

Fabulous Fairfax Fall Festival

NEWS, PAGE 12

(From left) Brothers Peter, 4, and Henry, 8, look through colorful hula hoops at the Pretty Hot Hoops booth at the Fairfax Fall Festival.

OCTOBER 15-21, 2015

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PROVIDENCE DISTRICT CANDIDATE:

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SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT CANDIDATE:

No endorsement

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fcft.va.aft.org/news/2015-fcft-school-board-candidate-endorsements

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PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Mike Feeney, a teacher at Lake Braddock Secondary School, finished the race first overall in a time of just over 18 minutes. His wife Alison has dyslexia and teaches at Timber Lane Elementary School in Falls Church.



Calvin Rizek (left) of Fairfax is comfortable and confident in talking with other students about having dyslexia. He introduced supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), center, and Springfield District school board representative Elizabeth Schultz following the Decoding Dyslexia 5K Run for Dyslexia.

First Decoding Dyslexia 5K Held at Burke Lake

Raising awareness, advocating for more services in schools

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

When Fairfax resident Calvin Rizek was in first grade, he remembers not being able to read along with the class, but “just flipping pages, like everyone else.”

Rizek’s older brother Jack had already been diagnosed with dyslexia, a common learning disability affecting a person’s ability to read and spell effectively. Their parents sought help outside the school system for Jack, turning to a private tutor. At one point when Calvin was hanging around during his brother’s lesson, the tutor observed that Calvin might be dyslexic as well.

After he was tested and identified as having dyslexia, Calvin used remediation and tutoring, both in his Title I elementary school and with the tutor, to help him better understand how to link sounds and words. Now a high school senior, Calvin hopes to attend Virginia Tech and one day become a pediatrician so he can help other young students with dyslexia and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder.

As Jack and Calvin’s mother Joan fought for services in their schools, she became involved with Decoding Dyslexia Virginia, the local branch of a national advocacy organization with the aim of raising awareness of the disorder and providing people with more information about the resources available. That group recently hosted its first Decoding Dyslexia 5K Run for Dyslexia at Burke Lake Park on Oct. 11.

“Parents are stumbling through it,” Joan said. “We want to bring other parents to resources faster than we found them.”

Craig Wong of Herndon grew suspicious

when his daughter in third grade was having some problems with spelling. Some Internet research led him to believe she might have dyslexia. He had her tested with a professional psychologist through an online resource, who confirmed she had the disorder.

“I talked to my daughter’s school,” Wong said, “and I could tell they weren’t really familiar. They didn’t seem to be very proactive about what tasks, what action steps to take.”

Wong heard about Decoding Dyslexia Virginia and attended a meeting.

“All these parents had the same issues I did,” he said, “people in the school system who didn’t speak the vocabulary, not in special education, principals of schools, it was very odd.”

“I asked something,” Wong continued, “what should I expect from my school system? Other parents started nodding, murmuring behind me, and said that was a great question. There were lot of parents in the same situation.”

FRUSTRATED with what he saw as a lack of remediation opportunities through Fairfax County at his daughter’s school, Wong enlisted private tutoring, then worked one-on-one with his daughter and helped her improve her language skills by designing a computer game for her that functions much like using flash cards.

Wong’s daughter is now in seventh grade and on or above grade level for all topics, but not all parents have the time or resources to pay for such extracurricular activity.

Shannon Duncan of Falls Church had a similar experience with her youngest child, whose headaches in second grade became “struggling like crazy” in third grade with spelling and reading. Duncan and her friend and neighbor Lisa D’Ambrosio-Irons co-organized the Decoding Dyslexia 5K, which drew over 150 participants from around Fairfax County and Alexandria.

Duncan said they worked with her daughter’s school and couldn’t get any helpful services so they had her privately screened. In four months, she had gained half a reading level. Improving identification and remediation capacities within the school system is one of the goals of Decoding Dyslexia.

“That’s our hope,” she said. “We’ve been talking to Fairfax County administration: My kid is fine, she’s going to be OK, but based on the fact that I was educated, spoke the language of the system, had the time and wasn’t at work 24-seven.”

Fairfax County School Board chairman Pat Hynes acknowledges putting more focus on dyslexia in the schools is “long overdue.”

In accordance with a proclamation from Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D), the board is recognizing October as “Dyslexia Awareness Month.”

Hynes, who was previously a teacher in Fairfax County, said she found there to be a “great buffet” of curriculum development materials available, but maybe not enough direction.

“What can happen,” she said, “is we don’t always provide professional development that’s focused in the way that it needs to be. You’ll see in our Strategic Plan we’re getting tighter with our early literacy.”

SUPERINTENDENT Dr. Karen Garza has also required all elementary school administrators and instructional staff be trained to recognize dyslexia symptoms and warning signs.

“Early on, she recognized FCPS was not where it needed to be in terms of services for students with dyslexia,” said Braddock District school board representative Megan McLaughlin.

Springfield District representative Elizabeth Schultz said the disorder was the first topic she brought up when meeting with Garza after she arrived from Texas.

“A small hurdle can turn into an enormous obstacle,” Schultz said. “I’ve struggled, as a

Workshop on Dyslexia

There will be a workshop hosted by the Office of Special Education Instruction for parents of middle and high school students with dyslexia on Oct. 20 from 7-9 p.m. at the Dunn Loring Center, 2334 Gallows Road, as well as a workshop for parents of elementary school students with dyslexia on Nov. 13 from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. also at the Dunn Loring Center.

For more information on Decoding Dyslexia Virginia and upcoming events, including the 5K, visit decodingdyslexia.va.wordpress.com.

parent of students with learning disability and dyslexia — what does any other parent face?”

Garza has also met with parents from Decoding Dyslexia on several occasions over the last three years. “She really welcomed the advocacy,” said McLaughlin, “and invested a lot of time trying to work with DDVA to understand the granular level of their children’s experience and the collective information they have.”

McLaughlin added that a new staff position is being “repurposed” from elsewhere in the system, who will be dedicated to overseeing dyslexia services.

“Decoding Dyslexia is a perfect example of an advocacy group holding a school system accountable,” McLaughlin said. “We have better education research, better understanding, now it’s time to step forward and provide the necessary services.”

“I appreciate what they’re doing now,” Duncan said. “There are so many parents who want the change to occur immediately. I have hope, though understand it physically is an impossibility, in a system this large. Teacher training needs to be pretty extensive, it needs to be multisensory, cumulative and simultaneously delivered. Teachers currently are coming from zero.”

“Six years ago, dyslexia was not uttered,” Duncan continued. “Those words were not shared. Fairfax County is definitely trying to change, right the ship. But it’s going to take a long time for it to turn around and head in another direction.”



— REAL STORIES FROM THE EXPRESS LANES —

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Donald's story was one of our winning entries in our "Express Lanes Love Story" promotion.

Police Commission Calls for Auditor, Civilian Review Board

Unanimous recommendations head to supervisors in wake of John Geer shooting, transparency missteps.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

After six months of meetings, the Ad Hoc commission created by Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova to review police practices has concluded its primary work. Chair of the commission's Independent Oversight and Investigations subcommittee Jack Johnson presented that group's final recommendations to the full commission on Oct. 8.

The subcommittee unanimously favored creating an Independent Police Auditor position that would "report directly to the Board of Supervisors and would provide oversight in cases of police use of force that lead to serious injury or death, including officer involved shootings," Johnson's letter to commission chairman Michael Hershman said.

The report also calls for establishing a seven-member Civilian Review Panel for cases of alleged police misconduct. The panelists are meant to work with the new auditor "as to serious use of force cases so that the panel can provide its views to the Board of Supervisors and the Chief of Po-



Del. Marcus Simon (D) with Michael Hershman, chairman of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Commission. Simon headed the Mental Health subcommittee.

lice as to policy and practices changes that may be warranted," Johnson said in the letter.

"Oversight provides a meaningful voice or forum for the public and forms a crucial bridge between the public and the police," Johnson continued. "Increased transparency, trust, and communication between the police and the public can lead to greater community cooperation in achieving the ultimate goal of decreased crime and in-



Michael Hershman, chairman of the police commission, with Sharon Bulova at the final meeting of the full commission before recommendations go to the Board of Supervisors on Oct. 20.

creased public safety."

It was the last full meeting of the ad hoc commission, and in addition to hearing from the independent oversight committee, the commission voted unanimously to support the recommendations of all five subcommittees and to forward the recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Recommendations from the Mental Health Subcommittee call for an overhaul of how the criminal justice system responds to people

in mental health crisis.

Commission chairman Hershman is scheduled to present the group's recommendations to the Board of Supervisors at its Oct. 20 regular meeting.

"It is Chairman Bulova's intention to move to accept the report and refer it to staff for discussion at the Public Safety Committee scheduled for Oct. 27 at 3 p.m.," said Bulova's chief of staff Clayton Medford.

The Board of Supervisors launched the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission in response to public concern over the shooting death of John Geer by a Fairfax County police officer. On Aug. 17, 2015, former Fairfax County Police officer Adam Torres was charged with the second-degree murder of Geer, who was shot dead in the doorway to his own home on Aug. 29, 2013 after police were called in a domestic dispute. Torres was fired in July 2015, almost two years later.

The commission has been meeting since March as a full commission and five subcommittees. Areas of focus by committee include Use of Force; Communications; Mental Health; Recruitment, Diversity and Vetting; and Independent Investigations and Oversight.

The final report from the Ad Hoc commission is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman/pdf/adhoc-final-10.8.15.pdf.

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Helping People to Better their Lives

Lamb Center counts its blessings and celebrates.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Last week's Lamb Center Celebration Banquet at the Waterford in Fair Oaks was aptly named. That is because this organization that ministers to the poor and the homeless has a great deal to celebrate.

For more than two decades, The Lamb Center in Fairfax has been a daytime, drop-in shelter offering hot meals, showers, laundry services, and recovery and employment counseling. But next spring, it will move from its current rented site on Old Lee Highway to a new and larger building on Campbell Drive.

And last Tuesday night, Oct. 6, some 500 people gathered to share in the joy. Recognizing the staff and volunteers, Lamb Center Board of Directors chairman Kelly Johnson said, "They love each other and our

guests there unconditionally." "When people come to the Lamb Center, they feel isolated, and we try to meet their spiritual and physical needs," said operations director Dave Larrabee.

"I love coming to work every day," added Lamb Center assistant director Patti Brown. "It's incredible to see how the Lord moves among the guests and staff."

Johnson, who has led Bible study there since 2008, said, "We try to help our guests move into a better place in their lives." Indeed, said Lamb Center executive director John MacPherson, the organization's theme is "hope and a future."

"The hardest thing about being homeless is being ignored," he said. "Three thousand people a day are living in poverty here, in one of the richest counties in the U.S. Our mission is to serve the poor and homeless, transform lives and share God's love. We started in 1992 in a 1,100-square-foot



Dave Larrabee and Kelly Johnson at the banquet.

pawn shop with little more than strong coffee and mighty prayers. And by 2000, we moved into a 3,200-square-foot building at Fairfax Circle."

THE LAMB CENTER is now open six days a week and receives about 150 people a day. In 2014,

it had 31,103 guest visits and provided 44,567 meals, 12,033 showers, some 9,700 loads of laundry and more than 10,000 group and individual counseling sessions. It also held more than 600 job counseling sessions and hosted 364 Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.

MacPherson said more than 60

percent of the guests suffer mental illness and about 20 percent are veterans or ex-offenders. Barriers to their having homes include the high cost of housing here, low disability payments and lack of transportation.

SEE LAMB CENTER, PAGE 13



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

John MacPherson holds Lamb Center operating-fund donation envelopes from the dinner guests.

Introducing four new orthopedic specialists



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VA-TF1 Deploys to South Carolina

The Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue team, VA-TF1 was activated by FEMA to deploy to South Carolina. VA-TF1, one of the twenty eight elite FEMA USAR teams, departed for South Carolina to assist with the ongoing flooding that is occurring in the region. This is the second deployment for the task force this year. Their most recent mission was an international deployment to Nepal.

Woodson High Hockey to Hold Benefit Game

The Woodson High field hockey team will hold its first Stick It to Cancer benefit game at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16. Athletes from all three levels of the field hockey program have worked to raise money for cancer research in honor of their freshman coach who was recently diagnosed with cancer. By selling memory lights and holding an online donation campaign, the team quickly surpassed its initial fundraising goal, which will benefit the American Cancer Society.

Saturday Morning Coffee with Del. David Bulova

This Saturday, Oct. 17, Delegate David Bulova (D-Fairfax) will hold the last of his informal office hours before the 2016 General Assembly session. Constituents are invited to talk about issues of interest and to ask questions about legislation affecting the community. The format is casual and no appointment is

needed. The office hours will take place from 8:30-10 a.m. at Jireh Cafe, 13848 Lee Highway, Centreville. 703-310-6754. info@davidbulova.com.

Democratic Women on Domestic Violence

The Oct. 18 meeting of the Democratic Women of Clifton and Northern Virginia (DWCNV) welcomes the general public to this event designed to educate the community about domestic violence occurring in the region. A panel of experts on this issue will discuss trends, causes, treatment and prevention of domestic violence in Northern Virginia and share an assessment tool designed to determine danger to victims attempting to distance themselves from abusers. The panel of speakers will include:

- ❖ Melanie Dunn-Chadwick who has been working for Fairfax County Public Schools' FECEP/Head Start program for 34 years, and for the last 15 years, as the Violence Prevention Specialist;

- ❖ Nora Mahoney, the Family Law Practice Group Chair for Legal Services of Northern Virginia, supervising family law attorneys as well as externs and volunteers across five jurisdictions;

- ❖ Heather Sarmiento, M.Ed., the Prevention and Education coordinator in the Fairfax County Office for Women and Domestic and Sexual Violence Services;

- ❖ Jacqui Smith, Domestic Violence detective with the Fairfax County Police Department, Sully District Station, who will speak on her role in investigating domestic violence cases (simple assault and malicious wounding), abduction cases, stalking cases, protective order violations, and telephone threats.

The meeting will be held on Sunday, Oct. 18 at the Clifton Town Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton from 3-5 p.m. A short business meeting will precede the domestic violence agenda. For more information and to RSVP: cliftonwomendems@aol.com.

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Closer Look at School Spending

Report: Local schools spend less to educate more challenging students.

Since Fiscal Year 2009, Alexandria Public Schools has reduced per pupil spending by 13.3 percent, adjusted for inflation. Arlington County Public Schools has reduced per pupil spending by 15.7 percent, but still spends the most per student of any school district in the state.

Fairfax County Public Schools has reduced per pupil spending by 6.5 percent over the same period, adjusted for inflation, but FCPS spends significantly less per student than either Alexandria or Arlington.

These numbers are from a draft report released last month by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission in a report on Efficiency and Effectiveness of K-12 Spending 2015. In FY 2014, the average Virginia school division spent 7 percent less to educate each student than it did in FY 2005.

These numbers are critical to understand as local schools, Fairfax County in particular, face a looming budget gap in the coming budget cycle. It's easy to skip the specifics, look at a large overall budget number and conclude that surely there is plenty of room to cut the budget. These numbers show the problem with that approach.

Fairfax County was among the Virginia school divisions with a reduction in resources and numbers of teachers per student which also had a growing percentage of "resource-intensive" students.

More than 27 percent of Fairfax County Public Schools students were living in poverty in 2014; that's 49,895 students, up from about 18 percent or 28,527 poor students in 2005. Number and percent of students with limited English have also grown over the time period. In 2014, 49,442 students, or 27 percent, in FCPS are limited English proficient, up from 35,091 or 22 percent in 2005. The report calls these students "resource intensive," and what that means is that it costs more to effectively teach them.

The larger chart comes from a different source, the 2015 Washington Area Boards of Education Guide, and shows Fairfax County with far lower per pupil costs and teacher salaries than surrounding school districts.

Arlington and Alexandria school districts also have large percentages of poor students.

Alexandria had 6,160, or 58.8 percent of its students living in poverty in 2005, and in 2014, 7,443 poor students, 55 percent. Alexandria has also had an increase in limited English proficient students, 33.3 percent of 4,510 students in 2014, up from 22.7 percent in 2005.

Public Schools	Fairfax County	Montgomery County, MD	Arlington County	Alexandria City
FY 2015 Cost Per Pupil	\$13,519	\$15,351	\$19,040	\$17,041
Average Teacher Salary	\$66,782	\$75,452	\$76,892	\$73,612
2014 ACTUAL ENROLLMENT				
Total Enrollment	183,895	151,289	23,421	13,563
Percent ESOL Enrollment	17.0%	13.2%	17.4%	25.5%
Percent Free/Reduced Price Meal Eligible	27.5%	34.3%	31.8%	59.7%
Percent Special Education Enrollment	13.8%	11.7%	14.7%	12.6%
2015 APPROVED ENROLLMENT				
Number Increase/Decrease from 2014 Actual	2,890	2,889	792	548
Percent Increase/Decrease from 2014 Actual	1.6%	1.9%	3.4%	4.0%
SCHOOLS				
Elementary	139	133	22	12
Middle	23	38	5	2
Traditional (K-8)	0	0	0	1
Secondary and High Schools	25	26	5	1
Special Education	7	5	2	0
Alternative	2	0	3	2
SOURCES OF REVENUE				
Local	69.6%	66.6%	83.0%	79.3%
State	23.3%	27.9%	12.5%	14.9%
Other	7.2%	5.5%	4.6%	5.8%
AUTHORIZED POSITIONS				
School-Based	93.2%	91.2%	90.9%	89.7%
Nonschool-Based	6.8%	8.8%	9.1%	10.3%

SOURCE: 2015 Washington Area Boards of Education Guide

GRAPHIC BY LAURENCE FOONG/THE CONNECTION

Comparison of local school district finances and enrollment from the 2015 Washington Area Boards of Education Guide.

INFLATION ADJUSTED PER PUPIL SPENDING			
Division	FY 2009	FY 2014	% Change (FY 09-14)
Alexandria	\$20,323	\$17,622	"13.3%
Arlington	\$22,214	\$18,736	"15.7%
Fairfax	\$14,901	\$13,931	"6.5%

Inflation-adjusted to 2014 dollars.

SOURCE: Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission report on Efficiency and Effectiveness of K-12 Spending 2015 <http://jlarc.virginia.gov/pdfs/reports/Rpt472.pdf>

In Arlington, 7,972 students, 33.9 percent were living in poverty in 2014, up from 6,373 students, 35.8 percent in 2005. Arlington has seen a drop in limited English students, from 35.5 percent (6,323 students) in 2005 to 28 percent in 2014 (6,591 students).

As the saying goes, if you think education is expensive, try ignorance. And if you think it's too expensive to effectively educate the population we have, consider the costs of services to people who don't have the education they need to live successfully later in life.

Effective leaders in Northern Virginia will have to lead the way to funding effective school systems in a challenging economic environment. But if you hear a candidate claim that schools can get by on less by being more efficient, ask if they have read this report.

According to the JLARC report: School districts reduced per-student spending on instruction through a combination of employing fewer teachers per student, limiting teacher salary growth, and requiring teachers to pay a higher percentage of health insurance and retirement benefit costs. Divisions report that these spending reductions are hindering instructional effectiveness.

School divisions reduced instructional spending by less than one percent, and non-instructional spending by 10 percent, at the statewide level during the time period.

You can read the Virginia JLARC report here: <http://jlarc.virginia.gov/pdfs/reports/Rpt472.pdf>

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAY/OCT. 17

Anti-Bullying Fair. Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. At this fair, there will be local colleges and anti-bullying organizations with booths to talk about what they do and how they help stop bullying. There will also be free lunch, guest speakers, and musical entertainment along with an

award ceremony for the T-shirt and poetry competitions.

Health Fitness Fair. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Greenbriar Town Center, 13037B Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Free. 703-996-4391. www.thejoint.com/virginia/fairfax/greenbriar-10006.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 21

Planning Commission Public

Hearing. 8:15 p.m. Government Center Board Auditorium, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The proposed amendment will establish and define a new principal land use of Alternative Lending Institution <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/zoningordinance/proposed/>.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Future Quest 2015. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. George Mason University in the Johnson Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Future Quest is a free college and career forum for students with disabilities, parents and professionals. <http://futurequest.gmu.edu>.



NEWS

Medical Education Campus in Springfield to Host Open House

Northern Virginia Community College's Medical Education Campus will host an informational open house on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 9 a.m.-noon at 6699 Springfield Center Drive in Springfield.

Those interested in exploring a career in health sciences will have the opportunity to meet NOVA students, staff and faculty, tour the high-tech campus, participate in hands-on demonstrations, receive materials from NOVA's Workforce Development and Adult Career Pathways (ACP) programs and learn about the various student organizations/clubs offered. The Clinical Simulation Center (CSC), which provides students in the nursing and allied health programs with hands-on experience, along with the campus's new anatomy virtual lab will also be highlighted and made available for viewing. "We have something for everyone, whether you are a recent high school graduate, or someone who is changing careers," said NOVA-MEC Provost Anne Loochtan. "We want to help potential students explore many of the lesser known, but very important and exciting health careers."

NOVA's Medical Education Campus is the first specialized community college campus in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It offers its students state-of-the-art facilities with a 32-chair dental clinic, a cadaver lab and a technologically-advanced patient simulators lab. The MEC offers ten Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degrees in Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Health Information Management, Emergency Medical Services, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Radiography, Respiratory Therapy, Physical Therapy, Medical Laboratory Technology and Occupational Therapy. Certificates in many medical disciplines, including Licensed Practical Nursing, Health Information Technology, Radiation Oncology, Clinical Coding, Phlebotomy and Emergency Medical Technology as well as continuing education for local healthcare workers and first responders are also available.

Light refreshments will be served throughout the day along with a chance to win prizes and receive giveaways. Parking is free at any level within the parking garage the day of the event. To register, visit <https://MECopenhous2015.eventbrite.com>.

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Transform 66 Outside the Beltway
Fairfax County and Prince William County
Public Information Meetings

All meeting times are 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
A brief presentation at each meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

Fairfax County

Monday, October 19, 2015
Oakton High School Cafeteria (Entrance #1 or #14)
2900 Sutton Road, Vienna, VA 22181

Tuesday, October 20, 2015
VDOT Northern Virginia District Office
4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030

Visit Transform66.org to view a live stream of this meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Prince William County

Wednesday, October 21, 2015
Piney Branch Elementary School Cafeteria/Gym (Entrance #1)
8301 Linton Hall Road, Bristow, VA 20136

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), in partnership with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), will host meetings for the public to review and provide comments on the latest conceptual plans, which reflect the Transform 66 Outside the Beltway project's Preferred Alternative and proposed phasing. The Preferred Alternative involves the transformation of 25 miles of I-66 between U.S. Route 15 in Haymarket and I-495/the Capital Beltway. The project will provide congestion relief and enhanced safety, as well as new travel choices and reliability.

Stop by to learn more about the project, discuss your questions with VDOT staff, and attend the formal presentation.

Review the latest conceptual plans and project schedule at www.Transform66.org or at the meetings.

Give your written or oral comments at the meetings or submit them to Susan Shaw, Megaprojects Director, at the VDOT District Office address above. You may also e-mail comments at any time to Transform66@VDOT.Virginia.gov. Please reference "Transform 66 Outside the Beltway" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights Division at 800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711.

State Project: 0066-96A-297,P101 Federal Project: NH-066-1(300) UPC: 105500

Home LifeStyle Renovated Home Included in Great Falls Studio Tour

12th annual event scheduled for this weekend.

By John Byrd

A renovated, circa-1970s Georgian Colonial will be featured in the 12th annual Great Falls Studios tour Oct. 16-18. A comprehensive first floor makeover to the home of Joseph and Alison Lopez, the project by Sun Design Remodeling Specialists demonstrates new interior design modalities now being applied to traditional floorplans in older homes.

"There's a design revolution underway in northern Virginia," said Sun Design founder and chairman Craig Durosko. "We find there's a lot of interest in what's being done. An open house is one way locals see what ideas may apply to their own homes."

Sun Design Remodeling Specialists, a 30-year-old design/build remodeling firm, has sponsored the Great Falls Studios tour since 2012. This year, the event will feature the work of more than 40 local artists in 26 locations around Great Falls. Work by fine arts painters Alicia Sommers and Karen Bateman will be on display in the Lopez home.

The Lopez renovation draws attention to space planning and design concepts that "open up" a traditional floorplan by selectively reconfiguring existing interior walls.

The original 2,700-square-foot house, which the family purchased eight years ago, was built around a standard center hall template with a front-facing foyer and living room that segued to a rear dining room, kitchen, and family room configuration. To gain more living space, Lopez converted a 280-square-foot screen porch to a sunroom three years ago, but the changes didn't resolve other inherent problems.

"The rear rooms were too dark and cramped," Joseph Lopez said. "Yet there was a lot of wasted space everywhere."

Other shortcomings:

❖ With 8-year-old twins about the house, circulation in the kitchen was problematic. The traditional U-shaped counter space in the kitchen was as much a barrier as an asset. Storage capacity was limited. There was no place to display the children's drawings which hung from cabinets and appliances.

❖ The living room and formal dining room were mostly unused — consuming a lot of first level square footage without much family benefit.



Photo by Greg Hadley

❖ The interior to the family room — which included a working fireplace — was notably dated.

❖ View and access to the lower-level playroom from the kitchen was obstructed by a landing two steps down that required a 90-degree turn.

❖ Despite a setting that backs up to a 50-acre, tree-filled easement, there were no clear sight lines from the kitchen to the back yard where the boys were usually at play when not in school.

"WE HAD STARTED thinking about making changes before we moved in," Joseph Lopez said. "We had many ideas for improvements — but didn't know what would work."

Enter Sun Design's lead designer Jon Benson and specialty designer Katie Coram.

"The first consideration was how to create a space plan that was consistent with how the family actually uses the house," Benson said. "Everyone acknowledged that the dining room was too small and that the sizable living room didn't have much of a role in the family's everyday life — so there was some useful square footage we could re-deploy."

These observations in mind, Benson drafted a plan that deleted the wall between kitchen and dining room to form a 30-foot-by-14-foot family kitchen. The larger footprint created the space needed for a four-seat food prep island and dining counter, a breakfast area and a substantially enlarged pantry.

It also allowed for direct access to the staircase leading to the lower level. With the kitchen extended, Bensen cut a new door to the downstairs and installed a straight staircase, making it easy for Alison to keep an eye on the boys from upstairs.

Sun Design Remodeling is holding an open house in a recently renovated home in conjunction with the 12th Great Falls Studios Tour Oct. 16-18. The residence owned by Joseph and Alison Lopez demonstrates how open floorplans are being effectively introduced into homes that previously employed a more traditional room configuration. Designers enlarged the kitchen by relocating the formal dining room and creating a stronger visual linkage to a backyard filled with old stand trees. Tour hours are Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-5 p.m.

To improve natural light and sight lines, the designer eliminated the partial wall and sliders leading to the sun room, then designed a 12-foot opening utilizing "by-pass" sliders on a double track that telescope into the wall.

The result: Alison can easily keep an eye on the backyard from anywhere in the kitchen. Equally appealing: an indoor-outdoor continuum that brings the wooded setting into visual range from every part of the renovated kitchen.

"The beautiful view is one of the main reasons we bought the house," said Joseph Lopez. "Having it available in the rooms where we spend a lot of time

is wonderfully fulfilling."

CONVERTING THE UNUSED unused living room into a spacious formal dining room with fireplace, likewise, satisfied the family's holiday entertainment requirements. As a bonus, the children now use the dining room to start their homework just steps from their mom in the kitchen.

With space planning issues under control, Alison Lopez huddled on finish work details with Coram.

"It was great bouncing ideas off of someone with her interior design skills," Alison Lopez said. "There were so many details — cabinet styles, colors and finishes; best granite options for the island counter top. Katie recommended a houndstooth pattern for the backsplash — which really improved on the white brick-style design I had been considering."


The stand-out inspiration, though, was Coram's suggestion that the family's "kitchen art" could be better presented in a 9-foot-by-5.5-foot message board mounted on the wall between the kitchen and the entrance to the dining room.

A steel surface covered in porcelain, the board accommodates photos and art held by magnets, but also offers a handy place to jot down "to do" lists written in an erasable felt tip pen.


"It's a fun piece," Alison Lopez says. "Just looking at it makes me smile."

John Byrd (byrdmatx@gmail.com or www.HomeFrontsNews.com) has been writing about home improvement topics for 30 years.

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Fairfax's Main Street is filled with people, crafts tents and balloons.



Addison Considine, 3, feeds a llama at the petting zoo.

Fabulous Fairfax Fall Festival

Some 35,000 people attended Fairfax Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 10.



Customers peruse earrings and bracelets at C & C Creations jewelry.



Jinny Iphong, 4, intently creates a building out of LEGOs.



The car ride was a big hit.



(From left) Dong Dang and Chris Vu dish up food from Eastwinds Vietnamese restaurant.



Ryan Curtis, 3, proudly holds his octopus balloon.



Mom Bernadette watches her children Penny, 6, and Ethan, 4, and their cousin Chloe, 5 (on right) sample apples and pears.

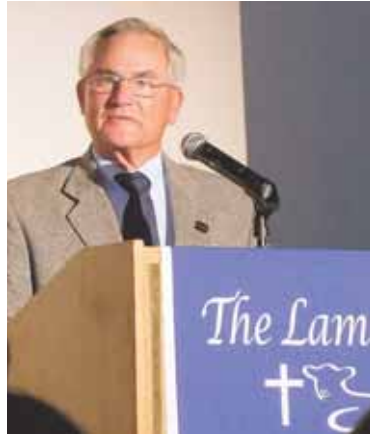
Lamb Center Celebrates

FROM PAGE 6

He is proud of the Lamb Center's accomplishments, but the larger, two-story building will enable it to offer more services. "We focus on self-sustainment, so we'll be adding a clothing closet and a food pantry," said MacPherson. "We'll also have office space for our staff and hope to add dental care and a nurse practitioner in the future."

There will be a great room where meals are served, plus rooms for classes and social workers. And the kitchen, laundry and bathrooms will all be larger. The facility will be open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.; and Saturday, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m., with four full-time staff members and four volunteers there at all times.

"The Lamb Center offers immediate and necessary services for the poor and the poor in spirit," said Veterans Association representative Stephanie Carl, who finds homes for veterans in Fairfax County. She mentioned a Gulf War vet who didn't like shelters, but came to the Lamb Center for a meal. "We helped him and now he's going to get housing and be



Allen Griffith spoke of next spring's open house in the new building.

reunited with his family," said Carl. "All this is possible because the Lamb Center serves as the central hub for services. We're blessed to have it in the county."

Jeannie Thrall, the center's assistant director for case management, said the guests come from all walks of life "and we've learned not to make assumptions about them. We've served a former surgeon, two nurses, a psychologist, teachers, an ex-pro athlete and a government contractor who lived



Stephanie Carl helps find homes for military veterans.

in his car so he could pay college tuition for his three children."

Then, introducing some people who've been helped at the Lamb Center, Thrall stressed their "grits and guts. They can each take credit for their own support, along with God and the Lamb Center."

BUS DRIVER Scott Downey went there after losing his home and job. "I was nervous and uncomfortable, but the staff welcomed me," he said. "I was able to get cleaned up for a job interview. The

To Help

The Lamb Center initially began as a ministry of Truro Church, serving some 20 people. Eventually, it became supported financially and with volunteers from about 100 churches, more than 1,000 individuals and dozens of local businesses.

However, with the new property costing \$1.5 million, and buildout and furnishings, \$3 million, the Lamb Center needs \$1.5 million to pay off its bank loan. To contribute to the building fund, go to www.thelambcenter.org.

meals and encouragement helped me, also. I now work for the Fairfax Connector. The Lamb Center's been like a family to me. During my darkest times, their Bible study really lifted me up."

Marjorie Lormine was a home health nurse, but her marriage failed, she lost her job and housing, the county placed her daughter in foster care and Lormine was diagnosed with mental illness. Eventually, though, the Lamb Center helped her find a job and a room to rent. "Their encouragement and prayers helped me not give up," she said. "When life seems too difficult, the Lamb Center is a good place for me to come, talk and meet people."

Likewise, Brent Greer noted the "sense of community" he found there. "I became homeless and physically and mentally shat-


tered," he said. "I know the experience of being on the street and not being able to shower and put on clean clothes. I was working at temporary jobs and was filled with anger and resentment. The Lamb Center gave me coffee, something to eat and transportation tokens. It's the best place to be for good people and camaraderie."

Former Board member Allen Griffith said Fairfax County committed to pay \$500,000 toward the new building. "And by late next spring, we'll hold an open house," he said. "Together, my friends, we will make this happen."

Larabee then thanked God for "the many miracles we've experienced and the doors You've opened up for us. Thank You for the many wonderful people who support this ministry and for the love that flows in and out of the Lamb Center."

Afterward, Johnson said the fact that "we're outgrowing our current venue is symbolic of how the community's supported us. Caring for our homeless neighbors has become part of this community, and it's an exciting time to be part of the Lamb Center family."

Community Meeting




Thursday,
October 22, 2015
at 7:00 pm
Daniels Run Elementary
3705 Old Lee Highway

Join the discussion!


The City of Fairfax is holding a community meeting to discuss the draft comprehensive Zoning Rewrite. An overview of the zoning and subdivision ordinances, highlighting updates and revisions to the City's land regulations will be presented. The community is encouraged to attend the meeting to ask questions and provide input.

The purpose of the Zoning Rewrite is to develop clear and user-friendly ordinances that are consistent with present-day plans and policies. The updated drafts are available on the website below.

www.zoningfairfax.com  twitter.com/ZoningFairfax

For more information, please visit our webpage listed above or contact the Community Development and Planning Department at 703.385.7930.

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'We Made a Difference'

Girls raise money for animal shelter.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Take two girls, add in compassion, determination and a love for animals, and the result is a successful fundraiser for the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

The girls are Fairfax residents Tara Sankner, a fifth-grader at Lees Corner Elementary, and Shelby Mysel, a sixth-grader at Providence Elementary. Good friends, they initially met at softball, where both pitch for The Galaxy in the Vienna Girls Softball League.

Tara, 10, is battling brain cancer, but that doesn't stop her from thinking of others. In fact, the fundraiser was her idea.

"I've always wanted to help the animal shelter because I don't like the way people leave dogs on the side of the road," she explained. "So I thought we should raise money to help the shelter."

THAT WAY, said Shelby, 11, "They could buy medicine or anything else they needed. Tara decided to sell handmade potholders/coasters and I asked her if I could help." Tara had a craft kit for them and once she learned how to weave them, she taught Shelby.

Soon, they were busy making lots of 3-inch-square, cloth potholders in a variety of colors and patterns – stripes, squares and crosses. "We started working on them in June, when school let out," said Tara. They made the potholders on their own and also together during sleepovers.

"It only takes a few minutes to make each one," said Shelby. Eventually, they'd made nearly 150 and sold them for \$3 apiece.

"We took orders, and my mom posted our project on my cancer page in Facebook and told people that she knew," said Tara. Shelby's mom brought fliers to work. Altogether, the girls raised \$588. "Some people bought potholders and made a donation," said Tara. "And some just made donations."

Meanwhile, Tara's mom, Tammy Sankner, contacted the animal shelter about the fundraiser. "They were happy we were doing it for them," said Shelby.

"And surprised, too," added Tara.

Shelter employee Susan Kilcup then arranged for the girls to formally present their donation shortly before school started. "Some of our friends and family members were there, and the people at the animal shelter," said Shelby.

In turn, the shelter had a cake for them, and interim director Barbara Hutcherson spoke during the ceremony. She also presented the girls with plaques with raised silhouettes of a dog and a cat on each one, plus their names and the words, "Humane Hero 2015."

"The shelter went all out," said Shelby's mom, Karen Mysel. "I was very moved by it. And I thought what the girls did was great. Shelby's always talking about becoming a vet, and I was proud of them both."

When they visited the shelter, said Tara's dad, Craig Sankner, "They got a guided tour of the place. And some friends of ours later adopted a puppy that was brought in while we were there." He, too, was proud of the girls for their accomplishment and also for wanting to do it, in the first place. "They devised their plans, themselves, and asked help from Tammy and Karen when they needed it. And I got to drive them around for supplies."

AS FOR THE GIRLS, they were delighted with the reception at the shelter. "The tour was really cool," said Shelby. And, said Tara, "We got to hold the newborn puppies."

Most of all, though, said Shelby, "It made us feel proud because we knew our fundraiser was for a good cause."

"And we made a difference and helped the animals," added Tara.

Now both girls are immersed again in school. Tara, who says she's currently "feeling good," especially likes art and social studies. In her spare time, she likes to draw, play with her dog and play softball. Shelby's favorite subjects are math and P.E.; she also likes playing softball and basketball and coloring.

But the pair have not forgotten about the animals at the shelter. "We're already thinking about what we'll do next year to help them," said Shelby.

Grateful for their help, Hutcherson said, "It was really impressive that they were able to raise so much money; it was fabulous. The funds will go directly toward animal care – medical care or enrichment, such as harnesses, leashes and toys."



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

(From left) Shelby Mysel and Tara Sankner show their handmade potholders and coasters.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN MYSEL

Flanking interim Animal Shelter director Barbara Hutcherson are (from left) Tara Sankner and Shelby Mysel with their plaques.

HEALING LOVE - NEVER OUT OF REACH



In this one-hour talk, national speaker Jill Grimes discusses how God's love dissolves the glue that tries to attach us to guilt, disease, or age.

Sunday, October 18 at 2pm
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Dear Members of BGCW Fairfax Board:
In an effort to provide an awesome golf event we have elected to cancel our tournament scheduled for this Monday due to the dire weather forecast for our area. We have rescheduled the event for **Monday, October 26th**. All other details are exactly the same. Your support of our kids is greatly appreciated and we look forward to seeing you on October 26th.
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CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/OCT. 15

Filmmaker Series: Back on Board:
Greg Louganis. 4:30 p.m. GMU Johnson Center Cinema, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Back on Board: Greg Louganis tells the life story of this four-time Olympic Champion as he returns to diving after a long period of absence. The documentary follows Louganis' evolution from childhood diving prodigy to Olympic champion, and from pioneering openly gay athlete with HIV to almost forgotten sports icon. A discussion with filmmaker Cheryl Furjanic follows the screening.
Mother Goose Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Fairfax City Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Come enjoy stories, songs and fingerplays and lay a foundation of early literacy skills for your baby. Birth to 23 months with adult.

Fairfax Antique Arts Association Speaker. 10 a.m. Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Dr. Joseph M Jabbour, collector of antiques/fine art and appraiser of clocks and watches will be our guest speaker. Join for a meet and greet. Free. 703-273-6090.

SATURDAY/OCT. 17

K-9 Krawl 5K. 9 a.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. A free walk to help increase awareness between domestic violence and the link to animal cruelty. Register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2015K9Krawl>

Trivia Night. 6:30-8:30 p.m. St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke. Have fun while providing funds for projects for children in our community. Bring friends and form a team.

Paws to Read. 11 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Practice reading aloud to a trained therapy dog. 15-minute sessions available.

Ballroom Social Dance. 7:30-10:30 p.m. 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Come join the evening to learn some new dance moves. Mini-lesson takes place from 7:30-8 p.m. followed by open dance from 8-10:30 p.m. Tickets: \$10-15. www.workhousearts.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 16-17

Kid Stuff Consignment Sale. Friday, 7-9 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Spring-Mar Preschool, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Items include baby and kids clothes, shoes and accessories, maternity and nursing wear. tons of toys for all ages and LOTS of baby gear. 703-239-1213. www.spring-mar.org.

Gourmet Coffee Tasting. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Great Harvest Bread Company, 9000-S Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Free Gourmet Coffee Tasting with coffees provided by Rick's Roasters Coffee Company. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Wounded Warriors Foundation. 703-372-2339

SUNDAY/OCT. 18

DMV Run for the Warriors. 8:15-10 a.m. Burke Lake Park, Shelter A, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Local 5K and 1-Mile Walk/Run to raise support and awareness of military non-profit, Hope For The Warriors, which aims to restore hope for service members, their families, and families of the fallen. General

Halloween Calendar

Halloween events in the area

THROUGH SATURDAY/OCT. 31

Hillbilly Horror Halloween Haunt. 7-9:30 p.m. Creepy Nights on Calamo, 7104 Calamo St., Springfield. For teens, escape rabid rednecks, angry moonshiner ghosts and a giant spider-infested graveyard. For all ages, nightly family friendly spooky tunes light show. Free but bring food donations for ECHO food bank.

SATURDAY/OCT. 31

L.A. Theatre Works' "Dracula." 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Dr, Fairfax. L.A. Theatre Works brings this chilling story to life with live readings and creepy sound effects made "the old fashioned way." 888-945-2468. cfa.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/OCT. 24

Clifton Haunted Trail. 7-10 p.m. Chapel Road, Clifton. A terrifying annual event that winds through Clifton's 8 Acre Park. Visit cliftonhauntedtrail.com.

Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Contest and Fall Fest. Dog costume, 2-4. Fall Fest, 4-9 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. The fun kicks off with a canine costume contest. Compete for special prizes and goodies, and let your decked-out dog walk through the "boneyard" to sniff out hidden treats. All dogs must be leashed and friendly toward other dogs and people. \$8 per dog, and registration should be under the handler's name. Once the dogs have their day, it is time to treat the rest of the family with Halloween-themed mini-golf, haunted carousel rides, face painting, pumpkin painting and spooky wagon rides at Fall Fest. \$13 per person or \$10 per person when you register three or more at one time. Don't forget a flashlight for the walk back to your car. Free for children two and under. 703-569-3464. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink/>.

registration is \$35, students receive \$5 discount, veterans and active duty \$25, wounded warriors and Gold Star families are free, and kids are free if registered online. runforthewarriors.org.

NTRAK Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will have a display and running N gauge model trains.

PJ Devlin Book Release Party. 2-4 p.m. Blenheim/Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. "Becoming Jonika" is a gripping novel about coming of age during a time of cultural upheaval in the 1960s and re-imagination of the American dream. At its heart, it's a story of alienation, acceptance, and accountability. Please join us for a reading and book signing at this summer camp themed party! Featuring s'mores cupcakes, "bug juice" and other favorite camp treats. Family, senior, and dog-friendly event.

The Maccabeats. 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. A cappella holds a cherished place in the Jewish tradition, having been extensively employed in both the synagogue and the home over the millennia due to an ancient prohibition against playing instruments on Shabbat. The Maccabeats have emerged as both Jewish music and a cappella phenomena. They perform an eclectic array of Jewish, American, and Israeli songs. \$18-\$34. <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2146931>.

MONDAY/OCT. 19

Small Wonders. 11 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Fingerplay and songs. Age. 12-23 months with adult.

Hidden Pond Monday: Fall Changes. 4:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Presented by the staff of Hidden Pond Nature Center.

TUESDAY/OCT. 20

Tai Chi. 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Come experience the benefits of Tai Chi led by Dante Gilmer of Still Water Tai Chi Center. Wear comfortable clothes that allow movement. Adult.

Evening Book Discussion. 7:30 p.m.

Fairfax City Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver.

Robinson High School Fall Orchestra Concert. 7 p.m. Russell Theater, Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Students will perform a variety of musical selections, featuring the music of Purcell, Puccini, Mozart and John Rutter. 703-426-2143.

TUESDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 20-25

Washington International Horse Show. 7 a.m.-5 p.m. and 7-10:30 p.m. Verizon Center, 601 F St., NW, Washington, D.C. One of the oldest and most prestigious equestrian sporting events in the U.S. Held each year in October in the heart of the nation's capital, WIHS welcomes spectators to six days of world-class international show jumping and top national hunter and equitation competition plus community events, entertaining exhibitions, boutique shopping and ringside dining and hospitality. \$15-\$60. <http://www.wihs.org/tickets/>.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 21

PJ Library Book Buddies. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Join us as we read selections from the PJ Library and make a craft to take home. PJ Library provides families with a free treasury of Jewish books and music each month.

Celebrate Calm. 7-9 p.m. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Ten ways to stop defiance, disrespect and yelling with America's calm coach, Kirk Martin and his son, Casey. Practical, life-changing and laugh-out-loud funny. Perfect for parents with kids 2 to 22. Leave with a dozen strategies that work immediately. 703-455-8458

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 21-25

Disney on Ice. 7 p.m. Eagle Bank Arena, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Celebrate the legacy of Disney in this ice skating spectacular as Mickey Mouse leads a parade of characters to sing along to your favorite Disney songs for the whole family to enjoy. www.ticketmaster.com.

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West Springfield QB Muskett Throws 3 TD Passes in Victory

**Spartans DB
Pickell intercepts
3 passes against
West Potomac.**

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Peter Muskett had to be helped off the field after aggravating an injury to his right ankle during the second half of Friday's game at West Potomac. After sitting out a few plays, the West Springfield quarterback returned to action, only to end up limping off the field near the end of the third quarter.

"He's a warrior," Spartans head coach Jason Eldredge said, "and I had to drag him off the field to shut him down."

Muskett's effectiveness as a runner has been limited since he suffered an ankle injury on Sept. 11 against Mount Vernon, West Springfield's second game of the season. On Oct. 9, Muskett's right arm and a stingy performance from the West Springfield defense were enough to earn the Spartans a pivotal Conference 7 victory.

Muskett threw three touchdown passes, senior defensive back Jeremiah Pickell snagged a trio of interceptions and West Springfield avoided a three-game losing streak with a 28-9 victory over West Potomac.

MUSKETT COMPLETED 17 of 25 passes for 220 yards and threw all three of his touchdown passes in the second quarter. He connected with senior Darean Robertson for an 8-yard score with 8:26 remaining in the first half, giving the Spartans a 10-0 lead. With 4:23 on the clock, Muskett found Robertson for a 27-yard touchdown.

Robertson caught four passes for 48 yards. "I love Darean like a brother," Muskett said. "It's not only on the football field, [it's] at school every day, we sit together at lunch, we're in the same classes. He's one of my best friends and I'd do anything for him, so



West Springfield quarterback Peter Muskett threw three touchdown passes against West Potomac on Oct. 9.

just the fact that I get to come out here and throw touchdown passes to one of my best friends, it's awesome."

With 6 seconds left in the half, Muskett threw a 10-yard fade to Daniel Adu, and the 6-foot-2 junior made a leaping catch over a West Potomac defender in the back, right corner of the end zone, giving West Springfield a 22-0 halftime lead.

"We saw that Daniel caught the jump ball earlier down the sideline [and] we knew he could do it again," Muskett said. "We've been working on that all week in practice, actually, and honestly, he just made one of the best plays I've ever seen by a football player."

The win improved West Springfield's record to 4-2, including 2-1 in the conference, and stopped a two-game slide. The Spartans started the season 3-0, before suffering a 42-40 loss to still-unbeaten South County. The following week, West Springfield was blown out by Stone Bridge, 41-10.

Friday's win keeps the Spartans in the Conference 7 championship hunt. West Potomac dropped to 4-2, including 1-2 in

the conference. The Wolverines' only blemish prior to Friday was a 24-21 loss to still-unbeaten Lake Braddock.

"[This win] means everything to us," Muskett said. "After South County, I think we were too confident—not confident, but cocky and complacent—so Stone Bridge really shocked us. ... Coming in here to win this and then going into TC [Williams] and [Lake] Braddock, I think our momentum's definitely going to change a little bit."

Adu had five receptions for 65 yards. Najee Green had four catches for 80 yards. EJ Strother scored on a 1-yard run with 8:31 left in the third quarter, extending the Spartans' advantage to 28-0.

While the offense put up points, the West Springfield defense held a potent West Potomac offense to its lowest output of the season. The Wolverines entered the game averaging 40 points per contest, but managed just a safety and a 4-yard third-quarter touchdown pass from backup quarterback Tanner Jones to CJ Burch.

Jones completed 15 of 22 passes for 144 yards and a touchdown, but was intercepted three times. Starting quarterback Mark Ellis,

who "got a little dinged up" according to head coach Jeremiah Ross, completed 5 of 12 passes for 42 yards and was intercepted once.

Ellis entered Friday's action having passed for 1,383 yards and 14 touchdowns with just two interceptions in five games.

WEST SPRINGFIELD limited West Potomac to 50 rushing yards on 19 carries, for an average of 2.6 yards per attempt.

"We schemed them all week long," Eldredge said. "Here was my idea: I knew they were going to see [the] South County and Stone Bridge [results], and I knew at that point, they were going to think they could run the ball on us. They came out running the ball and [when] they couldn't do that ... then we bracketed their receivers when they had to go to pass. We just made them a one-dimensional offense at that point."

Pickell had a big night for the West Springfield defense. The 5-foot-6, 140-pound senior recorded nine tackles (two solo) and intercepted three passes.

"I think we played great," he said. "We played exactly how we prepared to play."

One week after many games were moved up a day due to potential inclement weather, Friday's kickoff was delayed more than two hours due to weather.

"I'm not into making excuses," Ross said when asked if the delay affected the Wolverines. "... Was it ideal? Probably not. We've had the same situation early in the year with Langley and we did fine. We had to move up the game last week because of weather and we did fine."

West Springfield will host T.C. Williams (2-4) for homecoming at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16. After Friday's game, West Potomac's Burch, who finished with seven receptions for 68 yards and a touchdown, left West Potomac High School in an ambulance with a possible concussion. On Tuesday, the senior said in a Twitter direct message that he will be cleared to play this week against Annandale.

The Wolverines will host the Atoms (4-2, 2-1) at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Lake Braddock Improves to 6-0

The Lake Braddock football team improved to 6-0 overall and 3-0 in Conference 7 with a 33-12 win over T.C. Williams on Oct. 10 in Alexandria.

Bruins running back Lamont Atkins carried 23 times for 118 yards and a touchdown. Peyton Scott had eight rushes for 92 yards and a score.

Quarterback Kyle Edwards completed

4 of 10 passes for 64 yards and was intercepted once. He also scored two rushing touchdowns.

Atkins returned a fumble for a touchdown.

Lake Braddock will host Woodson at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16.

South County Remains Undefeated

The South County football team contin-

ued its unbeaten season with a 37-7 home win over Woodson on Oct. 9.

Running back Demarcus Ramsey led the way for the Stallions with 17 carries for 101 yards and a touchdown. Michael Salisbury completed 11 of 20 passes for 174 yards, with one touchdown and one interception. He also carried 15 times for 74 yards.

Mike Williams carried eight times for 70 yards and had three receptions for 87 yards and a touchdown.

Bryan Acosta and Solomon Simay each scored a rushing touchdown.

South County will host Mount Vernon at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16.

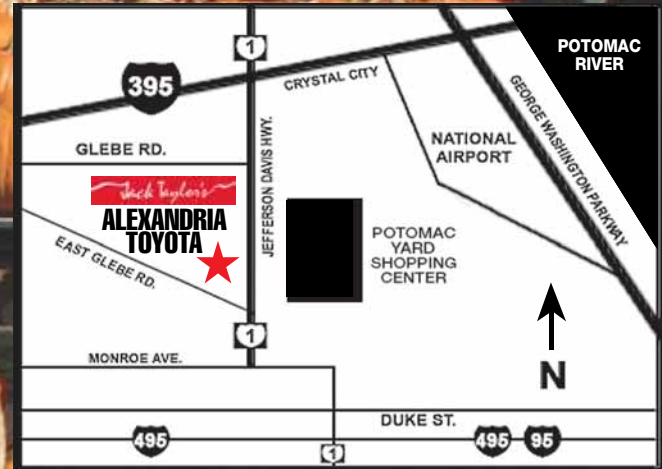
Robinson Wins Third Straight

The Robinson football team won its third straight game and improved to 4-2 with a 27-20 win over Stone Bridge on Oct. 9 in Ashburn.

The Rams will host Westfield at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16.

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*YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE *that a Petition for Termination of Parental Rights has been filed in the Circuit Court of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of the State of Florida, in and for Hillsborough County, Florida, Juvenile Division, alleging that the above-named child is a dependent child and by which the Petitioner is asking for the termination of your parental rights and permanent commitment of your child to the Department of Children and Families for subsequent adoption.
*YOU ARE HEREBY *notified that you are required to appear personally on *November 23, 2015 *
*at 9:00 a.m., before the Emily A. Peacock, *800 E. Twiggs Street, Court room 310, Tampa, Florida 33602, to show cause, if any, why your parental rights should not be terminated and why said child should not be permanently committed to the Florida Department of Children and Families for subsequent adoption. You are entitled to be represented by an attorney at this proceeding.
DATED this _____ day of _____, 2015
PAT FRANK
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By _____
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16 RE Services

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
According to the Lease by and between Kristina Carrigan of unit 1075 and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: clothes, luggage, a blender, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday October 23, 2015 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

According to the Lease by and between Marleny Sandoval of unit 1114 and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: furniture, boxes, a painting, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday October 23, 2015 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

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21 Announcements

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