Not Waiting on the World to Change
News, Page 4
A Beginning, Not an End
News, Page 8

Rising Lake Braddock Secondary School senior Megan Cloer, of Burke, was on the first team to tackle the roof of the Lorton home, removing old tiles and laying a new lining. Church youth campers repaired four Lorton homes in a week.
The Robinson Class of 2015 All Night Grad Party gratefully thanks our generous donors!

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The House Love Rebuilt
Church youth campers repair four Lorton homes in a week.

By Tim Peterson
The Connection

Jeff Moten started the week with 31 teenagers on his lawn. Baptist youth from around Virginia arrived at his Lorton property around 9 a.m. on Monday, July 13. By 10, they had cleared much of the natural overgrowth in his front and back yards, begun stripping his home’s roof and removing debris from a rear room where the floor had collapsed.

Moten has lived in the house 45 years, since his family moved there in 1970. Now living with a disability, he’s found it difficult to maintain the home. “I was the type that was always helping someone,” he said. “I’ve had a hard time asking for help.”

While he wouldn’t ask for himself, Moten said his mailman got in touch with Buck Rodgers of Virginia Baptists, who decides which houses will be taken on by “Impact” church youth service camps for repairs.

Each summer, Baptist youth from around Virginia participate in these local mission trips to repair or rebuild homes for people who need help. Referrals come from churches, the Department of Family Services and nonprofits such as the Lorton Community Action Center. Youth volunteer their time and actually pay to attend the mission trip. The camp also receives funding from the Northstar Church Network.

“We choose based on the amount of need,” said Rodgers, who is from Stafford. “This house is a true Impact project. It looks pretty bad, but I’ve seen worse. The good news,” he said in his Monday night homily, “is that as well,” she said in an email.

Walking on to the site for the first time Monday morning, there was no mistaking work had to be done. “You began to understand why we’re here,” said Diana Gilbert of Springfield, a chaperone with a daughter on the Impact team, “and what the need is.”

Megan Cloer of Burke recently became a member of First Baptist in Springfield after her family moved to Virginia two weeks ago from Jacksonville, Fla. She spent the morning on the roof, removing aged shingles. “It’s hard work,” she said, “but you see the difference we’re making in the homeowner’s life, serving him and serving God.”

“It’s the summer, it’s raining — you’d think we would have a hard time getting kids to work,” said John Williams, a volunteer crew chief on the site, as he measured new floor boards with his sons Bryce and Seth. “The problem is getting them to not work, to come down off the roof. They’re ministering to the homeowner, working with him, interacting with him. The kids here are pretty awesome.”

Rising high school senior Will Lewis, of Chesterfield, helped take out the floor in the rear room. “I just like helping people in need,” he said. “It’s satisfying. And it’s great to take a break from the rest of life, to unplug.”

Around 100 youth from all over Virginia are helping repair four houses in Lorton, including yard-clearing, roofing, flooring and other structural work.

Lorton native Jeannine Purdy is with the Virginia Hills Baptist Church in Alexandria, which helped organize the camp and whose youth make up some of the participants. “We know there are needs everywhere in our state, even in wealthy Northern Virginia, and want to be sure our youth understand that as well,” she said.

“The problem is getting them to not work, to come down off the roof. They’re ministering to the homeowner, working with him, interacting with him. The kids here are pretty awesome.”

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AROUND 100 youth from all over Virginia are helping repair four houses in Lorton, including yard-clearing, roofing, flooring and other structural work. Youth Pastor Danny Quirin of Roanoke is serving as the camp pastor for the week, delivering a sermon each night during the worship service. He’s been ministering to youth for over 30 years. The theme of the camp is “Just Because,” and his messages center around experiencing and sharing the love of God. The sentiment is meant to motivate the youth in their daily work on the job sites and in the future.

“You can’t give something you don’t have,” he said in his Monday night homily. Once you’ve experienced that love, he explained, the camp is about teaching youth to get in the habit and mentality of serving other people with love in their hearts.

When Quirin first saw the Lorton property, he thought, “Wow. Sometimes, you think truly the best thing for a house would be a match. But this house is going to be transformed. Then it will be, Wow, we did that. It’s such an awesome feeling.”
Not Waiting on the World to Change

Volunteers and county workers recognized at Best of Braddock Awards.

By Tim Peterson
The Connection

Thanks to Jim Watkins, a striking statue of a barracuda emerging from the water now graces the Commonwealth Swim Club. Watkins and other volunteers, members of the club, have helped maintain and repair areas of the facility, including restoration of the storm runoff channel, new lighting and landscaping.

“It was so overgrown,” said Watkins, a pile driver by trade. “Something’s gotta change here.”

Watkins and the other volunteers were recognized for their efforts at the July 8 Best of Braddock Awards with the Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification distinction.

“The improvements and changes to the physical appearance of the swim club have not gone unnoticed by the community and local neighbors,” said Cliff Keenan, chairman of the Braddock District Council, “and have helped bring in new members, providing a greater degree of financial stability.”

Watkins said he tends to spend more time around the pool facilities working than at home and that he “loves doing it.” Each of the Best of Braddock winners had a different story of motivated civic engagement, both from private volunteers and government employees that went above and beyond the normal call of public works.

Opening the program, supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) referenced the John Mayer song “Waiting on the World to Change.” “We are the direct opposite of that,” Cook said. “Not every county has that same spirit of volunteerism and dedication to the community that’s exemplified by people getting awards tonight.”

Keenan echoed Cook, saying these citizens are “doing so many amazing things.” Then, speaking directly to the audience packed into the Braddock District government office meeting hall, said, “I encourage each of you to get as involved as possible.”

The full list of Best of Braddock Award-winners includes:

❖ Special Recognition for a team of public employees, awarded to the Fairfax County Park Authority team that worked with Olde Forge-Surrey Square neighborhood residents to renovate their area playground.

“We all know how these efforts required an incredible degree of coordination, an incredible degree of patience and an incredible degree of perseverance,” said Keenan. ❖ Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification in the Braddock District went to James Watkins and members of the Commonwealth Swim Club.

❖ Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification also went to Marilyn Stoney and other residents of the Kings Park West Townhouse Homeowners Association.

❖ Young Person of the Year went to Jonathan McCarty, an Eagle Scout with Boy Scout Troop 1115 whose final service project involved digging a drainage ditch along the main hiking trail to the west of Lake Accotink. McCarty has since become an adult leader with Cub Scout Pack 1115.

❖ Most Can-Do Public Employee-Local was presented to Dennis Barton of the Fairfax County Park Authority for his help on Jonathan McCarty’s Eagle Scout service project to build a drainage ditch near Lake Accotink. The project required removing an estimated 26,000 pounds of dirt.

❖ Citizen of the Year was awarded to Duwain Ketch, a 35-year resident of Burke Centre. Ketch has served the Kings Park and Burke Centre libraries as an executive board member of the Fairfax Library Foundation, a charter member of the Friends of Burke Centre Library and a member of the Burke Centre Conservancy board of Trustees.

“Duwain is a shining example of a model volunteer who works diligently and with a pleasant demeanor,” said Keenan, “and one who volunteers willingly without need for recognition.”

The second Citizen of the Year award went to Amy Zydel, a resident of Olde Forge-Surrey Square. Introduced by Keenan as “a pre-eminent champion for foster care children and foster care parents,” Zydel was recognized for her operation known as “The Closet,” a garage stockpile of foster parent supplies and equipment culled from churches, yard sales and donations.
**Bulletin Board**

Send notes to the Connection at 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.

**THURSDAY/JULY 16**

Is it Normal Aging or Dementia? 7 p.m. King’s Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Teaching participants the difference between normal aging and dementia, as well as the top 10 signs of Alzheimer’s disease. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches.

**FRIDAY/JULY 17**

Toastmaster Open House. 11:45 a.m. Mason Enterprise Center, 4031 University Drive, Room 122A, Fairfax. Are you ready to increase your self-confidence, become a better speaker, become a better leader, and communicate more effectively?

**SATURDAY/JULY 18**

Career Building: Book Signing. 7 p.m. Holiday Inn Express, 6401 Brandon Avenue, Springfield. This mini-seminar will empower you with proven strategies to guide you and equip you for the challenges ahead in finding new opportunities that await you. Free.

**MONDAY/JULY 20**

Planning for Health Care and Retirement. 7 p.m. King’s Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Guiding participants on covering their medical expenses and creating a health care financial plan. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches.

**TUESDAY/JULY 21**

Planning for Health Care and Retirement. 10 a.m. Lorton Library, 9250 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Practice speaking English with others and improve your skills. Adults.

**THURSDAY/JULY 23**

Spanish Conversation Group. 2 p.m. King’s Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Participants can practice and improve their Spanish with a native speaker. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches.

**FRIDAY/JULY 24**

English Conversation Group. 10:30 a.m. Lorton Library, 9250 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Practice speaking English with others and improve your skills. Adults.
Legislation Combats Sex Trafficking

By Tim Hugo
State Delegate (R-40)

On July 1, legislation that I sponsored, HB1964, went into effect. This new law is Virginia’s first stand-alone human trafficking statute and creates stricter penalties for traffickers, greater protections for sex trafficking victims, and provides needed tools for prosecutors and law enforcement to stop human trafficking in Virginia.

At a recent forum on human trafficking at George Mason University, Del. Bill Woolum of the Fairfax County Police Department Human Trafficking Unit shared a bit of startling news. Woolum stated that without the passage of HB1964, only 11 of the 120 or so open cases dealing with human trafficking could be pursued. According to Woolum, because of this new law, almost all of these cases can now be pursued.

Until today, Virginia was the only state in the nation without a dedicated human trafficking law and was one of only two states that did not specifically criminalize sex trafficking. The enactment of this law marks another goal reached for Virginia’s many organizations and individuals engaged in stopping this abhorrent crime. Thanks to the efforts of many, the General Assembly has established laws to combat the scourge of sex trafficking in Virginia; as a result of these long-term efforts, Virginia finally has a strong sex trafficking law in place.

This new section of the Virginia Code establishes the new offense of sex trafficking, which provides substantial penalties, including a Class 3 felony when the victim is a minor — regardless of whether the child was forced, intimidated or coerced. This distinction reflects the disturbing reality of how traffickers prey on the vulnerability and trust of young victims and ensures greater protections for the children of Virginia’s children.

The new law also closes a gap in Virginia law by criminalizing the recruitment of minors and adults for commercial sex. Further, the law provides for the use of multijurisdictional grand juries and includes sex trafficking as a predicate crime under Virginia’s racketeering and criminal street gang statutes — ensuring that prosecutors and law enforcement can use these laws to combat criminal enterprises that engage in sex trafficking across jurisdictional lines.

I would like to thank the many people, elected officials, and community groups that had a hand in crafting this legislation; particularly, the Kids Are Not For Sale in VA Coalition and the Richmond Justice Initiative.

The threat of sex trafficking is closer to home than many realize, and in the General Assembly we are committed to eradicating this crime against our young people. This stand alone statute will now send traffickers the message that they are not welcome here and that our kids are not for sale in Virginia. Not now, and not ever.

This will be the fourth piece of legislation in four years introduced by Hugo aimed at human trafficking. HB1898, introduced by Hugo in 2011, passed into law, making abduction for the purposes of child prostitution a felony. HB1606, which became law in 2013, increased punishments for soliciting conduct for prostitution. Most recently in 2014, he passed HB485, which empowers law enforcement to better track down and arrest suspected traffickers.

Virginia sales tax holiday for school supplies and clothing is Aug. 7-9. Purchases of certain school supplies, clothing and footwear are exempt from the Virginia sales tax. Each eligible school supply item must be priced at $20 or less, and each eligible article of clothing and footwear must be priced at $100 or less. See http://www.tax.virginia.gov/content/school-supplies-and-clothing-holiday.

This is a good place to start, but these students need more than backpacks. In this area, we need to address the impacts of income inequality in the schools.

If we succeed in effectively educating these students, the savings overall will be enormous. These students need protection from budget cuts in their classrooms. They need help addressing inequality in the face of “bring your own device policies,” and other technology needs.

Here are a few ways to give:

❖ Fairfax County Collect for Kids is a public-private partnership that provides local children from economically challenged families with the school supplies they need to begin the school year, and has provided 90,000 supply kits and backpacks in its first three years. They seek donations of cash, backpacks donated by citizens and calculators donated by businesses. Contact Jay Garant in Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Business and Community Partnerships at 571-423-1225 jay.garant@fcps.edu.

❖ United Community Ministries annual Back to School campaign is underway, and they rely on your support to meet the needs of students from low-income families in the Mount Vernon community. They especially need larger-sized backpacks for middle and high school students, and seek cash contributions to buy supplies. http://www.ucmagency.org/back-to-school-2015.html.

— Mary Kimm, MKimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Burke Connection

Thousands of students will begin school this fall at a disadvantage; help now so they have the basics.

Backpacks for All

The first day of school each year is fraught with anticipation and anxiety. Many local students will be concerned about what they wear, who they will see, what it will be like. They’ve already had multiple shopping trips, online and otherwise, to be sure they have the supplies and extras they need.

We live in an area where many if not most families have the means and desire to do almost whatever it takes to give their children the best chances for success.

But for thousands of students, families lack the financial resources to equip them for success on the first day of school and beyond.

In our affluent area, there are many poor families.

In Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 27 percent of more than 184,000 students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. That’s more than 50,000 children in Fairfax County who are going through the summer without their usual access to breakfast and lunch. For many of those children, having a fully equipped backpack on the first day of school is out of reach.

In the City of Alexandria, about 60 percent of the Alexandria Public Schools students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. That’s more than 8,000 of the city’s 13,000-plus students.

In Arlington, more than 32 percent of the county’s 25,000-plus students are poor enough to receive subsidized meals; more than 7,000 students.

Help these students get started on the right foot by contributing to one of the many local backpack drives.

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❖ OUR DAILY BREAD Collect for Kids Back to School program runs each summer in partnership with with Collect for Kids in a county-wide effort to ensure that the neediest children in our community receive the supplies they need to succeed in school. The program runs through a partnership with Kids R First, Fairfax County Public Schools, the Fairfax County Office of Public and Private Partnerships, Apple Federal Credit Union and numerous community-based organizations and businesses in the Fairfax County area who are working together to provide supplies in a more cost-effective and efficient way. Contact Dawn Sykes at 703-273-8829.

❖ Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing APAH is collecting backpacks and supplies for more than 400 children among the 1,200-plus households a year served by APAH, providing low income families with affordable housing. Purchase items on their list. Donations can be dropped off at the APAH office: 2704 N. Pershing Drive in Arlington. Questions? Contact Emily Button, Resident Manager, at 703-851-3635 or ebbutton@apah.org. Visit www.roonga.com/apahschoolsuppliedrive/

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— Mary Kimm, MKimm@connectionnewspapers.com
**Letters**

**Costs of Not Expanding Medicaid**

To the Editor:

The concern expressed in the letter regarding Medicaid Expansion in Virginia (“How to Pay for Medicaid Expansion?”, Connect., June 24-30) focused on the question of “how to pay for it” and that those favoring expansion “do not discuss cost specifics.”

The writer would have readers believe that we in Virginia have not already paid for Medicaid expansion with our tax dollars, Virginia tax dollars that are now going to other states, states that have expanded Medicaid; and some of those states are led by Republican governors that have favored Medicaid expansion because they saw it as a good deal financially as well as a reasonable way of making healthcare accessible to so many of their working poor — 400,000 in Virginia would benefit from the expansion.

With respect to the writer’s fiscal concerns, that issue has been addressed multiple times by The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and The Commonwealth Institute. The conclusion, which is documented by the numbers cited in the various reports, is this: “Medicaid Expansion is Producing Large Gains in Health Care and Saving States Money.”

The letter-writer’s fiscal concerns have already been essentially addressed, but opponents have apparently already made up their minds and have manifested little interest in the documentation provided. This documentation has been cited numerous times, and it is not reasonable to assume that Del. Ken Plum, a delegate representing a federal district three times as large as the district I represent, has not looked at the numbers before advocating for the expansion of Medicaid.

Dr. Paul Krugman, an economics professor at Princeton and the winner of the Nobel Prize for Economics in 2008, recently asked this question: “But why would any state choose to exercise that option (not expand Medicaid)? After all, states were being offered a federally-funded program (a program already paid for by taxpayers) that would provide major benefits to millions of their citizens, pour billions into their economies, and help support their health-care providers. Who would turn down such an offer?”

It is the same question many of us in Virginia have been asking and have not received any satisfying answers from the Republican legislators that dominate the Virginia House and Senate.

John Horejsi  
(SALT’s 1,200 advocates)  
SALT Coordinator  
Vienna

**The Act in Sheep’s Clothing**

To the Editor:

A few weeks ago the House passed HR 2042, the Ratepayer Protection Act. Sounds great, right? Wrong. The Ratepayer Protection Act is a wolf in sheep’s clothing and attacks EPA’s ability to curb climate change. Specifically, the Act goes after the Clean Power Plan, set to be finalized this summer, which would require states submit carbon reduction plans to the EPA. Carbon pollution is a serious health threat to all Americans, but especially to those with chronic lung disease like asthma. Carbon emissions fuel climate change, and as temperatures rise so does the risk of experiencing unsafe levels of ozone pollution in the air we breathe. Ozone kills and as someone who has had asthma since childhood I am concerned for the nearly 24,000 children with asthma who live in the county.

Jennifer Kaufer  
The American Lung Association in Virginia  
Fairfax

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Serving as a bridge between an acute care hospital stay and a patient’s return home, The Health Services Center at Westminster at Lake Ridge provides short-term, skilled nursing and rehabilitation services to those who are still recovering from surgery, injury or illness. Whether you come to us directly, from hospital care, or from acute/sub-acute rehab, we help you regain lost physical abilities and return to living the active lifestyle you love.

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**Faith Notes**  
Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com.

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children’s church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax  
703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.
Unscheduling Summer Play

By Marilyn Campbell

For many children, summer is packed with planned activities and adventures and provides an opportunity for unstructured free time.

“Provide safe spaces for [children] to play. If you know the space is safe, you can give them more leeway to play on their own,” said E. Linda Schultz, Ph.D., Fairmont Van Dyke Elementary School.

Cautious Michael Ducharme has lived with dyslexia since he was a student. His two daughters also have dyslexia. The father and both of his daughters attended a dyslexia school in the South and hosted Noble Valley Public Schools’ Strategic Plan that specifically addresses challenges to students with dyslexia. “We’re now back in the cool world today, the fierce urgency of now,” Ducharme said. “It’s time to renew and positive action in this plan.”

The plan, which the board approved Thursday night, is a long-term strategic document with four main objectives of student success, career and cultural, financial and resource and room to be very important to this board,” said Strain. Further, Strain and Dranesville representative Jane Strauss said the nature of the plan is that it’s built over time. Otherwise we’ll continue to spin.”

Board members spoke highly of Hynes’ nine years as an elementary school teacher in Fairfax County Public Schools as well as her last background.

“I think the combination of your lawfyl skills and the fact that you’re the highest ranking person to be very important to this board,” said Strain. “I want to say that Jane Strain and I have been a very thoughtful member of our board as well as a very candid one.”

Schulz offered her criticism that she would’ve liked to see more competition for the position, rather than the decision being made prior to the meeting. “I think it’s healthy for the process,” she said. But she didn’t withhold her support for Hynes, saying the candidate is “going to get a cautious yes from me. The good will be in the publicizing.”

After mentioning the gavel from former-

Experts praise the benefits of free play for children.

Not an End

By Tim Peterson

A Beginning, Not an End

School board approves “Ignite” Strategic plan, new chairman.

Steven L. Greenburg, president of Fairfax County Public Schools, voices his support for the new Strategic Plan being voted on by the School Board.

“Let’s adopt this plan, let’s move forward, spend time perfecting it over time. Otherwise we’re not going to move forward,” said Strain.

The plan calls for a quarterly state report to be filed, which a school board reas-essment scheduled for June to make any updates or adjustments.

“The board also voted on a new chairman and vice chairman to replace John H. Brason, now in his 10th year as Fairfax county school superintendent. Fairfax County Public Schools’ chief financial officer Michael Ducharme has lived with dyslexia since he was a student. His two daughters also have dyslexia.

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The Billy Coulter Band performs a rendition of Johnny Cash’s “Ring of Fire” toward the beginning of its Royal Lake concert on Friday, July 10. The group performed a blend of its singles and covers throughout the hour-long event.

Throughout the evening, the band played a mixture of its singles, as well as covers of famous hits, such as Johnny Cash’s “Ring of Fire” and Dwight Yoakam’s “Fast as You.” The group’s singles covered themes relatable to the audience, such as “If You Can’t Live Without Me” (regarding the allure of social media) and “Gimme One More Try” (about an apology to a significant other).

Coulter also spent portions of the program sharing his personal stories that inspired some of the band’s songs, including his experience reading tarot cards to lonely callers over the phone in New Mexico. According to the group’s website, Coulter has been nominated for over 30 Washington Area Music Awards over the past 10 years.

Braddock District Supervisor John Cook spoke at the concert’s conclusion, thanking the concert’s sponsors, as well as hosting a raffle for Billy Coulter band T-shirts and a set of invasive species playing cards.

“I’ve seen many returning faces here, including the swamp,” Cook said, gesturing to a passing waterfowl. “It’s great to see so many people out here tonight for Braddock Nights’ start of the summer concerts.”

### Over the Fence

Anne Lawrence and Laurea Stevens: “I really liked how casual it was. There were boaters, children, dogs, people were laughing and having a great time, and there was great music at the same great time. It was a lot to offer at once.”

Michelle Lynch: “I like being able to bring my dog down the lake. The dogs seem to enjoy the concert, you get exercise for them, and you get to hear a little music, so it’s a perfect combination.”

John Cook: “I like the fact that families come out with their kids and their dogs, and everyone has a good time and enjoys being with each other. This is the program’s sixth summer since I’ve been elected and we’re going to keep it going.”

### Viewpoints

By Thomas Friestad
**The Connection**

Did you enjoy the most about this Braddock Nights concert event?

**— Thomas Friestad**

**Anne Lawrence and Laurea Stevens:** “I really liked how casual it was. There were boaters, children, dogs, people were laughing and having a great time, and there was great music at the same great time. It was a lot to offer at once.”

**Michelle Lynch:** “I like being able to bring my dog down the lake. The dogs seem to enjoy the concert, you get exercise for them, and you get to hear a little music, so it’s a perfect combination.”

**Sean Wilson:** “[The concert was] really, really good. It was such a great community event, and when they start playing, I can hear it from my house, so I can know when to start coming out to listen. You just come out and chill, or you can even walk around the lake and hear the whole concert.”

**What did you enjoy the most about this Braddock Nights concert event?**

**SUNDAY/JULY 19**

**Burke Farmers Market**
8 a.m.-noon. Saturdays, May 23 through Aug. 22. 10 - 11 a.m. Burke Lake Park, 3043 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Musician Andres Salguero will be performing music for participants to sing and dance. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches.

**Baskin Robbins Grand Opening Celebration**
12-4 p.m. Tanger Outlet Shopping Center, 6432 Brandon Avenue, Springfield. Baskin Robbins is celebrating the “Re-Grand Opening” of its store: Special events will take place at the store such as $0.99 ice cream cones, face painting and more.

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**Burke Farmers Market**
8 a.m.-noon. Saturdays, May 23 through Aug. 22. 10 - 11 a.m. Burke Lake Park, 3043 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Musician Andres Salguero will be performing music for participants to sing and dance. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches.

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Tiny Dancers Perform ‘Jungle Book’

Thunderous applause from family and friends at Tiny Dancers’ spring performance of “Jungle Book” brought smiles of accomplishment to the young dancers as they took their bows. The annual recital, held on June 21 at W.T. Woodson High School, was the culmination of months of preparation for the more than 200 students participating. The story, inspired by the Rudyard Kipling book of the same name, offers a view of life in the jungle and the adventures of an abandoned “man cub,” Mowgli. Using specially choreographed classical and modern dance, the show included such hit songs as “Who’s Afraid of the Big, Bad Wolf?,” “Pink Panther” and “Bear Necessities.” The emotional favorite of the performance was the opening number, which gave the Wiggles toes students (age 2) a chance to share their first dance with daddy.

Tiny Dancers, located in Fairfax City and opening soon at Mosaic, offers a specialized program of ballet, tap, hip-hop and musical theater for children ages 2-12. In addition to the regular school-year program, the studio offers a full schedule of summer classes and camps. For more information, visit www.tinydancers.com or call the studio at 703-385-5580.

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A scene from the Tiny Dancers Fairfax recital presentation of “Jungle Book.”

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Q&A: West Springfield’s D’Anna Committed to IUP Hoops

All-region post player enjoys country music, scary movies.

Maura D’Anna has started since her freshman year for the perennial power West Springfield girls’ basketball program, giving the Spartans a presence in the paint.

As a junior, the 6-foot D’Anna averaged a double-double and earned second-team All-6A North region honors. She helped the Spartans finish 24-3 in 2015, win their second straight Conference 7 title and reach the region semifinals, where they lost to eventual region champion Oakton.

In May, D’Anna committed to play basketball at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The Crimson Hawks compete at the Division II level in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.

D’Anna recently participated in a Q&A via email with The Connection.

Connection: You’re committed to playing basketball at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. What made IUP the right choice for you?

D’Anna: I felt a strong connection to all of the coaches there, the facilities are brand new and I want to compete for a national championship. It really came to trusting head coach [Tom] McConnell and his staff and their vision for how I could fit in their system. I just knew that playing for him was the right choice.

Connection: What position(s) will you play?

D’Anna: I will play primarily a 5 and a little stretch 4.

Connection: How, if it all, do you feel committing prior to your senior year benefits you?

D’Anna: Oh, it benefits me a lot. It allows me a year to watch just their games, not a different college game every night, to see how I fit in their system and watch opposing players and their game. I will be able to train on what IUP will need me to concentrate on. Also, instead of visiting different colleges I can spend more time studying.

Connection: At what age did you start playing basketball?

D’Anna: 6.

Connection: When did you realize playing college basketball was an option for you?

D’Anna: In seventh grade I made a decision to stop swimming competitively and go for basketball. I enjoyed the team concept more than the individual events. I had to put in extra work to get on the “N” teams for AAU because I had put in so much time with swimming. It also helped that I grew a lot. After my freshman year I thought that maybe I had a shot at playing in college.

Connection: What is a positive of being a 6-foot tall girl in high school?

D’Anna: It sure helps playing basketball and seeing who is down the hall.

Connection: What is a negative of being a 6-foot tall girl in high school?

D’Anna: It’s hard to find clothes and shoes that are appropriate.

Connection: Why is the West Springfield girls’ basketball program consistently successful?

D’Anna: Tough love and a focus on defense.

Connection: What is one thing you have yet to accomplish as a high school athlete that you would like to accomplish as a senior?

D’Anna: I am still after the state championship. We fell short my sophomore year.

Connection: Do you have a specific game day routine?

D’Anna: I like to have chicken tenders before a game and go watch my mom’s freshman team play. She is the head coach of the freshman team at West Springfield.

Connection: Are you a pro sports fan? Which team(s) do you root for?

D’Anna: I don’t watch much pro sports but I was rooting for Steph Curry during the NBA Finals. I do watch some Steelers games during the winter, too.

Connection: What location is the farthest you’ve traveled from the Washington, D.C. metro area?

D’Anna: Orlando, Fla., like five times for basketball.

Connection: What’s your favorite food?

D’Anna: Chicken tenders and fries, mac and cheese, pizza.

— Jon Roetman

Goalkeeper enjoys eating calamari, watching ‘Braveheart.’

While Brian Breslin lacks the size of a prototypical goalkeeper, his skill and quickness led him to a senior season of accomplishment.

Breslin spent three seasons as the Woodson boys’ soccer program’s varsity goalkeeper. In 2015, the 5-foot-8 Breslin earned first-team All-Conference 7, first-team All-6A North region and second-team all-state honors while helping the Cavaliers advance to the region semifinals. Woodson finished 11-7-1 and fell one victory shy of qualifying for the state tournament one season after going 5-5-3 and losing in the opening round of the conference tournament.

Breslin, a 2015 Woodson High School graduate, will play soccer at Randolph-Macon College. The Yellow Jackets compete at the Division III level in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference.

Breslin recently participated in a Q&A via email with The Connection.

Connection: You’ll be playing soccer at Randolph-Macon College next season. What made R-MC the right choice for you?

Breslin: Randolph-Macon is a smaller college where I feel like I can succeed, it

has smaller classes and it’s easy to get necessary help and actually get to know your professors. I like the idea of being a part of a class that could potentially change the tradition of the program as well as having a coach that has a past of winning.

Connection: What are you most looking forward to about going to college?

Breslin: I’m looking forward to meeting new people at college as well as developing as a keeper.

Connection: At what age did you start playing soccer?

Breslin: I started playing soccer when I was really young with my family and started house league when I was 5. I was originally a midfielder but got converted to keeper when I tried out for BRYC when I was 11.

Connection: When did you realize you wanted to play college soccer?

Breslin: Sophomore year when I reallized I could play in college. I made ABGC and had a coach who helped with recruiting and a lot and knew how to push me and made me work harder.

Connection: How does your height (or lack thereof) affect the way you approach being a goalkeeper?

Breslin: Being 5 feet 8 means I have to have very good positioning and communicate as much as possible. I’m quick so that helps being able to come off my line and cut balls out early.

Connection: What is your favorite memory of playing soccer at Woodson?

Breslin: My favorite memory was beating Stonewall Jackson in PKs this year, and getting mobbed by the team.

Connection: What is the most difficult part of being a goalie?

Breslin: The most difficult aspect of being a goalie is learning how to forget mistakes you made and stay positive in situations where it’s hard to keep a level head.

Connection: Have you ever tried a sport and found out you were embarrassingly bad at it?

Breslin: I went to a driving range with my family on vacation and found out that golf is the only sport that I play where I’m so bad to the point that I almost explode with frustration.

Connection: What do you like to do when you’re not playing sports?

Breslin: When I’m not playing sports I like playing FIFA, watching TV and hanging with my family because we are very close.

Connection: Are you a pro sports fan? Which team(s) do you root for?

Breslin: I’m a Wizards, Nationals, Redskins, and Real Madrid fan. I follow Madrid very closely; I either watch every Madrid game on TV or live stream it.

Connection: What location is the farthest you’ve traveled from the Washington, D.C. metro area?

Breslin: The farthest I’ve ever been from the U.S. is Aruba, which is also my favorite place I’ve ever been.

Connection: What’s your favorite food?

Breslin: My favorite thing to eat is calamari. I order it at most places where it’s available.

Connection: What is your favorite movie?

Breslin: ‘Braveheart’ is my favorite movie.
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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Initiation of the Section 106 Process: Public Participa-

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Greenbriar Park Drive, Burke Office Park

July 17 & 18, 8-12, 5:19

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dultservices and click on Caregiver Support. Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711.

Fairfax County’s Long Term Care Ombuds-

man Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living fa-

cilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit the Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/difs/olderdultservices/icomobudsman/

The Wakefield Senior Center in Annandale needs an experienced Canasta Player, an Art Instructor and certified instruc-

tors Pilates and Ballroom Dance. For these and other volunteer opportuni-

ties, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderdults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Herndon Adult Day Health Care Cen-

ter needs a Piano Player, 11, 8 classical or music from the 1960s and before. For these and other volunteer opportuni-

ties, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderdults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Hollin Hall Senior Center in Alexan-

dria needs instructors for the following classes: Basic Guitar, Italian, Pottery and Ballroom Dance. For these and other volunteer opportuni-

ties, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderdults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Fairfax County Meals on Wheels needs coordinators, co-coordinators, and substi-

tute drivers for routes throughout the county. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderdults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Little River Glen Senior Center in Fairfax needs a Computer Lab Assistant and a Zumba Gold Instructor. For these and other volunteer opportuni-

ties, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderdults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Kingstowne Center for Active Adults in Alexandria needs a Country Western Line Dance Instructor, Mosaic Art or Jewelry Making Instructor, Hula Hoop Class Leader and an African Style Dance Instructor. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-

324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderdults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportuni-

ties, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderdults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Sully Senior Center in Centreville needs a certified personal trainer, preferably with experience working with older adults. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-

324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderdults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Annandale Adult Day Health Care Center in Annandale needs Spanish speak-

ing social companions. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-

324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderdults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center in Alexandria needs licensed beau-

tician, front desk volunteer, social companion and a Spanish-speaking social companion. For these and other volunteer opportuni-

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