



# Fairfax CONNECTION

SUMMER FUN

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John O'Neal in  
his office.

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MAY 26 - JUNE 1, 2016

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# ‘Making a Difference Is Why We’re Here’

## Meet Fairfax City Fire Chief John O’Neal.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Supporting nearly three decades of experience, John O’Neal became chief of the City of Fairfax Fire Department in January. But he wanted to be a firefighter ever since he was a boy, growing up in Portsmouth, Virginia.

“I started hanging around neighborhood fire stations at age 11,” he said. “The guys treated me well and I had an admiration for them and for the job. It was about helping people, and I don’t think you can have a better job than knowing you can go to work every day and help someone.”

O’Neal started volunteering in Suffolk when he was 16 and became an EMT (emergency medical technician) then, too. In his last year of high school, he started working part-time for a private ambulance company in Portsmouth as an EMT, expanding to full-time for one year after graduating.

At age 19, he was hired by the Chesapeake Fire Department as a career firefighter. He then returned to Portsmouth at age 21 and served with its fire department from 1986-2001, progressing through the ranks to lieutenant, captain and battalion chief.

“I loved it,” said O’Neal. “Portsmouth had a lot of active, fire-and-rescue calls. And along the way, I picked up my paramedic license and worked part-time as a paramedic for Portsmouth’s contracted EMS system. I was at Children’s Hospital in Norfolk as an EMS [emergency medical services] neonatal, pediatric paramedic for 18 years.”

He also spent four years as a flight paramedic for Norfolk General Hospital, working both hospital jobs while being a full-time firefighter and going to college. He earned an associate’s degree in Fire Science in 1988 from Tidewater Community College. In 1996, O’Neal obtained a bachelor’s degree in Fire Administration from the University of Maryland University College. And in 2001, he received a master in Public Administration from Troy State University’s Norfolk campus.

“As a paramedic, I was making a difference, saving lives and helping people who were suffering,” said O’Neal. “Being a firefighter and a paramedic is a very rewarding career, being able to positively impact people’s lives.”

Working in the neonatal, pediatric field, he learned advanced skills to care for children, plus other advanced procedures that most street paramedics never use. “I love children, so I wanted to learn more about caring for kids in an emergency setting,” he said. “It can be a sad job, too, because you see the best and worst in humanity. But making a difference is why we’re here and



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION  
**Fairfax City Fire Chief John O’Neal beside his collection of military and public safety challenge coins.**

why we come back every day.”

**IN 2001**, O’Neal became deputy chief of the fire department in Jacksonville, North Carolina. “I really enjoyed it,” he said. “The department was smaller; I went from nine stations in Portsmouth to four stations in Jacksonville. But I was impressed with the quality of the firefighters and the welcoming nature of the people.”

It was a busy, active department and was where O’Neal first got exposure to the Commission on Fire Accreditation International – the national accrediting agency for the U.S., Canada and Department of Defense fire services. “The fire chief wanted that department to gain accreditation, so I moved that project forward and we achieved it,” he said.

He then became involved with that agency as a peer assessor and peer team leader; and now, he’s an agency mentor. In that position, he’s traveled across the U.S., evaluating fire departments according to Commission standards.

After four years in Jacksonville, O’Neal

became chief of Manassas Park’s fire department in 2005, which aids Prince William County and the City of Manassas and is part of the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System.

“It was a good experience,” he said. “I moved that department from being reactive to pro-active, following industry best practices. I enjoyed the job’s challenges; I like being engaged, busy and productive. And being fire chief, you get pulled in many, different directions, so I was never bored.”

But by 2011, O’Neal was ready for fresh, new challenges and a larger department. He was offered the fire chief’s job in Addison, Texas, in Dallas County, and it proved a good match.

“Addison had many, mid- to high-rise buildings, 22 hotels and 200 bars and restaurants in four-and-a-half square miles,” he said. “And with a daytime population of 100,000, it was an active city with many calls.” In 2013, thanks to O’Neal’s efforts, his fire department became just the fifth in Texas to earn international accreditation.

But with elderly parents in Virginia’s Tide-

water area and a daughter in Manassas, O’Neal wanted to live closer to his family. So in January, he returned to the Commonwealth and, on Jan. 25, started his new job as Fairfax City’s fire chief. Former Fire Chief Dave Rohr retired last August, leaving the position vacant.

“The City of Fairfax has always had an excellent reputation, so I applied,” said O’Neal. “I interviewed with City Manager Bob Sisson and a panel and was chosen in December. I feel blessed; I’m honored to have been selected. It’s a great community, and I’m happy to be part of it.”

“The decision was difficult, given the high caliber of finalists,” said Sisson. “However, John [has] an excellent combination of hands-on and management experience.”

**ON THE JOB** four months now, O’Neal said, “I’m impressed with the quality of our personnel and the level of service we provide to the community. We have about 80 staff members, including 60 firefighters on the street – the majority cross-trained as paramedics.” He said people have been friendly and welcoming to him, and both he and the firefighters were eager to learn each other’s personality, vision and goals.

“Our staff’s professional development is very high,” said O’Neal. “I’m a strong believer in safety for our firefighters and training for our staff to be prepared for all emergencies. And I’d like to reduce the City’s Insurance Services Office [ISO] fire-protection rating. The ISO evaluates a city’s dispatch center, water supply and fire department.”

It examines the fire department’s training program, amount of equipment and distances emergency vehicles travel to answer calls. It also looks at the type and size of buildings the department protects in the community and evaluates its ability to do so.”

“On a 1-10 scale, with 1 the best and 10 the worst, the City has an ISO rating of 3, and I’d like to improve it to 1,” said O’Neal. “We can do this via training recommendations, having the proper apparatus and demonstrating compliance with ISO standards through administrative record-keeping and equipment and apparatus tests. So we need to improve our administrative policies and practices.”

He also wants to work toward the department receiving international accreditation. “It’s geared toward continuous quality improvement in our level of service and compliance to national, best-practices and standards,” he explained. “I believe it’s achievable – and I’d love Fairfax City to be the first fire department in Northern Virginia to accomplish this.”

But besides that, said O’Neal, “I want to make sure our staff is well-trained, safe and has the equipment necessary to do the job. There’s satisfaction in providing a high level of service and safety to the citizens. I’m happy to be here and I’m looking forward to serving the community.”

# Patriots Ride Again

Fairfax Harley Owners Group and Patriot Harley-Davidson host the 18th Annual "Ride of the Patriots" Sunday, May 29.

Fairfax Harley Owners Group and Patriot Harley-Davidson host the 18th Annual "Ride of the Patriots" Sunday, May 29 in Support of Rolling Thunder.

Once again, as many as four thousand motorcycles will flock to the Fairfax Harley Owners Group and Patriot Harley-Davidson's 18th Annual "Ride of the Patriots," a Memorial Day Weekend gathering of the motorcycle riding community to pay tribute to America's servicemen, women and veterans and raise awareness of American POW and MIA soldiers of all wars.

The parade of bikers will follow a route to the Pentagon where it will join with hundreds of thousands of other bikers from around the country and the world for the 29th annual "Rolling Thunder," the massive parade of bikes headed to the National Mall and the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in D.C. to pay their respects to their fallen comrades and to remember all those who have given their lives for their country.

Motorcycles will begin to line up in the eastbound lanes of Route 29 between Draper Drive and Eaton Place starting at 6:30 a.m. A short parade featuring both City and County of Fairfax officials along with State and Congressional representatives, police, fire and rescue units, veterans



PHOTO BY EMMA HARRIS/THE CONNECTION

**A motorcycle blazes by, flying an American flag and a Prisoners of War and Missing in Action flag, as part of the Ride of the Patriots on Sunday, May 25, 2014.**

groups, the Fairfax High School Marching Band, and the Firefighters' Emerald Society Pipe Band will begin at Captain Pell's at 7:30 a.m. A send-off ceremony will begin

at 8 a.m., and will feature a keynote speaker this year, Army Staff Sgt. Earl Granville (Ret.).

Sgt. Granville's career included deploy-

ments to Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. While in Afghanistan on patrol in 2008, his vehicle was hit by an IED, killing his two teammates and ultimately resulting in the amputation of his left leg.

Tragically thereafter, his twin brother, Army Staff Sgt. Joseph Granville, an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, took his own life while on active duty. This inspired Earl to become an advocate for the importance of finding help for returning combat veterans suffering with Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome.

Following the ceremony, there will be a full police escort of the Ride of the Patriots to the Pentagon by the Fairfax County Motor Squad and units from the City of Fairfax, Fairfax County Sheriff and other local jurisdictions. The route will follow Lee Highway to Nutley Street to Route I-66 to Route 110 to the Pentagon.

Recommended observation points for spectators include locations along Lee Highway eastbound toward Nutley Street, The Pan Am Shopping Center and all overpasses inside the Beltway on eastbound Route 66.

For additional information and to see the entire weekend schedule of events, visit the "Ride of the Patriots" at [www.rideofthepatriots.com](http://www.rideofthepatriots.com).

## 'A Great Step for the City to Take'

Council awards contract to develop Multimodal Transportation Plan.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

With an eye toward the future, the Fairfax City Council has awarded a contract worth a quarter of a million dollars for the development of a modern Multimodal Transportation Plan for the City. It will identify Fairfax's transportation vision, plus its goals and strategies for implementation over the next 15-20 years.

It is significant, said Fairfax Mayor Scott Silverthorne, because "This is the first Multimodal Transportation Plan the City has done in 50 years."

The City of Fairfax sent out an official Request for Proposals, received four responses and interviewed three of the firms responding. With VDOT's input, the City selected Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates and awarded it a contract for \$252,566.

This internationally renowned firm specializes in multimodal transportation planning and has created several such

plans for jurisdictions nationwide. Core objectives will serve community needs and goals, such as access to parks, cultural preservation, improved public health, economic strength and competitiveness.

The work will also include development of a complete network plan providing streets safe for all users. The integrated transportation network will offer efficient and attractive facilities for diverse modes of travel – pedestrians, bicycles, motor vehicles, transit and freight transport.

The City's parking supply and demand patterns will also be assessed to develop a citywide parking-management strategy. And the final plan will provide clear direction for Fairfax's investment and policies, guiding street planning, design and operations and informing private-development projects.

**THE COUNCIL** gave Nelson/Nygaard the contract at its May 10 meeting. Then, during a work session immediately following it, the members received a presentation from Karina Ricks, a principal with Nelson/

Nygaard and the project manager for the City's plan.

According to City Transportation Director Wendy Block Sanford, the plan will evaluate Fairfax's transportation network and establish priority areas and projects. And the information gleaned from this plan will aid the City Council in making decisions about future applications for funding.

"We anticipate this plan will take about a year to complete and will involve many interviews with the public," said Ricks.

"This is being done concurrent with the [City's] Comprehensive Plan rewrite and will be adopted as part of it," added Sanford. Councilwoman Ellie Schmidt asked at what point the City's Planning Commission will be involved, and Sanford answered, "Right at the beginning. They're one of the stakeholders, including City Council, the PRAB [Parks and Recreation Advisory Board] chairman, Transportation Planning staff, Public Works, GMU transportation staff and Fairfax County."

Councilman Michael DeMarco asked if the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and I-66 representatives should also be included, for a "regional focus," and Sanford said they should. Councilwoman Janice Miller then asked how community input would be solicited.

"By intercepting people along their daily lives, 600-800 people in a day," replied Ricks. "We'll talk to them at schools, grocery stores, Rock the Block, etc., so we can engage people where they're at. That way, we can reach a much broader cross section of people, including online."

"What can we expect at the end of the project?" asked Councilwoman Nancy Loftus.

"Recommendations at a broad range of levels," said Ricks. "We'll make network recommendations regarding how bike and road networks will work together, plus corridor recommendations and site-specific recommendations."

Nelson/Nygaard anticipates holding "pop-up public meetings" this month and returning to City Council's work session on June 7 to set priorities and objectives.

**THE FIRM** hopes to have a draft plan available for Council and public review, this fall or winter, with the draft final plan completed by winter/spring 2017.

"I think this is a great step for the City of Fairfax to take," Silverthorne told Ricks at the end of her presentation. "We'll look forward to working with you over the next year."



# 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).

## WEDNESDAY/JUNE 29

### Community Forums on

**Community Accessibility.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. 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.

## ONGOING

### Burke Rotary Club Meeting.

Tuesdays from 7:15-8:30 a.m. Anita's Restaurant, 9278 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Meetings with breakfast and program. [www.burkerotary.org](http://www.burkerotary.org).

### Burke Lake Seniors Golf League

seeks members. Interested golfers are invited to join the Burke Lake Seniors Golf League. Must be 55 and older, enjoy playing golf, meeting new people and having an all-around good time. Reserved tee times on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Par 3 Burke Lake Golf Course on Ox Road. Annual dues for the season – April 1 through October 31 – are \$20 plus green fees. For more information, call Charlie Ryan 703-690-4227.

### The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email [Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov). Also visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/litombudsman/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/litombudsman/).

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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.

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





## LETTERS

### 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

### 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

## SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

### JUNE

6/8/2016.....Father's Day Dining & Gifts

6/8/2016.....HomeLifeStyle

6/15/2016.....A+ Graduations & Summer Learning

6/15/2016.....Father's Day Dining & Gifts

*Father's Day is June 19*

6/29/2016.....Connection Families

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### 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.



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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,

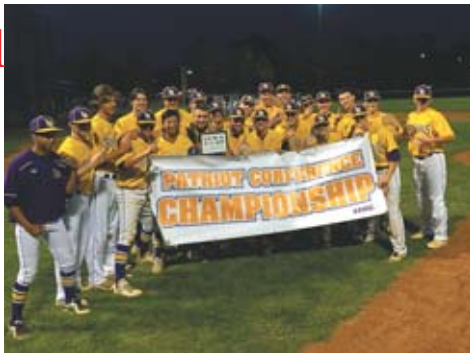


PHOTO BY AARON LUNDMARK

**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

is the only public school program to beat Robinson at Coffey Stadium in the last three seasons.

"Besides Chantilly, Yorktown plays us probably the best straight up," Robinson senior Austin Henry said. "Whenever we play them, our games seem to be good games. ... When they come, they come to play."

The Rams pulled away in the second quarter of Thursday's game, avoiding a second home loss to the Patriots in as many years.

"When it comes down to it, talent is always going to win out," Robinson head coach Matt Curran said. "You can have the best coaching in the world, but if you don't have talent, you're not going to [win]. [The Patriots] have talent, especially [senior

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 CELEBRATE FAIRFAX! FAIRFAX FESTIVAL

**Celebrate Fairfax! Fairfax Festival will be in the Fairfax County Government Center from June 10-12.**

### 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 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@jccnv.org](mailto:Naama.Gold@jccnv.org).

**Smoke Free Bingo** (with breaks for smoking friends). 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, \$1,000 jackpot. [www.fairfaxvd.com](http://www.fairfaxvd.com). 703-273-3638.

### Celebrating our Children's Creativity.

May 19-June 20. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The J's Early Childhood Learning Center presents "A Reggio Exhibit," which showcases the philosophy of teaching art under the guidance of Sarah Vejvoda. Free. [www.jccnv.org](http://www.jccnv.org). 703-537-3000.

## SATURDAY/MAY 28

### 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



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

One of the works to see in "Manifesto" at Olly Olly Art Space in Fairfax, running from May 21-June 18.

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-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.

for times. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Bag sale on 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.

### 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.

## SUNDAY/JUNE 5

### Wine, Whiskers and Wags.

1-5 p.m. Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates, Ford Road, Clifton. Family- and dog-friendly wine tasting event hosted by the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter to raise funds

for shelter pets in need. [www.fccas.org](http://www.fccas.org).

## TUESDAY/JUNE 7

### Discovering Local History.

7-8:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Way, Burke. Enjoy an overview of the huge range of websites and resources available to those researching history and genealogy in the Northern Virginia area. Presenter: Debbie Robison of the Fairfax County History Commission. Free. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/>.

## WEDNESDAY/JUNE 8

### Springfield Christian Women's Connection.

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Speakers will be Linda Snider, world-traveler. Reserve by Friday, June 3. \$20. 703-922-6438. [SpringWmConn@yahoo.com](mailto:SpringWmConn@yahoo.com).

## FRIDAY/JUNE 10

### Teen Pizza Party.

7 p.m. Barnes and Noble Fairfax, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Pre-party for author event. Full cafe menu available. 703-278-8527.

### Author Thomas Jones.

8-10 p.m. Barnes and Noble Fairfax, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Author of "Skywalking and Stargazing." Reserve space at [CRM2937@bn.com](mailto:CRM2937@bn.com).

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 10-12

### White Elephant Sale.

Call for times. St. Mary of Sorrows, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Church rummage sale. Antiques, jewelry, furniture, electronics, tools, etc. 703-323-0345.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 11

### ETAP's Spring Show.

8-10 p.m. Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Enjoy an evening of exciting entertainment, Broadway Style. This All Dance Revue features some of ETAP's most iconic numbers from the past 20 years, and many new ones as well. All ages. \$19-\$23. [Encore-tap.org](http://Encore-tap.org).

### AUUC Burke Blaze 5K Run/Walk.

8 a.m. Accotink UU Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. 5k run on a paved course and a 1k walk on a trail. Awards for top finishers. T-shirts and refreshments for all. \$20-\$35. Register by May 31 to get discounted rates. [accotinkuuc.org](http://accotinkuuc.org).

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# Mischief and Spies

Providence Players present comedy 'Red Herring.'

## Where and When

Providence Players present "Red Herring" at James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Performances: June 3-18. Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Sunday matinees June 5 and 12 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$17-\$20. Call: 703-425-678 or visit [www.providenceplayers.org](http://www.providenceplayers.org).

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

Just in time to help divert an audience to escape from the real world comes "Red Herring" from the Providence Players. "Fast-paced, exciting and a gas of a comedy" is how veteran director Beth Hughes Brown describes the priceless, calculating escapades of "Red Herring."

Providence Players Board President Jayne Victor called award-winning Michael Hollinger's "Red Herring" a "smart, very funny play. We know that audiences will laugh. Director Beth Hughes-Brown always makes audiences laugh, but we also hope patrons appreciate and enjoy the underlying love stories in the play and the spoofing of 1950s cold war era American culture."

The production will romp through many a red herring of clues each trying to throw the audience off the trail of possible spies who may be trying to provide nuclear secrets to America's enemies. There will be snappy dialogue and plenty of accents to go along with the show's head-spinning twists and turns.

With all its false leads, there are key details that cannot be overlooked that add more diversion. "Red Herring" is a comedy with three unlikely caring comical couples and nearly two dozen characters played by only 10 actors. The characters and situations are

written to intentionally mislead the audience.

The show's characters run the gamut from a tough-talking FBI agent, a skilled lady detective, the naïve daughter of Senator Joe McCarthy and the Russian spy who loves her. There is also a middle-aged Boston fisherman, or he is more than just a fisherman, as well as another G-man and the woman who loves him. Then there are even several characters who are not only masters of physical comedy but even sing.

The Providence Players are known for very detailed set designs. Chip Gertzog, a designer for "Red Herring" indicated that the production will have "multiple settings, 24 very fast paced scenes and farcical timing." For this show the Providence Players also plan to use projections "to help set the mood, place and pace of the show."

Inviting audience to the show, Beth Hughes-Brown indicated "Red Herring" is a show for those who enjoy Mel Brooks, the Marx Brothers and great fun. It will leave the James Lee Community Center Theater audience wanting to come back a second time to see what they missed when they were laughing so hard the first time."

Be ready for it: "Red Herring" will have you in stitches," promised Gertzog.

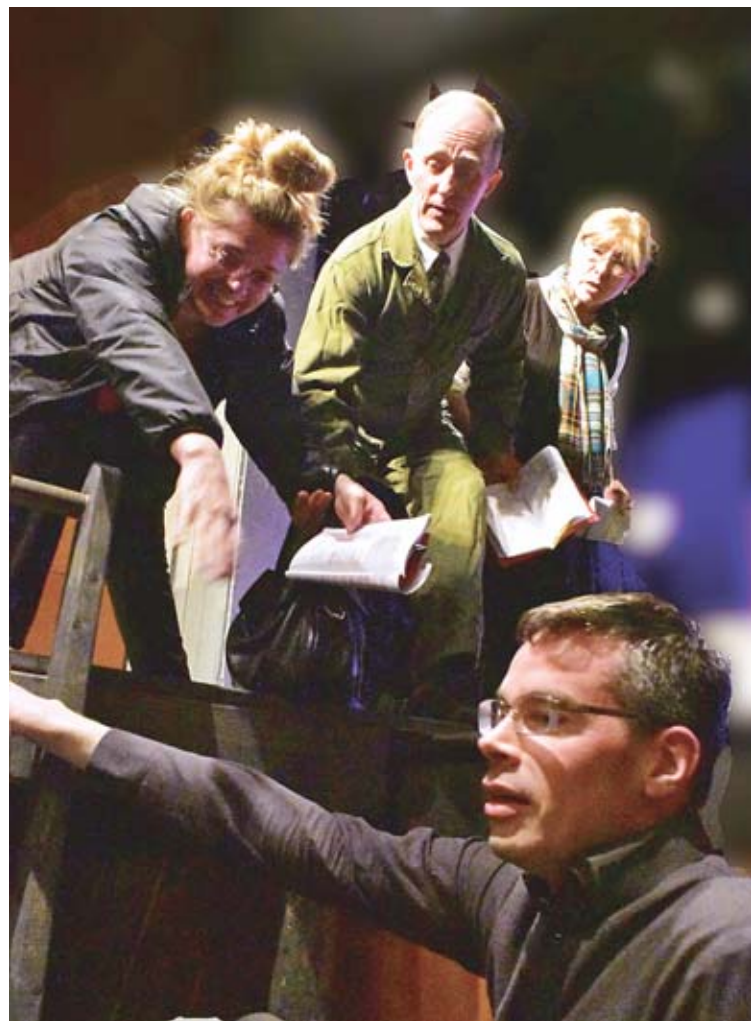


PHOTO BY CHIP GERTZOG/COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE PLAYERS

From left — Charlene Sloan, James McDaniel, Tina Thronson and Christopher Crockett in an early rehearsal for Providence Players production of the comedy "Red Herring."

# Better Said Than Done Celebrates 5 Years

Ten finalists announced in Northern Virginia Storytelling Competition.

Since 2011, Better Said Than Done has brought the art of storytelling to Northern Virginia, with almost 100 performers taking to the stage to tell thousands of true, personal stories. To mark its fifth anniversary, Better Said Than Done is holding a storytelling competition, and the finalists have been chosen. These 10 storytellers will perform and compete in Better Said Than Done's anniversary show

Every audience member will cast his or her vote for their favorite story of the night to select the winner of Better Said Than Done's fifth anniversary show. The first place winner will receive \$500, second place will receive \$200, and third



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Better Said Than Done founder and host Jessica Robinson.**

place will receive \$100.

During the last five years, about 100 people have taken to the stage with Better Said Than Done to share their stories. The

storytellers have ranged in age from early 20s to 80s, coming from all over Northern Virginia and the D.C. metro area, with a few traveling from as far away as Baltimore,

## The Finalists

The 10 storytellers who received the most votes and will perform and compete in Better Said Than Done's fifth anniversary show are [in alphabetical order]:

Dustin Fisher, Maryland  
Brent Heard, Williamsburg, Virginia  
Alison Hughes, Virginia  
Liesel Munson, Loudoun County, Virginia  
Miriam Nadel, Virginia  
Jack Scheer, Virginia  
David Supley Foxworth, Reston  
Anne Thomas, Washington, D.C.  
Anna Marie Trester, Arlington  
Zach Wilks, Washington, DC

Philadelphia and Williamsburg to perform.

"Best in Show," which will be performed at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna, at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 28. Doors open at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased in advance at <http://jamminjava.com/calendar> or at the door.

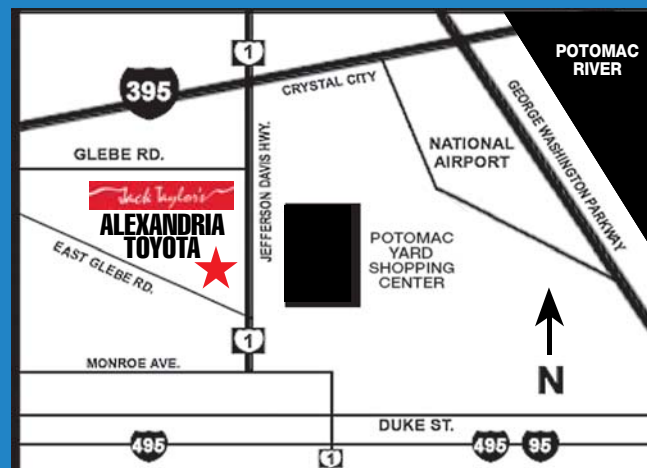
The stories are intended for an adult audience.

For more information on upcoming shows, performers, or workshops, please visit [www.bettersaidthandone.com](http://www.bettersaidthandone.com).



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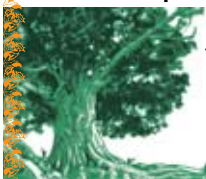
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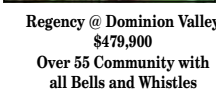
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