

Children Have Fun at Safety Day

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Fairfax Serving Areas of Burke
CONNECTION

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HomeLifeStyle

Fairfax Police Chief Carl Pardiny pumps air into 6-year-old Dylan Strouth's bike tires during the he City of Fairfax Police Department's Kids' Safety Day on Saturday morning, Sept. 20.

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OCTOBER 9-15, 2014

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News



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

It's Officially Fire Prevention Week

The City of Fairfax officially proclaims Oct. 5-11 "Fire Prevention Week." (From left) are Assistant Chief of Operations Andy Vita, Mayor Scott Silverthorne, Assistant Fire Marshal Gary Orndoff, Firefighter Josh McCuin ("Sparky") and Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department President Joe Mellender. Looking on are City Councilmen Jeff Greenfield and David Meyer.

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Seeing Red and Blue

Colleagues say
Gerry Connolly's vision
central to productivity.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Gerry Connolly doesn't have 20/20 vision. His round wire-framed spectacles and cropped salt-and-pepper mustache have long accessorized his look, whether sporting a black pinstripe suit or a billowy navy University of Virginia windbreaker (his daughter Caitlin Rose is an alumna).

But when the Star-Texaco storage facility at the Pickett Road tank farm started leaking oil that seeped into groundwater near his Mantua home, he could see with great clarity something needed to be done.

"It was quite a drama," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman and then-Braddock Supervisor Sharon Bulova. Bulova got to know Connolly in his capacity as president of the Mantua Citizens Association. "Gerry was magnificent in going to bat for his community. He was a calm, strong voice during that time."

That was nearly two decades ago, before Connolly's career in public office began in 1995 when he was elected Providence District supervisor on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. In 1999 no one opposed him for re-election and in 2003 he became chairman. He was re-elected in 2007, before



PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION

Local, state and national officials at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Silver Line July 26 this year. Connolly (far right) was instrumental in bringing the project to completion. "Without him we wouldn't be here today," said Richard Sarles, Metro's CEO and general manager.

being elected to Congress the first time in November 2008.

"He's a pretty quick study of problems," said state Sen. Richard Saslaw (D-35). "He's a pretty bright guy, but the experience accounts for a fair amount of that. There's not many problems he hasn't seen."

Friends and colleagues who've known and worked with him over these years say it's his vision that drives his service-oriented work. He can see a finish line and methodi-

"Most people know him by name. He's the epitome of a representative."

— Del. Mark Keam (D-35)

cally goes about reaching it.

"Gerry's not afraid to go out on a limb for something that he thinks is right," said Bill

Bio

Candidate: Gerald E. Connolly

Political Party: Democrat

Current Position: Third term as 11th congressional district representative. Currently serves on the House Committees on Foreign Affairs and Oversight and Government Reform.

Born: March 30, 1950 in Boston, Mass.

Residence: Mantua

Spouse: Cathy

Children: Caitlin Rose, 23

Education: B.A. in Literature from Maryknoll College. M.A. in Public Administration from Harvard University

Previous Organizations: Served as chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (four years), Providence District supervisor (nine years), chairman of the Fairfax County Legislative Committee, vice-chair of the county's Economic Advisory Committee, chairman of the Board of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTCT), chairman of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC), member and chairman of the Board of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), chairman of the regional Emergency Preparedness Taskforce, Fairfax County representative and president on the Board of the Virginia Association of Counties (VaCo), a term as Mantua Citizens Association (MCA) president and two terms as Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations president.

Bouie, chairman of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board and longtime friend of Connolly. "He's a guy of true conviction."

Bouie and Connolly each attended seminary earlier in life, and each ended up pursuing a different sort of public service.

"HE'S GOT A PASSION for parks," said Bouie. "He uses our parks and trails. He's the father of the Cross County trail. It was his vision to connect the entire county."

More than the parks and rec centers, Bouie said a needs assessment found trails were the Park Authority's most in-demand

SEE CONNOLLY, PAGE 4

Family Fun Day for 'Growing Hope' Draws Big Turnout

Live music, activities, food and fun raises funds for families of children with cancer.

The Vienna Town Green rung out with joyful sounds, from children's laughter to live pop music, on Saturday, Sept. 27, as the Optimists of Greater Vienna hosted its 9th Annual Family Fun Day and Fun Walk for "Growing Hope."

Every year, the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna sponsors the four-hour event to raise funds for the Optimists' childhood cancer campaign, supporting Growing Hope's local efforts to provide resources to children with cancer and their families.

"No one should go through an experience like this without the support of the community, friends and family," said Optimist, Pat Hackerson, whose Weichert Realty colleague lost a daughter. "We recognize the need for a cure for cancer, especially for the children. This [financial support] is for the babies, and ba-

bies are our future. And most of us have children and we can relate."

Hackerson's office has contributed more than \$4,500 to the Optimists' childhood cancer campaign over the past nine years.

Family-fun activities included a fun run, bounce-house, dunk tank, local artists, face-painting, live music, refreshments, raffle drawings, and a live auction. Vienna resident Mark Keam, representing the 35th District in the Virginia House of Delegates, volunteers 30 minutes in the dunk-tank each year, and ball-throwers did a pretty good job of dunking Keam on Saturday.

Donaldson's Run performed a selection of classic rock, songs like "Son of a Preacher Man" and "Heat Wave." It was enough to draw bikers and walkers from the W & OD trail and families walking down Church Street.

The McKinley family was one such family walking by. They heard the music and



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Two-year-old Kristina McKinley had her face painted by Angela McCall of Paint Me a Party. McCall volunteered her service.

dropped in for the bouncehouse and face-painting. "This is a great event," said Biljana McKinley. "It made me happy to live in Vienna."

Local businesses donated food, raffle and auction prizes to the Optimists. Amphora, Foster's Grille Vienna, Giant Food, Costco, Manhattan Bagel, Dunkin' Donuts, Walgreen's and Starbucks provided free refreshments. Again this year, neither Donaldson's Run nor Angela McCall of Paint Me a Party took a fee for their services.

Donations and raised funds stay in the community. Seventy-five percent of the Family Fun Day's proceeds go directly to Growing Hope. The remaining 25 percent is donated to the childhood cancer research program at Johns Hopkins University & Medical Center.

For more information on the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna or Growing Hope, visit www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org/childcc2014

—DONNA MANZ

Incumbent Connolly is a 'Calm, Strong Voice'

FROM PAGE 3

amenity. The full trail now touches every magisterial district in the county, "which is no easy feat," said Bouie.

"Gerry, along with the trail advocates, heard that message loud and clear. He went into action to make sure we were able to provide such an amenity."

Another, more expansive, example of what Bulova said is Connolly's "commitment to getting things done" is the first phase completion of the \$5.6 billion Metro Silver Line rail extension.

"WITHOUT HIM we wouldn't be here today," said Richard Sarles, Metro's CEO and general manager, at the July 26 ribbon-cutting in Reston.

Bringing the vision of the new rail to life was a lengthy process, spanning Connolly's time as an elected official, across various levels of government.

"There was period of time when the project was in danger of falling apart again because of funding issues and discord on the [Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority] board," said Bulova. "Gerry moved the Silver Line forward during a really rocky time."

"I had real clarity," said Connolly, "I can't imagine our future without it. We have to have this. I think it's a transformative investment that's going to change the Dulles corridor and anchor this part of northern Virginia to the core of Metro. That's absolutely essential for our economic future."

He didn't do it alone, but what colleagues describe as his "personable" and appropriately "light-hearted" and "serious" demeanor helped him engage across party lines and public offices.

"He had a lot of interaction with Secretary [of Transportation Ray] LaHood and Congressman Wolf, in bipartisan fashion," said Eileen Filler-Corn, Virginia House delegate from the 41st district. "Just focusing on trying to reduce the cost."

Working together with LaHood, Wolf, 8th District representative Jim Moran and senators Warner and Kaine, Connolly and company secured a \$1.9 billion TIFIA (Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act) loan from the Department of Transportation for the second phase of the Silver Line.

"A lot of people go into politics to make a point," said Filler-Corn. "I think Gerry goes into politics to make things happen."

"My philosophy about being in this job is making a difference," Connolly said, "getting something done for people, for my community."

Del. Mark Keam (D-35) jokingly said Connolly's constant presence around his district makes constituents "spoiled." "I see him probably one to two times per week," said Keam. "Most people know him by name. He's the epitome of a representative."

Part of Connolly's vision philosophy derives from the WWII-era Lutheran minister and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The minister died in a Nazi prison, having challenged the conviction of a collapsing arts, academic and religious establishment.

"How passionately do you believe in what you say you believe?" said Connolly. "He had clarity about that in a very difficult time. It took a lot of courage and he gave his life for it. That was a profound insight to me."

THOUGH HE DIDN'T ENTER the clergy, Connolly made humanitarian work an early priority in his time on the Board of Supervisors, committing to end homelessness in Fairfax County. He led the adoption of a homeless coordinator and housing initiative, part of a systematic policy.

Louis Crandell was a Fairfax County waste water lab tech before a work-related fall left him with frontal lobe brain damage, living on disability compensation. Crandell spiraled downward with substance abuse after charges filed against him in North Carolina cost him his benefits. He found himself living in a tent in the woods.

Linda Wimpey, founder of the homelessness outreach organization FACETS, recommended Crandell meet Connolly and ask for help.

"I tell you, it was like magic," said Crandell. "It's a direct result of Mr. Connolly that I'm not on that forest floor right now."

Connolly and his constituent services staff investigated Crandell's charges (which were ultimately dropped) and insurance situation, and helped Crandell find another job and subsidized housing. Crandell now volunteers with FACETS and at First Baptist Church on Braddock Road.

"He was so pleased with this whole set of initiatives that bettered his life," said Connolly, "that came into our office and framed it as 'I am a walking advertisement for all you were advocating.' It works."

"He says his door's always open," said Crandell. "That's literally the truth."



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WEEK IN FAIRFAX

George and Martha Washington Wills on Display

Friends of the Historic Fairfax Courthouse will display, for the first time together in 60 years, President George Washington and First Lady Martha Washington's wills and

other Virginia historical documents of interest on Saturday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at 4000 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax.

There will be a program from 1-3 p.m. in the Historic Fairfax Courtroom.

Expected guests include: Master of Ceremonies, Mayor Scott Silverthorne, City of Fairfax; Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Chief Judge Dennis J. Smith, Fairfax Circuit Court; state Sen. Chap Petersen, Page Johnson, Commissioner of the Revenue, City of Fairfax; and Clerk of the Court John Frey, Fairfax Circuit Court.

The event is hosted in conjunction with The Virginia Room of the City of Fairfax Public Library, Fairfax County History Commission, City of Fairfax, Downtown Fairfax Coalition,

Friends of the Historic Fairfax Courthouse, Old Town Fairfax Business Association, Historic Fairfax City, Inc., and Paul McGehee's Old Town Gallery

Fairfax City Council Work Meeting

The next meeting of the Fairfax City Council is Tuesday, Oct. 14, at 7 p.m., at City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. in Fairfax.

Farmers Market on Thursdays

Each Thursday, from 3-7 p.m., the Fairfax County Government Center hosts a farmers market in its parking lot. The Government Center is at 12000 Government Center Pkwy., in Fair Oaks, and the next markets are slated for Oct. 9 and Oct. 16.



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Ebola? Whooping Cough? Enterovirus?

Wash your hands, get your flu shot.

There is plenty to be fearful about. Local outbreaks of whooping cough, due to some parents opting out of vaccines; whooping cough can be deadly for infants. Enterovirus, an upper respiratory illness mostly affecting children, which can become very serious very quickly for some children. The spectre of ebola killing thousands of people in West Africa, and also possibly arriving via any international airport.

But there are a few things you can do to protect yourself and those around you from likely the biggest infectious health threat in your neighborhood, influenza.

The flu will kill thousands of people in the United States this flu season, ranging from October to May. Over 30 years, the average number of deaths was more than 20,000 annually according to the CDC, although the number ranged from 3,000 to 48,000.

Flu vaccination is cheap, easy and effective. Getting vaccinated was associated with a 71

percent reduction in flu-related hospitalizations among adults of all ages and a 77 percent reduction among adults 50 years of age and older during the 2011-2012 flu season.

Get a flu shot. Make sure everyone in your family gets a flu shot. Most people with health insurance can get the vaccination without paying anything for it. Getting vaccinated doesn't just protect you, it also protects the people around you who might be more vulnerable, including young children, people over 65, pregnant women, people with other health conditions like being in cancer treatment or with chronic upper respiratory problems.

EDITORIAL

Quoting the CDC:

"Influenza is a serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and sometimes even death. Every flu season is different, and influenza infection can affect people differently. Even healthy people can get very sick from the flu and spread it to others. Over a period of 31 seasons between 1976 and 2007, estimates of flu-associated deaths in the United States range from a low of about 3,000 to a high of about 49,000 people. During a regular flu season, about 90 percent of deaths occur in people 65 years and older. "Flu season" in the United

More on Flu and Flu Vaccines

Centers for Disease Control

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.htm>

Fairfax County

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/flu/>

States can begin as early as October and last as late as May.

"During this time, flu viruses are circulating at higher levels in the U.S. population. An annual seasonal flu vaccine (either the flu shot or the nasal spray flu vaccine) is the best way to reduce the chances that you will get seasonal flu and spread it to others. When more people get vaccinated against the flu, less flu can spread through that community."

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.htm>

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Home Values on the Rise

BY KERRIE B. WILSON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CORNERSTONE

Why do you live where you live today? Is it convenience to work or good schools? Access to attractions? Does the housing cost fit your budget?

For most people, finding the perfect home often comes down to a family's values and priorities for the stage of life they are in, choosing what's most important if you can't get everything in one home.

Yet, for many families and individuals in Fairfax County, there are only hard choices and tradeoffs that no person would willingly accept for their family. To afford a 2-bedroom apartment in our area at fair market rate of \$1,469 requires an annual household income of \$56,480. For a minimum wage worker that equates to 132 hours of work per week. In Fairfax County, nearly 1/5 of households earn less than would be required to pay that rent without some temporary or ongoing support. Do you move out miles and add hours and cost to getting to your job? Do you sacrifice housing safety or time with your children to work two or more jobs to pay the bills? The stress on those with limited incomes or ability to earn a "house-



ing wage" hurts everyone in community.

Recognizing this, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors prioritized "livable, caring and affordable communities" that

reflect the options families value. Despite the headline goal, we have not kept pace with housing production and preservation needed to support affordable living opportunities. Huge increases in construction and land costs have outstripped growth in household income, compounded by the reduction in government subsidies now available to bridge those gaps.

At Cornerstones, we understand the consequences for those who fall into this affordability gap and we are working on many levels to address the challenge.

Consider, the Brown family who entered the Embury Rucker shelter with their children this summer. Shaken by the reality of shelter living, they are willing to make changes. It won't be an easy road. Mr. Brown is unemployed and never completed high school. Mrs. Brown is an administrative assistant in a Reston-based business earning \$36,000. They have two elementary age children who have made friends and feel at home at

a local elementary school. The Browns' total household income means they earn too much for some benefits, but not enough to support their family. A short-term solution is a transitional housing program that emphasizes educational attainment and job training for people willing to work hard to increase earning potential in exchange for time-limited rent support.

Will the Browns' make it? They have a lot going for them, but will still join thousands of other families in Fairfax County who are on waiting lists for housing vouchers or other affordable rental subsidies essential to surviving this chapter in their life.

Long-term, the only sustainable solution requires a community investment. Cornerstones has worked in our community for more than 40 years to preserve affordable housing and give families like the Browns realistic housing options.

This month—after a long journey aided by our supporters and partners like Bozzuto, Wells Fargo, Fairfax County, Virginia Development Housing Authority, Freddie Mac and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce Best of Reston partnership—Cornerstones will purchase and assume sole ownership responsibilities for The Apartments at North Point in Reston's

desirable North Point community. Walkable to shopping, on the bus line, and just miles from the Silver Line metro, these attractive, accessible garden style apartments are available at below market rents—expanding the choice of living and working in a community rich with opportunities for service, great schools, and access to open space and recreational opportunities.

Who are these neighbors? North Point residents include teachers, government employees, retired individuals and students, and formerly homeless families like the Browns. Annual household income for our tenants range from \$15,000 to \$70,000 per year.

The permanent subsidy required for Cornerstones to guarantee affordability can be as much as \$25,000 per unit per year, depending on the situation of the individual tenant. As tenant income grows, so too will the amount paid towards rent and the equity we reinvest to keep homes affordable for all.

While the 100 units we own and manage are part of the solution, Fairfax County is still far short of the overall number of homes needed to support a healthy, thriving community; a minimum of 1,650 units are still needed just to

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LETTERS

Meeting ID Requirements

To the Editor:

Thank you for your informative editorial about the new Photo ID requirement ("Does the Change in Voter ID Laws Matter?" Connection, October 1-7, 2014) and the opportunity for those who do not have acceptable Photo IDs to obtain free ones for voting purposes from any general registrar's office.

The Fairfax County Office of Elections is not arranging transportation for people to get to the office, though some organizations may be. The county is taking the photo ID equipment out to libraries, government centers, in-person absentee voting sites, and other locations to enable citizens to get the IDs

more easily. The schedules of locations and times are on the Office of Elections website.

People who apply for a Photo ID too late to receive it in the mail can ask for a temporary photo ID. It will be accepted as a valid ID for voting. Registered voters going to the polls on election day who do not have an eligible photo ID can vote a provisional ballot and then go to the Office of Elections by noon on the Friday after election day, obtain a temporary photo ID, and have their provisional ballot counted.

Sidney Johnson

Voter Service Director

League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area

Wilson

FROM PAGE 6

meet the goals established under the 10-Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.

We are often asked to enumerate the benefits of our work. Every dollar spent on affordable housing production or subsidy helps revitalize family incomes, business bottom lines and government revenues. Housing recipients benefit from reduced risk of homelessness, safer neighborhoods, improved physical and mental health and raising motivated children who succeed at

school and in life. The most significant short-term economic impact from housing development is on employment. Each job supported or created through affordable housing projects generates another one or more at the local level. Every \$1 in rental income generates over \$2 in economic activity for local economies. It all adds up.

Cornerstones is proud to be part of this equation, working locally to build thriving communities.

At the same time we will engage in today's important values conversations, talking now with the Fairfax

County Economic Advisory Commission as it creates a strategic plan that recognizes the role that housing and workforce development play in economic development (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/success/>). We have joined the county's Affordable Housing Advisory Committee in calling for revenue bonds for affordable housing (join the conversation on Twitter #FFXBonds4Home).

Home values are on the rise, in North Point and Fairfax County. Prioritize housing choice for your neighbors; it's a community value we can live with.



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City Approves Money for Charrette

Focus will be on Fairfax's downtown development.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

It's full speed ahead for a planning workshop, or charrette, the City of Fairfax will hold in November. It'll do so along with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) and the focus will be on the downtown area.

It's a hands-on, design-oriented event and will involve both professionals and residents. The idea is to help the City identify and learn how best to work toward its short-term and long-range goals.

Also taking part will be business owners and representatives from GMU and Fairfax County. Topics on the table will include land use, transportation, urban design, housing, economic development, pedestrian/bicycle access and linkages between downtown and GMU.

THE CHARETTE will run three days, Nov. 6-8. And following a Sept. 23 public hearing, the Fairfax City Council voted to approve spending the money required for its participation. That amount will not exceed \$25,000, and GMU – which considers Fairfax its hometown – has agreed to pay whatever the City does.

However, since the entire cost of the charrette is estimated to be more than \$80,000, sponsorships are needed to foot the rest of the bill so Fairfax's cost won't rise beyond what it's willing to pay. But Fairfax City Mayor Scott Silverthorne said he was "pretty optimistic" they'd be able to raise the requisite amount of funds.

"We sent letters to 25 entities [requesting sponsorship contributions]," said Brooke Hardin, director of Community Development and Planning. "NVRC is handling it on behalf of the City and will follow up with them."

Saying he's interested in the City's economic growth, resident Tom Ross said, "It seems that this is an excellent idea to look at the downtown area and a wonderful way to [learn] the next steps the City needs to take to promote a viable and thriving downtown. It gets the public involved and promotes partnerships to invest money, heart, interest and support. As a longtime resident, I strongly support this."

Councilman Michael DeMarco then made a motion to approve the funding resolution and Councilman David Meyer seconded. "Having a thoughtful approach to downtown expansion toward the university, in conjunction with GMU, makes sense," said DeMarco.

Councilwoman Nancy Loftus, however, disagreed. "I'm not in favor of this," she said. "It's a great idea, but there are still budget deficits and the need to watch our spending. So I don't think it's money well-spent, and we're asking our City businesses, during their own business crunches, to pony up money for the planning. And there's no guarantee we'll get a product, or one we like or one we can implement."

But Meyer stressed that the redevelopment of the Old Town area on North Street, University Drive and Old Lee Road was the "beginning of a commitment" to protect Fairfax's historic buildings and invest in a new and more vital downtown.

"The money we're spending [on the charrette] is minimal when you consider the kind of professional assistance and leadership we'll be getting," he explained. "If we don't do this, we'll continue to have what we have, so I urge my colleagues to support this."

Agreeing, Councilman Jeff Greenfield said, "This is an investment where the return could be 10 or 15 times the amount



Jeff Greenfield

we put in. We could discuss the redevelopment of Courthouse Plaza and several downtown parking lots. We're doing this as an investment in our future, not a one-time line item."

THE MOTION then passed, 5-1, with only Loftus voting no. Monday afternoon, Sept. 29, the mayor said the charrette will happen, but more sponsorships are still needed.

"We now are where we need to be, in terms of fundraising to put in on," said Silverthorne. "But we'd like to raise more money to make it a more robust program, so the fundraising is still ongoing – and not just among the large businesses. We're hoping even small businesses will contribute, as well as participate in the charrette and all its workshops."

"This is a Citywide event," he continued. "We want people from all around the city to participate, not just the downtown businesses. Other businesses can help contribute good ideas to make the downtown even stronger. They say a rising tide lifts all boats, and I truly believe that, the stronger and more successful the City is in one place, the better we can build on it to expand our economic success elsewhere in the City."

'I Realized I Could Conquer This'

Fairfax fire captain is Honored Hero in Light the Night Walk.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

City of Fairfax Fire Capt. Joe Schumacher beat cancer not once, but twice. And he'll soon serve as an Honored Hero for this year's Light the Night Walks in Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C.

It's a fundraiser for the National Capital Area Chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). And locally, the walk will be Friday, Oct. 17, at 5 p.m., at the Reston Town Center.

"I'd encourage anyone with any interest to get involved in charitable events like Light the Night because it saves lives," said Schumacher. "Every three minutes in the U.S., someone's diagnosed with a blood cancer — and every 10 minutes, somebody dies from one. Those are pretty staggering numbers."

He was born and raised in Fairfax, and he and wife Carol have a son, Joey, 23, and a daughter, Callie, 20. Schumacher,



The Schumacher family: (From left) Joey, Carol, Joe and Callie.

47, is in charge of B Shift at Fire Station 3 in downtown Fairfax. He started there as a volunteer in 1983 and was hired in 1988, so he's spent almost 27 years as a career firefighter.

"It's the best job in the world," he said. "We all look forward to coming to work each day."

Life, however, threw him some serious

curves. In 1996, Schumacher was diagnosed with testicular cancer; he underwent surgery, plus radiation, and was eventually declared cancer-free. After that, he was in good health for 17 years — until April 2013, when he discovered a small lump in his groin.

"While taking a shower, I noticed a lump and decided to get it checked out," he said.



Fire Capt. Joe Schumacher

"After an ultrasound and a needle biopsy, I got the diagnosis of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Then they did tests to see what kind of non-Hodgkin's it was, what stage and if it had spread anywhere."

"It was stage one, so it was curable — I was lucky," said Schumacher. "I did 17 radiation treatments. And the reason I've become such a big advocate of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and what

SEE HERO, PAGE 11



Kevin Murray, 6, in a mini monster truck.

Children Have Fun at Safety Day

The City of Fairfax Police Department held Kids' Safety Day on Saturday morning, Sept. 20, outside police headquarters. It included a monster truck, moonbounce, bicycle cone safety course, plus SafeAssured ID and child car-seat installation and inspection by the Sheriff's Office.

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

(From left) Fairfax siblings Emily Hung, 3, and Landon Hung, 17 months enjoy eating Rita's Italian Ice together.



As Leilani Silva, 8, looks on, Deputy Police Chief Ken Caldwell (on left) watches while Officer Kyle Bruce adjusts the front brakes on the girl's bike.



Having fun riding through the safety cones is James Wise, 7, a Daniels Run Elementary first-grader.



Liliana Silva, 9, a St. Leo the Great Catholic School fourth-grader, bicycles through the safety-cone course.



The Gilbert brothers (from left): Travis, 14; Jacob, 6; and Chase, 5, stand next to their dad, Kris Gilbert's, Monster Truck, the "Virginia Giant." It's a custom Ford with 66-inch tires, each weighing 700 pounds.

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.

THROUGH WEDNESDAY/DEC. 31

War on the Doorstep: Fairfax Militia in the War of 1812.

Exhibition. The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway. Open Tue.-Sat. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free tours at 1 p.m. 703-591-0560.

THROUGH SUNDAY/FEB. 8, 2015

Dressing for the Occasion: An Exhibition of Costumes and Textiles Representing Fairfax Personalities and Events.

Exhibition. Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax. Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 703-385-8414.

THROUGH THURSDAY/OCT. 23

Drawing and Painting Lab. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Rd, Alexandria. Every Thursday of October, explore drawing and painting techniques. Students should bring a 9"x12" watercolor pad, graphite pencils, fine Sharpie or Pitt pen, a set of colored pencils, a set of watercolors, brushes #4 and #6 and a flat brush for washes and blending. Admissions: \$74/person. Register at www.fairfaxcountygov/parks/greenspring using code 290 430 3501 or call 703-642-5173. For adults.

THROUGH SUNDAY/OCT.19

Earth and Fire Ceramics

Exhibition. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, 22079 Lorton. An exhibition featuring the works of 35 leading ceramic artists from the nine nations: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar. <http://workhousearts.org>

THROUGH SUNDAY/OCT. 12

Edgar Allan Poe's Nevermore.

Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 5 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. Take a musical journey into the heart and soul of Edgar Allan Poe, America's first truly visionary poet. Lyrics are adapted from Poe's writings. Admissions: \$15. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

THROUGHT SATURDAY/OCT. 25

40 Years of Potomac Valley Watercolorists Public Opening Reception.

7-9 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, 22079 Lorton. This exhibit of 100 watercolor painting celebrates the 40 year anniversary of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists. <http://workhousearts.org>

THROUGH FRIDAY/NOV. 3

Adventures in Learning.

9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. This program is open to all adults age 50 or better. Registrants bring a bag lunch and stay for a full day of classes/activities and socializing, or pick and choose the classes that interest them the most. \$30. www.scfbva.org or 703-323-4788.

THROUGH FRIDAY/OCT. 31

Pumpkin Patch.

10 a.m.-8 p.m. Messiah United Methodist Church,



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

The Unicycle Lady entertains at Clifton Day last year. This year's Clifton Day will be on Oct. 12.

6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. Pumpkins are available from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily until Oct. 31, when the patch closes at 6 p.m. 703-569-9862.

FRIDAY/OCT. 10

Ancestors 101: Library Edition.

1 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. FCPL's Virginia Room's Elaine McHale shares wealth of genealogical data available on Ancestry, including census, immigration, military, and vital records. Adults. Free. 703-249-1520.

Late Night in the Virginia Room.

6-11 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Join fellow researchers and genealogists for after-hours research in the Virginia Room. Attendees must be in the library before 6 p.m. and may leave at any time. Adults. Registration is required. 703-293-6227.

Researching the History of Your Fairfax County House.

6 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Learn how to research the history of your Fairfax County home and property. Discover more about the former owners of your land. This class is offered during "Late Night in the Virginia Room." Attendee must also register for "Late Night in the Virginia Room" and must be in the library before 6 p.m. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Introduction to Ancestry Library Edition.

7:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Come learn about the wealth of genealogical data available on Ancestry, including census, immigration, military and vital records. Attendee must also register for "Late Night in the Virginia Room" and must be in the library before 6 p.m. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Amici Vocal Ensemble - An Evening of Opera Arias.

8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The Amici Vocal Ensemble is made up of Jeongseon Choi (piano), Jennie Yeonjin Kim (soprano), and James Jongsik Joo (tenor). They present "An Evening of Opera Arias," which consists of love songs and love duets from major operas by Verdi, Puccini and Gounod. For more information, visit www.fairfaxarts.org or call 703-352-ARTS.

Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall Performance Series.

8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Occurs 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month, except during government holidays. Will feature 12 performances by groups playing music ranging from classical and opera to Latin and jazz. www.fairfaxarts.org.

Late Night in the Virginia Room.

6-11 p.m. The Virginia Room, City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Amateur genealogists and local historians are invited to a special "night owl" research night. Participants can do independent research or attend classes and drop-in sessions on topics that include house and property history, on-line genealogy, researching at the National Archives and cemetery research. Light refreshments will be provided. Must arrive before 6 p.m. 703-324-8380.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 11 - 12

"Sweeney Todd - The Demon Barber of Fleet Street."

Saturday: 8 p.m. Sunday: 2 p.m. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Award-winning musical thriller about revenge, murder and meat pies.

SATURDAY/OCT. 11

Fall Festival in Old Town

Historic Fairfax. 10209 Main St., Fairfax. What started out as a small market for artisans has grown to a festival with over 400 arts, crafts and food vendors, children's activities and entertainment for all ages. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/fall-festival.

Girl Scout Daisies.

10-11:30 a.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Rd, Alexandria. Want to work towards your Earth & Sky Journey? Join us and complete activities that satisfy the requirements. Admissions: \$10/child. Register at www.fairfaxcountygov/parks/greenspring using code 290 474 6601 or call 703-642-5173.

Girl Scout Juniors.

1-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Rd, Alexandria. Want to work towards your Flowers badge? Join us and complete activities that satisfy the requirements. Admissions: \$12/child. Register at www.fairfaxcountygov/parks/greenspring using code 290 474 4401 or call 703-642-5173.

Dog Adoption.

12-3 p.m. Petco, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Call 703-817-9444 or visit www.hart90.org/

Burke History Day.

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, 9501 Old Burke Lake Road, Burke. This year's Burke History Day will feature exhibits, activities, presentations, and children's activities about the diverse types of transportation that have played a role in the settlement and day-to-day life from pre-Colonial to present time. Visitors will learn about railroads and steam engines, bi-planes and jet runways, buggies and early automobiles, subways and canal boats.

Genealogy Help Desk.

2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Bring family history stumpers to the experts. Accomplished genealogists and library staff will be on hand to assist. Ask at the Virginia Room desk or call 703-293-6227, option 6. Adults, Teens. 703-293-6227.

Art Exhibition Opening Reception.

8 p.m.-12 a.m. Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. A new art exhibition, "Fallen," curated by The Bunnyman Bridge Collective, brings together eight local artists from across the DMV. Exhibit will run through Dec. 5. 703-789-6144.

SUNDAY/OCT.12

Taking Tea: Teatime Across the Centuries.

2 p.m. Fairfax Museum, 10209 Main St, Fairfax. Tastings of hot tea, scones, teacakes, and shortbread will follow a presentation on the history of tea. \$8. 703-385-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VIRGINIA OPERA

Stephen Powell (as Sweeney Todd) with straight razor.

Revenge and Passion on Mason Stage

Virginia Opera opens 40th season with a full-of-life "Sweeney Todd."

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

"Attend the tale of Sweeney Todd..." Such are well known lyrics for those familiar with the musical "Sweeney Todd-The Demon Barber of Fleet Street." Good news is coming. The production of "Sweeney" as a rarely done opera is arriving from the Virginia Opera.

And for those who have not seen this Tony Award-winning, musically moody rich account of revenge and passion this is a golden opportunity. Sung in English, the production is arriving soon at George Mason University's Center for the Arts. "Sweeney Todd" has music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by Hugh Wheeler. Why in operatic form? Well, Sondheim himself called "Sweeney Todd" a "dark operetta."

"Sweeney Todd" is a musical tale all about a man named Sweeney Todd living in Victorian England. He is wronged by a powerful, lecherous judge.

Todd loses all that matters to him. He spends years plotting his payback. Todd and a colorful meat pie shop owner named Mrs. Lovett work as partners to build a thriving business built upon a most unexpected ingredient for tasty meat pies.

"Stephen Sondheim transformed a play into a musical that captures in full measure its vigorous full-throated, full-blooded and emotionally generous story telling — which is what opera is," said director

Where and When

George Mason University, Center for the Arts presents Virginian Opera's production of "Sweeney Todd — The Demon Barber of Fleet Street." 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances: Saturday, Oct. 11, 2014 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 12, 2014 at 2 p.m. Tickets \$44-\$98. Tickets are half price for youth through grade 12. Call 888-945-2468 or visit cfa.gmu.edu.

Ron Daniels. It is "exuberant; full of energy the audience will feel and experience. The show emotionally spins the audience on a dime from horror to comedy and back again. It is not a timid production."

Conducting the music will be Adam Turner, Virginia Opera's principal conductor and artistic advisor. He will be directing an orchestra of 30. The production has "great, powerful voices that will amplify the story. There will also be a full chorus singing with an intensity and a joyful presence," said Turner.

The role of Mrs. Lovett is performed by Phyllis Pancellia, a renowned mezzo-soprano. She is relishing the role of someone with "raw emotions as they spin out of control." She said, "Mrs. Lovett doesn't think what she does is unethical. She is broke and needs money to survive. And she loves Sweeney."

Sweeney Todd is played by baritone Stephen Powell. "The character of Sweeney drew me to the role. I want to create some sympathy for him," said Powell. "Is his behavior at being wronged so far-fetched" as he seeks revenge? Come taste the "Sweeney Todd" magical elixir for yourself.

CureSearch Walk at Fairfax Corner

Fairfax's Tara Sankner is a friendly, softball-playing 9-year-old. She also has an astrocytoma, a treatable but inoperable form of brain cancer.

So she and her family are participating in the upcoming CureSearch Walk at the Fairfax Corner shopping center, off Monument Drive in Fair Oaks. It's slated for Sunday, Oct. 19; registration and check-in are at 9 a.m., followed by the opening ceremony and walk at 10 a.m.

The event benefits CureSearch for Children's Cancer, and the money raised by Tara's team, "Pray for Tara," supports the organization's mission to fund and support targeted and innovative children's-cancer research.

The day will include prizes,



PHOTO S CONTRIBUTED
Tara Sankner

music, food and fun-filled activities for the entire family. But most of all, Tara's parents, Tammy and

Craig Sankner, hope this walk will also make people realize the great need for more children's cancer-research funding.

"I extend an invitation for everyone to participate," said Tammy Sankner. "If you're not able to come and walk, please consider donating to our team. We need your help to be successful, and we'd love to have a lot of support."

People may join Tara's team, register as an individual, or just make a donation to CureSearch for Children's Cancer on her behalf. To do so, go to www.curesearchwalk.org, then select the Northern Virginia walk on Oct. 19 and click "Find a Participant" and search for Tara Sankner.

— BONNIE HOBBS

Honored Hero

FROM PAGE 8

they do is because of the research they've been able to do with the funds they've received through events like Light the Night."

Furthermore, he's benefited from it directly. With the advances made over the years, he explained, "This time, I had no side effects, and the radiation dosage I received was one third the amount I received 17 years ago."

When Schumacher was first diagnosed, though, he said, "I was scared, and I thought, 'Why me? I've already done this once.' But after awhile, I realized I could conquer this. I did it once before, I could do it again. And I had a great support network in my wife and kids, the guys at the

firehouse, our Chief, Dave Rohr and Assistant Chief Andy Vita.

"They were all phenomenal," continued Schumacher. "They told me not to worry about my job — to just concentrate on beating this and getting better. And that support helps you maintain a good attitude, which is important."

He and his family will participate in the walk in Reston, and he's raised almost \$4,000 of his own \$5,000 fundraising goal for LLS. To contribute to his efforts, go to <http://pages.lightthenight.org/nca/reston14/teamschumacher>.

"In 1975, the non-Hodgkin's survival rate was 47 percent," said Schumacher. "And in 2009, it was 71 percent. The five-year survival rates for all the blood cancers keep going up — and it's a result of all the money people donate to improve treatments and help people beat these things."

BULLETIN BOARD

FRIDAY/OCT. 10

Red Cross Blood Donation. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. To make an appointment to donate blood, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

SATURDAY/OCT. 11

Foundation Fighting Blindness Speaker Series. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Event is open to the public. Free. RSVP Davida Luehrs, 703-742-8043, davidaluehrs@gmail.com.

New Voting Equipment Demonstration. 11 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., 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. Drop in anytime. Adult. 703-293-6227.

TUESDAY/OCT. 14

Red Cross Blood Donation. 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. The Hub (Sub II), 4400 University Dr., Fairfax. To make an

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.

appointment to donate blood, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Library Tech Help. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Get library-related electronic resources questions answered. Includes help with eBooks and compatible devices. Adults. Bring library card, eBook reader and laptop. 703-293-6227.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 15

Impact of Dementia on the Family. 1:30 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 2812 Old Lee Highway Suite 210, Fairfax. Join us for this free educational program. Dementia affects the entire family — expectations and relationships can change family dynamics. Join us for this discussion on how to handle these changes. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP and for more information.

THURSDAY/OCT. 16

Library Tech Help. 6 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Get library-related electronic resources questions answered. Includes help with eBooks and compatible devices. Adults. Bring

library card, eBook reader and laptop. 703-293-6227.

Library Resource 411. 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 8 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Sign up for one-on-one time to get help with using the library's physical and online resources for fun or to do research. All ages. 703-249-1520.

SATURDAY/OCT. 18

Healthy Aging. 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Antioch Baptist Church, 6525B Little Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Keynote speaker Margaret Pressler, Washington Post reporter and author of *Cheat the Clock*, a book on the science of aging. Lots of exhibits, demonstrations and excellent presentations as well. Lunch included. For more information and to register, visit www.antioch-church.org or call 703-590-6562.

Genealogy Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Anna Maria Fitzhugh Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, will sponsor a genealogy workshop for DAR membership at King's Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Everyone is welcome. For more information contact Judy Korfonta, 703-451-3930.

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

OCTOBER

Publishing

A+ Camps & Schools.....10/15/14
Election Preview I10/22/14
Election Preview II10/29/14

NOVEMBER

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4.

Wellbeing.....11/5/14
HomeLifeStyle.....11/12/14
Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide I.....11/19/14
A+11/25/14

Thanksgiving is November 27.

DECEMBER

Wellbeing.....12/3/14
HomeLifeStyle: Home for the Holidays.....12/10/14
Hanukkah begins December 16.
Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide II.....12/16/14
A+ Camps & Schools.....12/16/14
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- Potomac Almanac
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

George Mason Elementary School teachers past and present came out to support the Survive the 5 5K: (From left, top) Julie Westcott of Alexandria, Katie Rudolph of Arlington, Laura Greeson of Fairfax, Laura Aristizabal of Fairfax, Leanne Dellibovi of Burke, Elizabeth Wood of Alexandria, Mary Lu Mahoney of Arlington, Caroline Doughtey of Arlington, Meagan Carrick of Arlington, and (bottom) Robin Thompson.

Pounding the Pavement

First annual 5K raises awareness of teen driving safety.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Robin Wallin of Alexandria has been training for this day at Cameron Run Regional Park for three months. She and sister-in-law Carolyn Wiser of Baltimore used a seat-to-5K app on their smartphones to prepare for the Oct. 4 race, encouraging each other through Facebook messaging.

But much more than for the exercise, Wallin was here to support her friend of 17 years and fellow Alexandria City nurse Robin Thompson. Thompson's daughter Ashley Renee Thompson died in a car crash on June 10, 2003.

"Anybody who has a teenager who's learning how to drive knows the anxiety of the parent," said Wallin. "And I certainly walked through that with Robin too."

Ashley was a sophomore at Lake Braddock Secondary School: a strong student, dedicated competitive gymnast and licensed driver. One day she borrowed a friend's car to drive home from school, lost control of the vehicle within a mile of her house and slammed into a tree. She died on impact.

CRASH INVESTIGATORS ruled out alcohol, speed, phone and other passengers as contributing factors. Ashley was a skilled driver, but her training and experience hadn't prepared her to regain control of an unfamiliar vehicle.

Robin Thompson created an awareness, training and advocacy organization in honor of Ashley called The Art of Driving. She's spent the last decade on a mission to elevate conversation that youth crashes are both predictable and preventable.

That's where the "Survive the 5" in the race's title comes in. It's a reference to the



Young, eager runners pushed to the front of the first annual Art of Driving Survive the 5 5K on Oct. 4.

top five reasons for teen crashes and injuries: Driver inexperience, driver distractions, excessive speed, not wearing a seatbelt and alcohol and illegal drugs.

"It's not a topic a lot of people want to talk about," said Thompson, buzzing around her organization's first annual 5K like a master hostess. "Getting people to understand just how serious a problem is, that it is truly an epidemic. This is not a transportation issue; it's a public health issue."

Where previously the CDC had listed car crashes as the leading killer of adolescents aged 15-19 (between 3,000 and 4,000 deaths annually), that figure was updated last month to show crashes are the single leading cause of death and injury among all youth.

Thompson had wanted to do a 5K for years to help raise awareness of the issue and increase the reach of The Art of Driving's program of awareness responsibility training for teenage drivers and their parents, and work with school groups and civic organizations. Finally a year ago, Th-

ompson began attending 5Ks and simply taking notes.

"I just started putting it together, piece by piece," Thompson said, "and I have an awesome community behind me that believed in the cause. I think from the looks of this morning, we did it."

267 RUNNERS AND WALKERS of all ages, shapes, sizes and dog breeds came out, including a strong contingent of teachers and students from George Mason Elementary School. "She took such a personal and tragic thing in her life and turned it into a positive," said Laura Aristizabal of Fairfax. "Her daughter is still living. How many lives is Ashley going to touch through her mom? It's incredible."

"If by keeping Ashley's memory alive today I just keep one child alive, then it's all worth it," said Thompson. "That's what this is all about. Keeping our children safe."

For more information about Ashley's story and The Art of Driving programs, visit www.theartofdriving.org.

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SPORTS

Robinson's Addie Walsh, right, and Chantilly's Bryndie Ballam battle for the ball during Tuesday's game at Chantilly High School.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Strong Play Doesn't Translate to Victory for Robinson Field Hockey

Rams' Arnsmeier comes up short against former coach.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Chantilly field hockey coach Ralph Chapman felt the Chargers outplayed Robinson during the teams' 2013 regular-season meeting, but the Rams pulled out a victory in strokes.

One year later, it was Robinson that came out on the short end of the stick.

Chantilly forward Victoria Iturbe scored the game winner with 37 seconds remaining on Tuesday, Oct. 7, as the Chargers pulled out a 1-0 victory over Robinson on senior night at Chantilly High School.

The Chargers earned a penalty corner late in regulation, and after forward Bryndie Ballam dribbled through the Robinson defense, Iturbe found the back of the cage, keeping Chantilly alive for one of the top seeds in the Conference 5 tournament.

"It's definitely a relief because if you don't score in [regulation] time, you go to overtime and overtime is really tricky because it's only [7-on-7]," Iturbe said, "so it's just a lot of relief to just be able to get the game over with fast."

Robinson head coach Lindsay Arnsmeier, a former Chantilly player and assistant coach under Chapman, said her team played well before surrendering the game's lone goal in the final minute.

"I think [we] played very strong," Arnsmeier said. "I think they caught us watching toward the end, so that's why they capitalized at the end."

How frustrating is it to lose a game in that fashion?

"Very frustrating," Arnsmeier said. "There were 37 seconds left in the game."

Chapman had fun with his former pupil after the game.

"I said, 'Lindsay, this is payback from last year,'" Chapman said. "She started laughing."

The victory improved Chantilly's record to 10-2, including 2-1 in Conference 5. The Chargers have games against Centreville and Herndon remaining, with a chance to earn a top-two seed in the conference tournament.

"I'm proud of my girls," Chapman said. "I'm a little upset that they didn't play their best, but they found a way to win when they didn't play their best. Hopefully, we'll go back to playing our best."

Robinson dropped to 11-3, including 1-3 in the conference. The Rams defeated Centreville, and lost to Westfield, Herndon and Chantilly. Robinson will travel to face Oakton at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

"I think the competition is definitely stiffer in our conference, but I think [during the] Westfield and Herndon [games], we started off very slow," Arnsmeier said. "Today, we played very strong. I think [we] moved the ball very well [and] I think [we] dominated for I would say 80 percent of the game until the end."

Gwen Carsten (4) and the Robinson field hockey team lost to Chantilly, 1-0, on Oct. 7.



SPORTS ROUNDUPS



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

Vicki Baez (12) and the Lee field hockey team lost to West Potomac, 4-0, on Oct. 6.

Lee Field Hockey Falls to West Potomac

After a 4-1 start, the Lee field hockey team dropped its seventh straight game on Oct. 6, falling to West Potomac, 4-0.

The Lancers opened the season by winning three of four at their own "Under the Lights" tournament, finishing runner-up in their bracket. Lee followed with a 4-0 win over Hayfield on Sept. 3, but as struggled since, including five one-goal losses.

Lee will travel to face Edison at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 10.

Lee Hires Wrestling, Gymnastics Coaches

Robert E. Lee High School hired Daniel Malcolm as its new wrestling coach, the school announced recently.

Malcolm is a resident of Prince George's County, Md. He is originally from Brooklyn, N.Y., where he lettered in varsity football and wrestling and then later played football at Bowie State University on a scholarship. Malcolm has been coaching wrestling since 2006, both as an assistant and a head coach at Bladensburg and Northwestern high schools.

Lee also hired Diana Edgell as a gymnastic coach. She is a 2003 graduate of West Springfield, where she participated in gymnastics and competitive cheer. She has been coaching gymnastics and cheer for the last 12 years at Robinson and West Potomac.

Football Schedule

Many of the area football teams are returning to action at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 10, following a bye week.

The undefeated Robinson Rams (5-0) will host Madison for homecoming. Fellow unbeaten South County (5-0) will host T.C. Williams in a rematch of last season's 6A North region first-round playoff matchup.

Lake Braddock (4-1), which won back-to-back games after suffering its lone loss to Robinson, will travel to face Woodson (2-3), which has won two straight.

West Springfield (3-2) will host West Potomac. Lee (1-4) will travel to face Annandale.

Fairfax High defeated Thomas Jefferson 41-28 last week (Oct. 2), improving to 2-3. The Rebels will host Langley at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 10. Hayfield earned its second straight win last week, beating Wakefield 37-10 on Oct. 2. The Hawks (2-3) will host Yorktown.

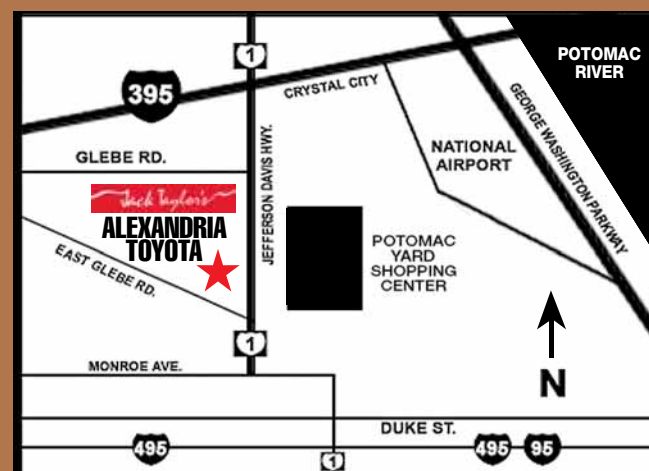
Edison (1-4) will play on Saturday, traveling to face Herndon at 2 p.m. on Oct. 11.

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Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Clifton residents to hold open-house tour of newly remodeled homes for the benefit of local widow.

BY JOHN BYRD

Neighbors help each other. That's what communities have always been about. Long-time Clifton resident Bob Gallagher is rallying his friends and peers to help his neighbor Elsa Armendaris.

Armendaris, a mother of seven, needs funds to repair the badly deteriorated driveway to her home, which is also a local day care center. To help out, Gallagher, who is a principal at Sun Design Remodeling, has organized a tour of three newly remodeled Clifton homes, each the handiwork of a different remodeler.

"The homes are all pretty spectacular in their own right," Gallagher says. "We've found that homeowners really enjoy seeing what their neighbors are doing. But this is also about helping a local person in need; that's the sense of community which Clifton has always exemplified."

In addition to showcasing a home recently renovated by Sun Design Remodeling, the tour will feature recent work by Daniels Design and Remodeling and Kohlmark Group Architects and Builders, all active in Clifton and environs for years.

Tim Reed of Tibbs Paving will be donating the labor, equipment and trucking needed for the driveway re-paving. Armendaris has also raised several thousand dollars for the project.

ARMENDARIS' STORY IS ONE of quiet determination in pursuit of the American Dream.



A native of El Salvador, Armendaris lost her husband, David, to leukemia six years ago and, as the sole means of her family's support, decided to set up her home as a day care center.

With its tree-shaded lot and sizable liv-

ing and family rooms, the house provided a perfect setting. Among other features, the two-level structure is off the main road, down a winding driveway. A safe place for kids.

Initially, the center did well. Since it was

Details

Remodeler's Charity Home Tour, Nov. 15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit www.RemodelersCharityHomeTour.com or call 703-425-5588 for more.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HOME FRONTS NEWS

LEFT: Granite surfaces, marble tile wall covering, a coffered ceiling are among the finishwork details distinguishing the Layfield kitchen by Sun Design Remodeling.

convenient to nearby Clifton Elementary, parents would leave their children with Armendaris before and after school. Many of the children at the center were friends with her own children.

But when Clifton Elementary closed in 2010, the day care center lost more than half its students. Not long after that, the winding asphalt driveway leading to the house began to seriously deteriorate.

Armendaris says that she and her children with the help of a friendly neighbor have been patching the drive for years. However, it eventually become obvious that her own fix-up efforts wouldn't be enough.

Soon she began soliciting bids from professional pavers, some of whom were simply working the neighborhood.

"I wasn't sure what I really needed, or who was reliable," she recalls. "But what really slowed the process was the cost."

That's when her friend, Christina Gallagher, whose children had attended the day care center, offered to ask her husband, Bob, for ideas.

"I just thought there must be a way that a community as old and close-knit as Clifton could help one of its own," said Bob Gallagher, who grew up in Clifton where his father practiced medicine. "My company has learned a lot from doing our own home tours, so a coalition of remodelers already active in Clifton seems like a logical way to reach out to the community."

SEE NEIGHBORS, PAGE 4

Planting for Fall Planning your autumn garden and yard.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

As the first few weeks of fall unfold, carrying with them the promise of rich and vibrant colors, many local residents are starting to plan their fall gardens, both ornamental and edible. Pruning and overall garden cleanup will make way for fall plants. In fact, this is the perfect time to clear away summer foliage and plant, horticulture gurus said.

"Because the ground is still warm and air is cool, there is less transplant shock for plants when you take them out of the con-

tainer to plant them," said Kelly Grimes of Good Earth Garden Market in Potomac, Md. "Now is a great time to put in a landscape."

The first step is preparing the ground. "You have to amend the soil; that is mixing in compost and soil so the plants' roots can grab a hold of the soil with compost," said Grimes. "That really helps any planting."

Katia Goffin of Katia Goffin Gardens in McLean, Va., likens planning a garden to putting together a puzzle. "Everything has to [look] like it belongs," she said. "It's about designing your bed line so it enhances your property, versus 'I stuck this in my garden and doesn't it look good?'"

Take a few minutes and actually plan out your garden because no matter what you decide to plant for fall, an aesthetically appealing garden starts with an effective strategy. "It is getting a good plan together," Goffin said. "It is a question of scale and putting it together right. You have to look at your plot of land and decide where you want plants to go and how you want it to look."

FOR DECORATIVE GARDENS and yards, mums and pansies are among fall's

SEE PLANTING, PAGE 7

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Clifton Home Tour

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FROM PAGE 3

THE TOUR

The tour has been conceived to provide a close-up look at how Clifton residents live today, and to profile several design trends now being applied to local homes. It also will reflect some of the community's varied demographics — which range from young families to retirees retrofitting their house to age-in-place.

MAKEOVER IN COLCHESTER HUNT

In Clifton's Colchester Hunt section, Steve and Maureen Landry are putting the finishing touches on a forward-looking retrofit executed by Tom Flach at Kohlmark Architects. The Craftsman-style architecture embraces an open floor plan which the Landrys see as perfect for a host of regular social pursuits such as book clubs and after-church gatherings.

Referring to the house as "his last home," Steve Landry, 65, says he and his wife actually looked for a larger house "further out" before deciding that improving what they had was their best option.

"It was Tom Flach's clever ideas that were the deciding factor," Maureen Landry said.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HOME FRONTS NEWS

Remodeler Ted Daniels added 2,000 square feet to his personal residence on Hunting Horse Drive and reconfigured the first floor to include a comfortable family room adjacent to a large gourmet kitchen. Daniels had purchased the cherry wood mantel years before he knew where he would use it.



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Clifton Home Tour

The plan included needs for the immediate future, and also elements that might be needed to age in place over extended time.

For instance, the former 400-square-foot garage has been converted into a master suite with 14-foot cathedral ceilings, a full bath and an 8-foot wall of windows focused on the garden and two-tiered pond. While the couple's initial plan is to use the new space as a reading room, Maureen Landry said that the suite is a nod to an aging-in-place strategy that calls for frequently used spaces to be on the same floor.

"We've even got ideas and costs for an elevator, should we need one," she said.

With the former powder room absorbed into the new suite, and interior walls removed, the architect developed the new open floor plan.

The kitchen and dining zone is now formed into a 600-square-foot family kitchen that revolves around a two-tier food preparation island and dining counter. Mounted on a cherry wood base, the island is surfaced in both walnut butcher block and Vermont soapstone.

KITCHEN SUITE IN ELEGANT TRANSITIONAL STYLE

Not too far away in Clifton Heights, Rick and Kelly Layfield are reveling in a new family-friendly kitchen and outlier zones custom-designed for their active daily household needs by Jon Benson, lead designer at Sun Design Remodeling.

"We have three children under age 12,"

Kelly said, "so we wanted a plan that would make it easier for everyone to interact, and that also offered sightlines from the kitchen to the backyard where the kids play."

That meant re-working a course of windows on the rear elevation, making it easier to access the outside from several directions and introducing an open floor plan.

The project added a grilling deck next to the screened porch and just outside the new kitchen door. Rick Layfield, who is the family's grilling chef finds it a great place to interact with friends and family while pursuing a favored recipe.

FAMILY HOME ON HUNTING HORSE DRIVE

Those who know their way around Hunting Horse Drive sometimes might wonder what happened to the circa-1970s Colonial style house that used to be perched up on the overlook. Clearly, the sprawling manor house there now is an entirely different home, but how did it get there?

Owner and professional remodeler Ted Daniels says the makeover was the result of an inspired plan to create an environment that would work better for himself, wife Gayle and their two children.

Purchasing the 4,400-square-foot production house in 2000, Daniels initially thought the house adequate for raising a family, and focused on the serious business of renovating other people's homes. Certainly, the five-acre wood lot had everything to offer in the

SEE CLIFTON, PAGE 7



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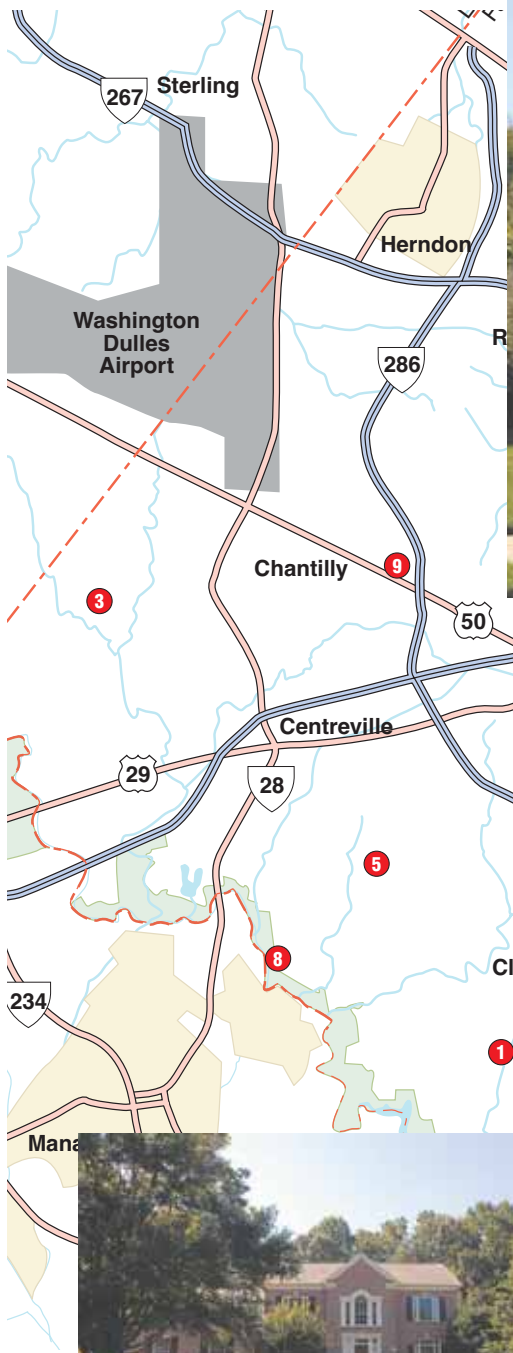
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Clifton

FROM PAGE 5

way of a lovely bucolic setting.

But after living in the house for a while, Daniels developed a growing list of possible improvements, which prompted a decision to add 2,000 square feet to the rear of the house, and gut the entire first and second floors almost down to the studs.

"For starters, I didn't like the way the first floor was configured," Daniels says. "The kitchen and family room were partitioned in a way that inhibited traffic, and the interior was really dated. I wanted a quiet first floor place where the kids could do their homework. Also, there wasn't enough storage." He also wanted better lines-of-sight.

Upstairs, the master bedroom was too small. The sitting room, which offered the best view, also became a kind of clutter-prone foyer between the walk-in closet and the master bath.

"It was as if we were living in someone else's house," Daniels said. "I wanted a plan that would really support a whole spectrum of daily family requirements."

With substantial new square footage now extending out the rear of the existing structure, Daniels reconfigured floor plans on the first and second level, concentrating on how his family would use the new space.

The 396-square-foot kitchen segues easily into a rear-facing great room that features floor-to-ceiling windows flanking a central French door. The many original built-ins include a food preparation island and knee-high walnut cabinets which provide a space divider between two primary activity zones. The inside corner of the kitchen accommodates a family dining nook.

The primary focal point of the family room is a hand-carved cherry wood mantle piece Daniels bought years ago, having no idea when or where he would use it.

"It's comforting to see an impulse buy become a real focal point," he said.

Upstairs, Daniels built a 715-square-foot master bedroom suite that opens directly to a sprawling balcony with views in three directions.

"This is the spot where we can have some privacy and still keep an eye on the kids," Gayle Daniels said. "It's quite romantic."

The master bath includes a soaking tub, a spacious walk-in shower and a private closet for Gayle's vanity.

Planting for Fall

FROM PAGE 3

best flowering plants. "Mums need full sunlight to open and come in obvious, bold fall colors," said Grimes. "Pansies will take part sun, are a great color and will continue to bloom through spring."

Yarrow, asters, sedums, Lenten roses, and coral bells are among the fall plants that Jonathan Storvick, natural resource manager at the Office of Sustainability at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., recommends.

"Fall is a great time to plant larger-sized perennials and container shrubs," said Storvick. "It also happens to be the time of year when nurseries are trying to get rid of a lot of their stock, so you can find some great deals."

For example, said Joel Cook of Merrifield Garden Center, in Fairfax, Merrifield and Gainesville, Va., "Burning bushes have beautiful fall colors like orange and fire red. As far as trees, maples like Japanese maples, sugar maple or black gum maple have beautiful colors."

Another eye-catching option is the yellow twig dogwood. Its "bright yellow branches and twig color ... are also fantastic for winter," said Mark White of GardenWise in Arlington, Va. "This shrub develops in great clumps and is a wonderful contrast against any red twig. Oval-shaped green leaves turn to orange-red in fall, followed by white fruit tinged with green."

One plant that is often associated with cooler weather is a holly tree, but Eric Shorb of American Plant in Bethesda, Md., offers a caveat. "As we get closer to the end of November and the beginning of December you want to be careful about planting such broadleaf evergreens," he said. "If they haven't had time to develop a sufficient enough root system they can become susceptible to wind burn because the roots will not be able to absorb moisture."

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