

Chantilly CONNECTION

Fair Oaks ❖ Fair Lakes

Celebrating Community Diversity

NEWS, PAGE 9

Representing Guatemala, Alberto Ramirez sings and plays guitar at the 5th annual Centreville International Showcase was held Saturday, April 25, at Centreville United Methodist Church.



CALENDAR, PAGE 7 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

What's on Local Horizon?

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Guevara Wins GOP's Nod

NEWS, PAGE 2



APRIL 29 - MAY 5, 2015

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Guevara Wins GOP's Nod

A 16-vote victory to become Republican candidate for Sully supervisor.

to make this victory possible," said Guevara on Monday. "Both John Litzenger and Brian Schoeneman ran excellent campaigns.

Guevara said he expected the race to be close, but didn't anticipate such a razor-thin margin of victory.

And he believes his stance on taxes resonated with many of the voters.

"Several residents told me they voted for me because I presented a plan for curbing the out-of-control, real-estate tax increases," he said. "Our friends, neighbors and business owners in Sully were eager and motivated to be part of this campaign to bring economic relief to overburdened residents."

Next on tap for Guevara will be more knocking on doors to persuade potential constituents to vote for him in November. "I fully intend to keep meeting people and listening to the issues that affect us as Sully residents," he said. He also noted that both Litzenger and Schoeneman have pledged their support, which "speaks greatly about the unity of our party."

Guevara further expressed appreciation to his family, his team and the GOP leadership for their hard work, encouragement and support.

— BONNIE HOBBS



John Guevara

It'll be John Guevara vs. Kathy Smith in the upcoming race to represent the Sully District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Smith, Sully's School Board representative, is the only Democratic candidate running to replace the retiring Sully District Supervisor, Michael Frey. And Guevara, a Republican, won Saturday's GOP firehouse primary against two other contenders.

Only 1,362 people voted on April 25, with just 16 votes separating the top two candidates. Guevara, of Fair Oaks, garnered 478 votes; Sully District Planning Commission member John Litzenger came in second with 462 votes. Brian Schoeneman, former secretary of the county Electoral Board, placed third with 422 votes.

"My team and I are humbled, honored and thankful to all the grassroots supporters who came together

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www.ChantillyDay.com

ROUNDUPS



This 1970 Ford Bronco was stolen from a repair garage lot at 14067 Willard Road.

Help Find Stolen Vehicle

Police need seeking the public's help in tracking a stolen red 1970 Ford Bronco. With few of these vehicles still on the road, detectives believe the public may easily recognize the vehicle and be able to assist with the investigation.

The Bronco 5 speed (aftermarket) was stolen from a repair garage lot at 14067 Willard Road at around 11 p.m. on April 19. The license plate is Washington State JW-9564.

Anyone with information is asked to call Detective Bronowicz of the Auto Theft Unit at 703-246-7800.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, May 7, from 5-8:30 p.m. at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed.

Because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

Food Donations for WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' food pantry needs donations of Cooking oil, canned fruit (all types), sugar, canned meats (tuna, ham and chicken), hot cereals, pasta sauce, canned tomatoes, flour, and canned or dry beans.

Toiletries needed, which WFCM clients cannot purchase with food stamps, include facial tissues, toothpaste, shampoo and solid deodorant.

Bring all items to WFCM'S food pantry, weekdays, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at 13888 Metrotech Drive, near Papa John's Pizza and Kumon Learning Center, in Chantilly's Sully Place Shopping Center. A volunteer stocker/bagger is needed Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. Contact Annette Bosley at 703-988-9656, ext. 110, or abosley@wfcmv.org.

Learn about Police Department

Throughout the year, the Fairfax County Police Department will host a series of lectures as part of its 75th anniversary.

❖ May 22 – The Police Canine (K-9) Team, 1 p.m. at OSB <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-fcpd-canine-k-9-team-tickets-15373824523>

❖ May 25 - The Development of the FCPD Badge, noon at the Massey Building A Level small conference room <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-development-of-the-fcpd-badge-tickets-15373875676>

❖ June 11 – 2002 Washington area Sniper Task Force Investigation, 10 a.m. at the Massey Building A Level conference room <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2002-washington-area-sniper-task-force-investigation-tickets-15373977982>

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTLOOK



Artist's rendition of the community commons at the Preserve at Westfields.

What's on Local Horizon?

Homes, shops, restaurant and Wegmans proposed for Westfields.

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

With the downturn in the office market, developers are looking at vacant parcels of land in the Westfields area of Chantilly as a place for residential and other uses, instead. Below are two of the proposals, plus plans for a memory-care facility off of Route 50 west.

Preserve at Westfields

There's a plan to transform 50 acres of vacant land along Route 28 and Stonecroft and Westfields boulevards in Chantilly. Being proposed for what would be called The Preserve at Westfields are 155 townhouses, 650 apartments, plus retail and other amenities.

But first, Fairfax County would have to amend its Comprehensive Plan for that area. Since the plan currently recommends office, hotel and industrial uses there, high-density residential uses would have to be added on paper before any homes could actually be built. The county Board of Supervisors will hold a June 2 public hearing on the matter.

Akridge owns the land and would build the apartment and retail components; Elm Street Development would construct the townhouses. Included would be an amenity area with walking paths, a pavilion/performing and gathering area, plus a lake that's currently not accessible.

Wegmans

The Commonwealth Centre is along Westfields Boulevard, across Route 28 and just northeast of the Akridge site. Regency Centers has a contract to purchase 21 acres inside the Newbrook Drive loop road. There it hopes to construct a mixed-use development, instead of some 1.2 million square feet of offices that could be built there now.

Proposed as the centerpiece is a 140,000-square-

SEE ON HORIZON, PAGE 11

The Arbors of Chantilly would be off Route 50 and Downs Drive.



PROPOSED MEMORY CARE HOME, THE ARBORS OF CHANTILLY, VIRGINIA

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTLOOK



Artist's rendition of the site entrance on Stonecroft Boulevard.



Artist's rendition of the community commons at the Preserve at Westfields.

Live, Work and Play in Same Place

Akridge plans mixed-use, residential community.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A plan is afoot to transform 50 acres of vacant land along Route 28 and Stonecroft and Westfields boulevards in Chantilly. Being proposed for what would be called The Preserve at Westfields are 155 townhouses, 650 apartments, plus retail and other amenities.

But first, Fairfax County would have to amend its Comprehensive Plan for that area. Since the plan currently recommends office, hotel and industrial uses there, high-density residential uses would have to be added on paper before any homes could actually be built.

The county Board of Supervisors will hold a June 2 public hearing on the matter. And on March 17, the West Fairfax County Citizens Assn. (WFCCA) Land-Use Committee received information about the proposal residential community.

"If we do this right, we're ultimately making the Route 28 Corridor stronger by providing amenities and a live, work and play environment," said attorney Greg Riegler, representing the applicant. "And that's the philosophy the Westfields Business Owners Association has endorsed."

By right, he said, 1.2 million square feet of offices could be built on the site. But it wouldn't make much sense in an area with an already-plummeting office market. Instead, said Riegler, "It'll be a high-quality living environment with a diversity of housing stock. And some of the multifamily homes could be for empty-nesters interested in downsizing."

There'll be an amenity area with walking paths, a pavilion/performing and gathering

area, plus a lake that's currently not accessible. And, said Riegler, "We'll celebrate the lake and also provide [some 15,000 square feet of] retail amenities, such as restaurants — with opportunities for outdoor dining — to the community at large."

Akridge owns the land and would build the apartment and retail components; Elm Street Development would construct the townhouses. And although a residential development would yield students, which offices wouldn't, Riegler stressed that "We're being asked to contribute millions of dollars to parks, schools, etc. And that money to be spent here doesn't exist now."

Planned are wide sidewalks and extensive landscaping, as well as direct access to residential units from the street. Overall, said Riegler, "This could add value to the Westfields area. There'd be contemporary-style buildings and trees everywhere, plus a central open space in the attached-hous-

ing area. The townhouses, which would be for-sale, would have rooftop decks and offer low-maintenance living for empty-nesters."

Regarding the homes' appearance, At-Large Planning Commissioner Jim Hart, said, "We've had other developers promise upscale townhouses and deliver something cheaper." But Riegler said he needn't worry because "We have to proffer those architectural details and materials specifically."

James Perry, a vice president with Elm Street, said the townhouses will be four levels with garages. The 16-foot-wide units would be about 2,000 square feet and have one-car garages. The 20-foot-wide units would have two-car garages, as would the 22-foot-wide units which would be 2,700 or 2,800 square feet.

"Prices would range from the mid-\$500,000s to the upper \$600,000s," he said. "The exteriors would have a mix of brick

and hard siding with an urban streetscape on the front."

The townhouse development would have 471 parking spaces — a little more than three spaces per house. A parking garage, in addition to 90 surface parking spaces, is planned for the apartment residents. And affordable dwelling units would be earmarked for the apartments.

As for traffic, Riegler said having residential uses, instead of offices, would result in a 70-percent reduction in morning rush-hour traffic and a 58-percent decrease during the evening rush-hour. The developer also proposes doing certain transportation improvements.

At Stonecroft Boulevard, there'd be a signalized entrance with dual left-turn lanes and signalized, dual right-turn lanes. And a southbound through lane would be added to Westfields Boulevard.

With a left turn from Stonecroft onto Westfields, said Riegler, "We'd decrease the delay and the queuing length [of waiting cars]. We'd add a second, right-turn lane, and the free-flowing right turn would let those drivers go, without waiting for people turning left or going straight." Therefore, he said, "There are benefits to having a developer come in and do these things, vs. having [this property] developed by-right with offices."

However, Ted Moore, on the Sully Station Homeowners Association Board of Directors, was still concerned. "Even if you have two, right-turn lanes, traffic will still back up — and I-66 traffic backs up into Sully Station," he said. "So until you get rid of the traffic lights at E.C. Lawrence Park and Braddock Road, it won't change."

Riegler replied, "This is a start to manage the traffic more creatively."

Chris Tacinelli, principal with Grove/Slade transportation planners and engineers, said, "The biggest issue is Route 28, so people are turning right on Stonecroft to get away from it. We're looking at ways to move the solution forward."



Artist's rendition showing the view across the pond to the amenity area.

POLITICS

Smith: Running for Supervisor

School Board member wants to tackle new position.

Kathy Smith, Sully District representative on the Fairfax County School Board, is running as the Democratic candidate for the supervisor's seat being vacated by Michael Frey.

What have been your accomplishments in the community?

Q&A Before being elected to the School Board, I was president of the Poplar Tree, Rocky Run and Chantilly PTAs. I've also served in numerous leadership roles in various youth sports in our area. Since being elected to the School Board, I have been elected chairman of the board for three years, vice chair for two years, and have chaired the Governance Committee, Administration and General Services Committee and the Instruction, Special Services and Youth Development Committee. I was also selected by the School Board to co-chair our joint Infrastructure Financing Committee with the Board of Supervisors.

Why are you running for the Board of Supervisors?

This was a tough decision for me to make. I've loved working as your School Board member for the last 13 years, and I've spent my life working on issues important to families and children. After much consideration, I decided to run because the Board of Supervisors is often even more important to those issues than the School Board.

I want to take a broader look at how to improve the quality of life in Sully District, while staying in the moderate political tradition of this area. Fifty-three percent of the county's budget goes to our schools, but we have not had a former School Board member on the Board of Supervisors in over a decade. While heading our joint School Board-Board of Supervisors Infrastructure Financing Committee, I saw many ways we could better integrate services and save taxpayers money.

Providing the same quality of life that my family has enjoyed here requires common sense solutions to current problems, and also a creative and innovative plan for the future. Good roads, safe streets, cohesive communities and first class schools are only the basics. We must be prepared to offer opportunities for young professionals, security for our senior citizens, and a means for our newest residents to fully participate in our communities.

Fairfax County is continuing to grow and change, and nowhere is that more evident than in the Sully District. I want to take my experience on the School Board, where I was involved in financial and capital management, to the Board of Supervisors, where I can further the development of the county and represent all the residents of Sully. Good governance requires our elected officials to be careful stewards of taxpayer money, while delivering the services that residents have a right to expect.

What is your campaign platform?

I announced my candidacy for supervisor late in January and, since that time, I have been out in neighborhoods across Sully listening and learning. I wanted to find out what issues voters are most concerned with. Here's what I've heard:

Sully District residents are concerned with the continuing transportation issues that plague our area. We want to see im-

Bio

Name: Kathy L. Smith

Neighborhood: Poplar Tree Estates in Chantilly (Rocky Run Precinct)

Occupation: School Board Member, FCPS

Family information: Husband, Steve; four children, Brian (wife Leah), Kyle, Andrew, Stephanie and three granddaughters



provements — especially in the I-66 corridor. The reality is most Sully residents commute outside of our district for work, and that time spent commuting is time away from their families. I will make these projects a top priority for Fairfax County, working in cooperation with the state.

As your School Board member, I also hear a lot of feedback about our schools. While the feedback is mostly positive, thanks to our great teachers and principals here in Sully, we have improvements that must be made. In the tight budget years after the great recession, we have not had the resources needed for the schools, and class sizes have continued to rise.

While the School Board is in charge of operating the schools, the majority of funding comes from the Board of Supervisors. I will work as Sully supervisor to ensure education remains a priority, and that we have the funding needed to keep class size down and make sure our teachers are fairly compensated.

Earlier this year, the Washington Post reported that 92 percent of large regional office space leasing was taking place within a half mile of an existing or proposed Metro station. This statistic — along with the large commercial vacancy rate in Fairfax County — tells us that changes are on the way for our commercial space in western Fairfax. I am committed to overseeing this change and keeping Sully District a great place to live, work and play.

Why should people elect you?

Sully District knows me. I've been on the School Board as your district member since 2002; and before that, I spent over a decade as a PTA leader in this community. I've shown that I can lead in a responsible and bipartisan way while building consensus.

Supervisor Frey has been in office for 24 years and has been the cornerstone of how this community built out. When picking his replacement, we should elect a candidate who shares his record of moderate leadership that puts our people over politics. I have been that leader on the School Board and ask for a chance to do the same on the Board of Supervisors.

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OPINION

Fostering Connections, Faltering

Why are federal dollars acceptable for roads, but not for helping foster children?

While there is plenty of competition for the title “most vulnerable,” foster children are certainly among them.

In Fairfax County right now, there are more than 240 children in foster care. There is no benign way to end up in foster care. Foster children are victims of abuse and/or neglect significant enough for them to be removed from their families. On Tuesday, April 29, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors announced that May is Foster Care and Foster Family Recognition Month.

Ironically, May, 2015 could be a month of uncertainty for older foster children in many places in Virginia because of a failure in the Virginia General Assembly.

About 50 foster children a year “age out” of the foster care system in Fairfax County. There are children who may have spent much of their lives in foster care, and reach the age of majority while they are still in foster care, without being reunited with their families or being adopted.

“The research shows that our youth who have been in foster care are extremely traumatized,” said Carl E. Ayers, director of the Virginia Division of Family Services. “Children who have aged out of foster care are much more likely to be homeless, to end up in psychiatric hospitals, to end up in jail, to be young parents, to be on public assistance and just in general have higher rates of poverty. If you can think of a negative outcome, that’s what we

see [at high rates] with foster children who age out.”

But right now, about 150 young people between 18-21 who are receiving foster care services in Virginia, with as many as 50 of them here in Fairfax County, are discovering that because the General Assembly failed to pave the way for Federal “Fostering Connections” funding, they could be aging out sooner than they expected.

In 2008, President George Bush signed the Fostering Connections Act that gives states the ability to use federal dollars for children who were in foster care up until the age of

EDITORIAL 21.

In Virginia, the General Assembly passed in 2014 a plan for implementation that required legislation in 2015 session. But that bill died in committee, and Virginia Family Services has begun the process of letting local agencies, like Fairfax County Department of Family Services, that once a foster child turns 18, they must be transitioned out of foster care.

By spending a little over \$3 million, the state could have gained more than \$10 million in federal money to help these emerging adults at a critical moment. Savings to localities would have been more than \$3 million.

But instead, foster children 18 or older will need to have services transitioned. Ayers says the department will work with local agencies to be sure that none ends up homeless, no one ends up in the hospital. But for youth in foster care 18 or over, a new plan will have to be

Learn More: Foster Care

Orientation meeting, second Monday monthly, 7 p.m.
Department of Family Services, Pennino Building
12011 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035
703-324-7639
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/childrencyouth/fca.htm

worked out, and each such youth will have to deal with one more uncertainty.

“It is very, very important that no one is turned on the street,” said Ayers, citing specific instructions that local agencies contact him personally if they are having trouble identifying services for any of the youth being transitioned.

Localities got the word via a “broadcast” memo on April 15, and are still sorting out what it all means.

In Fairfax County, the goal is for youth who are currently in foster homes to be able to stay in them by shifting how they are served, but there will certainly be a financial impact.

“With this being so new, our immediate step was to see exactly which kids will be affected, timelines and expectations,” said Nannette Bowler, director of Fairfax County Family Services. “We’ll scramble and do an assessment on all these children to figure out we can support them given what has occurred.”

“We’re going to have ... look any avenue that we can to be sure these children are not derailed.”

Stand by, because it is going to take a village to raise these children.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

COMMENTARY

Celebrate Mom, Dad—Without Selling One Short

BY CHRISTIAN PAASCH

In today’s marketing environment, it seems as though one gender cannot make progress without disparaging another. However, a few inspiring and refreshingly positive television ads have recently managed to gain popularity while avoiding this pitfall. I applaud Dove, Nissan and Toyota for having the courage to step away from the norm and, in doing so, not only bring men into the mainstream picture of the modern American parent, but also for doing so in a way that is perhaps more innovative than anything else: championing one gender without attacking, alienating or poking fun at the other gender.

Toyota has done a terrific job of bridging the strong bond between fathers and daughters. In the company’s latest ad, Toyota depicts the various stages of a daughter’s life where her dad is there to console, protect, guide

and eventually, set out into the world with tears in his eyes. The message of the ad is to make bold choices — what better term to describe what any parent would want for his or her child, in particular a daughter?

In a seeming balance to Toyota, Nissan focused on the relationship between a father and his son. Perhaps too stereotypically, the father here is depicted as the absent father, a race car driver in this instance, and the son looking on, wanting to be just like his father. Of course, the soundtrack to this commercial is none other than “Cats In The Cradle,” but thankfully, the father realizes before it’s too late that his son needs to physically see him and know that their relationship is more important than any job.

Dove has arguably the most moving, yet simple ad: clip after clip of young and adult children calling for “Dad” or “Daddy” at various stages of their lives. From

the toddler needing help to the adult calling his father with the wonderful news of a pregnancy, the commercial ends with a simple question and answer: “What makes a man stronger? Showing that he cares.”

So why do these ads matter? Why are they so special? Here again, the answer is simple: because they are a rarity. Because they champion the roles dads play in the lives of children, both boys and girls, without denigrating the crucial and complementary role mothers play in those same children’s lives. This spirit of gen-

der equality is one to celebrate and emulate.

In fact, the path these three companies have forged serves as a marketing model for others and reminds parents everywhere that they are parents first, united by the love for their children and made stronger by a mutual appreciation of their unique strengths and differences.

Christian Paasch is chair of the National Parents Organization in Virginia and has been appointed by Virginia Gov. McAuliffe to Virginia’s Child Support Guidelines Review Panel. He lives in Alexandria. Email christianpaasch@nationalparentsorganization.org.

WRITE US

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.
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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter, 703-778-9438
bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor, 703-752-4013
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
@jonroetman

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
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Karen Washburn
Display Advertising, 703-778-9422
kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
asmith@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

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

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
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Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

Sully Historic Site. 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Enjoy guided tours of the 1794 home of Northern Virginia's first Congressman, Richard Bland Lee. \$7/adult; \$6/student; \$5/senior and child. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 703-437-1794.

Singing. 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires rehearse every Wednesday which includes training by an award-winning director. Visit www.fairfaxjubilaires.org for more.

"Creating Across the City." Through June at Dulles International Airport. Three organizations: Critical Exposure, The National Building Museum and ARTLAB+ have teamed up for "Creating Across the City: A Teen Art Showcase," which provides an outlet through art and design for creative local teens.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Young Actors' Workshop. Rising students in grades 2-6 may participate in a workshop 9 a.m.-12 p.m., July 20-24 at Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly. The fee is \$125. Visit www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com.

2015 Summer Programs. Registration is now open for the following Fairfax County Public Schools summer camps. Students should register for programs based on the grade they are in during the current 2014-15 school year. Visit www.fcps.edu/is/summer/index.shtml for more.

* **Tech Adventure Camp** will be held July 20-31 at Robinson Secondary School from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. for students currently in grades 5-7. This camp allows students to explore careers and technology by rotating through eight areas including graphic design, automotive technology, culinary arts, television production, robotics, and computer technology.

* **STEM Camp.** Held in two sessions at Robinson Secondary School: July 6-10 and July 13-17 both from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., daily. STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Camp is a one-week camp for students currently in grades 3-5 to explore careers and technology as they rotate through activities focused on science.

* **Elementary Institute for the Arts.** Held July 13-24 at Robinson Secondary School from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday. Designed for students currently in grades 3-5, E-IFTA offers participants a total immersion in the arts as they rotate through classes in dance, drama, music, and visual art.

* **Institute for the Arts.** Held July 6-30 at Robinson Secondary School from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday. Designed for students currently in grades 6-11, IFTA allows students to create, perform, experiment, and explore—all in various music, dance, visual art, and theatre venues.

* **Robinson Extended Day Adult and Community Education Enrichment.** Programs will be held July 6-31 at Robinson Secondary School and will begin after Tech Adventure Camp, STEM Camp, IFTA and E-IFTA end. These programs are for students currently in grades 1-11 and will provide a continuum of

activities for students who want additional programs and activities. Programs will include the Foreign Language Experience Program (FLEX), Culinary Adventure Camp, Language Immersion Camp, Creative Writing, Computer Graphics, and Chess.

* **Credit Recovery Academy.** This program will be held at Fairfax High School for students seeking credit for high school level courses. Students will be able to take one course during each of the two sessions from June 29-July 16 and July 20-Aug. 4.

* **Online Campus.** For credit recovery, acceleration, and enrichment for middle school and high school students. Health, Physical Education, and Geometry Honors run June 29-Aug. 4; all other courses run July 6-Aug. 4.

* **SOL Remediation.** For FCPS high school students who passed an SOL course but did not pass the SOL test. Held at Fairfax High School.

* **SOL Test Only.** This program is for FCPS seniors who plan to graduate by Aug. 28 and passed an SOL course but failed the SOL test.

* **ESOL Numeracy and Literacy.** The ESOL Numeracy and Literacy class provides currently enrolled FCPS high school ELP Level 1 students with the opportunity to develop their numeracy and literacy skills.

Students will meet face-to-face with their teachers daily. This is a noncredit class. Held at Fairfax High School July 6-24.

* **Online ESOL.** Through this three-week class, students will continue developing their academic and reading and writing skills in an online discussion with an ESOL teacher. This is a noncredit class. Held July 6-24.

* **Extended School Year Learning Communities.** Services for identified students with disabilities in accordance with their individualized education programs (IEPs).

* **Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) Summer Technology Institute.** The Institute will be held July 13-Aug. 7 at Woodson High School. Students currently in grades 7 and 8 will be introduced to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through week-long sessions that allow them to explore a STEM topic of interest.

* **Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) Academic Summer School.** This program will be held July 6-Aug. 6 at Woodson High School. Current TJHSST students and incoming freshmen choose from a variety of courses for academic credit.

* **Adult and Community Education.** Programs include Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology admissions test prep, SAT test prep, study skills, and driver education.

* **ACE Driver Education.** For students in grades 9-12.

PET ADOPTIONS

Adopt a Cat or Dog. Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org for more.

Adopt a Dog. Saturdays, 12-3 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Highway. Visit hart90.org for more.

Adopt a Dog. Sundays, 1-4 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit aforeverhome.org for more.

Adopt a Dog. Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org for more.

THURSDAY/APRIL 30

Sushi Night at Bull Run. 6:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Learn to make your own sushi while drinking Bull Run Wine. Tickets are \$59. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 1-2

"Curtains." 7:30 p.m. at Mountain View High School, 5775 Spindle Court, Centreville. The Alliance Theatre presents "Curtains." It's the promising year of 1959. Boston's Colonial Theatre is host to the opening night performance of a new musical. When the leading lady mysteriously dies on stage the entire cast and crew are suspects. Visit www.thealliancetheatre.org for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 1

Community Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the corner of Pleasant Valley and Wetherburn Drive. Individual residences will be holding yard sales that can be found by retrieving a "treasure map." Free to attend. Call 703-216-6730.

Sipping N Painting. 6:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Tickets are \$39. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 2-3

D.C. Big Flea. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday at Dulles Expo Center, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. The "Big Flea" hosts more than 600 booths of antiques, collectibles, and vintage clothing. \$8 for both days. Visit www.thebigfleamarket.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 2

Arts Alive! 12-4 p.m. at Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Circle., Manassas. Find live performances, exhibits, etc. at this festival comprised of dance, theatre, music, literary arts and the visual arts. Free. Visit www.pwcartsouncil.org.

Kentucky Derby Party. 6 p.m. at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road. For each bottle purchased, you may select a horse's name from a jar. If your horse wins, you will win a prize. Visit www.paradisep Springswinery.com.

SUNDAY/MAY 3

"Curtains." 2 p.m. at Mountain View High School, 5775 Spindle Court, Centreville. The Alliance Theatre presents "Curtains." It's the promising year of 1959. Boston's Colonial Theatre is host to the opening night performance of a new musical. When the leading lady mysteriously dies on stage the entire cast and crew are suspects. Visit www.thealliancetheatre.org for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 8-9

"Curtains." 7:30 p.m. at Mountain View High School, 5775 Spindle Court, Centreville. The Alliance Theatre presents "Curtains." It's the promising year of 1959. Boston's Colonial Theatre is host to the opening night performance of a new musical. When the leading lady mysteriously dies on stage the entire cast and crew are suspects. Visit www.thealliancetheatre.org for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 9

"Fly-In to Victory Day." 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. Celebrate the end of World

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ENTERTAINMENT



Participants and attendees of the 2014 "Arts Alive!" at the Hylton Performing Arts Center



'Arts Alive!' Unites Visual, Performing Arts



"Arts Alive! is a joint effort of the Prince Williams County Arts Council and The Hylton Performing Arts Center to provide an evening of performances and showcases by local performing and visual artists. On May 2, 12-4 p.m. at the Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Circle, Manassas, children and adults will find performances from genres as different as ballet and belly dancing, alongside performances by gospel and flute choirs, and more. Guests will also find art on display and for sale, readings by local writers, and hands-on activities for children and adults. It is free to attend "Arts Alive." Visit www.pwcartsCouncil.org.

War II in Europe. Free. Visit www.airandspace.si.edu.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 9-10

The Heritage India Festival. 12-9 p.m. on Saturday, 12-7 p.m. on Sunday at Dulles Expo Center, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Rushhi Entertainment's 14th annual festival will celebrate Indian culture with a dance competition, live performances, shopping and food. \$5 for adults, free for children under 5. Visit www.hifestival.com.

SUNDAY/MAY 10

Mother's Day Mimosa and Pastry Bar. 11 a.m. at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road. Find maple bacon sticky buns, muffins, croissants and more alongside mimosas. Items may be purchased a la carte while supplies last. Visit www.paradisep Springswinery.com.

TUESDAY/MAY 12

Audition Workshop. 6:30 p.m. at Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd. Westfield Summer Stage is looking for students throughout the Northern Virginia area to participate in their staging of Mary Poppins. Free to attend. Call 484-574-8760 or visit www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com

for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 15-17

International Gem & Jewelry Show. 12-6 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday at Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Diamonds and other gems from retailers from around the world. Children 8 and under are not permitted. Tickets are \$8. Visit www.intergem.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 16

Call for Auditions. 9 a.m. Westfield Summer Stage is looking for students throughout the Northern Virginia area to participate in their staging of Mary Poppins. Students who choose to audition will be required to sing a song, dance, and perform a one-minute monologue of their choosing. Free to attend, but if accepted, there is a \$300 workshop fee. Call 484-574-8760 or visit www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com for more.

Chantilly Day. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Sully Plaza Parking Lot, 13910 Metrotech Dr., Chantilly. Find a Business Expo, the Taste of Chantilly, Children's games, rides, stage performances by local groups, Educator of the Year awards and Pet adoptions. Free. See www.chantillyday.com.

Meritage Blending Class. 1-3 p.m. at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Learn to make your own 2014 Meritage. Tickets are \$55. Call 703-830-9463.

Clifton Caboose Twilight Run. 6 p.m. at the Barn, 7139 Main St., Clifton. Participate in the 1-mile or 5K race. There will be a post-race party with food and live music. The 5K race has a \$24 registration fee, the 1-mile run has a \$20 fee.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 20

"Target America: Why You Should Care About the Rise of ISIS." 7 p.m. at Fairview Elementary School, 5815 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Investigative journalist and author Erick Stakelbeck will present a program on fundamentalist group ISIS. Free. Visit www.cliftongop.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 23

Brain OlympicsRx. 12-4 p.m. at LearningRx-Fairfax, 10513 Braddock Road, Suite C-D, Fairfax. As part of a national initiative to raise awareness about the brain's ability to change at any age, LearningRx brain training centers across the United States are holding a Brain OlympicsRx event. For every person who participates, LearningRx-Fairfax will donate \$10 to Brain Injury Services. Free. Contact Rebecca Oliver at

fairfax.va@learningrx.net.

SUNDAY-MONDAY/MAY 24-25

Art Guild Show and Sale. 12-5 p.m., artists' reception 5-8 p.m. on Sunday, at The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Artists will display and sell work from a variety of genres and styles. Admission is free for museum members and children 4 and under, \$2 for children 5-15, and \$4 for everyone else. Visit www.fairfax-station.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 29-31

Quilting Expo. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sunday at Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. More than 600 quilts and wearable art and clothing will be on display. Vendors will be offering fabric and other quilting needs. A one-day pass is \$10, three-day pass is \$15; children 12 and under are admitted at no cost. Visit www.quiltersunlimited.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 30-31

Vintage Virginia Wine Festival. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday. The 34th of its kind, the festival will feature food trucks,

vintage cars, music and wine. \$30 in advance, \$35 at the gate. Visit www.vintagevirginia.com.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 3

Civil War Forum. 7:30 p.m. at The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. "Southern Civilians in Southern Prisons" is a program presented by Burke Historical Society President Jon Vrana, who will give a first-person soliloquy of local civilians from Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties who were arrested during the Civil War. Free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 6

Born to Run Memorial 5K and Fun Run. 8:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Highlands neighborhood. Franklin Middle School will dedicate this race to Jannine Parisi who did on November 20, 2013 as the result of a domestic incident. Registration starts at \$15. Visit www.prracing.enmotive.com.

Relay for Life. 2 p.m.-12 a.m. at The nZone, 14550 Lee Road, Chantilly. A fundraiser featuring games, prizes music and other opportunities to gain awareness and help support The American Cancer Society. Contact Mary Saunders at mary.saunders@cancer.org.



Irish-dance teacher Laureen O'Neill James introduces dancer Daniel Hall, who'll compete in the world championships.



Members of the O'Neill James School of Irish Dance posed before performing.

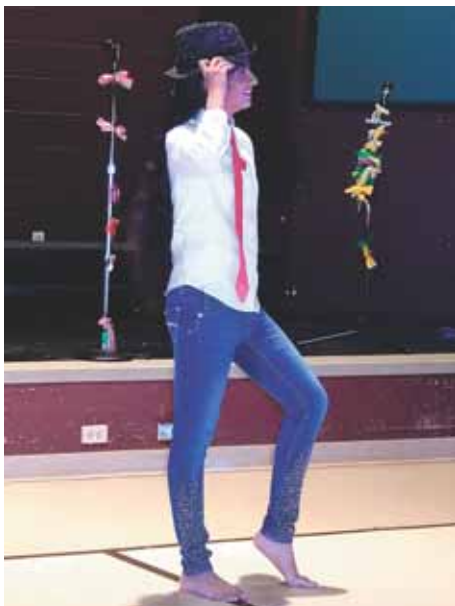


Bull Run Elementary sixth-grader Sanjana Srikanth performs an Indian dance.

Celebrating Diversity

Sponsored by the Centreville Immigration Forum, the 5th annual Centreville International Showcase was held Saturday, April 25, at Centreville United Methodist Church.

"Tonight, we're celebrating the strength of Centreville's diversity," said Molly Maddra-Santiago, director of the Centreville Labor Resource Center. "And that means different ways of thinking, living and believing — and not being afraid to exist in your community."



Sanyuktha Srikanth, Sanjana's twin sister, does a jazz dance routine.



The Korean Senior Harmonica Group is from Korean Central Presbyterian Church and St. Paul Chung Catholic Church.



The labor center workers danced as animals and cartoon characters.

Serving up the international cuisine are (from left) Marian Coronado, Barb Shaiko, Ayoung Kim and Tracey MacNamara.



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28 Yard Sales

Sully Station Community-wide yard sale May 16 More info on Facebook

Light tomorrow with today!
-Elizabeth Barret Browning

21 Announcements

PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON, VIRGINIA PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE PERMIT PUBLIC HEARING OF TOWN COUNCIL

May 5, 2015

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Clifton, Virginia will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at the Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton, VA 20124 to consider the amendment of the special use permit of Clifton General Store / Main Street Pub, located at 7140 Main Street, to include and authorize an increase in number of seats and increase in parking onsite and off-site for the public and employees. The application for the proposed amendment to Clifton General Store / Main Street Pub special use permit is available for review and downloading on the Town's website at www.clifton-va.com and a hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend and express their views with respect to the requested amendment to the Clifton General Store / Main Street Pub special use permit.

21 Announcements

PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON, VIRGINIA PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

MAY 5, 2015

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Clifton, Virginia will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at the Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton, VA 20124 to consider a proposed FYE1606 Town Budget. The FY2016 proposed Town Budget will be posted the Town's website at www.clifton-va.com and a hardcopy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton, VA 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend to express their views with respect to the proposed FY2016 Town Budget. Town residents are strongly urged to attend. The Regular Town Council meeting will follow.

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Springfield Connection: [@SprConnect](http://www.twitter.com/SprConnect)

Vienna and Oakton Connection: [@ViennaConnect](http://www.twitter.com/ViennaConnect)

Deep Space Mind



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

A few years back (OKAY, more than a few years back; I'll blame the cancer for my time lapse), there was a spin-off from the original *Star Trek: Star Trek: The Next Generation* captained by Jean-Luc Picard (a.k.a. Patrick Stewart) which itself spawned two other spin-offs: *Star Trek Voyager* and *Deep Space Nine* (commanded by Avery Brooks, a.k.a. Captain Sisko). I was reminded of this television-watching time of my life recently when I saw a former *Deep Space Nine* actor's name (the son, actually: Remy) in the credits of a recent "The Good Wife": Auberjonois.

On *Deep Space Nine*, René Auberjonois (the father) played a non-humanoid character from a race known as Changelings, shape shifters; a species able to transform/conform/reform itself into any shape. For the purpose of the show, Constable Odo, as he was known, who was the director of security on the space station, "shape shifted" himself into a humanoid form. He mostly looked, acted and spoke as any other human. However, his facial features were noticeably imperfect, and his ears were also a bit unusual. Occasionally, when Odo did not go to his quarters in a reasonable cycle of time (never really specified) and in turn did not have the opportunity to return to his natural state: described as "gelatinous goo," to reside in his bucket, his features would begin to lose their shape and he would appear to be melting (an occurrence/appearance he was determined to hide). Though this circumstance rarely manifested itself, when it did, Odo explained how stressful it was for him to maintain the shape/illusion of a humanoid (given the intricacies of the species) and how the demands of doing so (consciously, subconsciously) were nearly overwhelming. This story line was not dominant, but us regular viewers understood the ongoing strain on Odo and what might happen if he didn't have the time to regenerate in his bucket.

Now I don't have a natural state other than the obvious, or a bucket for that matter (I have a couch), but I can certainly relate to Odo's emotional/psychological fears and anxieties and the effort required to maintain what appears - to the outside world anyway, to be a "normal" existence. For a cancer survivor/patient, "normal" no longer exists. In fact, the date of your diagnosis/prognosis is the day/date when normal ceases to exist. For me, that date was February 27, 2009, the date Team Lourie first met with my oncologist and heard the unbelievable news that I had non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV, a "terminal" diagnosis. My oncologist further added that he could "treat me but he couldn't cure me." "Excuse me. What did you say?"

And just like Odo, I try to hide/minimize my situation. I don't want to, if at all possible, exhibit any of the signs or circumstances of my diagnosis. I try to live life as normally as possible and not bring attention to myself or my particular challenges. Let me assure you, maintaining this façade would be a lot easier if I too had a bucket in which I could return to some gelatinous-type goo and regain my strength. But I don't. I only have my privacy, where I can retreat in an attempt to summon up the fortitude necessary to take each day as it comes without further adieu. Some days are more difficult than others, particularly those days waiting for the results of a current CT Scan two months after a prior scan showed new tumors/growth. Odo mostly managed to endure his unique challenges, and I am striving to do the same. Seeing the actor's name on television the other week inspired me that even though I am often alone with my thoughts, I am not alone. And as one who has been there and done that, I know there is strength in our survivor numbers; hopefully in reruns too, especially when you've been given a "terminal" diagnosis.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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Artist's rendition of the proposed, new Wegmans store.

On Horizon

FROM PAGE 3

foot Wegmans grocery store, similar to the one in Fair Oaks and containing the same amenities. Also planned are 32,500 square feet of retail shops, plus a 10,500-square-foot sit-down, full-service restaurant.

Altogether, the development would be 183,000 square feet. It also would come with walking trails, an exercise park near the Flatlick stream valley, outdoor seating outside the Wegmans café and a number of proffered pedestrian and road improvements for safety plus better traffic flow.

Arbors of Chantilly

As the number of senior citizens in Fairfax County continues to rise, so does the need for assisted-living facilities — and especially those focusing on people with Alzheimer's and dementia. Enter Artisan Land Group LLC.

It's already received Fairfax County's approval to build The Arbors of Chantilly at 13622 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, off Downs Drive. The six-and-one-half-acre site, zoned residential, is currently a vacant lot. Planned is a one-story, 37,000-square-foot, 48-unit, residential-looking building facing Route 50.

Considered a "memory-care home," the 35,000-square-foot facility will be architecturally compatible with the surrounding land uses, plus the abutting residential area. It'll also have a rain garden and fencing all around the property. Groundbreaking is anticipated by this fall, with construction expected to take about 10 months.

BULLETIN BOARD

THURSDAY/APRIL 30

AARP Home Fit Workshop. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Suggested donation is \$5. Visit www.helpingyouhome.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 2

Community Shred Event. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Sully District Police Station, 4900 Stonecraft Blvd., Chantilly. Suggested donation is \$5. Visit www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org.

Annual Plant Sale. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Giant Foods, 5615 Stone Road, Chantilly. Centreville Garden Club presents perennials, annuals, and herbs for sale. Proceeds go towards maintaining civic landscapes. Free to attend. Visit www.centrevilllegardenclub.blogspot.com.

Nondiscrimination and Gender Identity

School Board to weigh policy change.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

When the members of the School Board reconvene on May 7, they're scheduled to act on whether or not to add "gender identity" to the list of nondiscrimination categories for all Fairfax County Public Schools students, employees or applicants for employment. The current list in the board's policy item 1450 includes age, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, marital status and disability.

A new business item at the board's April 23 meeting was a recommendation to adopt this policy change, "To ensure conditions of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity in the school system" (language from the draft new policy).

The proposed change drew several speakers during the citizen participation portion of the meeting.

Del. Bob Marshall (R-13), representing parts of Prince William and Loudoun counties, opposed adding gender identity to the nondiscrimination list based on the board lacking the authority to do so.

"Seven Attorney Generals from 1982

through 2010, in eight opinions, all concluded that the General Assembly is the only body with authority to establish or change public policy to define classes for forbidden discrimination," Marshall said in his remarks. "In that time, five Attorney Generals published six formal opinions dealing with local government including school boards."

Marshall and other speakers also referenced an opinion issued earlier this year by current Attorney General Mark R. Herring that local school boards can, in fact, include sexual orientation and gender identity as part of nondiscrimination policies. Herring said the state constitution and law provide "power fairly implied from the express grant of authority."

However Marshall urged the board to look at a larger body of past opinions "in light of possible citizen legal response."

Andrea Lafferty, president of the Traditional Values Coalition and mother of a school-age child in Fairfax County, also opposed the policy change.

"There is a way to accommodate transgender students and still protect the other students' privacy rights, and the rights of parents," Lafferty said in her remarks. She referenced a public School Board discussion in March that she said "none of the important issues of concern or the real issues to be faced," such as bathrooms, changing rooms and the impact of teachers in the classroom.

"Children need and deserve a psychologically stable and emotionally secure environment in which to learn — your policy change threatens this," Lafferty said.

West Potomac High School teacher and sponsor of the school's Gay-Straight Alliance Robert Rigby favored the policy change.

"From hearing from students and parents, I can say that harassment and discrimination based on sexual orientation have decreased during my time working for Fairfax," Rigby said in his remarks. "However, transgender students and students who do not display traditional gender expression continue to experience a great degree of harassment; their friends and family members also hear some amazingly negative comments."

Manny Solon, a Fairfax County resident, also spoke in favor of the change, comparing having a gender identity different from your body to Alzheimer's disease.

"To have that feeling and to not be able get out and express yourself is a hell on earth," Solon said, "and I think we owe it to ourselves and to these kids, who are our kids to go and speak up for them."

The next meeting of the Fairfax County School Board will be at 7 p.m. on May 7 at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road in Falls Church. To email the School Board, contact fairfaxcountyschoolboard@fcps.edu. More information about requesting to speak at meetings is available at www.fcps.edu/schlbd/meetings/requestspeak.shtml.

CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Fair Oaks District Police Station.

BURGLARY, 3300 block of Willow Crescent Drive, April 22. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

BURGLARY, 2900 Hunter Mill Road, April 21. An employee reported someone entered the business and took property.

BURGLARY, 2300 block of Dulles Station Boulevard, April 14, between 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. A resident reported someone entered the residence and stole weapons.

UNLAWFUL SHOOTING INTO AN OCCUPIED DWELLING, 10100 block of Pine Street, April 9. Three men were arrested for allegedly firing several rounds from a rifle and handgun in the basement of a home near this location. The rounds penetrated the exterior of the listed home but no one was injured. The three were taken to jail and charged with unlawful shooting into an occupied dwelling and reckless handling of a firearm. One man was additionally charged with possession of a firearm by a non-violent convicted felon.

STOLEN VEHICLE WITH APPREHENSION, Clifton Road/Lee Highway, April 7, 9:21p.m. A police officer on patrol located a stolen Volkswagen in traffic. The officer attempted a traffic stop but the driver exited the vehicle and fled on foot. The driver, a 17-year old male juvenile, was taken into custody and was charged with grand larceny of an auto, disregarding a signal by an officer to stop, and driving with a revoked license.

LARCENIES
12000 block of Greenway Court, wallet from vehicle.

2600 block of Oakton Glen Drive, property from residence.

11900 block of Fair Oaks Shopping Center, wallet from business.

3000 block of Phyllmar Place, phone, cash and property from business.

13700 block of Atlantis Street, property from construction site.

3200 block of Centreville Road, property from vehicle.

13000 block of Fair Lakes Shopping Center, property from business.

11600 block of Monument Drive, license plate from vehicle.

2900 block of Pleasant Glen Drive, property from residence.

11700 block of Fair Oaks Shopping Center, merchandise from business

2600 block of Glencroft Road, property from residence

11100 block of Lee Highway, phone from business

2400 block of Glengyle Drive, equipment from vehicle.

12100 block of Monument Drive, tires from vehicle

12500 block of Fair Lakes Circle, merchandise from business.

11700 block of Fair Oaks Shopping Center, merchandise from business.

13800 block of McLearen Road, phone and cash from vehicle.

13100 block of Brook Mist Lane, money from vehicle

3100 block of Cedar Grove Drive, chair from residence

4600 block of West Ox Road, batteries from business

12700 block of Fair Lakes Circle, electronic property from residence.

11700 block of Fair Oaks Shopping Center, merchandise from business.

13800 block of Metrotech Drive, property from vehicle.

3300 block of Willow Crescent Drive, bicycle from residence.

11000 block of Del Mar Court, wallet from business.

12900 block of Chalkstone, rings from residence.

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GenCyber, July 5-17, 2015. This two-week residential program is designed for students ages 16-18. Students will have hands-on experiences in cybersecurity with a focus on defending the nation's critical assets.

Making Mobile Apps, July 13-17, 2015. This week-long institute is for students in grades 8-12 who want to explore a possible career in the development of mobile applications, one of the most dynamic sectors in the booming technology field.

Cybersecurity in Healthcare, July 20-24, 2015. This week-long program is designed to provide technology-focused students in grades 9-12 with knowledge and hands-on experience in cybersecurity, and introduce them to the many career opportunities in this growing field.

Participants in each institute will work closely with Marymount University faculty and students. They will also hear from guest speakers who are IT professionals.

The daily program will include classes taught by MU faculty and many hands-on activities to apply newly acquired knowledge. Current MU students will mentor participants and discuss college majors, as well as technology career options.

The sessions will take place at Marymount's Main Campus and Ballston Campus in suburban

Arlington, with easy access by road or Metro. Free MU shuttles provide service between the Ballston Metro Station (Orange line) and Main Campus. Optional housing for high school students is available in residence halls on Main Campus, under close supervision of MU's residence life staff and students.

DC Institutes for H.S. Students

July 6-18, 2015; Students will arrive at Marymount on Sunday, July 5. Programs will begin on Monday, July 6 and run through Saturday, July 18.

CJ 209 - The Criminal Justice System: Gain real-life perspective on the exciting criminal justice field. Visit various museums, meet with an FBI field agent, and probe various aspects of the criminal justice system – from laws and enforcement to the courts and corrections.

MGT 185 - The International Business Experience: Learn to succeed in a diverse and global business environment with exposure to international marketing, finance, and economics. Take part in a business simulation and experience the decision-making that goes on in an international business enterprise.

Work closely with Marymount faculty who have extensive expertise and professional connections in the field. The daily program will include classes in the mornings, field trips and other experiential learning in the afternoons, and fun activities in the evenings.

Live in a residence hall on Marymount's Main Campus in suburban Arlington. Tuition for three college credits awarded upon successful completion of the program.

Space is limited and priority will be given to rising high school seniors.

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Preparing for Summer Camp Away

Many emotions arise when a child leaves for camp.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Julie Kaminski remembers the language from her desperate letters to her parents: “I love you. I want to come home now!” She recalls penning a dramatic plea to be rescued from residential summer camp more than 40 years ago. Today, Kaminski is preparing for her daughter’s first camp experience away from home this summer.

“Looking back, I can see how going away to camp helped me become more self-sufficient, self-confident, self-reliant and taught me how to get along with so many different kinds of people,” said Kaminski, a local mother of two children.

“Of course I didn’t think that at the time. I was extremely homesick even though it was my idea to go to sleep away camp in the first place.”

A child’s first residential summer camp experience can be fraught with emotions that run the gamut from excitement to terror. While glee at the thought of a summer filled with sports, swimming, crafts and new-found friendships can be the dominant feeling, the thought of an extended period of time away from home can cause sadness and anxiety for both parents and their children.

An American Camp Association study showed that 96 percent of children who attend sleep away camps experience homesickness at some point during their stay. While these emotions are normal, parents can help children tame the pre-camp jitters. The life-long lessons gained from such camps make it worth the effort.

“Becoming comfortable with your child being away at summer camp, perhaps the first extended separation you have had, is a matter of trust,” said David Kaplan, Ph.D. of the American Counseling Association in Alexandria, Va.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Summer camp experiences can help children become self-confident and self-reliant.

“Trusting your child that they can handle themselves without your supervision. Trusting that they can handle relationships with other children. Trusting that they can get up in the morning, take a shower, wash their clothes, and change their sheets without your prodding.”

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT homesickness is normal and many campers experience it, can help children accept and cope with their emotions.

“Expecting to miss home and feel somewhat anxious helps children feel less surprised and overwhelmed when it occurs,” said Barbara Meehan, Ph.D. executive director, Counseling and Psychological Services, George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

A child’s apprehension can be eased when parents share their own camp experiences,

particularly positive memories.

“Don’t let your child get caught up in your own anxiety about leaving for camp,” said Linda McKenna Gulyn, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington, Va. “Kids sometimes worry about the parents they left behind. Be positive, but not sad that your child is leaving.”

Meehan says that developing a few self-soothing activities like playing outdoors or reading is one strategy for helping children deal with feelings of missing home. Identifying people with whom young campers can share their emotions is another means for dealing with homesickness.

“Talking to a camp counselor and even peers can help ease the difficult feelings and often they will learn they are not alone,” said Meehan.

Encouraging a child to make friends and become involved in camp activities will put

the focus on the positive aspects of camp. Packing letters and stamped envelopes and developing a plan for letter exchange can help a child feel connected to their families.

“Isolating and avoiding what feels hard can often worsen anxiety and homesickness,” said Meehan. “Remind your child they are stronger than they feel in the moment and that engaging in camp activities can be helpful.”

There are times however when a child might not be ready for residential camps. The American Camp Association reports that while most cases of homesickness subside, there are cases — if a child is not eating or sleeping, for example — when it could be time to seek help. “Consult with camp professionals about resources if your child’s anxiety worsens or persists,” said Meehan.

Camps&Schools●Notes

Paralympic Sports Team Seeking Players

The Fairfax Falcons Paralympic Sports team, a Fairfax County Neighborhood and Recreation Services Therapeutic Recreation program, is recruiting new players. The team provides a variety of sports experiences to athletes with physical disabilities impacting their lower extremities ages 4 1/2 to 18 (or high school graduation). Not all athletes use wheelchairs for everyday use. Some athletes are ambulatory and only use a wheelchair for sports. Their primary sport is wheelchair basketball, which runs late August through April. In the spring, they

offer a variety of sports including floor hockey, track, field, fishing, rugby, golf, and football. For more information, email fairfaxfalcons@gmail.com.

Summer at Massanutten

Each year, Massanutten Military Academy offers a five-week intensive summer school program, an opportunity for students to get ahead in their learning, make up for bad or failing grades, or increase their knowledge and participation in their JROTC leadership skills. Massanutten Military Academy offers the safety of a structured learning environment, as well as the fun of a summer camp through a combination of classroom time and weekend activities. The program is offered June 27-Aug. 1, 2015.

Credit for academic courses is transferable to the student’s current school. JROTC leadership credit equals one high school course credit.

STEM CAMP Massanutten offers STEM Summer Camp, two two-week camps running from June 29-July 10 and July 20-31, open to students grades 7-12. This summer camp offers students the chance to explore the many facets of STEM education including hands-on experiences. Upon completion of the STEM Summer Camp, students will receive a certification of completion. Massanutten Military Academy offers the safety of a structured learning environment, as well as the fun of a summer camp through a combination of classroom time and activities. Visit www.militaryschool.com/summer-school-2015.asp.

Diverse Camps Offer Summer Fun

Northern Virginia has scores of local camps for summer learning and fun.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Scores of local camps in Northern Virginia that offer many opportunities for summer fun and learning. Here is a sampling of diverse camps that range from art to theater to field trips to swimming, tennis and music. There's even a camp for aspiring musicians who want to form a band.

ROAM Rock Camp

ROAM Rock Camp gives children the opportunity to build communication skills and confidence through the language of music. The camps are designed to focus on why each participant wants to be in a band, why they love music and what they want to get out of it. The goal is to create an environment or band that children will thrive in. They will hand select each member to create a group that best fits their age and experience. During the camp, groups will learn three to four of their favorite songs or even write songs if they wish. At the end of the week they will record the group and give them a CD to take home to show off their progress.

"The best thing about these camps is that we are able to show these young musicians from first-hand experience how to be players and performers. I wish I had something like this when I was growing up," said John Patrick, owner/director, who is the former co-founder of the national touring act Virginia Coalition.

Camps are offered from June 1 to Aug. 28. To register, contact ROAM to let them know every week your child would be available to do a camp. Deadline for registration is June 1.

Contact info: Rock of Ages Music, 114 E. Del Ray Ave., Alexandria VA 22301; call 703-838-2130. Email Roam.rockofagesmusic@gmail.com.

Burgundy Farm

Burgundy Farm offers two summer camps: a day camp at the 25-acre Alexandria campus in eight week-long sessions, and a sleep-away camp in three sessions at Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies in Capon Bridge, W.Va. Both camps are great options for children excited about learning in the outdoors with dedicated counselors. Day campers swim every day, and programs include sports, science and performing and visual arts. Sleep-away camp provides a mix of structure and freedom, fostering a respect to the natural world through greater knowledge of nature and self.

"At Burgundy Farm Summer Day Camp, our campers enjoy all the benefits of a sleep-away camp with the convenience of a day camp, including swimming, animal encounters, nature exploration, forming strong bonds and friendships with other campers and counselors, and the opportunity to build self-esteem and confidence in a fun and



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Campers enjoy the rock climbing wall at Burke Racquet and Swim Club's Sports Camp.

friendly environment," said Hugh Squire, director of auxiliary services.

Burgundy Farm Summer Day Camp is located on the Alexandria campus of Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria. Lower and upper divisions, grouped by age and interest, for children ages 3-years-8-months to 12 years old. Camp runs Monday, June 15-Friday, Aug. 7. Register at www.burgundyfarm.org/summer-programs. Contact Hugh Squire at hugh@sburgundyfarm.org or 703-842-0480.

Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies Camp is located within 500 acres in a secluded valley near Capon Bridge, W.Va. Overnight junior session (age 8-10) for one week in August - currently waitlist only; senior sessions (11-15) for two weeks in June, July or August; adult weekend (21+) in July. Register at www.burgundycenter.org. Contact Michele McCabe at michelem@burgundyfarm.org or 703-842-0470.

Burke Racquet and Swim

Burke Racquet and Swim Sport Camp has been a hidden treasure in Burke for more than 27 years. Tucked behind the Kaiser Permanente Building in Burke, the indoor camp is the ideal setting for children who want to do a variety of sports. It offers swimming, tennis, and rock climbing daily. It also



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Girls Junior Elite enjoy soccer camp at the Soccer Academy at E.C. Lawrence Park in Centreville and Patriot Park in Fairfax this summer.

offers Zumba, soccer and camp games.

All of the Sports Camp staff has been background checked through Fairfax County; they are CPR/AED trained.

The camp offers full day (\$280 per week) and half day mornings or afternoons (\$180 per week). There is before and after camp care for working parents. The first week of camp begins June 22 and goes through Aug. 28. Call Burke Racquet and Swim Club at 703-250-1299.

Soccer Academy Inc.

The Soccer Academy offers a wide range of innovative, state-of-the-art programs that meet the interests and playing abilities of all players and teams. It caters to individuals and teams of all ages. All residential camps include a goalkeeping camp. Day camps include E.C. Lawrence Park in Centreville and Patriot Park for ages 5-14. Residential Camps at University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg and Randolph Macon Academy, Front Royal, for ages 9-18. Visit www.soccer-academy.com for camp locations, costs, dates and times. Call 703-393-7961 or email soccer@soccer-academy.com.

Kenwood Summer Day Camp

Kenwood Summer Day Camp makes it their mission to provide campers with new experiences and lasting friendships each summer. "Whether it's watching a baseball game, riding a roller coaster, or seeing knights joust from the front row, we take pride in giving them these opportunities and watching them share it with their new friends," said Justin Elcano, camp director.

Kenwood Summer Day campers can go on daily field trips to exciting destinations including water parks, mini golf, roller skating, amusement parks and more. Campers also have a wide variety of activities to keep them entertained while they are on campus. There is a large wooded playground that is home to many kickball, capture the flag, and basketball games. They have five themed



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

FCPA Camps and the Rec-PAC program camps take place all over the county.

rooms that hold arts and crafts, video games, board games, ping pong, air hockey, and movies.

Kenwood summer day camp is open to children who have completed kindergarten through 8th grade. Camp starts June 15 and goes through Sept. 2. Visit the website to find a calendar with a schedule for each week at www.camp.kenwoodschool.com. Call 703-256-4711 or email camp@kenwoodschool.com.

Metropolitan School of the Arts

Metropolitan School of the Arts offer pre-professional summer dance, music theater and acting camps. It also offers a wide variety of youth summer camps where students can explore and learn many facets of the performing and visual arts, including mini camps for the youngest students, ages 3-5, youth camps for students in grades 1-6, and intensives for students age 8 and up. Private summer music lessons are also available for piano, voice, guitar, violin and drums.

"MSA summer camps are the perfect way to try something new and a great way to keep young bodies active and develop new friendships," said Melissa Dobbs, president of Metropolitan School of the Arts in Lorton and Alexandria. "Whether your child is passionate about the performing arts or just looking to have some fun, MSA camps offer creative programs for all skill levels."

The Lorton campus is at 9601 Ox Road, Lorton, and the Alexandria Campus is at 5775 Barclay Road, Kingstowne, Va. Call 703-339-0444 or visit www.metropolitanschool.com.

Langley School Summer Studio

The Langley School Summer Studio features more than 70 classes that allow for the personal, social, and intellectual growth of each camper in preschool to 8th grade. Innovative and engaging academic and STEM

programs stimulate with math adventures, robots, and Raspberry Pi. Exploration abounds as campers take exciting field trips to become field scientists who investigate the Chesapeake Bay, cyclists who traverse local mountain bike terrain, and magicians who create illusions. The spotlight also shines on experiences that get campers "in the studio" with a Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer or the lead choreographer and dancer for MC Hammer.

"Each year, we look to add to our diverse roster of classes while growing the perennial favorites to ensure The Langley School Summer Studio offers the best possible experience for our campers," said Director of Auxiliary Programs Jennafer Curran. "Whether taking part in one of many field trips, exploring a new interest like soccer or dance, or refining math or reading skills, our campers develop academically, socially, and emotionally ... and have a great time in the process."

The Langley School Summer Studio will run in six weekly sessions from June 15 - July 31, for students in preschool to grade 8. Classes are held at The Langley School in McLean, and take advantage of the 9.2-acre campus, featuring a wooded nature area, state-of-the-art athletic center, artificial turf field, computer labs, and age-appropriate playgrounds. Visit www.langleyschool.org/summerstudio for details or to register online. Call 703-356-1920 or email summer@langleyschool.org.

Bishop Ireton Camp

Bishop Ireton High School offers campers the opportunity to participate in sports and/or theater while developing individual and group skills and fostering a love of the activity. It offer boys camps (baseball, basketball, lacrosse and football); girls camps (basketball, lacrosse and volleyball); and coed camps (soccer, theater). Age ranges for the camps are rising 1st graders to rising seniors depending on the camp. The 17 camp sessions are conducted by the school's coaches or teachers and assisted by student counselors. Lunch is provided for full day camps by the cafeteria at no extra cost.

"Last year we had nearly 600

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Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.
—Abraham Lincoln

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• Call Backs (invitation only) May 20
Audition Location
Mountain View School
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Centreville, VA 20121
Audition Requirements
•No prepared monologues. Reading material provided by director.
•Prepare 32 bars of music to sing. Bring sheet music only (be prepared to sing scales). Piano accompanist available for all auditions.
Piano also available for private accompanist.
•Performers will be taught a dance during the auditions.
Wear appropriate clothing and shoes
Performances
Chantilly High School, July 24 thru August 2, 2015
Audition Registration & More Information Thealliancetheatre.org

Diverse Camps Offer Summer Fun

FROM PAGE 5

campers attend one of our sports or theater camps. The camps are a great way for youngsters to get to know us and for our coaches and theater teachers to get to know them," said Peter Hamer, summer camp director.

The camp brochure and sign up form can be found under the athletics tab at www.bishopireton.org. Contact Peter Hamer at hamerp@bishopireton.org or 703-212-5190.

Park Authority and Rec-PAC

The Fairfax County Park Authority offers more than 1,400 summer day camp options at 100 locations plus the six-week theme-based summer Rec-PAC programs at nearly 50 elementary schools every summer.

Camps are held at RECenters, historic sites, lakefront parks and schools and offer a variety of camp titles. Both camps and Rec-PAC offer children a chance to have fun, build friendships and have a safe and rewarding summer experience. The Rec-PAC program runs June 29 through Aug. 6 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. daily and is open to children in Fairfax County who are rising first graders through those who finished sixth grade.

Registration begins April 27 online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recpac. There is an \$8 discount per week for those who register before June 12. Partial scholarships are available for those who qualify through free and reduced lunch program. The large summer camp program begins early June with camps for preschoolers and later in June for school age campers.

From crafts and games to high-tech and high adventure, the Park Authority has something for everyone. Many camps offer swimming at RECenters each day as well as extended care for working parents. Sports enthusiasts can choose from an array of skill-development camps, including British soccer, basketball, football, baseball, cheerleading, archery, lacrosse or extreme sports programs. Enjoy the outdoors? Then check out the boating, fishing and biking camps. Specialty camps such as Young Chef's Cooking, Chess, Geocaching and Girls Leadership allow for exploring new interests or developing a new skill. There is also an array of STEM programs that stimulate cognitive development and enhance critical thinking. New camps are available in 2015 and include Ninja Stars, Longboarding Camp, Brazilian Soccer, Overnight Camps, Stand-Up Paddle Boarding, Kayak Fishing, fun new art camps, tons of new engineering camps and many more.

The search and browse options on the website (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/camps) make it easy to narrow choices by location, age of children, type of camp and week of summer or check out the 2015 Summer Camp Guide.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENN COOK

Students enjoy summer camps at Metropolitan School of the Arts in Lorton and Alexandria; musical theatre camps are just one of the many camps offered.

For more information about Rec-PAC or camps, call 703-222-4664 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Centreville Dance Academy

Summer Camp at Centreville Dance Academy is a great way for a child to experience dance in a fun and safe atmosphere. It offers a Princess Party Camp, Broadway Bound Camp, Glitz & Glam Camp, and Me & My Doll Camp. Dancers will enjoy pretending to be their favorite characters, dressing up, and creating fun crafts. On the final day of camp there will be an in-studio performance for family and friends.

"Summer camp is a great way to expose your child to all that dance has to offer. Dance camp is a wonderful place to build lasting memories and relationships with the CDA teachers and new friends. We love seeing the dancers grow each year," said Kathy Taylor, owner/director.

Princess Party Camp offers The Little Mermaid from July 6-10; Frozen from July 27-31; Princess Ballerina from Aug. 3-7; and Frozen from Aug. 17-21.

Broadway Bound Camp is July 13-17. Glitz & Glam is July 20-24 and Aug. 10-14. Me and My Doll is June 29-July 13.

Register on the website through the Parent Portal. Centreville Dance Academy is located at 14215-G Centreville Square, Centreville. Visit www.centrevilledance.com, call 703-815-3125 or email office@centrevilledance.com.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Children participate in Field Day at Kenwood Summer Day Camp in Annandale.

www.centrevilledance.com, call 703-815-3125 or email office@centrevilledance.com.

The Art League's Summer Art Camps

The Art League's Summer Art Camp provides children ages 5-15 a wonderful introduction to visual art. In the regular art camp, each day brings a new project that may include drawing, painting, printmaking, or sculpture. Projects vary from week to week, so campers can always come back for more. The specialty camps, like Drawing Camp or Painting Camp, focus on immersion in one particular medium.

"Inspiring young artists and helping them discover the joy of innovation is a big part of our mission. It's as rewarding for us to see what the campers create as it is for them," said Executive Director Suzanne Bethel.

The Art League's Summer Art Camps are held weekly. Half-day and full-day camps include regular art camp, painting, photography, jewelry, ceramics, sculpture, fiber, drawing, cartoons, and more. Camps run weekly from June 22 through Aug. 21, 2015 at The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison Street in Alexandria. Register and find details online at www.theartleague.org. Contact The Art League at school@theartleague.org or 703-683-2323.

SummerTimes

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes SummerTimes programs offers campers ages 3-18 an enjoyable and enriching experience with programs designed to stimulate curiosity and creativity, develop talents, and encourage



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY PETER HAMER

Bishop Ireton Cardinals summer camps in Alexandria are gearing up for their eighth year of sports and theater camps.

exploration and personal growth. Most of the camp directors are SSSAS teachers and coaches, supported by alumni and students. Operating on three campuses with state-of-the-art facilities in the heart of Alexandria, the camp strives to inspire campers all summer long.

"At SummerTimes, your child will have the opportunity to see new sights in Washington, D.C., to expand artistic horizons in an art or filmmaking camp, learn about computer programming or jewelry making, challenge their abilities in one of our many sports camps, try their hand in TechPlay, or participate in a variety of fun activities in our traditional Day Camp. We pride ourselves on offering camps that will spark an interest in your camper, and will encourage them to create and try new things on their own in a safe and nurturing place," said Jim Supple, Director of Summer Programs.

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes summer programs run from June 15-Aug. 14, offering nine weeks with a variety of camps. With more than 145 different camp sessions to choose from, there is something for campers of every age. Visit www.summertimes.org to view camp offerings, pricing, registration procedures and more. Email summerprograms@sssas.org or call 703-212-2777.

Baroody Camps

Baroody Camps offers a variety of summer enrichment camps in Northern Virginia, with everything from American Girl Doll Camp to Gymnastics to Super Heroes Theme Camp, and more. Locally owned and operated, Baroody Camps offer a wide variety of academic, athletic, creative, and adventure camps for children, Kindergarten through 8th grade. In addition to the more traditional camps (sports camps, art camps, outdoors camps, educational camps, leadership camps, and academic camps) a few specialties include the Themed Day Camp offerings for the younger campers with a variety of interests, and Traveling Camps for older children who want to explore the highlights of city by Metro, hit up all of the best amusement parks in the region, or spend a few nights traveling up and down the coast to visit iconic baseball stadiums. Visit www.baroodycamps.com

Summer Fun for Adults

The region offers a wide range of programs for adults.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Summer fun is no longer reserved for children. Whether one's interests lie in exploring nature and hiking in the woods or immersed in history, art and literature on a university campus, the region abounds with warm weather opportunities.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at George Mason University offers its members a chance to satisfy their intellectual and cultural curiosities. Want to read and discuss the "Iliad" or play Symphony No. 5 on the piano? Classes in Homer's writings or classical music are available in Fairfax, Reston and Sterling, Va. \$375 gives members access to more than 400 trips, courses and clubs ranging from memoir writing to French cooking.

"This summer you can get outside with OLLI trips to the National Gallery of Art, the Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens,

and The Franciscan Monastery," said Jennifer Disano, OLLI executive director.

From oil painting to soap making, Arlington County is offering a diverse smatter of classes for adults. "We have a smorgasbord of programs and really cool classes where you can learn about nature or go on hikes," said Susan Kalish, a spokeswoman for the county.

Potomac residents who want to distinguish an amethyst from an iolite are in luck this summer. A gemology class is among the most popular adult classes at the Potomac Community Recreation Center.

"We've got a host of different programs from tai chi, yoga and karate," said Peter Selikowitz, the center's executive director. "There's even a laughter fitness class which is a fun way to reduce stress."

For those wanting to learn how to avoid internet scams, Marymount University has teamed up with City of Falls Church to present "Living Better with the Internet." The series of five classes is designed for seniors and will be held at the Falls Church Community Center this summer. "The best news of all is that the classes are free," said Odette Shults, a spokeswoman for the University.

Educators say that an uptick in interest among adults, particularly seniors, has led



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Summer camp experiences can help children become self-confident and self-reliant.

to a diverse offering of learning opportunities. "There is an absolute trend and evidence-based research is driving the trend," said Andrew Carle of George Mason University. "Adult activities are being reinvented. What used to be arts and crafts and

now their being called wellness and enrichment and address the physical, cognitive, social and spiritual needs of adults. We're seeing people being given more choices on how to improve their lives rather than just giving them activities."

Play Unified

BY RICK JEFFREY
PRESIDENT, SPECIAL OLYMPICS VIRGINIA

In my 20-plus years in Special Olympics I still, on occasion, make the same mistake. I miss the boat. I underestimate the abilities either cognitive or physical of our Special Olympics athletes; athletes with intellectual disabilities. But by continually making this mistake, I, in essence, pretty much make them like everyone else; just another person, available to be judged and limited by what we see or what we think we see. You see, the limitations that all of us place on each other determine how we perceive each other, treat each other, like each other, fear each other, raise each other up or marginalize each other.

Ask most coaches out there and they will tell you that the biggest limitations on any student athlete are the ones coaches place upon them, among which might be too slow, not big enough or not tough enough. It might not be much different in the classroom where teachers might see a student as too lazy, too distracted or not interested. And these are just student athletes in any sport, in any classroom, at any high school in Virginia.

Now compound that with Down syndrome, autism or an undiagnosed disability resulting in a student's inability to keep up with peers. In most cases, the limitations in a school environment, an environment that moves all too fast, are enormous. And even in schools with wonderful inclusive classroom environments, the opportunity to



interact and really build friendships and relationships remains limited.

These students with intellectual disabilities are, in most cases, not receiving an opportunity to really participate in sports; an activity that, at its heart, teaches teamwork, trust and communication; an activity that at its core promotes competency, credibility and caring; the building blocks of human relationships. Sports and sports teams are probably more conducive to building relationships and creating friendships than possibly any other school activity. Plus throw in the opportunity to "wear the colors" and represent your school and you create an emotional bond that may be the most inclusive opportunity for any student.

IMAGINE A PARTNERSHIP between Special Olympics and high schools throughout Virginia. Imagine the opportunity for a student with an intellectual (or any) dis-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Rick Jeffrey

COMMENTARY

ability to play alongside his or her peers without disabilities in a Unified Sports team environment; to rely on each other, to communicate with each other, to believe in each other, to become Champions Together.

Imagine no more because Champions Together is here. In fact, it's right here in Fairfax at Robinson Secondary School and Robert E. Lee High School – and in 22 other high schools in Virginia.

This partnership with the Virginia High School League is aimed at bringing together youth with and without disabilities to build the first unified generation, a generation where youth will build upon the friendships and life lessons learned through sports and the Special Olympics movement so, later in life, they will not be afraid to live, work and THRIVE alongside their peers with different ability levels.

Champions Together high schools will form inclusive track and field teams this spring that will compete against other local high schools. Other components of the program include an inclusive student-led leadership team that will organize an awareness event to promote respect and inclusion, and promote philanthropy to support the future of the program.

AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS, we dedicate ourselves each day to building communities more respectful in their conduct, more inclusive in their makeup, more unified in their fabric. And each day the Virginia High School League is promoting education, leadership, sportsmanship, character and citizenship for students by establishing and maintaining high standards for school activities and competitions.

A new, young, energetic base of athletes and volunteers, which could include the sons or daughters of many reading this op-ed piece, will eventually transition from the schools into our communities and help Special Olympics Virginia and the Virginia High School League continue to achieve our missions.

The Champions Together program is new, and as it develops, we will learn a lot about how to build it, refine it and make it the best that it can be for everyone. And do you know who we will learn this from? We will learn it from our young people with and without disabilities who, through their participation and their ownership of this inclusive program, will prove to us that they are the future.

Let's Play Unified!

Rick Jeffrey has been the President of Special Olympics Virginia since 2000. He has served on many national and international committees for Special Olympics, and is currently serving on the United States Leadership Council where he is chair of the Sports Committee.



Beginning Sunfish classes sail from the dock on a summer morning to practice the day's maneuvers.



Sailors rig the Sunfish in preparation for beginning the day's lesson at Youth Sailing Camp at the Washington Sailing Marina.

Summer Sailing Camp: Outside, Hands-On, Empowering

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Amy Zang has just returned from a week sailing the British Virgin Isles with nine members of her extended family ranging from her 78-year-old, legally-blind father to her brother's 4- and 6-year old children.

"I was the captain of the 46-foot catamaran, but I had to get used to it. It is the biggest boat I have sailed. You use the same sailing skills but adapt the technique when the boat is this large."

Zang is the director and owner of the Youth Sailing Day Camp at the Washington Sailing Marina. The Washington Sailing Marina camp offers six different youth sailing classes in the summer with the Sunfish for beginners and the Flying Scot for intermediates. The advanced class uses a Hobie Cat. The racing class sails a Collegiate 420 that is a fast, maneuverable boat allowing campers the chance to work on boat balance and roll tacks.

Adventures on a Big Boat sails a Catalina 25. This group has a picnic lunch under anchor on Thursdays and they, along with the intermediate boats, sail to Old Town for



Summer counselors at National Marina Sailing Camp give the sailors a safety lesson each day before heading for the Potomac.

lunch on Fridays. Other groups get smoothies on Friday "so everyone gets a treat."

Sailing students must be certified before moving on to the next level. Some campers come for one week and others move up the skill level over successive weeks at camp. Windsurfing is also offered.

The camp opens June 1 and runs weekly through Aug. 22, and is already over 50 percent full. The classes run from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and are open to rising third graders-15 years of age. She thinks children choose sailing for summer because "it is different, it is outside, it is hands on and they get immediate gratification." They walk away with a life skill that they can carry into adulthood, she says.

Sailing class is empowering, Zang says. Children don't have much in their lives that they can be fully in charge of. "I give them trust, here is a boat, and you can learn to sail it and they give trust back. They learn responsibility and it is a huge confidence builder for both male and female students. Sailing isn't about strength." She adds, "When kids come they love it and keep returning year after year." She said word of mouth is powerful and she has had a number of children for many years.

Classes are systematic, beginning with a 10-minute "chalk talk" about what they will be doing that day. Then on to a drill such as a figure eight on the water followed by docking. The routine gets instilled with a game like "stick, stick, capsize." Sailing students practice docking, sailing to the dock where an instructor awaits them. If they do a perfect docking, they get a paint stick and they sail back to a buoy not too far off, switch positions (crew moves to skippers position) and sail to the dock again. If they do a good docking they get a second paint stick, and from there they sail out into the lagoon where a safety boat is stationed. They hand in their two paint sticks and get

to do a capsize, the reward for two good dockings.

She calls each day "controlled chaos" where she has to be mentally two steps ahead watching weather, keeping track of the boats at all times and supervising the instructors as well as tending to children who may need special attention. "Every single cog in the wheel has to work." Zang describes herself as a big communicator and sends group email updates to parents during the week. If there are specific things to pass along she emails the parents directly.

During the school year, Zang provides home-bound school instruction for students with illness or special needs that keep them from attending traditional school.

At this time of year, Zang is interviewing



Amy Zang, Director and Owner of the Youth Sailing Marina, starts checking the boats in April and "putting a screwdriver to every screw" before camp opens June 1.

staff, rescheduling returning staff, reviewing insurance policies and other business, organizing buses, getting boats ready for the season "putting a screwdriver to every screw, washing out boats and getting them in the water."

Zang offers bus service pickup from Bethesda. This year, a mom organized a group of 24 sailing campers from Chantilly so "I am sending a bus there to pick up the kids that week." Sailing students come from all over the metropolitan area and some are visiting relatives and attend sailing camp for a week or two. About half come with a friend although she tries to match everyone up with a buddy if they don't. "We have a lot of diplomat kids, too, a nice diverse population."

The staff includes more than 40 full-time summer counselors; many started in sailing camp themselves a number of years ago. "I have one counselor this year who started camp when he was 9." She has better than a 1-6 ratio of staff to campers.

"It's a good job for high school and college students, getting a tan, learning valuable skills and how to work with kids."

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE

