

Saying Goodbye at Lee High

NEWS, PAGE 8

Springfield
CONNECTION

Franconia ♦ Kingstowne
Newington

West Springfield's 'Highest Achieving Class'

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Gadson, Army Honored By Board of Supervisors

NEWS, PAGE 10

Kristan Sheppard conducts the combined choirs during the Lee High School graduation ceremony. Lealani Saulo played the piano. Choral pieces performed included Go the Distance, The Star Spangled Banner Finale, and of course Pomp and Circumstance, March no. 1.



The West Springfield Senior Class of 2014, their families, teachers, administrators and the All Night Graduation Party committee members gratefully acknowledge the following businesses, organizations and individuals for their support of the PTSA sponsored alcohol and drug free All Night Graduation Party held on June 23rd at the Lee District Recreation Center in Alexandria. We are grateful for your generous contributions and commitment to the young people of our community!

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PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

The board of the Friends of Richard Byrd Library.

Friends of Richard Byrd Library Improve Community

The group was awarded at the 2014 Volunteer Fairfax Awards.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

As president of the Friends of Richard Byrd Library, Springfield resident Christine Peterson spends countless hours, along with other volunteers in the group, working to ensure the library is effectively serving the community.

The group was recognized for their service to Springfield when they were honored with the Volunteer Fairfax Adult Volunteer Group award.

"When we were called, I screamed," Peterson said. "We never thought a library would win against groups that help babies and puppies."

Jo-ann Mitchell, who lives near Kingstowne but comes to volunteer at Ri-

chard Byrd because of its strong friends group, knows just how excited Peterson was that the group won the Volunteer Fairfax award.

"She screamed in my ear," Mitchell said.

The Friends of Richard Byrd volunteer non-stop to share their love of reading and learning with the community, supporting the library in its goal of reaching out to the surrounding Springfield area.

"I love this area. There's a wonderful ethnic diversity here," Peterson said.

The area surrounding the library has some low-income housing and Title I schools, which Peterson and other Friends members say makes the library even more important.

"There are all different types of needs," Peterson said. "Whether it's learning how to use an e-book, to taking an English con-



Christine Peterson, president of the Friends of Richard Byrd Library in Springfield, holds the group's Volunteer Fairfax award that they won in April.

versation class, the library offers everything."

The Friends group even reached out to schools in the area, giving teachers the opportunity to pick out free books for their classroom at the library.

Peterson, who has been volunteering at the library for over a decade, said the library is more important now than ever.

"It used to just be checking out a library card and getting a book. Now, you can check out an e-book without even going into the library. If you want to become a U.S. Citizen, you can learn how to do that at the library," she said.

In addition, it can save a lot of money, Peterson points out, as all of the trips to the bookstore can add up.

"If kids start a series, they can read all of it at the library," said Sandy Freund, branch manager of Richard Byrd Library.

The library is really a great place for families, Peterson said. From the summer read-

ing program to an August in Antarctica event, inspired by the library's namesake explorer, there's something for everyone.

Mitchell and Freund say the Volunteer Fairfax award is a testament to Peterson's leadership. But Peterson says everyone in the group works extremely hard.

"Each volunteer is just as smart and great as the next," Peterson said.

For other Friends groups in Fairfax County who are looking to be as successful as those at Richard Byrd, Peterson it's important to always think of the surrounding community.

"Don't limit your vision to four walls," Peterson said. "The library can do so much more than that."

As for the Friends of Richard Byrd, Peterson said they will continue to enable the library in its efforts to make Springfield a better place.

"Springfield is always improving, and I think we mirror that in the friends group," she said.

Greenspring Hosts Village Fair

On Thursday, June 19, Greenspring retirement community hosted a Village Fair that showcased over 80 of the more than 225 resident-run and resident-driven clubs and groups on campus.

Some of the groups thriving at Greenspring include the Greenspring Players drama club, the Wii virtual bowling league, the yacht club, the Villager newspaper group, the pickle ball club, the iPad user forum group, the Tillagers garden club, the Dogs of Greenspring group, and a variety of service groups representing each branch of the military.



The PFLAG group was formed at Greenspring in 2011 and provides a supportive environment for discussions on human diversity.



Members of the Nebraska Cornhuskers fan club at Greenspring, residents Betty Griffin and Joseph Kyle, show off their school colors.

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OBITUARY

Former Hayfield Principal Dave Tremaine Dies

Dave Tremaine, a former principal at Hayfield Secondary School, died June 16. Tremaine recently retired from his position as principal at Hayfield, where he has worked since 2010.

"Please know that Dave was extremely proud of Hayfield Secondary School, the faculty and staff and especially Hayfield students. All of us who knew Dave are thankful for his guiding spirit. He was dedicated to his family and friends and he was a dedicated educator. The fact that Dave worked nearly until his death demonstrates how devoted he was to the Hayfield community," Tracey Phillips, interim principal of Hayfield, wrote in an email to parents and stu-



Dave Tremaine, who recently retired from his position as principal at Hayfield Secondary School, died on Monday, June 16.

dents on Monday.

A candlelight vigil was held for Tremaine at Hayfield on June 16. A Facebook group, "Hayfield Loves Mr. Tremaine," was flooded with posts from students and the Hayfield community celebrating Tremaine's life.

— JANELLE GERMANOS

AREA ROUNDUPS

Fashion Show and Auction for Breast Cancer

Clarke Entertainment is hosting its 4th Annual Bachelors and Bachelorettes for Breast Cancer Fashion Show and Auction on June 27, 7—11 p.m. at Waterford @ Springfield,

6715 Commerce Street, Springfield. This charity event will benefit the Northern Virginia agency, HANDS, INC., an agency that focuses on Breast, Cervical and Ovarian cancer.

This one-night event promises a full evening of laughs, food and fun and maybe a few tears. Radio personality Marc Clarke (WHUR 96.3) will host the event heightening the crowd during the auction of the 10 eligible bachelors & bachelorettes with all proceeds benefiting HANDS. There will also be a fashion show with all its glitz and glam. In addition, there will be opportunity to advertise in the program booklet or become a sponsor for the event. Tickets: www.clarkeinspiration.eventbrite.com

Van Metre Companies Forms Foundation

The Van Metre Companies, one of the largest privately held and locally owned homebuilding, development, commercial real estate and property management companies in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area, has announced the formation of the Van Metre Companies Foundation, Inc.

The Foundation will be run by a group of current employees who will serve as the Board of Directors and Officers of the Foundation, and will have full discretion for disbursement of the funds of which it generates. Julie van der Vate has been named the Chairman and President of the Foundation,

with Candy McCracken, Tom Marable, Rebecca Gizzarelli, and Staci Cichocki, fulfilling the remaining roles on the Board of Directors.

The Van Metre Companies Foundation is dedicated to improving the lives of people in the communities where Van Metre carries on its business. The Foundation will complement and supports the interests, values, and vision of the Van Metre Companies and its employees. It will provide financial support to qualified educational, medical, human welfare services, and other 501(c)(e) charitable organizations.

To learn more, visit www.vanmetrehomes.com.

VRE Earns Security Award for Emergency Drill at Lake Accotink Park

The Virginia Railway Express (VRE) earned a Gold Security Excellence Award last week from the American Public Transportation Association for a safety drill held at Lake Accotink Park in Springfield. The drill was a full-scale, realistic emergency simulation of a nighttime passenger train derailment in the heavily wooded area.

"Safety is a top priority for VRE," said Braddock Supervisor John Cook who serves as Vice Chair for the VRE Operations Board. "The Gold Award is recognition that the VRE is leading the industry in proactive training exercises."

The drill brought together first responders from the Fairfax County Police Department and Fire and Rescue, and utilized the police helicopter to locate a missing passenger.

This award comes in addition to the Transportation Security Administration's 2014 Baseline Assessment for Security Enhancement audit which gave VRE a "Gold Standard" rating.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

False Claims on 'Underfunding'

To the Editor:

There's been some commentary on Fairfax County school budget issues and a total misuse of the term "underfunding," including the false claim that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors underfunded the school system. My reaction to this is more than academic—it's personal. Not only am I a proud K-8 product of FCPS, but I've also got a daughter in our school system and a son just a few years behind.

Looking around for someone to blame is a time-honored ploy to shift responsibility from where it belongs. This is the reality. Fairfax County funds almost 70 percent of the FCPS budget and on top of that we also pick up the costs for other school services such as school resource officers, health nurses, crossing guards, and SACC. We dedicate two thirds of our bonding capacity to the schools and this year we adopted a plan to allocate an additional \$13 million to the schools for their capital needs. That's about another \$80 million a year combined. In fact, the budget we just adopted includes a 3 percent increase in funding to FCPS through a half-cent increase

in the real estate tax, schools being the only reason we passed a rate increase.

The elephant in the room is the State funding formula inequity. Fairfax County is a donor jurisdiction, sending more dollars to the state than it recoups—about 21 cents on the dollar.

FCPS' state per pupil funding suffers in comparison to other Virginia localities. In FY2012, the state provided \$2,764 per pupil while the County provided \$9,905 per pupil in local funding. In contrast, neighboring Prince William County received half its per pupil funding from the state. These figures may have been OK in the past, but today's school needs have far

outpaced our local ability to pay. Other school districts are able to fund their needs with our tax dollars while here in Fairfax County we struggle to meet our own needs.

We all need to work together—School Board, County Board, PTAs, and citizens. We need to follow our kids' example when they work together in the classroom to solve problems. We owe it to them to stop the finger pointing and work together to tackle the root of our school funding problem—the state's unfair and antiquated funding formula that discriminates against Fairfax County.

Jeffrey C. McKay, Supervisor
(D-Lee District)

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail: south@connectionnewspapers.com

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OPINION

Safe Fourth

Talking and planning are the best safety measures; SoberRide offers a safety net.

Independence Day is a national celebration, and for many, that celebration includes alcohol. The summer overall and July 4 in particular are times of greater risk for drinking and driving.

Make a plan. Plan to celebrate with access to public transportation. Plan to have a designated driver. Plan to celebrate in a place safe and comfortable to spend the night.

But in case those plans go awry, here is a safe alternative.

The Washington Regional Alcohol Program will offer free taxi rides home (up to \$30) beginning 10 p.m. the night of July 4 for six hours until 4 a.m. the morning of July 5. Participants must be at least 21. Call 1-800-200-TAXI.

On July 4, 2013, nearly 300 people used WRAP's SoberRide service rather than possibly driving home impaired.

In summer, 44 percent of all U.S. traffic deaths are caused by alcohol-impaired drivers, according to statistics provided by WRAP. SoberRide is a way to help keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

For parents of young adults who may be living at home and parents of those under 21, this is time to talk. Ask about plans, ask specifically about getting home. Remind those over 21 to take the WRAP phone number with them.

While you hope that young adults under 21 aren't drinking — because there are lots of dangers to binge drinking beyond drinking and driving — you know that many of them will be drinking. Let your younger family members know that you would much rather pay for a cab or come get them yourself than run the risk of losing them.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 60,565 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

For more information, visit www.soberide.com.

—MARY KIMM,
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Call for Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish on July 23, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by July 16.

Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

We welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, tales of the bonds between your family and your pet, plus drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults. Please tell us a little bit about your pet, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

We welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, explanations of the bonds between your family and your pet, plus drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults.

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100K Reasons to Find People Homes

BY MAURA WILLIAMS
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/
FACETS

Sandara was scared of her spouse so she fled and left her life and job behind. Tom suffered from an undiagnosed disease that cost him his job, home and life savings. These unfortunate events led to both becoming homeless and living in the woods of Fairfax County. That's where on a cold winter morning volunteers organized by FACETS and other local nonprofits found them while participating in the 100,000 Homes Fairfax: A Home for All Campaign, which is part of the national 100,000 Homes program, which counts, photographs, and interviews the chronically homeless in an effort to end homelessness.

Fairfax County has nearly 2,900 people who are homeless—14 percent of whom are chronically homeless. Over the course of three mornings, our volunteers met and interviewed more than 400 people who are chronically homeless. The findings were used to create profiles of people to ensure that each individual experiencing homelessness is counted and that their progress in finding housing and services can be better tracked.



Maura Williams

Supporting the County's 10-year plan to end homelessness, the 100,000 Homes Campaign is focused on building efficient local systems that target resources to individuals who are most vulnerable. Campaign partners are committed to getting half of the people most vulnerable who are chronically homeless in supportive housing in three years—which will save money and possibly lives.

Already we have seen success. With the data collected by staff and volunteers, we were able to connect Sandara and Tom with services that have helped them

regain their lives, safety, and dignity. Less than a year later, we celebrated with each of them and 16 others at a housewarming celebration, hosted by FACETS, a nonprofit that opens doors by helping those who suffer the effects of poverty in Fairfax County.

During the housewarming, we welcomed these neighbors experiencing homelessness into their own apartments through our new program called TRIUMPH II Housing, which also provides supportive services. These recent successes have propelled the community to meet our goal of 50 people

housed in a year—and we still have two years to go for this campaign with a goal of housing 50 people each year!

We also had the chance to celebrate the program's nationwide success. Last week, I attended an event in DC with Becky Kanis, the director of the national 100,000 Homes program, to announce a major milestone as the 100,000th person—a vet who has been homeless from Arlington, Va.—moved into housing through this ambitious effort. In announcing the milestone, she emphatically declared: "We can forever dispense with the Neanderthal view that people don't deserve or aren't ready for housing."

Although the "100,000" number sounds big, it's the people part that makes it special. Through this campaign, we are able to put a local face on homelessness with real stories about real people. Some are grandmothers, fathers, sons, daughters, and friends. Many work and others have protected our nation. When we met them, they lived in cars, encampments or on the streets, but they continued to smile and seemed hopeful that our caring community would help find them a home. And for 100,000 of them and counting, we have.

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Justice Junkins, Allan Jordan Hernandez, Carson Jones, Chloe Jones proudly pose with their new diplomas.

Saying Goodbye At Lee High

"I feel amazing," began Aaron Jenkins, the commencement speaker for Robert E. Lee High School. He then proceeded to take a selfie from the stage with the more than 350 seniors in the background. Jenkins thanked all the families, friends, and significant others who helped the graduates get to this moment. He told the audience of eager graduates, "I see the world when I look at you," and urged them to wear their robes and caps all day long in celebration. Jenkins, the program director of Operation Understand D.C., asked the captive audience "who are you? Who do you want to be? Make a choice,

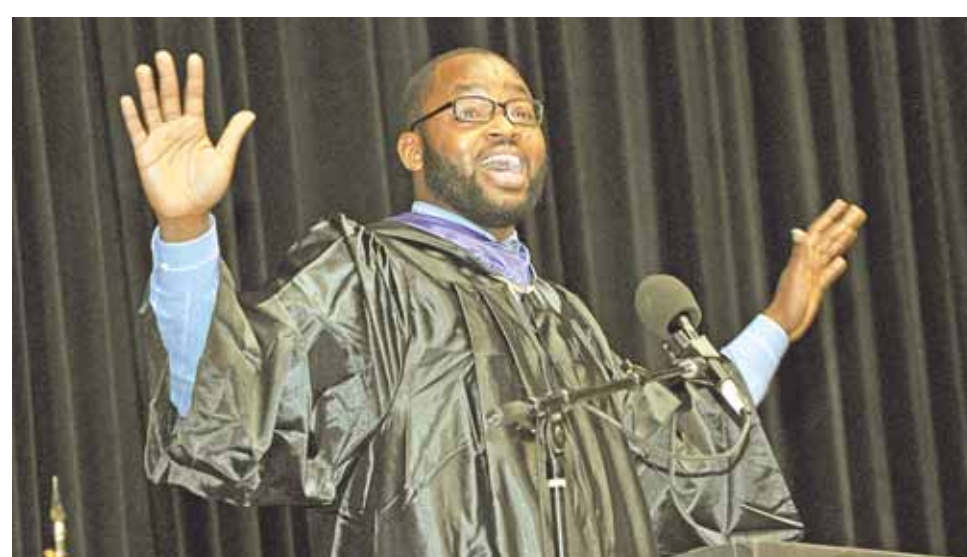
choose the road, and keep standing out." Student speakers recalled their first food fight, pep rallies, and the multiple snow days in the last year. But above all, the friends are the things they'll miss the most from the class of 2014. The class president Vincent Zhao said goodbye to the school and handed his marshal baton to the next generation. Benjamin Lobo gave the graduate address and as the Grand March by Clare Grundman played, the new graduates exited the Patriot Center towards the next phase in their lives.

— VERONICA BRUNO

PHOTOS BY
 VERONICA BRUNO
 THE CONNECTION



New graduate Kelsey Bush walks with confidence after receiving her diploma.



Aaron Jenkins, Program Director for Operation Understanding DC, combined humor, selfies, and Dr. Seuss inspiration during his commencement address to the new graduates.

VIEWPOINTS

Lee High Graduates: Where Do You See Yourself in five to 10 Years From Now?



"I see myself working as a software engineer for a well-known company."

— Nadia Abdikarim



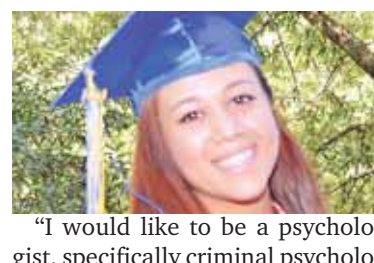
"I plan to attend the Graduate School of Dentistry."

— Nohamin Gebremichael



"I see myself getting my Master's degree."

— Meron Aklilu



"I would like to be a psychologist, specifically criminal psychologist. I also hope to have my own family with two kids."

— Brenda Hidalgo



"I plan on opening my own clothing store."

— Fernanda Moco



"I plan on going to medical school. I would like to be an endocrinologist."

— Elda Abraham



Mikael Mulatu waves to the crowd as the class of 2014 exits the building.



PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

The West Springfield High School Madrigals perform at the Class of 2014's graduation ceremony on June 23.

'The Highest Achieving Class'

West Springfield Class of 2014 told to 'follow dreams, learn.'

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
 THE CONNECTION

This year's graduating class from West Springfield High School is one of the most high-achieving classes in the school's history.

That's what Mark Greenfelder, principal of West Springfield High School and graduate of the school's class of 1987, said at the Class of 2014's graduation ceremony on June 23 at the Patriot Center.

"The Class of 2014 is the highest achieving class I've had the privilege to be associated with," he said.

The Class of 2014 at West Springfield has a collective grade point average of 3.3. Additionally, there are 186 students with an average of 3.7 and higher, and 102 honor graduates with an average of 4.0 or higher. They've been awarded 6.9 million dollars in scholarships and have three national merit finalists, Greenfelder said.

Greenfelder told the graduates to pursue their passion, but to remember that pursuing a passion can be difficult at times.



Duke Baird, a math teacher at West Springfield and a former officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, delivers the keynote address.

"Find that intersection of what you love to do and what you're naturally good at, and be relentless in pursuing it," Greenfelder said.

Keynote speaker Duke Baird, a math teacher at West Springfield and a former officer in the Marine Corps, encouraged the students to learn from their failures, which will propel them to greatness.

"Most of you will figure out how to handle success, but it is during life's shortfalls when you must be your strongest. You must be prepared to deal with failure," he said. "Failure is often looked at as a negative thing, especially in the world of education. I completely disagree."

He also encouraged the students to stop spending so much time on their smart phones.

"Find the closest body of water and throw your smart phone in it," he said. "Life will pass you by if your head is always down looking at a screen."

Nikola Marcich delivered the honor graduate address, and

thanked the teachers and parents who have supported the Class of 2014 in their journey. He spoke about each year's story and the story they have yet to live.

"Although we complain about all these books we've been assigned, they all have important stories," he said.



Graduates of West Springfield High School prepare to throw their caps during the school's graduation ceremony on June 23.

Gadson, Army Honored by Board of Supervisors

Gadson praised for strengthening relationship between Fairfax County and Fort Belvoir.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE GAZETTE

For his work in strengthening Fort Belvoir's relationship with Fairfax County and for serving as a community leader, Colonel Gregory D. Gadson was honored with a proclamation from the Board of Supervisors as he departs Fort Belvoir on June 25.

"He's been wonderful to work with, and I would especially like to recognize the partnership efforts that we've made between Fort Belvoir and the Army in finding things that we can do together. You have personally invested your own time and efforts into that process," said Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

The motion was requested by Supervisors Pat Herrity, Jeff McKay

and Gerry Hyland, calling him an "outstanding leader and asset to the community," and came during June 13-21, a week Fairfax County designated as Army Week.

Gadson has been garrison commander of Fort Belvoir since June 2012. He has served in active duty in every major conflict in the last 20 years, including Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and has received three bronze stars and a Purple Heart.

Gadson was applauded by the board for working together with Fairfax County, including the widening of Route One, for which he was named the 2013 Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year and the 2014 Lord Fairfax from the Mount Vernon District.

Herrity recognized Gadson's "career full of accomplishments," including his work for Fort Belvoir

and veterans through the Wounded Warrior Project.

"You are an inspiration. Just when I thought our relationship with Fort Belvoir couldn't get any stronger, you led an effort to see where we could work harder together, and it's been a very successful effort. It's been recognized by our community too," Herrity said.

McKay thanked Gadson for his service and recognized his ability to work together with Fairfax County.

"From day one, when I met Colonel Gadson, he made it clear that the doors of Fort Belvoir were open to the community," McKay said.

Donald Carr, director of public affairs at Fort Belvoir, was also recognized for his service by the Board of Supervisors.

McKay said of Carr that there hasn't been a major effort at Fort Belvoir that Carr hasn't been in-



PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

Colonel Gregory D. Gadson was recognized for his work in improving the relationship between Fort Belvoir and Fairfax County as he departs from his position on June 25.

and said he was humbled by the recognition. He was also thankful for Fairfax County declaring June 13-21 as Army Week.

"I have never heard of any kind of government going through this measure in recognizing the army," he said.

Gadson called the partnership with Fairfax County a "vital relationship."

"Our relationship with you has really been about a partnership. It is about a true relationship, it goes well beyond social niceties, but a deep concern for what we both have at stake, and that's why I believe our partnership of what we've been able to accomplish has been profound and why we all have optimism as we go forward," Gadson said.

Gadson said he is proud to settle in Fairfax County, something the board members were happy to hear.

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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 event.

FRIDAYS/JUNE 27-AUG. 29

Braddock Nights Concert Series. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Listen to musical performances in the great outdoors. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/ for location and schedule.

FRIDAY/JUNE 27

Careers with Beers. 3-7 p.m. Shooters Sports Bar, 7052 Spring Garden Drive, Springfield. Come grab Happy Hour drinks made by Danny Tung, CORE volunteer, and appetizers as you take in career tips, volunteer opportunities and more. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to CORE.

Tiny Tots Music. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Develop your child's language skills with music, songs and play. Ages 1-2 with adult. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/> under "Events."

Explore It with the Smithsonian's Spark! Lab. 2-2:45 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Create a musical instrument. Ages 6-12. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/rb/> under "Events."

Keeping Up with the Kids — Learn about Flickr, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and Skype. 2-3 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn the basics with our one-on-one technology volunteer about the social networking tools that can help you stay in touch with your kids and grandkids. 703-978-5600.

4th Annual Bachelors and Bachelorettes for Breast Cancer Fashion Show and Auction. 7-11 p.m. Waterford Springfield, 6715 Commerce Street, Springfield. Clarke Entertainment is hosting its 4th Annual Bachelors and Bachelorettes for Breast Cancer Fashion Show and Auction. Come enjoy the evening while bidding for a date with local supporters.

SATURDAYS/JUNE 28-AUG. 23

Burke Arts in the Parks. 10 - 11 a.m. Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Entertain children, teach them the importance of protecting our natural resources, introduce them to live entertainment in an informal kid friendly atmosphere, and forge a connection between kids and parks. Call 703-323-6601.

SATURDAY/JUNE 28

Workshop: DIY Painted Garden Flags. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Green Spring

Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Horticulturalist Nancy Olney leads you through this summer-fun project with dyed fabric, fabric paint, adhesive and templates provided. \$45. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring or 703-642-5173.

Workshop: Ikebana Flower Arranging. 10-11:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Learn the rich symbolism and fundamentals of Japanese flower arrangement and take home your own arrangement. \$55. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring or 703-642-5173.

Storytime and Rhyme. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Storytelling, music and movement with Wolf Trap teaching artist Kofi Dennis. 703-644-7333.

Classics Book Reading Group. 12-2 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Join Professor Roger Lathbury and explore classics in literature in a casual setting. This month's title: Ethan Frome by Edith Wharton. 703-451-8055.

Teen Author Elisa Nader and Cover Art Contest. 2:30-3:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Elisa Nader, author of teen thriller Escape from Eden and a graphic and user experience designer, discusses her book and shares design tips for creating teen book covers. Age 12-18. 703-978-5600.

Saturday Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at the parking lot at the intersection of West and Main Streets behind Wells Fargo Bank in Fairfax. Every Saturday there is fresh produce, goods and wares at the market. church@sovgracefairfax.org or www.FairfaxSaturdayMarket.com. Saturday/

JUNE 28 - WEDNESDAY/JULY 2

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 29

Walkathon. 8 a.m. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. This Walkathon benefits the INOVA Children's Hospital and BAPS Charities. BAPS Charities is a 501(c)(3) registered nonprofit international charity organization committed to sincerely serving the world by caring for individuals, families, and communities. BAPS Charities has amassed over 50 years of firsthand experience in initiating,

managing, and sustaining humanitarian operations throughout the world.

Sunday Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the parking lot at the intersection of West and Main Streets behind Wells Fargo Bank in Fairfax. Every Saturday there is fresh produce, goods and wares at the market. church@sovgracefairfax.org or www.FairfaxSundayMarket.com.

MONDAY/JUNE 30

Let's Grow Garden Club. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Every-other-Monday meetings to keep 3-8 year old minds active for hands-on gardening, crafting, natural science lessons and nature walks. \$75. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring or 703-642-5173.

THURSDAY/JULY 3

Workhouse Farmers Market. 3-6 p.m., at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Every Thursday on the quad is a producer-only market for discerning shoppers featuring locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally raised meats and poultry and local foods from breads to salsas and sausages. www.smartmarkets.org.

FRIDAY/JULY 4

City of Fairfax Independence Day Parade. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. 4100 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, around Historic Old Town Fairfax and passing the Reviewing stand on Armstrong Street. Come see eight high school marching, large inflatable parade balloons, horses and clowns. <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/independence-day-celebration>.

Evening Show and Fireworks. 7 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Music and dancing to rock & roll favorites; the City of Fairfax Band will play the 1812 during the fireworks display at 9:30 p.m. Rain date: July 5. <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/independence-day-celebration>.

Lorton's Fourth of July Parade. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. VRE Parking Lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Lorton's fourth annual Independence Day parade.

SATURDAY/JULY 5

Trackless Train Ride. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 12:30-1:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. For ages 3-adult, take a trackless ride to the Historic House and ponds of Green Spring Gardens. \$3. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

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21 Announcements

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
TOWN OF CLIFTON
JULY 1, 2014

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Town Council and Planning Commission will hold a joint Public Hearing on Tuesday, July 1, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Clifton Community Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton, Virginia. The purpose is to consider amendment and revision of the Signs regulations within the Zoning Ordinance, found in Chapter 9, Article 2 General Regulations, Section 9-14 of the Code of Town of Clifton, Virginia.

The proposed revision is available for review on the Town website <http://clifton-va.com> under the Town Council - News from the Council drop-down menu.

A hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton, Virginia. All interested parties are encouraged to attend the Public Hearing to express their views with respect to the proposed amendment and revision of the Signs section of the Zoning Ordinance.

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

FRIDAY/JUNE 27

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice your English conversation skills. 703-978-5600.

Basic Computer Skills Training. 1-2 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn basic computer skills with our one-on-one technology volunteers.*703-978-5600.

Genealogy Help Desk. 2-3 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bring your family history stumbers to the experts. Accomplished genealogists and library staff will be on hand to assist you. Ask at the Virginia Room desk or call 703-293-6227.

SATURDAY/JUNE 28

Master Gardeners Plant Clinic. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Masters Gardeners from the Fairfax County Cooperative Extension host plant clinic to answer your gardening questions.*703-978-5600.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Master Gardeners provide horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice to home gardeners. 703-293-6227.

Genealogy Help Desk. 2-3 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bring your family history stumbers to the experts. Accomplished genealogists and library staff will be on hand to assist you. Ask at the Virginia Room desk or call 703-293-6227.

Books — Magic is Real. 2:30-3:15 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Magician Joe Romano magically brings books to life. Ages 6-12. Register at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/rb/under “Events.”

Spanish Class for Children. 3-4 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Spanish conversation class for children. Age 7-13. 703-978-5600.

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

SUNDAY/JUNE 29

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 1-4 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and advice.*703-644-7333.

English Conversation Group. 7-8:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice and improve your English. 703-249-1520.

MONDAY/JUNE 30

Library eBook Tech Help. 11 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Learn to use the library’s eBook collection and compatible devices with a library staff member.*703-293-6227.

Walk-in eBook Clinic. 7-8:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Help with downloading library eBooks. Bring your device and its account ID and password. 703-644-7333.

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.

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. 703-667-9800.

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

SPORTS

High School Sports Season Produces Memorable Moments

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The 2013-14 high school sports season was full of memorable moments and accomplishments. The following is a look back at some of the highlights from around Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Lorton, Burke and Springfield.

Spring Sports

The South County softball team won the program's first state championship, beating previously undefeated Cosby 4-1 in the 6A final. Stallions pitcher Rebecca Martin finished her high school career with another gem in the circle, tossing a complete-game three-hitter while striking out 10. Catcher Haylea Geer hit a momentum-swinging solo home run in the fourth inning.

"She's been clutch from Day One," South County head coach Gary Dillow said about Martin. "She came in as a freshman and won that 12-inning game against [West Potomac] for our first conference championship with this group. Nothing fazes her. She's always relaxed. She's pitched every clutch game for us the last four years and usually when we lose, it's because we don't score, it's not because she hasn't pitched well."

The Stallions finished with a 26-3 record. South County was runner-up in Conference 7, but responded by winning 6A North region and state titles. Prior to 2014, South County's last trip to the state tournament came in 2009.

The Lake Braddock softball team also had a strong season, finishing with a 25-3 record and reaching the state playoffs. The Bruins won their second straight Patriot District/Conference 7 championship and qualified for states with a 3-2 win over Langley in the region semifinals. However, Lake Braddock dropped its final two games of the season, losing to South County in the region final and Cosby in the state semis.

Lake Braddock will lose all-region pitcher Ashley Flesch to graduation, but the Bruins figure to return all but two members of this year's team.

"We're good," Lake Braddock head coach George Rumore said. "We're going to lose Ashley and we're going to lose Amanda Patterson, but we have pitching. ... We're fine. The future still looks good."

In baseball, West Springfield won its first conference/district championship since 2009. The Spartans advanced to the region semifinals, where they lost to Chantilly. West Springfield finished the season with an 18-7 record and one win shy of the state tournament.

West Springfield's conference-championship season came one year after failing to qualify for regionals with a loss to Lee in the opening round of the 2013 district tournament.

"In our locker room, we believed in each other and we knew we had a pretty good



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

Members of the South County softball team celebrate with Haylea Geer (2) after the catcher hit a solo home run in the fourth inning of the 6A state final against Cosby.



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

Members of the Woodson boys' basketball team and Cavalier fans celebrate the team winning the 6A North region championship.

squad and we knew we had a lot of talent," West Springfield head coach Jason Olms said. "We just had to put it all together and go out and compete."

In lacrosse, the Robinson boys' team won its first state championship since 2007. The Rams started the season 1-3, but closed with 17 consecutive victories, including a 9-7 win over Langley in the state final. Robinson also won Conference 5 and 6A North region titles.

"I knew we had what it took," Robinson sophomore Johnny Daniel said about reaching the state final. "In the beginning of the year, I doubted it for a second. We definitely stepped it up after we lost to Landon. ... We promised to Coach [Matt] 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."

In tennis, the Lake Braddock boys' team won the 6A state title, defeating Langley in

the state final and wrapping up an undefeated season. Lake Braddock's Jacob Daugherty and Long Huynh won the boys' doubles title.

The South County girls' track and field team finished state runner-up, and the Lake Braddock girls' soccer team reached the region semifinals.

Winter Sports

Members of the W.T. Woodson boys' basketball team dealt with the death of two classmates during the 2014 6A North region tournament. While the tragedies affected the emotions of several Cavaliers, the team found a way to continue winning and eventually captured the program's second consecutive region title.

Woodson secured a berth in the Virginia state tournament by defeating Herndon 63-62 in overtime in the region semifinals. The following evening, Woodson defeated Lake

Braddock 66-56 in the region final. The Cavaliers had lost their previous three matchups with Lake Braddock by a combined eight points.

"[I'm] really happy for our kids, really happy for our school community," Woodson head coach Doug Craig said. "This was a very difficult week. The fact that our Cavalry (student section) was out in such great numbers says a lot about the school community. To give them an hour-and-a-half, hour-and-45-minute distraction tonight, something to feel good about, that's what sports is supposed to be about at the high school level."

The Lake Braddock boys' basketball team repeated as Patriot District/Conference 7 champions. The Edison girls' team won the 5A North region championship, the Eagles' second consecutive region title. The West Springfield girls' team won the Conference 7 title and reached the state tournament for the fourth time in five years.

The Paul VI boys' and girls' basketball teams each won WCAC and VISAA championships.

In wrestling, Robinson won its third state championship in four years. Rams' heavy-weight Jake Pinkston won his fourth consecutive region championship, reached the state final for the fourth straight year and won his second state title. Lake Braddock finished third in the state and had three individuals reach their respective state finals, with Darius Wiles winning the 113-pound title. South County's Hunter Manley won the 132-pound state championship.

In gymnastics, South County's Collea Burgess won the 6A North region all-around title. Hayfield's Molly Overstreet won the individual bars state championship.

In swimming, the Robinson boys' team took home a state championship.

Fall Sports

The Lake Braddock football team won its first 12 games of the 2013 season, winning the Conference 7 championship along the way. But the Bruins failed to hold a 13-point fourth-quarter lead against Westfield in the 6A North region semifinals, and ended their season with a 19-16 loss.

The South County and Robinson football teams reached the region quarterfinals.

In field hockey, Fairfax and South County reached the 6A North region semifinals.

In cross country, West Springfield senior Caroline Alcorta won the 6A girls' individual state title with a meet-record time of 17 minutes, 13 seconds at Great Meadow.

"I was just hoping to win," Alcorta said. "I didn't expect to get the course record."

Lake Braddock's Hannah Christen placed second and Katy Kunc was third, leading the girls' team to a third-place finish. The boys' team finished state runner-up, led by Alex Corbett's second-place finish.

In volleyball, South County reached the region semifinals before losing to eventual state champion Langley.

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