

Burke CONNECTION

Children from Burke head up to the stage at the Saturday, June 25, performance of Ryan Buckle and Friends. Their families gathered at the Burke Lake Park amphitheater to hear a musical performance revolving around the basic ideas of science, allowing children to stare in wonder at smoke rings while discovering vortices and fly like birds while learning about gravity and mass.



Music Meets Science

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Concerts in the Parks

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Taxpayers Paying for Luxuries?

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PHOTO BY MEREDITH ZETTMAYER/THE CONNECTION SPORTS, PAGE 14 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 13

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NEWS



PHOTO BY TERRY NEAL

Suzi Fowler Neal, past president of the Burke Historic Society, leads guests and volunteers in a rousing rendition of Irving Berlin's God Bless America.

Star-Spangled Tea

Members of the Burke Historical Society hosted a patriotic tea for residents of the Heatherwood Retirement Community in Burke on Thursday, June 23.

More than 20 residents were treated to tea, homemade cookies, and a program of patriotic songs at the Silas Burke House, where the BHS hosts its monthly meetings. The elegant historic home was decorated with flags, and tables were dressed in white linen tablecloths, with flag fans and formal silver tea service.

"I thought our guests from Heatherwood would enjoy a patriotic-themed event. Our Burke Historic Society volunteers served our guests, and we all sang songs, with a little

help from John Wayne, Elvis and Kate Smith," said Suzi Fowler Neal, past president of BHS.

The program included a formal tea with an assortment of cookies, and recordings of John Wayne's "America, Why I Love Her," Elvis Presley's rendition of "America The Beautiful" and Kate Smith's iconic singing of Irving Berlin's "God Bless America."

Silas Burke, a businessman and landowner, built the Silas Burke House circa 1824. His wife lived there for 41 years after his death in 1854. The property includes an icehouse, root cellar, and a restored slave house.

— VICTORIA ROSS

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Concerts in Parks Heat Up the Summer

Local parks provide free summer concerts, events to lead community in outdoor experience.

BY BENJAMIN PACZAK
THE CONNECTION

Many local parks have play grounds or a lake with attractions to entice community members to visit and enjoy a day outside. When summer hits, though, they seek to provide an exciting, different, and culturally filled night by bringing in bands and performances for all ages and interests.

"They're a source of great entertainment for people and for families and that's important these days," said Supervisor Jeffrey C. McKay (D-Lee) of the Lee District Nights at the Lee District Park Amphitheater on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

The Braddock Nights Concert Series takes place at Lake Accotink Park and Royal Lake Park on Fridays, at 7:30 p.m., and at Ossian Hall on Sundays, at 7 p.m., with movies starting at dark. Supervisor John C. Cook (R-Braddock) said that "each location has its own sort of character."

Cook said that Accotink's "big band" performances tend to attract an older crowd,



Malaha performs Friday night, June 24, at Lake Accotink Park as part of the Braddock District Nights concert series.

while Royal Lake's jazz or folk music hosts a lot of families and dogs as kids run around and enjoy themselves. Ossian Hall likes to present different cultural music.

"I tend to jump around so I can get to as many of them as I can," Cook said. "I find that there's a lot of good music and a lot of good programs at all the locations."

Burke Lake Park hosts Arts in the Park on Saturday mornings, presenting culturally intriguing music such as The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra's OTO String Quartet or kids' shows like comedian and magician The

Great Zucchini.

If families get out of the house and the community is exposed to different outside programs, programming and actors, then the performances have done their jobs.

"The goal is to bridge the community together, to offer a time, a place and a forum for people to come together and enjoy our parks, enjoy some music, and enjoy a night out, free of charge," Cook said.

"It brings a lot of people together who otherwise wouldn't have a reason to spend an evening together, and it really builds

"I find that there's a lot of good music and a lot of good programs at all the locations."

— Supervisor John C. Cook
(R-Braddock)

Music and Art

Fairfax City Band Concerts:
<http://www.fairfaxband.org/concerts/index.php>

Arts in the Park:
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/arts.htm>

Lake Accotink:
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/accotink/facilities.htm>

Lee District Nights:
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/lee-nights.htm>

Braddock Nights:
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/braddock-nights.htm>

community support and and community camaraderie," McKay said.

The City of Fairfax Band also has an array of performances throughout the city during July.

Lake Accotink and Burke Lake also have parks with activities like mini-golf and boat rides on the lake. Lake Accotink boasts a carousel while Burke Lake takes pride in its ice cream parlor.

Luxury Housing or Affordable Housing?

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) says Fairfax County wrong to 'subsidize luxury.'

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The news conference on "subsidized luxury housing" at the Fairfax County Government Center on Tuesday, June 28, provoked affordable housing advocates and critics to take political swipes at each other and inspired a flurry of reports, statements, documents and news releases in a 36-hour span.

On Monday, June 27, Michael Thompson, president of the Thomas Jefferson Institute (TJI), got the ball rolling when he called a press conference with Fairfax County Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) to release a paper he authored called "Subsidized Luxury in Fairfax County."

Later on Monday, Herrity released his monthly newsletter "The Herrity Report" with the headline "Taxpayer Subsidized Housing No Place for Luxury."

The Herrity Report stated that "homes worth close to \$1 million and luxury amenities ('resort-style swimming pools with fountain and heated spa,' billiards room, granite counter tops, ceramic tile, indoor basketball courts, stainless steel appliances) have no place in taxpayer-subsidized housing."

He called the county's purchase of 75 affordable dwelling units (ADUs) "misguided and wasteful. ... Our housing policy is counterproductive and should be changed."

During the 30-minute news conference, Thompson said he was "alerted" to a "gold-plated" problem in the area of affordable

housing and released the 30-page analysis to reporters.

In the report, Thompson reviewed three developments that include county-subsidized housing. The first, Stockwell Manor in Falls Church, is a 100-home development consisting of 29 single-family homes and 71 townhomes, eight of which are subsidized. Thompson pointed out similarities between the market-priced homes, which sell for \$850,000 to more than \$1 million, and the subsidized townhomes around the corner.

"These subsidized homes on Burke Farm Lane are brick and siding just like the full priced homes. The sidewalks and driveways are brick, just as the full-priced townhomes. The backyards are similar in both cases and from the backyards on Burke Farm Lane you can easily see the market-priced all-brick single-family homes in the

next book of this development," Thompson said.

However, a review of the same properties in Fairfax County tax records, as well as photos on Google Earth, show marked distinctions.

The subsidized homes all have 1,456 square feet of living area, while the market-priced homes are larger, ranging from 2,252 square feet to 2,546 square feet in size. The subsidized homes have 2-1/2 baths and single-car garages, while the market-priced homes have 3-1/2 baths and two-car garages. The information can be found at Fairfax County's Office of Tax Administration's Real Estate Assessment Information site at <http://icare.fairfaxcounty.gov/Main/Home.aspx>.

The county's assessment information also shows that the market-priced homes have fireplaces, and some of the more expensive units have brick and stone facades. The subsidized townhomes have zero fireplaces and the exterior is vinyl siding and brick. The tax assessor also gives a rating for "Con

"I'm not anti-affordable housing. I'm anti-stupid and pro-common sense."

— Supervisor Pat Herrity
(R-Springfield)

SEE AFFORDABLE, PAGE 12

Break Out the Red, White and Blue

Communities around the area will gather on July 4 to carry on traditions, create new ones.

BY ANAGHA SRIKANTH
THE CONNECTION

Anticipating this year's Independence Day celebrations, Leslie Herman can almost hear the announcement from the speakers saying, "Parents, do you know where your children are? The light show is about to begin."

Herman is the executive secretary of the City of Fairfax Independence Day Celebration Committee. The City of Fairfax parade theme, "Golden past, brighter future" honors the 50th anniversary of the city, she said. Donald Lederer, whose cousin was Fairfax Mayor Robert Lederer's father, was chosen as co-grand marshal to represent the golden past of the city. He was chosen by the committee from the Young at Heart senior center, where he is an active member.

Lederer remembered July 4 celebrations in his past.

"We used to have a lot more fireworks," he said. "It was fireworks and a happy time, a time to eat watermelons and hamburgers. We used to decorate our bikes and they'd have us march in the back of the parade. Then they'd give us a Dixie cup, full of vanilla and chocolate ice cream."

Robbie Ashton, a senior at Fairfax High School, was chosen as co-marshal to represent the "brighter future" of the city after being voted student body president this April,

said Herman.

The two co-marshals met at Fairfax High School and shared their stories.

"You have to learn from the past to appreciate the future," said Ashton.

Both co-marshals said they were honored and looking forward to the parade and celebrations.

"It's going to be interesting, riding in a convertible" Lederer said. "People have said, 'We'll wave to you' and 'We'll be there,' so I'm going to look for them and wave to them."

Ashton said no matter the size of the role, it is the feeling of being part of something that is important to him.

"It's the experience, waking up in the morning and realizing I'm a grand marshal for the city parade," he said. "It's an opportunity to meet new people and celebrate together."

Preparations for the parade began in early September and continued year-round, said Herman. This year the city is sponsoring a new attraction, a family carnival running from July 2 to 4. The event consists of typical carnival games, rides and concessions and will be held in the SunTrust Bank Parking lot at 4020 University Drive.

With many families out of town, business is typically quiet around July 4 for local stores.

"The idea is to bring folks into the downtown area to help economic development,"



FILE PHOTO

Children of Kings Park ride patriotic themed bikes in last year's Independence Day parade.

said Herman. "Hopefully, having the carnival in the SunTrust Parking Lot will generate more business to shop owners."

The City of Fairfax celebration consists of a grand parade, multiple open houses, a fireman's day, evening show and fireworks. Many other local celebrations, however, are smaller and more tightly knit.

Jim Sobecke, third vice president of the Kings Park Civic Association (KPCA), said that the KPCA Independence Day celebration in Springfield is a back to the basics affair. "Others get more commercial or political, we keep it down to the grass roots, just the local community getting together

to celebrate," he said.

Winston Knolls Civic Association (WKCA) and the Orange Hunt Estates Civic Association (OHECA) conduct a similar celebration in Springfield less than five miles away, with a parade from Hunt Valley Elementary School to Orange Hunt Elementary School. These community parades feature children with their home-decorated bicycles and wagons, local swim teams, boy and girl scouts, antique vehicles and Harley Davidsons, local politicians and members of the fire and police forces.

SEE JULY FOURTH, PAGE 12

Singing To Science

Families enjoy musical science experiments of Ryan Buckle and Friends.

On Saturday, June 25, at 10 a.m., Ryan Buckle and Friends performed in the amphitheater at Burke Lake Park. Families from Burke and Springfield attended the show, bringing their children to learn about science.

Designed by the science center Curiosity Zone, the show uses basic experiments coupled with songs to teach the fundamentals of science. Ryan Buckle and his partner, Zelda the Zookeeper, demonstrated experiments such as rockets launching and human circuitry, then sang a song with the corresponding lyrics to teach children new scientific vocabulary and ideas.



Right, Alison, Stephanie and Elliot Hines listen to the music of Ryan Buckle and Friends at the Burke Lake Park amphitheater on Saturday, June 25, learning all about bats and birds through songs teaching lessons about nocturnal animals and gravity. Find more photos at www.connectionnewspapers.com.



PHOTOS BY MEREDITH ZETTEMAYER

Left, on Saturday, June 25, at 10 a.m., Ryan Buckle leads an audience of about 100 in the background lyrics to his opening number about discoveries at the zoo.

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/JUNE 30

African Connection Relief Event (A.C.R.E.) Concert featuring Banky W., Wizkid and Naeto C. 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets are \$39-\$109, available at www.ticketmaster.com and 703-573-SEAT, 202-397-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities by calling 703-993-3035. www.acreconcert.com or www.patriotcenter.com.

Freedom In Creation Benefit Concert with Alex Mejias and Marie Miller. 5:45 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Live music and painting, and a silent art auction of fair trade jewelry and products from Uganda to support the non-profit Freedom in Creation. Youth can participate in a collaborative art project with former child soldiers. See "The Story of Freedom," an exhibition of art by former child soldiers. \$15 at www.jamminjava.com. www.freedomincreation.com.

Mamma Mia! 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. The musical, based on the songs of ABBA. Tickets \$20-\$80. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/JULY 1

Movies Under the Stars. 7:30 p.m. Pinn Community Center, 10225 Zion Drive, Fairfax. Family-friendly movies

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

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★ UPCOMING ★
EVENTS

American Market – Now thru October 29
Movies on the Potomac – Now thru September 30
Sounds of Summer Concert Series – Now thru Aug. 27
The Uncle Sam Jam – July 2
Metro Dash – July 9
Red Bull National Wake – July 23
Cruisin' on the River Classic Car Show – Aug. 6
Chesapeake Crab & Beer Festival – August 20
Abbey Road on the River – September 1 thru 5
Das Best Oktoberfest – September 24 & 25
Wilson Bridge Half Marathon – October 2

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Housing Confusion

It's true that many aspects of housing in Northern Virginia don't make much sense.

Some areas have a significant number of foreclosed properties sitting vacant, currently identifiable by their foot-high lawns.

Hundreds of families are homeless, tens of thousands of families spend far more than they can afford every month for rent. Some families live overcrowded into tiny spaces.

And tens of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands, of workers have moved far away from their jobs in Northern Virginia to housing that they can afford, only to clog the roads and foul the air commuting.

The sustained efforts in Fairfax and Arlington to provide a supply of affordable housing by developing some new and preserving existing housing has still left tens of thousands of families on waiting lists, and thousands more shut out of even the waiting lists.

But it is good policy to provide a range of high quality housing scattered around the area in all kinds of neighborhoods.

A current swipe at "luxuries" afforded to people living in some subsidized housing is misplaced at best. Pursuing policies that would make affordable housing stripped down, basic and concentrated would not save money, and would create a variety other problems. Many cities and localities are still recovering from

decades-old policies that resulted in concentrations of low income housing in one place.

We know better than that now.

The region will soon see its largest jump in new development, residential and commercial, around the Tysons Metro stops and the Dulles rail corridor. Developers, who will benefit from the rail and increased densities, will provide a percentage of affordable and mixed income housing there, a critical part of smart growth.

Fourth of July Safety

Parties and celebrations on the Fourth of July often involve alcohol, and the holiday is one of a handful designated as "high risk" for drinking and driving.

A local organization, Washington Regional Alcohol Program, provides free rides home for anyone over 21 by calling their SoberRide number.

WRAP's 2011 Independence's Day SoberRide program will be offered from 10 p.m. Monday, July 4 to 4 a.m. Tuesday, July 5, 2011. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30 fare), call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service. Callers are financially responsible for anything over \$30.

WRAP's SoberRide helps area residents have a safe way home on high-risk holidays. Since 1993, WRAP has provided over 52,000 safe rides home.

Parents are still the ones who must provide

Swipes at 'luxuries' afforded to people living in subsidized housing is misplaced.

the guidance and safety net for their teens and young adults under 21. Summer is the most dangerous time for teen drivers. Remember to talk about it.

Digital Editions, Twitter and Facebook

Readers can sign up to receive one or more editions of the Connection, including the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette, the Centre View and the Potomac Almanac.

Email your name, mailing address, email address and the paper or papers you would like to receive to GoingGreen@connectionnewspapers.com.

We will email a digital replica of the print edition directly to your email box every week.

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You can also follow the Connection on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ConnectionNewspapers.

EDITORIALS

Valuing Dads

To the Editor:

Even though Father's Day has come and gone, that doesn't mean dads should fly under the radar until our favorite tie-buying, barbecuing holiday comes around next year. From self-esteem and school success to physical and emotional security, studies show that dads play an integral role in their children's development. Yet dads are frequently overlooked and undervalued as an important part of their children's lives, making uninvolved dads an accepted norm in our community.

SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) of Northern Virginia and our partner organizations are working to challenge fatherhood norms by providing underserved dads with the resources they need to become more active in their children's lives. Local programs like The Capital Youth Empowerment Program's Fathers In Touch, which brings dads together for weekly meetings, help dads gain valuable knowledge and support to make them the best fathers they can be. SCAN also hopes to foster father involvement through a variety of its own parenting programs. Our ABCs of Parenting Classes and weekly Educational Parent Support Groups provide both moms

and dads with the skills and guidance to become active, nurturing participants in their child's lives.

We realize it is often difficult for dads to reach out for help; visit our website (www.scanva.org) to check out our online parent resource center, which includes tips on becoming a more active father. You can also go to our website to learn more about our parent education programs. Healthy father-child relationships not only help

children, but also create stronger families and communities. It's time we come together as a community to promote father involvement and change the status quo — learn more at www.scanva.org.

LETTERS

Sonia Quinonez
Executive Director
SCAN of Northern Virginia

Reasonable Solution

To the Editor:

As I watch our politicians pretend to control our national debt, I wonder why no one has proposed one logical and reasonable solution. I suggest that we start with the national debt that existed at the time the previous

administration's final budget expired (October 2009). Calculate the interest and other costs associated with that debt — roughly \$1 trillion — and raise the debt limit by just that amount. Such action effectively freezes the current government spending. With that issue out of the way, we could direct our attention to reducing the spending by meaningful amounts without destroying our great country.

Marvin Lautzenheiser
Springfield

Help Cancer Patients

To the Editor:

One of the toughest challenges cancer patients face is getting to and from their much-needed chemotherapy and/or radiation treatments. They may be too ill to drive, may not own a car, or may not have anyone to take them to the appointments. The American Cancer Society offers a program called "Road to Recovery" where cancer patients receive free rides to and from treatment centers. This is where you can help.

The American Cancer Society is looking for volunteer drivers who can use their own personal vehicle

to drive patients to and from treatment centers. This program is very flexible; the volunteer drivers choose the hours and days they want to drive. To become a volunteer driver, you must successfully complete a short training session conducted by an ACS staff member and meet all the program requirements. If you are interested in volunteering or want to learn more about "Road to Recovery," call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-227-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

By donating a little of your time, you can help save a life while fulfilling your own.

Brenda M. Silvia-Torma
American Cancer Society

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:
Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-778-9416.
burke@connectionnewspapers.com

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 5

shown every Friday. 703-250-9181, tty 711.

Mamma Mia! 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. The musical, based on the songs of ABBA. Tickets \$20-\$80. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 2

The Choir Boys at 6:30 p.m., followed by The Resistance at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association.

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

Mamma Mia! 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. The musical, based on the songs of ABBA. Tickets \$20-\$80. www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/JULY 3

Mamma Mia! 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. The musical, based on the songs of ABBA. Tickets \$20-\$80. www.wolftrap.org.

MONDAY/JULY 4

City of Fairfax Independence Day Celebration. Beginning at 10 a.m. Featuring a parade and carnival in Old Town Fairfax, and music and fireworks at Fairfax High School. 703-385-7858 or www.fairfaxva.gov.

❖ **Carnival.** SunTrust Bank parking lot, 4020 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy carnival rides and activities from 12-8 p.m. Fees may be associated with rides and activities.

❖ **Independence Day Parade.** Beginning at 10 a.m. at 4100 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. The parade loops around downtown Fairfax, along Chain Bridge Road, Main Street, University Drive and Armstrong Street. With the Eastern High School Marching Band from Washington, D.C. and Buffalo High School Marching Band from Buffalo, Minnesota. Other parade entries include many large inflatable parade balloons.

❖ **Old Fashioned Fireman's Day.** 12:30-5 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive. Watch area fire companies compete using firefighting and emergency techniques and equipment. Food, beverages and games available.

❖ **Evening Show and Fireworks.** 7-10:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Live music and dancing to classic rock band Leggz, The City of Fairfax Band performing Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, fireworks choreographed to music, and a finale performance by Leggz, featuring a tribute to Elvis and Neil Diamond. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and a picnic basket. Rain date for the fireworks only is July 5.

❖ **Historic Open Houses.** Several historic properties will be open to the public, including the Fairfax Museum and Visitors Center at 10209 Main St. from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and Ratcliffe-Allison House at 10386 Main St. from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

❖ **Shuttle bus service** for the parade runs from 8:30-10:30 a.m. from George Mason University, Woodson High School and Fairfax United Methodist Church. Shuttles will return spectators to these locations until 1:30 p.m. For the evening show and fireworks, shuttle buses will be

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SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 7

available from Woodson High School from 6-9:15 p.m. and after the fireworks until 11 p.m. Limited public parking will be available at Fairfax High School. For the parade, disabled parking is available at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, and City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. For the evening show, disabled parking is available at Fairfax High School.

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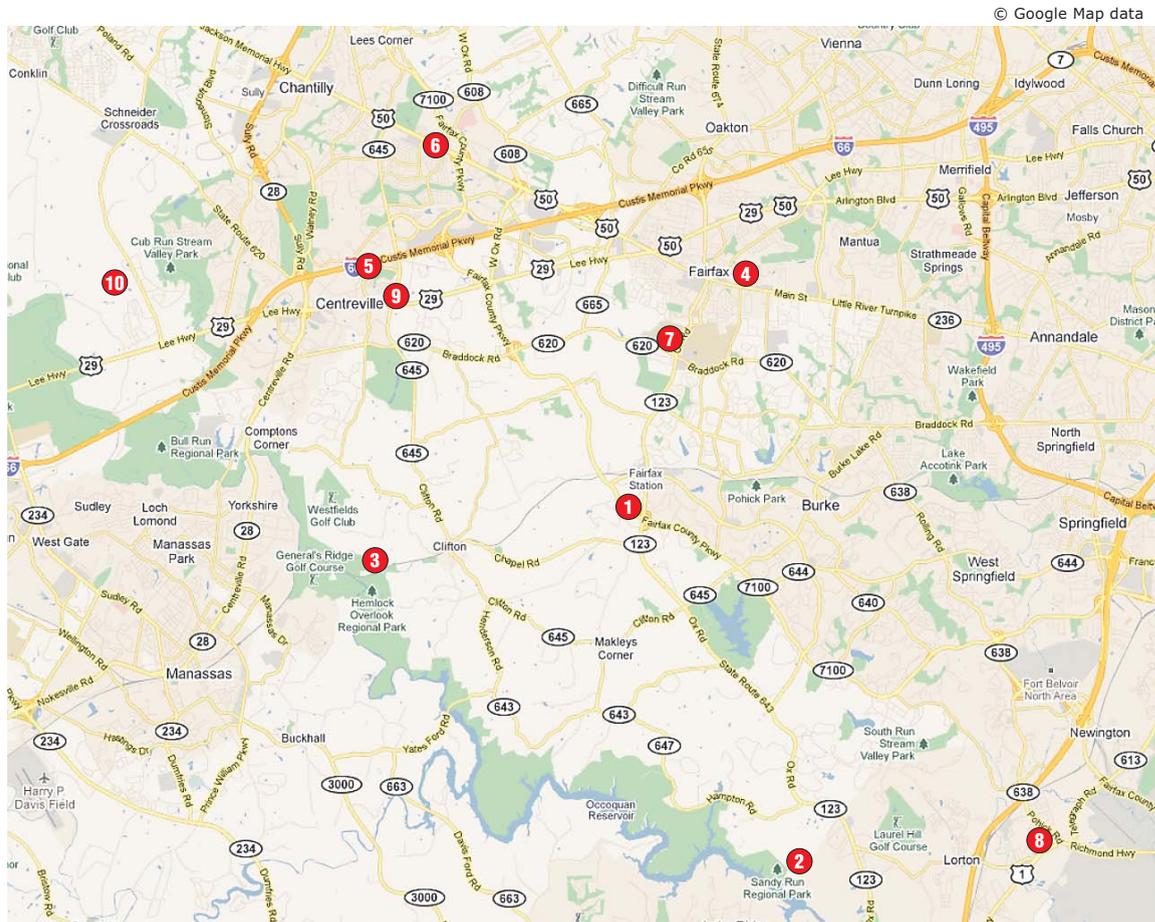
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Area Has Many Players in Pro Baseball

West Springfield graduate Joe Saunders is part the Arizona Diamondbacks' rotation.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The Northern Region of Virginia might not be considered a hot bed of professional baseball prospects, but it does have its share of home grown players who are currently taking part in the national pastime as major league or minor league players.

From pitchers playing at the major League level to other position players who have been there and are hoping to get back to the majors, to those who have only known the minor leagues thus far, the Northern Virginia area has helped produce several current professional ball players who once competed as high school players in the Northern Region. Those players have experienced, to varying degrees, the thrill of getting big hits, making phenomenal catches, or making that perfect third strike pitch in front of thousands of fans in major or minor league stadiums across the country. Here's a look at some of those players who are a part of or looking to become a part of the "Big Show" known as major league baseball.

JOE SAUNDERS, the ace lefty pitcher who helped lead West Springfield High to the 1998 state AAA baseball title, has enjoyed a successful big league career since being called up from triple-A Salt Lake City to the California Angels in August of 2005. Currently a member of the Arizona Diamondbacks, Saunders, who built an impressive 27-7 career college pitching record at Virginia Tech, was chosen by the Angels in the first round (12th overall pick) in the 2002 first year player draft.

He blossomed with the Angles and enjoyed his best seasons with the halos in 2008 (17-7, 3.41 ERA) and 2009 (16-7, 4.60). In both those seasons, he was a key starter on an Angels' team that won the American League West Division. He started three postseason games over those two years, one at Fenway Park against the Red Sox in 2008 and two against the Yankees the next year.

In the playoff game against Boston, Saunders was victimized by a freaky, pop fly single that somehow fell onto the shallow outfield grass just out of the grasp of several Angels' fielders. Incredibly, three Red Sox scored on the fluky single.

"I had a [playoff start] there and the game went like 12 innings," Saunders, during a phone interview from Arizona earlier this week, recalled of pitching a playoff game in the Hub City. "I lasted like 4-2/3 innings. I think I'm the only pitcher in major league [postseason] history to ever give up a three-run single. The ball fell into the Bermuda Triangle."

Saunders was selected to play in the 2008 American League All-Star Game in July of that season as a pitcher on the American

League squad. That year's All-Star contest took place at the old Yankee Stadium, which was in its final year of existence as a result of a new Yankee Stadium being built. The Yankees, in pre-game ceremonies, celebrated their storied past that night with many former players being honored.

"That was the highlight of my career," Saunders, who made a pitching appearance that night, said of the special All-Star experience that year.

After going 6-10 with a 4.62 ERA over the first several months of the 2010 season, the 6-foot-3 inch southpaw was traded by the Angels to the Arizona Diamondbacks in July. Over the remainder of the season, Saunders was 3-7 with a 4.25 ERA for Arizona.

Saunders, who turned 30 two weeks ago (June 16), pitched well last Sunday in Arizona's 8-3 interleague loss at Detroit, allowing four hits and a run with eight strikeouts over seven innings in a no-decision outing. For the season Saunders, who played high school ball for the Spartans under legendary Northern Region coach Ron Tugwell, is 4-7 with a 4.14 ERA.

He naturally has fond memories of his time as a member of the West Springfield High baseball team and the Spartans' state championship season.

"It was an awesome year," Saunders said, of the 1998 state title run. "We had a pretty good one-two [pitching] punch with me and Mike Crisci. The team was good in all aspects. We fielded the ball well and hit pretty good and had team speed. We had Mark Tugwell [the coach's son] at shortstop. It was great fun.

"We had played West Springfield Little League together, a lot of us, and we all knew each other so well," said Saunders. "We were all pretty much friends on the team."

Saunders, over the years throughout his major league career, has normally left game tickets for family members and friends whenever the Angels or Diamondbacks have traveled to Washington to play the Nationals or nearby Baltimore to face the Orioles. His father currently resides in Purcellville, while his mother lives in Silver Spring. And his grandmother lives in Springfield, in the neighborhood where Joe grew up and near to West Springfield High.

"When we get in town to play the Nationals I always try to visit my granny," said Saunders.

Saunders has loved baseball as long as he can remember. His advice to young ball players in the Northern Virginia area is to have fun playing the game.

"Practice as much as you can and have as



Joe Saunders has pitched for both the Angels and Diamondbacks during his major league career.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JORDAN MEGANHARDT

much fun playing as you can," said Saunders, who attended numerous youth baseball camps as a youngster.

1994 ROBINSON SECONDARY graduate and former George Mason University pitcher Shawn Camp has been a solid big league relief pitcher throughout his playing career. The 36-year old right-hander from Fairfax, who has pitched in the majors for the Kansas City Royals (2004-05), Tampa Bay Rays (2006-07), and currently the Toronto Blue Jays

(2008-present), has primarily been utilized as a middle or long relief specialist during his eight years in the majors. He holds a career record of 20-24 with a 4.42 ERA over 398 career appearances.

Last year, Camp was close to spectacular, enjoying a career-best year in which he went 4-3 with a 2.99 ERA with a team-high 70 pitching appearances for the Jays. This season, Camp is 1-1 with a 4.28 ERA over 33 games.

Camp, early in his baseball career, was a catcher at Robinson as well as in college at both the University of North Alabama and George Mason. At Mason, he began his transition to pitching under the tutelage of then-assistant coach Dayton Moore, a South Lakes High graduate and the current General Manager of the Kansas City Royals.

Camp was eventually selected by the San Diego Padres in the 16th round of the 1997 player draft. He spent several years in the

Padres' and Pittsburgh Pirates' organizations before signing with Moore and the Royals in 2004. On Opening Day in 2004, Camp made his big league debut with two innings of relief work against the White Sox. He has been in the Majors since and, with Tampa Bay in 2006, was second in the American League in appearances with 75.

BRANDON GUYER is another area player on the verge of making the major leagues his permanent home. The Herndon High graduate, originally selected by the Chicago Cubs in the fifth round of the 2007 player draft, is currently an outfielder in the Tampa Bay Rays' organization with triple-A affiliate Durham, where earlier this week he was hitting a healthy .314 with 10 homers and 44 RBI over 70 games for the Bulls.

Earlier this season, Guyer, a right-handed batter who plays mostly right field, had a brief stint with the major league Rays following a call-up to the big club on Friday, May 6. That night, he made quite a splash, hitting a home run in his first major league at-bat in Tampa Bay's 6-2 win at Camden Yards in Baltimore. A roster crunch forced the 25-year old back to Durham a few days later, but Guyer, who hit his homer off of O's left-hander Zach Britton, will never forget his first few days in the majors.

"It was cool because I grew up here close to Camden Yards and went to a lot of games there when I was young," said Guyer, who grew up in Herndon.

The Rays are under manager Joe Maddon, who led the Rays to the World Series a few years ago. Guyer hopes to one day be a permanent member of Maddon's Tampa Bay roster.

"He's easy going, a laid back manager," said Guyer. "I got to know him [a little] in spring training. He's really a manager you want to play for and play hard for."

Guyer, who grew up playing youth ball within the Reston Little League organization and was part of a Reston-American All-Stars team that won district and state titles, loves playing at Durham, a historical minor league stopping point, but wants badly to be a big leaguer. But he knows he must remain patient.

"It's out of my control," said Guyer, who was traded by the Cubs to the Tampa Bay organization last January. "[A call-up] could happen anytime. I'm just trying to get in all my [daily] work here and come out and give it my all. When I was growing up it was always my dream to be a big leaguer. Being close to that dream is a blessing."

He enjoys playing in front of big crowds in Durham with the Bulls.

"It was amazing coming here [to the Rays' organization] and then finding out I'd be

SEE BASEBALL, PAGE 12

Affordable Housing Amenities Debated

FROM PAGE 2

struction Quality”— the market-priced units get “EXCELLENT 20,” while the subsidized units get “AVERAGE 10.”

During the news conference, Thompson acknowledged that the interior of the subsidized townhomes may be less expensively finished, “but that only means that they are like most of those homes that our taxpayers live in here in Fairfax County.”

“You could get more taxes out of this county and give the money to Habitat [for Humanity] if you change the way the county subsidizes housing,” he said.

Herrity said he had already asked the Board of Supervisors’ auditor to look into the condo/HOA fees and the management of the county’s housing program. “The auditor has begun his review and will be reporting back to the board.” Herrity said the goal of the county’s housing policy should be “focused on getting those truly in need back on their feet.”

“I’m not anti-affordable housing. I’m anti-stupid and pro-common sense,” Herrity said after news conference.

“This is politically-motivated,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large). “He’s just wrong. We do not subsidize million-dollar homes. If he’s calling for an audit of the condo fees ... there’s just no ‘there’ there.”

According to its website, TJI offers “non-partisan analysis of public policy issues confronting our Commonwealth, and alternative policy ideas ... based on the Institute’s belief in free markets, limited government and individual responsibility.”

The TJI website bio of Thompson maintains he is an “active leader in the Virginia Republican Party.” Although Thompson would not say who alerted him to the “gold-

plated problem,” he said that he asked Herrity to join him at the news conference because “I have known Pat for 10 years, and he is a government reform ally and my supervisor and a friend.”

After the news conference, Michael O’Reilly, chairman of the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to End Homelessness, chided Herrity for moving the news conference into

“This is politically-motivated. ... He’s just wrong. We do not subsidize million-dollar homes.”

— Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

a board room in the Fairfax County Government Center, instead of holding it outside as originally planned.

“I am extremely disappointed that Supervisor Herrity chose to move his press conference into his conference room, and excluded many engaged and knowledgeable citizens who wanted to attend,” said O’Reilly.

On Tuesday afternoon, Bulova sent out a news release countering some of the arguments Herrity made in his monthly newsletter, including the assertion that “the subsidized units and amenities are nicer than the housing amenities of the majority of taxpayers that are actually paying for it,” including pools, game rooms and exercise rooms.

“In several of the private communities where Fairfax County owns affordable units, we may a monthly fee just as other tenants in those communities do,” Bulova said in her release. “These fees go toward basic services such as maintenance, snow removal

and utilities. They also go to shared amenities.” She noted that 15 of the 41 condo developments in which the county owns affordable units have swimming pools.

“Fairfax County cannot and will not ask private companies to treat tenants differently based on income. If a child in an affordable unit wants to use the swimming pool with his neighbors, he should be allowed to,” she said.

“I think, frankly, we have an outstanding affordable housing program,” said Bulova.

Immediately after the news conference, the debate spilled over into the quarterly meeting of the Financial and Program Audit Committee, chaired by Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville). Herrity and Bulova attended the meeting, and the committee reviewed a draft audit of several county programs, including the county’s Department of Tax Administration (DTA) assessment of public housing values.

According to the report, the average DTA assessed value of the 75 housing units owned by the county is \$81,539.

“Did you find any that were valued at a million dollars or more?” Foust asked. When Herrity started to interject, Foust quickly countered that there are “no million-dollar properties in this program.”

Conrad Egan, senior advisor of the Affordable Housing Institute and a member of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness, struck a conciliatory note in his comments about Herrity after the news conference.

“If Supervisor Herrity was consistent with the comments in his newsletter, I warmly welcome his support for our programs designed to help those most in need. I am hopeful that he will become fully engaged with our Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness,” Egan said.

Baseball

FROM PAGE 11

going to Durham,” he said. “With the movie [about the Bulls] growing up, I’d heard a lot about the Durham Bulls. You always get a good crowd, and they have the blue monster in left field.”

The “blue monster” is comparable to the “green monster” of Boston’s Fenway Park.

Guyer, who was born in Westchester, Pa. and grew up a Phillies fan, was part of the Herndon High baseball team under coach Al McCulloch that won the Concorde District title in 2002 and finished 19-4 overall.

“Our pitching was huge for us that year,” said Guyer, who played third base for the Hornets. “We came through in clutch situations hitting-wise, but pitching and defense wins championships. I’m glad to have been a part of that team.”

Greg Miller, the current head coach at Herndon, was an assistant coach for Herndon when Guyer was a senior. Herndon baseball went 45-17 during Guyer’s three varsity seasons.

“It was just a great time all-around,” said Guyer, of his varsity baseball career as a Hornet. “I have some great friends from there and it was a great atmosphere to play there. I learned a lot from Al McCulloch and Greg Miller. I learned to go out and have fun, give it your all, and play the game the right way.”

Brandon Snyder, a 2005 graduate of Westfield High School, has bided his time in the Baltimore Orioles’ farm system since being the American League East team’s first round pick in 2005. The right-handed hitting first baseman, who made his major league debut last September, has spent most of this season at triple-A Norfolk where he is having a solid campaign. He has had a couple of brief call-ups to the Orioles this season where he was 3-for-13 at the plate (.231 average), and he is hoping to land a permanent spot in Baltimore before season’s end.

Through June 27, Snyder, at Norfolk, was batting .261 with nine home runs and 36 RBI over 59 games for the Tide in the International League. The 6-2 right-handed slugger also had 11 doubles.

Snyder, whose father, Brian, had brief stints in the majors with the Seattle Mariners in 1985 and the Oakland A’s in 1989, made his big league debut last September and, over 10 games, was six-for-20 at the plate for a .300 average. He is a steady, fundamentally sound player who, in the years ahead, will hopefully be a part of the major league Orioles under current skipper Buck Showalter.

July Fourth

FROM PAGE 4

Dwayne Nitz, vice mayor of the Town of Clifton, said that volunteers run Clifton’s parade and celebrations.

“It seems like it comes together on its own,” he said. “People know about it and come out.”

Nitz recalled past experiences with the unexpected.

“One year, during the ‘80s, Channel 9 came out late, so we had to recreate the whole parade for them” he said. “[Another year] there was an old outhouse in the corner [of the square] and a mini tornado lifted it in the air and everyone scattered.”

“One year I noticed that there weren’t many spectators, but then I looked behind me and realized it was because so many people had joined the parade,” said Linda MacKinnon, OHECA events coordinator.

Fourth of July

CITY OF FAIRFAX

Parade begins at 10 a.m. at 4100 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. The parade loops around downtown Fairfax, along Chain Bridge Road, Main Street, University Drive and Armstrong Street. Family carnival from 12-8 p.m. in the SunTrust Bank parking lot at 4020 University Drive. Old Fashioned Fireman’s Day runs from 12:30-5 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive. Several historic properties will be open to the public, including the Fairfax Museum and Visitors Center from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and Ratcliffe-Allison House from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Evening show, featuring the City of Fairfax Band and Leggz, and fireworks from 7-10:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov for more details regarding events, as well as busing and transportation.

TOWN OF CLIFTON

Parade begins at 4 p.m. outside of Clifton General Store on Main Street. A flag ceremony will take place and community members are welcome to gather and celebrate.

WKCA/OHECA

Winston Knolls Civic Association and Orange Hunt Estates Civic Association Parade begins at 1 p.m. at Hunt Valley Elementary School and ends at Orange Hunt Elementary School in Springfield, where an old-fashioned ice cream social will take place and water will be served.

KINGS PARK

Parade begins at 12 p.m. at Kings Park Elementary School in Springfield. The parade goes down Clydesdale Road, through Trafalgar Court, and ends at Kings Park. Kings Park Band will perform at the park, where a moon bounce will be set up and hot dogs, snow cones and drinks will be available. The event will wrap up around 2 p.m. Open house at the Kings Park pool will begin at 3 p.m.

LORTON STATION

Parade begins at 11 a.m. up Lorton Station Boulevard, to the Lorton Firehouse and ending at the Lorton Town center. The event then continues at the VRE train station at 8990 Lorton Station Boulevard until 1 p.m.

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