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**CONNECTION**

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(From left) are Caleigh Davis and Abby Rozmajzl as, respectively, Wednesday and Morticia in Paul VI production of “The Addams Family.”

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

APRIL 9-15, 2015

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## PEOPLE

### Robinson Junior Nominated to Join Future Medical Leaders

**N**atalie Hessler, a junior at Robinson Secondary School, has been nominated to attend the Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Boston, on June 24-26.

The Congress is an honors-only program for high school students who want to become physicians or go into medical research fields.

The purpose of this event is to honor, inspire, motivate and direct the top students in the country who aspire to be physicians or medical scientists, to stay true to their dream and, after the event, to provide a path, plan and resources to help them reach their goal.

Hessler was nominated by Dr. Connie Mariano, the medical director of the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists to represent Robinson Secondary School based on her academic achievement, leadership potential and determination to serve humanity in the field of medicine.

During the three-day Congress, Hessler will join students from across the country and hear Nobel Laureates and National Medal of Science Winners talk about leading medical research; be given advice from Ivy League and top medical school deans on what is to expect in medical school; witness stories told by patients who are living medical miracles; be inspired by fellow teen medical science prodigies; and learn about cutting-edge advances and the future in medicine and medical technology.

The Academy offers free services and programs to students who want to be physicians or go into medical science. Some of the services and programs the Academy offers are online social networks through which future doctors and medical scientists can communicate; opportunities for students to be guided and mentored by physicians and medical students; and communications for parents and students on college acceptance and finances, skills acquisition, internships, career guidance and much more.

The National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists was founded on the belief that we must identify prospective medical talent at the earliest possible age and help these students acquire the necessary experience and skills to take them to the doorstep of this vital career.

Based in Washington, D.C. and with offices in Boston, Mass., the Academy was chartered as a non-partisan, taxpaying institution to help address this crisis by working to identify, encourage and mentor students who wish to devote their lives to the service of humanity as physicians, medical scientists.

For more information visit [www.FutureDocs.com](http://www.FutureDocs.com) or call 617-307-7425.



Natalie Hessler in her junior year photo.



Natalie Hessler, left, with her younger sister Ashley after they finished a musical performance.

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A view of United Bank in the fall.



The landscaping outside the Hampton Inn.



The Sherwood Center and its well-maintained property.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KIRK HOLLEY

# Commercial Community Appearance Awards

## Three buildings and grounds are honored.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Three City of Fairfax buildings and their grounds were honored recently with 2014 Commercial Community Appearance Awards. Their owners/managers received certificates at the Feb. 10 City Council meeting.

United Bank and Hampton Inn were each victorious in the Commercial/Retail category, and the Sherwood Community Center won in the Municipal category. Kirk Holley, chairman of the Community Appearance Committee, showed photos of each winner to the Council members and shared the judges' comments with them.

The award candidates were judged on the following attributes:

- ❖ Landscape Design Quality: Balance, seasonal interest and whether it was appropriate for the business and neighborhood.

- ❖ Building Quality: Craftsmanship, materials used and if it's complementary to its setting.

- ❖ Signage, Lighting, Advertising, Display: Tasteful, integrated, high-quality and inviting.

- ❖ Maintenance of Landscape and Building: The quality of the upkeep and overall appearance.

- ❖ Sense of Place: Having a unique and special character.

"On behalf of the Community Appearance Committee (CAC), I congratulate you for owning and/or managing one of the three award-winners this year," said Holley as he presented the certificates. "This award exemplifies the pride you place on the appearance and maintenance of your commercial property and our recognition of your civic leadership in keeping Fairfax an attractive place to live and work."

### United Bank

The judges noted that "This well-maintained property is attractive at a prominent location at the edge of the City limits. The

masonry, building ornaments, paving, signage and landscaping are in excellent condition." They said the foundation and site-landscaping are nice-looking and complement the building and grounds and, "in the fall, the landscaping provides bright, seasonal color."

They also described the site signage as low key, consistent and professional. "The neo-Federal style building details are appropriate for the City," wrote the judges. "And we always want to know what the time and temperature are – especially in Celsius."

### Hampton Inn

The judges called the site landscaping "a green respite along this commercial corridor. [And] the wide planting strip gives these maples room to shine. There are attractive site elements like flags and modest signage. The curb and parking-island plantings have some nice grasses and flowering shrubs."

They also acknowledged that it takes "some thought and maintenance effort to make a large, basic, pre-engineered build-

ing and older parking expanse inviting on a corner lot. We appreciate the efforts of the ownership to provide some green relief" in this area."

### Sherwood Community Center

"A high-quality, small-city, community building and site" is how the judges described the Sherwood Community Center. "The materials and site details integrate well with the existing police station," they wrote. "The adjacent park makes this a great destination for public and private events."

They also liked the site details, such as the "whimsical bike racks, the paving patterns [and] the sensitivity to disabled access. They said the center "looks like a place to see and be seen" and they praised its "nice night lighting." Furthermore, they wrote, "If the [nearby] Van Dyke Park gets a new plan and is redeveloped, this could be a top 10 public destination in Metropolitan Washington, especially if connected to the new, downtown improvements."

## 'Creepy and Kooky, Altogether Ooky' Paul VI presents 'The Addams Family.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

A continuation of the popular, 1960s TV show, "The Addams Family" will take the stage at Paul VI High. A musical comedy, it features a cast and crew of 75 and promises to be rollicking, good fun.

"We've been rehearsing since February and things are going great," said director Katherine Miller. "It's a spooky, Halloween-y, new play that just became available to high schools to do."

The eccentric Addams family – parents Gomez and Morticia, daughter Wednesday and son Pugsley – live in an eerie mansion in New York's Central Park, along with some equally weird relatives. The story's set in modern day, with the action propelled by Wednesday's engagement to a normal person named Lucas, played by Nathaniel Smith.



The fiancé's family: (From left) are Luke Knott, Megan Huble and Nathaniel Smith as, respectively, Mal and Alice Beineke and their son, Lucas.

"She's afraid his family and hers won't get along, so she asks her dad not to tell her mom that they're engaged," said Miller. "For awhile, things don't go well, but love triumphs in the end."

"The actors are so talented, and we have

several seniors, as well as new people," she continued. "Assistant director Kathy d'Alelio did the choreography, and Karen Hoppe is the vocal director. And the audience will enjoy the play's quirky sense of humor, clever dialogue and modern rock songs."

**IN KEEPING WITH THE TV SHOW,** the Addams family wears mostly black clothing, with Gomez in a suit and tie and Morticia in a long gown. "The scenery was built by our hardworking dads with drills," said Miller. "It's a sensational set depicting the interior and exterior of the Addams mansion."

Portraying Gomez is senior Joey Arzeno. "He's a high-energy character and, arguably, the most consistently weird person in the show," said Arzeno. "His eccentric personality is all over the place, but he likes everyone and always has good intentions."

"Because I'm also a physical person, it's easy to get into this role," he said. "The songs are hard, but it's a unique part because I get to do everything from sword fighting to dancing the tango."

Arzeno especially likes his solo, "Happy Sad," calling it "a good contrast show

SEE PAUL VI, PAGE 4



## NEWS



(From left) are Mateo Salazar, 4, and Alexis Flores, 3, with their baskets of Easter Eggs.



Twins Aidan and Ayna Nguyen, 2, found some colored eggs.



Excited at the starting line are the Farquhar siblings, (from left) Jaeden, 9, and Miley, 7.

# Happy Hunting in Local Park

The City of Fairfax's annual Easter Egg Hunt was April 4 at Van Dyck Park.



As their mom, Jessica Tadlock, looks on, siblings Aubrey Beasley, 6, and Aaron Beasley, 3, are ready to find some eggs.



Parents Ryan and Menka Linthicum with daughters (from left) Devin, 5, and Marissa, 4, before the hunt.

Ready to fill their baskets are (from left) Sophie Ji, 3; Max Mutersbaugh, 6; Liam Boekholt, 5; Kyle Lockhart, 5; Aliyah Boekholt, 6 and Brandon Lockhart, 7.



The younger children (with their parents' help) search for Easter Eggs.

PHOTOS BY  
BONNIE HOBBS/  
THE CONNECTION

The Addams Family: (back row, from left) J.J. Cummings (Uncle Fester) and Wade Madden (Lurch); and (front row, from left) Isabella Whitfield (grandma), Abby Rozmajzl (Morticia), Joey Arzeno (Gomez), Caleigh Davis (Wednesday) and Tommy Kelleher (Pugsley).



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

## Paul VI Presents "The Addams Family"

FROM PAGE 3

ing a different side of Gomez being sentimental about Wednesday growing up and getting married." But, he added, "All the songs are really catchy and will get stuck in people's heads."

Junior Abby Rozmajzl plays Morticia. "She just wants what's best for her daughter," said Rozmajzl. "She wants Wednesday to find someone like Gomez, who's loving and who'd die for his wife. Morticia and Gomez never keep secrets from each other. They have a loving marriage and tell each other everything."

Calling her character "elegant, reserved, fluid and mature," Rozmajzl said Morticia has "a hidden sense of passion when she's around Gomez. She's a blast to play because she can be angry at Gomez, one minute, and dancing with him, the next. She also has the funniest lines and is funny without realizing it."

Rozmajzl's favorite number is the "Tango de Amor," a dance between Morticia and Gomez. "It's incredible, and a hard and complicated piece to perform," she said. "But that's why I like it, and it'll look really beautiful on stage. I'm so excited about it."

She said the audience will "love the show's dark humor because it's hilarious. And they'll like all the different time periods and Addams ancestors that we show. I'm also in charge of hair and makeup, which will have intricate designs for the faces to reflect those time periods."

Wednesday, now 18, is portrayed by sophomore Caleigh Davis. "For most of her life, Wednesday's been kind of dark and unemotional," explained Davis. "But when she meets her fiancé, Lucas, it awakens all these

emotions she's never felt before. She's loyal to her family but, after meeting him, she realizes her family isn't normal, and she's conflicted about changing herself for Lucas."

Although Davis usually plays cheery roles, she's enjoying this one because her character "has more depth to her, and it's nice to get into her emotions." Davis especially likes her solo, "Pulled," because it's when Wednesday first confronts her emotions and the audience sees a new side of her.

She said people will appreciate the show's wide range of characters and the near "cultural clash" between the Addams and Lucas family. "They'll also like all the shenanigans going on," added Davis. "And we have some great songs and dances."

Junior J.J. Cummings plays Uncle Fester. "He's a lovable goofball," said Cummings. "He's a little crazy, but he likes having fun – and he's not afraid to have it at other people's expense. I love playing this part because Uncle Fester has lots of good songs and he's in motion a lot, and I can relate to his goofiness." Cummings's favorite song is "The Moon and Me," which he sings. "It shows Fester's depth and what he's about – and that, although he's eccentric, he's not incapable of love." Overall, he said, "The audience will love the actors' comedic timing; and Joey, as Gomez, is hilarious. And we put a lot of work into all the wonderful music."

**THE CURTAIN** rises Friday-Saturday, April 17-18, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, April 19, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$13, adults; and \$8, students and senior citizens via [www.paulvi.net](http://www.paulvi.net) or \$15 and \$10, respectively, at the door.

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



## WEEK IN FAIRFAX

### Autism Awareness Presentation to be Held at Robinson

Recognizing April as National Autism Awareness Month, the Robinson Secondary School Parent-Teacher Student Association and Special Education Committee will host a presentation in the school's library on April 15.

Three speakers will cover a wide range of topics including functional skills, guardianship and lifespan concerns, and sexual awareness after high school.

The panel of speakers comprises Dezira Carpentier, an Applied Behavior Analysis consultant and mother of a teenager with Autism Spectrum Disorder; Sarah Peterson, the executive director of the Autism Society of Northern Virginia; and Robyn Moyher, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, professor in George Mason University's Applied Behavior Analysis program and mother of a teenager with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The presentation is set to take place Wednesday, April 15 at 7 p.m. in the Robinson Secondary School Library, located at 5035 Sideburn Road in Fairfax.

For more information, visit [www.robinsonpts.org](http://www.robinsonpts.org) or call 703-426-2100.

— TIM PETERSON

### City Provides Curbside Leaf Collection

April is Spring Cleanup Month in Fairfax, and the city provides many services to assist residents with spring cleaning. Information: 703-385-7995.

❖**Cleanup Day** — Residents and businesses can help the city spruce up for spring by cleaning up their neighborhoods or any public areas in the city. Choose Spring Cleanup Day April 25, or any day in April during Spring Cleanup Month. The city will provide trash bags and will collect the filled trash bags on Spring Cleanup Day.

❖**Curbside leaf collection** — Curbside leaf collection is provided in the city in April. Rake leaves loose to the curb by 7 a.m. on collection days. Bagged leaves will not be collected in April. Leaf collection trucks circulate through city neighborhoods. There is no set collection schedule. Keep stones, branches and other large items out of leaf piles — they damage equipment and endanger workers' safety. However, light yard debris may be included.

❖**Arbor Day tree planting** — Come celebrate Arbor Day as the City of Fairfax plants a tree at 10 a.m. April 24 at Daniels Run Elementary School, 3705 Old Lee Highway.

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# A Big Election Year in Virginia

Register, research, vote. And vote again.

EDITORIAL

Sherwood Regional Library.

Every year is an election year in Virginia. Here are a few examples that demonstrate that while elections are ubiquitous in Virginia, they are neither simple nor unimportant. Wade in, a lot depends on figuring this out and voting. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list of candidates.

The choices begin April 23. Almost every state and local elected office in Virginia will be in play. Democrats will choose their candidates in the primary on June 9. Republicans will choose candidates for individual offices at caucuses, firehouse primaries and conventions, beginning April 23 and finishing by June 9.

For example, the Republican candidate for Sully District supervisor will be chosen in a firehouse primary on Saturday, April 25 at

Westfield High School, with three candidates seeking the nomination to replace retiring Michael Frey. The three candidates are Brian Schoeneman, John Guevara and John Litzenberger, and the winner will likely face Democrat Cathy Smith on Nov. 3. Smith is vacating her Sully District School Board seat to run for Sully District supervisor.

This year's elections begin May 5 with elections in the Town of Vienna with three candidates vying for three positions on the Vienna Town Council. For more, see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm>.

There are similar chains of musical chairs happening in the Mount Vernon district, with District Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D) retiring, and Democrats Jack Dobbyn, Dan Storck, Candace Bennett and Tim Sargeant seeking the Democratic nomination to replace him. Democrats will choose their candidate in a primary June 9 at usual polling places; Republicans have scheduled a canvass on May 16 at

**IN FAIRFAX COUNTY**, all 10 members of the Board of Supervisors are on the ballot including district members and the chairman. Also on the ballot: all members of the School Board including district members and three at-large members; Constitutional Officers Sheriff, Clerk of Court and Commonwealth's Attorney; and three members of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Board Directors.

Every seat in the Virginia General Assembly will be on the ballot, including all State Senate and House of Delegates seats. With several key retirements, including Del. Rob Krupicka (D), Del. Tom Rust (R) and Sen. Toddy Puller (D), it's clear that there will be some change. Del. Scott Surovell (D) will give up his seat to run for Puller's Senate seat, so the musical chairs continue.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM; ON TWITTER @MARYKIMM

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Failing Those Most in Need

To the Editor:

My name is Maurine Houser and I am writing in response to your article ["Moving: From Institution to Community"] printed on April 2 regarding the Northern Virginia Training Center.

I am the younger sister and guardian of my 57-year-old brother Kim Houser. Until recently, he resided at the Northern Virginia Training Center. Kim is non-verbal, non-ambulatory without assistance, has the cognitive ability of a nine month old and is medically fragile.

Your article states that the state Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services has provided a multitude of community placement options for family members. However, it has been my experience and others that the placements offered are inappropriate and do not have the skills or supports necessary for the medically disabled and behaviorally challenged population remaining at the Northern Virginia Training Center to survive. Not only are the placements unrealistic, they are not in Northern Virginia. My brother was offered placements in Williamsburg and Petersburg, Va., that were not in line with the standards of care suitable for him. My other alternative was to allow the State of Virginia to relocate Kim to the Central Virginia Training



CONTRIBUTED  
**Kim Houser**

Center in Lynchburg, Va., which the state intends on closing in 2020 and ultimately start the process of discharge all over again. I came to realize unless I was proactive on behalf of my brother, his future would be severely compromised. Through my own research and efforts, I connected with Good Neighbor Community Services who are now caring for my brother in Spotsylvania, Va. The discharge process was extensive, cumbersome and extremely emotional. None of the professionals could predict the future of the Medicaid Waiver, which is now my brother's source of funding, nor anticipate how he would react to a new home, staff and routine. The discharge process encompassed a seven-month period; including but not limited to 20 state employees.

I feel fortunate I have found a provider that will take good care of my brother. However, I fear that the remaining residents will not be so lucky. How can moving someone's severely disabled child hundreds of miles away not be in violation of the American with Disabilities Act? The populations at the training centers are aging and many individuals have elderly parents who will be unable to see their children due to travel constraints. Similarly, Virginia remains glaringly non-compliant with the U.S. Department of Justice's findings as highlighted by

the increase of individuals waiting for Medicaid Waiver funds and services. The process of deinstitutionalization in theory may work for most individuals but for those who are the 1 percent a hasty, underfunded, unsupported process will result in catastrophe as did the rapid deinstitutionalization and nonexistent funding for the mentally ill.

**Maurine Houser**  
Reston

### Consider Taxpayers

To the Editor:

*The following open letter was addressed to Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey.*

We want to protest the increase in the projected total rate of \$1.1135 (includes storm water tax and infestation prevention tax). We believe that this projected rate should be no more than the inflation rate. We have had increases in our real estate taxes that have more than doubled the inflation rate for the last eight years.

In the past eight years, our real estate taxes have increased from \$5,752 to a projected \$7,774 for 2015 for a whopping 32 percent increase. For the same period of time, inflation increased 15.4 percent as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Their figures show a projected rate for 2015 as 2 percent, 1.6 percent for

2014, 1.5 percent for 2013, 2.1 percent for 2012, 3.2 percent for 2011, 1.6 percent for 2010, minus 0.4 percent in 2009, and 3.8 percent in 2008. These statistics show that our real estate taxes have increased twice the inflation rate for that eight year period. This is outrageous. Our current assessment is projected to increase by 3.99 percent while the inflation rate is projected to increase by 2 percent for this year.

According to the Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance (FCTA), the residential real estate taxes increased \$3,359 between FY2000 and FY2016. This simply means that, during this period, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation increased almost 40 percent during this 16-year period while the residential real estate increased 140 percent or more than three times the inflation rate. How can you really justify increasing real estate taxes more than three times the rate of inflation? For decades, the County Board has been raising the budget and taxes more than two to three times the inflation rate. Isn't it time to give the county taxpayers a break?

In conclusion, we feel that the real estate tax rate should be rolled back to the current rate of inflation. We look forward to your comments. Thank you for your attention.

**Charles McAndrew**  
**Linda McAndrew**  
Oak Hill

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Published by  
**Local Media Connection LLC**

1606 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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## OPINION

# Register to Be an Organ Donor

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



**M**ore than 123,000 people across the country are in need of an organ transplant, and more than 41,000 blood donations are needed every day. Every ten minutes someone is added to the organ donor waiting list. Every two seconds someone is in need of blood. In the time it will take to read this, another person will be added to the waiting list and another 300 will be in need of blood.

Tragically, 18 people die each day waiting for a life-saving organ transplant. And while more than a third of the U.S. population is eligible to donate, less than 10 percent actually do so.

April is National Donate Life Month and I would like to encourage you to participate — 120 million Americans are registered organ donors, and you can help save lives by registering to join them.

To help increase the number of registered donors throughout Virginia, a coalition of more than 16 organizations from around the Commonwealth—including Fairfax County's very own Inova Transplant Center and Washington Regional Transplant Community—formed Donate Life Virginia. At its website, [DonateLifeVirginia.org](http://DonateLifeVirginia.org), you can sign up for Virginia's organ donor registry, find more information about organ donations, and also read stories of those who have donated organs as well as those whose lives

have benefitted from organ transplants. Remember that you can also register through the DMV when applying for or renewing your driver's license.

You can also donate blood to those in need through a simple, safe process. Typically, the entire process takes 15 minutes, and includes registration, a briefing on your medical history, a mini-physical, the donation itself, and refreshments. In matter of 15 minutes, you could be saving the

lives of three people. Several blood drives are held throughout the community every month, and I encourage you to use this month to consider making a donation. To find a blood drive near you, please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org).

Donate Life Month will be the focus of the Braddock Neighborhood News this month, which airs on Channel 16 on Sundays at 5:00 p.m., Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., and Fridays at 5:00 p.m.

During National Donate Life Month this April, we remember those who have received or continue to wait for lifesaving donations. This is also a time to celebrate the strength that organ recipients inspire in us. And we should also take this time to honor and commemorate those donors who have saved so many lives. I am hoping to encourage you to attend one of the several blood drives in our community and to consider registering as an organ donor. It is this kind of selflessness and generosity that makes Fairfax County such a great community, and this is yet another way for us to continue in that tradition.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Robinson Lacrosse Deserves a Better Headline

To the Editor:

Jon Roetman should have titled his front page article ("Confident or Cocky"? - The Connection, March 26, 2015) "Hard Work Plus Perfect Practice Equals Champions." There is no arguing that cocky teammates can be the downfall of a successful sports season. However, training tirelessly to become so good you have the right to become cocky....that's another matter.

As the mother of an elite softball player, I know the innumerable hours of repetitious practice, the personal training to stay in top physical condition for the sport she loves, and the mental fortitude it takes to be a fearless

champion....all that plus handling intense high school course work and being a part of family obligations...that is what is missing from Jon Roetman's article.

The Robinson lacrosse team deserves to have a better headline.

In Northern Virginia, the pressure on high school students to be the best, work the hardest, aim for elite college scholarships, and make a name for themselves amongst the thousands of students here is very high. Whether it's an added sport, band, debate or theater, there is outside training involved that is intense and time consuming. These students achieve their goals through sweat,

tears, and life lessons beyond their years. It is amazing to me that when a team reaches their goal both as individual athletes and incredibly successful teammates, they are referred to as perhaps "cocky"? What a negative word to use on young men who have handled everything so well and found success on the field they love. The word should have been "congratulations" for a team who has found the right members, the right coach, and the right chemistry to have a season to remember for the rest of their lives.

Nancy Ohanian  
Burke

## CAREGIVING

Have fun, learn something new, and unleash your creative spirit! Fairfax County, the Arts Council of Fairfax County, and AARP Virginia invite you to celebrate the **Creative Aging Festival in May 2015**. This month-long festival features over 100 events including art exhibits, dance, musical performances, poetry readings, lectures, wellness programs and classes in watercolor, woodworking, knitting, clogging, tap, piano, photography, & more! Find the events calendar at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults) and click on Creative Aging Festival!

Fairfax County presents **Legal Tools for Caregivers: WEBINAR**. As a family caregiver you may need to make legal and health care decisions for a

loved one. This free Webinar will cover durable powers of attorney, trusts, guardianship, and advanced medical directives. Join us on Wednesday, May 6, Noon-1 p.m. Find out more and register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm) or call 703-324-5205, TTY 711.

Fairfax County will sponsor **Strategies for Managing the Stress of Caregiving** on Tuesday, May 12, 7-8:30 p.m. at Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, **Falls Church**. Find out more about this free event and register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm) or call 703-324-5205, TTY 711.

Fairfax County presents **"Alive In-**

**side"** Movie and Discussion on Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m.-Noon. This free movie focuses on the Music & Memory program's ability to combat memory loss and restore meaning to the lives of those with Alzheimer's disease. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Dr., Ste. 100, **Fairfax**. Find out more and register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm) or call 703-324-5205, TTY 711.

Get the facts about health insurance for older adults at Fairfax County's free presentation on **Medicare 101**. Tuesday, May 19, 3-4:30 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., **Fairfax**. Register beforehand at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm).



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# HomeLifeStyle

## D.C. Design House

McLean showcase home opens to the public April 12.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Local interior design enthusiasts will have an opportunity to tour a much-anticipated unveiling this weekend when the 2015 Design House opens in McLean on Sunday, April 12 at noon, with ticket sales benefiting the Children's National Health System.

The 8,869-square-foot home was built by Artisan Builders and designed by Harrison Design to look like an old American farmhouse. Then, 24 local designers were chosen to design a room in the home — the eighth annual design house — using inspiration that ran the gamut from American art to the home's natural surroundings. Organizers hope the varied styles will make the home's design appear to have evolved over many years.

**THE KITCHEN** was designed by Paul Lobkovich and Emily Neifeld, of Lobkovich Kitchen Designs in Tysons Corner. Antique white walls accented by a custom hood in both black and stainless steel create a simple,

but elegant gathering space.

If this kitchen is the hub of a home's activities, then the butler's pantry is where the preparation for those celebrations begins. That notion was the inspiration for Margery Wedderburn's design. "This butler's pantry is the celebration of a good life," said Wedderburn, of Margery Wedderburn Interiors, LLC in Vienna. "One enters the heart of the home, the kitchen and family room, through this butler's pantry, so the room is casually elegant, but doesn't take itself too seriously. It is happy, bright and fun.

"This home was designed to have a country farmhouse feeling, and we were inspired by the architecture plus the Virginia countryside," she said, explaining that nature was also a big inspiration. "We have the casual green leaf wallpaper, plus we designed a custom, faux-wallpaper on the ceiling which looks just like repurposed wood. We bring the outdoors in with the green and blue tones of the space, including the fun peacock color, which ties in with our peacock feathers in the umbrella stand."

Even the chandelier is peacock, and the Sisal rug features blue stenciling, while

green and blue stripes on the back of the closet tie everything together. Meanwhile, accessories give the space a contemporary feel. "Because this area of McLean is so cosmopolitan, we wanted to give a nod with stylish, hip vases, barware and details that move the space forward into the next decade while complimenting the past," said Wedderburn.

Another active hub of the home is the back stair hallway, which connects all three floors. Although it's windowless, designer David Benton's goal was to create a warm, welcoming and stylish space. "Using furniture, lighting and accents, we visually divided the hall into two zones," said Benton of RA Spaces, the interior division of Rill Architects in Potomac, Md. Benton even created a "virtual window" with a commissioned painting, "Old Dominion Sky."

The first-floor space is accented with a custom, tufted bench and unexpected pops of color to create a formal space between the butler's pantry and dining room. "The hall space that connects the garage, mudroom and kitchen is anchored by a console table and wool rug," said Benton.



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER/D.C. DESIGN HOUSE

The 2015 D.C. Design House opens to the public on Sunday, April 12.

Open shelving and a built-in desk offer additional display areas. Benton finished the space with a chandelier by Circa Lighting and photo art. Those accessories "deliver fresh takes on period furnishing," said Benton. "The classic Eames bright blue fiberglass shell chair introduces an unexpected Americana twist."

One of the design challenges Benton faced on the second floor was creating an aesthetically appealing area rather than a simple connection between two spaces. He decided to transform the walls into a dramatic back-

drop using wallpaper by Cole and Son that features silhouetted stems of cow parsley against an etched background.

"Like the house, which feels like it has been added to over time, we wanted the interior to feel like an acquired collection of pieces," said Benton. "The useful storage bench and custom sweater rug give the space warmth and style. The fun and inexpensive swag light is another way we added flair and utility."

**INSPIRED BY A SAILING TRIP** through the fjords of New Zealand and by the bright oil-on-canvas painting, "Mountains and Sea," designer Lisa Tureson, of

### D.C. Design House

956 Mackall Farm Lane, McLean, Va., will be open to the public starting Sunday, April 12, noon-5 p.m.

♦ **Regular Hours:** Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Thursday evenings 5-8 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Closed Mondays. (Visitors must arrive one-half hour before closing time to take the tour.)

♦ **Last day:** Sunday, May 10, noon-5 p.m.

♦ **Admission:** \$30. Purchase tickets at [www.dcdesignhouse.com](http://www.dcdesignhouse.com) or at the door.

Studio Artistica in Oak Hill, created a powder room that she said resembles "a little art gallery."

Tureson hung a custom, hand-etched mirror and eight paintings in the space. "My goal was to create a pictorial space since I'm an artist and painter," she said. "The subtle sparkle on the walls ... adds pizzazz."

When designing the room known as the gentleman's retreat, Scott Cooke, of Scott Cooke Design in Alexandria, wanted to "honor the architecture of the house itself, with a room that's rustic in nature, and that feels in sync with the time period the house evokes," he said.

From the wooden poster bed and canopy to the rug and art, Cooke used neutral hues throughout the room. He drew inspiration from the home of the late fashion designer Bill Blass, which was, "done in a monochromatic color story ranging from white and parchment, to caramel, chocolate, espresso and black," said Cooke.

Transforming this grand house into a home was a mammoth undertaking, but one designers say was well worth the effort.

"It is an honor to be a part of this amazing group of designers," said Wedderburn. "The great thing about the group is that everyone is wonderful and helpful to each other. There is a special camaraderie here and we are all drawing inspiration off each other."



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER/D.C. DESIGN HOUSE

With eight paintings adorning the walls, the powder room looks like an art gallery. Lisa Tureson of Studio Artistica in Oak Hill wanted the space to be both practical and functional.

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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.

# Regards from Broadway at GMU

## “Classic Broadway” at Mason stage April 12.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

**B**roadway's classic tunes are headed to Northern Virginia as Todd Ellison and friends take center stage at the Center for the Arts with a tribute to “Classic Broadway.” He has put together a gem of a performance that will be like a “cocktail party full of great songs, great music, and a great time for the audience” said the pianist and entertainer.

Ellison has a major list of credits from his work on Broadway including Tony Award-winning productions of “Spamalot,” “La Cage aux Folles” and “42nd

Street.” He is the music supervisor for “An American in Paris,” opening soon on Broadway. He has also conducted for many Broadway cast albums.

Joining Ellison for the “Classic Broadway” concert will be a number “of Broadway’s finest vocalists.” Together they want to give the audience not only the opportunity to listen to wonderful music, but “to have the time to come to know each of the performers” who not only sing, but chat along the way.

Each of the four performers joining Ellison has selected songs that “they really love and want to share with the audience.” The music will range from composers such as Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Rogers



Todd Ellison

and Hammerstein and Stephen Schwartz. There will be songs from “Hello Dolly,” “The King and I,” “Wicked” and more. The performers joining Ellison will include Jose Llana, who grew up in Spring-

field, Va., and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. Llana has performed in “Rent” and the original “25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.”

In a recent interview, Llana paid great tribute to his choir teacher, Laura Edelbrock at TJHS. Edelbrock helped Llana lay the foundation for his start in the performing arts.

The upcoming performance at the Center for the Arts is a “cele-

## Where and When

Todd Ellison and Friends perform “Classic Broadway” at the George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance: Saturday, April 12 at 4 p.m. Tickets: \$28- \$46. Call 888-948-2468 or visit [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu). Note: This is a family-friendly event. Youth discount tickets are available.

celebration of all things Broadway and the wonderful work of great writers and composers,” said Llana. He was happy that he will also be able to spend some time in the local area where he grew up.

Performers in “Classic Broadway” will also be Erin Mackey from Broadway’s “Wicked,” Clea Blackhurst with a voice that may remind many of Ethel Merman, and Gavin Lodge recently in Broadway’s revival of “Annie,” who will sing and tap dance.

### THURSDAY/APRIL 9

**“Healing Chronic Pain by Changing Muscle Memory.”** 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Hear from Nancy Shaw, myofascial pain therapist and author of Simple Changes to End Chronic Pain about why trigger point therapy alone is not enough to permanently change your pain cycle. She will show you some examples from her 32 years of clinical and personal experience learning from Janet Trevell MD who developed the technique and treated JFK for his back pain. An interactive presentation will allow for audience questions and participation. <http://nancyshawpainclinicandinstitute.com> A book signing period will follow the presentation. Please bring your own book or purchase one when you arrive. Call 703-452-3831 to register for free presentation.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 11

**Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: A Civil War Portrait.** 8 p.m. GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the end of the Civil War, the Fairfax Symphony Pops Orchestra and over 100 singers from choruses throughout the area come together to tell the story of this historical milestone through music, narration, and photography. Featuring music of the era from Stephen Foster to Battle Hymn of the Republic as well as such popular songs as Danny Boy & Annie Laurie with special guest narrator Allison Seymour of Fox 5 News.

**“The Pieces of Me: Making the Parts a Whole,” Women’s Empowerment Workshop.** 10-11 a.m. : Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath Street, Springfield. This free powerful day of growth and networking includes three empowering workshops: The Road to Financial Freedom, Branding Yourself and Social Media, and Starting a New Business. Lunch provided. For information on how to register for this free event, please visit our Eventbrite site at: <http://tinyurl.com/lwdhsf>. Registration for this event closes on April 8.

### 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-see-calendar.com](http://www.fairfax-see-calendar.com) SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

# Film Fest Comes to the Mosaic

## Northern Virginia Film Fest, April 13-19.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

**“C**reating a slice of Hollywood in Northern Virginia” is what the inaugural Northern Virginia International Film Festival is setting out to become for local and independent filmmakers and audiences, according to Fernando A. Mico, festival director.

“We’re bringing a corner of the arts and entertainment world that is, in our opinion, underrepresented in Northern Virginia,” Mico said, “And we’re bringing it here in a big way!”

The nearly week-long festival will be held at the Angelika Film Center in the Mosaic district of Fairfax County.

It will feature movies and screenplays of every size, genre and budget from filmmakers from Northern Virginia and around the world. Festival director Mico has a clear goal. He wants to provide an opportunity for filmmakers and screenwriters to have their cinema work available and screened before audiences who would not have the opportunity to view them without the Northern Virginia festival.

The Film Festival will have screenings from early afternoon to



**Fernando Mico, festival director, Northern Virginia International Film Festival.**

**“The Last Song before the War” co-producers, from (left): Andrea Papitto, Leola Calzolari-Stewart and Kiley Kraskouskas.**



COURTESY PHOTOS

late evening with Question & Answer sessions with filmmakers. For attending filmmakers there will be panels and forums from professionals in the fields of entertainment law, movie distribution, crowdfunding, film production and cinematography.

Opening night will showcase local Northern Virginia talent. The festival will conclude with awards decided by a panel of judges.

One Northern Virginia filmmaker who will have a film shown is Kiley Kraskouskas, producer and president of Thinking Forward Media. Kraskouskas is a longtime member of Women in Film and

## Where and When

Northern Virginia International Film Festival at the Angelika Film Center and Café at the Mosaic, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. Festival runs April 13-19. Ticket starts at \$11 with additional ticket packages available. For information and tickets call 703-960-1970 or visit <http://www.novafilmfest.com/>

Video (WIFV).

Kraskouskas will screen “The Last Song before the War,” a feature-length documentary that included her road trip to the legendary Timbuktu, Mali, with her co-producers to record Grammy-award winning musicians playing in the dunes of the Sahara. The

Timbuktu festival was silenced after 2012 with the destabilized conditions in that part of the world. The film has received funding from crowdsourcing and the National Endowment for the Arts. Kraskouskas will also lead a panel discussion about crowdsourcing “which has revolutionized the funding landscape and access to capital for everyone” said Kraskouskas. “It has democratized funding opportunities”.

The Film Festival is working in conjunction with the Los Angeles-based Action on Film International Festival with its producer Del Weston.



CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

station.org, 703-425-9225.

**Rose Bush Planting Workshop.** 2-4 p.m. Merrifield Garden Center 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Rose bush planting workshop conducted by Arlington Rose Foundation. Learn how to plant in pots or beds and the best rose varieties to grow for this area. Wear gloves and bring your pruners. Free. 703-371-9351.

**THURSDAY/APRIL 16**

**Fairfax Antique Arts Association Meeting.** 10 a.m. Green Acres Senior Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. The guest speaker this month is George Evans. He has been teaching classes on clock repair at the Fairfax Senior Center for many years. He will give a talk entitled 'How to Take Care of Your Grandmothers Clock', followed by a Q and A. Participants are encouraged to bring a treasured clock and have your questions answered by an expert.

**SATURDAY/APRIL 18**

**Way Out West.** 2 and 7 p.m. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires will perform their annual show, this year entitled "Way Out West." A Western tale surrounded by songs of the American West, and supported by guest artists including international level quartets and the Bella Nova women's chorus. www.fairfaxjubilaires.org

**SUNDAY/APRIL 19**

**NTRAKScale Model Train Show.** 1-4 p.m. 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge model train show. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. www.fairfax-station.org.

Mark your calendars: The Virginia Historic Garden Tour - an 8-day event that stretches across the Commonwealth. Each spring visitors are welcomed to Virginia's most beautiful gardens, homes and historic landmarks. The Clifton and Fairfax Station Garden Tour is on Tuesday, 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. Mail a self-addressed, stamped legal-size envelope, along with your check, payable to The Garden Club of Fairfax by April 1 to Marty Whipple, 11508 Yates Ford Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039 703-978-4130 or email fairfaxtickets@vagardenweek.org. Visit www.gardencluboffairfax.blogspot.com for a list of local retailers selling tickets.



PHOTO BY DONNA MOULTON

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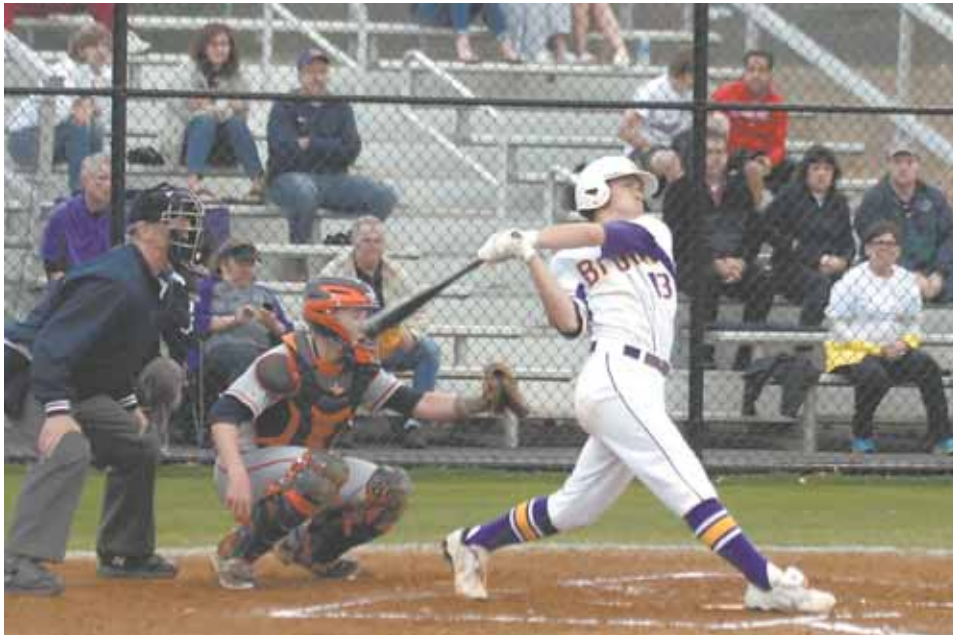


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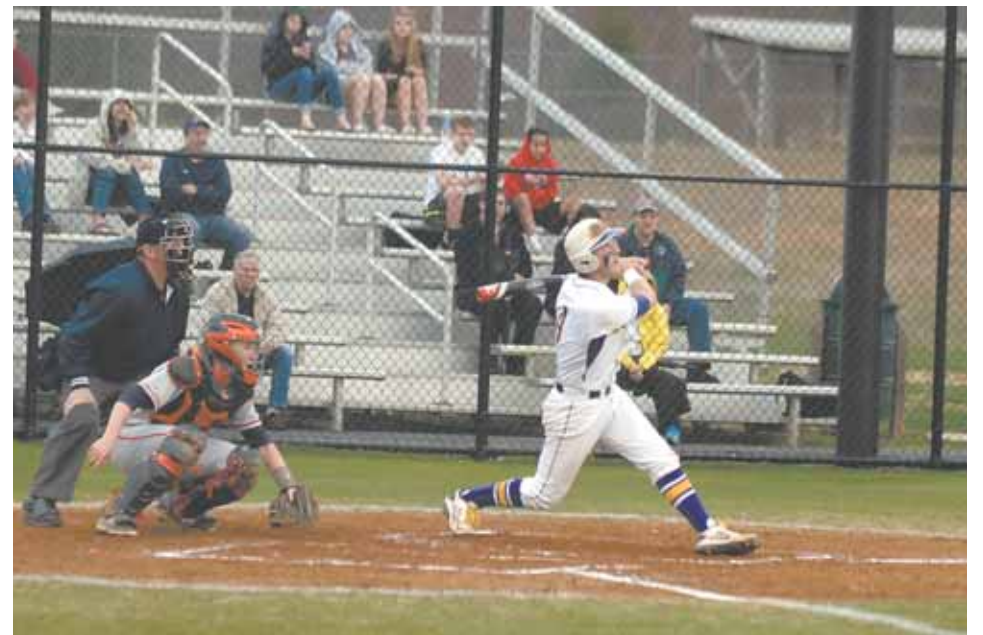


# SPORTS

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



Lake Braddock shortstop Nick Neville hit his first home run of the season against West Springfield on Tuesday.



Lake Braddock senior Matt Supko drove in a pair of runs during the Bruins' 7-1 win over West Springfield on Tuesday.

## Lake Braddock Baseball Motivated by Sub-Par 2014 Season

**Bruins beat defending Conference 7 champion West Springfield.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he decorated history of the Lake Braddock baseball program is chronicled on three banners hanging on the outfield fence.

To the left is a display of district championships. To the right is a list of region titles. In the middle is recognition of the Bruins' lone state championship, captured in 2012.

Lake Braddock enters every season with expectations of adding to its ledger of accomplishments. Last year, however, not only did the Bruins fall short of adding "2014" to any of their banners, Lake Braddock failed to qualify for the region tournament.

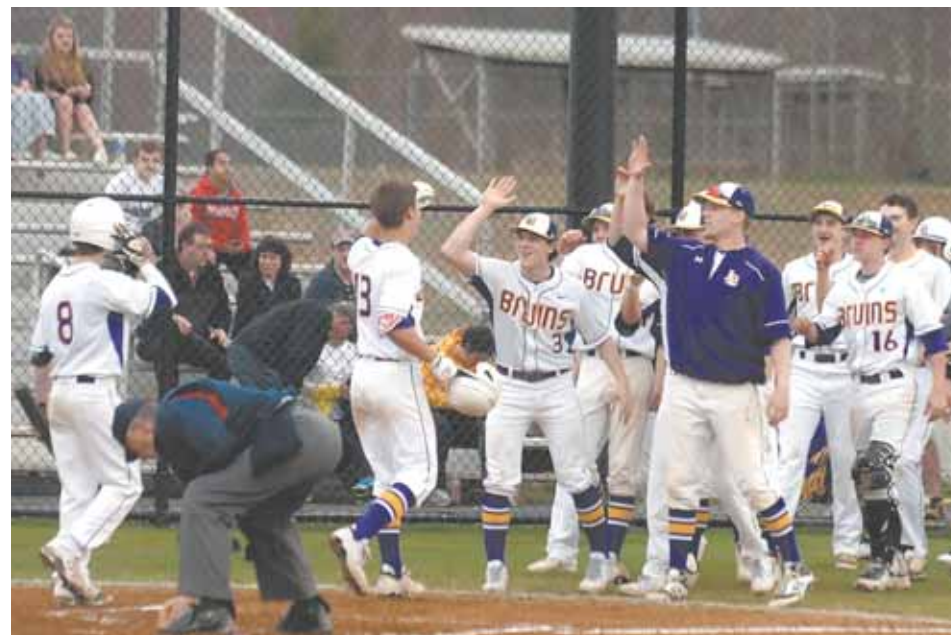
The defending 6A North region champions were one-and-done in the Conference 7 tournament, ending their season with a 3-2 loss to Annandale in the opening round. The Bruins lost twice to West Springfield, West Potomac and South County during the season and finished with a 12-9 record.

One week later, head coach Jody Rutherford and new pitching coach John Thomas had the Bruins in the weight room, working to assure such a shortcoming didn't occur again.

The loss to Annandale "made me hungry," Rutherford said. "You take some things for granted. I think we underachieved a little bit last year and we weren't going to let that happen again this year."

Nearly 11 months after Lake Braddock failed to qualify for the 2014 region tournament, the Bruins are back to playing like contenders. On Tuesday, they thumped defending Conference 7 champion West Springfield 7-1 at Lake Braddock Secondary School. The Bruins improved their record to 7-1 in 2015, including 2-0 in the conference.

**LAKE BRADDOCK** opened the year with four straight victories before losing to



Nick Neville (13) is greeted by his Lake Braddock teammates after leading off the bottom of the first inning with a home run on Tuesday.

**"I think we underachieved a little bit last year and we weren't going to let that happen again this year."**

— Lake Braddock baseball coach Jody Rutherford

Oakton, 7-5, on March 30. The Bruins responded by beating defending 6A North region champion Chantilly (8-1), Freedom (6-2), and the rival Spartans.

"I feel like the chemistry with this group is way better," Rutherford said. "Really, man for man, starting with me, I told the guys I didn't do a good job last year. I could have done a lot of things better. I didn't handle the adversity well and I took ownership in that and I said they needed to take ownership in things that they needed to do better."

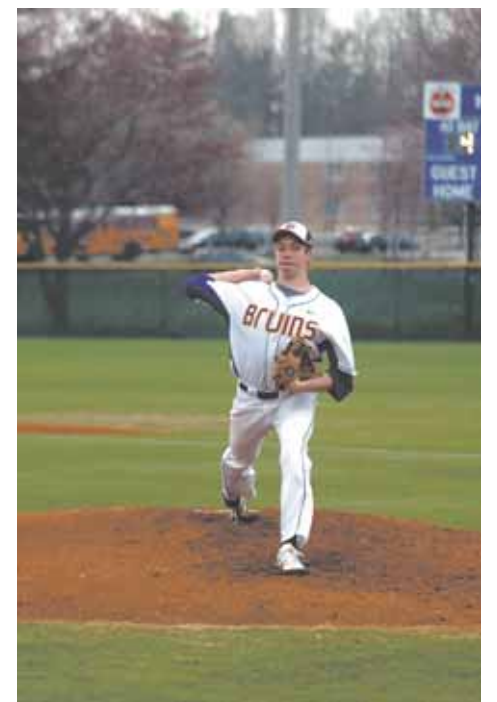
The pitching staff has been a strong point early in the season, led by juniors Wade Strain, Ryan Mullins and Andy Shreves.

Strain got the start against West Springfield on April 7 and earned the win. The right-hander allowed six hits and one unearned run while striking out six in six innings. He did not walk a batter.

Strain surrendered just two hits in his final four innings on the mound.

"[West Springfield] squared up some balls in the first inning and [Strain] just competed," Rutherford said. "After they got on him, he competed. Last year, same situation. He started against them. He got hit hard and he didn't battle through it. Today, he battled through it."

"After that, he was really pretty dominant."



Lake Braddock pitcher Wade Strain earned the win against West Springfield on Tuesday, allowing one unearned run in six innings.

Senior shortstop Nick Neville said he appreciates Strain's strike-throwing approach. "It makes it 10 times easier," Neville said. "If you get a guy throwing balls out there, you kind of get on your heels sometimes [and] that's when you get an error and a big inning happens. But Wade works really quick. He always pounds the zone. You know what's coming."

While Strain's approach helps Neville stay focused in the field, Neville returned the favor by giving his pitcher an early lead against the Spartans.

Leading off the bottom of the first inning, Neville cranked a 2-1 pitch over the fence in right-center field for his first home run of the season and a 1-0 lead.

"I was just kind of looking for a fastball on that count, 2-1, and I got a pitch that I could

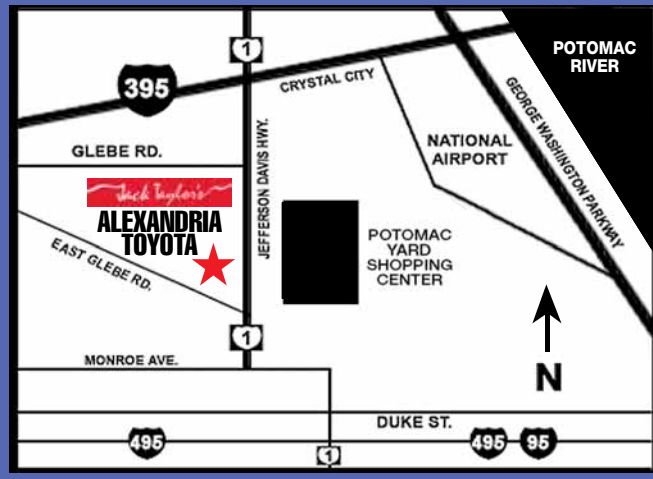
SEE BASEBALL, PAGE 15

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-Thomas Fuller

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### SUNDAY/APRIL 12

**Suicide Prevention Seminar.** 7-8:30 p.m. Fairfax United Methodist Church, 10300 Stratford Avenue, Fairfax.

**Recycle for AFH.** 12-4 p.m. Petco Chantilly, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. In case you're not aware, it's not a good idea to simply "throw away" your old technology. Most technology devices are full of things that are really bad for the environment: arsenic, heavy metals, and all sorts of exotic toxins that will leech into the ground if disposed of in the landfill. By recycling to benefit with AFH, you'll be working with a knowledgeable company who will ensure that your "dirty laundry" gets disposed of properly. If you bring anything with a hard drive, you can erase it first, or the recycling company can wipe it back at their facility. They can also remove it for you while you wait, and you can dispose of it yourself. This is a great opportunity to get rid of that old VCR, 8-track player, 10 year old computer, old cell phones, etc. The items don't have to be working either! See more at: <http://www.aforeverhome.org/event/recycle-for-afh/#sthash.Z6ixaNld.dpuf>

### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 15

**Dementia and Legal Concerns: Capacity, Guardianship & Healthcare Decision Making.** 1:30 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. An elder law attorney will lead this discussion to help you get all of your legal needs in order. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP and for more information.

# Baseball

FROM PAGE 12

drive," Neville said, "and I didn't miss it." How does missing the region tournament last year affect this team?

"Obviously, last year is last year," said Neville, a three-year varsity player, "but at the same time we feel like we have something to prove this year and we feel like we can surprise some people."

Senior center fielder Colin Brechwald went 3-for-4 with a double against West Springfield. Senior right fielder Evan Eschenburg was 1-for-3 with three RBIs and sophomore second baseman Ethan Rolland finished 2-for-4.

**JUNIOR CATCHER** Logan Driscoll and freshman designated hitter Will Reid each had a single. Senior first baseman Matt Supko drove in a pair of runs and junior left fielder Nate Contrino had an RBI.

Supko, a four-year varsity player who underwent Tommy John surgery following his sophomore season, pitched a scoreless seventh inning, striking out two.

"It's hard to forget about [missing the region tournament]," Supko said. "We definitely think back to the games — we lost to West Springfield twice last year. The top three teams in our district we lost to twice. We definitely use that as motivation."

Lake Braddock returns to action at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 10 with a road game against West Potomac. The Bruins are then scheduled for three straight home games against Woodson (April 14), St. John's (April 15) and Annandale (April 17).

"Every year, we're trying to win a state championship," Neville said. "I think I've got 20 guys behind me that believe the same thing."

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**Fairfax City \$800,000**  
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**Fairfax \$694,900**  
5 BR, 3.5 BA Sited on .92 fenced acres with lots of year-round privacy screening and a view of Popes Head Park. This home is located in sought-after Colchester Hunt & has Renovated Kitchen & Baths, Large Custom Pool & a Fully Finished Basement.

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**Annandale \$665,000**

**Beautifully Updated**  
Fabulous kitchen remodel just completed! New cabinets, granite & SS appliances! Beautiful 4 BR, 3 BA split level home off of cul-de-sac. 2-car, side-load garage. HW floors and so much more! Call Barbara at 703-473-1803

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