

Bruins Burst Forth

GRADUATIONS, PAGE 10

Lake Braddock class of 2015 graduates
celebrate by flinging their caps in the air
on June 17.

New Giant
Opens at
Kings Park
NEWS, PAGE 6

Inside
GRADUATIONS 2015

WELCOME to FAIRFAX COUNTY WHERE SPECIAL INTERESTS ARE CRUSHING POLICE, FIREFIGHTERS AND TEACHERS



As a public servant, you understand the commitment of fellow police, fire and teachers to goodwill, community involvement and education.

But here in Fairfax County, local politicians don't share our commitment. Every year it's a fight for funding. Politicians pit police, fire and teachers against powerful special interests like the Chamber of Commerce and the Restaurant Association – *and we're always on the losing end.*

When politicians place the burden on schools and public safety with underfunding and stagnant salaries, *we all lose.*

While you're here at the games, recognize Fairfax County public safety officials with a high-five. It might be the only support they get this year.

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Police Release Use of Force Review

Review explained at latest Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission meeting.

Nearly a year ago, Fairfax County sought an outside opinion on its police department's use of force. That July 2014 commission went to the Washington, D.C.-based Police Executive Research Forum.

The organization gained access to unredacted files and case information going back ten years, as well as police academy training sessions and other areas of the department while conducting the review. While not pursuing cases currently under investigation, the review team did look at use of force cases and deadly force cases.

The concept then was to compare Fairfax County's policies and practices to other jurisdictions and best practices, and make recommendations for how the county could improve.

Fairfax County published the completed review report online the weekend immediately after they received it. The following Monday, June 22, Police Executive Research Forum executive director Chuck Wexler and director of applied research and management Tom Wilson attended the meeting of the Fairfax County Police Practices Review Commission to give an overview of the document.

THE REVIEW includes 71 recommendations, spanning 92 pages. It and Wexler are generally positive about Fairfax County's police.

"This is a good department that wants to be better," said Wexler, "not just good but one of the best in the country."

If the organization's recommendations are implemented, the review text states, it would "significantly enhance the [Fairfax County Police Department's] internal operations and its ability to serve the community in ways that build trust and cooperation, while increasing the professionalism with which use-of-force incidents are handled in the county."

Wexler chose five main areas for improvement to highlight in his presentation of the review. These included more comprehensive use of force training for police officers that is scenario-based, holistic and would be implemented department-wide.

The second area was a recommendation to explore implementing a policing practice called the Decision Making model, adopted from use in Scotland and across the United Kingdom.

"What they've done is designed a format for officers to look at any given situation," said Tom Wilson, and answer, "What is your threat?" This method, Wilson and Wexler said, is a crucial part of any effort to de-



Police Executive Research Forum executive director Chuck Wexler (right) and director of applied research and management Tom Wilson speak to the ad hoc commission on June 23.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION



Commission chairman Michael Hershman asks Police Executive Research Forum executive director Chuck Wexler follow-up questions after his presentation over the forum's report on Fairfax County police use of force.

escalate a situation. It requires officers to slow down or take a step back.

Next were recommendations for police recruit training. The review organization found new Fairfax County officers were first given firearms training, rather than starting "with the most significant principles of policing," Wexler said.

"They ought to hear... about the sanctity of human life, those terms, before being handed firearms."

The fourth area was how Fairfax County responds to people who are emotionally disturbed or have mental illness. According to Lt. Col. and commission member Tom Ryan with the police department, 43 percent of officers have received Crisis Intervention Training to better handle such situations. Police Chief Edwin Roessler has stated his goal of having 100 percent of officers trained, which Wexler said the review fully supports.

On improving use of force policies, the Police Executive Research Forum recommendations include prohibiting officers from shooting at moving vehicles, investigating all cases where deadly force was used regardless of if the officer hit the target,

making sure electronically controlled weapons are used appropriately, prohibiting chokeholds and discontinuing the use of the "precision immobilization technique" for stopping moving vehicles.

"The department is already doing a lot," Wexler said, "and we have suggestions for how they can do more."

Commissioner Eric Clingan of the NOVA Law Firm asked how long Wexler expected it would take to "change the culture" with respect to the recommendations from the Police Executive Research Forum, and what kind of monitoring should be done.

Wexler responded that changes would have to come both from Fairfax County Police leadership and the training academy. "I don't think the leap is that far to go," he said. "The department is already going in that route."

Commissioners John Lovaas, a Reston resident, and Sal Culosi, father of Dr. Salvatore "Sal" Culosi Jr., who was killed by a Fairfax County Police officer, asked if citizen oversight and use of Special Weapons and Tactics teams were covered in the review. Wexler said those topics were "not part of the scope" of the review.



Subcommittee member Jose Santos of Great Falls asks for the Police Executive Research Forum's opinion on how Fairfax County Police release information. "There's a knee-jerk reaction," he said, "a reluctance to air out their dirty laundry."

In answering a commission member, Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova explained this review was separate from the outside review of police policies for releasing information, something the supervisors decided to move forward with earlier this year. That review, being a budget item for the new fiscal year in Fairfax County (July 1), has not moved forward much.

"I'm disappointed in the timing," Bulova said. "It's no excuse."

FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION by Wexler and Wilson, Dr. Steve Band spoke to the commission on the "human element" — the psychological and biochemical effects of being a police officer faced with life-threatening situations.

"It's 'Oh sh-t, that awareness of extreme vulnerability,'" said Band. "Once you jump on that continuum, it's like deer in the headlights. Gaining control of that situation requires muscle memory and committing to action."

The meeting concluded with reports from each of the five subcommittees — Use of Force, Communications, Mental Health and Crisis Intervention Training, Recruitment, Diversity and Vetting, and Independent Oversight and Investigations — all of which have different deadlines for submitting recommendations to the full commission.

Monday, July 27 is the next date scheduled for the meeting of the full Ad Hoc commission at the Fairfax County Government Center. Chairman Hershman said county staff is working on securing an alternate location that would be convenient to residents that may have difficulty reaching the government center.

The full text of the Police Executive Research Forum review of Fairfax County police use of force and practice can be found through the county website's pages on the ad hoc commission, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission, or directly at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission/materials/fairfax-county-police-dept-final-report-june19.pdf. Dr. Band's presentation is also available on the commission website.

WEEK IN BURKE

Police Investigating Sexual Assault of 17-Year-Old Female

A 17-year-old female was walking on the Roberts Parkway Bridge, near Premier Court, between 1 and 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 18 when she was reportedly offered a ride by a man in a silver sedan, Fairfax County Police said.

At first she said no to the man, but after he persisted, the teenager agreed to get in the car. He drove them to a dead-end around the 10400 block of Premier Court.

When she tried to get out of the car, the suspect allegedly held her and prevented her from leaving. Then, police said, the man sexually assaulted the 17-year-old. Afterwards, he left her at the spot and fled in the car.

The female called police, was taken to a local hospital and evaluated.

Police reported the suspect was described as Hispanic with short brown hair, in his late teens up to early twenties, about five feet ten inches tall and wearing an orange-and-blue striped T-shirt and blue shorts.

— TIM PETERSON

FAITH NOTES

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

Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering,

SEE FAITH, PAGE 5

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FAITH

FROM PAGE 4

while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

Lord of Life Lutheran offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspringfield.org.

Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.popl.org.

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway in Springfield, supports a Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) program on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Meetings are 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the church. All mothers and children are welcome. The program provides mothers an opportunity to get to know other mothers through discussions and craft activities. Register. 703-451-5320.

JCCNV Mother's Circle program, for women who are not Jewish but are raising Jewish children. Free education in Jewish rituals, practices and values, while respecting the participant's choice to retain her own religious identity. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax. Contact Laurie Albert, 703-537-3064 or [HYPERLINK "mailto:LaurieA@jccnv.org"](mailto:LaurieA@jccnv.org) LaurieA@jccnv.org.

Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria, offers traditional Sunday church services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. plus Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Childcare is available 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. There will be a Terry Hall Concert on Saturday, April 14 at 4 p.m. with old spirituals, classic hymns, southern gospel favorites and more. 703-971-5151 or admin@franconiaumc.org or www.franconiaumc.org.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. www.jssa.org/growth-learning.

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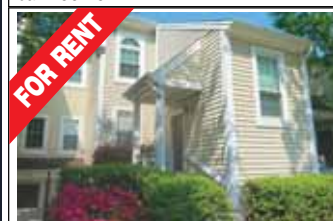
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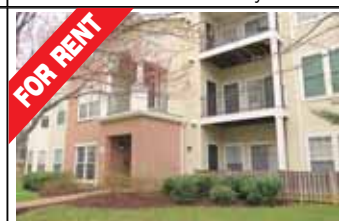
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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

New Americans Take Oath

Since 2009, the Fairfax County Asian American History Project has sponsored a yearly naturalization ceremony for new Americans. At the ceremony Friday, June 12 at the Fairfax County Government Center, 100 new Americans hailing from 38 countries took an oath of allegiance.

Kimberly Zanotti and Hans Siebert of the Washington Field Office of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services were on hand to officiate and present the new citizens with certificates.

Burke resident and candidate for Springfield district supervisor Corazon Foley founded the Asian American History Project in 2007.

The organization started sponsoring the naturalization ceremonies, Foley said, “to

commemorate the many years of struggles for citizenship rights by the Asian American community and to celebrate the progress in American civil rights, particularly in Fairfax County.”

—TIM PETERSON

New Americans take an oath of allegiance at a naturalization ceremony held at the Fairfax County Government center June 12. (Front) Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova (left) and Ret. Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba (right), born in the Philippines, observe the ceremony.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CORAZON FOLEY



PHOTOS COURTESY OF EILEEN FILLER-CORN

Store manager Scott Belcher (left) and supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) cut the ribbon to officially open the new Giant Food grocery store at Kings Park Shopping Center.

New Giant Opens at Kings Park

Kings Park-area residents have been waiting for the return of their neighborhood grocery store. “The neighborhood has been buzzing for months,” supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said before the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Giant Food grocery store at Kings Park Shopping Center.

The new 50,000-square-foot store is twice the size of the one it replaced. The total demolition and brand new construction project are one of several improvements taking place in the area.

“Things are happening, infrastructure is being updated,” said Cook. “There’s a sense of progress, that things are moving.”

Store manager Scott Belcher is excited about the high level of in-store technology. That includes storewide free WiFi, handheld “Scan It” devices that allow customers to begin checking out while they navigate the store. “Weigh It” is another time-saving fea-

ture process where customers tag produce with a barcode before checking out; with “Order It” shoppers can have food prepared ahead of time in the made-to-order deli for a more speedy pickup.

But perhaps the store’s most impressive technology feature is the use of carbon dioxide refrigerants in its produce and cold sections — the first store in the mid-Atlantic region to do so. According to Giant, this system should reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 948,150 pounds of carbon dioxide equivalent per year, or a third of most supermarkets.

“This is part of our commitment to help out our environment,” said Belcher.

The new Giant is in the process of obtaining Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

— TIM PETERSON



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

(From left) Store manager Scott Belcher is joined by state Sen. Dave Marsden’s (D-37) wife Julia Marsden, Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) and supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) at the opening of the new Kings Park Shopping Center Giant.



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Safe Planning for Independence

Talking and planning about celebrating July 4, and throughout the summer months.

Independence Day is a national celebration, and for many, that celebration includes alcohol. The summer overall and July 4 in particular are times of greater risk for drinking and driving.

This is true for the young adults over 21 living with you, and unfortunately also for many teens who are under 21. More on that below.

For all revelers in independence: Make a plan. Plan to celebrate with access to public transportation. Plan to have a designated driver. Plan to celebrate in a place safe and comfortable to spend the night.

But in case those plans go awry, here is an alternative safety net.

On the night of Saturday, July 4, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program will offer free taxi rides home (up to \$30), beginning at 10 p.m. for six hours until 4 a.m. the morning of July 5. Participants must be at least 21. Call 1-800-200-TAXI.

On July 4, 2014, more than 150 people used WRAP's SoberRide service rather than possi-

bly driving home impaired.

In summer, 44 percent of all U.S. traffic deaths are caused by alcohol-impaired drivers, according to statistics provided by WRAP. SoberRide is a way to help keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

On July 4, historically, nearly 40 percent of traffic deaths in the U.S. are caused by drunk drivers; more than 20 percent of the drunk drivers involved in those deaths during the 2013 July 4 holiday had blood alcohol concentrations of nearly twice the legal limit, said Kurt Erickson of WRAP.

For parents of young adults who may be living at home and parents of those under 21, this is time to talk. Ask about plans, ask specifically about getting home. Remind those over 21 to take the WRAP phone number with them.

While you hope that young adults under 21 aren't drinking — because there are lots of dangers to binge drinking beyond drinking and driving — you know that many of them will be drinking. Talk with your teens about the problems of binge drinking. Let your younger family members know that you would much rather pay for a cab or come get them yourself than run the risk of losing them.

This is a message important for the tail end of graduation season and good for the whole summer, which is the time of the highest risk for teen drivers.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided more than 62,500 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

For more information, visit www.soberride.com.

Call for Pet Connection Photos

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish on July 22, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by July 15.

Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans. We welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, tales of the bonds between your family and your pet, plus drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults. Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

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EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How to Pay for Medicaid Expansion?

To the Editor:

State Delegate Ken Plum's latest commentary on Medicaid expansion ("Political Prospects for Medicaid Expansion," The Connection, June 4) is not the first time he has written on the subject, but he has yet to explain how Virginia would pay for this.

If one understands the proposal correctly, the federal government will fund the program using "federal funds" (a euphemism for taxpayer dollars) the first two years, with Virginia then starting to pick

up increasingly larger shares of the program in out years. Virginia's tab would start with 10 percent of the cost after the first two "teaser" years paid by those Federal funds and then progressively increase.

Given Governor McAuliffe's own previously announced multi-year deficit of \$2.4 billion, \$882 million over the next two years, and potential state employee lay-offs, where would that money come from—even for the ten percent? Law enforcement? Education? Transportation? Higher taxes?

What happens when the Medicaid expansion becomes a line item in the Virginia budget for perpetuity?

As a delegate, Del. Plum has fiduciary and fiscal responsibility to manage the budget for all Virginians.

Those favoring a Medicaid expansion in the State—predominantly Democrats—who write such commentaries, do not discuss cost specifics—i.e., how to pay for it—when it would become a permanent line item in the Virginia budget. Currently, commendable

altruism exceeds the reality of the balance in the state's checkbook—as confirmed by Governor McAuliffe's own projections. Republican-led fiscal prudence and fiduciary responsibility on this issue is the correct course of action for Virginia.

Chris J. Krisinger
Colonel, USAF (Ret)
Burke

Editor's note: Virginia's contribution would be capped at 10 percent.

A Huge Step for Virginia Healthcare

To the Editor:

I would like to graciously thank everyone involved in making The Commonwealth of Virginia the 30th state to screen all newborns for Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCID), commonly known as the bubble boy disease. Babies with SCID appear healthy at birth, but without early treatment, most often by bone marrow transplant from a healthy donor, these infants cannot survive. It has taken the efforts of many to finally reach this historic moment for the Commonwealth, and all those who have

been involved richly deserve to be applauded.

The Virginia Genetic Advisory Committee and its subcommittee, the Virginia Newborn Screening Committee, approved the addition of SCID in 2011, subsequently sending the recommendation to the Commissioner of Health. A SCID Planning Workgroup began preparing all additional facts required by the Commissioner in 2012 after which a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) was signed by the Commissioner and approved by the

Board of Health. The progression for the NOIRA was, by statute, a lengthy and arduous process which required that it be reviewed by the Offices of Planning and Budget, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health, the Cabinet Secretary and the Governor on 3 different occasions.

During this time, the NOIRA had to cross the desks of two different governors, requiring a new approval each time.

Mandating screening for SCID will prevent infant fatalities and avoid potential expensive lifelong

care that places an enormous burden on families and society. This law takes a huge step forward for Virginia healthcare policies, and I am grateful that all Virginia babies will now have the chance at a healthy life.

It is my hope that every state includes SCID on their newborn screening panel immediately to save lives. Thank you all for making this day a reality here in the Commonwealth.

Barbara L. Ballard
Clifton

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SCHOOL NOTES

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

Governor Terry McAuliffe and the state Board of Education announced on May 19, 2015, that 252 schools and four school divisions earned 2015 Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) awards for advanced learning and achievement. The VIP incentive program recognizes schools and divisions that exceed state and federal accountability standards and achieve excellence goals established by the governor and the board. 109 schools earned the Board of Education Excellence Award, the second-tier honor in the VIP program. The schools receiving Board of Education Excellence Awards are as follows:

Greenbriar West Elementary, Fairfax; Hunt Valley Elementary, Springfield; Hunters Woods Elementary for the Arts and Sciences, Reston; Keene Mill Elementary, Springfield; Mantua Elementary, Fairfax; Mosby Woods Elementary, Fairfax; Navy Elementary, Fairfax; Robinson Secondary, Fairfax; Sangster Elementary, Springfield; Springfield Estates Elementary, Springfield; Thomas Jefferson High for Science and Technology; West Springfield Elementary, Springfield; West Springfield High, Springfield; White Oaks Elementary, Burke; Willow Springs Elementary, Fairfax; and Woodson High, Fairfax.

Ryan Richardson, a history and social studies teacher at West Springfield High School, is one of 545 teachers from across the country selected as a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)M summer scholar. Richardson will attend one of 25 seminars and institutes supported by the NEH, a federal agency that, each summer, supports these enrichment opportunities at colleges, universities, and cultural institutions so that teachers can study with experts in humanities disciplines. He will participate in a Summer Institute for Teachers titled "Teaching Connected Histories of the Mediterranean." The three-week program will be held at the University of Denver. The institute represents a partnership between George Mason University and the University of Denver to offer secondary school teachers courses such as world history, world geography, world religions, and global studies the opportunity to focus on the Mediterranean region from a world historical perspective. Under the guidance of leading scholars in this field, participants will explore ways to incorporate the region into their existing courses. Building on the strengths of two leading universities in Middle East and Islamic Studies, this three-week summer program connects teachers with the recent scholarship on this region and allows them to access new curriculum materials developed under the direction of several prominent scholars, including some of the institute's faculty, for the K-12 classroom.

The Fairfax County Band Directors Association has recognized 16 Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students for excellence in solo instrumental music performance as part of the 2015 Fairfax County Band Directors Association Solo Competition. A total of 33 schools were represented; 66 students competed in the event. The following students were named winners in the elementary school division: **Third place: Maia Trafton (trumpet), Keene Mill Elementary School.** The following students were named winners in the high school division: **First place: Hunter Lorelli (bassoon), West Springfield High School.**

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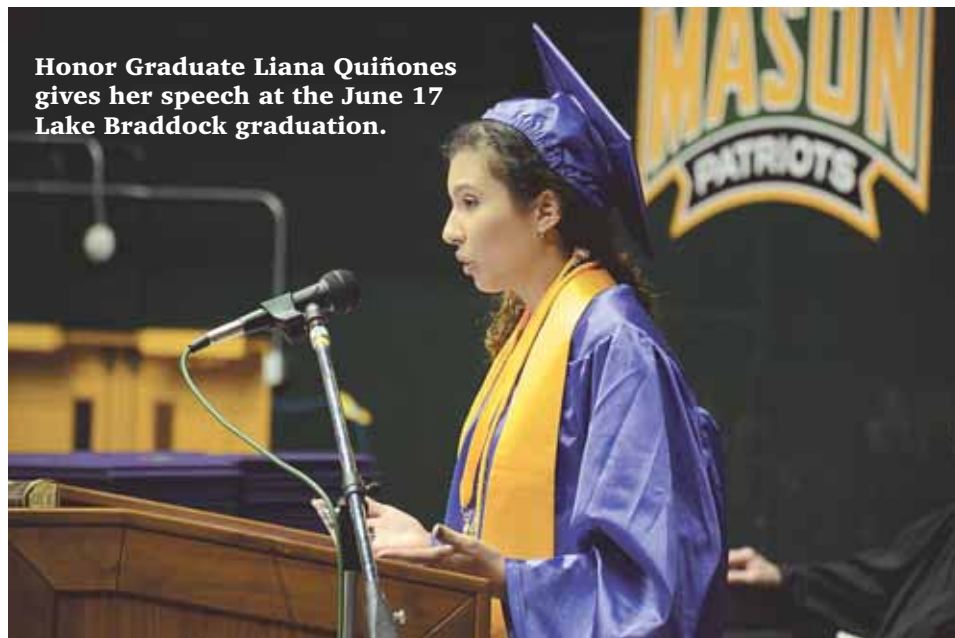
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GRADUATION 2015



Honor Graduate Liana Quiñones gives her speech at the June 17 Lake Braddock graduation.

Bruins Burst Forth

Lake Braddock Secondary School Commencement held June 17.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Purple robes flooded the floor of the George Mason University Patriot Center basketball arena as Lake Braddock Secondary School graduates processed to their seats.

In his acknowledgements, Principal Dave Thomas recognized 114 students who received the Civic Seal, 24 who are planning to serve in the military, 10 who are receiving Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarships and three who have appointments to the major service academies.

"I'm extremely grateful for your dedication to community and school," Thomas said.

Speaking to the class as a whole, he referenced President Abraham Lincoln's thoughts that each person has three names: One is inherited, one is given by parents and one is what you make for yourself.

"Reflect on the type of person you want to be," said Thomas, "and go for it."

Senior class president Nathan Zelalem drew from a more modern source in his remarks: "As the great philosopher and poet Katy Perry once said, 'Baby you're a firework, come on show 'em what you're worth.'"

In her speech, Honor Graduate Liana Quiñones spoke about the "absent awards," intangible achievements like overcoming the awkward, painful and wonderful high school experience that the graduating class can list among their other certificates and honors.

"These are the absent awards and they are infinite," she said. "These achievements can't be captured by cords alone. There's no way for diplomas to capture what it has meant to us individually."

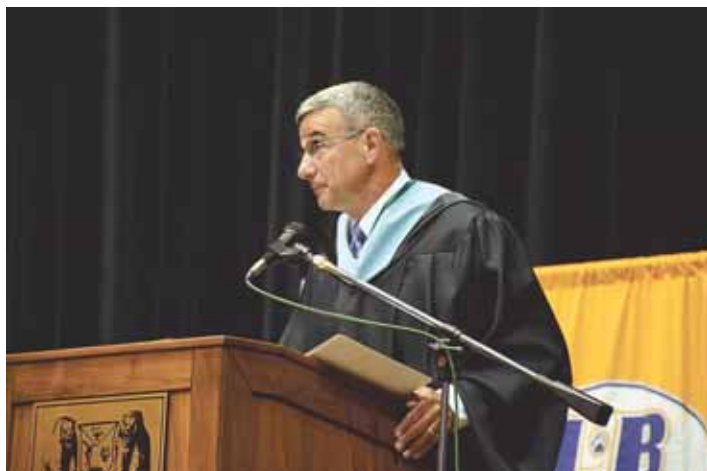
Lake Braddock's keynote speaker was former athletic director Mark Martino. "Raise your hand if you'd rather be looking at your phone than looking at me," he said.

Among his pieces of advice, Martino stressed that while "technology is the crux" of the world the students are graduating into, it's important to learn to pick your head up from the screen once in a while. He encouraged them to take a public speaking course in college.

"It's inevitable you'll have to hold an intelligent conversation with someone," he said, "without looking at your phone."

After Martino's speech, senior class executive board member Madison Shock explained the class gift of a new flagpole for Lake Braddock's football field.

Retired athletic director Mark Martino delivers the Lake Braddock graduation keynote speech.



VIEWPOINTS

What advice would you give next year's senior class?

— TIM PETERSON

Matthew Lefkowitz plans to attend Virginia Tech and study biomedical engineering. "Never give up. Just keep conquering any obstacles."

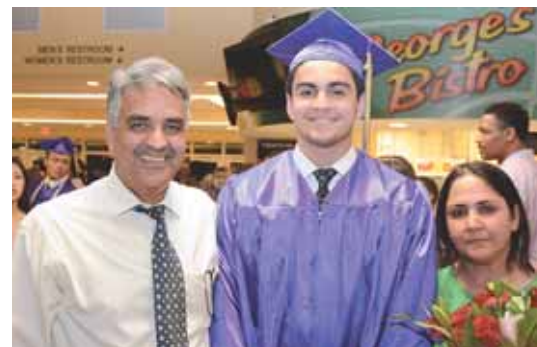


Linh Buckley plans to attend Le Moyne College in Syracuse, N.Y. and study nursing. "Do your college applications early so you have less stress first semester."



Grace Allas plans to attend Virginia Commonwealth University and study physical therapy. "Cherish every moment — it goes by fast."

Ryan Alexander plans to attend Old Dominion University and study physical therapy. "Take easy classes senior year."



(Center) **Omar Rakin** plans to attend Northern Virginia Community College, then George Mason or Virginia Commonwealth University and study information technology and engineering. "Have fun."



Lake Braddock graduating seniors process into the George Mason University Patriot Center on June 17.

GRADUATION 2015



Robinson's Executive Council poses together on stage before the ceremony.



PHOTOS BY CAROLINE ALKIRE/THE CONNECTION

Danzan Delgertosgt's family cheers him on with large cutouts of his face. Delgertosgt's family sat at the top of the stadium to avoid blocking the view of others.

Clanking Into the Future

PHOTOS BY CAROLINE ALKIRE/THE CONNECTION

Robinson student speaker Katherine Wilson celebrates "the generation of hope and change."

BY CAROLINE ALKIRE
THE CONNECTION

From a fire to a One Direction break up (in the words of student speaker Katherine Wilson), the Robinson class of 2015 survived it all. With a district championship, two state championships and a Cappies Award, this graduating class had so much to celebrate.

Decked out in hues of white, royal blue and yellow, 740 students gathered at the Patriot Center on June 16 at 9:30 a.m. to say goodbye to high school and hello to bright futures.

"Our class is unique in that we're very diverse activities-wise. Almost everyone is involved at Robinson, whether it be in sports, music, art or a club," said Brent Yantis, member of the Robinson senior class Executive Council and future Virginia Tech Hokie. "Everyone in the class of 2015 was willing to get out there and participate. We upheld what Robinson is all about."

Athletes, scholars, leaders and future military members marched across the stage to accept their high school diplomas: 212 Robinson students graduated with a 4.0 GPA or higher, their gold honor medals jangling as they walked across the stage. "Keep clanking into the future!" Principal Matthew Eline urged.

Of the vast number of graduates, one student, Katherine Wilson, was chosen to give a speech at the beginning of the ceremony. After moving around for most of her childhood—Wilson lived in Detroit, Maryland,



Class speaker Katherine Wilson poses with a mentor before her speech.

Africa and Egypt—she finally settled in Northern Virginia at Robinson Secondary halfway through her sophomore year of high school and found her home.

"We are the generation of hope and change," Wilson told her classmates during her speech.

After competing with 16 other applicants and presenting her speech in front of a panel of teachers at Robinson, Wilson was given the honor of addressing her peers on stage at graduation. She told her class that at Robinson she learned "we' is much stronger than 'I.'"

"These kids brought me in when I was the new girl from Africa," said Wilson. "They were so kind and accepting, so I was honored to speak on their behalf."

Other students also spoke about the accepting nature of Robinson's 2015 graduating class.

"Our class is special because we all support each other," said Katie Pearson, also a member of the Executive Council, and a future Hokie. "Sports teams go to music events, and everyone supports each other no matter what anyone is involved in."

With diplomas in hand and tassels turned to the left, the graduating class of 2015 stood and threw their blue caps into the air, and Principal Eline's note of advice rang true.

"Don't ever forget where you come from," he said. "You are a Robinson Ram, and you will always be a Robinson ram. It is your time to change the world."

VIEWPOINTS

Where do you go next; where do you see yourself in 10 years from now?

—CAROLINE ALKIRE



Sabrina Lingeman

"I will be attending the University of Virginia. In five or 10 years, I hope to be in medical school or finishing up medical school. I want to be a doctor for infectious diseases and tropical medicine."

Kayla Mathews

"I'm very excited to go James Madison University in the fall. I hope to be out of college with a job in five years. I'm going to major in business and environmental science, so hopefully my job will have something to do with those subjects."



William Barlow

"I'll be at Virginia Tech next year, and I'll be majoring in chemical engineering. After college I hope to be interning or working for an engineering company, possibly Audi."

Roxana Modhha

"I'll be at George Mason University in the fall. In five to 10 years I'll hopefully be in medical school and getting my doctorate degree so I can become a pediatrician."



Marcus Denham

"I will be going to West Point. After that I expect to be a commissioned officer in the army for my entire career, and location wise I'll be happy to serve wherever the army takes me."

Spartans Cross the Stage

West Springfield holds 48th Commencement Ceremony.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

First-year principal Michael Mukai commented that after his brief time with West Springfield's graduating seniors, he wasn't ready for them to go yet.

"And your parents, after 18 years, aren't ready for you to go yet either," Mukai said, to a mix of applause and laughter from the audience at George Mason University's Patriot Center.

604 navy-gowned graduates, one of the school's largest classes, sprawled across the floor of the basketball arena.

Honor Graduate student speaker Grayce Angle triumphantly assured her fellow grads, "We did it! We're finally ready to close the booklet on standardized testing."

Angle was one of 130 "honor graduates" recognized for their high final grade point average. "It's an awesome accomplishment," said assistant principal Johnny Pope.

Angle used testing as a framework for her address, explaining high school was also an opportunity to learn skills "that cannot be measured on a standardized testing sheet." She closed by quoting author John Green, saying on the test of life, "Everything, everything will be on it. Good luck, your time starts now."



Honor Graduate Grayce Angle tells her fellow West Springfield graduates, "We did it."



Families cheered, waved and took videos as West Springfield graduates exited the Patriot Center.



West Springfield graduates exit the Patriot Center to meet up with their families.

West Springfield English Teacher Jamie O'Neill followed Angle with the keynote speech. Inspired by the wise turtle character from the movie "Kung Fu Panda," she offered the advice: "Yes-

terday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift — that's why they call it the present.

"Today is also something you can give," O'Neill added. "Embrace today."



West Springfield English teacher Jamie O'Neill delivers the keynote speech at the school's June 17 graduation.

VIEWPOINTS

What's the most important thing you learned in high school?

Hannah Newby plans to get a job. "Friends are transient but family is forever."



(Left) **John Hoang** is joining the U.S. Marine Corps, leaving the Sunday following graduation.

"Stay true to yourself and work hard."

(Right) **Tanner Sanzi** plans to spend the next six months hiking the Appalachian Trail with a friend.

"Always be yourself and do whatever you think is right."



(Left) **David Green** plans to attend Northern Virginia Community College and study business. "Determination."

(Right) **Brayan Mejia** plans to attend Northern Virginia Community College and study engineering. "Have confidence."

Jamie Dorsey plans to attend St. John's University and study psychology. "Live life to the fullest and be happy."



Retired Educators Award Scholarships to Aspiring Teachers

Rebecca Edmiston has had a number of inspiring music teachers in her life, including her mother Pat. They're big reasons why Edmiston, a graduating senior from Lake Braddock Secondary School, is choosing to attend Liberty University and study to become a music teacher herself. "It's really important," she said, "it helps kids with creativity, listening skills and helps in other subjects."

Edmiston is one of seven recipients of scholarships given to aspiring teachers at June 11 meeting of the Fairfax County Retired Educators organization. The event took place at the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge in Fairfax and featured opening remarks from Fairfax County superintendent Dr. Karen Garza.

Each of the scholarship applicants was considered based on their grade point average, rigor of course load, recommendations, essays and resume, including activities involving children or tutoring. Each of the scholarship winners was female.

"Our profession is basically a female profession," said Fairfax County Retired Educators outgoing secretary Dr. Dennis Pfennig of Springfield. Pfennig taught at Hayfield Secondary School for 30 years and was chair of the social studies department for the last two-thirds of that time.

On the lack of male scholarship winners, he said, "Absolutely we'd like to see more."

But according to the organization's scholarship director Phyllis Rittman, very few males applied for scholarships and of those, none came close to the qualifications of the female winners.

"We want kids to go into our profession," said Billie Johnson of McLean, who taught at W.T. Woodson



(From left) Fairfax County Retired Educators president John Dent presents the Fairfax County Retired Educators scholarship to 2015 Lake Braddock Secondary School graduating senior Rebecca Edmiston, joined by her parents Pat and James. Edmiston will attend Liberty University and study to become a music teacher.

High School for 31 years. "There's a lot of ignorance out there, it never changes," she said. "Education is the basis of our democracy."

The Fairfax County Retired Educators provided \$4,000 to the scholarship funding. Each scholarship is for \$2,000. The retired educators budget for one eponymous scholarship each year, then if enough money is raised, they also award the W. Harold Ford scholarship.

— TIM PETERSON

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

SUNDAY/MAY 31- AUG. 30

Stars on Sunday Concert Series. 3 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Featuring a lineup of performances that showcase the diversity of talent and culture in Northern Virginia. Concerts are free to attend and are perfect for families, a special date or a relaxing afternoon of music and dance.

FRIDAY/JUNE 19-SATURDAY/SEPT. 5

Summer Reading Program. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Come to the library all summer for books and events. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

THURSDAY/ JUNE 25

Preschool Science 123. 2:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Mad Science presents fun experiments. Ages 3-6 with adult. Sign up each child and adult separately. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

Preschool Story Time. 10:30 a.m. Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Children can stop in with an adult and learn early literacy skills while enjoying stories, songs and activities. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

Brain Games at the Library. 2 p.m. Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Children 8-12 can stop in and have fun and win prizes with board games and card games that challenge thinking and build skills. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

Chapter Book Chat: Storytime for Bigger Kids. 4 p.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Come listen to a chapter book read aloud. Ages 8-12. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/po/>

Author Event: Martha Jefferson Randolph. 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Author Dr. Billy Wayson will discuss the world of Martha Jefferson Randolph and her famous father, Thomas Jefferson. Wayson illuminates life at Monticello via family correspondence. Book sale and sign. Teens and adults. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/kp/>

FRIDAY/ JUNE 26

Classic Tails. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Develop children's early literacy skills with stories, song and activities. Ages 3-5 with adult. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

Fun Flicks. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Watch movies based on children's books. Register each child and adult separately. All ages welcome. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/po/>

Game On! 6 p.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Food and movies. Grade 6-12. Teen. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/po/>

Kingstowne Farmers Market. 4-7 p.m. Fridays, May 1-Oct. 30. Giant Parking Lot, 5955 Kingstowne Towne Center, Alexandria. Vendors products include fresh organic honey and hand held pies and rolls.www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/kingstownemkt.htm

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 26-JULY 5

World Police & Fire Games. Thousands of athletes from 70 countries will converge in Fairfax County for 10 days of competitions. Entertainment and activities will be hosted by Reston Town Center during the games. Fairfax2015.com

SATURDAY/ JUNE 27

Creative Writers Club. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Join for sharing, discussion and feedback on fiction, poetry and non-fiction works. Teen volunteer facilitates. Ages 13-18. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

Burke Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-noon. Saturdays, May 2-Nov. 21. 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burkemkt.htm

Springfield Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Springfield Town Center, 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. www.smartmarkets.org.

Fairfax Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays, May 9-Oct. 31. 10500 Page Avenue,

Fairfax. www.fairfaxsatursdaymarket.com.

SATURDAYS/JUNE 27-AUG. 22

Burke Arts in the Parks. 10 - 11 a.m. Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Entertain children, teach them the importance of protecting our natural resources, introduce them to live entertainment in an informal kid friendly atmosphere, and forge a connection between kids and parks. Call 703-323-6601.

Fairfax's Government Center Farmers Market. 3-7 p.m. Thursdays, May 7-Oct. 29. Ten vendors including a Middle Eastern delicacy bakery and custom organic ice cream shop.Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/governmentcntr-mrkt.htm

SUNDAY/JUNE 28

Railroad Artifacts Photography Workshop. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Volunteers will offer tips on editing and photo composition of railroad artifacts. Workshop is free but regular Museum admission rates apply. Museum members and children 4 and under, free; 5-15, \$2; 16 and older, \$4. Space is limited. Register by sending your name to events@fairfax-station.org.

Fairfax Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sundays, May 10-Oct. 25. 10500 Page Avenue, Fairfax. www.fairfaxsatursdaymarket.com/

Fair Lakes Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 4501 Market Commons Drive, Fairfax.www.greentowns.com/initiative/farmers-market/fair-lakes-farmers-market-fairfax-va.

Lorton Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays, May 3-Nov. 8. Featuring fresh produce, a Swiss bakery and potted plants and herbs. VRE Parking Lot, 8990 Lorton Station Boulevard, Lorton. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/lortonmkt.htm

MONDAY/JUNE 29

Uno, Dos, Tres Con Andres. 10:30 a.m. Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Sing and move with music and dance from Latin America with Andres Salguero. All ages. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

The Kindercise Show. 10:30 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Sing and dance with Wolf Trap teaching artist John Taylor. All ages. Sign up each adult and child separately. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/kp/>

Sheep Dog Detectives. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Kaydee Puppets presents Dudley Dog and friends, who solve crimes in a fun show. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/kn/>

Gymboree: Infants! 10:30 a.m.- 11:15 a.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Gymboree instructor presents play-based activities. 4-8 months with adult. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/po/>

MONDAY/JUNE 29 - FRIDAY/JULY 3

Bond: An Unauthorized Parody. 8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. A typical adventure, yet an original story, Gavin Robertson plays a variety of characters with minimum staging and maximum effect. With original music by collaborator Danny Bright, this is one spy story you won't see on the big screen... Run, don't walk to this fantastic show. Tickets: \$10-\$30.

TUESDAY/ JUNE 30

Sheep Dog Detectives. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Kaydee Puppets presents Dudley Dog and friends, who solve crimes in fun a fun and fast paced show. All ages. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

Paper Mache Art Workshop. 2:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Create a unique form from gooeey paper in this unique workshop that celebrates the traditional art of mache, from making a mirror form to a hollow sculpture. Teens. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/kp/>

Pokemon Club. 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Bring your Pokemon trading cards to trade or play the Pokemon game. Age 6-12. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/kp/>

WEDNESDAY/JULY 1

Fair Lakes Farmers Market. 3:30-7 p.m. 4501 Market Commons Drive,



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Woodson High School's Color Guard marches in last year's Fairfax City Independence Day parade.

July 4th in Fairfax County

SATURDAY/JULY 4

Historic Pohick Church 4th of July Tours. 1-3 p.m. Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Costumed history docents will give free guided tours of the historic colonial church. <http://www.pohick.org>

July 4th in Paradise. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Open for normal business hours with live music and food available throughout the day. <http://www.paradisesspringswinery.com>

Fairfax's Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks. 10 a.m.-10:30 p.m. in the Downtown Fairfax Historic District. Independence day parade, historical tours, games, entertainment and fireworks begins at 7 p.m. www.fairfaxva.gov.

Mount Vernon's An American Celebration. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Daytime fireworks in patriotic colors fired over the Potomac River at 1 p.m. The event also includes an inspirational naturalization ceremony for 100 new citizens, military re-enactments, a special wreath-laying ceremony, free birthday cake for all and a visit from the "first" first couple, "General and Mrs. Washington." www.mountvernon.org.

Vienna 4th of July Festival and Fireworks Show. 12-9 p.m. Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue, East, Vienna. Free event with food and drink, music, family games, children's entertainment and more. Fireworks show begins at 9:15 p.m. <http://www.viennava.gov/index.aspx?nid=894>

McLean 4th of July Fireworks Celebration. 8 p.m. Cooper Middle School, 977 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Food and music. Shuttle buses will be available at St. John's Episcopal Church at the McLean Community Center. <http://www.mcleancenter.org/special-events>

Great Falls 4th of July Celebration & Parade. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Village Centre Green, 776 Walker Road, Great Falls. 5K walk/run, blood drive, Little Patriot Parade, and floats, horses, antique cars and pets making a loop in the Main Parade. Fireworks start after dusk at Turner Farm Park. <http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org>.

Herndon 4th of July Celebration. 6:30 p.m. Bready Park, Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Avenue, Herndon. A family-fun event featuring games, arts and craft activities, bingo, food face painting, balloon artists, and fireworks. Fireworks show is choreographed to music and begins at dark, approximately 9:30 p.m. www.herndon-va.gov.

Lake Fairfax Fireworks Spectacular. 4-8 p.m. Lake Fairfax, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Live music, enjoy the Water Mine park and more. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lakefairfax/>

Firecracker 5K for the Troops. 8 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. A 3.1 mile race, live music, face painting, waving flags, and free massages. praces.com/firecracker/

Fairfax.www.greentowns.com/initiative/farmers-market/fair-lakes-farmers-market-fairfax-va.

THURSDAY/JULY 2

Patriotic Floral Design Workshop. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Create a centerpiece in red, white and blue just in time for your Fourth of July holiday picnic. The centerpiece includes flowers, flags and patriotic trim. \$35/person plus \$25 supply fee. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

FRIDAY/JULY 3

Independence Day Fireworks & Concerts. 5:30 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. This year's event features "The Sixth Generation;" fireworks; games and children's activities; a variety of food trucks and beer and wine garden; and extended evening gallery hours. "The Sixth Generation" is an authentic 1960s rock band that never fails to

delight audiences with their family-friendly, fun and upbeat performances.

Youth Jazz Concert. 8-9:30 p.m. Little River United Church of Christ, 8410 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. The concert will showcase the veritable talent of these Monterey-based high school honor ensembles.

SATURDAY/JULY 4

Free Art of Movement Classes on the Quad: Pilates. 8 a.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Enjoy free, drop-in Art of Movement classes featuring pilates. No experience is necessary, bring your own mat.

SUNDAY/JULY 5

Stars on Sunday Concert Series: Just Wingin' It Bluegrass Band. 3 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Featuring a lineup of performances that showcase the diversity of talent and culture in Northern Virginia.

City of Fairfax Readies for Fourth

Huge parade, fireworks and music are on tap.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

As the Fourth of July draws near, so does anticipation in the City of Fairfax. That's because the fun starts early, goes all day long and lasts well into the night.

"This promises to be our best Independence Day celebration ever, all leading up to next year, our 50th parade and fireworks display," said Fairfax Mayor Scott Silverthorne. "As we are also celebrating the World Police & Fire Games, we are expecting record crowds and record enthusiasm. One of my personal favorite tribute bands, Almost Journey/2U, will be capping off our evening show at Fairfax High School."

The festivities begin at 10 a.m. with the 49th annual Independence Day parade. The two-hour event is one of the largest anywhere and is filled with music, marching and entertainment.

Rain or shine, parade participants will start at the Massey

Building at 4100 Chain Bridge Road and travel in a loop around Historic Old Town Fairfax. They'll go past the old courthouse and wend their way along Main Street and University Drive before passing the reviewing stand in front of City Hall on Armstrong Street. Except for service animals, parade attendees are asked to leave their pets at home, and tents won't be allowed along the parade route.

This year's event features seven high-school marching bands from as far west as California to the City's own Fairfax High Marching Rebels. Also sure to please the cheering crowd will be a variety of colorful floats, horses, big balloons and clowns. Local dignitaries and politicians also ride in the parade, and the grand marshal will be none other than Uncle Sam, himself.

Streets on the parade route will close at 7:30 a.m., but shuttle buses will run from 8:30-10:30 a.m. from parking areas at George Mason University (GMU), Woodson High and Fairfax United Methodist Church. They'll return

again following the parade. GMU is at 4400 University Drive; Woodson, 9525 Main St.; and Fairfax UMC, 10300 Stratford Ave.

AFTER THE PARADE, people may enjoy the Firefighters Muster which, this year, is a World Police & Fire Games event. Firefighters from around the world will compete in activities including an old-fashioned, hose cart and bucket brigade. It'll be held from 12:30-5 p.m. in front of Fire Station 3 at 4081 University Drive. Some 140 firefighters are expected to participate and, while they do, University Drive will be closed to traffic between Armstrong Street and Sager Avenue.

Several historic buildings will also welcome visitors that day. They include the Fairfax Museum and Visitors Center, 10209 Main St., from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and the Ratcliffe-Allison House, 10386 Main St., from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

In the evening, families will flock to Fairfax High, at 3501 Rebel Run, for music and fireworks. The show starts at 7 p.m.



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Uncle Sam visits with children along the parade route.

on the football field. On tap are music and dancing to Almost Journey/2U (a Journey and U2 tribute band). The City of Fairfax Band will perform the "1812 Overture" to signal the spectacular fireworks display at 9:30 p.m. Then afterward, the tribute band will entertain again.

Shuttle buses will run from 6-9 p.m. from Woodson High to Fairfax High. Following the fireworks, buses will return spectators to Woodson until 11 p.m. Only limited public parking will be available at Fairfax High. However,

it will offer some handicapped parking.

RAIN DATE SCHEDULE: If necessary, the fireworks will be July 5 at 9:30 p.m. Shuttle buses will run from 7-9 p.m. from Woodson to Fairfax High, returning to Woodson until 10:30 p.m.

Sponsors of the City's Fourth of July festivities include Fair City Mall and 97.1 WASH-FM. For more information on the Independence Day activities or to volunteer, call 703-385-7858 or go to www.fairfaxva.gov/July4.

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Volunteers have been registering to assist at the 2015 Fairfax World Police and Fire Games at 1800 Cameron Glen Drive in Reston. More than 10,000 police and fire rescue personnel from all over the world will compete in the games, which run from June 26 to July 5 at locations in Fairfax County.



PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

World Police and Fire Games Coming to Fairfax County

The World Police and Fire Games are coming to Fairfax County June 26-July 5.

Athletes will compete in more than 60 different events in locations around the county and surrounding areas. Events include archery, basketball, dodgeball, tug of war, wrist wrestling and many others. All events are open to the public free of charge, though boxing and bodybuilding require a complimentary ticket due to space restrictions at George Mason University Center for the Arts.

The opening ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, June 26 at RFK Stadium. Seating tickets are required. Complimentary tickets are available at fairfax2015.com.

The Athletes Village will be held in Reston Town Center and offers food, games and live music, among other forms of entertainment, for both credentialed athletes and the general public.

On Friday, competition will begin with the police motorcycle street competition (7 a.m. at Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly), tennis (8:30 a.m. at George Mason University and Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax), and 5-on-5 basketball (10 a.m.-1 p.m. at George Mason University).

The closing ceremony will be held in Vienna at 6 p.m. on July 5 at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts.

For a schedule of events and more information, visit fairfax2015.com.



At Reston Town Center, preparations are being made for the 2015 Fairfax World Police and Fire Games. The games will take place Friday, June 26, through July 5 at 53 venues, and Reston Town Center will host the Athletes Village.

Lake Braddock Football Qualifies for National 7on7 Tournament

Kyle Edwards helped the Lake Braddock football team reach the 2014 6A North region semifinals in his first season as the Bruins' starting quarterback.

Now a rising senior, Edwards said he feels comfortable and confident as he prepares for his second season at the helm. On June 21, he led the Bruins to the semifinals of the 7on7 University Bulldog Classic at Westfield High School. Reaching the tournament final four earned Lake Braddock a berth in the 7on7 University National Championship Tournament on July 10 and 11 at Oakton High School.

"It's good," Edwards said, "but we wanted to win this last one."

Lake Braddock lost to Chantilly in the semifinals. The Chargers finished runner-up, falling to John Champe in the tournament final.

The Bruins finished 2-1 in pool play, outscoring opponents 79-63.

Edwards, a dual-threat quarterback, led Lake Braddock to a 10-3 record in 2014.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Rising senior quarterback Kyle Edwards helped Lake Braddock reach the 7on7 University Bulldog Classic semifinals on June 21 at Westfield High School, and earn a spot in the national tournament on July 10 and 11 at Oakton High School.

"I just feel comfortable," said Edwards, a three-sport athlete at Lake Braddock. "I just feel confident. Last year was sort of a grow-

ing process and this year it's like, OK, I've been here before. ... It feels more like a leadership role."

Greg Quigley is entering his eighth season as a member of the Lake Braddock coaching staff. During his time with the Bruins, he said he has seen quarterbacks thrive with multiple seasons in the team's offensive system.

"I see [Edwards'] reads and progressions on the field are better," Quigley said. "... Everybody that's played in this system two years, their first year they struggled a little bit or did OK. The second year is really their coming-out year. They're able to pick it up, they see the field better, they know where the receivers should be, they know what the routes are, they know what the defense is and what routes are going to beat that defense, and I think that's what Kyle is starting to figure out now."

Quigley said rising senior receiver Trey Stephens also performed well Sunday.

"He did great," Quigley said. "He stepped up. He's a physical kid. If somebody tries to push him around, he's right back with them. ... He'll do real well for us this year."

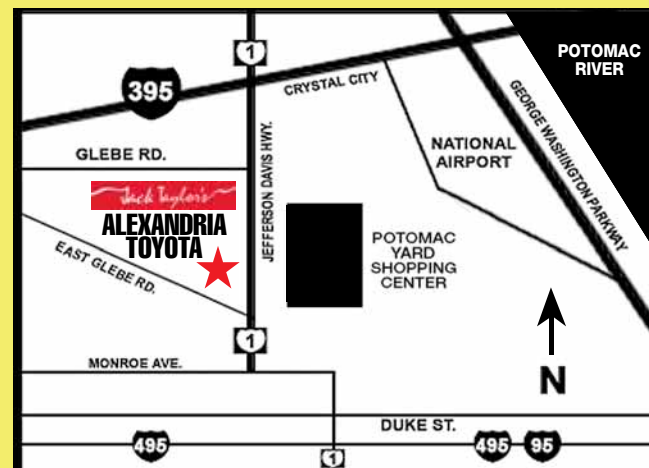
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VIRGINIA: IN THE GENERAL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH

CARTER LUMBER OF VIRGINIA, INC.,
PLAINTIFF,
v.
DANIEL ROBINSON, et al.
DEFENDANTS.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this suit is to recover money damages for breach of contract. It is ORDERED that Daniel Robinson and Alaric Holdings, LLC appear at the above-named court on July 30, 2015 at 8:30 A.M. to protect their interests. David M. O'Dell, Clerk June 10, 2015

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MONDAY/JUNE 29

English Conversation. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice speaking English with others. Adults. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

Library Tech Help. 11 a.m. 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Get library-related electronic resource questions answered for eBooks and compatible devices. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

TUESDAY/JUNE 30

Tuesday Morning English Conversation Group. 10:30 a.m. 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Practice English with others to improve speaking skills. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

THURSDAY/JULY 9

Person Centered Dementia Care. 3 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. It's hard to keep individuals with dementia active and engaged; learn to gear activities to them to make your time together enjoyable, frustration free, and memorable. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP or visit InsightMCC.org for more information.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 15

Are They Doing That On Purpose? Understanding Behaviors. 1:30 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Join us for this free program at 1:30 pm. Come and learn strategies for communication and dealing with difficult behaviors. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP or visit InsightMCC.org for more information.

ONGOING

Senior Outdoor Pickleball, April-October, Wednesdays 8-10 a.m. Audrey Moore Wakefield Park Fairfax County, Courts 9 & 10, Beginners welcome. No cost. Email Gerald Rhoads at geraldrhoads6701@gmail.com.

Volunteer Fairfax seeks individuals, families, youth and corporate groups for service opportunities at a variety of nonprofit agencies. One-time special events or ongoing activities are available at www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

Singers Wanted for the Celebration Singers. The women's show choir is interested in new talent to perform at various Northern Virginia community sites. Practices are Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in Burke. Contact Gayle Parsons, 703-644-4485 or email gparsons3@cox.net.

Online Scavenger Hunt. Visit Fairfax tasks those interested in becoming "citizen ambassadors" to the county (those informed on fun, creative weekend outings in the area) to find two Fairfax County Ambassador icons hidden throughout the fxva.com website in order to join the ambassador team; those who find all five hidden pins will receive a complimentary gift. www.fxva.com/online-ambassador.

Senior Fall Prevention Classes. 1:30-2:30 p.m., at the Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Tuesday and/or Thursday classes in a heated pool designed to work on balance and core muscles for injury prevention. \$10. 703-667-9800.

American Red Cross CPR, First Aid and AED. Various times, at 2720 State Route 699, Suite 200, Fairfax. One-year certification, digital or print materials and continued education on Mondays through Thursday and Saturday. \$70-110. www.redcrossnca.org.

Dementia Care Givers Support Groups. Various times, at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The groups are for those caring for someone with dementia or for those interested in learning more about providing care giving to a person with a disorder that affects memory and cognition and may impact behavior and physical abilities. 703-451-8626 or Eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

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