

# Burke CONNECTION

## SUMMER FUN

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Members of the Robinson girls' lacrosse team celebrate their 13-11 victory over Langley in the 6A North region quarterfinals on May 19.

## Robinson Girls' Lax Comes Back to Beat Langley

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Focuses on Disability Services

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Lt. Brian Ruck from the Fairfax County Police Department (center) gives a brief demonstration of the "ready gun," "attack ready" and "active ready" carry positions using a blue fake firearm.



Supervisors (from left) John Cook (R-Braddock), Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) and Kathy Smith (D-Sully) discuss further police use of force and communications questions at the May 24 meeting of the Fairfax County Public Safety Committee meeting.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

# Supervisors Review Use of Force Guidelines

Public Safety Committee meets before June 21 vote: gun carry positions, release of information, body cameras discussed.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is standing by its Chief of Police and his department. The Board's Public Safety Committee met May 24 to discuss additional questions that lingered or developed following its May 10 meeting to review recommendations for updating and improving the ways Fairfax County Police handle use of force situations and communications.

At that meeting and this latest one, the supervisors reviewed language that will become an action item — along with a matrix of recommendations, estimated costs and implementation statuses from the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission and Police Executive Research Forum — for the board to vote on on June 21.

Deputy County Executive and former Chief of Police David Rohrer said he's working on converting the text. It should be ready for the Board to review, prior to the vote, by June 7.

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) began the discussion with a question from a constituent regarding how police are trained to aim guns at or around a person's center mass. Lt. Brian Ruck from the Fairfax County Police Department gave a brief demonstration of the "ready gun," "attack ready" and "active ready" carry positions using a blue fake firearm.

"It's all about angles, so I can see the offender," Ruck said, while raising and low-



Chief of Police Edwin Roessler said the department is moving toward the goal of requiring every officer carry an Electronic Control Weapon or taser, a commission recommendation.

ering his arms slightly to differentiate between the specified positions.

Ruck also demonstrated how officers are taught to keep their trigger finger on the muzzle of the weapon until the moment when they intent to fire at their target.

"They need to articulate an immediate threat, a reasonable threat," he said.

Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) expressed concern that a pilot for body cameras on police officers might not move forward until next year: "I'd hate to see us wait that long to deal with this."

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) said one of the concerns with not moving forward yet had been legislation in the Virginia General Assembly on body cameras. "We don't know what the state's going to do," McKay said.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) expanded that being on the "bleeding edge" versus "cutting edge" of the technology might not be in the county's best interests.

Supervisor Penny Gross (D-Mason) acknowledged her rare agreement with Herrity in this instance. "We could be bleed-



Lt. Brian Ruck explains how an officer's trigger finger is meant to stay on the muzzle of the handgun until he or she is prepared to fire.

ing a lot of taxpayer money if we get ahead of the law," Gross said.

Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner, chairman of the Ad Hoc commission Use of Force subcommittee, brought up the recommendation that every police officer be required to have an Electronic Control Weapon (or taser) on their person while on patrol. Currently it's only optional, he said.

Chief of Police Edwin Roessler said the department is "moving toward that goal," and confirmed that every officer certified to use the weapon may carry one at their discretion. There was little additional conversation on tasers from the supervisors.

Merni Fitzgerald, chair of the Ad Hoc commission communications subcommittee, spoke about the need for a community engagement team as a formal way to make sure there's "back and forth" exchange with the public and the police department.

Roessler responded that his department has recently applied for a Department of Justice grant that would help fund such a team.

Also during the communications discus-

sion over release of information following an officer-involved incident, Smith said she was concerned about language for the action item. Roessler has said he needs up to 10 days following the incident to conduct a thorough threat assessment for the officer and his or her family.

The way the item reads, Smith said, the supervisors would be able to overturn that action by the chief and force the release of an officer's name sooner.

"No one's saying the board would overturn that," Chairman Sharon Bulova said. But, she said, "the Board needs to be given latitude to have a discussion."

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), chairman of the Public Safety Committee, expanded on Bulova's comment. "The public needs to know it's our job to come out of closed session, get in front of a camera and say it was the chief's decision and we're backing up the chief," Cook said. "The chief had a recommendation, we were briefed on it. It's a public obligation."

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for July 19.





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## BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/) 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.

### WEDNESDAY/JUNE 15

**Public Hearing on Monopoles and Towers Zoning Ordinance.** 8:15 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Planning commission hearing. [fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz).

**Community Forums on Community Accessibility.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. Mott Community Center, 12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Hosted by Fairfax Area Disability Board. The board will review the forum information to develop an action plan that addresses community recommendations, barriers, and service gaps. [disabilityservices@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:disabilityservices@fairfaxcounty.gov). 703-324-5874.

### TUESDAY/JUNE 21

**NVTA Workshop.** 7-9 p.m. Providence District Office, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. In-person meetings are designed to capture feedback from a broad range of participants. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/>. Type Northern Virginia Transportation Authority to search for the public workshops.

**Public Hearing on Monopoles and Towers Zoning Ordinance.** 3:30 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Board of Supervisors Hearing. [fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz).

## FAITH NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

**Grace Presbyterian Church** in Springfield, 7434 Bath St., is hosting a Camp Hanover Day Camp July 11-15 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Children who have completed kindergarten to sixth grade are invited to attend. To register, or for additional registration, visit [www.camphanover.org/grace-day-camp](http://www.camphanover.org/grace-day-camp)

**Fairfax Circle Church** will hold Christian Sports Camp Monday-Friday, June 27-July from 5-8:15 p.m. The church is located at 3110 Chichester Lane, Fairfax. Offers basketball, cheerleading and soccer, as well as a special program for the 4-5 year olds. Children four years to sixth-grade. \$40. [fairfaxcirclechurch.org](http://fairfaxcirclechurch.org). [sportscamp@fairfaxcirclechurch.org](mailto:sportscamp@fairfaxcirclechurch.org).

**Fairfax Baptist Temple**, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or [www.fbtministries.org](http://www.fbtministries.org).

**Jubilee Christian Center** of Fairfax is restarting its "Living Free" support groups for the Spring on Wednesdays, starting on Mar. 30, 7:15 p.m. The support groups are free, and will cover different topics. There will also be support groups meeting on Sundays, 10:10 a.m. 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. For information or to register, call 703-383-1170, email [livingfree@jccag.org](mailto:livingfree@jccag.org) or [seewww.jccag.org](http://seewww.jccag.org).

**VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation**

**Public Hearing Notice**  
**Fairfax County Secondary Six Year Plan**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and The Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, in accordance with Section 33.2.331 of the Code of Virginia, will conduct a joint public hearing in the Board Auditorium, Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035 at 4:30 p.m. on June 21, 2016.

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive public comment on the Secondary Six Year Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2017 through 2022. Copies of the proposed plan may be reviewed at the VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030.

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 at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

Persons wishing to speak at this public hearing should contact the Office of the Clerk to the County Board of Supervisors at 703-324-3151.

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

**JUNE**

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## NEWS

Nevin Gibson, chair of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Community Affairs Committee congratulations Holly Leinz, recipient of the Chamber's 2016 college scholarship.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



## Greater Springfield Chamber Awards Scholarship to Lake Braddock Senior

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce has awarded Holly Erika Leinz of Burke a scholarship in the amount of \$2,000. Holly is a senior at Lake Braddock Secondary School, an officer in DECA – an international business club and association of marketing students, and a volunteer with Shine for Girls – a program that empowers elementary and middle school girls through tutoring, mentoring and the use of kinesthetic learning.

Holly attended the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce's May 19 networking mixer, where she had the opportunity to meet Chamber members and be recognized for her high school achievements and volun-

teer work in the Greater Springfield community.

Holly will graduate from Lake Braddock Secondary School on Thursday, June 16. This fall she plans to begin pursuit of a business-finance major at the University of Virginia.

This is the eleventh year the Chamber's Foundation has awarded scholarships to deserving students in the Greater Springfield area. Criteria for the scholarship include maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or higher, residency in the Greater Springfield area and plans to pursue a business related major while in college.

For more information about the Chamber visit [springfieldchamber.org](http://springfieldchamber.org).

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# Remembering on Memorial Day 2016

## Observe a moment of silence.

On Memorial Day, we remember all of those who have died in military service, more than 400,000 in World War II, more than 30,000 in Korea, more than 50,000 in Vietnam.

As many as 620,000 soldiers died in the line of duty in the Civil War, stunningly about 2 percent of the population at that time. To compare, while more than 2.5 million soldiers have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, that number is still less than one percent of the U.S. population.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 6,880 U.S. military service men and women have died in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On Memorial Day, there are many ways to remember the fallen, including a visit to Arlington National Cemetery, or many other local commemorations. But at a minimum, wherever you are, you can observe a moment of silence at 12:01 p.m. along with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), or you can set your own moment at some point during the day.

More than 52,000 U.S. military service members have been wounded in action, although that number is likely to be revised upward. In 2013, the military confirmed traumatic brain injury in more than 220,000 of the more than 2.5 million troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The long-term consequences of many of these injuries, including mental health consequences, are unknown, but they will require a national commitment to excellence in health care and services for both active duty military personnel and veterans. Virginia's U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine continue to advocate for better service from the Veterans Administration.

Since Memorial Day 2014, the Department of Defense announced the death of one service member from Virginia, Marcus D. Prince, 22, of Norfolk, Virginia, who died April 26 in Juffir, Bahrain.

Between Memorial Day 2014 and 2015, two military service members from Virginia. Sgt. Charles C. Strong, 28, of Suffolk, died Sept. 15, 2014 in Herat Province, Afghanistan while conducting combat operations. Sgt. David H. Stewart, 34, of Stafford, was one of three Marines who died June 20, 2014 while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

**EVERY YEAR** before Memorial Day, this newspaper names the local men and women who have died in military service since Sept. 11, 2001.

Army Sgt. Lyle D. Turnbull, 31, of Norfolk, died Oct. 18, 2013 in Kuwait, from a medical emergency. Capt. Brandon L. Cyr, 28, of Woodbridge, was one of four airmen who died April 27, 2013, near Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, in the crash of an MC-12 aircraft.

1st Lt. Robert J. Hess, 26, of the Kings Park West neighborhood of Fairfax, was killed by enemy fire on April 23, 2013, Afghanistan. Hess was known as "RJ" and graduated from Robinson Secondary School in 2005, where he played football, lacrosse and was the captain of the swim team. He was a U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopter pilot who deployed to Afghanistan on April 11, 2013. His family remembers his sense of humor and his natural leadership ability.

## EDITORIAL

Master Sgt. George A. Banner Jr., 37, of Orange, died Aug. 20, 2013, of injuries sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire in Wardak Province, Afghanistan.

Spc. Caryn E. Nouv, 29, of Newport News, was one of two soldiers who died July 27, 2013 in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked their vehicle with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire.

Lance Cpl. Niall W. Coti-Sears, 23, of Arlington, died June 23, 2012, while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Coti-Sears loved music, played the guitar, composed songs and entertained family and friends at holiday gatherings. Niall was very close to his grandfather, William Coti, who was a Marine. "He was always my protege," William Coti told the Arlington Connection. "He always wanted to be a Marine and he followed my example. It weighs heavily on me that this had to happen."

Chief Warrant Officer Five John C. Pratt, 51, of Springfield, died May 28, 2012 in Kabul, Afghanistan, when his helicopter crashed.

Staff Sgt. Jessica M. Wing, 42, of Alexandria, died Aug. 27, 2012 in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

In February 2012, Brig. Gen. Terence J. Hildner, 49, of Fairfax, was the highest ranking military officer to die in the war. Hildner died Feb. 3, 2012 in Kabul province, Afghanistan.

Sgt. Aaron X. Wittman, 28, of Chester, Virginia, died Jan. 10, 2013 from small arms fire. Sgt. David J. Chambers, 25, of Hampton, Virginia, died Jan. 16, 2013 from a roadside bomb. Sgt. Robert J. Billings, 30, of Clarksville, Virginia, died Oct. 13, 2012 when enemy forces attacked with an improvised explosive device. Staff Sgt. Jonathan P. Schmidt, 28, of Petersburg, Va., died Sept. 1, 2012 from enemy small arms fire. 1st Lt. Stephen C. Prasnicky, 24, of Lexington, Virginia, died June 27, 2012, from a roadside bomb.

Aaron Carson Vaughn, 30, was one of 30 American service members and 22 Navy SEALs killed Aug. 6, 2011 when their Chinook helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan. Vaughn's family has ties to McLean and Burke. He is survived by his wife, Kimberly, and their two children.

Spc. Douglas Jay Green, 23, of Sterling, died Aug. 28, 2011, when insurgents attacked his unit using a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. Green enlisted in 2007, after attending Potomac Falls High School.

Pfc. Benjamin J. Park, 25, of Fairfax Station, died June 18, 2010 at Zhari district, Kandahar, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

May 12, 2010, Donald J. Lamar II, 23, of Fredericksburg, was killed in Afghanistan. Christopher D. Worrell, 35 of Virginia Beach, was killed in Iraq on April 22, 2010. Steven J. Bishop, 29 of Christianburg, was killed March 13, 2010 in Iraq. Kielin T. Dunn, 19, of Chesapeake, was killed Feb. 18, 2010 in Afghanistan. Brandon T. Islip, 23, of Richmond, was killed Nov. 29, 2009, in Afghanistan. Stephan L. Mace, 21, of Lovettsville, died Oct. 3, 2009 in Afghanistan.

Bill Cahir, 40, of Alexandria, died Aug. 13, 2009 of a gunshot wound while conducting combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. After Sept. 11, 2001, Cahir decided to leave his career as a journalist and join the Marine Corps. His application to become a Marine was denied because of his age, but he successfully lobbied members of Congress to get a special exemption.

Lance Cpl. Daniel Ryan Bennett, 23, of Clifton died Jan. 11, 2009, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. 2nd Lt. Sean P. O'Connor of Burke died Oct. 19, 2008 while stationed at Hunter Army Air Field, Savannah, Georgia. O'Connor was an athlete in soccer, baseball and football who attended Fairfax County Public Schools and was a 1999 graduate of Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington.

Pfc. David Sharrett II, 27, of Oakton, died Jan. 16, 2008 in Iraq. On Oct. 24, 2008, his father, David H. Sharrett, was on hand as the Oakton Post Office on White Granite Drive was renamed to honor his son. But the senior Sharrett has battled to learn the truth about his son's death, that he was killed by his lieutenant in a "friendly fire" incident. In April 2012, Sharrett Sr. obtained documents confirming some of the details of his son's death and a subsequent cover-up.

Army 1st Lt. Thomas J. Brown, 26, a George Mason University graduate and Burke resident, died on Sept. 23, 2008, while serving in Iraq, from small arms fire.

Sgt. Scott Kirkpatrick, 26, died on Aug. 11, 2007, in Arab Jabour, Iraq. Kirkpatrick, who graduated from

Park View High School in Sterling, and also considered Herndon and Reston as his hometowns, was a champion slam poet.

Ami Neiberger-Miller lost her brother, U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Neiberger, in August 2007 when he was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq. He was 22.

Staff Sgt. Jesse G. Clowers Jr., 27, of Herndon, died when an improvised bomb exploded near his vehicle in Afghanistan on Aug. 12, 2007. Jonathan D. Winterbottom, 21, of Falls Church, died in Iraq on May 23, 2007, when an IED exploded near his vehicle.

Nicholas Rapavi, 22, of Springfield, died Nov. 24, 2006, during combat in Anbar province in Iraq. Army Cpl. Andy D. Anderson, 24, was killed by enemy fire in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on Tuesday, June 6, 2006.

Spc. Robert Drawl Jr., 21, a 2003 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, was killed by a bomb in Kunar, Afghanistan, on Aug. 19, 2006.

U.S. Army Specialist Felipe J. Garcia Villareal, 26, of Burke, was injured in Iraq and flown to Washington Hospital Center, where he died Feb. 12, 2006. He was a graduate of Herndon High School.

Capt. Shane R. M. Mahaffee, 36, a 1987 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, died May 15, 2006. He was a lawyer, married, with two children.

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas Kirven, 21, was killed in Afghanistan in 2005 during a firefight in a cave with insurgents. He enlisted while still in high school after Sept. 11, 2001.

Fairfax Station resident Pfc. Dillon Jutras, 20, was killed in combat operations in Al Anbar Province of Iraq on Oct. 29, 2005.

Maj. William F. Hecker III, a 1987 graduate of McLean High School, was killed in action in Iraq, Jan. 5, 2005. Staff Sgt. Ayman Taha, 31, of Vienna, was killed Dec. 30, 2005, when an enemy munitions cache he was prepping for demolition exploded. Army Capt. Chris Petty of Vienna was killed Jan. 5, 2006.

Staff Sgt. George T. Alexander Jr., the 2,000th soldier to be killed in Iraq, was literally born into the Army here in Northern Virginia, at DeWitt Army Hospital at Fort Belvoir. Alexander died at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 22, 2005, of injuries sustained in Iraq five days earlier.

Lt. Col. Thomas A. Wren, 44, of Lorton, died in Tallil, Iraq on Nov. 5, 2005. Marine Capt. Michael Martino, 32 of the City of Fairfax, died Nov. 2, 2005, when his helicopter was brought down in Iraq.

1st Lt. Laura M. Walker of Oakton was killed on Aug. 18, 2005, in Kandahar, Afghanistan. CW4 Matthew S. Lourey of Lorton died from injuries sustained on May 26, 2005 in Buhriz, Iraq. Operations Officer Helge Boes of Fairfax was killed on Feb. 5, 2003, while participating in counterterrorism efforts in eastern Afghanistan.

Among other local lives lost: Lance Cpl. Tavon Lee Hubbard, 24, of Reston; 1st Lt. Alexander Wetherbee, 27, of McLean; 1st Lt. Jeff Kaylor, 25, of Clifton; Coast Guard Petty Officer Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, of Herndon; Army Chief Warrant Officer Sharon T. Swartworth, 43, of Mount Vernon; Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecler, 40, of Mount Vernon; Capt. James F. Adamowski, 29, of Springfield; Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert, 22, of Alexandria; Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, 20, of Alexandria; Staff Sgt. Russell Verdugo, 34, of Alexandria. Army Capt. Mark N. Stubenhofer, 30, from Springfield; Marine Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obleas-Prado Pena, 36, from Falls Church; Marine Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, 27, from Burke; Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel J. Nyren, 31, from Reston; Marine Lance Cpl. Tenzin Dengkhim, 19, from Falls Church, Navy Chief Joel Egan Baldwin, 37, from Arlington; Maj. Joseph McCloud, of Alexandria, and Major Gloria D. Davis, 47 of Lorton.

Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat, 28, of Prince George, Virginia, died on May 20, 2012 in Afghanistan from a roadside bomb. Constructionman Trevor J. Stanley, 22, of Virginia Beach, died April 7, 2012 while deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. Pfc. Michael W. Pyron, 30, of Hopewell, Virginia, died Jan. 10, 2012 in Afghanistan. Maj. Samuel M. Griffith, 36, of Virginia Beach, died Dec. 14, 2011 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. James Ronald Leep Jr., 44, of Richmond, died Oct. 17, 2011 at Forward Operating Base Kalsu in Iraq. Spc. Levi Efrain Nuncio, 24 of Harrisonburg, died June 22, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Michael Wray Newton, 30 of Newport News, died June 11, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Charles A. Ransom, 31, of Midlothian was one of eight airmen who died April 27, 2011, at the Kabul International Airport, Afghanistan, from gunfire. Sgt. Sean T. Callahan, 23, of Warrenton died April 23, 2011

SEE REMEMBERING, PAGE 7

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# LETTERS

## Obstacles to Continued Learning

To the Editor:

Why does George Mason University, place meaningless but annoying obstacles in the path of Senior Citizens who wish to engage in mentally challenging and potentially rewarding experiences?

One of the very nice programs available to Senior Citizens in Virginia is the privilege of auditing courses at state colleges and universities at no cost. These activities earn no credit and cannot be used to meet requirements for a degree but offer Senior Citizens the opportunity to intellectually engage and learn new things. Also, no degree seeker is displaced as the Senior Citizen may attend a class only if there is space available. However, if well-educated and experienced Senior Citizens wish to audit graduate level courses at GMU, they must have an undergraduate transcript, not just proof of having earned a degree, sent to the university. This requires contacting the undergraduate college, having someone on that end locate decades old transcripts (if they still exist!), send them to GMU, have someone at GMU receive them and file them, and maybe have someone look at them, all for documents with little current meaning.

Now, it is easy to understand why someone, of any age, who is seeking a graduate degree should meet this requirement. However, I am speaking here of people who are not seeking credit or a degree, and whose undergraduate degree was earned at least four decades ago. In my case, I graduated from college 52 years ago with a major in chemistry. I can assure you that the field has changed enormously in that half century, as has my life and level of experience (I have gone on and earned a Ph.D., as

well as an MBA, both from top tier universities). What possible value does that undergraduate transcript have today?

My understanding is that this requirement is based on internal university policy only, and thus can be changed by the university. I brought this to the attention of Tom Davis, in his role as Rector of GMU, and to Dr. Angel Cabrera, president of GMU. Both kicked the can down the road, and as of this writing, I have not gotten an explanation of why this burdensome requirement is still placed upon Senior Citizens who merely want to audit graduate level courses. Is there no common sense within the ivory tower?

I might add that in my case, in addition to having four earned degrees, including a Ph.D., I taught at GMU in the 1980s as an adjunct for a couple of years. Even so, the requirement for submitting an undergraduate transcript could not be waived! Does GMU simply not want to be "bothered" with Senior Citizen auditors at the graduate level? I call upon GMU to eliminate this requirement for Senior Citizens.

**Dennis Chamot**  
Burke

## Budget Reflects Commitment to Education

To the Editor:

The April 21-27, 2016 edition included an article discussing the Supervisors' approval of a 4-cent tax increase as part of an overall budget. This budget increased funding for the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). More importantly, it reflected a commitment to education and was an increase over the earlier Fairfax County advertised budget. The article quoted Springfield District School Board member Elizabeth Schultz. Rather

than noting the importance of the funding to maintain the quality of our school and focusing on teachers and students, Ms. Schultz chose to bring up her perception of the need for less adversarial communication with the Board, more collaboration with the Board, and more clarity on spending. We should all remember that Ms. Schultz voted against the FCPS budget and wanted FCPS to submit a budget that reflected the County's initial advertised budget. That was the wrong position to take. We should thank Dr. Garza and the school board members who pressed forward with the budget request and the justifications that resulted in the increase....no thanks to Ms. Schultz.

**Michael Spatola**  
Fairfax Station

## 'Meal Tax' and Fiscal Responsibility

To the Editor:

The never ending push for new revenue streams for Fairfax County with their tax and spend policies really knows no end. The overall real estate tax bill for the typical Fairfax county household increased by 154 percent between the years 2000 and 2016, and now the county will try for a new source of revenue called the "meal

tax." In the same period of time, household income increased by 35 percent with overall inflation at roughly 49 percent. Somehow the word needs to be conveyed to the county supervisors that they need to practice some fiscal responsibility. The taxpayers can't afford their Cadillac health plans, pensions with retirement at 55 along with overall 3.5 percent raises for 33,000 county school employees. Fairfax should not try to compete with nearby Maryland county's spending policies. I would like to know how many recommendations the FCSB implemented from the task force set up to find cuts in school spending? Wait, I know the answer; None. If the Fairfax county voters are naïve enough to approve a meal tax in the name of "diversifying the revenue" stream the future increase in the meal tax and property taxes will be well deserved by the voters.

**Dudley Losselyong**  
Great Falls

**Write** The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

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## Remembering on Memorial Day

FROM PAGE 6

in combat in Afghanistan. Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Venetz Jr., 30, of Prince William died Jan. 28, 2011 in Afghanistan, after being seriously wounded months before. Spc. Sean R. Cutsforth, 22, of Radford, died Dec. 15, 2010 in Afghanistan. Spc. William K. Middleton, 26, of Norfolk died Nov. 22, 2010 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. Christopher F.

Cabacoy, 30, of Virginia Beach died July 5, 2010, in Afghanistan.

If you know of someone who should be included in this list, or if you would like to share how you are honoring the memory of a family member or friend lost, or about the progress of someone injured, please let us know.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Area Girl Scouts Earn Highest Award

Maureen Sawyer of Burke is one of 11 Girl Scouts awarded a Gold Award Scholarship of \$2,000 by the Girl Scouts Nation's Capital for her project titled Bridging the Gap: Increasing Awareness of Educational Poverty.

Maureen led an extensive locker cleanout to collect school supplies for children in Haiti.

Helena Doms of McLean was recognized as a Young Woman of Distinction and was awarded a \$3,000 scholarship for her project Street Smart Safety, focusing on ending violence against girls through self-defense and danger avoidance workshops.

Other Girl Scouts from our area who received Gold Award Scholarship include:

❖ Maggie Weaver of Oak Hill (Fun is Free - helping children at the Katherine K. Hanley Shelter by running a kids day camp. She also created bags filled with books and toys for HealthWorks Free Clinic.)

❖ Michelle Ma of Falls Church for The Speak Up Initiative (Michelle created an initiative to bring public speaking education to middle schools in Falls Church, Virginia and Washington, D.C.)

❖ Alison Luckett of Vienna (Native Plants Needed Now — Alison led a team of students to plant a native species garden at the entrance of Vienna Elementary School to inspire them to be better stewards of the planet.)

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts' highest award, the Gold Award. Since 1916, Girl Scouts have gained proficiency in skills and taken action to serve their community. This year, 163 Gold Award Girl Scouts in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia have left a legacy in their communities.

Girl Scouts provides girls in grades K-12 with opportunities to learn new skills, make friends, and discover the power of girls together. To join, volunteer or donate, visit [www.gscnc.org](http://www.gscnc.org).

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION  
**Robinson senior Kaitlin Luccarelli scored five goals against Langley on May 19.**



**Robinson senior Taylor Caskey finished with three goals and two assists during the Rams' 13-11 win over Langley on May 19.**

# Robinson Girls' Lax Comes Back to Beat Langley

**Rams earn state playoff berth, advance to region semifinals.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

Katie Checkosky glanced up at the Coffey Stadium scoreboard as she cradled the ball in her stick pocket, watching the final seconds tick off the clock while she ran around the field. After the horn sounded, the Robinson attacker tossed the ball in the air and hugged teammate Elli Kluegel before the rest of the Rams arrived to celebrate.

The Robinson girls' lacrosse team, which won the 2015 state championship and hasn't lost to a public school opponent since 2014, faced a rare test on May 19. Taking on a Langley team that went undefeated during the regular season, the Rams trailed 7-5 at halftime and found themselves down by a goal with less than 20 minutes remaining in the contest.

In a postseason matchup that arrived sooner than expected, Robinson scored six of the final nine goals and kept its season alive.

The Rams defeated the Saxons 13-11 in the 6A North region quarterfinals at Robinson Secondary School. Robinson remained unbeaten, earned a state tournament berth and advanced to the region semifinals, where the Rams faced Patriot on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline.

Langley's season came to a close. The Saxons finished the year with a 17-2 record.

"This is a huge boost-up win," Kluegel said. "This pumps us up so much. It's made us really hungry, knowing that this is potentially the hardest or one of ... the hardest teams we're going to face this year. To beat them and to come out with a great victory like we did, that's just driving us forward."

**LANGLEY** scored the first two goals of the game and led 5-2 after Elise Kim put one in the cage with 14:18 remaining in the opening half. Rebecca Bair scored with 23 seconds left, giving the Saxons a 7-5 halftime advantage.

"It was weird for us being in that situation because we've never been down, except for against Westfield earlier this year," said Kluegel, the Conference 5 Player of the Year. "That was a little alarming, how fast they came out ..."

After Robinson tied the score at 7 with goals by Kluegel and Kaitlin Luccarelli early in the second half, Langley senior Halle Duenkel, the Conference 6 Offensive Player of the Year, put a free position goal in the cage for an 8-7 Saxons lead with 19:22 remaining.

A goal by Robinson's Kate Mulvenon tied the score at 8 with 18:05 on the clock and, less than a minute later, Luccarelli put the Rams ahead to stay with her third goal of the contest.

Luccarelli, a senior midfielder, finished with five goals.

"We got together at half and we had a talk," Luccarelli said, "and we realized that this is our home stadium, this is our game and we need to keep continuing on, that we're not going to lose tonight, that we're better than this — we're undefeated and we're a better team all around and that this is our game."

Robinson head coach Liz Case said the Rams became more aggressive as the game progressed.

"[Our halftime talk] was basically, like, we need to stop being scared and go out there and play tough and get those groundballs," Case said. "I think a lot of the time we were waiting for [Langley] to pick it up and [then we would be] ready to play defense. No, we've got to go get the groundball first."

Case had senior defender Emily Skrzypczak start taking draws for Robinson after Langley, thanks in part to junior midfielder Emma Crooks, had success with

draws early in the game. The move paid off.

"If it wasn't working one way, we've got to switch it up quickly because it was all about the draw, and we weren't winning the draw," Case said. "Once we switched it up, we started winning the draw. ... [Skrzypczak is] our powerhouse coming up off of defense."

Robinson senior midfielder Taylor Caskey finished with three goals and two assists. Kluegel tallied three goals and Checkosky totaled one goal and two assists.

Langley's Duenkel finished with three goals and three assists, Crooks had three goals and two assists and Bair scored two goals.

**ROBINSON-LANGLEY** was once viewed as a potential state championship matchup. But after the Saxons lost in their conference championship game, Langley entered the region tournament as the No. 2 seed from Conference 6, meaning a likely second-round meeting with the Conference 5 champion Rams.

Despite winning 17 of its first 18 games, Langley had to face an undefeated opponent early in the region tournament and came up short.

"I'm beyond proud of our team," said Duenkel, who will play for James Madison University. "... Even though this year we couldn't quite make it, next year I have full faith that this program has been turned around by [head coach] Maggie [Kovacs] and [assistants] Bucky [Morris] and Annie [Swanson]. It's just a very different team than it was at the beginning of the season."

While Langley will lose Duenkel to graduation, Kovacs said a talented Great Falls feeder system makes for a bright future.

"I coached last spring the seventh-/eighth-grade 'A' team for Great Falls [and I'm] counting down the days until those eighth-graders get here," Kovacs said. "... This is a little heartbreaking for me because these seniors were the first kids I ever coached lacrosse to [from] a team standpoint ... but Langley has a really bright future ahead of it."

**The Lake Braddock boys' soccer team defeated T.C. Williams 4-3 in overtime on May 20 to win the Conference 7 championship.**

PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN



## Quashie's OT Goal Gives Lake Braddock Conference 7 Title

**Bruins beat T.C. Williams after surrendering pair of two-goal leads.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

The Lake Braddock boys' soccer team twice held a two-goal lead during Friday's Conference 7 tournament championship game against T.C. Williams, only to find itself headed to overtime after a Titans goal in the closing minutes of regulation.

But rather than succumbing to the negative feelings of letting victory slip through their fingers, the Bruins instead traveled a championship path that merely took a little longer.

Late in the second five-minute overtime period, Lake Braddock midfielder Danny Cabrera headed the ball to forward Nico Quashie, who used his left foot to beat a trio of Titans with his second goal of the game and lift the Bruins to a 4-3 victory over T.C. Williams on May 20 in Alexandria.

It was Lake Braddock's first conference/district title since 2013.

"I just saw the ball in the air and as soon as the ball was in the air I just followed it," Quashie said. "... I just wanted it more than the other guy."

**LAKE BRADDOCK** head coach Joe Soos praised Quashie's ability to finish.

"He's a difficult player to deal with," Soos said. "He finds himself in good scoring chances and he's going to convert them."

Despite starting roughly 25 minutes after arriving on the field for a scheduled 4:30 p.m. kickoff, Lake Braddock jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first half, thanks to goals by Ahmed Abdalla in the 14th minute and Quashie in the 24th. The Bruins took the two-goal advantage into halftime before a T.C. Williams corner kick in the 44th minute turned into a goal by Elvis Gomez, cutting the Lake Braddock lead in half.

The Bruins regained their two-goal cushion when Nico Ortiz DeZarate found the back of the net in the 54th minute, but the Titans weren't done. Trailing 3-1, TC scored on a penalty kick by Kevin Nunez in the 60th minute before Reuben Bosompem netted the equalizer in the 78th minute.

Undeterred, Lake Braddock managed to pull out the win in overtime.

"We knew that there was going to be no quit in TC — they never quit," Soos said. "They're always a great opponent. ... If you're going to do it, and you want to test yourself, then having to do it against TC is a real accomplishment because of how tough they always play from beginning to end."

T.C. Williams head coach Peter Abed said he felt the Titans controlled the run of play for a good portion of the contest but Lake Braddock was able to capitalize on its opportunities.

"I thought the first two [Lake Braddock goals] were definitely against the run of play a little bit," Abed said. "I thought we really controlled the match for a while. We created a lot of chances. I thought we were in good position a lot of the time. That's what we told the guys at halftime is I know it's 2-0, but it's 2-0 because of two mistakes. I thought it was very evenly played, if not a little bit slanted our way. ... I thought we really had the run of play and just kind of got unlucky on three or four occasions and they really pounce on it. ... They're just really good at pouncing on any mistake, any loose ball, and they've got skilled players to finish it off. All the credit to them, for sure."

Lake Braddock entered the Conference 7 tournament as the No. 4 seed. After beating No. 5 South County 6-1 in the quarterfinals and earning a 6A North region tournament berth on May 16, the Bruins knocked off No. 1 seed West Potomac 4-2 in the semifinals on May 18. Lake Braddock then captured the championship and extended its win streak to nine games with a win over No. 2 T.C. Williams.

"It's been so fun," Quashie said. "We're so happy and that gives us more confidence coming into the next game."

Lake Braddock's next game arrived on Tuesday and the Bruins beat Robinson 4-0 in the opening round of the region tournament. The victory improved the Bruins' record to 14-3 and extended their win streak to 10 games.

Lake Braddock will host defending state champion Langley in the quarterfinals at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 26.

## Bishop Pitches Bruins to Conference 7 Championship

**Lake Braddock baseball wins second straight conference title.**

BY AARON LUNDMARK  
THE CONNECTION

Redemption had never felt so sweet for the Lake Braddock Bruins.

After falling to West Springfield twice earlier this season, the Bruins were fueled by a five-run top of the third and a dominant three-hit shutout by pitcher Peyton Bishop and secured the Conference 7 championship with an 8-0 victory on Friday night at Tugwell Yards.

"They were just tougher than us the first two games," Lake Braddock head coach Jody Rutherford said after the game. "That wasn't the case tonight."

Toughness might have been the key early on, as both teams went down pretty quietly through the first two innings. Then Lake Braddock struck in the top of the third inning.

After a leadoff walk to Justin Luedecking, second baseman Ryan Baker reached on a bunt single. The next batter was Ethan Rolland, who hit a comebacker to starting pitcher Jacob Kisner, but reached on an errant throw that pulled the first baseman off the bag, leaving the bases loaded with nobody out.

The next batter was Nate Contrino, who delivered a two-run single to left field, putting the Bruins ahead 2-0. Following that, Matt Thomas would add another two-run single,

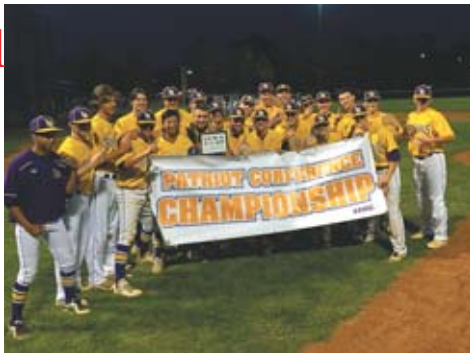


PHOTO BY AARON LUNDMARK

**The Lake Braddock baseball team won the Conference 7 championship on May 20.**

and Ryan Tobin would add a sacrifice fly to make it 5-0 after three innings. That would prove to be all the run support Bruin starter Peyton Bishop would need.

"He changes speeds and he pounds the strike zone," Rutherford said. "He has confidence in his defense behind him and he never gets rattled on the mound."

**BISHOP** threw a complete game shutout, allowing just three hits to go along with three strikeouts and only one walk.

"He just battled out there tonight," said Bruin catcher and Conference 7 player of the year Logan Driscoll. "He threw all of his pitches right where I wanted them, it was unbelievable."

West Springfield looked like it was about to answer in the bottom half of the third. After a two-out walk and the Spartans' first hit by Matt Stallings, Brendan Fletcher roped a line drive but right at the right fielder Luedecking to end

the threat.

What was the major difference in this game compared to the first two meetings that the Spartans won?

"Well, the first two games were tight, one play here or there, they could have gone either way," said West Springfield head coach Jason Olms. "Tonight we made some defensive mistakes early whereas they didn't and we just didn't come out ready to play like they did."

The Lake Braddock defense was tremendous all night, receiving consistent play from third baseman Matt Thomas and shortstop Ethan Rolland.

**LAKE BRADDOCK** added on two more runs in the sixth inning without the help of a hit to make its lead 8-0. Bishop got the final out of the game on a groundout in the seventh, which ignited the celebration.

Despite the loss, Olms didn't seem too concerned about getting the Spartans ready to play next week.

"A lot of teams aren't playing anymore and we're still going, but we have a long way to go," he said. "We have a home game on Wednesday and we know that's the main thing you want going into a region tournament because once you're in the dance, you're in the dance and anything can happen."

Kisner took the loss for West Springfield, allowing five earned runs on six hits while striking out one and walking two.

West Springfield faced Westfield on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline. Lake Braddock hosted Robinson on the same day.

## Robinson Boys' Lax Earns State Tournament Berth

**Rams pull away from Yorktown in second quarter.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Nick Dillon and the Robinson boys' lacrosse team earned a state tournament berth with a 12-5 win over Yorktown on May 19.**

The Yorktown boys' lacrosse team was on the receiving end of multiple compliments following its 6A North region quarterfinal matchup with Robinson on May 19. Unfortunately for the Patriots, the praise came in the form of a parting gift.

The Rams, two-time defending state champions, jumped out to a five-goal first-half lead and defeated the Patriots in as many years. Robinson secured a state tournament berth for the third consecutive season and advanced to the region semifinals, where the Rams faced Madison on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline.

Yorktown ended the season with a 12-7 record. The Patriots finished runner-up in the Conference 6 tournament.

The May 19 meeting was the fifth between the two programs in the last three years, with Robinson winning four. Yorktown's lone victory over Robinson during that stretch came last season, when the Patriots knocked off the Rams 7-5 during spring break. Yorktown

defenseman] Conor Shears and [senior] Mason Pollack in the cage. Those guys are amazing. When you have those guys, the rest of it just kind of [works]."

Robinson is a talented team, as well, and the Rams took care of business, earning a trip to the region final four. Henry, who will play for VMI, and freshman Declan Connolly each scored four goals for the Rams. Henry added an assist.

"He's added so much to our offense," Henry said about the young standout Connolly. "I think without him, we wouldn't be scoring the goals we've scored."

Connolly received praise from his coach, as well.

"At this point — I think I've heard [Duke men's basketball coach] Mike Krzyzewski say this — at this point, you're no longer a freshman," Curran said. "This far into the season, he's started 17 games for us. He's [one of our top scorers]. He's a special talent, he really is. He did an amazing job, again, tonight."

Junior midfielder Nick Dillon scored two goals and had two assists for Robinson. Danny Krug and Devin Townsend each had one goal, and Johnny Daniel, who will play at VMI, had three assists.

Robinson entered Wednesday's contest with a 16-2 record.



## SUMMER FUN

# Summertime Fun Abounds in Area

### ONGOING

**Summer Entertainment Series.** June 1-Aug. 31. Fairfax County Parks. A summer-long calendar of shows, concerts and movies appropriate for you and your family. These concerts held in local parks are the perfect place to bring a picnic dinner, blankets and lawn chairs to enjoy the best local and regional entertainers. Free. To find out what's playing at your nearby park, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/>.

### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 4-5

**Springfield Days.** 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Multiple locations in Springfield. Springfield Days is a community wide celebration that includes a 5K run, "Pet Fest," car show and a cardboard regatta. Visit [www.springfielddays.com](http://www.springfielddays.com) for more.

### THURSDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 2-5

**Workhouse Carnival and Arts Party.** Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Rides, games, music, vendors, food and family fun and will take place on the south side of the Workhouse campus. This event will raise funds in support of the Workhouse's arts, education and history programs. Admission to the carnival is free, including the live entertainment and film screening, however rides and vendors will require additional fees and tickets. Parking fee may apply. Contact the venue for updates, <http://www.workhousearts.org/get-involved/special-events/>.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEANNIE WINSLOW, BURKE CENTRE FESTIVAL

**Burke Centre Festival-goers experienced plenty of sunshine in 2013.**

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 10-12

**Celebrate Fairfax! Festival.** Friday, 6 p.m.-midnight. Saturday, 10 a.m.-midnight. Sunday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Fairfax County Government

Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Musical performances, rides, games and food. Call 703-324-3247 or visit [www.celebratefairfax.com/](http://www.celebratefairfax.com/).

### MONDAY/JULY 4

**Clifton Independence Day Parade and Picnic.** Children on bikes, deck-out lawnmowers and other modes of transportation teeming with patriotism and walkers and pets perambulate down the picturesque streets of Clifton. Picnic follows the parade. See updates at <http://clifton-va.com/>.

**City of Fairfax 5th Independence Day Celebration.** Celebrations throughout the City. Fireworks, music, parade, tours. For more information, <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/> (Click on Government, then Parks and Recreation and then Special Events).

### SATURDAY/JULY 9

**Obon Festival.** Highlighting Japanese culture at Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lakehaven Lane, Fairfax Station. Visit [www.ekoji.org](http://www.ekoji.org) for more.

### SATURDAY/JULY 23

**Clifton Film Festival.** Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Enjoy live music, food and original films under the stars. During the event there will be two awards ceremonies, student's awards will be given during intermission and the 19+ category at the closing of the festival. For more information, please visit [cliftonfilmfest.com](http://cliftonfilmfest.com)

### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 10-11

**Burke Centre Festival.** Saturday: 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday: 1 a.m.-5 p.m. at Conservancy Festival Grounds, 6060 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke. Enjoy face painting, food, rides, and other amusements at the Burke Centre Festival. Visit [www.burkecentreweb.com](http://www.burkecentreweb.com) for more.

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# CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/) or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication at noon. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

## ONGOING

### Fairfax Rotary Club Meeting.

12:15-1:30 p.m. Mondays. American Legion, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Meetings with luncheon and program. [fairfaxrotary.org](http://fairfaxrotary.org).

**"Manifesto."** May 21-June 18. Open Tuesday from 6-9 p.m. or by appointment. Olly Olly Art Space, 2nd Floor, 10417 Main St., Fairfax. Exhibition of five collections of art by the artists of Northern Virginia's Bunnyman Bridge Collective. "Manifesto" will feature creative experimental art of the hidden away; including sculpture, installation, painting, collage, photography, video and performance. [ollyollyart.com](http://ollyollyart.com). 703-789-6144.

**"Disembodied."** 5 p.m.-midnight. April 16-June 11. Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Epicure's spring exhibit invites artists to explore the concept of disembodiment. [epicurecafe.org/](http://epicurecafe.org/).

**Carolina Shag.** Wednesdays. 6:30-10 p.m. Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. [nvshag.org](http://nvshag.org).

### Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe).

Wednesdays. 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (Hello)! Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Next Reflex Dance Collective presents Jump in on Saturday, May 28 at the Workhouse Arts Center.

learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel! Free (we ask that you try to attend regularly). RSVP [Naama.Gold@jcnv.org](mailto:Naama.Gold@jcnv.org).

## SATURDAY/MAY 28

**Jump In.** 7 p.m. W-3 Theatre, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Lorton Road, Lorton. By the Next Reflex Dance Collective. \$18/\$15/\$10. [nextreflex.org](http://nextreflex.org). 703-927-0073.

**Pool Open House.** Noon-4 p.m. Fairfax Swimming Pool, 4200 Roberts Road, Fairfax. Visit the pool. Free moonbounce and pizza for sale. [fairfaxpool.com](http://fairfaxpool.com).

## SUNDAY/MAY 29

**Ride of the Patriots.** 7:30 a.m. Captain Pell's Fairfax Crabhouse, 10195 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax. Short

parade featuring both City and County of Fairfax officials along with state and congressional representatives, police, fire and rescue units, Veterans groups, the Fairfax High School Marching Band, and the Firefighters' Emerald Society Pipe Band. 703-628-2429. [ken\\_lyons@comcast.net](mailto:ken_lyons@comcast.net).

## WEDNESDAY/JUNE 1

### Jazz and Wine Fundraiser for

OAR. 7:30 p.m. The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Benefit for nonprofit OAR of Fairfax. Evening under the stars in a beautiful and historic location. The Gregg Byrd Band will provide live jazz music. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be provided and fine Virginia wines will be available. \$50. <http://www.oarfairfax.org/2016-fundraiser>.

## THURSDAY/JUNE 2

**South County Golf Classic.** 11 a.m. Laurel Hill Golf Course, 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. Benefits SCHS Athletic Boosters Club and PTSO. \$150. [guinman100@gmail.com](mailto:guinman100@gmail.com).

## THURSDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 2-5

**Summer Book Sale.** Thursday, 3-9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, noon-2 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. 703-451-8055.

## THURSDAY-MONDAY/JUNE 2-6

**"Sail into Summer" Book Sale.** Call for times. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Bag sale on

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

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**Burke \$624,950**  
**Walk to School & Shopping**  
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# Community Forum Series Focuses on Disability Services

Community input will become part of strategic planning.

BY ELAINA TAYLOR  
THE CONNECTION

For those unable to attend the Fairfax Area Disability Service Board's monthly meetings, June will be an opportunity to voice concerns in person to board members regarding community disability services. Tuesday, May 24 at Burke Centre Library, Matthew Barkley hosted the first of six upcoming community forums that serve as a platform for feedback and ideas about how to improve accessibility and inclusivity for disabled persons in Fairfax County.

Barkley, the director of Disability Services Planning and Development within the Adult and Aging division, began by stressing the importance of the forums.

"Your input on the issues we discuss today that affect our disabled community will become part of [the Fairfax Area Disability Service Board's strategic planning initiatives moving forward for the next fiscal year," he said.

The board serves as a resource and advocate for those with physical and sensory disabilities. Their website provides information on everything from education, housing, transportation and employment to healthcare, emergency management, financial and support services, and disability-related laws and legal resources. Barkley passed around handouts with additional resources for people with disabilities in Fairfax County and information on the specific services offered in Fairfax County.

The attendees comprised family members of disabled persons eager to share their stories and experiences, hopeful their feedback would help implement positive change.

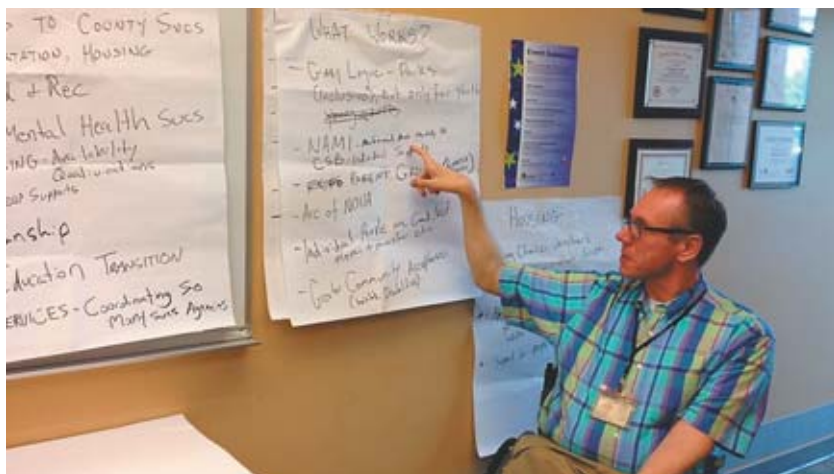
Barkley facilitated discussion around three major questions: What programs and services work well; what barriers have been encountered in the community; and recommendations for improvement.

The group had high praise for specific organizations and individuals, universally acknowledging the godsend the right caseworker could be.

The parents cited one of the biggest barriers is navigating the various agencies at the county, state and federal level, none of which coordinate services or communicate with one another. The Americans with Disabilities Act is interpreted and implemented differently even from county to county, with no uniformity.

Lastly, they suggested assigning a caseworker to a family rather than the disabled individual, implementing a training program for Fairfax County police officers in order to effectively deal with disabled persons, and tax breaks as an incentive for those who provide housing for disabled persons.

Interested in attending an upcoming forum? You



PHOTOS BY ELAINA TAYLOR/THE CONNECTION

**Disability Services Forum host Matthew Barkley explains the topic of discussion.**

## VIEWPOINTS

### What do you see as the number one priority for people with disabilities in our area?

**June Adelsberger**, parent, Fairfax Station/Lorton: "The need to be viewed, valued, and included as potentially contributing members of the community as opposed to a drain on resources and services - in the workplace, community service, and leisure activities."

**Peggy Hendrickson**, retired homemaker, Oakton: "I could see that the most important issue that came up from the meeting today was related to communication between the county, state, federal and even the school entities regarding assistance for the disabled. My personal concern was connected with housing for adult mentally ill persons when parents become disabled or die. Though the problem was not solved, perhaps some websites given may be a place to start. As for the meeting being a sounding board for parents with children with disabilities, it seems some answers were given. I think the series of meetings of this type can be helpful if the info from each meeting is projected to the next one. Then, developing a plan to conquer the extreme waiting for services that were expressed, could be by dividing the suggestions up for each group by need, and then addressed."

**Matthew Barkley**, director of Disability Services Planning and Development, Fairfax

"Instead of relying on public benefits, we should focus on providing affordable, integrated and accessible housing, transportation and employment. Rather than send these people to institutionalized care or nursing homes, they should be given the opportunity to become part of the community. According to Fairfax County's 2015 Human Services Issue Paper, it costs an average of \$263,530 per year to institutionalize a person at a state training center, \$314,772 in northern Virginia. But to provide those same services in the community through a waiver averages only \$140,611. The problem is Virginia's home and community-based services are ranked 49th out of all the states."

can find the community forum schedule at the Fairfax Area Disability Service Board, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/disabilities/fa-disability-services-board.htm>.



PHOTO BY JOHN ESPER/THE CONNECTION

**Nathaniel Lee pictured with a map of railroads in the Virginia area on loan from the Franconia Museum.**

## History in Basements

Nathaniel Lee's book inspires new look at railroads.

BY JOHN ESPER  
THE CONNECTION

Nathaniel Lee was always inspired by the long history of trains and railroads. As a child he stumbled upon an abandoned train station while exploring the woods of Northern Virginia. "I grew up next to the railroad. What started me on the book was I walked back into the woods and found the old roadbed and a missing station that no one knew about," Lee said.

In his presentation of his book "The Iron Road of Franconia: A History of the RF&P Railroad in Fairfax County" to the Burke Historical Society on Sunday, May 22, at the Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, Lee wove the history of the RF&P Railroad with interesting sources, funny anecdotes and a keen understand-

ing of the history. He also provided an old map of the railroads in the Northern Virginia area to help provide a better understanding of this work.

Lee works for the Franconia Museum and searched high and low in the Franconia area to find sources and information for his book, "Most of our history because we are such a local community, is in people's basements, in their old dairies... that's where you get the best information." It took Lee 11 months to write his book and he feels that it has shed a lot of insight into the local history of Franconia. "We found things we didn't know, new ways of understanding how our community name developed, how our community developed from a farming community into a much larger community because of the railroad," said Lee. Members of the Burke Historical society were impressed by his book discussion and thanked him for his time. Nathaniel Lee's book can be bought at [createspace.com/6190241](http://createspace.com/6190241) or Amazon.

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

Sunday. 703-249-1520.

### FRIDAY/JUNE 3

**Interfaith Voices Live Radio Event.** 2:30 p.m. The Hub Ballroom, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Join Maureen Fiedler of NPR's Interfaith Voices Radio as she records her program at George Mason University. Beginning with the question, "Is Religion a Problem or a Solution in your Life?" - Maureen hopes to engage college age people as to why fewer of them claim no affiliation with traditional religious institutions. Free. [minister@accotinkuuc.org](mailto:minister@accotinkuuc.org). 703-503-4579.

### SATURDAY/JUNE 4

**Forgotten Fairfax: Mill Ruins in Fairfax County.** 11 a.m. Fairfax City Regional Library, 10360 North

St., Fairfax. Mills once filled the Fairfax County landscape in the 19th Century. Debbie Robison, a preservation consultant, will talk about Fairfax County's forgotten mills and locating historic mill ruins. All ages. Free. 703-324-8380.

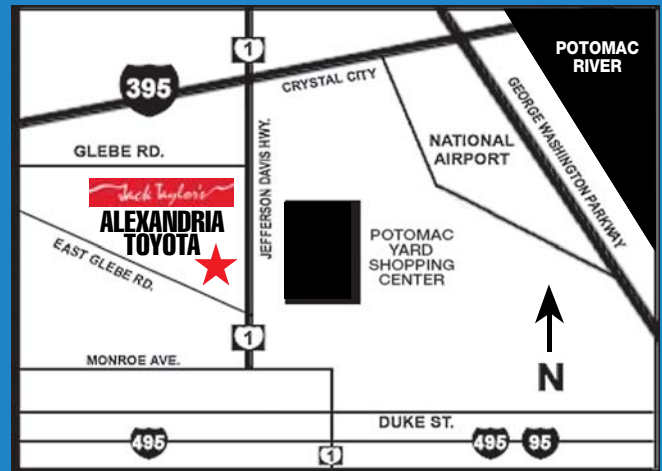
**"The Sounds of Pohick."** 4 p.m. Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Musical groups featured are the St. Francis Choir and St. Cecelia/St. Alban Choir, both for children; the Pohick Pickers, an instrumental group; the Pohick Bell Choir, who will ring handbells and handchimes and more. 703-339-6572. [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org).

**Springfield Burke Relay for Life.** 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Food trucks, music, entertainment, carnival rides, crafts demos, etc. Free. [springfieldburkerelay.org](http://springfieldburkerelay.org). 703-409-1096.



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Thomas Tellez,  
President

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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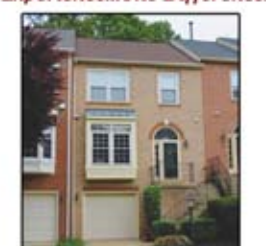
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