

Woodson point guard Eric Bowles takes a celebration selfie after the Cavaliers defeated Lake Braddock to win the 2014 6A North region title.

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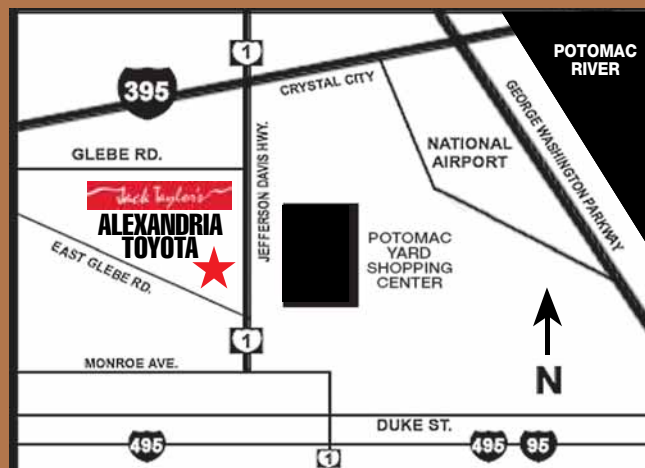
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# Important Issues Facing Fairfax

**F**or its first issue of 2015, the Connection asked various local leaders what are the most significant issues and/or events facing the City of Fairfax in the coming year.

## Scott Silverthorne

As mayor, my job is to enhance our community's quality of life, wherever possible. Our City enjoys a vibrant and historical downtown, strong business and residential communities and an exciting variety of arts, cultural and recreational opportunities unparalleled in the Washington, D.C., area. We also have one of the nation's premier universities, George Mason University, adjacent to our community.



Silverthorne

The City of Fairfax has also experienced tremendous progress over the past decade. We have invested in a new community center, new public library, a renovated and expanded City Hall, new police station, four public schools and purchased an additional 56 acres of open space. All of these, combined with an unprecedented private-sector interest in our historic downtown and the redevelopment of Fairfax Boulevard, make this one of the most exciting times in our City's history.

We must keep up our momentum. In particular, a renewed focus on our residential neighborhoods and building an even stronger sense of community is my focus over the next year.

Most people tell me they discovered the City of Fairfax by accident. However, once they moved here, they say they wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

I want to build on that sense of pride in our community – stronger civic associations, even better collaboration between City Hall and neighborhood leadership, and building more community engagement in public

policy decisions facing the City.”  
—SCOTT SILVERTHORNE,  
MAYOR

## Michael McCarty

2015 will bring lots of excitement for the entire community and region as we open a new civic park called Old Town Square, which features an interactive water fountain. Old Town Square and the historic downtown will be the host to many events.



McCarty

They'll begin with Chocolate Lovers Festival on Feb. 7 and 8 and continue with the launch of the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Spotlight of the Arts in March and April. We will also formally open Old Town Square on April 18, and the Rock the Block Series will start May 22.

One of our newest and most unique events will be the Derby-Q, a BBQ, Blues, Bourbon and Brews festival on Saturday, May 2, featuring a live broadcast of the Kentucky Derby.

The City will also be center stage for the 2015 World Police and Fire Games, the largest international sporting event in the world, with the Cycling Criterium on Sunday, June 28 and the Fireman's Muster on July 4.

We will obviously have our traditional, large and small events throughout the year that are beloved by all. Information on these exciting events and all City activities may be found on [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov) or on the new City app, TGIFairfax.

—MICHAEL MCCARTY,  
PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

## Carl Pardiny

The men and women of the City of Fairfax

Police Department are committed to serving our community and, as the Chief of Police, I am proud of our longstanding tradition of excellence.

In the coming New Year, the police department will be using Twitter and Facebook to enhance traditional means of communication with the public.

Additionally and among other yet-to-be announced initiatives, I am pleased to announce that we will be hosting our second annual “Kids Safety Saturday” during the fall.

This successful event brings the children and families of our community to the police department where topics such as bicycle, pedestrian and skateboard safety are addressed in a fun, picnic-like environment.

Community outreach meetings will be scheduled with representatives from the City's diverse homeowner and civic associations, as well as with members of the City's business and professional communities.

During these meetings, we hope to discuss police performance, crime prevention and other topics of interest or concern.

In 2014, the police department experienced a large number of retirements, many from our top leadership positions. While these retirements have opened new opportunities for many of our members, the police department will face the challenge of filling multiple vacancies in our Patrol ranks.

Attaining increased diversity among our members is a high priority of our recruiting strategy, and we will continue our efforts to hire top-quality candidates with diverse backgrounds.

When it is possible and when staffing allows, it is my hope to rejuvenate our Community Bicycle Patrol program which will place police officers on mountain bikes in



Pardiny

our parks, business districts and neighborhoods.

Continued advancements in technology provide us with opportunities to enhance our delivery of police services. Hence, the department will be exploring and implementing the use of body-worn cameras to complement the camera systems already mounted in our patrol vehicles.

The police department's top priorities in 2015 continue to include keeping our roadways, neighborhoods, businesses and schools safe, while maintaining direct and inclusive partnerships with our community through a variety of community-outreach and community-policing initiatives.

—CARL PARDINY,  
POLICE CHIEF

## John MacPherson

Finding transitional housing for the homeless, in a setting similar to a dormitory, where it is easy to provide support services, is important. Getting housing first is the best way to stabilize individuals so they can work on their issues like mental health and addictions, but it is difficult and expensive to provide services to those who are housed in apartments scattered all over the area.

Changing the way we deal with the mentally ill is also a major need that goes beyond the local level. Right now, the only way to get someone help is for them to be arrested.

People who are clearly exhibiting symptoms of mental illness should not have to be arrested in order to get help. Intervention needs to be available before someone hurts themselves or someone else.

—JOHN MACPHERSON, EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR, THE LAMB CENTER



MacPherson

## Arts Council, Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Move to a New Home

**T**he Arts Council of Fairfax County and the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra have moved to Merrifield, thanks to a space proffered by HITT Contracting, Inc. to the County.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth and County Executive Edward L. Long Jr. were joined by 60 guests celebrating the grand opening of the new office spaces conveniently located three blocks away from the Dunn Loring-Merrifield Metro Station on the Orange Line.

“It is wonderful to see two great arts organizations receiving a new home. Both the Arts Council and the Fairfax

Symphony Orchestra contribute to the arts in so many ways and are a part of a great arts industry in Fairfax making our County a world-class place to live, work and play,” said Bulova.

“Merrifield is becoming an exciting arts district for Fairfax County. It is rewarding to see this public-private partnership creates a new home for two mainstay arts organizations,” said Smyth.

Attendees also celebrated the dedication of the Arts Council's conference room to the memory of R. Dennis McArver, former Board Chairman and long-time supporter of both the Arts Council and Fairfax Symphony Orchestra who passed away unex-



PHOTO BY CAPITOL MEDIA USA

### Ribbon cutting ceremony.

pectedly in September of 2013.

The Arts Council of Fairfax County's new address is 2667 Prosperity Avenue, Suite A,

Fairfax, VA 22031. The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra's new address is 2667 Prosperity Avenue, Suite B, Fairfax, VA 22031.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL LIEBERMAN

**John Geer standing in his doorway in Springfield, minutes before he was shot by a Fairfax County Police officer.**



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM/THE CONNECTION

**Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova speaks to reporters about the shooting death of John Geer on Jan. 5 at the Fairfax County Government Center.**

# Judge Rules Against County

**Prying free some details on Geer shooting.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

It's been more than 16 months since John Geer of Springfield was shot and killed by a Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) officer. And since the Aug. 29, 2013 shooting, scant information on the incident has been provided by the FCPD or the county Board of Supervisors, such as an explanation of what transpired up to and following the shooting, and the identities of the officers involved. They've kept this information from the media, the public and the Geer family, citing an ongoing federal investigation into the death.

That was until Jan 5, when Fairfax County released a 304-word statement regarding the events surrounding Geer's death. For the first time, the officer who shot Geer was named: PFC Adam Torres, who the statement said, "fired a single shot that struck Geer."

"We've had policies in place regarding when a police officer's name and information is released," Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova said Monday night. "Usually it's a matter of weeks. In this particular case it turned out to be an unusual situation that took longer."

Police had been called to Geer's house by his partner and mother of his two daughters Maura Harrington, over a domestic dispute. The statement says officers, "including a trained negotiator," talked with Geer for over half an hour while he stood in the doorway of his house, arms raised above his head and resting on the doorframe.

"Geer was reported as having multiple

firearms inside the home," the statement says, "displaying a firearm that he threatened to use against the police, and refused the officers' requests that he remain outside and speak to them."

Torres then shot Geer in the chest when he began lowering his hands.

**ACCORDING TO THE STATEMENT** a SWAT team entered Geer's house, after Geer died, and found a loaded, holstered handgun on the stairs by where he had been standing.

"A large amount of citizens have guns in their home. Does that give them the right to come and shoot you?" said Jeff Stewart of Chantilly, a friend of Geer's for over 25 years who witnessed the shooting.

"At the time he was shot he wasn't bearing any arms. He owned them. Why is it relevant to the release? Does a loaded gun show intent? The burden fell on the police to defuse the situation, let the guy go inside, chill out."

Geer's father Don didn't hear about the county's release until someone called to say it was happening on television.

"The press release I felt was very tainted towards the police department," he said. "It depicted John as being a terrorist or something, had all these guns in the house. He was a hunter. It didn't sound like that."

**THOUGH THE COUNTY'S STATEMENT** refers to a Circuit Court ruling that they "may release some information pertaining to the Aug. 29, 2013, officer-in-

involved shooting of John Geer," the Dec. 22 opinion from judge Randy Bellows was a court order.

After a Dec. 19 hearing in Fairfax, Bellows quickly turned around a response forcing the county to produce more than 100 documents being sought by lawyer Michael Lieberman in a \$12 million civil suit over Geer's death. According to Lieberman, the county had previously objected to all but six of 127 requests for documents.

"That's pretty amazing to have a judge turn around and give you a 12-page opinion over a weekend," said Lieberman. "He obviously worked on it all weekend, he listened carefully."

The documents include everything from 911 calls and witness statements to the medical treatment of Geer and blood pattern examination. Bellows is holding off granting or denying production of several documents as they relate to the county's internal investigation or the federal investigation. He gave the county 30

days to produce all the others.

The FCPD has defended their silence so far through the criminal investigative privilege afforded by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The department declined to comment for this story and the Fairfax County Attorney's office didn't respond to an interview request.

In his opinion piece, Bellows wrote: "The entity seeking to assert the criminal investigative file privilege is no longer responsible for any aspect of the criminal investigation and the entity that is now solely responsible for the criminal investigation has

made it clear that it has taken no step to discourage the custodian of the criminal investigative files from disclosure of most of the files at issue."

Bellows referred to correspondence between U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa and Assistant Attorney General Peter Kadzik, acknowledging that the case currently sits with the U.S. Department of Justice, not the state's attorney or the FCPD. Grassley, ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, sent formal inquiries to FCPD Chief Edwin Roessler and U.S. Attorney Dana Boente about the case in November 2014. He sent another letter to Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond Morrogh in December.

Kadzik answered Grassley that the FCPD wasn't instructed to withhold information about the shooting, only the federal investigation.

Lieberman has continued to criticize the Board of Supervisors, who have authority over the FCPD and allowed the silence from that department to continue.

For Stewart and the Geer family, the continued silence, even with this recent disclosure, has been frustrating and painful.

"It's surreal enough to watch your friend get shot," said Stewart. "It goes to a whole different level when no one's held accountable."

"I can't figure out why I've had to go through this miserable 16 months in order to hear anything being done at all," said Don Geer. "Closure would be why someone pulled the trigger and killed my son, that's as much as I can expect at this point in time. A better idea of why did it happen."

SEE GEER, PAGE 5



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF STEWART

**John Geer**

# WEEK IN FAIRFAX

## State Sen. Petersen to Host 'Business Leaders' Breakfast

State Senator Chap Petersen's Annual "Business Leaders" Breakfast, 2015 Edition, will be held on Friday, Jan. 9, 7:30-9 a.m. at The Waterford at Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway in Fairfax.

Full breakfast will be served, the Commonwealth's budget will be dissected, and the business of the General Assembly will be digested. RSVP to: [kathy@fairfaxsenator.com](mailto:kathy@fairfaxsenator.com)

## Auditions for Adult Actors

Auditions for City of Fairfax Theatre Company's (CFTC) March production of "Doubt: A Parable," by John Patrick Shanley, will be held on Jan. 12 and 13. Visit for more information.

All four roles for this hit play — winner of the Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize — are available. African-American women are especially encouraged to audition.

CFTC is also looking for a stage manager for this production. You can email to [fairfaxcitytheatre@gmail.com](mailto:fairfaxcitytheatre@gmail.com) if you are interested in being considered.

SEE WEEK, PAGE 7

## Geer Shooting Statement Released

FROM PAGE 4

**SUPERVISOR** Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) agrees transparency has been a problem.

"We need to be transparent and we haven't been," he said in a recent interview. "The county attorney is supposed to provide advice, we make decisions. I think we've been following overly protective legal advice instead of making the right decision in this case, is really what it boils down to."

Lieberman said he sees this action by the county as "preemptive damage control." He continued, "The only positive thing I take out of it is some claim they're finally going to change the policies."

Bulova admitted the Board of Supervisors, FCPD and County Attorney's policies on information shar-

ing all need to be examined. "In retrospect," she said, "our policies need to be changed to provide information sooner if there is a delay like this."

She also addressed the possibility of revisiting creating a citizen's police advisory council.

"At least it's getting their attention," Geer said. "The idea of the police investigating the police just doesn't work. That's all there is to it."

Lieberman is optimistic that future hearings will help produce more documents, and for now at least some answers to 16-month-old questions are coming forward.

"The nightmare of John's shooting isn't ever going to end," he said, "but the nightmare of what the county's done, at least we can see the light at the end of the tunnel for getting over that part."



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## ABOUT THE TOUR

Visit the website for more details:  
[RemodelersCharityHomeTour.com](http://RemodelersCharityHomeTour.com)

What do a remodeling company and the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (NVTRP) have in common? The simple answer is this; a desire to help families enhance quality of life today and in the years to come.



NVTRP offers a wide range of programs and services to children and adults who live with disabilities in the Washington Metropolitan Area. *Come out and show your support by taking a tour and visiting with volunteers of the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program.* The chance to donate or learn about volunteering will be made available.



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# OPINION

## Happy New Year

### Focused on community.

**H**appy New Year. We need your help in 2015. As local, weekly newspapers, the Connection's mission is to deliver news readers need close to home, to help readers enjoy great local places and events, to advocate for community good, to call attention to unmet needs, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestones and events in community and people's lives.

If you know people or organizations doing important work, something newsworthy or something that might make a good feature story, let us know. We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished a feat like running a marathon or having an art show.

We publish photos and notes of a variety of personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries. Send a photo and tell us about it in 200 words or so to [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com).

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. To have the best chance of getting an event included in our calendar ahead of time, email us the details of the event (who, what, where, when, why) at least two weeks ahead of time. Email to [XXXXXX@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:XXXXXX@connectionnewspapers.com). Events generally must be open to the public and either free or at nominal cost to be included in calendars.

After your events, email us a photo and a note so we can consider including it in our coverage. Be sure to include the names of all

the people who are in a photo, and say when and where the photo was taken.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries are welcome.

In covering the issues, we strive to provide a voice for our readers. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Connection Newspapers are published by Local Media Connection LLC, an independent, locally owned company. The publications and websites include the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette, the Centre View, the Potomac Almanac and individual Connection papers and websites serving McLean, Great Falls, Vienna/Oakton, Oak Hill/Herndon, Reston, Springfield, Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton, Arlington, Centreville, Chantilly/Fair Oaks, Alexandria and Mount Vernon.

The publications and websites have won hundreds of awards for news and community coverage just in the past few years, including the Virginia Press Association Award for Integrity and Community Service for coverage of efforts to prevent and end homelessness, and Best in Show for information/art for coverage of local parks.

The operation of these community-serving publications is entirely funded by advertising. The papers are delivered free to homes and businesses throughout Northern Virginia, and through free digital subscriptions, with more than 200,000 readers across the region. If you or your organization appreciate the Connection publications, please support them by patronizing our advertisers and by spending a portion of your marketing budget with us. For information about advertising, contact [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com), or call 703-

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— MARY KIMM,

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

### EDITORIAL

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Giving Pets a Loving Home

To the Editor:

It is evident that the influx of cats and dogs in shelters is a problem.

With so many animals and not enough families to adopt them, a solution needs to be implemented to decrease the population being brought in.

Some of these animals are strays; families who can no longer take care of them are dumping others into the shelter. I have been researching this topic for over a month now, at George Mason University for my English class, and here are some of the reasons I think this problem is occurring.

Many of the animals are strays, which means that there are mostly stray unsterilized animals having many unwanted litters. Thinking of how many of these stray animals can be saved by sterilization amazes me. Just think about if one cat or dog was to have a litter of five kittens or puppies, who in turn

had five kittens or puppies, who also had five kittens or puppies. The numbers can go on and on. If there were less strays or at least, spayed and neutered strays, animal control would not be bringing in so many.

The other half of this problem is through the responsibility of pet owners. Many pet owners these days look at pets as disposable objects that they can return to the shelter as they please. Many companion pets end up here because owners cannot or will not properly take care of them. In this respect, I appreciate shelters that are able to care for animals when others cannot. However, owners should know their responsibility as a pet owner before adopting their pets. If they were informed, as they were adopting the animal, about how to take care of the pet and the responsibility it would require, fewer animals will be returned to shelters.

I think there are small effective ways that can be implemented to decrease the amount of overpopulated pets in our area. Firstly, encouraging spaying and neutering. By doing this, you are already

putting away the risk of unwanted animals, which ultimately end up in shelters. Some families, in the area, may not be able to afford the

procedure, which is understandable. So to fix this small sub-problem,

vets can maybe give reduced prices for surgeries to families who adopt from shelters. The other solution would be to spay and neuter pets before they are adopted. This would, also, increase the chances of people adopting from shelters.

Another small change would be to make owners go through a briefing of sorts about the responsibilities of a pet owner. If owners were informed about what kind of responsibility and attention they will

be needing to put towards their newly adopted pet, more owners might think twice

if this is the right choice for them. They can also be informed about

the type of animal and how that animal will behave. Some owners may have a certain type of breed that they have in mind. However, their wants for breed may not always be compatible with the characteristics they are looking for in a pet. This will ultimately lead to them giving the pet back to the shelter. By informing and educating potential owners, we may see a decrease in the amount of pets being brought back to the shelters.

I know this summer local shelters struggled with handling the influx of animals. My only hope is that something can be done to give these pets a loving home and to prevent a further increase in unwanted pets.

Jessica Honig  
Fairfax

Fairfax  
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**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**  
[fairfax@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:fairfax@connectionnewspapers.com)

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

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

**Bonnie Hobbs**  
Community Reporter ♦ 703-778-9438  
[south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com)

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

**ADVERTISING:**  
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e-mail:  
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703-778-9431

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

**Karen Washburn**  
Display Advertising, 703-778-9422  
[kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com)

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

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

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

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

**Special Assistant to the Publisher**  
Jeanne Theismann  
[jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)  
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**CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426**  
**Circulation Manager:**  
Ann Oliver  
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# WEEK IN FAIRFAX

FROM PAGE 5

## Railroad Museum Needs Volunteers

The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum needs volunteer docents on Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. and during special Museum events. Greet Museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits and the Museum's railroad and Civil War history. Ideal for people who live in the Fairfax, Burke, Clifton or Fairfax Station area and want to contribute to the local community through volunteerism. Training and orientation provided. Many other Museum volunteer opportunities are available such as gardening, publicity, exhibit planning, special event planning and outreach to other community organizations. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Call Michael at 703-945-7483 for more information. [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), 703-425-9225. Like us at [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR).



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# Top Fitness Trends for 2015

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

The beginning of a new year is often a time when many resolve to begin a fitness plan or to ramp up their current routine. Officials at the American College of Sports Medicine rang in the New Year by releasing the organization's annual survey of the top fitness trends for 2015.

From push-ups to plank, bodyweight training tops ACSM's list of fitness trends. Low cost and mobile, this routine takes exercise back to the basics: think pull-ups and squats. "You really don't need equipment or a gym membership, and there's almost no cost involved," said Katrina Salum, a personal trainer based in Arlington. "It's effective because you can build muscle and burn fat simply by using your own body weight for resistance."

The popularity of bodyweight moves are due to the ease in which they can be incorporated into your daily routine, said Salum. "You can do three sets of eight squats while you're brushing your teeth and 10 pushups while you're waiting for your coffee to brew."

**THE PRACTICE** of alternating intense periods of aerobic activity with low intensity exercises, known as high-intensity interval training (HIIT), is number two on the list of trends. Varying exercises can stave off boredom, a factor that leads many people to abandon their fitness practice," said Scott Goldberg, a personal trainer in Potomac, Md. "Most HIIT routines can be done in 30 minutes," he said. "One simple routine is warming up by walking on a treadmill, then doing 10 squats, 10 push ups and 10 planks followed by a 30-second fast-paced sprint. Then walk slowly in place for four minutes to rest then repeat the entire routine five times."

Taking classes or training sessions from licensed, certified and educated fitness professionals is number three on the list. Traditional weight training is number four, followed by enlisting the help of a personal trainer and combining exercise and nutrition into a fitness plan, which are numbers five and six respectively.

"To be healthy you need to exercise, but also eat foods that are good for you," said Gretchen Juliano, a dietician in Old Town Alexandria. "Eating foods that are low in

carbs and high in protein before working out forces your body to burn fat and gives you energy."

Fitness industry pros say yoga is number seven. "The practice of yoga gives you muscular flexibility through the stretching involved in the yoga poses," said Dawn Curtis, East Meets West Yoga Center in Vienna.

**"It is like vitamins. The real affect is doing it over time and incorporating it into your life rather than just doing it once."**

— Sara VanderGoot

"Yoga also provides immune strengthening. A regular yoga practice will also help with your healthy tissue maintenance and healthy growth of new muscles, bones, tendons, and ligaments, which are essential body components for fighting disease."

Curtis points to the detoxifying effects

of yoga.

"A regular yoga practice will increase your blood circulation, which in turn helps flush out toxins from your body," she said. "As your body flushes out these toxins, to be released by the stretches of the muscle movement, they are replaced with new nourishing nutrients for a healthier body and mind...Students with a regular practice...report [having] long lasting results both physically and mentally, especially with reducing stress."

A commitment of practicing two to three times each week is necessary for noticeable results.

"Consistency is the key in yoga," said Sara VanderGoot of Mind the Mat Yoga and Pilates in Arlington and Alexandria. "It is like vitamins. The real effect is doing it over time, and incorporating it into your life rather than just doing it once."

Yoga is not a quick fix, but a very powerful transformative practice if done regularly over time."

Fitness programs for seniors make the list at number eight. "Even 30-minutes of strength training and 20 minutes of aerobics 2 or 4 times a week can help us fight

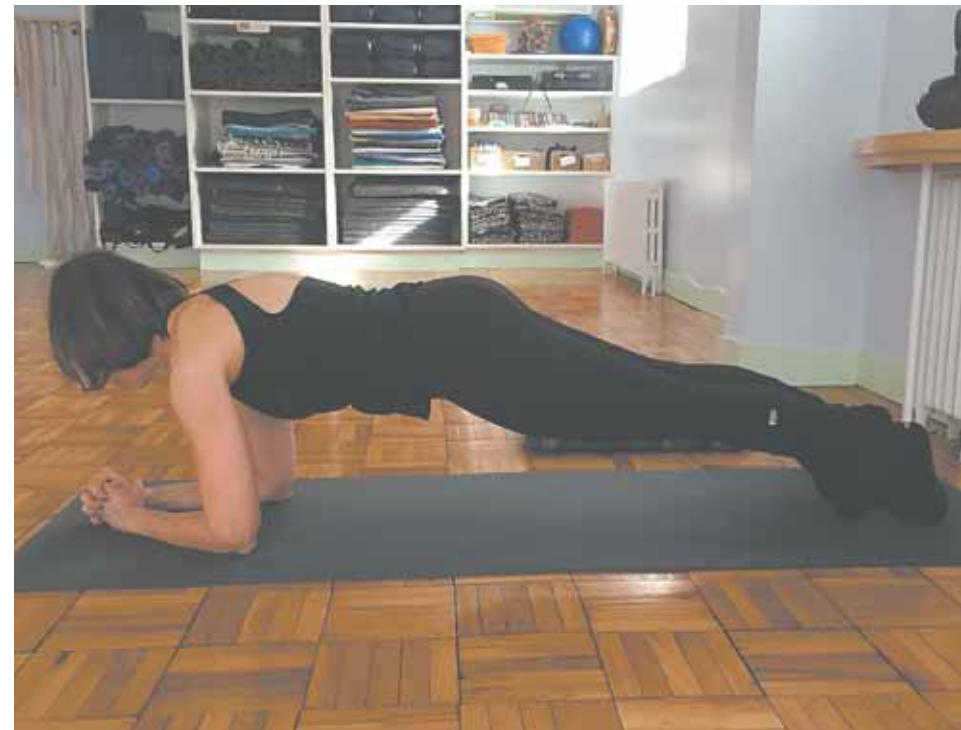


PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**Bodyweight training, which includes exercises such as plank, is the top fitness trend for 2015 according to the American College of Sports Medicine.**

diseases like diabetes and heart disease as we age," said Goldberg.

**FUNCTIONAL FITNESS EXERCISES**, those that make your body stronger for everyday activities like doing laundry, lifting small children or simply using good posture

when sitting at a desk, come in at number nine on the ACSM list while group personal training sessions are number ten.

"One of the benefits of working out with a group is accountability," said Salum. "It's also less expensive than hiring a personal training and can be more fun."

## FAITH NOTES

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

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

**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](mailto:admin@franconiaumc.org) or [www.franconiaumc.org](http://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.stleos@gmail.com](mailto:carolynsmith.stleos@gmail.com).

## Better Said Than Done Helps You Tell Your Story

As the new year approaches, people may begin to ponder what resolutions they will make for 2015 - losing weight, getting a new job, quitting smoking, eating healthier. What about learning the art of storytelling as the means to self-improvement? Whether you're looking to conquer your fear of public speaking or stage fright, or take on a new creative challenge, Better Said Than Done offers opportunities that will help you see your New Year's resolutions through.

Better Said Than Done is a Northern Virginia community of professional storytellers.

In addition to producing monthly themed storytelling shows, featuring experienced performers from their team of storytellers, they also offer workshops on storytelling. They believe that everyone has a story to tell and offer tools and techniques to craft a good story - such as structure and character building and, perhaps most importantly, how to win the audience over. Every participant will have the opportunity to develop and perform a story in the supportive, small group setting of the workshop. They will offer feedback and answer your questions so when you leave you'll feel comfortable and ready to tell your story at a party, in the boardroom, or on stage. Upcoming workshops include:



Jessica Piscitelli Robinson

**Spotlight on You: Telling the story of your life** - Offered Jan. 24 and Feb. 21 ; sign up for one date 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Northern Virginia [location details provided to registered participants] \$75 per person Taught by Jessica Piscitelli Robinson In this half-day workshop, participants will learn structure, character building, and how to win the

audience over. This workshop is appropriate for storytellers of all levels. Students should come with an idea for a story and will leave with a story ready to tell. Visit <http://www.bettersaidthandone.com/classes/> for more information or to register.

**Your Business Story: Crafting your company tale** - Offered March 7

11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Northern Virginia [location details provided to registered participants] \$75 per person Taught by Jessica Piscitelli Robinson Motivate volunteers for your cause, move prospects to sign on as clients and convince investors yours is the right business by telling your story. After this half-day workshop, which focuses on how to write a compelling story, students will leave with stories to use as content for their website, brochure, and elevator speech. Stories are workshoped with teachers and other students, lending many different perspectives on your business tale.

Visit <http://www.bettersaidthandone.com/classes/> for more information or to register. For those who feel ready now to tell their true, personal story on stage, Better Said Than Done welcomes newcomers. Each of their regular shows has one spot for a first-time teller. They work with first-timers before the show to help them prepare their story and rehearse their performance before they come on stage. Anyone interested in telling their first story with Better Said Than Done can submit their story idea on their website at <http://www.bettersaidthandone.com/contact/>. Upcoming shows include:

- ♦Angels and Demons: stories about good, evil, and trying to choose - Jan. 31, 7 p.m., The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, \$10 per person.
  - ♦Stranger Than Fiction: stories about truth, craziness, and life - Feb. 28, 7 p.m., The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, \$10 per person.
  - ♦Earth, Wind, and Fire: stories about the elements - March 28, 8 p.m., Nature House, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston, \$15 per person, fundraiser for Friends of Reston.
- For more information on upcoming shows, performers, or workshops, visit [www.bettersaidthandone.com](http://www.bettersaidthandone.com).

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Andy Ilachinski describes his colorful, powerful and magically manipulated images as “Synesthetic Landscapes,” referencing the psychological, creative – even mystical – experience of synesthesia, a joining of the senses (smelling sounds, hearing colors, feeling shape) to communicate a point of view to another through his photographs. View his photos through Feb. 9, 2015 at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax.

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

### THROUGH MONDAY/JAN. 19

**Dada Re-Discovered.** Building W-16 Vulcan Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Dada Re-Discovered explores how contemporary media and ideas can filter past Dada concepts and artwork. The exhibit will feature sound, video, performance and other visual mixed media. 703-584-2900. [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org).

### THROUGH SATURDAY/JAN. 31

**Exhibit of Colorful Nutcrackers.** 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed on Tuesdays. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. See an amazing array of nutcrackers, both old and new, in a colorful case exhibit. Did you ever wonder where the craze for collecting nutcracker dolls came from? Nutcrackers have a fascinating history. The first nutcrackers were produced to crack nuts more effectively and the oldest known metal example, on exhibit in Tarent, Italy, is from the third or fourth century B.C. The Leavenworth Nutcracker Museum in Leavenworth, Washington, shows a bronze Roman nutcracker dated between 200 B.C. and 200 A.D. German nutcrackers, made as decorative pieces, were developed around 1500. Early nutcrackers were in the shapes of animals, birds and people. Later, they were made in the likeness of kings, soldiers, church leaders and ruling class figures. Fine wood carved nutcrackers were created across Europe, especially in France and England by the 15th and 16th centuries. Admission: \$7/adult, \$6/student, \$5/senior or child.

### THROUGH SUNDAY/FEB. 8

**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 MONDAY/FEB. 9

**“Synesthetic Landscapes.”** Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Andy Ilachinski describes his colorful, powerful and magically manipulated images as “Synesthetic Landscapes,” referencing the psychological, creative – even mystical – experience of synesthesia, a joining of the senses (smelling sounds, hearing colors, feeling shape) to communicate a point of

view to another through his photographs. Showcase artists: Marcia Gordon, “Gems by Meg;” Piper Strong, Metal Works/Judaica; and Joyce Zipperer, metal sculptor/mixed media/metal shoes and jewelry. [www.jccnvarts.org](http://www.jccnvarts.org).

### The Bravura Ensemble - Chamber Music Classics.

8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The Bravura Ensemble is a Washington D.C.-based chamber group devoted to performing chamber music repertoire ranging from 18th-century works to modern-day music. Clarinetist Albert Hunt earned a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from The Juilliard School and has performed around the world as a soloist and chamber musician. He has also played in orchestras such as the Cleveland Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, and the Orchestra of St. Luke's. Violinist Rachelle Betancourt is a member of the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra in Germany and is an international competition winner. She frequently performs solo and chamber music recitals in the Americas and in Europe. Come join us for an evening of chamber music featuring clarinet, piano and strings.

### SATURDAY/JAN. 10

**QuinTango** performs at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. 8 p.m. Tickets: \$29 non-members JCCNV, \$24 JCCNV members and seniors. \$19 for those under 30. For tickets information call 703-537-3000 or visit: [www.jccnv.org](http://www.jccnv.org)

### TUESDAY/JAN. 13

**Tai Chi.** 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Come and experience the benefits of Tai Chi introduced by Dante Gilmer of Still Water Tai Chi Center. Wear comfortable clothes that allow movement. Adults. 703-249-1520.

### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 14

**S.T.E.A.M. Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM). Each month we will focus on one of these subjects with stories and activities appropriate for preschoolers. Age 4-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

### THURSDAY/JAN. 15

**Magic Tree House Club.** 4:30 p.m.

Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Let's read the eleventh story in the series Lions at Lunchtime by Mary Pope Osborne. The magic tree house takes Jack and Annie to Africa where they meet up with wonderful wild animals. School age. 703-249-1520.

### World War II Washington.

7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Sixty years ago, numerous military personnel, contractors, and “government girls” converged on Washington. Where did they live, work, and socialize? Relive the stories or share your own with Carol Bessette, retired Air Force intelligence officer, Vietnam veteran, Certified Master Tour Guide in the Washington, DC area, and Washington history lecturer. Adults. 703-249-1520.

### The Friday Morning Music Club.

11 a.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. A community of music lovers and musicians, the Friday Morning Music Club, Inc., has promoted classical music in the Washington area for over 120 years. FMMC's public concerts—now held throughout the week—provide performing members with a host of outlets for their talents as well as delighting audiences in Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia. All concerts are free and performed as a public service.

### FRIDAY/JAN. 16

**Frozen Movie Sing-Along and Craft Event.** 6 p.m. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Do you want to build a snowman? Bring a parent and your friends before the movie to make snowflakes, craft an Olaf, put together a Frozen necklace, and also either Sven reindeer antlers OR an Elsa tulle cloak to make and take home. A Smorgasbord of cheese sandwiches, Olaf noses (carrot sticks), and FROZEN Ice cream cups will be served. If you prefer, or if allergies are a concern, you are welcome to pack food of your choosing or eat before the party. Fee: \$12 per child (Deadline to register: Wed, Jan. 14). [parksrec@fairfaxva.gov](mailto:parksrec@fairfaxva.gov)

### SATURDAY/JAN. 17

**Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meeting.** 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Board members meet biweekly to plan and implement projects and programs that will enhance library services for teens. Age 13-18. 703-249-1520.

## SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

### JANUARY

1/7/2015 ..... Wellbeing, Renewal, Resolutions  
1/14/2015 ..... HomeLifeStyle  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Jan. 19  
1/21/2015 ..... A+ Camps & Schools  
1/28/2015 ..... Neighborhood Outlook  
1/28/2015 ..... Winter Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment;  
Valentine's Preview

### FEBRUARY

2/4/2015 ..... Valentine's Dining & Gifts I  
2/4/2015 ..... Wellbeing – National Children's Dental  
Health Month  
2/11/2015 ..... HomeLifeStyle  
2/11/2015 ..... Valentine's Dining & Gifts II  
Valentine's Day is Feb. 14 • Presidents Day is Feb. 16  
2/18/2015 ..... A+ Camps & Schools  
2/25/2015 ..... Pet Connection Pullout

### MARCH

3/4/2015 ..... Wellbeing  
3/11/2015 ..... HomeLifeStyle Real Estate Pullout  
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# ENTERTAINMENT



**QuinTango, chamber tango quintet, performs at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia in Fairfax Jan. 10.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF QUINTANGO

## Magical Music and Dance

**QuinTango comes to JCC in Fairfax on Jan. 10.**

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

**T**ango. The word conjures earthy dance and sizzling music. “Tango dance best exhibits this: two people create a dance so seamlessly, so beautifully it takes your breath away,” said Joan Singer, founder of Northern Virginia’s QuinTango. “Tango endures because it is real... it’s intense, it’s intimate, it’s courageous.”

Soon you will be able to see the allure and emotions of the tango for yourself as the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia (JCCNV) is bringing QuinTango to local audiences. It is to be a lively evening of music, spirited dancing by two Argentine dancers, and stories behind how immigrants brought the tango to the public’s attention first in Argentina; then the world.

The QuinTango musical troupe includes two violins, cello, bass and piano playing the rich, sultry sounds of the classic tango orchestra’s repertoire.

QuinTango has performed at the White House and Lincoln Center. The group has worked with the Washington Performing Arts Society’s educational programs and is part of the Virginia Commission for the Arts Touring Performing Arts program. The group has also received a WAMMIE music award from the

### Where and When

QuinTango at the JCC of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Performance: Saturday, Jan. 10 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$29 non-members JCCNV, \$24 JCCNV members and seniors. \$19 for those under 30. For tickets information call 703-537-3000 or visit: [www.jccnv.org](http://www.jccnv.org)

Washington Area Music Association.

The troupe wants to create a dialogue with the audience. “We promise to give you our all - and in return we rely on your feedback, your sighs, your applause, your rapt attention,” said Singer. “Together we can create a few hours of musical intimacy which will sustain us both long after the concert is over.

“We are creating something new every performance. Part of creativity is vulnerability - and in seeing it, in allowing it, the audience becomes part of the intimacy,” added Singer. “We want people to understand what tango is - and to fall in love with it.” For some tango cultural references; Al Pacino won the 1992 Oscar dancing the tango in “Scent of a Woman.” There was also Broadway’s 1976 Tony Award winning “Chicago” with its musical number “Cell Block Tango” later performed by Catherine Zeta-Jones in the Academy Award winning 2002 movie “Chicago.” “I think the audience will come away with an appreciation of the history of Tango.” This includes “the ways Eastern European immigrants and the tango benefited each other,” said Dan Kirsch, JCCNV cultural affairs director.

“Tango is exciting, it’s engaging, it’s often on the edge,” noted Singer. Don’t resist it.

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# Top Moments in 2014 Area Sports

## Woodson boys' basketball looks for third straight region title.

The following is a look at some of the top moments in area sports during 2014 and what lies ahead in 2015.

## Woodson boys' basketball repeats as region champ

The Woodson boys' basketball program graduated the majority of its starting lineup from the team that captured the 2013 Northern Region championship.

That didn't stop the Cavaliers from making a return appearance in 2014.

After a dramatic one-point win over Herndon in the 6A North region semifinals, Woodson, led by then-junior point guard Eric Bowles, faced Lake Braddock in the championship game. It was the fourth meeting of the season between the two teams, with the Bruins having won the first three by a combined eight points. The fourth meeting ended with a 66-56 Woodson victory and the Cavaliers' second straight region title. "It's a different group of kids," Woodson head coach Doug Craig said after the game. "... A lot of them didn't get to experience it last year or really be a big part of it — they were on the team but maybe didn't get a chance to play out on the floor. Tonight, they got a chance to be out there on the floor and do a great job."

Woodson finished the season with a 21-9 record and reached the state semifinals.

## Robinson boys' lacrosse wins state title

The Robinson boys' lacrosse team started the 2014 season by dropping three of its first four games. The Rams quickly righted the ship, however, winning its final 17, capturing Conference 5, 6A North region, and VHSL state championships along the way.

The Rams blasted Langley 15-3 in the region final. When the two teams met again nine days later in the state championship game, Robinson pulled out a 9-7 win.

## South County softball captures state championship

South County had been one of the region's top softball programs for several seasons, but each year ended in postseason disappointment. The 2014 Stallions were the team that finally got over the hump, winning the program's first state championship.

Despite playing most of the season with-



**Woodson point guard Eric Bowles takes a celebration selfie after the Cavaliers defeated Lake Braddock to win the 2014 6A North region title.**



**The South County softball team finished 26-3 in 2014 and won the 6A state title.**

out injured shortstop Whitney Burks, who now plays for Stanford, South County finished 26-3. The Stallions captured the program's second region title with a 2-1 victory over Lake Braddock, and defeated First Colonial 1-0 in the state semifinals.

On June 15, South County beat Cosby 4-1 in the 6A state championship game at Robinson Secondary School.

Then-senior pitcher Rebecca Martin was one of South County's best players in 2014 and throughout her four years on the varsity.

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

## Lake Braddock XC shines at state meet

The Lake Braddock boys' cross country team left the competition in the dust in the fall of 2014, winning Conference 7, 6A North region, and VHSL state championships.

At the state meet on Nov. 15 at Great



**Alex Corbett's first-place finish at the state meet helped the Lake Braddock boys' cross country team win the second state title in program history.**

Meadow, Lake Braddock produced the first- (Alex Corbett), second- (Kevin Monogue) and seventh-place (Colin Schaefer) individual finishers en route to a first-place team finish. The Bruins posted a score of 41, finishing well ahead of second-place West Springfield (92).

It was the second state title in the Lake Braddock boys' program history.

"One of the last things we talked about [prior to the race] was, this is business," Lake Braddock head coach Mike Mangan said after the state meet. "We have done all our investing, we picked all the right stocks, we think, we've done all that and now it's time to cash in on our investment. This is just business."

The Lake Braddock girls also had a strong showing at the state meet, finishing runner-up. Oakton won its second consecutive title.

Bruin sophomore Kate Murphy finished second among individuals. Teammate Daly Ferguson (seventh) also earned all-state with a top-15 finish.

"We ran lights out," Mangan said after the meet, "Oakton was just really good today."

## Lake Braddock boys' tennis goes undefeated

The Lake Braddock boys' tennis team cap-

tured the 2014 state championship, finishing a perfect 18-0 along the way.

The Bruins defeated Langley in the region and state finals.

## Robinson wrestling wins 3rd title in 4 years

The Robinson wrestling team won its third state championship in four years and produced four individual champions.

Jack Bass (152 pounds), Zak DePasquale (160), Cole DePasquale (182) and Jake Pinkston (285) each won individual titles.

## Fairfax field hockey wins region title

The Fairfax field hockey program won its first region championship since 1993 and advanced to the state tournament for the second consecutive season.

The Rebels defeated Chantilly 2-1 in double overtime in the region final before ending its season with a loss in the state semifinals.

Cori Black scored the game-winner for Fairfax in the region final.

"Right when I hit it," Black said after the region championship game, "I felt like it was going to go in."

Fairfax finished the season with a 20-4 record, including the program's sixth consecutive Liberty District/Conference 6 championship.

## A look to 2015

\*The Woodson boys' basketball team entered 2015 with a 7-2 record before losing to St. Maria Goretti on Jan. 3. The Cavaliers will attempt to win their third consecutive region title. Senior point guard Bowles will play for Central Connecticut State University.

\*The West Springfield girls' basketball team concluded the 2014 portion of its schedule with an 8-2 record. The Spartans are looking to repeat as Conference 7 champions and return to the state tournament.

\*The Robinson wrestling team looks to win its fourth state championship in five seasons. The Rams graduated three individual state champions.

\*The South County softball team returns several talented players from its 2014 state championship squad, but will be without graduated standout pitcher Martin.

\*The Lake Braddock baseball program, which won the state title in 2012 and the region crown in 2013, will look to bounce back from a 2014 season in which the Bruins failed to qualify for the regional tournament.

\*The Lake Braddock, South County, West Springfield, Hayfield and Robinson football teams will all be coming back from 2014 playoff appearances.

— JON ROETMAN

# Was Downtown Traffic Switch Successful?

City Council hears results of professional study.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

To create a more pedestrian-friendly downtown area, in August 2006, the City of Fairfax reconfigured Main and North Streets from one-way to two-way. Now, though, the City Council wants to know whether it was a good decision or if it's been detrimental to the Old Town area.

So this fall, they had an engineering study done to review the current conditions and analyze the costs and benefits of reverting back to one-way traffic on those streets. And at a recent Council work session, Paul Silverman of Sabra, Wang & Associates, which performed the study, presented the results.

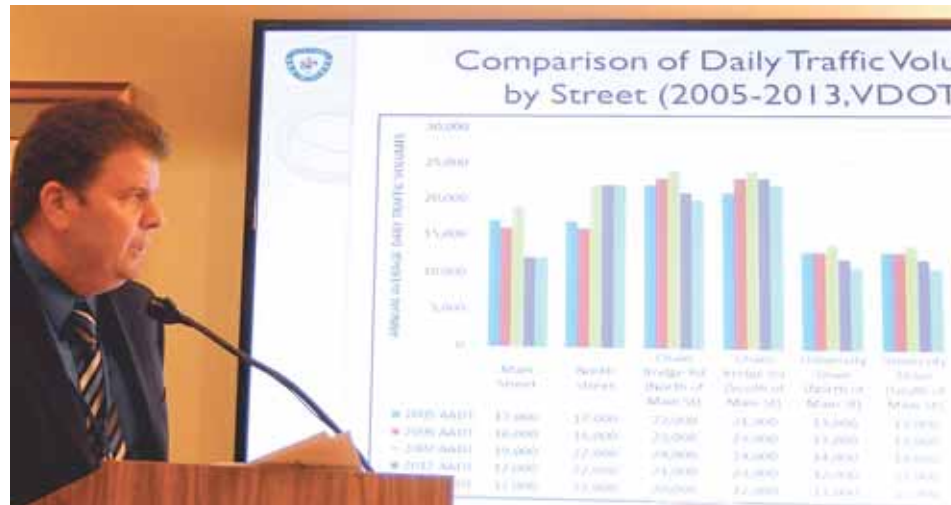
"We looked at nine intersections in the Old Town area, which is primarily business and commercial uses surrounded by residential," he said. "And a significant amount of [those] uses have come online [since the switch]."

Silverman said they examined five or six years of data and discovered that daily traffic counts on the streets – especially Main Street – generally went down 10-15 percent. North Street was the only exception.

"On North Street, up to 250 pedestrians cross there every hour, so that's a significant increase," he said. "Under the two-way flow, weekday evenings are when most of the traffic is on the road."

Overall, said Silverman, "Things on the current two-way streets are better than predicted and better than they were before – although that could have to do with the decreased traffic volume." However, he also said vehicle speeds in Old Town are up a bit.

**SOME FOUR INTERSECTIONS** had



Paul Silverman discusses the engineering study.

crashes between 2011-14, but the number of accidents has decreased every year. There were a total of 192 accidents over the past 3-1/2 years, but most were property damage only and just five involved pedestrians.

After the two-way conversion, vehicle crashes decreased at the following intersections: North Street and Chain Bridge Road, North Street at University Drive and Main Street at Chain Bridge. "This is a marked improvement in safety," said Silverman.

But crashes at Main Street's intersection with North and West streets more than doubled, from 11 before August 2006 to 24 since then. Crashes also rose at Main Street's intersection with East Street/Old Lee Highway, and at Sager Avenue and University Drive. Collisions not at an intersection also rose, from 18 to 23.

"By and large, bicycles aren't currently accommodated [in Old Town]," said Silverman. "But this area's well-served by transit, adding to the walkability." He said they observed congestion coming into the Old Town area, but believed parking was adequate.

"We counted 30 spaces on one street, but 1,724 off-street spaces, which is more than you'd typically see in a business district," said Silverman. However, those doing the study included spaces at the courthouse, which isn't convenient to all the Old Town

businesses and which could be cost-prohibitive to many people.

Indeed, Councilwoman Nancy Loftus said the "off-street parking number seems large." And that's when Silverman said it included 558 spaces behind Panera, plus the courthouse parking lot, noting that "700 spaces [there] are either severely restricted or not available to everyone."

Councilwoman Ellie Schmidt wondered why traffic volumes in the City were down – "if people stopped coming here, or found other routes to bypass it?" Silverman said that's a question to explore.

"The idea was to make downtown a destination for the businesses," said Councilman David Meyer. "We need an effective balance between traffic flow and pedestrian safety. And we need to set realistic goals for downtown and do our best to effectively manage the traffic."

Schmidt said one of the measures of the success of the traffic-flow switch should also be "more success for the downtown businesses." She then said she'd like to see this information.

**OVERALL**, though, said Mayor Scott Silverthorne, "To me, it seems like this change was successful. Pedestrian safety and accident rates are hard things to argue with."



Dort Duffy

## Dort Duffy, 81, of Fairfax City, Dies

Loving wife, mother and friend to many, Dort Duffy, of Fairfax, passed away peacefully on Jan. 1, 2015. She was born in Troy, Ohio to parents Eugene and Carrie Brown. She graduated from Troy High School and went to work at Ohio Bell. She married her high school sweetheart Dennis in 1954. She was a resident of Fairfax City for over 50 years.

### OBITUARY

For many years, most in the D.C. area knew her as Duffy the Clown. Whether it was a birthday party, corporate event or leading the Fairfax City 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade she was a person that brought joy and laughter to many. She was an avid Washington Nationals Fan and a lifelong Ohio State Buckeye fan. She will certainly be cheering loudly on Jan. 12 when the Buckeyes beat the Ducks of Oregon.

She devoted her life to her children, gardens and her beloved City of Fairfax. She is survived by two children: Casey Duffy, and Kelly (Jeff) Duffy-Bassett; 4 grandchildren: Patrick, Kate, Emily, Dennis, and her brother, Richard Brown. She is predeceased by her husband, Dennis Duffy, who passed away in 1983.

Family will receive friends on Friday, Jan. 9, 2015 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Everly Funeral Home, 10565 Main Street, Fairfax. A memorial service will be held at 6 p.m. in the chapel. Inurnment will be at Fairfax City Cemetery at a later date.

## Christmas Comes to the Hanley Shelter

Police officers from the Fair Oaks District Station, plus students from Chantilly and Centreville high schools, helped bring Christmas to the Katherine Hanley Family Shelter. On Dec. 19, they brought new, unwrapped toys to the Fairfax shelter, which serves mothers and young children.

Participating were 30 members of Chantilly's Photography Club and their teacher/advisor, Betty Simmons; five members of Centreville's First Responders Support Club, which supports local fire and police stations; and six members of Centreville's UNICEF Club, which raises money for that organization.

The event also included a party with refreshments. While the shelter parents

picked out presents for their children, some of the students helped wrap them. Meanwhile, other students did holiday-themed crafts projects with the children and took photos of them while they sat on Santa's lap. Playing the role of Santa was MPO Wayne Twombly of the Fair Oaks District Station.

**Chantilly and Centreville high school students, teacher Betty Simmons (kneeling on left) and MPO Wayne Twombly (kneeling on right) brought joy to the Hanley Shelter children.**



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

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**21 Announcements** **21 Announcements**

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON  
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE PERMIT  
PUBLIC HEARING  
TOWN OF CLIFTON PLANNING COMMISSION  
JANUARY 19, 2015**

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Planning Com-  
mission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 19,  
2015 at 7:30 P.M. at the Acacia Lodge Hall, 7135 Main Street,  
Clifton, VA 20124 to consider the amendment of the special  
use permit of Trattoria Villagio, located at 7145 Main Street, to  
include and authorize the use of outdoor music, specifically  
sound (music) that will be distributed via Trattoria Villagio's out-  
door wall mounted and rock speakers, located within the con-  
trolled area of the patio, and to be played/heard at a controlled  
decibel level no greater than 70 dBA. The application for  
the proposed amendment to Trattoria Villagio's special use  
permit, is available for review and downloading on the Town's  
website at www.clifton-va.com and a hard copy may be exam-  
ined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA,  
20124. All interested parties are invited to attend  
and express their views with respect to the requested  
amendment to the Trattoria Villagio's special use  
permit, to authorize outdoor music.

**IMPROVEMENTS** **IMPROVEMENTS**

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**21 Announcements** **21 Announcements** **21 Announcements**

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## 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.

### ONGOING

**Volunteer Fairfax** seeks individuals, families, youth and corporate groups for service opportunities at a variety of nonprofit agencies. One-time special events or ongoing activities are available at www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

**Singers Wanted for the Celebration Singers.** The women's show choir is interested in new talent to perform at various Northern Virginia community sites. Practices are Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in Burke. Contact Gayle Parsons, 703-644-4485 or email gparsons3@cox.net.

**Online Scavenger Hunt.** Visit Fairfax tasks those interested in becoming "citizen ambassadors" to the county (those informed on fun, creative weekend outings in the area) to find two Fairfax County Ambassador icons hidden throughout the fxva.com website in order to join the ambassador team; those who find all five hidden pins will receive a complimentary gift. www.fxva.com/online-ambassador.

**Senior Fall Prevention Classes.** 1:30-2:30 p.m., at the Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Tuesday and/or Thursday classes in a heated pool designed to work on balance and core muscles for injury prevention. \$10. 703-667-9800.

**American Red Cross CPR, First Aid and AED.** Various times, at 2720 State Route 699, Suite 200, Fairfax. One-year certification, digital or print materials and continued education on Mondays through Thursday and Saturday. \$70-110. www.redcrossna.org.

**Dementia Care Givers Support Groups.** Various times, at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The groups are for those caring for someone with dementia or for those interested in learning more about providing care giving to a person with a disorder that affects memory and cognition and may impact behavior and physical abilities. 703-451-8626 or Eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

### SATURDAY/JAN. 10

**ADHD in the Workplace: Hot Topics on a Cold Day.** 9 a.m. Mason Enterprise Center, 4031 University Dr., Fairfax (Conference Rooms). Important discussion topics with local professionals related to the impacts of ADHD and the need for planning and strategies in career selection and workplace success. Pre-registration discount \$5; at the door fee \$10. More information at www.adhdnova.org or email adhdgrp@Verizon.net.

### THURSDAY/JAN. 15

**Are You 50 or Better?** 12-2 p.m. Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main Street, Fairfax. Join in for the next Lunch N' Life sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke on Thursday. The Program will feature the Tallwood Trio with singer, Nancy Riley with music from The Great American Song Book. For reservations, call Faye Quesenberry, 703-620-0161, by Jan. 9. The cost is \$10; checks payable to SCFB. If Fairfax County schools are closed due to weather, reservations will be credited to May's Lunch N' Life. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office 703-323-4788. See www.scfbva.org for more information.

### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 21

**Is Forgetfulness a Problem?** 1:30 p.m. Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. What is normal aging versus dementia? When is it time to seek help? A discussion on signs of dementia and testing currently available. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP and for more information.

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