

Colors the Clown, a.k.a. Laura Schadle of Springfield with daughter "Ruffles" a.k.a. Belle, 6 1/2, entertain the crowd Saturday at the Summer Art Party.

Balenger Story:
Walking Tall

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Workhouse Holds Summer Art Party

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PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION



Thank you to the 2013 LBSS PTSA All Night Grad Party Supporters!

The Lake Braddock Senior Class of 2013 and their families would like to thank the following businesses, organizations and individuals for their support of the PTSA sponsored alcohol and drug free All Night Graduation Celebration which was held on June 19th, 2013, at the Audrey Moore RECenter at Wakefield Park. We are grateful for their generous contributions and commitment to the young people of our community. Please support these organizations that invest in the success of Lake Braddock Secondary School.

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We'd like to thank the faculty and staff of LBSS and especially, the LBSS PTSA for support of our All Night Graduation Celebration.

A huge thank you to our volunteers: the parents, friends and relatives of the Classes of 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department and the Fairfax County Police for their vital presence at our party. Finally, we'd like to thank the staff of the Audrey Moore RECenter for all their help in making the night run smoothly.

Make plans now to support our 2014 party on June 23rd, 2014. Also, mark your calendar for our mulch sale March 29th and 30th, 2014.



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION



A construction worker frames the second story of a townhome in Pulte's MetroWest development, a new Fairfax infill development of 50 homes that includes luxury condos and townhomes in the \$550,000 to \$800,000 range. For more information, go to www.pulte.com/communities/va/fairfax/metrowest.

Oakton East, a Stanley Martin townhome development, is billed as a "downsizer's dream." The 35 "large, luxury townhomes" begin at \$700,000 for 2,700 to 3,800 square feet of finished living space. On Friday, construction crews began work early on the development, which is almost sold out. For more information, go to www.stanleymartin.com.

Housing's Roaring Rebound?

Pent-up demand creates seller's market for Northern Virginia real estate.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

In February, Patricia Stack, a broker with Weichert Realtors, held an open house for a single-family home for sale in Vienna just listed for \$739,000. Within three hours, more than 70 people toured the home.

"The home went under contract substantially above list price," Stack said. "2013 has started with a bang in Northern Virginia real estate. In fact, it appears to be a market more like 2005-2006 than anything we've seen since," Stack said.

"Buyers seem finally to be realizing that prices have bottomed out and the current combination of low prices and historically low interest rates will likely not be repeated in our lifetimes," Stack said.

Alison Sherman, an agent with Keller-Williams in McLean, is seeing the same trend. In the spring, she sold a home in Vienna in three days with multiple offers.

The 5-bedroom Colonial, built in 1976 on Ferol Drive, listed for just under \$1 million, and sold \$132,000 above list price.

"It's a great time to sell your home. Statistics show the average sales price is up and the average days on market are down," Sherman said.

**REAL ESTATE FOCUS
SUMMER 2013**

Buoyed by low mortgage rates, low regional unemployment, growth in the number of households and rising consumer confidence, the residential real estate market in Fairfax County and the rest of Northern Virginia has rebounded in a big way.

Unlike the last five years, demand is up and supply is down. In fact, in some particularly desirable neighborhoods, the transition from a buyer's market to a seller's market is all but complete.

Call it the new "reality in realty." "There is an oversupply of buyers and less inventory right now in the market," said Anil Khanna, a real estate broker with Champion Homes Realty in Chantilly. "I have seen it to be a seller's market based on the number of offers I have seen with the properties that I have bid on for buyers."

Khanna added that low interest rates are beginning to rise, and that has created a sense of urgency with buyers.

According to Freddie Mac, the rate for a 30-year, conventional, fixed-rate mortgage rose to 3.54 percent in May from 3.45 percent in April.

"Many buyers are trying to purchase something this year rather than next, due to the anticipated increase in interest rates," Khanna said.

Despite some similarities to the boom period in housing nearly a decade ago, market conditions that led to the housing bust are vastly different, according to national housing experts.

"The boom period was marked by easy credit and overbuilding, but today we have tight mortgage credit and widespread shortages of homes for sale,"

SEE DEMAND, PAGE 10



Local developer John Sekas created Oakcrest Farms, an "ensemble of seven high-end single-family homes selling for more than \$1.5 million with at least 5,000 square feet." The development is embedded in the original Oakcrest Farms community, which has 54 colonial-style homes built in the 1980s. Located off Hunter Mill Road between Vale Road and Route 123, the development has sold four of the seven homes, which feature gourmet kitchens, stone fireplaces and two-story family rooms, and optional media rooms. For more information, go to www.sekashomes.com.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Countywide Transit Network Study

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation is conducting the Countywide Transit Network Study to determine the type of transit systems needed to accommodate forecasted growth throughout the county over the next several decades. The study has developed a proposed concept

plan for where Metrorail should be extended, where light-rail systems are appropriate, and where dedicated lanes that allow buses to move faster could go. The study will also recommend how the system can be phased in and funded over time.

The public is invited to participate in the study's third public meeting and workshop to discuss the proposed High Quality Transit Network (HQTN) concept. It's slated for Wednesday, July 10, in rooms 4 and 5 of the Fairfax

County Government Center. There'll be an open-house format from 6-9 p.m., with a 20-minute presentation at 7 p.m.

The public meeting will present preliminary recommendations for the HQTN corridors and describe the network's benefits for the county and its residents. For more information, see www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/2050transitstudy and join the conversation online via the IdeaScale discussion board at www.fairfaxcountydor.ideascale.com/

. The next steps in the study will be to respond to the commentary received on the proposed concept, consider and incorporate potential revisions and develop final study recommendations this fall.

Chick-fil-A Seeks People to Dress As Cows

On Tuesday, July 2, at George Mason University's field house, the Northern Virginia Chick-fil-A res-

taurants will attempt to break the world record for the largest number of people dressed as cows. As part of the world record attempt that begins at 10 a.m., the restaurants are asking all participants to bring a nonperishable food item for donation to the Capital Area Food Bank.

The official count will begin at 11 a.m. To be "counted" as a cow, each participant must wear a one-

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 7

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NEWS

Join the 'Extravacatza'

In hopes of encouraging people to adopt cats and kittens, the Fairfax County Animal Shelter has designated July as "Extravacatza." Adoptive families will receive half-off adoption fees, plus free spay and neuter, on cats and kittens. Senior cat adopters will receive gift bags.

The shelter is at 4500 West Ox Road in Fairfax; on Wednesdays, it's open until 9 p.m. for evening adoptions. People already owning cats may come and receive advice on Saturdays, July 6, 13, 20 and 27, from a shelter cat expert. They may also learn proper cat-handling techniques and, on July 18, there's a social hour to talk about helping cats in Fairfax County.

For all July shelter events and classes, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/calendar/ShowCalendar.aspx>.



A playful kitten.



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Thursday July 11th @7PM
Tuesday July 23rd @ 7PM

Burke Racquet and Swim Club
6001 Burke Commons Road
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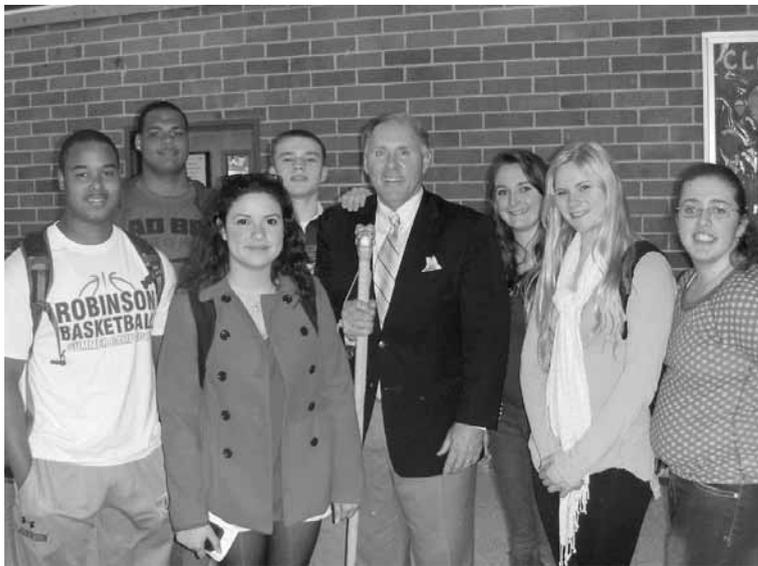
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Danny Meier meets with a group of sophomores at lunchtime.



Danny Meier and some students in Robinson's front hallway.



Danny Meier at his desk.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Meier Reflects on His Decade at Robinson

Search continues for school's new principal.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Robinson Secondary School still hasn't found a new principal—but then, Danny Meier is a hard act to follow. He retired recently after serving 29 years with FCPS, the last 10 as Robinson's leader.

"I'm proud of what we've done for the past 10 years," he said. "But Robinson was an outstanding school when I got here. So I've had an opportunity to polish this jewel and, hopefully, enhance it."

"I've tried to bring the talents and skills I have to make it even better," continued Meier. "And that'll be the challenge to the next principal—to make it one of the best schools in the world."

He and his wife Annie, a secretary in the superintendent's office, live in Fairfax Station and have four children. Mike, 24, a West Point grad, is an Army second lieutenant at Fort Sill, Okla.; Timmy, 22, and Joe, 20, are both cadets at West Point; and Mary, 18, just graduated from Robinson and, after college, plans to pursue a career in music.

There have only been five principals in Robinson's 42 years, and Meier's proud to have been among them. "I didn't grow up

wanting to be a principal, but I knew I wanted to work with kids," he said. "My father always said, 'Do something you love.' And in 35 years in education, I've never had a day when I didn't want to go to work. I stayed here five years beyond when I could have retired because I loved it so much."

Calling it "a blessing to work with our nation's youth and to touch the next generation," Meier said the greatest gift a former educator, counselor or coach can receive is when former students tell them he or she made a difference in their lives. "Many of them have done this to me and it's great," he said.

"I tell teachers it's not important that students like us now," said Meier. "It's important that they respect us, 10-15 years from now. Students remember the teachers who challenged them."

BEFORE COMING TO ROBINSON, he was director of student services and assistant principal at Herndon High, plus principal of Rocky Run Middle School. He was also head football coach at three different high schools, coaching three teams to Virginia state championships.

"When I left coaching, I realized it was my time to give back to teachers the support of principals I'd trusted and admired for 20 years," explained Meier. "And to be a good principal, you have to remember what it's like to be a good teacher."

So not surprisingly, one of his most meaningful honors came from the Fairfax Federation of Teachers, which rated him a top principal for five years. And in May 2012, the U.S. News & World Report named Robinson one of the top 100 high schools in America and in the top five in Virginia.

Still, what Meier's proudest of, he said, is "the climate of our school—a culture of confidence. The kids, teachers and parents love it so much. If the students see us laughing and having a good time, so do they. So I looked for opportunities to get involved with the kids and have fun. We have a lot of school pride and spirit, and Robinson is the hub of this community."

With nearly 4,000 students—2,700 in the secondary school and 1,200 in the middle school—Robinson is one of the largest schools in Virginia. But Meier did his best to get to know as many of the students as he could. He visited classrooms and kept in touch via Twitter, his blog on the school's website and Robinson's daily TV program.

He also attended all the school events and held regular, informal lunch meetings with different groups of students to hear their concerns. "It's not unlike being mayor of a small town," he said. "You've got to get to know your constituents and stakeholders."

While Meier was at Robinson, the school grounds were enhanced with avenue banners on light poles, new stadium entrances, gardens, a Robinson Ram statue, new

scoreboards, wall murals and a clock tower that plays songs and chimes the hours. He said they were to give "a sense of place and pride" to the school.

"But the most important thing a principal does is to hire the best and brightest teachers," said Meier. "We have a wonderful faculty and that's what makes a great school." He also passed on sage advice to the students.

At a recent lunch meeting, he told them, "If the good kids step forward when the knuckleheads are doing something wrong, we don't have to make rules that inconvenience all of you. It's being a good citizen and it makes the school atmosphere better for all of us."

Meier said it's exhilarating leading such a large school, but it's also "like having a wild animal as a pet. You may think you have it tamed, but things can happen at any time, so you always have to be prepared and never let your guard down." He also believes in helping students learn from their mistakes "so they won't make even bigger ones later."

MOST SATISFYING, he said, was "the outpouring of affection from students, faculty and staff since I announced my retirement. It's been heartwarming to see that I've connected with them and made a difference and they appreciate it. I feel like I'm leaving Robinson better than I found it; I tell the seventh graders to do that, and I've tried doing it throughout my career."

Meier: 'A Supporter, Leader and Listener'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Although Danny Meier's now retired as Robinson's principal, he left his mark on the school and his colleagues say he led it well.

"He's a great leader because he's quick at evaluating situations and has the background to make logical decisions," said school administrative assistant Sue Henderson. "It's also a great loss because I'll miss him as a friend."

Calling Meier a "fun person to have

around," she said, "He's fair, and it's been both wonderful and inspirational to watch someone work who loved his job as much as he did. He loved the kids so much and always made a point of guiding, encouraging and supporting them."

Social studies teacher Hernan Ruiz teaches world history and IB cultural anthropology and has known Meier since he came to Robinson a decade ago. Ruiz said many things made Meier such a good principal, but "the top reason is that Dan created an environment where everyone felt valued and part of a family."

Melissa Brady is the Science Department chairman of Robinson Middle School and teaches seventh grade science. She's also known Meier for 10 years and said he has a leadership quality that's "truly unique. He really listens to his faculty. He uses humor to put people at ease and respect to make them feel important. He makes rational decisions that benefit kids and he empowers his staff members to be the best in their fields."

Admitting she was initially upset when she heard Meier was retiring, Brady said he's given a large chunk of his life to Robinson and "it's now his time to do what he wants.

He can spend more time with his family, and I know how important that is to him."

"This place will never be the same [without him as principal], but he has taught many of us great things," said Brady. "Now that he will be the head football coach, I am excited to have him around."

Cluster VI Assistant Superintendent Leslie Butz said Meier "made this huge school personable through his visibility throughout the campus." While sad to lose him as Robinson's leader, she said, "We're happy he can enjoy the next phase of his life."



"Shady Spot" by Francesca Creo.

Second Saturday Walkers Vote for Favorite Art

Three artists from the Workhouse Associate Artists (WAA) were chosen as People's Choice Award winners for their current exhibitions in Gallery 902 (Building W9) at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton. The winners were chosen during the Workhouse's monthly Second Saturday Art Walk on June 8. Katie Kendall, an oil painter/paper collage artist who specializes in figurative, allegorical pieces, was the favorite, with the most votes for her piece, "I Was A Willow." Francesca Creo's "Shady Spot," a nature inspired watercolor, won second place and Rick Reda's "Harbor Mist," a black and white photograph of St. John's in New Brunswick, won third. Visit www.workhousearts.org for more details. The gallery is located at 9601 Ox Road, Lorton.

ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 4

or two-piece cow suit with a headpiece or decorated hood, plus a tail.

All shoes must be black or white to match the cow suit. For participants interested in decorating a pre-approved costume, Chick-fil-A is providing one-piece cow suits at local restaurants while supplies last.

Chick-fil-A will also offer door prizes and giveaways at the event. The first 500 participants to arrive at the Patriot Center will receive a mini plush cow.

If the record is broken, Chick-fil-A will randomly select 10 winners to receive one Chick-fil-A sandwich meal per week for a year (52 meals total).

Photographers, a deejay and children's activities will be part of the fun. The field house is at 4501 University Drive in Fairfax.

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 JULY 15-JULY 19.....MONSTERS V.S. ALIENS (PG)
 JULY 22-JULY 26..CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS (PG)
 JULY 29-AUGUST 2.....MEGAMIND (PG)

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Ready for Your Pet's Close-up?

The Pet Connection, a bi-annual themed edition, will publish July 24. We invite you to send us stories about your pets, photos of you and/or your family with your cats, dogs, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your home or yard with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures. Can your dog catch a Frisbee 10 feet in the air, or devour an entire pizza when you turn your back for less than a minute?

EDITORIALS Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Tell us about your experience.

You can also take this opportunity to memorialize a pet you have lost.

Send photos and identify everyone in the photo including the pets and tell us what is happening in the photo, and include your ad-

dress (we will only print the town name).

Submissions should arrive by July 18.

Email editors@connectionnewspapers.com, or submit photos and stories directly on our website at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets/.

Careful While Going Faster

If you have driven on the new 495 Express Lanes, you might wonder if the people who decided to raise the speed limit to 65 have driven on them. At the current prices, the Express Lanes are appealing whenever you really need to get somewhere and you have doubts about the flow of traffic.

But the first few times you drive on the Express Lanes, they are confusing. Which Tysons' exit do I take for the Ritz Carlton? Will it be on the left or the right? When I get off, will I have to deal with a stop light, a stop sign or a merge? What on earth is the

driver next to me doing?

The Express Lanes are not attracting as many drivers as predicted, so now there is the added incentive of being able to go faster in those lanes than on the rest of the Beltway where the speed limit is 55 even if there isn't backed up traffic on the other lanes.

Changes July 1

Many actions of the 2013 General Assembly go into effect July 1.

Here are three things to know that kick in July 1:

- ❖ Sales tax increases to 6 percent in Northern Virginia to help pay for transportation.
- ❖ Texting while driving becomes a primary offense, meaning that you can be pulled over if an officer sees you using your phone or thinks you are texting because you are looking down.
- ❖ Mandatory minimum sentence of one year in jail for those repeatedly convicted of driving (or boating) under the influence. (Repeatedly in this case means the third time.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Foster Care Training Offered This July

To the Editor:

Every day, children come into the foster care system and need a temporary home. To ease the burden of moving and change, foster care programs make it a priority to place children within their own school system. With this goal in mind, Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS) is recruiting adults from every community in Northern Virginia to participate in its next foster parent training, July 13, 20 and 27, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the NVFS office in Oakton. Coffee and a light lunch will be provided.

The training is the first step into becoming a certified foster parent, and is also required for families interested in providing short-term weekend foster care. Trainees will learn about the foster care system; how NVFS supports foster parents, including round-the-clock access to case managers; and best practices in foster care. Families must complete a home study, and foster parents must be at least 21 years old.

To register or for more information about becoming a foster parent through NVFS, visit www.nvfs.org/fostercare, or contact Ginny Snaider, LCSW, NVFS training and placement supervisor, at 571-748-2557 or gснаider@nvfs.org.

Northern Virginia Family Service is a private, nonprofit organization

dedicated to helping vulnerable families and children. Each year, NVFS helps nearly 30,000 people find safe and stable housing, children and youth services, affordable health care, workforce development programs and emergency services through a variety of community-funded programs and initiatives. NVFS is an innovator of efficient and comprehensive service methods, and has been recognized nationally for its effectiveness in creating sustained financial and social independence for its clients.

Jacqueline Pujol
Oakton

Train To Help In Emergencies

To the Editor:

The National Capital Region's 3rd annual Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Convention, hosted by the Fairfax County CERT Team, will take place June 28-29 at the Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus.

CERTCon 2013 is a two-day seminar/functional exercise that offers training, networking and sharing of best practices to CERT members in the National Capital Region.

Saturday, June 29, will feature a lecture series from practicing professionals in the fields of emergency management, public health preparedness, and disaster psychology. The speakers are drawn

from a variety of organizations and agencies, including FEMA, NOAA, Virginia Task Force-1 (TF-1), and the National Association for Search & Rescue. Topics will include Stress and Trauma Management for First Responders, Pet First Aid, WMD & IED threat picture, Communications during a disaster, People with disabilities and disasters, Search and Rescue, Wilderness First Aid, Hazmat, and how to conduct Windshield Surveys.

Sunday, June 30, will feature a hands-on drill at the former Lorton reformatory which is now used as a disaster training site. This exercise will give the participants an opportunity to sharpen and advance their skills and work together as a multijurisdictional team.

CERT members go through 36 hours of training at their local Fire and Rescue academies. Training provides a basic understanding of fire suppression, search and rescue, disaster medical operations and team organization.

The CERT program began in 1985 in Los Angeles, Calif., after recognizing that large-scale disasters overwhelmed emergency response teams. Through FEMA grants to local jurisdictions civilians are trained to respond to emergencies or assist emergency responders arriving on the scene. All training and equipment is provided free of charge to the CERT participant.

This year CERTCon 2013 will host teams from Alexandria, Fairfax County and Fairfax City,

Arlington, Manassas and Manassas Park and Prince William County. Montgomery County and Prince George County team members will be attending and other Maryland CERTs as far away as Baltimore are expected. The District of Columbia is sending representatives from their team in addition to Georgetown University, American University and Gallaudet University CERT team members.

If you are interested in participating at CERTCon as an actor victim or a rescuer, visit <http://certcon2013.eventbrite.com>, to register.

To contact any of the Fairfax County CERT leadership, send the email directly to fire.CERT@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Mike Piccione
Fairfax County CERT team

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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Tuberculosis Clinic Set Up At Lee High School

Following reports that as many as 430 students and faculty at Robert E. Lee High School could have been exposed to tuberculosis, Fairfax County Health Department officials set up a special clinic on Friday, June 21, to provide testing and information on the infectious disease.

Three people within the Lee High School community have been identified as having active TB. One person was diagnosed in December 2012, and two were diagnosed in June.

"Currently, the Health Department has asked approximately 430 people who have been identified as potentially exposed to individuals with active TB disease in the school to get tested at special clinics being held in the high school June 21 and June 24-28," said Glen Barbour, the Health Department's public information officer.

"These 430 individuals are being tested at this special clinic because they met the time and proximity TB exposure criteria that the Health Department is using in this investigation," he said.

Only those Robert E. Lee High School individuals who received a letter from the Health Department need to attend the special clinics at the school.

According to Fairfax County health officials, families who received a letter from the Health Department should call 703-267-3511, TTY 711 to make an appointment. Families who have questions about the investigation or the disease should call the same number for information.

Individuals who did not receive a letter from the Health Department are not considered at risk of exposure and therefore do not need to be tested; however, individuals that want to be tested may do so with their health care provider or at one of the Health Department's five District Offices.

On June 20, the Health Department, in cooperation with Fairfax County Public Schools, initiated a broad tuberculosis (TB) investigation at Lee High School to identify people who may have had contact with three individuals at the school who have been diagnosed with active TB disease. The first individual was diagnosed in December 2012 and an investigation was initiated and completed at that time. Two additional individu-

als from the same school were diagnosed with active TB disease in June of this year.

Each year, the Health Department identifies about 90 people who have active TB disease.

However, because these two new cases occurred in the same school, the Health Department decided to reopen the December case. All three cases are being reviewed together to determine if there is any association between them.

On June 17, letters were mailed to all Robert E. Lee High School students and faculty informing them of the Health Department's TB investigation.

Health officials emphasized that community members who have attended graduation celebrations and other events involving Robert E. Lee High School students and faculty do not meet the exposure criteria and therefore do not need to be tested. There is no ongoing risk of exposure to TB at Robert E. Lee High School as a result of the

current contact investigation.

About one third of the world's population has latent TB infection, which means they have been infected by the TB germs but do not feel sick or have any symptoms and cannot spread the germs to others. People who have latent TB infection and do not receive treatment are at risk of becoming ill with active TB disease, which is highly contagious.

For this reason, the Fairfax County Health Department strongly encourages individuals who have latent TB infection to take preventative treatment. TB is preventable and curable if all prescribed medications are taken properly.

Symptoms of active TB disease include a bad cough that lasts three weeks or longer; pain in the chest; coughing up blood or sputum; weakness or fatigue; weight loss; no appetite; chills; fever; and sweating at night. To learn more about TB visit www.cdc.gov/tb.

—VICTORIA ROSS



www.nvsrd.com

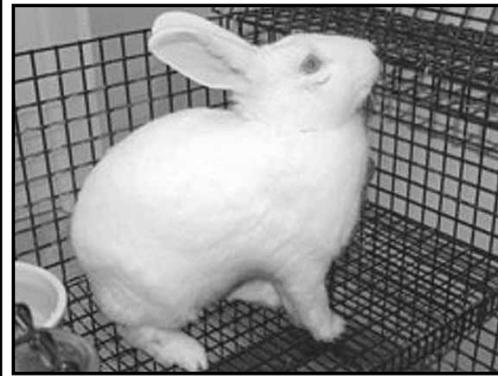
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Demand Drives Northern Virginia Market

FROM PAGE 3

said Gary Thomas, president of the National Association of Realtors.

"The issue now is pent-up demand and strong growth in the number of households, with buyer traffic 29 percent above a year ago," Thomas said.

Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the National Association of Realtors, said existing-home sales are at the highest level since November 2009, when the market jumped to 5.44 million as buyers took advantage of tax stimulus.

Sales have stayed above year-ago levels for 23 months, while the national median price shows 15 consecutive months of year-over-year increases.

"The housing numbers are overwhelmingly positive, especially in markets such as Northern Virginia, where employment is strong," Yun said.

New Construction Key Indicator of Housing Rebound

Adding to the good news about the housing market is the increasing number of infill developments and new construction, "housing starts," in Fairfax County. According to real estate economists, housing starts are one of the leading predictors of overall economic stability and growth.

A June 6 report released by Metrostudy, a national housing data and consulting firm, reports that housing starts are up sharply in Fairfax County: This year, there were 386 starts in the first quarter of 2013 compared to 143 in the first quarter of 2012, a 170 percent increase.

In addition to housing starts, almost every other housing indicator has trended up from May 2012 to May 2013 in Fairfax County, according to Real Estate Building Intelligence (RBI)—a company that analyzes market trends and statistics from the Multiple Listing Service.

In Fairfax County in the past year:

- ❖ The total volume of homes sold jumped 32 percent, from \$729 million to more than \$950 million.

- ❖ The average price for a home increased nearly 10 percent, from \$469,000 to nearly \$550,000.

- ❖ Average days on market dropped a steep 30 percent from 39 days to 27 days.

- ❖ New "under contracts jumped 31.56 percent, from 450 to 592.

'Buy Land. They Aren't Making Anymore.'

This famous quote could not be more apt for Fairfax County.

In the past decade, while new housing developments were being built in Prince William and Loudoun counties, Fairfax County was pretty much built out. If buy-



Local developer John Sekas created Oakcrest Farms, an "ensemble of seven high-end single-family homes selling for more than \$1.5 million with at least 5,000 square feet." The development is embedded in the original Oakcrest Farms community, which has 54 colonial-style homes built in the 1980s. Located off Hunter Mill Road between Vale Road and Route 123, the development has sold four of the seven homes, which feature gourmet kitchens, stone fireplaces and two-story family rooms, and optional media rooms. For more information, go to www.sekashomes.com.



Anil Khanna



Patricia Stack



Alison Sherman

ers wanted a newly-built home, they had to tear down an old one.

While land is still at a premium in Fairfax County, new infill developments have been springing up in unlikely areas such as Vienna, Oakton, Burke and the City of Fairfax.

"Demand for housing is up, and so are development applications," said Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), who noticed the trend last year and formed a land use development advisory committee in his district in response to the rise in applications.

"Fairfax County is pretty much 'built out' and infill projects are more challenging to execute," Cook said.

Any existing pockets of land are small, and homes are often shoehorned into tight

spaces, and sometimes squeezed into existing neighborhoods. Storm water, setback, density, parking and other zoning issues become more challenging for builders.

"So, we are seeing more going on, but they are usually very difficult projects," Cook said.

Difficult, yes, but not impossible. The persistent demand for brand new housing, coupled with buyers willing to spend, has spurred high-end builders such as Pulte and Stanley Martin to create luxury townhomes and condominiums project throughout the county.

In January, Stanley Martin Homes announced the opening of 35 luxury townhomes in Oakton.

"Stanley Martin is reaffirming the old

adage that in real estate it's all about 'location, location, location,' as it's tough to find a better Northern Virginia location than the charming and convenient town of Oakton," said Lauri Chastain, vice president of marketing for Stanley Martin.

Within weeks of news about the new Oakton East, there were more than 300 people on the "wait list for the homes that range in price from \$600,000 to nearly \$800,000.

Targeting empty-nesters who are looking for less square footage and less yard, but larger than the typical townhome, Oakton East offers 3,700-3,800 square feet of finished living space, a two-car garage and gourmet kitchens.

The homes "look and feel like single family homes—minus the yard work," Chastain said.

"Oakton is one of the premiere areas for brand new construction. Buyers prefer new homes over resale, but they are not easy to find," Realtor Pat Stack said.

MetroWest in Fairfax, a Pulte development, is one of the largest luxury townhome, condominium and apartment communities in Fairfax County, with a total of 2,248 residential units slated for development on 56 acres near the Vienna/Fairfax Metro.

In addition, plans call for 300,000-plus square feet of office space and 125,000 square feet of retail, service, institutional and governmental space. MetroWest will also feature community parks, courtyards, a rec center and at least 30 percent will be preserved as green space. Sales of the \$600,000 and up homes have been brisk.

While townhomes, condos and apartments are typical for infill developments—both because of their small footprint and the higher price per square foot builders can charge—there are several new single-family infill developments in the county.

Local developer John Sekas has created Oakcrest Farms, located off Hunter Mill Road near Vale Road, a development of seven high-end single-family homes selling for more than \$1.5 million with at least 5,000 square feet.

The development is embedded in the original Oakcrest Farms community, which has 54 colonial-style homes built in the 1980s. Construction began last year, and already four of the seven homes are sold.

Grant Johnson, a real estate broker for Sekas, said he has seen two types of buyers for the homes, which feature gourmet kitchens, stone fireplaces and two-story family rooms, and optional media rooms.

"We have transfers, who are coming here for the high-paying tech jobs, and buyers who live in the area who want to move up," Johnson said. "This is an attractive location. The schools are great, we're near Wolf Trap and Tysons, and people like it here and don't want to leave."

Builders Are Optimistic

"Builders, I think they are as clued into SEE REBOUND, PAGE 14

"The housing numbers are overwhelmingly positive, especially in markets such as Northern Virginia, where employment is strong."

—Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the National Association of Realtors



Richard Byrd Library Branch Manager Sally Eckard shows a young reader information about the summer reading program.

Children Dig Into Reading

Summer reading program sparks enthusiasm in area libraries.

ELEANOR LAMB
THE CONNECTION

This year's summer reading program in Fairfax County libraries provides children and their parents with enriching opportunities they can sink their hands into.

The program, titled Dig into Reading, began June 18 and runs until Aug. 31. It stipulates that children from preschool to sixth grade read 15 books, and those from seventh to 12th grade read eight books. If they complete the program, the kids are rewarded with a coupon book that offers discounts at fun venues, such as Splash Down Waterpark and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts.

"I think it's a cool title," said Linda Schlekau, branch manager of the Burke Centre Library. "It says 'get below the surface.' Read deeply. Enjoy literacy."

The librarians are not the only ones who thrill at the advent of summer reading. Parents are excited about the idea of their kids

enriching their minds and keeping themselves busy. Kids will be able to capitalize on the opportunity to read whatever they want because they will not have to abide by the strictures of school assignments.

"[Reading's important] because it helps you learn. I like Captain Underpants," said 8-year-old Alex Kowalski of Lorton.

PARENTS ARE ESPECIALLY HAPPY because Dig into Reading ensures that their children will not waste away playing video games for hours on end or spending the day lounging in front of the television. Instead, they will be trying to complete their summer reading log. The program provides an incentive for valuable mental exercise.

"It's a great way to keep them engaged," said father Ron Kowalski of Lorton. "It makes reading more accessible and keeps it more at the top of their minds."

If children are overwhelmed by the endless possibilities of summer reading, they have only to consult the summer reading sign up desk, which is stationed in all county libraries. The desk has lists of authors the librarians recommend, as well as lists of books that schools make them read. These options provide a wide range of suggestions, from classics like Charlotte Bronte's "Jane Eyre" to new hits

such as "Life as We Knew It" by Susan Beth Pfeffer.

"We have a lot of good books beyond any we could ever list," said Sally Eckard, branch manager of the Richard Byrd Library.

Dig into Reading offers more than a coupon book to be earned at the end of the summer. The program includes many free events that occur at local libraries throughout the season. Such diversions include Los Quetzales, a Mexican dance group, and Paws to Read, a reading session with a



PHOTOS BY ELEANOR LAMB/THE CONNECTION

Children watch with excitement as Safari Bingo displays her dog's dancing skills at Burke Centre Library.

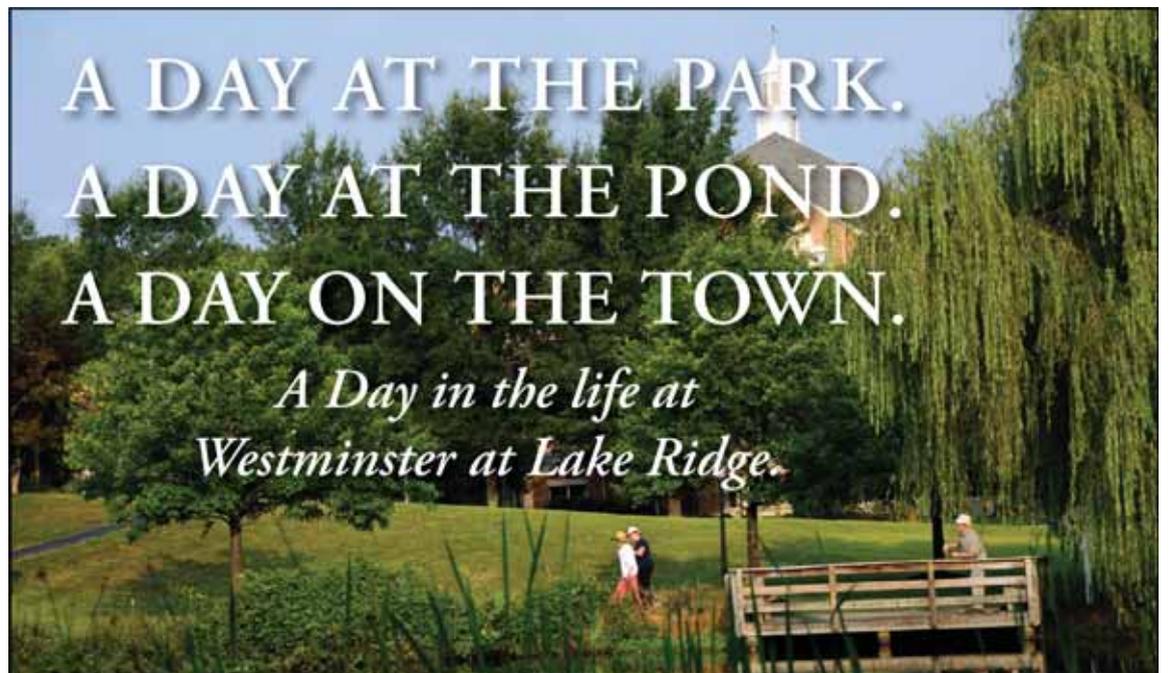
therapy dog.

ONE RECENT EVENT that families swarmed to was Safari Bingo's Animals, which was held at Burke Centre Library. Safari Bingo, a clown with unique animal friends, brought out an African hedgehog and taught children about their habits. She also brought along a small dog, who performed a dancing trick while donning a tutu.

"It encourages community," said mother Janice Lauffer of Burke. "We just signed up!"

Lauffer's children are amongst hordes of others joining the program. As of Tuesday morning, there were 8,014 children and teens signed up online, to say nothing of the multitudes of people who registered in person.

"The most important thing is to keep kids reading over the summer," said Ted Kavich, Program and Educational Services manager of the Fairfax County Public Libraries. "They need to keep up their skills. That way, they're ready for a grade up in the fall."



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Erin O'Toole of Springfield helps her son get ready for summer reading at the Richard Byrd Library.

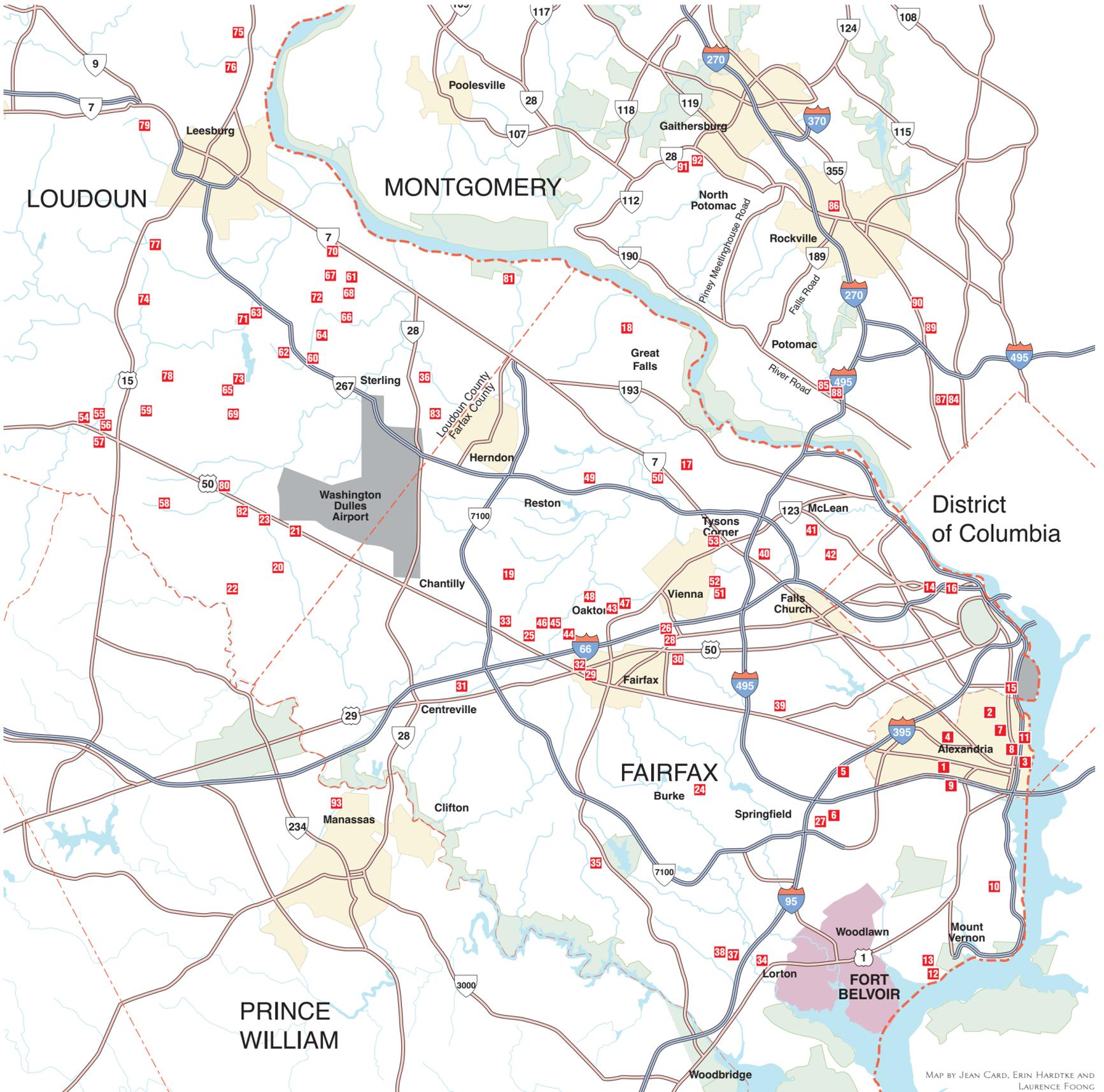
NEW HOMES

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



26 Metrowest, Fairfax, VA 22031 — From \$542,890 — PULTE HOMES

50 Maymount, Vienna, VA 22182 — From \$1,500,000 — BASHEER AND EDGEMOORE



Community	Builder	Price	Postal City	Zip	Community	Builder	Price	Postal City	Zip	Community	Builder	Price	Postal City	Zip
1 Cooper's Grove	CALVERT LUXURY HOMES	From \$1,029,900	Alexandria	22304	32 Fairfield Manor	STANLEY MARTIN	From \$859,990	Fairfax	22031	63 The Preserve Goose Creek Villas	LENNAR	From \$300,000	Ashburn	20148
2 Del Ray	CALVERT LUXURY HOMES	From \$1,399,900	Alexandria	22304	33 Autumn Willow	NV HOMES	From \$890,000	Fairfax	22033	64 Morley Corner	RYAN HOMES	From \$334,990	Ashburn	20147
3 The Oronoco Waterfront	EYA	From \$1,400,000	Alexandria	22314	34 Lake Hill Farms	N.V.P.	From \$800,000	Fairfax County	22079	65 Brambleton: Brownstone	MILLER AND SMITH	From \$400,000	Ashburn	20148
4 Oak Grove	CRAFTMARK HOMES	From \$2,134,900	Alexandria	22304	35 Hampton Reserves	RYAN HOMES	From \$879,990	Fairfax Station	22039	66 Stonegate	NV HOMES	From \$400,000	Ashburn	20147
5 The Isabella at Monticello Mews	McWILLIAMS BALLARD	From \$269,900	Alexandria	22312	36 Meadow Branch	INTEGRITY HOMES	From \$350,000	Hayfield	22601	67 One Loudoun	CAMBERLY HOMES	From \$450,000	Ashburn	20147
6 Potters Glen	EVERGREENE HOMES	From \$500,000	Alexandria	22310	37 Spring Hill	DEL WEBB	From \$200,000	Lorton	22079	68 One Loudoun:Central Park West	MILLER AND SMITH	From \$450,000	Ashburn	20147
7 Potomac Yard	PULTE HOMES	From \$638,580	Alexandria	22301	38 Spring Hill Condos	PULTE HOMES	From \$208,990	Lorton	22079	69 Brambleton: Noble Pointe	MILLER AND SMITH	From \$550,000	Ashburn	20148
8 Old Town Commons	EYA	From \$700,000	Alexandria	22314	39 Harrison Hills	CHRISTOPHER COMPANIES	From \$650,000	Annandale	22003	70 One Loudoun: Downtown	MILLER AND SMITH	From \$550,000	Ashburn	20147
9 Burgandy Woods	NV HOMES	From \$720,000	Alexandria	22310	40 Tysons Overlook	CARR HOMES	From \$689,900	Falls Church	22043	71 Belmont Glen Village	CRAFTMARK HOMES	From \$600,000	Ashburn	20148
10 Hollin Hill Village	EVERGREENE HOMES	From \$900,000	Alexandria	22308	41 Chesterbrook Manor	MADISON HOMES	From \$1,675,000	McLean	22101	72 Ashburn Place	M/I HOMES	From \$450,000	Ashburn	20147
11 Printers Row	McWILLIAMS BALLARD	From \$949,900	Alexandria	22314	42 Grace Manor Court	KESWICK HOMES	From \$1,800,000	McLean	22102	73 The Boulevard at Brambleton	CAMBERLY HOMES	From \$300,000	Brambleton	20148
12 Riverwood at Ferry Point	NV HOMES	From \$990,000	Alexandria	22309	43 Oakton Heights	EVERGREENE HOMES	From \$1,200,000	Oakton	22124	74 Courtyard Rural Village	LENNAR	From \$300,000	Leesburg	20175
13 Mount Vernon Park	NV HOMES	From \$930,000	Alexandria	22309	44 West Oaks	EVERGREENE HOMES	From \$1,400,000	Oakton	22124	75 Selma Estates	STANLEY MARTIN	From \$404,990	Leesburg	20176
14 Dominion Heights	CHRISTOPHER COMPANIES	From \$300,000	Arlington	22207	45 The Reserve at Waples Mills	CAMBERLY HOMES	From \$1,479,900	Oakton	22124	76 Raspberry Falls	VAN METRE	From \$600,000	Leesburg	20176
15 The Eclipse at Potomac Yard	COMSTOCK HOMES	From \$500,000	Arlington	22202	46 The Reserve at Waples Mills	WINCHESTER HOMES	From \$1,479,900	Oakton	22124	77 Stone Fox Estates	CRAFTMARK HOMES	From \$700,000	Leesburg	20175
16 Court at Lyon Village	EVERGREENE HOMES	From \$900,000	Arlington	22201	47 Oakton East	STANLEY MARTIN	From \$709,990	Oakton	22124	78 Green Mill Preserve	TOLL BROTHERS	From \$759,990	Leesburg	20175
17 Marquette	KESWICK HOMES	From \$2,300,000	Great Falls	22066	48 The Estates at Stuart Mill	CAMBERLY HOMES	From \$1,599,900	Oakton	22124	79 Shenstone Reserve	TOLL BROTHERS	From \$829,995	Leesburg	20175
18 The Pond at Beach Mill	CREEKSTONE	From \$2,800,000	Great Falls	22066	49 Hunting Crest	NV HOMES	From \$1,200,000	Vienna	22182	80 Westend at Stone Ridge	VAN METRE	From \$250,000	Lorton	20105
19 Reserve at Oakton	EVERGREENE HOMES	From \$900,000	Herndon	20171	50 Maymount	BASHEER AND EDGEMOORE	From \$1,500,000	Vienna	22182	81 Overlook at Lowes Island	STANLEY MARTIN	From \$499,990	Potomac Falls	20165
20 East Gate	M/I HOMES	From \$350,000	Chantilly	20152	51 Wedderburn Estates	COURTLAND HOMES	From \$1,115,000	Vienna	22180	82 South Riding	TOLL BROTHERS	From \$342,389	South Riding	20152
21 Villas at East Gate	COMSTOCK HOMES	From \$300,000	Chantilly	20152	52 Pickett's Reserve	COURTLAND HOMES	From \$1,220,000	Vienna	22180	83 Autumn Oaks	STANLEY MARTIN	From \$759,990	Leesburg	20175
22 Dawson's Corner	NV HOMES	From \$650,000	Chantilly	20152	53 Willow Oaks	BASHEER AND EDGEMOORE	From \$1,200,000	Vienna	22182	84 Little Falls Place	EYA	From \$1,300,000	Bethesda	20814
23 Arcola Center Townhomes	RYAN HOMES	From \$372,990	Dulles	20166	54 Virginia Manor	NV HOMES	From \$400,000	Aldie	20105	85 Quarry Springs	Can't determine builder	From \$1,800,000	Bethesda	20817
24 Burke Lake Crossing	CHRISTOPHER COMPANIES	From mid-\$700,000	Burke	22023	55 Lenah Mill- The Villages	TOLL BROTHERS	From \$559,995	Aldie	20105	86 Symphony Park at Strathmore	KOITZGROUP	From \$1,250,000	Bethesda, MD	20817
25 Penderbrook Square	COMSTOCK HOMES	From \$200,000	Fairfax	22031	56 Lenah Mill- The Carolinas	TOLL BROTHERS	From \$607,995	Aldie	20105	87 Little Falls Place	EYA	From \$1,349,900	Bethesda, MD	20817
26 Metrowest	PULTE HOMES	From \$542,890	Fairfax	22033	57 Lenah Mill- The Executives	TOLL BROTHERS	From \$688,995	Aldie	20105	88 River Quarry in Bethesda	CARTER BUILDERS	From \$1,390,000	N Bethesda, MD	20817
27 Foster, A&S Crest	STANLEY MARTIN	From \$567,990	Fairfax	22033	58 Willowford Vintage Series	INTEGRITY HOMES	From \$704,990	Aldie	20105	89 Symphony Park	MICHAEL HARRIS HOMES	From \$1,000,000	N Bethesda, MD	20852
28 Cameron Glen	STANLEY MARTIN	From \$614,990	Fairfax	22030	59 Huntleigh at Creighton Farms	STANLEY MARTIN	From \$714,990	Aldie	20175	90 White Flint Station	TOLL BROTHERS	From \$422,995	N Bethesda, MD	20852
29 Main Street Residences	COURTLAND HOMES	From \$699,000	Fairfax	22030	60 Loudoun Station	COMSTOCK HOMES	From \$1299/month	Ashburn	20147	91 Hallman Grove	WINCHESTER HOMES	From \$692,900	N Potomac, MD	20878
30 Mosaic District	EYA	From \$700,000	Fairfax	22031	61 Potomac Green	DEL WEBB	From \$250,000	Ashburn	20147	92 Quince Trace	PULTE HOMES	From \$565,900	N Potomac, MD	20878
31 Autumn Willow	RYAN HOMES	From \$899,000	Fairfax	22033	62 The Villages at Broadlands	VAN METRE	From \$300,000	Ashburn	20148	93 Heritage Crossing	STANLEY MARTIN	From \$242,990	Manassas	20109

MAP BY JEAN CARD, ERIN HARDTKE AND LAURENCE FOONG



Talk to your neighbors, then talk to me.

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REAL ESTATE FOCUS

Housing's Rebound

FROM PAGE 10

the market as the rest of us. There is more confidence in the economy locally than we've seen in the past several years," said Stack.

A gauge of confidence among home builders jumped in June, hitting the highest level since 2006, according to data released June 17.

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo housing-market index rose to 52 in June—the first time the index has reached above a key reading of 50 since 2006—from 44 in May. Readings above 50 signal that builders, generally, are optimistic about sales trends.

"Builders are seeing better market conditions as demand for new homes increases," said Rick Judson, NAHB's chairman in the news release. "With the low inventory of existing homes, an increasing number of buyers are gravitating toward new homes."

That confidence doesn't surprise Gerald Gordon, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA).

"The economic base of Fairfax County has been sufficiently diversified over the years that declining revenues in federal contracting will not be devastating to the economy as a whole," Gordon said. "Corporate additions to Fairfax County in recent years give us balance."



Location, location, location. Pulte's new MetroWest development in Fairfax boasts location as a draw for buyers. The 50-plus townhome development is next to the Vienna Metro and "two minutes from I-66."

OPEN HOUSES

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, JUNE 29 & 30

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. **Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times**

Burke

9831 Pebble Weigh Ct.....\$439,000....Sun 1-4.....Betty Desourdis.....Redfin..703-403-4552
5964 Powells Landing Rd...\$410,000....Sun 1-4.....Connie Forbes.....Long & Foster..703-451-5818

Centreville

6615 Harness Hill Ct.....\$644,950....Sun 1-4.....Barbara Blumer..Coldwell Banker..703-405-5993
6018 Basingstoke Ct.....\$323,000....Sun 1-3.....Joe Frangipane.....Long & Foster..703-628-4430

Clifton

12421 Clifton Hunt Dr.....\$925,000....Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812
12048 Winding Creek Ct.....\$698,000....Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812
6743 Rock Brook Dr.....\$669,000....Sun 1-4.....Greg Pappas..Coldwell Banker..703-338-1800
13769 Laurel Rock Dr.....\$599,990....Sun 1-4.....Josie Barondess..Coldwell Banker..571-217-7447

Fairfax

12543 Cerromar Pl.....\$814,900....Sun 1-4.....Christine Shevock.....RE/MAX..703-475-3986
3818 Skyview Ln.....\$680,000....Sun 1-4.....Dana LaFever.....Weichert..703-609-3479

Fairfax Station

8309 Crestridge Rd.....\$1,445,000....Sun 12-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365
11107 Hampton Rd.....\$1,195,000....Sun 1-4.....Leslie Davidson.....Weichert..703-909-9005
10101 Van Thompson Rd...\$849,900....Sat 1-4.....Margaret Bodge..Keller Williams..571-249-6205
9825 South Park Cir.....\$789,950....Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808

Franconia/Kingstowne

5809 Governors View Ln...\$880,000....Sat 1-4.....Debbie Kent.....Cottage Street..703-740-7654
4904 Apple Tree Dr.....\$739,000....Sun 1-4.....Michael Fogarty.....HomeFirst..703-971-1800
9342 Mallory Cir.....\$487,000....Sun 1-3.....Johanna Baker..Coldwell Banker..202-741-1672
6508 Rose Hill Dr.....\$409,950....Sun 1-4..Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207
5302 Harbor Court Dr.....\$349,900....Sun 1-4.....Meghan Wasinger.....Jobin..703-828-5660

Lorton

8181 Paper Birch Dr.....\$745,000....Sun 1-4.....Pattie Mancini.....Avery-Hess..703-451-9797
8970 Fascination Ct #315..\$363,101....Sat 11-3.....Shawn Evans.....Long & Foster..703-790-1990

Springfield

6507 Carrsbrook Ct.....\$549,500....Sun 2-4.....Rick Wadsworth.....Weichert..703-395-2027
7508 Havelock St.....\$484,500....Sun 1-4.....An Nguyen.....Westgate..703-208-9999
6808 Rolling Rd.....\$429,900....Sat 1-4..Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207

To add your Realtor-represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Steve Hogan at 703-778-9418 or e-mail the info to shogan@connectionnewspapers.com
All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

#1 Weichert Agent in Burke & Fairfax Station

Call Kathleen today and ask for a copy of her "Satisfied Client List"





Fairfax Sta/South Run \$789,950
Open Sunday 6/30 1-4
Lovely colonial w/ remodeled eat-in kit w/ granite cntns, SS appliances, gas Jennair range & recessed lts, library w/ built-ins, loaded w/ hrdwd flrs & moldings, MBA w/ skylt & sep tub & shower, 1/2+ wooded acres, quality new windows, multi-lvl deck & patio, replaced HVAC, driveway, roof, siding & more.



Fairfax Station \$624,950
Private 1/2 Acre
Charming stucco Cape Cod w/ 3 story addition, oversized side load 2 car GAR, private 1/2 acre, 4 huge BR, 5 full baths, hrdwd flrs, finished bsmt, 3000+ sq ft, renovated kit & baths, master suite w/ cathedral clngs + sitting rm, newer roof, garage drs & windows. Walk to Burke Centre shopping cntr & school.



Burke \$1,750
End Unit Townhome
Spacious TH within walking distance to school & shopping w/ fin walkout bsmt, 3BR, 2.5BA, frplc, remodeled eat-in kitchen, private fenced yard, new carpet & fresh paint, lovely hrdwd floors main lvl, ready for immed occupancy, excellent credit required.



Springfield \$424,950
2200+ Square Feet
Sunny TH w/ eat-in kit w/ granite cntns & breakfast bar, tile flr & new SS appliances, dramatic 2 story foyer, SUNROOM, 2 gas frplcs, walkout bsmt, new carpet, fresh paint, MBR w/ vaulted clngs & french drs to balcony, MBA w/ double sinks & sep tub & shower, deck, fenced yard, new A/C 2008 & more.



Springfield/South Run Forest \$759,950
Spectacular Kitchen
Pristine colonial on premium 1/3 acre backing to woods w/ screened porch & stamped concrete patio, 5BR, 3.5BA, amazing kit w/ French cream cabinets, exotic granite, marble backsplash, SS appl w/ gas cooktop & huge island, fin walkout bsmt, hrdwd flrs, large foyer, MBA w/ sep tub & shower, walk to park & more.

Kathleen Quintarelli
703-862-8808
See Interior Photos at:
www.kathleenhomes.com • kathquintarelli@erols.com



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Congregation members of Christ United Methodist Church at the Sunday, June 2, groundbreaking ceremony for a new building, located on 7600 Ox Road in Fairfax Station.

Christ United Methodist Church Breaks Ground

Pastor John Speight broke ground on a vision that he'd been pursuing for 20 years on Sunday, June 2nd, as the Christ United Methodist congregation broke shovels into soil to begin the foundation for a new, visible church building location.

The pastor hopes that the visible location at 7600 Ox Road in Fairfax Station will allow the church to attract more people. Members of the congrega-

tion sang Christian songs about their hope for the new church, with lyrics like, "Greater things are yet to come, greater things are still to be done in this city," and families joined together in praying for the construction crew. Everyone brought their own shovels and many filled jars with dirt as a reminder to pray for the safety of those working on the site and for the people that would one day step foot into the new building.

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.

Fairfax United Methodist Church has announced the selection of **Dr. Jonathan P. Giblin** as the new director of music ministries. Giblin comes to Fairfax after completing his undergraduate and graduate work at the University of Cincinnati. Fairfax United Methodist Church looks forward to welcoming him and invites the community to participate on June 9 in a service at 10300 Stratford Ave., Fairfax. Call 703-591-3120 for more information.

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a Bible Study Fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and Children's Church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or 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 at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or 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.

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 from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.poplC.org.

HOME SALES

In May 2013, 122 homes sold between \$1,680,000-\$101,700 in the Clifton, Fairfax Station and Lorton area. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$301,000-\$101,700 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code
8356 STATIONHOUSE CT	3	1	1	LORTON		\$301,000	Townhouse	0.03	22079
8937 MILFORD HAVEN CT #37A	3	2	1	LORTON		\$300,000	Townhouse		22079
9650 EATON WOODS PL	4	3	1	LORTON		\$300,000	Townhouse	0.05	22079
12433 POPES HEAD RD	3	2	0	CLIFTON		\$290,000	Detached	0.50	20124
7943 TIMARAND CT	3	2	0	LORTON		\$275,000	Townhouse	0.04	22079
8960 FASCINATION CT #112	2	2	0	LORTON		\$269,990	Multi-Family		22079
6944 HAMILTON CT	3	1	2	LORTON		\$262,000	Townhouse	0.05	22079
9258 CARDINAL FOREST LN #302	2	2	1	LORTON		\$255,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22079
5839 ORCHARD HILL CT N #5839	3	2	0	CLIFTON		\$252,500	Attach/Row Hse		20124
8183 HALLEY CT #8183	2	2	1	LORTON		\$245,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22079
8741 SUSQUEHANNA ST	2	1	1	LORTON		\$227,000	Townhouse	0.03	22079
9280 CARDINAL FOREST LN #B	2	2	0	LORTON		\$225,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22079
8202 CATBIRD CIR #201	2	1	1	LORTON		\$215,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22079
8208 CATBIRD CIR #201	2	1	1	LORTON		\$210,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22079
8244 CATBIRD CIR #101	2	2	0	LORTON		\$195,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22079
7725 GUNSTON DR	3	2	0	LORTON		\$101,700	Detached	0.76	22079

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 In 8 Days
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Buyers are Buying!

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**Just settled
 June 20th
 I'm Ready
 to sell
 your home
 next!**

The Market is Strong!



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Shannon Harte of Fairfax Station demonstrates her Jazzercise moves at the Summer Art Party. Beginning July 8, Jazzercise classes will be offered at the Workhouse Arts Center.



Matt Bess shows Sammie Chaitovitz, 9, of Fairfax, how to hold a flute in the Instrument Petting Zoo sponsored by the Potomac Arts Academy of Fairfax.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Workhouse Holds Summer Art Party on the Quad

Community invited to soak up art, artists and arts education programs.

It was a celebration of the arts when the Workhouse Arts Center hosted its Summer Art Party on the Quad on Saturday, June 22 in Lorton.

The Art Party included art projects, storytelling for grownups, music, bubble art, interactive history, artist demos, tours of the former Lorton Prison and a community

pillow fight. It also featured booth exhibitors and timed activities such as an Art to Wear Fashion Show by the Workhouse Fiber Artists, Jazzercise demonstrations, an

Instrument Petting Zoo and art exhibitions, including the opening reception of 360 Degrees of Post-Traumatic Stress. "This is about engaging the community with ac-

tivities on the Workhouse campus for the family," said John Mason, president and CEO of the Workhouse Arts Center.

—STEVE HIBBARD

Looking for a New Place of Worship?
Visit Antioch Baptist Church!



All Are Welcome!

Sunday Worship 8, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.
 Sunday School for Children & Adults 9:30 a.m.
 Married Couples Sunday School 11:30 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Marshal L. Ausberry, Sr., Senior Pastor

Antioch Baptist Church

6531 Little Ox Road

Fairfax Station, VA 22039

703-425-0710 • www.antioch-church.org



Sue MacIntyre and Debbie Glaser of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial.



Artist Hsi-Mei Yates demonstrates Chinese brush painting on bookmarks.



Lucy Buckle of The Curiosity Crew sings about nocturnal bats.



Isis Morgan, 8, of Woodbridge makes a rain stick.

CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. For more entertainment events in the county, go to: <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2013/may/22/fairfax-county-calendar/>.

FRIDAY/JUNE 28

Rock-N-Kidz Summer Program.

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at Empire, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Sing and dance with Conductor Brii & Quentin every other Friday; for ages 5-10. \$5 show; \$10 for lunch and show. 703-569-5940.

Lillian Axe. 6 p.m., at Empire, 6335 Rolling Road, Springfield. The seasoned band plays songs from their 11th album, XI: The Days before Tomorrow. \$15. www.empire-nova.com.

City of Fairfax Main Street Community Band.

7:30-8:30 p.m., at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. The Main Street Brass Quintet repertoire ranges from Baroque to Beatles including works by Gabrieli, Stephen Foster, Holst, as well as some arrangements by members of the group. www.fairfaxband.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 29

Peter Pan and Captain Hook in the Fairies.

1 p.m., in the W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Vianlix Mestey's original adaptation of the fairy tale, in which the magic clock of Neverland begins to wind down and Peter Pan and Hook must work together to stop it. \$12 for adults; \$8 for children under 12. <http://workhousearts.org/events/performing-arts/peter-pan-and-captain-hook-fairies-land>.

Conditions. 5 p.m., at Empire, 6335 Rolling Road, Springfield. A post-hardcore/melodic rock band singing impassioned anthems. \$12-\$14. www.empire-nova.com.

90s Night Dance Party. 10 p.m., at Empire, 6335 Rolling Road, Springfield. A 21-plus party with 90s music and nostalgia. \$5-\$10. <https://www.facebook.com/events/171986569627199/>.

Sierra Hull. 7-8 p.m., at Workhouse Arts Center at Lorton, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A virtuoso on the mandolin, Sierra Hull is one of the brightest new stars in bluegrass. www.sierrahull.com.

Soul of Langston. 8 p.m., at the Lorton Workhouse in the W-3 Theatre, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A play centered on the life of the legendary poet of the Harlem Renaissance, by Daron P. Stewart, presented by the DC Drama Department. Reservations recommended. \$15. www.workhousearts.org.

SUNDAY/JUNE 30

Impending Doom with Everyone Dies in Utah.

7 p.m., at Empire, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. The Christian metal band opens. www.empire-nova.com.

FRIDAY/JULY 5

Kings Park Band. 7:30-8:30 p.m., at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. The Kings Park Band has grown to a full concert band of over 55 adults with a paid professional conductor. www.kingsparkband.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 6

Yoga on the Quad. 8 a.m., at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A free, 45-minute long yoga class held outside; bring your own yoga mat.

Rock-N-Kids is a summer program filled with singing and dancing held every other Friday beginning June 28 at 11:30 a.m. at Empire in Springfield.

workhousearts.org/events/general-events/free-yoga-quad-0.

Patriotic Fireworks Show.

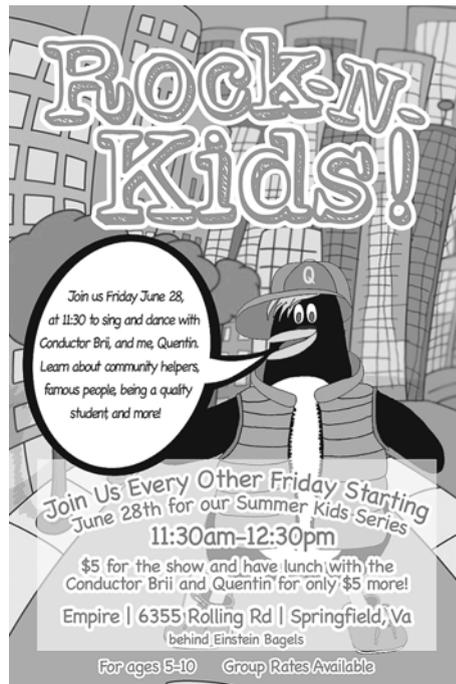
9 p.m., at the Quad, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Bring your family, friends, blankets and lawn chairs and come watch as the colors lights up the sky. The Workhouse Arts Center is presenting patriotic fireworks show. 703-584-2900 or <http://workhousearts.org/events/general-events/patriotic-fireworks-show>.

Frank Solivan and Dirty Kitchen.

7-8 p.m., at Workhouse Arts Center at Lorton, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Solivan, who sings lead vocals and plays mandolin and fiddle, performed for six years with the U.S. Navy's bluegrass group before leaving the service to play the civilian bluegrass circuit. www.dirtykitchenband.com.

FRIDAY/JULY 12

The Hot Society Orchestra Of Washington. 7:30-8:30 p.m., at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. The Hot



Society Orchestra of Washington performs dance music of the 1920's, 1930's and 1940's, re-creating the great sounds of early jazz-dance bands. www.hotsociety.net.

SATURDAY/JULY 13

Yoga on the Quad. 8 a.m., at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A free, 45-minute long yoga class held outside; bring your own yoga mat. workhousearts.org/events/general-events/free-yoga-quad-0.

5th Annual Ice Cream Social Fundraiser. Noon-4 p.m., at the W-8,

9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Workhouse Arts Center is organizing its 5th Annual Ice Cream Social Fundraiser, which involves the sale of handmade ice cream bowls created by the students, ceramic artists and instructors of the art center; music from the Backyard Blues Band playing and pony rides and fire station tours are also part of the event. \$15 per bowl. 703-584-2900 or <http://workhousearts.org/events/visual-arts/5th-annual-ice-cream-social-fundraiser>.

2nd Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m., Workhouse, 601 Ox Rd, Lorton. This art walk showcases the diverse work of more than 100 visual artists in a unique historic venue. <http://workhousearts.org/events/visual-arts/2nd-saturday-art-walk-10>.

360 Degrees of Post-Traumatic Stress Opening Reception. 6-9 p.m., at the Workhouse in the Vulcan Gallery, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Works from soldiers in transition at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, including sculptures, prints and more made from veterans participating in the Combat Paper Project. www.combatpaper.org/index.html or <http://workhousearts.org/events/visual-arts/360-degrees-post-traumatic-stress>.

Claire Lynch. 7-8 p.m., at Workhouse Arts Center at Lorton, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The current Claire Lynch Band is a quartet that perfectly interprets the beauty, subtlety and genre of Claire's music. www.clairelynch.com.

Cool Cow Comedy. 7 and 9 p.m., Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. Rahmein Mostafavi hosts touring comedians in an evening of live stand-up comedy. \$15. <http://workhousearts.org/events/performing-arts/cool-cow-comedy-2>.

Celebrating Independence Day at Workhouse Arts Center

The Workhouse Arts Center will celebrate Independence Day with live music, a patriotic exhibition and a fireworks show on July 6. Come at 7 p.m. and enjoy a free Mount Vernon Nights concert, featuring the funky bluegrass style of Frank Solivan and Dirty Kitchen. Afterwards, relax and listen to a musical performance leading up to a fireworks show at 9 p.m. Throughout the evening, stop by the latest exhibition, 360 Degrees of Post-Traumatic Stress, and see works created by soldiers transitioning to civilian life. Bring children, pals, blankets, and lawn chairs to an evening that captures the patriotic spirit of the country.

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP



5690 Oak Leather Drive
Burke, VA 22015
703-764-0456

Summer Services ~ ~ You are invited!

Sundays ~ 10:00 am | Saturdays ~ 5:30 pm
9:00 am Sunday School | CoffeeHouse with guest musicians

www.BurkePresChurch.org

Baptist

Antioch Baptist Church... 703-425-0940
Clifton Baptist Church... 703-263-1161
Community Baptist Church... 703-250-9060
Fairfax Baptist Temple... 703-323-8100
Harvest Assembly Baptist Church... 703-799-7868
Hope Baptist Church... 703-799-5155
Jerusalem Baptist Church... 703-278-8166
Shiloh Baptist Church... 703-550-8557
Virginia Korean Baptist Church... 703-425-1972

Buddhist

Ekaji Buddhist Temple... 703-239-1200



9800 Old Keene Mill Rd.
703-455-7041
Sunday School 9:15 AM
Worship Service 10:30 AM
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"Continuing the ministry of Christ on earth"

Catholic

St. Clare of Assisi... 703-266-1310
St. Raymond of Peñafort 703-440-0535
Church of God
Church of the Living God of No. Va... 703-250-7980

Congregación

La Cena Del Señor... 703-550-1204

Episcopal

St. Peter's in the Woods... 703-503-9210
Pohick Church... 703-339-6579

Jewish

Temple B'nai Shalom... 703-764-2901

Lutheran

Living Savior Lutheran Church... 703-352-1421

Methodist

Christ Church of Fairfax Station... 703-690-3401



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SATURDAYS 5:30PM
SUNDAYS 9:30 + 11AM

703-690-3401
CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG



Cranford United Methodist Church... 703-339-5382

Non-Denominational
Grace Bible Church... 703-339-7292

Gunston Bible Church... 703-339-5395

Iglesia La Gran Comision Asambleas De Dios... 703-541-0816

New Hope Church... 703-971-4673

New Jerusalem Temple of Worship... 703-593-6153
The Spirit of The Living Christ Ministry... 703-568-5647

Pentecostal

Christ Pentecostal International Church... 703-339-2119
First United Pentecostal Church... 703-339-2402

Presbyterian

Clifton Presbyterian Church... 703-830-3175
Seoul Presbyterian Church... 703-764-1310

Sikh

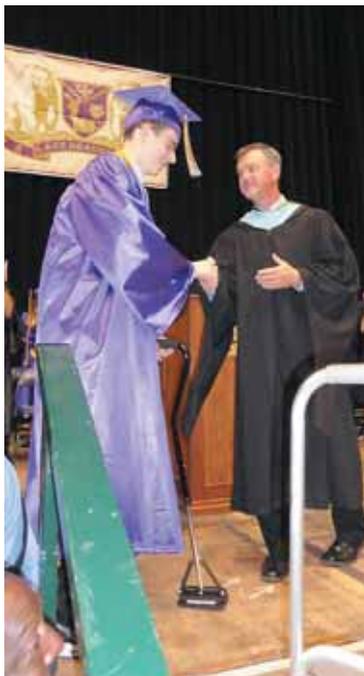
Sikh Foundation of Virginia... 703-323-8849

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STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

(Back row): Nurse's aide Saint Kankam, grandmother Nadine Balenger, dad Steve Balenger, grandmother Rejane Quirion, and mom Sylvie Balenger with Nick Balenger (front row) after Lake Braddock's graduation ceremony at the GMU Patriot Center.



Lake Braddock Principal David Thomas congratulates Nick Balenger on the stage at GMU's Patriot Center on Wednesday, June 19.

Walking Tall

Nick Balenger, paralyzed after a swimming accident, walks at the Lake Braddock graduation ceremony.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Every Lake Braddock senior who walked across the George Mason University Patriot Center stage for a diploma received applause and praise for 12 years of hard work.

But only one student received a standing ovation for simply walking.

Nick Balenger, a pitcher for the Lake Braddock Bruins baseball team, was paralyzed in a diving accident in Hawaii last summer. His doctors told him he might never walk again.

Balenger was determined to prove them wrong.

On Wednesday, June 19, in front of nearly 700 classmates and their families, Balenger did just that.

Leaning forward in his wheelchair throughout the ceremony, Balenger was focused and a little nervous as he waited for the awarding of the diplomas. When his row was called, he stood up with the help of a walker and took about 50 steps up the ramp to the stage where he waited for his name to be called.

When it was, he walked across the stage and accepted his high school diploma. For the first time that morning, the Burke teen smiled. Switching to a cane, he began walking down the steps of

the stage, and the crowd came to its feet in a thunderous standing ovation.

"I feel great, very relieved," Balenger said after sitting back down. "I was kind of nervous, but I practiced this morning. This has been my goal, to walk across the stage on graduation day. I'm just glad it's over."

"It was so emotional to see him walking again. Everyone is so proud of him," said Debra Brown, a student counselor at the school, as classmates gathered around Balenger.

"He is a force of nature," said neighbor Chris Bachman. "We were all cheering for him."

"He has worked so incredibly hard to get to this point," said Sylvie, Balenger's mother. "It was quite a sight to see him walking across that stage to get his diploma."

FOR THE PAST 11 MONTHS, Balenger has spent every day pushing himself to move. Every time he felt a sensation in his fingers, his hands or his feet, he doubled and tripled his "repetitions" in physical therapy to make certain he would not regress.

"My doctors thought I probably wouldn't be able to move my legs, let alone walk, but I did not want to be one of the patients who could not get out of the wheelchair. So I just kept moving," Balenger said.

Balenger said he plans to attend James Madison University, his father's alma mater, next fall, after another year of intense physical rehab.

Last June, Balenger was actively recruited by many colleges as a star athlete, and he was looking forward to a "dream" summer. A pitcher for the Lake Braddock Bruins baseball team, Balenger was ecstatic when the team won their first baseball state championship.

He said he was looking forward to spending an "awesome" summer vacation with his family on the island of Maui, where he was born.

But on July 25, 2012, his first day in Hawaii, his vacation took a tragic turn: Balenger dove into a wave and broke his neck in two places. The accident left him paralyzed from the neck down.

"I was pulled out of the water by my dad. In an instant, [everything] was ripped away. Most of my family was 6,000 miles away, my baseball career was over, the chances of me walking again were next to none and school was the least of my worries. I thought my life was over," Balenger has said.

On July 31, 2012, Balenger spent his 17th birthday in the same hospital where his life began.

After two surgeries to stabilize and fuse his spine, Balenger spent 19 days in an ICU on Maui, and 67 days as an inpatient at a rehabilitation hospital in Washington, D.C.

Two-and-a-half months after his accident, Balenger took his first tentative steps. Two months after that, he began moving around his house, walking hundreds of steps in therapy and he began to walk

VIEWPONITS

Lake Braddock Graduates Discuss: Where are you going next and where do you see yourself in 10 years?

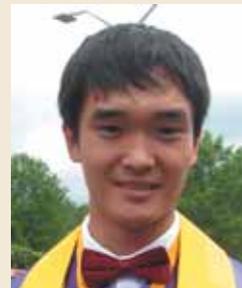
—JASMINE KANG



Bridget Marcinkowski, Burke
"I'm going to Virginia Tech and I just got accepted into the Leadership Program. I plan to major in biology and minor in leadership and plan to go to med school. From there, I want to become a research doctor and study cancer research."



Chloe Shoemaker, Burke
"I'm going to NoVa and will hopefully become a vet."



Haram Yoon, Springfield
"I'm going to UVA and I have no idea."



Austin Wolfe, Burke
"I'm headed to Michigan State on an Army ROTC scholarship, so in 10 years, I can see myself in the Army."



Julian Olive, Burke
"I'm going to Marymount Manhattan College. In 10 years, I see myself in the city working in media or entertainment."



Max Weber, Springfield
"I'm headed to LSU and I see myself as being an engineer."

up stairs.

"Doctors have been amazed at his progress," said Steve Balenger, Nick's father. "We see his progress a little bit every day, but when the doctors see him, after three or four weeks, they can't believe how far he's come. This kid works his butt off. He inspires me."

BALENGER ALSO INSPIRED HIS CLASSMATES. Throughout his senior year at Lake Braddock, he used a wheelchair to navigate the halls, so most of his classmates did not know he was determined to walk again.

"It was so awesome to see him walk across that stage," said

graduating senior Lynne Baker.

In her honor graduate address, student Sophie Chase, who is headed to Stanford University in the fall, talked about the strength, kindness and humility that were hallmarks of the Class of 2013.

"You have continually inspired me and I always loved coming to school. We've learned so much together. I know a student who played baseball, and I know he will play baseball again," Chase said.

She ended her remarks with a line from the popular teen film "The Perks of Being a Wallflower," a line that could easily apply to Balenger.

"In this moment, we are infinite."

NEWS



STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Josue Lozano, 18, of Springfield practices his skateboarding jumps off the ramp in between competitions.

SkateFest Raises \$11,500 For Children's Hospital

Skateboarders from all over compete in Sk8 for a Cause.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Some 250 skateboarders from as far away as Missouri and Pennsylvania traveled to Wakefield Skate Park in Annandale Friday and Saturday, June 21 and 22, to compete in the seventh Annual SkateFest—Sk8 for a Cause, which raised \$11,500 for Children's National Medical Center in the district.

Most of the skateboarders were from Fairfax County and competed in five events, including the Street Course, Best Trick Contest, Half Pipe Jam, Fairfax Surf Shop Team Tryout, and Game of S.K.A.T.E events in the 19-over, 18-under, 14-under, and 11-under age groups.

The preliminary tryouts started on Friday with the two main festival events—the Game of S.K.A.T.E. and Sk8 for a Cause on Saturday. In the Sk8 for a Cause, participants skated through a check-pointed route through Wakefield Park and received free prizes as they rode along the route. Participants received \$20,000 in donated prizes, skateboard parts, T-shirts, hats and stickers. The event was presented by Fairfax Surf Shop and Wakefield Skate Park.

And the winners are

11 & UNDER:

Half Pipe Jam

First: Josh Herrmann
Second: Jared Easter
Third: Jonathan Chen
Best Trick
First: Josh Herrmann
Second: Jared Easter
Third: Angus Rieks
Street Course
First: Angus Rieks
Second: Jared Easter
Third: Josh Herrmann

14 & UNDER:

Half Pipe Jam
First: Kwesi Un Holloway
Second: Subway Alvarez
Third: Jakie Kalina
Best Trick
First: Jason Nam
Second: Subway Alvarez
Third: Kwesi Un Holloway
Street Course
First: Kwesi Un Holloway
Second: Jason Nam
Third: Alex Steward

18 & UNDER:

Half Pipe Jam
First: Maurio McCoy
Second: Hugo Flores
Third: Imoh Ekasi-Ota
Best Trick
First: Maurio McCoy
Second: Bradley Cuelbaro
Third: Patrick Parman
Street Course
First: Maurio McCoy
Second: Kevin Ha
Third: Imoh Ekasi-Ota

19 & OVER

Half Pipe Jam
First: Dan Corrigan
Second: Ian Mondragon
Third: Elliot Mondragon
Best Trick
First: Dan Corrigan
Second: Rom Ghobacci
Third: Rick Berry
Street Course
First: Dan Corrigan
Second: Elliot Katz
Third: Zeek Rodriguez



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Lake Braddock Grad Rodi Headed to Hillsdale College

Rodi helped lead Lake Braddock to back-to-back appearances in the Patriot District championship match.

Kyra Rodi was a four-year varsity player for the Lake Braddock volleyball team. A versatile athlete, Rodi played multiple positions during her career, starting as an outside hitter during her freshman season before moving to middle blocker and eventually settling on a combination of setter and opposite hitter.

Rodi helped lead Lake Braddock to back-to-back appearances in the Patriot District championship match. The Bruins won the district title in 2010 and finished runner-up in 2011. Former Lake Braddock volleyball coach Mike Clark said there's more to Rodi than her talent.

"Everybody wants to talk to me about how great of a volleyball player [Rodi] is," Clark said prior to the 2011 season. "I don't care. She's, like, the best person I've ever been around. I've learned so much from just being around her. She always takes the lead in things [and] she wants to learn. Even though she's the best player out here, she wants to learn more than anybody else does."

Rodi, who stands 6 feet 2, finished her Lake Braddock career as a three-time first-team all-Patriot District selection, and a three-time all-Northern Region performer, including first-team honors as a sophomore and a junior. Rodi will attend Hillsdale College, a Division II school in Michigan, where she will play volleyball in the fall. Rodi said she will be used primarily as a setter. She plans to study biology, with a focus on molecular/cellular bio, and minor in French.

Rodi took part in a Q and A with *The Connection* via email.

Connection: What made Hillsdale the right fit for you?

Rodi: "It's cool how many reasons I could list here. First of all, Hillsdale is an excellent academic school, which is one of the most important things about getting a college education. I knew for a while that I wanted to go to a small school, because I love the idea of being close with not only my classmates but my professors, as well. The volleyball program there is also outstanding, not only in terms of how they finish in the NCAAs (Sweet Sixteen this year with seven freshmen, Final Four the year before), but how they run the program and the values that they put the emphasis on —

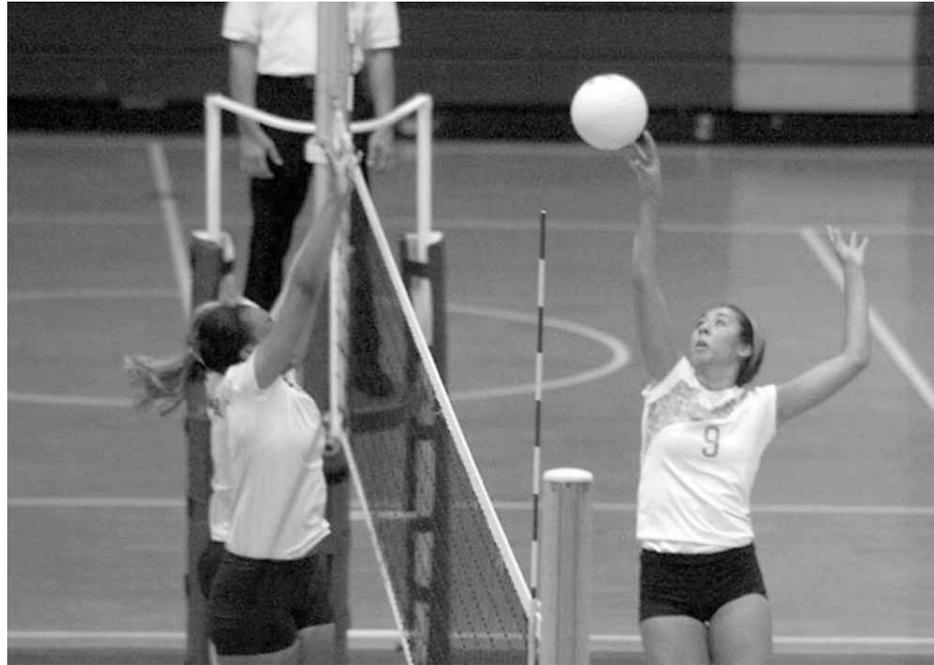


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Former Lake Braddock volleyball player Kyra Rodi, right, will attend Hillsdale College in Michigan.

hard work, team, sportsmanship, dedication — all those things that I try to be when I practice and play. And it's funny — being on the campus and with the team, the little things there showed me how perfect of a fit is for me, from the players to country music, and it just felt so right and natural."

Connection: Any word on playing time as a freshman?

Rodi: "As a freshman, I don't expect to get playing time right off the bat, as I will be learning to set such a fast offense, but hopefully through the year I will see some court time. It all depends though on how I progress as a setter."

Connection: Did you receive a scholarship? If so, what kind? Was it a full or partial?

Rodi: "I did receive a full ride, and it's a combination of academic money (I am a National Merit Scholar Finalist), athletic money, and an outside endowed scholarship. Hillsdale has a wonderful number of scholarships for all different interests and activities."

Connection: What is your favorite memory of playing volleyball at Lake Braddock?

Rodi: "Apart from all the fun times and jokes I've had with Lake Braddock volleyball, a couple of things stand out especially for me. Freshman year, we played Annandale High School in the district quarterfinals, and it was a big game for us, as we had lost to them the week before. It was going into that game that Coach Mike gave us a pep talk, and he said something like, 'this will be a game you won't forget,' and even though we've grown so much, that's one of the games that I'll remember for a while."

"Another memory is the run we went on at the end of my sophomore year, and winning districts as the fifth seed, surpassing everyone's expectations as the underdogs. Junior year, I have two that really stand out. First of all, we had four returning girls, and were told we would [stink], and then started off the year 16-0. That was really cool to prove everyone wrong again. My other favorite memory that year was the fourth game of the district finals — coming back from a 17-9 deficit to win that set. Those were probably ... the most intense, fun, and best 20 points I've ever played."

Connection: What are you most looking forward to about the transition from high school to college?

Rodi: "In terms of volleyball, I am so looking forward to the next level of the game — the speed of the game at college is so much faster and the play so much sharper, it makes it so much more fun. In terms of being a college student, I can't wait for the freedom and independence I get, and I'm excited to be able to go to school with my best friends."

Connection: At what age did you start playing volleyball? Did you imagine you'd one day play it in college?

Rodi: "I started playing volleyball in seventh grade, so at the age of 12. When I was little, I imagined playing in college, but that wasn't the goal for a while. [The goal] was to love playing and become the best I could become. It's funny though, I remember telling multiple people that I would never in a million years become a setter, that's how bad I was at the beginning."

— JON ROETMAN

Register Early for Senior Olympics

Online registration opens July 1 for the 2013 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. Participants can register online at www.nvso.us or by mail to compete in more than 50 events that will take place Sept. 7-19 at 17 different venues throughout Northern Virginia. Registration forms are available at senior centers, community centers and senior residences or by calling 703-228-4721. Deadline to register is Aug. 23 by mail or Aug. 30 online.

Adults 50 years of age by Dec. 30, 2013, residing in a sponsoring jurisdiction, are eligible to compete. The fee is \$12, which covers multiple events. Most events are divided into age categories and some by gender. Winners will be awarded gold, silver and bronze medals after each event.

Events include badminton, volleyball, cycling, track and field, swimming, diving, tennis, table tennis, golf, miniature golf, 10 pin bowling, Wii bowling, pickleball, bocce, racquetball, scrabble, cribbage, duplicate bridge, bunco, horseshoes, men's 3-on-3 basketball, men's and women's basketball free throw, team line dancing, yo-yo tricks, eight-ball pool, Frisbee throw and softball hit and throw and Mexican Train dominoes. New this year are handball and rowing.

NVSO is sponsored by the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William.

Oakton High School Wins Wells Fargo Cup for Athletics

Oakton High School has won its first Wells Fargo Cup for Athletics, awarded by the Virginia High School League (VHSL) for excellence in athletics, for Group AAA for the 2012-13 school year.

The Wells Fargo Cup is awarded to the school in each of the three VHSL group classifications with the best overall record in VHSL state-level competition in 27 sports.

Oakton athletes scored a total of 405 points to capture the Group AAA crown. Strong finishes in boys soccer, girls tennis, baseball, boys outdoor track, girls and boys swimming, and girls indoor track helped the team win top honors. The school also won the Claudia Dodson Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Award.

Other Fairfax County public schools finishing in the top 20 were Chantilly High School in fourth place, Madison High School in eighth place, Lake Braddock Secondary School in ninth place, Robinson Secondary School in 17th place, Westfield High School in 18th place, and Langley High School in 20th place.

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21 Announcements

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Blue Iguana Group LLC trading as Blue Iguana, 12727 Shoppes Ln, Fairfax, VA 22033. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises and Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Clifton Wilcox, member

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
Dr. Mark M. Theiss joined Inova Medical Group as of June 24, 2013 To make an appointment or To request medical records free of charge: Please call 703-205-2626 Inova Medical Group Orthopedics & Sports Medicine 3299 Woodburn Road, Ste. 370, Annandale, VA 22003

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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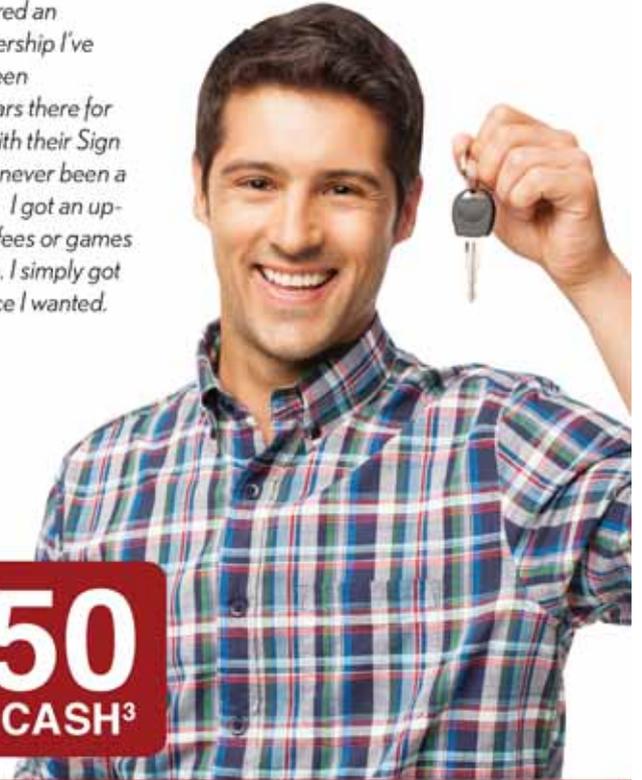
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