

Sticky-Fingered Friends

PET CONNECTION, PAGE 8

Speedy sits atop a rook at McGrail's house on July 12, 2014. McGrail said that, for unknown reasons, his geckos prefer to climb atop the white pieces rather than the black ones, and will actively seek out white pieces on which to climb if placed next to black ones.

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The Third
Time Not
the Charm

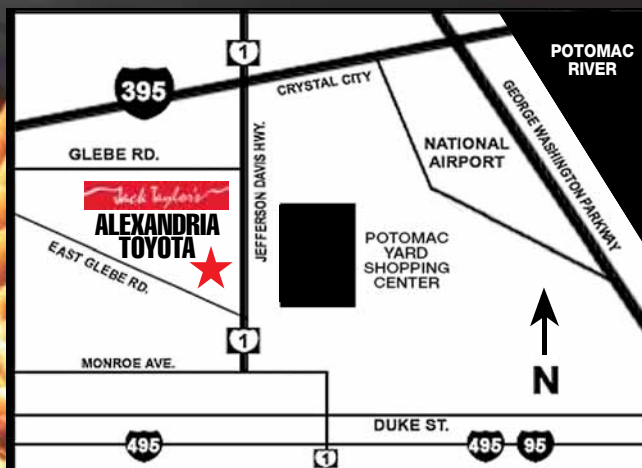
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**Let's
Go
Places**



From left, Dominion Virginia Power's Carolyn Moss, delegates Ken Plum (D-36), Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), delegate Mark Keam (D-35) and Fairfax County Board of Supervisor chairman Sharon Bulova attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Children's Science Center Lab on Monday, July 20 at Fair Oaks Mall in Fairfax.



PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO/THE CONNECTION

Youth ambassadors officially open the Children's Science Center Lab at Fair Oaks Mall on Monday, July 20.

Children's Science Center Lab Opens in Fairfax

Hands on STEM experience at the mall.

ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO
THE CONNECTION

The Children's Science Center Lab opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Fair Oaks Mall in Fairfax on Monday, July 20. It is the first interactive museum in Virginia where children and families can explore STEM concepts "through fun, engaging, hands-on" programs.

At the Experiment Bar, one of the four zones in the museum, children can choose three experiments to explore. Tablets mounted on the bar provide the written instructions while museum staff provide materials and guidance.

Fourth-grader Colin Burke, 9, one of the children who attended the ceremony as a youth ambassador, perused a container of construction blocks in the Tinker Shop, an

area designed for the exploration of engineering design challenges. It is stocked with batteries, wires, switches and other building materials.

The Inspiration Hub and the Discovery Zone are the other zones in the museum.

Speakers during the opening included Del. Mark Keam (D-35) and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova. Keam said that the museum is a way to bring jobs to Northern Virginia in the future, as children become inspired to pursue STEM careers and bring their expertise back. Bulova said that it is a place that will "keep minds moving and curiosity piqued" year-round.

Executive director of the Children's Science Center Nene Spivy thanked and presented a plaque to chairman of the board Tanya La Force for her role and leadership in the creation of the museum. She also presented plaques to the Junior League of Northern Virginia, Kincoira, Fairfax Education Foundation and Dominion Virginia Power. Carolyn Moss of Dominion presented a check for \$125,000 to the Children's Sci-



Reston founder Robert E. Simon attends the opening of the Children's Science Center Lab on Monday, July 20 in Fairfax.

ence Center.

The museum had a soft opening last month and has served 5,000 people since then. It is expected to attract 60,000 visitors a year. Activities are designed for children ages two to 12. Admission is \$12.

The Children's Science Center operated



Billy and Ava Corner, 7, of Fairfax Station, conduct an experiment with their nanny Emma Henderson, at the Experiment Bar of the Children's Science Center Lab on Monday, July 20.

an outreach program called Museum Without Walls, which is the precursor of the Children's Science Center Lab. It expects to expand into a full-scale STEM-centered museum in 2020 that will be located in Dulles, Va. Visit <http://childsci.org/> for more information about the museum.

Police Respond to Unusual device in Storm Drain

Police responded to a report of a suspicious object found by a Fairfax County drain inspector in the 9300 block of Glenbrook Road in the Mantua neighborhood.

The call was received at around 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday, July 21. Officers responded, alerted neighbors and kept them at a safe distance for the duration of the investigation.

The device was determined to be an inert (training) round used in a bazooka, such as in the Korean War.

It is unknown how it ended up in the storm drain or how long it had been there.

Police and fire personnel cleared the scene by 2:30 p.m.



The device was determined to be an inert (training) round used in a bazooka.

PHOTO
BY FCPD

Red Light Camera Activated

The City of Fairfax Police Department will begin enforcement of the recently installed photo red light camera which is monitoring traffic on eastbound Fairfax Boulevard at Plantation Parkway on Monday, July 27. That will mark the conclusion of the 30-day warning period which was put into effect following the camera's installation.

Registered owners of vehicles determined to be in violation of the red light will receive notices of fines by mail.

Traffic signs indicating that photo red light enforcement is in effect as a safety measure are posted at each of the four enforcement locations in the City of Fairfax.

Information regarding the City's photo red light program can be found on the City website, www.fairfaxva.gov, as well as CityScene and City Channel 12.

FACETS to Receive Citizenship Award

FACETS, a Fairfax-based nonprofit working to prevent and end homelessness, was selected as this year's recipient of the L. Burwell Gunn Citizenship Award which included a \$5,000 donation by First Virginia Community Bank. Gunn is a veteran community banker who has always had a special interest in helping nonprofits. Upon his retirement as President of First Virginia Community Bank, the bank established an award in his honor to recognize his long-standing commitment to the nonprofit community. Burwell personally selected FACETS as this year's honoree.

FVCB's relationship with FACETS started with Burwell's involvement with FACETS. In fact, he was involved with FACETS even before FVCB was founded in 2007.

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SOUTH BLDG - FRONT - EAST



The south condo building: (top) view from the front; (bottom) view from the rear.

The Third Time Not the Charm City Council delays action on The Enclave.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax City Council recently received its third presentation about a residential development called The Enclave proposed at the Mantua Professional Center on Pickett Road. But so many questions were raised about parking, water runoff, building height and affordable housing that, instead of approving the plan, the Council deferred action on it until September.

The site's zoned commercial planned development, meaning both office and condo uses may exist on it. Currently there are some office buildings, the New School of Northern Virginia and 181 parking spaces. And IDI-RJL Development LLC wants The Enclave to join them.

Although the City's Comprehensive Plan earmarked five more office buildings for that site, they're no longer economically feasible in today's market. So the applicant hopes to replace them with two, four-story buildings containing 80 condos. Sixteen of the units would be one-bedroom; 48, two-bedroom; and 16, three-bedroom.

THE CONDO BUILDINGS would be constructed on 3.8 wooded acres, off Silver King Court, in the area formerly envisioned for three of the office buildings. The land on which the other two office buildings would have been built would, instead, be preserved as open space for a village green enjoyed by the residents, school and existing-office community.

"The applicant proposes to contribute \$40,000 to public schools, \$30,240 to parks and recreation – or \$378/unit, and

\$216,960 to affordable housing – or \$2,500/unit," said Paul Nabti, the City's senior planner, during the June 23 Council meeting. He said City staff recommended approval, providing there are no changes in the bedroom mix because the 125 parking spaces proposed are based on it.

Internal access is planned between The Enclave, the New School and the office complex. IDI wants a maximum building height of 75 feet, although the City height limit is 60 feet. The building style would be contemporary, with pitched roofs, brick masonry and cement panels. However, City Councilman Jeff Greenfield said the south condo building's exterior didn't look as good as that of the north building.

Nabti said staff asked the developer to place the highest-quality materials on the north building's western façade because it's the most visible. But, said Greenfield, "We've got over \$1-million-dollar homes right near the south building."

The applicant didn't respond to his concern directly, but attorney David Houston, representing IDI, said it's presently an "under-performing property, so this would be an improvement. We feel this is beneficial to the City, providing condo ownership and a new type of housing [here] for older residents looking to downsize, plus first-timers. And there's a fiscal impact of [almost] \$177,000/year."

He also noted that the tree plan is double the City's requirement, that there'd be no adverse impact on the schools – just nine new students/year are projected – and that the proffers include a bus shelter and a sustainable design.

Furthermore, a residential use would generate less peak traffic than an office development.

City Code requires two parking spaces/unit, but the applicant proposes just 1.56 parking spaces/unit, including 70 in the parking structure below each building.

SEE ACTION, PAGE 10

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

PEOPLE AND PETS



Koda Is Learning to Have Fun

Brianna, Bethany and Abby Camp - of Fairfax - with their "pack." Abby Camp writes: "We have a three-legged dog named Koda that we adopted from a rescue in New Jersey called Sheryl's Den. Koda was born with a small leg and they took it off as a puppy since he could not use it. Koda is afraid of some things but he is going to puppy class to learn that things can be fun!"

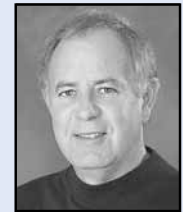
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OPINION

What's Special about Your Community?

Share tips in upcoming Newcomers and Community Guides.

The Connection's annual Newcomers and Community Guides will publish Aug. 26.

A bevy of interns, plus staff writers and editors, are preparing this year's editions, but we need help from our readers.

What tips do you have for someone getting to know the community?

EDITORIAL

We're hoping to share special places, activities, events, organizations and volunteer opportunities. What should someone new to your neighborhood know about? Events that should not be missed? Organizations that do a great job? Places to volunteer? Tips for navigating your PTA or your school's front office? A great place to see the sunset? We'd love to have your photos to go along with your suggestions.

Faith organizations, nonprofit organizations, clubs, environmental groups, advocacy groups, youth sports teams and others who offer events open to the public are invited to send a paragraph about the organization and how to get involved.

We will publish a selection of local tips along with a plethora of information useful to newcomers and long-time residents alike, including our award-winning Insiders Guide to the Parks, information on how to vote and more.

See last year's community guides by going to www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scrolling down to Newcomers.

Email tips and photos to editors@connectionnewspapers.com or send as a letter to the editor via the website at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>. Send in your Insider's Tips by Friday, Aug. 14.

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After One Year, Silver Line is Changing the Face of Northern Virginia

BY U.S. REP. GERRY CONNOLLY (D-11)
SPECIAL TO THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



If you were among the thousands descending upon Tysons Corner Center this summer for the grand opening of the new Hyatt Hotel, which included a concert and fireworks, you experienced firsthand the transformation taking place there and throughout the Dulles Corridor thanks to the arrival of Metro's Silver Line.

It was just one of many milestones we've celebrated as we reach the one-year anniversary of completion of Phase 1 of Silver Line service from East Falls Church through Tysons to Wiehle-Reston East.

Previously, the mall was accessible mainly by car and one often had to contend with fierce traffic to get there. Today, the Tysons Station is one of Metro's busiest on Saturdays.

With the opening of the mall's plaza connecting with the Metro station and new offices, apartments, and the hotel, the outdoor space is bustling with families din-

ing alfresco, dancing to one of the Friday night concerts, or trying their hand at the free games and activities set up throughout the plaza.

And that's just the beginning of the transformation! The changes around the malls are emblematic of what we're seeing take place across Tysons and Reston. Thanks to the Silver Line, people are doing something that up to now was unthinkable: They are walking to work, to eat, to shop, or to their homes.

The collection of office parks and shopping centers, once surrounded by vast expanses of parking, are now being connected to the Silver Line by raised walkways interspersed with pocket parks. Today, you can even walk off the train at Tysons or Reston to shop at a local farmers market!

Take a ride on the Silver Line through Tysons and out to Reston and you can see the transformation we envisioned taking shape. At least five new buildings including new high-rise apartments opened in the past year, and the construction cranes dotting the

skyline and projects in the pipeline give us a glimpse of what's to come.

The growing ridership on the year-old Silver Line demonstrates the pent-up demand for transit in the corridor. Wiehle-Reston East continues to be the busiest Silver Line station with nearly 9,000 riders a day, and during the morning rush it is the third highest revenue-generating station across the entire Metro system. Overall, Silver Line ridership is exceeding expectations with an average of 16,000 rider trips per day.

Northern Virginia's economy is also feeling a boost. The 23-mile Dulles Corridor, with five Fortune 500 companies and numerous other firms headquartered there, already accounts for 25 percent of the region's gross domestic product.

By connecting downtown Washington and suburban Maryland to the region's second largest employment corridor, the Silver Line has created new opportunities for our workforce. And the growing commercial tax base along the corridor, already a primary driver of the regional economy, will relieve some of the burden on local property taxpayers and help sustain our

investments in schools, public safety, and parks.

Within a few years, Phase 2 will extend the Silver Line to Dulles and Loudoun County, providing a new link to our premier international airport and opening a new commuting option for the outer suburbs.

Over my two decades of service as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and now as Congressman for Virginia's 11th District, construction of the Silver Line topped my list of priorities. I was proud to work with other local, state, and federal leaders to keep this important project on track and I am excited about the future benefits of this transit line to our region.

I hope you share this excitement and will join us in celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Silver Line and the positive transformation to come.

Congressman Gerald E. Connolly represents Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Fairfax in the U.S. House of Representatives. At the ceremony marking the opening of the Silver Line one year ago, then Metro General Manager and CEO Richard Sarles said about Connolly: "Without him, we wouldn't be here today."

schools during the year.

Fairfax County is a comfortable community to live. People all over the nation come here for jobs and for its outstanding schools, supported by dedicated and hardworking teachers. Life is good for many living here, but lest we forget, at times those deserving citizens need some help in our

community. Those organizations identified in this article are excellent places to go and donate the basics items so needed by our kids. We can help to insure our kids will have a good start this coming new school year.

Ronald L. Baker
Springfield

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LETTERS

Redistricting Matters

To the Editor:

Thank you for your insightful editorial headlining support for nonpartisan redistricting ("Yes to Nonpartisan Redistricting," July 9). The League of Women Voters of Virginia has been advocating for a nonpartisan redistricting commission for at least ten years, ever since the last round in 2011 of slicing and dicing up the voting districts so that legislators can choose their voters.

It is difficult to get voters energized enough about this to urge their legislators to give up any power. It is also a fairly complicated concept that comes up only every 10 years.

However, we feel the current process is a serious challenge to

our democracy. As you pointed out, a huge number of Virginians are not being fairly represented, especially in northern urban areas. Communities have been cut into multiple pieces with little in common with Virginians miles away. Voters have become disengaged and don't bother to vote.

Yes, gerrymandering has gone on for centuries and apparently was even invented in Virginia, in spite of its name. But the latest line-drawing technology has taken the process to new "lows." Look at a map of the congressional and legislative districts to see what has been done to your voting rights.

The League has many resources for becoming informed and for advocating with your legislators,

plus copies of the maps mentioned above, on our website. Go to <http://lwv-va.org/redistricting.html>.

Another good source of information is a coalition called One Virginia 2021 (onevirginia2021.org) that is gathering support across the state.

It may take a constitutional amendment to effect change. Action must begin now or we will be stuck with the same lopsided, polarized representation through 2030. We urge concerned citizens to join us in this effort.

Lois Page and Dianne Blais

Co-presidents
League of Women Voters of Virginia
president@lwv-va.org

Write

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

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PET CONNECTION



Danielle Hogan holds Princess the hamster comfortably in her hand. She said, although one might not expect such a small pet to be comfortable being held, Princess is quite comfortable with humans.



Chubs the lizard sits on Hogan's kitchen table. She said his eating mannerisms make him one of her more entertaining pets to watch.



Sandy the hermit crab sits on Hogan's kitchen table, along with his shelter and sponge. Hermit crabs require a fresh sponge of water each day to retain necessary moisture.

PHOTOS BY DANIELLE HOGAN

A Household Zoo

Local preschool teacher owns a diverse menagerie of pets.

BY THOMAS FRIESTAD
THE CONNECTION

Ask your average person on the street how many pets they own, and most answers will typically be one or two, maybe three. Talk to preschool teacher Danielle Hogan, however, and 11 will be the answer you receive. This includes Kona the dog, Mocha and Ziggy the cats, Buzz the rabbit, Bernie the guinea pig, Prodo and Princess the hamsters, Chubs and Stevie the lizards, Nemo the fish and Sandy the hermit crab.

"The dog and the cats were our family pets, and then I decided to do some research on the benefits of children having pets in the classroom," Hogan said. "I started off with the hermit crabs. The kids loved them and I just kept adding to them, and the kids just enjoy feeding them and watching them. We learn about the habitat, what foods they eat, so it ends up being part of my curriculum."

Hogan said that each pet has its own maintenance requirements, although those of some are surprisingly minimal.

"The rodents and rabbit need their cages

cleaned out regularly for health reasons, and eat store-bought food and hay," Hogan said. "The lizards, you don't have to clean their cages much, just the water, while with the crabs, you need to give them food and soak their sponge in water for moisture."

Hogan said each pet also has its own entertainment value as well, some in ways one might not initially expect.

"The lizards are very easy to handle," Hogan said. "They like to be held, they do shed their skin and it's entertaining to watch them eat. They just stick their tongues out, grab a mealworm and swallow it. With the

crabs, you can get them to be active if you can spray them with water. That makes them come out of their shells and walk around."

Hogan said all of her animals get along with each other, including her dog and cats, as well as her rabbit with all of the others. She said the best thing about owning such a variety of pets is taking them into preschool for her students to enjoy.

"I love to go in and watch the kids interact with my pets and to see how much they become part of their day-to-day lives at school," Hogan said. "I bring in the fish, the hermit crab, the guinea pig, hamsters and

A Porcine Pal

Fairfax local cares for Clark, the cuddly pig.

BY THOMAS FRIESTAD
THE CONNECTION

Almost a year ago, last September, Fairfax resident Hali Brown* discovered within herself a certain problem: that of being unable to trade away cute animals. Although her boyfriend intended to bring home Clark the piglet temporarily while trying to find him a home for a friend, Brown said she became a "sucker" for the little guy and has owned him ever since.

"My boyfriend's daughter's friend had this pig from some farm in Oakville, I don't know where, and brought it home to his house, where his parents said 'I think not,'" Brown said. "My boyfriend was going to help find this piglet a home, and he brought him over to our house 'just to show us' so he says, but I'm a sucker and said 'Oh, I love the pig,' I now have him. This month, he'll be one."

Brown said Clark is very much a creature of routine, one that includes sleeping in her bed and doing his "business" in a basement litter box.

"He's actually pretty easy to take care of," Brown said. "I let him outside and feed him because he eats like a pig. When it's time for me to go, we have an 'apart-

Clark and Myra the dog hang out on Brown's couch. Brown said Clark, her two dogs and cat all get along well, with no in-fighting among the group.

PHOTO BY
HALI BROWN



ment' for him in the basement, with a crate, some bedding and a litter box. We don't have to fight with him at all, he just comes and hangs out with us."

Brown said, as the owner of two dogs, Clark is definitely the smarter animal, especially during his quests for food.

"I used to have a 50-pound bag of dog food

on my floor that my dogs never got into, but on the first day, Clark figured out 'yummy,'" Brown said. "One time, he got into my purse and found an apple I brought to work and didn't eat; now, every time he sees my purse, he wants to get into it, thinking he'll find some goodies in there."

It takes time to adjust and pig proof everything, because he's very smart and always looking for food."

Brown said Clark defies his species' stereotype by not smelling, and is surprising in how cuddly he is, as well as how well he gets along with her two dogs and cat.

"He doesn't smell at all, except his breath sometimes; he wants to cuddle with you, and to lay on top of and next to you, under the covers," Brown said. "All of my pets get along, there's no fighting or anything."

One dog and him in particular get along fantastically, they play all the time; he loves her. Clark is just entertaining and fun. He makes us laugh a lot and keeps me on my toes so there's never a dull moment in my house."

*Hali Brown is a placeholder name for Clark's owner due to the uncertain legality of small pig ownership in the county.

Sticky-Fingered Friends

Fairfax student cares for crested geckos.

BY THOMAS FRIESTAD
THE CONNECTION

Sitting in the living room of high school student Dillon McGrail is a glass cage, seemingly empty at first sight. However, upon a closer glance, one can observe its inhabitants, hiding under sheets of newspaper: Flameboy and Speedy, a duo of crested geckos.

"They are very cute and adorable, they're nocturnal and they can eat pretty much any food that you give them," McGrail said. "You can tell them apart because Speedy is spazzy and Flameboy is calmer, so you can observe him more."

McGrail said he took an interest in reptiles of all types several years back, after observing a variety of lizards during a vacation in Mexico. As such, when he learned last August that a neighbor was breeding geckos, he jumped at the chance to take a few home.



set pieces for their cage. "I use my bottle to spray them twice a day, but otherwise, they're simple; they don't need a special thermostat or anything," McGrail said. "I put pieces of newspaper and fake plants in their cage for them to hide under, because they love to hide. There are also egg cartons in there because they love to climb, so they work quite nice as a climbing wall."

Flameboy pokes his head out from between two chess pieces at McGrail's house on July 12, 2014. McGrail said he enjoys placing the crested geckos on his chessboard and watching them climb while he's playing.

McGrail said one of his favorite parts of owning Flameboy and Speedy is when people visit his house and want to learn more about them. He also mentioned playing chess with the geckos as a highlight.

"I can bring them out when I play chess with someone, and they'll hang out on the board with us and climb all over the pieces; they love the bishop especially" McGrail said. "Having them around in the house is the best thing; they're adorable and I wouldn't trade them for anything. Every time people come visit, they ask 'what the heck is in that cage?' I love that people are excited by them, because there's a lot to find exciting about them."

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Residents Have Concerns About 80-Condo Project

Worried about water runoff, building height and view.

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Although IDI-RJL Development LLC hoped the Fairfax City Council would green-light its condo project in June, both the Council members and local residents voiced many concerns. The applicant hopes to replace offices planned for the Mantua Professional Center with 80 condos in two, four-story buildings, but not everyone's happy about it.

"When we bought our property next to the development, we didn't know it would be changed from commercial to residential," said Catherine White. "My biggest concern is the water and rain coming off two, 75-foot buildings and going into [nearby Thaiss] Park, which gets flooded now, as do the neighbors adjacent and down the hill."

Amy Barwani, who lives near the Thaiss ballfield, said, "Seven months of the year, that hill is full of children playing. My cul-de-sac has 15 families, and we're worried about construction traffic and our children's safety. The water issue also needs to be addressed before this moves forward. After it rains, I'm already shoveling mud and clay from the park, from our cul-de-sac."

Besides that, she said, "These buildings would be a tremendous eyesore for us and tower over the trees, so we're concerned about our property values. Parking is already an issue, and people will try to park in the Mantua community."

OUR DAILY BREAD Executive Director Lisa Whetzel said her organization values affordable housing for all income levels. She then told the Council to make its approval contingent upon the applicant contributing \$372,806 to affordable housing, based on the City of Alexandria's plan.

"With other affordable units being demolished, VOICE [Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement] wants a one-for-one replacement and an Affordable Housing Trust Fund established," said Whetzel. Agreeing, resident Judy Fisher urged the Council to ask for "the maximum contribution from every developer."

Jan Harrod, president of the Mantua Citizens Assn., said the condo buildings are "out of proportion to the adjacent



Artist's rendition of the proposed site layout showing the two, new condo buildings.

streets in size, bulk, scale and density and will be an eyesore to us. It's already on a 38-foot-high hillside, and there'll be 70-foot-plus buildings. We requested a 40-foot maximum height, but received no response from the developer."

She also wondered how tree buffering would be addressed to the east, where the condos would abut her property. And she said the project needs adequate stormwater controls so there'll be no adverse impacts.

Allison Ingram said nearby Santayana Drive already has noise from vehicles on Pickett Road and "without the tree barrier, it'll get even worse. And there's no justification for a 75-foot building. It's only four stories, and City Code only allows 60 feet maximum for five stories."

Mantua's Roberto Obando told the Council members the "traffic problems that'll come with this development haven't been adequately addressed. And the loss of property value in Mantua will reduce this project's financial benefit to the City."

Withhold approval until there's more research and discussion and the citizens' concerns are addressed."

Longtime resident Bill Rakow noted that "the more surface parking you have, the more water runoff. And how do you insure that people don't migrate from there to park in Mantua?" Regarding the building height, he asked the developer to fly a balloon so people could see just how tall the two buildings would be.

Meanwhile, Eric Fleming said stormwater already comes down his drive and he's concerned, as well, about

"the short tree line and no fencing to make it safe."

Called to the podium to respond to all the residents' concerns, Cecchi said, "Many of these are new comments to us. We made a presentation to Mantua months ago and only four or five residents came. And there was no formal request for a balloon-flying. We're not bordering the Mantua community; we're adjacent to Pickett Road. And two of the five buildings originally planned and approved would have taken out trees and green space, [too]."

As for the stormwater issue, Eric Spencer, a project consultant on that matter, told the residents, "We're required by state, county and City code to improve the existing stormwater management."

AFTER A BRIEF RECESS, Mayor Scott Silverthorne asked Cecchi, "Based on the residents' comments you've heard this evening, do you have any positive changes to your proffers?"

However, IDI attorney David Houston replied, "Rather than commit to anything tonight, maybe we need more time to work on this." The Council then deferred action on this issue until its Sept. 8 meeting.

"I think you've gotten quite a bit of new information tonight, so I encourage you to do some community outreach, hear their problems directly and see if you can address them, head on," Silverthorne advised the applicant. "I and my colleagues would be glad to join you, if you'd like. We look forward to seeing you again in September."

Action Delayed on The Enclave

FROM PAGE 4

OTHER SPACES would be in the circular drive between the two buildings, along Silver King Court and in the parking lot near the offices. But Councilman Michael DeMarco wondered if there'd be enough parking for the residents and their guests. And he asked if overflow vehicles could park at the New School or the offices.

"We wouldn't develop or design under-parked projects," replied IDI Vice-President Enrico Cecchi. "If we did, we wouldn't be as successful as we are with the many other projects we developed. We feel the parking is adequate. We don't believe there's a need for overflow parking, but we have an agreement that residents can park in the office commercial spaces from 6-8 a.m. weekdays and on weekends and federal holidays."

He said the indoor amenities will include a fitness center, community room, spacious lobbies and mail/packaging rooms. The 9,000 square feet of outdoor amenities proposed include a fire pit with seating, patio with seats and gas grills and two lawn areas for socializing.

Cecchi then gave three reasons why they believe their affordable-housing proffer is "fair and adequate:"

❖ "Our units will sell from the \$200,000s to the \$500,000s," he said. "It's a price point not currently existing in townhouses and single-family homes in the City, so it's an affordable project."

And we have eight, one-bedroom units whose average price is \$250,000, so they're affordable to individuals making 60 percent of the city's AMI [area median income] and will be affordable to those making \$65,000/year. And they represent 10 percent of the [total] units."

❖ He said the Oak Knolls project has two-and-a-half times the amount of sellable space and agreed to pay \$550,000 to the City for affordable housing. So, said Cecchi, "We believe our \$216,960 affordable-housing contribution is a meaningful proffer."

❖ And thirdly, he said, "We have a net zero loss of affordable units in our project," unlike Oak Knolls, which will be demolished and rebuilt.

If all goes well, he said, marketing would begin late this year or in early 2016, with construction taking 18 months. Councilwoman Nancy Loftus asked how parking would be allocated. Cecchi said the 70 structured-garage spaces would be sold and allocated to the residents. Surface parking would be open to all residents and not assigned. Councilwoman Janice Miller asked if more parking could be added, but Cecchi said doing so would reduce the green space and detract from the courtyard.

But since there'd be 80 condos, said Greenfield, "If this is also marketed to senior citizens, I'm concerned that 70 people will have secure parking spaces in a garage, but 10 people would have to walk to and from their parking space away from their building." But Cecchi said they also developed Leisure World and 60 percent of the senior citizens there don't have parking spaces and are just fine with it. "People who don't purchase parking spaces do that by choice," he said. "And our figures are based on many years of development experience."

ENTERTAINMENT

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

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 23

The Kindercise Show. 2:30 p.m.

Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Wolf Trap teaching artist John Taylor will be offering a singing and dancing class. For more information go to fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches.

Chapter Book Chat: Storytime for Bigger Kids. 4 p.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Come listen to a chapter book read aloud. Age 8-12.

Uno, Dos, Tres Con Andres. 2:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Sing and move with music and dance from Latin America with Andres Salguero. All ages.

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/>

Under the Sea. 2:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Meet live sea creatures. Visit <http://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 24

Fun Flicks. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Watch movies based on children's books. All ages.

Fun and Games. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stop by to play board games. Ages 6-

12. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

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.

Campfire Fridays. 7:30- 9 p.m. Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Learn about reptiles while sitting around a fire and eating s'mores. Tickets: \$8. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov.

SATURDAY/JULY 25

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

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

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

Yoga. 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.

Creative Writers Club. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stop by for sharing, discussion and feedback on works in progress. Ages 13-18. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

Mr. Gabe Concert. 10-11 a.m. at Mason District Park is located at 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Songs inspired by life lessons. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

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. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

SUNDAY/JULY 26

Used Book Sale. 1-4 p.m. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Hundreds of used books about railroads, the Civil War, local history and general interest will be available for purchase. Admission: \$2-\$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org.

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.fairfaxsaturndaymarket.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.

Walk to New Christ Church. 2-5

p.m. at Christ Church, 8285 Glen Eagles Lane. Walk to new location on Ox Road. Visit www.christchurchva.org.

VMA Fellowship Program 75th Anniversary Exhibition at the Workhouse. 9601 Ox Rd., Lorton, W-16- McGuireWoods Gallery. VMFA Fellowship Program is to feature the work of the three past VMFA Fellowship recipients; Pam Sutherland, Fiona Ross and Kendra Wadsworth.

MONDAY/JULY 27

Under the Sea. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. An event for participants to meet live sea creatures. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches.

The Living Rainforest. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Meet animals from the rainforest. Ages 6-12. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>

THURSDAY/JULY 30

Preschool Science 123. 2:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Enjoy fun experiments. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 31-AUG. 2

Cabaret Series: Sizzling Summer Nights! Friday-Saturday 8 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd., Lorton, W-3 Theatre. A raunchy ramble featuring red-hot jazz mixed with some tropical tunes and some of the spiciest sun-drenched songs written for the stage. Tickets: \$25-\$30.

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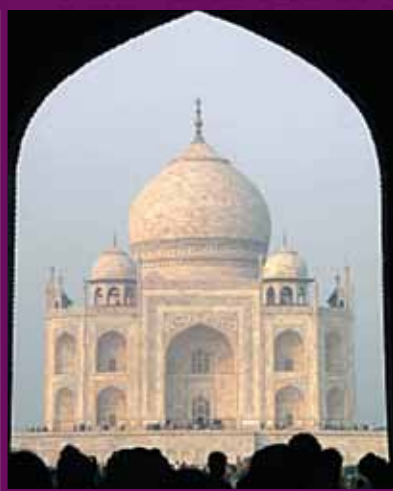
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Lake Braddock Grad Owens Plays in Ripken League All-Star Game

Former ECU middle infielder to play at Virginia Tech.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Jack Owens experienced a significant change when he received his release from the East Carolina University baseball program near the end of the 2015 season before deciding to continue his college career at Virginia Tech.

Owens, a 2014 Lake Braddock graduate, had committed to play at ECU for head coach Billy Godwin, who was fired following the 2014 season and replaced by Cliff Godwin. Owens said ECU “wasn’t the right fit.”

“It’s the toughest thing I’ve ever been through,” Owens said. “My family helped a lot. Coach [Cliff] Godwin at ECU was awesome. He’s a great guy, but it just wasn’t the right fit. We both thought it would be better if I moved on. No bridges burned.”

Owens, a rising sophomore middle infielder, would likely have to sit out the 2016 season at Virginia Tech due to NCAA transfer rules, though he is hoping to receive a waiver allowing him to play.

While Owens’ college baseball career included some stressful moments during the past year, his experience during his first season in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League has been enjoyable.

Owens, a member of the Vienna River Dogs, played in the league all-star game on July 15 at Shirley Povich Field in Bethesda, Md. He suited up for the South All-Stars, which defeated the North All-Stars 3-2.

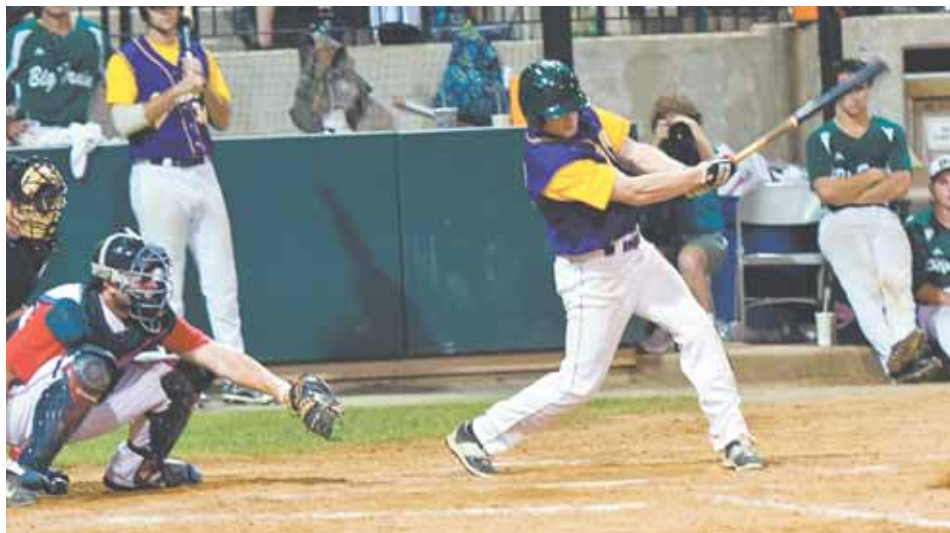


PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE CONNECTION

Jack Owens, a 2014 Lake Braddock graduate, played in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League all-star game on July 15 at Shirley Povich Field in Bethesda, Md.

Owens finished 0-for-2 at the plate but gained experience playing with and against some of the league’s best.

“It was awesome,” he said. “It was a lot of fun. ... I want to come back next year.”

Owens entered July 22 batting .298 (28-94) with three doubles and eight RBIs in 27 games this summer. He also scored 14 runs and stole six bases. Vienna entered Wednesday’s action with a 19-17 record. The River Dogs are in second place in the South division and are battling for a playoff spot.

“I’ve hit a lot of singles, which I like,” Owens said. “I’m a singles hitter and I like keeping the ball low and on the ground and making infielders work, making them mess up sometimes.”

Owens is one of several former Northern Virginia high school standouts on the Vienna roster. Shaun Wood (Yorktown, West Virginia), Denis Mikush (Robinson, UMBC),

Kevin Lachance (Centreville, UMBC), Jack Gomersall (Stuart, VMI) and Mark Gunst (Paul VI, JMU) also play for the River Dogs and were also selected to the South All-Star team.

Owens spent four seasons on the Lake

“It’s the toughest thing I’ve ever been through,” Owens said. “My family helped a lot. Coach [Cliff] Godwin at ECU was awesome. He’s a great guy, but it just wasn’t the right fit. We both thought it would be better if I moved on. No bridges burned.”

— 2014 Lake Braddock graduate
Jack Owens

Braddock varsity. A standout shortstop, Owens was part of the Bruins’ first state championship team as a sophomore in 2012. In 2013, Owens and Lake Braddock won the Northern Region championship.



PHOTO COURTESY OF D.C. DIVAS/DOUG CHARLAND

D.C. Divas in Championship Game

Standout wide receiver Ashley Whisonant and the D.C. Divas will face the Chicago Force in the Women’s Football Alliance National Conference championship game at 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 25 at Lee High School in Springfield. The winner will advance to the national championship game Aug. 8 in Los Angeles. The D.C. Divas roster includes several players from Fairfax County. Tickets can be purchased at www.dcdivas.com/tickets.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

State Champions

The Southwest Youth Association (SYA) Greater Fairfax 15U Babe Ruth won the state championship in South Hill, Va., last weekend. The team includes students from Westfield, Woodson, Centreville and Robinson. Pictured from left (back row): Coach Joe Stine, Henry Pyzdrowski, Brandon Wong, Chris Hanna, Justin Martin, John Basham, John Farley, Ryan Wu, Manager Dan Martin, (front row) Coach Tim Divecchia, Nikko LaMay, Nick Divecchia, Mitchell Thompson, Joshua Spiro, Pascal Zamora-Roberts, Jordan Reiser and Russell Steinhilber. Bat Girl: Jenna Martin.

ENTERTAINMENT

Choose Your Own Adventure Storytelling

Northern Virginia storytelling group hosts three shows.

T rue, personal storytelling shows are all the rage these days. Audiences are sitting back and listening to stories based on that month's theme in NYC, L.A., Baltimore, and, of course, Washington, D.C. In Northern Virginia, we are about to do something a little different - three times, in August, September, and October.

This August, Better Said Than Done storytellers will let the audience choose which way their stories will go, while keeping to the confines of telling a true, personal story. This performance will be hosted by Derek Hills and includes storytellers Len Kruger, Jessica Robinson, David Supley Foxworth, Mary Supley Foxworth, Anne Thomas, and Zach Wilks.

"Choose Your Own Adventure" will be performed downstairs at The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, at 7 p.m., on Saturday, Aug. 29. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person and can be purchased in advance at www.bettersaidthandone.com/upcoming-shows/ or at the door. Full bar and dinner menus are available and seating is limited to first come, first served. (The stories are intended for an adult audience.)

The concept for "Choose Your Own Adventure" is based on the book series of the same name. Unlike at a typical storytelling show, each storyteller will stop at two points during his or her story and present the audience with two options for what path the story could take. The performer will then take the story in that direction. This means that each storyteller is facing the unique challenge of preparing five different segments of storylines to ultimately perform one cohesive story as chosen by the audience. "The biggest challenge is keeping everything true," says Zach Wilks, who has experience as a stand-up comedian in addition to storytelling. "This seems like improv, but it's not; improv is based entirely on lying to the audience."

"I loved the Choose Your Own Adventure books as a kid because



Mary Supley Foxworth



Jessica Robinson

Better Said ... on Saturday

Better Said Than Done presents "Screwed: stories of being screwed over, getting screwed up, or that are just plain screwy" on Saturday, July 25, 7 p.m., downstairs at The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, \$10 per person.

it felt like I was helping to shape the story and make decisions for the characters," shares storyteller Mary Supley Foxworth, who will be telling a story with her husband David Supley Foxworth. "I'm hoping the audience will feel the same way with our stories."

Wilks adds, "It's interesting to give the audience control over your story. It's kind of like having a monkey as an Uber driver: it will be a fun ride, but you really are not sure where you'll end up and if you'll still be in one piece. That, and I believe we are also getting paid in bananas."

"We're excited to give our audience - who are always great silent participants - the chance to direct

the show a bit. It will take audience participation to a new level," said Jessica Robinson, storyteller and founder of Better Said Than Done.

In September, Better Said Than Done will present "Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon" in conjunction with the regional literary festival Fall for the Book. For this show, each story will share how the teller is connected to the actor.

Then, in October, Better Said Than Done will be bringing improv and storytelling to the stage together in "A Night at the Improv, Part 2". The show will feature audience participation, high energy, lots of laughs, and a mix of stories, some of which will be works of fiction, others true and personal, and all of them off the cuff. Improv performers will take suggestions and input from the audience into their scenes and then storytellers will volunteer to take the stage and tell a related, short (3-5 minutes), true, personal story. All of the performers will be thinking on their feet.

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LYNN BEAUCH

passed away July 15, 2015 after a brief illness. He was 65. Services were held July 18, at Demaine Funeral Home 10565 Main St, Fairfax VA 22030. In lieu of flowers, donations may be given in his honor to wildlifescueleague.org. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

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