

Officer Long Dinh meets with U.S. Rep Gerry Connolly (D-11) during the fundraiser at the Hard Times Café in Fairfax on Sunday, April 28.

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(From the right) Adrian Tatem, Nana Boateng, Frank Amoako and Saad Latif provide musical entertainment at the FACETS Opening Doors Benefit Breakfast on April 25 at the Waterford at Fair Oaks. The young musicians participate in the FACETS youth programs at Reagan Oaks in Fairfax.



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connelly (D-11) gave the opening remarks at the 2013 Opening Doors Benefit Breakfast in support of FACETS at the Waterford at Fair Oaks on April 25.

Opening Doors for Neighbors in Need

FACETS marks 25 years of community service.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

“A few years ago my life underwent two major changes that shook my world... My husband and I separated and then I lost my job.”

Lisa, a Fairfax mother, delivered that blunt statement during her speech to a crowd of more than 400 people during FACETS’ “Opening Doors” Benefit Breakfast on April 25.

The breakfast was part of a yearlong celebration marking FACETS’ 25 years of service in the community, providing support to individuals and families to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

“FACETS is a great example of engaged citizens coming together to make their community a better place to live, by helping those in need find housing and other services,” said Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock).

THE EVENT featured remarks from U.S. Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-11), an active supporter of the nonprofit, and FACETS founder Linda Wimpey.

“Linda had the vision that FACETS would be the place where caring, committed people held the dreams and visions of people in need and worked with them until those dreams for a better life could be realized,” said Amanda Andere, FACETS executive director since 2009.

In an emotionally charged speech, Lisa told the attendees she could not have survived without the help of FACETS.

She said her situation spiraled down quickly when her husband did not provide



Linda Wimpey, founder of FACETS, welcomed guests to the 2013 Opening Doors Benefit Breakfast in support of FACETS on Thursday morning.

financial support, and her next job did not pay enough for her to rent an apartment in the county.

“Panic set in,” she said. “With my recent cut in pay, finding something I could afford for my daughter and I seemed impossible.”

After moving from one basement apartment to another, she and her daughter began living in a homeless shelter.

At the shelter, she connected with a FACETS case manager who helped her apply for housing assistance through Fairfax County’s Bridging Affordability Program, which provides rental subsidies and supportive services to low-income families. Bridging Affordability, a nonprofit collaborative led by Northern Virginia Family Services (NVFS), has assisted more than 100 families since it was launched in September 2011.

Today, she and her daughter live in a two-bedroom apartment, and she is pursuing a business degree at Northern Virginia Community College while working in cosmetics.

“I never thought battling with poverty and



Frank Palmer of Springfield mingles with attendees of the 2013 Opening Doors Benefit Breakfast in support of FACETS on Thursday morning, April 25, at the Waterford at Fair Oaks. Palmer, a longtime FACETS supporter, began tutoring children in Robison Square and continues to devote time to the Fairfax nonprofit.

homelessness was something I would face ... FACETS helped me take steps towards economic stability and set me up for success,” Lisa said.

While Lisa’s story is inspirational, many more Fairfax County residents continue to struggle on the knife-edge of poverty and homelessness.

Nearly 60,000 people live in poverty in Fairfax County, and many say they are just one paycheck away from being homeless.

According to Fairfax County officials, hundreds of local individuals and families have lost housing vouchers because of sequester cuts to the housing choice voucher program, a Housing and Urban Development program that helps the working poor, elderly and disabled afford housing in high-rent markets afford housing.

“FACETS clients and so many others are being impacted by sequestration. With the loss of housing choice vouchers our progress to end homelessness is beginning to stall,” said Amanda Andere, FACETS executive director since 2009. “While the breakfast provided inspiration, it also brought home

the fact that FACETS is still needed in the community.”

ANDERE NOTED some of FACETS recent successes by working with Fairfax County government, faith partners and other nonprofits:

- ❖ In the last three years FACETS helped 43 people who once were living on the streets find a place to call home.

- ❖ In the past two years, FACETS helped prevent and end homelessness for more than 400 families.

- ❖ In the last year, 11 out of the 13 graduating high school seniors in FACETS Education and Community Development program went on to pursue higher education.

But Andere said she wakes up every day with dreams of working herself out of a job.

“I want to fundamentally change the situations people in need face so I can stand here—not 25 years from now but in two years—and say we are on track to end homelessness and break the cycle of poverty,” she said.

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Officer Long Dinh was met with applause and cheers when the doors to Hard Times Cafe opened.

PHOTOS BY
NGALULA TSHISHIMBI/
THE CONNECTION

Supporting An Injured Officer

The community celebrates and supports Officer Long Dinh.

BY NGALULA TSHISHIMBI
THE CONNECTION

On Sunday April 28, Officer Long Dinh arrived at the fundraiser hosted by the Fraternal Order of the Police (FOP) and was met with enthusiastic applause and praise. Dinh, who was seriously injured after a head-on collision on Thursday, Feb. 28, has undergone two months of rehabilitation so far. Sunday's fundraiser was an opportunity for his family, his friends and members of the local community to celebrate his recovery and to raise money to help fund his ongoing recuperation.

The fundraiser took place at the Hard Times Café in Fairfax and was organized by members of the police department as well as leaders of the FOP. At the event, volunteer friends, family and fellow officers conducted a silent auction, sold tee shirts and raffle tickets to be redeemed for buffet meals or for prizes donated by local and national organizations. The prizes included a Redskins' football helmet signed by Robert Griffin III and a BMW brand bicycle. Asked about the process of reaching out to various outlets, Officer Mike Scanlon, president of the FOP, said that businesses and organizations were very accommodating. "I don't think I heard the word 'no.' People

were happy to donate especially after finding out the reasons why."

Scanlon said the funds are for more than just medical bills. He stated that Dinh helped support and was an earner for his family. "[The accident] had a direct impact on the entire family." According to Scanlon, the money raised will hopefully offset the debt accrued by the family who, consistently took time to visit Dinh in the hospital. "The fundraiser is to help Dinh and his family and to give them one less stress to worry about."

Beyond the fundraiser, friends, family and fellow officers have all found ways to help out. Officer Dinh's father, Long Dinh Sr., said that on one occasion after it had snowed, the family had come home from the hospital to find that their driveway had been cleared.

In two months, Dinh has exhibited a "miraculous recovery," as described by both his best friend Dale and legal representative Jack Burgess. Dale described a series of critical injuries including broken bones and fractures from Dinh's head to his legs. Officer Dinh himself noted the seriousness of the accident, stating that it was critical that he was wearing a seat belt at the time of the accident and that the public should always take precautions to be safe. Burgess noted that in over 30 years of representing men and women in the police and fire departments, Dinh's accident was of the most horrific that he had seen. He also used "miraculous" to describe the rehabilitation and stated that, "he's really made a wonderful recovery."

Asked about what the community could do to help, Officer Scanlon said that the community should continue to support the Dinh family, but also generally support men and women in public safety.

The fundraiser took place at the Hard Times Cafe, which catered to the large crowds throughout the day.



Fairfax Soldier Killed in Afghanistan

1st Lt. Robert J. Hess, 26, a highly-decorated Blackhawk pilot.



PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. ARMY

By VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

1st Lt. Robert J. Hess of Fairfax, a highly-decorated U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopter pilot, was killed Tuesday, April 23, in Afghanistan,

according to a release from the Pentagon.

Hess, 26, and another soldier, Capt. Aaron R. Blanchard, 32, of Selah, Wash., both died "of wounds suffered from enemy indirect fire," according to a news release from the Department of

Defense.

Both soldiers were assigned to the 2nd Aviation Battalion, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N.Y. Hess joined the Army in November 2010 and was deployed this month to Pul-E-Alam in sup-

port of Operation Enduring Freedom, according to a Fort Drum news release. Pul-E-Alam is located in the Logar province, an hour's drive from Kabul.

Hess is survived by his parents,

SEE SOLDIER, PAGE 17 **Hess**

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NEWS

The core dance team of the Kidz Musiq Club dance in the "Junk Food Blues" music video. The children worked from 8 a.m. to noon on Sunday, April 14, remaining enthusiastic and professional while making the music video for Fairfax County's Fairfax Public Access Channel 10.



PHOTOS BY ROSHAN GHIMIRE



Antonio Ferro, a member of the Kidz Musiq Club, does a move during the Sunday, April 14, recording session in Fairfax. The music video Antonio and the Kidz Musiq Club danced in will air on Fairfax County stations this July.

Making The 'Junk Food Blues' Music Video

"Eating cotton candy makes my tummy ache. Birthday party pizza all the slices I can take! I got the junk food blues. I got the junk food blues. Oh, I got the junk food blues and I don't know what to do."

To the tune of jazz, nine children from the Kidz Musiq Club recorded a music video in Fairfax Sunday, April 14, to the song "Junk Food Blues." The music video is set for county-wide airing in July. The video is a collaboration between the Fairfax Public Access (FPA) show "Healthy Food Happy You" and Kidz Musiq Club, and aims to educate children from Fairfax and surrounding areas about childhood obesity and the importance of healthy food through a light-hearted jazz song.

According to the Virginia Department of Health, 15 percent of Fairfax County children ages 2 to 18 are overweight, and are in risk of weight-related diseases such as diabetes and hypertension. Currently, roughly one in three children in the United States are obese.

Jorge Mera, of Fairfax, produces the Fairfax Public Access show, "Health Food Happy You," which shows

on Fairfax County-area local television with that same goal of promoting the benefits of healthy eating to county children. He said, "The 'Junk Food Blues' will be a great tool to motivate kids to eat healthier."

For the "Junk Food Blues" music video, Mera teamed up with Renee Collins Georges, creator/owner of Kidz Musiq Club. Georges, who wrote "Junk Food Blues," is excited about her collaboration with FPA's TV show promoting healthy eating. "Teaming up with Mr. Mera and his show enables us to align and share our music, mission and programs with parents and kids in Fairfax and other coverage areas in Virginia. I hope that kids will find our music video to be entertaining, educational and fun," said Georges.

The music video is expected to be released in June on Fairfax Public Access Television.

For more information about the Fairfax Public Access show "Health Food Happy You," go to www.healthyfoodhappyyou.com and for information about Kidz Musiq Club, go to www.kidzmusiqclub.com.

—ROSHAN GHIMIRE



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Parkinson's Patient Records Original Album to Benefit Research

Ken Fauteux has already raised \$1,700 with his record "KFO: Lake Peace."

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

According to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, there are about 1 million Americans currently living with the disease, with 60,000 new cases being diagnosed each year. Not all of them can say they've turned their condition into a creative, charitable endeavor.

Ken Fauteux and his original rock and roll album, "KFO: Lake Peace," have already raised \$1,700 in donations for the Michael J. Fox Foundation.

Fauteux was a successful orthodontist for 23 years before receiving his diagnosis of a milder form of Parkinson's disease 13 years ago. Just 46 at the time, he was younger than the average diagnosis age. At first he noticed a significant weakening in his left arm; it wasn't long before a visit to the neurologist confirmed the presence of other telltale symptoms.

"It was a blow at first," said Fauteux. "We all think we're perfect, perfect in a sense of nothing bad is going to happen to us. Maybe to somebody else, but not us."

Fortunately, Fauteux's case was not believed to be an extreme one. Just a few years after first being diagnosed, however, his doctor and lawyer recommended he retire from practicing orthodontics. His loss of motor control—though not severe—had become a liability in a profession he loved.

"You got to know the patients," said Fauteux. "It was a really good job to have. What I miss the most is seeing them grow, and when they get their braces off, they hug me, they hug their mom—that's what it's all about. Many dental specialties don't get that kind of reward for treating someone."

But Fauteux's new life was "not all bad," he said. "Little things just don't bother me anymore. On the road if I get cut off, I just say, 'Have a nice day.' You realize what's really important."

IMMEDIATELY AFTER being diagnosed, Fauteux noticed another change: new music suddenly started surging through his brain. As an amateur musician, he had studied theory and composition for two years in college, and played violin, piano and guitar. But he hadn't strummed a chord in decades.

Inspired by his life's turn of events, Fauteux rediscovered a

past love of rock and roll music. Out came the Gibson electric, and the tunes in his head quickly emerged as complex yet catchy, guitar-led songs. "When I got Parkinson's," he said, "I realized I really enjoyed playing what I used to do—I'm having more fun."

The reinvigorated artist teamed up with a neighbor of his lake house on Leesville Lake, nearby Roanoke, and together with a few additional contributors, crafted an 18-track album over the course of a year and a half. "KFO: Lake Peace" is comprised of relatively short, yet lively pieces ranging in stylistic influence from the Grateful Dead and the Ventures to Bach and the Beach Boys.

It seemed logical that this effort could be put to good use. "I started thinking about a fundraiser, some creative way I could get some money for research," said Fauteux. So he began offering the CD as a thank you to friends and family for their donations.

"I used WETA's model," he explained. "They offer something, a collection of songs, and in turn, you give them a donation. I hope my CD is worthy of that kind of thing. I guess time will tell."

In the meantime, Fauteux is working on new songs for a follow-up album, continuing his hobby of handcrafting violins... and looking for a drummer who lives closer to Fairfax.

CHECK OUT some of Ken's music by typing "Ken Fauteux" into a YouTube search. To contact him about drumming auditions, request a CD and/or make a donation, he can be reached by email at kfo1998@gmail.com.



Ken Fauteux warms up in the basement of his Fairfax home. His first record has already raised \$1,700 in donations for Parkinson's research.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

A retired orthodontist, Ken Fauteux now splits his time between Fairfax and a lake house on Leesville Lake near Roanoke and Lynchburg, Va.

"Little things just don't bother me anymore. On the road if I get cut off, I just say, 'Have a nice day.' You realize what's really important."

— Ken Fauteux

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OPINION

Springing for Jobs Low-income neighbors face another barrier: sequestration.

BY AMANDA ANDERE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/FACETS

With colorful flowers blooming and the days getting longer and warmer, spring always signals renewal and hope. For those affected by poverty, we may need an extended spring this year in order to fully reap its benefits.

I know we've seen slow and measured progress with the healing of the economy. But for low-income residents in our community, they are often the first and last to feel the effects of a recession. Now they face another barrier: sequestration. Now counties—including Fairfax—are losing federal funding for housing vouchers, threatening to put vulnerable families out in the streets.

This is especially unfortunate since ending homelessness is a top priority in Fairfax and we have made progress in our efforts, with the number of people who are homeless in Fairfax County down 12 percent, according to the annual point-in-time survey. Despite the recessions, we've had real success at helping people stabilize their lives. This latest barrier may be more than we can overcome.

Vouchers are important tools to close the gap between earnings and the high cost of living in our region. The issues facing the most vulnerable are compounded by the lack of afford-



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GUEST
EDITORIAL

able housing and the difficulty in finding employment that will cover the costs of living here.

Local nonprofits work mostly with individuals who are low-skilled, have less than a 10th

grade education (and in many cases less than sixth grade), and have limited English proficiency and low literacy levels. We are able, with significant effort, to find employment for many of these individuals. This employment, however, often offers low wages, little or no benefits, and may not last long term. We are all challenged in finding long-term employment with sufficient wages and benefits for the people with whom they work.

In our business, we call this underemployment. Nearly 40 percent of the homeless in our county are employed, but their earnings or their hours aren't enough to pay for housing and the basics. Nationwide, 7.6 million Americans are underemployed, due to the scarcity of full-time employment. Factoring in the 7.6 percent unemployment rate, the outlook does not seem as rosy for our struggling neighbors.

At FACETS, these realities have challenged us to put more emphasis on job placement and career development to help our clients obtain positions that will lead to better incomes and

careers. In tandem with this focus, we are also providing more life skills training to prepare them to manage their finances, set priorities, and be responsible tenants.

But it's still not enough. That's why we are recommending the county create a Workforce Innovation Fund to support a pilot workforce program, designed in conjunction with the county's nonprofit partners to achieve:

- ❖ Better coordination among all entities providing workforce development services in the county;

- ❖ An improved system for connecting people to available jobs, particularly in growth industries;

- ❖ An improved system to ensure more people complete community college and certification programs and obtain employment when they are done; and

- ❖ A plan for moving people from low-pay, low-skill entry level jobs along a career path to jobs with better pay.

Our individual programs along with this fund will be life changing for residents that are extremely low-income, enhancing their ability to move into jobs with sufficient salary. A renewed community commitment to helping get people sustainable employment will make this a season to remember.

FACETS, a nonprofit serving those suffering from the effects of poverty in Fairfax County/City. www.FacetsCares.org.

Five Myths About Public Libraries

BY SARAH TALLEY
SOUTHER

The Digital Age is well past its dawn and budgets are tight, leaving many people to question why we continue to fund libraries. After all, don't



they just house a bunch of old books in print and everything you need is online ... right? Here's a few common myths about libraries:

1. Google and other search engines meet everyone's information needs.

Search engines can find amazing things, but only if you have access to the Internet. For many, the Fairfax County Public Library is their only means of access. Even in a wealthy area like Northern Virginia, almost 20 percent of families make less than \$50,000 per year, and depend on libraries for access to the Internet.

Not everything's online, or if it is, it's not free or it might be inaccurate. There's another hurdle: Not everyone uses search engines well enough to get to what they

need. Fairfax library staff teach people how to find and evaluate information sources all while protecting their privacy.

2. Books are becoming obsolete

Just as television and DVDs haven't killed movies, e-books haven't killed print. Over 13 million items were checked out from Fairfax libraries last year and most of them were books. Despite the uptick in demand for e-books, there are plenty of popular titles that aren't available because many publishers refuse to sell e-books to libraries.

3. The library is a quiet warehouse for books.

Odds are, no one will "shush!" you unless you're yelling on your cellphone in speaker mode. The library is a vibrant place that provides people with more than information. Early literacy story times, homework support, classes, book discussions, tax preparation assistance, tutoring, and other activities that support information literacy happen at the library. More

than 172,000 people took advantage of these events last year in Fairfax.

The Internet can bring people together, but libraries reinforce real-world communities because they are "bridging spaces" where people from many walks of life meet. Walk into a Fairfax library today, and you'll find a variety of new programs that bring people together, ranging from genealogy workshops to creative writing classes to one-on-one social media training.

4. This could all be done by volunteers.

While volunteers donated nearly 145,000 hours to the library last year, there is a limit to what volunteers can do. Staff members review collections for completeness and accuracy, present early literacy storytimes, make sure public computers run properly, and read extensively so they can provide book suggestions to all kinds of readers (including staunchly reluctant ones).

Library workers follow ethical codes that state they must try to make available accurate and complete information without bias and

protect your privacy. Much is asked of library workers, and information service expertise is necessary to provide customers with the services that they demand.

5. Public libraries are a drain on public coffers.

Libraries provide services to job seekers, businesses, consumers, and investors. Studies in Pennsylvania and Florida show that for every \$1 a community invests in its public libraries, it sees a return of about \$4.

When Thomas Jefferson said "Information is the currency of democracy," he did not envision the increasing gap between the technology "haves" and "have-nots." Access to the Internet is essential if you want to do homework, search for jobs, and interact with the government. For many in Fairfax, the library is their only means of access.

We invest resources in libraries and schools because they provide a public good in the form of educated, informed citizens during all stages of their lives. The fact that Fairfax County sees a monetary return on this investment is a wonderful bonus.

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LETTERS

TJ: Competition, Not Quotas

To the Editor:

Your editorial, "Value-added Evaluation," [The Connection, April 18-24, 2013] seems to appear regularly—in slightly different forms and, it remains misguided. Thomas Jefferson is a magnet school which admits students on a competitive basis, not on quotas. The writer seems unaware that students who receive more parental support and ad-

vancement opportunities do better in school. You cite anomalies in the representation of blacks, Latinos and poor but you do not discuss why whites are underrepresented and Asians are overrepresented. Also, you seem to disregard students from Middle Eastern countries as well as families newly arrived from European and African countries. Years of social engineering and "programs"—like "Head Start," have not changed anything. It takes support from parents. You should read Ben Carson's book, "America, the Beau-

tiful," describing how his single, African-American mother raised him to be a prominent surgeon—without "programs" and "value-added quotas." The writer and the readers should volunteer to help in the classroom, volunteer for programs like big sisters/brothers and find other ways to help. We have had no success from the money wasted on quotas, "value added," "diversity," Head Start, et al.

Tom Fields
Springfield

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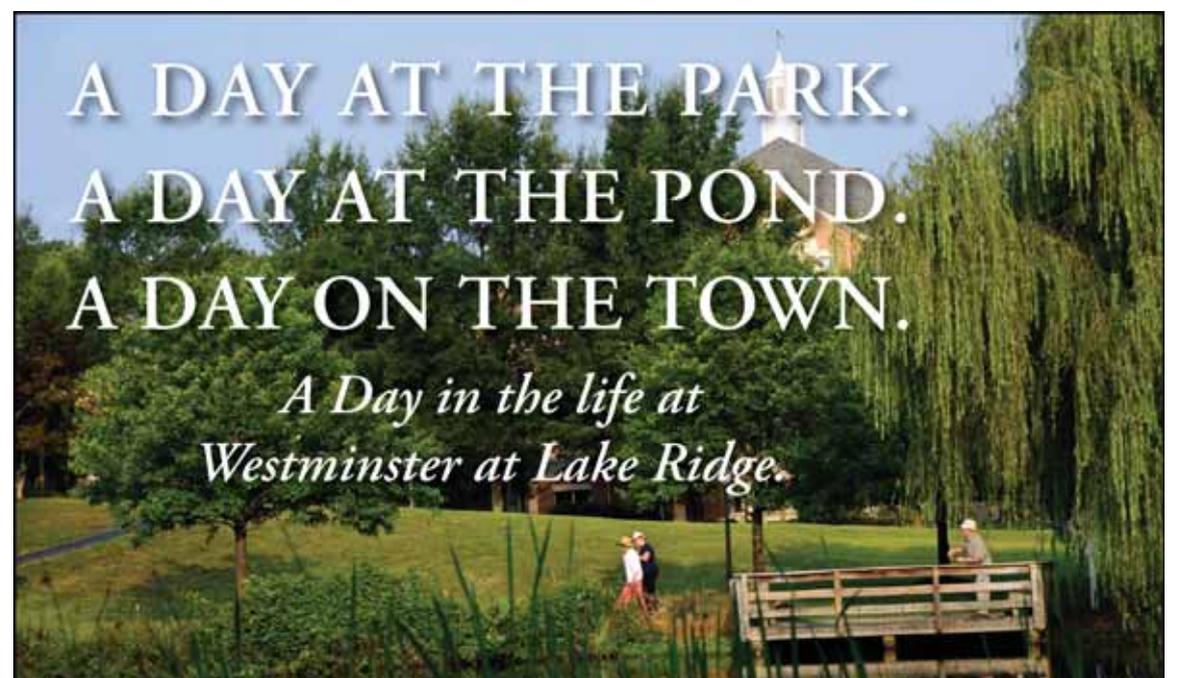
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CALENDAR

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.

FRIDAY/MAY 3

Pyramid Art Show. 6-7 p.m., at Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Students of Edison HS, Twain MS, Bush Hill ES, Cameron ES, Clermont ES, Franconia ES, Mt Eagle ES and Rose Hill ES will have their artwork on display. www.fcps.edu/EdisonHS/

"Hello Dolly!" 7:30 p.m., at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. This light-hearted musical features a meddlesome matchmaker, Dolly Levi, who brings couples together while making sure she herself gets to marry a wealthy half-millionaire. \$10; \$15 at door. 703-219-2200 or www.fxplayers.org.

Rashomon. 8 p.m., at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Lake Braddock Theatre presents the play based on Akira Kurosawa's award-winning Japanese period drama in which a samurai has been murdered and four witnesses each tell a completely different version of the incident. \$11. 703-426-1000 or www.ibtheatre.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 4

Rashomon. 2:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Lake Braddock Theatre presents the play based on Akira Kurosawa's award-winning Japanese period drama in which a samurai has been murdered and four witnesses each tell a completely different version of the incident. \$11. 703-426-1000 or www.ibtheatre.com.

Singles Dinner and Movie Night. 5 p.m., at the PF Chang's, 4250 Fairfax

Corner Avenue, Fairfax. New Beginnings, a support group for separated/divorce men and women invite for a fixed price dinner, followed by movie at Rave Fairfax Corner 14. \$30. Includes dinner, soda, tip and a movie ticket. RSVP required. 301-924-4101 or www.newbeginningsusa.org.

"Hello Dolly!" 7:30 p.m., at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. This light-hearted musical features a meddlesome matchmaker, Dolly Levi, who brings couples together while making sure she herself gets to marry a wealthy half-millionaire. \$10; \$15 at door. 703-219-2200 or www.fxplayers.org.

"The Trocks." 8 p.m., at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, or "The Trocks," feature large men stuffed into tutus balancing on pointe. The talented male dancers play both male and female roles to give the classical art an entertaining edge. \$24-\$48. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

SUNDAY/MAY 5

Vibrant and Strong Opening. 1-3 p.m., at Vibrant and Strong, 9485 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Grand opening for her health consulting business with information about services; healthy refreshments included. 571-233-3977 or http://vibrantandstrong.com.

"Hello Dolly!" 2 p.m., at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. This light-hearted musical features a meddlesome matchmaker, Dolly Levi, who brings couples together while making sure she herself gets to marry



Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, or "The Trocks," is a ballet where talented male dancers play both male and female roles to give the classical art an entertaining edge. See the show at GMU Saturday, May 4, at 8 p.m.

a wealthy half-millionaire. \$10; \$15 at door. 703-219-2200 or www.fxplayers.org.

Young Masters Concert. 7 p.m., at the George Mason University's Centre for the Arts Concert Hall, 373 Mason Pond Dr, Fairfax. George Mason University's School of Music is presenting the Young Masters Concert: The Annual Music Scholarship Benefit Event, which will showcase the talents of six students winner of the 2013 Concerto Competition. All the proceeds from the concert will support the scholarships for the students in the School of Music. \$20 for adults, 15 for students. 703-993-1380 or music.gmu.edu.

FRIDAY/MAY 10

"Hello Dolly!" 7:30 p.m., at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. The FX Players of Fairfax High School's theatre Department presents

the classic musical "Hello Dolly!" with ASL interpretation; this light-hearted musical features a meddlesome matchmaker, Dolly Levi, who brings couples together while making sure she herself gets to marry a wealthy half-millionaire. \$10; \$15 at door. 703-219-2200 or www.fxplayers.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 11

"Hello Dolly!" 7:30 p.m., at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. A light-hearted musical features a meddlesome matchmaker, Dolly Levi, who brings couples together while making sure she herself gets to marry a wealthy half-millionaire. \$10; \$15 at door. 703-219-2200 or www.fxplayers.org.

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 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.

SUNDAY/MAY 12

The classic musical "Hello Dolly!" 2 p.m., at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. A light-hearted musical features a meddlesome matchmaker, Dolly Levi, who brings couples together while making sure she herself gets to marry a wealthy half-millionaire. \$10; \$15 at door. 703-219-2200 or www.fxplayers.org.

5th Annual International Language



A girl enjoys herself at The Israel Street Festival, which has drawn more than 3,000 participants since 2007. The event brings together Jewish agencies and synagogues from the Washington, D.C., area to collaborate on a program that celebrates Israel's culture and history. The festival will be Sunday, May 19, at Fairfax Corner.

and Cultural Festival. 4 p.m., at W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main Street, Fairfax. The American Turkish Friendship Association (ATFA) and the Mid-Atlantic Federation of Turkic American Associations (MAFTAA) are organizing an annual language and cultural festival. Join the festival for poems, songs and folk dances, and embrace the people of diverse communities around language, culture and heritage. 703-267-5751 or www.atfa.us.

honoring survivors benefits the American Cancer Society; a cancer survivors reception is at 5 p.m. \$10 registration. www.springfieldburkerelay.org or springfieldburkerelay@gmail.com.

SUNDAY/MAY 19

2013 Israel Street Festival. Noon-5 p.m., at Fairfax Corner, 4100 Monument Drive, Fairfax. Headliner international music group The Shuk performs along with R&B artist Hadar Binyamin; performances, exhibits and activities including Krav Maga Israel Defense Force self defense demonstrations, a petting zoo, Israeli dancing, Israeli-style shuck (marketplace) and food from Max's Kosher Cafe. 703-323-0880 or www.jcenv.org.

MONDAY/JUNE 3

2013 Charity Golf Tournament. 12:30 p.m. at the Westfields Gold Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave., Clifton. National Assoc. of Insurance and Financial Advisors of Northern Virginia is hosting the tournament for the benefit of The Shepherd's Centers of Northern Virginia. Reservations. \$150. naifanova@gmail.com or www.scfva.org.

MONDAY/MAY 13

Intro to Riding in a Peloton. 6:30 p.m., at Fairfax Mosaic Freshbikes, 2910 District Ave., Fairfax. Learn the finer points of paelines, echelons and drafting; for those new to competitive riding and racing with the DESIGN'S Cycling Team every second Monday of the month. www.freshbikescycling.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 17

Relay for Life of Springfield-Burke. 7 p.m.-7 a.m., at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. The fourth annual family friendly event promoting an attitude of hope and

Fairfax Student Wins Columbus Essay Contest

Claire Wang, a junior at Trinity Christian School (TCS) of Fairfax, won the state level Christopher Columbus Essay Contest sponsored by the Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution. Claire competed with 147 other essayists from across the state, writing on the topic "How Did the Faith and Courage of Christopher Columbus Give to Mankind a New World?"

She received her award from the Virginia State Regent Patricia Musick Hatfield at the Annual Virginia State DAR Youth Lun-



From left, Patricia Musick Hatfield presents award to Claire Wang.

cheon held in Richmond on March 16. TCS was represented at the luncheon by R. Cody Phillips, upper school history teacher and school essay contest coordinator. Claire's essay was sponsored by the Pentagon Chapter, NSDAR. The National Society DAR and National Italian American Foundation have jointly sponsored a nation-wide essay contest on Christopher Columbus each year since 1996. The contest is open to students in grades nine through 12 in public, private or parochial schools, or those who are home-schooled.

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WELLBEING

Yoga Week Comes to the Area

Local effort offers budding yogis a chance to improve their minds, bodies and spirits with free or \$5 classes.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Amanda Shipe presses the palms of her hands into the back of one of her students. The student's body forms a triangle, her head dangling upside down, the balls of her feet squeezing against the coarseness of the yoga mat beneath her. Shipe's touch sends the student's sitting bones skyward.

"[This] is called 'downward facing dog.' We do a lot of hands on alignment in our yoga classes to make sure students are doing their asanas [postures] correctly," said Shipe, who runs Mind Your Body Oasis yoga studio in Arlington.

Shipe and other area yoga studio directors are welcoming new students into their doors this week as part of the eighth annual D.C.

Yoga Week, an effort by the Washington-area community of yogis to raise awareness about the practice.

Participating yoga studios are offering free and \$5 classes along with discounts on merchandise and workshops. The weeklong event began April 26 and culminates with Yoga on the Mall, an

ing a large investment and become more familiar with yoga," said Dawn Curtis of East Meets West Yoga Center in Vienna.

Shipe believes rampant misinformation fuels the trepidation that keeps some people at bay. "There are so many fears about yoga and so much talk out there in social media," said Shipe. "This event will raise awareness about how great yoga is for your mind, body and spirit. It will bring new people into yoga classes and remind people that yoga is pretty mainstream and very available at many studios."

Jatin P. Ambegaonkar, Ph.D., an associate professor in George Mason University's College of Education and Human Development in Fairfax, says the week-long focus on yoga is an opportunity to educate those who are unfamiliar with the practice.

"Scientific evidence has shown

"This event will raise awareness about how great yoga is for your mind, body and spirit."

— Amanda Shipe, Mind Your Body Oasis, Arlington

outdoor yoga class of more than 1,000 yoga enthusiasts of all skill levels that will be held this Sunday, May 5, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"There are a lot of people who are afraid to take yoga. Some people have a misconstrued perception of what yoga is. This week they can take a class without mak-



PHOTO BY AMANDA LOMAX

Amanda Shipe, of Mind Your Body Oasis yoga studio in Arlington, assists a student with a downward facing dog yoga pose. Mind Your Body Oasis is one of several area studios offering free and \$5 classes during D.C. Yoga Week.

that the clear benefits of yoga include a sense of relaxation, a sense of well-being, a sense of cardiovascular wellness and musculoskeletal wellness," said Ambegaonkar, who lives in Centreville. "The problem with yoga is that in the last eight to 10 years, there have been a lot of hybrids that have branched out from the original Indian art form of yoga, like power yoga and hot yoga, that are somewhat of a fad."

Ambegaonkar added that while such popular forms of yoga are not necessarily harmful, more research is needed. He also offered a caveat. "One of the basic tenets of yoga is the focus on the body and recognizing it as being a temple," he said.

"People who practice yoga regularly know when they have reached their limit."

According to its co-founder, Annie Mahon of Circle Yoga in Washington, D.C., Yoga Week began as a way to expand the yoga community and increase cohesiveness. "One goal is to make yoga accessible to a wider audience," she said. "We'd like to be able to do more community-based yoga, like therapeutic yoga and support yoga in different areas of the [region]. We want to create more community in the yoga world."

For more information about D.C. Yoga Week, Yoga on the Mall or to find a list of participating studios, visit <http://dcc.org/>.

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Fairfax Water

FAIRFAX COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
Notice of Public Hearing
Resolution Authorizing Acquisition of Easements Necessary for Public Purposes by Eminent Domain or Other Means
May 23, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

The Fairfax County Water Authority will hold a public hearing pursuant to Va. Code Ann. § 15.2-1903 on **at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 23, 2013**, to receive public comments on a proposed Resolution authorizing the acquisition of easements necessary for the improvement and expansion of Fairfax Water's water system infrastructure adjacent to sections of the Richmond Highway (U.S. Route 1) in Fairfax County. The improvement and expansion is required to provide adequate capacity to serve existing and future customers. The necessary easements are to be located across several parcels of land adjacent to U.S. Route 1, more particularly described as Fairfax County Tax Map Parcels 083-3-01-0037, 083-3-01-0038, 083-3-01-0040, 083-3-01-0041, 083-3-08-B, 093-1-01-0019, 093-1-01-0025, 093-1-16-0013, 092-2-18-06-0001A, and 093-1-18A-0001. Following the public hearing, the Water Authority Board may vote on or after June 6, 2013, to adopt the proposed Resolution.

The proposed Resolution and other related information can be viewed at Fairfax Water's Website at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org>.

The public hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed resolution should call Eva Catlin at (703) 289-6017. Interested parties also may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, May 22, 2013 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

28 Yard Sales

Community Yard Sale
Williamsburg Manor and the Manors at Mount Vernon near Stratford Elementary just off Collingwood and Riverside are having a Community Yard Sale at many of the 100 houses in the two neighborhoods on Saturday 11 May 2013 from 8am-1pm. Everything from furniture, toys, clothes, yard equipment, computers, beds, tools, small appliances and much more. Come prepared to buy! Contact Boots Barnes at boots.barnes1@verizon.net with questions.

21 Announcements

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Fairfax senior Zack Burnett, right, scored four points for the Suburban All-Stars team during the 40th Annual Capital Classic on Sunday at T.C. Williams High School.



Woodson senior Tommy Stepka (22) competed for the Suburban All-Stars during the 40th Annual Capital Classic on Sunday at T.C. Williams High School.

Woodson's Stepka, Fairfax's Burnett Compete in Capital Classic

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Being selected to compete in the 40th Annual Capital Classic was a testament to Khory Moore's talent as a basketball player. Still, the Wakefield senior wanted to leave his mark. He wanted to stand out.

While all-star games can at times be marred by lackluster effort, Moore hustled around the court, looking to make a difference. He snatched rebounds. He leaped on defense to disrupt a pass. He even took a charge—an unusual sight during an exhibition game.

"I don't like to lose," Moore said. "When they were going on a run, I had to do something different than everybody else was. I had to stand out [in case] a college coach was here."

Sunday's Capital Classic consisted of two contests. The opener was an all-local matchup between the Suburban All-Stars and the District All-Stars. The main event matched some of the best players in the area (Capital All-Stars) against some of the top talent from around the country (United States All-Stars).

ONE OF FOUR ATHLETES from the Northern Region competing for the Suburban All-Stars, Moore made his presence known during Sunday's opening contest. Moore led all Northern Region players with 12 points, including a pair of 3-pointers, but the Suburban All-Stars came up short against the District All-Stars, 118-88. Moore said participating in the event was a "great" experience, but it also served as a wake-up call.

"It made me realize that I'm not as good as I thought I was," Moore said about competing against the talented District team. "I've got to keep working every day in the gym and stay humble. That just humbled me a lot."

Moore led Wakefield to the 2013 National District championship. The Warriors finished Northern Region runner-up and advanced to the state semifinals. Moore said he is leaning toward attending Virginia Wesleyan College.

West Potomac point guard Brandon Pressley, Woodson forward Tommy Stepka and Fairfax guard Zack Burnett also played for the Suburban squad. The four Northern Region players came off the bench, entering the game together for the first time with 5:37 remaining in the first quarter.

Pressley finished with nine points. "It was a really good experience," he said. "It opened my eyes up to the type of competition that I'm going to be seeing next year trying to play on the next level."

Pressley, who is listed at 5-foot-7, said practicing against Suburban teammates JJ Epps (5-7 Magruder guard) and Magic Harris (5-11 Oxon Hill guard) was unlike anything he faced in the Northern Region.

"Both of those guys are about my size, extremely quick, extremely athletic and I haven't seen anything like that in our region," Pressley said. "I'm always used to being the quickest guy. It really makes me see that I have to work more on my skill and not just depend on getting by guys [with] quickness."

Pressley said he is undecided on where he will play college basketball.

Stepka finished with four points. "It's great to play in an all-star game be-

cause it shows how much you worked throughout your high school career," Stepka said. "It's not really about the game. It's just more what you did to get to the game."

Stepka helped Woodson overcome a 19-point fourth-quarter deficit to beat Wakefield in overtime in the Northern Region championship game on Feb. 23. After capturing the school's first outright region title, the Cavaliers beat Battlefield in the state quarterfinals before losing to eventual state champion Henrico in the semifinals.

"Playing in the state semifinals, winning the region and playing in this all-star game," Stepka said, "I couldn't ask for a better senior year."

Stepka said he is undecided where he will attend college or if he will continue his basketball career.

Burnett finished with four points. He helped Fairfax advance to the 2013 Northern Region tournament.

IN THE MAIN EVENT, Herndon's Will Ferguson was the lone Northern Region representative to suit up for the Capital All-Stars, who lost to the United States All-Stars, 126-120. The Capital team was coached by Herndon head coach Gary Hall.

"It was good to play for him one last time," Ferguson said.

Ferguson, who said the opportunity to play in the game was a "blessing," finished with three points. He led Herndon to the 2013 Concorde District championship and will attend Massanutten Military Academy next season.

Bishop O'Connell's Junior Etou finished with 11 points for the Capital team. Etou helped O'Connell win the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference championship.

THE COUNTY LINE

Fairfax County Union Officials Say Board's Budget Fails Staff, Residents

Supervisors maintain cuts necessary to eliminate projected \$169 million shortfall.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

On the day the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted the FY2014 budget, the leaders of Fairfax County's four public employee unions issued a joint statement saying the budget "failed" staff and county residents.

"By passing a budget that fails to attract the best and the brightest, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has put the services our residents depend on at risk. Meanwhile, Fairfax County employees continue to fall behind their peers across Northern Virginia, Washington D.C. and Maryland," according to a statement by the SAFE Coalition (Standing Altogether for Fairfax County Employees), which represents the unions.

The statement was signed by John R. Niemiec, president of Fairfax County Professional Firefighters & Paramedics, IAFF Local 2068; Chris Cochrane, president of Fairfax Coalition of Police, IUPA Local 5000; Kevin Pittman, president of the Fairfax Deputy Sheriff's Coalition, IUPA Local 5016; and Paula Woodrum, president of the Fairfax County Government Employees Union, SEIU VA 512.

Combined, SAFE represents about 4,000 active and retired members out of the county's 12,000 active employees.

"Fairfax County employees provide vital public services to the county's residents, ensuring Fairfax is a great place to live and work. But the FY 2014 budget fails to recognize these two principles: quality public services and a quality workforce. Instead, the budget cuts vital services to county residents and fails to honor the county's obligations to its employees," according to Tuesday's statement.

Union representatives said they have been working with supervisors for months to find a solution that keeps taxes low, service quality high and employees fairly compensated.

They thought they had a deal on the table last week, but the board—in a 9-1 vote—approved a budget that does not increase employee compensation. Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) was the dissenting member of the board.

Supervisors said maintaining county compensation at the current FY2013 was necessary to help eliminate a projected shortfall of \$169 million. Other measures in the FY2014 budget that address the shortfall include a one-penny increase on the property tax rate, \$21 million in county agency reductions, and the net elimination of 41 positions. The budget also creates an \$8.1 million reserve to address the impact of sequestration and federal cuts.

The budget reflects the fiscal challenges the county has faced as a result of the prolonged and sluggish recovery from the recession, according to Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large). She said the negative impact of the sequester on the commercial tax base and federal employees added to the board's budget decisions.

"A great amount of effort and compromise went into this year's budget," Bulova said Tuesday. "During difficult economic times, our board has agreed to invest in important county priorities such as education, public safety, community services and critical transportation improvements while keeping taxes



Paula Woodrum,
president of the
Fairfax County
Government Em-
ployees Union



John R. Niemiec,
president of Fairfax
County Professional
Firefighters & Para-
medics



Kevin Pittman,
president of the
Fairfax Deputy
Sheriff's Coalition



Chris Cochrane,
president of Fairfax
Coalition of Police

affordable for our residents."

Virginia law denies public employees collective bargaining rights, and—as a "right-to-work" state—employees are not required to become members of a union. Proponents maintain this helps counties like Fairfax resist wage and benefit demands. In 2008, when county officials froze all salaries for county government and school employees, there was little outcry.

But union officials said they will continue to push for solutions that include "fair compensation" for employees.

"Even in the face of pay freezes and furloughs over the past several years, county workers prided themselves on providing highest quality public services to the residents of Fairfax County," Woodrum said during an April 11 public hearing. "And you, the Board of Supervisors, will expect no different from my membership in the face of the unknown factors around sequestration and other economic issues that may affect our FY 2014 budget."

Woodrum pointed out that in recent years, county workers have experienced double-digit increases in health insurance premiums and out-of-pocket expenses for prescriptions and medical services, expiration of payroll tax breaks, and experienced a decrease in their household discretionary spending.

"We will continue to appeal to board members to remedy these shortfalls as best we can," she said.

Supervisors React To Budget Concerns



Chairman Sharon Bulova
(D-at-large)

"The board appreciates that employees have continued to provide quality services to our residents with professionalism and dedication, even in the face of pay freezes and tough economic times. The creation of a fair and sustainable compensation package for implementation in FY 2015 is a critical element in the long-term stability of the county workforce. The board is committed to working with employee groups to develop and refine an overall pay structure that invests in our workforce and helps in recruiting and retaining high quality employees."

Jeffrey C. McKay (D-Lee)

"I understand why our employees are upset and I can't blame them. However, we've got to play the economic hand we're dealt and this year is tough for everyone, employees and residents alike."



John C. Cook (R-Braddock)

"I agree we need to revamp our employee compensation system. We don't have great governmental services by accident. We have them because we attract and retain great employees. To keep them we need a competitive compensation plan. Our old plan was not workable and we have been going year by year for the last four years, knowing that we needed a new permanent plan. We will be working with our employee groups during the spring and summer months to develop such a plan. This was a tough budget year and we had to balance a number of factors. We made the difficult

decision to freeze county pay as part of that difficult balance. We will have a new system in place next year. We understand the frustration of our employees and appreciate all their hard work on behalf of the people of Fairfax County."

Pat Herrity (R-Springfield)

"Our employees are our biggest asset, and to ensure our services remain top notch we must continue to attract and retain the best and the brightest. I was a vocal advocate for incentive compensation for our employees this budget year based on cost savings achieved at carryover. This concept was very successfully implemented at the state level under Governor McDonnell. The county has a spending problem, not a revenue problem, and money saved from the common sense solutions I have proposed, in addition to ones identified and implemented by our employees, could have gone a long way to help our employees and residents."



—VICTORIA ROSS

Four Charged in Armed Robbery

While on patrol in the shopping center in the 7400 block of Little River Turnpike, an officer noticed a car creeping toward him without its lights on. Unbeknownst to the officer, a robbery involving a gun, a 15-year-old boy and his Nike sneakers was in progress.

The teen had placed an online ad selling the tennis shoes and had scheduled to meet a prospective buyer at the shopping center at around 10:50 p.m. Monday, April 29. The teen was a passenger in the vehicle and signaled his distress to the officer.

Upon being notified of a weapon, the officer, along with back-ups, enacted a high-risk stop. All four suspects were taken into custody. All of the suspects were from Prince Georges County, Md. and were charged with robbery, use of a firearm in commission of a felony and abduction.

Police remind buyers and sellers using online services to proceed with caution. Meet during daylight hours, never alone, and in a public place. Transactions with strangers can be risky and all those involved need to take precautions to protect their safety.

Eat Chicken, Raise Money

Fair Lakes resident BethAnn Telford is battling a brain tumor herself, but that doesn't stop her from raising as much money as she can for the National Brain Tumor Society and Accelerate Brain Cancer Cure. So on Thursday, May 2, from 5-7 p.m., she and her fundraising organization, Team BT, will be at the Chick-Fil-A at the Dulles Expo Center, 4412 Chantilly Place in Chantilly.

During that time, the restaurant will donate a percentage of its sales to Team BT. Participants must present a copy of the event flier to the cashier. It may be downloaded in advance at http://teambt.org/images/Chick-fil-a_2013_v3.pdf.

CASA Run to Affect Traffic

City of Fairfax police are advising residents and commuters that this year's Fairfax CASA Run for the Children, sponsored by Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates, will be held this Saturday morning, May 4. The 10K starts at 8:30 a.m.; and the 3K, at 9 a.m. Both races begin and end at the Fairfax County Courthouse.

Courses for both runners and walkers will involve the use of residential streets and major roadways in both the City of Fairfax and the adjoining area of the county. Police will be blocking off the right eastbound lane of Main Street between Judicial Drive and West Street, as well as the right southbound lane of Chain Bridge Road between the entrance to the courthouse and School Street. Maps of the routes are available at www.fairfaxrunforthechildren.com.

Shred Those Documents

Fairfax County Crime Solvers is hosting a community shred event at the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center, 4890 Alliance Drive (off West Ox Road in Fairfax), Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m.-noon. Residents may support their local Crime Solvers program while disposing of personal and financial documents securely. Shredding helps prevent identity theft. Tax-deductible donations will be ac-

Fairfax Assault Victim Dies of Injuries

City of Fairfax police say a 63-year-old city resident, William Hays O'Brien, has succumbed to injuries sustained April 16 when he was assaulted in a shopping-center parking lot. Although a suspect was charged in connection with the assault, he's currently free on bond pending trial.

The incident occurred around 11:20 a.m. in the parking lot of Fair City Mall. According to police, O'Brien didn't know the man who attacked him. The assailant fled in a vehicle afterward. A short time later, O'Brien was transported to a medical facility and hospitalized for treatment of a head injury.

Two days later, on April 18, Librado Cena, 57, of 9820 Saint Cloud Court in Fairfax, was taken

into custody after an officer recognized his vehicle from a lookout that had been given. After police spoke with Cena, he was taken to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was charged with aggravated malicious wounding and later released.

Then last Friday, April 26, police were notified that O'Brien had died. An autopsy was performed by the Office of the Medical Examiner and his death was officially ruled a homicide. The Criminal Investigations Division has notified the commonwealth attorney's office and the criminal investigation is continuing.

—BONNIE HOBBS

cepted to benefit Crime Solvers; the suggested donation is \$5/bag.

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, May 11, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at police headquarters at 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 personnel.

Missing-persons posters can be cre-

ated and printed directly from the 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 703-273-2889 for further information and to make appointments.

Rabid Raccoon In Fairfax

On April 25, City of Fairfax police received a report of a raccoon that was injured by two dogs after entering a yard in the 10500 block of Oak Place. The raccoon subsequently died and later tested positive for the rabies virus. Both dogs had current rabies vaccinations and will be quarantined at home for 45 days, after receiving rabies boosters.

As a reminder to local residents, police recommend the following steps to prevent the spread of rabies: Vaccinate all pet dogs and cats, keep pets under control at all times and don't approach stray cats or dogs or any wildlife such as raccoons or foxes.

Signs in wildlife which may be indicators of rabies include: Snarling, the animal biting itself, growling, hissing and approaching people. For more information, call Animal Control at 703-385-7919.

Soldier

FROM PAGE 5

U.S. Army Colonel and Mrs. Robert T. Hess, and a brother. A 2005 graduate of Robinson Secondary School, he played linebacker in football. He attended Old Dominion University, majoring in criminal justice, and was a member of the swim team, according to news reports.

His awards and decorations include the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the NATO Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Army Aviator Badge and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

"It is with a heavy heart I learned that 1st Lt. Robert J. Hess was killed in action while serving in Afghanistan," said U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11). "My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends during this tough time."

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Members of the “Better Said Than Done” troupe perform and have fun at the Epicure Café.



PHOTOS BY
BART ROBINSON

Tell Your Story With ‘Better Said Than Done’

Storytellers in Northern Virginia troupe “Better Said Than Done” come from all over to tell their stories.

BY OLIVIA OVERMAN
THE CONNECTION

Started in 2011 by Jessica Piscitelli, “Better Said Than Done,” a professional storytelling troupe, has gone from strength to strength over the past two years with a pool of about 45 talented storytellers. But who knew people would be interested in coming out to listen to what they have to say?

“It’s almost like therapy or going to church,” said Piscitelli, “there’s a sense of sharing something.” All the stories told are true and personal, sometimes funny, sometimes sad, sometimes unbelievable and sometimes just plain silly. “Sometimes the audience sticks around and asks questions, some people ask if the story was true while others ask for advice,” said Piscitelli.

The storytellers perform monthly at the Epicure Café on Lee Highway in Fairfax, while other events have been held at Jammin’ Java, Franklin Park Performing Arts Center and the Reston Walker Nature Education Center. The two-year anniversary celebration contest, scheduled for May 25, is set to be at The Auld Shebeen in Fairfax City. The contest will feature stories from the top 10 storytellers in Virginia, as voted upon by a panel of judges. But on the night, it will be the audience that will decide who will be the first place winner to receive \$300, second place winner to receive \$200, and the third place winner to win \$100.

Speaking at the two-year celebration event will be Reston resident David Supley Foxworth. “I’d gone to a few storytelling shows over the last three years, and it reawakened my childhood desire to be a stand-up comedian. The first show was frightening—and thrilling! I’m hooked on the writing and performing now, and I’ve got my fourth performance coming up in May,” said Foxworth.

“The first story ever told by Foxworth was chosen



Jessica Piscitelli, CEO and owner of the “Better Said Than Done” troupe, performs at the Epicure Café.

to be in the top 10 list,” said Piscitelli. So, he will be performing in the two-year anniversary contest where the theme will be “The Art of War: Competing, Fighting, and Winning.”

Every show has a theme and previous themes have included “Where the Wild Things Are,” “Traveling Man” and “Nerds.” In addition to the stories being told by the experienced storytellers, audience members are also encouraged to tell stories. Scared to do this? Well, the organization also offers workshops that are designed to help storytellers of all levels to learn how to tell an interesting story. In fact, Foxworth is a graduate of a “Better Said Than Done” storytelling workshop. “I attended a ‘Better Said Than Done’ workshop to prepare for my first storytelling performance. The workshop, and the rehearsal that Jessica runs before each show, are great opportunities to practice and get feedback from a supportive group of fellow performers. I got a lot of fantastic advice to craft my first story,” said Foxworth.

“People turn up to the workshops that I have never seen before,” said Piscitelli. “A lot of people have no idea what to expect and don’t know why they actually went,” she said.

Asked where the audience for a storytelling event comes from, Piscitelli explains that people Google storytelling and when they come out to an event they become part of a community of regulars who just keep coming back.

Details of the “Better Said Than Done” troupe can be found at www.betersaidthandone.com.



Peter Hwang

BONNIE HOBBS/
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax Teenager Wins Writing Contest

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Peter Hwang is only in the seventh grade, but he recently won the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) writing contest. He wrote an essay answering the question, “What would you say to the Founding Fathers?”

“Originally, I did it for extra credit in my history class,” he said. “But once I started writing, I got into it. My teacher asked the same thing in fifth grade, for critical thinking, so I already had a basis for my essay.”

“I said I’d tell the Founding Fathers how the Constitution they wrote has lasted through generations of society and still influences people,” continued Peter. “I’d also want to tell them that, except for adding amendments, it was unchanged and timeless.”

He lives in Fairfax’s Mosby Woods community, but attends Rocky Run Middle School because he’s in its AP program. He maintains nearly a straight-A average.

Peter also noted in his essay that there had been a Civil War—“not because of the Constitution, but because of how some people interpreted it. I said its goals of freedom, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness had been achieved in America in our lifetime.”

He also mentioned the current gun problem in the U.S. and the debate about Second Amendment rights. “I said, ‘As events happen, some people’s thoughts about this amendment have started to change,’” said

Peter. “But the idea of the right to bear arms and the Second Amendment, itself, still stand strong.”

His essay was 600 words and the first draft took him an hour to write. “My mom gave me some pointers and told me to elaborate on my ideas,” said Peter. “So overall, it took seven hours total.”

He said he didn’t think about winning the contest until his teacher, Maggie Brown, announced to the class that he’d won. “I was really shocked,” said Peter, 13. “I thought I did a good job, but didn’t think it would be winning quality.”

He competed against other middle-school students from throughout Fairfax County. For his prize, he received a certificate and a check for \$30—“which I thought was awesome,” said Peter. “And Mr. [Jamie] Sawatsky, who teaches the Model U.N. Club after school, gave me a Barnes & Noble gift card.” Peter planned to use the gift card on fantasy and science fiction books and put the \$30 in his savings account.

In his spare time, he likes playing video games and writing fantasy and science fiction stories. He hopes to eventually attend Thomas Jefferson High School; if not, he’ll go to Fairfax High. For a career, he’d like to be either a doctor or work in the computer field.

Before writing his essay, said Peter, “I didn’t know any of the amendments but the first one, but I learned through my research. I also learned a little more about how the government works.”

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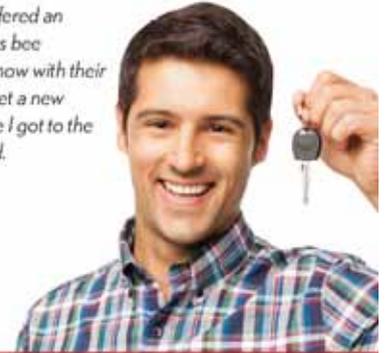
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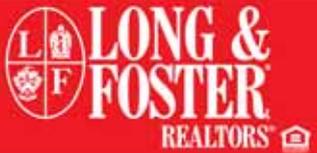
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