

Burke CONNECTION

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Robinson senior Chris White (32) scored four goals
against Dominion on March 21.

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PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission held its first meeting March 23 at the county government center.



Commission members Sal Culosi (left), father of Dr. Salvatore “Sal” Culosi Jr., who was killed by a Fairfax County Police officer, and Nicholas Beltrante (right), executive director of the Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability, attend the first meeting of the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

‘A Way for Something Good’

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

While several other members of the recently created Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission stated their general intent to listen and learn and help, Salvatore Culosi had a more specific request.

“My son would still be alive today,” Culosi said, “but for 2006 Fairfax County policies to routinely use SWAT and aggressive procedures against citizens certified to be low risk.”

Culosi’s son Dr. Salvatore “Sal” Culosi Jr. was killed by a Fairfax County Police officer Jan. 24, 2006 outside his Fair Oaks townhouse. Culosi Sr. told other members of the commission that he was told by then-Fairfax County Police Chief and current deputy county executive David M. Rohrer that use of force policy changes had been made since his son’s shooting. During his introduction at the commission’s first meeting on March 23 at the Fairfax County Government Center, Culosi said he has yet to receive a list of the changes. But, he said, the members of the commission, created by Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and endorsed by the rest of the board, should have that list as they proceed with developing recommendations for further policy changes.

“I want to assuage the public this commission is not a political cover,” Culosi said.

Bulova later responded that the information Culosi referred to would be provided to the commission.

WITH MORE THAN 35 MEMBERS, comprising citizens, legal experts, academics and representatives from the media and law enforcement, the commission is approaching the size of the Virginia Senate, which has 40. Bulova compared the “not too large” size to previous commissions created to review redistricting and a meals tax.

While members repeatedly commented on the “diversity” of the commission in terms of experience and expertise, Great Falls resident Jerry Santos was critical of other imbalances. “The optics are bad,” he said, observing that of the 30-plus members, less than a third are female and the majority are middle-aged Caucasian men. “I’m the only Hispanic in the room,” he said. “It’s outrageous, them throwing out the word diversity.”

The commission was created amid a swell of media and public attention to the case of John Geer, a Springfield man who was shot dead by Fairfax County Police Officer Adam Torres on Aug. 29, 2013. Details of the shooting, including the name of the officer, were kept hidden from the public and the Geer family, until Jan. 30, 2015.

The commission, Bulova reiterated, was set up to review the police department’s policies for use of force and release of information compared with best practices in other jurisdictions, and to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for potential changes.

“We are not investigators,” Bulova reminded the commission members. But hopefully, she said, “this is a way for something good to come out of something tragic.”

Jeff Stewart, a close friend of Geer’s who witnessed the shooting and said he was contacted by Bulova for the commission at the beginning of the selection process, said he is hoping for a “positive and constructive” process. Stewart added he would “like to see independent oversight” of the police department by citizens “at the very least. I hope that can come about in a timely manner.”

Bulova set a deadline for handing over recommendations for policy changes to the

Emotional beginning for Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.



Commission chair Michael Hershman, right, and Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova speak at the first meeting of the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, with former Commonwealth Attorney Robert Horan.

use of force, communication and co-operation policies, recruitment and vetting of officers and the Crisis Intervention Team. Chairs of the subcommittees will have the authority to appoint additional citizens to be part of those groups, and their meetings will also be open to the public.

The next public meeting of the commission will be April 27 in rooms 9 and 10 of the Fairfax County Government Center, beginning at 7:30, and is open to the public. The April meeting will be “foundational” with regards to establishing the subcommittees and their objectives, and answering the question “Why we’ve found ourselves in this position.”

“I want to assuage the public this commission is not a political cover.”

— Salvatore Culosi

Commission member Lt. Col. Tom Ryan, deputy chief of police for police administration, said, “Our organization is a learning organization. There’s still room to be better and learn where we’ve gone wrong. I come here with an open mind.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION on the commission and to find a full list of commissioners and meeting schedule, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission. Questions for the commission chair Michael Hershman or requests to be involved with the work of the subcommittees can be directed through Bulova’s office, by calling 703-324-2321 (TTY 711) or emailing chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Armed with Information

League of Women Voters hosts forum on firearms, domestic violence and suicide.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Among intimate partner homicides in Fairfax County in 2009 and 2010, firearms were the fatal weapon 60 percent of the time, nearly double the next closest implement: knives. Fairfax County domestic violence coordinator Sandra Bromley shared this and further information at an information forum on gun use in domestic violence and suicide held at Pohick Library on March 22.

Having firearms in the house, Bromley's presentation continued, raises the chances of lethal to non-lethal violence taking place by 6.1 to 1.

Bromley also highlighted a distinction between federal and state law regarding limiting domestic violence offenders' access to firearms, primarily whether misdemeanor criminals or people qualified for a protective order can pos-

ses, ship, transport or receive any firearm or ammunition.

Also on the panel were Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services prevention manager Jesse Ellis and Fairfax County Police West Springfield precinct crime prevention officer MPO James T. Frey.

THE FORUM was moderated by Kristin A. Goss, associate professor of public policy and political science at Duke University and author of "Disarmed: The Missing Movement for Gun Control in America" and "The Gun Debate: What Everyone Needs to Know" (with Philip J. Cook).

"This public forum grew organically out of the study that we conducted on the progress that Fairfax County has made in serving people at risk from domestic violence or suicide," said League of Women Voters member Sidney Johnson, who was on the committee that helped organize the forum.

"We felt that the public needs to know that law enforcement and the mental health and social service agencies are working to become more efficient and effective in coordinating their responses and educating the public," Johnson continued.

One of those partnerships is between the Fairfax County Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services and Police Department, which Bromley explained worked together on a Lethality Assessment Protocol to screen for high-danger victims of domestic violence and help refer them to services.

A main theme of all the speakers was encouraging the citizens in attendance to spread the information shared that afternoon and encourage others to educate themselves.

An average of 47 percent of homicides in 2009 and 2010 involved homicides — people who know about threats of violence to



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

(From left) Moderator Kristin A. Goss, Fairfax County domestic violence coordinator Sandra Bromley, Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services prevention manager Jesse Ellis, and Fairfax County Police West Springfield precinct crime prevention officer MPO James T. Frey hold a public information forum on firearm safety and suicide and violence prevention at the Pohick Regional Library.

someone in a relationship but decided not to intervene — according to Bromley's presentation.

"You can become our community bystanders," Bromley said. "Tell them you're concerned for their safety."

Opening up communication was also a marching order from Jesse Ellis, who spoke to the deadly connection between mental illness, access to the means to kill oneself and people simply avoiding hav-

ing a direct dialogue with someone who may be exhibiting risk factors.

"How do we reduce the stigma around them?" said Ellis. "Thirty percent of youth in Fairfax County have been identified as having depression symptoms," cutting across demographics and economic levels. Though he also explained on average, actual suicide

SEE FORUM, PAGE 7



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News

From left — Greg Deibler, VRE manager of Safety and Security; Sonya Proctor, TSA division director; John Cook, VRE operations board chairman; and Doug Allen, CEO of VRE.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Virginia Railway Express Receives 'Gold Standard' Security Rating

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has awarded the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) and four other rail and mass transit agencies with the 2014 "Gold Standard" — the administration's highest security rating. TSA Division Director Sonya Proctor presented VRE the award at the VRE Operations Board meeting in Woodbridge. The ratings are part of TSA's 2014 Baseline Assessments for Security Enhancement program, which involves a voluntary review of various security measures ranging from security plans and training to public outreach efforts and background check programs.

The five agencies to achieve the rating were VRE, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, MTA Long Island Rail

Road, Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority and Hillsborough Area Regional Transit. "VRE is to be commended for its commitment and hard work this level of achievement requires and for their continued dedication to ensure the security of travelers," said TSA Acting Administrator Melvin Carraway in a letter read by Sonya Proctor. Doug Allen, CEO of VRE stated, "It is a high honor for VRE to be awarded TSA's 'Gold Standard' for our comprehensive security efforts. VRE is proud of the commuter rail service we provide and our focus on safety and security. While we are excited about this recognition, we will continue to review our system to keep pace with the changing security landscape."

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The multipurpose room at the Burke Center Library.



PHOTOS BY DOMINIQUE ESCALERA/THE CONNECTION

Friends of Burke Centre Library Host Book Sale

Friends of Burke Centre Library hosted the Spring Used Book Sale over the last weekend. Donated books were on sale from Wednesday to Saturday. On the last day of the sale, Saturday, shoppers could shop by the bag. One paper grocery bag filled with books was \$5 dol-

lars and all other books were 50 percent off. All proceeds from the sale benefit the Burke Centre Library programming and general enhancement of the Fairfax County Library system.

— DOMINIQUE ESCALERA

VIEWPOINTS

What were you looking for at the Used Book Sale?

— DOMINIQUE ESCALERA

Mary Albanese, retired school administrator of Springfield:

"I'm looking for children's books in particular (for her grandchildren). Their mom's spring break got canceled, but their school still has a break so they are staying with me for a week." (She chose six spring themed kids books to add to her large collection.)



Joy Whittington, of Burke, the Book Sale chair for the Friends of Burke Centre Library (acting as cashier on Saturday):

"I love the fact that people love to read and this is a fabulous way to support the library. On the last day we do a bag sale, a paper bag full of books for \$5."



Helen Huang, of Fairfax, attends book sales very often looking for books for her kids:

"To my surprise they like biography books, like Helen Keller, said Huang who picked up kids books, and academic activity books. "I grew up in Taiwan, the books are an education for them and myself."



Gabrielle Williams, a stay-at-home mom, of Burke:

"My 3-year-old son likes anything I read to him and I'm looking for non-fiction books about science and nature for my 8-year-old daughter." Williams also picked up books for her nieces, nephews and her mother-in-law who is a preschool teacher. "I already came on Wednesday, but I have two bags today. You really can't beat \$5 for a bag of books."

Kira Hutchinson of Springfield, a scientist with the Army:

"I love books about cooking, business and the military." Hutchinson teaches a critical thinking class and searched for materials for discussion. "Books make people think and we need people to think. It brings a different perspective, environment and value to a reader." Hutchinson and her friend drove away with the trunk and back seat full of used books.



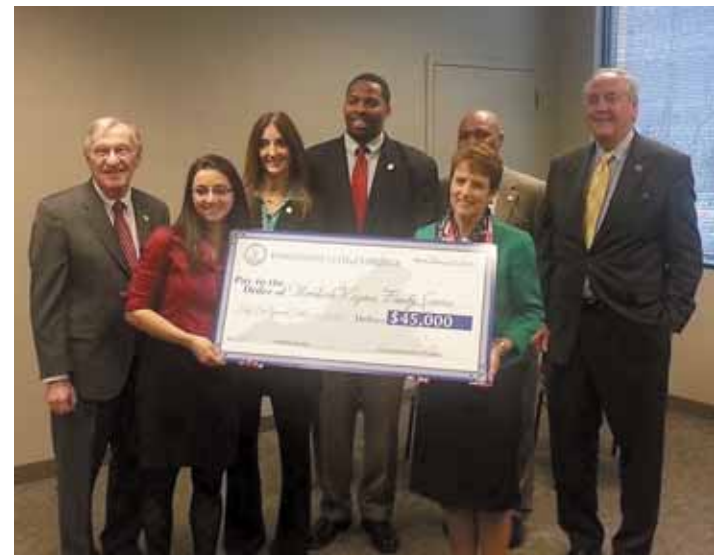
Jim Herald, a retired government contractor of Springfield:

"I haven't seen one of these in about 30 years," Herald said, finding the old manual among the military books. "I was an operations specialist in the Navy and we would study for our advancement test," he said. "It's really funny because this is totally useless now but it used to be high tech."



Annabelle, 7, Violet, 2, and Olivia Moran, 7, visited the book sale with their grandfather Jay Levinson of Burke:

"The older girls can read the books by themselves now, but Violet will come over to us with a book to be read aloud. This was their first visit to the Burke Centre Library. We think that reading helps with their language skills," Levinson said.



Northern Virginia Family Service Receives a Grant

Last week, Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) and State Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) joined Secretary of Commerce, Maurice Jones and Delegates Ken Plum (D-36) and Michael Futrell (D-2) to announce that Northern Virginia Family Service's Lending Circles program received a \$45,000 grant from the Governor for nonprofits to develop and test an innovative approach to service delivery in Virginia. Northern Virginia Family Service, in Oakton, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to helping vulnerable children and families on their road to independence.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Police Investigating Reported Assault of Two Mongolian Students

Two students from Mongolia were reportedly given alcohol and sexually assaulted in a Burke area house on March 8, according to Fairfax County Police.

No charges have been filed as police investigate the account of the 20- and 31-year-old women. While looking for job opportunities at the Ballston Commons Mall in Arlington, they were approached and directed to a house-cleaning job in Burke.

The women reported the incident to police and their embassy after being treated for injuries at a hospital.

Police are asking anyone with information, or who was approached in a similar situation, to contact Detective DeCoster at 703-246-4524 or email at Darrin.Decoster@Fairfaxcounty.gov.

—TIM PETERSON

Classes Canceled after Bomb Threat at Lake Braddock

Lake Braddock Secondary School staff received a bomb threat via email, according to the school and Fairfax County Public schools representative John Torre.

Police were notified of the threat at 2 a.m. Monday morning and deployed K-9 units and other officers to search the school.

Classes were initially delayed two hours, but to give the teams more time to canvas the building, school was canceled for the remainder of the day.

The search teams found nothing to substantiate the threat and the building was deemed safe for occupancy by 10 a.m., Torre said. After school and evening activities were scheduled to proceed as normal.

—TIM PETERSON

Del. Filler-Corn to Hold Office Hours

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) will hold March office hours at Panera Bread, 6230 Rolling Road, West Springfield, 10 – 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 29. No appointment necessary.

News



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Del. Vivian Watts (D-39) left and South Run Oaks resident George Korte (right) talk after the public forum on firearm safety and violence prevention held at the Pohick Regional Library.

Forum Highlights Firearms Safety

FROM PAGE 4

rates for ages 10 to 19 fall below those for people 20 to 24 and the highest group, 60 and over.

Regardless of age, Ellis said, "A big piece of this is talking about it."

Frey stressed the four cardinal rules of gun safety that he was drilled on when he joined the police department 27 years ago: Always assume a gun is loaded, don't aim at anything you're not prepared to kill, don't keep your finger on the trigger until you're ready to fire and know your target and what's around it.

He also expressed the importance of being a responsible gun owner, knowing the cardinal rules and being a responsible parent when it comes to educating children on firearm safety and following up for more information if they spend time at a home with firearms in it.

"If we can get some kids talking about it," Frey said, "that can go the whole way up into adulthood."

South Run Oaks resident George Korte attended the meeting for more information on legislation

that might affect him as a gun owner.

"I support the objectives announced today," he said, "But I'm disappointed there was no literature on the proposed wording in the law. How would it be enforced?"

Del. Vivian Watts (D-39), who sits on the Virginia General Assembly Criminal Law subcommittee, said she came to the forum to get an overview on procedures and protocols for dealing with gun-related and domestic violence. "We've come a long way on treating domestic violence," she said, and highlighted the "importance of getting out" information on responsible gun ownership.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on the Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofw. More information about youth suicide prevention training available through the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/at-risk. Additionally, you can contact Sandy Bromley at sandy.bromley@fairfaxcounty.gov.



Fairfax County Police West Springfield precinct crime prevention officer MPO James T. Frey explains principles of firearm safety at a public information forum held at the Pohick Regional Library.

PHOTO GALLERY! "Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

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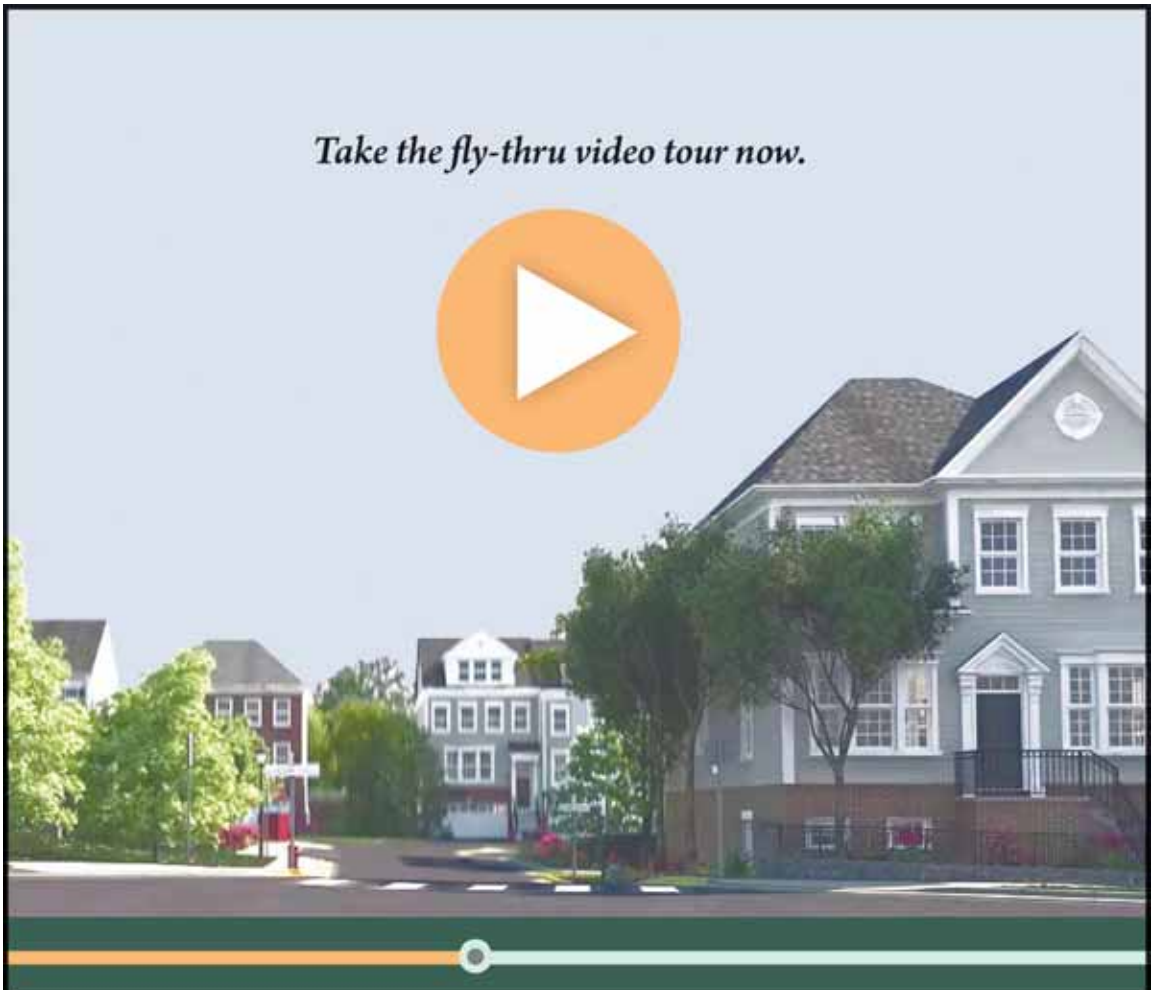


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OPINION

Housing and Health

BY DAVID LEVINE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GOOD SHEPHERD
HOUSING AND FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

Many homeless people experience an episode of homelessness because of a chronic physical or mental illness, a disabling injury, or other health issues. Several years ago, the National Alliance to End Homelessness estimated that people living in homeless shelters were more than twice as likely to suffer from an acute medical condition. Many have fallen into homelessness because of repeated failures in their health. The medical bills mount, they can't pay rent, and they end up evicted from their housing.

The link between health and homelessness is no mystery. Recognizing that link, the 100,000 Homes Campaign was a national movement to focus on permanently housing those homeless Americans who face the highest risk of death from living homeless on the streets. In June 2014, the four-year 100,000

COMMENTARY

Homes Campaign had successfully moved 101,628 homeless individuals into permanent housing. As the Campaign reported: "That number represents an estimated annual taxpayer savings of \$1.3 billion and reflects the collective work of 238 U.S. communities who have joined the Campaign"

The Campaign proved that homelessness can be ended. But it also showed that housing is itself a life-saving tool.

Housing provides the supports that many chronically ill and disabled homeless people require for their conditions. With a stable address these homeless people can call home, they can plan their treatments and doctor visits. They can transit from home to treatment centers and back home again without any fear. The neighbor next door will be there to drive them. Their prescription medicines will be available to them in a medicine cabinet in their bathrooms. They have a bed where they can rest after a painful treatment or hospital stay.

So much depends on having a home.

The other link between housing and health comes from the housing itself. According to the Environmental Health Watch (EHW), nearly six million households "live with moderate to severe home health and safety hazards." People living in such housing may experience higher risks of illnesses and injuries from greater exposure to asthma triggers, lead hazards, excess moisture, pest infestations, and toxins.

The financial savings are significant from a basic healthy home. In other words, these savings come from homes that are dry, well-ventilated, pest- and contaminant-free. Healthy homes lead to improved health results. Asthma-related healthcare costs are lower and labor force productivity is greater from such homes. According to EHW estimates, billions are saved from healthy homes in reduced healthcare expenditures.

When anyone considers the link between housing and health, it really comes down to this idea: housing matters for life. It is that critical.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Turning Every Rock For Education Budget

To the Editor:

Fairfax County is cited as having an average household income that is one of the top ten of all the counties and cities in our nation. Yet the proposed budget for the county's fiscal year 2014 reads in part: "We cannot fund all our priorities and investments," and "We have turned over every rock looking for increased savings opportunities."

Clearly they have neglected turning over every rock looking for increased revenue opportunities, and they should have. Increased revenues could be found by increasing the county's real estate tax rate, now at \$1.09 per \$100 of assessed value of properties. Each penny of increase in the tax rate would yield the county an additional \$22.6 million.

By leaving the county tax rate unchanged for another year, we are short-changing our public school students. The teachers for these students have starting salaries that are 3 percent lower than teachers in neighboring counties. This small gap, however, increases to 20.5 percent for teachers with a Masters degree in their tenth year. Difficult to retain the best teachers in these circumstances.

There is another opportunity to be found under another rock in the projected 2014 budget, viz: The meals' tax assessed on meals in restaurants. A tax of a mere 4 pennies on the total dollar expended

by a restaurant patron would yield some \$80,000 to the county's coffers. No one is hurt. Thus, it's politically safe.

In conclusion, it is certainly not too much to ask our community with the 10th highest average income in the US to be a leader of our country in caring for the education of our children. Retaining the best qualified teachers to inspire our children requires us to lead in the salaries for those teachers.

Bob Simon
Reston

A Cornerstone in Danger

To the Editor:

We are a community that values education. We're known nationwide for our world-class education system. And for good reason: with outstanding teachers, motivated students, and active leadership, we have every right to take pride in the top-tier education that our community has asked for. But it scares me, as a student, to think that this cornerstone of our county may be in danger.

For years now, we have been cutting back on our investment in education. Since 2008, Fairfax County Public Schools have lost nearly \$500 million in funding while growing by nearly 22,000 students. With enrollment growing faster than our resources can keep up, this means real cuts in real classrooms are affecting me and my 188,000 colleagues.

It is not just on paper. It touches

every one of us, from kindergarten to adult education. I spent a fair amount of my childhood in a temporary building barely passing as a classroom. I have had to wait in line to get access to a set of four textbooks in a class of nearly 30. I have seen great teachers, the kind who inspire real change and passion for learning in their students, come and go because of the fact that we are no longer competitive for teacher salary. If we settle for less than the best, then we have compromised our community values.

Half of my teachers work multiple jobs. Two years ago, I ran into an old teacher of mine at a restaurant. As I was sitting at the table, she approached me, beaming with joy to see a past student. After a pleasant nostalgic conversation, there was a pause. She produced a pad and pen, and said "By the way, I'll be your server tonight."

It does not have to be this way. By becoming competitive in teacher pay, investing in capital improvement, and allocating meaningful materials to classrooms, we can make strides to improve our system. But this annual battle of the Boards is not sustainable. We need to create a shared partnership and build meaningful progress on the common ground we share. And as community members, it is up to you to bring that message to your supervisors.

Ben Press
Vienna

The writer, age 16, is a junior James Madison High School in Vienna.

There is No 'Away'

To the Editor:

I am dismayed by what my neighbors' put out for "trash." Yes, we all know about Goodwill, Purple Heart, various organizations that collect clothing, kitchen gadgets and other items. We are all pretty good about recycling paper, glass, plastic, and cardboard. But much is put on the curb that is not trash. Below are just a few of what I have seen on the curb side for trash pick-up this past trash day.

A bike; this is one of the worst items to put out with trash. Bikes of the World collects "any serviceable complete (or nearly-complete) bicycle, adult or children's," - See more at: <http://bikesfortheworld.org>.

Wall-to-wall carpet. Here is a link to how the wall-to-wall carpet industry is recycling their products and keeping carpet out of landfills. <http://carpetstowall.com/carpet-recycling-process/>.

A child's dresser. Was it useable? Could wood glue on a drawer or two make it whole? Habitat for Humanity Restore takes would take that dresser, other old furniture, kitchen sinks, bookshelves, old bathtubs, they are easy to call and ask what they take and don't take.

<http://www.habitat.org/restores>

So, as spring "cleaning" arrives and de-cluttering our houses happens, and we "throw away" we need to think first about how to keep items out of the landfill, because there is no away.

Kay Fowler
Herndon

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Ready to Work

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Robinson graduate Jackson Muse was looking for some professional direction. Currently a junior political science major at Shepherd University in West Virginia, he's worked at Barnes & Noble but is potentially interested in counseling for the Fairfax County Park Authority, or helping open the new Wegmans at Hilltop Village Center.

On Saturday, March 21, Muse was one of about 600 high school and college students who attended the community's first job fair and opportunity expo at West Springfield High School.

THE EVENT, organized collaboratively between supervisor Pat Herrity's (R-Springfield) office, the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, West Springfield PTSA and high school leadership organizations, featured nearly 40 companies.

"It's good to see what you might be interested in," said Muse. "I'm a little nervous, I see this as a stepping stone."

From Wegmans, Starbucks and Cafe Rio to the U.S. Army, Great American Restaurants and Greenspring retirement community, vendors represented a wide variety of part time, full time and seasonal work and

West Springfield juniors Emily Simpson (left) and Maddie Blesi (right) fill out job applications for Cafe Rio at the first job fair and opportunity expo held at their high school.



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

volunteer opportunities. Kingstowne, Alexandria resident Pat Malone helped draw the vendors, visiting 270 businesses in three days.

"It's been overwhelming," said Herrity, commenting that attendance more than tripled the students that pre-registered for the fair. "People getting jobs is what it's all about, starting somewhere."

David Edgington of Herndon attended the fair with his son Cameron and wife Catherine. "It's a good place to feel out what's available," he said. Cameron, a freshman at Langley High School, was the driving force behind coming to the fair.

Despite the pervasiveness of online ap-

plications, students and employers alike said they still value live interaction in the hiring process.

"It's about getting to meet face-to-face versus online," said West Springfield senior Nicole Verdin. "It's important to see potential employees making the effort to come in and make first impressions." Verdin helped out at the event as part of the school's student government and DECA organization.

Nancy-jo Manney is executive director of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce. "I'm very pleased, it's been very organic and different from traditional fairs," she said. "The vendors were prepared for

this to be high school-focused." Companies not only interviewed and hired new employees, but offered interview tips and job-seeking advice.

"We're connecting to guests from around this area, looking for great applicants, people who want to further themselves," said Alexandra Badell, a restaurant manager with Great American Restaurants. "And we're helping with interview preparation, setting them up for success."

THOUGH MANY of the employers were looking for applicants aged 16 or older, Wegmans and Greenspring Village were among a few businesses with opportunities for younger students.

"It gave me some hope that people are willing to accept me," said Duke Ellington School of the Arts freshman and Springfield resident Alexis McGee. She has done some volunteering and wants to make sure she stays busy over the summer. "I'll be sitting here like, I'm free," she said.

Greenspring service manager Nahid Nasseh said they hired 10 new employees from the fair. They were impressed by the personality and communications skills of students who made time on the weekend to come out to the fair, "ones that really wanted the job," she said.

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VIEWPOINTS

Where do you go for fun and recreation in the Spring?

Interviews conducted by Steve Hibbard at Fairfax City Library and Pohick Library in Burke.

David Barrera of Burke:

“I like to ride my bike along the Burke Center Parkway, Ox Road, Old Keene Mill Road and Rolling Road.”



Amy Poe of Lorton:

“It's time to start watching baseball; we're going to be on the ballfields. And running in Burke Lake Park for the Healthy Strides Race sponsored by Fairfax County.”



John O'Malley of Springfield:

“I like the South Run Rec Center to play racquetball and basketball. I also like Hooes Road Park for walking the dog and playing tennis.”



Kathy Keys, formerly of Burke, now living in Manassas:

“Burke Lake is amazing. It's a beautiful lake. It also has nice trails. I also like the putt-putt golf in Manassas. I take my grandchildren to downtown D.C. to the Natural History Museum and the Air and Space Museum in Chantilly, which is free from 4-6 p.m.”



Caitlin Gross of Lorton:

“I like to go to the South Run Rec Center playground.”



Angie Wu of Springfield:

“I like to go to Burke Lake Park and walk around the neighborhood of Orange Hunt.”



Alex Pena of Springfield:

“I like the South Run Rec Center pool and gym as well as the basketball, field and soccer center.”



Eduardo Ugarte of Springfield:

“We take our walks along Lake Accotink.”



Sarah Ugarte of Springfield:

“I like to play lacrosse at Cardinal Forest through SYC.”



Wyland Leadbetter of Springfield:

“We go outside and walk a couple of miles a day and enjoy the warm weather.”



Fashion, Music and Silent Auction

BY STEVE HIBBARD
CENTRE VIEW

The 35th annual Fashion Show, Luncheon, and Si-lent Auction sponsored by the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary Fairfax County Corps will be held on Friday, April 17 at 10:30 a.m. at the Waterford at Fair Oaks (across from Fair Oaks Mall). Fashions will be presented by Lord & Taylor.

The event features a social and silent auction preview at 10:30 a.m.; a welcome at 11:15 a.m.; entertainment provided by singer Elisabeth Turchi, who will sing Broadway tunes, opera and jazz at 11:30 a.m.; a luncheon catered by the Waterford consisting of American garden salad, chicken Wellington, medley of fresh vegetables, and chocolate mousse dessert at 12 p.m.; and the fashion show at 12:50 p.m. About 350 people are expected to attend.

pected to attend.

“This is my fifth year of doing it and each year we are growing,” said Master of Cermonies Angela Ganey. “This is the biggest fundraiser of the year; the same people are coming back and everything we do is for the people of Fairfax who are needy.”

“With the theme, ‘Step Into Spring and Do the Most Good,’ it's a lovely gathering and a chance to contribute and have an enjoyable time and be with friends and

see the Spring fashions from Lord & Taylor,” said Meg McLane, co-president of the Women's Auxiliary of the Fairfax Corps who's in charge of the models.

Tickets are \$40 (\$10 is tax-deductible). To purchase tickets or donate gift certificates and merchandise for the silent auction, contact event coordinator Angela Ganey at angelaganey@verizon.net or 703-250-5809.



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SPRING FUN



From left: Mary Bresnahan, Barbara O'Brien and Nancy Kay from Fairfax, have been friends for many years. O'Brien has six great-grandchildren.



PHOTOS BY TERRANCE MORAN/THE CONNECTION

From left: Judy Caddel of Burke, Jane Wiedhahn of Annandale, and Betsy Jouannet of Fairfax, getting ready for lunch and the fashion show.

The Shepherd's Center Hosts Spring Fashion Show

The Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke held its first fashion show for the fashion conscious women of Fairfax and Burke. The spring outfits were provided by Draper and Damon's of Fairfax and the models are members of the Shepherd Center community. With piano accompaniment by Sylvia Mulherin the models had numerous outfit changes and delighted the more than 130 attendees.

Prior to the lunch catered by St. John Davis Center, a dozen vendors showcased their offerings for Shepherd's Center guests. The vendors included, Avon, Beading for Haiti, Pampered Chef, Mystical Rose Flowers and Silpada Jewelry. Their tables were

filled with browsers and customers. The Shepherd's Center provides life-enriching programs for older adults in the Fairfax-Burke community with the goal of enabling them to live independently. In the past year, the Shepherd's Center provided over 1,000 rides for their over 800 clients. The Shepherd's Center provides bi-monthly luncheons, learning classes in art, history, health and exercise. In addition, the center helps their clients with shopping, visitation for shut-ins, and monthly meetings for caregivers of dementia patients.

Drivers and office workers are always needed for their medical transportation and companion shopping programs. Contact their office at 703-323-4788.



From the left: Jan Wilcox of Mason Neck, Sharon Holcombe, Gail Calabrese and Ingrid Sides of Fairfax, waiting for the Fashion Show to begin.



Kim Moden, of Fairfax, modeling a spring outfit from Draper and Damon's.



Joanne Dair, of Fairfax, models a pink outfit fit for Easter from Draper and Damon's.



Mary Walher, of Fairfax, models a spring tunic and hat to the guests at Shepherd's Center.

SPRING FUN



PHOTO BY TIM COBURN/COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

George Mason University School of Dance - Dance Company group.

George Mason's Dance Company Presents 2015 Dance Gala Concert

George Mason University's Dance Company presents "2015 Dance Gala Concert" at Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances Friday, March 27 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, March 28 at 8 p.m. with a special pre-performance Gala Dinner Celebration with honorary chair, renowned dancer and chore-

ographer Jacques d'Amboise. Tickets for the performance \$15-\$25. Tickets for the Gala Dinner start at \$150. For tickets call 888-945-2468 or visit George Mason University Center for the Arts Box Office. General information about School of Dance, call 703-993-1114 or visit dance.gmu.edu.

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CALENDAR

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 TUESDAY/ MARCH 31
Art Guild of Clifton Presents
Sandy Mileski, Artist of the Month Exhibit. Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 Main St. Clifton VA., 10am to 9pm daily, 8pm on Sun. Through the medium of painting, this artist is able to express the way she sees the world in a futuristic, surreal, and colorful way. Free While in Clifton, also enjoy our history and ambiance with great food, fine wine, and unique shopping. 703-409-0919 www.artguildofclifton.org and www.thecriftonwineshop.com

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/ MARCH 26-29
Northern Virginia Jewish Film Festival. March 26, 7:30 p.m. March 27, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. March 28, 8:40 p.m. March 29, all day. Angelika Film Center & Cafe, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. Films to be screened include 24 Days, Above and Beyond, Apples from the Desert, Arlo & Julie, Beneath the Helmet: From High School to Home Front, Disobedience: The Sousa Mendes Story, God's Slave, The Green Prince, Kidon, Life as a Rumor, Magic Men, The Outrageous Sophie Tucker, The Prince of Egypt and Touchdown Israel-Tackle Football in the Holyland; plus a live storytelling event by SpeakeasyDC. \$10-24. 703-537-3000.

FRIDAY/MARCH 27
Classic Tales. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Come and join us for Classic Tales. Stories, songs, and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. To register visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>.
Bricks 4 Kidz. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn, build and play with LEGO bricks. Content designed by engineers and architects, with exciting themes such as space, inventions, and amusement parks. Age 5-10. To register visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/ MARCH 27-28
Children's Consignment Sale. Friday: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Saturday: 9 a.m. - noon. Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Make some extra cash by selling your children's outgrown (but in good condition) clothes, equipment/toys, and maternity wear while helping other parents outfit their growing children. Sellers receive 60 percent of the sales price (seller determined) and the UMW receives 40 percent to support Local and national charities.

2015 Dance Gala Concert. GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. This eagerly anticipated annual event showcases an extraordinary repertory company of dancers at the beginning of their professional careers, performing a program of contemporary choreographic masterpieces by Andrea Miller, Alejandro Cerrudo and Ulysses Dove. Recent alumni of the Mason Dance Company have been invited to join some of the world's most prestigious dance companies, including Mark Morris Dance Group, Limón Dance, Elisa Monte Dance and Pascal Rioult's company, RIOULT.

Photography as Zen Art. 9:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Green Spring Gardens,

Mark your calendars: The Virginia Historic Garden Tour - an 8-day event that stretches across the Commonwealth, where each spring visitors are welcomed to Virginia's most beautiful gardens, homes and historic landmarks. The Clifton and Fairfax Station Garden Tour is on April 21. This self-drive tour features stables, vineyards, a world-class garden, Georgian-revival architecture, and a



PHOTO BY DONNA MOULTON

10,000 square-foot contemporary home with a vanishing edge swimming pool - four private homes with gardens and two stables in all. Tour ticket includes a tea at the Clifton Presbyterian Church. Advance ticket sales: \$30. www.vagardenweek.org.

4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Enhance your photographic vision and produce more meaningful images using Green Spring Gardens as inspiration. This program incorporates several Zen creative practices with photography basics to enable you to find beauty wherever you are and capture images that reflect your true nature. Students must bring a digital camera, tripod, and have a means of sending digital images. There are four 3.5-hour lessons in this program. The class meets on March 28, April 11, April 18 and April 25. \$133 for 4 lessons. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 231 0901 or call 703-642-5173.

Young Speakers Club Workshop. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn the art of public speaking with an experienced instructor from the Young Speakers Club of Fairfax. Age 12-18. To register visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>.

Lego Contest Awards Ceremony. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Lego Awards ceremony with light refreshments. All Lego contest participants will receive a contest ribbon. The Category prize is a LEGO store gift certificate. All Ages. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>.

Creative Writers Club. 2:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Do you enjoy writing fiction, poetry, non-fiction and/or memoirs? Join us for sharing, discussion and feedback of works in progress. Teen volunteer facilitates. Age 12-18. To register visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 28-29
Barrel Tasting Weekends. 12-5 p.m. Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Join us for our annual barrel tasting series. Taste the future of Paradise Springs directly from barrel along side our winemaking team. Learn the differences in wood sourcing, technique in fermentation, and how different vineyards / barrel makers can affect the outcome of a wine. Tasting includes 8-9 wines with a few small food pairings. No reservations needed. First come first serve. Tastings will start every 20 min from 12pm-5pm. Limited to 8-10 people per group. \$25, \$20 for wine club members. 703-830-9463.

Bunny Paws! Saturday, 8:30-9:30 a.m. Sunday, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Fair Oaks Mall, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. Bring your dog or cat to visit and have photos taken with the Easter Bunny. Dogs and cats must be on a leash or in a carrier and up-to-date on shots. Please use mall entrance next to Todai restaurant. <http://www.shopfairoaksmall.com/events>.

Hoppity Easter Weekend. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Fair Oaks Mall, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. Bring your little ones for free face painting, balloon creations, spring crafts, and more! In Grand Court West.

SUNDAY/MARCH 29
Arts and Crafts Day at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 1-4 p.m. Suitable for all ages involving the themes of the Museum - Railroading, the Civil War and local history. 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Admission is free to Museum members and children 4 and under; \$2 children 5-15 and \$4 adults 16 and older. www.fairfaxstation.org, 703-425-9225.
Burke Historical Society Meeting. 4:30 p.m. Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 6304 Lee Chapel Road, Burke. Jon Vrana, president of the Burke Historical Society, will give a presentation entitled, "Times, Toils, and Tribulations at the Old Capitol Prison."
Glow-in-the-Dark Easter Egg Hunt for Teens. 6-8:30 p.m. Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. 703-971-5151.

SUNDAY/MARCH 29-APRIL 5
Easter Bunny Photos. Daily. Fair Oaks Mall, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. A sure sign of spring is the arrival of the Easter Bunny, and those on the bunny trail will soon find him happily settled in his new home in Grand Court West. The Easter Bunny eggcitedly awaits visitors in Bunnyville, a charming, three-dimensional Bunny town featuring the Kid Junction Home of the Ultimate Party Experience, Hare Salon, and 24 Carrot Bank. The last stop in Bunnyville is a professional photo with the Easter Bunny in front of his Bunny House. Customers will receive a \$10 or \$20 card from Shutterfly with the purchase of select photo packages (\$22-44), and all children receive a small gift from the

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

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PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX BAND ASSOCIATION

Members of the City of Fairfax band.

Fairfax Band Gives Their 'Regards to Broadway'

Broadway's coming to Fairfax. On March 28, at 7:30 p.m. the City of Fairfax Band (CFB), with vocals by The Mason Cabaret, presents a "Give Our Regards to Broadway" program at Fairfax High School (3501 Rebel Run). (Tickets and information: www.fairfaxband.org)

The CFB, local musicians nationally recognized for excellence, will perform an all-Broadway program featuring now-playing tunes as well as medleys from the Great White Way's golden age. Concertgoers will hear selections from "Wicked: the Untold Story of the Witches of Oz," still playing to worldwide acclaim. It is the Tony Award-winning dark-themed take on "The Wizard of Oz" story. Also on the bill is a suite from Leonard Bernstein's classic musical "Candide." His music also will be heard in a medley of tunes from timeless Jerome Robbins-directed/choreographed shows including

Bernstein's "West Side Story," Stephen Sondheim's "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," and "Fiddler on the Roof" by Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick.

The Mason Cabaret, twelve talented and dynamic singers from George Mason University's School of Theater, will join the band to perform melodies from popular shows including "Aquarius" ("Let the Sun Shine In"), "Les Miserables" ("On my Own"), and the musical comedy "Spamalot" ("The Song That Goes Like This").

The concert's conductor is CFB music director Robert Pouliot. He was recently selected for this year's John Mason Arts Achievement Award from the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts.

Tickets for unreserved seats are just \$15 for adults or \$10 for seniors age 60 and over. They are available in advance at (www.fairfaxband.org) or at the door. Parking is free.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

Bunny just for visiting! Locally presented by Kid Junction.

TUESDAY/MARCH 31

The Slime Show. 4:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Eric Energy will perform eye catching science experiments about atoms, molecules and polymers. See long chained molecules, melting styrofoam and, of course, slime! Age 5-12. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/rb/>.

Homework Help. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Get help with assignments from adult/teens volunteers.

THURSDAY/APRIL 2

Slam Poetry Cafe. 6 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Submit your poem NLT March 31 to slampoetrycafe@gmail.com. If you don't want to perform, no problem.

Come and listen. Coffee, tea and refreshments too.

SATURDAY/APRIL 4

Easter Egg Hunt. 9-10:30 a.m. Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St, Springfield. The event begins with breakfast, a craft, and concludes with the Easter Egg Hunt.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 8

Benefit Fashion Show. 11 a.m. Springfield Golf and Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Women's Association of Northern Virginia is hosting a Benefit Fashion Show and Luncheon featuring Lord and Taylor's spring fashions. All proceeds will go to Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program in Clifton. NVTRP provides equine-assisted activities to children and adults with disabilities including our military service personnel. Tickets are \$35, and reservations are due by April 4. Please send payment to WANV PO Box 523651 Springfield VA 22152. Please indicate on check Chicken or Filet Mignon.

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April 3 - Good Friday service at 7:30 pm
April 4 - Easter Egg Hunt at 10 am
April 5 - Easter Sunday Celebration at 8:00, 9:30, and 11 am

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Robinson senior Chris White (32) scored four goals against Dominion on March 21.



Senior attackman Chapman Jasien and the Robinson boys' lacrosse team enter the 2015 season as defending 6A state champions.

Confident or Cocky?

Defending champion Robinson boys' lax has high expectations.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Matt Curran was an assistant coach for the Robinson boys' lacrosse program when the Rams won the state championship in 2006. Robinson returned a large portion of its team the following season, leaving Curran and the rest of the coaching staff to manage the egos of a team full of championship-expectant teenagers.

Despite the potential for overconfidence, Robinson would repeat as state champion in 2007.

Seven years later, Curran, having taken over as Robinson head coach, guided the Rams to the 2014 6A state championship. Many talented athletes returned from that title-winning group, leading to lofty expectations for this year's squad.

"We have so many guys back from that team, that the expectations are high again," Curran said. "... In 2006 and 2007, when I was an assistant on the team, we won it two years in a row and we had 19 seniors on the 2007 team. The expectation was that we were going to win it. We did, but it was definitely a [challenge] trying to keep them confident but not cocky."

"The good thing is I've been in that situation before and it feels very similar [to this season]."

Keeping the Rams' egos in check could prove challenging, even for an experienced coach like Curran.

ON MARCH 21, Robinson scored seven of the game's eight second-half goals en route to an 11-4 victory over Dominion at Langley High School. The win improved the Rams' record to 3-0, including victories over Lake Braddock and C.M. Wright.

"We just have all the confidence in the world right now," Robinson senior attackman Chris White said. "We don't think any team can beat us and until they do, we're on top."



Robinson junior attackman Johnny Daniel scored two goals against Dominion during an 11-4 victory on March 21.

How do the Rams deal with carrying a championship target on their backs?

"We just keep in mind that we're the top team," White said, "and no one can beat us if we play as good as we can."

Sound confident? Cocky?

"We're definitely confident, but we talk almost daily about not getting cocky," said Robinson senior attackman Chapman Jasien, a four-year starter. "That's a hard thing to do after you win a title. We're trying our best to stay modest and keep grinding every week to make sure we get better and better."

After starting 1-3 last season, Robinson won its final 17 games, including victories in the Conference 5, 6A North region and 6A state championship games. Counting the three wins in 2015, the Rams have won 20 straight games.

"We ran into that last year before we even won anything," Curran said about potential over-confidence issues. "These guys

knew that they were going to be good, so they got really cocky early. This year, it's the same kind of thing. I've got to tell them: 'Guys, you're not a good team yet. You will be later on, but right now you're not.' They're probably like, 'You're full of it,' but it's true — they're not yet. They certainly have the capability, [though]. We have the talent."

The Rams definitely have the talent. White scored a team-high four goals during Robinson's victory over Dominion and leads the team with 11 goals through three games.

"Honestly, I think he's the best finisher in the area," Curran said about the 5-foot-9, 160-pound attackman. "He's a three-year starter. He's a scrappy little guy. We don't ask for him to carry too much and drive against his man, but he'll finish and he just gets it done. He's one of those guys that ends up at the end of the day with three, four goals on the scoreboard every time."

Jasien totaled three assists against Dominion and leads the team with five.

Senior long-stick midfielder Jack Rowlett, who will play for the University of North Carolina, is tied for second on the team with five goals.

"In my opinion," Curran said, "Jack is probably the best player in the area, overall."

Junior midfielder Austin Henry, junior attackman Johnny Daniel and senior attackman Thomas Gallogly each scored two goals against Dominion. Senior midfielder Alex Sands added one.

Henry and Daniel each have five goals this season, Gallogly has four and Jasien has three.

Sophomore goalkeeper Matthew Bethard totaled eight saves against Dominion. Junior keeper Ryan Keith leads the team with 13 saves. Curran said he is trying to determine which goalie will start long-term.

Senior defenseman Jude Bukholz is a four-year starter for the Rams.

NEXT UP FOR ROBINSON is a home game against fellow state-power Chantilly at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, March 26. The Chargers have reached the state final in five of the last seven seasons, winning championships in 2008 and 2013.

"Robinson, we have a lot of respect for them," Chantilly defenseman and Ohio State commit Brendan Wallace said after the Chargers beat Herndon 10-1 on Monday, improving their record to 2-0. "They're a good team — they're one of the best teams in the area — but we think we have a pretty good club too."

Whether it's managing player egos or dealing with each opponent trying to knock off the defending state champion, Robinson will face challenges throughout the 2015 season.

But challenges won't stop the Rams from aiming high.

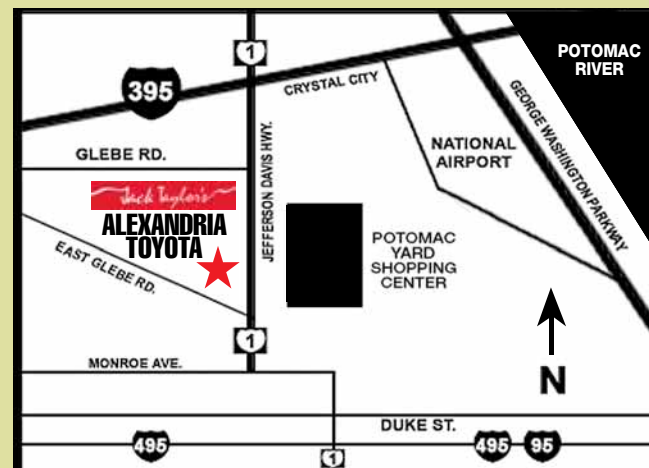
"We're trying to improve as a team [and] individually," Jasien said, "but we want the title again. That's what we're working for."

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Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Planning
Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 31,
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 Clifton General Store / Main Street Pub, located
at 7140 Main Street, to include and authorize an increase in
number of seats, an increase in parking onsite and off-site for
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amendment to Clifton General Store / Main Street Pub's spe-
cial use permit, is available for review and downloading on the
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examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road,
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