

Fairfax Station ♦ Clifton ♦ Lorton
CONNECTION

Taking Care of Barney and Blanche

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Sixteen-year-old Blanche
and owner Patrick Maloy
of Lorton.

Water from the Rock

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Rising South County senior and Christ Church member Patrick Richards (left) helps head custodian Phat Dang (right) set up chairs in the brand new 630-seat worship area.



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

A three-room suite kitchen is ready to serve upwards of 270 people at a time for regular Wednesday night meals at Christ Church.

Water from the Rock

New Christ Church to open in August.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

This is what the founders of Christ Church first envisioned in the mid-1980s. Though they first met in elementary schools, including Silverbrook Elementary school in Fairfax Station, the idea was always to form a regional church with a major road presence, said the current church executive director Debra Merrill.

But before they could realize that dream, they had to first “build a family, a culture, a mission.” To help solidify those, the church moved into its first independent campus on Glen Eagles Lane in Fairfax Station in 1995. There, it grew with a mantra and philosophy of “Worship, Connect, Serve” and gained popularity as the first United Methodist congregation to use a more contemporary worship model beginning with its first service.

Lessons from Biblical scripture were presented by lead pastor John Speight in a passionate, “take home” manner that appealed to many people who had had negative church experiences in the past.

TO KEEP UP with the growth concept, a new, expanded church was designed in 2006. Then construction on the larger campus, located at 7600 Ox Road in Fairfax Station, began in winter 2013 with 274 tons of limestone being laid to fortify the land to support the structure’s foundation.

Around \$14 million and a year and a half later, members of Christ Church are scheduled to worship in their new building for the first time Aug. 2.

After the last service in the Glen Eagles campus on July 26, members are planning an exodus, an organized walk from the old church to the new one. After worship, members will pick up their seat and put it on a truck bound for Ox Road.



Christ Church member Rich Rudnicki of Lorton is a handyman around the church and organized the building of platform stages in the new youth worship areas.



Debra Merrill is the executive director of Christ Church.

The roughly 1,350 members of the church have a lot to be excited about, according to Merrill, including a 630-seat main worship hall that eliminates the need for expansion trailers like the six at Glen Eagles. “We’re the only trailer park in Fairfax Station,” she said.

The weekly attendance average is between 600 and 700, which has grown and shifted substantially in demographics, Merrill said, reflecting a broader spectrum of ethnicities and cultures.

“Everything is bigger,” said the church’s head custodian Phat Dang as he helped set up new chairs in the worship area, “they can handle it.”



Volunteers load chairs into the new Christ Church, which is set to hold its first services over the first weekend in August.

Though the new church was designed in 2006, progress was stalled in 2007 along with the United States economy. Merrill said the terms of the church’s loan changed, requiring more cash up front rather than pledges.

“How could we get some change, do it in a more cost-effective way?” Merrill recalled.

To work around the obstacle, the church construction team came up with a solution that incorporated two prefabricated steel buildings, joined in the middle with covered central walkway. This not only accomplished an “almost identical vision” to the original plan but also saved millions of dollars in construction costs.

The church was ultimately able to get \$12.5 million through a loan and capital campaign, as well as another \$2-3 million in funding from the church congregation. Part of that effort was called the “Last Mile” campaign, which set aside a portion of funds raised for the church to build a school in Sakwa, Kenya, where Christ Church sends mission teams annually.

A three-room industrial kitchen suite will provide Christ Church’s in-house chef and team the infrastructure to prepare regular Wednesday night home-cooked meals for upwards of 270 people at a time. The hospitality is offered to anyone, though guests often include Wounded Warriors and others from Fort Belvoir, in addition to Christ Church families.

The church’s GreenTree preschool also benefits greatly from the new structure, spreading out over the first floor of the northern half of the building. Preschool director Heather Greene (whose husband Brian is a worship leader) said they can now facilitate 120 children at a time with a total enrollment capacity of 188, versus 140 at the Glen Eagles campus.

LARGE WINDOWS in the classrooms look out toward the Church’s 15 acres of wooded property to the west, including trails, an amphitheater and outdoor class area.

Eventually, a second phase of construction behind the existing structure is planned to include a two-story education center, large dedicated worship center (freeing the current hall for other activities) and the possibility of a Christian school.

Greeting church-goers and those driving by the front of the church is a fountain planned by Pastor Speight. Merrill said the tall columns spouting water are a reference to God telling Moses to strike a rock so people could drink from it.

It’s a reminder, she said, that “God provided when we saw no way forward. It’s our job to do well by it.”



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.



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



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.

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, Kincora, Fairfax Education Foundation and Dominion Virginia Power. Carolyn Moss of Dominion presented a check for \$125,000 to the Children's Science 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 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.

Marvin, the Music Lover

Eleanor Gomolinski-Lally of Lorton writes: "My 16-year-old cat Marvin is an aficionado of good music. Every Thursday evening, when Carol and Sid Dunn arrive at my house with their flute and cello to play while I accompany them on the piano, Marvin hops up on the back of the couch waiting for Carol to pet him. She sits in a chair next to the couch. In between numbers he expects to be petted. He often moves to the other end of the couch that is closer to Sid, so we think he may prefer the sound of the cello. He seldom hops down from his perch the entire time we are playing, which is usually about two hours."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Police and Fire Marshal Investigating Little Rocky Run Car Fires

Seven vehicle fires were reported in the Little Rocky Run neighborhood between 3:50 a.m. and 4:40 a.m. on Saturday, July 18, according to Fairfax County Police.

Three of the fires were on Chasewood Circle at Hart Forest Drive, two were on Laurel Rock Court, one was on Rockland Drive and one was on Rock Lawn Drive.

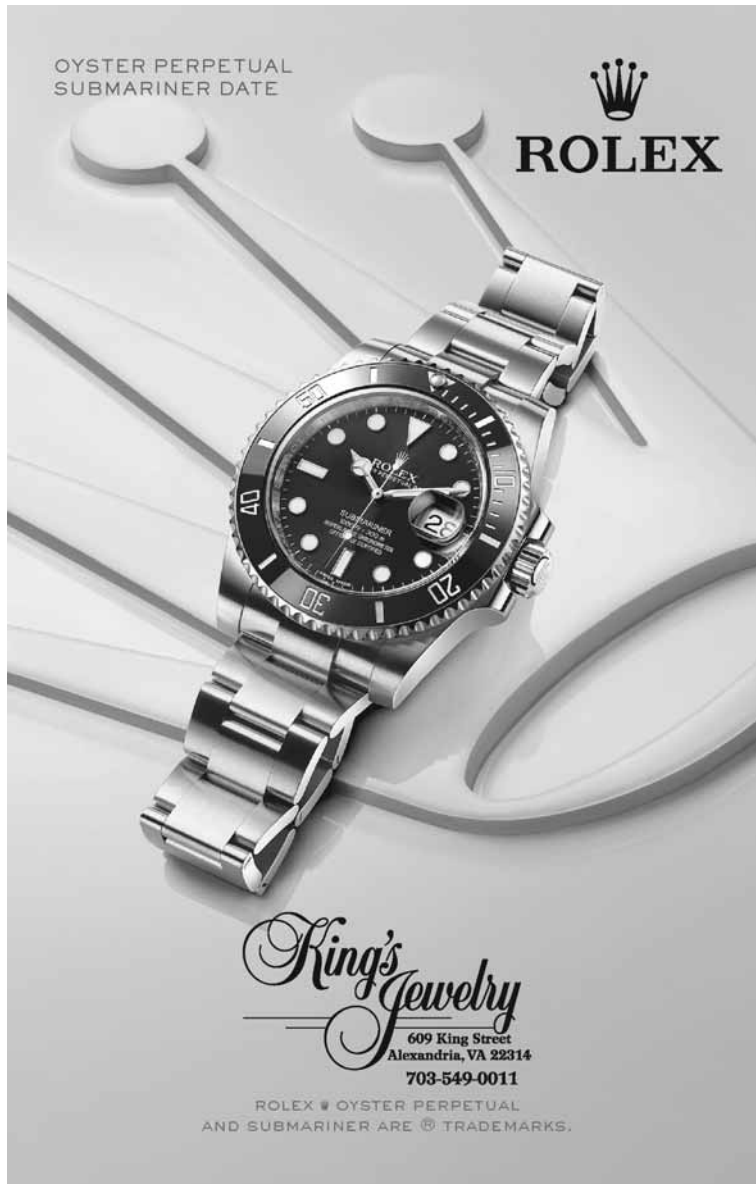
Fairfax County Fire Marshal and Police Department investigators are investigating the fires. At this time they don't know the source of all the fires, or whether they were started by the same person.

The Fire Marshal can be reached through Fairfax County Police's Crime Solvers organization. Anyone with more information is encouraged to visit www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org, text-a-tip by texting "TIP187" plus the message to CRIMES(274637) or by call 1-866-411-TIPS(8477). Alternatively, Fairfax County Police non-emergency can be reached at 703-691-2131.

— TIM PETERSON

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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.

For information on advertising, email sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431.

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-

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

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.

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

Fairfax Station,
Lorton & Clifton
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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:

Letters to the Editor
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Call: 703-917-6444.

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PET CONNECTION



Taking Care of Barney and Blanche

Barney and Blanche are your typical neighborhood dogs with a big story to tell. Both Blanche, a 16-year-old German shepherd/pit-bull and 16-year-old Barney, a mixed hound were rescue dogs. Now owned by Patrick Maloy who resides in Lorton, the dogs once belonged to his sister. Almost two years ago Maloy's sister passed away due to cancer. Maloy says it was his sister's last dying wish for him to inherit and take care of the dogs. Now Maloy enjoys taking the playful dogs for walks as they tag along faithfully.

— VANESSA CLARK



Sixteen-year-old Blanche and owner Patrick Maloy of Lorton.



From left — 16-year-old Barney next to 16-year-old Blanche.

PHOTOS BY VANESSA CLARK/THE CONNECTION

Humane Society of Fairfax County Celebrates 50 Years

BY CONNOR ORTMAN
THE CONNECTION

“The highlight of any day is getting an animal adopted,” said Gina Lynch, outreach coordinator of the Humane Society of Fairfax County. Luckily, for Lynch, the nonprofit organization has been successfully pairing pets and owners for the past 50 years. “Established in 1965, 2015 will mark 50 great years of providing services to Fairfax,” said Lynch, who can barely keep a glowing smile off her face while talking about the animal's lives the Humane Society of Fairfax County has made better.

The group has had such success over the past 50 years by providing extensive care and attention to each animal that it takes in. “We ensure that before we adopt it up, it has all its vaccinations and needed medical care. If an animal comes in with dental problems, we make sure that they are taken care of before he is cleared for adoption,” Lynch said.

The Humane Society takes in more animals than just cats and dogs. Bunnies, guinea pigs, and horses are among the many other animals that can be adopted, depending on family circumstance.

The animals that are taken in are

Details

The Humane Society of Fairfax is a nonprofit charitable organization located at 4057 Chain Bridge Road. Adoption information can be found online at hsfc.org or by calling 703-385-7387.



PHOTO BY CONNOR ORTMAN/THE CONNECTION

Gina Lynch, outreach coordinator of the Humane Society of Fairfax County, interacts with one of the cats up for adoption.

treated to a comfortable temporary living situation inside the Humane Society of Fairfax County office building. Instead of being placed in harsh cages, these cats, once cleared of disease and proved healthy, are allowed to roam free inside brightly lit and colorfully painted rooms filled with toys and scratching posts. Each room is comprised

of anywhere from three to five cats, whom are matched together based on their personality types. Volunteers are invited to come in and play with or read to the cats, helping the animals re-adjust to human interaction before adoption. When prospective families or individuals come in to interview, the Humane Society goes above

and beyond to create a lasting relationship between human and pet. “We really go to extreme measures to make sure that connection is right. It's a very, very extensive interview process, but that's so that we make sure the fit is perfect”, says Lynch. “We make sure it's the right fit because it's traumatic for the pet. They have already been given up once, so we really try for the perfect connection. We strive for 100%.”

One recent success story is the tale of Greta, a dog who came to HSFC almost paralyzed, dragging her hind end. After a few surgeries and “lots of TLC”, Greta recovered and is now with a loving family.

The HSFC is always looking for more volunteers to help interact with the animals, and donations are always welcome. Lynch, who has worked with HSFC for around ten years now, emphasized how important volunteers are, helping bring pleasure and comfort to the animals in need. “We love when volunteers come in, it really helps brighten the animals' days.” For Lynch, however, getting an animal adopted trumps all. “It's like being in a hospital when a patient goes home alive. For us, when a homeless animal comes into our care, and we can find it a forever home, that is the highlight of any day.”



Ten-year-old Beau, of Fairfax Station, lies on his back in hopes of a stomach rub.

Beau Loves Attention

Meet Beau, a fun loving bichon frise who loves attention. Owner Donna Rye, her husband and her three children have had Beau for 10 years. Rye stated that at first she wanted a lapdog, and her husband a poodle, yet the family ended up settling for Beau because he didn't shed. The family purchased Beau from a breeder and are content with their choice to this day. Beau connects most with the family's oldest son, now 20 years old, who Donna Rye says took the most care of Beau when he was younger. Beau is a very affectionate dog, loves people and other dogs, and loves to have his stomach rubbed. Although obedient, Beau still has trouble with potty training and has to wear a special shock collar throughout the house in order to prevent accidents on the floors.

— VANESSA CLARK



Owner Maureen Sullivan, of Lorton, holds on tight to her 3-year-old cocker spaniel Murphy.

Shy and Afraid

Three-year-old Murphy, a sheer black cocker spaniel may look close and cuddly with his owner, but turns out to be quite timid and reserved. Owner Maureen Sullivan says Murphy is quite shy and quite afraid of other people, yet very accepting and comfortable around other dogs. Murphy was bought by Maureen at 4 months old after he was returned by his previous owner. Murphy is very close with Maureen who says he sleeps in her bedroom. Sullivan also states she brushes him faithfully every day and loves to take him on walks.

— VANESSA CLARK



Nine-and-a-half-year-old Snoopy, of Fairfax, Station searches for a place to lounge for the evening.

A Giant Personality

Nine-and-a-half-year-old Snoopy is a tiny dog with a giant personality. Half poodle, half maltese, Snoopy was purchased from a family friend by Feryal Esmaili and her family as a Christmas present to their youngest daughter Donna. Snoopy is a ball of energy who loves people and loves attention. Sixteen year old Donna says Snoopy however does not like other dogs and gets rather jealous when she sees any other member of the family interacting with another dog. The family also states that Snoopy always scratches whatever surface she is on before she decides to lounge on it, enjoys sunbathing by windows and never bites anyone. No matter who the person may be, Snoopy will always greet you with no hesitation. A friendly dog who loves to be noticed.

—VANESSA CLARK

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

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

SEPTEMBER

9/2/2015..... Wellbeing

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The members of Rocknoceros (left to right): Coach Cotton, Boogie Woogie Bennie and Williebob.



PHOTOS BY TABITHA TIMM/THE CONNECTION

Rocknoceros performing at the Workhouse Arts Center.

‘Stars on Sunday’ Rock Workhouse

Free Summer concerts continue at Workhouse Arts Center.

BY TABITHA TIMM
THE CONNECTION

Every Sunday at 3 p.m., Lorton’s Workhouse Arts Center provides free, family-friendly entertainment with its “Stars on Sunday” concert series. Despite the heat of this previous weekend, children’s band Rocknoceros attracted a crowd of about 50.

Joseph Wallen, director of Performing Arts at the Workhouse Arts Center, is the organizer of the concert series and is responsible for booking the bands. “The target audience is families and kids,” said Wallen, “but Stars on Sunday is for everyone.” Performances showcase a wide variety of Northern Virginia talent; acts range from family rock to traditional Hawaiian hula.

For many, it was their first time attending a “Stars on Sunday” concert. “We’ve never been here before,” said Jason Piper, a father from Fairfax, “but Rocknoceros drew us here.” The band

is popular with local children, and during the concert many children and adults were dancing in front of the stage.

“We’re meeting some friends here, we came for Rocknoceros and the farmers market,” commented Brian Griffith while playing with his son just outside the concert tent.

The performances take place in the Rizer Pavilion, under a large white tent that provides ample shade and seating for concert-goers. However, the tent does not occupy the entire Pavilion, and there is plenty of space for more active attendees to listen to the concert while playing games. Adjacent to the concert space is a farmers market where local produce and other food items can be purchased.

“All of our produce comes from our farm in Warsaw,” said Sergio Izaguirre, one of the vendors selling fruits and vegetables in the farmers market this past Sunday. The market is open from 1 to 5 p.m., and provides an assortment of treats for those attending the concert.

There are six more concerts remaining in the “Stars on Sunday series,” which include the Fairfax Swing Band, the Sior-Og Band, O Susanna, Halau Hula O Ke Anueneu Punahele, Cal-V, and the Fringe Benefits Band, all of which are family-friendly. Each concert lasts around an hour, and the series ends on Aug. 30.



Joseph Wallen, the director of Performing Arts at the Workhouse Arts Center.



Jason and Shannon Piper from Fairfax dancing to the music.

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 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 your English. Adults.

THURSDAY/JULY 30

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.
Walk-In Ebook and Computer Clinic. 10 a.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Help with

basic computer skills and downloading library eBooks. Bring device account IDs and passwords.

FRIDAY/JULY 31

Basic Computer Skills Training. 1 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Participants can learn basic computer skills with one-on-one technology volunteers. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches.

ONGOING

Senior Outdoor Pickleball. April-October, Wednesdays 8-10 a.m. Audrey Moore Wakefield Park Fairfax County, Courts 9 & 10, Beginners

welcome. No cost. Email Gerald Rhoads at geraldrhoads6701@gmail.com.

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

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

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.

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 Americasadoptasoldier.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.

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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/kingstownemkt.htm)

SATURDAY/JULY 25

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.

Mount Vernon Nights 2015: Bob Gibson Big Band. 7-8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Get in the swing with this traditional big band that features selections from the likes of Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Harry James, Stan Kenton, Thad Jones/Mel Lewis and Buddy Rich. Free.

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.

Canine Cruise. 7-8 p.m. 7500 Accotink Park Rd., Springfield. Take your dog on a pontoon tour boat on Lake Accotink. Tickets: \$6. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov.

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.

Fair Lakes Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 4501 Market Commons Drive, Fairfax.

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

Music Together. 10:30 a.m. Lorton Library, 9250 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Music and movement to encourage brain development in your children. Age 0-5 with adult.

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.

SUNDAY/AUG. 2

Christ Church Opening Services. 9:30 a.m.-noon. at Christ Church, 7600 Ox Road. Services at the new location. Visit www.christchurchva.org.

Hands On Modeling Day. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Visitors learn how to paint and display railroad scenery as well as participate in artifact cleaning. Tickets: \$2-\$4.

FRIDAY/AUG. 7

Stewart Huff Live. 8-10 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Comedian Stewart Huff brings his humor to the Workhouse. Tickets: \$15.

SATURDAY/AUG. 8

Mount Vernon Nights 2015: Robin and Linda Williams. 7-8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd., Lorton. A Prairie Home Companion favorites Robin & Linda Williams just released a new hit album, These Old Dark Hills. Come enjoy live music and fun..

2nd Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd., Lorton. Experience the diverse art of over 100 artists on a historic venue. Free Admission.

SUNDAY/AUG. 9

Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Table Top (TTRAK) model trains will be on display and running. Admission: \$2-\$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org.

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AUGUST 10-AUGUST 14...HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (PG)
AUGUST 17-AUGUST 21.....KUNG-FU PANDA (PG)
AUGUST 24-AUGUST 28.....SHREK (PG)

Attendees will receive a coupon for a dollar (\$1.00) Off a cup of frozen yogurt from YOGURTINI FROZEN YOGURT

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.

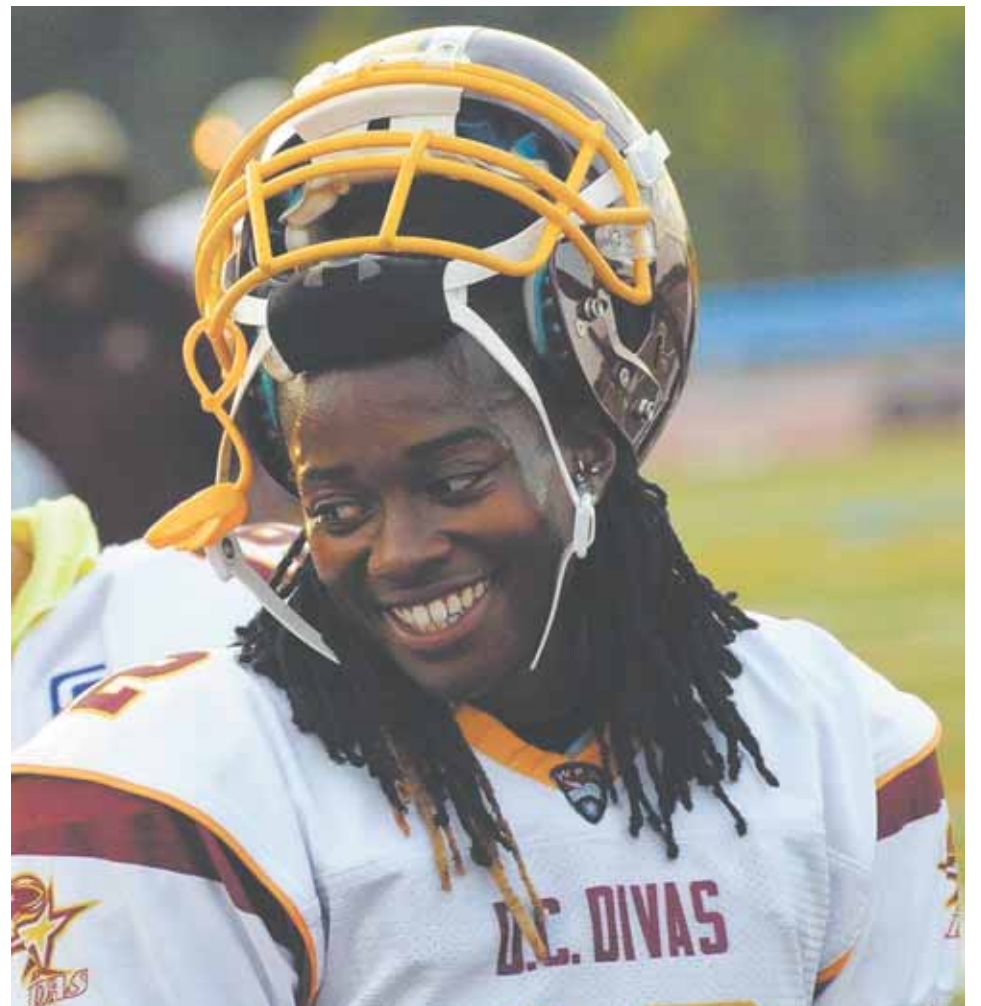


PHOTO COURTESY OF D.C. DIVAS/DOUG CHARLAND

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.

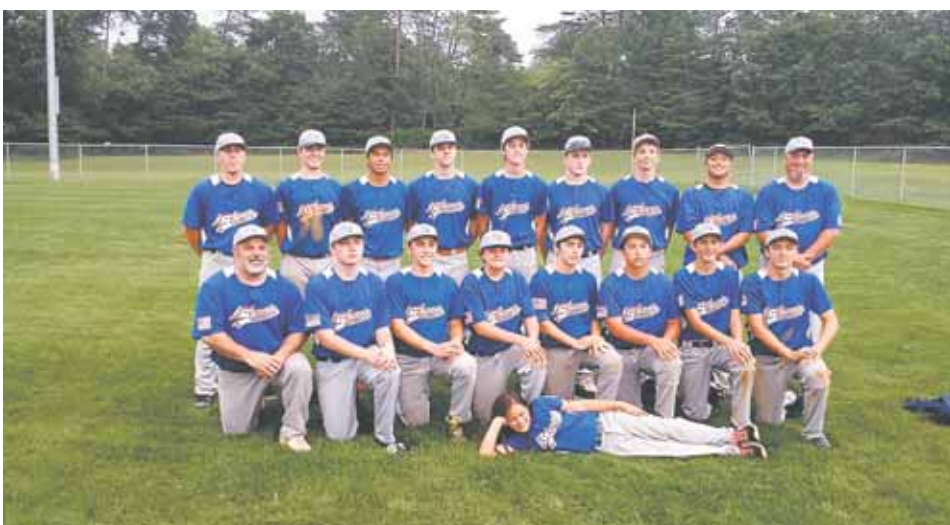


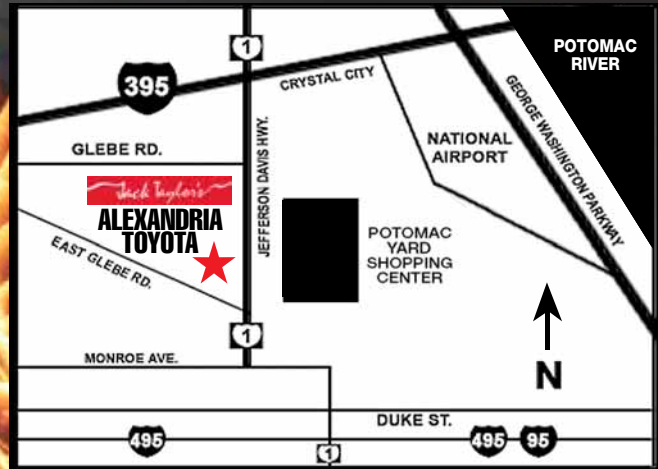
PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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.

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