

FAIRFAX POLICE  
3730

# Honoring Best of Braddock

NEWS, PAGE 3

City of Fairfax Police Chief Rick Rappoport talks June 29 with law-enforcement officers behind him and a display of real and replica weapons in front.

# When Games Turn Deadly

NEWS, PAGE 16

## Fairfax County, VDOT File Suit Against EPA

NEWS, PAGE 4

## Suspects Charged in Robbery

City of Fairfax police have arrested two men in connection with a robbery at King Kabob Restaurant at 10250 Main St. They are Jose Manuel Santiago-Delci and Jose Orlando Garcia Orellana, both of 10324 Layton Hall Drive, No. 220, in Fairfax.

The restaurant owner reported that, on June 24, after closing the business, she and her daughter began walking in the parking lot toward their vehicle. There, she said, she was grabbed from behind by a man with a knife and a struggle ensued.

Police say a man then approached her daughter on the passenger side of the vehicle. The daughter dropped two bags she was carrying and ran for safety. Both suspects then fled on foot to the nearby woods with the two bags.

Following an investigation by the Criminal Investigations Division, police charged Santiago-Delci, 23, with abduction, robbery and attempted robbery. They also charged Garcia Orellana, 33, with robbery and attempted robbery. Both men are being held without bond in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and also have current Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainers on them.

## Police Bringing Summer HEAT

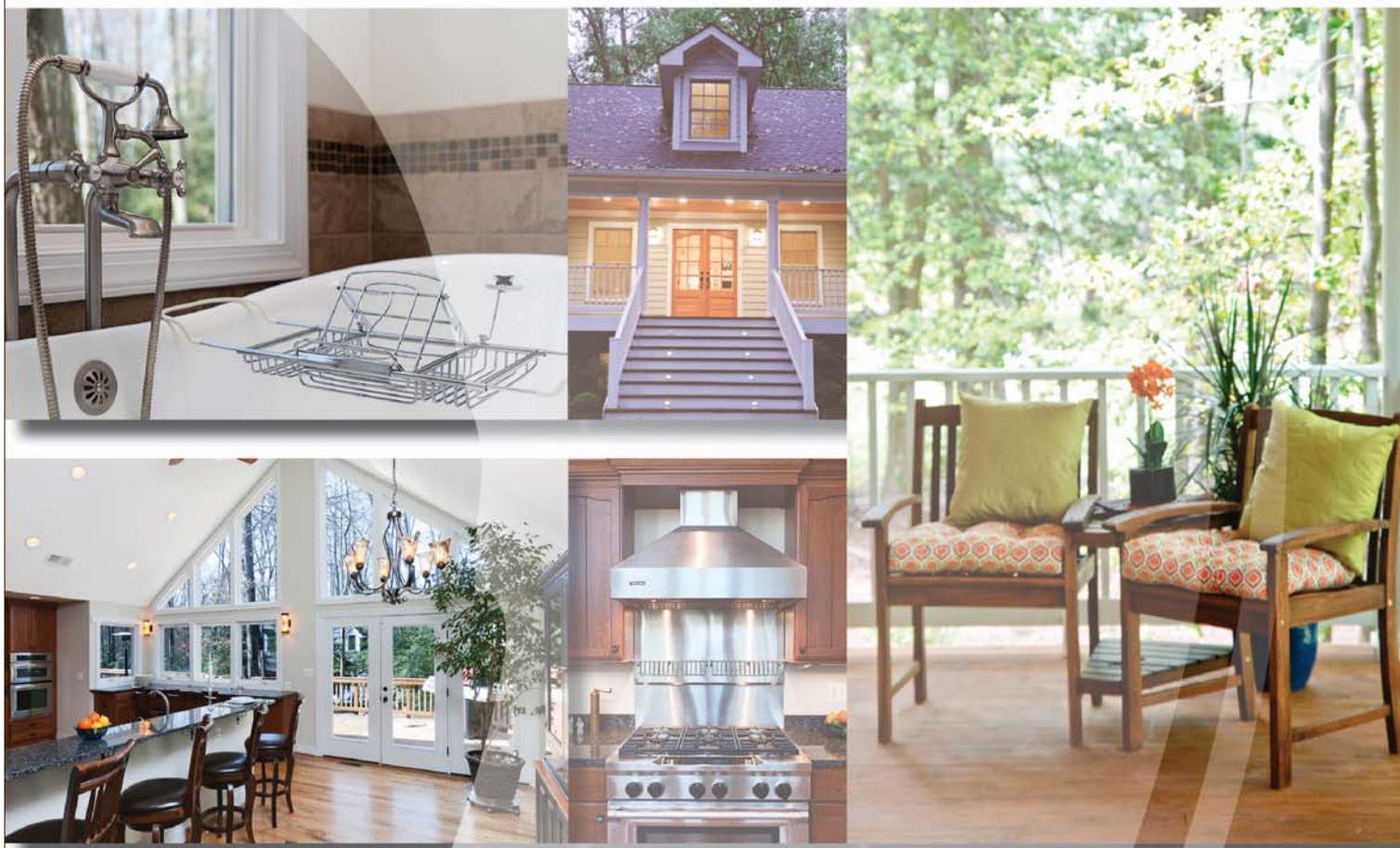
Fairfax County police are putting the heat on aggressive drivers. Since the traffic-safety, summer HEAT (Help Eliminate Aggressive Traffic) program began June 15, officers have issued more than 2,000 summonses for unsafe, aggressive-driving behaviors. These include violations such as failure to pay full time and attention, texting while operating a vehicle, having a television visible to a driver and wearing earphones while driving.

Specifically, 284 citations were issued for improper passing, lane changes, u-turns or turns at intersections. Some 370 drivers were ticketed for driving on a revoked or suspended driver's license. In addition, 71 citations were issued to pedestrians. And more than 550 citations were given for child-restraint or seatbelt violations.

Hundreds of other motorists were ticketed for driving through and over safety zones, following too closely and signaling violations. The safety effort will continue through August. Police urge motorists to slow down, drive courteously and be patient with fellow motorists during summer.



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PHOTOS BY AMIEE FREEMAN/THE CONNECTION

From left to right are the eight recipients of the 2012 Best of Braddock Awards and regional political leaders who attended the event: Gaela Hime, Fairfax County School Board Representative for the Braddock District Megan McLaughlin, Katherine Stramel, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), State Senator David Marsden, Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock District), Kathy Augustine, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At Large), Del. David Bulova, Del. Eileen Filler-Corn, Patrick Gloyd, Anita Musser receiving the award on behalf of The Burke Centre Conservancy, Lisa Carroll receiving the award on behalf of the Shepherd Center and Bill Barfield, chairman of the Braddock District Council of Community Associations. Dawson Taylor, who received the Young Person of the Year award, was not present.



Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock District) welcomes ceremony attendees to the 2012 Best of Braddock Awards Ceremony. Cook said the award recipients were “inspirational” for their service to the community.

## Honoring Best of Braddock

### Eight honored for volunteer service at Annual Best of Braddock Awards Ceremony.

BY AMIEE FREEMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**B**raddock District Council of Community Associations and Braddock District Supervisor John Cook presented the Best of Braddock Awards Wednesday night, July 11. Six people were recognized for their volunteer efforts and two organizations for their contributions to the community.

Award winners, their family and friends, and community members enjoyed a picnic style dinner prior to the awards ceremony. Also in attendance were regional and a state political leaders including, U.S. Rep Gerry Connolly (D-11), (D-At Large), delegates David Bulova and Eileen Filler-Corn, State Senator David Marsden, and Fairfax County School Board Representative for the Braddock District Megan McLaughlin. Bill Barfield, chairman of the Braddock District Council of Community Associations, served as the emcee.

“For tonight’s winners, their hard work is all about community. They set an example for those who follow them. These volunteers are an inspiration. They step up to go the extra mile,” said Cook prior to the event.

“This is the most noble grassroots level of governance. These volunteers are looking out for their community. Volunteers might do something small, like organizing a parade or picnic. These types of events, however, build up a sense of community, so when you have an event like a power outage,” said Bulova referring to the recent

derecho storm and power outages, “you have an intact sense of community that can then deal with the crisis, look out for each other and work toward a solution.”

“My personal ethos is bloom where you are planted,” said Connolly. “The volunteers we are recognizing this evening share that ethos. These volunteers work 24-7 to make our community vibrant.”

**DAWSON TAYLOR** was recognized as Young Person of the Year. Taylor, a student at Frost Middle, exhibits “a generous and responsible nature,” according to his nominating biography. Taylor is an assistant patrol leader in Boy Scout Troup 1525 and plays sting bass in the school orchestra. For his school service project, he played solo piano concerts at a number of retirement communities. He also sings in the school chorus and church choir.

Katherine Stramel was recognized as the Most Can-Do Public Employee in the District, State Level. As Community Relations Specialist at the Annandale Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, Stramel has been instrumental in informing Braddock District residents about NVCC actions and events that could affect the community. Stramel has also been helpful in resolving concerns or issues that residents raised, including issues about construction noise, nighttime light pollution and traffic. She has also worked hard to establish a dialogue with the community through neighborhood meetings.

Gaela Hime was recognized as the Most Can-Do Public Employee in the District, Local Level. For 27 years Hime served as a crossing guard for three schools: Robinson Secondary, Oak View and Laurel Ridge elementary schools. Every year she learned the names of the children and the parents who she helped to cross the street before and after school.

The Burke Centre Conservancy was selected for its achievements in Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification by a Community Association. Over a three-year period The Burke Conservancy has worked to clear sediment in five conservancy-owned ponds and rebuild gazebos and bridges in those areas.

Shepherd Center of Fairfax-Burke was recognized as the Organization Making a Difference in the Braddock District. The Shepherd Center’s mission is to provide life enrichment opportunities and life support services to older adults in the Fairfax-Burke community so they can continue to live independently with a sense of purpose and dignity.

Lisa Carroll accepted the award for the Shepherd Center. She said it “was exciting when we found out we were going to be recognized.” The Shepherd Center has a roster of 108 volunteers serving more than 800 senior citizens in the Burke-Fairfax region. The Shepherd Center offers luncheons, continuing education classes, exercise, transportation to doctor’s appointments or shopping for senior citizens in the Burke-Fairfax area. Just in the last month, said Carroll, volunteers at the Shepherd Center provided 89 trips.

Patrick Gloyd was recognized as the Most Outstanding Business Person. Gloyd serves

as CEO, manages staff, and coordinates administrative support for various Burke Centre resources. Gloyd serves as a liaison to the Business Development Committee, a member of the Pohick Creek Watershed Advisory Group and a liaison to the Burke Centre Parkway Pedestrian and Motorist Safety Task Force. He has overseen the updating of five community centers. He has also worked with Fairfax County to improve access to the VRE station by adding and updating Burke Centre paths.

Marian Hardy received a Special Recognition Award for her support of the Annandale Christian Community for Action by organizing annual food drives at Briarwood Court Condominiums for the last 22 years.

**KATHY AUGUSTINE** was recognized as the Braddock District Citizen of the Year. According to her nominating biography for the past 20 years Augustine has worked “quietly and effectively” in a variety of roles. She has worked for many years with Catholic Charities and opened her home to at-risk pregnant women, providing them shelter and support during their pregnancy. She also used her skills as financial specialist to help seniors prepare and submit their income taxes. Additionally, when Old Forge and Surrey Square Homeowners’ Associations decided to combine into one association about four years ago, Augustine was instrumental in making that a reality. She has served as the treasurer of the combined association for the past four years.

Augustine said she was “overwhelmed” when she found out she was to be awarded this recognition. “I greatly appreciate the nomination and the award,” said Augustine.

# Fairfax County, VDOT File Suit Against EPA

New EPA rules will impact homeowners, developers and could cost taxpayers nearly \$500 million.



**“We object to costly regulations that set us up for failure and not get the job done.”**

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

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**The County has been at odds with the EPA over management of the 52-square mile Accotink Creek watershed for years.**

Fairfax County and the state of Virginia filed a federal lawsuit Thursday, June 12, challenging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) new storm water regulations for the Accotink watershed, claiming the agency’s requirements are costly, onerous and vastly exceed its legal authority.

The complaint, filed jointly in U.S. District Court in Alexandria by Fairfax County and by Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli on behalf of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), seeks to halt what county officials deem a “massive expansion” of the EPA’s regulatory power.

County officials claim the EPA’s recent move – to control pollutants in the watershed by requiring the county to further regulate its storm water run off - goes beyond

the agency’s “legal authority” under the Clean Water Act (CWA).

“The EPA is way out of control,” said Supervisor John Cook (R- Braddock). “We have the best storm water program around, and the EPA’s (actions) go too far.”

**THE BOARD’S DECISION** in a presidential election year to join forces with Virginia’s conservative attorney general – an Obama foe and likely Republican gubernatorial candidate in 2013 – was “politically difficult,” Cook said, and shows “just how egregious the EPA’s actions are here.”

Board Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) said the Democrat-controlled board believed putting aside partisan politics and

joining the state in the legal action was necessary to strengthen the lawsuit against the EPA.

The County has been at odds with the EPA over management of the 52-square mile Accotink Creek watershed for years. Meeting in closed session during the board’s regular meeting on Tuesday, June 10, supervisors decided to take legal action.

In 2011, according to the lawsuit, the EPA established a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Accotink Creek to improve the health of the creek’s aquatic life. Rather than establish a TMDL for one of the pollutants, such as sediment, the EPA issued a TMDL for a surrogate, the flow of water.

“The EPA literally is treating water itself—the very substance the Clean Water Act was created to protect—as a pollutant,” the complaint asserts.

According to the EPA, it has approved or established 3,691 TMDLs since 1995 for

sediment - the pollutant actually at issue in Accotink Creek.

The Accotink TMDL is one of the first four so-called “flow TMDLs” established by EPA anywhere in the United States. EPA issued the other three flow TMDLs for waterways in Missouri. All have been challenged in federal court.

To comply with the new EPA-mandated thresholds for water flow means Fairfax County and VDOT would have to find ways to further reduce storm water runoff, in some cases by as much as 50 percent.

Meeting these standards is unrealistic, Bulova said, and could cost Fairfax County taxpayers and property owners hundreds of millions of dollars.

VDOT officials estimate its cost to meet its share of the mandated flow reductions would be \$70 million or more. To comply with the EPA’s mandates, VDOT officials said they would be forced to acquire significant amounts of private property to build numerous new storm water management structures.

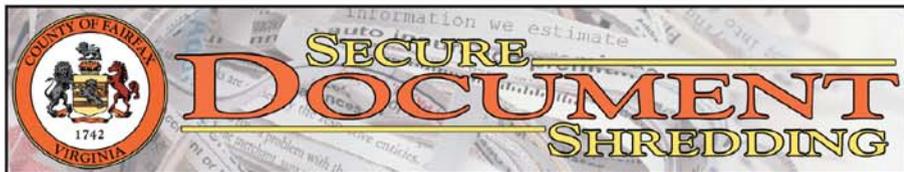
In addition, county officials said they would have to adopt costly and impractical new standards to reduce storm water runoff, and these measures could ultimately cost the county \$500 million.

County storm water officials said to

SEE COUNTY, PAGE 5

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A Fairfax County, Va., publication.

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# THE COUNTY LINE

## County Opposes 'Costly Regulations'

FROM PAGE 4

achieve 50 percent flow reduction called for in the TMDL rules for a developed watershed such as Accotink, homeowners as well as commercial property owners would be required to capture and retain, or reuse, storm water runoff from their roof, driveway and other impervious areas on their property.

Any new impervious areas, such as home additions or new development, could be required to retain all storm water runoff from any expanded impervious area.

"This topic is extremely important to both developers of future sites and owners of existing sites in the watershed," said Eric Dobson, director of government relations for the Northern Virginia NAIOP, a national trade association for commercial real estate developers, owners and investors. "Our members are very committed to the environment and continuing to do the right thing."

Dobson said the engineers estimate the cost of meeting the EPA's new requirements, "if even possible to do, is a multiple factor in cost to what is required today."

"We don't want regulations that set us up for failure," said Penny Gross, the board's vice chairman and Environment Committee Chair.

"The county believes that a more comprehensive approach will provide the sustainable improvements needed to improve the habitat of our streams and lead to restoration of the bay," Gross said. "We continue to work together with the environmental com-

munity, homeowners and builders toward that."

"This is a new type of storm water enforcement action," said James Patteson, director of Public Works and Environmental Services. "While we are not sure why we and a handful of localities in the country were selected, we feel an obligation to other municipalities, businesses and entities to ensure that enacted regulations are fair, attainable and environmentally sound."

**FAIRFAX COUNTY'S RECORD** includes more than \$300 million in wastewater system improvements and dedicated annual funding for storm water system improvements since 2006. In 2009 the county instituted a dedicated tax for storm water and has since increased it to a current rate of \$.02 per \$100 assessed value, or \$100 per year for the median home. The countywide tax funds the \$40 million budgeted storm water program in fiscal year 2013.

Bulova said Fairfax County has, for the past six decades, "demonstrated a strong and unwavering commitment" to water quality and environmental stewardship. "However, we believe that regulations, whether federally or state imposed, must effectively address the targeted problem and be fiscally sound and realistic."

"To clean up our streams requires long-term sustainable solutions that will enlist the cooperation of everyone," Bulova said in an email on Saturday. "Fairfax County has demonstrated that we are committed to moving forward. We object to costly regulations that set us up for failure and not get the job done."



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# Leaving Millions on the Table

Virginia should embrace opportunity for more health care coverage for poor residents.

Chances are that if you are reading this, you have employer-provided health insurance. While you might worry about the young adults in your family or the lower wage workers in your organization, you also know that if you are sick, you can go to the doctor.

Incredibly, 144,873 residents of Fairfax County have no health insurance. That's more than 13 percent of the slightly more than 1 million people who live in the wealthiest county in the nation. Household income in Fairfax County averages more than \$122,000 a year.

Under the health care reform act, many of Virginia's uninsured residents could be covered by an expansion of Medicaid that would be paid for almost entirely by federal funds. But while the reform act itself was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, the court also opened a door for states to opt out of the expansion of Medicaid.

From a practical perspective, declining federal money to provide healthcare to uninsured Virginians makes no more sense than declining federal funds for transportation because you don't like the feds telling you to wear your seatbelt.

But Gov. Bob McDonnell says expanding Medicaid is a terrible idea.

The state's refusal to be included in the program would deny health insurance coverage to a quarter-million Virginians, said U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly and others in urging McDonnell to accept the expanded coverage.

Medical care for uninsured Virginians adds up to \$1.65 billion a year in uncompensated costs. Medicare expansion would help reduce that by \$860 million per year, according to the Virginia Health Reform Initiative Advisory Council.

Virginia stands to lose more than \$9.2 billion in federal funds over the first five years of the new law if it opts out of the provision that expands Medicaid to individuals and families with incomes up to 133 percent of the poverty level, \$14,856 for an individual; \$30,656 for a family of four, Connolly said.

A revealing look at the possible local role of the health care reform act appears in this week's Mount Vernon Gazette, written by Del. Scott Surovell (D-44).

Surovell represents a district of 80,000 residents with stark differences between wealthy and poor in Fairfax County. The Mount Vernon area district is tied for the highest percentage of Medicaid beneficiaries in Fairfax County. One in seven people in the 44th District re-

ceive health insurance from Medicaid; 74 percent of these are children, 5 percent are pregnant, 6 percent are poor adults, with the rest elderly residents and people with disabilities. Surovell reports the largest number of Medicaid births at any hospital in Virginia occurs at Fairfax INOVA Hospital. The 44th District has a higher percentage of uninsured individuals compared with the rest of Fairfax County.

Surovell argues that his district desperately needs the help that would come with the expansion of Medicaid and other provisions under the new law.

Here is how he explains the mechanism: Health insurance reform would expand coverage by two means. First, if states expand their Medicaid programs to all individuals at 133 percent of Federal Poverty Level, the federal government picks up 100 percent of the cost in 2014-2016, and 90 percent after 2020. Second, states are required to set up healthcare exchanges to make more affordable health insurance available for individuals without employer health insurance benefits, and individuals with incomes between 100-400 percent of the federal poverty level receive a tax credit to help with the cost. Coverage was also expanded by banning coverage denials based on pre-existing conditions and requiring companies to cover college students through age 26.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Making Care Affordable

To the Editor:

Many people have personal reasons for being glad that the Supreme Court has upheld President Obama's Affordable Care Act, and for hoping that his opponents will not be able to repeal it. I have a couple of my own:

First, a Virginia carpenter whom I deeply respect came to me as he was battling colon cancer. He had no health insurance. His biggest fear was not death but the debts he had amassed in fighting the disease. He had reached financial ruin and was about to lose his house. There was no job that was too hard or too menial for him to do. In the strength of his manhood he had done them all. Yet he cried like a baby from the shame he perceived in having to ask me for money. It is uncivilized and inhumane to have more than 30 million Americans who have no insurance, cannot get it, and face financial ruin if they get sick like my carpenter friend. President Obama's Affordable Care Act, when fully implemented, will basically solve this problem.

Second, my brother Dr. Donald

M. Vickery got me to introduce in the Virginia House of Delegates some of the first wellness, preventative care legislation some thirty five years ago. The legislation failed, but Donnie went on to write a series of books advocating wellness and health care. Don has now passed away, but President Obama's Affordable Care Act puts into effect wellness and preventative care as a national health priority. My brother would have been proud.

I believe that when most Americans think about it, they will have their own personal reasons to be in favor of President Obama's Affordable Care Act. These reason will range from banning denial of coverage because of pre-existing conditions, fixing gaps in prescription drug coverage, ending insurance discrimination against women, to allowing young adults to stay on their parents coverage.

Now that there have been positive decisions from the judicial, legislative, and executive branches of government, it is time to recognize the benefits of President Obama's Affordable Care Act, put partisan attacks behind us, and move on.

**Raymond E. Vickery, Jr.**  
Vienna

### A 'Key Reason' Overlooked

To the Editor:

I was disappointed in Mr. Horrock's commentary on the Silver Line [Silver Line Gets 'Green Light' The Connection, July 11-17, 2012].

I had hoped it would provide more facts, and less opinion.

I support Mr. Horrock espousing his political views, but I'd prefer not to read them as part of a news item.

Conspicuous by its absence in Mr. Horrock's piece was one key reason for the hold-up of the Silver Line by both Loudoun County as well as the Governor.

That issue was the requirement that contractors for the construction of the Silver Line extension would have to be Union Shops — meaning that companies would have to hire union labor to win their contracts.

Since Virginia's economy has grown quite well without union organizers and the strife which usually attends that process, neither the Governor nor the Loudoun County Board was interested in promoting a union foothold via the Silver Line. Governor

McDonnell ended that problem by firing Dennis Martire — whom his Democratic predecessor [Tim Kaine] had appointed to the WMATA.

Martire was/is the Vice President of the Laborers' International Union of North America and had inserted the "project labor agreement" Union clause into WMATA's requirements against Governor McDonnell's instructions, and in contradiction to Virginia's Right to Work law.

I believe Mr. Martire is still under investigation for his profligate spending [\$38,000] which he charged to WMATA and Virginia; his \$10,586 tab for nine days in Sardinia to attend a one-day conference on airport security caused concern that he was perhaps abusing his expense account.

I, and other readers of the Reston Connection, would appreciate it if your reporters would follow Joe Friday's advice: "Just the facts, ma'am."

If we want a politicized slant on news that affects us, we can turn to the Washington Post.

We expect better from the Reston Connection.

**Greg Davis**  
Reston

# NEWS

## 9th Asian Festival Celebrating the Year of the Dragon

**T**his year, the 9th Asian Food and Tennis Festival is celebrating the year of dragon. The Festival is a two-day, free admission event to promote greater understanding of the Asian countries and cultures. It will be held at the George Mason University on July 21, Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and on July 22, Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. It is open to the public.

This year, the theme is "The Year of Dragon" where you will discover the dragon lord of the heavens and rain maker's representation of their own cultural heritage in four different showcase areas: Heritage India, It's More Fun In Philippines, Image Of China, and Amazing Thailand.

Besides the usual diverse vendors and exhibitions, there will be an interactive area with carnival rides and games for children. More than 200 multi-cultural vendors and exhibitions will also serve the event; including 35 multi-cultural food, product vendors, among them Chinese, Vietnamese, Indian,



Japanese, Korean, Thai, Laotian and Philippine cuisine and handi-crafts.

The Festival will also showcase an all-day prize money tennis tournament, stage performances, contests, interactive demonstrations, children interactive area—as well as "Destination Asia," where Asian embassies and organizations exhibit their cultures, arts, and cooking demonstration.

This year, the Thai Tennis Organization in America (TTOA) will again partner with Singha Beer and the United States Tennis Association Virginia to bring this Festival to Asian American families and the general public.

For more information, contact George Duangmanee at info@asianfestivaldc.com or Bing C. Branigin at bing@asianfestivaldc.com.

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THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

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Students at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School participate in an after school "Kids in Motion" class. Experts say extracurricular activities offer social interactions, which are important to a child's development.

# Childhood Hobbies: Finding the Right Fit

Experts offer suggestions for choosing extracurricular activities for the fall.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

While many are still basking in the lazy days of summer, Anna Faust is planning her 5-year-old son's after-school activity schedule for the fall. On his agenda: baseball, soccer, gymnastics, and tennis lessons.

"My plan is to expose him to as many activities as possible and hope that he chooses one and excels," said Faust. "Sometimes, though I can't tell if he's going along happily because all of his friends are doing it or because he really likes it."

Child development experts say deciding which and how many extracurricular activities are best for children is a dilemma that many parents face. Factors such as expense and time can make the process a delicate balancing act.

If a child wants to join a traveling hockey team, how does a parent know if his or her desire to play matches the necessary investment of pricey equipment? Should a parent coax a reluctant child into taking piano lessons hoping to transform an unwilling tot into a musical prodigy? And how much is too much when it comes to hobbies? Local child development experts say the answers vary on a case-by-case basis.

"The key to balancing one's schedule between school work, extracurricular interests, family and friends is reached not so much by seeing these goods as necessarily in competition, but rather in seeing all of the time that we have been given as a great treasure that we have to use in the best possible way," said Michael Moynihan, Up-

per School Head of The Heights School in Potomac.

Extracurricular activities are an important part of a child's development, and finding the right fit is worth the effort. "They expose children to a variety of experiences and peers. For older children, they are a venue for healthy social interaction as opposed to participating in undesirable behavior," said Rich Leichtweis, PhD, Senior Director of the Inova Kellar Center in Fairfax, "If kids are on the computer or watching television from the time they get home from school until dinner and then back on again until they go to bed, they are missing critical social opportunities that extra curricular activities can provide."

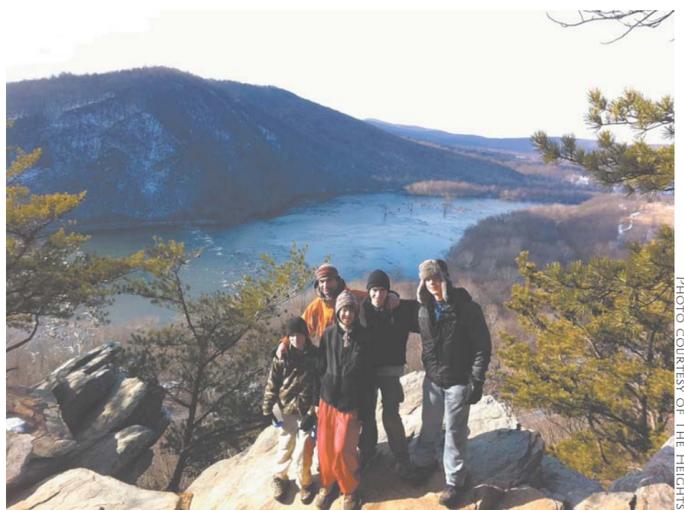
Assessing a true attraction to an activity versus a passing fancy can be tricky. "Parents should first ask their children what they might be interested in before signing them up, and they should be careful in monitoring how their children continue to feel about participating in these activities," wrote Chantilly resident Maria Londono, a mental health therapist for Fairfax Community Health Care Network in Reston, Falls Church and Alexandria, in an email.

While older children are able to express an opinion about activities, younger children might need more guidance. "If a child has a strength or interest we can build on that," said Leichtweis. "If parents notice that a child has a gift for piano or soccer, they should encourage it."

One pitfall, say experts, is following the pack. "Parents get pulled into activities because they think everybody else is doing it. Before you know it, those activities pile up and can be stressful," said McLean resident



Instructor Matthew Gehloff leads student at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in an after school fencing class. "If a parent notices that a child has a gift for piano or soccer, they should encourage it," said Rich Leichtweis, PhD, Senior Director of the Inova Kellar Center



Heights students embark on a 30-mile hike along the Appalachian Trail. Experts say children can continue activities like hiking, biking and running into adulthood.

Michele Garofalo, EdD, Assistant Chair, Department of Counseling and Associate Professor of Psychology at Marymount University in Arlington.

How does a parent know if a child is overscheduled? "Some kids are ok with a lot of activities," said Leichtweis. "If a child is involved in a lot and they're doing well in school, getting adequate rest and there are no significant disruptions, then it's probably ok. But if there is a change in behavior, their grades slip, they're not getting enough rest and they're in eight different activities, then it is time to make a change."

Experts say there are warning signs that a parent might be pushing a child too hard. "When a child says 'I don't want to go to this activity' or 'I don't like the kids there' or if they are pouting or agitated when it's time to go, those are signals that they need a change," said Garofalo. "If extracurricular activities are fun and kids enjoy them, they can build a child's self-esteem and give them a place to shine, and children need a place to shine."

Parents should also consider the family's

overall schedule. "Look at your calendar and think about the benefit versus the cost, time and energy involved in the activity. How much stress will it put on the family?" said Garofalo.

"Parents can set limits and help kids prioritize. We can listen to the kids, but it's our responsibility to set limits. A well-balanced child is a healthy child," said Leichtweis.

Make sure to set aside time for rest. "Children need downtime and a break from organized activity," noted Susan DeLaurentis, Director of Counseling, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. "I think that is important to recognize that if children have been in school all day they've put in a lot."

Finally, experts say encourage activities that children can continue into adulthood like swimming, hiking or running. "With extracurricular activities, what we're doing is setting a foundation for life. It is part of developing well-rounded and balanced community members. We want a child who knows how to work and play," said Leichtweis.

**SCHOOL NOTES**

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

- Seventeen Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) graduates** from the class of 2012 have been named winners of college-sponsored scholarships by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).
- Recipients of college-sponsored scholarships from the NMSC, with their probable career fields in parentheses, are:
- ◆ Meron Belayneh of Edison High School (mathematics), National Merit University of Chicago Scholarship.
  - ◆ David Kim of Lake Braddock Secondary School (undecided), National Merit Vanderbilt University Scholarship.
  - ◆ Dylan Kriz of Langley High School (international business), National Merit University of South Carolina Scholarship.
  - ◆ Nathaniel Banks of Robinson Secondary School (music), National Merit Vanderbilt University Scholarship.
  - ◆ Matthew Ferrell of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) (computer science), National Merit University of Alabama Scholarship.
  - ◆ Erika Fitzpatrick of TJHSST (undecided), National Merit Carleton College Scholarship.
  - ◆ Mingming Hu of TJHSST (computer science), National Merit Georgia Institute of Technology Scholarship.
  - ◆ Jerry Li of TJHSST (engineering), National Merit Washington University in St. Louis Scholarship.
  - ◆ Aimi Nguyen of TJHSST (dentistry), National Merit University of Texas at Dallas Scholarship.
  - ◆ Rithvik Prasanna of TJHSST (medicine), National Merit Washington University in St. Louis Scholarship.
  - ◆ Kelsey Rainey of TJHSST (engineering), National Merit Auburn University Scholarship.
  - ◆ Peter Reischer of TJHSST (psychiatry), National Merit University of Alabama Scholarship.
  - ◆ Benjamin Torzon of TJHSST (business), National Merit University of Alabama Scholarship.
  - ◆ Zachary Williams of TJHSST (business/law), National Merit University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Scholarship.
  - ◆ Kerry Zhang of TJHSST (economics), National Merit University of Chicago Scholarship.
  - ◆ Rebecca Holley of Westfield High School (Music/Education), National Merit University of Rochester Scholarship.
  - ◆ Ian Van Pelt of Westfield High School (biology), National Merit Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Scholarship.
- College-sponsored Merit Scholarships provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship. Nationwide, approximately 8,100 students have won Merit Scholarship awards in 2012.
- Fairfax residents **Cara Bialek** and **David Hixon** have been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at the Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, Ga.

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# CALENDAR

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

## THURSDAY/JULY 19

**MSCB Concert.** 8 p.m. Veterans Amphitheatre, 10455 Armstrong St, Fairfax.  
**Vacation Bible School July 22-26.** 5:30-8 p.m. t. Peter's in the Woods, 5911 Fairview Woods Dr., Fairfax Station. 703-503-9210. Register online at [www.spw.org](http://www.spw.org)

## FRIDAY/JULY 20

**Kirov Academy of Ballet of Washington D.C.** 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The secrets, techniques, and history of one of the art forms. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or [www.wolftrap.org/TITW](http://www.wolftrap.org/TITW).  
**Tommy Lepson Band.** 7:30 p.m. Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. Blues/Soul. Free. 703-324-7469 or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances).

## SATURDAY/JULY 21

**Sunset Cruise.** 7 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road,

Springfield. Cruiser the shores of Lake Accotink. Beverages served. \$6. Register at 703-569-0285.

**Kirov Academy of Ballet of Washington D.C.** 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The secrets, techniques, and history of one of the art forms. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or [www.wolftrap.org/TITW](http://www.wolftrap.org/TITW).

**Jah Works.** 7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Reggae. Free. 703-324-7469 or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances).

**Flea Market.** 8 a.m.-4 p.m. VRE Commuter Rail Parking Lot, 6900 Hechinger Drive, Springfield. Sponsored by Springfield-Franconia Lions Club. Vendor fee \$20 per parking space. Proceeds benefit local charities. 703-569-3074 or <http://sfhostlions.org/fleamkt.html>.

**Clifton Film Festival.** 3-11 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Showcasing original films made by the surrounding community. \$5 day showings, \$10 evening showing, \$20 for 3 day showings and evening showings. [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org).

**Sheriff's Office Partners with Target for "Safe Kids."** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Target, 10301 Guinea Road, Fairfax. Trained deputies will ensure that children fit securely in the safety seats and that the safety seats fit

securely in the vehicle seat.

## SUNDAY/JULY 22

**Canine Cruises.** 7 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Cruiser the shores of Lake Accotink with your dog. Limit one dog per person. \$6. Register at 703-569-0285.

**Wolf Trap Opera Company: Aria Jukebox.** 3 p.m. Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Opera highlights. Preshow talk one hour before performance. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra.** 7:30 p.m. Performs Rhapsody in Blue with pianist Christopher Johnston. Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Adults \$15, seniors and teens \$10, children free. 703-569-0973.

## MONDAY/JULY 23

**Jackson Browne with Sara Watkins.** 8 p.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$50 in-house, \$30 lawn. [www.wolftrap.com](http://www.wolftrap.com).

**Vacation Bible School.** 9-11:30 a.m. Fellowship Baptist Church, 5936 Rolling Road, Springfield. Activities will include a Bible Lesson, Missions Emphasis, Crafts, Snacks and Games. Free. Register at [honoringGod.org](http://honoringGod.org) or 703 569-5151.

## TUESDAY/JULY 24

**Rufus Wainwright and Ingrid Michaelson.** 8 p.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$40 in-house, \$30 lawn. [www.wolftrap.com](http://www.wolftrap.com).

**Matthias Kuchta.** 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The Brothers Grimm fairytale, The Wolf and the Seven Little Goats. German puppeteer Matthias Kuchta uses life-size puppets to share the story of seven little goats that let a wicked wolf into their home. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or [www.wolftrap.org/TITW](http://www.wolftrap.org/TITW).

## WEDNESDAY/JULY 25

**Matthias Kuchta.** 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The Brothers Grimm fairytale, The Wolf and the Seven Little Goats. German puppeteer Matthias Kuchta uses life-size puppets to share the story of seven little goats that let a wicked wolf into their home. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or [www.wolftrap.org/TITW](http://www.wolftrap.org/TITW).

## THURSDAY/JULY 26

**The Ugly Duckling and Cinderella.** 7 p.m. Russell Theater at Robinson High School. [robinsondrama.org](http://robinsondrama.org)

**Matthias Kuchta.** 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The Brothers Grimm fairytale, The Wolf and the Seven Little Goats. German puppeteer Matthias Kuchta uses life-size puppets to share the story of seven little goats that let a wicked wolf into their home. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or [www.wolftrap.org/TITW](http://www.wolftrap.org/TITW).

**CFB Concert.** 8 p.m. Veterans Amphitheater, 10455 Armstrong St, Fairfax.

## FRIDAY/JULY 27

**The ATOMIC Swing Club.** 7:30 p.m. Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. Swing. Free. 703-324-7469 or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances).

**The Ugly Duckling and Cinderella.** 7 p.m. Russell Theater at Robinson High School. [robinsondrama.org](http://robinsondrama.org)

**Matthias Kuchta.** 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The Brothers Grimm fairytale, The Wolf and the Seven Little Goats. German



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

The cast of the City of Fairfax Theatre Company's production of "Into the Woods." (Not pictured is Wendy Knight).

## Come 'Into the Woods' with Fairfax Theatre Company

Six drama teachers head line the cast of the City of Fairfax Theatre Company's summer production of "Into the Woods." They include Fairfax High's Wendy Knight and Paul Rubenstein and Woodson High's Terri Hobson. Show times are Friday-Saturday, July 20-21 and July 27-28, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, July 22 and 29, at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$10, online; \$15, at the door; for adult-cast performances; and \$8, online; \$12, at the door; for youth-cast performances. One-act, youth-cast shows are Saturday, July 21 and 28, at 3 p.m.

All shows are at Madison High, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. For more information, go to <http://fairfaxcitytheatre.ticketleap.com/into-the-woods/#view=calendar>.

Vienna. Bringing the opera to life. Preshow talk one hour before performance. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

## TUESDAY/JULY 31

**Okee Dokee Brothers.** 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Nature-inspired lyrics and catchy bluegrass melodies. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or [www.wolftrap.org/TITW](http://www.wolftrap.org/TITW).

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 1

**Okee Dokee Brothers.** 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Nature-inspired lyrics and catchy bluegrass melodies. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or [www.wolftrap.org/TITW](http://www.wolftrap.org/TITW).

## THURSDAY/AUG. 2

**Captive Free, Youth Encounter's relational music ministry team, will perform a spiritual concert and puppet show.** Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. [erodgers@lordoflifeva.org](mailto:erodgers@lordoflifeva.org)

**Okee Dokee Brothers.** 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Nature-inspired lyrics and catchy bluegrass melodies. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or [www.wolftrap.org/TITW](http://www.wolftrap.org/TITW).

## FRIDAY/AUG. 3

**Pushcart Players: Happily Ever After... A Cinderella Tale.** 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Featuring music by composer Larry Hochman. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or [www.wolftrap.org/TITW](http://www.wolftrap.org/TITW).

**Wolf Trap Opera Company: The Rake's Progress.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Preshow talk one hour before performance. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

## SATURDAY/JULY 28

**Public Reception: Workhouse Clay National Ceramics Exhibition.** 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. "Open Call" for ceramic artworks. Mixed media entries acceptable, but clay must be the primary medium. Exhibit open July 25-Aug. 26. [workhousearts.org](http://workhousearts.org).

**Flea Market.** 8 a.m.-4 p.m. VRE Commuter Rail Parking Lot, 6900 Hechinger Drive, Springfield. Sponsored by Springfield-Franconia Lions Club. Vendor fee \$20 per parking space. Proceeds benefit local charities. 703-569-3074 or <http://sfhostlions.org/fleamkt.html>.

**Mariachi Los Amigos.** 7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Mariachi. Free. 703-324-7469 or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances).

**Matthias Kuchta.** 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The Brothers Grimm fairytale, The Wolf and the Seven Little Goats. German puppeteer Matthias Kuchta uses life-size puppets to share the story of seven little goats that let a wicked wolf into their home. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or [www.wolftrap.org/TITW](http://www.wolftrap.org/TITW).

## SUNDAY/JULY 29

**Fundraising Concert.** 2 p.m. Old Town Hall, Fairfax City, 3999 University Drive. Concert and worship service to benefit Our Daily Bread.

**Wolf Trap Opera Company: Backstage Buzz Artist Panels.** 3 p.m. Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road,

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# Suspended Prison Sentence For Former Band Director

## Former Robinson band director must register as sex offender.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

When Michael Keith Cook was sentenced last week for computer solicitation of a child under age 15, he didn't lose his freedom. But even before he set foot in the courtroom, he'd already lost something precious to him – his career as a school band director.

"They'll never hire him again in a school because he's a convicted felon and because he'll be a registered sex offender," said his attorney, Tom Walsh. "It's also a loss for the community that he can no longer teach music."

A Centreville resident, Cook, 43 of 14313 Climbing Rose Way, had been the band director at Robinson Secondary School for six years. Before then, he'd taught music at Stone, Carson and Robinson middle schools. But when he was arrested last August, it marked the coda, or end, of that part of his life.

On Feb. 28 in Fairfax County Circuit Court, Cook entered an Alford plea, not admitting guilt, but acknowledging the existence of enough evidence to convict him. He returned last Thursday, July 12, for sentencing by Judge David Schell and received two years in prison, all suspended.

At the outset, Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Bob McClain explained the events lead-

ing to Cook's arrest. He said county police Det. Nickolas Boffi was working online, acting in an undercover capacity as a 14-year-old boy, when Cook contacted "the teen."

"The defendant solicited him and offered to meet and perform oral sex on what he thought was a 14-year-old male," said the prosecutor. Boffi is with the Child Exploitation Unit, and McClain said this type of sting is "a preemptory strike by police to weed out child predators."

The conversations between Cook and the detective occurred between July 19 and 27, 2011. Authorities say Cook, using a particular screen name, sent the "teen" a photo of his face and tried to meet with him. Via his Internet-service provider, police identified the screen name as his, and Cook later admitted it.

He was arrested and charged on Aug. 31, 2011, and the county school system immediately placed him on unpaid leave. Cook had been an FCPS employee since August 1999 and Robinson's band director since 2006.

In court, McClain said what took the offense "to another level is that [Cook] suggested that he and the [teen] act out the subject of their online conversations." Furthermore, said the prosecutor, "He chose a profession that would place

him around minors – the very people who could become his victims."

Although the discretionary sentencing guidelines for Cook's crime call for probation, said McClain, "The commonwealth is asking for incarceration."

Walsh, however, asked Schell to give Cook probation, plus a sex-offender assessment. He also noted that his client will be placed on the sex-offender registry – "which is punishment, in and of itself."

"This offense took place over nine days and was carried out through IM chats and e-mails," said Walsh. "There were no meetings. The detective attempted three times to set one up, but the defendant declined. It was just sexual conversations."

Even though the detective told Cook he was just 14, said Walsh, "Boffi posted an ad on craigslist on a site for males seeking males, ages 18-27," and that's the ad to which Cook initially responded. Walsh also stressed that Cook turned himself in to the police. He was released from jail on Sept. 6, 2011, and has been on supervised release since then.

Before moving to Virginia, Cook taught middle- and high-school instrumental music in Maine for eight years. And in 1999, he received the "Maine Distinguished Teaching Award from Bowdoin College. At Robinson, he directed the high-school bands, including the Sym-

phonic Band, Advanced Band Concert 4, the Percussion Ensemble and the Robinson Marching Rams.

Until this incident, many people considered Cook a model citizen. "There were 23 letters of recommendation – character references written [to the judge] on his behalf," said Walsh. "They were written by family members, co-workers, friends, professionals in other careers, parents of children he's taught and parents whose children later won music scholarships – and they attribute that to Mr. Cook."

He said all these letters described Cook as being honorable, decent, hardworking, trustworthy and dependable. "He chose to be a band teacher – not to surround himself with children – but because he's good at it," said Walsh. "He dealt with teachers and students and did very well, and this incident didn't take place in school."

Walsh said a forensic psychologist evaluated Cook and found him at "low risk of engaging in further sexual offenses. It's not a violent offense, just an unfortunate mistake."

**BEFORE SENTENCING**, Cook stood and addressed the court. "I've been completely devastated by this," he said. "But more important, so have my family, friends and colleagues and people who've supported me – and it is to those people I sincerely apologize."

Judge Schell then sentenced him to two years in prison, suspending all that time. He also placed Cook on two years active probation and ordered him to have no unsupervised contact with children under 18.

In addition, a DNA sample from Cook was to be taken for placement into Virginia's data base of convicted felons. Schell further ordered him to undergo sex-offender evaluation and treatment and to add his name to the national, sex-offender registry.

Afterward, outside the courtroom, Walsh said Cook – who's now working in the "service industry" – is "disappointed in his own actions and felt that he let people down. It's a sad case because I think the music community has lost a very valuable asset. It was a poor mistake on his part and he recognizes it."

**"I've been completely devastated by this."**

— Michael Keith Cook, convicted sex offender

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# Pedaling with Pals

Potomac Pedalers provides group rides for area cyclists.

By JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

**N**ancy Avitabile joined the Potomac Pedalers roughly 15 years ago to ride with others who shared her love for cycling. While the friends and knowledge she gained from joining the Pedalers brought personal satisfaction, her physical improvement in the sport helped bring Avitabile national recognition.

Avitabile, a 64-year-old Bethesda resident, has competed in more than 25 triathlons since participating in her first in 1996. She won the 2010 USA Triathlon amateur national championship for her age group. In 2011, her accomplishments involved winning her age group at the

Nation's Triathlon and the Miami Half-Ironman Triathlon. This year, Avitabile finished first in her age group at the Eagleman Half-Ironman triathlon in Cambridge, Md., on June 10, earning her a slot in the Hawaii Ironman World Championship in October. On July 8, she won her age group at the New York City Triathlon. She's also a member of Team USA and will represent the country at this year's world championships in New Zealand.

**"If you're new to the area, it's a good way to meet people if you're into cycling because there are so many different levels of cycling."**

**— Potomac Pedalers executive committee member Chris White of Springfield**

championships in New Zealand.

Avitabile credits the Potomac Pedalers for some of her triathlon success.

"I became a better cyclist," she said.

**THE POTOMAC PEDALERS TOURING CLUB** is a cycling club for residents of Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Virginia. Founded in 1966, the club offers group rides for cyclists of all ages and ability levels. It's one of the largest cycling clubs in the nation, with 3,500 members in 2010, according to [raceacrossamerica.org](http://raceacrossamerica.org).

Cyclists are categorized by "ride class" to assure groups contain members of similar ability levels. A cyclist's ride class is determined by his or her average riding speed and endurance.

The club encourages beginners to start in the "D" class. According to the club's ride class table, a D rider averages 10-12 mph on flat ground and typically travels routes of 10-25 miles. In comparison, a "B" rider averages 16-18 mph on flat ground and travels a route length of 40-60 miles. An "AA" rider, the highest class, averages 22-24 mph on flat ground and travels routes of 60-100 miles.

Some members look to improve their speed



**Arlington resident and Potomac Pedalers member Ed Hazelwood is seen in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin in 2010.**

and stamina and move into a different class, while others enjoy the slower, more social rides.

"You get out of it what you want to get out of it," said Bob Bernstein, the 2012 chairman of the Pedalers' executive committee.

Avitabile, who is the committee's treasurer, started below B level when she joined the club in the mid 1990s, but rode with B groups as a way to push herself to improve. She is now a group leader for BB rides.

"The club members were great," she said. "They were really helpful with giving me pointers with how to ride faster and how to ride better."

Avitabile said triathletes view running, swimming and cycling as part of one event, rather than three individual sports. However, she said cycling is her favorite of the trio.

"I love cycling," Avitabile said. "I love getting out there and going fast. There's just something about cycling — a real sense of freedom."

**AFTER LIVING IN ITALY** for five years, 53-year-old Springfield resident Chris White has been back with the Pedalers for three years and is a member of the executive committee. Along with trips to the gym and changes to his diet, White said cycling has helped him lose 20-25 pounds in recent years.

"I wasn't all that active for about five years [in Italy]," he said. "... I stopped [drinking] wine and [eating] pasta."

The Pedalers offer group rides throughout the week and on weekends in parts of Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Virginia. The Pedalers' ride schedule can be found on its Website, [potomacpedalers.org](http://potomacpedalers.org).

A one-year individual membership costs \$30. A one-year family membership is \$37, and the annual student rate is \$25. An individual lifetime membership is available for \$350. The Potomac Pedalers Touring Club is a non-profit corporation.

White said the club offers an opportunity for all cyclists to have a good time.

"If you're new to the area, it's a good way to meet people if you're into cycling because there are so many different levels of cycling," he said. "We cover such a large area, there is something in it for everybody. You don't have to be in one area to take advantage of it."



**Alec Reilly hits home plate after his first grand slam homerun of his little league career.**

## Heading to States

**West Springfield Little League 9-10 American All-Stars Head to States.**



**Cameron Consolvo hits the cutoff man from centerfield.**

**W**est Springfield Little League continues to be a Northern Virginia baseball powerhouse by sending two teams to the state championships this year. The 10-11-year-old American All-Star team, coached by Greg McIntyre, and the 9-10-year-old American All-star team, coached by Bryan Holzemer, both won the district championship title for their age groups. WSLL is no stranger to titles: the league has sent dozens of teams to state championships in the past 30 years. Unique to this year, though, is that four of the six WSLL teams won trophies by placing first or second in District 9 of the Virginia Little League.

After starting the district playoffs with a 5-1 loss to Fort Hunt, the 9-10 American team was considered an underdog and fought back from the loser's bracket. They had their toughest games early with Dumfries/Triangle/Quantico, Woodbridge and Fort Hunt, which set them up for the district championship against the WSLL National team with drive and a lot of hard-knocks on-the-field learning.

"I've never seen a tougher team of boys," commented one district scorekeeper.

They won the first of two finals games in extra innings with an 8-7 win, then an astonishing 14-3 win in the final game, shutting down the game by the top of the fourth inning.

"It's bittersweet to win like this against fellow WSLL teammates," coach Holzemer said. "We're a community in the West

Springfield Little League and want all our boys to be rewarded for their love of this game."

The umpires for the final Saturday game, including one Little League World Series umpire from 2011, said that he was amazed at this tournament play and "what the coaches did with both of these teams ... making them truly outstanding players."

These WSLL boys — both the American and National All-Star teams — played their hearts out and were both awarded trophies, first and second place, respectively. The WSLL 10-11-year-old American and National teams did the same by also taking first and second place in the district. With these four gets, WSLL scored four of the six possible trophies for the entire district.

"It takes a league to build these boys into young men," Holzemer said. "I am honored for the opportunity to coach these all-star boys this past month, but it took all of our regular season coaches to develop their talent to get to this level."

Both teams leave this week for the Virginia state tournament. McIntyre's team heads for the Tidewater area and Holzemer's team heads to Ashburn.

# NEWS

MPO Charles Mills drops a dummy and will in short order sink the dummy's boat in the Occoquan Reservoir at Fountainhead Regional Park on June 11 in preparation for a Dive Team training exercise to be held on June 13. Mills is a member of the Fairfax County motor squad, a diver on the Fairfax County Police Underwater Search and Recovery Team and is detailed temporarily to the Marine Patrol Unit – which works in collaboration with the Dive Team



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

# Underwater Heroics

## Training exercise at Occoquan Reservoir.

“911. What’s your emergency?” “I just saw a guy’s boat sink in the reservoir, I think he went under with it.” This fictional 911 call describes the scenario for a joint training exercise between the Fairfax County Underwater Search and Recovery Team, the Fairfax County Police Marine Patrol Unit and the Prince William County Police Underwater Search and Recovery Unit that took place on June 13 in the Occoquan Reservoir near Fountainhead Regional Park: 23 law enforcement officers worked together to locate a dummy representing a body and the boat and recover them from the waters of the Occoquan Reservoir.

Diver is considered the riskiest job in the Fairfax County police department due to nature of the work – underwater, in ever-changing conditions with low to no visibility, low temperatures, and intense physical demands. Unit Supervisor Lt. Lance Schaible said, “The danger never changes for them whether it is a real-life situation or training.” Training sessions are critical for the unit to maintain skills, develop expertise with new tools, develop familiarity and comfort with different types of recovery operations and to provide newer members of the unit with experience.

— DEB COBB



Fairfax County Police Search and Recovery Team divers wear 80 pounds of gear to go in the water. PFC Robert Gogan, a member of the dive team and an officer at the West Springfield District adds weights to his colleague’s suit to enable the diver to go to the bottom of the Occoquan Reservoir at Fountainhead Regional Park during a training exercise on June 13.



Police Officer First Class Matthew Grubb operates the Marine Patrol Unit’s side scan sonar during a Fairfax County Police Search and Recovery Team training exercise at Fountainhead Regional Park on June 13. The side scan sonar is used to locate bodies and evidence underwater. Officer Carrie Bennett is on temporary assignment to the Marine Patrol Unit from the Mt. Vernon district station.



Fairfax County Police Search and Recovery Team divers head out on the Fairfax County Police Marine Patrol Unit boat to conduct a training exercise in Occoquan Reservoir at Fountainhead Regional Park on June 13.

# EMPLOYMENT

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PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Which are real and which are replica rifles?

Discussing replica weapons is Fairfax County Police Chief Dave Rohrer.

# When Dangerous Games Turn Deadly

Police warn public about replica firearms.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

It was shortly before midnight when City of Fairfax police rushed to an apartment complex after receiving a report of a man there carrying a gun. He'd already pointed his weapon at several people when officers confronted him, had him drop the gun and arrested him.

This incident happened awhile ago, and the weapon turned out to be a replica of a long-barreled, semiautomatic rifle. But the man had removed the orange tip identifying it as a fake so, at first glance, police had no idea it wasn't real. And had he pointed it at them, the incident could have ended in tragedy.

"In the past year across our region, police officers have responded to many 'person-with-a-gun' calls," said Col. Rick Rappoport, chief of the City of Fairfax Police Department. "Often, officers are confronted with real guns in situations that are truly life-threatening. In a relatively small number of cases – but with increasing frequency – officers are finding that children and young adults with replica weapons are the reason for the call."

**SO ON JUNE 29**, his department hosted law-enforcement officers from throughout Northern Virginia at a special press conference to draw attention to the problems posed by realistic-looking, replica weapons. Displayed on a table was a large number of guns and rifles – and casual observers could not tell the real from the replicas.

Alexandria, Arlington County, City of Fairfax, Fairfax County, Falls Church, GMU, Herndon, Leesburg, City of Manassas,



Speaking at the podium is Lanier Middle School Principal Scott Poole.

Prince William County, Purcellville and Virginia State police attended, as well as Arlington County and Loudoun County sheriffs representatives.

Rappoport said children and young adults frequently use replica firearms in games. And law-enforcement officers are especially concerned now that schools are out for the summer and children are engaging in more outdoor play.

"Today the chiefs and sheriffs of Northern Virginia are speaking out about dangerous games – the risks associated with replica weapons in the hands of young people," said Rappoport. "Replica weapons are manufactured to look and feel like the real weapon and to fire a plastic

or synthetic projectile, usually by means of compressed air."

They're not firearms under the law. But, he said, "Neither are they harmless toys; replica weapons are capable of inflicting serious injury and causing serious damage to property. But the greatest risk occurs when others perceive them as real weapons and the person holding them as a real threat. Such situations have occurred throughout our region, sometimes with tragic results, so we're speaking out to educate children and parents, to alert our communities to this issue and to avert needless tragedies."

Rappoport said modern technology has advanced such that the toy guns of previous generations bear no resemblance to the kind of toy weapons available today. "[They're] identical replicas indistinguishable from real firearms," he said. But he doesn't want to condemn these products;

he just wants them used safely and responsibly.

And that's critical, he said, because calls involving such weapons are both dangerous and potentially deadly. "In 2011, for the first time in 14 years, more U.S. police officers were killed by firearms than were killed in traffic accidents," said Rappoport. "And on average, about 50,000 people a year are killed or injured in an attack with a firearm."

The presence of weapons in every community – whether in the hands of the police, law-abiding citizens or juveniles – is a reality. However, young people are largely unaware that their behavior may be perceived differently than simply children play-

ing games. So they're often shocked when police respond.

**FURTHER COMPLICATING** police matters, said Rappoport, is the fact that "criminals sometimes use replica weapons [and] kids sometimes play with real guns." So the law-enforcement community is making a concerted effort to educate the public about the appropriate response to people carrying weapons.

Arlington County Police Chief Doug Scott said criminals know there are lesser penalties for using replica weapons. But, he added, "It's important for parents and children to understand how we respond to those people brandishing them."

City of Falls Church Police Chief Mary Gavin noted that, a few years ago in her jurisdiction, "Children were using replica weapons and the citizens were arming themselves against [this threat]."

According to Leesburg Police Chief Joe Price, officers are trained to consider every situation real. When someone fires at them, he said, they only have "a fraction of a second" to determine whether to shoot back.

Scott Poole, principal of Lanier Middle School, said all these things illustrate "why it's so important for school officials to work closely with police to keep children safe." He noted, as well, the importance of a good relationship between the school, its SRO (school resource officer) and the community.

Lanier's SRO, Officer Mike Murphy, said SROs like him tell juveniles to use replica weapons "only in a safe environment or with parental supervision. And when law enforcement tells them to put down their guns, they should comply."

Basically, said the police, people should be wary of all weapons. Fairfax County Police Chief Dave Rohrer said criminals using replica guns cover up their orange tips. Conversely, added Rappoport, "Just because it has an orange tip doesn't mean it's not a real weapon."

# Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

## Sold in May 2012, \$650,000~\$699,999



**2** 13639 Sweet Woodruff Lane, Centreville — \$699,000



**1** 10125 Main Street, Fairfax — \$699,900



**3** 8722 Cross Chase Circle, Fairfax Station — \$695,000



**8** 5967 Burnside Landing Drive, Burke — \$685,000

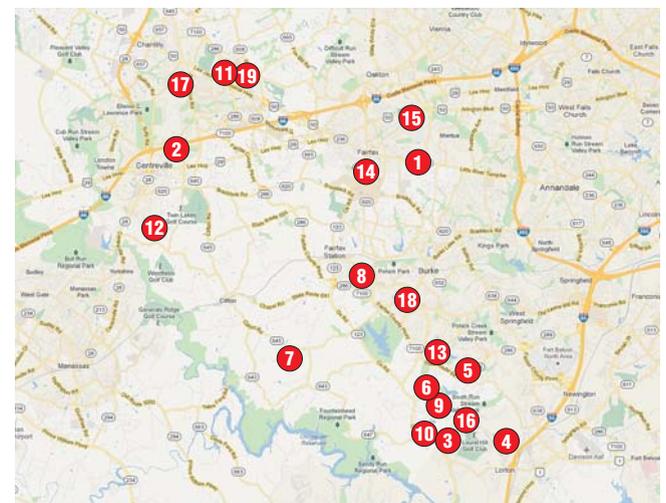


**12** 13942 Marblestone Drive, Clifton — \$660,000



**13** 9308 Jenna Court, Springfield — \$660,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
10125 MAIN ST	4	..	5	1	FAIRFAX	\$699,900	Detached	0.23	22031	HALEMHURST	05/24/12
13639 SWEET WOODRUFF LN	5	..	4	1	CENTREVILLE	\$699,000	Detached	0.25	20120	FAIRCREST	05/31/12
8722 CROSS CHASE CIR	4	..	3	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$695,000	Detached	0.25	22039	CROSSPOINTE	05/07/12
8125 AMERICAN HOLLY RD	5	..	4	1	LORTON	\$695,000	Detached	0.18	22079	LAUREL HILL	05/11/12
7732 WHITE WILLOW CT	4	..	3	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$692,950	Detached	0.27	22153	WHISPERWOOD	05/15/12
7911 CHARDON CT	5	..	3	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$692,500	Detached	0.19	22039	BARRINGTON	05/31/12
11705 AMKIN DR	4	..	3	1	CLIFTON	\$690,000	Detached	5.00	20124	PLANTATION HILLS	05/25/12
5967 BURNSIDE LANDING DR	5	..	3	2	BURKE	\$685,000	Detached	0.34	22015	BURKE CENTRE	05/14/12
8002 COMERFORD DR	5	..	3	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$680,000	Detached	0.25	22039	BARRINGTON	05/31/12
8724 FOXHALL TER	4	..	3	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$666,450	Detached	0.33	22039	CROSSPOINTE	05/18/12
12754 LADY SOMERSET LN	4	..	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$665,000	Townhouse	0.07	22033	RUGBY ROAD	05/02/12
13942 MARBLESTONE DRIVE	5	..	3	1	CLIFTON	\$660,000	Detached	0.21	20124	LITTLE ROCKY RUN	05/24/12
9308 JENNA CT	5	..	3	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$660,000	Detached	0.77	22153	GLENWOOD MANOR	05/10/12
4235 MASON OAKS CT	4	..	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$660,000	Detached	0.26	22030	MASON OAKS	05/31/12
3806 HEMLOCK WAY	3	..	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$659,900	Detached	0.09	22030	GREAT OAKS	05/30/12
8525 CENTURY OAK CT	4	..	3	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$656,250	Detached	0.21	22039	CROSSPOINTE	05/31/12
13588 SMALLWOOD LN	4	..	3	1	CHANTILLY	\$654,900	Detached	0.23	20151	MARIAN WOODS	05/31/12
6317 FALLING BROOK DR	4	..	2	1	BURKE	\$650,000	Detached	0.42	22015	SUMMERDAY	05/22/12
12526 LT NICHOLS RD	4	..	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$650,000	Detached	0.23	22033	FAIR OAKS ESTATES	05/25/12



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