

# Springfield CONNECTION

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## HomeLifeStyle

PAGE 8

# All Aboard!

NEWS, PAGE 2

**Manuel Juarez and his son, Antonio of Springfield, admiring the model train and set decorations at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum.**

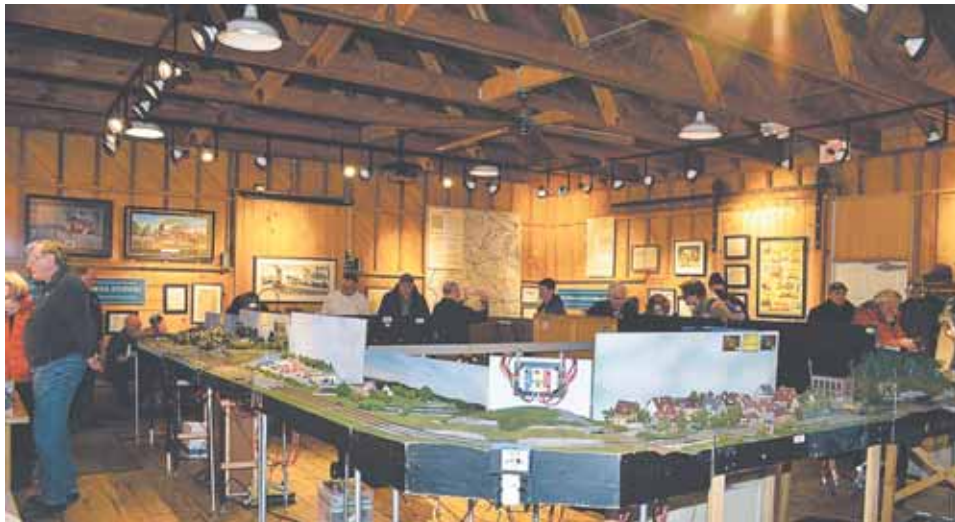
## Springfield's Gold Mettle

NEWS, PAGE 10

## More Than 200 Attend First Budget Hearing

NEWS, PAGE 4





**The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum filled with N Trak gauge trains and rails.**

# All Aboard!

**N**estled off Fairfax Station Road is a historic gem that combines the history of the Civil War with model trains. On the third Sunday every month, the N Trak volunteers bring together their N gauge train sets and create a new configuration to delight the visitors of all ages. Jim Davis has the task of coordinating the layout and filling the main train station. Volunteers engage the visitors with personal stories and deep insights about the historical significance of this railroad station.

Originally built in the early 1850s this station served the residents of Fairfax Court House, now known as Fairfax City and was on the rail line running from Alexandria to Gordonsville. Eventually this line was ex-

## Model Train Show at the Railroad Museum

The Potomac Module Crew (PMC) members will have a two day HO scale modular train display running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum on Saturday May 2, from noon to 5 p.m. and Sunday, May 3, from noon to 4 p.m. They will be joined by a custom built LEGO train display. The museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. Information on the museum and shows is at: [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR) or phone 703-425-9225.

tended to Charlottesville and then Lynchburg in 1860.

The Union Army destroyed the original train station in 1862 after the second battle of Manassas during their retreat. The Union Army returned after the Battle of Antietam in late 1862 to rebuild the station and serve as the Army's logistical supply base. Fairfax Station was the center of emergency treatment and transport for the wounded.

Up the hill, Clara Barton, "Angel of the Battlefield", a 40 year-old unmarried government clerk tended to the wounds of the soldiers at St. Mary's Church. The Confederate Army burned the train station again in 1862 and Clara Barton and her two aides barely escaped.



**Kip Petzick of Fairfax, showing his hobby to his students David Seitz of Chantilly, Timothy Park of Centerville, and Josie Rios of Alexandria.**

PHOTOS BY TERRANCE MORAN/THE CONNECTION



**The Falck Family of Burke visiting the gift shop. From left: August, Catherine, Stephanie and Chris Falck.**

Over the course of 40 years five train stations were built, the last in 1903. This station operated until 1973 when the Southern Railroad decided to close Fairfax Station.

With the help of volunteers, and funding from the Fairfax Board of Supervisors, the Virginia chapter of Associated Builders, and Dale Lumber, the station was disassembled and re-created at its present site. The Fairfax

Station Railroad Museum was dedicated in 1987 and opened in 1988.

When visiting the gift shop, take time to look through the photographs assembled by Phil Scruggs that highlight the actions of the union soldiers. There are also samples of cannon balls and rail spikes for visitors to hold.

— TERRANCE MORAN



**Grandfather Steve Jewett spending time with his grandson Jakob Jewett, age 5, of Burke, learning about trains.**



**Phil Scruggs of Burke holding a photo of Clara Barton tending to two union soldiers.**

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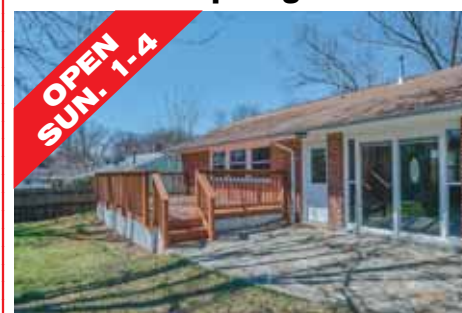
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AmeriCorps volunteer Britney Neuhauser helped take apart bikes.



From left, AmeriCorps volunteers Anthony DiCesare and Declan Devine working on bikes that will go to Morocco.

## Taking Apart Bikes for a Good Cause

Volunteers prep bikes for a young adult's shelter in Morocco.

BY MARISSA BEALE  
THE CONNECTION

On Thursday, April 2, Volunteer Fairfax's Volunteers for Change Program and young people from AmeriCorps helped take apart used bicycles. These bikes will go toward helping low-income people and communities in the country and around the world. This effort is made possible through Bikes for the World (BFW), an Arlington-based nonprofit that collects the bikes. Their latest set of bikes will go to Morocco to benefit an organization called Darna.

The bikes are shipped in containers that are 40 feet long and can hold approximately 500 bicycles as well as new and used spare parts.

"This is our first container loading to Morocco," said Yvette Hess, BFW's outreach coordinator.

Darna, a shelter located in Tangier, Morocco, provides a safe place for women, young girls and boys whose lives are at risk. Bike recipients are trained on how to maintain the bike. The boys will learn how to assemble the bikes and distribute them there as well.

"People are trained not just in bike mechanics, but also in business," said Hess.

BFW's mission is to make it possible for low-income people and communities in the country and around the world to have access to quality used bikes. The idea is that these bikes will improve the quality of life by providing transportation, and enable recipients to gain skills in bike maintenance.

Since its inception, BFW has donated over 100,000 bikes to domestic projects like Kristi's Christmas in Fairfax and Phoenix Bikes in Arlington, and to international projects in the Philippines, El Salvador, Kenya, Barbados and Costa Rica. The impact of the effort includes job creation since the bikes have to be reassembled and reconditioned in the recipient



Lorton resident, James Reno, left, helped load a container with bikes to be shipped to Morocco.

country, and educational opportunities since the bikes can be used for transport to and from school.

"It's pretty cool volunteering," said AmeriCorps Volunteer Jessica Abrams of the project. "This is a unique project outside of our normal nine to five work schedule."

Sometimes donated bikes cannot be used, but still have functioning parts, like pedals. Rather than discard the entire bike, the functioning pieces are shipped in the containers along with the partially disassembled bikes, and used to benefit communities in the recipient country.

In the summer, the number of bikes in BFW's warehouse increases, but still, they are always looking for more bikes to be distributed.

"We're trying to reach out to apartment buildings to get their abandoned bikes," said Hess about efforts to increase the numbers of bikes they have.

For more information on how to volunteer, donate or organize a collection, visit <http://www.bikesfortheworld.org/>.

PHOTOS BY MARISSA BEALE/THE CONNECTION



(From left) Springfield Town Center general manager Eric Christensen, Vornado president Mitchell Schear, Koinonia executive director Robert Petitti and supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) cut the ribbon to officially open Springfield Town Center in October 2014.

## Springfield Town Center Has New Owner

Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust completes purchase of Springfield Town Center.

The Philadelphia-based firm Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust announced April 1 it had closed on acquiring Springfield Town Center from the previous owners at Vornado Realty Trust, based in New York.

When the 1.35 million square-foot revitalized shopping and dining destination had its grand opening in October 2014, Vornado and Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust were co-owners, though the complete acquisition was in the works.

For the property, Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust delivered a net \$340 million in cash and debt repayment, according to a press release. Along with the developed town center property, they also bought the rights to develop

more than three million square feet of additional space.

Since the Oct. 14 2014 release of the tenants roster, Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust announced there have been over 60,000 square feet of new tenant leases executed, with planned openings expected during the second quarter of 2015.

"We are excited to have completed the planned acquisition of Springfield Town Center," said Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust chief operating officer Joseph F. Coradino. "Since reopening in October, Springfield Town Center has performed extremely well and we are confident that we will be able to further capitalize on the significant opportunities this property offers."

—TIM PETERSON

### WEEK IN SPRINGFIELD

## Community College to Host Springfield Community Day

Northern Virginia Community College Medical Education Campus at 6699 Springfield Center Drive will host Springfield Community Day on Saturday, April 11, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Community Members will be able to obtain free health, nutrition and complete college information, including: health, blood pressure and vision screening; hands-only CPR training; nutritionist presentation; farmers market, DJ from 93.9 WKYS radio station; campus tours, college information and personal advice;

SEE WEEK, PAGE 5

SPRINGFIELD CONNECTION ♦ APRIL 9-15, 2015 ♦ 3



# More Than 200 Attend First Budget Hearing

Schools, libraries, economic development authorities and others seek more funding while tax-hawks call for reductions.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

**M**ore than 200 people packed the Fairfax County Government auditorium Tuesday, April 7, and 60 speakers were scheduled to testify before the Board of Supervisors on the advertised budget. The hearing began with a presentation by School Board Chairman Tamara Derenak Kaufax.

Members of the Fairfax County School Board sat in the front row, gave a standing ovation, and remained standing as Kaufax finished her testimony to begin the budget hearings.

“Budget reductions come with a price — the price should not be our children’s future. This budget does not meet all of the school system’s needs and it certainly does not adequately fund our shared vision of excellence for our schools and students,” said Kaufax.

The Fairfax County Public Schools requested \$14 million more than is in the proposed budget.

Fairfax County Public Schools is the 10th largest school system in the country with more than 188,000 students.

Kaufax cited statistics and trends that challenge the school system. “We would be the sixth largest school division in Virginia, if you counted just our free-or-reduced-price meal population; or the ninth largest if you only counted our English for Speakers of Other Languages population,” she said.

**NEARLY 53 PERCENT** of the proposed \$3.8 billion county budget is slated to be transferred to the schools.

Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, said that while the schools didn’t ask for everything they needed or get everything they wanted, that the amount of the proposed transfer from the county to the schools was closer to the amount requested than anytime in memory.

“We appreciate that you rolled up your sleeves, and we rolled up our sleeves,” said Bulova.

Supervisor Jeff McKay called it “unconscionable” that the state doesn’t adequately fund the schools. “We will have the same conversations year after year after year,” he said, if the Board of Supervisors and School Board don’t advocate together in unity. “We need to march together,” he said.

Familiar faces advocated for a reduction in spending and taxes, such as James Parmalee of Centreville, and Arthur Purvis, of Vienna.

There were also advocates who encouraged an increase in taxes to ensure that funding will address the needs of all of Fairfax residents.

Steven Davis, chairman of the Economic Development Authority, said the county is experiencing record office vacancy rates, which pushes down commercial property values and, with it, the proportion of taxes paid by the commercial tax base, shifting

more of the burden onto residential taxes.

Maintaining Fairfax County’s AAA bond rating is critical, Davis said. “You send a signal to businesses around the world that Fairfax County is one of the best managed jurisdictions in the world,” he said. “We all know it has taken decades to build a product that gets businesses here and keeps people here.”

Brian Engler, of the Fairfax Library Foundation, and Charles Fegan, of the Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees, addressed the cuts to the library system. Libraries are part of educating the county’s young people, and provide a myriad of other services to residents of all ages despite significant cuts in recent years, they said.

**TWO ADDITIONAL HEARINGS** were scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, April 8 and 9 with dozens more speakers ready to testify.

On April 28, the Board of Supervisors is scheduled to adopt its FY 2016 Budget and tax rate, including budget transfer to the school system. The School Board is scheduled to adopt its budget on May 21, 2015.

The FY 2016 Budget becomes effective July 1, 2015.

**Virginia Department of Transportation estimates about 25,000 potholes have been repaired in Northern Virginia so far in 2015.**



COURTESY OF VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## The Pothole Picture

Two “p”s become prominent and problematic this time of year: pollen and potholes. The Virginia Department of Transportation can at least do something about the latter, if not the former.

“One of the busiest times for filling is right as the winter ends,” Virginia Department of Transportation spokesperson Jennifer McCord said in an email. “The constant freeze and thaw throughout the winter usually results in a burst of potholes.”

According to McCord, state maintenance crews and contractors have already filled over 25,000 potholes in Northern Virginia; Virginia is on pace to match its total of around 146,000 filled last year statewide.

Repairing potholes fall under the \$256 million Northern Virginia maintenance program, which also includes grass mowing, patching, paving and snow removal. That program covers most roads in

Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William Counties, as well as interstates and primary roads in Arlington.

Citizens can report an existing pothole or file a claim if their vehicle was damaged as a result of encountering one. The Virginia Department of Transportation customer service line, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, is 800-367-7623 (ROAD), while the website for reporting a problem is [www.virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp).

Claim-processing time can be lengthy, McCord said, as the claims department must examine factors such as whether or not the pothole in question was already scheduled for repair and if there was reasonable time for the repair to occur.

For more information about pothole repair, visit [www.virginiadot.org/info/fq-potholes.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/info/fq-potholes.asp).

— TIM PETERSON



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TRANSURBAN

**From left: Richard Bowers, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department chief; Jeffrey Katz, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department; Jennifer Aument, Transurban Group general manager North America; Mike Wendt, Fairfax County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association president and Dana Powers, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department.**

## ‘Drive to Donate’ on Express Lanes Raises Nearly \$80,000 for Fire and Rescue Departments

Transurban, operator of the I-95 and I-495 Express Lanes, designated March 21 for a “Drive to Donate” campaign. All tolls collected on that day from the nearly 40 miles of lanes stretching from the Dulles Toll Road to Stafford County would be donated to local Fire and Rescue departments.

With over 20,000 drivers using the lanes that Saturday, Transurban raised nearly \$80,000 for the donation. On Friday April 3 at the Transurban Express Lanes Operations Center in Alexandria, Transurban Group General Manager North America Jennifer Aument presented checks of over \$26,000 each to the Fairfax County, Prince William County and Stafford County Fire and Rescue Departments.

“As safety is the top priority on the Ex-

press Lanes, it was important to us to support our local fire and rescue organizations,” Aument said in a statement. “This donation is one way we can thank our local heroes for keeping the communities surrounding the Express Lanes corridor safe each and every day.”

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Chief Richard Bowers said their donation will help fund life-saving fire, rescue and emergency medical services equipment. “Thank you for the contributions that will make a difference in the lives of our residents and those that pass through our community on a daily basis,” he said in a statement.

— TIM PETERSON



# Police Captain Graduates from FBI Academy

**C**aptain Graham H. McGowan is the Fairfax County Police Department's latest graduate of the FBI's National Academy, which has just completed its 259th session. Last week he joined the ranks of 12 previous graduates on the department who are active police commanders, including Chief, Colonel Edwin C. Roessler, Jr. Captain McGowan is a 31-year veteran of the Fairfax County Police Department and currently serves as the Assistant Director of the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy.

The FBI National Academy, established in 1935, is a ten week professional development course for U.S. and international law enforcement leaders. Sessions of approximately 220 officers take undergraduate and/or graduate classes at the FBI campus in Quantico, Va. with the goal of improving the administration of justice in police departments and agencies at home. Coursework focuses on law, behavioral science, forensic science, understanding terrorism/terrorist mindsets, leadership, communication, and health/fitness.

Leaders and managers of state, local, county, tribal police, military, federal, and international law enforcement agencies attend the FBI National Academy by invitation only. The Fairfax County Police Department has had 96 graduates, 13 of whom remain serving within the police department.



**Captain Graham McGowan (right) with FBI Director James B. Comey.**

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

FROM PAGE 3

campus clubs and organizations; Walk4Life fundraiser; face-painting; caricature artist; balloon twister; free give-a-ways; free parking; food, music, fun and much more.while having a good time doing so. Fun activities for all ages.

## Concerts from Kirkwood to Present Carles&Sofia Piano Duo

Concerts from Kirkwood will complete its 2014 – 2015 season on May 9, with a special concert featuring the internationally renowned Spanish piano duo, Carles&Sofia. Carles Lama and Sofia Cabruja have been performing together since 1987. They perform regularly worldwide both in recitals for four hands and with orchestra. They have made an extensive number of recordings on the on the KNS- classical label.

This concert will be the duo's only Washington D.C. area appearance in a schedule that includes stops in New York, Frankfurt, Girona, Budapest, Montevideo and other locations in Europe, North and South America. The duo will perform on Kirkwood's Steinway piano with a program of music by Schubert, Brahms, Ravel, Albeniz, and DeFalla arranged for four hands on a single keyboard.

Concerts from Kirkwood is presented as a gift to the community free of charge, although voluntary donations are appreciated and used entirely to support the series.

The concert will be presented on Saturday, May 9, at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary of Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield, one block east and one block north of the intersection of Old Keene Mill Road and Rolling Road in West Springfield.

For more information: email [concerts@kirkwoodpres.com](mailto:concerts@kirkwoodpres.com), visit [www.kirkwoodpres.com](http://www.kirkwoodpres.com), or call the church office at 703-451-5320.

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# OPINION

## 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

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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

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 7

Springfield  
**CONNECTION**

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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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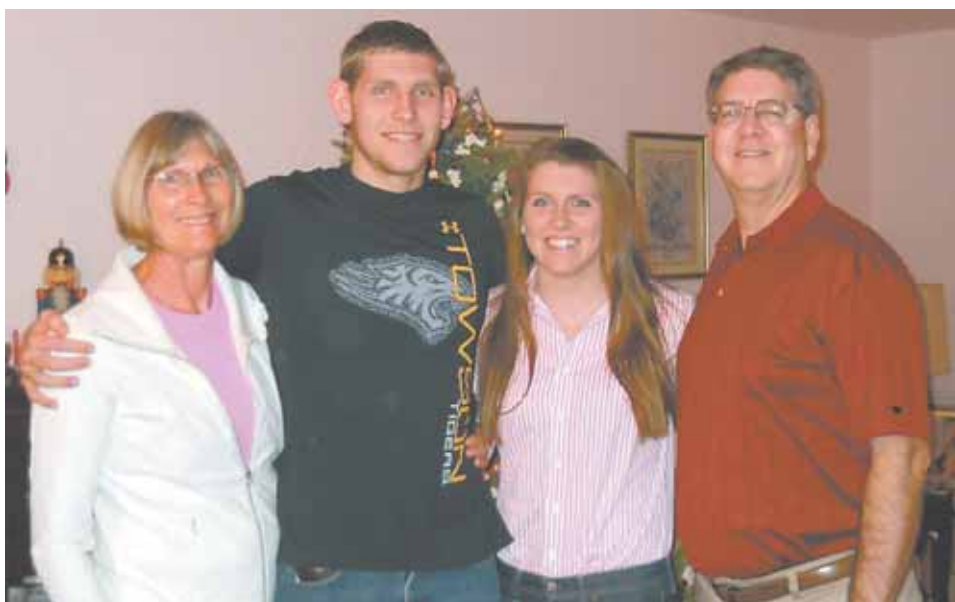
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**Melissa Belote Ripley (left) is joined by her son Erik, daughter Rachel and husband Rich.**



**Springfield residents Jim and Siiri Fenix's daughter Stefanie (left) and friend Kenzie Macintosh (right) were coached by Melissa Belote Ripley in the 1980s.**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MELISSA BELOTE RIPLEY

PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM FENIX

# Gold Mettle

Melissa Belote Ripley went from summer league standout to Olympic champion in seven years.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**M**elissa Belote Ripley's former swimming coach Ed Solotar had two requirements: "You've got to want to win and want to get better," said Belote Ripley, who was born in Washington, D.C., but grew up in Springfield. "To have to have that burning desire to always be the best, a fire in your belly to really want to win, to work — that was easy for me, that's just how I was."

The Robert E. Lee High School graduate set numerous school, state and national records for high school swimming, but is most well known for her three-gold-medal breakout performance at the 1972 Summer Olympic Games held in Munich, Germany. She was 15 at the time.

At 8, however, she was "just a water rat" whose friends and neighbors convinced her to come out for the social and competitive environment of the Springfield Swimming & Racquet Club summer league team.

Inspired immediately by her coach Dickie Donahue, she spent "every minute" in the pool that season and qualified for the Northern Virginia Swimming League All-Star championship meet.

Another coach saw Belote Ripley's ability to do more than just summer swimming and introduced her parents to Solotar and his eponymous club team. Under his guidance, she skyrocketed over the next several years, competing at the national level by age 12.

Through a series of high profile meets including the Santa Clara International, she "found another gear to make me go faster, train harder" and qualified for the Olympic team in individual events of 100- and 200-meter backstroke.

As a rising high school sophomore, Belote

Ripley said the Olympic Village experience was reminiscent of Disneyland. "It was a fantasy world," she said. "Sure, I was nervous, but I've never been scared. My personality doesn't allow that. I'm a confident person that believes in myself in everything that I do."

**THE YOUNG SWIMMER** from Springfield won gold in both her individual events and lead off the gold medal-winning, world record-setting 4x100 medley relay team. Her 200 meter backstroke time also set a new world record of 2:19.19.

"My zip code was 22150," said Belote Ripley. Everyone told her, "You've got to break your zip code." Eventually I broke it."

The hometown hero was courted by the media and made numerous visits to the White House after she got back from Munich.

Hungry to keep improving, Belote Ripley returned to the games four years later in Montreal facing high expectations from her successes in Germany. When she only qualified in the 200 backstroke, what she called an "incredible personal triumph," the media "basically told me I'm a failure because I couldn't go back and challenge what I'd done four years earlier. I'm like, I'm a different person."

At 19, she said, there are a few more distractions than at 15. She had just finished her sophomore year at Arizona State University, for one.

As a Sun Devil, she was part of two national championship teams and a four-year All-American. Rather than try for a third Olympics, Belote Ripley chose to retire from competing after her final college season. She moved back to Northern Virginia, where she worked for Xerox and was asked to coach young swimmers at her former team, Solotar Swim Club.



**Fifteen-year-old Melissa Belote Ripley captured three gold medals in swimming at the 1972 Summer Olympic Games in Munich, Germany.**

The Olympic champion started with Solotar in 1981 and continued there until 1988, when she moved back to Arizona and married her longtime friend from college Rich Ripley.

Their children Rachel and Erik both grew up as swimmers and were able to swim at the same Springfield pool where Belote Ripley first trained, while staying with their grandparents.

They each became successful college swimmers in their own right.

Belote Ripley was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame and Virginia Sports Hall of Fame. She and her husband live in Tempe, Ariz., and she continues to coach age group swimmers with Rio Salado Swim Club and high school swimmers at McClintock High School.

"When I would work the little kids," she said, "they have huge successes almost every single day." She added she loves to "see a kid mastering a skill they struggled with, getting a flip turn the first time."

Springfield resident and former Clifton Elementary School teacher Siiri Fenix first met Belote Ripley when she came home



**Melissa Belote Ripley represented the United States in the 1972 and 1976 Summer Olympic Games.**

from her first Olympics. Her students wanted to present her with a book of drawings of Olympians from their unit studying Greece.

"She could've said 'That's nice, I don't really have time,'" said Fenix. Instead, the young champion said she would love to see the pictures and come talk to the class about her experience. "That's the type of person that she was. A friendship started right there, the fact she was very warm, friendly, a real people-person who wanted to give me something to take back to the kids."

**YEARS LATER**, when Fenix and her husband Jim had children of their own that swam for the Rolling Forrest summer league team, they heard an Olympian was coaching at a local winter program. It was Belote Ripley at Solotar. The Fenix children Doug and Stefanie were soon under her tutelage and a relationship developed between the families.

"Kids really worked hard for her," said Jim Fenix. "She instilled that in them and she set goals for them, and that's what made her such a good teacher."



# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## 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>.

## 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

**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](http://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](mailto:fairfaxtickets@vagardenweek.org). Visit [www.gardencluboffairfax.blogspot.com](http://www.gardencluboffairfax.blogspot.com) for a list of local retailers selling tickets.**



PHOTO BY DONNA MOULTON

adults 16 and older. [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-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.

## FRIDAY/APRIL 17

**NoVa Annandale Symphony Orchestra.** 8 p.m. Richard J. Ernst Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Christopher Johnston, conductor. Music by Haydn, Mendelssohn, Holst, and Scott Joplin. Tickets at the door \$15, students \$10, children 12 & under free. Sponsored by NOVA College and the Reunion Music Society. Call 703-569-0973 for information.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 18

**Annual Spring Faire.** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. The Woman’s Club of Springfield is sponsoring the event. There’s something for everyone - jewelry, fashion, home decor, kitchen, garden, gourmet, and more! Free admission. Proceeds will be donated to Bethany House to help victims of domestic abuse. Information about us: [www.womansclubofspringfield.org](http://www.womansclubofspringfield.org); 703-451-2467 (The Pink Elephant thrift shop)

**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. Visit [www.fairfaxjubilaires.org](http://www.fairfaxjubilaires.org) for details and tickets.

**Ballroom Social Dance.** 7:30-10:30 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Get on your dancing shoes and come out to the Workhouse for an evening of social ballroom dance led by one of our instructors. Bring a friend, a date or a group and enjoy a casual, fun night out.

## SUNDAY/APRIL 19

**NTRAK Scale 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. Information on the museum and shows is at [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) or 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 is the oldest and largest statewide event of its kind in the nation. With the coordinated effort of 47 member clubs, 3,400 volunteers statewide, 32 house and garden tours featuring 200 private home and gardens and 50 historic landmarks take place over 8 consecutive days. All proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of Virginia’s historic public gardens such as Mr. Vernon, Kenmore and Monticello. To restore and preserve historic public gardens since 1929 in Virginia including a new initiative to help the Virginia State Parks. We will be partnering with Mason Neck State Park (Lorton) to provide funds to install new exhibits in their Visitor Center. Find out more or to buy

tickets: [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org)

## SATURDAY/APRIL 25

**Mothers, Daughters and Special Friends Tea.** 2-4 p.m. Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Join the Historic Pohick Church Docent Guild for their annual Signature Tea. The theme this year will be “Mothers, Daughters, and Special Friends.” New children’s tours of the historic church for our young guests will be held before the tea beginning at 1 pm. The special afternoon tea with a Colonial Living History program follows the tours at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children under 12. Seating is limited. For reservations and more information please contact Helen Parker at 703-497-5927 or email at [helenandjeffp@verizon.net](mailto:helenandjeffp@verizon.net).

**Spring Fest 2015.** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Spend the day at the historic Workhouse Arts Center learning about environmental projects and programs, tasting food from around the world, playing games, and riding ponies! Don’t miss Billy B! on the main stage. Other activities include a petting zoo, rock climbing walls, bounce houses, face-painting, plant sales, wagon rides, and dozens of exhibits and vendors. Admission is free; some activities require a \$5 wristband. For more information, please visit: <http://www.springfestfairfax.org/>

## ONGOING

**Workhouse Farmers Market.** 3-6 p.m., at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Every Thursday on the quad is a producer-only market for discerning shoppers featuring locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally raised meats and poultry and local foods from breads to salsas and sausages. [www.smartmarkets.org](http://www.smartmarkets.org).

**First Fridays at the Clifton Art Guild.** 6-9 p.m. at Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 C Main St., Clifton. Enjoy a wine tasting and mix and mingle with the Art Guild of Clifton artists. 703-830-1480 or [www.artguildofclifton.org/](http://www.artguildofclifton.org/).

**Saturday Farmers Market.** 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at the parking lot at the intersection of West and Main streets behind Wells Fargo Bank in Fairfax. Every Saturday there is fresh produce, goods and wares at the market. [church@sovgracefairfax.org](mailto:church@sovgracefairfax.org) or [www.FairfaxSaturdayMarket.com](http://www.FairfaxSaturdayMarket.com).

**Sunday Farmers Market.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the parking lot at the intersection of West and Main streets behind Wells Fargo Bank in Fairfax. Every Saturday there is fresh produce, goods and wares at the market. [church@sovgracefairfax.org](mailto:church@sovgracefairfax.org) or [www.FairfaxSundayMarket.com](http://www.FairfaxSundayMarket.com).

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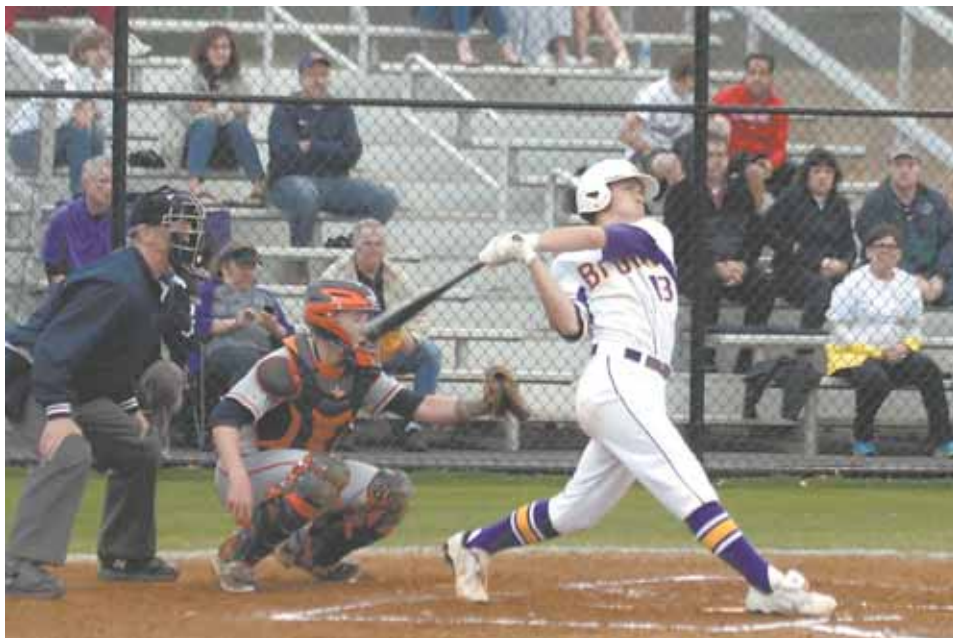
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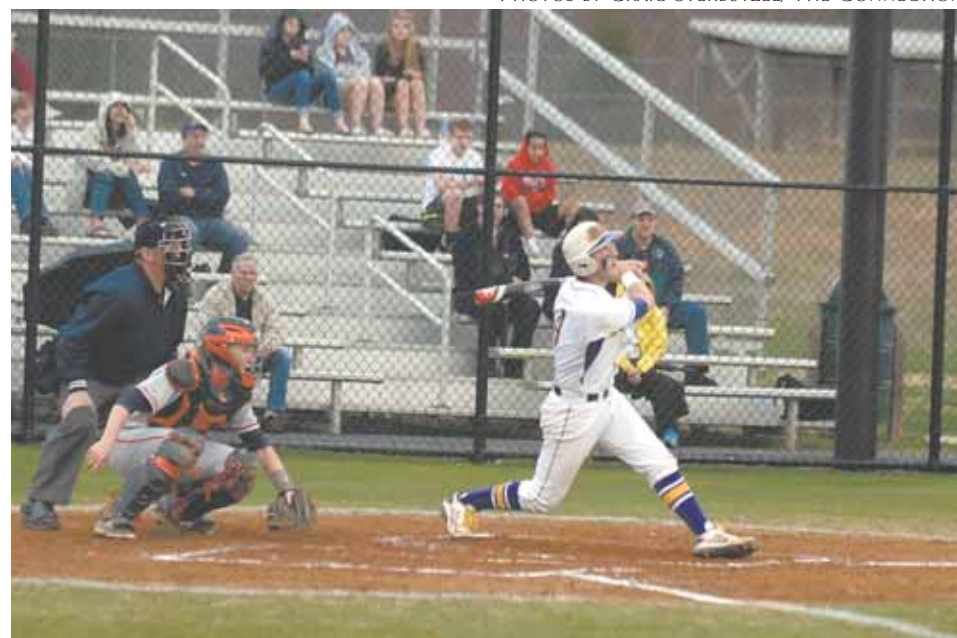


# SPORTS

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.

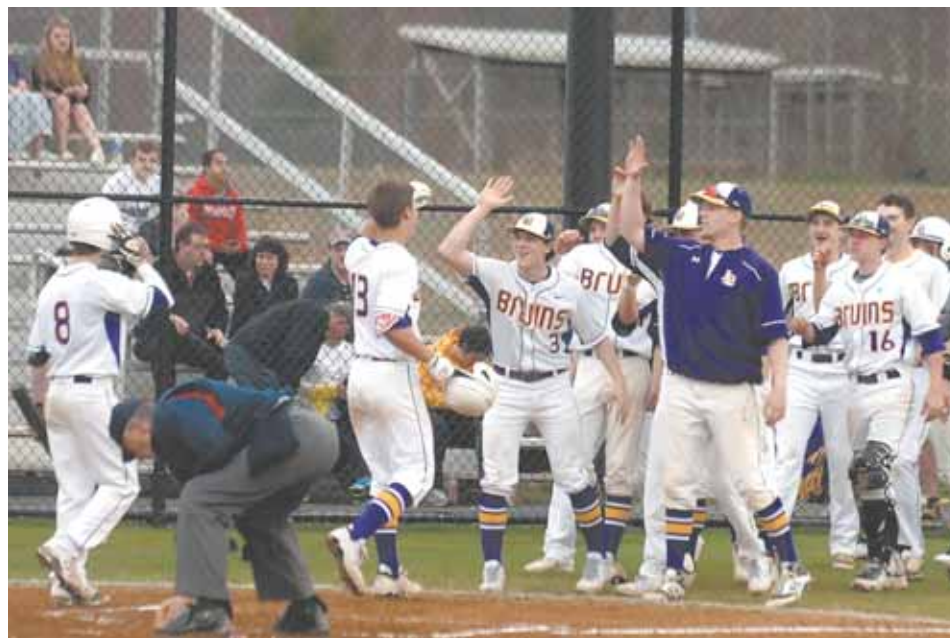
The defending 6A North region champions were one-and-done in the Conference 7 tournament, ending their season with a 3-2 loss to Annandale in the opening round. The Bruins lost twice to West Springfield, West Potomac and South County during the season and finished with a 12-9 record.

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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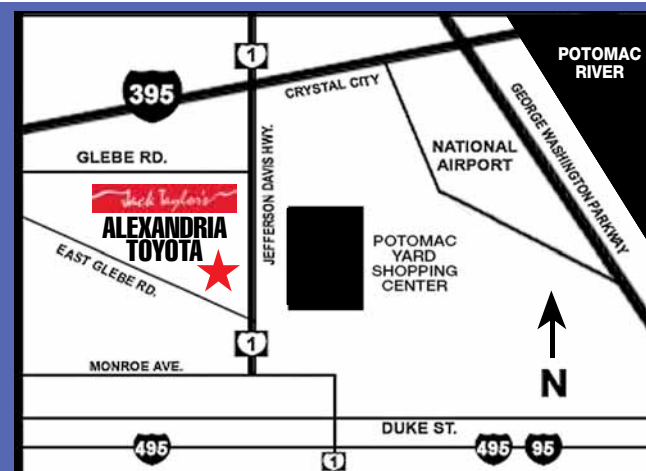


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2. 0.9% APR financing up to 60 months available to qualified buyers thru Toyota Financial Services. Total financed cannot exceed MSRP plus options, tax and license fees. 60 monthly payments of \$17.05 for each \$1,000 borrowed. Not all buyers will qualify. See dealer for details. ToyotaCare covers normal factory scheduled service. Plan is 2 years or 25K miles, whichever comes first. The new vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet, or a livery/taxi vehicle. See participating Toyota dealer for plan details. Valid only in the continental U.S. and Alaska. Roadside assistance does not include parts and fluids. Prius plug-in hybrid comes with an extra year of roadside assistance, for a total of three (3) years from date of purchase. Lease, APR and Cash Back offers may not be combined. See dealer for details.

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4. 0.9% APR financing up to 60 months available to qualified buyers thru Toyota Financial Services. Total financed cannot exceed MSRP plus options, tax and license fees. 60 monthly payments of \$17.05 for each \$1,000 borrowed. Not all buyers will qualify. ToyotaCare covers normal factory scheduled service. Plan is 2 years or 25K miles, whichever comes first. The new vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet, or a livery/taxi vehicle. See participating Toyota dealer for plan details. Valid only in the continental U.S. and Alaska. Roadside assistance does not include parts and fluids. Prius plug-in hybrid comes with an extra year of roadside assistance, for a total of three (3) years from date of purchase. Lease, APR and Cash Back offers may not be combined. See dealer for details. Offers expire 4/30/2015.



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good, where  
better is  
expected.  
-Thomas Fuller

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

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According to the Lease by and between (4157) Tony Stefano and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: seasonal decor, boxes, totes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday April 24, 2015 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

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Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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.

### 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 some-  
thing 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 re-  
gion tournament]," Supko said. "We defi-  
nitely 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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