

Home LifeStyle

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Springfield  
CONNECTION

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From left, top row: Eddie Walker, Member Champion, Springfield; John Hoffman - Runner Up Champion Level, Fairfax; Bottom Row: Chris McIntosh - Laurel Hill golf instructor; Gene Orrico - director of golf instruction.

# Springfield Golfer Wins at Laurel Hill

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Board of Supervisors  
Approves 2015  
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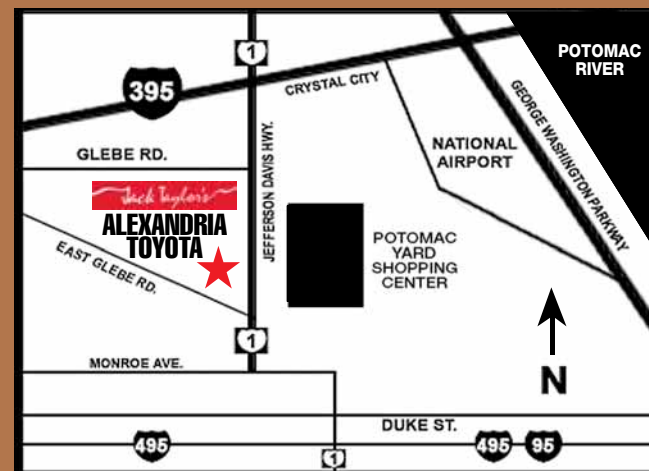


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# Board of Supervisors Approves 2015 Revised Budget Plan

FCPS full-day  
Mondays at  
discussion  
forefront.

By TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

When students at the 142 public elementary schools around Fairfax County stayed there the full day on Monday — the first time in about four decades — they likely weren't worried about the cost. That's between the school board and board of supervisors. Grown-up stuff.

On June 26 this year, the school board voted 10-1 in favor of banning early-dismissal Mondays. Then the board of supervisors followed suit at its Sept. 9 meeting, passing the fiscal year 2015 Revised Budget Plan 8-2, that includes continued budget "guidance" from the FY 2014 carry-over that would help "accommodate" the school change into the 2015-2016 school year.

**THE COUNTY** would offer additional money to the schools to help cover the cost of full-day Mondays for both the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years, as well as tentatively extend a three percent increase in the transfer. Both of which would factor into the next school budget.

Funded by a salary placeholder of \$7.6 million (from the school board), with an additional \$600,000 (county supplement), the proposal would bankroll the extra class time. The allocations include increasing health services, changes to School Age Child Care (SACC) and projected losses from changes to recreation and nature centers that would lose Monday programming.

Language in the motion caused Providence Supervisor Linda Smyth to question the amount of latitude being given to the school board.

"That \$7.6 million is a very round guesstimate," said Smyth. "The schools are saying they think it's going to be less than that — they just don't know how much yet. How long does this go on? Every year are we going to be paying for full-day Mondays again?"

But other supervisors clarified the estimating was a necessary evil



Braddock Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) addresses the Board of Supervisors on Sept. 9.

"It was the right thing to do, I'm happy we did it, but it increased the structural deficit."

— Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield)

and meant as a bridge to reaching the 2015-2016 budget-planning.

"Once we get to next year's budget," said Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay, "we're going to be weighing this against everything else. This is singularly one of the most important things they could've done."

Sully Supervisor Michael Frey was similarly frustrated with the way the motion reflected on the board itself, with respect to credibility.

"The fact is we are giving the schools more money for an item that wasn't considered important enough to put into their budget request last spring," Frey said. "We're rewarding behavior I think is simply picking and choosing what they think is most popular at the moment."

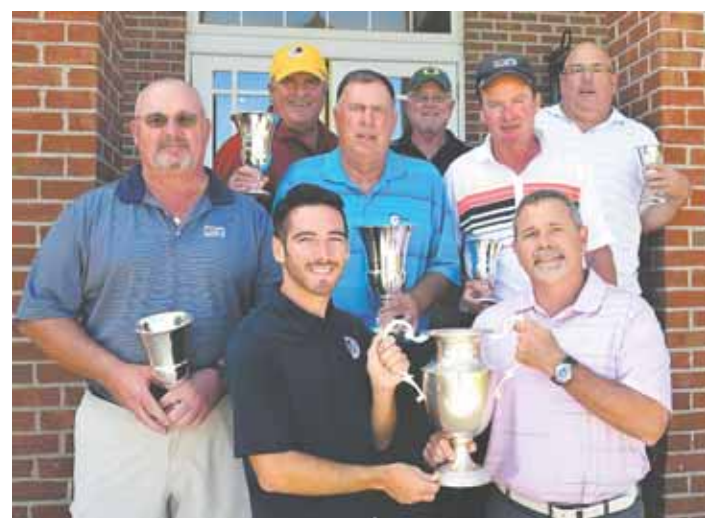
**THE MAJORITY SENTIMENT,**

however, was that the school board amended its budget request, partially as a result of the excessive snow days last winter, was uniquely timed, justified and necessary.

"This is guidance at this point in time," said Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity. "I can support it as guidance. But this is a decision, basically, that increased their structural deficit. We'll have to look at it."

It was the right thing to do, I'm happy we did it, but it increased the structural deficit."

Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins echoed the team, role-playing sentiment. She said, "That is the most difficult part for us: We say in one breath that they set their own policy. And we fund it. We're not setting their policy. They're now ready to do it, but it is their process."



PHOTOS BY TERRANCE MORAN/THE CONNECTION

From left, top row: Jackson Prentice, Winner Level B, Alexandria; Geoff Washburn, Runner Up Level B, Arlington; Bob Jackson, Runner Up Level A Arlington. Middle row: Andy Hubert, Winner Level A, Fairfax Station; Eddie Walker, Member Champion, Springfield; John Hoffman, Runner Up Champion Level, Fairfax. Bottom row: Chris McIntosh, Laurel Hill golf instructor; Gene Orrico - director of golf instruction.

## Springfield Golfer Wins at Laurel Hill

Laurel Hill Golf Course held its 8th Annual Member Championship Tournament on Sept. 6 and 7. This two-day golf challenge was attended by 20 Laurel Hill members who were divided into three levels of play based on individual handicaps. The Champion level participants held handicaps from 0 to 8, Level A from 8-16, and Level B 16+. Winners were determined by their total score over two days of play of 18 holes per day.

Laurel Hill is Fairfax County's premier golf course and hosted the 2013 U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship. The winner of this event participated in the 2014 PGA Master's Tournament in Augusta, Ga. Located in Lorton, the course was designed by Bill Love and is considered by many golfers to be visually stunning and challenging.

This year's Member Championship was won by Eddie

Walker of Springfield, by one stroke over his competitive partner John Hoffman of Fairfax. With a late charge of 34 on the back nine by Hoffman, Walker needed a 9-10 foot putt to win the tournament. Walker and Hoffman are golf partners at regional and state events.

Winners of Level A were Andy Hubert of Fairfax Station, and Bob Jackson of Arlington. Winners of Level B were Jackson Prentice of Alexandria and Geoff Washburn of Arlington.

Winners of the each flight received a trophy and gift certificate with the overall champion also receiving a preferred parking spot at Laurel Hill with signage noting their member championship status.

After luncheon, trophies were presented by Laurel Hill's golf director Gene Orrico and assistant golf instructor Chris McIntosh.

— TERRANCE MORAN



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## NEWS

# New Principal Starts At West Springfield

**Michael Mukai  
brings “cham-  
pion” philosophy  
from Robinson.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**E**arlier this summer, West Springfield High School needed a principal... and a head custodian. Michael Mukai, who started on the first day of school as permanent relief for interim Principal Becky Brandt, said the two positions are more similar than different.

“One of my mentors told me my main goal should be to become the top custodian in the building,” Mukai said. “He’s the guy that people call when they’re in trouble, when something needs to be cleaned up, or fixed. You should want to be that: the custodian of kids.”

On Aug. 29 Angela Atwater, Assistant Superintendent for Region 4, announced that Mukai would be leaving his five-year post as Robinson Secondary School associate principal.

“I’m excited for him,” said Atwater. “I think he’s going to be a great addition to West Springfield. He really has a good grasp on the community, the needs of the student body.”

Indeed, Mukai spent six years at West Springfield prior to his time at Robinson. He taught, served as Assistant Director of Student Activities and Assistant Principal. Before that he was at Chantilly High School, Lake Braddock Secondary School and his alma mater, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST).

“I’ve spent my whole life here, basically,” said Mukai, who lives in Fairfax and grew up in Reston. “I’ve been in high school for 24 years.”

**ONE OF MANY** National Merit finalists at TJHSST, Mukai credits wrestling with helping him develop as a more well-rounded student.

“If I had been at Herndon High School” Mukai said, “I probably would’ve been just that academic kid. Going to TJ helped change not



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL MUKAI

**Michael Mukai, new principal of West Springfield High School, returns to develop well-rounded champions.**

**“I want West Springfield to be a place where kids get to find what they have a passion for — whether it’s math or science, arts, music, literature.”**

— Michael Mukai

only my view of myself, but the TJ kids said I was the wrestling-football guy.”

He continued with the sport at Virginia Tech, where he majored in chemistry. He helped out with a high school team in the nearby “small county” of Floyd, and enjoyed the experience so much, he decided to become a teacher.

Drawing from the balanced competitiveness of his academic and sports background, Mukai not only taught his specialties math and chemistry, but has coached football, wrestling, lacrosse and volleyball.

“If you could make the perfect principal,” said Robinson Principal Matthew Eline, “it would be the ingredients that make Mike Mukai. He has a lot of different skills.”

Developing a diversity of skills and passions is a big part of Mukai’s vision for West Springfield students, one he honed at Robinson.

“Their whole philosophy: Home of Champions,” he said. “I want West Springfield to be a place where kids get to find what they have a passion for — whether it’s math or science, arts, music, literature. That’s where you go to

become the best. State champions, Cappies, Honor Band, forensics and debate... I want the kids to be champions at whatever they do.”

**TO ACHIEVE** this high standard, Mukai brings a selfless, service-oriented management philosophy that immediately impressed Principal Eline in their one year together at Robinson.

“At the core of Mike is he’s a caregiver,” said Eline. “He takes care of everybody. He’s a good listener and he wants to make other people’s lives easy.”

“I hope that [the students] will come to see that I work for them,” Mukai said.

Whether that’s helping manage the school’s renovation, that is scheduled to pick up steam next fall, or figuring out how to provide additional resources necessary for economically disadvantaged or English language-learning students to succeed, Mukai is ready to clean, fix or mop — whatever it takes.

“I want to be that person,” he said, acknowledging a head custodian has been selected, but won’t start for another two weeks. “They might have me do both.”

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)





PHOTO BY MARISSA BEALE/THE CONNECTION

From left, service managers Jon Ford and Chris Chagnon work at the Cardinal Plaza Shell gas station.

## Gas Station Runs Backpack Drive

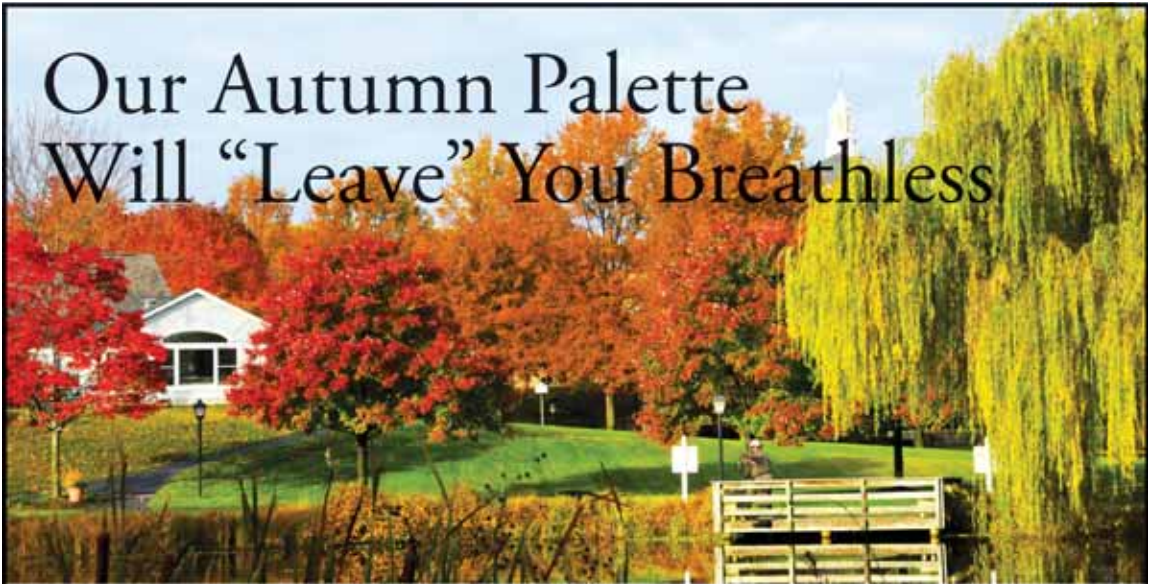
BY MARISSA BEALE  
THE CONNECTION

You may have noticed the sign “You Pump We Donate: Back to School Backpack Drive for Area Kids,” in front of the Cardinal Plaza Shell gas station on Old Keene Mill Road. For the entire month of August this gas

station had been committed to raising money for school supplies to help area children in need. They support several charities throughout the year, and in month of August they turn their attention to children. “We put the sign out and have received good feedback,” said Chris Chagnon, one of the

SEE BACKPACK, PAGE 7

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# OPINION

## Change Is Coming, Right?

### Legislators on changing the culture of cash and gifts in Virginia: Crickets.

With former Gov. Bob McDonnell and his wife Maureen facing what could be decades in prison after their convictions for corruption, a reasonable person might reasonably expect that members of the General Assembly would be gearing up to make some big changes.

Under Virginia law, there was no barrier to the McDonnells taking tens of thousands of dollars in gifts from a single donor in search of help.

In addition to the gifts, the tens of thousands of dollars in contributions to campaign funds were not part of the corruption trial, but they were certainly part of seeking influence.

Virginia needs real change, but there is silence from members of the General Assembly on any real change.

It turns out that unlimited contributions and

gifts is not good for government, not good for the public, especially not good for elected officials as the recent news demonstrates. It would be better for most businesses to have limits as well so as not to be subject to the expectation of making huge donations.

The National Conference of State Legislatures [www.ncsl.org](http://www.ncsl.org) summarizes how the 50 states regulate contributions: "States commonly place limits on contributions to candidates from various sources, and also on contributions to political action committees (PACs) and political parties. Just four states — Missouri, Oregon, Utah and Virginia — place no limits on contributions at all. Another seven states — Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Texas — have minimal contribution limits.

#### EDITORIAL

These states limit or prohibit contributions by corporations and unions to candidates, but leave contributions from all other sources unlimited.

In the remaining 39 states, contributions to candidates from individuals, political parties, PACs, corporations and unions are typically limited or, in the case of corporations and unions, prohibited outright."

In Maryland, individuals can give \$4,000 to

any one candidate and \$10,000 total, cumulatively to all candidates in a four-year election cycle. (These limits increase to \$6,000 and \$24,000 in 2015.) In Maryland, corporations and CEOs are not giving \$100,000 and more in an election cycle.

Do we really want to be a state where the rules are so lax, that what barely raises an eyebrow here can send a former governor and his wife to prison for a long time?

The silence is bipartisan. The silence unites NoVa (Northern Virginia) and RoVa (the rest of Virginia). Every incumbent in Virginia thinks they are benefiting from the ability to collect so much cash.

They all know that they would not engage in the kind unseemly behavior that was recently on display in the McDonnell trial. They seem to think that the McDonnells were just an aberration.

Having our legislative process, locally and at the state level, awash in cash and gifts from people with business before the legislative bodies is not good for any of us.

It's time for some real limits and some disclosure requirements with teeth.

— MARY KIMM,

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## The Legacy of Bob McDonnell

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM  
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

I had no idea what to expect when the jury announced it had reached its verdicts on the charges against former Governor Bob McDonnell and his wife Maureen, but when the verdicts were announced I was stunned. The jury of seven men and five women left no doubt in their findings: 11 counts of guilty for the former Governor and nine counts of guilty for his wife! All the efforts to explain away their behavior, redefine their relationship, and nuance words and actions were not successful. Virginia has now achieved the level of disdain we have held towards governors of other states in similar circumstances. We have a former governor found guilty of corruption in office. Somehow with Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson having occupied that seat, it was not supposed to happen in Virginia.

Bob McDonnell is the last person anyone would have thought would have brought this

legacy to Virginia. He served his country in the military. He has three degrees from a Christian university. He married a professional cheerleader from a major league football team. The thesis for his masters' degree spelled out an old-fashioned morality that he thought was essential for how people should behave. He was a prosecuting attorney finding others guilty of crimes in order to keep his community safe. He represented his community in the House of Delegates where he introduced bills that included one for a covenant marriage. His first statewide elective office was Attorney General responsible for seeing that Virginia's laws were fairly interpreted. His win for Governor was by a wide margin. He appeared squeaky clean.

The jury heard in detail what happened during his term as governor and determined he was guilty of corruption. That is the way our system of justice works. Not only is his legacy tarnished so too is that of his wife and family. For the Governor and his family on a personal

level, they have my thoughts and sincere prayers. There will be an appeal no doubt. Whatever the criminal justice system does with the case under appeal will not restore the man to the elevated position he had in the public's mind when he became governor.

We need to turn our attention now to the legacy for Virginia. Maybe we Virginians had it coming for we had become somewhat pompous over our reputation for the clean government we thought we had. Despite some cynics' views, virtually all elected officials and government employees are honest, hard-working people who want to do their best for the Commonwealth.

For those who do not fit this category we need to participate in a whistle-blowing exercise that will expose any who are putting their selfish gain above the public good. And the legislature needs to do more work on its conflict of interest and ethics laws. Maybe those changes can become the legacy of Bob McDonnell.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Focusing on Suicide Prevention

To the Editor:  
To kick off National Suicide Prevention Week (Sept. 8-12), the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is announcing its goal to reduce the annual suicide rate in the United States 20 percent by 2025.

Last year in the United States, 39,518 people died by suicide—more lives than war, murder, and

natural disasters combined. And the annual suicide rate has been steadily rising for over a decade.

It's time we take action. A grassroots movement—in part catalyzed by AFSP—is gaining momentum. More people are speaking out about mental health and suicide prevention, and fighting against the prejudices that keep people at risk from seeking

help.

Talk can save lives, but it takes a village. If we are to be successful, suicide prevention must become everyone's business.

Our local AFSP chapter is hosting a walk this fall to raise awareness and support for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Donations will fund research to find better ways to prevent suicide,

education programs to raise awareness in schools and workplaces, advocacy initiatives to support public policy that makes mental health and suicide prevention a priority, and support services for survivors of suicide loss.

The walk in Washington, D.C. will be held on Sept. 20 starting at 5:30 p.m.

SEE LETTER, PAGE 15

## Springfield CONNECTION

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**Kemal Kurspahic**  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
[kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Amna Rehmatulla**  
Editorial Assistant  
703-778-9410 ext.427  
[arehmatulla@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:arehmatulla@connectionnewspapers.com)

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**Jon Roetman**  
Sports Editor ♦ 703-752-4013  
[jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@jonroetman

**Victoria Ross**  
County Reporter ♦ 301-502-6027  
[vross@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vross@connectionnewspapers.com)

**ADVERTISING:**  
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Display Advertising, 703-778-9418  
[shogan@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:shogan@connectionnewspapers.com)

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Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411  
[classified@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:classified@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Debbie Funk**  
National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
703-778-9433  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@MaryKimm

**Executive Vice President**  
Jerry Vernon  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor in Chief**  
Steven Mauren  
**Managing Editor**  
Kemal Kurspahic  
**Photography:**  
Deb Cobb, Craig Sterbutzel  
**Art/Design:**  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly  
**Production Manager:**  
Geovani Flores

**Special Assistant to the Publisher**  
Jeanne Theismann  
703-778-9436  
[jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@TheismannMedia

**CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426**  
**Circulation Manager:**  
Ann Oliver  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)





# NEWS



PHOTO BY MARISSA BEALE/THE CONNECTION

For the month of August signs like this were located around the gas station, informing patrons that parts of their proceeds would go toward helping area kids in need.

## Backpack

FROM PAGE 5  
service managers at Shell.

For every oil change performed in August, \$5 went toward helping area children, and for every gallon of oil, one cent was donated as well. Though small, the dollars do quickly add up. "Last year around this time we distributed about 3,500 coats and backpacks to children in need," said Chagnon. To make this possible, they partner with Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue, an organization that reaches out to children in need. Not many gas stations do this, and when asked why Shell does, Chagnon replied, "Well, the community is what keeps us in business, and so this is our effort to give back." Their goal was to help sponsor 250 new backpacks filled with school supplies for less-fortunate youths.

In November they will continue to work with Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue to raise money for 100 winter coats. They have also worked with St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, ECHO, Operation Starfish and other community-based organizations.

A family-owned and operated business, Cardinal Plaza Shell has been in operation since it1969 when UT Brown first opened it. For more information you can visit their website at <http://www.cardinalplazashell.com/>.

To learn more about Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue, or to see how you can play an active part, visit their website at <http://www.ffandfriends2therescue.org/>  
[www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

**OLYMPIANS** **THURSDAY, SEPT. 18, 2014**  
*Join Us!*  
Come to **Olympians Family Restaurant**  
& support our  
**3rd Annual American Heart Association Day**  
in honor of our dad, **Chris Sarantis**

We will donate 20% of Sales from  
the **WHOLE DAY** to the  **American Heart Association.**

**Olympians • 6430 Landsdowne Centre, Alex., VA • 703-550-5003**  
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**SPARTANS** **TUESDAY, SEPT. 16, 2014**  
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Come to **Spartans Family Restaurant**  
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**3rd Annual American Heart Association Day**  
in honor of our dad, **Chris Sarantis**

We will donate 20% of Sales from  
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## Home LifeStyle

# 'Recession Ripple Persists' at Realtors' Summit

**Private sector job growth key to strengthening regional economy, housing demand.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**T**here's no question the primary economic driver of this region has always been Uncle Sam," said David Versal, senior research associate at the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis. "That said, we're not Detroit."

That was a year ago, when Versal addressed members of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors at their economic summit held in George Mason University's Mason Inn.

At this year's summit, his past remarks came back to haunt him, if not the whole room. "In 2013, job growth ground to a halt," he said at the event last Thursday. "July [2013] to July [2014], net was about 20,000 jobs in our region. Who do we come closest to?"

The stunned conference hall full of Realtors, seeing his slide, answered in unison: "Detroit."

Versal was back again for 2014, along with discussion moderator Kenneth Harney, author of the syndicated column "The Nation's Housing." New panelists included: James Dinegar, president and CEO for the Greater Washington Board of Trade; Dr. Michael Frantoni, chief economist and senior vice president of research and industry technology for the Mortgage Bankers Association, and Mitchel Kider, chairman and managing partner for Weiner Brodsky Kider PC.

**THE THEME** of this year's summit was "Housing Hangover: Recession Ripple Persists in 2014: Jobs, Confidence, Mortgages (+ Aspirin) Fuel Recovery."

Each panelist brought a different perspective to the central concept that no, the recession is not over, growth is slow and home sales are flat; but yes, the recovery is on and as long as home buyers, sellers and Realtors alike keep in front of the economic and regulatory changes taking place, things are looking up. We're all still here.



**Panelists (from left) at the 2014 NVAR Economic Summit: Mitchel Kider, Dr. Michael Frantoni, James Dinegar and David Versal.**

Versal echoed his callout from last year, that since 2010 government spending cuts have decimated the Washington D.C. metro area. "We lost over \$11 billion in federal procurement," he said, referencing the massive contracting industry, "just in 3 years; \$11 billion that was in our economy in 2010 that is no longer. This is on top of the 20,000 jobs we've removed."

One true gainer in jobs over the same period, he said, has been hospitality — specifically restaurant jobs. However even though those jobs help pad the not-Detroit figure, they don't exactly help a housing market that's light on top-end inventory and lacking any semblance of a middle.

"Ask yourselves as Realtors: Are people buying \$6-7-800,000 houses in this region people who work in restaurants? Unless they own the restaurant probably not," said Versal.

According to Versal, Northern Virginia isn't creating enough jobs paying in the \$40- to \$70,000 range to stimulate growth in the market's midsection.

But that's not all: Another factor — and a continuation from 2013's remarks — keeping the market from balancing out is the lack of adequate housing construction.

Or rather, construction of homes for purchase. Versal said half of what's being built is rental property, which doesn't produce sales and doesn't help the sagging middle.

But the regional analyst did point out a few bright spots, looking forward. In the next three to four

years, Versal predicts, the D.C. metro region will be creating 50-60,000 jobs again, like it was 10 years ago — which should drive demand for housing. However this growth, he stressed, will be borne by the private sector, not the federal government.

James Dinegar of the Greater Washington Board of Trade took that optimism and ran with it, giving a speech that hyped the many "cool factors" of the D.C. metro region.

He cited Forbes magazine recently voting that area "America's Coolest City."

He cited things like Bao Bao the infant panda at the National Zoo, Robert Griffin III, Maryland joining the Big Ten major college football conference (and more importantly the Big Ten Network) and capital bike-sharing program that leads the nation in users per capita.

He cited things like numerous top tier universities, the juggernaut of cyber job-creating — NSA at Fort Meade — and being the hospitality capital of the world.

Things that, presumably, should be drawing young, family-oriented and financially stable professionals — to the area, or keeping them here.

"You have to get your head around the Big Ten," Dinegar gave an example. "The BTN reaches 52 million households. We're not exposed to the Midwest the way we have been in the ACC. We're on radar screens now we haven't ever been on."

According to Dr. Michael Frantoni of the Mortgage Bankers Association, having a greater over-

all pull would be helpful to attract fresh capital to the nation's capital. The national trend, he said, is decreased mobility: Recent census data shows that aside from family-related moves, people are staying put more than they used to.

"Moving to a better neighborhood? If anything, people are moving to save money. But they're not aspirational movers," he said.

Or maybe they are aspirational movers, but are saving money by living with their parents. That group would be the mercurial, hard to put a finger on, mid-20s to mid-30s bracket referred to as "millennials." And they're a key group, being well situated with academic and professional experience to fill the \$40-\$70,000 a year private sector jobs Versal said should be driving the regional economy going forward.

However, said Frantoni, "They're different in all kinds of ways. They get married later, have children later, come home later. Everything is later. We don't know why."

**A MILLENNIAE'S HESITANCY** to buy property probably doesn't have much to do with the projected rise in interest rates from 4.3 percent for a 30-year fixed mortgage rate in 2013 up to 5 percent in 2015. But it may have something to do with the fact that student loan debt has ballooned in the last decade from \$200 billion to over \$1 trillion, according to Frantoni.

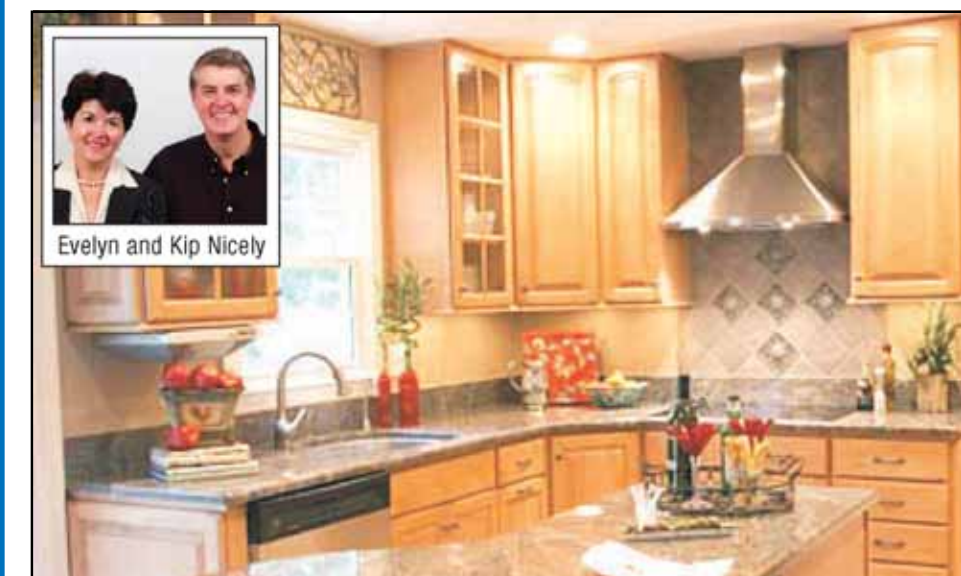
None of the panelists expects dramatic changes in the next several years. We're off the roller coaster, they all concurred. We're still here.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION



**"The economy has been bad. Yet in spite of all of this, we're all still here," said David Versal, senior research associate at the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis.**

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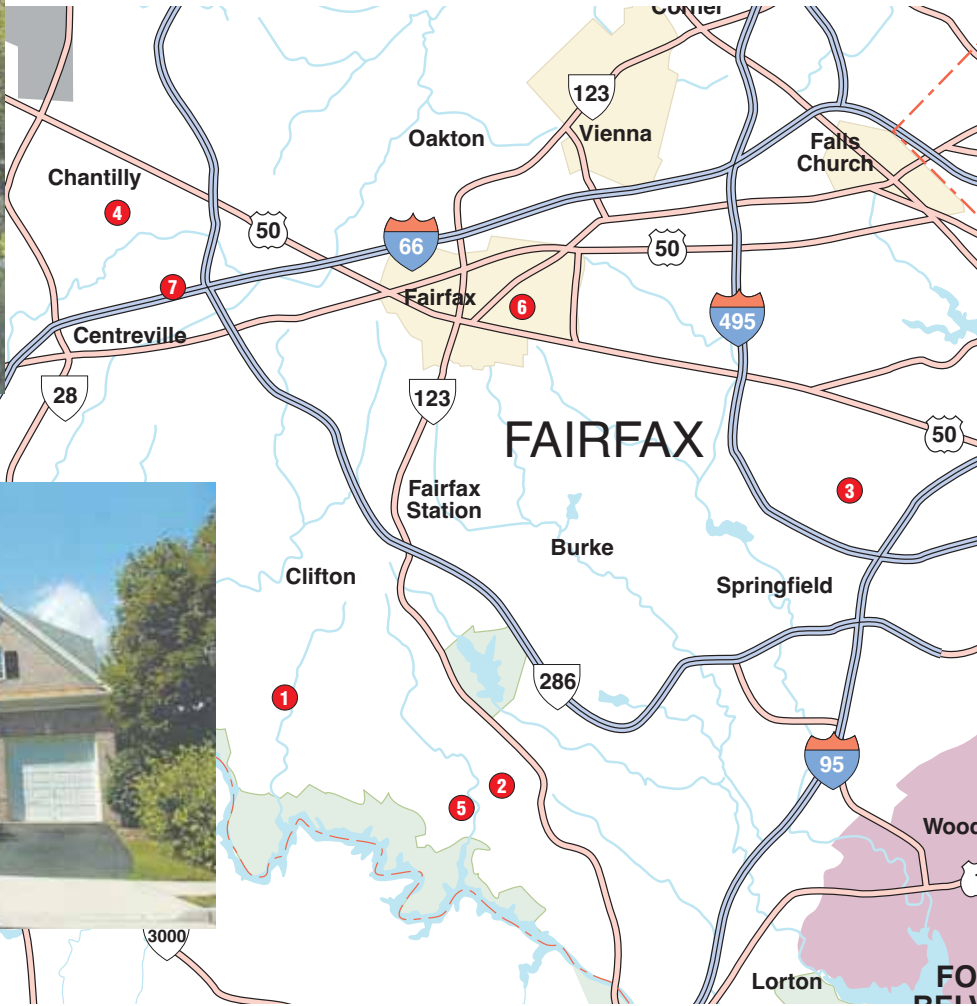
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3 7106 GRANBERRY WAY	5	..	4	..	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$1,070,000	..	Detached	0.40	22151	GRANBERRY ESTATES	07/28/14	
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5 10709 TIMBERIDGE RD	5	..	4	..	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,015,000	..	Detached	5.00	22039	FOUNTAINHEAD	07/21/14	
6 10118 DANIELS RUN WAY	..	6	..	5	..	1	FAIRFAX	\$1,000,000	..	Detached	0.20	22030	FARRCROFT	07/11/14
7 5104 BEBE CT	4	..	4	..	1	CENTREVILLE	\$859,000	..	Detached	0.22	20120	FAIRLAKES CROSSNG	07/18/14	

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# ENTERTAINMENT

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 11-18

**16th Annual Fall for the Book Festival.** George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A week-long, multiple-venue, regional festival that brings together people of all ages and interests. Visit [www.fallforthebook.org](http://www.fallforthebook.org).

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 12

**Meet Author Chris Grabenstein.** 4:30 p.m. Burke Center Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Meet Chris Grabenstein, author of books for kids including *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*, *I Funny* and the *Haunted Mystery* series. Books available for sale and signing. School age, teen, and adult.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 13

**Fairfax County NAACP Awards Luncheon.** 1-4 p.m. Waterford Springfield, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. Join as we will be honoring several deserving individuals and organizations. \$25-\$35. [www.fairfaxnaacp.org](http://www.fairfaxnaacp.org).

**Lorton's Fall Festival.** 11 a.m. Lorton Station Town Center, 8998 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Enjoy a magic booth, pumpkin painting, photo booth, games, prizes and more. Visit [www.lortonstationtowncenter.com/calendar-of-events.html](http://www.lortonstationtowncenter.com/calendar-of-events.html)

**Fall Garden Day.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Green Spring Gardens is hosting numerous local plant vendors to satisfy your gardening needs. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring) or 703-642-5173.

**Oktoberfest Walk/Run or Cycle.** 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Ct., Burke. Join your neighbors for an Oktoberfest walk/run or cycle and traditional German music and foods. Begin a 5k or 10k walk/run (3 or 6 miles) around Burke Lake. Cyclists start at the church at 8:30 a.m., riding 24 miles as a group to Occoquan Regional Park and back. Participation is free; volksmarch credit is available for \$3. Children and dogs are welcome. For more information contact [nicebrowns@verizon.net](mailto:nicebrowns@verizon.net).

**Meet Author Louis Bayard.** 2 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Meet Louis Bayard, author of *Roosevelt's Beast* and historical mysteries including *The School of Night*. Books available for sale and signing. Adults.



**Get your bike ready for the 5th Annual Northern Virginia Cycle Fest ride on Sunday, Sept. 14. Cycle Fest benefits the Wounded Warrior Project and Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA). The ride is open to all experienced riders who are comfortable riding on roads with traffic - with a suggested minimum age of 12.**

## Teen Advisory Board (TAB)

**Meeting.** 10:30 a.m. Burke Center Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Board members meet biweekly to plan and implement projects and programs that will enhance library services for teens. Ages 13-18.

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 14

**Canine Cruise.** 7 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Treat your canine companion to a special cruise aboard Lake Accotink Park's pooch-friendly pontoon boat. Catch the last rays of the sun as it dips toward the distant lake shore while your dog scans for ducks, geese and other lake dwellers. \$6 per person, no charge for dogs. Limit one dog per person. Reservations and advance payment required. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink/events.htm>

**Author Katrina Moore Book Signing Event.** 1:30 - 2:45 p.m. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Moore, a resident of Ellicott City, Md., will be available to sign copies of her book, "So Long Gnop-Jiye."

**Accotink Fest.** 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. There will be food, games, prizes, crafts, carnival fun, a bounce house and live music by Daniel Michael and Dragonshead.

**5th Annual Northern Virginia Cycle Fest.** 7:30 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Cycle Fest benefits the Wounded Warrior Project and Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA). The

ride is open to all experienced riders who are comfortable riding on roads with traffic — with a suggested minimum age of 12. For registration information, please visit [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) or e-mail [Paula.Cole@jccnv.org](mailto:Paula.Cole@jccnv.org). Call 703-323-0880 or visit [www.jccnv.org](http://www.jccnv.org) for details.

## Family Foreign Language Film

**Festival: Despicable Me 2.** 5 p.m. Mosaic District, 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax. Language Stars, the national leader in early childhood foreign language education will expose children and their families to movies in other languages. The second film in the festival, *Despicable Me 2*, will be played in Spanish with English subtitles.

## MONDAY/SEPT. 15-FRIDAY/SEPT. 19

**The Henkel Physicians: A Family's Life in Letters.** Foley Forum, Northern Virginia Community College, Medical Education Campus, 6699 Springfield Center Drive, Springfield. The exhibit documents the daily lives of a family of physicians in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley during the 19th century, serving in their community, on the battlefield and in the nation's courts of law. 703-822-6684.

## MONDAY-TUESDAY/SEPT. 15-16

**Library Tech Help.** 11 a.m. City of Fairfax Library on 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Get your library-related electronic resource questions answered. Includes help with eBooks and compatible devices. Bring your See Calendar, Page 12

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**THE CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS



# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11  
library card, eBook reader and laptop.

## MONDAY/SEPT. 15

**Yoga for Gardeners.** 9:45-10:45 a.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. This class is an introduction to the Vinyasa method helping participants increase the strength, flexibility and endurance necessary for gardening. \$117/person\*for 11 Monday morning classes. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring) using code 290 426 2401 or call 703-642-5173.

**Hidden Pond Monday: Frogs.** 4:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Presented by the staff of Hidden Pond Nature Center. Age 6-12.

**Small Wonders.** 11 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Rhymes and fingerplay. Age 12-23 months with adult.

**Lorton Evening Book Conversations.** 7 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The Great Gatsby by F.Scott Fitzgerald. Adults.

## WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 17

**A is for Apple.** 10:30 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Join in for fun stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult.

**Genealogy Help Desk.** 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bring your family history stumblers to the experts. Accomplished genealogists and library staff will be on hand to assist you. Ask the Virginia Room desk or call 703-293-6227. Teens and adults.

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 18

**Friends of the Burke Centre Library Used Book Sale.** 1-9 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Buy gently used books to benefit the library. 703-249-1520.

**Garden Stroll & Tea.** 1-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Tour some of the demonstration gardens with a Master Gardener docent who will inspire you with stories of Green Spring, then enjoy a traditional English afternoon tea. \$29. Reservations required at 703-941-7987.

**VMFA Lecture: Buddhist Art and Pilgrimage.** 7:30 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, 22079 Lorton. Explore Buddhist art and architecture in the context of pilgrimage of South Asia, including the Mahabodhi Temple in Bodhi Gaya, the site of the Buddha's enlightenment. \$5- \$10 <http://workhousearts.org>

**Homework Help.** 6 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Drop-in homework help for students up to 8th grade.

**Afternoon Reading Group.** 1 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. My Beloved World by Sonia Sotomayor.

**Springfield Writer's Group.** 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Share your work, give and receive feedback in a supportive setting. Adults.

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 18-SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

**Fall Book Sale.** 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Burke Center Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Peruse and shop a selection of gently used books for sale by The Friends of The Burke Centre Library. All ages.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The U.S. Army Chorus will perform at Westwood Baptist Church, 8200 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 20.

## U.S. Army Chorus to Perform at Springfield Church

In celebration of the Westwood Baptist Church's 50th Anniversary in 2014, The U.S. Army Chorus presents a fun evening of music from its varied repertoire featuring tunes from the last five decades at Westwood Baptist Church, 8200 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 20. The concert is free, and everyone is invited. In 1956 The U.S. Army Chorus was established as the vocal counterpart of The United States Army Band "Pershing's Own," and is one of the nation's only professional men's

choruses. From its inception, The U.S. Army Chorus has established and maintained a reputation of excellence in the performance of male choral literature. Beyond the traditional military music and patriotic standards, the repertoire of the Army Chorus covers a broad spectrum which includes pop, Broadway, folk, and classical music. For more information about the concert or the US Army Chorus, please call the church office at 703-451-5120 or consult the U.S. Army chorus website at [usarmyband.com](http://usarmyband.com).

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# Lake Braddock XC Delivers Strong Showing at Monroe Parker Invite

**Motivated boys' team seeks state title after finishing 2nd in 2013.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Lake Braddock boys' cross country team placed second at the 2013 VHSL state meet, finishing just two points behind 6A champion Chantilly. As Bruins head coach Michael Mangan recalls, Chantilly had two runners edge Lake Braddock harriers near the finish line, snatching a state title from the Bruins by a paper-thin margin.

Lake Braddock returns several members of last year's team, including individual state runner-up Alex Corbett. Is falling just short of a state title something the Bruins think about?

"Every single day since that Saturday in November," Mangan said. "They know how close they were."

**"Every single day since that Saturday in November. They know how close they were."**

**— Lake Braddock XC coach Michael Mangan about how often the Bruins think about just missing a state title in 2013.**

The Lake Braddock boys entered the 2014 season as a motivated group looking to capture a state title. The Bruins put on a strong performance on Saturday, Sept. 6, winning the Monroe Parker Invitational at Burke Lake Park. The Bruins finished with a score of 58, with four runners in the top 10. West Springfield finished at a distant second with a score of 190, followed by Robinson (third, 197), Patriot (fourth, 201), Thomas Jefferson (fourth, 201) and two-time defending state champion Chantilly (sixth, 231).

Due to high temperatures with debilitating humidity, Mangan said the Bruins (and other teams) ran a conservative race. Lake Braddock harriers took it easy for the first mile-and-half before picking up the pace.

"They did a great job," Mangan said.

Kevin Monogue placed second for Lake Braddock, finishing with a time of 15 minutes, 24 seconds. Corbett placed third (15:25), Colin Schaefer



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

was seventh (15:50), Ben Fogg took ninth (15:58) and Cavanaugh McGaw finished 37th (16:38).

Monogue and Corbett figure to be two of the Bruins' top harriers throughout the season.

"They have slightly different skill sets," Mangan said. "If they work together, it's really going to help us out. Alex is probably a little bit stronger and can probably handle carrying the pace early on. Kevin [is probably a stronger finisher]."

The Lake Braddock girls' team finished second with a score of 99, 24 points behind first-place Madison (75). Patriot finished third with a score of 140, followed by Washington-Lee (178), Osbourn Park (214), Battlefield (219) and Robinson (228).

"That's outstanding for us," Mangan said

## FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

The Lake Braddock football team improved to 2-0 with a 13-9 victory over Stone Bridge on Friday, Sept. 5. The Bruins will host rival Robinson at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 12. The Rams improved to 2-0 with a 57-12 win against Woodson.

Woodson's lopsided loss dropped the Cavaliers' record to 0-2. Woodson will travel to face Fairfax at 7:30 p.m. on Friday. Fairfax (0-1) dropped its season opener to West Potomac, 14-7.

South County improved to 2-0 with a 37-

of the runner-up finish. "... Those girls are very young. Only [junior] Sonya Butseva, our No. 2, has any real experience in a championship cross country race. All the other kids are replacing kids from the year before."

Daly Ferguson, a junior, was Lake Braddock's top finisher, placing sixth with a personal-best time of 18:52. Butseva placed 11th with a time of 19:12. Freshman Sarah Daniels finished 12th for the Bruins with a time of 19:16, sophomore Kate Murphy was 26th (19:44) and sophomore Taylor Kitchen finished 44th (20:14).

"I think we're going to be phenomenal over the next couple of years," Mangan said. "This is the year to get the experience, but at the same time, our goals are the same every year at Braddock."

31 win over Hayfield. The Stallions will travel to take on Mount Vernon (0-2) at 7:30 p.m. on Friday. Hayfield (0-1) will host Westfield (1-0).

Lee dropped to 0-2 with a 38-15 loss to Chantilly. The Lancers will travel to face Edison at 7:30 p.m. on Friday. The Eagles lost to West Springfield 34-0 on Sept. 5, evening their record at 1-1.

West Springfield's shutout of Edison improved the Spartans' record to 1-1. West Springfield will travel to face Herndon at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Robinson's Lauren Berman placed third in the girls' varsity race at the Monroe Parker Invitational on Sept. 6.**

## Beaman Takes Third

**Robinson's Lauren Berman finishes 3rd at Monroe Parker Invite.**

**R**obinson's Lauren Berman finished third in the girls' varsity race at the Monroe Parker Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 6 at Burke Lake Park.

Berman finished with a time of 18:29, helping the Rams to a seventh-place team finish. Robinson totaled a score of 228. Madison won the event with a score of 75, followed by Lake Braddock (99), Patriot (140), Washington-Lee (178), Osbourn Park (214) and Battlefield (219). West Springfield (262) finished 10th, South County (299) was 12th, Edison (510) finished 20th, Woodson (588) was 23rd, Hayfield (712) took 26th and Paul VI (727) was 27th.

Madison's Amanda Swaak won the individual title with a time of 18:06. Chantilly's Xaveria Hawvermale finished runner-up with a time of 18:10.

South County's Louisa McPherson placed 10th with a time of 19:10.

In the boys' race, Lake Braddock won the team title with a score of 58, followed by West Springfield (190) and Robinson (197).

Chantilly's Ryan McGorty placed first among individuals with a time of 15:04. Lake Braddock's Kevin Monogue placed second with a time of 15:24, followed by Lake Braddock's Alex Corbett (third, 15:25), Westfield's Johnny Pace (fourth, 15:41), Annandale's Aviad Gebrehiwot (fifth, 15:48), Robinson's Patrick Meyers (sixth, 15:49), Lake Braddock's Colin Schaefer (seventh, 15:50), West Springfield's Timothy Ward (eighth, 15:51), Lake Braddock's Ben Fogg (ninth, 15:58) and Pope John Paul the Great's Sean Tully (10th, 16:04).

Alex Maguire of Fairfax finished 12th (16:06), and Edison's Jeffrey Gibson took 15th (16:12).



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**Louis Bayard.** 2 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Author Louis Bayard discusses his latest book, Roosevelt's Beast.

**Dog Adoption.** 12 - 3 p.m. Sat. PETCO, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Call 703-817-9444 or visit <http://www.hart90.org/>

**HIV/AIDS Prevention Faith Summit for Adults and Teens.** 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Antioch Baptist Church, 6531 Little Oak Road, Fairfax Station. The summit will address how stigma drives the HIV epidemic and examine HIV stigma experiences through different lenses. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hscodereg/registration.aspx?groupid=26> to register.

### MONDAY/SEPT. 15

**American Red Cross Blood Donation.** 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Noman M. Cole Jr. Pollution Control Plant, 9399 Richmond Highway, Lorton. [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or 1-800-RED-CROSS.

**English Conversation Group.** 7 p.m. Burke Center Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. For more information contact Glora Monick at [gsmonick@aol.com](mailto:gsmonick@aol.com).

### TUESDAY/SEPT. 16

**English Conversation Group.** 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Practice and improve your English. Adults.

**Morning English Conversation Group.** 10:30 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Practice your English conversation skills. Adults.

**English Conversation Group.** 5:15 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Practice your English conversation skills. Adults.

### TUESDAY/SEPT. 17

**Connected on the Homefront.** 7-9 p.m. Immanuel Bible Church, 6911 Braddock Road, Springfield. Monthly meetings that provide dinner, fellowship and guest speakers to minister to wives and women of active duty, reservists and retired military. Visit [www.immanuelbible.net](http://www.immanuelbible.net) or 703-941-4124.

**Hospitalization Happens.** 1:30 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, formerly Alzheimer's Family Day Center, 2812 Old Lee Highway, Suite 210, Fairfax. A trip to the hospital for a person with dementia can be stressful for everyone; join in to discuss ways you can prepare for both planned and unexpected hospital visits. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP and for more information.

### THURSDAY/SEPT. 18

**New Voting Equipment Demonstration.** 11 a.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Staff from the Fairfax County Office of Elections will provide an opportunity to see and try out the brand new voting machines and equipment that will be used in the upcoming elections.

**Library Tech Help.** 6 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Get your library-related electronic resource questions answered. Includes help with eBooks and compatible devices. Bring your library card, eBook reader and laptop.

## Letter

FROM PAGE 6

To register for the Washington, D.C. walk, visit [www.afsp.org/walks](http://www.afsp.org/walks) or call 301-523-0387.

Join the conversation this week on Twitter. Use #EndSuicide to raise awareness about suicide prevention.

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