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# News

# Robinson Graduate Charged with Murder

Allegedly stabbed caterer after E.C. Lawrence Park wedding.

By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

eddings are normally happy affairs that don't end in tragedy. But an argument over folding chairs after a Saturday wedding in Chantilly's Ellanor C. Lawrence Park resulted in a woman's death and a man being charged with murder.

The victim was the event's chef and caterer, Tyonne Johns, 35, of Washington, D.C. Fairfax County police say her alleged assailant was Clifton resident Kempton Bonds, 19, a 2015 graduate of Robinson Secondary School and a seasonal employee of the county Park Authority.

"I was very close friends with him," said Nik Martin, 19, of Burke. "We met in our freshman year at Robinson, and I can't imagine him doing something like this."

The wedding was Aug. 6 at historic Cabell's Mill, a popular venue for weddings and other events within E.C. Lawrence Park. The next day, the police and Park Authority held a press conference to explain what happened.

"Saturday, around 9:24 p.m., police responded to the park for a call Bond made for disorderly conduct and loud noise made by the wedding guests," said police spokeswoman Monica Meeks. "Some of the people then left, and police said things were calm when they left."

Then, she said, about 10:50 p.m., another call came in from that location. But this time, it was regarding a stabbing. Police said Bonds and Johns didn't know each other previously, but had argued earlier that evening, leading up a heated altercation as the event ended.

**THE CHAIRS** for the wedding had been supplied by both Chef Tyonne Catering Co., owned by the victim, as well as by the Park Authority. According to Meeks, witnesses said Johns was starting to pack up the folding chairs, but Bonds told her the chairs belonged to the park, and the two began to argue. And, she added, "The suspect may have cut off the music a little early."

Police said the harsh words culminated in Bonds allegedly stabbing Johns with a knife. Meeks didn't know how many times she was stabbed, but said it was in the upper body. "It was a pocket knife, maybe a 3-inch blade," she said. "But I haven't seen the knife, myself."

Meeks said police "have no knowledge of any, particular motive" for the victim's kill-



Bonnie Hobbs/The Connec

From left, Judy Pedersen and Monica Meeks at a press briefing, Sunday afternoon, outside police headquarters in Fairfax.



**Kempton Bonds** 



Tyonne Johns, the victim

ing. She said the victim went by Chef Tyonne and "appears to be well-known in the D.C. Metropolitan area."

After sustaining life-threatening injuries, Johns was taken to a local hospital where she was pronounced dead. Bonds, who stayed on the scene, was arrested and charged with second-degree murder and is being held without bond in the county's Adult Detention Center.

Bonds was also fired by the Park Authority, pending the outcome of the investigation. Major Crimes Division and Crime Scene detectives responded to the scene to investigate. There, they recovered the knife to hold as evidence.

Anyone with information about this crime is asked to contact Crime Solvers at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org, text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES(274637)\*\* or call 1-866-411-TIPS(8477) or police at 703-691-2131.

Park Authority spokeswoman Judy Pedersen said Bonds had worked for the entity for a year. "We did a background check before hiring him and nothing criminal came up," she said. "And since then, we received no reports of problems with him."

She said Bonds prepared sites for events and solved any problems the people putting on the events might have. And while some Park Authority jobs involving food might require employees to bring a knife with them, Pedersen said, "We wouldn't anticipate this job would have required him to have a knife.

"We're shocked at this tragic event and express our deepest condolences to the victim's family," she continued. "We have 600 regular and 2,500 seasonal employees and 426 parks. 23,000 acres of parkland and 18 million visitors a year. So unfortunately, when we have these kinds of numbers, things will happen. But our parks are safe."

Still, added Pedersen, "We'll take another look to make sure we're ensuring the safety of the public and our employees. This was an isolated incident between these two people."

"We'll take another look to make sure we're ensuring the safety of the public and our employees. This was an isolated incident between these two people."

> —Park Authority spokeswoman Judy Pedersen

MARTIN AND JOEY GARCIA, who both graduated from Robinson with Bonds, were at the press conference outside police headquarters. Afterward, Martin described Bonds as a quiet, calm person who never held a grudge or had a quick temper. So, he said, "I was flabbergasted because this was out of character for him."

Martin said they originally met in Robinson's Rifle Club and that Bonds planned to transfer from NOVA to VCU in the fall to start his sophomore year there as a communications major. Shaken up by his buddy's arrest, Martin said, "This is all so surreal to me."

He said Bonds called him Saturday at 7 p.m. and told him he'd been at a wedding where some of the people had given him a hard time. "He said people were upset about some of the regulations he had to enforce. For example, they couldn't hang anything on the walls."

But Martin didn't hear about the murder until Sunday, when a friend called to tell him. Stunned, he immediately went to Bonds's home in Clifton to see his mother. "His father died a few years ago from cancer," said Martin. "His mother was devastated. She said, 'I just want to get my boy back "

Garcia said Bonds was hospitable, a "really nice guy and fun to hang out with. He'd give me a hug and smile when he saw me. He was going to be our roommate at VCU."

"Joey and I are both criminal-justice majors so, naturally, we want to learn about the investigative process," added Martin. "And with this hitting so close to home, we'd like to help any way we can."

Like Martin, Garcia was also having a hard time believing that Bonds, the friend they knew so well, was now behind bars, charged with murder. "It's really shocking to me," said Garcia. "I couldn't have foreseen him doing this act."



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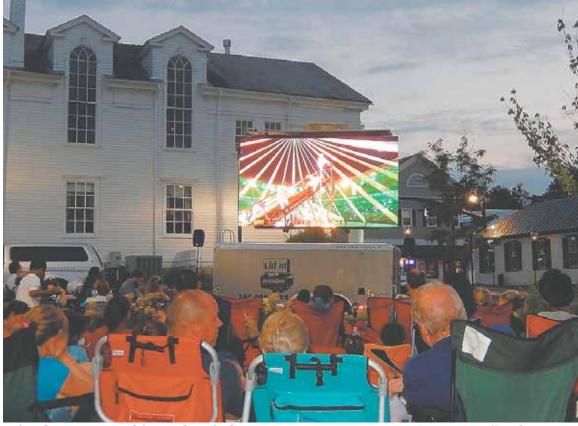
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### News



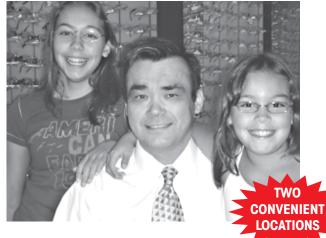
Rio Comes to City of Fairfax

Bonnie Hobbs/The Connection

Residents gathered together last Friday night, Aug. 5, to watch the opening ceremonies of the Rio Olympics on a large-screen TV in Old Town Square. And when the American team walked in, they burst into cheers and applause.

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### Sports

# Golden Gun

Springfield's **Ginny Thrasher** wins Olympic gold in air rifle.

> By Tim Peterson The Connection

efore she left for the Río Olympics, 19-year-old sharpshooter Ginny Thrasher of Springfield was just looking to get experience in her first games. "I was looking more towards 2020 as a realistic option," she had said.

That timeline took a sharp turn on Saturday, Aug. 6, when Thrasher advanced to the finals of the women's 10-meter air rifle and went on to capture the gold medal.

It was the first gold for the United States in the Rio Olympics, and the first earned at the games overall.

Her final score of 208 bested Du Li and Yi Siling, the silver and bronze medalists from China.

Thrasher spoke to the media in a teleconference from Brazil, the day after she won gold.

"To have a final that was an honor to be a part of, win and stand on the podium and hear my nation's anthem was a very prideinstilling moment for me," she said.

"I think that the exterior of your life changes, but who I am doesn't change no matter what medals I win or how many medals I win," Thrasher continued. "I am excited that I get to enjoy all the outcomes that come with a successful Olympic Games. It's a really great opportunity for me to positively represent my country and my school."

Thrasher is a West Springfield High School graduate and rising sophomore at West Virginia University. She's competed in shooting at both schools. As a Mountaineer, Thrasher was the first freshman to win both air rifle and small bore individual NCAA titles earlier this year.

Small bore competition — threeposition 50-meter — is Thrasher's second event at these Olympic games. She's scheduled to shoot in qualifying rounds on Aug. 11.

Thrasher began shooting five years ago after going on an inspirational hunting trip with her grandfather in Pennsylvania. She shot for the West Springfield rifle



Ginny Thrasher's 2020 Olympics goal timeline took a sharp turn on Saturday, Aug. 6, when she advanced to the finals of the women's 10-meter air rifle and went on to capture the gold medal.



**Ginny Thrasher of Springfield shows off her Olympic** gold medal for Women's 10-meter air rifle with the games mascot.

team and took on a grueling training schedule, spending several hours, three-to-four days a week, at the Arlington-Fairfax chapter of the Izaak Walton League facility in Centreville.

"People see the three percent of your performance which is in the spotlight," Thrasher said. "What they don't see is the 97 percent when you are in the dark, working very hard."







# **OPINION**

# Laser Focus on Safety

While Metro lapses can't be excused, it's much safer than driving; maintenance-related safety issues also plague area bridges and roads.

ntense scrutiny on the safety and main tenance record of the Washington region's Metro system is resulting in continuing revelation of lapses, and ongoing inconvenience with repair schedules shutting down entire lines and the end of late night

Reporting on Metro accidents, derailments and incompetent and/or inadequate maintenance might even lead commut-EDITORIAL ers to choose to climb in their cars instead. Wouldn't it be safer to drive, if Metro can't get its act together to even inspect the tracks?

No, not even close.

Riding commuter rail is 10-30 times safer than driving, according to several studies, and even small increases in transit ridership result in significant decreases in overall commuting

Public transit overall has lower crash rates

per unit of travel, reports Todd Litman in an analytical research paper, A New Transit Narrative, published in 2014 and cited by the National Center for Transit Research. Intercity and commuter passengers have about 1/20th the traffic fatalities per 100 million passengermiles as automobile travel, he writes. Urban rail passengers have about 1/30th the fatali-

> ties as car travel, and bus passengers about 1/60th the traffic fatalities per 100 million passenger-miles as automobile travel.

"Transit travel has about one-tenth the traffic casualty [injury or death] rate as automobile travel, and residents of transit-oriented communities have about one-fifth the per capita crash casualty rate as in automobile-oriented communities," reports Litman. "People tend to underestimate automobile travel risks and exaggerate public transit risks."

Meanwhile, Virginia has 1,063 structurally

deficient bridges, according to the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, citing data from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration National Bridge Inventory, 2015. Maryland's number of structurally deficient bridges is 306, and the District of Columbia has 10 structurally deficient bridges, according to the same

day, including thousands of Northern Virginians commuting daily into D.C., the Memorial Bridge, is so corroded it has major weight restrictions, buses are not allowed to use it, and it would likely have to be closed within a few years, had Congress not recently allocated \$90 million to the National Park Service for emergency action towards a \$250 million rehabilitation project.

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> - MARY KIMM MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

In fact, a bridge used by 78,000 vehicles a

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# Responding to the Zika Threat

BY U.S. REP. GERRY CONNOLLY (D-11)

ast week, for the first time ever, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was forced to issue a domestic travel warning to pregnant women planning to visit Miami, a popular getaway destination. This marks a sad milestone in our country's history. What was once seen as a threat from foreign travel has now reached our communities, jeopardizing our collective health and safety, especially

that of newborns. To date, more than a dozen cases of the Zika virus have been traced to local mosquitos in Florida, which reports nearly 400 cases of Zika associated with foreign travel. There have been 50 reported cases of Zika in Virginia, all linked to foreign travel, as of early

Countless times, as a nation, we've come together to find cures when faced with similar health crises. American ingenuity eradicated Polio and slowed the Ebola epidemic. So, like many of you, I assumed Congress would meet this crisis head-on like it has done in the past. Surely we would expeditiously provide funding for this global disease. Instead, sadly, Congress adjourned for summer break.

Recognizing the urgent need to respond to the spreading Zika threat, the Obama Administration redirected close to \$600 million in



There have been 50 reported cases of Zika in Virginia, all linked to foreign travel, as of early August.

measure for initial activities. However, that will not be enough to fully address the threat. I support the President's emergency request for \$1.9 billion in Zikarelated funding. Unfortunately, a counter proposal offered by the House majority is insufficient and saddled

with extraneous and divisive policy riders.

The consequences of Congressional inaction could be devastating. States and communities won't have the funding they need to fight Zika. State and local officials manage mosquito control and response operations. Here in Fairfax. we have consistently supported a program to trap and test local mosquitoes for viruses like West Nile and now Zika. Without additional funding from the federal government, we limit the ability of at-risk communities to sustain activities to reduce the spread of Zika once transmission begins.

Vaccine development may also be delayed. Creating a vaccine requires multi-year commitments from the government and private sector to reprioritize and spend money on research and development. The Secretary of Health and Human Services recently warned that, "Lack

existing funds as a stopgap of funding will delay or prevent the performance of clinical trials ... limiting the ability of manufacturers to make vaccines at the scale required to protect populations against Zika."

> We also need to ensure that there is enough diagnostic testing capacity available across the country. This is especially critical now with confirmed cases of local mosquito transmissions. Swift, accurate diagnostic testing is foundational to our ability to track and respond to this threat.

> I was among those calling on Congress to cancel its August break until we addressed this challenge. We cannot simply swat away this threat. With the recent diagnoses of local Zika transmissions in Florida, Congress should reconvene as quickly as possible to partner with our states and local communities in responding to this growing public health crisis.

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

Letters to the Editor The Connection 1606 King St. Alexandria VA 22314 Call: 703-917-6444. By e-mail: south@connectionnewspapers.com

# **LETTERS**

### Honoring Burke Good Neighbors

To the Editor:

On Sunday, July 31, 2016, Burke celebrated the historical marker for the Copperthite Race Track that has now disappeared and replaced by the Burke Garden Nursery. It was an interesting story of fun and games during the dark period of segregation that was so far in spirit from the 2016 "One Fairfax Social Equity Resolution."

I am the Founding Chairman of the Burke/West Springfield Senior Center without Walls, BWSSCWoW, with a program of "Seniors Giving Back to Community" that includes local history seminars that seek accuracy in local history of our Burke hometown.

My book on "More Burke Vignettes, 1728 – 2015: In Honor of Good Neighbors" focuses on those Burke residents, black and white, who did the right thing by the American ideal of human equality and good neighborliness. The Hopkins, Sheads, Curtis families were good to all their neighbors, black and white – while the black community, notably the Latney and Goins families, worked to help neighbors, black and white, dur-

ing the time of segregation when Fairfax County was oppressing them, particularly in denying equal education.

On Friday, Sept. 16, 2016, Bill Sheads will turn 93 years old and he will lead in the ribbon-cutting ceremony that week for his own family's historical marker, the "Sheads Court" road of the Park Glen Community of Van Metre Homes on Spring Lake Road. The Sheads family has contributed so much to our Burke community with Bill's father serving as a former Supervisor, and Bill Sheads himself, a WWII Veteran, who saved nine black children during the horrific Burke wildfire of 1941. Many thanks go to Van Metre Homes for supporting BWSSCWoW in honoring an outstanding senior and "Burke's Very Good Neighbor" Bill

And on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2016, I will present the history of the vibrant black community of Burke Lake Road that began 151 years ago in 1865. After the Civil War, the Pearson family became emancipated and inherited 374 acres of land, as stipulated in the 1861 will of Francis Coffer IV, a scion of a wealthy and prominent early settler family of our Burke hometown. Jack Pearson donated a

share of his land inheritance in 1874 for the Pearson Colored School and in 1876 for the black cemetery and church that became Little Zion Baptist Church in 1891. Greater Little Zion Baptist Church owns Little Zion Baptist Church and has carried forward to 2016 the remarkable church history as "the house of love that never stops growing."

I hope your readers could join BWSSCWoW for my presentation on "The 125-year History of Little Zion Baptist Church" Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2016, at 7 p.m. at Burke Centre Library.

As for the Coffer family itself, I hope your readers would support honoring them, just as we honored the Copperthite family, with an

accurate historical marker. Unlike the Copperthite race track, the Coffer Home still exists and has been reported by the Fairfax County Government records as having been built in 1790 - making what is now the Woods Community Center, the oldest historical structure in our Burke hometown. The Coffer Home has an inaccurate historical marker that needs correction: it has a wrong date of 1876 (again, Fairfax County records show 1790) and a woefully inadequate text that ignores remarkable contributions of the Coffer family, many of whom lived in and were buried from that historic home to the nearby family cemetery.

In my book, the Coffer family

should be honored as "Burke's Good Neighbors" who helped lay the foundation of our beloved Burke hometown. The Coffer family history involves: working with George Washington and George Mason, military service during the War of 1812 and the emancipation of slaves in a will dated March 30, 1861. This most likely led to Joshua Coffer's imprisonment and death in a Richmond Confederate prison in 1862 of Joshua Coffer. We should honor those who supported the Union - and stood on the right side of history that Fairfax County wants to strengthen its "One Fairfax Social Equity Resolution."

**Corazon Sandoval Foley** 

Burke

#### SCHOOL NOTES

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

Jonathan Whittington, Kathryn Herring, Emma Zettlemoyer, of Springfield; Bridget Ray and Kirsten Chase, of Burke; received \$2,000 scholarships from the Scholarship for Military Children Program in July 2016. **Jane Gibbins-Harding**, of Springfield, was named to the dean's list at Bethany College for spring 2016.

U.S. Air Force Airman Brian A. Zamfino graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Zamfino is the son of Joanne and Joseph Zamfino of Springfield. He is a 2015 graduate of West Springfield High School.

**Thomas Miskimins**, of Fairfax, graduated with a master of arts, in Spring 2016 from the University of New Haven. **Jordan Ecker**, of Fairfax, is on the

spring 2016 dean's list at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. **Caroline Dickson**, of Fairfax, is

on the spring 2016 dean's list at the University of Maine-Orono.

Allison Righter Moore, and

Allison Righter Moore, and Sarah Ann Hughes Cushing-Spiller, of Springfield, is on the dean's list at Hollins University, for the 2016 spring semester.

**James Butler**, a Lake Braddock Secondary School graduate, was inducted into the Naval Academy Class of 2020 on June 30, 2016.





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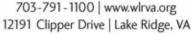
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5137 ARRIT CT	3 1 1	BURKE	\$315,000	Townhouse	0.05	22015	LAKE BRADDOCK
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6433 FENESTRA CT #56B							
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#### BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to pubbe submitted at least two weeks prior to

#### ONGOING

**Burke Lake Seniors Golf League** 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 Rvan 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 Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ dfs/olderadultservices/

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other olunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

HomeLifeStyle



Think about how spaces in the home are used during the school year before bringing home new clothes and educational supplies, suggests **Chuck Khiel of FRED Home Improvement.** 

all to be functional for your kids,

From tests to homework, a new

school year often brings an on-

home. "Storage is key," said Kjos.

organize piles of papers. "You can

find them at a hardware store,"

said Arlington-based personal or-

ganizer Bonnie Atwater of Orga-

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

but flow with your home."



Fabric-covered labeled boxes can hold stacks of paper neatly on a bed-

# Stylish Solutions for Organized Homes

### Practical and chic ideas for making a home back-to-school ready.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL THE CONNECTION a sense of style and serve a practi-

take the stress out of the transition from a laid-back summer to a structured, schedule-driven school year. Local home design and organizational experts share ideas to help parents add practical organizational tools to their home without sacrificing their sense of style.

"Organizing your home to make this transition smooth can make all the difference in the world," said up next to their desk to put school to put up homework assignments, Chuck Khiel, vice president of FRED Home Improvement in case they need to refer back to it." said Kjos. "You can hang this above Bethesda. "Giving thoughts to how spaces around your home are used sive accessory that can be used to during the school year can help with this organization."

Using space efficiently and creating designated spaces for items like backpacks, jackets, sports equipment and clothing will keep a home organized and prevent the back-to-school necessities from overtaking a home's aesthetic. "For example, if you have a mudroom, them in a spot that's easily accestry." specifying spaces for backpacks, sible. shoes and sports apparel takes the guesswork out of where the kids - ful can boost organization without - the morning mad dash to find should be storing their stuff when creating a design emergency. "Dry shirts, socks and shoes. "Get a cute they enter your home," said Khiel. erase calendars and storage cubes decorative basket and stack their "Consistently storing items in the in bright colors can go in your clothes for the week by outfits so timesaver in the morning as the that you want to serve as a comevening," said Kjos. kids are getting ready for school." mand central," said interior de-

teriors by Cyndi in Alexandria. "When school things are organized in a location where everyone can Small home decor items can add see them, everyone has access to important information." cal purpose. "Get a decorative hook

For school supply organization, efore school begins later to hang their backpack up when Kjos suggests: "Instead of using you come in," said Sallie J. Kjos of pencil holders, get your mason jars time to organize home Grey Hunt Interiors in Chantilly. "It out, fill with crayons, markers and and school supplies can doesn't need to look junky or pencil to make for a cleaner, more kiddish. Keep in mind, you want it organized look." Remember to add charging stations to your children's desk or study area.

Keep school notices, permission slips and other forms of paper in slaught of paper, stacks of which plain sight without creating clutcan create an unsightly scene in a ter. Take an old [picture] frame...and staple ribbon across it "Get some fabric-covered boxes in whatever your decor colors are with lids for your children to stack and use paper clips for your child work in that has been graded in certificates, or other reminders," A pegboard is another inexpen- the desk.'

Kjos also offers an innovative way to organize lunch supplies for easy access. "One of my favorite organizing for school tricks is inside of my pantry door," she said. "I use over-the-door shoe holders nized for You. "Get them cut to fit into your particular space, like be- and put all their dried food for hind a door or over a desk. You can lunch boxes in there to make packalso paint them a bright color to ing lunches easier and to reduce add a touch of whimsy and put all the boxes and clutter in my pan-

A neat, streamlined closet can Making items visible but taste- also take some of the stress out of same place will become a kitchen, mudroom or any room you don't have to do it every

> If constructing new storage space www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

signer Cyndi Ibach of Elegant In- is an option, consider dual-purpose in other areas of the home provide units, advises Eric Tovar, president a place to leave and read notes for of Churchill Classics in Poolesville, each other so everyone is aware of Md. "Chalkboards and corkboards daily activities."



Brick front townhome, 2-car garage plus driveway, and visitor parking. 3 finished levels verlooking trees and pond, walkout from 2 evels, large view deck, new carpet and paint hroughout, gas fireplace in the rec room, PLUS a specially designed Chef's kitchen by an award-wining CIA Chef. Granite counter tops, pull out rawers, restaurant-style faucet, tons of counte pace, all white – A+. August move-in available

#### 4060 Cornwall Ct., Fairfax, VA 22030 \$500,000

Spacious end unit townhome surrounded by rees. Walk out from two levels, nond view three nished levels, cozy family room with fireplace off open kitchen (with island), separate living and ining room. Upper level has three bedrooms and 2 full baths. LL has rec room, 4th bedroom or den and easy access to garage. CUE and Metro bus to Vienna Metro on corner. Owner can give 30-day settlement. August move-in availa





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### News



Erin McNamara catches a Rattata Pokémon in a screenshot with Dylan Robertson Aug. 5 as the Clifton teens play 'Pokémon GO' aboard the miniature train that circles Burke Lake Park.



Supervisor Pat Herrity [R-Springfield], center, leads the first of many PokéQuests Aug. 5 in Burke Lake Park at a 'Pokémon GO' safety awareness event he co-sponsored with Fairfax County Police.

# Locals Catch 'Pokemon Go' Fever in County Parks

Safety tips dispensed by crime prevention experts and elected officials at Burke Lake.

By Marti Moore
The Connection

rump and Clinton aren't the only characters to watch during an election year full of surprises. Since its July 5 launch, "Pokémon GO" has swept the nation at a feverish pace, capturing the public eye and providing voters with a fun alternative to watching speeches and popularity polls.

Local government officials urge players of this ridiculously popular smartphone game to pay attention to their surroundings while trying to catch nearly 150 animated pocket monsters called "Pokémon" and collect experience points for their Pokédex, which tracks their levels of achievement.

Fairfax County Supervisor Pat Herrity [R-Springfield] and Capt. Gervais T. Reed — commander of the Fairfax County Police Department West Springfield District Station — do not want their jurisdiction to be party to freak accidents that have occurred elsewhere in the country by distracted gamers with little or no situational awareness beyond their smartphones.

Inova crisis communications officer Tracy J. Connell, reports no recent injuries from local "Pokémon GO" accidents have been treated at the Fairfax Hospital emergency room. In an effort to maintain the status quo, both Herrity and Gervais held a "Pokémon in the Park" fair last week at Burke Lake Park to promote safe gaming habits.

**FOR FIVE HOURS** on a hot summer day, Herrity led several PokéQuests for groups of 25 or more game enthusiasts with his legislative aide Zach McCoy — who dressed for the occasion as the beloved Pokémon mouse called "Pikachu."

As participants focused on their smartphones and tablets, collecting grass and water-type Pokémon during their 15-minute power walks around the park habitat, they were protected by police escort.

"Nobody believes I got Snoopy" quipped Lt. Eli Cory. The only park visitor who didn't get the police officer's joke was an unsuspecting reporter who declared the "Peanuts" cartoon dog is not a Pokémon creature!

Cory says he looks forward to seeing future imitation games and can imagine people walking around the park with their smartphones held high playing an augmented reality version of the "Angry Birds" animated video game.

"We want everyone to be safe and be aware of their surroundings when they play Pokémon," Herrity said Aug. 5.

"Today, we're all about fun and safety," he adds, "and ice cream and train rides." Herrity and his staff distributed bottled water, ice cream and tickets to the park's carousel and "Pikachu-choo" miniature train that allowed passengers to play "Pokémon GO" as it circled the lake.

Each trek through the park began with a brief talk by West Springfield Master Police Officer Mike Stewart, who distributed useful crime prevention tips and warned gamers about some of the hazards of "Pokémon GO" — such as walking into other people and trespassing.

According to an FCPD report, two men and three teenage boys were found playing the game late at night July 13 inside Keene Mill Elementary School in Springfield. All were charged with trespassing on school property.

Despite pitfalls experienced by some ac-



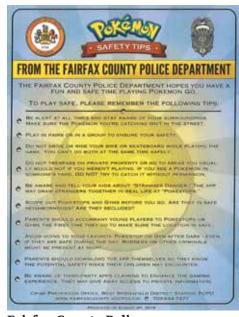
Jacquie Lambertson of Clifton captures a Staryu Pokémon in a screenshot of Clifton teens — from left — Erin McNamara, 18, daughter Keeler Lambertson, 13, and Dylan Robertson, 13, before the miniature train leaves the station Aug. 5 at Burke Lake Park, where they all played 'Pokémon GO.'

cident-prone gamers throughout America, "Pokémon GO" fans agree this smartphone app offers users a fresh alternative to sitting in front of the computer or television.

"I walk through my neighborhood now and I see parents with their kids where I normally wouldn't," Herrity observes.

He noticed late July is a downtime in the summer when kids have run out of things to do and their parents have run out of options.

"Then here comes Pokémon," Herrity exclaims, surrounded by more than 300 happy



Fairfax County Police encourages local residents to enjoy playing 'Pokémon GO' but recommends people follow these guidelines as they explore their communities and capture animated pocket monsters with their smartphone cameras.

children and their parents on a Friday afternoon. He believes the game provides good exercise for the whole family.

**HIS EVENT** at Burke Lake Park was inspired by his colleague, Supervisor Kathy L. Smith, [D-Sully] who held the first Pokéthon in the County July 20 in Chantilly to promote safe gaming practices.

"It was so successful, we wanted to replicate it in the Springfield District," said Herrity's communications director Erika Dyer — who outranks her boss at Level 16. Herrity said he reached Level 4 after leading his first PokéQuest of the day and worked hard the next four hours to catch up with his legislative sidekick.

### CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at 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

Evenings on the Ellipse. 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays through Aug. 25. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Fun music and good company. Paradise Springs and The Winery at Bull Run will be offering complimentary tastings of their premium reds and whites. If it rains, concerts will be moved inside to the Government Center Forum. http:// www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ performances/

Storytime in the Park. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-385-2712.

Wednesday Morning Tai Chi. 6:30 a.m. Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. At the pergola. 703-385-

Rock the Block! 6:30 p.m. Every fourth Friday through Oct. 28. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Come any way you can walk, run, ride your bike or drive! You don't want to miss out on this brand new concert series! Food is available for sale. Bring chairs and or blankets to sit on. Kids – wear swim suits and bring towels. Enjoy the new spray pad. No Pets allowed except service animals. fairfaxva.gov.

The Farmer's Market at

Springfield Town Center. May 7-Nov. 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Through November. Corner of Spring Mall and Loisdale roads, Springfield. Enjoy fresh baked goods, produce, vegetables & fruits, meats & cheeses, and a host of other vendors. springfieldtowncenter.com.

Color Me Happy. 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays July 18, Aug. 15. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Discover your inner Picasso. coloring pages from books designed especially for adults. Coloring pages, pencils and markers provided. Free. 703-978-5600.

**Lovers and Madmen**. June 18-Aug. 19. Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Features local artists. epicurecafe.org.

Fairfax Rotary Club Meeting. 12:15-1:30 p.m. Mondays. American Legion, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax.

Meetings with luncheon and program. fairfaxrotary.org. Plant Clinic. 9 a.m.-noon. Sundays till

end of September. Lorton Farmers Market, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Conducted by Master Gardeners. Answer gardening question, identify plants and insects, soil tests, etc. fairfaxgardening.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. **FUN-Exercise**. Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. Contact Chris Moore at moorefitt@yahoo.com or 703-499-6133.

#### 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



The Pohick Church Docent Guild will host a Garden Party on Saturday, Aug. 13 at the Historic Pohick Church.

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.

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. 703-273-3638.

#### THURSDAY/AUG. 11

Evenings on the Ellipse. 5:30-7 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Sixth Generation (60s Rock). Fun music and good company. Paradise Springs and The Winery at Bull Run will be offering complimentary tastings of their premium reds and whites. If it rains, concerts will be moved inside to the Government Center Forum. http:// www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ performances/.

#### FRIDAY/AUG. 12

Junior Club Championship. 8 a.m. Burke Lake Golf Course, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Junior golfers compete in the season-ending tournament. An 18-hole individual stroke tournament for all age divisions: 10 and under, 11-13, 14 -Roberta.Korzen@fairfaxcounty.gov

#### SATURDAY/AUG. 13

Kidz Korner. 10:30 a.m. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. A variety of children's activities and entertainment in Old Town Square. Mr. Skip. Free. http:// www.wkfairfax.com/.

Christopher Leibig - Almost Mortal. 5

p.m. Barnes and Noble Fairfax. 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade, Fairfax. Meet local author and attorney Christopher Leibig and discuss Almost Mortal – his newest legal thriller. 703-278-8527.

Garden Party. 4:30-7 p.m. Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Fundraiser to benefit the Historic Pohick Church Foundation, whose mission is the restoration and maintenance of the historic Pohick Church building, a structure that has survived since 1774 \$30 703-339-6572

Workhouse Brewfest. Noon-6 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Thirty Virginia craft breweries, 20 food trucks, and 16 bands on tap. \$15-

http://workhousebrewfest.org

#### WEDNESDAY/AUG. 17

Pop Up Adventure Playground. 10 a.m.- noon. Pat Rodio Park, 3800 Keith Ave., Fairfax. Join in your

neighborhood park this summer for LEGO, Games, Crafts, Coding, and more. Free. 703-385-7858 karen.lussier@fairfaxva.gov.

#### THURSDAY/AUG. 18

Evenings on the Ellipse. 5:30-7 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The United States Navy "Commodores" (Jazz). Fun music and good company. Paradise Springs and The Winery at Bull Run will be offering complimentary tastings of their premium reds and whites. If it rains, concerts will be moved inside to the Government Center Forum. http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ parks/performances/

#### FRIDAY/AUG. 19

Family Fun Movie Nights. 7 p.m. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. "Zootopia." 703-385-7858

#### SATURDAY/AUG. 20

LEGO Build. 4 p.m. Barnes and Noble Fairfax, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade, Fairfax. Calling all LEGO fans...come and build with us! Join us for speed-building contests, blind builds and much more! Best for ages 6 and up. 703-278-8527.

#### THURSDAY/AUG. 25

Evenings on the Ellipse. 5:30-7 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway. Fairfax. A Tribute to Simon and Garfunkel. Fun music and good company. Paradise Springs and The Winery at Bull Run will be offering complimentary tastings of their premium reds and whites. If it rains, concerts will be moved inside to the Government Center Forum. http:// www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ performances/

#### SATURDAY/AUG. 27

#### **Summer Reading Triathlon**

Closing Ceremony. 11 a.m. Barnes and Noble Fairfax, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade, Fairfax. Local children's author Sue Fliess will join to read and sign copies of one of her 2016 releases: "A Fairy Friend." Wrap up summer with the 20th Anniversary celebration of the Barnes & Noble Summer Reading Triathlon with special events and activities. 703-278-8527.

# COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

Worship Gathering - Sunday 8:45 & 11 AM Sunday School 10:10 AM Sun. Evening – Realtime Worship & Youth 6 PM Family Night - Wednesday 7:15 PM Home Life Groups, College/Young Adult Ministries, and Living Free Support Groups Visit our Website: www.jccag.org

#### Messiah United Methodist Church

www.messiahumc.org

#### Check out our:

- · Weekly youth mission projects
- Children's summer camp programs
- Community outreach opportunities

Sunday Services at 8:15, 9:30, and 11 am Sunday School 9:30 and 11 am Childcare available during worship

6215 Rolling Road, Springfield (near West Springfield High School) 703-569-9862



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# Special Connections Calendar

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

#### **AUGUST**

8/24/2016......Newcomers & Community Guide Pullout 8/31/2016......Connection Families: Enrichment, Care & Back to School

#### **SEPTEMBER**

Labor Day is September 5

9/7/2016.......Wellbeing 9/14/2016.....HomeLifeStyle Pullout – Real Estate & New Homes

9/21/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools Back to School, Open Houses

9/28/2016.....Connection Families: Fall Fun, Food, **Arts & Entertainment** 

#### OCTOBER

10/5/2016.....Wellbeing Senior Living Pullout 10/12/2016......HomeLifeStyle 10/19/2016......A+ Camps & Schools 10/26/2016......Connection Families 10/26/2016......Election Preview Halloween is October 31

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   Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection

  - Great Falls Connection
- Potomac Almanac Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
   Vienna/Oakton Connection

#### Area Roundups

# Update Anticipated in Fairfax Murder-Suicide

The Office of the Medical Examiner has yet to identify the toddler whose dead body was found along with that of Roy Eugene Rumsey, 58, in a house fire on July 27 in the 12100 block of Fairfax Hunt Road in Fairfax.

Major Crimes detectives with Fairfax County Police have been

investigating the case as a murdersuicide: a domestic crime, with no risk to public safety.

No other suspects are being pursued, FCPD spokesman Don Gotthardt has said.

Gotthardt said an update from police could come as soon as Friday, Aug. 12.

Any public updates will come through the FCPD Twitter account @FairfaxPolice and blog www.fcpdnews.wordpress.com.

Police continue to ask anyone with information about the incident to contact Crime Solvers electronically by visiting

www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text-a-tip by texting "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES(274637) or by calling 1-866-411-TIPS(8477), or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

### Two Reports of Fox Bites in Springfield Area

A fox or foxes are still at large after two reports of bites in the Springfield area on Monday, Aug. 8, Fairfax County Police said. Animal Protection Officers of FCPD first responded to an incident of an 81-year-old woman being bitten while in her front yard in the 8600 block of Kenilworth Drive around 10:33 a.m. The woman went to a hospital for medical attention.

Police said the second incident happened around 1:57 p.m. later that day. An 84-year-old man was mowing his lawn in the 5600 block of Ventnor Lane when police reported he "was confronted and bitten by a fox." The man also went to the hospital for treatment.

Animal Protection Officers have

set traps for the animal or animals involved with the confrontations with humans, but have yet to bring anything in. It's still unknown, then, whether the foxes involved have the rabies virus.

Though the aggressive behavior observed in the foxes is one of the signs of rabies, FCPD said.

The Animal Protection Police are asking residents to keep their dogs on leashes when walking in public areas.

"If bitten or scratched by an animal, wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water and seek medical attention right away," the statement said.

Animal bites, sick and injured animals should be reported immediately to the Animal Protection Police at at 703-691-2131, TTY 703-877-3715.

More information is available online at fcpdnews.wordpress.com/2016/05/22/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-rabies-virus/

—TIM PETERSON

#### FAITH NOTES

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

**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.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit http://www.guhyasamaja.org for more information.

**Lord of Life Lutheran** offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

**First Baptist Church of Spring-field** offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by both traditional and contemporary worship services at 10:30 a.m. at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspringfield.org.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., Latin mass at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. Additional mass offered Monday-Friday at 6:30 a.m. (except on Federal holidays) and 8:45 a.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

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LEGAL NOTICE

According to the Lease by and between Julia Schade (of unit 4084) and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to the property being the property contained in said Deed Posit School Lot 4 in the resubdivision of Land Bay A5B, Random Hills as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to the lock on the lock of the lock on the lock of the tailied in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock of their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: couch, chairs, rug, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday August 19, 2016 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with bette state.

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In execution of a Deed of Trust from Waleed H. Orain-an, dated February 28, 2005, and recorded March 2, 2005, in Deed Book 17030 at page 2075 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax <#0.1\_county> County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on Tuesday, August 23, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

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Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser

association dues and assessments, it any. Furchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to he at the expense of nurchaser. State and

conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

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the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of his deposit without interest. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. used for that purpose.

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# WE FINANCE!

Caregiving Events

September is Older Virginians' Mental Health Month and the county is hosting three community presentations on caring for mental wellness. Presenters are licensed county therapists and specialists in older adult wellness

\* Tuesday, Sept. 13, 11 a.m. to 12 noon

Herndon Senior Center - free and open to members and nonmembers, 873 Grace Street, Herndon Call the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging at 703-324-5411 for registration and ADA accommodations.

❖ Monday, Sept. 19, 1-2 p.m.

George Mason Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale

Call the Community Services Board's Public Information Line at **703-324-7006** for more information and ADA accommodations.

❖ Tuesday, Sept. 20, 1-2 p.m.
Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria

Call the Community Services Board's Public Information Line at 703-324-7006 for more information and ADA accommodations.

Fairfax County is offering a new **Caregiver Support Group** the first Wednesday of each month beginning Sept. 7, 10 a.m. at Calvary Hill Baptist Church, 9301 Little River Tnpk., Fairfax. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/ olderadultservices/caregiver.htm under Community Caregiver Support Groups or call 703-324-5489, TTY 711.

Fairfax County is offering a free Chronic Disease Self-Management program Sept. 12-Oct. 17 (Mondays), 1-3 p.m. at The NeuroGrow Brain Fitness Center, 8280 Greensboro Dr., Ste. 240, McLean. Register beforehand or call **703-324-**

Fairfax County's free Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group meets by phone on Tuesday, September 13, 7-8 p.m. We are having an open discussion on caregiving. Register beforehand atwww.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/ olderadultservices and click on Telephone Caregiver Support Group. Call 703-324-5484,

The  ${\bf Fairfax}$   ${\bf Commission}$  on  ${\bf Aging}$  meets on Wednesday, September 21 at noon at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Dr,. Centreville. The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm. Call 703-324-5403, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

### Volunteer Opportunities

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 Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Providence Community Center Senior Program in Fairfax is looking for an ESL **Instructor** weekdays. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Lincolnia Senior Center in Alexandria is looking for Instructors for the following classes: Chinese Brush Painting, Tai Chi, Yoga/Mat work, core and weights, and Aerobics. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Gum Springs Senior Program in Alexandria is looking for a Line Dance Instructor, once a week. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to **drive older** adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**. TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions

The Wakefield Senior Center in Annandale needs Front Desk Volunteers and a Qigong Instructor. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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# SPORTS



Crosspointe coach Rachel Burnett, center, enjoys some shade under the Cruisers' team tent on a muggy Saturday morning at NVSL All-Stars, with 8-under swimmers Amanda Leith, left, and Anna Helms, right.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Saturday, Peter Makin, center, of the Fairfax Frogs, added nearly two tenths to his own league record in the 100-meter individual medley, but still won the event handily.

# Stars of Summer

By Tim Peterson The Connection

lympic swimming started with an expected bang in its open ing weekend in Río, with Katie Ledecky and the men's four by 100 freestyle relay, that included Michael Phelps in the second leg, captured gold medals for Team USA. The day before the first finals events, Northern Virginia played host to its own local version of swimming championships, the Northern Virginia Swimming League individual All-Stars meet.

The meet was held Aug. 6 at the Little Rocky Run community pool in Clifton.

Though other leagues including Prince William, Colonial and Reston offer many communities opportunities for youth summer racing, none match the NVSL for sheer size and speed.

"It's the best of the best," said Crosspointe head Coach Molly Miller. Miller lives in Chantilly, while Crosspointe is based in Fairfax Station. Like most coaches present, Miller thought her swimmers were able to "rise to the competition and see some good swims."

#### AMONG THAT ELITE-LEVEL competition was Cassidy Bayer, a rising junior at West Potomac High School. Bayer finished third in the 100-meter Butterfly at the U.S. Olympic Trials earlier this summer, just missing a trip to Río.

Even with that type of talent, Bayer was still a fraction of a second off the NVSL record for the 50-meter fly.

Bayer's teammate on the Mount Vernon Park Gators community team Emily Makin did break a league record Saturday, going 34.84 seconds in the 11-12 50-meter breaststroke. The record was previously held by both Lindsey Ertter (1995) and Ashley Danner (2003).

# Northern Virginia Swimming League holds individual championships



Orange Hunt swimmers Carrie Morrison, left, and Olivia Masterson, right, meet with coach Chris Robitaille, center, before the 100-meter individual medley at the NVSL All-Stars meet on August 6.

break a minute in the 100-meter individual medley.

Saturday, Peter added nearly two tenths to his own league record, but still won the event handily.

"It felt good," he said after the race, smiling. "Not quite as good [as the previous week.]"

Peter described racing in NVSL All-Stars the same weekend as Olympic swimming kicking off as "pretty awesome." He'll be focusing on watching the men's sprint freestyle: the 50, 100 and 200-meter dis-

"I hope Nathan Adrian will take them," he said. Adrian is a favorite from the US, competing in the 50 and 100. He anchored the gold medal-winning relay along with Phelps on Sunday night.

Mike Fones of Fairfax is Peter Makin and the Frogs' head coach. He's returned to coaching after taking a 20-year break. This past winter season, he coached the

Olivia Masterson, center, of Orange Hunt swim team, won the 13-14 girls 50-meter breaststroke and 100meter individual medley races at the 2016 NVSL All-Stars meet Aug. 6.

"This really is a team," he said of the Frogs. "They compete as a team. You have 18-year-olds cheering for six-year-olds. Siblings with siblings. It really is a family."

championships.

Fast, slow, All-Stars or developmental meets, "It doesn't make any difference," Fones said. In his opinion, family and fun are the bedrock of summer league.

Robinson Secondary School men's and

women's swim and dive teams to state

#### **OTHER NEW LEAGUE RECORDS** from Saturday include Blake Madsen of Poplar Tree in Chantilly. The 8 and under swimmer broke his own NVSL record with 19.77 seconds in the 25-meter breaststroke. He was the first to go under 20 in the league's history.

Jacquee Clabeaux of Greenbriar in Fairfax broke another Ashley Danner league record that's stood since 2007, going 31.62 in the girls 15-18 50-meter breaststroke.

For full results, visit www.mynvsl.com.

Makin's coach Paul Makin [no relation] has been coaching in the NVSL since 1993, and with Mount Vernon Park for the last 11

Paul said he and Emily "didn't have [the record] on the radar today, it was a surprise."

Like many summer league coaches, Paul also coaches for a more business-like yearround program. In his case, it's Nation's Capital Swim Club, of which Ledecky and Bayer are members.

In summer league and the NVSL, however, Paul said, he wants his athletes to "just swim, have fun."

"They control their own races," Paul continued, "not the clock."

Peter Makin [also not related to Paul] of the Fairfax Frogs community team was another highlight of the muggy early-August

The previous week, he became the first NVSL male ever in the 13-14 age group to

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