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CONNECTION

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PHOTO BY TERRANCE MORAN/THE CONNECTION

South County Closing in on Fundraising Goal for Artificial Turf

South County High School is looking for real green to transform into artificial green. The school plans to replace two natural grass fields — the football stadium and track — with artificial turf that can withstand increased foot traffic and play during rain or snow, and cost less to maintain.

“Bringing these fields to our community is much needed,” said Leah Conte, South County director of student activities. “It will allow use for our community and high school teams, classes, band — so many things that are going to benefit from the multi-purpose surface.”

Whereas with grass the school must limit how much the field is used to preserve plant life, artificial fields are seen as an attractive option because they can be used much more regularly. This would allow area youth groups, such as the South County Athletic Association, and other recreational leagues to take advantage of the facilities.

Fairfax County schools and parks currently have close to 50 rectangular synthetic turf fields.



Two synthetic turf fields are planned to be installed at South County High School this summer.

According to Conte, the grass surfaces at the high school cost between \$50,000 and \$60,000 to maintain each year, while the synthetic fields maintenance should be \$15,000 to \$25,000 per year.

The artificial fields typically

have a 10-year lifespan before they need to be replaced, but the schools account for this by putting money into a fund each year to cover the eventual cost. Even with the replacement fund, Conte said the artificial alternative should

“absolutely” save money in the long term over natural grass.

Cost for the initial installation is estimated at over \$1 million, of which South County is responsible for half while Fairfax County will fund the other half. To cover its

share, the high school has partnered with the South County Athletic Booster Club and South County Athletic Association to raise money through raffles, galas and other activities. The booster club jump-started the TURFSOCO campaign over a year ago with an initial donation of \$50,000.

With an additional pledge from Gold’s Gym in Lorton, South County reached its first major fundraising goal of \$400,000 by Jan. 31, the deadline to move forward with a spring bidding process for contractors. The bid selection should take place in mid-April.

By July, Conte said, they still need to raise another \$75,000 that will help cover the costs of protective netting, new field lines and bleachers. Installation is scheduled to begin in June.

For more information or to contribute to the fundraising effort, visit www.turfsoco.org. A fact sheet explaining more about the synthetic turf used around Fairfax County can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/syntheticurf.htm.

— TIM PETERSON



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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 emailingchairman@fairfaxcounty.gov.



(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.



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.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

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 possess, 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



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.

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 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 having 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 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



Fairfax County domestic violence coordinator Sandra Bromley discusses some of the risk factors and support services available for victims of domestic violence in the county.

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.

NEWS

Del. Albo to Seek Re-election

Del. Dave Albo (R-42) recently announced he had submitted paperwork on March 18 to run in the Republican primary and seek re-election for his seat.



Del. Dave Albo (R-42)

Since 1994, Albo has been a member of the House of Delegates. He currently chairs the House Courts of Justice Committee.

The delegate lives in the South County area with wife Rita and 9-year-old son Ben, though he grew up in West Springfield.

"I decided to run again because I still enjoy helping people where I grew up and have lived for the past 45 years," Albo said in a statement.

At the most recent session of the Virginia General Assembly, Albo championed, or was the chief patron, for legislation including: protecting people from being defamed on the internet, allowing public breast-feeding and decriminalizing the possession and use of Cannabidiol and THC-A oil extracts from marijuana to treat patients with epilepsy.

"One of my proudest achievements," Albo said, "is being on the team that during the Great Recession cut government spending to 2007 levels and saved money for the Rainy Day Fund."

— TIM PETERSON

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FRIDAY/MARCH 27

Ancestors Tutoring. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Sign up for a one-on-one genealogy tutoring session. Adults. To register visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>.

SATURDAY/MARCH 28

Microsoft Word. 2:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Learn the basics of word processing with Microsoft Word. Bring your questions! Adults. To register visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

Vita Tax Assistance. 10 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Tax help. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earn up to \$52K. Adults. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/rb/>.



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NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left — Regis Lacey, principal 1977-1983; Barbara O'Brien, student information assistant for 25 years; and Jane Stephenson, principal 1994-2004.

Gunston Elementary Celebrates 60th Anniversary

On Feb. 13, Gunston Elementary School students, staff, and families celebrated 60 years of education with an afternoon assembly and evening PTA-sponsored dinner and 50s style sock hop. The school opened on Valentine's Day in 1955 and in the past, the Valentine S.C.A. School Anniversary Program was an annual event held each Feb. 14 to commemorate the opening of the school. A student commented in the Gunston Venture, "On Tuesday, Feb. 14, 1966 our annual Valentine-School Anniversary program was held. A king and queen were elected from and by the Sixth Grade with a prince and princess from each classroom...Many groups of students entertained the Royal Court and we feel they did an excellent job."

GUNSTON ELEMENTARY opened its doors on Feb. 14, 1955 because of overcrowding at the former Lorton School. The original building is still located on Lorton Road today. When the old Lorton School closed to students in 1988 with the opening of Silverbrook Elementary, Gunston became the oldest school still in operation in Lorton. Miss Frances Nevitt, who was also principal of Lorton School, and Mrs. Lorraine Buglia, worked together to fulfill the role of principal when Gunston

opened in 1955. Mrs. Buglia became full-time principal in the fall; she was beloved and respected by the community for 22 years. Over the years, other principals have made special contributions to the school. Regis Lacey knew all his students by name and even made house calls if the situation demanded. Bernard Gross was one of the first administrators to see the impact of technology on education; the computer lab, one of the first of its kind in the county is named for him. Elizabeth Henderson established a letter-writing partnership with sailors on the USS Gunston Hall and Gunston students. Jane Stephenson established the current Partners Tutoring Program (now over 20 years old) and the Gunston Hall Partnership. Tonya Cox initiated science partnerships with EnviroSolutions and the Bureau of Land Management and piloted the Japanese Foreign Language Program. JoVon Rogers, Gunston's current principal, received the Nancy Sprague Outstanding First-Year Principal Award and has recently established Summer Reading Nights and STEM Night.

In the early days, school began at 8 a.m. and ended at 3 p.m. Fairs, sixth grade donut sale fundraisers, and field trips were held. School colors were originally blue and

SEE GUNSTON, PAGE 7

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“Pink ladies,” Principal JoVon Rogers and Assistant Principal Kristen Rucinski.

Gunston Celebrates Anniversary

FROM PAGE 6

gold. Staff cooked homemade lunches in the cafeteria. Subjects included math, science, geography, language arts, music, arts, social studies, and health. Popular sports were kickball, softball, and tumbling. The 1965 new physical fitness program included “all of us do exercises together in the cafeteria to our ‘Chicken Fat’ record. On sunny days we go outside for games and to play on the swings, bars, and sliding boards.”

The original structure consisted of a simple L-shaped building with a few classrooms, front office, and cafeteria. The current location of the main entrance with two original halls has remained essentially unchanged. To accommodate student enrollment, several renovations added more classrooms, pods, the current main office, a new library, and gym to the original L-shape, creating the building configuration of today which encircles an enclosed wildlife habitat visible from hallway windows.

Gunston continues to have many dedicated long-time teachers and

staff. Wanda Looney has been on staff at Gunston for 29 years and began as a parent volunteer when her children attended in the 1970’s. Mrs. Fujka, who also began as a parent volunteer, and Mrs. Carr have been teaching at Gunston for 27-28 years. Mr. “Mike” Clay, has been the school custodian for 27 years and went to school here as a first grader. This year, 20 staff members have given 10-25 years of service at the school.

THESE DAYS the kids and families of Gunston School include quite a few Lorton residents who are second generation Gunston students in addition to families new to the area. The many nationalities give the school a diverse mix of cultures to enrich the lives of all students. This year, Gunston revived the Heritage Night, formerly International Night, during which children decorated paper dolls representing many cultures and families celebrated various traditions with food, crafts, and dance.

— ANNE GORHAM

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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://carpetswalltowall.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

Fairfax Station,
Lorton & Clifton
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(Left) Angela Dondero-Pettit, Northern Virginia Educating Youth through Employment program coordinator, talks with Duke Ellington freshman and Springfield resident, Alexis McGee, about the services available through Fairfax County's SkillSource Group.

Ready to Work

Job and opportunity fair held at West Springfield High School.

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

"It's been overwhelming," said Herry, 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



Nicole Verdin, a senior at West Springfield High School, helped manage the job and opportunity fair as a part of the Student Government Association and DECA.

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 applications, 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."

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SPRING FUN

George Mason University School of Dance, Dance Company group.



PHOTOS BY TIM COBURN/COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Youthful Energy on Mason's Stage

George Mason's Dance Company presents "2015 Dance Gala Concert."

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Dance is a captivating art form. An exploration set to music. It is motion and stillness, turns and jumps done with personal style.

It is "Shakespeare in the air," according to William Reeder, dean, George Mason University College of Visual and Performing Arts. He called dance at Mason "simply extraordinary, and world-class."

"We want to be on pulse with what is most relevant," said Susan Shields, director, School of Dance. And its critical, "we provide a unique blend of serious conservatory training within the liberal arts education. The George Mason University dance major is a talented mover, an emerging artist/movement poet and a thinking arts advocate."

Area audiences can take in the fresh, youthful energy of Mason's dance students at this year's George Mason University Dance Company Gala Concert. Come as well to see honorary event chair and dance legend Jacques d'Amboise. He is a Kennedy Center Honors recipient and founder of the National Dance Institute that uses dance to inspire children to excellence.

Based upon interviews, Mason dance majors promise to hold nothing back performing works by an array of contemporary choreographers. The choreographers include Andrea Miller of Gallim Dance, Alexandro Cerrudo from Hubbard Street Dance, and the late Ulysses Dove who performed with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Joey Day (Vienna) said that Mason provides "such a very supportive environment. The School of Dance took a chance on me and is open to my style and hip-hop background." He also discussed how dance movements can visually "describe a particular person and a relationship."



Susan Shields, director, George Mason University School of Dance.

Where and When

George Mason University's Dance Company presents "2015 Dance Gala Concert" at Center for the Arts, 4400 University Ave, 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 choreographer Jacques d'Amboise. Will also be performed at the Hylton Performing Arts Center in Manassas on Sunday, March 29 at 4 p.m. 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.

For David Kurland (Reston), Mason School of Dance provides great opportunities to see and learn from master performers as he "pushes himself." He spoke about Mason providing trainers to help dancers get and stay in shape. Kurland also mentioned learning about the visual aspects of dance from a film course where he is learning how to "find different angles and ways to give attention to the hands and feet of a performer."

Katherine Stewart (Chantilly) said that dance is helping her to learn to take risks "to express internal emotions about herself and to generate creative ideas." The School of Dance supportive environment is providing a "great place for self-examination along with pushing my boundaries beyond my own expected limitations."

You never know, you may see someone from the Dance Gala Concert on a bigger stage in the near future; however, you can see them here first.



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.

PHOTOS BY TERRANCE MORAN/THE CONNECTION

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.



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



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

tients.

Drivers and office workers are always needed for their medical

transportation and companion shopping programs. Contact their office at 703-323-4788.



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:

south@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:
The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection,
"Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,"
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PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION



Both Fairfax County School Board members and school principals attended the award ceremony held on Sunday, March 22 for the 60th Annual Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair at Robinson Secondary School.



Tim Harazin, science specialist at Fairfax County Public Schools, announced the winners at the 60th Annual Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair. Also attending the event were Fairfax County School Board member Ryan McElveen and Langley High School senior Harris LaTeef in addition to school principals and regional assistant superintendents.

Area Students Win Science Awards

Students from across the county recognized at 60th Annual Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

High school students from Fairfax County schools attended the annual regional science fair held at Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax, March 20-22, to compete for prizes and recognition. “This is the 60th Fairfax County Public Schools science fair, and I think that deserves a round of applause,” said fair director, Myra Thayer. “We are all proud of the job our students did at the regional science fair,” said Tim Harazin, Fairfax County Public Schools Elementary science specialist. “We also appreciate all of the volunteers that it takes to make a successful event like this. There were almost 400 judges between the category judges and the organization judges that volunteered time yesterday morning and afternoon to interview the students and provide encouragement. There were also many volunteers from teachers and other county staff that worked together to have the event come off so well.” The event was an opportunity to showcase and promote the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills of Fairfax County schools.

More than 40 corporate and professional organizations helped support this year’s event, with patron support coming from Northrop Grumman. Presentation of special awards was conducted by Captain Dan Kelly with the Naval Science Awards Program and Northrop Grumman Corporation’s Dwight Yamada. Helping present awards were Fairfax County School Board member Ryan McElveen and Langley High School senior Harris LaTeef. Also attending the event were members of the Fairfax County School



Fair director Myra Thayer welcomed everyone to the 60th Annual Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair held at Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax. An awards ceremony was held on Sunday, March 22.

Board and regional assistant superintendents.

THERE WERE 600 students participating in the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) regional science fair. Ten Fairfax County students will continue on to the May international science and engineering (ISEF) fair in Pittsburgh, Pa. Individual grand prize winners for the 2015 fair included Langley High School’s Kendy Li, Thomas Jefferson’s Prathik Naidu, Richard Oh, and Jung Yoon Kim, Oakton High School’s Stephanie Mui, Chantilly High School’s Aishwarya Nugooru and Neal Agarwal, and West Potomac High School’s William Makinen. Team Grand

Prize winners for the fair were John Han, Jake Cui, and Lil Li from Madison High School for their biochemistry project titled “Development of a Novel Near-Infrared Fluorescent Theranostic Anti-Cancer Agent.” Thomas Jefferson (TJ) HS had a team grand prize winner for a project done on systems software. The TJ HS team winners consisted of Rohan Suri and Clarissa Scogins, and their project was titled “A Contact Tracing System Utilizing Intercellular Proximities.”

“The thing I love about the science fair is that it gives kids a chance to talk about something that they have created with a really authentic audience, our fantastic

SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS won several awards for their scholastic work at the science fair. This included Chantilly HS student Aishwarya Nugooru, who in addition to being a grand prize winner for the ISEF fair, won awards including the Youth Inspire Award[®] 1st Place Award and American Statistics Association, Honorable Recognition. Nugooru’s project entails a novel therapy for HIV, an infection that does not currently have a cure. “I basically took seronegative (HIV-negative) blood from donors at blood banks and genetically engineered T lymphocytes from the blood and made it resistant to HIV,” said Nugooru. “My approach is a safe, accessible and targeted therapeutic for HIV... Many have discouraged me from continuing my research and they described a cure for HIV to be “impossible” but I always thought: ‘Shoot for the stars and you never know where you’ll end up.’ In this case, my perseverance as a researcher has led me to discovering a potential cure and paradigm shift in HIV/AIDS research.”

“I’m always amazed by the ingenuity and creativity of our student researchers and I was very glad to be a part of this year’s fair. Many of my classmates presented their projects ranging from cancer research to electrical engineering and I am sure the next generation of scientific pioneers are among those who participated in our Fairfax County Regional Fair,” said Harris LaTeef, Langley High School senior and student representative to the Fairfax School Board.

SPRING FUN

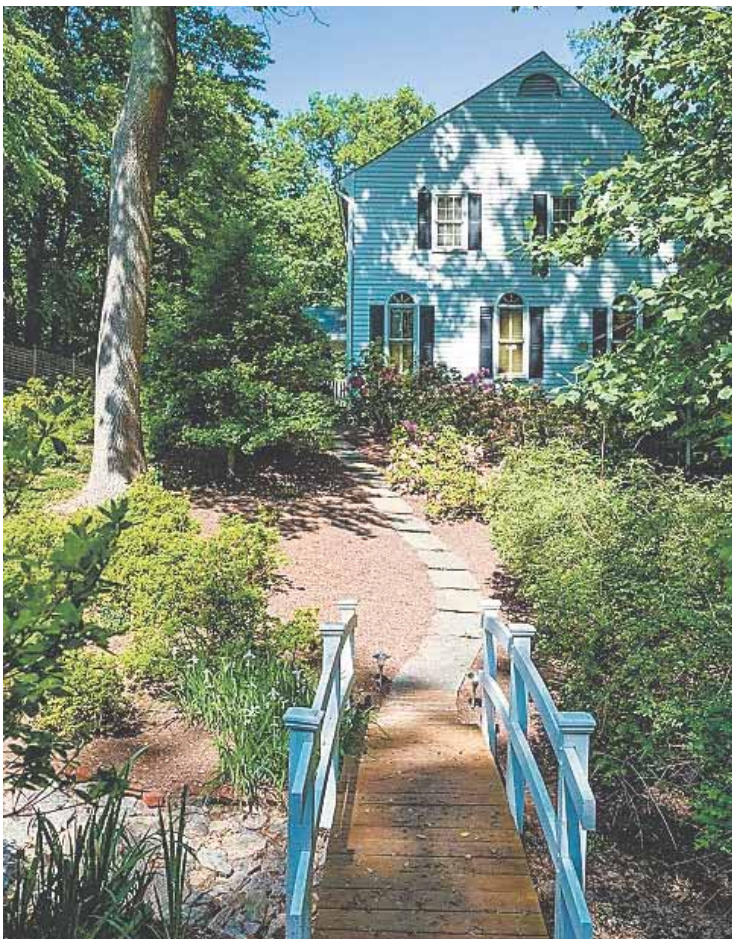


PHOTO BY DONNA MOULTON

Mark your calendars: The Virginia Historic Garden Tour is 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 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.

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 SUNDAY/APRIL 5

Reference. W-16 - Vulcan Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Reference is a multi-media exploration of the various modes of influence that inform visual artists in both content and process. In Reference, participating artists incorporate performance, sound, process, and imagery to address the strong influence of other artists, visual and otherwise, upon their creative output as well as their deepest philosophical and spiritual understandings. No ticket required. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

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.thecliftonwineshop.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-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.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

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.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 28-29

The Paradise Springs Winery Experience. Every Saturday, 2 and 4 p.m. Every Sunday, 3 p.m. Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Tour and tasting with a first hand look at how wine is made at Paradise Springs. The tour will take you through the historic log cabin, inside the vineyard, through production, and ultimately end with a full tasting of our entire flight of wines including our fortified port style wine, Swagger. No reservations needed but can be taken over the phone (prepayment required). First come, first serve. \$25. 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.shopfair Oaks Mall.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 - Railroad, 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.fairfax-station.org, 703-425-9225.

Lecture: Women Pioneers in Criminal Justice. 2 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Free program at the Workhouse Prison Museum to honor Women's History Month. A panel of five exceptional women frankly discuss their experiences breaking the "brass

ceiling" to achieve positions of rank and authority within the criminal justice system.

Easter Egg Hunt. 11 a.m., 12, 12:45, 1:30, 2:15, 3 p.m. Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Hunt for eggs filled with treats and treasures on the grounds at Lake Fairfax Park. Pre-paid reservations required. \$6-8. 703-437-1794.

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.

THURSDAY/APRIL 2

Slam Poetry Cafe. 6 p.m. ichard 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

Workhouse Cabaret Series: Broadway Goes to Hollywood. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. 8 p.m. Lights! Camera! Music! The best of Broadway has been preserved for future generations through their film adaptations!
Historic Pohick Church First Saturday Tours. 1-3 p.m. Pohick Church, 9301Richmond Highway, Lorton. During the colonial period, Pohick Church was the congregation of many of our country's most prominent families, including the Washingtons, Masons and Fairfaxes. The Historic Pohick Church Docent Guild willgive free guided tours of the historic colonial church. For more information please call 703-339-6572 or visit <http://www.pohick.org>.

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.

SUNDAY/APRIL 12

Table Top Model Trains. 1-4 p.m. 1200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Table Top N Gauge Model Trains will be on display and running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Admission is free for Museum members and children 4 and under; \$2 children 5-15 and \$4 adults 16 and older. www.fairfax-station.org, 703-425-9225.

TUESDAY/APRIL 21

House and Garden Tour hosted by the Garden Club of Fairfax for Historic Garden Week in Virginia. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Clifton/Fairfax Station area. Known as "America's Largest Open House," Historic Garden Week in Virginia features house and garden tours featuring 200 private home and gardens and 50 historic landmarks. All proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of Virginia's historic public gardens. Find out more or to buy tickets:www.vagardenweek.org

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SPRING FUN

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

Interviews conducted at Fairfax City Library and Pohick Library in Burke.

- STEVE HIBBARD

Caitlin Gross of Lorton:

"I like to go to the South Run Rec Center playground."



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."



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."



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Fashion, Music and Silent Auction

BY STEVE HIBBARD
CENTRE VIEW

The 35th annual Fashion Show, Luncheon, and Silent 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.

"This is my fifth year of doing it

and each year we are growing," said Master of Ceremonies 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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OPEN HOUSE
Wed., April 8, 7 p.m.



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.

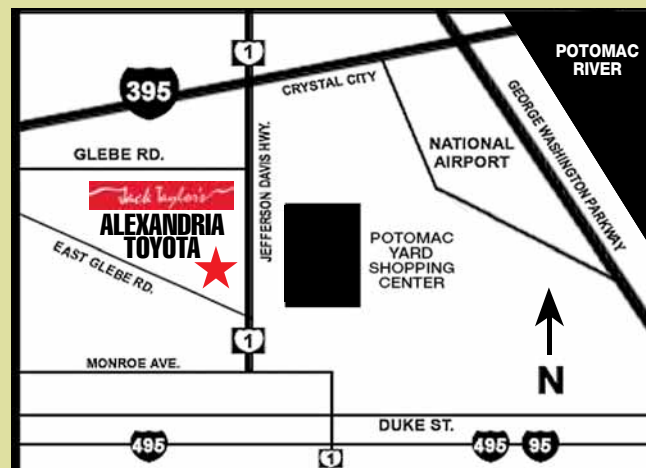
"We're trying to improve as a team [and] individually," Jasien said, "but we want the title again. That's what we're working for."

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PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE PERMIT
PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF CLIFTON
PLANNING COMMISSION
March 31, 2015
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 the public and employees. The application for the proposed amendment to Clifton General Store / Main Street Pub'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 examined 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 Clifton General Store / Main Street Pub's special use permit.

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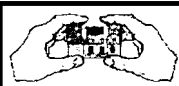
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