

Cheering On at Cherry Run

NEWS, PAGE 4

Cathy Brown, left, cheers on a student at Cherry Run Elementary School in Burke at a baseball game for pre-school students with disabilities.

Raising Awareness,
Funds for Fragile X

NEWS, PAGE 4

Celebrating 50 Years of
Strong Community

NEWS, PAGE 3

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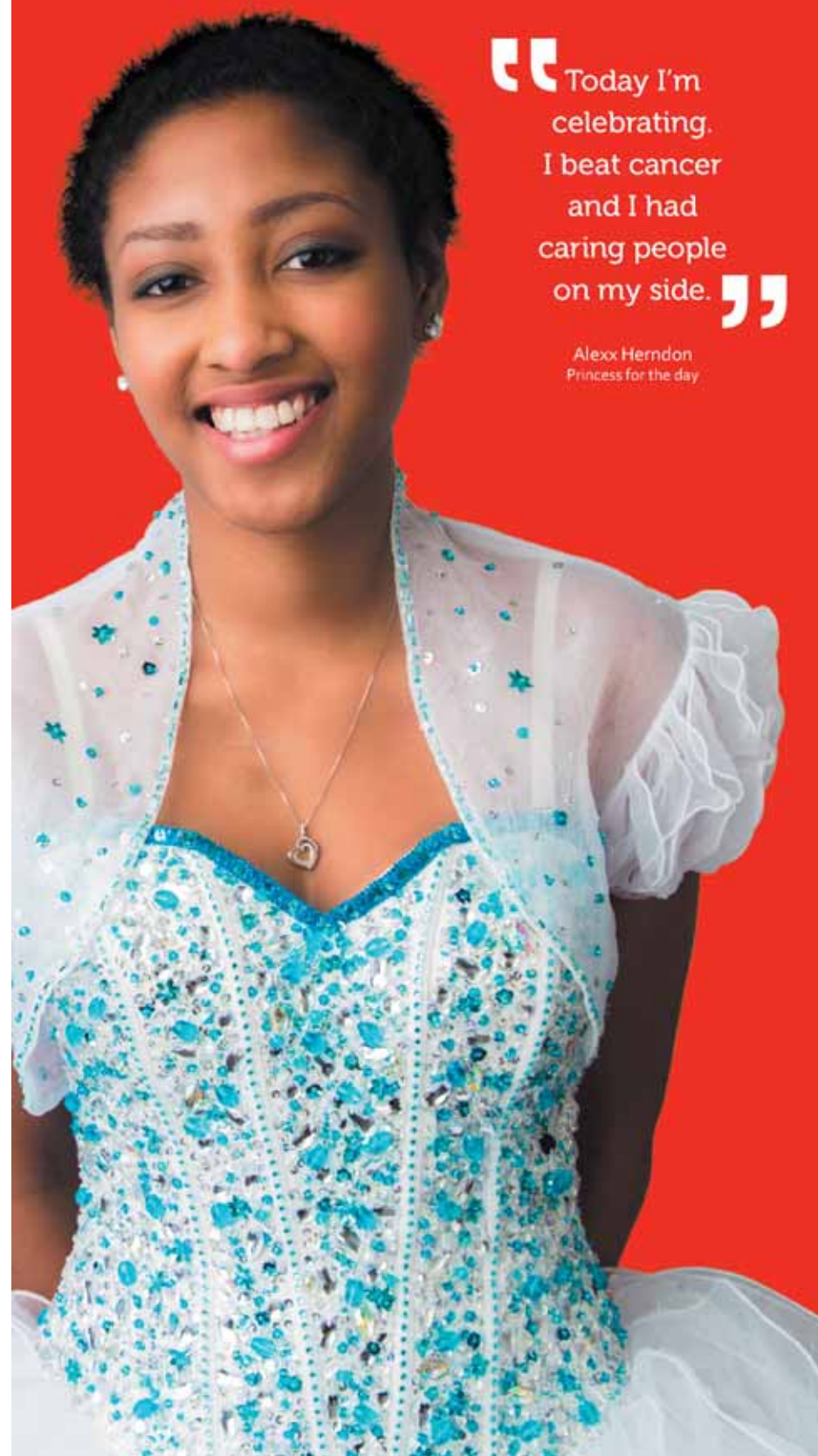


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Members of the Woodson High School Band perform at the annual meeting of the Little Run Citizen's Association Annual Meeting, where Braddock District Supervisor John Cook presented them with an award in celebration of the association's 50th anniversary.



PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION

Celebrating 50 Years of Strong Community

Supervisor Cook honors Little Run Citizen's Association.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

With a strong neighborhood watch program, a 4th of July parade, and a hayride, the Little Run Citizen's Association has had a productive 50 years.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) honored the group at their annual meeting on May 9 in celebration of their 50th anniversary.

"I congratulate the Little Run Citizen's Association on achieving this 50th anniversary milestone," Cook said. "This neighborhood is a prime example of the engaged residents that make Braddock a vibrant, connected community."

Cook was joined by Del. Vivian Watts (D-39), who talked about the recent legislative session in Richmond.

"Unfortunately we aren't through with our business," Watts said.

Jeff Yost, the principal of Woodson High School, was also present to answer questions on teen's well-being and health. Two Woodson students died by suicide earlier this year within one week, which has been difficult for the students, Yost said.

"Our kids are very resilient," Yost said.

Stress is a major problem for high school students, who sometimes push themselves to take as many Advanced Placement (AP) classes as possible. But Yost often reminds students that they don't need to take a lot of AP classes in order to be successful.

"They are stressed. It's the type of area we live in," Yost said.

Yost also addressed class size, which is currently at a rate of 29 students to one teacher across high schools in Fairfax County.



Supervisor John Cook presents Bob Kachur, the president of the Little Run Citizen's Association with an award in celebration of the association's 50th anniversary.

Little Run residents were encouraged to remain vigilant and supportive of youth in their neighborhood.

In addition to congratulating the group on their anniversary, Cook also addressed the issue of mental health.

"It's a big issue that we need to address. It's not just government programs-it's creating a culture of acceptance and understanding," Cook said.

Cook also addressed the recent establishment of a meals tax referendum task force, which is currently deciding whether a meals tax should be included on the ballot, and if so, when.

The main question, Cook said, is what to do with the money. One solution could be to use the money for much-needed school renovations, he said.

It's through decisions like this and tough budget times that the Little Run Citizen's Association has continued to look out for its neighborhood for the past 50 years, and will continue to do so for years to come.



PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION

Police from around the nation cycled to D.C. in memory of fellow fallen officers.

Riding for the Fallen

More than 100 officers cycle through Virginia, for cause.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

Police officers from all over the country vowed to "ride for those who died" this week.

Police Unity Tour Chapter IV - also known as the Virginia chapter - challenged officers on a three day bicycle tour from Richmond to D.C. in memory for fallen officers.

Before the last stop at Robert F Kennedy Memorial Stadium, the group of 122 officers and loved ones of fallen police stopped for lunch at McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center Monday in Fairfax as a tribute to the county most the officers served.

"We had a good group of people this year," said Herndon Police Chief and Chapter IV President Maggie DeBoard. "A lot of them never knew each other, but now we're like family."

She said seven family members of fallen officers joined the tour this year. She also noted that some of the officers came from as far away as Las Vegas and Ohio.

Last year, the event raised \$1.7 million towards the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. To ride, each bicyclist must raise at least \$1,700, she said.

Many of the police - most dressed in official Police Unity Tour uniforms - showed slight signs of pain after the three day cycle event despite the rigorous training many go through on the job.

"This is the most difficult chapters to ride because of the hills," said DeBoard.

THE COURSE'S FIRST STOP after departing Richmond is Charlottesville. The cyclists then head through the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains to Warrington and Fairfax before finishing in Washington, D.C.

HPD officer Steven Monahan said the weather during prime training season kept many officers from practicing properly.

"Because the winter was so harsh, it was hard to train outdoors," he said. "At the end of the day, though, it's not about the pain we feel. It's about who we're riding for. That's what keeps me going."

Deputy Chief Tammy Hooper rode the tour for the first time this year to honor Charlie Hill, an officer who died 25 years ago.

"It's also my 25th year on the police department, so I thought it would be a good tribute," she said, showing the blue metal bracelet on her wrist with Hill's name on it.

According to odmp.org, Hill was killed in March 1989 after opening fire on a drug dealer who held a gun to a hostage's head, demanding that his debt get paid. The suspect had enough time to open fire before he was killed, mortally wounding Hill and injuring a second officer.

Hooper said she met Hill during police academy on the shooting range, where he was an instructor.

Lucas County Sheriff's Department Deputy Rob Sehermerhorn came down from Ohio to ride with the Virginia chapter.

"My friend, Keith Dressel, died in the line of duty," he said. "He interrupted a drug bust."

SCHOOLS



PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

The baseball game at Cherry Run Elementary School in Burke featured several stations for the preschoolers to practice different parts of the game and to be cheered on by teachers and parents.

Cheering On at Cherry Run

Every year since Cathy Brown has been an early childhood special education teacher at Cherry Run Elementary School, a baseball game and picnic has been held in celebration of the end of the year for the older preschoolers.

"It's just a great event," Brown said.

The students, who have a variety of disabilities, move through different stations, including batting, fielding, pitching, base running, sliding and cheering. They wear uniforms and are cheered on by their parents and teachers.

"The kids just love it," Brown said. "The families enjoy it as well."

This year, the rain held off and the game went on as scheduled. Students and their families enjoyed a great day of baseball and a fun picnic.

— JANELLE GERMANOS



Cathy Brown, an early childhood special education teacher at Cherry Run Elementary School in Burke (center) cheers students on at a baseball game for preschool students with disabilities.

The game featured a cheering station for classmates to encourage those playing in the baseball game.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BUFFY GRANDE

Participants from last year's first Fragile X walk gather at Burke Lake Park. This year, the Fragile X Families of Northern Virginia hope to raise \$50,000 for Fragile X research and education.

Raising Awareness, Funds for Fragile X

Second Annual Fragile X Walk is May 17 at Burke Lake Park.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

Throughout the United States, over 1,000,000 individuals are at risk of developing or already have a Fragile X disorder. Despite the numbers, many people still remain uneducated about Fragile X.

The Fragile X Families of Northern Virginia are working to raise awareness and money for research and education on this syndrome with their second annual Fragile X walk, coming this Saturday, May 17 to Burke Lake Park in Fairfax Station.

Fairfax Station Resident Buffy Grande and her husband started the Fragile X Families of Northern Virginia after attending an international conference on the syndrome. Their son, who is now eight, has Fragile X. They were the only people from Virginia at the conference, and they decided they needed to do something, so they started the group.

"We decided we needed some help and support, and we wanted to also provide help and support for the area," Grande said.

The group has about 12 to 16 families that participate, and provides support and resources to help individuals with Fragile X and their families. They've hosted a couple of local conferences and have held various educational and social events for families.

FRAGILE X is the most common cause of inherited intellectual disability, and occurs in

approximately 1 in 3600 males and 1 in 4000 females. It is also the most common known genetic cause of autism.

"Our number one goal for the walk is research, and the second is awareness," Grande said.

According to the National Fragile X Foundation, the severity of learning and behavioral challenges caused by Fragile X varies from moderate to severe.

Andrea Creighton, a member of the Fragile X Families group, has three children who inherited Fragile X. They have all been affected differently, she says.

"Physically, there are no barriers that we deal with, but one of my children is non-verbal," Creighton said.

The behavior and learning challenges can make raising a child with Fragile X difficult. It's also important to educate and train those in the school system who are working with children with Fragile X.

That's another area where the support of the Fragile X Families group comes in. "You have all the issues of autism that you're dealing with, as well as the intellectual disability," Grande said. "My son, for example, is non-verbal, so he talks through an iPad."

THE ONE-MILE FUN WALK, followed by a music performance and train ride, is May 17 at Burke Lake Park. Adults are \$35 and children 4+ are \$15. Proceeds go towards research and education. Participants receive a t-shirt and should arrive by 8:30 a.m. Visit <http://www.fragilexnorthernvirginia.com>.

News

Del. Filler-Corn Appointed to State Commission on Intergovernmental Cooperation

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) was appointed to the Virginia Commission on Intergovernmental Cooperation in April. This Commission is comprised of members of the General Assembly to promote the Commonwealth's interest between other states and the federal government. The Commission formulates proposals for cooperation between Virginia and other states as well as formulating proposals concerning interstate contracts and conferences. Additionally, the Commission monitors and makes recommendations concerning federal policies that are of concern to the Commonwealth.



**Eileen
Filler-Corn**

"My personal and professional experience gives me great insight into intergovernmental relationships as well as between the Commonwealth and the federal government. I can use this experience to promote the Commonwealth and increase our standing as one of the best managed states" said Filler-Corn.

Delegate Filler-Corn has served as Deputy Director of the Virginia Liaison Office under Mark Warner during his term as Governor. There she served as a contact between Virginia, the U.S. Congress, other state offices and other state governments. Filler-Corn then served as Senior Advisor for State and Federal Relations in Governor Tim Kaine's Administration.

Del. Filler-Corn has been appointed to a term that will coincide with her term in the Virginia House of Delegates.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAY/MAY 17

Dog Adoption. 12 - 3 p.m. PETCO, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. 703-817-9444.

MONDAY/MAY 19

Rising Kindergarten Orientation. 2 - 3:30 p.m. Rolling Valley Elementary School, 6703 Barnack Drive, Springfield.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 21

How Do I Take Away the Keys...Dementia & Driving. 1:30 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, formerly Alzheimer's Family Day Center, 2812 Old Lee Highway, Suite 210, Fairfax. Come for a discussion on the many hard decisions involved with dementia and driving, and learn more about caregiver approaches for dealing with this difficult and emotional topic. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP and for more information.

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Virginia Proves Elections Matter

Health and economic issues are entwined.

Some people continue to assert, either with their words or by simply abstaining, that voting just doesn't matter. Here in Virginia, nearly every day we prove that is incorrect.

All of Virginia's elected representatives who are elected by the entire state are of the same political party. They are all Democrats: Gov. Terry McAuliffe, Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam, Attorney General Mark Herring and Virginia's two U.S. Senators, Mark Warner and Tim Kaine.

None were elected by a landslide but the trend is undeniable; the results are tangible.

Herring won his race over Mark D. Obenshain (R) by fewer than 200 votes out of more than 2.2 million votes cast. But that slimmest of margins has cleared the way for a new approach on many issues, especially after the previous four years of Gov. Bob McDonnell and Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli.

In January, Herring announced his office would support legal arguments that Virginia's

ban on same sex marriage is unconstitutional. Judge Arenda Wright Allen on Valentine's Day overturned that ban, and on Tuesday, May 13, the U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond begins the process that should result in same sex couples being able to marry in Virginia.

In April, Herring advised that Virginia students who are lawfully present in the United States under the Federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program qualify for in-state tuition, provided they meet Virginia's domicile requirements.

EDITORIAL

This week, Gov. McAuliffe began administrative processes to blunt the effects of restrictive regulations placed on women's health centers that provide abortion, that would essentially have forced most to close by applying onerous standards intended for hospitals.

"I am concerned that the extreme and punitive regulations adopted last year jeopardize the ability of most women's health centers to keep their doors open and place in jeopardy the health and reproductive rights of Virginia women," McAuliffe said. He also began the process of changing the makeup of the Board of Health via appointments, including return-

ing James Edmondson of McLean to the board.

In the meantime, the gerrymandering of district lines for members of the General Assembly maintains the conservative, Republican super majority there.

Those members of the House of Delegates in particular seem prepared to cut off their noses to spite their faces, to do almost anything to deny health care to more than 200,000 very poor Virginians who could be covered by expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. Not only would this be fully covered by Federal funds for the first years and covered 90 percent thereafter, but it would bring enormous economic benefits to Virginia. McAuliffe is correct to look for ways to expand Medicaid administratively, bypassing the General Assembly. It has been done elsewhere.

"This is not just a health issue — it's an economic issue," McAuliffe said yesterday in announcing review of the regulations on women's health clinics, but the statement applies also to expanding health care in Virginia. "In order to grow and diversify our economy, Virginia needs to be open and welcoming to all."

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

No, I'm Not a Parent; I Just Act Like One

BY JOAN BRADY

I'm not a biological mother, an adoptive mother, a stepmother or a foster mother. But I have experienced some of the joys and heartbreaks of motherhood.

More than 12 years ago, I began as a homework tutor at a group home for foster kids. It was there that I met 7-year-old Dontae.

He would tell you that he tricked me into spending more time with him by pretending that he didn't know his letters. I would tell you that I was drawn to him in ways that I think mothers are drawn to their children. He needed someone. Maybe he needed me.

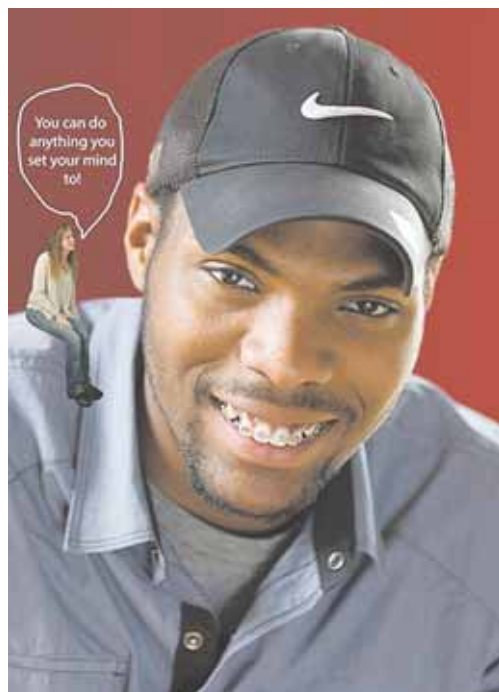
Within months, I began training to become Dontae's Court Appointed Special Advocate or CASA. A CASA is a volunteer who becomes the advocate for a foster child, representing a vulnerable child against the competing priorities of rotating social workers, lawyers and caregivers.

Dontae had 23 placements in just under three years during his time in foster care. With a lack of stability and security, it was no wonder that his behavior was out of control. His anger was often frightening and sometimes put us both in danger.

I quickly learned that he needed consistency and boundaries, but most of all, he needed unconditional, unwavering support.

My friends' kids were much younger than Dontae and social services and court appointed therapists didn't offer any meaningful insights or strategies. I operated on instinct, which sometimes served me well, but often did not.

I told Dontae over and over again what my parents had told me from the time I can remember: "You can do anything you set your mind to." While I might have gotten that per-



Joan Brady to Dontae: "You can do anything you set your mind to!"

sistent and caring motivational support right, there was so much I was getting wrong.

Fortunately, in my second year with Dontae. I met a talented therapist with a young child. In exchange for photographs of her daughter, she promised to meet with me weekly, the day after I saw Dontae.

Each week, I reported on our most recent visit. She would carefully explain where and why my instincts had betrayed me and sent me back out to do better the next time. Her insights were invaluable over the years.

Dontae returned to his mother's home after three years in foster care and she supported

my continuing to be part of their lives. I helped to navigate the frustratingly complex educational system and was there to encourage Dontae. But at 14, Dontae was not really much different than he had been when I met him at 7. He was often filled with rage. The slightest thing could set him off. And one day after battering me with harsh and menacing words, he attempted to jump out of my car as I drove down the highway.

I remember my parents threatening to leave us, four kids at the side of the road, during a particularly bad road trip. I knew just how they felt. But I didn't leave Dontae at the side of the road. And three years later, he started to change.

In the past five years I have gotten to experience some of the joys of parenthood; first job, raises, good grades, school dances, wonderful trips and meals enhanced by interesting conversations. I have also struggled with the frustrating dilemma of trying to keep a kid on track, alternating between nagging, bribing, screaming, negotiating and supporting.

Dontae stayed in school well beyond what should have been his graduation date, cramming 12 years of education into just two. And next month he will graduate.

If you had asked me if I thought this was possible 12 years ago, I would have quietly shaken my head. But come June, I will be loudly cheering Dontae on at his high school graduation and embarrassing him by taking too many pictures.

No, I'm not a parent. I just act like one.

Joan Brady is a professional photographer; mentor and advocate for current and former foster children; volunteer with paws4People, Fairfax Families4Kids, and others; and a resident of Great Falls. Reach her at joan@joanbradyphotography.com

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LETTERS

Senator Who Cares

To the Editor:

It's been more than frustrating to watch such a dysfunctional Congress. Looking toward the coming election, I'm voting for candidates that can cross party aisles and put the welfare of the citizens first. This is why I am supporting Sen. Mark Warner's re-election. Examining his past work in the Senate has given me hope that with more representatives like him, our legislature can emerge from the inoperative era.

I'm a mother of two small children, so I'm passionate about his work to support the health of our children. Just recently, Sen. Warner joined with House Majority Leader Eric Cantor and other Republicans from across the country to put our tax dollars to better use. Rather than continuing to fund political party conventions, Warner lead the support in the Senate for the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research bill, a piece of legislation that would divert former political money to the NIH for research for pediatric diseases.

His track record in putting health issues first is impressive. After being personally affected by his mother's own struggle with Alzheimer's, Sen. Warner created the bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease which aims to invest in Alzheimer's research and stamp out the disease by 2020.

I believe that Mark Warner has his priorities in the right order. I support his willingness to work with Republicans in the House and Senate whenever it means putting children, seniors and the American people first.

Olivia Hinebaugh
Burke

A Better Way to Teach Children

To the Editor:

It seems like every time you read an article regarding education there is talk of standardized high-stakes testing. Teachers spend hours planning and prepping lessons that ensure their students will select the correct question on a lengthy multiple choice test. Students regurgitate this information one day late in the spring, when the only thing anyone can focus on is the looming summer months. When you think about what we want our students to be able to do when they exit high school, is being really good at test taking the first thing that comes to mind?

The end goal does not seem to fit the means by which schools are aiming to obtain success. This has left many educators, researchers, and parents wondering, is there a better way to teach our children? One school in Fairfax County is attempting to step outside the box and

implement a Project-Based Learning (PBL) model in a few of their classrooms. PBL was developed by the Buck Institute for Education in Novato, Calif., though many of the inquiry based methods can be traced back to education pioneer John Dewey. Through PBL students are highly engaged in problem solving, collaboration,

and critical thinking activities. Teachers must carefully select which cross-curricular

standards they want a project to cover. Then, they introduce students to their problem and propose a driving question. Students research collaboratively online and with print resources. They create a final product that demonstrates their newly gained learning to their community. Finally, students reflect on their learning and performance.

Research has shown that students who learn through PBL perform at the same level, if not higher than students in a traditional classroom. In addition, they make gains in 21st Century Skills. PBL provides students the opportunity to take ownership of their learning, demonstrate higher order thinking skills, and communicate respectfully with their peers.

This is what we are looking for in our high school grads. Maybe PBL will be the ticket to get us there.

Sarah Privateer
Fairfax

Questionable Presumption

To the Editor:

The Fairfax County School Board has proposed four options for public discussion on changing school start times. None of the options includes the current school schedule. We are not in Russia, we must be given a fair choice, including the no change option. The presumption that if children start school later, they will get more sleep is questionable. They may simply go to bed later. The \$3M to \$7M cost to change the school schedule is a waste. Teachers are being laid off due

to budget issues, we should not spend millions of dollars on

transportation at the expense of the teachers. Starting an hour later adds as much as two hour of commute time for the parents who live in the western end of the county and work in Washington, D.C. After school activities will start and end at later times, just in time for rush hour traffic and therefore may have to be curtailed. The current school schedule must be maintained.

Yoram Carmi and Margo Rowles
Great Falls

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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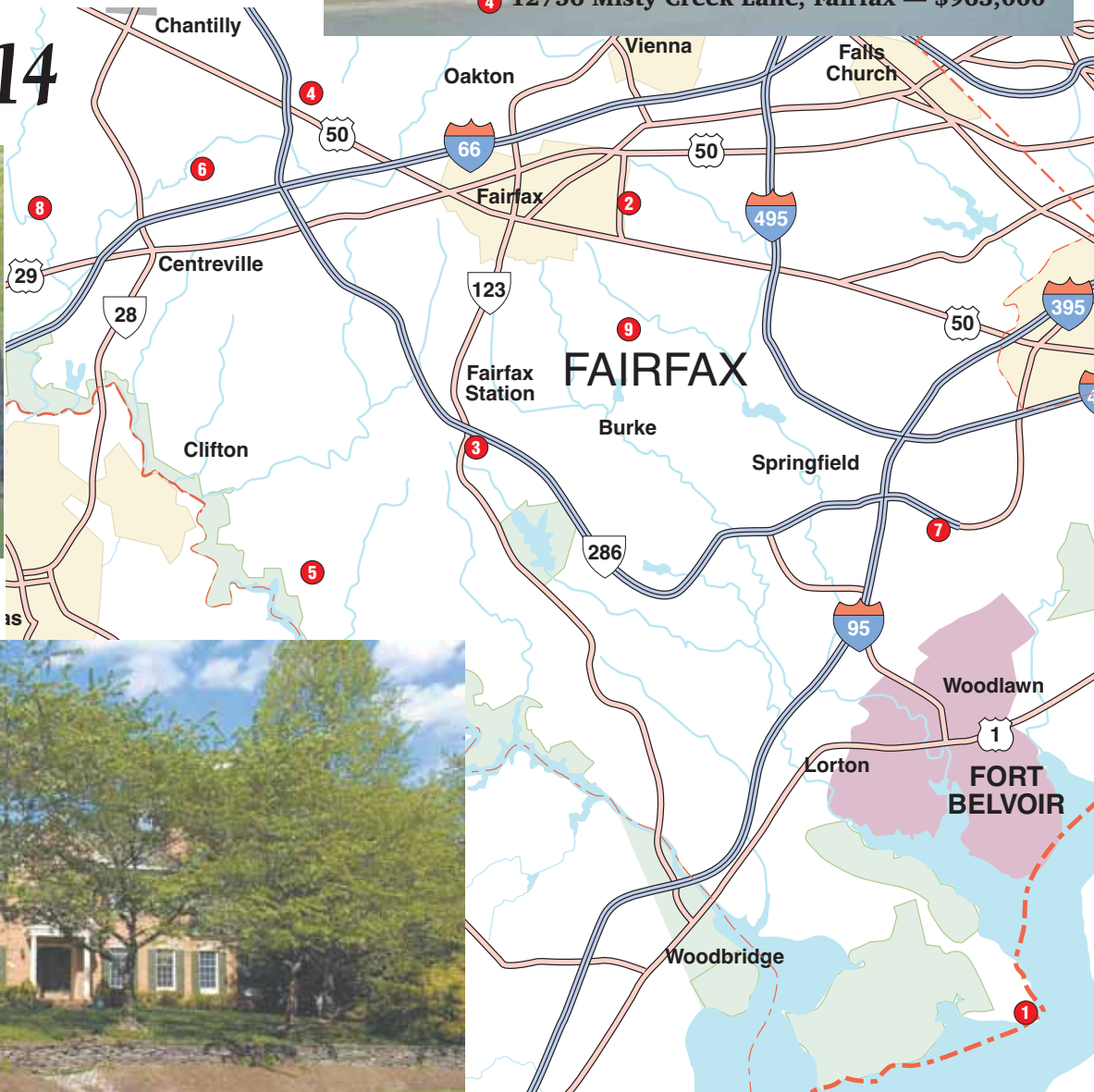
4 12756 Misty Creek Lane, Fairfax — \$963,000



Top Sales in March, 2014



5 12403 Clifton Hunt Drive, Clifton — \$925,000



3 6207 Halley
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Fairfax Station —
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1 5813 RIVER DR	4	..	2	..	1	LORTON	\$1,340,000 ...	Detached ...	0.86	22079 . HALLOWING POINT RIVER .	03/25/14
2 9505 SHELLY KRASNOW LN	5	..	5	..	1	FAIRFAX	\$1,180,000 ...	Detached ...	0.26	22031 PICKETT'S RESERVE	03/06/14
3 6207 HALLEY COMMONS CT	5	..	4	..	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,059,000 ...	Detached ...	0.83	22039 . HUNT AT FAIRFAX STATION	03/17/14
4 12756 MISTY CREEK LN	5	..	4	..	1	FAIRFAX	\$963,000 ...	Detached ...	0.21	22033 CENTURY OAK	03/25/14
5 12403 CLIFTON HUNT DR	5	..	3	..	1	CLIFTON	\$925,000 ...	Detached ...	5.14	20124 CLIFTON HUNT	03/17/14
6 4752 SUN ORCHARD DR	5	..	4	..	1	CHANTILLY	\$850,000 ...	Detached ...	0.41	20151 PARKSIDE MANOR	03/21/14
7 6477 WINDHAM AVE	5	..	4	..	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$850,000 ...	Detached ...	0.57	22315 WINDSOR ESTATES	03/19/14
8 5824 RIDINGS MANOR PL	4	..	5	..	1	CENTREVILLE	\$800,000 ...	Detached ...	1.01	20120 THE RIDINGS AT VIRGN RUN	03/25/14
9 9485 HARROWHILL LN	5	..	5	..	1	BURKE	\$792,000 ...	Detached ...	0.30	22015 WESTON HILLS	03/14/14

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Empty-Nesters Spread Their Wings

A Springfield couple creates a personalized interior custom-suited to support everyday pleasures, using the existing footprint.

BY JOHN BYRD

A sunny space; an uplifting view; a generous footprint that includes a sizeable breakfast zone, a food preparation island and easy access to a large back deck.

On the surface, the kitchen of David and Cindy Kunzman's colonial-style home in Springfield had everything to recommend it. On the other hand: when the kids have moved on, transforming a kitchen into your everyday gathering place can become a personal passion. It's largely a matter of thinking creatively; and finding the right resources.

"We'd been thinking about a new kitchen almost from the day we moved in," said David Kunzman who had purchased the circa-1990s four-bedroom home about 10 years ago. "We didn't move quickly, partly, because the original floor plan worked pretty well. Fundamentally, we were developing our wish-list, going to home shows and waiting for the right opportunity."

That opportunity was meeting David Foster at a home his firm, Foster Remodeling Solutions, had recently renovated. Kunzman liked what he saw and heard. Shortly afterward, Cindy Kunzman was introduced to Foster's designer, Mimi Lee.

"That's when the project took off," Kunzman said. "Mimi really helped us shape our ideas."

THE FIRST STEP was a thoughtful re-examination with Foster of the existing floor plan: what worked and what could be improved upon.

The cooktop and clean-up were in the right place, the Kunzmans decided. The food prep island — while small — was a critical leg in effective work triangles. The breakfast nook was appropriately positioned, and there was lots of natural light. The main issues were in performance: more functional storage, some personal-use items begging for custom design, and, of course, ambiance.

It wasn't just that the existing interior was dated, or that it evoked qualities unquestionably associated with a suburban production house. The couple's larger goal was finding a design style that appropriately expressed their evolving tastes.

"The more we talked," Lee said, "the more we seemed to be naturally exploring ideas associated with transitional-style interior design."

Transitional style, Lee said, introduces traditional, often formal touches into an open floor plan. The style objective, thus, guided the selection process — cultivating a warmly textured feel appropriate for rooms often bathed in natural light.

THE STARTING POINT, however, was modifying the floor plan to gain useful square footage without moving walls.

Deleting a pantry tucked in an interior wall, for instance, enabled the Foster team to pick up just enough floor space to introduce a substantially larger food preparation island, and dining counter — which



PHOTO BY DIMITRI GANAS

While staying within the footprint of their existing 18-year old-kitchen, Dave and Cindy Kunzman gained significant improvements in both function and design. Cindy Kunzman worked closely with designer Mimi Lee at Foster Remodeling Solutions in developing a warmly textured ambiance that combines selected hardwoods, tumbled marbles and granite.

Details

Foster Remodeling Solutions periodically offers workshops on home remodeling topics. Call 703-550-1371 or visit www.fosterremodeling.com.

now accommodates seating for three. Moreover, while finding the square footage needed for a much larger refrigerator, a stacked double oven and even an Advantium range, the makeover still manages to provide more usable storage than the previous kitchen.

"This is David working some kind of magic," Kunzman said.

"We designed deeper cabinets with roll-out trays," Foster said. "The cabinets and drawers are designed for specific items, and positioned to facilitate a whole series of interlinked work triangles. It's a plan that emphasizes convenience and efficiency."

Naturally, in such a world, one expects cabinets custom-sized for large pots; roll-out spice racks; a side drawer for hand towels; and a dedicated spot for the espresso coffeemaker.

But this plan also introduces such originals as a pull-out drawer with his-and-her iPad charging stations; a slot to hold the RF Universal remote; and a TV mounted so that the screen points in any direction desired.

Carrying integrated home entertainment a step further, Foster positioned audio speakers above the cabinets and mounted the sound system in the basement.

The most personal built-in, however, is the 8-foot-by8-foot-by3.5-foot wet bar on the interior wall of the breakfast nook. With a 40-bottle wine/beer refrigerator, a clean-up sink and an ice maker, the console is convenient to the breakfast table and, more importantly, to the deck and outdoor play area just beyond the double French doors.

"The wet bar is a real step-saver that makes entertaining on the deck much easier," Kunzman said.

On the interior design front, Cindy Kunzman made full-use of Mimi Lee's talents and advice, often visiting Foster Remodeling's Lorton showroom to look at cabinets facings, marble samples or ideas for flooring.

What evolved was an interior that makes use of color-contrasted natural materials, decorative elements and finish work detailing: a cooktop hood faced in cherrywood that tapers upward to ceiling-flush crown moulding; a Giallo Oatmeal granite surface mounted on the food prep island's espresso-stained cabinetry base; and a backsplash of tumbled marble that incorporates glass tile inserts as art deco-styled accents.

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‘Disguised Learning’ with Bricks 4 Kidz

Lorton residents use Legos to reinforce education, fun.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

It’s no secret that kids love building with Legos. But the fun can also be educational, as Lorton residents Jenny and Paul Ahn have recently discovered. The Ahns have been integrating the fun of Legos with educational concepts since starting a Bricks 4 Kidz franchise in the area in March.

The couple decided on Bricks 4 Kidz, a national franchise that teaches children to be curious and creative through building with Legos, because they knew that children love Legos, but that there’s more to it than just a fun time.

“All of our programs are kind of like disguised learning,” Paul said.

Paul and Jenny, 33, also have two young children, and wanted to pick something that would allow them to spend more time together as a family.

“We really fell in love with the program and saw that it had a lot to offer,” Jenny said.

BRICKS 4 KIDZ offers after-school programs, summer camps, birthday parties, family nights out, and more throughout the Fairfax and Springfield area. The programs are built around proprietary model plans created by engineers and architects.

This summer, camps will be available throughout the area, including at Burke Presbyterian Church.

“We’re very excited to work with them,” Paul said.

The camps will have several different themes, including theme parks, space, construction and stop-motion animation.

Bricks 4 Kids is more than just a Lego club, Paul says.

“There’s a curriculum behind it, there’s a lesson behind it,” he said. “Once it actually powers on and they see it working, it really reinforces the learning behind the play.”

Paul and Jenny even test out the programs with their 4-year-old son, who has learned the names to all of the parts, including the pulleys, levels and gears.

“A lot of these parts are things you are going to see in your every-day objects. For a 4-year-old child to know what these things do is great,” Paul said.

The Ahn house is Lego-central, Jenny says, but their son loves it.

In a time full with budget cuts in the schools, the couple says that Fairfax County parents are constantly seeking out additional educational enrichment opportunities for their children.

“This is more active learning, as opposed to a classroom setting. They get to use their hands when they are building,” Jenny said.

In addition to learning about STEM components, students who participate in Bricks 4 Kidz also learn important social skills.

“They work together and learn team-building.



PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

Lorton residents Paul and Jenny Ahn are spreading the Bricks 4 Kidz franchise throughout the Fairfax and Springfield area through summer camps, birthday parties, after-school programs and more, and plan to open a physical location in Burke.

There’s a lot of great things about building, learning and playing with Legos,” Jenny said. “It’s also a confidence builder-after they turn it on, it’s great for them to see what they built.”

EVEN PARENTS join in on the fun and learning during family fun nights and birthday parties.

“Paul doesn’t let the parents just sit back-he makes them get involved with the fun,” Jenny said.

While events such as birthday parties and after-school programs can be brought to locations throughout the area, the couple is searching for a physical location in order to be able to run more summer camps. They are looking in Burke, and hope to secure a place by this summer.

“It’s a very family-oriented community,” Paul said. “I think we would have a lot to offer.”

Bricks 4 Kidz was recently awarded Entrepreneur Magazine’s Best of the Best Award. Summer camps, such as the one offered in Burke, can

also help prevent what is known as the summer brain drain, which studies have found results from a lack of activity during summer months.

The summer camps are sure to be a fun and educational time, the couple says. Even though starting the franchise has had its difficult moments, they both enjoy teaching and working with children.

“The kids have definitely been the best part,” Paul said.

Birthday parties and events can be brought to locations throughout the area. For more information, visit <http://www.bricks4kidz.com/virginia-fairfax-springfield/>.

“There’s a lot of great things about building, learning and playing with Legos,”

— Jenny Ahn



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Netcasters returned in early May to the historic St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church (1753) in Romney.

Netcasters Reborn

The ecumenical music group from the Springfield-Burke area was originally formed over 30 years ago.

BY SUSIE NUÑEZ AND
KATHRYN BOUDREAU

You hear about babies being born in the back seats of cars, but sometimes good ideas are, too. Six months ago on the way back from singing at a church service in Romney, W. Va., a small group of vocalists and musicians that had formerly sung together decided that there was simply too much harmony between them to let it go. With that, The Netcasters were reborn.

The ecumenical music group from the Springfield-Burke area was originally formed over 30 years ago, but this time the approach to performance has almost followed a business model. Although still comprised of all volunteers, the group has registered as an LLC, purchased its own music license, and maintains a Facebook page that has followers around the U.S. and even internationally.

Although the “cast” for each performance depends on the individual’s availabilities, the group is usually comprised of keyboard, guitars, flutes, and electric bass, as well as vocalists.

Phillip “Flip” Russell, came across The Netcasters by word of mouth when the manager of a local gas station saw his guitar-shaped key ring and told him that there was a Christian-based group that was looking for a bass player. He agreed to sit in on a practice to see if he was a good fit. “From the mo-

ment [I was introduced to the group], I considered myself a Netcaster,” Russell said. “Divine intervention in the form of a guitar-shaped key ring set a series of events in motion.”

Ether Smith, the other co-director as well as arranger for the group, regularly plays keyboard, soprano sax, and bassoon. He served for six years as the commander of an Air National Guard band and played in the television orchestra for a major U.S. city.

Specializing in gospel, contemporary Christian music, American folk standards, and “songs of yesteryear,” The Netcasters have already performed at the Greenspring Village and Paul Springs retirement communities, and the Iliff Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

At the request of Rick and Libby Hillenbrand, The Netcasters returned in early May to the historic St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church (1753) in Romney to present “An Afternoon With The Netcasters” on Saturday, May 3, and then led the music for the worship service the following morning. Libby had played guitar with the group for many years prior to the couple’s retirement and move to the West Virginia foothills.

The Netcasters are available to provide music for religious services, retirement homes, rehabilitation facilities, or other venues. They may be contacted at thenetcasters@gmail.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

THURSDAY MAY 15- TUESDAY/ MAY 27

Bodz Art Gallery: On Deaf Ears. Jewish Community Center of NoVA, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Commemorate Yom Ha'Shoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, with images of three local photographers. 703-323-0880. jccnvarts.org

FRIDAY/MAY 16- SUNDAY/JUNE 1

The Fantasticks. Fridays & Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. The Fantasticks is a funny and romantic musical about a boy, a girl, two fathers and a wall. Tickets : \$15.

FRIDAY/MAY 16- SUNDAY/MAY 18

"Failure, A Love Story" Play. Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. John Swayze Theatre at the New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Tickets: \$20-\$30. Call 1-800-494-8497 or www.thehubtheatre.org. Note: For ages 10 and up.

FRIDAY/MAY 16

"On the Corner Of" A Dance Tribute to New York City. 7:30 p.m. Fairfax Academy, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Fairfax Academy presents their annual dance showcase. Tickets: \$10-\$15. fxdance.ticketleap.com

SATURDAY/ MAY 17

Spring Garden Day. 9 a.m.-3p.m., Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. More than 40 vendors of rare and unusual plants descend on Green Spring Gardens to fill your spring gardening needs.

2014 Spring Carnival. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Hosted by St. Andrew's The Apostle School. Spring fun for all in the community.

Ballroom Social Dance Featuring Cha-Cha. 7:30 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. \$5-\$10.

<http://www.workhousearts.org/events/performing-arts/ballroom-social-dance-12>

Yard Sale. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lee High School Parking Lot, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. Register for a small space now prices: are \$10 or 2 for \$15. Register by email at Leeyardsalemay17@gmail.com.

Springtime Pops. 8 p.m. WT Woodson High School, 9525 Main Street, Fairfax. CFB's season closer is a celebration of spring in full swing, with an "Evening at Pops" inspired program featuring light classics, marches, show tunes and movie music. The program also features the winter of the 2014 Young Artist Competition in solo performance.

Hope & Health Festival. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Lorton Park, 9518 Richmond Highway. Free health/nutrition info, access to health screening, and free food and games for South County region families. Rain or shine.

Art of Wellness: Health & Healing Fair. Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Rd, Oakton. Explore allopathic and complimentary healing systems through lectures, book signings, concerts, yoga classes, massages, personal coaching, and food samples. Bring family and pets. \$10. 571-359-7144. unityoffairfax.org.

Spring Garden Day: Big Plant Sale. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 4603 Green Spring Rd,



Don't miss Fairfax Academy's annual dance showcase playing this weekend, May 16 and 17 at Fairfax Academy, 3501 Rebel Run Road, Fairfax.

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John Jacobs Next Generation Power Force. Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. A strength team with a message of hope to lift the world. www.jccag.org.

"On the Corner Of" A Dance Tribute to New York City. 3 p.m. Fairfax Academy, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Fairfax Academy presents their annual dance showcase. Shortened version for youngsters. Tickets: \$10-\$15. fxdance.ticketleap.com

SUNDAY/MAY 18

Display and N Gauge Trains. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. www.fairfax-station.org.

Burke Historical Society Meeting. 4:30 p.m. Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 6304 Lee Chapel Road, Burke. This month, Brian Slawaski will complete his series on intellectual property, with a look at copyright and residents of Burke who have obtained it. What were the products of these creative minds?

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SPORTS

West Springfield Sits Atop Conference 7 Standings

Spartans motivated by season-ending loss to Lee in 2013.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The motivation behind the success of the West Springfield baseball team comes from a disappointing end to the 2013 season.

The Spartans finished with a 9-12 record and failed to qualify for the region tournament after losing to Lee, a long-struggling program, 5-4 in the opening round of the Patriot District tournament. It was a tough pill to swallow for a program that won a state championship in 2010 and a Northern Region title in 2012.

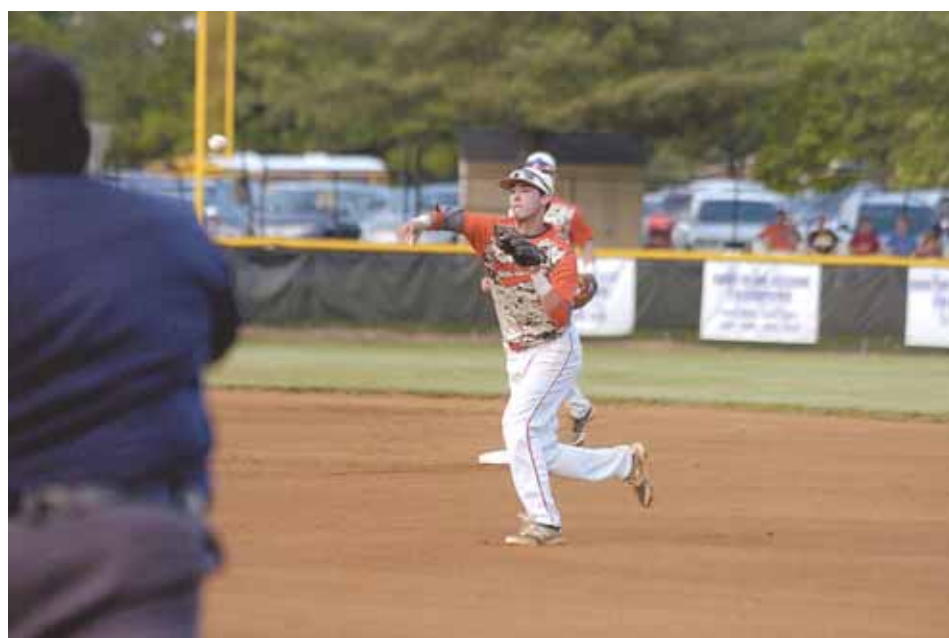
This year, the Spartans have responded with a 13-5 record, including 8-2 against Conference 7 opponents. West Springfield would clinch the top seed in the conference tournament, which comes with a first-round bye and an automatic region berth, by winning one of its final two regular-season games. The Spartans held a 6-3 lead over second-place West Potomac in the fourth inning on Tuesday when the game was suspended due to lightning.

"The seniors really came together this year and they've all stepped up and matured a lot," West Springfield head coach Jason Olms said. "It's their team. ... The way the season ended last year was frustrating for everyone. They took it upon themselves to make sure it didn't happen again this year. I think we're on the right track [but] we still have a long way to go."

Olms said the Spartans' pitching has been strong this season, led by seniors Brandon Padgett, Blake Bird, Tim Yonkers and Joey Basse. Yonkers, a left-hander, started on the mound Tuesday night. He surrendered a two-run homer to West Potomac sophomore Jamie Sara in the first inning, and West Springfield allowed a run to score on a botched squeeze play in the second, but the Spartans' lineup battled back to give Yon-



West Springfield senior Tim Yonkers started on the mound for the Spartans against West Potomac on Tuesday. West Springfield led 6-3 when the game was suspended due to lightning in the fourth inning.



Brandon Padgett and the West Springfield baseball team have a chance to enter the Conference 7 tournament as the No. 1 seed.

kers a 6-3 lead before lighting suspended the game after one pitch in the fourth inning.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Olms said junior left fielder Louis Perez, Bird and sophomore third baseman Matt Stallings have been some of West Springfield's top hitters, along with senior catcher Matt Meinhofer.

Stallings led off the bottom of the second with a triple on Tuesday, and delivered a double in the third. Bird drove in a run with a sacrifice fly in the second, Perez delivered an RBI single in the third and Basse came through with a two-out, two-run single on a 0-2 pitch in the third.

"The way the season ended last year was frustrating for everyone. They took it upon themselves to make sure it didn't happen again this year. I think we're on the right track [but] we still have a long way to go."

— West Springfield baseball coach Jason Olms

The Spartans and Wolverines hoped to finish the contest on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline. West Springfield will conclude the regular season with a road game against Woodson at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 16. The conference tournament begins Monday, May 19, but the Spartans wouldn't play until the semifinals on May 21 if they secure the No. 1 seed.

How far are the Spartans capable of advancing this season?

"When we play team baseball with an unselfish approach, like we've been all year long [while] having confidence in each other and everybody just does their job," Olms said, "... the sky's the limit."

Lake Braddock Softball Beats South County

The Lake Braddock softball team avenged its only loss of the season, defeating South County 4-0 on May 12.

South County defeated Lake Braddock 1-0 in 13 innings on April 24.

The Bruins defeated Annandale 12-0 on Tuesday, improving their record to 19-1. Lake Braddock will conclude the regular season with a road game against T.C. Williams at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 16.

The Conference 7 tournament begins Monday, May 19.

Lee's Kolonich Named VHSL 5A Female Athlete of the Year

Lee distance runner Bailey Kolonich was named Group 5A VHSL Female Athlete of the Year.

The senior earned 14 varsity letters in cross country, indoor track, outdoor track and soccer. She won Conference 13 and 5A North championships in cross country in the fall of 2013.

Kolonich will attend George Mason University.



Lake Braddock pitcher Ashley Flesch did not allow a run against South County on May 12.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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The Fairfax Connection
The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection
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21 Announcements

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22079. The above establish-
ment is applying to the
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
CONTROL for a wine and
beer on premises, mixed
beverages on premises
license to sell or manufacture
alcoholic beverages. Ha To
Pham, Owner
NOTE: Objections to the is-
sue of this license must be
submitted to ABC no later than
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jections should be registered
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Centre View South
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21 Announcements

**TRUSTEE'S SALE
OF VALUABLE
IMPROVED REAL ESTATE**
Improved by the premises known as
2665 Prosperity Avenue, #402, Fairfax, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Don Michael
Stoops, dated September 29, 2006, and recorded October 2,
2006, in Deed Book 18803 at page 60 among the Land Re-
cords of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute
trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance
of the Court House for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge
Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said
Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Unit 402, HALSTEAD AT THE METRO II, A CONDOMINIUM,
and the limited common elements appurtenant thereto, includ-
ing limited common element garage space/parking space G4-
050, established by condominium instruments recorded in
Deed Book 18395 at page 1876 and any supplemental declara-
tions and/or amendments recorded subsequent thereto
among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 2665 Prosperity Avenue, #402, Fairfax,
Virginia 22031.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$20,000.00 or ten percent
(10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form
of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the
time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money be-
ing due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time ex-
pressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 2.625
percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement.
Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory
note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be
required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including
interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set
off against the purchase price.

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 res-
trictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real es-
tate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or material-
man'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 agree-
ments 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 reme-
dy 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 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, destruc-
tion, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of
sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Convey-
ancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of ti-
tle, state stamps, and all other costs of 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.

Sale is subject to post-sale confirmation that the borrower did
not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to
the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation and audit of the
status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not lim-
ited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any
repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to
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.

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: David N. Prenskey
Chasen & Chasen
5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. #500
Washington, D.C. 20015
(202) 244-4000

21 Announcements

Notice -All Star Movers, LLC is holding a Public Auction of
goods of non-paying customers to satisfy liens on the
following:
Name Unit(s)
Jerry Boutcher 50A,17B,123B,111A,30B,37B
Carole Knobloch 98B,11B,16B
Stacey Russin 68A,70A,73B
Dan Seeley 92A,89B,6B
Michelle Hall 1A,95B
Pat Williams 121A,126B
Mason Dixon 43A
All Star Movers, 2722 Dorr Ave, Fairfax, VA 22031
Terms-CASH ONLY-Bowen Auction - License #1771

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4 RE for Sale

Property for Sale:
Ford's Colony, Williamsburg, VA
136 Freshwater Bay SPECTACULAR
GOLF & WATER VIEWS OVERLOOKING
THE 18TH HOLE AND MILLION
DOLLAR HOMES ON THE
BLACKHEATH GOLF COURSE! Lot is in
the exclusive Eaglescliffe neighborhood of
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PADS

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Premium lot backs to parkland! Gorgeous Brazilian hardwoods! Updated kitchen w/ granite, 2 fireplaces, vaulted family room & upper level loft. 5BR, 3.5BA. Walkout basement w/ media room, game room, gym, home office & bath. Visit 8343ArgentCircle.com



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A Pleasure You're Sure to Treasure! Inside & out, this 5 bed/2.5 bath home is a winner! You'll love the updated kitchen w/42" cabinets & granite counters. Delight in the open living & dining rooms which overlook your fabulous backyard. Relax in the newly carpeted rec room w/custom brick woodstove & you'll be dazzled by the professionally landscaped yard with awesome curb appeal!

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