austin's one of the best shooters I've been around. When he catches inside, or even on the run, he has a tendency to [score]."

After a 1-3 start to the season, Robinson has won 16 consecutive games and will play in its first state championship game since 2007.

"I knew we had what it took," Daniel said. "In the beginning of the year, I doubted it for a second. Robinson sophomore Austin Henry scored three goals against Battlefield in the 6A state semifinals on June 10.

Photos by

Craig Sterbutzel,

The Connection





Robinson junior Jack Rowlett scored two goals against Battlefield on June 10.

We definitely stepped it up after we lost to Landon. ... We promised to Coach Curran that we wouldn't lose any more games, because that's the worst feeling you can possibly have. We just stuck to our word and did the best that we could."

Robinson will face Langley in the state final at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 14 at Lake Braddock Secondary School. The Rams thumped Langley 15-3 in the 6A North region championship game on June 6, but the Saxons bounced back to beat 6A South champion Osbourn Park in the state semifinals, 21-8, on Tuesday.

"[The Saxons] beat Osbourn Park pretty handily," Daniel said. "I don't think they were ready [in the region final]. Their game plan was not prepared last game, so we're really going to need to work hard and take this seriously. They beat [defending state champion] Chantilly. I think they just had an off game against us."

Curran said the Rams must avoid a letdown against Langley after beating the Saxons convincingly in the region final.

"I don't think we played our best ball tonight, so we need to play better," Curran said after Tuesday's win over Battlefield. "We can't take for granted at all that we had a great game against Langley the first time. They crushed Osbourn Park tonight. ... After a 12-goal victory in the regional final ... you take 15-, 16-, 17-, 18-year-old kids, it's almost guaranteed to be a little bit of a letdown the next game."

Battlefield held first-half leads of 2-1 and 3-2. Henry's goal with 9:02 remaining in the second quarter tied the score at 3-all. Henry scored again with 59 seconds remaining in the half, giving the Rams a 4-3 lead they would not relinquish.

Junior defenseman Jack Rowlett scored twice in the third quarter. His second goal gave Robinson a 7-4 lead with 4:20 remaining in the period.

Junior attackman Chapman Jasien and junior midfielder Jack Smith each scored a goal for Robinson.

Senior goalkeeper Nick Kondracki, who was voted team MVP this season, was credited with five saves.

"It means a great deal, it really does," Curran said of reaching the state championship game. "I'm really excited."

Robinson last won a state championship in 2007, when the Rams defeated Westfield in the final. Langley has captured four of the last five state titles, winning four straight from 2009-2012.

South County Softball Wins Region Championship

Sophomore shortstop Williams drives in go-ahead run against Lake Braddock.

By Jon Roetman The Connection

n four meetings with Lake Braddock this season, the South County softball team had scored just one run in 36 2/3 innings against Bruins pitcher Ashley Flesch when sophomore shortstop Jade Williams stepped to the plate in the eighth inning of Friday's 6A North region championship game.

The Stallions had hit the ball well on this day, but had nothing to show for it. Now, with a runner in scoring position and two outs in a scoreless tie, Williams had an opportunity to break through.

"I knew we were due because we had been hitting the ball hard," Williams said. "We had been getting progressively better every game and I knew, some time, it was going to drop in"

For Williams and the Stallions, that time was now.

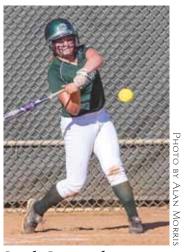
Williams ripped a run-scoring double down the third-base line, designated player Mollie Maglich followed with an RBI double and South County captured its first region championship since 2009 with a 2-1, eight-inning victory at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

"We all wanted it really bad — I think we wanted it more than them," Williams said. "I just wanted to hit the ball hard. I was confident and I really wanted to win."

South County won the first meeting between the teams, 1-0 in 13 innings on April 24. Flesch struck out 19 and did not allow a hit until Martin's walk-off double in the 13th. Lake Braddock won the regular-season rematch, 4-0, on May 12, and defeated the Stallions 1-0 in nine innings in the Conference 7 championship game on May 23.

"We hung in there, kept battling [and] finally strung a couple hits together at the end there," South County head coach Gary Dillow said. "That second run obviously ended up being huge, too, because you know they're just going to battle back.

"... We've progressively got-



South County shortstop Jade Williams drove in the go-ahead run with a double in the eighth inning of the 6A North region championship game against Lake Braddock on June 6.

ten better each time we've seen [Flesch]. I think it's just a matter of seeing her enough. We played 29 innings against her coming into today and we got eight more. It's just a matter of familiarity, I guess. ... We talked about progressively getting better and I think we got just a little better today and it was enough."

Williams went 2-for-3 at the plate. Martin and second baseman Cara Yates each went 2-for-4. Caitlin Maglich, catcher Haylea Geer, Mollie Maglich, and Ward each had one hit.

While South County (24-3) finally scored some runs, Martin took care of business in the circle. The senior right-hander tossed a complete game, allowing one unearned run and seven hits in eight innings. She walked two and struck out two.

Martin, the 6A North region tournament MVP, threw 99 pitches, including 67 strikes. She threw a first-pitch strike to 26 of 35 batters faced.

"Rebecca usually throws a lot of first-pitch strikes and they were attacking a lot of first-pitch strikes," Dillow said. "We were fortunate enough to get them to ... pop some pitches up early, so it helped keep her pitch count down and I think it helped because she's pitched a lot in the last week, and I know Ashley has too."

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Taxes may be paid in person Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Treasurer's Office, Room 234, City Hall

IMPORTANT

Even if you do not receive a bill, you are responsible for paying real estate taxes by June 23, 2014 to avoid late payment penalties

For Additional Information, please call 703-385-7904

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SCHOOL NOTES

Send notes to the Connection

south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-

9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements

should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the

Razan Abdurrahman Idris of Springfield, a graduate of United World College

in Montezuma, N.M., and daughter of

Noura Harran and Abdurrahman Idris, is

among seven incoming freshmen at Duke

University selected as winners of the

Reginaldo Howard Memorial Scholarship.

ship, which covers full tuition, room, board

and mandatory fees, is more than \$240,000

over four years. Duke provides this award

annually to first-year students of African

heritage who have demonstrated outstand-

ing leadership ability, academic achieve-

ment, community involvement and a seri-

ous commitment to social justice. The

Reginaldo Howard Memorial Scholarship is

named for the first black student body presi-

dent at Duke, who died in a car accident in

For more information about the incom-

Jacob Augelli, an eighth grade stu-

dent at Robinson Secondary, finished

in fourth place overall in the 2014 United

States Geography Olympiad, junior varsity

division. The competition consisted of two

parts: a written exam and a quiz bowl tour-

nament; Augelli placed sixth in the exam

and tied for seventh in the quiz bowl tour-

nament; overall scores were compiled by

averaging each competitor's ranking for

Over 70 junior varsity students from as

far away as Guam competed in the written

exam and in a preliminary quiz bowl round, while those with high scores advanced to

the final quiz bowl round. Questions ranged

in difficulty from naming countries by their

capital to identifying obscure islets in the

The top four varsity students earned the

right to represent the USA at the 2014 In-

ternational Geography Olympiad in Krakow,

The Geography Olympiad was sponsored

by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and HIS-

TORY, commonly known as the History

Channel, which also sponsors the National

History Bee and Bowl. For more information on the competition, please visit

Woodson High junior Brittany Mor-

ris is one of 45 students from Virginia se-

lected to attend the Governor's Latin Acad-

Morris is the first deaf student-whose

first language is American Sign Language

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She is also the first deaf student to play Certamen (Latin Ouiz Bowl) on the state

Morris earned a scholarship to attend the

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tion in 2012, as well as numerous gold

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tional Roman Civilization Exam, and Na-

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