

(From left) Carolyn Rohr and Kaitlyn Ellis, both 10, proudly show the eggs they found at The Town of Clifton annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23, in the town park.

Egg Hunting In Clifton

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Muslim Women
Encouraged to
Explore STEM

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Better Training,
More Technology

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PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

From left—panelists Dr. Safiya Samman, Hazima Javaid, Sumara Baig, Amani Eisa, Tasneen Hussam and Sali Osman, all with post graduate degrees in engineering specialties, spoke candidly about their journeys in life, faith and education.

Muslim Women in STEM

Six women share their success story at the Lorton Library.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The Nubian Benevolence Association was the official sponsor for the Muslim Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) presentation at the Lorton Community Library on Saturday, March 23, but there was little doubt that Hajjar Ahmed, daughter of the organization's co-Founder Hossam Ahmed, was the driving force behind the event.

The session was not originally on the association's calendar. "My daughter suggested that the association sponsor a positive program during March, National Women's History Month, about Muslim women as a way of encouraging the next generation of women to enter STEM careers. She came up with the idea in response to what we saw as a negative meeting that we had read about. Hajjar pretty much put this together in less than a month," said Mr. Ahmed.

He was referring to the February meeting of the Republican Women of Clifton. The topic to be discussed by guest speaker Stephanie Reis was "the treatment of women in Islamic Society" and how she believes that the hijab (head scarf often worn by Muslim women) "is a catalyst for Islamic terrorism." "Some local Muslim men and women attended the talk," said Mr. Ahmed, "hoping to correct any misimpressions that the speakers might bring up. But my daughter didn't want to attend a negative event. She wanted to showcase Muslim women who have succeeded in difficult, male-dominated fields, and



Event organizer Hajjar Ahmed put together a panel of Muslim women from the sciences, technology, engineering and math fields for a National Women's History Month presentation, encouraging the next generation to study in those disciplines.



The Nubian Benevolence Association sponsored the Muslim Women in STEM event. From left, Hossam Ahmed, P.E., a co-founder of the association and the day's master of ceremonies, Association President Hassan Rashwan, Treasurer Ahmed Osman, and co-Founder Yassin Mohamed.)

done so peacefully in the United States of America."

Mr. Ahmed welcomed the assembly with a brief explanation of who the Nubian people are, describing the descendents of an ancient civilization, located between northern Sudan and southern Egypt, speaking a unique non-Arabic language, as "a peaceful people." As to the purpose of the day's event, "It's important to encourage all people to explore the sciences," he said, "for the continued growth and welfare of our country. In the last 10 years there has been a 32 percent increase in jobs that require STEM

SEE STEM, PAGE 5



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

PHOTOS BY
BONNIE HOBBS/
THE CONNECTION



Alice Hurley, 2, puts a pink egg in her bag.



Tammy Sarkhosh and son Savion, two-and-a-half, snuggle after the Easter egg hunt.



The Easter Bunny passes out some eggs.



(From left) Luke Gingrich, 6, brother Noah, 3, and their mom, Erin, find the treats inside the plastic eggs.

Clifton's Easter Egg Hunt

The Town of Clifton held its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23, in the town park.

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NEWS

STEM

FROM PAGE 3

backgrounds, but the numbers of students enrolling in STEM fields had decreased during that same time period.”

THE SMALL MEETING ROOM was filled to capacity with teenagers and their families as six women, all wearing hijab, took to the speakers’ panel table. Their titles, printed boldly beneath each of their names, were an impressive variety of engineering specialties, from civil to aerospace engineering, from forest genetics to IT security.

After an introduction by Hajjar Ahmed, the women spoke for about 20 minutes each, with tales from their childhoods, speaking of how they became interested in STEM areas, providing highlights from their academic and professional careers, and offering advice on how to pursue a path in the sciences, math and technology. Some of the women were born in the United States of immigrant parents. Amani Eisa, a civil engineer who graduated from George Mason University, came to this country in 2001 with no English skills. “Maybe not the best timing, giving the tragedy of that year, but whatever is happening around you, you keep working and going forward.”

Sumara Baig came to America from Pakistan at 12 years of age. Her parents wanted her to be educated, and that was not an option for girls past the sixth grade where she came from. The Oakton High School graduate stressed how important it was to be able to communicate well in English, no matter what you study. Today, Baig works in air traffic control technology for Lockheed.

The particulars of their stories may have differed, but there were many similarities as well. The speakers, who ranged in age from 60s to 20s, all recounted having been one of few females in their majors classes, like Herndon High School graduate Hazima Javid who was one of six girls in a class of 150 studying aerospace engineering at Virginia Tech. They were in the minority in the internships that they completed, the competitions they entered, and often in their workplaces, even today. All have experienced gender bias, often further complicated by their wearing of the hijab.

Regardless of the difficulties for women, they urged their audience to persevere, if their passion really lies in STEM fields. The Nubian Benevolence Association can be contacted at nbawashington@gmail.com.

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More Obstacles to Transparency

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

The 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 information to the public when the public is al-

ready 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)

It 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 12

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FAIRS & FESTIVALS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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.

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/



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/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.

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 Woman'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 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 fbtministries.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.com/>.

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 and 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.

CALENDAR

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.

FRIDAY/APRIL 5

Battle of the Bands. 7-9:30 p.m., at South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Local rock bands compete for prizes at a night benefiting the South County HS Class of 2013 All Night Graduation Party; raffles, door prizes and concessions are available. \$7. SoCoANGP@cox.net.

SATURDAY/APRIL 13

Spring Faire. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carleigh Parkway, Springfield. Jewelry, fashion, home decor, kitchen, garden, gourmet foods, door prizes and more to benefit Bethany House's work to help victims of child abuse. www.womansclubofspringfield.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 18

2013 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards. 8 a.m.-10 p.m., at Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. The Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards serve as a community-wide celebration of volunteerism and the awards honor individuals, groups and organizations that have given outstanding volunteer service. Nominations/online application are due: Feb. 4 by 4 p.m. 703-246-3825 or www.volunteerfairfax.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 21

NTRAK display and N Gauge Trains. 1-4 p.m., at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax. Display of the Northern Virginia NTRAK (T-

Asian Art and Culture Day at the Workhouse

On Saturday, April 6, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton, is the National Cherry Blossom Festival and 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.

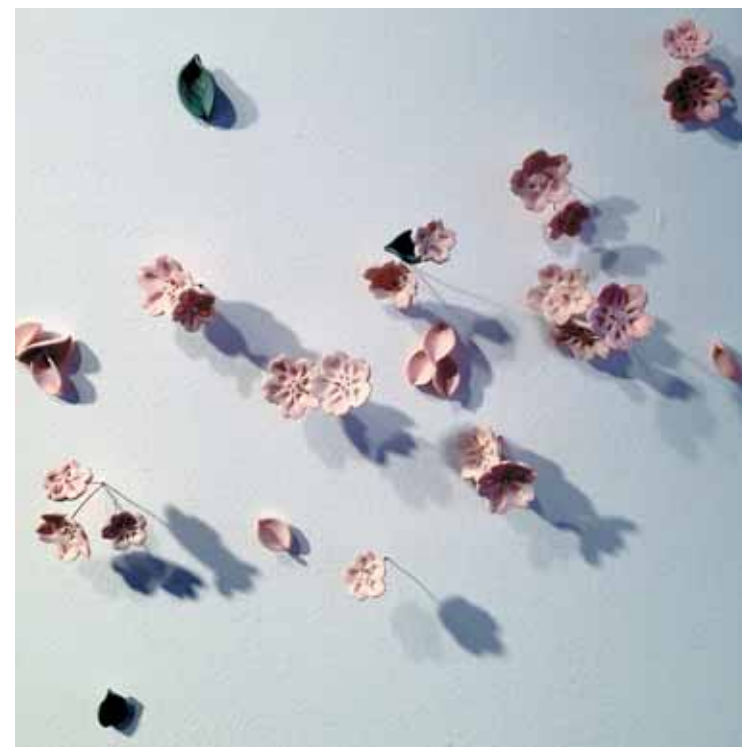
TRAK layout). \$3 for adults. \$1 for children. 703-425-9225 or www.fairfax-station.org

TUESDAY/APRIL 30

Event Planning Expo Open House. 4:30-7:30 p.m., at Empire Nightclub, 6335 Rolling Road, Springfield. Area vendors share information from open exhibit stations; exhibitor space available. lori@empire-nova.com or www.empirevenueevent.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 11

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Masterworks VI. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Christopher Zimmerman, tenor Brennen Guillory and soprano Joni Henson perform Wagner's "Prelude and Liebestod," Tristan und Isolde and Prelude to Act 3, Lohengrin; Verdi's Overture to La Forza del



Sakura, Sakura by Lukaszewski.

Destino, Overture to I vespri siciliani, Love Duet Finale Act I Otello, "Dio ti giocondi, O Sposo" Otello, "Dio mi potevi, scagliar" Otello, Willow Song Otello and "Libiamo," La Traviata. \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 17

The Enchantment of Beauty and the Beast. 7 p.m., at Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. The Rose Hill Players will perform the play "The Enchantment of Beauty and the Beast." \$5 for adults. \$3 for children.

SATURDAY/MAY 18

The Enchantment of Beauty and the Beast. 7 p.m., at Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. The Rose Hill Players will perform the play "The Enchantment of Beauty and the Beast." \$5 for adults. \$3 for children.

THURSDAY/MAY 30

Friends of Richard Byrd Library Book Sale. 3-9 p.m., at Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St.,

Springfield. Find media offerings of all kinds, many in pristine condition, to use as a gift or to start a summer reading stack; credit cards accepted. rbfriends@gmail.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 31

Friends of Richard Byrd Library Book Sale. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., at Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Find media offerings of all kinds, many in pristine condition, to use as a gift or to start a summer reading stack; credit cards accepted. rbfriends@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 1

Friends of Richard Byrd Library Book Sale. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Find media offerings of all kinds, many in pristine condition, to use as a gift or to start a summer reading stack; credit cards accepted. rbfriends@gmail.com.

SUNDAY/JUNE 2

Friends of Richard Byrd Library Bag Book Sale. Noon-3 p.m., at Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Find media offerings of all kinds, many in pristine condition, and fill a bag chalk full to take away for \$5; credit cards accepted. rbfriends@gmail.com.

ONGOING

Personalized Computer Training. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Get one-on-one help with computers, common software applications, and navigating the Internet; event continues until March 31st.

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.

Knollwood Community Church Fellowship Center. 10000 Coffey Woods Road, Burke, holds a 12-week 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.; 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.

Clifton Presbyterian Church. 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church. 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is 9:45-10:45 a.m. 703-451-5855 or www.poplc.org.

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 pro-

vided. 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 www.fbcspRINGfield.org.

Clifton Presbyterian Church. 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

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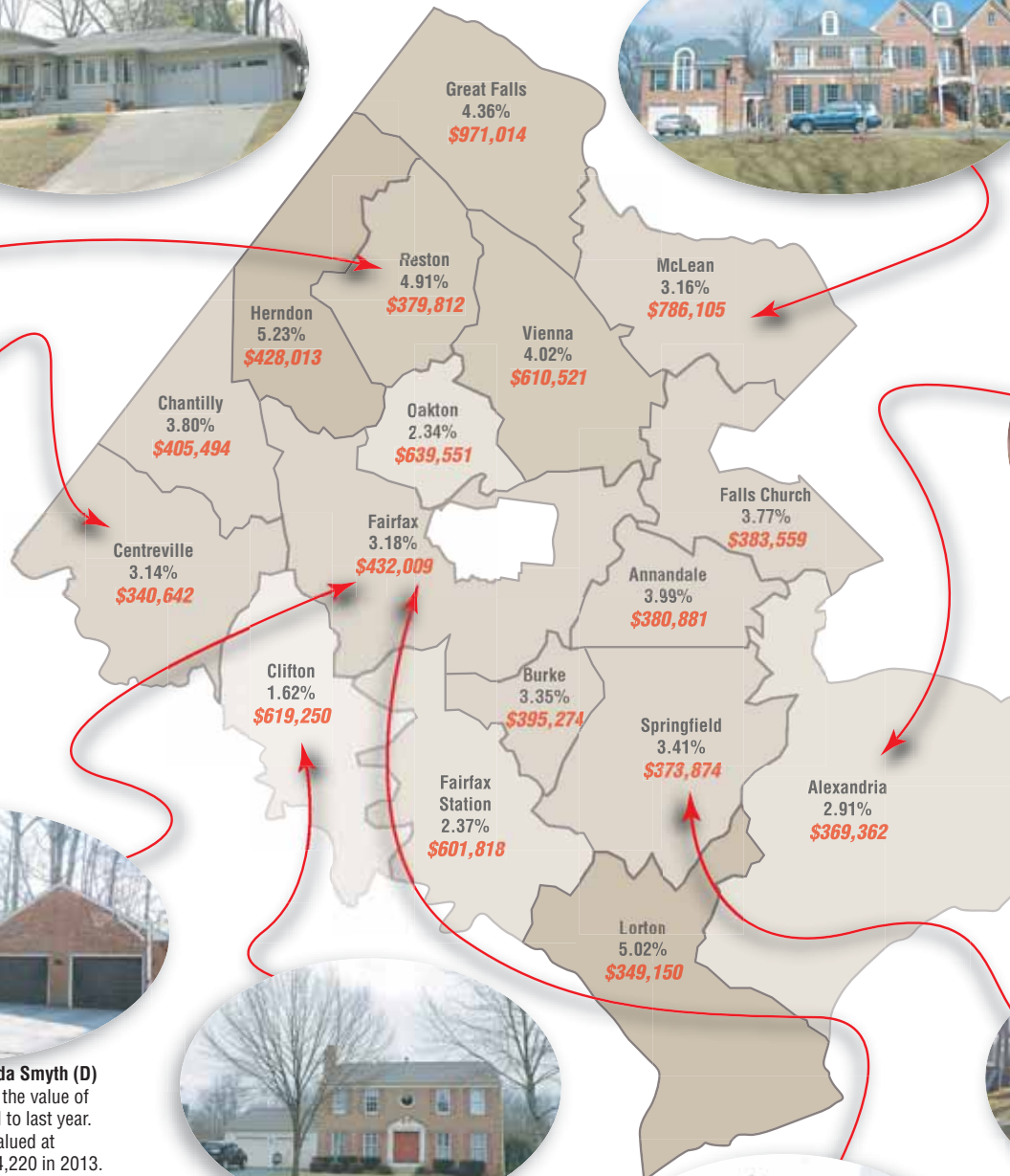
Fairfax County REAL ESTATE

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

NEWS

Herbstreith Receives LCAC's Founder's Award

Gala raised \$120,000 for Lorton Community Action Center.

The Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) presented Christine Herbstreith, a Lorton resident since 1954, with the organization's Founders Award at LCAC's "Spring into Action" Gala on Saturday, March 2, in front of a crowd of more than 200 attendees.

Herbstreith was the driving force behind the founding of LCAC in 1975. A long-time member of Cranford United Methodist Church in Lorton, she attended the event with her granddaughter and her son.

Upon receiving the award, she extended her "heart-felt gratitude to God and everyone who has been involved with LCAC over the years," both clients and supporters. A long-time champion for education, Herbstreith and other community members became concerned in the early 1970s after seeing the growing number of children in the Free and Reduced Lunch program at Gunston Elementary School.

She formed an action "committee" in 1973 and by 1975 LCAC, an independent non-profit organization, was born. Thanks to her passion and tireless efforts LCAC was created to respond to the needs of community residents and give southeast Fairfax County a voice.

"Thanks to her vision and tenacity, LCAC was able to establish a permanent presence behind the Lorton Community Library," said Linda Patterson, LCAC's executive director, who presented the award on behalf of LCAC.



Christine Herbstreith (left) shares her thoughts with the crowd after receiving the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) Founder's Award at the LCAC "Spring into Action" Gala on March 2. Linda Patterson (right), LCAC's executive director, presented the award on behalf of LCAC.

The "Spring into Action" Gala is LCAC's largest fundraiser generating vital operating support for the organization's services, including the food pantry, self-sufficiency programs, emergency rent/utility assistance, case management, after-school programming and tutoring.

The gala was held at Harbour View Event Center on the Occoquan River and included a Silent Auction, a "Wall of Cubes," dinner and dancing to the Johnny Artis Band.

"The event generated more than \$120,000 for LCAC, thanks to the tireless work of Chairs Jean Laib, Marilyn Mutchler and Barbara

Redmon as well as dozens of other volunteers and the generous support from numerous donors," Patterson said. Donors are: Platinum Donor EnviroSolutions; Titanium Donors Covanta Energy, The Perlin Foundation, Barbara & Tim Rizer and Patricia & David Tikkala; and Gold Donors Harbour View Event Center, Richard Hausler, Molly & Bill Lynch and Sentara Healthcare.

To learn more about LCAC and how to become involved, visit www.lortonaction.org or call 703-339-5161.

—VICTORIA ROSS

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 Common-

wealth Attorney Ray Morrogh, a candlelight 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. Learn more about the FCPD Victim Services Unit at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/services/victim-services.htm>.

Clifton Town Council Meeting

The Clifton Town Council will meet Tuesday, April 2, at 7:30 p.m., in the Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road in Clifton.

Procrastination is the thief of time.
—Edward Young

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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 develop 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, however, 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.

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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

Robert 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

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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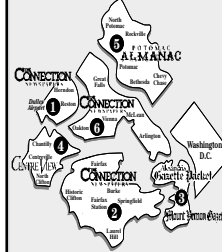
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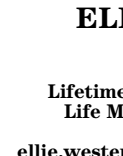


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