

Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ❖ Kingstowne ❖ Newington

Lee High School student Manal Assad, sophomore, works on her drawing as part of the school's annual Sidewalk Art Event: A Collaborative Lesson in Art History.



History In Chalk

NEWS, PAGE 4



MLB Dreamer

SPORTS, PAGE 10

Mom & Me

MOTHER'S DAY GALLERY, PAGE 5

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Livick's Lax Family Marches Against Diabetes



PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

Taylor Livick and members of the Lake Braddock girls' lacrosse team marched in the Diabetes Research Foundation walk at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C.

Lake Braddock girls' lacrosse team supports one of their own.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock girls' lacrosse team has followed a simple creed throughout their 2010 season. "We are a family." OK, so that's the motto for a lot of sports team, but when the Bruins' freshman midfielder Taylor Livick was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes last June, the team decided to stand with her and fight it.

"Everyone thing we've been talking about this season is that we're a family," team captain Alex Kelly said. "Taylor is a part of this team and I love her to death. Diabetes is a part of her life, so we thought we'd fight it with her."

On May 2, the team lived up to their motto by supporting Livick at the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) walk at Nationals Park in Washington D.C.

The walk, which circles Nationals Park twice before heading into the stadium for a victory march over home plate, is designed to raise awareness for childhood diabetes. Participants also raise money for childhood diabetes research.

In June 2009, Taylor was diagnosed with diabetes. Although doctors said only her eating habits and

lifestyle would change, she wanted to prove it wouldn't set her back athletically.

"I didn't think I would be able to do any of the sports I do now," she said. "But it's made me better at sports and I work harder to prove that it couldn't stop me."

But that doesn't mean she doesn't have to take precautions. Taylor's mother, Andrea Livick, said her daughter has to take insulin shots four times a day, and timing her treatments between practices can be tough.

"It's not as easy as 'Go to practice honey, see you later,'" Andrea Livick said.

After hearing about the JDRF walk at Nationals Park, Taylor Livick decided to get involved and formed "Taylor's Troop," which at its roots consisted of her family members.

"I wanted to get involved and start making a difference," she said.

When her lacrosse team learned about her illness and the walk, Kelly decided to take action on her own and follow through on the creed that head coach Victor Chen

had been promoting.

"From the very on-set of the season, a philosophy I had been trying to instill was to be more of a family off the field," Chen said. "The support for Taylor shows they took it to heart."

THE FIRST indication that the family-first mentality had sunk in came in an e-mail from Kelly to An

"It's just great to know she has a family that is looking out for her."

—Andrea Livick

SEE BRUINS, PAGE 15

Construction Begins on Improvements to Local Park

July 4 opening planned for refurbished Kings Park Park in Springfield.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

The community has spoken, and its officials have listened and delivered.

The Fairfax County Park Authority is beginning construction on several improvements to equipment and facilities at Kings Park Park. The improvements to the park, located on Trafalgar Court in Springfield, aim to make the park more accessible to children while bolstering the park's existing offerings.

"The improvements include relocating an existing playground and replacing some existing equipment," Park Authority Judy Pederson said. "The reason they're doing this is so they can install a new play set for older ages and meet the needs of the children in that neighborhood."

According to Pederson, the improvements include changes to several aspects of the park. Two contractors, GameTime Inc. and

Southern Asphalt Co., will be relocating two existing swing sets and an existing piece of tot lot equipment, which is a climbing structure for preschool to kindergarten-aged children. This equipment will be moved to the area adjacent to the location of a new school-age playground for older children that will be installed. In addition, Southern Asphalt Co. will construct a new Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant asphalt trail, a new stone dust trail, and will remove and replace all other existing asphalt trails. A tennis practice wall is also being installed at the tennis court.

The two contractors were chosen, Pederson said, because of a standing contract the county already had with them. She said that the county already had an agreement with GameTime and Southern Asphalt to be the designated contractors for any

projects that include improvements to playgrounds and playground equipment within county parks, so no bidding process was carried out for this project.

"Generally, when we do playground work, we have contractors that we work with through a standing contract," Pederson said. "The contract is for future work, not for specific projects, so we go to them for that type of service."

THE COSTS, Pederson said, will total \$198,600 and funding for the improvements will come from several different sources.

The Virginia Department of Transportation contributed money in an attempt to mitigate the impact of the HOT Lanes construction in the Braddock District, and additional

funds were raised through assorted development proffers. The main source of funding, however, came from the 2008 Park Authority Bond after changes were made to the park's Master Plan in 2009.

Pederson said that in March 2008, the

Park Authority Board voted to revise the Kings Park Park Master Plan so that it could ensure that it had accounted for all of the community's needs. Pederson said that after voting to revise the plan, the Park Authority reached out to the community through a series of public hearings and meetings with community members to get a feel for what the residents wanted. Pederson said that community members made it clear that they wanted the playground to be updated so that older children could have equipment to play on as well.

"The community really wanted this," Pederson said. "They wanted something to meet the needs of the children, and this is a direct reflection of that sentiment."

According to Kings Park Civic Association President Beth Owens, the Kings Park community is eagerly anticipating the completion of the changes. She said that the community's children had gotten older since the last round of playground improvements were made, and that they wanted a place for them to play. In addition, she said that the park was dark with secluded areas, and

SEE KINGS PARK, PAGE 15



PHOTO BY DIANE RYAN

HIPPY Hooray This photo is from Rolling Valley Elementary's HIPPY program. HIPPY is a home-based school readiness program that helps qualifying parents prepare their 3-, 4-, and returning 5-year-old children for success in school. Parents receive the tools, skills and confidence they need to be their children's first teachers in the home. Age-appropriate activities, material and guidance are provided to support parents in this role.

Supervisors Worry About Telegraph Widening Project

The second half of a road project that would provide a crucial east-west connection in southeastern Fairfax County is still awaiting authorization, causing supervisors to worry about whether it will be completed by 2012.

Fairfax County Chairwoman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) are urging the Federal Highway Administration and the Virginia Department of Transportation to come up "creative solutions" to move the construction of Mulligan Road and the widening of Telegraph Road forward.

The federal government shuttered two east-west corridors, Woodlawn Road and Beulah Street, in southeastern Fairfax close to a decade ago. These street closures left very few options for citizens and commuters looking to get from Telegraph Road to Richmond Highway around the Fort Belvoir Army Base.

Mulligan Road is supposed to be a replacement for the two lost arteries. Telegraph will also be widened as part of the project, in anticipation of a spike in traffic once Mulligan opens.

The supervisors said it is important that Mulligan Road open as soon as possible because 13,000 additional are scheduled to move to Fort Belvoir and the surrounding area next fall as part of the federal government's worldwide Base Realignment and Closure plan.

"I was alarmed to hear that the 2012 date was slipping because of I consider bureaucratic procedures," said McKay.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Honor Foster Care Program In Lake Accotink Walk

Two non-profit organizations are sponsoring a 5-kilometer walk at Lake Accotink Park to honor the 150 foster families and 370 foster children in Fairfax County.

The event will take place May 15, with registration starting at 8:30 a.m. The walk will last from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, visit the county website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov, or contact Beverly Howard at 703-324-7518.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

From left, senior Zachary Spilnck, 17, and sophomores Manal Assad, 15, and Rachel Cox, 18, are doing Superstamp up right.

Public Art

Students combine chalk and creativity to recreate images from history.

Art students at Robert E. Lee High School in Springfield took their skills outside on Thursday, April 29, as part of the Annual Sidewalk Art Event: A Collaborative Lesson in Art History.

Employing only chalk and their creativity, teams of four to five students in Leslie O'Shaughnessy's Art 2 class reproduced historical artwork in the form of chalk drawings on the school's sidewalk.



Senior Elisabeth Sylvester, 18, works in purple.



Cleaning up after Mickey Mouse are junior Jack Shields, senior Arielle Vega, fine arts and computer graphics teacher Leslie O'Shaughnessy and junior Crystal Ronan.

MOTHER'S DAY GALLERY



Connor Kenealy at his grandmother's 86th birthday together with, clockwise, his mother Rosanna Kenealy, sister Alina and grandmother Eileen.



Elizabeth Ann Kenealy and husband Bill together with daughter Kathleen, a lawyer in California here on a case, and Teresa, who teaches in Fairfax County.



Keifer and Caryl Michael of Springfield share a special moment on Mother's Day.



Visiting the cherry blossoms during spring break are mom, Robin Lermo; daughter, Leslie; and son, Peter from Springfield.



Nancy Coppi and son Troy Coppi live in Springfield.



In the center of the photo, taken late in 2008, is my mother (grandmother and great grandmother) Evelyn Kester, with her grand-daughter Paige Campbell, and me, Peter Kester of Kings Park. The photo was taken at the Holy Cross Rehab Center in Silver Spring, Md. where mother resides.

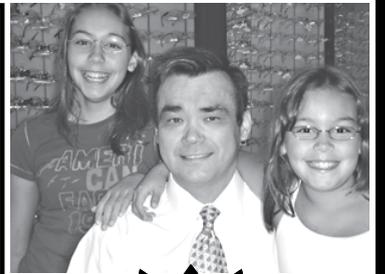


Kali and Tayler Pellegrino, 7, of Springfield are taking a quick picture before their snorkeling adventure 6 miles off the coast of Key West, Fla., during spring break April 2010

Diana Miller and Kathryn Miller of Springfield. Kathryn, 13, is a seventh grader at Washington Irving Middle School.



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Fundraiser for Haiti's Earthquake Victims



T.C. Williams High School's Titan Aid Club is organizing a benefit concert, "Titan Aid Live," to raise money for the victims of the Haiti earthquake.

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Proceeds raised by Titan Aid will be donated to Architecture for Humanity to help create lasting and sustainable solutions for Haiti. Titan Aid is dedicated to raising money and awareness for victims of disasters around the globe.

Special thanks to the ^{Alexandria} **Gazette Packet**

OPINION

Police Power Demands Transparency

Local police departments should open their books, release original documents, welcome public scrutiny and involvement.

First, we should say that we appreciate and support the police officers who serve and protect our communities. These are remarkable men and women who have dedicated themselves to community service even in the face of danger. They are entitled to a special level of respect. Police in all communities also wield power unlike any other entity — the power to detain and question, the power to arrest, the power to respond with force when necessary, sometimes deadly force.

With that power, comes responsibility — the responsibility to operate openly and with transparency, the responsibility to make available the greatest possible amount of information, especially the responsibility to provide the public with a full picture of what happened when something goes wrong.

Somewhere along the way, police leaders in Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax have gone astray in their control of information.

The first paragraph of Virginia Freedom of Information Act, passed by the General Assembly in the 1968, states that all public records “shall be presumed open.” But the legislation includes an exception that allows police to withhold “complaints, memoranda, correspondence, case files or reports, witness statements and evidence.”

Police officials in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria have adopted what they call a “blanket” approach to using their exemption. That means they have decided to withhold any document they can. The actual reports filed by police officers about any incident, available to the public and the press in almost every juris-

diction in America, are never released in Northern Virginia.

“I don’t think we have to justify it,” said Alexandria Police Chief Earl Cook.

A Fairfax County spokesperson asserted that it was only a few “individual reporters” who were interested in more information from the police.

“Conscientious and dedicated judges, prosecutors, public defenders, and law enforcement officers work in a system which is as transparent as it needs to be,” wrote Alexandria Commonwealth’s Attorney Randolph Sengel.

Sengel is mistaken.

“Incident reports like the ones the Virginia law enforcement authorities are saying can’t possibly be released across the country are being released across the country every waking minute of every day,” Charles Davis, director of the National Freedom of Information Coalition, told reporter Michael Pope.

“In Florida, with the transparency level that we have, it helps law enforcement,” said Gerald Bailey, commissioner of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. “It’s made us better agencies simply because we proceed knowing that our work product is going to be reviewed by the press, by the public and by the people who are actually involved in the cases we are working.”

This isn’t an academic exercise.

In the extreme example, Fairfax County police shot and killed an unarmed motorist in November, and have said that the shooting was justified. But they have refused to release the

will bring the “peace of mind” that he claimed it would indicate that he is losing “peace of mind” about keeping his seat in Congress.

It is time for the constituents of the 11th District to vote for a nice Republican to replace Mr. Connolly in November, and his initials are Pat Herryty.

Kristina E. Paquette
Springfield

Disagrees with O’Brien’s Vote

To the Editor:

As a young woman, I hope to eventually be a mother in the future. I just read that Jay O’Brien (R) plans to run for State Senate again, a seat he lost to Sen. George Barker (D-39) in 2007.

Although O’Brien has always touted himself as a Conservative Republican, there is one major

vote he had when he was in office that disturbed me the most.

O’Brien supported mandatory HPV (Genital human papilloma virus) Vaccinations for girls as young as 11, who attend public schools. There are a host of problems with this vote.

Firstly, at the time, there was no research about what the long-term results would be to girls’ health and physiology after such a vaccination.

Secondly, according to the CDC, in 90 percent of cases, the body’s immune system clears HPV naturally within two years [http://www.cdc.gov/STD/HPV/STDFact-HPV.htm#Whatis].

Thirdly, decisions related to behavior-related vaccinations for children should be made by parents, not by the government, period.

This vote by O’Brien was a vote in favor of government intrusion into private family decisions, and as such, contradicts the values of

Join the Debate

❖ Read Michael Pope’s story, “Transparency Blackout: Police departments in Northern Virginia refuse to release public documents,” at <http://connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=338832&paper=59&cat=104>

❖ Read Alexandria Commonwealth’s Attorney Randolph Sengel’s response, “Confidentiality Trumps Disclosure” at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=339154&paper=59&cat=110>

❖ Read an excellent rebuttal to Sengel’s letter, “Citizens Have Right to Know Details of Crimes,” by Ryan J. Donmoyer <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=339781&paper=59&cat=110>

E-mail your thoughts to mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com, and watch this space next week to find out how to request information about crime and police activities in your neighborhood.

name of the officer who did the shooting, refused to release video from the patrol car near the shooting, refused to release any document at all that might shed light on what happened or why.

In everyday examples, a scan of police incidents within a mile of a Tysons Corner address reveals multiple drug offenses and sex offenses. But that’s all the information that is available — the label of the offense, the time, date and block where it occurred. If you as a resident want information on crimes like this near you, you should be able to see for yourself if these are minor or isolated incidents or part of a more serious pattern.

Police should not use a “blanket exemption” from public information laws to refuse to provide specific information about any crime or police activity from the public.

Next week in this space, you’ll learn how to find incidents occurred in your neighborhood, and how to ask the police for more information.

most of his former constituents.

I hope he reconsiders his decision to run again, as he won’t be getting my vote.

Corey Howell
Springfield

Shorten School Calendar

To the Editor:

There are eight weeks remaining in the 2009-10 school year for Fairfax County Public School students. Because of missed days due to the record snowfall this winter, our students are scheduled to spend three extra days at the end of June attending school with the last day set for June 24. As a parent of FCPS students and a taxpayer, I find this extension frustrating, lacking in sound judgment and unnecessary.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 8

THE CONNECTION

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Disheartened With Response

To the Editor:

In response to Keith Damon’s letter “Connolly on Health Care” [Connection, Feb. 11-17, 2010], I say, “Hear, hear!” I am one of those many “friends and neighbors” Damon spoke about who wrote to U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11)

to urge him to vote against nationalized health care [“No Public Option” in Springfield Connection, Dec. 17-23, 2009]. I too was disheartened with the boiler-plate response I received from Mr. Connolly in which it became painfully obvious that he was toeing the Democratic Party line rather than representing his constituents in voting for HR3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act. The fact that Mr. Connolly is now questioning whether nationalized health care

LETTERS

will bring the “peace of mind” that he claimed it would indicate that he is losing “peace of mind” about keeping his seat in Congress.

MOM & ME

At the Track

Springfield's Sharon Pastino; Matt Pastino, 13; and Alex Pastino, 15, attend the Richmond NASCAR Race on May 1.



BULLETIN BOARD

THURSDAY/MAY 6

Fairfax County's Independent Living Program for Older Adults. 12:15 p.m. at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Free strength and balance classes followed by a health seminar on Food Safety. Registration required at 703-324-7210 or Jennifer.edge@fairfaxcounty.gov.

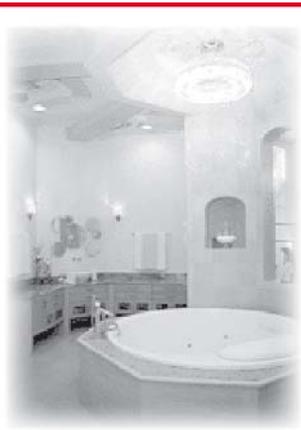
TUESDAY/MAY 11

Telephone Support Group for Caregivers of Older Adults. 7 p.m. Discussion topic: Working with Home Health Agencies. Share experiences, gain support and get

important information without having to travel. 703-324-7948.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 12

NARFE Springfield Chapter 893 Meeting. 1:30 p.m. at The American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave, Springfield. rmgallagher@verizon.net.
Springfield/Alexandria Women's Connection Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. at the Springfield Golf & Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Speakers will be Debby Ward on 'Make Thyme for Herbs,' and interior designer and author Brenda Shumaker. SpringWmConn@yahoo.com.



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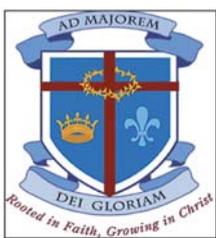
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

The most frustrating aspect of the decision to extend our school year to June 24 is that by the time June 22 — the first of the three scheduled extra days — arrives, SOLs are done, final exams and projects are finished, graduations are completed and grades have been turned in. Despite the teachers' best intentions, these last days are not productive. To add three more days, means our schools will be spending thousands of dollars to keep schools open when everyone is mentally and physically already

finished. If we want to truly make up the instructional time lost to snow days, then it needs to be done before all the year-end exams and projects are due.

I understand that earlier in March the FCPS School Board voted 6-6 not to ask the State of Virginia for a waiver to the requirement for making up three of this year's snow days. The question for this School Board is why are we spending money to keep our schools open when little valuable instruction will take place?

The need to extend our school year raises another issue — the structure of the FCPS

calendar. By state law, we are unable to begin school until after Labor Day. I understand that while more than 30 other school districts in the state (Loudoun County is one) have been granted exemptions, Fairfax County Public Schools has repeatedly been denied this waiver at the state level. Some of our own local state senators in the past haven't even supported this request.

State law also requires that students in public schools attend for 180 days. With the post-Labor Day start requirement, the 180 days requirement and the need for vacation days during the school year, there is

no flexibility when extraordinary circumstances occur, like this past winter's weather. It's time for the State of Virginia to repeal this law or at the least grant Fairfax County the same flexibility it has given to other neighboring school districts.

I would prefer a shorter, more efficient school year rather than a longer one that ends up with our students spending days in class just to mark an arbitrary and irrelevant calendar.

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Change for the 11th Congressional District

We write as concerned senior citizens of Northern Virginia. The "we" is a loose collection of seniors who have previously had little or no active role in the political process. Our concerns have been raised and discussed among us at church gatherings, business meetings, social events, etc.

What we are gravely concerned about is the future, both for our children and for this country. The recent passage of health reform legislation, with its secretive and anti-democratic process in the House of Representatives, has served as a catalyst for raising our voices. Our current congressman, Mr. Gerald Connolly, has trumpeted the Health Insurance Reform Law as an "historic achievement" that his constituents favored. We could not disagree more with this characterization. Here are just a few of the reasons why Mr. Connolly's justification for his yes vote is wrong:

- In passing the health care legislation, Mr. Connolly and others who voted in the affirmative, broke the covenant between those who govern and those of us who are governed. Mr. Connolly ignored the fact that he is a representative of his constituents and is in that position based on the consent of the governed. The majority of Americans (including those in the 11th Congressional District) is not opposed to health care reform, but does not want this specific health care bill. Regrettably, Mr. Connolly chose his own political self-interest over the majority view of his constituents.
- Mr. Connolly argues that the health insurance reform will bring down the budget deficit. This is political spin of which we have all grown weary. We know that this deliberately deceitful calculus is based on ten years of revenue and only six years of cost. We know that the \$500 billion that is to be stripped out of Medicare is a hot potato politically and will not likely be feasible to accomplish. But most of all, we know that the major entitlement programs of the U.S. Government in the past have all cost substantially more than originally claimed and have added significantly to our nation's deficit.
- We seniors are not selfishly concerned about the effect fiscal irresponsibility will have on us. It is our children that will bear the burden of health care legislation, the stimulus package, cap and trade, etc.; all pieces of legislation that Mr. Connolly has voted for. As Americans, we face unprecedented increases in our federal deficit. This year the federal budget deficit will exceed \$1.4 trillion, representing some 10% of our nation's entire GDP. Moody's credit rating service has begun to call into question the AAA rating for our country. Our children are facing the prospect of a lower standard of living as a result of higher and higher taxes tied to increasing growth in government and entitlements. What was once an unquestioned principle and goal for our country, "equality of opportunity," has now been repackaged by Mr. Connolly and others as "equality of income."
- Mr. Connolly states that health care reform will improve Americans' access to care. On the face of it, this is counterintuitive. The legislation is to add thirty million new people to the health insurance rolls without a commensurately proportional growth in physicians and health care facilities. The effect of this can only mean less access to care not more.
- Mr. Connolly believes that Medicare will be improved and protected. As seniors, we know that this is but another political ruse. The health care law reduces Medicare by half a trillion dollars. How can that be a good thing for all of us who have paid into Medicare all these years and are now told that we won't be getting what we thought we had paid for? Moreover, the changes imposed on what physicians can charge and how they must account for these charges, will lead to a much smaller number of doctors willing to accept Medicare payments for their patients. No doubt other unintended consequences will be a reduction in the number of those choosing to pursue a medical career and a dilution of the talent pool among those who do.
- Finally, Mr. Connolly is certain that the new health care law will bring down premium costs for families and small businesses. Presumably he is basing this on the Congressional Budget Office review. Sadly, however, this too is just so much political window dressing. During the debate surrounding passage of the health reform legislation, in-depth studies were done that showed that the bill would drive up premium costs. WellPoint, parent company to Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, did analyses that showed significant increases in cost for families, seniors and the young. As for small businesses, increases could occur depending upon the size of the company's employee population.

We believe it is time for change in the 11th Congressional District. We want to see more political balance in the U.S. Congress so that what happened with health care does not occur again. We want a representative who is more interested in supporting his constituents rather than supporting his political party.

No one political party should unilaterally wield power sufficient to subvert our democratic process. Our forefathers understood this and were wise enough to design a system of checks and balances. Mr. Connolly is a professional politician who has voted consistently in favor of large, costly and inefficient government programs that have contributed substantially to our country's huge and growing budget deficit. We believe he is out of step with his constituents. In November he should be "one and done."

Seniors for Change in the 11th Congressional District

P.O. Box 164
Dunn Loring, Virginia 22027

Birth of a Major League Dream

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

If it was up to a young Bobby Wahl, he'd stand on the pitcher's mound in front of 57,545 fans at Yankee Stadium and attempt to strike out the last batter in the ninth inning.

If he gets the strikeout, adoring fans will paint his name in pinstripe and he'll become a Bronx hero.

"I've always wanted to be the pitcher on the mound," the West Springfield pitcher said. "All eyes on me. I've always wanted that situation and every kid dreams about it — being in Yankee Stadium with the pinstripes."

It's a situation ripped from baseball lore, and it has been Wahl's childhood dream to fulfill it.

On June 7 at the Major League Baseball draft, Wahl will come one step closer to that dream. The only unknowns are which team his 94-mile-per-hour fastball will go to, and whether he'll go pro or join the University of Mississippi baseball team next year.

"It depends on what happens on June 7," he said. "If I get the right amount of money, go in the right round, then maybe there's a shot I will go to the MLB. Until that day, I'm focused on going to Ole' Miss."

Mock drafts have the right-handed pitcher going in the fifth round. Fan bloggers who have never seen him play debate if he would be a good fit for their team, and West Springfield's baseball games are flooded with professional scouts watching his form.

Even if Wahl decides to play in college,

he's just now realizing he is on a crash course with professional baseball.

"I don't know if it has set in yet," he said. "I'm still just playing my senior year of high school baseball. I've thought about it, but I don't know if I've come to grips with it."

Wahl's baseball playing days started in his grandfather Elden Wahl's backyard with a plastic Baltimore Orioles bat and glove.

"While my parents worked, my grandfather would play with me," he said. "He helped me love the game."

As a child, Wahl idolized former Orioles great Cal Ripken Jr. He had other favorites as well. In an interview with The Connection on March 10, Wahl said he'd want

to trade places with former Boston Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez during his 1999 season.

Wahl's path to becoming a scouted prospect began at a baseball camp at the University of Virginia after his sophomore year of high school.

At the camp, Wahl's fastball broke 90 miles per hour for the first time.

"It was a good feeling," he said. "I was like, 'Wow, I actually got to that goal.' Ninety is the magic number. Once I hit that, I realized I could go somewhere with my arm."

After his junior season with West Springfield, Wahl joined other baseball prospects for a circuit of summer games. He even got to pitch at a prospects' game at Wrigley Field

West Springfield's Bobby Wahl, 18, prepares to choose between college baseball or a career in the Major League Baseball.

in Chicago.

Interest in Wahl began to sizzle.

"After [the showcase] they saw me," he said. "A lot of scouts came to my house and talked to me for awhile. Then they came to my games and I noticed them watching me."

West Springfield head coach John James said every team in the MLB has made the

trip to Springfield to watch Wahl, some making return visits. Teams also conducted in-home interviews with Wahl, James said.

"We've played in front of the scouts at least five or six times," he said. "I knew they were going to come this year. Early in the season, I was worried it might affect the team. It's not a factor now."

Wahl makes it clear that there's more to his success than five pitches and a blistering fastball. He is a self-described gym-rat.

"I'm always out on the track or in the weight room," he said. "It's constant go for me. I never quit and I never end. I want people to realize how much hard work goes into my pitching. It's not just God given."

It's a character trait that has helped drive Wahl to his current success, and fortunately for James, he rarely needs to remind his star pitcher to work on his own.

"He understands that he needs to take care of his body," James said. "It's not just throw and take three days off and throw again. He understands that between pitching he has to do running and lifting. He does it on his own."

The iron work ethic doesn't surprise James. "Baseball is his passion," he said. "When you're passionate about anything, you get consumed by it and you work as hard as you possibly can."

All the talk swirling around Wahl doesn't faze his teammates. Catcher David Pylon said Wahl doesn't brag about his spotlight and never strays from working toward the Spartans' team goals. "He's just awesome," he said. "He's always keeping us in class and keeping us focused on what we should be doing. The scouts don't bother him. It's just a game out there to him."

With a month left before the MLB draft, Wahl will turn his attention from the draft to focus on a region title run before making his big decision. "Bobby would benefit from some years in college," James said. "But when the opportunity comes to play professional baseball, it's hard to pass that up."

"I've thought about it, but I don't know if I've come to grips with it."

— Bobby Wahl

Wahl's Arsenal **In addition to his blistering pitch speeds, Wahl possesses five different pitches he uses to strikeout batters.**



FOUR-SEAM FASTBALL

"It's a typical grip for any baseball player. Usually on a good day it's sitting around 92-94 miles per hour. It's my go-to pitch. It's what I'm going to start you off with and I'm going to dare you to hit it."



CURVEBALL

"This is a 12-6 curveball. I'm not exactly sure how fast this one is coming at you, but it's definitely a strike pitch."



CHANGE-UP

"This is my change up. It's got some inside break to a right-hand batter. Right now it sits in the high 70s, sometimes 81 miles per hour. This is definitely a good pitch to throw to right hand batters because it comes in to them and breaks the opposite of a slider."



SLIDER

"This is definitely my go-to off-speed pitch. It's sitting in the low to mid-80s. It's the most effective pitch I have right now. It has a last second break that most people can't really hit. I enjoy throwing this pitch. I just love snapping this pitch off."



CUTTER

"I have a little bit of a cutter. I put a lot of pressure on the middle finger. It's a little bit faster than the slider, but a little bit less break. I'm working on it right now and trying to get it like [New York Yankee] Mariano Rivera's. Don't know if that's going to happen."



West Springfield pitcher Bobby Wahl entered the 2010 MLB Draft which takes place on June 7 in Secaucus, N.J.

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6448 Blarney Stone Ct. \$359,900 Sun. 1-4 Traci Rochon Keller Williams 703-562-1800

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To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Erin Peck at 703-778-9449 or E-Mail the info to epeck@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Tuesday at 3 pm.

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/MAY 6

Celebration of Song: Hale/Davis UCM Benefit Concert. 7 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Meet the Artists reception follows. \$25 adults, \$20 seniors, \$10 students. Charge tickets at 703-360-9546.

Latin Dance Nights. 10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.

Zoo Tales. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories about animals. Ages 13-23 months with adult. 703-249-1520.

Daytime Book Discussion Group. 12:15 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Peace Like a River by Leif Enger. Adults. 703-339-4610.

FRIDAY/MAY 7

"Anything Goes." 7:30 p.m. at South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Cole Porter's classic musical with a cast of 50 students, by the South County Theatre Department. \$10, seniors \$9. 703-446-1591 or www.southcountytheatre.org.

Latin Dance Nights. 10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.

SATURDAY/MAY 8

"Anything Goes." 7:30 p.m. at South County Secondary School, 8501



Art on Display

for Art Camp. To register, call Zeitlin at 703-250-6930.

Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Cole Porter's classic musical with a cast of 50 students, by the South County Theatre Department. \$10, seniors \$9. 703-446-1591 or www.southcountytheatre.org.

Latin Dance Nights. 10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn to use a computer. Call for an appointment. Adults. 703-249-1520.

How to Find a Job in Today's Troubled Economy. 1 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Advice from an experienced HR recruiter on all aspects of finding and keeping a good

Visit the Pohick Regional Library during the month of May to see art work of Carol Zeitlin's art students. Classes and Art Camp meet in Burke. Registration is open now for Art Camp. To register, call Zeitlin at 703-250-6930.

job. Bring a copy of your resume. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Friends of the Library Book Sale. 10 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

Virginia Land To Sea. 10:30 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Take a tour of Virginia through song and story with CShells music. Preschool. 703-339-7385.

SUNDAY/MAY 9

Picturing Mothers. 1-5 p.m. at Gunston Hall Plantation, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. View an

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

18th century fashion show and listen to the stories of the women who lived and worked at Gunston Hall. Have Mom's silhouette done by a professional silhouette artist 2-4 p.m., additional fee for silhouettes, reservation recommended. \$9, \$8 seniors, \$5 ages 6-18, under 6 free. 703-550-9220 or www.gunstonhall.org.

Gunston Conversations. 2-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall Plantation, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Engage in conversation with members of George Mason's family. Discuss the travails of motherhood in the 18th century or political topics of the day or the fashionable dress of 1786 or the doings of the neighborhood. \$9, \$8 seniors, \$5 ages 6-18, under 6 free. 703-550-9220 or www.gunstonhall.org.

MONDAY/MAY 10

Latin Dance Nights. 10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.

Our Daily Bread Charity Golf Tournament. 1 p.m. at South Riding Golf Club, 43237 Golf View Drive, South Riding. \$125 registration fee includes a full round of golf, driving range, golf cart, drink cart, hors d'oeuvres and dinner and a silent auction. All proceeds will benefit Our daily Bread's programs to assist low-income families in Fairfax. Contact 703-273-8829 or www.our-daily-bread.org.

PAL Reading Visits. 4:30-5:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice reading with a trained therapy dog. Call to register. 703-249-1520.

Early Reader Book Discussion. 3:30 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Early reader book activities. Call for titles. Age 6-8 with adult. 703-971-0010.

Sunny Stories. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Stories and fun that celebrate spring. Age 24 months to 5 years with adult. 703-339-4610.

Read to the Dog. 4:30-5:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Read to a Reading Therapy Dog. Call to register for one 15 minute slot. Age 6 to 12 with adult. 703-339-4610.

TUESDAY/MAY 11

Encore Chorale Spring Concert. 12:30 at The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Free event, seating is limited. Reserve at 703-667-9801. Encore Chorale Spring Concert. 12:30 at The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Free event, seating is limited. Reserve at 703-667-9801.

Fun for 2's & 3's. 10:30 a.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Stories and activities. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-971-0010.

Second Tuesday Evening Book Discussion. 6:45 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. "Animal Farm" by George Orwell. Adults. 703-339-4610.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 12

Silent Sentinel Award Reception. 7 p.m. at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. This is a fundraising event for the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, to be located in Occoquan Regional Park in Lorton, and will pay tribute to those who secured voting rights for women. 703-830-1355 or

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14



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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

turningpoint@suffragistmemorial.org.
Open Irish Song Session. 8:30 p.m. at Hard Times Cafe, 6362 Springfield Plaza, Springfield. Open to anyone who would like to sing or listen to Irish songs. 703-913-5600.

Nonfiction Book Discussion Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Call for title. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Older Adults Book Group. 2 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. "American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House" by Jon Meacham. Meet next door at the Kingstowne Center for Active Adults. 703-339-

4610.
Practice Your English. 10:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. Adults. 703-339-4610.

THURSDAY/MAY 13

Latin Dance Nights. 10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.

FRIDAY/MAY 14

"Anything Goes." 7:30 p.m. at South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Cole

Porter's classic musical with a cast of 50 students, by the South County Theatre Department. \$10, seniors \$9. 703-446-1591 or www.southcountytheatre.org.

Latin Dance Nights. 10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.

SATURDAY/MAY 15

Concerts from Kirkwood: the Vocal Arts Society 2009 Winners. 3 p.m. at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. Sopranos Aundi Marie Moore and Jennifer Holbrook, pianist R. Timothy McReynolds and commentator

Elizabeth Daniels. Refreshments and an opportunity to meet the artists after the concert. Free and open to the public. 703-923-9365 or web.me.com/kkerhack/Concerts_from_Kirkwood.

Latin Dance Nights. 10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.

Lake Accotink 5K Walk to Benefit Children in Foster Care. Registration begins 8:30 a.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 5660 Heming Ave., Springfield. Participate in a 5K walk to honor foster families and the approximately 370 children in foster care in Fairfax County. To register or help sponsor the event, visit www.fairfaxyouth.org.

"Anything Goes." 7:30 p.m. at South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Cole Porter's classic musical with a cast of 50 students, by the South County Theatre Department. \$10, seniors \$9. 703-446-1591 or www.southcountytheatre.org.

Sew Drawstring Bags for Our Soldiers. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Community Service Sewing Day event hosted by the Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Sewing Guild. Fabric and supplies will be provided. Free and open to public. Contact carl-kathie@verizon.net or 703-522-6952. www.asg.org.

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COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

The Lake Braddock girls' lacrosse team head coach Victor Chen had been trying to instill a 'family' mentality in the team. The diabetes walk was a sign the girls have embraced the concept.

Bruins March Against Diabetes

FROM PAGE 3

drea Livick and her teammates. In the e-mail, Kelly asked her teammates to join Taylor Livick's cause and walk with her on May 2.

"The e-mail almost made me cry," Andrea Livick said. "It made me feel like my kid was special."

Every member of the Lake Braddock girls' lacrosse team took part in the walk with the Livicks. The final total for the event reached 70 friends, lacrosse players and relatives.

"Family members support each other on and off

the field," co-captain Colleen Garrott said. "Not a single person hesitated to come out here and do this for her."

Attending the walk wasn't the only way the team and Taylor Livick's friends helped her. Andrea Livick said her cousins helped raise money through a lemonade stand and Taylor Livick's friends held a car wash as well.

Andrea Livick said the unofficial amount of money raised neared \$3,000 by the time of the walk.

"It's just great to know she has a family that is looking out for her," Andrea Livick said.

Kings Park Park Renovations

FROM PAGE 3

that the trail improvements will open up the park and make it more hospitable to the older age group.

"We think that it's wonderful that the county is updating our park," Owens said. "It will bring new life to the park because it will have equipment in all sizes for all ages of children. We're looking forward to the fact that the children will feel more welcome

in the park. We're just really excited."

Pederson said that the construction is slated to begin this week, and that it will be completed by July.

She also said that the Park Authority plans to conduct a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the improvements July 4 between the morning parade and afternoon concert at the annual Kings Park Fourth of July celebration.

Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hoopes Road Springfield, announces several events for May. Contact the church at www.sumcdisciples.org or 703-451-8223.

❖ **Hand Bell Performance.** Sunday, May 23, 7 p.m. The Jubilate Ringers (adults) and Alleluia Ringers (children) will be joined by Worzship (youth ensemble), Kids Choir, and the Chancel Choir. Free and open to the public. www.sumcdisciples.org or 703-451-8223.

❖ **Tea & Fashions.** Sunday,

May 16, 2-4 p.m. The annual tea sponsored by the UMW has added a Fashion Show.

❖ **A Homebuilders Couples Bible Study is now being formed.** This study is designed to help couples discover biblical

FAITH NOTES

principles to apply in their marriages and build friendships with other couples.

❖ **The Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church Reach for the Beach**

Charity Auction will be at the church, 10125 Lakehaven Court in Burke, on Saturday, May 8, from 6-10 p.m. Free children's program by Rainbow Company. Auction items include tickets to a Yo-Yo Ma concert, original artwork by Eric Mohn, Blair Mansion Mystery Dinner Theatre gift certificates, Luray Caverns passes, tattoos and piercings from Marlowe Ink, mountain bikes, moonbounce rental gift certificate, weekend vacation packages, movie passes and more. \$5 per bidder. 703-503-4579. See a full catalog at www.accotinkuuc.org.

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minds is by
jumping to
conclusions.
—Cullen
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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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Pursuant to Decree of the Circuit Court of King George
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matter now pending before the Court under the style of Adam
M. Steil V. Alexander P. Steil, the undersigned Special Com-
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21 Announcements

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duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 549, page
182.

BEING the same property conveyed to Adam M. Steil and
Alexander P. Steil, by deed dated September 27, 2001 and re-
corded in Deed Book 12258, page 353.

shall be sold to the highest bidder; however, subject to confir-
mation by the Court, on Friday, May 7, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. on
site at the property. The property shall be sold AS IS and shall
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Nothing is too small to know, and
nothing too big to attempt.
-William Van Horne

Saga of Dug the Pug

Teen reunites missing dog with family.

To the Editor:

Our beloved little Pug, his name is Dug, got out of the yard when our daughter accidentally left the gate open last Wednesday. We were devastated as Dug had lost his tags a few weeks prior, and I hadn't replaced them yet, so he had no identification on him.

We searched for seven hours that evening and started posting flyers around our house on Modisto Lane in Springfield, just off the Fairfax County Parkway near the Huntsman Boulevard Giant.

We had sightings of him on Friday and again on Saturday. At this point, we were beside ourselves and started going door-to-door passing out over 700 postcards about our lost little guy. We had contacted the SPCA for help in finding him and two wonderful ladies, Debbie Onesty and Edith Von Steimer, brought out a cage trap and a camera to help us in capturing the little devil. We put them in the woods where Dug was last seen on Sunday.

During these few days, we also started an e-mail that was sent to everyone we knew in the area, our two elementary classes at Orange Hunt Elementary School and my Brownie troop and all those families sent it out to other people.

I had emails from strangers telling me they were looking when out walking, I had phone calls from strangers giving me his whereabouts when they couldn't catch him. It was absolutely more than we ever expected. We have been an Air Force family for 15 years and haven't had the sense of community that we have had in our 8 months here in Virginia.

Then, just last night, I got a phone call from a neighbor that our little Dug the Pug had been captured by a teenager that had seen a sign and actually got off his bus a mile or so from home because he saw Dug from the bus.

The following is the story as it unfolded yesterday. The young man that is nothing short of a hero in our eyes. I took him our reward offering of \$100, and he told me that his mom had said he should donate the money to an animal shelter and he thought that was a pretty good idea. How many kids that age would think giving away that much money after chasing a dog for almost an hour and getting bitten in the process was a good idea?

Christina Bakonyi
Springfield

This afternoon, I was driving home from the grocery store when I saw a teenage boy on Huntsman Boulevard, close to Dorothy Lane, walking a pug dog. I thought that the pug looked a lot like Dug the Pug, who had been missing in our area for a week. I pulled over, rolled down my window, and asked the boy if that was the missing pug. He said



PHOTO BY WENDY NEPTUN

Max McIntyre holds Dug the Pug, the missing dog he reunited with its family.

"Yes, I'm trying to find his house to take him home."

I told him that I knew where the people lived since they are neighbors of my friend. I offered the boy a ride to take the dog home to their owners. He agreed, and I stopped at my house to make phone calls before driving the dog home. My neighbor came outside and gave Dug the Pug water and two dog biscuits, which he seemed to enjoy.

That's when I learned that the rescuer's name is Max McIntyre. He's a sophomore at Lake Braddock Secondary School. I grabbed my camera and took two pictures of Max holding Dug the Pug.

About an hour earlier, Max had been riding the school bus on his way home when he saw a poster for the missing pug dog named "Dug." Riding along Golden Ball Tavern Street, sitting up high in the bus, he spotted the pug in a grassy area near Huntsman Lake. He jumped off the bus at the next stop (not his stop) and immediately went back to try to find the missing dog.

Once Max caught him, he carried Dug the Pug from the woods to the townhouses off Golden Ball Tavern Lane. There, Max borrowed a leash from a resident. Then Max started walking Dug the Pug along Huntsman Blvd to try to find his home. That's when I saw Max and Dug the Pug.

Once Max agreed to let me drive him to the owner's house, I called the owners, but they were not home. I then called my friend, Tina Kotson, who lives across the street from the owners. Tina happily agreed to keep the Dug the Pug until the owners returned home.

What a wonderful thing that Max did today. He's a real neighborhood hero. He didn't have to go after Dug and try to rescue him, but he did.

Wendy Neptun
Springfield



DONATED PHOTO

Teeing Off for Charity

Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce President Dan LaMay, UCM Director of Development Niki Wanner, Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and

UCM Executive Director Cynthia Hull get ready for tee off at the Seventh Annual Hilltop Golf Club Charity Golf Outing to benefit UCM and Good Shepherd Housing. More than 100 golfers turned out on Tuesday, April 20 to raise funds to support these local non-profits. With shotguns at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., golfers were treated to nine holes of fun and a delicious barbecue lunch. Hole-in-one contests gave participants the chance to win \$15,000 or a new car.



DONATED PHOTO

The Fairfax County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard participates in a competition.

Honor Guard Takes First at Competition

The Fairfax County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard placed and took home the best dressed award at the May 1 Washington Metropolitan Council of Government's (COG) Honor Guard Competition, which took place on the grounds of the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The members of the Honor Guard are Master Deputy Sheriff Samuel Gonsalves and Privates First Class Derrick Ledford, Thomas Kyle, Christopher Loftis and Kent Lwin. First Lieutenants William Friedman

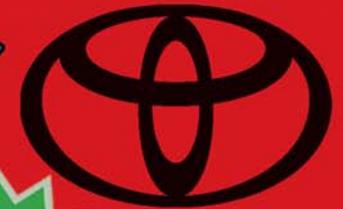
and Kevin Smith are co-commanders of the Honor Guard.

"I'm very proud of the Honor Guard and their many accomplishments," said Sheriff Stan Barry. "These awards are a direct reflection of their tireless efforts and commitment to excellence."

The Honor Guard represents the Sheriff's Office at different functions in Fairfax County and the metropolitan area, including parades, graduations, funerals, major and minor league sporting events and other activities.

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