

Fairfax Station ❖ Clifton ❖ Lorton
CONNECTION

inside



**Robinson senior
midfielder Katie Rowson
fields a groundball
during Tuesday's game
against Yorktown.**

Something To Prove

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Rain, Rain, Don't Go Away ...

Lorton community creates rain garden with county grant.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Rain is usually considered the gate crusher at an outdoor event for 30-plus guests. But a drizzly, misty rain was perfect weather for a group of Lorton neighbors, as they dug into the soil to plant nearly 300 bushes, shrubs, grasses, trees and several boulders as part of a demonstration rain garden on Saturday, May 14.

"Well, I guess this was a great way to test it out," said Patty Stratton, a member of the Laurel Hill Grounds and Beautification Committee (LHGBC). "We had so many people show up to volunteer today, little kids, older folks. They just grabbed their rain hats and boots, and started working."

She said the group worked steadily for three hours. "It went much faster than we thought, but we're thrilled with the result."

Built in 2005, the Laurel Hill community, with 50 acres of common area, and 730 homes, is one of Fairfax County's relatively new suburbs, a place where one expects to see tidy homes and perfectly-manicured, green lawns.

But those lawns come at a steep environmental price, and members of the LHGBC said they have learned that natural landscaping techniques are more sustainable and reduce maintenance costs.

Armed with an environmental conscience and, with the help of master gardener Diane Hampel, chair of the LHGBC, members were awarded a \$5,000 Fairfax County Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program (NEPP) grant in 2010.

"We realized that it would cost our neighborhood \$1.5 million in the next decade if we continued with traditional landscaping techniques," Hampel said, "which includes frequent fertilizing and mowing. We're trying to educate ourselves and the community about sustainable landscaping."

The rain garden, which now covers a bare grassy patch in front of the Laurel Hill Community Clubhouse, is the first project of the community's 10-year master landscaping plan that improves the aesthetics while reducing the cost of high-maintenance landscaping.

"We have a large storm water drain which is very visible in front of our community club house and not very attractive," Stratton said. "The purpose of a rain garden is to

filter the water that goes into these storm drains, lessening the pollutants that will reach local streams and rivers, and eventually the Chesapeake Bay."

Hampel said she spent hours online trying to find the right landscaper for the project. "I kept hearing

"The goal of a rain garden is to slow the water back down and let it infiltrate the soil naturally."

— landscaper Dennis Skaggs

SEE NEIGHBORS, PAGE 7



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Patty Stratton, left, a member of the Laurel Hill Grounds and Beautification Committee, landscaper Dennis Skaggs and Diane Hampel, chair of the LHGBC, celebrate the day's accomplishment in creating the community's first rain garden.

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



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

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.

SEE AGENCY, PAGE 16

Relay Raising Funds for Cancer Research

Charity event comes to Centreville High.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

If Jackie Katounas isn't able to walk in the upcoming Relay for Life, June 4, at Centreville High School, it's because she'll have just become a new mother. But if her husband hadn't been successfully treated for cancer, he wouldn't be around to share in the joy.

On Christmas Eve 2008, at age 31, Mike Katounas of Centre Ridge was diagnosed with stage 3C testicular cancer. He spent all of 2009 receiving treatment in Indianapolis from cyclist Lance Armstrong's doctor and, since 2010, has been cancer-free.

Relay for Life raises money for the American Cancer Society so, after Mike's ordeal, the Centreville couple wanted to give back. "We had so much support through 2009 from family, friends and neighbors that joining the Relay for Life last year was a natural fit," said Jackie. "I saw an announcement about it in the paper and signed up."

They started a team comprised mainly of family members and close friends and called it, "Sometimes You Feel like a Nut." Both Jackie and Mike participated and, unless their baby comes early, they'll walk this year,



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Some of the Relay for Life participants are, standing, from left, Marion Rantis, Kathleen Hagan, Tiffany Miller, Heidi Stafford and Lisa Desman and, seated, from left, Hannah Holman and Delaney Desman.

too. "We have 13 members now and had such fun doing it last year," said Jackie. "I especially liked watching my husband hoot, holler and cheer, celebrating while doing

the survivors' lap around the track. It's just a lap, but it's a success story."

Last year's Relay had a superhero theme, so Mike wore a superhero costume. But all those who'd helped him were also heroes

More

- ❖ To donate, join a team or purchase a memorial luminaria, go to www.CentrevilleRelay.org.
- ❖ To attend the survivors' reception, e-mail suzyqholman@yahoo.com.
- ❖ For more information, e-mail CentrevilleRelay@gmail.com.
- ❖ Photos for the slideshow of cancer victims and survivors may be sent to ldesman@gmail.com.

in Jackie's eyes. "Everyone that supported us, that whole year, was all in one spot," she said. "And seeing them cheer him on was very cool. That's why we love being involved and doing whatever we can."

"Some events are meaningful, but don't dig deep," said Jackie. "But Relay for Life gets to us and makes us want to continue to support and fight for those still battling. Giving your time and making the effort really means a lot. Without this funding, we wouldn't have had a cure and Mike wouldn't be here."

This year's Relay is the 26th annual and will be the fifth time Centreville High has

SEE FUNDING, PAGE 5

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. Accom-

panied 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, who works closely with First Lady Michelle Obama and the Let's Move healthy eating initiative in schools. "We need to start teach-

"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.

ing 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.

"This gives a whole new meaning to the term 'running for office,'" laughed Bulova following the race. "I wish everyone could experience this because there is nothing more inspiring than seeing what these young girls have accomplished out here today."

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

Funding Cancer Research

FROM PAGE 4

hosted. Rain or shine, it'll begin at 2:30 p.m. with a reception in the cafeteria for cancer survivors. Olive Garden and Bonefish Grill are providing lunch and there'll be live music, plus gifts donated by the teams and local merchants. As the guest speaker, survivor Lisa VanLahr of Centreville will share her own story. To attend, survivors should e-mail suzyqholman@yahoo.com.

Opening ceremony is at 4 p.m. on the Wildcat football field. The Chantilly Academy junior AFROTC Color Guard will present the colors, and Centreville High's Symphonic Choir will sing the National Anthem. Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully) will speak, and local caregiver Ricardo Aguilera will share his personal experience.

Passion4Community/New Life Christian Church is sponsoring the children's area, open from 4:30-8:30p.m. The fun includes face-painting, water tattoos and moonbounces; games such as water-balloon toss, a hula-hoop contest, life-sized tic-tac-toe and tug-of-war; plus coloring and bead-making. There'll also be free popcorn and Sno Cones, and children may play there without their parents being on a team.

"There's a suggested donation of \$5 for unlimited games and snacks, with the proceeds going to Relay for Life," said Mike Fewster, New Life's Chantilly campus pas-

tor. "We'll also show family-friendly movies from midnight-5 a.m. to help the walkers stay awake. And we're donating 1,000 bottles of water to the event."

Survivors, those in remission and those still fighting, will walk the first lap.

Caregivers and those they cared for walk the next lap. Then teams start walking, with as many members walking at a time as they want. The only rule is that someone from each team is walking at all times. And community members are encouraged to gather 'round the track and cheer them on.

The relay aspect is that team members take turns walking, walking as long and as far as they want. Then they can relax and socialize with the others at the campsite. The relay runs until the next morning at 6 a.m., but not everyone has to spend the night.

Entertaining throughout the event will be the Flock of Eagles band, New Life's J10 band and deejay Jarrod Wronski. There'll also be team contests such as tent decorating and a "Mr. Relay" competition, plus additional games.

So far, 28 teams, mostly from Centreville, Chantilly and Clifton, have signed up for the relay, but Co-Chairs Marion Rantis of Little Rocky Run and Lisa Desman of Clifton expect more than 30 - totaling some 650 people. Each person contributes \$100, so the event could potentially raise \$65,000.

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NEWS

Schools Garner Cappie Nods

South County Secondary snares seven nominations.

The results are in, and South County Secondary has received seven Cappie nominations for its musical, "Disney's Beauty and the Beast." They are as follows: supporting actor in a musical, Brennan Bridger; male dancer, Nikko Custodio; female dancer, Angie Vergel de Dios; featured actor, Michael Lichstrahl; ensemble in a musical, "Be our Guest" ensemble; stage crew, Katie Nguyen, Katie Yoon and Josh Carey; and costumes, Mariah Kahn and Noelle Greata.

Lake Braddock Secondary has received five Cappie nominations for its play "Dracula." They are as follows: lead actress in a play, Ilana Naidamast; comic actor in a play, C.J. Tragakis; ensemble in a play, Brides of Dracula; lighting, Courtney Bradshaw; and sound, Roya Sodeifi.

Hannah Sikora was nominated for comic actress in a play for Robinson Secondary's "Summer Brave," and Emily Adler was honored with a nod for comic actress in a musical in Woodson High's "Little Women."

The winners will be revealed Sunday, June 12, during the 12th annual Cappies Gala at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

BULLETIN BOARD

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.

THURSDAY/MAY 19

Age 50 or Better Spring Lunch N' Life. 12 p.m. St. Mary of Sorrows Church, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke. A history lesson from "Martha Washington" as portrayed by Bonnie Fairbank. \$8. Reserve at 703-273-5730. www.fairfax-burkesc.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 21

Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Information Session. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Fairfax City Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Learn about advocating for abused or neglected children. 703-273-3526 ext. 22 or ekosarin@casafairfax.org.

MONDAY/MAY 23

Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls General Meeting. 1 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Election and development of plans

for the next two years. Open to the public. fairfaxstories.community.officelive.com

National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Celebrating the service provided every day, often under challenging circumstances, and showing how EMS providers are dedicated to saving lives and limiting suffering. Partnering with the Park Authority, EMS providers will be available with displays, educational materials, blood pressure screenings, and apparatus displays. 703-877-3702 or fire-rescue.PA-LSE@fairfaxcounty.gov. South Run Recreation Center, 7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield.



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Neighbors Build Rain Garden

FROM PAGE 3

that Dennis Skaggs was the man for rain gardens, so that's who we hired."

Dennis Skaggs, an "eco-friendly" landscaper, and the owner of Severn Grove Ecological Design & Landscaping in Easton, Md., agreed to help the group design their rain garden.

"Rain gardens are all the rage," Skaggs said. "Without the rain garden, rainwater would shoot across the grass like a fire hydrant right into the drain pipe, which doesn't allow the water to filter and carries pollutants from the ground. The goal of a rain garden is to slow the water back down and let it infiltrate the soil naturally," he said.

RAIN GARDENS, he said, are typically planted in a depression in the ground with plants that are moisture-tolerant. "Eventually the grasses will completely block the storm water drain," Skaggs said.

"We have hundreds of these storm water drains in our community," Stratton said. "The reason we are calling it a demonstration rain garden is that we hope to show home owners what they can do in their own

yards, to not only improve the aesthetics of their yard and eventually hide the drain, but also to help the environment."

One of the stipulations of the grant is that the community matches the award funds in in-kind donations and volunteer hours.

"We definitely exceeded that in volunteer hours and donations of food and water from our community," Stratton said. "The sense of community involvement was fantastic. It made us very happy."

Nitan Patel, who was one of the first to move into the neighborhood, pitched in Saturday to help establish the rain garden.

"I love this. We're a culturally diverse community, so this has been a great way to meet our neighbors, have fun and help the environment," Patel said.

Petra Sharrett, a member of the LHGBC, said she was pleased with the turnout and the end result. "I think it's a beautiful garden."

"Ultimately, we would like the new rain garden to be an encouragement for other communities who may be considering adopting the same practices that we are. We've had some very positive feedback about the rain garden," Stratton said.



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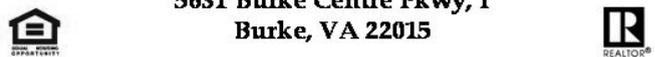
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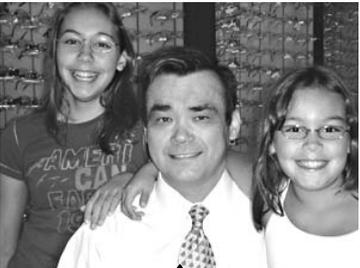
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OPINION

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.

EDITORIALS

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.

Going to a New School

To the Editor:

As parents of a rising fourth grader and kindergartner in the Clifton Elementary school district, we decided to drive over to their new "community" elementary school at Oak View in Fairfax. After crossing two major highways — Routes 7100 and 123, and two towns over, we noticed that we were passing Fairview Elementary School.

We thought, "Why are our children not going to school there?" It's not as close to our home as Clifton Elementary, but still fairly close. Oh, that's right — overcrowding. We noticed that right up the road from Fairview is Terra Centre Elementary, still much further than Clifton Elementary, but still a reasonable drive. Why are our children not attending Terra Centre? Oh, maybe they are overcrowded, too. Then we looked at the map and noticed that Bonnie Brae Elementary is also closer to our home in Clifton and wondered why our children are not going to go to that school.

Finally, after 20 minutes on a Sunday afternoon, crossing two major highways, three towns over, passing three other elementary schools and nearly to George Mason University, we arrived at Oak View. It looked like a very nice school, but not in our neighborhood and seemingly an odd location to send students from Clifton since we already have a perfectly good, award winning school.

Our rising fourth grader said, "I want to go to Clifton Elementary."

Why did our School Board close Clifton anyway? Oh, that's right, the water is bad. Wait a minute, the water tests came back, and the

water is fine. Oh, I remember, the enrollment is dropping. But wait, three Zip codes feed into Clifton Elementary and they based their projections on only one Zip code. Now I remember the real reason: the cost per student to renovate was too high. No, that can't be it. Their future enrollment projections were underestimated. Maybe the cost to renovate was too high because they wouldn't have enough money for the \$115 million admin building that they voted for themselves. No, the county disapproved that frivolous spending request. OK, it must have something to do with the overcrowding problem in elementary schools in Southwestern Fairfax County. Surely that was the reason that we closed Clifton. Huh? What am I saying? Surely, we just didn't close an award winning school in a perfect location where children just love to go to school every day because we already didn't have enough schools?

Whether it is because of incompetence, lack of good judgment or something else, this decision will obviously go down as one of the worst decisions in the history of the school district. An ethical School Board would go back to the drawing board on the Clifton situation. How many students would not have to be displaced if Clifton were left open? Now we have a 40 square mile area in Fairfax County, which has no school. Hopefully, the voters will remember this blatantly horrible decision when they go to the voting booth next year so we avoid further damage to the school district.

Chris Palmer
Clifton

Busy Year For Schools

To the Editor:

Three issues affecting the way we operate our schools emerged this year in the General Assembly. All of them have stirred more than the usual amount of controversy and debate among teachers, administrators, students, and parents. They are, mandatory Advanced Placement (AP) testing fees, a requirement for 150 hours per week (30 minutes per day) of physical education for elementary school students and mandatory parental notification by schools regarding certain disciplinary issues related to their children's behavior. Let's take them one at a time.

In the fall of 2010, I asked the Attorney General's office to render an opinion as to the constitutionality of Fairfax County Schools charging \$75 dollars for the cost of testing for each AP course a student takes. One of my constituents was required to pay \$600 for the costs of these tests for three of her children. Besides the benefit of a more rigorous curriculum, which has intrinsic value, these AP courses assist students in the competition for coveted college admission slots. The problem is that some of these tests were conducted, or the results reported, after college admissions were already determined and students therefore received no benefit from taking these tests. Often, students paid for tests they did not bother to take. The Attorney General determined that these mandatory fees were unconstitutional under Virginia law. To my knowledge, Fairfax County Schools are not challenging the opinion and in fact is rebating over \$2 million in fees.

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
south@connectionnewspapers.com.

I hate to be the cause of lost revenue for an already financially strapped school system, but we must abide by our State Constitution.

A second controversial issue arose from the passage of Senate Bill 966 introduced by Sen. Ralph Northam (D-6), which would mandate 150 minutes per week (30 minutes per day) of physical education for elementary students by the 2014-15 school term. Sen. Northam is a pediatric neurologist who has concerns over the growing number of young people he treats who are seeking medication for Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and childhood obesity.

The educational process is one that must teach our young people the importance of a balance between learning and the benefits of vigorous activity to boost learning potential. The benefits to long term health are obvious but the important thing here is the message. Our children put into practice and absorb what we emphasize. Education is about giving students the tools to excel in a life long learning process. Teaching the importance and value of physical activity is part of that learning.

Although the governor has vetoed this bill, I hope we can find a way to accomplish this goal without undue cost and without sacrificing other academic pursuits related to art or music. These are important too. Perhaps the study by Del. Steve Landes' (R-25) committee on year round school will provide an answer as to how we might find the instructional time to address the physical inactivity and obesity issues of our children. I just want the best for them.

The issue of Fairfax County

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THE CONNECTION

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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.

THURSDAY/MAY 19

39th Annual Clifton Charity Homes Tour and Marketplace. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Tour Six Clifton Decorator homes, one an original log cabin dating back to the early 1800's on land that was part of the original land grants of Northern Virginia. Currently the cabin is used for offices and as a tasting room for the Paradise Spring Winery. Tour tickets

\$20-\$25, single home admission \$10. www.cliftoncwc.org or 703-322-1811.

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

Springfield Writers' Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Share your work, give and receive feedback. 703-451-8055.

Practice Your English. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

Book Discussion Group. 7 p.m. John

Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Call for title. Adults. 703-971-0010.

Lorton Library Book Club. 7 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. World's End by T. Coraghessan Boyle. Adults. 703-339-7385.

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Musical Revue. 7 p.m. West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Songs from musical theater. \$5. jeanabood@mac.com.

Lunch Bunch. 12 p.m. John Marshall

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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.

SEE PURSUING, PAGE 12

LETTERS

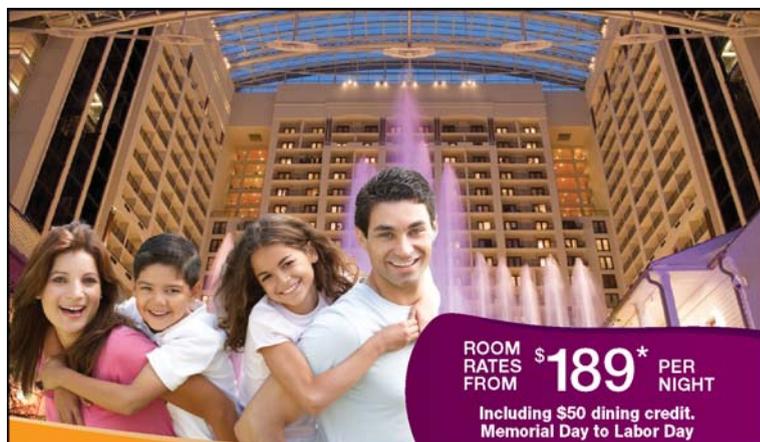
FROM PAGE 8

school disciplinary policy has also been highlighted by the tragic suicide of a high school student who had been transferred to another school for purchasing a legal but very harmful drug on campus. Another student was out of school for seven weeks because she had her prescription acne medicine in her locker. Parents of these students were concerned about the way these violations were handled and many parents are concerned about how their own children might be treated in a disciplinary case.

I do not purport to know all of the details of these incidents or other problems that we are experiencing with school discipline, however, Del. Kaye Kory (D-Fairfax) introduced HB 1548 requiring a school to notify parents of any infraction that would "most likely result in suspension." Apparently, this could involve a wide range of offenses requiring written notification as many offenses could be viewed as potentially "leading to suspension." "Most likely to result in" is a legal standard that would be difficult to interpret, and I voted against this bill because it is not the best way to deal with a complex issue like school discipline. What I had encouraged the schools to do was convene a review group that would deal with issues like notification of parents, forced school transfers, "zero tolerance" rules and student rights, etc., in a comprehensive way. As well intended as this bill was, a 30-minute hearing in Richmond is not the best way to address a problem whose solution could lead to increased administrative time being spent in other over cautious bureaucracy? It could potentially limit informal handling as a methodology for resolving many infractions, and lead to school administrators erring on the side of caution by notifying parents of minor issues.

It is my understanding that Superintendent Jack Dale has convened a review of school policy regarding discipline, and what appropriate adjustments can be made. Parents are justified in their concerns and hopefully an open process will lead to clear and fair procedure that protect students from the inappropriate behavior of classmates, while protecting the rights of those who have made a mistake with no intention of harming anyone.

Sen. Dave Marsden
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Pursuing College, Careers

FROM PAGE 10

For example, one of the most popular out-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.

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.



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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Bring lunch and join us for stories. Age birth-5 with adult 703-971-0010.

Fourth Annual Veterans Golf Classic. Medal of Honor Golf Course, USMC Base Quantico. Registration 8 a.m., tee time 9 a.m. With Grand Marshall Col. Jack Jacobs, US Army(Ret) Medal of Honor Recipient, and George Starke, former Washington Redskins star. Awards BBQ Buffet at Mulligans Bar & Pavilion, signed Redskins football raffle, music by Norman Weaver, Scottish Highland Piper and more. Sponsored by VFW Burke Post 5412. Foursome \$280, single \$75. www.veteransgolfclassic.com.

"The Sounds of Broadway." 7 p.m. Greenspring Village Square Theater, 7410 Spring Village Drive, Springfield. Featuring excerpts from "Guys and Dolls" and "My Fair Lady" by the Greenspring Players, a resident performing arts group at Greenspring retirement community. Proceeds benefit scholarships for GMU students who have shown a commitment to the arts. 703-923-4690.

SATURDAY/MAY 21

Ladies Auxiliary Spring Craft Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Lorton Volunteer Fire Department in the Bingo Hall, 7551 Armistead Road, Lorton. Bake sale, jewelry, pottery, art, children's items, clothing, photography and more. Proceeds support the Lorton Volunteer Fire Department. www.lortonvfd-auxiliary.com.

Jonathan Austin's 24 Hour Emergency Juggling and Magic

Service. 10:30 a.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Juggling, magic tricks, and a tall unicycle. Lots of audience participation. All ages. 703-971-0010.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Line dance lesson at 7:30 p.m., couples specialty dance lesson at 8 p.m. Open dancing 8:30-11 p.m. Two step, waltz, line, swing, cha cha and more. \$5-\$12. www.nvewda.org or 703-860-4941.

"The Sounds of Broadway." 2 p.m. Greenspring Village Square Theater, 7410 Spring Village Drive, Springfield. Featuring excerpts from "Guys and Dolls" and "My Fair Lady" by the Greenspring Players, a resident performing arts group at Greenspring retirement community. Proceeds benefit scholarships for GMU students who have shown a commitment to the arts. 703-923-4690.

The Workhouse Salutes Youth in the Arts Day. 12-5 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Workhouse artists and teachers, plus student performing groups from local schools and arts groups. Interactive artist demonstrations, arts and crafts, hula lessons and more. Free, \$5 suggested donation to benefit the Lorton Arts Foundation. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 22

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.

MONDAY/MAY 23

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

TUESDAY/MAY 24

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Practice and improve your English. Adults. 703-451-8055.

THURSDAY/MAY 26

Burke School Ensemble. 7:30 p.m. Voices of Now Festival, Arena Stage Kogod Cradle, 1101 6th St. S.W., Washington, D.C. VON gives youths the opportunity to learn about theater and performance, devising and performing a piece of theater based on their own writing. Free, reservations required at 202-488-3300.

Friends of Burke Centre Library Book Sale. 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Most books .50-\$2. 703-249-1520.

FRIDAY/MAY 27

Key Middle School of Springfield Ensemble. 7:30 p.m. Voices of Now Festival, Arena Stage Kogod Cradle, 1101 6th St. S.W., Washington, D.C. VON gives youths the opportunity to learn about theater and performance, devising and performing a piece of theater based on their own writing. Free, reservations required at 202-488-3300.



Kikuyuki Dancers of America, Inc. present a Dance for Japan Relief on Sunday, June 5 at 1 p.m. at the George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive in Fairfax. Tickets are \$40 general admission and \$25 all students, available at 888-945-2468 or www.japandance.org.

FAITH NOTES

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

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.

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP



5690 Oak Leather Drive
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www.BurkePresChurch.org

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Station...703-690-3401

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703-541-0816
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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.

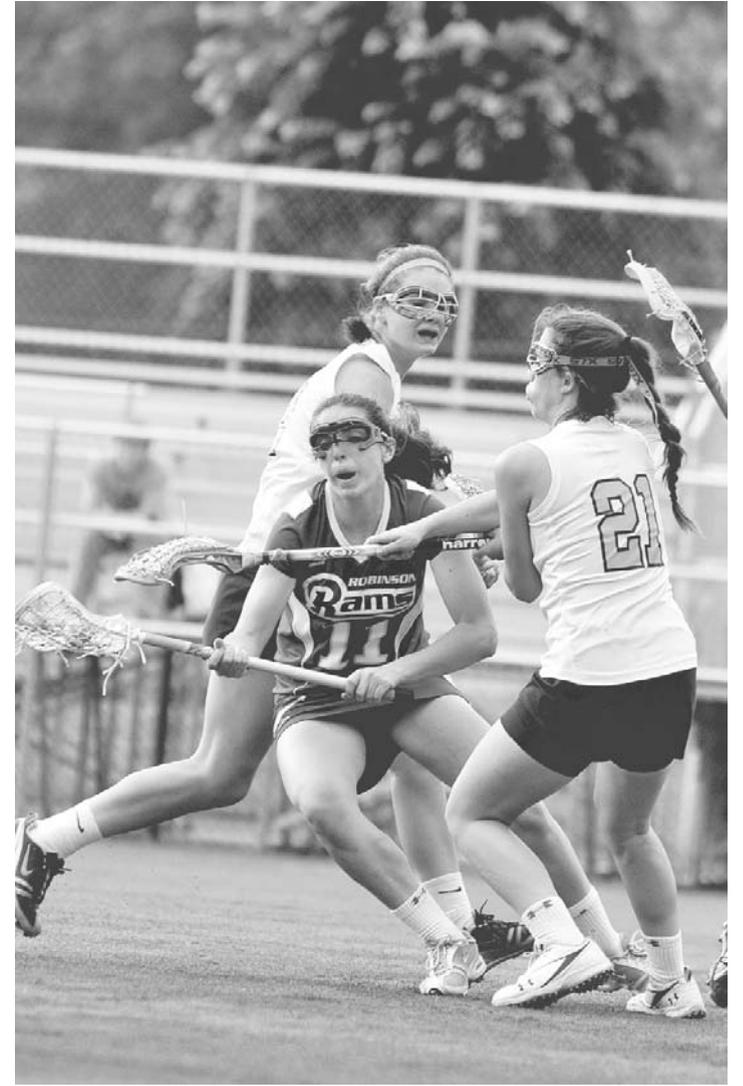
The timeout talk and ensuing adjustments resulted in a dominant 36 minutes of lacrosse for Robinson, which advanced to the quarterfinals of the Northern Region Tournament with a 17-7 victory at Yorktown's Greenbrier Stadium. After falling behind 5-3, the Rams scored eight consecutive goals and 14 of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

HOME SALES

In April 2011, 66 homes sold between \$1,450,000-\$90,000 in the Clifton, Fairfax Station and Lorton area. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$1,450,000-\$670,000 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
7502 AMKIN CT	7	6	1		CLIFTON	\$1,450,000	Detached	5.18		PLANTATION HILLS
7080 BALMORAL FOREST RD	5	4	1		CLIFTON	\$1,100,000	Detached	2.01		BALMORAL GREENS
7906 FROST CRYSTAL CT	6	4	2		FAIRFAX STATION	\$985,000	Detached	5.04		DOMINION VALLEY HUNT
7078 BALMORAL FOREST	4	3	1		CLIFTON	\$970,000	Detached	2.04		BALMORAL GREENS
8141 RONDELAY LN	5	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$917,500	Detached	5.00		RONDELAY
7408 CLIFTON QUARRY DR	4	3	0		CLIFTON	\$900,000	Detached	2.38		BALMORAL GREENS
7917 CLIFTON HUNT CT	4	3	2		CLIFTON	\$860,000	Detached	5.42		CLIFTON HUNT
12139 WOLF VALLEY DR	4	3	1		CLIFTON	\$815,000	Detached	5.00		WOLF RUN ESTATES
12851 POPES HEAD RD	5	3	2		CLIFTON	\$800,000	Detached	5.00		HORSE COUNTRY
7007 CLIFTON FOREST DR	4	3	0		CLIFTON	\$790,000	Detached	3.45		CLIFTON FOREST
9100 FOREST SHADOW WAY	4	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$789,000	Detached	0.31		CROSSPOINTE
7300 SCARLET OAK CT	4	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$750,000	Detached	0.85		WILDWOOD HILLS ESTATES
8396 WESTPOINTE DR	5	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$740,000	Detached	0.34		GILES RUN
9194 SILVERLINE DR	4	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$715,000	Detached	0.31		CROSSPOINTE
6813 CORDER LN	4	3	1		LORTON	\$710,000	Detached	0.26		MOUNT AIR
9412 MEADOW CROSSING WAY	5	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$701,000	Detached	0.29		CROSSPOINTE
11607 HAVENNER CT	4	2	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$675,000	Detached	0.58		FAIRFAX STATION
6844 CORDER LN	4	2	1		LORTON	\$670,000	Detached	0.38		MOUNT AIR

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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.



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 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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TEACHER

Church Preschool in Burke has teacher openings for the 2011-2012 school year. ECE, BA/BS & exper. required. Children are in part-time developmental classes for 1 1/2 - 5 years of age. Please call 703-978-9024; fax: 703-978-9023 or email: ststephenspre@verizon.net

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21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
The following store will be holding a public auction on May 25 starting at 12 Noon

Storage Mart 1851
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1050--Edwin Stohlman--boxes, art, furniture
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3 RE for Rent

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5 Open House

6126 Garden Road, Springfield VA 22152
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28 Yard Sales

7741 Middle Valley Dr. Spfld. 5/20 and 5/21, 8-2, h/h goods, furn, computer, books, adult clths, collectibles. Free stuf.

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

HUGE Estate/Yard Sale!
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.

Yard Sale - Sat. May 21st
10am to 3pm. Home goods, furniture, jewelry, designer clothing (Chico's, Calvin Klein, Ann Taylor, Talbots), handbags, shoes, nick knacks, kitchen goods, etc. No early birds plse! 10707 Oak Place, Fairfax, VA

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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\$499,900
Lovely Kings Park beauty featuring 4 BR's, 2 1/2 Baths, Kitchen has been redesigned with new Maple kitchen cabinets, & granite counters. Updated half bath, 1st floor family room. Finished lower level, New carpeting on main & lower level. This home has the perfect back yard, come & see!! Super Location.
Sheila Adams 705-503-1895



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Falls Church
\$389,999
All-brick rambler in Pimmit Hills. Freshly painted 3 bedroom, 1 bath home on 1/4 acre lot with fenced backyard. Hardwood floors, carpet, close to Tyson's Corner, I66, 495.
Janice Clark 703-400-1995



Springfield
\$550,000
Spectacular 24' wide TH w/3 levels of large Bump-Outs, 2 car garage, upgrades galore to include gourmet kitchen, hardwood floors main level, moldings & trim, columns, 2 fireplaces, MBR with vaulted ceiling, fenced rear yard. Close to the Springfield Metro and shopping.
Claudia Callis 703-620-2790

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June 1	7:00-9:00 PM	
June 29	LOCATION:	
August 3	Long & Foster's Northern Virginia Training Center	
August 31	3069 Nutley St.	
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TO REGISTER:
Please contact Mary Ann Plonka at 703-503-1898 or maryann.plonka@longandfooster.com



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Occoquan Overlook. Elegant 5BR, 5.5BA Colonial on cul-de-sac, backing to woods. Fantastic main lvl w/2-story foyer & dual staircase. Upper level master suite w/ sit rm & luxury bath. Finished walk-out LL w/family rm, game rm & bar, guest brdm, media rm & full bath. Tiered deck, hot tub & patio!
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\$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.
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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!
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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.
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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.
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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!!
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Fairfax
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\$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 PPROPERTY. 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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OPEN SUNDAY
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

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judys@longandfoster.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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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@longandfoster.com



DAVID & VIRGINIA

Associate Brokers

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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.



Buzz & Courtney Jordan

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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 & metrobuss.



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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www.MyVirginiaHomeTeam.com

Catie, Steve & Associates

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OPEN SUN 1-4
Burke
\$735,000
Stunning Jewel
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