

# Woodson Graduate Directs Award- Winning Film

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(From left) Co-producer Jess Herbine, Director Nicole Rosen, a 2008 W.T. Woodson High School graduate, and co-producer Emily Marcouiller pause for a moment during the filming of Rosen's film "Toy Soldier."

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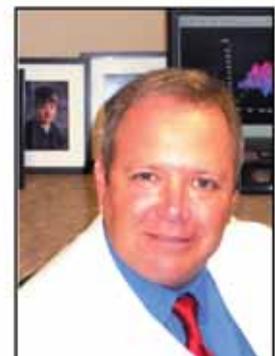
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# NEWS

## Woodson Graduate Directs Award-winning Film

Nicole Rosen's 16-minute "Toy Soldier" will show at the GI Film Festival in May.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

When Nicole Rosen sets out to make a film, she doesn't shy away from sensitive subject matter—she pursues it. One of her first projects in high school was called "Life Chronicles." "Basically I shot people who were dying, suffering from terminal diseases," Rosen said. "They wanted to film their lives for their families. I think it really hit something—my first really intense experience in filmmaking."

As a student at W.T. Woodson High School, Rosen had an opportunity to take courses through the Fairfax Academy for Communications & the Arts and was empowered by both top notch film production equipment and instruction. After graduating in 2008, she attended Drexel University—inspired to pursue filmmaking.

Rosen's senior thesis project at Drexel, a short film called "Toy Soldier," has already taken first place at the Endless Mountain Festival and Roslyn Film Festival in Pennsylvania, and is nominated for the GI Film Festival set to take place in Washington, D.C., May 6-12.

**"TOY SOLDIER" CENTERS** around a young, modern-day military family and was shot on location in Philadelphia and Doylestown, Pa., and Gloucester City, N.J. A series of emotional moments unfolds not only from the battlefield, but from the perspective of the family waiting at home for a deployed soldier.

The choice of war as a subject was an easy, yet profound one for the young director.

"I wanted to affect people universally," admitted Rosen, who graduated from Drexel in May 2012 and now works as a production assistant and talent coordinator in Los Angeles. "I wanted to impact a larger audience and focus in on a current event. War is every day. Someone is out there fighting—it's not like it goes away. Everyone identifies with it, you know someone who knows someone ..."

Within the military film genre, she saw an opportunity to contribute her vision.

"When I see films or shorts," said Rosen, "they don't focus so much on the families. I really wanted a different aspect of it. Instead of focusing on the war, the fighting, I wanted to take a step back, do it through the eyes of a family, a young boy. A son and father have this unexplainable bond."

**THE FILM FEATURES** New York native Kaitee Page (from Fox's "True Love"), Ed Aristone ("Life Within" and "Desperate Housewives"), Gabriel Caste ("Frozen Lies" and "The Framework of Illusion") and Chris Brodbeck ("Gypsy") as Sam Gold.

Brodbeck's character Sam is an 8-year-old boy whose father has just been deployed to Iraq for his final tour. Sam connects with his father's set of vintage toy soldiers deeply and imaginatively, which opens up a new way of looking at the war—and his father's career—for him. "I wanted this kid's fantasy mirroring the idea of something bigger," said Rosen.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY MIKE ARRISSON

**Director Nicole Rosen with Chris Brodbeck as Sam Gold and Theo Van Golen as his friend Mason.**

"What would be in his fantasy world?" she continued. "Cars? Dinosaurs? That's when the idea of war and military started coming. How would it be if he was playing with soldiers? If they didn't just come from his father, but his father's father ... special? It just started branching off from there."

**NINE MONTHS** of prodigious pre-production work by Rosen and her co-producers Jess Herbine and Emily Marcouiller (fellow 2012 Drexel graduates) included dozens of script drafts flying back and forth with the project's screenwriter Nicole Marchesani, a marketing campaign and fundraising that ultimately brought in \$5,500.

Herbine and Marcouiller were able to reach out to individual donors through the crowd-sourcing website platform Indiegogo, and also benefited from a number of university grants including Drexel's Entertainment & Arts Management Majors Funding Undergraduates for New Development (EAM F.U.N.D.).

But the donations that truly propelled the six days of filming were those of the Drexel Army ROTC program. To impart authenticity, the veteran staff loaned Rosen and company genuine body armor and plastic weapons, guided the cast in battle formations on set and even gave notes.

**"I KNEW THE PERIPHERAL,** but when I zoomed in, there's just so much to learn," she continued. Working with soldiers, including SFC Terris Kolmorgan (Rosen's "right-hand man and main military advisor on set"), who had been stationed in Iraq, "I got closer to them in a way, I knew more than just the outside: I knew their personal lives, their take on it. Everyone was so open with me."

"I'm so thankful, because I feel like I know, I have a greater understanding of what they go through."

"Toy Soldier" first screened on campus at Drexel in June 2012 for the ladies' senior thesis show. "It made me feel like people understood my goal in making this," recalled Rosen. "I looked over and people were wiping tears, my mom was bawling. It was one of those moments where I thought: Wow, we did it."

Rosen is the first to admit that reaction isn't her motive: "I promise I don't want people to cry, but I want to get the issues out there. You'll go through an array of emotions as you watch it. You live with my film, see the good in things."

And possibly come away with a different perspective and a sense of innocence.

The GI Film Festival takes place May 6-12 at various locations around Washington, D.C., and Virginia. For more information, visit [www.gifilmfestival.com](http://www.gifilmfestival.com).



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS

**In conjunction with the State Board of Elections, the county ran a voter preparedness campaign—"Are You Election Ready?"—to inform and educate voters about the election 2012.**

## Better Training, More Technology

The bipartisan commission released findings, recommendations regarding long lines on Election Day.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

After learning that dozens of frustrated voters waited for hours in long lines to cast their ballots on Election Day, Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) called for the creation of a bipartisan commission to figure out why and make sure it doesn't happen again.

At the March 19 Board of Supervisor's meeting, the commission—jointly chaired by former Board of Supervisors Chairman Kate Hanley and Stuart Mendelsohn, former Dranesville supervisor—released its final report. They recommended additional poll workers, more training and better technology to keep lines moving.

Recommendations encompassed a variety of training, technology, and process improvements, ranging from using more Electronic Poll Books (EPBs) to providing additional parking spaces at polling places.

"I am pleased that the Election Commission has completed its work," Bulova said. "It is important that the county implement measures to reduce long lines, decrease wait times and streamline the election process in Fairfax County. The commission has identified a variety of improvements and efficiencies to ensure access and convenience for voters in future elections."

Additional recommendations included using electronic poll books at every precinct, and asked the county to create a

fund that would pay for upgrading voting equipment. The report also suggested that county officials find larger polling places where voters can form lines inside precincts rather than outside during bad weather.

Voter turnout in Fairfax County on Election Day was at an all-time high in November's presidential election, with 81 percent of registered voters casting their ballots in 2012 compared to 78.7 percent in 2008. In the 2011 state and local elections, just 32 percent of registered voters cast their ballots, while 49 percent turned out for the 2010 congressional contests.

Lines and wait times varied throughout the county's 237 precincts last November. Voters at Vienna's Flint Hill Elementary School reported ample parking and virtually no lines. At other locations, however, lines snaked around elementary school parking lots and through buildings, and it was not unusual for voters to have to wait over an hour.

Election officials said a shortage of poll volunteers coupled with complicated ballot questions and bond issues meant some voters took much longer to finish their ballots.

While the long lines created headaches for many Fairfax County voters, some voters in Prince William County faced five-hour waits before casting their ballots.

A copy of the report can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/electioncommission/election-commission-report.htm>.

## SPRING FUN

# Riverbend Opera to Open New Season

BY DAVID SIEGEL

**T**he music of opera takes me to beautiful places in my imagination, with swirling passions and languid times of reflection," said John Turner (McLean) in describing his love for the art form. He is one of the artistic forces behind Fairfax County's own Riverbend Opera Company.

With its 2013 season, Riverbend will have a double-bill of one-act works by Giacomo Puccini. Puccini's operas are some of the most performed such as "La Bohème," "Madame Butterfly" and "Tosca."

Each of the one-acts, "Il tabarro" and "Suor Angelica" has "almost achingly beautiful music" said Turner.

"Suor Angelica" is set in a convent centuries ago. One of the nuns has a complicated life, "faces a horrible moral and mortal dilemma. Puccini's musical treatment of the principal characters takes the audience on a vivid journey from the depths of depression to the angelic choirs of heaven," Turner observed.



**"Suor Angelica" ensemble in rehearsal. In the photo standing to the right not in "habit" is Riverbend Opera Music Director Molly A. Khatcheressian.**

Il tabarro is set on a barge on the Seine in Paris. A husband notices that his wife is not as fervent as she once was. The wife is torn between her husband Luigi and a new man in her life, as well as experiencing sadness from the loss of her son. In the climactic scene, the husband's quick-temper, his tabarro (cloak) and the music all have critical roles.

The "Suor Angelica" principals include soprano Linda Kiemel, who performs regularly as an oratorio soloist and is a member of the Washington National Opera chorus. Mezzo Viktoriya Bright is currently appearing as soloist with the Cathedral Choral Society at the National Cathedral.

In "Il tabarro" there are two tenors alternating in the lead role.

Kevin Courtemanche is a member of the chorus of the New York Metropolitan Opera, currently appearing in the production of "Parsifal." Paul McIlvaine has extensive experience as a leading opera tenor.

Soprano leads are Melissa Jean Chávez and Molly Pinson Simoneau. Chávez will be performing with the prestigious Castleton Festival. Simoneau is

## Where and When

Four Performances in March, 2013. Tickets: \$15-\$25. For tickets and information: Info@RiverbendOpera.com or 703-869-3637. Note: Sung in Italian with English subtitles projected.

Performances: Providence Presbyterian Church, 9091 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. March 8, 7:30 p.m.; Opera at Lake Barcroft, Falls Church, March 10, 2:30 p.m. Note: limited seating availability; Holy Rosary Church, 595 Third St. N.W., Washington, D.C., March 16, 7:30 p.m., and St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St. S.W., Washington, D.C., March 19, 7:30 p.m.

making her debut in a leading role with this production having performed in opera productions for several years.

With semi-staging the "audience is close to the singers. There is no pit, no stage, no microphones. It makes opera so accessible," said Riverbend Music Director Molly A. Khatcheressian, who is the choral director at Thomas Jefferson High School.

These Puccini one-acts are "a compact performing art form like a compelling short story with music that is thrilling," added Khatcheressian.

## FAITH NOTES

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

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke, hosts a clergy worship service on Thursday, March 28, at 11 a.m. On Saturday, March 30, the church hosts as Easter egg hunt and party outdoors, with a reception in the Parish Hall. 703-455-2500.

**Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church**, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke, holds an Easter season Bible study in the Free Faith tradition Wednesdays from 7:30-9:30 p.m. on March 13, 20 and 27. The purpose of the study is to gain a deeper understanding of American culture's single most cherished book with a focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus and to serve as a class for those who want to know more about Unitarian Universalism and how the religion looks at the Bible. 703-503-4579 or administrator@accotinkuuc.org.

**Knollwood Community Church Fellowship Center**, 10000 Coffey Woods Road, Burke, holds a 12-week Stretch Your Faith-themed yoga class series through Saturday, May 16, on both Tuesday evenings from 6:15-7:30 p.m. and Thursday afternoons from 1:30-2:45 p.m. All levels are welcome; bring a yoga mat, towel and optional yoga strap and blocks. The first class is free. \$72 (one day per week) or \$8 drop-in rate. 571-239-3416, sandyro@holyyoga.net or www.facebook.com/holyyoganova.

Reverend Russell D. Heiland, Jr. has been appointed senior minister by the

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## COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP



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March 24 - Palm Sunday worship at 8:15, 9:30, and 11:00 am  
March 28 - Holy Thursday service at 7:30 pm  
March 29 - Good Friday service at 7:30 pm  
Easter Sunday Celebration at 8:00, 9:30, and 11 am  
ASL interpreter available at 9:30 am  
Sunrise Service at Springfield Golf & Country Club at 6:30 am



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**Methodist**  
Burke United Methodist Church 703-250-6100

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To Advertise Your Community of Worship, Call 703-778-9418

# AREA ROUNDUPS

## Crime Victims 5K Walk

The first-ever 5K walk dedicated to crime victims in Fairfax County will be held in honor of the 2013 National Crime Victims' Rights Week. This free event is slated for Sunday, April 21, at 4:30 p.m., at Fairfax Corner. It's hosted by the Victims Services Section of the county Police Department and the Fairfax County Law Enforcement Foundation.

Area residents may join the professionals who support local victims of homicide, trauma, sexual and domestic violence, child physical and sexual abuse, stalking human trafficking and suicide as they walk together.

The event will feature a resource fair, plus live jazz, rhythm and blues by the E & ME Band. Also planned are opening remarks by Commonwealth Attorney Ray Morrogh, a candle-light vigil in honor of victims after the walk, and remarks from Lorraine Reed Whoberry, a homicide survivor and founder of the S.T.A.C.I.E. Foundation.

Register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/survey/crimevictimsrights.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/survey/crimevictimsrights.htm). Learn more about the FCPD Victim Services Unit at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/services/victim-services.htm>.

## Helping Keep Children Safe

City of Fairfax police, in conjunction with the Optimist Club of Fairfax, will be offering Safe Assured identification kits for children on Saturday, April 6, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the City of Fairfax Police Department, 3730 Old Lee Highway.

Parents will receive a full-color photo ID and a mini-CD containing digital fingerprints, a digital photo, video showing movement and mannerisms, a general physical description, vital personal information and a family code word. Private information is encrypted and accessible only by law enforcement.

Missing-persons posters can be created and printed directly from the mini-CD in English, Spanish and French. The Safe Assured ID kits can also be used as a valuable aid for adults with special needs. The kits are free and an appointment is necessary. Call Sgt. Kyle Penman at 703-385-7923.



[www.nvsrd.com](http://www.nvsrd.com)

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## More Obstacles to Transparency

General Assembly puts more information out of public reach, but other factors also limit access.

**T**he first paragraph of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1968, states that all public records “shall be presumed open.”

It doesn’t add, “except when we don’t want to,” although that provision does seem to be available in many cases. Individual government entities have a variety of ways of making it hard for the public to access public information.

One such way is simply to require that the information seeker file a “FOIA request,” a written request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. Most public information should be readily available, handed over on request. The written query allows the entity, a school system for example, to parse the request to provide as little information as possible. It is a method of foot-dragging, of just hoping that the requestor will give up.

A growing obstacle involves fees. Many government agencies respond to any request for public information with a bill, sometimes for thousands of dollars. The bills can cover staff time to calculate the answers, to locate the data. The staff time involved is already on the public payroll, and charging fees to provide public in-

formation to the public when the public is already paying for the existence of the information is double dipping. Again, it’s a method designed to discourage access. And it is often effective. And while many citizen groups in our area can cough up \$3,000 or \$6,000 or more for access to the email correspondence of public officials on a decision that affects the public, for example, many cannot. It is inequitable to charge this sort of fee.

The existence of email correspondence between public officials is another concern, allowing for discussion that, while usually FOIA-able, takes place outside the public eye. Local governments could develop a public archive for email correspondence that would do much to enhance transparency and sunshine in the commonwealth, and reduce embarrassment on the part of emailing officials because they would recognize in advance that their email is public.

The Virginia Freedom of Information Act includes an exception that allows police to withhold, without justification, “complaints, memoranda, correspondence, case files or reports, witness statements and evidence.” Police officials in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria have adopted what they call a “blanket” approach to using their exemption. That means they have

decided to withhold any document they can without any analysis of whether they should. But no public entity should be allowed blanket exemptions. Withholding public information, if it is allowed, should be on a case-by-case basis. Police departments all over the country routinely allow access to police reports, incident reports and many other source documents without harm, documents that police here refuse to allow the public to see.

So with many systemic roadblocks to public access to public information, it is discouraging to say the least to see the General Assembly add significant new obstacles.

The Virginia Coalitions for Open Government reports that the General Assembly passed exemptions that “will limit access to some correspondence of legislative aides, to evacuation plans for hospitals operating under certificates of public need, to certain flight plans filed at regional government airports, to records and meetings of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and to bank self-assessments. All concealed handgun permit applications will now be off-limits, too, thanks to a bill that was radically amended from its original purpose and reported from committee to House floor in less than 24 hours,” limiting public comment.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Protecting Both Gun Rights and Public Safety

BY DAVE MARSDEN  
STATE SENATOR (D-37)

**I**t was an historic year in the Virginia General Assembly. We passed a once-in-a-generation transportation funding bill and laid the foundation for 400,000 thousand Virginians to gain health insurance through an expansion of Medicaid that will create nearly 30,000 new health care jobs.

But which issue do you think generated the most e-mails and phone calls to my legislative office? The Second Amendment. A few constituents called for an all-out ban on certain high capacity magazines and assault weapons, and a few others expressed a desire to close the “gun show loop hole” to stop the private sale of weapons at commercial gun shows without background checks. But the majority of the communications defended the Second Amendment and asked me not to support any changes, at all, to our gun laws. A large number of these folks passed on form-messages written by gun advocacy groups. A much smaller number of email writers provided thoughtful ideas and suggestions of their own. In responding to these messages by

e-mail, or by phone calls and in-person meetings, it is my experience that the Second Amendment proponents who contacted me fell into three broad categories:

1. Thoughtful people with genuine concerns about the constitutional ramifications of the Second Amendment and our nation’s problem with violence. These individuals tended to be willing and able to hold an open dialogue about the problems our communities face with gun violence.

2. People who passed on pre-written messages that said that they are responsible gun owners, who are sorry about what happened in Sandy Hook, Conn., but who do not want the guns or ammunition they may purchase, or the method by which they might procure them, to be changed in any way. These individuals tended to explain gun violence as stemming from mental health problems, criminal activity, video games and violent themes in movies, television and music. When pressed for more dialogue, they tended to have little more to add other than a suspicion that the government wants to take their guns away and that the Second Amendment is absolute.

3. The last and fortunately small-

est group were those who tended to tell me who they might need to shoot and under what circumstances. They imagined situations where they have to take down a shooter in a mall, defend their home from a street gang, or defend themselves from the tyranny of the government. These individuals generally believed that the only answer to gun violence is more guns.

I support the Second Amendment, quite simply, because it is the constitutional law of the land and I took an oath to defend the constitution. That is an oath I take very seriously. However, we now lose more people every year to firearm deaths than we do to traffic accidents. That is a situation that alarms me greatly.

When people purchase a gun, it is usually for a good reason. They purchase a gun to protect themselves or to participate in shooting sports. Yet, while that gun never changes its nature, the life situations and circumstances of the gun owner often change dramatically. No one ever foresees that their adorable toddler may grow up to be an angry and disturbed adolescent, or that their occasional drinking in young adulthood will turn into raging alcoholism, or that a

sane and well-adjusted family member will deteriorate over the years into mental illness and despair. In these cases, that same responsible gun owner’s gun may be used in ways the owner never could have imagined. Working as I did for many years in the juvenile court and running our juvenile detention center in Fairfax for 17 years, I have seen the look on too many peoples’ faces who never imagined that the device they bought for self-defense or sport would be used in a tragic shooting or a criminal act.

I do not have the answer as to how we protect Second Amendment rights while still addressing public safety needs. I don’t believe that there is any one answer. What does strike me, however, is that some elements of the gun owning community (the ones that tend to be the loudest) exhibit very little willingness to compromise. That is a problem for all of us. Over 70 members of the Virginia Citizen’s Defense League visited me in Richmond this year, mostly carrying weapons. These constituents were adamant and sincere in their beliefs that restricting gun ownership, regulating sales, or adding any ad-

SEE MARSDEN, PAGE 11

# FAITH

FROM PAGE 4

**Unity of Fairfax Board of Trustees.** During interviews at Unity of Fairfax, Rev. Heiland shared his enthusiasm for youth, family and campus ministries. He finds young adult ministry to be especially rewarding and invites church leaders to think, act and be outside the box.

**Fairfax Baptist Temple,** at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a Bible Study Fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and Children's Church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100, www.fbtministries.org

**Lord of Life Lutheran** offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:15, 9:45 and 11:15 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

**First Baptist Church of Springfield** offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service. 7300 Gary Street, Springfield. 703-451-1500  
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# FAIRS & FESTIVALS

## March

### SATURDAY/MARCH 30

**Eggstravaganza.** 9:30-10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.-noon, at South Run RECenter, 7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield. Arts and crafts, face painting, photos with the Easter Bunny and activities centered around the big event: the egg hunt, for children ages 1 through 8; bring a basket for egg collection. \$10; free for children under 1 years old. 703-866-0566 or www.familiesonly.com/PreviewEvent.aspx?EventId=3245.

## April

### SATURDAY/APRIL 6

**Asian Art and Culture Day.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The Workhouse takes part in the National Cherry Blossom Festival with their Asian Art and Culture Day, featuring workshops, demonstrations, performances, talks and exhibitions featuring Asian art and culture; join for a Japanese tea tasting, origami workshops and film, brush painting demonstrations, artist talks, cherry tree planting and more. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

### FRIDAY/APRIL 19-MONDAY/MAY 6

**Spotlight on the Arts Festival.** Dedicated to showcasing the very best of the visual and performing arts in the City of Fairfax. At a variety of venues in and around the city. Visit www.visitfairfax.com/category/spotlight.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 27

**Celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day at Springfest 2013.** This event is free fun for families at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Enjoy pony rides, games, farmers market, environmental workshops and more. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment/earthday/ for more Earth Day events.

## May

### THURSDAY/MAY 16

**Clifton Charity Homes Tour.** 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The Clifton Community Women's Club presents its 41st Annual Clifton Charity Homes Tour, Marketplace and Silent Auction. The culmination of the event is the "Wine Down" from 3-6 p.m. featuring live music and the Silent Auction Fundraiser at the Paradise Spring Winery, which also hosts the Marketplace and Silent Auction until 5 p.m. \$25 in advance; \$30 day-of; \$10 for single admission home. Lunch is available at Clifton eateries, and the



PHOTO COURTESY

**Lorton Workhouse Arts Center is participating in the 2013 National Cherry Blossom Festival by presenting Japanese films and activities Saturday, April 6. Here, staff members take part in festival activities at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C., in 2011.**

Paradise Springs Winery will offer lunches with a prior RSVP at 703-830-9463. Visit www.cliftoncwc.org.

### MONDAY/MAY 27

**Community Fun Fest.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fairfax Baptist Temple at 6401 Missionary Lane in Fairfax Station. Visit fbministries.org.

## June

### SATURDAY/JUNE 1-SUNDAY/JUNE 2

**Springfield Days 2013.** All day, at South Run RECenter, 7550 Reservation Drive, and other locations in Springfield. The Springfield 15K/5K Race, PetFest and Paws on Parade, Family FitnessFest, OutdoorFest, live performances, a pool party, an outdoor movie and a car show are on Saturday and the Cardboard Boat Regatta steals the show on Sunday. http://www.springfielddays.org/.

### FRIDAY/JUNE 7-SUNDAY/JUNE 9

**Celebrate Fairfax Festival.** 6 p.m.-midnight on Friday, 10 a.m.-midnight on Saturday and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on Sunday, at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000

Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Over 75,000 visitors and participants took part in the 2012 festival, which is chalk full of exhibits, crafts, food vendors, live music performances. http://www.celebratefairfax.com/.

### SATURDAY/JUNE 22

**Clifton Wine Festival.** 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. in Children's Park in historic Clifton, with wine, food, music and arts and crafts. Rain or shine. Visit www.cliftonwine.com.

## July

### THURSDAY/JULY 4

**Independence Day Celebration.** 10 a.m. Co-sponsored by the City of Fairfax and the Independence Day Celebration Committee, the day's events begin with a colorful parade through the historic streets of Old Town Fairfax. Visit www.visitfairfax.com.

### SATURDAY, JULY 13

**Obon Festival.** Highlighting Japanese culture at Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lakehaven Lane in Fairfax Station. Visit www.ekoji.org.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSA/THE CONNECTION

**Mattias Morales, 4, of West Springfield, made sure he got his face painted first, said his dad David, before the egg hunt at the 2011 Eggstravaganza.**

# 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/MARCH 28

**Passaggio.** 8 p.m., at the Harris Theater at GMU, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Mason playwrighting program student and rising playwright Michael Patrick Smith presents the story, directed by Washington, D.C.-based director and teacher Stevie Zimmerman, about a small town in Italy during the festival of the Madonna, during which the opera-loving mayor confronts town secrets, hidden love and the townspeople's demand that he bring wealth back to the community. \$15 for students, faculty, staff, seniors and groups; \$20 for general admission. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

### FRIDAY/MARCH 29

**Celtic Union.** 7:30 p.m., at The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Live Irish music from an area band. www.theauldshebeenva.com.  
**Passaggio.** 8 p.m., at the Harris Theater at GMU, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The story of a small town in Italy during the festival of the Madonna, during which the opera-loving mayor confronts town secrets, hidden love and the townspeople's demand that he bring wealth back to the community. \$15 for students, faculty, staff, seniors and groups; \$20 for general admission. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 30

**Celtic Union.** 7:30 p.m., at The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Live Irish music from an area band. www.theauldshebeenva.com.  
**Passaggio.** 2 p.m., 8 p.m., at the Harris Theater at GMU, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The story of a small town in Italy during the festival of the Madonna. \$15 for students, faculty, staff, seniors and groups; \$20 for general admission. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

### SUNDAY/MARCH 31

**Jubilee Christian Center of Fairfax Easter Eggstravaganza Egg Roll.** 1-3 p.m., at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Fairfax. The event activities are free, and include moon bounces, games, face painting, egg roll, music, and door prizes; featuring a performance by the Children of Light Dancers; up to age 11. 703-383-1170, or www.jccag.org.

### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 3

**Mason Symphony and the Virginia Chamber Orchestras.** 8 p.m., at GMU Center for the Arts, 4400

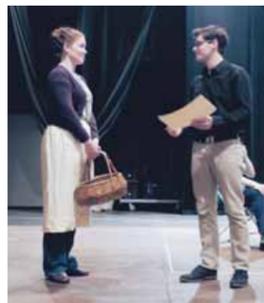


PHOTO BY KATHLEEN BARTH

**Actors Katy Benson and Zach Wilcox in the Mason Players' production of Michael Patrick Smith's "Passaggio." Showing March 28-30 and April 4-6 at 8 p.m. and March 30 and April 6 and 7 at 2 p.m. at the Harris Theater at GMU, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.**

University Drive, Fairfax. Dennis M. Layendecker conducts the Mason Symphony and the Virginia Chamber Orchestras in a concert featuring Mozart, Ravel, Dukas, Chabrier, Wieniawski and a performance by violin soloist Peter Haase, who will

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE II

## Free Remodeling & Design Seminars!

Sat, April 6th — 10am-2pm

Where: 6862 Elm Street, Suite 330, McLean, VA 22101

Thinking of remodeling? This event is the perfect opportunity to take advantage of free expert advice with no obligation. Learn about the hot topics you should consider when remodeling.

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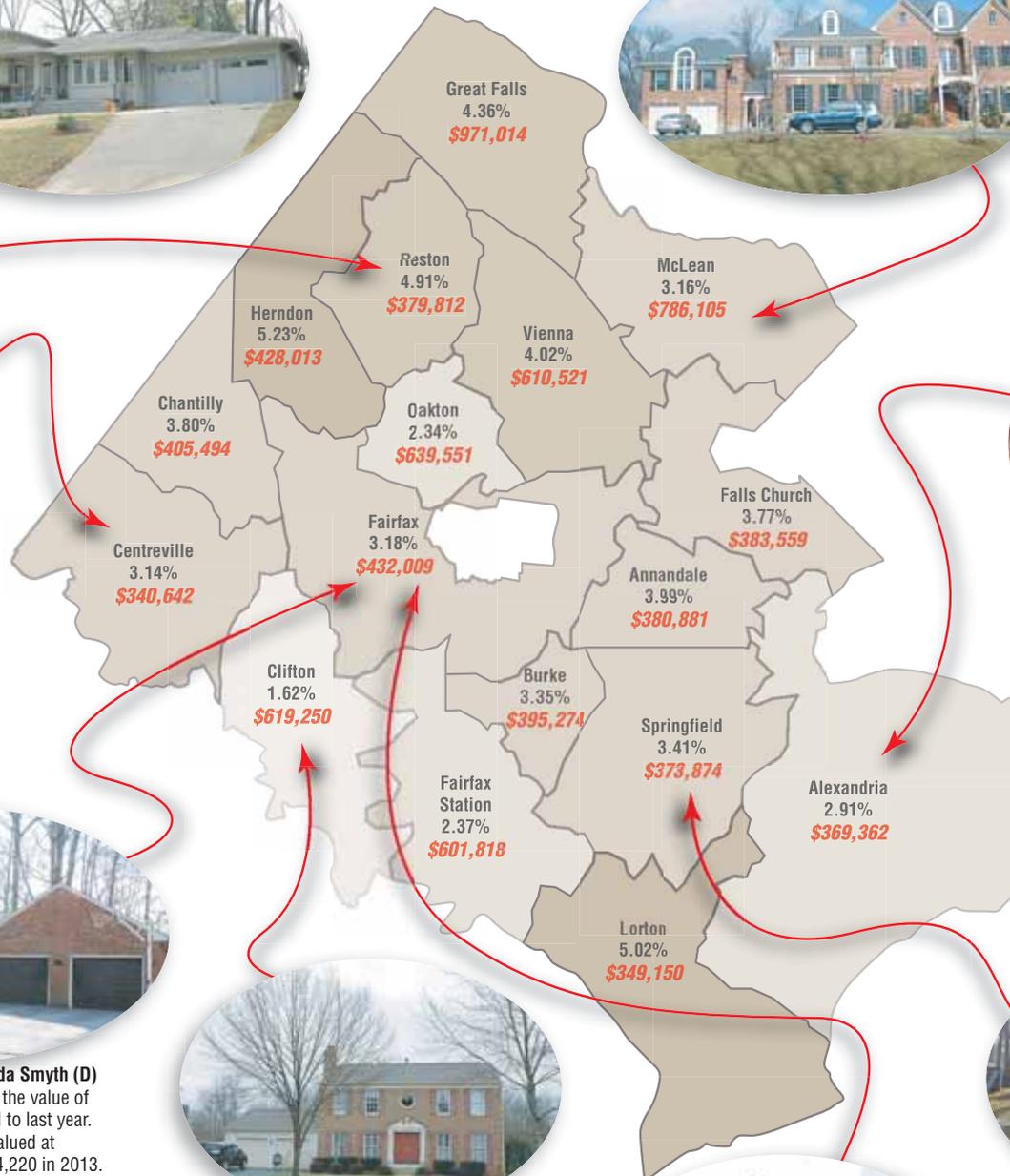
# Fairfax County REAL ESTATE

## 2013 Assessments by Zip Code Areas

Hunter Mill Supervisor **Cathy Hudgins (D)** saw her assessment went up 0.94% from \$570,520 in 2012 to \$575,910 in 2013.



Dranesville District Supervisor **John Foust (D)** saw a 2.00% gain in his property value when compared to 2011. The county valued Foust's house at \$3,048,110 last year and \$3,109,050 this year.



Sully Supervisor **Michael Frey (R)** saw a 5.28% increase in the value of his home over the last year. Frey's home was assessed at \$214,490 in 2012 and \$225,820 in 2013.



Lee Supervisor **Jeff McKay (D)** saw an increase of 0.96% in his home assessment in 2013. Last year, his home was worth \$703,450 and this year it is valued at \$710,220.



Providence Supervisor **Linda Smyth (D)** saw a 11.99% increase in the value of her house when compared to last year. Smyth's home was valued at \$494,880 in 2012 and \$554,220 in 2013.



Springfield Supervisor **Patrick Herry (R)** saw a 6.47% gain in his property value when compared to 2012. Last year, his home was worth \$520,120 and this year it is valued at \$553,770.



Braddock Supervisor **John Cook (R)** saw a 5.26% increase in the value of his home over the last year. Cook's home was assessed at \$556,920 in 2012 and \$586,220 in 2013.



Fairfax County Chairman **Sharon Bulova (D)** saw her home value went up 4.35% from \$591,990 in 2012 to \$617,750 in 2013.



**2013 County Average (Percent Change)**  
 Single Family Detached **\$550,609 (3.13%)**  
 Townhouse **\$337,817 (4.50%)**  
 Condos **\$222,722 (5.42%)**

ZIP CODE AREA	2012 MEAN	2013 MEAN	PERCENT CHANGE
Alexandria	367,955	380,715	2.91
Annandale	366,264	380,881	3.99
Burke	382,480	395,274	3.35
Centreville	330,259	340,642	3.14
Chantilly	390,658	405,494	3.80
Clifton	609,373	619,250	1.62
Fairfax	418,712	432,009	3.18
Fairfax Station	587,881	601,818	2.37
Falls Church	369,629	383,559	3.77
Great Falls	930,477	971,014	4.36
Herndon	406,751	428,013	5.23
Lorton	332,476	349,150	5.02
McLean	762,002	786,105	3.16
Oakton	624,911	639,551	2.34
Reston	362,028	379,812	4.91
Springfield	361,529	373,874	3.41
Vienna	586,948	610,521	4.02

SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY

# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

play with the National Symphony Orchestra following his retirement from teaching at GMU. \$20; \$15 for college students and seniors; free for students through 12th grade and Wounded Warriors and their families. 703-993-1380 or music.gmu.edu.

## THURSDAY/APRIL 4

**Turkish Coffee Night.** 7-9 p.m., at ATFA, 3949 University Drive, Fairfax. A monthly gathering in a nice and warm environment with presentation, fun activities, conversation, Turkish food, and Turkish Coffee. RSVP required. [www.atfa.us/category/womens-club/](http://www.atfa.us/category/womens-club/).

**Designing Resilient Communities.** 7 p.m., at GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics David W. Orr, of Oberlin College, talks on a world made unpredictable by climate change. 703-993-1170.

**Passaggio.** 8 p.m., at the Harris Theater at GMU, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Mason playwriting program student and rising playwright Michael Patrick Smith presents the story of a small town in Italy during the festival of the Madonna, during which the opera-loving mayor confronts town secrets, hidden love and the townspeople's demand that he bring wealth back to the community. \$15 for students, faculty, staff, seniors and groups; \$20 for general admission. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

## FRIDAY/APRIL 5

**Passaggio.** 8 p.m., at the Harris Theater at GMU, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The story of a small town in Italy during the festival of the Madonna, during which the opera-loving mayor confronts town secrets, hidden love and the townspeople's demand that he bring wealth back to the community. \$15 for students, faculty, staff, seniors and groups; \$20 for general admission. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 6

**Passaggio.** 2 p.m., 8 p.m., at the Harris Theater at GMU, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The story of a small town in Italy during the festival of the Madonna, during which the opera-loving mayor confronts town secrets, hidden love and the townspeople's demand that he bring wealth back to the community. \$15 for students, faculty, staff, seniors and groups; \$20 for general admission. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

**MCCP Foundation Dress-up With Grown-Ups Gala.** 6-10 p.m., at the Mason Inn Conference Center & Hotel, 4352 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Bring children and grandchildren willing to dress up for the family friendly gala held by the Medical Care for Children Partnership Foundation. Adult: \$150; child: \$75.

**Giselle.** 8 p.m., at GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The tragic tale of a peasant girl betrayed by the man she loves will be told on point by the Russian National Ballet Theatre; tickets are half price for youth through grades 12 when accompanied by an adult. \$27, \$46, \$54. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

**Trivia Night.** 8:30 p.m., at the JCCNV, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Compete with a table of old friends or new ones to win a \$25 gift card for every seat at the winning table and a chance to win two tickets to Theater J and dinner for two at Distrikt Bistro; drink ticket and light refreshments included. \$22 per seat; \$144 for table of eight. 703-323-0880 or [jccntrivia.brownpapertickets.com](http://jccntrivia.brownpapertickets.com).

## SUNDAY/APRIL 7

**Passaggio.** 2 p.m., at the Harris Theater at GMU, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The story of a small town in Italy during the festival of the Madonna, during which the opera-loving mayor confronts town secrets, hidden love and the townspeople's demand that he bring wealth back to the community. \$15 for students, faculty, staff, seniors and groups; \$20 for general admission. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

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**Feeding Roses.** 2-4 p.m., at Merrifield Garden Centre, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Learn about fertilization of rose bushes that achieves optimum health and blooms. 703-371-9351.

**Swan Lake.** 4 p.m., at GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Russian National Ballet Theatre performs the beloved tale of the cursed princess and the prince who loves her; tickets are half price for youth through grades 12 when accompanied by an adult. \$27, \$46, \$54. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 10

**Reportero.** 6 p.m., at GMU in the Meese Conference Room in Mason Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Film & Media Studies Program presents the story of veteran reporter Sergio Haro and his colleagues at Tijuana-based independent newsweekly "Zeta" as they ply their trade in one of the deadliest places in the world for media. <http://fams.gmu.edu/articles/4885>.

**Kiddie Country Kindergarten Open House.** 7 p.m., at Kiddie Country II, 9601 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Meet kindergarten staff and enjoy an informative overview of the program while your child enjoys a MAD SCIENCE® presentation. RSVP. 703-644-0066.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 13

**American Festival Pops Orchestra: Cinema Magic.** 8 p.m., at GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Beloved movie masterpieces performed by the iconic Northern Virginia-based orchestra; tickets are half price for youth through grade 12 accompanied by an adult. \$24, \$40, \$48. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

## FRIDAY/APRIL 19

**The Marriage of Figaro.** 8 p.m., at the GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Virginia Opera 2013 season culminates with Rossini's characters of "The Barber of Seville" in a sequel of lunacy, as Figaro fights and outwits enemies to be with his betrothed, Susanna. \$44, \$72, \$86. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

## Marsden

FROM PAGE 6

ditional requirements would infringe on their constitutional rights while doing nothing to promote public safety. In their view, the more guns we have the safer we become. With over 300 million weapons in circulation and gun deaths continuing to be a national crisis, there continues to be a far too limited number of individuals and advocacy groups willing to engage in meaningful compromise.

I agree that guns are often not the problem, but all too often they are. Many people believe that criminals establish the intent to commit crimes and then seek out a weapon to execute that intent. In reality, especially with young people, they come across a gun first and then de-

velop the intent to do harm. When youths find guns, it does not lead to thoughts of shoplifting or vandalism ... it leads to violence.

When I am able to talk to individuals in the first category mentioned above, we typically can agree that requiring background checks on private sales at commercial gun shows would offer real safety benefits without interfering with any law abiding citizen's ability to obtain firearms. I thank these individuals for their thoughtful contribution to my knowledge of this subject area. Sadly, most of the people who communicate with me are unwilling to give an inch. For many good people, there is an obsession with guns and their rights surrounding them that precludes meaningful dialogue. No one in the legislature wants to take guns away from anyone who obeys the law and does not suffer from certain mental health infirmities. Many of us, how-

ever, do want to reduce the dangers of guns without unduly restricting gun rights.

I introduced two bills this year to do just that. They both dealt with gun owner responsibility and accountability. The first would have held gun owners civilly responsible if it could be shown through clear and convincing evidence, the highest civil standard, that the owner did not take reasonable measures to prevent the theft or misappropriation of their gun and the gun was then used in a crime. The second bill required gun thefts to be reported to police. Responsible gun owners should be open to this, but both bills were defeated in sub-committee with little attention or debate.

I will continue to further the discussion around protecting both the Second Amendment and public safety.

Procrastination is the thief of time.

—Edward Young

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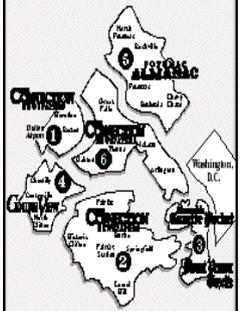
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Lake Braddock senior Aaron Hollins chases down the ball near the sideline during a 3-1 victory against Robinson on March 22.



Robinson senior Naveed Freshtvadi, right, scored a goal against Lake Braddock on March 22.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

## Lake Braddock Boys' Soccer Beats Robinson

**First-year Robinson coach Garza not pleased with Rams' effort.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**R**obert Garza has brought a new style of soccer to the Robinson boys' program in his first season as head coach.

On March 22, the Rams brought a level of intensity that led to an early lead against Lake Braddock. The energy didn't last, however, and the Bruins walked away victorious from Garza's first taste of the rivalry match-up.

Trailing 1-0 in the first half, Lake Braddock responded with a game-tying goal in the 19th minute and added two in the second half for a 3-1 victory over Robinson at Lake Braddock Secondary School. In a rematch of last year's Northern Region championship game, won by Robinson, Lake Braddock received second-half goals from senior forward Ricardo Munoz and sophomore midfielder Jeff Pineda to pull out the victory.

"Anytime you play against Robinson, there's always going to be a certain amount of emotion in the game," Lake Braddock head coach Joe Soos said. "It's important to play with emotion but not get caught up in the emotion of the moment. I think we were a little guilty of that in the beginning."

Robinson took a 1-0 lead when senior forward Naveed Freshtvadi scored off a corner kick in the 12th minute. But things quickly went south for the Rams, whose lead evaporated nearly seven minutes later, when Lake Braddock senior forward Emmanuel Salido scored in the 19th



Robert Garza is in his first season as Robinson boys' soccer coach.

minute.

Garza, who came to Robinson from Mount Vernon, said the Rams played well during a 1-1 tie against Stone Bridge, showing they had adapted to his style of soccer, but he wasn't pleased with the team's performance against Lake Braddock.

"It was an amazing game," Garza said about the Rams' matchup with Stone Bridge. "I'm bringing a different style of game over here, a possession style with speed, and it was on display on Wednesday. To have [Stone Bridge head coach] Randy May, who's this next legendary

coach, flat out say after the game 'we had a horseshoe hanging up for us today,' it was amazing to see the way [the Rams] adjusted to the new style. And then to come out here today and see this [is disappointing]. You could blame it on tired legs, but Lake Braddock played Wednesday as well.

**"We showed some poise and that was good to see because it's early and you don't know how your team is going to respond in certain situations."**

**—Lake Braddock boys' soccer coach Joe Soos**

"... I feel like after we got up with the first goal, we're all excited about it, and after that we just deflated ourselves, just completely sat back. I hate to say it, but I feel like we scored a goal and we felt like we won something there, yet there was another 70 minutes to play. We just stopped playing right there."

The score was tied 1-all at halftime. Lake Braddock's Munoz gave the Bruins the lead with a goal in the 54th minute. In the 67th minute, the Robinson goalkeeper mishandled the ball and Pineda cashed in with a goal, giving Lake Braddock a 3-1 advantage.

"We showed some poise and that was good to see because it's early and you don't know how your team is going to respond in certain situations," Soos said. "Going down a goal, to come back and respond and get one to even it up was certainly nice and showed some character."

The victory improved Lake Braddock's record to 2-0, including a season-opening 4-0 victory against Chantilly on March 20, but Soos wasn't content with the Bruins' effort, saying "it's nice to win in March, but you want to win in May."

"There were so many moments during the game that we looked sloppy and out of control," Soos said about the Bruins performance against Robinson. "We've got a lot to work on."

Lake Braddock finished Patriot District and Northern Region runners-up and reached the state semifinals in 2012. Senior forward Aaron Hollins said the Bruins would like to take home the final Patriot District championship before next season's VHSL re-alignment.

"That would be cool ending it off if we won our district," he said. "Losing [last season's district final to T.C. Williams], it doesn't put [us] down, it just motivates us."

The Bruins will travel to face Yorktown at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2.

Robinson, last season's Northern Region champion, fell to 1-1-2. The Rams will host Woodson at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2.

Garza said he is looking for big contributions from senior captains Andrew Osiecki and Evan Christian, and sophomore midfielder William Zarco.

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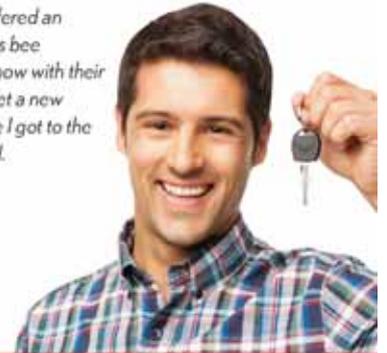
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Kay Hart 703-503-1860



## JON SAMPSON

jon.sampson@longandfooster.com  
jonsampsonrealtor.com  
703-307-4357

Make Me Your Buyer's Agent!

I Will Find Your New Home for You

Current Picks:

Hi End TH - 10500 James Wren Way  
Fairfax City - \$599,900

TH - 5795 Burke Towne Ct  
Burke - \$395,000

Most of My Picks Sell in a Week!



CRS, Associate Broker  
Life Member, NVAR Multi-Million Dollar Sales Club  
Life Member, NVAR TOP PRODUCERS  
**Ann Witherspoon**  
703-503-1836  
ann.witherspoon@longandfooster.com



Updated/Redesigned Kitchen, Hardwood Floors & New Carpet. Main Floor "Breezeway" Study 5 BR/3.5 BA. Back Staircase to 5th Bedroom & 3rd BA. Finished LL. Large Deck backing to Trees. Beautifully Landscaped.  
CALL or E-mail ANN WITHERSPOON 703-503-1836  
ann.witherspoon@longandfooster.com

Fairfax Station Crosspointe Coming Soon  
Exquisite, Seldom Seen Cross Newport-Deluxe Expanded in sought-after Crosspointe.



## Sheila Adams

703-503-1895  
Life Member, NVAR Multi-Million Dollar Sales Club  
Life Member, NVAR TOP PRODUCERS



**Fairfax \$519,900**  
Welcome to beautiful Fairfax Estates where this lovely Colonial awaits you. Located on a cul-de-sac setting, huge 14,765 sq. ft. lot, 2 car garage with long driveway, 4 BR's, 3 1/2 Baths, hardwood flooring in foyer/family room, great kitchen with granite counters, adjacent family room w/lovely brick fireplace. Full walk out basement with recreation room, exercise room or media room.  
Sheila Adams 703-503-1895



## Mary Hovland

703-946-1775  
**Cathy DeLoach**  
571-276-9421  
Your REALTORS®  
Next Door



**Fairfax \$649,000**  
This unique Contemporary has been updated for market! The open floor plan includes a 2-story family room, 4 generously sized bedrooms including main level master, 3 full baths, and huge walk-out recreation room. The eat-in kitchen has granite counters & stainless appliances. Located just a few blocks from school, Metrobus & VRE, and across the street from Woodglan Lake/Park. Ready for your family!

Fairfax \$649,000  
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## BARBARA NOWAK & GERRY STAUDTE

"My Virginia Home Team"  
703-473-1803, 703-309-8948  
gerry.staudte@longandfooster.com  
www.MyVirginiaHomeTeam.com



**Falls Church \$650,000**  
Beautiful Updates in a Spacious Home. Sunny, clean 5 BR, 2.5 BA house w/2-car garage. Updated kitchen with new cabinets, granite counters and SS appliances. Updated baths, too. Freshly painted. Beautiful sunroom overlooks level lot. Easy access to East Falls Church Metro, only 2.3 miles.



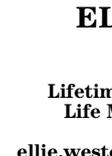
## Richard Esposito

703-503-4035  
Richard@LNF.com  
Service is the difference I provide



**Burke Centre \$634,500**  
This Westbridge II Model has 3 finished levels, walk-out LL, New Appliances, Renovated Bathrooms, New Carpeting, Freshly Painted, Screened Porch, Deck, and countless other improvements. Call today for more details.  
Richard Esposito 703-503-4035

Burke Centre \$634,500  
This Westbridge II Model has 3 finished levels, walk-out LL, New Appliances,



## ELLIE WESTER

703-503-1880  
L&F Founder's Club  
Lifetime NVAR Top Producer  
Life Member, NVAR Million Dollar Sales Club  
ellie.wester@longandfooster.com



**Centreville \$359,900**  
Newly Listed! Updated and upgraded with everything including hardwood flooring, granite, new vanities, lighting fixtures and more. 2 master suites, 2 full and 2 half baths, walkout basement, deck, garage and more.

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