



Burke CONNECTION

Robinson Football Improves to 3-0

SPORTS, PAGE 12

Robinson running back Marcus Denham dives into the end zone for a second-quarter touchdown against Lake Braddock on Sept. 12.

New Analysis of Accotink Creek Underway

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Deer Archery Program Enters Sixth Season

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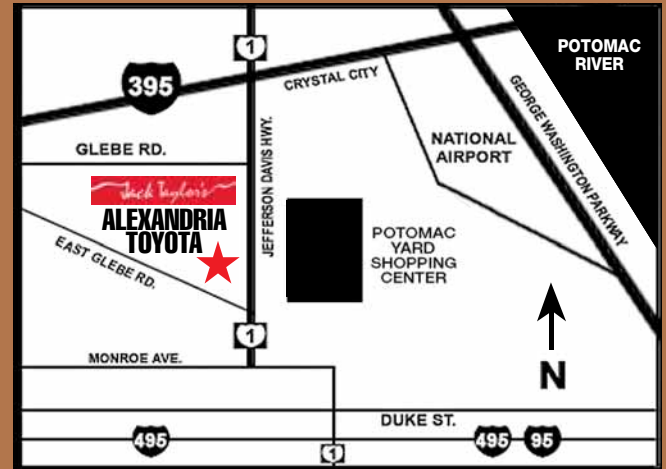
PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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New Analysis of Accotink Creek Underway

Department of Environmental Quality resumes project after EPA lawsuit.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

When Meghan Walker paddles a canoe upstream from Lake Accotink looking for garbage, not much surprises her anymore.

"The sky's the limit for odd trash," she said. "A big find last time was a wheel and tire — still attached. That's impressive."

Walker lives in Danbury Forest, bordering Lake Accotink, and is president

of the volunteer organization Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP). The group's main focus is improving the lake, park grounds and surrounding trails through trash collection and beautification projects.

Their first water-based cleanup "Raiders of the Lost Trash" took place in July, and another is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 20. "I personally don't understand littering into waterways," said Walker. "I see it in my own neighborhood — trash off to the side in the woods. It does kind of boggle the mind."

Walker was also at the first public meeting to discuss water quality in Accotink Creek and Long Branch, held Sept. 10 at the Kings Park Library in Burke. Led by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the meeting marked the resuming of a 2007 project that was meant to determine stressors on the Accotink Creek Watershed.

IN ITS BI-ANNUAL water quality study prior to 2007, the DEQ had determined the Watershed to be "impaired" with regards to its ability to support aquatic life. The most basic, tiny organisms — Benthic Macroinvertebrates — weren't surviving. And because those bugs support



Members of the Friends of Lake Accotink Park canoed upstream of Lake Accotink in July to remove garbage that's difficult to reach on foot.



Friends of Accotink Creek volunteer member Damian Banaszak, of Annandale (left) helps pick up garbage during a group clean-up.

Upcoming Creek Clean-up

❖ Friends of Lake Accotink Park: Saturday, Sept. 20, starting at 8:30 a.m. Meet at the lake marina and canoe upstream to gather garbage and see the park from a different perspective. Visit www.facebook.com/friendsoflakeaccotinkpark to sign-up.

❖ Friends of Accotink Creek: Saturday, Sept. 27. 9-11 a.m. on Accotink Creek at Fullerton Road Bridge; 12-2 p.m. on Accotink Creek at Franconia-Springfield Parkway Bridge; 3-5 p.m. on Accotink Creek at Telegraph Road Bridge. Visit www.accotink.org for more information.

fish populations and help recycle nutrients, their health is a primary indicator of the health of the creek.

After doing an analysis of the causes — usually the presence of several pollutants — the standard practice for the DEQ and any partner organizations is to develop a TMDL, a Total Maximum Daily Load report. This concludes how much of each stressor,

or pollutant, a body of water can sustain while still meeting water quality standards.

The DEQ had initially been working with the EPA to put together the Accotink Creek TMDL. They planned to make a case for heavy stream flow, the kind that comes after a rainstorm, being the primary pollutant.

Indeed, according to Kris Unger, the Pri-

mary Conservator for another volunteer organization the Friends of Accotink Creek, within an hour of a heavy rainstorm, the creek rises dramatically and gushes with milky-orange sediment. Repeated episodes can erode the sides of the creek and leave sediment suspended in the water, making it difficult for the macroinvertebrates and other wildlife to survive.

On "stormwater walks," Unger shows people the steep walls of the creek. "It looks like a ditch," he said, "six feet high, with roots sticking out. People ask, 'How do they get the bulldozers in?'"

So targeting stormwater flow seemed like an intelligent approach. But the EPA took the lead in developing a flow-based TMDL.

"The idea that EPA had was good," said Bryant Thomas, the Regional Water Permits and Planning Manager with the regional DEQ office. "But the final product was fairly narrow, and really expensive to try to comply with."

The EPA's focus called for finding ways to reduce the flow of stormwater — no small task considering how water gushes, as planned, to sewers from sidewalks and streets all over the county. That plan discounted the validity of possible efforts to shore up Accotink Creek itself to help it cope with storm flow. Structural changes to satisfy the EPA were estimated to cost Virginia and Fairfax County roughly \$300 million. Then-Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli and the Board of Supervisors responded by suing the EPA for overstepping its bounds. In early 2013, a federal judge forced the EPA to back off, but that still left Accotink Creek without a functional TMDL for its impaired status.

THAT BRINGS UP the meeting last week, where the DEQ and members of a technical advisory committee discussed plans to create a new TMDL. In the first phase of this renewed project, the DEQ, together with Fairfax County, the United States Geological Survey and the EPA, will gather data and create a new list and analysis of creek stressors. Once that's approved, they anticipate developing a new TMDL by February 2016. That's Phase Two. But that report would still predate any concerted state and county action to relieve whatever they determine the specific stressors to be.

In the meantime, change at the community level can absolutely help the waterways. "It can't all be done by the county just spending money," said Rosemary Ryan, senior legal aide for Supervisor John Cook. "We've got to change how people think about the streams."

Ryan and organizations like FLAP, FAC and the newly formed Friends of Long Branch believe every little bit of knowledge and action helps, whether it's coming to a creek cleanup event, thinking twice about using fertilizers or avoiding washing your car in the driveway, where solvents will go straight to the stream.

"Find just one other person who cares" is FLAP's motto, "and hopefully they will find more people," added Unger.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

A high density of deer is seen as an ongoing threat to biodiversity and road safety throughout the Fairfax County.

Deer Archery Program Enters Sixth Season

Continued overabundance brings bow-hunters back to parks.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Even at 72, the animated Disney classic “Bambi” can still soften the hardest hearts when it comes to appreciating the innocence and natural beauty of deer. But the reality in Fairfax County is that an unnaturally high density of Bambis and mothers of Bambi is an ongoing threat to biodiversity and road safety.

To cope with that reality, Fairfax County Police manage a robust population control program: an archery-hunting season now in its sixth year.

There are simply too many deer in wooded areas around the county — throughout parks, private residences and roadways. Ongoing population density surveys conducted by the Park Authority offer data from aerial infrared imaging as well as vegetation monitoring.

And according to the police department’s Animal Wildlife Specialist Dr Katherine Edwards, the most recent surveys “still indicate an overabundance of deer in the parks.”

The effects of this overcrowding are multifold, with the most immediately dangerous being increased vehicle collisions.

Each year, the police estimate between 4,000 and 5,000 deer-vehicle strikes take place.

At the state level, Virginia ranked eighth in the country for collisions between 2007 and 2008.

It doesn’t help that the times of day deer are characteristically most active are morning and evening twilight — coinciding with northern Virginia rush hours.

Aside from the roadside threat, the overpopulation also increases potential human exposure to diseases carried by deer-riding pests such as Lyme disease. Then on an ecological level, deer crowding results in “overbrowsing”, or decimation of understory plant life that would otherwise offer food and shelter to other forest-dwelling animals, not to mention help regenerate the forest itself.

And many homeowners are familiar with the scourge of azaleas, daylilies and hostas.

In an attempt to put the deer population in check, the Board of Supervisors first approved archery as a preferred method in October 2000. It took several years for the program to fully develop, but by the end of fiscal year 2014 — the sixth year of the program’s current form — nearly 800 hunters were responsible for bringing in 848

To the Point

Archery program quick hits

- ❖ This deer-hunting seasons lasts from Sept. 6 until Feb. 21, 2015. But don’t expect things to pick up until the weather gets cooler: “As hot as it’s been, I doubt there’s been any hunters in the woods,” said Master Animal Control Officer Cook. “Around the beginning of October more hunters will be active.”

- ❖ Virginia hunting hours are Monday through Saturday, 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset. Most hunters follow deer off the beaten path, but if you encounter one, they should have identification: “Some people get a little bit shocked by the sight of the bow,” said Lake Accotink Park manager on duty Carlos Cruz, “but the flash of a badge brings them back to ease. Most people are pretty aware of it.”

- ❖ All archers must have applied for the program by July 6 2014, possess a valid

Virginia hunting license and have passed a proficiency and safety test.

- ❖ Archers work in groups and are assigned and limited to hunt only in specific sites. The complete list of program locations is online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/wildlife/archery/archery-program.htm.

- ❖ Feeding deer is illegal between Sept. 1 and the first Saturday in January.

- ❖ The police encourage people to report deer damage they see in neighborhoods and parks, contacting the non-emergency number 703-691-2131 or program manager Sergeant Earit Powell at 703-324-0280.

- ❖ Some recommended deer-deterring plant life include common boxwood, Colorado Blue Spruce, Red Osier Dogwoods and Scots Pine. Or a motion-activated sprinkler may also do the trick.

deer across 27 park sites.

And though not popular with “Bambi” lovers, controlled hunting is the only population control method approved by the state.

“It’s the toolbox we have now,” said Edwards.

The archery is safe to park patrons and bystanders — only five non-hunter injuries have occurred statewide in the last five decades — and despite the vegetation being slow to rebound, Edwards said the deer population is reducing.

By exactly how much is uncertain. And Edwards said her department is open to different methods that would be more ef-

fective, or as effective and more humane.

Such as the current study by White Buffalo Inc, which is operating under a special permit from the state to experiment with sterilizing deer rather than killing them.

“We hear both sides,” said Edwards. “It’s pretty balanced between the viewpoints. If there’s a new method, it gets a lot of attention — looking into these humane options in the future. That’s perfectly reasonable to question the methods we’re using and discuss the options.”

But for now, the police will continue to manage the archery program, because they believe it’s the best option at their disposal.

FREE CAREGIVERS SEMINARS

Fairfax County is offering the following Free Caregiver Seminars in October:

- ❖ Understanding and Caring for a Person with Dementia. Saturday, Oct. 18, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 2812 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. For directions: 703-204-4664.

- *S cams and Financial Crimes Against Seniors. Tuesday, Oct. 21, 3:00-4:30

p.m. Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. For directions: 703-768-6700.

- ❖ Caregiving 101. Monday, Oct. 27, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. For directions: 703-339-4610.

- ❖ Six Questions to Consider About Paying for Long-Term Care – WEBINAR. Wednesday, Oct. 29, Noon-1:00 p.m. Register beforehand at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm.

- ❖ Carfit experts will be at the Vienna

Volunteer Fire Department parking lot to assist older adults in determining if your car fits you properly for maximum safety. Free program. Wed., October 8, from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Call 703-255-6360 to register and for more information.

- ❖ Fairfax County’s free Chronic Disease Self-Management Program workshops are held Oct. 15-Nov. 19, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices or call 703-324-5489, TTY 711.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FRIDAY/SEPT. 19

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice your English conversation skills.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Take Control of Your Blood Sugar. 3 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. This program will teach you how to manage your blood sugar, make healthy dietary changes to help lose weight, feel more energized, and head off diabetes. Adults.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 21

“Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief.” 1 – 6 p.m. Christ Church, 8285 Glen Eagles Lane, Fairfax Station. Stephen Ministry, a Christian nonprofit organization training pastors and layperson volunteers to better serve the caregiving needs of their community, hosts an introductory workshop. \$15 per person; \$50 for four or more. Visit www.stephenministry.org/workshop or call Stephen Ministries at 314-428-2600 to register or receive more information.

Kings Park Library Friends Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Kings Park Library Friends meeting for adults.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 23

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.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Practice speaking English with others and improve your skills. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 24

New Voting Equipment. 1 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. 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. Drop in anytime between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Student Volunteer Training Session. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Students receive training from library staff and sign up for volunteer hours. Please bring completed application. Grades 7-12.


THURSDAY/SEPT. 25

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

FRIDAY/SEPT. 26

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice your English conversation skills.


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Protecting Those Threatened by Domestic Violence

September marks 20th Anniversary of Violence Against Women Act.

BY GERRY CONNOLLY
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (D-11)

This month marks the 20th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) – landmark legislation in which our nation committed new prevention and response resources so that our mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends would no longer have to suffer in silence through domestic abuse.

COMMENTARY

Though meaningful progress has been realized, domestic violence continues to be a real and troubling challenge in our communities. Far too many of us have been touched by domestic violence in one way or another. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, an estimated 1.3 million women are victims each year, and one in every four women will experience such violence

in their lifetime.

Just last year, Turning Points, the only domestic violence intervention program in Prince William County, served 6,000 clients. In Fairfax County there were more than 8,000 incidents reported, and we have seen a 40 percent increase in homelessness due to domestic violence.

This is why I was so disappointed when the House Republican majority blocked a bipartisan modernization of VAWA for 18 months before relenting last year. The Senate passed the bill in a strong and bipartisan 78-22 vote, but some House Republicans objected because they did not want to extend protections to Native Americans, LGBT Americans, and immigrants. Thankfully, House leadership finally put aside this obstructionism and ultimately allowed the House to pass the improved VAWA bill, which I and an overwhelming number of Democrats supported.

Thanks to VAWA, we have strengthened and expanded critical protections for all victims of domestic violence and enhanced our nation's criminal justice response. Specifically, VAWA has instituted stricter sentencing guidelines for repeat federal sex crime offenders and pro-

vided resources to tribal, local, and state law enforcement communities to address violent crimes against women. In addition, VAWA funds specialized training for 500,000 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, and other personnel every year. The National Domestic Violence Hotline, which responds to more than 22,000 urgent calls for help every month, also was created under VAWA.

The updated VAWA is renewing our successful partnerships with local nonprofits and law enforcement agencies. It is improving protections for underserved communities, particularly immigrants and victims of human trafficking. And of particular importance for helping victims through the recovery process, the new bill is expanding housing assistance and providing support regardless of sexual orientation.

Sadly, recent events in the news demonstrate that although we have made great progress, as a community we must remain vigilant in protecting those threatened by domestic violence. Please know that I will continue to push Congress to maintain and expand the investments needed to support these critical programs in our community and continue to be a voice of support to those who might otherwise not speak up for themselves.

School Board Ready to Tackle Fiscal Challenges

BY TAMARA DERENAK KAUFAX
CHAIRMAN, FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as the chairman of Fairfax County School Board for the 2014-15 school year. My colleagues on the board and I – working closely with our superintendent, Dr. Karen Garza – have an ambitious agenda for the year ahead. Our top priority remains adequate funding for our schools at both the state and county levels. State support for education remains at unacceptable levels and we will continue to work with our county Board of Supervisors to provide our schools with an adequate level of financial support when the state fails to do its job. As a consensus builder, I will continue to urge the School Board to work in partnership with the Board of Supervisors to find solutions to our budget dilemma.

COMMENTARY

We have already taken steps to build a stronger relationship with the Board of Supervisors. This past year, Dr. Garza provided a new level of transparency in the budget process by meeting with the Board of Supervisors and other community leaders, conducting listening tours in each of the magisterial districts, and developing the Citizens Guide to Understanding the Budget, all of which were well received by the supervisors and the community. Our boards have already met jointly in September to outline our fiscal forecasts. In addition, we have established the Joint Budget Development Committee composed of three supervisors and three School Board members. The committee will review budget factors impacting Fiscal Year 2016 and provide guidance to both boards. The committee will deliver a report to both boards

before the County Executive presents his Advertised Budget and before the superintendent presents her Proposed Budget in early 2015. Last year, the county and School Board created the joint Infrastructure Financing Committee to review the facilities needs of both FCPS and the county. The committee report released earlier this year resulted in an additional \$13 million that will be invested each year beginning in FY 2016 for school infrastructure upgrades. I will continue to encourage this kind of collaboration to build trust and realistic expectations for the supervisors, the school board, and the community.

In the next few weeks we plan to make a final decision regarding school start times for the 2015-16 school year. Superintendent Garza made her recommendation to the board at a meeting in early September. We will provide the community with sufficient time to comment on the proposal before we take final action at our Oct. 23 meeting. As you may recall, the School Board adopted a resolution in April 2012 with the stated goal to start high schools after 8 a.m. The board subsequently hired Children's National Medical Center to serve as consultants to develop a plan to achieve that goal. CNMC developed four options. Those options were taken to the community in a series of eight public meetings held in May and June. After analyzing the feedback from parents and the community, CNMC made their recommendation and, based on school board direction, Option 3 is the framework being used to develop a final recommendation for school board consideration. I invite you to learn more at www.fcps.edu.

Other new initiatives include the FCPS Por-

trait of a Graduate, which will serve as a foundation on which to build a long-range strategic plan for FCPS. Once a strategic plan is in place with a direct and clear vision for our schools, our work will be very focused and the outcome will be improved student achievement for every student.

We have had great success with our launch of full day Mondays for our elementary students. The community is very supportive of the change which will increase instructional time for students and dedicated planning time for teachers. Beginning this school year, we also have a new standard school calendar in place that eliminates the need to make up inclement weather days at the end of the school year, if fewer than 13 days are missed.

The Bailey's Upper Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences opened Sept. 2 with a community ribbon-cutting celebration scheduled for Oct. 15. This new school was converted from a five-story office building on Leesburg Pike and will solve the overcrowding problems that have plagued Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences. Under the leadership of one principal, the new campus houses grades 3-5 while the existing campus remains home to preschoolers through second graders.

The start of a new school year is always an exciting time for students, parents and teachers. As chairman, I pledge to maintain and build upon the excellence for which our schools are known. Working with our state elected officials, supervisors, superintendent and other stakeholders, I am confident that we can solve our most pressing problems while continuing to offer a world-class education for our families. Have a safe and productive school year.



COMMENTARY

September is Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month

By JOHN C. COOK
SUPERVISOR (R-BRADDOCK DISTRICT)

The numbers are staggering. In the United States, one person dies by suicide every 18 minutes. It is estimated that 5 million people in the United States have lost a loved one to suicide in the past 25 years. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of all deaths in the United States, and mental health problems will strike one in five adults each year. In Fairfax County alone last year, there were over 150 suicides. As overwhelming as the problem may feel, we can all take small steps to help those struggling and help them find hope.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death among youth between the ages of 15 and 25, and the second leading cause of death for college students. That's why the Fairfax – Falls Church Community Service Board (CSB) has partnered with CrisisLink to make it easier for adolescents and young adults in our community to just text their thoughts and concerns. This option provides prompt response, counsel and referral using technology familiar to this age group. CrisisLink is adapting to more readily help those in trouble. All they have to do is text NEED HELP to 703-940-0888.

Hope is also just a phone call away. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline has a dedicated phone number for those feeling lost: 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Crisislink is available at 703-527-4077. Last



Cook

year, CrisisLink handled 2,699 calls including follow-up calls to those at high risk. Of those calls, 311 were suicide related and required de-escalation by a Volunteer Crisis Counselor. Another option for help is the local the PRS CrisisLink website: www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

Fairfax County Public Schools are also educating teachers, mentor, coaches and parents on how to recognize signs that youth might be in trouble. Take a moment to explore these two websites, <http://fairfax.kognito.com/> and <http://bit.ly/1m66X0R> if you are involved with students in our community.

Most importantly for those struggling, I urge you to talk to someone you love, even when you don't think anyone can make you feel better. There are more people than you know willing to listen.

If you are chosen by someone looking for support, listen with your heart. You don't have to solve the problem, just hear the person out. Give them the resources listed here. If you are looking for more information about how to be prepared to help loved ones struggling, there is a very helpful video to help answer some of your questions at <http://bit.ly/1D0ixjb>. At one point or another, we will all need some help, and it is okay to ask.

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A Different Path to a 4-year Degree

NOVA's Guaranteed Admissions Program gives students opportunities to attend their dream schools.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Noor Naveed immigrated to the United States from Pakistan with her family shortly after the 9/11 attacks. The family settled in Northern Virginia and, years later, Naveed graduated from Hayfield Secondary School in Alexandria. She dreams of becoming the first person in her family to graduate from college.

"My mother was forced to drop out of junior high and at 32 got her GED. I just knew that there wasn't anyone in my immediate family who had graduated from college and was determined to be the first person," said Naveed. "I knew I wanted to [go to] George Mason because I didn't want loans and I knew I could pay for George Mason out of pocket."

Naveed used Northern Virginia Community College's Guaranteed Admissions Program to complete her associate of arts degree and is now finishing a bachelor's de-

gree in criminology, law and society at George Mason University in Fairfax.

"Counselors were great at telling me what classes I should take so they would transfer," she said. "Almost all of my classes transferred."

NOVA's admissions agreements guarantee current and future NOVA students who earn associate degrees admission to more than 40 four-year colleges and universities.

Students do have to meet certain academic requirements, such as earning a minimum grade point average, in order to be accepted into their chosen four-year colleges.

"It's very beneficial to the students because before these agreements, there weren't any parameters as to what it takes to be admitted to universities," said Julia Brown, coordinator for transfer policy at Northern Virginia Community College. "As long as you have a certain GPA, the guaranteed admission agreement takes all of the guess work out of whether you will qualify. It is a huge relief. ... Students don't want to waste money or time by taking a class that isn't needed."

NOVA officials say that popular majors include engineering, nursing, computer science and general studies.

For example, a student can earn an associate degree in engineering from NOVA then transfer to Virginia Tech's College of Engineering or the University of Virginia's School of Engineering and Applied Science. A student who might be unsure of the major he plans to pursue can earn a general studies degree and then transfer to George Mason University.

George Mason University, University of Virginia and Virginia Tech are the top transfer schools for NOVA graduates.

"The [Guaranteed Admission Agreement] program allowed me to complete my associate's degree close to home. The GAA gave me the opportunity to transfer to my dream school, James Madison University, with ease and with no debt," said Amy Zuaso, a first year advising specialist at NOVA. "At NOVA, I met with a JMU transfer representative that informed me about a full ride scholarship program, The Centennial Scholars Program, that I applied for and was awarded. Starting at NOVA first and using the GAA helped me graduate from a four-year school and to be the first person in my family to graduate from college."

Zuaso is now completing an online Master's Degree in counseling at Liberty

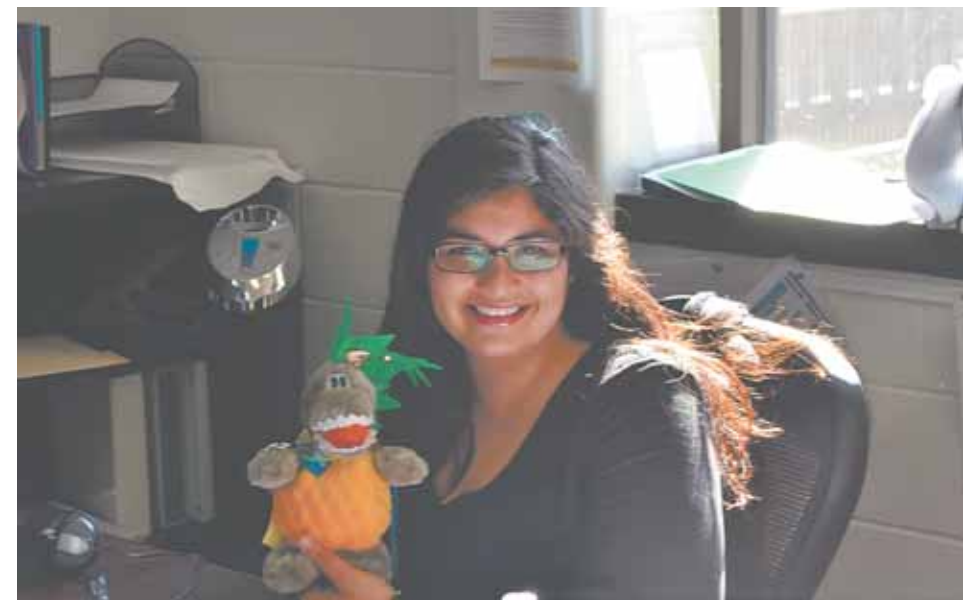


PHOTO COURTESY OF NOOR NAVEED

Noor Naveed hopes to become the first person in her family to graduate from college. After graduating from NOVA, she transferred to George Mason University.

University in Lynchburg, Va.

THE PROGRAM WAS CREATED after the release of a workforce trends report prepared by George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis showed professional, scientific, technical and health care fields as the key sources of new net job growth in Northern Virginia from 2010 to 2020.

"The GAA is designed to offer students a seamless transfer process," said Darren Troxler, associate dean of admissions and chief transfer officer at George Mason University. "Students who meet all of the requirements for GAA admission are not only

guaranteed transfer admission to Mason, but are considered juniors for class standing, registration and financial aid purposes, and are considered to have completed the Mason Core, our lower-level general education requirement."

Troxler says another advantage to GAA enrollment is the significant cost savings for students and parents. "There is a \$271.00 per credit hour differential in tuition rates between Mason and NOVA for Virginia residents," he said. "Students will realize a significantly lower debt burden by taking advantage of the Virginia Community College System."



PHOTO COURTESY OF NOVA

NOVA Community students can earn admission to more than 40 colleges and universities through the school's guaranteed admission agreements.

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Portrait of a Graduate Discussed

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

The heart of the school system's new strategic plan is closer to being approved.

The Fairfax County School Board discussed the five component Portrait of a Graduate - with some asking for a component emphasizing a caring quality - at Monday's work session.

"We haven't truly captured what we're trying to say with 'goal-directed,'" said Mason District board member Sandy Evans.

She and a handful of other board members felt the last component, "Goal-directed and resilient" came across as cut-throat. She said the word "caring" needed to be in the heading of the component because character ethics is a priority.

THE FIVE COMPONENTS for the Portrait of a Graduate that was created for approval are Communicator, Collaborator, Global Citizen, Creative and Critical Thinker in addition to Goal-Directed and Resilient Individual.



PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION

Braddock District school board member Megan McLaughlin asks for "caring" to be a key component for the school district's Portrait of a Graduate.

"You can be all of these things and be a horrible human being," said Braddock District board member Megan McLaughlin.

She said her reason for needing the heading's name change stemmed from her social work background.

"It's one of the most important things we can do, create a young person who cares," she said.

Hunter Mill District board member Pat Hynes agreed that the name

sounded "pushy." "It's really all about ambition - that's what it comes across as sounding," she said.

Portrait of a Graduate was announced by Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza last October during an education summit. Since then, stakeholders have sent in a flurry of comments on what the final product should look like.

"We've had hundreds and hundreds of people submit feedback to

the committee," she said. "It resonates with a lot of people."

Even retired teachers, she said, have supported the measure.

FCPS Chief of Staff Marty Smith showed a video about the importance of the five components for a student and what type of student they want graduating from the school system.

"This is what we call the heart of the strategic plan," he said.

Smith said that Portrait looks at skills even the youngest students might need when they graduate. In addition, he said that everyone, including himself, could identify with the qualities they need to be good at school, their job and their life.

"It's not changing the 'what,'" said Garza. "It's changing the 'how.'"

She said she wants to honor the committee's work by keeping most of the wording, but there could be some room to put the word "caring" into the last component's heading.

Several other board members felt that changing the wording was not necessary.

"We're at the Queen Elsa mo-

Part of the new FCPS strategic plan.

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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.

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.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 19

Friends of the Burke Centre Library Used Book Sale. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Buy gently used books to benefit the library. 703-249-1520.

FRIDAY/SEPT 19 - SUNDAY/SEPT 21

Fall Book Sale. Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Fairfax City Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Sunday bag day, \$5/bag. friendsoffairfaxcitylibrary@gmail.com

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Friends of the Burke Centre Library Used Book Sale. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Buy gently used books to benefit the library. 703-249-1520.

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

Open Mic Coffee House. 7-9:30 p.m. Calvary Hill Baptist Church, 9301 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Free coffee, snacks, amps, and keyboard provided. If you would like to share your talent, call Pete 703-955-2039.

Master Gardeners - Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Masters Gardeners from the Fairfax County Cooperative Extension will host plant clinics each Saturday morning through the summer to answer your gardening questions. Adults.

Bicentennial Commemoration: War of 1812. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. In commemoration of the 200th anniversary of local Fairfax citizens' military role with the Virginia Militias in 1814, this event features a living history encampment of the 60th Virginia Militia, portrayals of local landowners, a village blacksmith, fencing demonstrations; talks by historian Stuart Butler, author and reporter Steve Vogel, historian Patrick O'Neill and period music by musician/musicologist David Hildebrand.

7th Annual Azalea Public Sale and Auction. Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. Many varieties of rare and unusual azaleas will be available for sale/auction. The sale will run from 1-4:30 p.m. The silent auction runs from 1-2 p.m. and the live auction runs from 2:30-4:30 p.m. For more information, contact Carolyn Beck 703-860-5676 or visit www.nv-asa.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT 20-SUNDAY/SEPT 28

Live Onstage: Alice in Wonderland. 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. Featuring songs based on the poetry from the original text, the Cheshire Cat, the Red Queen, the White Rabbit and the rest of the cast will be on hand as Alice adventures through Wonderland. Admissions: \$8-\$12.



Gloria Benedetto shares her tribute to the animals she loves by using several techniques of stippling or painting with inks, pastels, acrylics and watercolor. View her exhibit, "You're Such An Animal," at the Workhouse Arts Center until Oct. 5.

www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 21

City of Fairfax Library Friends Fall Children's Book Sale. 1 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Join the Friends of the City of Fairfax Regional Library for the Fall Children's Book Sale. Choose gently-used books for children, for yourself or as gifts.

Patrick Lundy and the Ministers of Music. 4 p.m. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. A thrilling, moving, and uplifting program of gospel music. They have performed at the Kennedy Center and at the historic Howard Theatre.

Train Show. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. A display of N gauge trains running. Information on the museum and shows is at www.fairfax-station.org or call phone 703-425-9225.

Dog Adoption. 12-4 p.m. Petco, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax.

Virginia Opera Children's Program - The Empress and the Nightingale. 2 p.m. Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. The Empress and the Nightingale is an adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's classic children's story of a small bird sharing her gift of song with the ruler of China in ancient times. With a cast of three performing original music, this opera vividly teaches the value of music performed live versus machine-made art.

MONDAY/SEPT. 22

Let's Grow Garden Club. 2-3:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Kids discover their green thumbs in our three-session fall gardening club. Sept. 22, Oct. 6 and Oct. 20. \$37 for all 3 sessions. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 401 5501 or call 703-642-5173.

Library Tech Help. 11 a.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.

Crazy 8s Math Club. 4:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Join Bedtime Math's Crazy 8s, where you'll build stuff, run and jump, make music, make a mess...it's a totally new kind of math club.

Tales to Tails. 4:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Need practice reading? Read aloud to a friendly, trained therapy dog. Ages 6-12.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 23

Tai Chi. 10 a.m. Burke Center Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Join this series of Tai Chi classes coached by Dante Gilmer. Register for one or more of the six sessions. Adults and older adults.

Short Book Conversations. 1:30 p.m. Burke Center Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Join our lively discussion of We Have Always Lived in the Castle by Shirley Jackson. Adults and older adults.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 24

Time for Twos. 10:30 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Join us for a story time focusing on early literacy skills just for twos. Age 2 with adult.

Terrific Twos and Threes. 10:30 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Storytime with a focus on early literacy skills. Age 2-3 with adult.

Ebook Clinic. 12 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn to use the library's eBook collection and compatible e-book readers with our one-on-one technology volunteer. Registration required. Adults.

My Gym-Babies. 10:30 a.m. Burke Center Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Develop your child's large motor skills with physical exercise designed for babies. Age 12-23 months with adult.

My Gym-Toddlers. 11:30 a.m. Burke Center Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Develop your child's large motor skills with physical exercise designed for toddlers. Age 2 years with adult.

Bilingual Storytime. 4 p.m. City of



View artwork by Javier Padilla and more at Epicure Café's latest exhibition, Wake Up Call, a new collection of contemporary artwork by local artists on display through Oct. 4.

Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bilingual Storytime in English and Spanish. Build your child's early literacy skills while enjoying stories, songs 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 stumpers 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.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 25

Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Build your child's early literacy skills while enjoying stories, songs and activities. Ages 3-5 with adult.

Tales to Tails. 4:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Need practice reading. Read aloud to a friendly, trained therapy dog. Ages 6-12.

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.

Magazines with Zino. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Learn to use the library's Zino digital magazine collection where you can read (and keep) digital editions of your favorite magazines.

My Gym-School Age. 4 p.m. Burke Center Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Develop your child's large motor skills, learn basic gymnastics and have fun! Presented by a local My Gym instructor. Ages 6-12.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 26

Rock the Block! #TGIFairfax. 6-9 p.m. Old Town Fairfax, University Drive between North and Main Street, Fairfax. Come celebrate the summer concert series and block party in the heart of Fairfax with music by LEGGZ. 703-385-7858.

S.T.E.M. Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Burke Center Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Each month we will focus on one of the STEM subjects with stories, songs, and

activities for preschoolers. Age 4-5 with adult.

Genealogy Help Desk. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bring your family history stumpers 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. Teens and Adults.

Taste of the Vine Annual

Fundraiser. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway Fairfax, Virginia. This year's featured winery is Naked Mountain Vineyards. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided by Le Mediterranean Bistro, Al-Maza, Curry Mantra, Cameron's Coffee and Chocolates and Shirley's Catering.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 27

Master Gardeners - Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Masters Gardeners from the Fairfax County Cooperative Extension will host plant clinics each Saturday morning through the summer to answer your gardening questions. Adults.

Korean Culture Event. 12 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project presents "The Hidden Treasures of Korean Art and Modern Korea," featuring two documentary films, a traditional wedding and a Korean buffet.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Master Gardeners provide horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice to home gardeners. Adults.

Genealogy Help Desk. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bring your family history stumpers 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. Teens and Adults.

Ninth Annual ARTS by George! Gala. 5 p.m. Center for the Arts, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. This benefit event features a showcase of performances and exhibitions by students and faculty, buffets and beverages, a silent auction of arts-related items and experiences and a dazzling gala performance by Tony, Grammy and Olivier Award winner Patti LuPone. 703-993-4188 or artsbygeorge.gmu.edu.

34th Annual Fall Mosby Civil War Bus Tour. 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Truro Parish, 10520 Main Street, Fairfax. The longest continuously running tour hosted by the Mosby Historical Society in America today. Tour guides Don Hakenson, Gregg Dudding and Eric Buckland will go on this day-long excursion, visiting various sites from the Civil War period including Millwood, the Old Chapel and execution sites. For more information or to reserve a seat, contact Don Hakenson, dhakenson@verizon.net. Admissions \$65-\$75. 703-971-4984.

69th Annual County Fair. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The fair includes games, booths, barbecue, homemade apple butter, historic church tours, Colonial and Civil War living history re-enactors, organ concerts, live music, pony rides and much more. <http://www.pohick.org>.

Concerts from Kirkwood. 3 p.m. Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. A series of free concerts presented by Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, begins its 2014 - 2015 season. Free.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 28

Fall Plant Sale. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Earth Sangha, Wild Plant Nursery Cloud Drive, Springfield.



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Robinson running back Marcus Denham dives into the end zone for a second-quarter touchdown against Lake Braddock on Sept. 12.



Robinson sophomore Roman Lowery carries the ball during the Rams' 19-17 win over Lake Braddock on Friday.

Robinson Football Improves to 3-0 with Win Over Rival Lake Braddock

Rams build 19-0 lead, hold on to beat "contender."

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

First-year Robinson football coach Scott Vossler had a message for the Rams entering Friday's rivalry contest against Lake Braddock: It's time to beat an upper-echelon opponent.

Vossler, Robinson's fourth head coach in five seasons, has his sights set on returning the once-powerful Rams to prominence, and that includes knocking off the region's elite. Robinson started the year with victories against Lee and Woodson, programs which combined for a 5-16 record in 2013. The Rams won eight games and reached the second round of the playoffs last season when Vossler was the team's defensive coordinator, but Robinson went a combined 0-4 against Lake Braddock (12-1, reached the region final four), Westfield (region runner-up) and Centerville (state champion).

"We challenged them the other day about beating a contender," Vossler said. "The seniors really hadn't done it yet. I've been here for three, four years and every time we played one of the powerhouses, we've lost."

FRIDAY'S GAME started as a matchup of 2-0 teams. It ended with Vossler motioning from the sideline for Robinson fans to increase the decibel level of their celebration.

Robinson defeated Lake Braddock 19-17 on Sept. 12 at Lake Braddock Secondary School in Burke. The Rams built a 19-0 lead with a bruising running game and strong defense before surviving a late Bruin rally.

Trailing 19-11, Lake Braddock quarterback Kyle Edwards threw to a wide-open Evan Eschenburg for a 21-yard touchdown with 1:08 remaining in the fourth quarter. The Bruins' two-point conversion attempt failed, and Robinson recovered the ensuing inside kick attempt to secure the victory.

"We've got kids that haven't won big in a while and they want it real bad," Vossler said. "... We had an opportunity here and we went at it with everything we had."



Multiple Robinson defenders wrap up Lake Braddock running back Dejou Lee on Friday.

It was Robinson's first victory over Lake Braddock since 2011.

The Ram offense succeeded in traditional Robinson style — lining up in the wing-T and pounding out yards on the ground. Running backs Marcus Denham, Sean Foncha, Roman Lowery and Dajon Lee combined for 51 carries, 252 yards and three touchdowns.

"I thought we ran it well," Vossler said. "... [The Bruins] were loading up [the box]. We probably could have thrown it once or twice but that's not who we are. We think when people put 11 in there, we've also got 11 in there and our 11 are better than theirs."

Denham, a 5-foot-10, 160-pound senior, led the Robinson ground game with 20 carries for 108 yards and a touchdown. He scored on a 26-yard run with 1:39 remaining in the second quarter, diving into the end zone to give the Rams a 13-0 advantage.

"Our mentality is Coach Vossler wants to bring back the Rams' tradition of being a

tough-nosed, physical, run-the-ball-down-your-throat team," Denham said, "and we're going to continue to do that until otherwise shown that we have to change."

Foncha, a 5-foot-10, 195-pound junior, carried 13 times for 67 yards. Lowery, a 5-foot-11, 185-pound sophomore, rushed 14 times for 62 yards and a score. Lowery's 5-yard touchdown run gave the Rams a 7-0 lead with 10:35 left in the second quarter.

Lee, a 6-foot-1, 195-pound junior, had four carries for 15 yards and a touchdown. His 3-yard scoring run gave the Rams their largest lead of the night at 19-0 with 1:09 left in the third quarter.

Senior quarterback Jack Rowlett, a three-year starter, completed his only pass attempt for 22 yards to senior Davante Hicks.

The Robinson defense limited Lake Braddock to just two first downs in the opening half, including one resulting from a pass interference penalty. The Rams forced a turnover on downs at their own 36 late in the first quarter, and Hicks intercepted Edwards at the Robinson 22 late in the sec-

ond quarter.

"We thought our guys were pretty good against [the] spread," Vossler said. "We're pretty athletic, we're a little smaller, we think we match up well against that. Our D-line gets after it. Our kids just played with great effort, and when you do that, you cover up mistakes."

ROBINSON KEPT Lake Braddock off the scoreboard until the final minute of the third quarter. Facing second-and-10 at the Lake Braddock 45-yard line, Edwards completed a deep pass to Eschenburg, who fumbled into the end zone. A Lake Braddock player recovered the loose ball for a touchdown. A two-point conversion cut the Robinson lead to 19-8.

Lake Braddock's next possession started at the Robinson 30 after forcing a turnover on downs. The Rams kept the Bruins off the scoreboard, however, forcing a turnover on downs at the 10, thanks in part to a third-down sack by sophomore linebacker Donnie Warter.

Lake Braddock kicker Nicholas Bruhn booted a 27-yard field goal with 2:50 remaining in the fourth quarter and the Bruins added a late touchdown, but Robinson held on for the win.

"We played amazing," Robinson senior linebacker Nick Roth said about the Rams defense. "Donny Warter, sophomore, played [the game of] his life."

Lake Braddock's Edwards completed 11 of 24 passes for 156 yards. Running back Dejou Lee carried eight times for 31 yards. Senior receiver A.J. Alexander, who is committed to Ohio State, had four receptions for 45 yards.

After winning three straight road games, Robinson (3-0) will host Mount Vernon at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 19. After three straight home games, Lake Braddock (2-1) will travel to face Westfield at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

What did Friday's victory mean to Vossler? "It means the world," he said. "I think it gives us some credibility to what we're doing, that we can play smashmouth football in 2014 when not many people do it anymore, and we're trying to continue that."



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Theodore Smith plays "Taps" while (from left) Charlie Schuck places his hand over his heart and Jack Barbee salutes.

In Solemn Remembrance

Local bugler plays "Taps" in honor of the Sept. 11 victims.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Throughout Virginia and the U.S., people commemorated last Thursday's 13th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy. Locally, Theodore Smith, an 83-year-old volunteer with Bugles Across America, did it in his own, special way.

He went to four different sites and played "Taps" in remembrance of all those who lost their lives that September morning. He began in front of the Fairfax County Government Center in Fair Oaks at exactly 8:46 a.m., the time when American Airlines Flight 11 flew into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City.

Next, Smith did the same thing in front of Fairfax Fire Station 40 on West Ox Road. He played at 9:03 a.m., when United Airlines Flight 175 struck the South Tower. Said Smith: "This second sounding was chosen to honor all of the heroic police and firefighters who gave their lives that day in order to save hundreds more."

He then performed "Taps" at Paul VI Catholic High School. He did so at 9:40 a.m., when American Airlines Flight 77 struck the Pentagon. "It was to honor the diversity of citizens of all backgrounds that perished that day, and since, from evil terrorism," he explained. Finally, Smith played his bugle in front of the flag outside The Woodlands Retirement Community in Fairfax. The residents and guests placed their hands over their hearts while he performed at 10:06 a.m., when United Airlines Flight 93 crashed in a field in Shanksville, Pa.

THIS EFFORT, said Smith, was "to honor all of the



Theodore Smith and his bugle on Sept. 11.

courageous passengers whose resistance prevented another possible crash into a vital, Washington, D.C., target, which saved hundreds more lives."

Afterwards, he played "The Star-Spangled Banner" in recognition of the 200th anniversary of its writing by Francis Scott Key. He also chose that selection, he said, "for those who have since sacrificed their lives for the freedoms that we Americans must never take for granted."

One of those attending the musical tribute at The Woodlands was Del. David Bulova (D-37th). "My father-in-law was in the Pentagon the day it was hit," he explained. "We lost a lot of great people that day, and I am very happy that Mr. Smith continues to keep their

memories alive."

Smith, who lives at The Woodlands with his wife, Mary Frances, does similar bugle performances each Sept. 11. He's played both trumpet and bugle for many years and started his 9/11 musical commemoration when they lived in McLean. This was his fifth year doing it.

And as a proud member of Bugles Across America, he and his co-musicians also play at veterans' funerals and, he said, "Their families appreciate that."

SMITH SERVED in the Coast Guard for two years and the Air Force, five years, and then owned an aerospace consulting firm in McLean before retiring. He and Mary Frances moved to The Woodlands in 2012 and reside in the independent-living section.

"We have a number of ex-military and ex-government personnel here, so they appreciate the 9/11 observance," he said. "We had a good turnout for this ceremony, and it was nice of David Bulova to come out, too." So why does Smith do it, each year? "As we get farther away from 9/11, we need to remind people about it," he said. "Some people weren't born, yet, or others were so young then that they barely remember it. So it's a commemoration and my small contribution."

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

Friends of Music and the Arts at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke will present Patrick Lundy and the Ministers of Music in a thrilling, moving, and uplifting program of gospel music on Sunday, Sept. 21, 2014, at 4 p.m.. This group has appeared with B. B. King, Lyle Lovett, Roberta Flack, and other artists. They have also appeared at the White House and before the U. S. Senate. They represented the United States at the World's Fair in Lisbon, Portugal. They have performed at the Kennedy Center and at the historic Howard Theatre. A reception will follow so that concert-goers may meet the performers.

The Greater Little Zion Baptist Church in Fairfax is hosting its annual Health Fair on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The theme for 2014 is "Prevention to Prosperity" (3 John 1:2) and the purpose of this Health Fair is to provide a free innovative and comprehensive program that addresses the major health needs and financial awareness our community at large.

This event is free and offers a number of free health screenings, and health wellness and financial seminars conducted by various industry professionals.

In addition, there will be a Kid's Corner with a moon bounce, arts and crafts, face painting and aerobics demonstrations. Door prizes and healthy snacks will be given throughout the event. The Health Fair is open to the public and it will be an educational, informative, and fun-filled event for all ages.

Greater Little Zion Baptist Church is located at 10185 Zion Drive in Fairfax. www.glzbc.org

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

Lord of Life Lutheran offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at

9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspringfield.org.

Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.poplc.org.

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carleigh Parkway in Springfield, supports a Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) program on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Meetings are 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the church. All mothers and children are welcome. The program provides mothers an opportunity to get to know other mothers through discussions and craft activities. Register. 703-451-5320.

JCCNV Mother's Circle program, for women who are not Jewish but are raising Jewish children. Free education in Jewish rituals, practices and values, while respecting the participant's choice to retain her own religious identity. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax. Contact Laurie Albert, 703-537-3064 or [HYPERLINK "mailto:LaurieA@jccnv.org" LaurieA@jccnv.org](mailto:LaurieA@jccnv.org).

Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria, offers traditional Sunday church services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. plus Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Childcare is available 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. There will be a Terry Hall Concert on Saturday, April 14 at 4 p.m. with old spirituals, classic hymns, southern gospel favorites and more. 703-971-5151 or admin@franconiaumc.org or www.franconiaumc.org.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is for people interested in becoming Catholic or learning about the Catholic Church. A group meets at 7:30 p.m. on July 6 and 20 at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. A group will begin meeting every Wednesday starting September. Sessions are in the Old Parish Hall. All are welcome. Contact Carolyn Smith at 703-273-5369 or carolynsmith.stlees@gmail.com.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. www.jssa.org/ growth-learning.

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21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

Route 1 Public Meetings on October 8 and 9
The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) will host a third round of public meetings for the Route 1 (Richmond Highway) Multimodal Transportation Alternatives Analysis on Wednesday, October 8, from 6-8 pm (presentation at 7) at Belmont Elementary School (751 Norwood Lane, Woodbridge) and Thursday, October 9, from 6-8 pm (presentation at 6:30) at the South County Government Center (8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA). The public is invited to participate and learn the latest on this study to improve transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and vehicular travel along a 15-mile segment of Route 1 from Woodbridge to the Huntington Metro Station. Project partners include Fairfax County, Prince William County, Virginia Department of Transportation, and the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment. For more information, including public transit available to the meeting sites, visit route1multimodal.virginiadepartmentoftransportation.com or call 804-786-4440.

DRPT is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For additional information on DRPT's nondiscrimination policies and procedures or to file a complaint, please visit the website at www.drpt.virginia.gov or contact the Title VI Compliance Officer, Linda Balderson, 600 E. Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219.

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October 6, 2014

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Clifton **\$989,000**
One of a kind, gorgeous Clifton property! Perfectly sited on 5 acre lot with pool! Welcoming wrap-around porch and main level guest suite are just 2 of the many features!
Carol Hermandorfer 703-503-1812



Centreville **\$539,900**
Fabulous Colonial nestled on a richly wooded lot on quiet cul-de-sac street. This beauty features remodeled kitchen w/all the bells & whistles, Breakfast Rm offers space for huge table, 1st floor FR w/brick FP, Deck perfect for entertaining, MBR Bath remodeled w/his & her sinks, ceramic shower & much more. Walk out LL Family Room. Backs to wooded open common ground.
Sheila Adams 703-503-1895



Burke **\$625,000**
Classic Colonial. Spacious 5 BR, 3.5 BA with fin LL Rec Room. Updated kitchen and baths with granite counters. HW floor in Foyer, Kitchen & Breakfast Rooms.
Barbara Nowak 703-473-1803
Gerry Staudte 703-309-8948



Clifton **\$699,000**
Light, bright raised rambler on gorgeous 5.5 acres. Gleaming hardwoods, 2 fireplaces, beautiful updated Kitchen & more! Property includes 6 stall barn.
Carol Hermandorfer 703-503-1812



Lorton **\$1,299,000**
Potomac River waterfront property! Features include a geothermal heating/cooling system, dock with water, power and two 10,000lb boat lifts. Separate boat garage with electrical. A boater's dream!
Ngoc Do 703-798-2899



Springfield **\$399,900**
Updated 4 level single family home for the price of a townhouse. 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, carport and large yard. Convenient to Fort Belvoir, VRE, Metro, I-95 and 495, shopping & Accotink Park. Call for private showing.
Charles N. Shaw 703-989-7169



Lake Anna **\$1,299,000**
Waterfront Luxury Home! 6 bedrooms, 6 baths, in ground swimming pool, media room with fireplace, screened in porch, beautiful family room with stone fireplace. Spa like master bedroom. Work shop, tons of storage. Amazing Views!
Dana Isaacs 540-661-2166



Fairfax **\$550,000**
Great outdoor & indoor space!
Comfortable Colonial with 4BR/2.5BA, gas fireplace, beautiful main level ceramic tile flooring, hardwoods on UL, & remodeled kitchen. A great slate patio, front porch with swing, & nice fully fenced backyard with over-sized shed add to the wonderful outdoor space. Plus, new roof, vinyl siding, triple pane windows, new HVAC (gas heat) and more! Close to schools with Metrobus on the corner.
Mary Hovland 703-946-1775
Cathy DeLoach 571-276-9421



Fairfax/Kings Park West **\$493,000**
Lovely 4 bedroom home with garage. Wood floors. Updated kitchen that opens to private patio. Living room with fireplace. Family room opens to deck & hot tub. Large fenced back yard. Fresh paint & carpet.
Judy Semler 703-503-1885



Clifton **\$658,000**
Better than new! Shows like a model! Hardwoods on 2 levels, 9' ceilings, chef's granite and island kitchen! King sized master suite, incredible fin LL w/man cave, bedroom and so much more! Desirable North Clifton location - easy commute, great schools, walk to shops, and 27 holes of golf close by!
Marsha Wolber 703-618-4397



Lorton **\$729,000**
Beautifully renovated Cape Cod in Mason Neck with 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, 2-car garage with upper level studio, water view of the Potomac River, abundant outdoor living space, and access to the community center, pier, beach and parkland.
Ngoc Do 703-798-2899



Fairfax **\$534,900**
Looking for that perfect home?
Well...here it is! 4 Levels of perfection, 4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, Updated Kitchen w/stainless steel appliances, granite, Hardwd Floors, LL FR w/FP, Level 4 makes that perfect media room.
Sheila Adams 703-503-1895



Clifton **\$499,000**
Home is in the town of Clifton. Near all downtown shops & restaurants. Updated kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Must see inside for the "old and the new." Call if you would like a private showing.
Charles N. Shaw 703-989-7169



Burke Centre **\$294,900**
Great location within minutes of shopping, VRE Station and community amenities. Three finished levels with walkout to enclosed patio and featuring stainless appliances and granite in the kitchen. Bright, light and airy end unit with open floor plan and ample parking.
Ellie Wester 703-503-1880



Lake Anna **\$649,900**
Waterfront with Boathouse! 4 bedroom, 3 bath home with open flowing floor plan, 2 fireplaces, screened porch, deck & patio. Paved drive, 2 car garage, & shed. Close & flat to water.
Toni McQuair 703-795-2697



Fairfax **\$729,900**
Stunning Colonial with Pool! George Mason Forest. Close to GMU and Major Commuter Routes. Great Location! 4 BRs, 2.5 BAs. Updated Kitchen & Baths. New Carpet and Paint. Hardwoods and much more!
John Astorino 703-503-1819



Fairfax **\$599,990**
Stunning brick-front Basheer & Edgemoore luxury townhome/condo with 2,949 square feet of living space, 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2-car garage and 3 level bump-outs. Conveniently located to I-66, Fair Oaks Mall & Fairfax Corner.
Ngoc Do 703-798-2899



Fairfax **\$824,900**
Lovely brick Colonial featuring 4 bedrooms (one on main level), 3 baths, 3 finished levels, updated gourmet kitchen, lower level walkout. 40,200 sq ft lot on quiet cul-de-sac street.
Sheila Adams 703-503-1895



Gainesville **\$409,000**
4 BR, 3 1/2 BA SF home with 2-Car Garage. 1st Floor hardwoods, Ceramic tile Kitchen with SS Appliances. Fully finished LL with Rec Room, Full BA & Den. A must see!
Barbara Nowak 703-473-1803
Gerry Staudte 703-309-8948



Burke Centre **\$675,000**
Just Listed! Beautifully updated Colonial, Gourmet Kitchen, Hardwoods throughout main level. Spacious Master with separate full bath. 3 additional BRs. Finished on all 3 levels. Tiered deck over looking flat and private rear yard.
John Astorino 703-503-1819

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