

'It Keeps Him Alive for Us'

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Jimmy Breslin with his nephew,
Tim Breslin Jr., then 3. Family and
friends raise cancer-research
funds in Jimmy Breslin's name.

Lower Water
Bills for City
Residents

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A Beginning,
Not an End

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'It Keeps Him Alive for Us'

Family, friends raise cancer-research funds in Jimmy Breslin's name.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A Fairfax County firefighter for 28 years, Jimmy Breslin died of cancer last year at age 55, but he's never far from the thoughts of his friends and family. And in tribute to him, they raise money for and participate in The Ride to Conquer Cancer.

This bicycling event doesn't happen until September, but the eight members of Team Jim Breslin – captained by his brother Tim – are already hard at work training and raising funds.

"It means a lot because I'm doing something in honor and memory of my brother," said Tim Breslin. "And the money raised truly benefits people in their treatments and in the prevention of cancer."

Both brothers have ties to the local area. They were born and raised in Fairfax and graduated from Woodson High. And Jimmy served at both Centreville Fire Stations 17 and 38.

THE RIDE is Sept. 19-20; proceeds go to the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center, plus Sibley Memorial, Suburban and Howard County General hospitals. It's not a race, so cyclists of all abilities may participate.

To donate or register, go to www.ridetovictory.org or call 855-822-RIDE. Or contribute directly to Team Jim Breslin visit www.ridetovictory.org, click donate and search for Team Jim Breslin.

Jimmy and his wife Janet had three children and three grandchildren. "He was a real, family man," said Tim Breslin. "His family was his number-one priority, so it was incredibly tough when he died."

Yet Jimmy definitely left his mark on the world. After retiring as a firefighter, he became a special-needs bus driver and route manager for Prince William County Public Schools. "He asked for special-needs children; that was his second calling in life," said Breslin. "He loved them like his own kids and, in his house, he'd show you stuff they'd made for him."

But in 2012, Jimmy was diagnosed with esophageal cancer and battled it as best he could. "Then in January 2014, one of our

sisters, Maureen Romano, heard about the Ride and told us about it," said Breslin. It's 150 miles – 75 miles/day over two days – in Maryland and Washington, D.C., and each rider has to raise a minimum of \$2,500.

"I'd never done anything like that before," said Breslin. "But she and I wanted to do it to support our brother because he was in the fight of his life." Two months later, on March 27, 2014, Jimmy lost his battle. "We were just running individually," said Breslin. "But when Jimmy died, other friends and family members asked if they could join, and soon we became a team. And altogether, we raised \$38,153."

Now they're preparing for the second annual Ride to Conquer Cancer. Besides Tim Breslin, a 28-year police officer in Chesapeake, Va., the other members of Team Jim Breslin are: Brent Schnupp, a firefighter/paramedic with Station 38; Patrick Breslin, one of Jimmy's sons; Michelle Breslin, married to Jimmy's son Joey, also a Fairfax County firefighter; Jason Smith, married to Jimmy's daughter Jennifer; Fairfax County firefighter/paramedic Kristin Gaulard and her husband Jeff; and Mike Ashley, son of retired county firefighter Dave Ashley, who worked with Jimmy.

"Last year, I raised \$12,489; so this year, I want to raise \$1 more," said Tim Breslin. "So far, I'm at \$2,495, so I've got some work to do." Basically, he solicits donations from family, friends and associates. And on his Facebook page, he posts photos of his weekend bike rides to remind people of the upcoming event and let the contributors see how he's getting ready.

"I try to ride three or four times a week and work out in the gym on the treadmill and elliptical," he said. "And I've come to enjoy the mental and physical aspects of riding and exercising." For Breslin, the toughest parts of the Ride are the hills, because there aren't any hills where he lives. It was also difficult for him to ask people for money, but he knew the funds would benefit people like his late brother.

THE BEST PART was arriving at the fin-



The late Jimmy Breslin



Tim Breslin and his bicycle.



Members of last year's Team Jim Breslin and their families.

ish line of last year's event. "We all stopped about a minute away and called Jimmy's wife to tell her we were about there," said Breslin. "As we approached and were announced, there were so many friends and family members cheering us on – and all of them were wearing their 'Team Jim Breslin' T-shirts."

"It was overwhelming to see them there, knowing they'd been waiting for us for hours," he continued. "And it felt good to be part of something so big and important that's really going to help people. Some cancer survivors ride, too, with big orange flags on their bikes, and seeing them is also inspirational."

Describing Jimmy as kind, generous, lov-

ing and witty, Breslin said he always had something funny to say. "People enjoyed working with him and knew they could count on him," said Breslin. "Jimmy made others feel special; he asked about them and showed an interest in them, so they were drawn to him. In his jobs with the Fire Department and school system, he liked serving others and valued the bonds he formed with his friends and co-workers."

So, said Breslin, it meant a great deal to his brother that people were donating money to cancer research because of him. And that's why doing the Ride in his name is "really special," said Breslin. "It keeps him alive for us, and he continues to help people, even though he's no longer with us."

NEWS BRIEF

Woman Robbed, Shot in Fairfax

Fairfax County Police said detectives are currently investigating a robbery and shooting that took place on Kenerson Drive in Fairfax. Around 11:50 p.m. on July 11, a man and woman reportedly drove up to their home after spending the evening at a casino.

A suspect, described as a black female, approached the 66-year-old woman and grabbed her purse, the police report said. Then family members living in the house came out and chased the suspect towards a vehicle parked close by. The car was driven by a second suspect described as black male.

The woman whose purse was taken ran next to the vehicle. As the driver pulled away, one of the suspects fired a gun and struck the woman in the arm. She was eventually treated for non-life-threatening injuries at Inova Fairfax Hospital.

The two suspects fled the scene in their car.

Anyone with information can contact Crime Solvers by visiting www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org, text-a-tip by texting "TIP187" plus the message to CRIMES(274637) or by calling 1-866-411-TIPS(8477).

— TIM PETERSON

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. Kings 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?

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

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. Kings 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

Home Money Management- 3 Week Session. 12:30 p.m. Lorton Library, 9250 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Learn to curb expenses, review bills and develop good habits in this basic budgeting class.


Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. The Fairfax Master Gardeners Association provide tips and advice. Adults.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Practice and improve your English. Adults.

TUESDAY/JULY 22

Friends Quarterly Meeting. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. The Kingstowne Library will be holding its quarterly meeting. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches.


SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 5



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AUGUST 3—AUGUST 7 HORTON HEARS A WHO! (PG)
AUGUST 10—AUGUST 14 .. HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (PG)
AUGUST 17—AUGUST 21 KUNG-FU PANDA (PG)

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NEWS

Lower Water Bills For City Residents

Fairfax Water equalizes rates 18 months earlier than expected.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Usually, as time goes on, people end up paying higher prices for everything. But that's not the case for residents of the City of Fairfax. From now on, their water bills will be lower.

Effective with meter readings taken on or after July 1, City residents are now on the same water-rate schedule as customers of Fairfax Water. It means the water rates have been equalized so City customers and Fairfax Water customers will pay the same rate of \$2.55 per 1,000 gallons.

What's also exciting for local residents is that the change wasn't expected to take place until January 2017 – so City customers will see a significant reduction in their water bills 18 months ahead of schedule.

In May 2013, the Fairfax City Council entered into an agreement with Fairfax Water to provide City residents with water service. It was finalized in December of that year and took effect in January 2014.

"If we'd maintained our own water system, we'd have had to pay millions of dollars," said Mayor Scott Silverthorne. "It would have cost us \$10 million to \$15 million to upgrade the dam from which the City got its water, plus another \$15 million for water treatment. So we saved the City \$25 million to \$30 million in the

short run."

And in the long run, the City will realize an even greater savings. "We had estimates of \$80 million – in today's dollars – to rebuild the water-transmission line from Loudoun County to the City, in about 15 years," explained Silverthorne. "That was the turning point, when we saw how enormous our expenses would be. We had to factor in all these costs we would have had to pay. And this way is a far more cost-efficient approach for the City in the long run."

There are two caveats, however. At the time of the deal, he said, "The average savings was about 50 percent per customer. Over the last two years, we didn't have escalating rates, but Fairfax Water raised its rates 3 or 4 percent. And Fairfax Water does charge a surcharge during the summer months that the City didn't. It's for people doing irrigation, such as for golf courses or those with swimming pools, to encourage people to conserve water – which is always a good thing."

Nonetheless, said Silverthorne, it's still a great deal for City residents. "The cumulative, average savings to City customers is between \$4 million and \$5 million," he said. "Average customers should save about 40 percent on their water bills."

Further sweetening things is the timeline, and Silverthorne couldn't be happier. "The fact that they did the water-rate equalization a full 18 months in advance of what the contract called for is good news for the City of Fairfax," he said. "I am extremely pleased that Fairfax Water moved quickly to equalize rates – which is a win-win for both City customers and Fairfax Water."

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

THURSDAY/JULY 23

Spanish Conversation Group. 2 p.m. Kings 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.

SUNDAY/JULY 26

Burke Historical Meeting. 4:30 p.m.

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 6304 Lee Chapel Road, Burke. A presentation entitled "Jazz in and around Burke."

TUESDAY/JULY 28

Friends of the Kings Park library Meeting. 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Kings Park Library will be hosting its board meeting. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. The Fairfax Master Gardeners Association gives tips and advice. Adult.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Practice and improve English. Adults.



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OPINION

Backpacks for All

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

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 23,000-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.

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 or Sherry Noud SMNoud@fcps.edu 571-423-4300, Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Social Work Services.

Visit collectforkids.org/resources/

❖ **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 is made possible 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 Services Manager, at 703-851-3635 or ebutton@apah.org. Visit www.roonga.com/apahschoolsupplydrive/

❖ **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

COMMENTARY

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, Det. Bill Woolf of the Fairfax County Police Department Human Trafficking Unit shared a bit of startling news. Woolf 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 Woolf, 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



Hugo

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 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 the punishment for those soliciting minors for prostitution. Most recently in 2014, he passed HB485, which empowers law enforcement to better track down and arrest suspected traffickers.

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LETTERS

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.

Exposure to unhealthy levels of ozone is

linked to worsened asthma, increased risk of hospitalization and even premature death. Have you ever seen a child have an asthma attack? Have you ever been forced to watch as their lips tinge blue and panic sets in as they fight to get in a full breath of air but can't? It's something I've experienced firsthand; no child should have to suffer in that way.

That's why I'm disappointed that Representative Barbara Comstock voted in support of the Ratepayer Protection Act. Fairfax County received an F for ozone pollution according to the American Lung Association's 2015 State of the Air Report. Is the Representative okay with that? Her vote sure implies as much.

Jennifer Kaufer
The American Lung
Association in Virginia
Fairfax

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.

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

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.



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PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Art supplies and games that allow for creative play can be an important part of unstructured free time.

Unsheduling Summer Play

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

What was once a time for catching fireflies, swimming and exploring has evolved into a period of elite day camps, academic enrichment classes and top-dollar sports clinics.

For many children, summer is packed with so many activities that it can hardly be called a break, say local educators, reminding parents of the benefits of unregulated play.

“Camps and activities are fine in moderation because children need structure,” said Andrew Clarke, Ph.D., an Arlington-based child psychologist. “But allowing children to have free time during the summer is important for their self-confidence and overall well-being. ... Children can become enriched simply by being allowed to explore their own environments.”

NOT ALL CHILDREN are naturally self-directed, but parents can provide minimal structure through which children can gain the benefits of unstructured free time.

For example, help children develop a list of potential activities that might interest them. This could assist children who have difficulty thinking of things to do on their own or who might be prone to saying “I’m bored” when faced with free time and no planned activities.

“I recommend giving kids suggestions of various activities and having them choose, said Stacie B. Isenberg, Psy.D., a child psychologist based in Bethesda, Md. “Sometimes it is helpful to make a list together with them and post it on the refrigerator or

Experts praise the benefits of free play for children.

other prominent place.”

Isenberg suggests including activities such as playing board games, reading books, hula hooping, kicking around a ball, blowing bubbles, doing mazes, puzzles or painting. “When it’s time for a new activity, have them check out the list,” she said.

It’s especially beneficial if the activity won’t require constant supervision. “Provide safe spaces for them to play in,” said Joan L. Ehrlich, Ph.D., a coordinator in the Interpreter Services Office at Northern Virginia Community College. “If you know the space is safe, you can give them more leeway to play on their own, and can pull back on the direct supervision.”

PARENTS SHOULD ALSO SET boundaries and standards regarding acceptable and unacceptable activities, she continued.

“When my kids were small, we had designated ‘no screen’ time. It was wonderful to hang back and watch them engage in a board game or card game. You would be amazed at what kids will choose to do when televisions, computers [and other electronics] are not an option. Nothing against those devices, but, let’s face it, they can be addictive which makes it

hard to compete with other healthy, educational options.”

“All you need to do to facilitate unstructured downtime is to not over schedule them ... and provide an open-ended learning environment,” added Gail Multop, an early childhood education professor at Northern Virginia Community College. She believes the tools for such play are simple: “Puzzles, books, an art table with supplies and time outdoors in nature.”

A Beginning, Not an End

School board approves “Ignite” Strategic Plan, new chairman and vice chairman.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Citizen Michael Ducharme has lived with dyslexia since he was a student. His two daughters both have dyslexia. The father, representing the parents’ movement Decoding Dyslexia, spoke at the July 9 school board meeting in support of the proposed Fairfax County Public Schools Strategic Plan that specifically addresses challenges in the schools facing students with dyslexia.

“We’re now faced with the fact tomorrow is today, the fierce urgency of now,” Ducharme said. “It’s time for vigorous and positive action in this plan.”

The plan, which the board approved on Thursday night, is a long-term strategic document with four main objectives of student success, caring culture, premier workforce and resource stewardship. It was developed with input and feedback from over 30,000 “stakeholders,” according for Fairfax County Public Schools.

“Our growing and vibrant school system is now the 10th largest district in the United States, and having a clear plan and focus is critical to meet the needs of every child and deliver our Portrait of Graduate,” superintendent Dr. Karen Garza said in a statement. “Ignite is about energy – it is about expending the time and effort on the actions necessary to close achievement gaps, support our teachers, provide resources to our schools and help our students succeed in life.”

According to the release from Fairfax County Public Schools, some of the specific areas for attention and priorities highlighted in the plan include:

- *Developing a more holistic approach to education by addressing students’ social and emotional needs
- *Eliminating achievement gaps
- *Helping students develop real-world skills
- *Creating a balanced assessment framework as a way to decrease instructional emphasis on test preparation
- *Increasing instructional time available to prepare students for success along with providing more equitable access to resources, especially technology
- *Hiring and retaining high quality teachers
- *Confronting budget issues that have led to the elimination of educational programming and employee positions

The board voted 11 to 1 in favor of the plan, with Springfield representative Elizabeth Schultz as the only dissenting opinion.



Michael Ducharme of Decoding Dyslexia applauds the new Strategic Plan for Fairfax County Public Schools for specifically addressing challenges for students with dyslexia.

“I feel like it sort of became a Mr. Potato Head: you have all the parts, but you’re not sure what it’s going to look like at the end,” she said. “The biggest concern I have is not specifically identifying what the known challenges are, or perceived challenges are, with changing demographics, growing student population, types of education our students are needing... the nexus of all of these I think we just didn’t get to in this document.”

Dranesville representative Jane Strauss said the nature of the plan is that it’s built to grow and change. “The Strategic Plan is really a beginning, it’s not an end,” she said, “an evolving plan, not set in stone. It lays out and solidifies our belief in the direction we need to go. It gives us a roadmap forward but does not create guardrails that are so high we cannot make adjustments.”

Providence representative Patty Reed supported the plan and asked there be “detailed discussions on how do we actually use the document.”

“How do we use it to make budget decisions?” Reed asked. “Everything in here obviously has been well thought out... But we all know our budget realities. How can this document help us make some tough decisions.”

Dr. Garza, speaking on the plan, said, “I would urge this board: Let’s adopt this plan, move forward, spend time perfecting it over time. Otherwise we’ll continue to spin.”

The plan calls for a quarterly status report to be filed, with a school board reassessment scheduled for June to make any updates or adjustments.

THE BOARD ALSO VOTED ON A NEW CHAIRMAN and vice chairman to replace Tammy Derenak Kaufax and Ted Velkoff, respectively, for one-year terms.

In her outgoing remarks, Derenak Kaufax used candy to sum up some of her experiences with the board and its work going forward.

“We’ve had our Hot Tamales moments, a few Circus Peanuts moments,” she said, “Mostly we’re a group of dedicated Smarties passionate about our desire to educate the next generation. To do so effectively, we must be funded properly, so we’re always on the hunt for that extra 100 Grand, or million.”



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

Pat Hynes was nominated as the only candidate for chairman and subsequently voted through.

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

“I think the combination of your lawyerly skills and your very recent and constant view from the classroom to be very important to this board,” said Strauss. Mason representative Sandy Evans said Hynes “has been a very thoughtful member of our board as well as a very candid one.”

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

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.

Raymond J. King, of Clifton, earned his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering, with a focus on Robotics, from the Mechanical Engineering Department of the University of Utah at the close of the Fall 2014 semester. An NSF - IGERT grant helped fund his post-graduate studies there. A 2003 graduate of Robinson Secondary School, Raymond went on to receive both his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech before marrying fellow VT engineering graduate, Amelia Davis. He is the son of Clifton residents Dr. Graham and Jane King.

Ava Lakmazaheri from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) won the Best of Category Award and a first award in Robotics and Intelligent Machines at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, held in Pittsburgh. Lakmazaheri earned the awards for her project, *Brain-Actuated Robotics: Controlling and Programming a Humanoid Using Electroencephalography*. Lakmazaheri also won several special awards.

Katie Bershadsky, born and raised in Burke, has been selected to



Pat Hynes accepts the gavel from Tammy Derenak Kaufax and begins her term as school board chairman.



Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza comments on the new Strategic Plan during the school board’s July 9 regular meeting.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

After receiving the gavel from now former-chairman Derenak Kaufax, Hynes said, “The job of the chairman and vice chairman is to protect the process for everyone. Collaboration is an important skill and I will be relearning it this year and looking forward to it.”

Ted Velkoff nominated Sandy Evans for the vice chairman position. Evans also ran unopposed and also carried the vote.

“I would say she played a critical role in a couple of the signature accomplishments of this board,” said Velkoff, including “reform of discipline process, later high school start times.”

“The key trait,” Velkoff added, “is willingness to compromise.”

For more information on the “Ignite” Strategic Plan, visit the Fairfax County Public Schools website www.fcps.edu/news/strategic.shtml.

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.

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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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR
Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

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AUGUST
8/5/2015 Wellbeing
8/12/2015 HomeLifeStyle
8/19/2015...A+ Camps & Schools – Back to School – Private Schools
8/26/2015 Newcomers & Community Guide Pullout
E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com for more information.

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.



PHOTO BY THOMAS FRIESTAD

Billy Coulter Rocks Lake Royal

Fairfax locals gather for night of Americana music at lake hillside, for the first of Braddock Nights' summer concerts.

BY THOMAS FRIESTAD
THE CONNECTION

Picnic blankets and lawn chairs coated the hillside at Lake Royal Friday, July 10, as dozens of Fairfax residents attended the first of Braddock Nights' free musical performances this summer. The Billy Coulter Band serenaded the crowd with an hour of music, which it described as a blend between Americana, Roots Rock and Power Pop.

"It's been hit or miss with our recent outside concerts due to weather, so we're so glad it's a Braddock night here tonight," lead vocalist Billy Coulter said, as children rolled down the hill and dogs greeted each other with gusto in the background.

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 swan," 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."

VIEWPOINTS

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

— THOMAS FRIESTAD



Anne Lawrence and Laure 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 time. It was a lot to offer at once."

"I really liked the atmosphere. It was really low-key and just a nice evening out for an hour to take in the atmosphere, the music's outside and the park's really nice."



Michelle Lynch:

"I like being able to bring my dog down. 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 the community. This is the program's sixth summer since I've been elected and we're going to keep it going."



Sean Wilson:

"[The concert was] really, really good. It's 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."

CALENDAR

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.

ONGOING

Evenings on the Ellipse Summer Concert. Thursdays, through Aug. 20. 5:30-7 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center Ellipse (Backyard), 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Relax with music, tastes of local wines and great company.

Burke Arts in the Parks. Saturdays, through Aug. 22. 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.

Stars on Sunday Concert Series. Sundays, through Aug. 30. 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.

Summer Reading Program. Friday-Saturday, through Sept. 5. 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/JULY 16

Afternoon Reading Group. 1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. "The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II" by Denise Kiernan.

Bedtime Stories: Superhero Training. 7 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Learn to be a superhero. Stories, activities and a craft. Wear your best superhero attire. Age 3-5 with adult.

Springfield Writers' Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Share your work, give and receive feedback in a supportive setting. Adults.

We All Scream for Ice Cream. 2 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. A class where participants can paint their own ice cream bowl. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/.

Mother Goose Story Time. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street Fairfax. Enjoy stories, songs and finger plays. For babies up to 23 months old with adult. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

Magic Tree House Club. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stop by to read and discuss story 16 in the "Magic Tree House" series. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>.

Teen Video Production Workshop. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn basic editing, cinematography and camera settings from Sam Sikors, an award winning cinematographer and Robinson High School Student. Teens. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>.

Library Playdate. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Drop in with 1-2 year olds to allow them to play with other toddlers. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/

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

FRIDAY/JULY 17

Cool Cow Comedy Presents Carmen Lynch. 8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Each month (and sometimes twice a month) Cool Cow Comedy's headliners and featured performers take the stage in the W-3 Theatre.

Children's Yoga. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. A yoga class for children. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/.

"Goodnight Walk: Night Sky." 8-9 p.m. at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce St., Annandale. Stories and crafts under the night sky. \$6. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/.

"Live Sharks, Rays and more." 2-3 p.m. at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce St., Annandale. Meet a live shark. \$7. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/.

"Campfire Fun." 7:45-8:45 p.m. at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce St., Annandale. Roast marshmallows and hear stories. \$6. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/.

Cinema Under the Stars: Mamma Mia! 7:30 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Enjoy a fun summer night sitting outside to watch movies with family and friends. Sing along with the hit musical "Mamma Mia!" Free.

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

SATURDAY/JULY 18

Clifton Film Festival. 7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Enjoy live music, food and original films under the stars. During the event there will be two awards ceremonies, student's awards will be given during intermission and the 19+ category at the closing of the festival. Visit cliftonfilmfest.com.

Mount Vernon Nights 2015: Dream Disc; Who's Next and More Who Classics. 7-8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Enjoy free public concerts featuring a different genre and musical group each week. Free.

Pilates. 8 a.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Enjoy free, drop-in Art of Movement classes featuring Yoga, Hula, Mat Pilates, Surfset and Tai Chi. No experience is necessary, bring your own mat.

Family Math Games. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street Fairfax. Build math and logic skills with family math games. All ages.

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

SUNDAY/JULY 19

Model Trains Display. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. The Northern Virginia NTRAK Club will have N gauge model trains on display

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

and running. Tickets: \$2-\$4.
www.fairfax-station.org.

Hooray for Hollywood. 7:30 p.m.
Richard J. Ernst Cultural Center,
8333 Little River Turnpike,
Annandale. The concert will focus on
musical themes from some of
Hollywood's most popular motion
pictures such as "Titanic," "Apollo
13," "Schindler's List," the James
Bond movies, and a 50th anniversary
salute to "The Sound of Music."
Tickets \$15.

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

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

MONDAY/JULY 20

The Kindercise Show. 10:30 a.m.
City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North
Street Fairfax. Sing and dance with
Wolf Trap teaching artist John
Taylor. Visit http://
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/
branches/fx/

TUESDAY/JULY 21

Sphero Robotic Ball Racing. 2:30
p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360
North Street, Fairfax. Join TechShop
DC-Arlington for a workshop utilizing

Sphero Robotic Balls. Visit http://
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/
branches/fx/

Evening Book Discussion. 7:30 p.m.
City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North
Street, Fairfax. Stop in and discuss
"State of Wonder" by Ann Patchett.
Visit http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/
library/branches/fx/

THURSDAY/JULY 23

Preschool Story Time. 10:30 a.m.
City of Fairfax, 10360 North Street
Fairfax. Stop in to enjoy stories,
songs and activities. Ages 3-5 with
adult. Visit http://
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/
branches/fx/

FRIDAY/JULY 24

**Americas Adopt A Soldier 5th
Annual Fundraising Golf
Tournament.** Golf Club at
Lansdowne Resort, 44050 Woodridge
Parkway, Lansdowne. Former major
league baseball player Michael
Pagliarulo "Pags" will host the golf
tournament. America's Adopt A
Soldier, an established nonprofit
organization who has through grass
roots volunteerism, donations, and
partnerships; provided a positive
impacted to our Nations Wounded,
Deployed Service Members,
Homeless Veterans, Veterans and
their Families. All donations go
directly to support their projects and
programs. Visit
Americasadoptsoldier.org to register
or call 703-278-3718 for more
information.

SATURDAY/JULY 25

Scalawags Sing-along. 10-11 a.m. at
Burke Lake Amphitheater, 7315 Ox
Road, Fairfax Station. Kids can take a
glimpse into the life of a pirate. Free.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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

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 Wiggletoes 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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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



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION
West Springfield rising senior Maura D'Anna is committed to play basketball at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

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 "A" 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 is 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 n' cheese, pizza.

— JON ROETMAN

Q&A: Woodson Grad Breslin to Play Soccer at R-MC

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 playing college soccer was an option for you?

Breslin: Sophomore year is when I realized I could play in college. I made ABGC and had a coach who helped with recruiting 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



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION
Former Woodson goalkeeper Brian Breslin will play soccer for Randolph-Macon College next season.

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 a sport?

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?

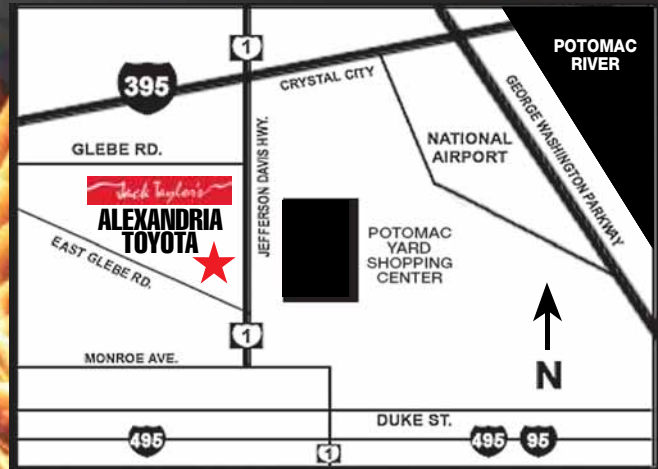
Breslin: My favorite thing to eat is calamari. I order it at most places where it's available.

Connection: What is your favorite movie?

Breslin: 'Braveheart' is my favorite movie.

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Fairfax County's **Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs **volunteer advocates** for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. 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/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/.

The **Wakefield Senior Center** in **Annandale** needs an experienced **Canasta Player**, an **Art Instructor** and certified instructors **Pilates** and **Ballroom Dance**. For these and other opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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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/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to **drive older adults to medical appointments** and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults 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/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Annandale Adult Day Health Care Center** in **Annandale** needs **Spanish-speaking social companions**. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center** in **Alexandria** needs **alicensed beautician, front desk volunteer, social companion** and a **Spanish-speaking social companion**. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.



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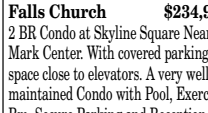
Reston \$619,000
Beautiful main level master, spectacular end unit on premium lot, freshly painted, beautiful hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen, stainless steel appliances with granite counters, rec. room, large deck, in a park-like setting, 2-car garage, close to pools, tennis, picnic pavilion, walking paths and Reston Town Center. Must See!!



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Fairfax
Nicely updated split foyer in sought after Woodson School District features 5BR/3BA, plus garage. Updated Kitchen is open to dining room with breakfast bar.
Freshly painted & hardwoods. Walkout lower level includes 2 bedrooms, full bath, utility/laundry room & light-filled family room w/fireplace. Newer HVAC, water heater & windows. Metrobus close by, as well as schools & shopping!.



Burke \$725,000
Fabulous Home for Entertaining! WOW! Expanded and updated 4 BR, 3 BA home on .5+ acres just a short distance to VRE & Metro bus. Over \$150K in updates that you will not want to miss including an amazing kitchen that opens onto a 20x29 family room addition w/6 skylights. Wooded lot. Brick patio. Hot tub conveys.



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Springfield \$569,000
This meticulously maintained colonial has 4 BR, 3.5 BA on 3 finished levels. Lower level is a walk-out to premium wooded lot.

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Lake Front Royal \$224,999
Weekend Retreat
Get away from it all and enjoy the peace of the mountains in this 3BR-2BA ranch home on a 3/4 acre lot. Updates include roof, baths, HVAC, and more. Short hike to Appalachian Trail and nearby Smithsonian Conservation Center.

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