

Burke CONNECTION

With help from physical trainer Kelly Orvin, Christopher Boehm, 4, pays tribute to the nation by waving the flag while the group sings the national anthem before the game at Cherry Run Elementary.



Play Ball

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What To Do After High School?

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After Food Fight, Prom Goes On

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West Springfield Prom Will Go On

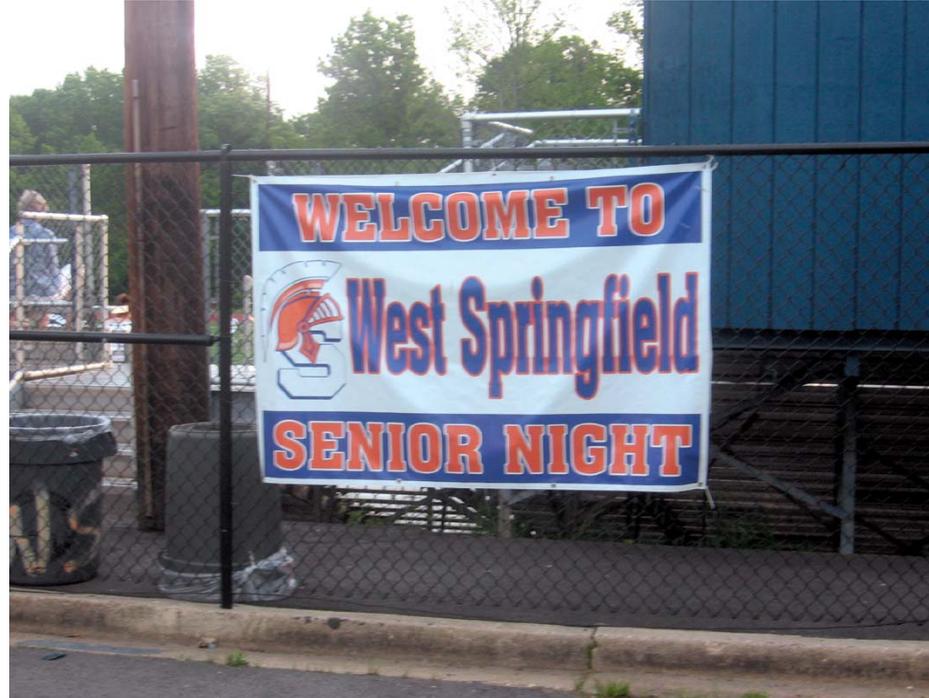
School officials release details of 'chaotic' food fight.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The food fight that started with a bang last week ended with a whimper on Tuesday, May 17. West Springfield High School's prom, senior picnic and a trip to Hershey Park will go on as scheduled, according to Fairfax County Public School's spokesman Paul Regnier. But the 100-plus students involved in the planned "flash mob" type food fight on Thursday, May 12, must participate in a community service day.

In an e-mail sent Tuesday via Fairfax County Public Schools' Keep in Touch (KIT) e-mail subscription service, school authorities released details about the food fight, describing a chaotic scene that traumatized special needs students trapped in a cafeteria filled with more than 800 students when the incident began shortly after 1 p.m.

"It was 'raining food' from one end of the cafeteria to the other; tables and chair were flipped; 600-plus students were running a mass exodus, many of them tripping, slipping and falling; partially-filled water



A sign advertising West Springfield High's Senior Night hangs at the school.

bottles were thrown; food thrown included...items such as raw eggs brought from home," the e-mail read, which noted that these are "just some of the facts of Thursday's food fight."

The melee ended when a student pulled a fire alarm in another part of the building, forcing a school evacuation. Students and

faculty stood outside the building for more than an hour while at least two fire trucks responded to the alarm.

In the aftermath, students and custodians worked more than eight hours cleaning and sanitizing the cafeteria, according to school officials.

"Students who participated in this food

"It was 'raining food' from one end of the cafeteria to the other."

— West Springfield High School authorities in an e-mail sent May 17

fight, students who knowingly stayed as willing witnesses, and students who left their classes to go the cafeteria for the food fight are all expected to attend this community service day at WSHS," Tuesday's e-mail read.

Students unable to participate on Community Service Day, which is scheduled for Saturday, June 4, have the option of preparing food for a homeless shelter, such as ECHO, or run in a charity race. Students must also donate at least two cans of food to ECHO's food bank.

"Students from C Lunch who participate in both the food donation and the community service will once again be eligible for the senior picnic, trip and prom end-of-year activities that were put on hold," according to school authorities. "That said, some individual students depending on their role, can and will be held out of some of these activities as a consequence."

After the incident last week, WSHS prin

SEE FOOD FIGHT, PAGE 5

Area Foster Parents Honored as 'Heroes'

Local agency celebrates National Foster Care Month by naming top foster parents.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Be-Asia Jackson-El has "been there, done that," which is why the Lorton mom believes she connects with the troubled teens she fosters.

She is brutally honest about her past, and recently testified before a Congressional Committee about her experiences.

"The long and short of it? I grew up in foster care and was a troubled, traumatized girl. I abused the homes I was placed in. When you're a child in that environment, it's them and you. I never felt good enough," she said. "The survival methods foster kids use are ultimately self-destructive. We lie to protect ourselves or to hide the abuse ... and use sex, drugs or alcohol as a means to self-medicate," she said.

Jackson-El said that the teens she has fostered recognize that if she can be a productive person, they can too.

Jackson-El was honored along with more than 20 other area foster parents at the "Honoring Heroes" celebration hosted by

the Adolescent and Family Growth Center (AFGC) in Springfield Thursday, May 12.

AFGC is a therapeutic foster care program that provides specialized services to adolescents from the ages of 11 to 18, including transitional services for older teens.

The event last week, which took place at the AGFC offices in Springfield, highlighted work of "heroic foster parents." Four families were honored for fostering teens for more than five years: Lettie Girma, Artilia Harris, Be-Asia Jackson-El and Samuel and Leada Barksdale.

"Our foster parents are amazing. Some, like Be-Asia, are strong and doing it alone," said Marianne Werth, director of foster care at AFGC.

"Foster parents' contribution to the growth and healing of foster youth goes largely unrecognized. Our parents are very committed. We've learned that it's not for everyone. It's challenging and rewarding," Werth said.

Artilia Harris, an Alexandria mother, has

SEE AGENCY, PAGE 19



Jermaine Johnson, left, executive director of the Adolescent and Family Growth Center; foster parents Artilia Harris, Samuel Barksdale and wife Leada Barksdale and Marianne Werth, director of foster care. Not pictured is foster parent Lettie Girma.



Chloe DeLeon, 4, sprints from base to base making sure to place a foot on each of them, one skill among many that was practiced by the students starting several weeks before the games.



Students Alex Musman, Rogers Stinson, and Abel and Simon Yakob take a momentary break from the games, taking a seat on the field to gather their breath and energy before the next station.

Preschool Dedicates Morning to Baseball Game

Preschoolers play baseball for a fun, learning experience with support from staff, parents.

BY VALERIE CLEMENS
THE CONNECTION

Cherry Run Elementary's preschool classes played its annual baseball game Monday morning, May 16, in which dozens of students, parents and staff members gathered on the field to cheer on students running the bases under the sun.

The hour-long sporting event consisted of 4- and 5-year old students rotating between five different baseball-oriented stations swinging bats, running bases, sliding and pitching, while parents and teachers instructed and cheered them along.

Forty-two students are enrolled in the special preschool, which is geared toward students with any "physical, language, and cognitive developmental delays" early childhood special education teacher Cathy Brown said.

"[The preschool] has all of our preschoolers practice the skills that we used, but the older preschoolers played in the game today," Brown said. In preparation for the big day all students practiced for the games each day for about four weeks, Brown said. "It's great for the kids, [their] physical skills, teamwork, listening to di-

rections, cooperating and working with others."

It's a day to "build teamwork and establish social skills that would be necessary for their future participation in events like this," parent Tom Shalhoub said.

Shalhoub's 5-year-old triplets, Nathaniel, Greyson and Reagan, attend the preschool. "[The preschool] has a good program that they've put together," Shalhoub said.

Brown said the baseball game started one year by a single teacher and has grown to incorporate every student and staff member either in the games or in their preparations.

Amid the wails of excitement from the children and cheery songs chanted by teachers, Principal Mark Bibbee took time to come out the support the games.

"I think this is a great culminating event where you see kids that have been working on different skills, incorporating fun and games into learning," Bibbee said.

The preschool has been a part of Cherry Run Elementary for 13 years, Brown said, and is composed of four regular preschool classes, and two preschool autism classrooms (PAC).

"Early intervention is always the key to anything when you're talking about students with disabilities. ... [We're] giving

"I think this is a great culminating event where you see kids that have been working on different skills, incorporating fun and games into learning."

— Cherry Run Elementary Principal Mark Bibbee



PHOTOS BY VALERIE CLEMENS/THE CONNECTION

Speech language therapist Catherine Thompson gathers a team of students around her to patiently wait for the whistle signaling the time to move to another station where the students practice a different set of baseball skills.

them a head start into what it's going to be like when they come into kindergarten," Bibbee said.

Parents also remarked about the strength and success of the program.

"I'm really happy they're ready for next year," parent Rahel Berhame said about her children and their improvement in speech. Her twin sons, Simon and Abel Yakob, are in their third year at the preschool but will start kindergarten next year at Saratoga Elementary.

"All the teachers give 100 percent efforts to the students," Berhame said. "My kids got everything they could get and I [would]

recommend this program to every parent who is in the same situation,"

After the games, worn-out children and sweaty, supportive parents were invited to a picnic outside the preschool. Michael Zelnis, 4, said his favorite part of the day was the picnic, and also said his teachers are "nice and helpful"

After lunch as the children recovered their energy and roamed over to the playground, Simon said his favorite part of the day was running around the bases. His brother Abel said he liked playing in the playground dur-

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Food Fight's Aftermath

FROM PAGE 3

Principal Paul Wardinski sent a KIT e-mail Thursday afternoon which stated that the school's resource officer was investigating the incident, and that "all students involved are facing consequences from the school and some may also face criminal charges from Fairfax County Police. This is a very serious matter and senior pranks will not be tolerated in our building."

Regnier said Tuesday the investigation was over and no students were facing criminal charges.

"We are thankful that the majority of the students did not participate in this incident," Wardinski wrote last Thursday. "Again, our number one priority is the safety and security of the students and staff while they are at school."

Several after-school activities went on as scheduled after the food fight on May 12.

"It was a stupid high school prank," said Kathryn Howard during an event at the school last Thursday evening. Howard, a senior, who wasn't in the cafeteria at the time of the food fight, said "I don't think they are going to cancel prom, but I would be upset if it was canceled."

Currently, the West Springfield prom is

scheduled for Friday, June 17, at the Hyatt Regency Reston.

Unlike Thursday's e-mail, which was signed by the principal, Tuesday's e-mail did not specify the sender, instead identifying the message as "from West Springfield High School."

"We believe our Community Service Day and other community service actions, rather than being strictly or overly punitive, will instead allow students to put their collective efforts into beautification of our school and a much more positive and appropriate use of food," according to Tuesday's e-mail.

"The incident on Thursday is not representative of our school. Friday night's 2nd Annual Relay for Life was! We had over 1,000 walkers, including hundreds of students, here walking for 12 hours on behalf of the American Cancer Society. This year's Relay raised over \$140,000, meaning that over the past two years we have raised over \$300,000 as a school and community. That type of activity is what makes WSHS a great school! Moreover, we refuse to let the incident last Thursday define our school, this school year, or the Class of 2011," Tuesday's e-mail read.

Connection reporter Julia O'Donoghue contributed to the coverage of this story.

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NEWS

Running on Girl Power

Girls on the Run 5K celebrates healthy eating, fitness for school-aged girls.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

Months of training paid off as thousands of young girls from throughout the region. Accompanied by running buddies, parents and friends, they took to the streets of George Mason University May 15 for the Girls on the Run of Northern Virginia 5K race. "This is an incredible event," said celebrity chef Spike Mendelsohn, who ran the race alongside 7,500 other participants. "There is such a happy vibe here and it's exciting to be a part of it."

Also participating in the race, which drew an additional 2,600 spectators to the GMU campus, were local politicians and dignitaries including State Sens. Chap Petersen (D-34), George Barker (D-39) and Dave Marsden (D-37); Dels. Richard Anderson (R-51), David Bulova (D-37), Tag Greason

(R-32) and Mark Sickles (D-43); Fairfax County School Board member Ilryong Moon (At-large) and Fairfax City Council member Dan Drummond.

"Girls on the Run is an amazing organization and it's inspiring to see what it does for young girls," Drummond said, following the race. "I am so proud to have an organization such as GOTR headquartered here in the City of Fairfax."

GOTR of Northern Virginia is a nonprofit organization that uses running as a mentoring tool to educate young girls on self-esteem and healthy eating and lifestyle choices. The 10-week program, which currently serves more than 6,500 girls in 200 schools, combines lessons that help adolescent girls in grades 3 through 8 build confidence and develop healthy lifestyles with training for a 5K race.

"These amazing girls are the future powerhouses of our nation," said Mendelsohn,

"These amazing girls are the future powerhouses of our nation."

— Celebrity chef Spike Mendelsohn



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE CONNECTION

Runners take off at the start of the Girls on the Run 5K race at George Mason University Sunday, May 15. More than 7,500 runners participated in the race, one of the signature events for the Girls on the Run mentoring program for middle school girls in Northern Virginia. For more photos of the event, go to www.connectionnewspapers.com.

who works closely with First Lady Michelle Obama and the Let's Move healthy eating initiative in schools. "We need to start teaching healthy eating and lifestyle choices at a young age and this organization perfectly complements that."

The 3.1-mile race, sponsored by United Healthcare, Inova Hospital, Verizon, Running Brooke, Washington Gas and George

Mason University, ended with a finish line festival that included rock music provided by Studio Rock of Northern Virginia, hair coloring and healthy food and training booths.

For more information on Girls on the Run, visit www.girlsontherunofnova.org.

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Learning Through Baseball



FROM PAGE 4

ing school. The dedicated staff of the preschool organizes events similar to this one at least once a month, and tries to get parents involved three or four times a year, Brown said. "The parents have an opportunity to come out and participate I think it's pretty obvious that it's a great event; everyone's having an awesome time," Bibbee said.

Former teacher and current volunteer Genela Gedney coaches her team of students under the early summer sun.



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Reminder on Preparedness

While images of most natural emergencies — hurricanes, floods, tornadoes — seem remote from the D.C. suburbs, last month more than a dozen tornadoes touched down in our area.

Many households in our area have suffered through multiple-day power outages related to snowstorms and thunderstorms.

Virginia's annual hurricane preparedness sales tax holiday is next week, May 25-31, 2011. During this seven-day period, purchases of "hurricane and emergency preparedness equipment" will be exempt from the Virginia sales tax.

As long as they cost \$60 or less each, items including batteries, flashlights, tarps, rope, duct tape, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, bottled water, first aid kits, and many others,

will be tax-free. Portable generators priced at \$1,000 or less are also included.

This is one of three tax holidays in Virginia; a three-day sales tax holiday for school supplies and clothing begins on the first Friday in August, and the four-day holiday for Energy Star qualified products is in mid-October.

For good information on emergency preparation, see www.readyvirginia.gov; for details on the sales tax holidays, see www.tax.virginia.gov.

Father's Day Photo Gallery, and More

Father's Day is Sunday, June 19, and once again the Connection will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Send in photos in jpeg format as soon as possible, including the full names of all the people in the picture, hometowns, the approximate date and location the picture was taken, the ages of the children and sentence or two about the people and/or event.

PROMS AND ... While Connection photographers and writers will likely attend some proms as schedules permit, we also urge parents and students to document their proms (or alternative activities) and send in photos in jpeg format, and also including who, what, where, when and why.

We're also interested in other events at your school, church, synagogue or mosque, milestone events, etc.

E-mail photos to burke@connectionnewspapers.com.

EDITORIALS

Helping the Environment Meeting offers solutions for community members to improve the environment.

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN COOK
R-BRADDOCK DISTRICT

My Community Engagement Initiative is premised on the idea that we as individuals, and, collectively, as a community have the power and opportunity to work to bring positive change to our lives and neighborhoods. We don't have to wait for someone else or government to decide to bring positive change and take the lead. We can do it together.

This same concept of community engagement can and should be applied to the physical world around us. In our daily lives, we often do not focus on personal habits or mindsets that may negatively impact the environment. Chlorinated water from our pools, pet waste, oil from our cars and salt from winter snow removal are often dumped into our storm

drains. "Supersized" impervious patios, pesticides, chemicals and fertilizers that can be overused on our lawns all negatively affect our streams. Even plastic bags from the supermarket and plastic water bottles that we carelessly toss aside, often make their way into our struggling waterways. If each of us takes several small personal steps to improve the environment, we can make a difference. We may also forestall the need for more excessive governmental regulation.

To share what some of those small steps can be, on Saturday, May 7, I brought together over 30 community leaders for an Environmental Leadership Institute. Participants heard from experts in the fields of recycling and litter control, storm water and erosion management, tree canopy improvement, yard maintenance and home efficiency. My expectation is that these participants will share this information and form

small outreach teams within their communities. Volunteer coaches from state, local and non-profit groups are available to them. This is the fourth in my series of ongoing community engagement initiatives and one that I hope will be a catalyst for positive change to improve the environment.

At this Leadership Institute, participants learned how to "cut it high and let it lie" (lawns), how to "let it rot" (composting), how to reduce the use of weed killers, fertilizers and other toxic products, how to be green gardeners, create backyard habitat and use a rain barrel or build a 'rain garden.' They also learned about simple ways to undertake a yard makeover to reduce the amount of property devoted to lawn; becoming an "aquacop" to reduce runoff into our streams. They learned what native trees thrive in our area and how to plant and water them. They heard how to remove invasive species from our parks and become stream monitors, master gardeners or tree stewards. They also learned about the latest information on recycling and trash reduction. They learned ways to save water and energy at home and save money in the process.

All of us want our streams parks and lawns to be a healthy legacy for our children. Many of the practices that help to restore those streams also make our neighborhoods more inviting and livable. None of us needs to move to live in a better community. We have the power and opportunity to act today to bring our lifestyles into better balance with the natural world around us.

To get more information for your community on how to help the environment, please feel free to contact my office.

COMMENTARY

Ideal Amtrak Location

To the Editor:

On Oct. 1, 2009, Amtrak's new Lynchburg Train to Boston began stopping weekdays at Burke Centre VRE Station, the first intercity train to stop in Burke in 42 years. On Jan. 18, 2010, Amtrak allowed daily service and online and phone reservations. Burke is now the fastest growing station (127 percent) in Virginia.

Ridership will increase in 2011 for five reasons. First, in May, VRE reduces the Step-Up Ticket from \$10 to \$5, encouraging VRE riders to use Amtrak for commuting and, later, for intercity trips beyond Washington, D.C., in the Northeast Corridor (NEC), with connections at three Washington, D.C., airports for travel worldwide.

Second, in June, Fairfax County should authorize the Virginia Department of Transportation to post Amtrak signs along area roads to advertise the existence of the county's only Amtrak station.

Third, in July, the state should authorize a Lynchburg Train Bus from Lynchburg to Roanoke (daily) and Blacksburg/VT, Friday through Sunday, allowing 550,000 persons their first direct access to the NEC in more than 30 years. Many riders will take day, weekend and longer trips to the county via an often more comfortable, less expensive, less stressful and more productive green transit option.

Fourth, the Lynchburg Train Bus will allow county college students to travel to and from Radford, VT, Roanoke College, and Hollins by train/bus and even leave their cars at home, saving car insurance and maintenance costs.

Fifth, in July, the Greater Manassas Area will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the 1st Battle of Manassas/Bull Run. Persons worldwide will prefer arriving by train at Burke, the second closest station (17 miles) from the battlefield, and avoiding the nation's second worst traffic.

Burke Centre's ample parking, excellent roads and central location make its location ideal as an Amtrak station that will take cars off area roads.

Dan Peacock, member
Virginia Association of Railway Patrons

CALENDAR

To have community events listed, send to south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416 with questions. Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks prior to event.

THURSDAY/MAY 19

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice and improve your English. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Ready, Set, Grow. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-293-6227.

Afternoon Reading Group. 1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Tiny Tots. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Very short stories and activities for very young children. Age 13-17 months with adult. 703-644-7333.

Small Oneders. 11:15 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Join in with stories and activities for your toddler and you together. Age 18-23 months with adult. 703-644-7333.

"Les Misérables." 7 p.m. Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, 6560 Braddock Road Alexandria. Imprisoned for stealing a loaf of bread, Jean Valjean becomes an honest man and mayor of a prosperous town, but violates his parole. Snacks inspired by the musical sold before and after the show. \$10. makhatcherer@fcps.edu.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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Your Daughter's 2010-2011 School Year

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PHOTO BY SALMA CHADHA/THE CONNECTION

The Springfield/Burke Relay for Life took place Friday, May 13 on the track of West Springfield High School. The event raised \$142,000. Here, Todd and Antonette Burnett-Team My Way walk for her dad and uncle.



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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

FRIDAY/MAY 20

An Evening with Bill Kirchen and Too Much Fun. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

"The Clockmaker." 8 p.m. Hub Theatre, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Part comic love story, part murder mystery, in a look at how relationships change how we see the world. \$25, \$15 students and seniors. www.thehubtheatre.org or 703-674-3177.

"Les Misérables." 7 p.m. Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, 6560 Braddock Road Alexandria. Imprisoned for stealing a loaf of bread, Jean Valjean becomes an honest man and mayor of a prosperous town, but violates his parole. Snacks inspired by the musical sold before and after the show. \$10. makhatcherer@fcps.edu.

SATURDAY/MAY 21

Visions of Summer. 8 p.m. W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. The Main Street Community Concert Band, an ensemble of the City of Fairfax Band in a symphonic wind ensemble concert. \$15 adults, \$9 seniors, and free for age 18 and younger. Pre-concert event is free with concert ticket. www.fairfaxband.org or 703-757-0220.

"The Clockmaker." 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Hub Theatre, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Part comic love story, part murder mystery, in a look at how relationships change how we see the world. \$25, \$15 students and seniors. www.thehubtheatre.org or 703-674-3177.

Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association, Inc. 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association answers gardening questions. 703-978-5600.

City of Fairfax Planting Event. 10 a.m. At the trailhead off Hallman Street, Fairfax. Volunteer to replant the stream. Wear sturdy shoes or galoshes, long pants and sleeves and a hat. Bring gloves, loppers, hand pruners or shovels if available. TG@emas.fairfaxva.gov.

"Les Misérables." 7 p.m. Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, 6560 Braddock Road Alexandria. Imprisoned for stealing a loaf of bread, Jean Valjean becomes an honest man and mayor of a prosperous town, but violates his parole. Snacks inspired by the musical sold before and after the show. \$10. makhatcherer@fcps.edu.

SUNDAY/MAY 22

Tribute to Bob Dylan On his 70th Birthday: Jammin' Java's Songwriters Circle Featuring Luke Brindley, Todd Wright, Anthony Fiacco and Shane Hines. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

"The Clockmaker." 2 p.m. Hub Theatre, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Part comic love story, part murder mystery, in a look at how relationships change how we see the world. \$25, \$15 students and seniors. www.thehubtheatre.org or 703-674-3177.

Dog Wash: Wash Out Lyme Disease. 12-3 p.m. The Regional Veterinary Referral Center, 6651 Backlick Road, Springfield. Proceeds benefit the National Capital Lyme Disease Association. www.washoutlymedisease.com.

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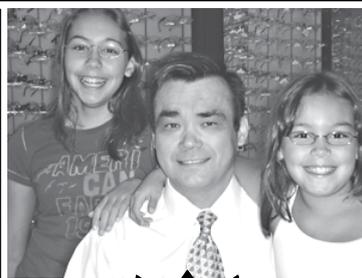
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What The Future Holds

Students pursue college and careers after high school.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Sarah Locke applied to Howard University, George Mason University and a few other colleges. In the end, however, she just couldn't see herself going anywhere besides The United States Military Academy, better known as West Point.

"I also looked into R.O.T.C or enlisting but this seemed like a better deal to me. I like the structure," said Locke.

West Point is not for the faint of heart. The academy is highly competitive, with just a 12.65 percent acceptance rate.

Out of the 1,300 people who start out each academy class, only 1,000 or so will make it through the four-year program, according to its website.

Just 10 days after her graduation from high school, Locke will have to report on June 27 for the beginning of Cadet Basic Training at West Point, also called "Beast Barracks."

Women tend to outnumber men in higher education, but West Point is an exception to that rule. Females usually make up just 15 percent of the cadets in each class, according to the academy's website.

Locke said she was inspired by her mother, an African American who was among the first 62 women to graduate from West Point in 1980.

Pat Walker Locke was already in the U.S. Army as an enlisted soldier when West Point opened its doors to women in the late 1970s. At the time, Pat Locke — who was from inner city Detroit — had never heard of West Point, but her battalion leader had encouraged her to apply for a slot at the school.

"There are more women there now than when we were there ... and people are trying to help you instead of keep you out," said Pat Locke, who is extremely pleased to see her own daughter attending the service academy.

"She was so excited. She was running around the house dancing when I got the letter," said Sarah Locke, who attends Mount Vernon High School.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA typically sends a large cohort of students to the military service academies each year.

Virginia's 11th congressional district, which includes Fairfax and Prince William counties, had 49 students accepted to academies in 2011, the most of any congressional district in the country. Virginia's 10th congressional district, which includes northern and western Fairfax County, ranked second in the number of students attending military academies next year.

Several of the students attending one of the academies next year have a family con-

nection to the military already.

"I was influenced by my dad, who is over in Iraq right now," said Jason Ko, a Robinson Secondary School senior who will be attending West Point next year.

In Fairfax County, the number of students attending service academies also appears to be on the rise. In 2005, a total of 40 students from Fairfax County Public Schools attended the five academies. By 2009, that number had increased to 54.

"That is just the kind of lifestyle that is appealing to me," said Lisa Marie Junta, a Springfield resident who is a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

Perhaps it shouldn't be surprising that Northern Virginia high school students interested in joining the military would pursue a career through a service academy that provides a college education.

A much larger percentage of Northern Virginia high school students attend four-year colleges in general. Last year, more than 60 percent of high school graduates in Arlington and Fairfax counties enrolled in four-year college programs, compared to just 46 percent of Virginia high school graduates overall.

Graduates from the Fairfax County Public Schools overwhelmingly choose to go to school within the commonwealth, which rivals California as having the best public higher education in the country. In 2009, 75 percent of Fairfax high graduates attending college choose to enroll in the Virginia school, according to a school system report.

U.S. News and World Report regularly ranks the University of Virginia and College of William & Mary among the top 10 public undergraduate programs in the United States. The schools' stellar reputation has been double-edged sword however, creating an incredibly competitive admissions environment in which several high-achieving Northern Virginia students are vying for admission.

Steep Competition

This year, the University of Virginia saw record-breaking 24,005 applications for its freshman class. William and Mary had 12,820 applications, according to a New York Times database.

The commonwealth's most prestigious universities ended up with similar admission rates of 32.2 percent and 34.6 percent respectively. Private colleges such as Carnegie Mellon (30.4 percent), Connecticut College (31.5 percent) and The George Washington University (32 percent) have comparable admission rates.

Several well-regarded public schools have higher admissions rates including Georgia Tech (48 percent), University of Texas - Austin (45.6 percent) and the University of



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

Springfield resident Lisa Marie Junta will attend the United States Military Academy at West Point next year. Junta, who attends Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, is one of 49 students from Virginia's 11th congressional district attending a military service academy.

Wisconsin - Madison (49.7 percent). A select few, like UCLA (25.28 percent) and the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill (29.2 percent), have lower admission rates than the most selective Virginia universities.

STILL, several Northern Virginia families complain about their children's ability to get admitted to the commonwealth's top tier schools. At three Fairfax high schools, fewer than 10 students were admitted to UVa. this year, according to data released by the university.

Yet UVa.'s own data also shows that students applying from Northern Virginia localities were accepted at higher rate than average. The school acceptance rate for applications from Fairfax County (45 percent), Arlington County (43.1), City of Alexandria (40.1 percent) and the City of Fairfax (39.5 percent) was much more generous than the normal 32 percent.

In fact, it is often the next tier of Virginia public schools where students face more trouble getting accepted than average applicant.

For example in 2009, Fairfax County Public Schools reported that the school system's graduates were often accepted at a lower rate than the average applicant to George Mason University (59.5/63.3), James Madison University (50.2/59.3) and Virginia Tech (51.1/66.7).

One reason that the Northern Virginia community may perceive a shortage of slots at the commonwealth's most selective college, UVa., is because a large share of the students admitted come from one school, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

Nearly 18 percent of all the students admitted to UVa. from Fairfax and Arlington this year attend Thomas Jefferson. The uni-

versity accepted 223 Jefferson students into its freshman class next year, which is more than half of the number of students in Jefferson's 425-person senior class. The next largest cohort of accepted students came from the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in Richmond, where 75 seniors were admitted. Madison High School in Vienna was next, with 53 students.

A fair number of Jefferson graduates choose to attend UVa. Ninety-three students in the 2010 freshman class came from Jefferson, according to the university.

But some parents believe Jefferson students are also more likely to get into other prestigious schools that it is difficult for students from base high schools to access.

From 2005-2009, Fairfax schools sent approximately 100 of its students to Ivy League universities every year, less than one percent of the number of seniors than normally apply to college.

Out-of-State Decisions

Despite the strong reputation of the Virginia's public universities, many Northern Virginia students still decide to go out of state for school.

Fairfax graduates who are going outside the commonwealth tend to stay close by, according to a school system report.

The popular destinations for seniors include Pennsylvania, North Carolina and New York in 2008 and 2009. West Virginia University (95 students), Pennsylvania State University (73 students) and East Carolina University were the most popular out of the state schools two years ago.

Some Fairfax seniors may also need to go outside of Virginia to get what they need. For example, one of the most popular out-

SEE GRADUATES, PAGE 13

Graduates Pursuing College, Careers

FROM PAGE 12

of-state schools for Fairfax residents is Brigham Young University, the flagship college of the Mormon Church in Utah.

"I applied to other colleges but I have very high standards. I don't want to have to deal with some of the things I have had to deal with in high school," said Katelynn Crompton, who is attending another Brigham Young University, located in Idaho.

Crompton, a West Springfield senior, said she also looked at the Brigham Young in Utah and Brigham Young in Hawaii.

"It wasn't that hard of a decision," said Crompton.

Forgoing College Altogether

Several students also decided a four-year college is not the right choice for them, even in a highly-educated community like Northern Virginia.

Beth Clapsaddle is one of the 30 percent of Fairfax County students that has decided to pursue an associate's degree instead of a traditional four-year college. She has won two scholarships to the New York Conservatory for the Dramatic Arts, where most of her classmates will either have already

attended college or worked professional in the performing arts world already.

"I know it sounds silly but I really want to be on Saturday Night Live. I want to become part of Second City in Chicago," said Clapsaddle, who has been active in the theater and music departments at West Springfield High School.

The New York City-based program will take two years, during which Clapsaddle will live on her own, since there are no student dorms connected to the conservatory.

The high school senior said her parents have been surprisingly supportive of her decision to forego college, though it may have helped that she landed a scholarship to a well-known prestigious arts program.

"I told them that I would really be excited to go away to college," she said.

High School Is The End of The Line

Though Northern Virginia has a higher-than-average rate of students attending four-year and two-year college programs, there are also a fair number of students for whom education stops after high school.

"I want all kids who can excel to the highest level to get to highest level but not all

of our students are going to go to college," said School Board Member Brad Center (Lee). Center said one of his own son's is considering going into automobile repair,

which would require some more school but not college-level coursework.

"I do want all kids to get some kind of education after k-12 but it doesn't need to be college," said Center.

Yet students who are Black or Hispanic in Northern Virginia are much more likely to graduate high school with "no plans" for further education — including trade school or apprenticeship programs.

While only 11.7 percent of all Arlington County students graduate high school with no plans, 17.4 percent of its Black students and 18.6 percent of its Hispanic students fall into that category. And only 38 percent of Hispanic students and 53 percent of Black students that graduated from Arlington high schools last year planned to attend a four-year college.

In Fairfax County, the situation is similar. Eleven percent of Hispanic students and 7.3 percent of Black students who graduate from high school have "no plans" for pursuing higher education. Hispanic (26.5 percent) and Black (48.1 percent) students are also far less likely to be attending a four-year university or college.



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock Secondary School senior Nicolas Lafasse and Mount Vernon High School senior Sarah Locke will start cadet basic training at the United States Military Academy, otherwise known as West Point, next month. Sarah is following in the footsteps of her mother, Pat Walker Locke, who was in the first West Point graduating class that included women.

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Proving a Point

Members of Robinson girls lacrosse team respond to having their desire questioned.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Members of the Robinson girls lacrosse coaching staff had seen enough.

When Yorktown scored to take a 5-3 lead with 11 minutes remaining in the first half of Tuesday, May 17's regional tournament contest, Robinson's sideline called a timeout. With the team huddled, head coach Sally Collier and assistant Rebecca Abood questioned the Rams' desire to win.

"First of all, we asked them if they wanted to play," Collier said. "We told them that they had to show us that they wanted to play, and if you were looking like you didn't want to, then we're going to give the opportunity to other people who did."

Substitutions were made, giving multiple players a chance to analyze their play before returning to redeem themselves. The Rams were also instructed to get the ball to juniors Campbell Collier and Katie McHugh.

The timeout talk and ensuing adjustments resulted in a dominant 36 minutes of lacrosse for Robinson, which advanced to the quarterfinals of the Northern Region Tournament with a 17-7 victory at Yorktown's Greenbrier Stadium. After falling behind 5-3, the Rams scored eight consecutive goals and 14 of the final 16, and held Yorktown scoreless for a stretch of more than 26 minutes.

"We all just looked at each other and said we all want this so badly," said Campbell Collier, daughter of head coach Sally Collier. "We just all did it as one."

Collier, the Rams' center midfielder, and McHugh, an attack, each scored five goals. Collier scored Robinson's



Robinson junior Campbell Collier scored five goals against Yorktown during regional tournament action on Tuesday, May 17.



Robinson junior Campbell Collier navigates through a pair of Yorktown defenders during Tuesday's Northern Region Tournament game in Arlington.

first two goals and two of its final three. With the score tied 5-5, McHugh scored four of the next five goals to help the Rams pull away.

"They're an incredible team that's been playing together since they were in fourth

grade," Coach Collier said. "They look for each other, they play well together and they've both been on varsity and starting since they were freshmen together, and they knew what needs to be done."

The duo outscored Yorktown 6-2 in the second half.

"We're just very competitive," McHugh said.

"Both of us want to win. We're on the same page, we've always been on the same page. We look up automatically for each other on the field all the time and we both see the field very clearly."

Senior midfielder Katie Rowson scored two goals for Robinson, and senior midfielder Alexis Mooney, junior attack/midfielder Austin Courtney, junior attack Shannon Picard, sophomore midfielder Megan Barlow and freshman attack Maggie Hyland each scored one.

Defensively, Coach Collier said Robinson switched to a more aggressive scheme during the game, which helped slow the Yorktown attack. Senior goalkeeper Cassie Raithel finished with eight saves and was

part of a defensive effort that held the Patriots to two goals in the final 36 minutes.

"We all just looked at each other and said we all want this so badly."

— Robinson junior Campbell

"We had to gain some composure and realize that we could play our game and dominate them," Raithel said. "We focused on seeing everything one step before it happened."

While from a seed standpoint, Robinson,

the Concorde District's No. 4, beating Yorktown, the National District No. 1, was an upset, multiple Rams said they felt at least even with the Patriots due in part to the difference in competitiveness between the districts. Coach Collier said the Rams did not take the Patriots lightly.

"This game we prepared for going against a district champion and that's what we did," she said. "We did not undersell — and it's a good thing. Obviously, [Yorktown] came out [strong] and we were in the hole. We had to realize if [our players] had it in their mind something different, that was wrong and they had to prove themselves every minute of today."

The regional quarterfinals are on May 19.



Robinson junior Shannon Picard scored a goal against Yorktown on Tuesday, May 17.

Redskins Draft Local Star Evan Royster

Penn State running back picked in sixth round of NFL draft.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Evan Royster, one of the greatest high school football players to ever come out of the Northern Virginia area, will one day, hopefully soon, be adorned in a burgundy and gold football uniform — the team colors of his home town NFL team, the Washington Redskins.

The former Westfield High star running back, who went on to break the all-time career rushing record at Penn State University, was selected by the Redskins, one of the NFL's oldest and tradition-rich franchises, in the sixth round of the recent NFL draft.

Once a new NFL agreement is ultimately reached between the players and management, teams will be able to begin preparations for off-season workouts and look ahead to the upcoming NFL season this fall. If no agreement is reached in the weeks or months ahead, there could be a work stoppage and possibly a season lockdown, which would mean drafted players such as Royster would have to put their NFL dreams on hold for a while.

Royster, who resides in Fairfax, was the second running back chosen by the Redskins in the draft. The first was Roy Helu Jr., a fourth round selection and the first of three consecutive University of Nebraska players chosen by Washington.

Royster was thrilled to be chosen by his local hometown team.

"I think I had the most contact with the Redskins leading up into the draft," said Royster, in a draft story reported on the Washington Redskins' Official Website. "It was a team that I was hoping for because it would make my family happy. I'd be close to home. And a lot of my friends were hop-

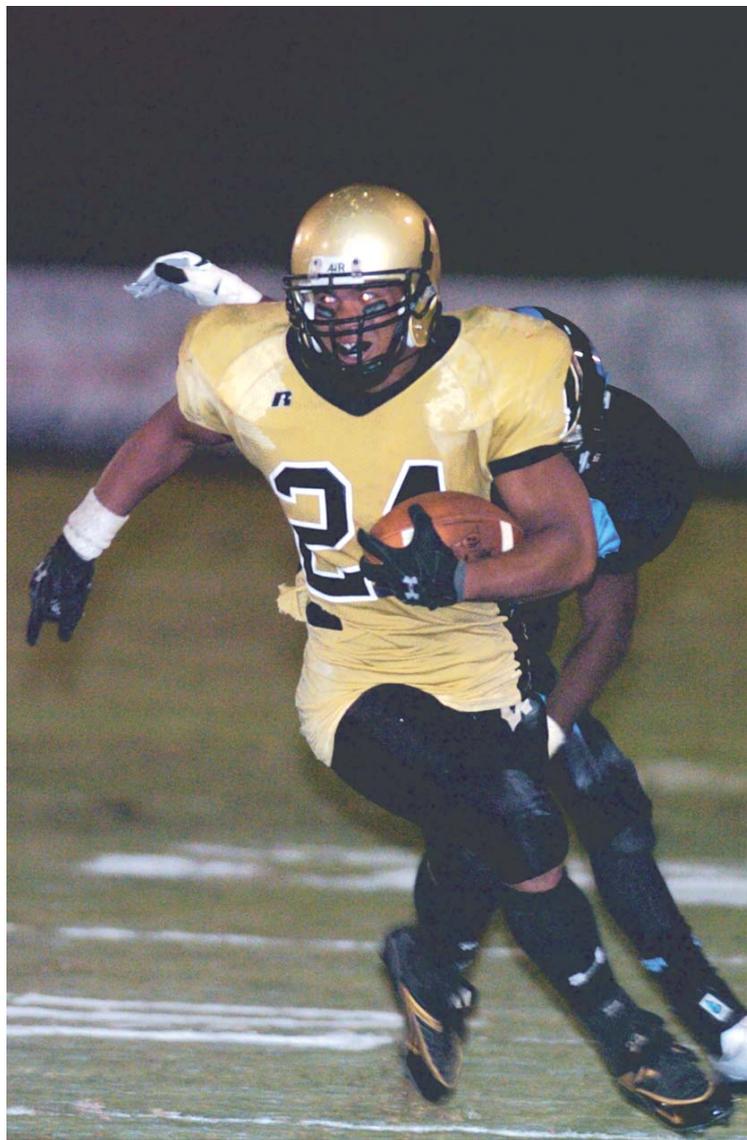
ing I'd go to Washington."

ROYSER, a 2006 graduate of Westfield, played football for the Bulldogs under head coach Tom Verbanic. He finished his stellar high school career with 6,384 yards and 90 touchdowns. As a senior, he was named the Northern Region Offensive Player of the Year, rushing for 2,161 yards and 30 touchdowns.

Royster received heavy interest from colleges nationwide towards the end of his high school career. His final two choices were Penn State and Nebraska, and he ultimately chose to become a Nittany Lion under legendary coach Joe Paterno.

Royster rushed for over 1,000 yards in each of his final three college seasons at Penn State, the first Nittany Lion running back to ever do so at the school that has traditionally emphasized the running game. He finished his Penn State career with 3,932 yards and 29 touchdowns.

Royster, who is 6-1 and 228 pounds, is the second outstanding Penn State running back in recent years to come out of the Northern Region. The other was former T.C. Williams High standout Tony Hunt, who is Penn State's third all-time leading rusher behind Royster and former Seattle Seahawks great Curt Warner. Hunt was a third round selec-



Evan Royster, pictured, and older brother Brandon, a former Fairfax High running back, are both a part of the Connection's All-Time 'Greatest top 100 Athletes' from the Northern Region.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

Fairfax High graduate, was part of a Fairfax High football team that went 10-0 in both his junior and senior seasons under coach Verbanic. For his Fairfax career, Brandon rushed for more than 5,300 yards and 60 touchdowns. He went on to play collegiately at Stanford University under former Cardinal coach Tyron Willingham.

Evan Royster, as a sophomore at Westfield, helped lead the Bulldogs to the state AAA football title. He averaged more than 150 rushing yards per game that fall.

"He got the taste of the lime-light — the taste of winning," said Verbanic, years later.

The state crown was not only the first for Westfield, but also the first for Verbanic.

Prior to Royster's first year at Penn State, Verbanic was asked how he believed Evan would fare as a running back at a big-time college.

"It's always hard to predict no matter how good a kid is in high school how well he is going to do at the next level," said Verbanic. "But he has some things going for him. One, is his physical strength. He's a hard worker in the weight room. That gives him a big heads up on a lot of kids. The second thing is that he wants to win. I think that puts him apart from other kids — his competitive nature."

Both Evan and older brother Brandon were named to the Connection Newspapers' "Greatest of All Time" top 100 athletes from the Northern Region in the summer of 2006. Brandon was No. 41 on the list and Evan was No. 28.

Paul Frommelt contributed to this story.

SPORTS NOTES

Golf Tournament To Benefit Brain Tumor Institute

On Monday, May 23, the Mike Windsor Memorial Golf Tournament will be held to benefit the Brain Tumor Institute at Children's National Medical Center. The Tournament, which will take place at the International Country Club in Fairfax, will begin at 11 a.m., followed by cocktails and an Awards Dinner at 5:30 p.m. A silent auction will take place during the dinner. The tournament is in honor of Michael B. Windsor, a long time native of the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area who spent over 40

years in the Commercial Real Estate industry. On May 1, 2010, Windsor found out he had a brain tumor and died only a few weeks later on May 27. Windsor was a family man who loved children and was a consistent supporter of Children's National Medical Center. Every holiday season, he purchased, wrapped and delivered Christmas gifts to the children there in hopes it would bring them some joy. To register for the tournament, or to be a sponsor, visit: www.mikewindsormemorial.com.

Plans for Upcoming NVSO Finalized

The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NVSO) committee has announced the 2011

competition for senior adults 50 years of age and over will be Sept. 17-28. The Thomas Jefferson Community Center, located at 3501 S. 2nd St., in Arlington, will host opening day, Saturday, Sept. 17 with welcome ceremonies at 10 a.m. followed by indoor track events. Virginia Hospital Center will sponsor a health fair from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and the Traveling Bicycle Museum will be open from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

More than 25 events will take place during the 10-day competition at various venues throughout Northern Virginia. Participants must be 50 by Dec. 31 and live in one of the sponsoring jurisdictions: cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church; counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William.

In addition to track and field, events will include swimming, diving, bocce, fencing, tennis, table tennis, bowling, golf, miniature golf, pickleball, racquetball, board games, card games, horseshoes, men's 3-on-3 basketball, team line dancing, yo-yo tricks and more. New events in 2011 are volleyball, badminton, cycling and the 1,600 meter run. Registration is \$10 plus \$1 per event. Registration forms will be available at senior centers and senior residences or by calling 703-228-3600, ext. 9996, and can also be downloaded at www.nvso.us. Online registration will be available after June 1. Registration deadline is Sept. 1.

Reminder on Preparedness

While images of most natural emergencies — hurricanes, floods, tornadoes — seem remote from the D.C. suburbs, last month more than a dozen tornadoes touched down in our area.

Many households in our area have suffered through multiple-day power outages related to snowstorms and thunderstorms.

Virginia's annual hurricane preparedness sales tax holiday is next week, May 25-31, 2011. During this seven-day period, purchases of "hurricane and emergency preparedness equipment" will be exempt from the Virginia sales tax.

As long as they cost \$60 or less each, items including batteries, flashlights, tarps, rope, duct tape, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, bottled water, first aid kits, and many others,

will be tax-free. Portable generators priced at \$1,000 or less are also included.

This is one of three tax holidays in Virginia; a three-day sales tax holiday for school supplies and clothing begins on the first Friday in August, and the four-day holiday for Energy Star qualified products is in mid-October.

For good information on emergency preparation, see www.readyvirginia.gov; for details on the sales tax holidays, see www.tax.virginia.gov.

Father's Day Photo Gallery, and More

Father's Day is Sunday, June 19, and once again the Connection will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Send in photos in jpeg format as soon as possible, including the full names of all the people in the picture, hometowns, the approximate date and location the picture was taken, the ages of the children and sentence or two about the people and/or event.

PROMS AND ... While Connection photographers and writers will likely attend some proms as schedules permit, we also urge parents and students to document their proms (or alternative activities) and send in photos in jpeg format, and also including who, what, where, when and why.

We're also interested in other events at your school, church, synagogue or mosque, milestone events, etc.

Email photos to burke@connectionnewspapers.com.

Ideal Amtrak Location

To the Editor:

On Oct. 1, 2009, Amtrak's new Lynchburg Train to Boston began stopping weekdays at Burke Centre VRE Station, the first intercity train to stop in Burke in 42 years. On Jan. 18, 2010, Amtrak allowed daily service and online and phone reservations. Burke is now the fastest growing station (127 percent) in Virginia.

Ridership will increase in 2011 for five reasons. First, in May, VRE reduces the Step-Up Ticket from \$10 to \$5, encouraging VRE riders to use Amtrak for commuting and, later, for intercity trips beyond Washington, D.C., in the Northeast Corridor (NEC), with connections at three Washington, D.C., airports for travel worldwide.

Second, in June, Fairfax County should authorize the Virginia Department of Transportation to post Amtrak signs along area roads to advertise the existence of the county's only Amtrak station.

Third, in July, the state should authorize a Lynchburg Train Bus from Lynchburg to Roanoke (daily) and Blacksburg/VT, Friday through Sunday, allowing 550,000 persons their first direct access to the NEC in more than 30 years. Many riders will take day, weekend and longer trips to the county via an often more comfortable, less expensive, less stressful and more productive green transit option.

Fourth, the Lynchburg Train Bus will allow county college students to travel to and from Radford, VT, Roanoke College, and Hollins by train/bus and even leave their cars at home, saving car insurance and maintenance costs.

Fifth, in July, the Greater Manassas Area will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the 1st Battle of Manassas/Bull Run. Persons worldwide will prefer arriving by train at Burke, the second closest station (17 miles) from the battlefield, and avoiding the nation's second worst traffic.

Burke Centre's ample parking, excellent roads and central location make its location ideal as an Amtrak station that will take cars off area roads.

Dan Peacock, member Virginia Association of Railway Patrons

EDITORIALS

Helping the Environment Meeting offers solutions for community members to improve the environment.

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN COOK
R-BRADDOCK DISTRICT

My Community Engagement Initiative is premised on the idea that we as individuals, and, collectively, as a community have the power and opportunity to work to bring positive change to our lives and neighborhoods. We don't have to wait for someone else or government to decide to bring positive change and take the lead. We can do it together.

This same concept of community engagement can and should be applied to the physical world around us. In our daily lives, we often do not focus on personal habits or mindsets that may negatively impact the environment. Chlorinated water from our pools, pet waste, oil from our cars and salt from winter snow removal are often dumped into our storm

drains. "Supersized" impervious patios, pesticides, chemicals and fertilizers that can be overused on our lawns all negatively affect our streams. Even plastic bags from the supermarket and plastic water bottles that we carelessly toss aside, often make their way into our struggling waterways. If each of us takes several small personal steps to improve the environment, we can make a difference. We may also forestall the need for more excessive governmental regulation.

To share what some of those small steps can be, on Saturday, May 7, I brought together over 30 community leaders for an Environmental Leadership Institute. Participants heard from experts in the fields of recycling and litter control, storm water and erosion management, tree canopy improvement, yard maintenance and home efficiency. My expectation is that these participants will share this information and form

small outreach teams within their communities. Volunteer coaches from state, local and non-profit groups are available to them. This is the fourth in my series of ongoing community engagement initiatives and one that I hope will be a catalyst for positive change to improve the environment.

COMMENTARY

At this Leadership Institute, participants learned how to "cut it high and let it lie" (lawns), how to "let it rot" (composting), how to reduce the use of weed killers, fertilizers and other toxic products, how to be green gardeners, create backyard habitat and use a rain barrel or build a 'rain garden.' They also learned about simple ways to undertake a yard makeover to reduce the amount of property devoted to lawn; becoming an "aqua cop" to reduce runoff into our streams. They learned what native trees thrive in our area and how to plant and water them. They heard how to remove invasive species from our parks and become stream monitors, master gardeners or tree stewards. They also learned about the latest information on recycling and trash reduction. They learned ways to save water and energy at home and save money in the process.

All of us want our streams parks and lawns to be a healthy legacy for our children. Many of the practices that help to restore those streams also make our neighborhoods more inviting and livable. None of us needs to move to live in a better community. We have the power and opportunity to act today to bring our lifestyles into better balance with the natural world around us.

To get more information for your community on how to help the environment, please feel free to contact my office.

HOME SALES

In April 2011, 49 Burke homes sold between \$930,000-\$135,500. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$1,516,000-\$432,000 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
9814 PORTSIDE DR	4	3	1	BURKE	\$930,000	Detached	0.68	EDGEWATER		
9579 PINE MEADOWS LN	5	3	1	BURKE	\$710,000	Detached	0.20	THE PINES		
9024 PARLIAMENT DR	4	2	2	BURKE	\$620,000	Detached	0.21	SIGNAL HILL		
9452 LAPSTRAKE LN	5	3	1	BURKE	\$600,000	Detached	0.20	LONGWOOD KNOLLS		
9707 STIPP ST	4	2	1	BURKE	\$587,000	Detached	0.23	CHERRY RUN		
6314 FALLING BROOK DR	4	2	1	BURKE	\$580,000	Detached	0.43	SUMMERDAY		
5424 RILLAN CT	4	2	2	BURKE	\$575,000	Detached	0.20	MEADOWS OF NARNIA		
7007 VEERING LN	4	3	1	BURKE	\$571,005	Detached	0.19	LONGWOOD KNOLLS		
9220 BYRON TER	4	2	1	BURKE	\$550,000	Detached	0.26	SOUTHPORT		
9451 ONION PATCH DR	4	2	1	BURKE	\$549,900	Detached	0.19	LONGWOOD KNOLLS		
9319 WILLOW POND LN	4	3	1	BURKE	\$514,888	Detached	0.20	FOX LAIR		
9521 KIRKFIELD RD	3	2	1	BURKE	\$485,000	Detached	0.24	LAKE BRADDOCK		
9770 TURNBUCKLE DR	4	2	1	BURKE	\$478,888	Detached	0.21	CHERRY RUN		
5960 O'HARA LANDING CT	4	2	1	BURKE	\$475,000	Detached	0.22	BURKE CENTRE		
5726 OAK FERN CT	4	3	1	BURKE	\$439,000	Detached	0.16	BURKE CENTRE		
10504 ERIK CHARLES CT	3	2	2	BURKE	\$433,810	Townhouse	0.04	OAK LEATHER TOWNHOMES		
9017 HOME GUARD DR	4	3	0	BURKE	\$432,000	Detached	0.25	SIGNAL HILL		

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Fairfax Station

- 10116 Van Thompson Rd.....\$700,000.....Sun 1-4.....Scott Koval.....Samson..703-625-3446
- 10609 Timberidge Rd.....\$898,000.....Sun 1-4.....Deborah Gorham.....Long & Foster..703-581-9005
- 11115 Devereux Station Ln.....\$1,450,000.....Sun 1-4.....Denene Crabbs.....Century 21..202-487-4949
- 11305 Hunting Horse Dr.....\$879,000.....Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812
- 7150 Twelve Oaks Dr.....\$1,295,000.....Sun 1-4.....Ashley O'Brien.....RE/MAX..571-332-1816
- 7951 Kelly Ann Ct.....\$1,249,000.....Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812
- 8303 Pinyon Pine Ct.....\$825,000.....Sun 1-4.....Mary FitzHenry.....Long & Foster..703-503-1825
- 8512 Century Oak Ct.....\$799,000.....Sun 1-4.....Steve Townley.....Terry Seaman..703-799-3800

Lorton

- 10413 Midway La.....\$719,000.....Sun 1-4.....Dane Work.....RE/MAX..703-869-4567

Clifton

- 12213 Chapel Rd.....\$1,049,000.....Sun 1-4.....Ann Grainger.....Long & Foster..703-503-1870
- 13931 South Springs Dr.....\$649,000.....Sat 1-4.....Denene Crabbs.....Century 21..202-487-4949
- 13931 South Springs Dr.....\$649,000.....Sun 1-4.....Ed Duggan.....Century 21..703-989-7735
- 6127 Clifton Rd.....\$995,000.....Sun 1-4.....Beth Dail.....Premier Realty..703-283-7588

Burke

- 5608 De Soto St.....\$599,950.....Sun 1-4.....The Applegate Team.....Long & Foster..703-451-5818
- 6302 Spring Lake Dr.....\$724,900.....Sun 1-4.....Barbara Nowak.....Long & Foster..703-473-1803
- 9412 Windsor Way.....\$735,000.....Sun 2-5.....Susan Carter.....McEneaney Assoc..703-307-9955

Springfield

- 6824 Earthstar Ct.....\$419,900.....Sun 1-4.....Tracy Jones/Dee Dee Phillips.....Acquire..703-690-1174
- 8348 Wickham Rd.....\$399,000.....Sun 1-4.....Gerry Canfield.....Long & Foster..703-849-0068
- 9207 Northedge Dr.....\$624,950.....Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808

Fairfax

- 10831 Fieldwood Dr.....\$799,500.....Sun 1-4.....Margaret FitzHarris.....Weichert..703-447-1121
- 11036 Brookline Dr.....\$950,000.....Sun 1-4.....Robin McKibbin Waugh..TTR Sothebys Int'l 202-333-1212
- 12571 Cerromar Pl.....\$849,900.....Sun 1-4.....Debbie Kent.....Cottage St. Realty..703-740-7654
- 5844 Robeys Meadow Ln.....\$999,950.....Sun 12-4.....Lola LeCraw.....Weichert..703-354-7200
- 3320 Highland Ln.....\$675,000.....Sun 1-4.....Anne Harrington.....Long & Foster..703-938-4200
- 13155 Quail Creek Ln.....\$379,900.....Sun 1:30-4.....Olga Aste.....Century 21..703-624-4199
- 3423 Tilton Valley Dr.....\$1,495,000.....Sat 1-4.....Lilian Jorgenson.....Long & Foster 703-790-1990
- 3724 Farmland Dr.....\$339,900.....Sun 1-4.....Lisa DeCarlo.....Coldwell Banker..703-620-0888

Annandale

- 3386 Monarch La.....\$625,000.....Sun 1-4.....Eve Shapiro.....Keller Williams..703-517-7511
- 3511 Woodburn Rd.....\$549,900.....Sun 1-4.....Sharon Schoenfeld.....Weichert..703-517-6677
- 4036 Justine Dr.....\$479,000.....Sun 1-4.....Marge Lee.....Long & Foster..703-690-9015
- 7821 Ridgewood Dr.....\$1,099,900.....Sun 12-4.....Ben Wright.....Gerlach..301-332-1213

Centreville

- 5142E Brittney Elyse Cir #E.....\$224,900.....Sun 1-4.....Carol Mayer.....Avery-Hess..703-850-9345

Chantilly

- 13640 Birch Dr.....\$949,900.....Sun 1-3.....Amir Khan.....Fairfax Realty, Inc..703-533-8660
- 14607 Boac Cir.....\$99,990.....Sat 12:30-4:30.....Myra Hiser.....Long & Foster..571-426-4391
- 25661 Tremaine Terrace.....\$490,000.....Sun 1-4.....Diana LeFrancois.....Century 21..703-930-6682
- 25670 Cabin Point Ct.....\$735,000.....Sun 1-4.....Donny Samson.....Samson Properties..703-864-4894
- 14742 National Dr.....\$44,900.....Sun 1-4.....Chateau Gardecki.....Long & Foster..703-961-7188

Fredericksburg

- 4040 Governor Almond Rd ..\$1,399,999.....Sun 1-4.....Lisa Clayborne.....Long & Foster..703-502-8145

Oak Hill

- 3201 Navy Dr.....\$895,000.....Sun 1-4.....Kim McClary.....Long & Foster..703-929-8425

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Steve Hogan at 703-778-9418 or e-mail the info to shogan@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

**Guinea Road (Route 651)
over Long Branch
Emergency Culvert Replacement
Fairfax County
Public Information Meeting**

Tuesday, May 31, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.
Braddock Hall
9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA 22015

Find out about plans to replace the deteriorated culvert at Guinea Road (Route 651) over Long Branch in Fairfax County. VDOT staff will be on hand to answer questions about the project, traffic impacts and construction schedule. Please note other than a brief nighttime closure, it is expected that two lanes of traffic on Guinea Road will be maintained during the project.

Review project information at www.virginiadot.org, at the information meeting, or at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax, 22030. Please call ahead at 800-FOR-ROAD (800-367-7623) or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights Division at the above phone numbers.

State Project: 0651-029-899
Federal Project: RSTP-5A01 UPC: 97219

FAITH

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

Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road in Fairfax, is having an old-fashioned free Memorial Sunday picnic on May 29, after the 11 a.m. service, with hot dogs, salad, and apple pie. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

A new Women's Bible study, "Discovering Who We Are in Christ - Part III," will be at Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road in Fairfax, 9:45 a.m. Tuesdays through May 31. \$15. Child care available. Register at 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive in Clifton, offers three levels of ESL Classes every Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. Cost for semester is \$35, including student book. To register, come to the next class. www.lordoflifelutheran.com or 703-323-9500.

Interested in the Catholic Faith? Classes will be held at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church in the Guadalupe Room in the Parish Center, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Contact Carolyn Smith at carolynsmith.stleos@gmail.com or 703-273-5369.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton, offers services on Saturdays at 4:30 p.m., in addition to Sunday services at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15

a.m. www.uucf.org.

The Parkwood Baptist Church, 8726 Braddock Road in Annandale, Bible Study Fellowship will study of the Old Testament Book of Isaiah. The Day Women's Class meets at 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays, and offers a children's program for ages 6 weeks-6 years. rdmarotto@cox.net.

Congregation Adat Reyim, an independent Jewish congregation, offers services Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday at 7:40 p.m. Hebrew School is Sundays at 9:30 and Mondays at 5:30 p.m. Hebrew High is Sunday at 5:30 p.m. Preschool is Monday-Friday at 9:30 a.m. Adat Reyim is located at 6500 Westbury Oaks Court in Springfield. For more information, contact us at 703-569-7577 or visit www.adatreyim.org.

Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive in Burke, worship services are Saturday Coffeehouse at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. www.BurkePresChurch.org.

One God Ministry Church, 4280/4282 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, now has a Web site with news, events, training, conferences, fellowship programs and more. Sunday School is at 10 a.m., Sunday Worship Service at 11 a.m., and Wednesday Prayer Service at 7 p.m. Women, Men, and Youth Bible Studies are on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. A Spiritual Gifts Service is the first Friday of every month at 7 p.m. One God Ministry has ministries for youth, men, women, couples, music and singles. 703-591-6161 or www.onegodministry.org.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church presents Financial Peace University, a video-based small group study that teaches families how to beat debt, build wealth and better manage their finances. Contact Arlene K. Darke at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. 703-323-9500 or adarke@lordoflifelutheran.com.

The Fresh Fire congregation meets every Sunday for a service at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Sackey and his congregation invite all to participate in preaching and teaching, praising and worshipping, in a Christ-centered ministry. Fresh Fire International Center meets at the Chinese Martial Arts Building, 8426-B Lee Highway, Fairfax, opposite the BMW Fairfax; entrance is in the back. 703-815-8950.

Faith Communities in Action meets the first Wednesday of every other month from 2-4 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Rooms 2 and 3, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

The Baha'i of Fairfax County Southwest offers "Interfaith Devotions: World Peace and Unity" for the general public on Saturdays. These free devotional gatherings meet at the Pohick Regional Library, Room #1, located at 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke, 22015.

The Immanuel Bible Church MOPS group meets every Monday 7 to 9 p.m., at Immanuel Bible Church, 6911 Braddock Road, Springfield. MOPS is a group for pregnant or parenting mothers of children from infancy to kindergarten. 703-922-4295 or www.MOPS.org.

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP



5690 Oak Leather Drive
Burke, VA 22015
703-764-0456
www.BurkePresChurch.org

Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 11:15 am
9:45 am Sunday School
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703-569-9862



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703-455-7041
Sunday School 9:15 AM
Worship Service 10:30 AM

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Sunday School 10:10 AM
Sunday Evening - Realtime Service & Youth 6 PM
Family Night - Wednesday 7:15 PM
Call for Sunday Evening Worship Home Group Schedule
visit our website: www.jccag.org

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Baha'is of Fairfax
County Southwest 703-912-1719

Baptist
Preservation
of Zion Fellowship
703-409-1015

Catholic
Church of the Nativity
703-455-2400

Christian Reformed
Grace Christian Reformed Church
703-323-8033

Episcopal
Church of the Good Shepherd
703-323-5400

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
703-455-2500

Lutheran
Abiding Presence Lutheran Church
703-455-7500

Methodist
Burke United Methodist Church
703-250-6100

St. Stephen's United Methodist Church
703-978-8724

Non-Denominational
Burke Community Church
703-425-0205

Calvary Christian Church 703-455-7041

Knollwood Community Church
703-425-2068

Presbyterian
Burke Presbyterian Church
703-764-0456

Sansaug Korean Presbyterian
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703-503-4579

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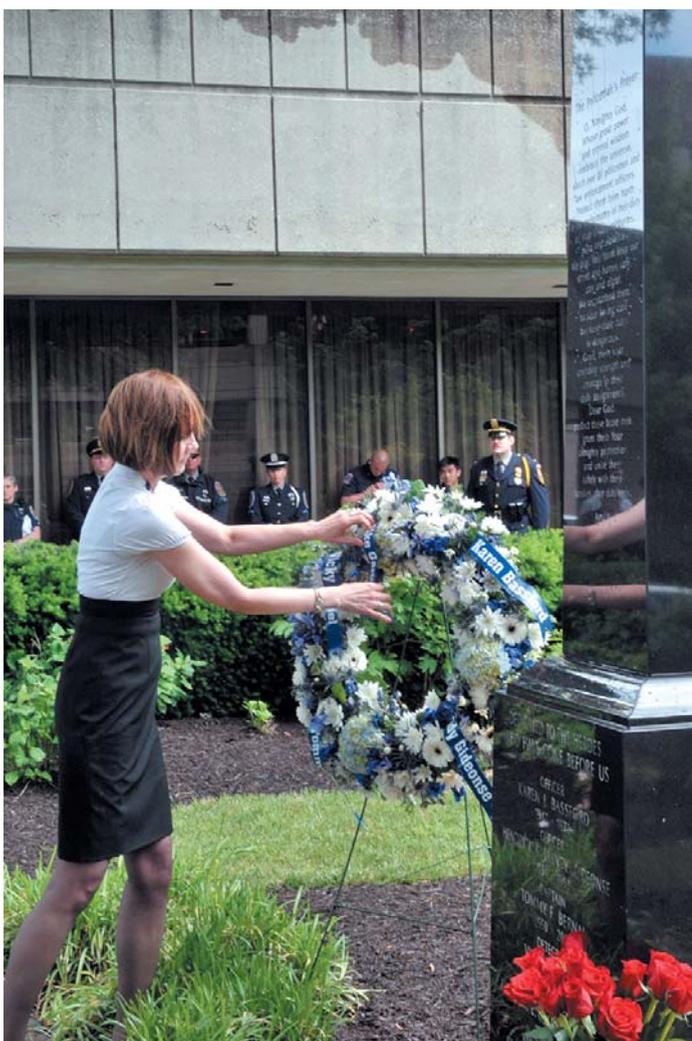


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

Remembering Fallen Friends

Police Department lays wreath, flowers at memorial to honor six officers killed in the line of duty.

Between the raindrops on Tuesday, May 17, members of the Fairfax County Police Department honored their fallen comrades at memorial service at the Public Safety Rose Garden. The garden is located behind Massey Building at 4100 Chain Bridge Road in Fairfax.

Fairfax County officials honored the memory of six officers who had lost their lives in the line of duty. Second Lt. Frank Stecco died during an Oct. 25, 2008, rescue training exercise in the waters of Pohick Bay. Det. Vicky Armel and MPO Michael Garbarino were killed on May 8, 2006, when a gunman opened fire at the Sully District Station. Capt. Tommy Bernal was riding his motorcycle during a training exercise when a vehicle struck and killed him on June 28, 2001. While responding to a burglary call on July 27, 1977, Officer Karen Bassford was killed in an automobile crash. Special Officer Hendrick "Sandy" Gideonse killed in a Dec. 3, 1998 crash while working.

Sue Garbarino, the wife of MPO Michael Garbarino, pays tribute to her husband during Tuesday's ceremony.

Agency Chooses Top Foster Parents

FROM PAGE 3

been providing a safe haven for troubled teens for more than five years. Her peers named her AFGC's Foster Parent of the Year.

The single parent, who also cares for a biological daughter with medical problems, said she became a foster parent because she wanted to make a difference.

"I wanted to save somebody," she said. "I became the mom they could count on. The gift they give back to me is that they will call me and keep in touch. We're not here just to take care of ourselves. We're here to help others."

"Artilia manages to teach them to be kids, because she provides a safe and consistent environment. Our goal is that nobody leaves foster care without a connection to someone, and she provides such a strong, loving connection," Werth said.

Linda Postell-Houchens of Burke, who has fostered teens for the past eight years with her husband Robert, said that it's easy to understand why other foster parents selected Harris.

"Artilia goes above and beyond what most foster parents do. Her kids will come back to her, and she will be there for them. She will go visit them, and she has a huge heart," Postell-Houchens said.

Postell-Houchens, who has three biologi-

cal children, said she and her husband find foster parenting rewarding.

"I grew up poor and strong-willed, but my mom was very good-hearted and I think she helped me become a tender person," said Postell-Houchens. "I see this survival instinct in these kids, and I try to give them the message that no matter what happens, you still have you."

"I grew up poor and strong-willed. ... I see this survival instinct in these kids, and I try to give them the message that no matter what happens, you still have you."

— Linda Postell-Houchens, a Burke foster mom

"These kids have been traumatized for so many years, so when they come to us they bring a lot of baggage. I try to figure out their personality and come to that level. I wait them out and try not to make them feel threatened, and then they generally come to me. I try to find out what they are good at, whether it's athletics or music, and then support them in something positive," Postell-Houchens said.

According to the AFGC, about 7,300 youths live in foster care in Virginia, including about 450 in Fairfax County and about 200 in Alexandria.

Research shows that teens are more likely

to end up homeless and unemployed when they don't have access to therapeutic foster care (TFC). A blending of psychology and social work, TFC parents are trained and supported to address the specific needs of children in their care.

Jackson-El said becoming a therapeutic foster mom through AFGC helped her heal, and gave her a sense of self she lost as a foster child. She said having her own daughter when she was a teen impelled her to be a better person.

"I didn't know much then, but I did know that I did not want my daughter to feel like I did. Little by little, I became a productive person."

Her testimony before Congressional panel on May 3, presented by the national Foster Family-based Treatment Association, was powerful, according to Werth.

"We didn't ask to be born into these abusive circumstances," Jackson-El said before the panel. "I can only tell you that these girls need the same things I did — someone who will care about their past trauma, an environment that will deal in healthy ways with their acting out or their denial of their hurts, a system that provides and provokes addressing therapeutic issues, past trauma and future hope and possibilities. I believe this is the essence of TFC. I only wish all foster youth could access this level of care." For more information about AFGC and its programs, go to www.afgcinc.com.

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 3 RE for Rent 3 RE for Rent

LEGAL NOTICE
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Fairfax/Greenbriar Comm Yard Sale. Sat 5/21, 8-2. Rt 50, 1/4 mi W. of Fx Co Pky. R/D 5/22

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Sat/Sun 5/21-22, 8am-4pm. 6225 Belleair Rd. Burke 22015
Kings Park West (1800 homes) comm-wide yard sale, Sat/Sun, 5/21 & 5/22, 8-12 Rain/Shine.

21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

Yard Sale - Sat. May 21st
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June 29	LOCATION:	
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Fairfax
\$549,900
 Crown Jewel Home! Robinson HS. "Like Brand New" 5BR, 3BA Sunroom-Garage. Dazzles on each level. Total new kitchen-cabinets-granite counters-porcelain floor-stainless appl. Hardwd flrs on ML-UL. Redone baths-windows-siding-furnace-CAC-much more. Large private fenced lot. No HOA. Country Club View Subd.
Carol Nibbelin 703-591-6533



Mason Neck
\$770,000
 NDI to-be-built waterfront home in Mason Neck Marina Community. 4 BR, 3.5 BA on .61 acre with many upgrades. 2-car garage, Master Suite w/vaulted ceiling, 2nd floor laundry, family room w/FP, formal dining, large kitchen w/breakfast room. Utility lines in place.
Ngoc Do & Associates 703-798-2899



Vienna
\$435,000
 2 level 3BR, 2.5 BA Lexington model condo w/new GE appl. & Corian counters in kitchen. HW floors on main level. Gas FP in LR. Granite counter in bathrooms. Open floor plan & 2 garage UG garage spaces. Located across from Dunn Loring Metro!
Barbara Nowak 703-473-1803
Gerry Staudte 703-309-8948



Lorton
\$415,000
 Beautiful 2-car garage townhome conveniently located in the South County school district. Main level features formal living & dining rms, hardwood floors, bright kitchen w/huge island opens to family room & deck. Upper level has large master BR w/luxury BA, 2 additional BRs, hallway bath & separate laundry rm. Finished basement w/recreation room, fireplace walks out patio & fenced in yard.
Ngoc Do & Associates 703-798-2899



Haymarket/Piedmont
\$539,000
 A Perfect 10! Shows like a model home. Wonderful Colonial on cul de sac lot with all the Piedmont amenities. Two story foyer. Main level library. Huge kitchen with morning room. Large open fully finished basement with full bath and storage area. Enormous master suite with 2 walk in closets and vaulted ceiling. Upper level laundry room with top of the line washer/dryer and cabinets. Fully fenced rear yard. 3 minutes to I66.
John Boyce 703-425-5646



Woodbridge
\$350,000
 Charming Colonial featuring 4 BR, 2 full/2 half BA backing to woods in Winding Creek Estates. Gleaming hardwood floors throughout main level; spacious kitchen w/breakfast area, family room w/wood-burning fireplace, formal living & dining rooms & deck. Large master suite with full bath overlooking mature landscape. Lower level boasts recreation room, media room, 4th bedroom/office.
Ngoc Do & Associates 703-798-2899



Springfield
\$559,000
 Lovely Updated top to bottom 5BR,3BA great for family. Many upgrades, HWD on main level, renovated lg kit w/Granite counters, updated BAs, Great bsmt/in-law suite. Deck, brick fireplace in family room, Formal living/dining rooms, Huge backyard w/outdoor pool, New (Garage Doors, Siding, Windows, Roof, Bathrooms, Harwood Floors, Paint) Must see! You will not be disappointed!!
Tai Ahmadi 703-655-6472



Fairfax
\$549,999
 Middleridge. Spacious Colonial on landscaped 1/3 acre corner lot. 2-car side-load garage. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Updated + neutral décor. Large rooms.
Eric Reinhart 703-851-4147



Dunn Loring
\$699,000
 This remarkable home is perched on a hill with quiet dignity. From the original Virginia Oak Floors to the seamless addition, this home combines historical charm w/ modern convenience. A rare opportunity in Dunn Loring.
Barbara Nowak 703-473-1803
Gerry Staudte 703-309-8948

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OPEN SUNDAY
Fairfax Station
\$1,249,000
NEW PRICE!
Gorgeous (Inside & Out!) Brick colonial sited on 5 wooded acres on private cul-de-sac! Must See
Features: Stunning open stairway in 2-story grand foyer, true gourmet kit, library, sunroom, HUGE "bumped-out" family rm, living rm & formal dining rm. Includes 3 fireplaces, spacious wrap-around deck, fully finished wlk-out Bsmt with 5th BR & full BA, & 4 car garage! Easy access to all amenities.



OPEN SUNDAY
Fairfax Station
\$879,000
Lovely 4 BR, 2.5 BA spacious all brick home nestled on one of the prettiest 5.6 acres settings with majestic trees & gorgeous landscaping - idyllic HORSE PROPERTY. Six Stall Barn, shed, horse trails throughout the community! Home offers gleaming hardwoods on main level, abundance of windows, 2 fireplaces, light bright 4 seasons room, library with built ins. Wonderful indoor/outdoor setting!



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Fairfax Station
\$759,900
4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths. All new kitchen, updated baths, new deck, new carpet, refinished hardwood floors. 9 ft ceilings in living room & library. 2 story foyer. Huge rec room/den, full bath & 2 storage rooms on lower level. It's like a brand new home!!



Laurel Hill
\$819,000
4BR/4.5BA/Over 5500 SQ FT - from the Grand Master Suite complete with fireplace & sitting room w/ vaulted ceiling... to the fit-for-a-chef Epicurean Kitchen with all the bells & whistles - this home is a Perfect 10! Premium upgrades, oversized room sizes & custom finishes to include a top-of-the-line wet bar in the finished basement!



JUDY SEMLER

703-503-1885

judys@longandfooster.com
www.JudysHomeTeam.com



Fairfax Station \$875,000

Custom home on serene 5 acre wooded lot * Walk to Burke Lake * Impeccable architectural details throughout * Fabulous 2009 gourmet eat-in kitchen * Wood floors * 3 full & 2 half baths * 3 fireplaces * Master w/fireplace & dressing room * Family room w/wet bar * Library w/fireplace * Living room w/fireplace & view of the natural surroundings * Large patio
Visit www.KilkennyLane.com



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SHEILA GREGORY

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sheila.gregory@longandfooster.com



Rappahannock River
Water Views!
\$169,900

Your private beach awaits you! Nice 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick rambler with screened porch, gas fireplace, fully furnished with shed on nearly 1 acre. The perfect vacation or retirement spot, just steps away to deeded access waterfront property and sandy beach. 2 Hrs from DC in Lancaster, VA / Northern Neck. Call for more details (703) 503-1478

Spring is in the air, so get ready to make your move. For great service AND home staging assistance, call now!

SHEILA GREGORY, Realtor
703-503-1858
sheila.gregory@longandfooster.com



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Fairfax Station/ SOUTH RUN Oaks
JUST SOLD!
Updated kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances! New Thermal windows! Updated HVAC system & water heater! Hardwood floors, neutral carpet & paint!
Visit 8031OakHollowLane.com for a virtual tour of this fine home.



Lorton/LAUREL HIGHLANDS COMING SOON!
Detached home at a townhome price! 3BR, 3.5BA colonial with 2 car detached garage! Family room off the eat-in kitchen! Formal LR & DR, 9' ceilings! Finished basement with 4th BR/den, huge rec room and storage room! Walk to South County H.S. Call **703-690-1795**.



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Tysons Corner
\$344,700
Fabulous Tysons Corner location. 2BR, 2BA unit in The Rotonda. Renovated kitchen. Fresh paint and carpet. Community includes indoor and outdoor pools among many other amenities.
Call Courtney **703-503-1835**



Springfield \$279,750
ALL BRICK!
RENOVATED 3 LEVEL END UNIT TH CLOSE TO SPRINGFIELD VRE COMMUTER RAIL STATION! 3 BR, 2.5 BA. Fireplace in Rec Rm. Patio overlooking private common grounds. Many NEW Upgrades: Deluxe double-pane windows, insulated front door, vinyl clad aluminum trim, w/w carpet, paint, Fios, and MORE! CALL STEVE NOW FOR APPT. **703-981-3277**



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Fairfax City
\$839,900
COMING SOON!
Farrcroft - Gorgeous 4BR/4.5BA courtyard home with award winning design, 2 story family room, gas fireplace, 3 finished levels, 3500 SF, private patio with fountain, 2 car garage, close to shops, library, pool & metrobus.



BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME!
Fairfax Station \$769,000
Across the street from Burke Lake! New home to be built! On 3/4 acre lot-4 bedroom, 3.5 bath, eat-in kitchen next to family room, master suite, basement, 2 car garage OR have a first floor master, 3 car garage, etc. You design your own house! Call to meet with the builder today!



Barbara Nowak & Gerry Staudte

"My Virginia Home Team"
703-473-1803, 703-309-8948
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OPEN SUN 1-4
Burke
Stunning Jewel
\$735,000
Beautiful 4 BD, 4.5 BA, 3 Lvl, Single Family Home in great location. Many custom features include 2 MBR, hardwood fl, 9' ceiling, gourmet kitchen, granite countertops, gas heating, hot water & FP, plus much more. Convenient to VRE, transportation, schools, and shopping.



Fairfax/Midleridge
\$569,000
This Midleridge colonial is a beautiful on the inside as it is on the outside! 5 large bedrooms, 3.5 baths, hardwood floors, updated kitchen and baths, brick walk-way and patio, wood stove, vinyl windows and siding ... and a completely finished lower-level. Cul-de-sac location and backs to parkland. You'll love it! Call Catie, Steve & Assoc. today!

703-425-8000