

Balloons and a presentation of flags by the Knights of Columbus ensured the one-year anniversary of Father Richard Martin's death would be a colorful occasion. More than 300 Burke and Springfield community members attended a memorial graveside celebration of his life.

Burke  
**CONNECTION**

# The Face of Compassion

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MAY 7-13, 2015

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Over 300 Burke and Springfield community members attended a memorial graveside celebration of the life of Father Richard Martin at Fairfax Memorial Park.



The late Father Richard Martin (right) spends time with Haitian children while visiting their country as part of his charitable project Operation Starfish.

## The Face of Compassion

Celebrations honor the late Father Richard Martin.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

Church of the Nativity parishioner Jill Chastain and her family donated to Operation Starfish's developmental work in Haiti for 15 years before she finally went on a work trip with Father Richard Martin. "He said you can get as much out of going as giving," Chastain said, "that these people will give back to you with their joyousness. He was right, to see that they are such a happy people when they have nothing."

Chastain, a Springfield resident, was among 300 members of the Burke and Springfield community who celebrated the life of Martin on May 3, exactly one year after he died unexpectedly of complications from diabetes.

"The entire community came together in a very supportive way to mark this milestone," said Jim McDaniel, the Operation Starfish leader at Nativity, "to celebrate the fact that the work he started, particularly in Haiti, is ongoing and doing very well."

**FATHER MARTIN** was pastor at Nativity for 17 years and became widely known for starting Operation Starfish in 1998, a charitable organization that builds houses, sanitation systems, water wells and small businesses in Haiti. "He was the most compassionate person I think I've ever met," said longtime friend and Fairfax resident Patricia Connell. "His message was always be compassionate. He was very, very interested in the poor and the disadvantaged, throughout his whole ministry. He had a soft spot in his heart for the poor."

Since it launched, Nativity parishioners with the trademarked Operation Starfish (now operated by Food for the Poor, Inc) program have helped build 1,400 homes in 10 Nativity villages, with roughly \$5 million in donated or raised funds.

Over the anniversary weekend alone,



Father Richard Martin's brother Jack (center) flew to Virginia from Rhode Island for the memorial events.

another \$124,000 in donations came in to continue funding Operation Starfish's "Good Shepherd Village" near Dalon, Haiti. McDaniel visited the site at the end of April and reported 40 of the planned 120 homes are completed, a primary school has been school built, housing 650 children, and a community drinking water system has been installed. All "well ahead of schedule," he noted.

"He was a clerical person, a man of God, but never stood on prayer alone," said McDaniel. "He found a way to activate his prayer with a human touch, I think that drew people to him."

"He was extremely honest with his feelings," McDaniel continued, "he wasn't afraid to make himself vulnerable. He was a liberal Democrat from New England, and had no problem saying that."

The events celebrating Martin's life included four services at the church and an afternoon graveside memorial at Fairfax Memorial Park.



Church of the Nativity associate pastor Bill Korpi (left) and pastor Bob Cilinski (right) speak at a memorial event for Father Richard Martin held at Fairfax Memorial Park.

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) attended the 11 a.m. mass and presented a memorial resolution passed by the Virginia General Assembly honoring the late pastor. Martin, a Warwick, R. I. native, was 74 and close to his 48th anniversary as a priest.

"Father Martin was an incredible leader in our community, beloved in his parish and admired and respected throughout the world for his passion and dedication to helping those most vulnerable and in need," Filler-Corn said in a statement. "Father Martin's legacy will live on through the countless lives he impacted in Haiti through Operation Starfish and certainly throughout our community."

**MARTIN'S BROTHER** Jack and his wife Patti, their sister Madeleine and husband Michael all came down from Rhode Island for the memorials.

"It was a beautiful experience, to be honest," said Jack, "just truly amazing the turnout of people that still have love for my

brother, a year after he's passed away."

Jack said when Richard died, there was a discussion as to whether he should be buried in Rhode Island or Virginia.

"It was best decision I ever made in my life, by what I saw on Sunday," Jack said, "that he should be buried with his Virginia family. We know he's being well taken care of down there."

McDaniel said the anniversary event was a way for community members to recommit to acting on some of the values Father Martin was known for: "kindness, looking out for those less fortunate, getting outside yourselves and taking the blessings we all have and sharing them with others."

For Chastain, whose high school-age son was baptised by Father Martin, she will always remember his wisdom, "different things we could take to heart," she said, "go out and actually do. One important saying he had was, 'Our tomorrows must not only be different, but better because we were there.'"



# Staying Put in Springfield

Burke church makes Springfield home safe for aging in place.

ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO  
THE CONNECTION

**A**licia Jeffries, of Springfield, has been through a lot—a two-time fight with cancer and back surgeries—but one thing that has been a struggle to overcome was a stay in her own house.

As part of National Rebuilding Day, Burke United Methodist Church, joined about 50,000 volunteers across the United States in renovating and rebuilding houses owned by low-income homeowners, seniors, people with disabilities, vulnerable families and veterans.

Jeffries' house is one of 166 throughout the United States who got much needed repairs on Saturday, April 25.

"We installed grip rails, got rid

of the mold in the downstairs bathroom and replaced the water-damaged cabinet," said Mike Holmes, one of the house leaders from the church.

Volunteers have been working on the house for about two weeks. "There was a leak in the back roof and we gutted two bathrooms," said Marc Sasseville, also a house leader.

Structural and aesthetic repairs ensure that the house is safe for Jeffries, who is in her 70s, to stay in. "We love working on stuff that allow people to age in place safely," said Patti Klein, executive director of Rebuilding Together in Arlington, Fairfax and Falls Church.

For the volunteers, it is a way to learn skills and perform a service while getting a good feeling of helping people.



**Volunteers from Burke United Methodist Church participate in National Rebuilding Day by making renovations to a house in Springfield.**

PHOTOS BY  
ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO/  
THE CONNECTION

Jane Wilson, a volunteer from Burke United Methodist Church, said that it has been a joy to be working on the project and describes Jeffries as delightful. "She's a real sweetheart," added Sasseville.

"God has really blessed me," said Jeffries, who will now be able to stay in her home safely, free

from trip hazards, leaks, mold and tricky wiring. She can also continue working as a crossing guard at nearby Ravensworth Elementary School in Springfield and Laurel Ridge Elementary School in Fairfax. "I love working and children," she said.

April is National Rebuilding Month for Rebuilding Together, an

organization that provides low-income homeowners with critical home repairs, accessibility and energy efficiency upgrades. It partners with local government, volunteers from faith communities and local nonprofit organizations.

Burke United Methodist Church is located at 6200 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke.



**Mike Holmes, of Burke, one of the house renovation leaders, watches Alex Budd, of Burke, install a new ceiling fan during National Rebuilding Day on Saturday, April 25.**



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## COMMENTARY

# Farmers Markets Revisited

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



Cook

Enjoying the beautiful Northern Virginia weather isn't the only perk of our post-winter weather thaw. From May until November, we also have an opportunity to enjoy the area's agriculture and support our local farmers by attending Fairfax County's farmers markets. In doing so, we can also support the local economy and the environment. The first farmers market was established in Fairfax County in 1978. Since then, Fairfax County has become home to 11 weekly farmers markets. Stocked with the freshest fruits, vegetables, eggs, dairy products, breads, meats, flowers and plants from the region near to our county, these markets provide local farmers with the opportunity to sell their products and gives community members access to a level of quality and freshness rarely found elsewhere. While many of us enjoy these markets year after year, few of us know the role Fairfax County plays in supporting these efforts. The County supervises these markets through the Community Horticulture office of the Fairfax County Park Authority. On a day-to-day basis, however, the markets are managed by volunteer Market Masters. The Market Masters are crucial to the success of the farmers markets; they are responsible for the development and promotion of each of the markets, as well as coordinating with each of the farmers who will be participating. Each volunteer brings a unique set of skills to each individual market.

Buying produce from Fairfax County's farmers

markets doesn't just help support local farmers, but it also benefits our local economy. A special feature of Fairfax County farmers markets is that all 11 are deemed "producers only" markets. This means that every vendor must come from within a 125-mile radius of Fairfax County and must grow all of the products they sell. Since many of these farms are located within the state, if each household in Vir-

ginia pledged to spend just \$10 a week on locally grown agricultural products, it would bring \$1.65 billion into the Virginia economy each year! Not only do these farmers markets benefit our local economy and our health, they are also environmentally friendly. Often, when you buy local produce, you are supporting sustainable farming practices that help prevent soil fertility loss, as well as reduce pesticide and fertilizer runoff into the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Making a visit to one of Fairfax County's farmers markets can also become a fun summer tradition that the entire family can enjoy. Our farmers markets provide a fun atmosphere for children, and can be a great opportunity for them to experience Virginia's agriculture first-hand. In fact, oftentimes, farmers will provide introductions of their products, and great recommendations for preparing the products they grow. There are many reasons why these farmers markets are worth supporting. I encourage you to take a look at this year's market schedule at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/wp-farm-mkt.htm> and make a weekly commitment to attend one of the 11 markets being held in Fairfax County. I think you'll be glad you did!

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

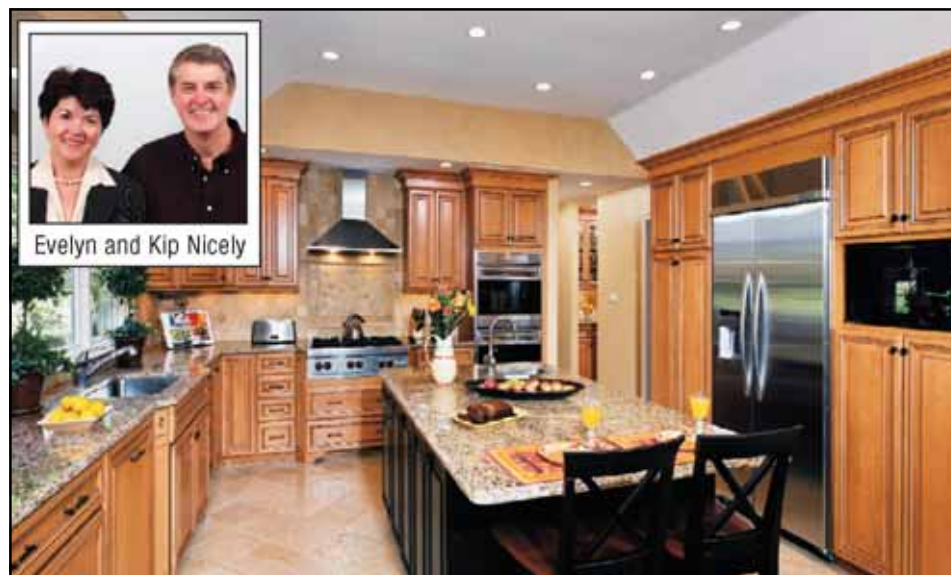
#### SATURDAY/MAY 9

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Conversation on Teen Stress: Fostering Wellness and Resiliency.** 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Hayfield High School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Marc Brackett, Ph.D., the director of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence will be featured as the keynote speaker. Tracy Cross, Ph.D., Professor at The College of William and Mary and Executive Director of the Center for Gifted Studies and Talent Development will speak in the afternoon about perfectionism and child and adolescent suicidality. This event will feature breakout sessions led by FCPS staff members and guest presenters. A variety of exhibitors will also be present. <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/summit/>.

**GIVE - Free Tutoring to School Age Students.** City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. 2 p.m. Math, reading, writing, science, social studies and ESL free tutoring by GIVE- Growth and Inspiration through Volunteering and Education volunteers from Thomas Jefferson H.S. and Robinson H.S.

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# MOTHER'S DAY PHOTO GALLERY

Feeling the love! Seven years ago, this photo was taken just a few days after Mothers Day. Cheyenne, Jaydenne, and Melanie Rodas, of Burke.



Christmas 2014: Jaydenne Rodas, of Burke, and Grandma Betsy preparing for the big feast.



Elizabeth Pugin with granddaughters Cheyenne and Jaydenne Rodas of Burke, on Christmas Day.

Connection reporter Tim Peterson and his mother Ellen tailgate before a Northwestern University football game in Evanston, Ill.

PHOTO BY  
LAUREN MILLER



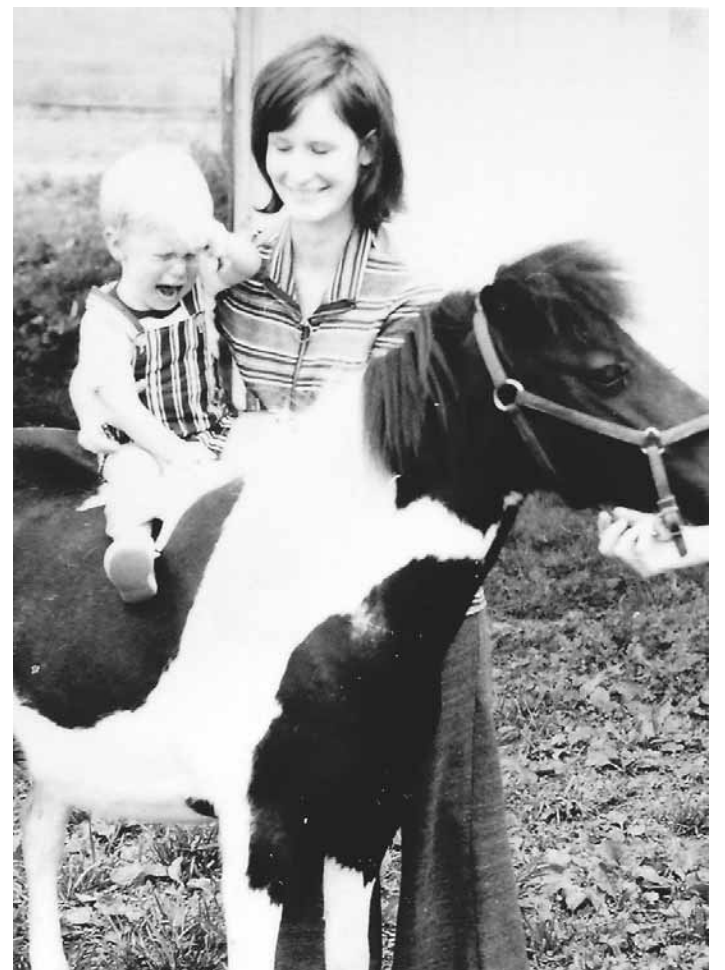
Emily Swenson, of Burke, with her children; Aubrey, Charlotte and Garrett. This was taken on a family hike to see the blue-bell blossoms at Bull Run Regional Park on April 19. This picture was taken shortly after the excitement of seeing a 5 foot black rat snake cross their path on the hike.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CHRIS SWENSON



Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova "loves this photo." On the right is her daughter Karin feeding her newborn Mac, sitting next to her stepdaughter, Mary, feeding Will. They gave birth within two weeks of each other.



Chairman Sharon Bulova with son Delegate David Bulova in 1971. David Bulova has since gotten over his fear of horses.



Chairman and Delegate Bulova at Ocean City in 1973.



## Area Students Earn Awards at 2015 Virginia History Day

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students earned five first place awards at the 2015 Virginia History Day competition, held last weekend at Mount Vernon.

First place award winners were:

❖ Aaron Granstedt of Langley High School, Senior Individual Exhibit, "Joseph Goebbels: The Legacy of Public Enlightenment" (Christina Banker, teacher).

❖ Josh Dow of Whitman Middle School, Junior Individual Exhibit, "Ralph H. Baer, The Father of Video Games" (Melissa Chesney and Jeff Smith, teachers).

❖ Lane Conzone and Madison Fletcher of Langley High School, Senior Group Exhibit, "Exposing the Horrors: The Truth Behind the Middle Passage" (Christina Banker, teacher).

❖ Dorothy Adu-Amankwah and Shirley Kabir of West Springfield High School, Senior Group Website, "The Iron Lady of India: Indira Gandhi" (Cathleen Boivin, teacher).

❖ Noah Stroup, Jorge Palomo, and Sajal Behari of Lorton Station Elementary School, Junior Group Website, "Admiral Rickover" (Laurie Hartt, teacher).

The following students won second place awards:

❖ Tsuyoshi Nemoto of Mount Vernon High School, Senior Individual Exhibit, "442nd Regimental Combat Team" (Amelia Bochain, teacher).

❖ Emma Hogan of Whitman Middle School, Junior Individual Exhibit, "Knowledge is Power—Emma Willard" (Melissa Chesney and Jeff Smith, teachers).

❖ Hyunha Hwang of West Springfield High School, Senior Individual Website, "The Korean Independence Movement: Leading the Country Out of Japanese Control" (Stephanie Shimp, teacher).

❖ Grace Eassa, Sophia Cronin, and Alicja Galecka of West Springfield High School, Senior Group Exhibit, "The Butcher of the Balkans" (Cathleen Boivin, teacher).

❖ Francesca DeLeos and Candice Wong of West Springfield High School, Senior Group Website, "Corazon Aquino and the Fight for the People's Power" (Cathleen Boivin, teacher).

Winning third place awards were:

❖ Sarah Woods of West Springfield High School, Senior Individual Website, "Toussaint L'Ouverture and the World's Only Successful Slave Revolution" (Cathleen Boivin, teacher).

❖ Rachel Wade of Langley High School, Senior Paper, "Set in Stone: Imprinting on the World Through Art" (Christina Banker, teacher).

❖ Margo Beck, Shannon Ghahramani, and Leena Tahmassian-Pacosian of Langley High School, Senior Group Website, "Long Live the Armenians" (Christina Banker, teacher).

❖ Catherine Kiser, Meghan McIntyre, and Beth Whittier of West Springfield High School, Senior Group Documentary, "William Stephenson: World War II Mastermind" (Cathleen Boivin, teacher).

The two top entries in each category and each age division qualify to compete in the national competition, scheduled for June 14-18 at the University of Maryland, College Park.



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# OPINION

## Hunger Is Widespread

**Saturday, May 9, is the postal carriers food drive; put a sturdy bag with food donation next to your mailbox that morning.**

EDITORIAL

**T**here are families dealing with hunger in every county in the United States, including here in Northern Virginia.

In Fairfax, there are 67,190 people who are food insecure, (facing hunger at some point monthly) which is more than 6 percent of the population, according to a report by Feeding America. In Arlington, 8.7 percent of the population is food insecure, 18,750 people. In Alexandria, 10.8 percent of the population faces hunger at least monthly, that's 15,540 people.

You can see the national data by county in an interactive map: <http://map.feedingamerica.org/>

COMMENTARY

## Law Enforcement, the Mentally Ill and the Pursuit of Justice

BY STACEY A. KINCAID  
SHERIFF, FAIRFAX COUNTY

**A**cross the nation, people are having serious discussions about how to alter the dynamic that too often exists between some law enforcement officers and individuals. Out of each case, we learn something that will help us go forward. So, as justice pursues its course in Fairfax County with regard to the tragic death of Natasha McKenna, let's not lose sight of the real underlying problem: the systemic mishandling of mentally ill patients who have few or no resources, and law enforcement's struggle to deal with untreated or undertreated individuals.

There is a teachable moment here for those of us who have dedicated our lives to law enforcement and for members of the community who believe in dignity and

fairness for those who come into contact with the criminal justice system.

All of us are eager — and many are impatient — for the investigation into Ms. McKenna's death to be concluded. This incident has not been forgotten or ignored. From the beginning, the Sheriff's Office has cooperated with the investigation fully. The recent completion of a report by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner means the investigation is nearing a close. I have not offered more than passing comment because, as both a law enforcement official and a citizen, I do not want to prejudice the outcome of an investigation in advance of the facts by answering questions to which I do not have the answers, or by anticipating actions I might take once all the facts are known. I admit to having been disappointed that someone chose to release internal

documents — for the same reasons I think anyone interested in justice and fairness would be.

In the meantime, and for the foreseeable future, our jail will continue to be a warehouse for individuals with mental illness who have been unable or unwilling to access effective clinical care, social services and housing in the community.

About 40 percent of the inmates in our jail have been identified as needing some level of mental health care during their incarceration. More than a quarter have a serious mental illness — often combined with a substance abuse disorder — that requires intervention, regular treatment and medication management. The Sheriff's Office is working to improve mental health care at the jail, but as of this writing, we have no available options to properly divert individuals under arrest and avoid

The annual food drive is held in more than 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam. Last year almost 73 million pounds of food was collected in the one-day event for people in need throughout the United States.

**CHILDREN ARE AFFECTED** by hunger disproportionately, with nearly 30 percent of students in Fairfax County Public Schools poor enough to receive subsidized meals at school, which is an incredible 51,968 students. That percentage is more than 31 percent in Arlington with more than 7,700 students poor enough to get meal benefits. In Alexandria, 60 percent of students are poor enough to get meal benefits; that's almost 8,600 students.

Many of these students go hungry on weekends, during school closures for bad weather and in the summer. More on that soon.

In the meantime, leave a bag of food out by your mailbox on Saturday.

unnecessary incarceration. In no way whatsoever is this intended to justify inappropriate, improper or illegal behavior by law enforcement officers anywhere; it is simply a fact.

As I have done for years, I will continue to advocate locally and in Virginia for more treatment centers for minor offenders who are seriously mentally ill and would be better served in a mental health facility than in a jail.

I have pledged my 28-year career with the Sheriff's Office in service to the safety, security and well being of all Fairfax County residents, and to do so as fairly and transparently as possible. I will continue to work with mental health organizations in search of solutions to an intractable problem facing vulnerable individuals for whom all of us, out of nothing more than common human compassion, must assume some responsibility.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Mother's Day and Islam

To the Editor:

A man once asked the holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), "O Messenger of Allah! Who has the most right to the best treatment from me? The Prophet replied, "Your mother. The man asked, "Then who?" The Prophet said, "Your mother." The man asked again, "Then who?" The

Prophet again said, "Your mother." The man asked again, "And after that?" The Prophet replied, "Your father" (Bukhari and Tirmidhi).

To truly appreciate the awesome significance of this particular incident, one must remember that this took place more than 1,400 years ago, in a completely male dominated society; a society where women were treated no better than slaves.

In Islam the role of a mother is recognized as being so pivotal in the upbringing of the children - as

well as in shaping the future of mankind and society - that Muslims are taught that the attainment of paradise lies under their mother's feet. Not only does this paradise refer to the one in the hereafter, but it also refers to a social paradise in this world...peace, blessings, and security which are obtained after respecting and honoring your mother each and every day, regardless of how difficult the circumstance may be.

So while it's thoughtful and sweet to pause our busy lives once

a year to overtly celebrate everything our mothers mean to us with flowers and gifts, it is more important that we also instill the practice of honoring them daily by making them proud of the manner in which we conduct ourselves; as well as attending to their growing needs with the same care, compassion, love, and patience as they once extended to us when we were children.

**Aisha Khan**  
Herndon

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**NEWS DEPARTMENT:  
[burke@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:burke@connectionnewspapers.com)**

**Kemal Kurspahic**  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
[kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Amna Rehmatulla**  
Editorial Assistant  
703-778-9410 ext.427  
[arehmatulla@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:arehmatulla@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Tim Peterson**  
Community Reporter  
703-314-0789  
[tpeterson@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:tpeterson@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Jon Roetman**  
Sports Editor ♦ 703-752-4013  
[jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com)  
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**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

**Executive Vice President**  
Jerry Vernon  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

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Deb Cobb, Craig Sterbutzel  
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Jeanne Theismann  
[jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)  
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## OPPOSING VIEWS ON EDUCATION FUNDING

# Garza Calls Community to Help #saveFCPS

**Superintendent says FCPS faces deficit of more than \$100 million; FCPS excellence at risk.**

*Statement from Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Karen K. Garza following the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors passage of the Fairfax County Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 budget:*

Once again, we find that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has failed to fully fund Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). This is extremely disheartening — we entered this budget year making a good faith effort to work collaboratively with the Board of Supervisors. We worked for nearly a year with the County Executive and the Board of Supervisors to develop a reasonable budget that met only the very minimal needs of FCPS, and in the end they did not deliver.

Supervisors are sending a clear message that they are unconcerned about the increasing challenges of our students, our teachers, and our schools. The supervisors refused to fully fund our budget for the 2015-16 school year (FY 2016), when faced with a nominal \$7.6 million deficit. We have grave concerns as to what will happen in the 2016-17 (FY 2017) school year when we face a devastating shortfall of more than \$100 million.

The entire Fairfax County community has a critical decision to make: either we invest the necessary funds in our students and schools, or we will have to work together to decide what to cut — and we cannot cut our way to excellence.

Due to years of chronic underfunding coupled with a decade of significant enrollment growth and increasing student needs, we will not be able to sustain the current quality nor the full range of academic programming we currently offer our students. We have sought to protect the classroom to date, but with the scale of the FY 2017 shortfall, we will have to take a serious look at the programs that we must cut starting



**Karen K. Garza**

in the 2016-17 school year. These cuts will likely affect all current academic programming including limiting elective choices, reducing career and technical programs, impacting advanced offerings, and again raising class sizes at all levels. We must make these difficult choices by December 2015 because students begin their course selections in January 2016.

Since 2008, we have cut 2,175 positions and nearly a half-billion dollars from our budget affecting every school and department. We have fallen so far behind in teacher salaries that we are no longer competitive and are losing talented staff to neighboring school districts. Our teachers are the reason FCPS students excel and achieve. Losing our most experienced teachers will have a significant effect on student performance and will ultimately affect the reputation of FCPS.

Fairfax County public schools are frequently cited as one of the main reasons that businesses choose to relocate to the county, and Fairfax has some of the highest property values in the country, but without excellent schools as a foundation — corporate investment in Fairfax and property values will decline.

In the education of our children, every year matters; we cannot hope to make up deficits in their education in their later years. It is critical we take action now.

I hope our community will join me to #saveFCPS.

# Education Is County Board's Priority

**The crux of our school funding problem is the State funding formula.**



**Jeffrey McKay**

BY JEFFREY MCKAY, SUPERVISOR (D-LEE DISTRICT)

There is a considerable amount of misinformation about the County's commitment to education and I would like to give you some of the facts.

While close to 70 percent of County residents do not have children in the school system, education is our County Board's priority. We directly transfer more than half our General Fund to the schools and additionally assume the costs of a number of other school needs, such as school nurses, health aides, resource officers, and the like.

The FY2016 budget that we adopted on April 28 includes a transfer to the schools of \$2.01 billion, an increase of \$66.7 million (+3.43 percent) over the FY2015 budget and nearly two-thirds of all new revenue associated with increased property values. The total school budget (that includes the County transfer and some state and federal funding), totals \$2.6 billion. This is the fifth consecutive year that has seen a substantial increase in the school transfer—since 2008, the Board of Supervisors has increased funding for the schools by \$230 million.

As a County Supervisor, I am responsible for all of our residents' needs including parks, libraries, public safety, and human services. These are not stand-alone services and the success of our schools is also linked to these public services.

To further illustrate our spending priorities, in addition to the 52.1 percent of the County's General Fund that we transfer directly to the schools, we spend only 12 percent of our General Fund on public safety, 10.9 percent on health and human services, and 1.4 percent on parks, libraries, and recreation centers combined. Slashing funding to these would not make a dent in our budget and would hurt the schools.

The crux of our school funding problem is the State funding formula. Fairfax County is a donor jurisdiction, sending more dollars to the state than it recoups—about 21 cents on the dollar. That funding formula inequity holds true not only for education but also for human services, transportation,

and the like.

FCPS' state per pupil funding suffers in comparison to other Virginia localities. In FY2012, the state provided \$2,764 per pupil while the County provided \$9,905 per pupil in local funding. In contrast, neighboring Prince William County received half its per pupil funding from the state. These figures may have been OK in the past, but today's school needs have far outpaced our local ability to pay. Other school districts are able to

fund their needs with our tax dollars while here in Fairfax County we struggle to meet our own needs.

Fairfax County continues to work with the General Assembly and advocates hard for a larger share of state funding for our schools. Our lobbying this year got us \$9.9 million more than anticipated in the state budget. Those additional funds bring FCPS within \$4.1 million of its total \$2.6 billion advertised budget proposal—that's a gap of 0.16 percent less than the School Board's proposed budget.

The superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools increased her transfer request **after** the state budget increase was announced and shortly before our budget adoption.

Please be aware that the Board of Supervisors does not have line item authority over the FCPS budget.

According to the Constitution of Virginia, that responsibility lies with the elected School Board and it is that Board that sets the funding priorities for the schools, including salaries. If teacher salaries are the School Board's top priority, it is their responsibility to close the 0.16 percent gap between their proposed budget and the funds they are receiving.

As we look ahead at the fiscal outlook for next year, we know that we will continue to be affected by a sluggish economy and the effects of federal cutbacks and sequestration.

Like the Schools, the County side of the ledger is projecting a budget shortfall for the next (2017) fiscal year. Both boards will have to work closely together to produce balanced budgets.

Thank you again for contacting me and you have my assurance that my colleagues on both the County and School boards will continue to work together.

P.S. - On a personal note, with two kids, I'm as much invested in our educational system as anyone. My daughter is an FCPS first-grader and my son isn't very far behind. I'm the product of our Fairfax County Public Schools and I want every child to have the same opportunity to learn that I did.

## Who Pays for a Mistake?

To the Editor:

So the agreement was reached to pay John Geer's family just under \$2.95M for the mistake of a police officer. My heart goes out to the family.

But I am concerned about the payment.

Why are taxpayers responsible to pay for this? Where is the statute that justifies this?

I pay over five digits in real estate tax, personal property tax, car registration

fees, licensing fees, and who-knows-how much in sales tax.

But the Board of Supervisors pays millions to a victim of a mistake; yet the roads I have to drive on are still full of lumps, bumps, cracks, and potholes. Where is the money for that? What gives?

**Bob Fritz**  
Oakton



# WELLBEING

## Healthy Relationships for Life

Researchers say meaningful friendships help preserve health.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Bill and Betty Kenealy, of Springfield, make it a point to socialize regularly with their long-time friends, many of whom are other couples they met through work and through the activities of their five children. They've watched their children become adults, worked, retired and even survived cancer. Now they're living together in a retirement community in Springfield. Bill is 85 and Betty is 81.

"We enjoy meeting for dinner on a regular basis or playing cards or dominoes and Bingo," said Bill.

One of those couples is George and Peggy White, both 80. They met when Bill and George were stationed together in the military. Both couples speak fondly of the strength they get from their friendships.

"All of us have different stories and have different backgrounds,"

said Peggy White, 80. "It's been an interesting and rewarding."

Healthy friendships and strong social connections provide more than interest, say researchers. They are vital to one's mental, physical and emotional wellbeing. A study by the National Institutes of Health show that people who are socially isolated are more likely to die of heart disease than those who have close relationships. While it might be more challenging to make friends as one ages, the benefits are worth the effort say researchers.

"Research shows that social connections are more important for health, longevity and cognitive functioning than any other variable," said Linda Gulyn, professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington. "Social support ... increased likelihood of getting proper health care, compliance with health treatments, diet, activity [and] mental health."

**A HEALTHY SOCIAL NET-**

**WORK** is credited with longevity. "Social support at all stages of the lifespan reduces people's stress levels, and this in turn promotes physical health," said Linda Cote-Reilly, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology at Marymount University. Seniors who have active social connections are better able to fight disease, they experience greater psychological well-being and reduced incidence of depression, Cote-Reilly said.

Social isolation can lead to depression and physical health issues. "One of the things that research has shown is that social isolation is a killer," said Dominique S. Hubbard, professor of psychology who studies social exclusion and ostracism at Northern Virginia Community College. "One of the most fundamental things that we need is meaningful social connections and a sense of belonging."

In fact, researchers point to a variety of studies that link health and longevity with fulfilling rela-

tionships.

"There is this really amazing study done in Alameda County, Calif., that followed almost 5,000 residents for nine years, and found that the best predictor of mortality rates were people who indicated they had few meaningful relationships, meaning that people who answered they had many meaningful relationships were more likely to be alive than those with few," said Georgeana Stratton, Ph.D., (associate professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College in Sterling. "Even when they ... only look at people with cancer or heart disease, they still found that those with many meaningful relationships did better than those who answered few.

"Their social relationships were the best predictor of health and death, meaning it predicted better than other things they measured like smoking and stress," said



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE & PEGGY WHITE

George White, 80, stays socially connected by volunteering for the West Springfield police department. He and his wife, Betty, also 80, stay connected with friends.

have moved away or passed away."

Those who are no longer in situations that offer natural opportunities for social interactions can still recreate a circle of friends.

"Seniors can replace those by adding new things," said Hubbard. "Consider joining a class or a bridge club. The key is to have consistent, positive interactions."

Donating one's time offers an opportunity for staying connected.

"Volunteering at a local school or animal shelter or even getting a part time job is a great way to meet people and stay engaged and current," said Joyce Schwartz, a geriatric social worker who lives in Potomac, Md. "Pursuing a hobby, working out a gym or attending lectures are good too, especially if they're free or discounted activities for seniors."

**STILL, STAYING ENGAGED** socially and developing new friendships can become increasingly challenging, as one gets older.

"Physical disabilities and illnesses can increase the likelihood that a person is hospitalized or homebound in later adulthood, which can lead to social isolation and depression," said Cote-Reilly.

Also important, said Cote-Reilly, is distinguishing connections that offer positive social interaction from those that simply provide contact with another person. "Social support means, 'Does this individual feel supported by those in his or her life?' It doesn't mean the number of friends or support persons one has," she said. "Older adults who have a lot of social interaction because they need assistance with activities of daily living ... do not experience these interactions as positive. People are helping them because they have lost the ability to do the tasks themselves."

While social media has made staying in touch with friends easier for some, there are dangers. "Unfortunately, there is a negative correlation between time spent on social networking sites and the internet in general and the time spent with friends," said Stratton. "Also, several studies indicate that more time on Internet predicts depression. So while in-person relationships are great buffers for stress and protect physical and mental health, online relationships may actually ... hurt mental health and social connections."

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## NEWS

# Shaking Hands with President, Prime Minister

BY MARISSA BEALE  
THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock, Hayfield students invited to the White House.

**O**n April 28, students in the Japanese language program at Lake Braddock Secondary and at Hayfield Secondary visited the White House for the official ceremony welcoming Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the United States. Such an invitation was a first in each school's history, and produced much excitement among the students and teachers.

"We found out about a week-and-a-half before," said Eriko Spurlock, a senior in the Japanese language program at Lake Braddock Secondary.

"We were very honored to be there," said Hayfield Secondary senior, Michael Chong. Students from all local school districts were invited to send 50 students to the official welcoming ceremony. Twenty-five students from Lake Braddock and 25 students from Hayfield represented Fairfax County on Tuesday. The opportunity to visit the White House has students thinking about their future plans.

"I hope to minor in it. My sister studied Japanese here and I'm following in her footsteps," said Christopher Scafford, senior at Lake Braddock.

The official ceremony lasted for half an hour, beginning at 9 a.m., with a welcome from President Obama, followed by remarks from Prime Minister Abe. At the conclusion, the leaders shook hands with members of the audience, something that the stu-

dents will never forget.

"The most memorable part was shaking their hands," said Bryce Ahn, a senior from Lake Braddock who also did a homestay in Japan with Youth for Understanding.

"I was very determined to shake both of their hands," said Nattacha Munakata, from Hayfield, with a laugh. Munakata, who is Japanese, serves as a coach/mentor to students in the Japanese language program.

In addition to shaking each of their hands, Scafford took a step further, attempting to try out a Japanese expression with the Prime Minister.

"When I said it he nodded, but I also saw the look of surprise on his face," he said with a laugh.

This visit has students thinking about continuing their language study, and learning more about relations between Japan and the United States.

"If I could ask them any question it would be what would you do to improve relations?" said Linsey Asbury, junior at Hayfield.

"I just want them to be good citizens," said Yuki Melvin, Japanese language teacher at Lake Braddock. "A key concept of Japanese culture is coexistence."

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Japanese language teacher at Hayfield, Kyoko Vaughan said.



PHOTO BY MARISSA BEALE/THE CONNECTION

(From Left), Hannah Moon, Eriko Spurlock, Christopher Scafford, Erika Nguyen and Bryce Ahn were five of 25 students from Lake Braddock Secondary School invited to the welcoming ceremony for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the White House.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEIKO ABRAMS

Lake Braddock Secondary School students on the White House South Lawn.

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# 61 Sports Events over 10 Days Fairfax County hosting the 2015 World Police & Fire Games.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**A** huge event on a scale Fairfax County has never before seen — that's the 2015 World Police & Fire Games. It'll run June 26-July 5 and promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for area residents.

"We expect over 12,000 first responders from more than 70 countries," said county police Maj. Rich Perez, who's heading up security. "There'll be 61 sporting events spanning 10 days, and with more athletes than the summer Olympic Games."

Perez is in charge of bringing together 37 different federal, local and state entities to provide security for the events. These groups include the county Fire and Rescue Department, Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the TSA, ATF, and Department of State.

The World Police & Fire Games started in San Diego, Calif., in 1985 and are held every two years. "We're celebrating the camaraderie, honor, courage and athleticism of first responders from around the world," said MPO Michelle DuBois, one of the county Police Department's athletic outreach ambassadors.

Both active and retired fire and law-enforcement personnel will be competing. "This is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the games, so there'll be dignitaries here, too," said DuBois. "And it's also the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fairfax County Police Department."

**THE OFFICIAL** website is [Fairfax2015.com](http://Fairfax2015.com) and, said Perez, "It's getting 9 million hits a day. The local, economic impact is expected to be \$70 million to \$80 million for those 10 days." That's because, in addition to the athletes, themselves, an estimated 30,000 visitors are also expected to attend the games here.

Some 80 county firefighters and 50 county police officers are registered to participate, including Police Chief Ed Roessler



**Police officers Rich Perez and Michelle DuBois discuss the upcoming World Police & Fire Games.**

Jr. "He registered for the triathlon and has been diligently working out and preparing for it," said Perez.

Some other local first-responders will be defending their awards won previously. Fire Department Battalion Chief Jerome Williams won a gold medal in stair climbing in the last games, held in New York. And county police officer, Lt. Mark Kidd, is the current gold-medal holder in darts.

But all the participants are special, said Bill Knight, president of the World Police & Fire Games.

"These athletes are truly heroes from around the world," he said. "And they deserve to be treated like Olympians."

The various athletic competitions will be held at 53 different venues, but more than 70 percent of the games will take place in Fairfax County. Athletes will participate in events including archery, badminton, baseball, beach volleyball, bench press, billiards, body building, bowling, boxing, cross country, cycling, darts, dodge ball, flag football, golf, hockey, judo, karate, lacrosse, half marathon, motocross, motorcycle and mountain biking. They'll also vie in orienteering, paintball, pistol and rifle com-



petitions, police service dogs, rowing, rugby, skeet shooting, soccer, softball, swimming, table tennis, tae kwon do, tennis, track and field, triathlon, ultimate firefighter, volleyball, wrestling and wrist wrestling.

Several of the events will be held in the local communities. There'll be baseball at Westfield High; Toughest Competitor Alive at the Cub Run Rec Center; clays, skeet and trap shooting, Bull Run Regional Park; cycling, police driving track in Chantilly; darts, Fairfax County Police Association Hall in Fairfax; and lacrosse, Centreville High.

GMU will also host baseball games, as well as basketball, bodybuilding, boxing, swimming, tennis, and track and field. At the Reston Town Center will be the athlete village and check-in, plus the half marathon and honor guard competitions.

Martial arts will be held at NOVA's Ernst Center, and weightlifting will be at the Herndon Community Center. Meanwhile, archery, cycling, mountain biking and orienteering will take place in Fairfax Station's Fountainhead Regional Park. And Tysons Corner will host dodge ball and stair racing.

**MASS TRANSIT** will be used as much as possible to transport the athletes to and from each venue.

"There's no cost to attend and view any of the events," said DuBois. "So we encourage people to bring their families and friends to them and enjoy."

But such a huge undertaking can't be accomplished without volunteers, and some 4,000 of them are needed. Signups are at <http://fairfax2015.com/volunteer>.

"We need medical personnel at each venue to cover the athletes, volunteers and spectators," said DuBois. "People are also needed to check in the athletes and direct them to the next station. Volunteers must be 18 or older and able to read, write and communicate in English. They must also pass a background check to keep everybody safe."

Urging people not to pass up this opportunity to lend a hand, she said, "You can play a key role in one of the largest, multi-sport, multi-venue events in the world. Instead of just watching, you can be a part of history."

## Fairfax Rotary Club Spells It Right

**L**ate this past February, Fairfax Rotarian and PR, Ron Hubbard was contacted by Debbie Kilpatrick, president of Fairfax County Council of PTAs regarding the Fairfax Club's annual Dictionary Project presentations. Kilpatrick was coordinating the Fairfax County School's Annual Spelling Bee Contest to be hosted March 22, 2015 at local city of Fairfax Lanier Middle School. She had been made aware that Hubbard was the annual presenter of dictionaries to the Willow Springs Elementary School, and inquired if there might be enough dictionaries available for the Annual Fairfax County Schools Spelling Bee contestants, as part of their take-away gift bags. Hubbard moved quickly with the Fairfax Rotary Club's Dictionary Project Coordinator and president Paula Kelley. Additional dictionaries were ordered to be available for the 60 "Bee" contestants. The Rotary Club was a proud sponsor of this event.

Sixth-grader Trisha Balakrishnan of Greenbriar West Elementary won the Fairfax County Spelling Bee and she will represent Fairfax County at the Scripps National Spelling Bee, to be held May 25-30 at National Harbor's Gaylord Hotel.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



**Sixth-grader Trisha Balakrishnan (center) of Greenbriar West Elementary won the Fairfax County Spelling Bee and was joined at the Champion's stand by runner-up Harsha Harish (left), a sixth-grader at Mosby Woods Elementary, and third-place finisher Grace Fisher, a seventh-grader representing Capital Baptist Homeschool.**



# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 8-9

**“Big the Musical.”** 7:30 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. The FX Players theatre department will debut its long awaited spring musical, BIG, the first two weekends of May. Following the storyline of the 1980's Tom Hanks movie, BIG revolves around a young boy who dreams of being an adult. After a Zoltar machine grants his wish, he goes on a heartwarming adventure where he learns that age does not determine how much fun you can have. For more information, please visit [www.fxplayers.org](http://www.fxplayers.org) or call 703-219-2351.

**Spotlight on the Arts Festival.** Dedicated to showcasing the very best of the visual and performing arts in the City of Fairfax. At a variety of venues in and around the city. Visit [www.visitfairfax.com/category/spotlight](http://www.visitfairfax.com/category/spotlight).

## FRIDAY/MAY 8

**Spring Concert.** 7:30 p.m. St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke. The Maranatha Singers will present an enjoyable evening of music with a guest appearance by the St. Stephen's Orchestra. The theme of the concert will be “Jammin’ Juke Box”. Refreshments served after the concert in the Welcome Center. Everyone is invited to attend. Free.

## SATURDAY/MAY 9

**Concerts from Kirkwood.** 3 p.m. Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. Concerts from Kirkwood will complete its 2014 – 2015 season on May 9, with a special concert featuring the internationally renowned Spanish piano duo, Carles&Sofia.

Carles Lama and Sofia Cabruja have been performing together since 1987. They perform regularly worldwide both in recitals for four hands and with orchestra. They have made an extensive number of recordings on the on the KNS-classical label.

**West Springfield Baseball Alumni Festival.** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. West Springfield High School baseball field. Gates open at 9:45 a.m. (no admission fee), the student/faculty softball game starts at 10 a.m., and the alumni game starts at 12 p.m. There will be jousting and carnival-style games, a bounce house, baseball skills games, raffles and an auction, concessions, and a spirited set of alumni playing baseball. Money raised will be used to renovate the batting cages and replace worn-out equipment. Test your skills at the games, bid on the items, watch the game, or just join us for lunch and help support the program. Donations and questions can be directed to Jason Olms at [jmolms@fcps.edu](mailto:jmolms@fcps.edu)

**Neighborhood Plant Clinic.** City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. 10 a.m. Master Gardeners provide horticultural tips, information and advice to home gardeners. Adults only.

**Tales to Tails.** City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. 10:30 a.m. Age 6-12 read aloud to a friendly, trained therapy dog. Openings.

**Escape from Burke Centre Library Game.** Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 1:30 p.m. Intriguing games and activities based on the book “Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library,” by Chris Grabenstein. Openings for age 8-12.

**Springfield Smart Markets Farmers Market.** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Springfield Town Center, at the corner of Loisdale Road and Spring Mall Drive. Fresh local fruits and veggies.

## SUNDAY/MAY 10

**Workhouse Farmers Market.** 1-5 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The opening day of this year's farmers markets season.

## MONDAY/MAY 11

**PJ Library Book Buddies.** City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. 10:30 a.m. Ages 6 months to 5 years with adult enjoy Jewish storybooks and craft making. Co-sponsored by JCC of Northern Virginia.

## TUESDAY/MAY 12

**Creative Cupcakes for Older Adults.** City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. 1 p.m. Celebrate the Creative Aging Festival by getting creative. Decorate cupcakes with the pros from Cupcakes Actually, a local bakery and multiple winner at the Chocolate Lovers Festival. Openings.

**Pohick Daytime Book Discussion for Adults.** Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 1 p.m. “The Last Runaway,” by Tracy Chevalier.

**Tai Chi.** Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 10 a.m. Dante Gilmer of Still Water Tai Chi Center invites all adults to increase their level of fitness by learning the



(From left) Doug Klain and Zion Jang play with light sabers during Fairfax High's “Big: The Musical.” Performances: Thursday-Saturday, May 7, 8 and 9, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 via [www.fxplayers.org](http://www.fxplayers.org) or \$15 at the door. For the Sunday matinee, tickets are \$5 for children 12 and under. And after the show, they can dance on the big piano, take a photo with the cast and make a wish with Zoltar.

art of Tai Chi. Wear comfortable clothes that allow slow movements.

## THURSDAY/MAY 14

**Storytime Yoga for School Age Children.** Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 4:30 p.m. Join certified yoga instructor Karen Hamilton for stories, stretches, and simple yoga poses. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a mat or towel. Funded by the Friends of Burke Centre Library. Openings.

**Salsa's Ancient Rhythm.** Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 7 p.m. Teens and adults participate in an interactive presentation by Mr. José Obando, Salsa consultant for the Metropolitan Museum of Arts's Department of Musical instruments, as he reveals the history and music. Openings.

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 15-16

**Alice in Wonderland.** 7 p.m. Thomas Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. This modern retelling of the classic children's story has all of the characters you know and love, including the Mad Hatter, the Cheshire Cat, and the Queen of Hearts. With cell phone in hand, a present-day Alice encounters the Wonderland so many of us treasure in a musical that appeals to both children and adults. Tickets will be available at the door (\$5 for adults, \$3 for children, \$1 for children at matinee).

Concessions will be available.

## SATURDAY/MAY 16

**Creative Writers Club.** 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Do you enjoy writing fiction, poetry, non-fiction and/or memoirs? Join us for sharing, discussion and feedback of works in progress. Ages 12-18.

**Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA) Benefit Buffet Luncheon.** 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Springfield Outback Steakhouse, 6651 Backlick Road, Springfield. The Springfield Outback Steakhouse will be presenting a fundraiser to benefit the FARA. Cover charge is \$30 and includes an all you can eat buffet including sliced steak, sliced chicken, side dishes, non-alcoholic beverages and dessert. Live entertainment will be provided by the “Ocean Drive” from Fredericksburg, Va, ([www.islandgerry.com](http://www.islandgerry.com)). The event is being co-sponsored by the Washington Area Parrot Head Club. [www.curefa.org](http://www.curefa.org), or contact Donna Rambler at the Springfield Outback at [obs4713@outback.com](mailto:obs4713@outback.com) or by phone at 703-912-7531.



Bollywood Masala Orchestra and Dancers.

# Mason Announces ‘Great Performances’

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY ANDREW ECCLES/  
COURTESY OF GEORGE  
MASON UNIVERSITY

## Bernadette Peters

There was a buzz of energy in the jam-packed foyer of the Center for the Arts at George Mason University. Northern Virginia performing arts lovers were ready to learn of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary season of “Great Performances at Mason!” The crowd would not be disappointed as Thomas Reynolds, director of artistic programing, announced “a remarkable variety of performing arts that both entertains and educates.” The new season begins this September.

“We’ve always prided ourselves on variety and the 25th anniversary season is very representative of that,” said Reynolds. “We are sticking with our strengths, which has always been a variety of arts and entertainment options.”

The upcoming season of “Great Performances at Mason!” will also continue to support the students at George Mason University. The Center is part of Mason's College of Visual and Performing Arts and the schedule of performers takes “to heart the mission of how to present artists that help support the teaching of our students,” noted Reynolds.

There are many highlights for the upcoming 25th anniversary season. Just a few examples include the Tony and Grammy Award winning Broadway actress and singer Bernadette Peters who will headline the annual “Arts by George!” grand benefit gala on Sept. 26. The gala will include a grand showcase of Mason College of Visual and Performing Arts student and faculty works.

As the season rolls forward,

there is tap dance phenom Savion Glover, Disney's “Fantasia - Live in Concert,” a notable performances from the Virginia Opera, the Munich Symphony Orchestra, live theater such as Aquila Theatre's “The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes,” the inventive work of Mummenschanz, the dynamic Mark Morris Dance Company, the innovative RIOULT contemporary dance troupe and Bollywood Masala Orchestra and Dancers of India, to name a few.

There will be Christmastime favorites such as Chanticleer and the Vienna Boys Choir. Local favorites such as Jeffrey Siegel and his Keyboard Conversations and the Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra will also return

With a wide-range of offerings, the 2015-16 season is an opportunity to try new things or take in old favorites. There are many performances right for the whole family as a way to introduce younger audiences to the world of performance with special ticket prices all in a near-by, easy to reach location with parking. And free pre-performance discussions sponsored by the Friends of the Center for the Arts add to experiences.

## Where and When

The 2015-16 season of “Great Performances at Mason!” will be at the George Mason University, Center for the Arts, 4440 University Drive, Fairfax. The 2015-16 runs September 2015-May 2016. Subscription and single tickets are available. For information and tickets call 703-993-2787 or visit [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu). Detailed season brochure at: [http://issuu.com/cfaatmason/docs/cfa\\_2015-16\\_brochure?e=4583740/12238447](http://issuu.com/cfaatmason/docs/cfa_2015-16_brochure?e=4583740/12238447)



## NEWS

# Task Force 1 Saves Life in Nepal

## Deputy Chief visits Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in Fairfax.

BY MARTHA E. POWERS  
OLLI MEMBER

**D**id you know that Fairfax County is home to an internationally renowned search and rescue team? Virginia Task Force 1 comprises 210 highly trained and equipped firefighters, paramedics, physicians, structural engineers, and other specialized experts – plus a crew of six sniffer dogs. Last week, 57 members of this elite force flew to Nepal on short notice, where they immediately went to work in hopes of rescuing survivors of the recent earthquake there.

Five days after the quake, the team hit pay dirt: Working with Los Angeles County rescue workers and Nepali police, they helped extricate a young man named Pemba Tanang from the rubble where he had been buried alive. He was thirsty but otherwise unharmed, and wearing a New York Yankees T-shirt. His was the first live rescue that the Fairfax County team had made in Nepal.

Meanwhile, here on the homefront, Deputy Chief Charles Ryan of the Task Force was addressing a full house at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in



PHOTO BY DAN FEIGHERY

**Deputy Chief Charles Ryan (left) is introduced by OLLI President Glenn Kamber.**

Fairfax, on Wednesday, March 29. His presentation included photos just released from Nepal, as well as a thorough explanation of how his amazing team functions. After his talk, he was peppered with challenging questions from OLLI audience members, and he earned a resounding round of applause.

It's not every day that we get to meet our local heroes, and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is honored to have had that opportunity expressing support Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue as they continue to work in Nepal.

## Independent Carey Campbell Enters Braddock Supervisor Race

Carey Campbell announced he has entered the race for Braddock District supervisor as an Independent, joining incumbent Republican John Cook and Democrat challenger Janet Oleszek.

Campbell, an accountant and U.S. Air Force retiree, filed his candidacy paperwork on April 29 and was confirmed on the ballot May 1.

"I'm excited by support in Braddock District for our positive Green New Deal Eco jobs for economy campaign," Campbell

said in a statement. The new candidate has already been endorsed by the Independent Green Party.

"As an Independent candidate in a nonpartisan race, I look forward to continuing to visit con-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Carey Campbell registers for Braddock District supervisor candidacy at the Fairfax County Office of Elections.**

stituents door to door," Campbell continued. "I promise to carry your concerns into office. Let's get it done together. I ask for your guidance and support."

— TIM PETERSON

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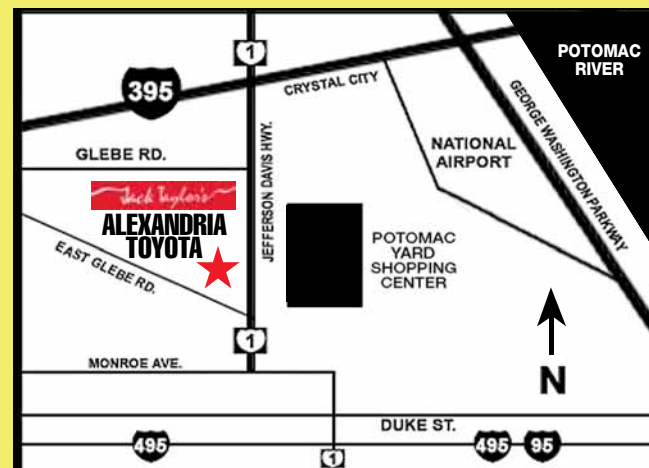


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### Clair D. Burgeson

July 28, 1929 – March 30, 2015

Clair D. Burgeson died March 30, 2015 at three pm at Hospice by the Sea in Boca Raton, Florida. He died with his wife and three children by his side of complications of pulmonary fibrosis. Born in Jamestown, NY on July 28, 1929, survived by: wife Joyce Elaine Carberg Burgeson, brother Irving Burgeson, sister Louise Kolinofsky. Three children: Stephen Clair Burgeson of Buffalo, NY, David Mark Burgeson of Naples, FL, Lisa Joy Burgeson Rhein of Fairfax, VA and six grandchildren: Elizabeth Rhein O'Connor, Robert Rhein, Geneva Rhein, Eric Burgeson, Briana Burgeson, Liam Burgeson.

A depression baby, born in 1929, Clair received a diploma in General Agriculture from NYS Agricultural Technological Institute (now Alfred State College) in 1950, a diploma in Bible Studies and Missions from Prairie Bible Institute, Alberta Canada in 1954, a Bachelor of Arts, cum laude, SUNY Albany paid for by the G.I. bill. During his 3 years of United States Army service he spent a year and a half on the DMZ in Korea. He set up two libraries and served as a librarian under special services. Joyce and Clair both worked while raising Steve, Dave and Lisa. Clair completed two additional college degrees; a Masters of Library Science, Columbia University and a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration, SUNY, New Paltz.

His library career began in White Plains High School. In 1967 he took the position of Director of Libraries in Ramapo Central School District in Rockland County, NY and held it until his retirement in 1991. One of his great joys during that time was teaching a Junior Great Books class for the 7th and 8th grade students. Clair was one of the first trustees of the Sloatsburg Library, instrumental in moving the library to the building it resides in today. A naturalist, he took many groups on educational nature walks in Harriman State Park. An energetic father and grandfather, he could be counted on to jog, snow shoe, hike, bike and canoe as well as take quiet walks in nature. He was an enthusiastic bird watcher, loved classical music, and an avid reader. He was active in the American Library Association and Audubon Society.

Clair gave consistently and generously to his charities of choice. He was unfailingly devoted to his family. Upon his retirement, Clair and Joyce enjoyed traveling the world and sharing their love with family and many friends at their residences in Naples, FL, Chautauqua, NY, Burke, VA, and Boca Raton, FL.

His love of learning, nature, spirituality, philosophy and people will live on through we who knew and loved him. He will be deeply missed. Contributions in Clair's memory can be made to the Sloatsburg Public Library, 1 Liberty Rock Road, Sloatsburg, NY 10974 or the Audubon Society. Following a scattering of Clair's ashes over Chautauqua Lake, a gathering and smorgasbord will be held in the library at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Jamestown, NY on July 18, 2015.

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## SPORTS

**Robinson long stick midfielder Jack Rowlett, right, scored three goals against South County on Saturday.**



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

# Robinson Boys' Lax Spreads Offensive Wealth

**Seven different Rams score multiple goals in win over SoCo.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

The Robinson boys' lacrosse team returned most of its firepower from last year's state champion ship run, entered Saturday's contest against South County with a 9-2 record and had won 26 of its previous 27 games against public school opponents, a streak dating back to early in the 2014 campaign.

In other words, the Rams are good. Real good.

But just in case there was any doubt whether Robinson has what it takes to compete for a second straight state title, the Rams put forth one of their best offensive efforts of the season on Saturday.

Facing a South County team, considered one of the best in the region, the Rams had seven different players score multiple goals during a 16-9 victory on May 2 at Robinson Secondary School.

"I'm starting to see the patience that I'm looking for offensively," Robinson head coach Matt Curran said. "... This is huge, and one of the reasons is we've had some good offensive outputs, but not against a team — no offense to the teams we've played — but a team of this caliber. This was really big for our momentum. ... This was the type of victory we needed."

South County entered the contest with a 10-2 record and briefly took a 4-3 lead on a goal with 2:53 remaining in the second quarter. Robinson responded with a pair of goals and led 5-4 at halftime.

Robinson led for the entire second half.

"I think this is one of the best games we've played all year," said Jack Rowlett, a senior long stick midfielder who will play for the University of North Carolina. "As a team, it wasn't just one player shining. Everyone contributed ..."

Rowlett scored three goals Saturday, giving him 16 for the season.

"Getting a hat trick as a long stick, [Rowlett is] just such a weapon," Curran said. "... Long stick middies, you don't get that. You might have one or two goals on the year in a transition. Jack has 16 goals on the season and that's just kind of unheard of with a long pole. He can dodge against anybody. If he has a shorty on him, he has the green light."

Senior attackman Chapman Jasien said Rowlett makes life difficult for opposing defenses.

"That's huge coming from a long stick middle," said Jasien, who will play college lacrosse for the Naval Academy. "That's tough for another team; that's tough to defend. We'll kind of get out of his way and let him work on offense; let him get his shot ..."

"Those shots really help us out a lot. We encourage it big time."

Senior attackman Tommy Gallogly also recorded a hat trick for Robinson.

Senior midfielder Jack Smith, junior attackman Johnny Daniel, senior attackman Chris White, junior midfielder Austin Henry, and Jasien each scored two goals for the Rams.

"I think it's good for us," Rowlett said. "We're hitting our stride at the right time. We started a little shaky, not playing as well as we could have. This is a big game for us to help us build toward the team we can be, the team we should be [come late] May, the beginning of June."

Robinson defeated Oakton 14-4 on Tuesday, improving its record to 11-2. The Rams will close the regular season with a road game against Centreville at 7:15 p.m. on Monday, May 11.



**Robinson senior Tommy Gallogly finished with a hat trick during the Rams' 16-9 win over South County on Saturday.**





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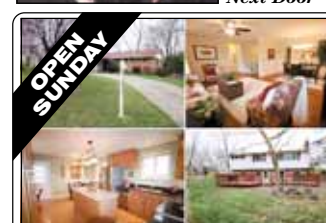


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