

Chip Rome directing  
Robinson's 2013 show,  
"Hairspray." Rome directed  
at least 100 plays during his  
three decades at Robinson  
Secondary School.

# The End of an Era

NEWS, PAGE 8



**'Don't Be Afraid  
to be Different'**

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10

**Springfield Shortlisted for  
FBI Headquarters**

NEWS, PAGE 3

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ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 14 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 12

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## Springfield Shortlisted for FBI Headquarters

Other locations are Greenbelt and Landover.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS  
THE CONNECTION

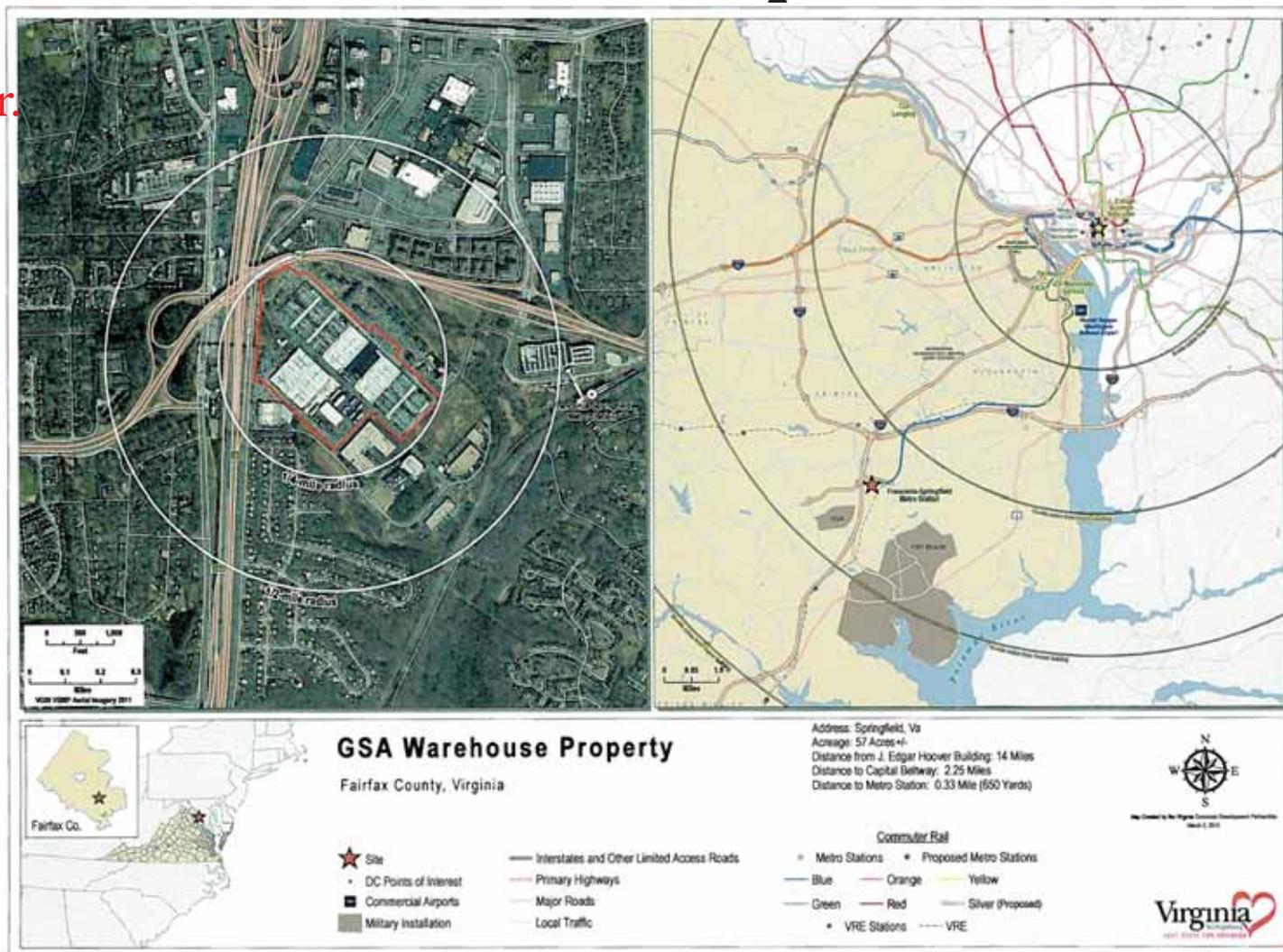
Springfield could very well be the next site of the FBI headquarters. The General Services Administration and FBI announced Tuesday that Springfield was included on the shortlist for the new FBI headquarters.

"We are very pleased that the Springfield Warehouse in Fairfax County has made the short list for the new FBI headquarters. The project would help spur redevelopment in that area and because it is federally owned, this site is a lower cost option for the FBI. Virginia is unified behind this site and we feel it is the best of the three," said Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Greenbelt and Landover in Maryland are also included on the list for the new headquarters, which would replace the current J. Edgar Hoover building. The Springfield location is located at the GSA Franconia Warehouse Complex near Interstate 95 and Franconia Road.

"I'm very pleased that the GSA recognized the merits of our Springfield site. With extensive transit options, access to almost every major highway in the region, and close proximity to Quantico and Washington, D.C., the Springfield site remains the best option to serve the FBI's needs," Supervisor Jeff McKay (D- Lee District) said in a statement. "I hope this process continues to be one based on merit and good use of taxpayer funds and not political considerations. All of Virginia will continue to unite behind just one site: Springfield. We will re-double our effort moving forward to promote Springfield's attributes."

National Environmental Policy Act reviews will be conducted at all locations.



An aerial view of the GSA warehouse property in Springfield. The site is 14 miles from the J. Edgar Hoover Building in Washington and sits on 57 acres.

"We are pleased that the GSA warehouse site in Springfield is on the short list for the FBI headquarters relocation. All the sites named today have advantages, but we believe the Springfield site best meets the criteria laid out for the FBI. Our main hope is that the FBI has a location that best allows the bureau and its employees to fulfill their important mission in the most productive and efficient manner possible," said Gerald

Gordon, president of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority.

Public comment will also be available on the plan. Virginia governor Terry McAuliffe announced Tuesday that he believes Springfield is the best option for the FBI.

"Virginia's inclusion on the final list of prospective sites for the new FBI headquarters is unquestionably positive news for our Commonwealth and economy. There is no

doubt that the Springfield location offers the FBI and its employees the best combination of location, access to mass transit and local amenities. I look forward to continuing to work with Virginia's congressional delegation to convince decision makers within the FBI that Virginia is the location for this headquarters and the thousands of jobs that come with it," McAuliffe said in a statement.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE BURKE

Elected officials speak at an event to renew interest in Springfield as the location of the new FBI headquarters in December 2013.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

The General Services Administration warehouse site, which Fairfax County is proposing for the relocation of the new FBI headquarters, is located in Springfield, near four million square feet of office space and bordering the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station.

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PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION

**Mary Agee, NVFS president and CEO, and Karen Horowitz, director of volunteer and internship engagement, present Ralph Lickey with the Presidential Award for Community Volunteers.**



PHOTO BY TONYA MCCREARY

**NVFS CEO and President Mary Agee is retiring next summer.**

## Serving Families For 90 Years

**Pushing the boundaries has led to success, says Northern Virginia Family Services CEO.**

BY REENA SINGH  
 THE CONNECTION

**A**n organization does not thrive for 90 years by chance.

Northern Virginia Family Services, a county institution, has impacted families throughout the region for nearly a century with no sign of slowing down.

CEO and President Mary Agee, who has been at the organization for 46 of those years, has seen the nonprofit flourish during her time there.

"In reading the history, there were a lot of passionate and smart people that were on the board in the '20s, '30s and '40s," she said. "Very adaptable and very principled. That's the other thing that struck me — that the decisions were based upon doing the right thing and never turning a child away."

She said that even today, her staff is willing to push boundaries while still adhering to the organization's mission.

NVFS opened its doors in 1924 as a family counseling center; it was run by a single volunteer at the time.

Agee joined the 11 person staff in 1972. She just announced her retirement, effective next June, on Monday.

"The budget was \$182,000 at the time," she said.

The budget is now \$32 million and staff count has soared to 150 people. One of those staff members is current Chief Operative Officer Cheri Villa who has been with the organization for five years.

"One of the reasons I came here was to work with Mary on her vision," she said.

Recently, the organization has helped families who have suffered during the recession to adapt to the change.

"I think one of the most interesting things is when you look at our history, it's a reflection of the region as a whole," said Villa. "As community needs have emerged, Northern Virginia Family Services has stepped in."

In the last 20 years, affordable housing and mental health issues were added to the list of NVFS's concerns. However, Agee does not

think they were ever a non-issue for the area.

"The needs in the community have absolutely not changed," said Agee. "The thing that has changed is the faces that use them."

She said that the organization had the chance to help its community during the response after a plane struck the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

"It was an honor to be asked by the Community Foundation of the National Capital Region to design a program that would support the families that were impacted by the attack on the Pentagon," she said. "What that taught was how to perfect a case management model — help them recover from trauma and bring in a number of resources."

She said the leadership the organization showed made NVFS a national leader in trauma response. It is currently poised to help the numbers of children that have crossed the border into Texas.

But it does not do the work alone. Many of the issues that leaders at NVFS are passionate about are also tackled with other local organizations.

"I think collaboration is a big part of our success," she said. "These issues are so big that you have to tackle them together."



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## Alzheimer's Association to Hold Workshop

On Aug. 16 at 10 a.m., the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, [3701 Pender Drive, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22030] will have a free workshop<sup>o</sup>for individuals and families dealing with Alzheimer's who need to know more about what legal and financial issues to consider and how to put plans in place. Topics covered include:

- ❖ Making legal plans that fit your needs
- ❖ Legal documents you'll need and what they mean for all of you
- ❖ How to find legal and financial assistance
- ❖ Practical strategies for making a long-term plan of care
- ❖ Tax deductions and credits
- ❖ Government programs that can help pay for care

To register, call the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900.

## Crime Solvers 5K Saturday

The second annual Crime Solvers 5K is set for this Saturday, Aug. 2, at 8 a.m., at the Fairfax County Government Center. The course is certified and chip-timed and is open to the public to participate. Register at <http://www.crimesolvers5k.com>. The event is a fundraiser for Fairfax County Crime Solvers, a long-standing, nonprofit that's assisted local law enforcement for 35 years by providing an anonymous means for residents to report criminal information.

## Farmers Market on Thursdays

Each Thursday, from 3-7 p.m., the Fairfax County Government Center hosts a farmers market in its parking lot. The Government Center is at 12000 Government Center Pkwy. in Fair Oaks, and the next markets are slated for July 31 and Aug. 7.

## Child Carseat Checks

City residents may have their children's carseats checked or installed by the City of Fairfax Fire Department. For an appointment, call 703-385-7830.

SEE WEEK, PAGE 7



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The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is an affiliate of George Mason University providing educational, cultural and social opportunities to active and intellectually curious adults 50+. OLLI-Mason Fall Term 2014 registration is now open through August 22. To view the fall catalog of courses and special events, visit the OLLI website at [olli.gmu.edu](http://olli.gmu.edu). For more information, contact 703-503-3384 or [olli@gmu.edu](mailto:olli@gmu.edu).

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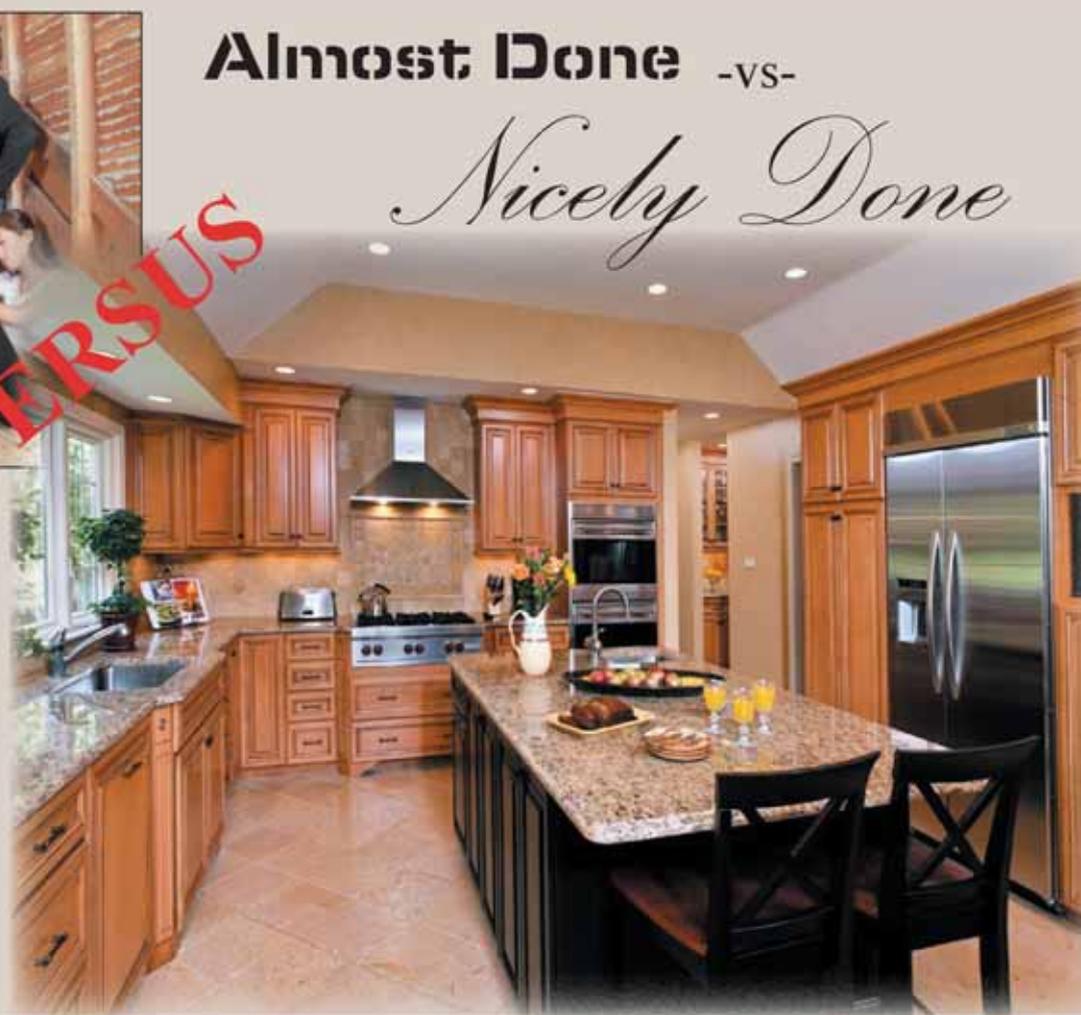
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## Finally, Marriage Rights Protected in Virginia

On July 28, 2014, in affirming that Virginia's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional, Circuit Judge Henry F. Floyd writes:

"We recognize that same-sex marriage makes some people deeply uncomfortable. However, inertia and apprehension are not legitimate bases for denying same-sex couples due process and equal protection of the laws. Civil marriage is one of the cornerstones of our way of life. It allows individuals to celebrate and publicly declare their intentions to form lifelong partnerships, which provide unparalleled intimacy, companionship, emotional support, and security. The choice of whether and whom to marry is an intensely personal decision that alters the course of an individual's life. Denying same-sex couples this choice prohibits them from participating fully in our society, which is precisely the type of segregation that the Fourteenth Amendment cannot countenance."

Judge Arenda Wright Allen, on Valentine's Day, 2014, ruled that Virginia's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional, writing:

"A spirited and controversial debate is underway regarding who may enjoy the right to marry in the United States of America. America has pursued a journey to make and keep our citizens free. This journey has never been easy, and at times has been painful and poignant. The ultimate exercise of our freedom is choice. Our Declaration of Independence recognizes

that 'all men' are created equal. Surely this means all of us. While ever-vigilant for the wisdom that can come from the voices of our voting public, our courts have never long tolerated the perpetuation of laws rooted in unlawful prejudice. One of the judiciary's noblest endeavors is to scrutinize laws that emerge from such roots.

### EDITORIAL

"Plaintiffs assert that the restriction on their freedom to choose to marry the person they love infringes on the rights to due process and equal protection guaranteed to them under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. These challenges are well-taken..."

"The Court is compelled to conclude that Virginia's Marriage Laws unconstitutionally deny Virginia's gay and lesbian citizens the fundamental freedom to choose to marry."

## Help with Newcomers And Community Guides

Our 2014 Insider's Edition Newcomers and Community Guides, will publish the last week of August.

What tips do you have for someone getting to know your community? What do you wish you had discovered sooner?

We're hoping to share the special places, ac-

tivities, events, organizations, volunteer opportunities and more that make each community what it is. Tell us your favorite park; let us know what events are not to be missed. Give a shout out to organizations that do a great job. Share your best volunteer experiences. Do you have tips for navigating your PTA or your school's front office? We'd love to have your photos to go along with your suggestions.

Faith organizations, nonprofit organizations, clubs, environmental groups, advocacy groups, youth sports teams and others who offer events open to the public are invited to send a paragraph about your organization and how to get involved.

We will publish a selection of local tips along with a plethora of information useful to newcomers and long-time residents alike, including our award-winning Insiders Guide to the Parks, information on how to vote and more.

See last year's community guides by going to [www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/) and scrolling down to Newcomers.

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### COMMENTARY

## Fairfax County Takes Steps To Improve Senior Services

BY JOHN C. COOK  
SUPERVISOR (R-BRADDOCK DISTRICT)



Cook

Fairfax County is actively working to improve services to seniors and make the County friendlier to those growing older in our communities. One of the most prominent advancements has been the 50 + Action Plan developed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, in partnership with the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging and the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging. The plan addresses gaps in services and identifies future improvements to address the challenges facing our seniors. The final plan is expected to be presented to the Board of Supervisors this fall for approval.

In 2013, the 50 + Committee of the Board of Supervisors built on the County's efforts in the 50 + plan and initiated a community dialogue. Based on the input received, several workgroups were established to address topics such

as transportation, housing, services and community engagement. Each of the subcommittees has a community champion and comprises community members from the public, private and nonprofit sectors.

Thirty-one initiatives were enumerated with the guiding principles to be attainable, affordable and actionable within the next five years.

What is happening right now?

A few of the initiatives are already in practice and some are on the verge of implementation. One example is NOVA Rides, which has been awarded some start-up funding from the Consolidated Community Funding Pool (CCFP). This project, operated by the Jewish Community Center, coordinates ride requests between local nonprofits providing the services. The efforts of the 50 + Plan and NOVA Rides hope to provide additional support to their already outstanding efforts.

One segment of the plan I would encourage is senior volunteerism. The 50 + plan is working to establish two unique approaches to promoting senior participation in our communities. The first is Grand Involve, which is a program that connects experienced older adult volunteers to work with local schools. The program will help strengthen the bonds of the oldest and youngest community members and support the education of our most vulnerable populations.

The other endeavor is Venture in Volunteerism, which concentrates efforts on recruiting and placing older adults with various volunteer opportunities. Our retired folks have a vast array of talents and skills that are perfectly suited to meet the needs of many of our charities and nonprofit organizations.

Another important priority for Braddock District laid out in the 50+ plan is preventing criminal exploitation of residents. I will be promoting safe living by hosting and promoting a series on crimi-

nal exploitation prevention. Protecting our residents is matter of great importance, so look for this series in the coming months.

Action Items on the Horizon:

With full Board approval of the Plan this fall, many of the other initiatives are positioned to come into realization.

Join the effort! Reach out to one of the subcommittees: Transportation, Housing, Safe & Healthy Communities, Services for Older Adults and Caregivers and see how you can contribute. Feel free to contact my office directly and we will put you in touch with the right person. Our aging population has given their time and support to our communities and schools endlessly. In order for these solutions to take place, they need community ownership. Join in the effort to empower seniors to live many healthy, happy years here in Fairfax County.

For more specific details about the plan, the progress, and results please visit the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging or with the Fairfax Area on Aging website.



WEEK FROM PAGE 5

## Fairfax City Farmers Markets

Two farmers markets are open for the season in the City of Fairfax. They'll run through Nov. 1 at the corner of West and Main streets. The Downtown Fairfax Coalition Community Market is held Saturdays, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. The Sunday Farmers Market will run from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information, call 703-642-0128.

## Seeking Chocolate Recipes

The Chocolate Lovers Festival Committee is requesting residents' favorite recipes using chocolate as an ingredient to be included in its 2015 cookbook. Recipes must be submitted by Sept. 30 to [pmmaddox@verizon.net](mailto:pmmaddox@verizon.net). Provide name, phone number (only for clarification information), organization or business, ingredients (list in order of use in recipe) and recipe instructions.



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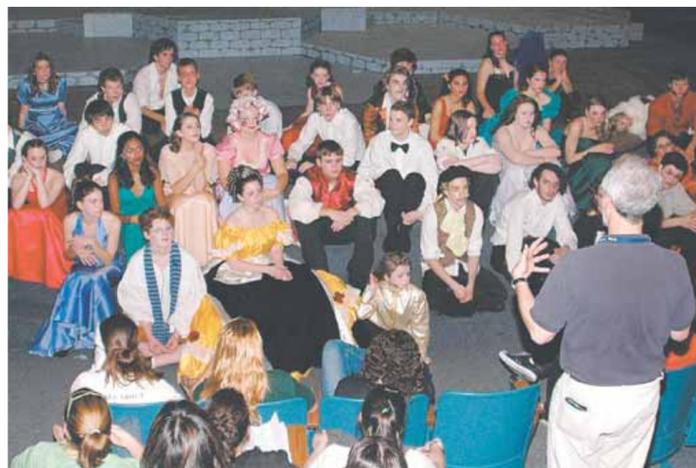


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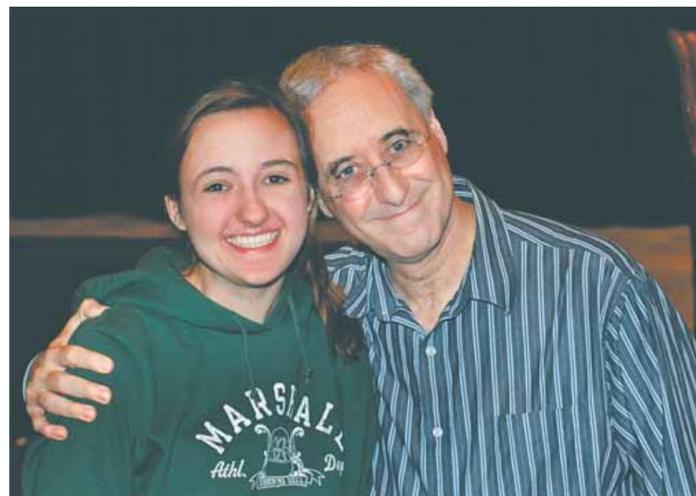
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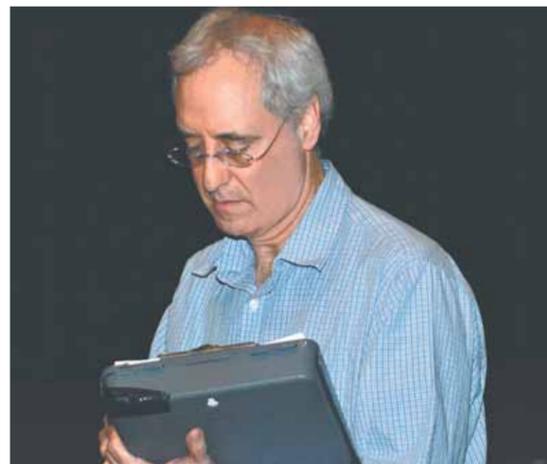




Chip Rome giving post-rehearsal notes to the cast of "Beauty and the Beast."



Director Chip Rome with stage manager Lizzie Hodgedon.



Robinson Director Chip Rome taking notes during a rehearsal.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRANK A. RUTH

# The End of an Era

## After 33 years, Robinson's Chip Rome retires.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

It's the end of an era at Robinson Secondary: Legendary Theater Director Chip Rome has retired. In 1981, he became the fourth drama teacher the school hired that year, and he more than provided stability. He spent all 33 years of his FCPS career there.

"When I got the job, I was still trying to decide whether to go back home to Worcester, Mass., and join my father and brother in Rome Specialties, selling advertising on items and manufacturing denim shirts," said Rome. "But a parent wrote a letter to the principal praising my growth as a teacher, and that tipped the balance."

And his wife, Sunny, whose parents were professional actors, encouraged his creative endeavors. Actually, Rome began his teaching career in England in 1976 in a school Southwest of London. "I could see shows in Stratford or London," he said. "It was quite the adventure for a young teacher."

He'd acted and directed in college and at summer camp, but realized he needed more training in technical theater. So he obtained a master of fine arts in drama, with a concentration in directing, from Catholic University, and that's what brought him to the Washington, D.C., area. Simultaneously, he got a masters in education from Assumption College in Wooster, Mass.

**IN 1981**, Rome was working stage crew at Arena Stage and directing an after-school drama program and substitute teaching in Maryland, when someone told him Robinson needed a theater director to finish out the school year. "I'd never heard of Fairfax, Va., but it was three weeks work, so I took it," he said. "They kept me on for the next three decades."

He stayed because of his students and their shows. "I've been fortunate to see the kids grow and do their best where 'good enough' is never good enough," said Rome. "The arts are about reaching farther than you ever thought you could. Every show brings new challenges and new enthusiasm from the kids. You get to see the finished project and move on to the next one."

Calling it "enormously time-consuming," he said he's lucky his wife understands how theater works. Both his children were in Robinson's theater program, too. Son Robert was a Cappies nominee, worked on the first original Cappies musical with Bill Strauss and now performs in an improv troupe. And daughter Anna is a black belt in Tae Kwon Do and teaches adaptive martial arts to youth on the autism spectrum.

**"I have a book to promote, a vacation home to enjoy and the prospect of a new business. So we'll see what comes my way."**

— Chip Rome

Recalling career highlights, Rome said one was when he directed his first of eight Cappies galas, and there, too, was Shari Silbergliitt Moxley. She was in his first theater class and is now a professional stage manager working regularly at The Kennedy Center.

Halfway through his years at Robinson, the school went from six to seven periods a day and implemented block scheduling. It

also underwent a \$30 million renovation, which was a boon to the Theater Department. A former parking lot became a prop shop, a costume shop, two extra dressing rooms and a black-box theater/classroom. "It gave me extra toys, space and possibilities to expand the program even further," said Rome.

Four times, he's taken theater students to the famed Fringe Festival – the largest arts festival in the world – in Edinburgh, Scotland. And the last two times, Robinson students also performed off Broadway in New York before performing there.

The toughest part of his job, said Rome, was "finding that balance between family and other parts of my life. It's a very absorbing career. I love theater because it's the world in a microcosm. It involves things such as psychology, carpentry, history and lighting. All these pieces come together when you create a world onstage, and it's always different – that's what keeps it interesting."

"And there's always a place for everyone in theater," he continued. "There's no such thing as 'just a curtain-puller' because, without them, there's no show. And I've let the backstage crews earn the respect that's typically

## Rome's Favorite Shows, Robinson Memories

Chip Rome directed at least 100 plays during his three decades at Robinson Secondary School. Below, he discusses some of his favorites:

- ◆ "Morph"
 

"Morph" brought Robinson's first Cappies win for Best Play in 2005. "It was a special show and a brilliant script," said Rome. "We built a pool with three depths of water on the stage. My son Robert was in that show and was nominated for Comic Actor."
- ◆ "Bye Bye Birdie"
 

For his 20<sup>th</sup> year at the school, Rome reprised "Bye Bye Birdie" – which was the first musical he'd directed at Robinson. And, he said, "The kid who played Birdie, plus the voice of Ed Sullivan in our original show, came back and did that voice again."
- ◆ "Fiddler on the Roof"

"When we did it for the second time, it was the first time we won the Cappie for Best Musical," said Rome. "It was my grandfather's personal story, so I totally understand that show." One of his most treasured memories, however, wasn't a particular play, but what happened for it. "For my 25<sup>th</sup> show, the drama boosters held a surprise party in my honor," said Rome. "My students from 1983 through 2009 returned – and that's something I'd wish for every teacher. Some of them flew in from all parts of the country – it was extraordinary."



Rome

— BONNIE HOBBS

afforded the performers."

**MOST REWARDING**, said Rome, is "when you see the light go on in kids' eyes because they get it. And when kids later come back and tell me, or write me, that I made a difference – that's enormously gratifying. My job is to create theater lovers and audience members, whether or not they do this professionally. To me, theater is a safe space to investigate conflict and its consequences."

By participating in theater, he explained, "Kids build communication skills and the ability to think outside the box and to finish on deadline a project beginning with incomplete information. My job is to give

them a chance to express and develop their creativity, and I'm most satisfied when we've successfully created community – both within our theater family and the larger community."

But that's not all he's been busy doing. Rome and two other theater teachers, Mary Lechter and Zoe Dillard, have written a book detailing how a first-year theater teacher can determine priorities and develop a theater program. Lechter's going to teach from it at GMU and, hopefully, they'll get it published.

And recently, Rome and his wife bought a vacation home in Cape May, N.J., where he may open a comedy club with another theater director, Lori Knickerbocker. He calls the home

"a chance to spend long weekends, instead of having no weekends. Lori's retiring 10 minutes away, and I'm excited about the prospect of a comedy club."

So why retire now? "A friend of mine passed away [this spring] from a brain tumor," he replied. "It reminded me to spend that precious time with my family while I can. And I always told my students, when posters of my shows go around the walls of the black box and meet each other, I'd be done – and they do."

So, said Rome, "I have a book to promote, a vacation home to enjoy and the prospect of a new business. So we'll see what comes my way."

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The head of the huge dragon, who develops a crush on Donkey.



In costume are (from left) Jennifer LePaige (Princess Fiona), Devyn Tinker (donkey) and Glynn Cosker (Shrek) with some of the Summer Stars actors before rehearsing the "Freak Flag" dance number.

## 'Don't Be Afraid to be Different'

Robinson grad performs in "Shrek the Musical."

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

A big green ogre, a princess, a wisecracking donkey and a love-struck dragon – they'll all be onstage when The Alliance Theatre's Summer Stars program presents "Shrek the Musical." And right there with them will be Robinson Secondary graduate Spencer Boyd.

The cast and crew of nearly 100 have been working on the show since May and, when the curtain rises, they'll be joined by a 13-piece pit orchestra. Helming his fourth Alliance show, Director Scott Olson says things are going really well.

"I've got an insanely talented cast," he said. "My leads are spot-on for their characters, and 30 members of our Summer Stars theater camp – from third through eighth grade – are in the show, too. They're doing really high-level dances, tight choreography and even marching."

Olson said special prosthetics were created to transform actors into ogres and fairytale characters, and the costumes and make up will be "amazing," as will the 26-foot-long, light-up, dragon puppet that exhales smoke. The scenes take place in a swampy forest, a castle, a dragon's lair, a church and at Shrek's house – an oversized tree stump.

**THERE'S ALSO A MORAL** to the story. "This show's about understanding and appreciating others' differences and accepting and appreciating yourself for who you are," Olson said.

Playing Shrek is Oak Hill's Glynn Cosker. "He's an ogre who likes living by himself in a swamp," said Cosker. "So he's surprised to one day find dozens of fairytale creatures there. But he's not immune to adventure. Yet when he falls in love with Fiona and forms a friendship with Donkey, you see a different side of him and learn that he actually has a big heart."

Cosker's been in 30 shows, but calls Shrek one of the most fun roles he's ever played. "He's such a big, full-of-life character," said Cosker. "And the whole experience – working with the kids and seeing their reactions to Shrek – has been wonderful. It's about 180 degrees from my own, nice and introverted personality. As Shrek, I do lots of yelling and screaming, so it's quite therapeutic."

His favorite song, which he sings, is "When Words Fail." In it, said Cosker, "Shrek's trying to get the courage to ask Fiona to spend time with him – and worrying what he'll do if his words fail him. The song speaks to his humility as you see him shedding the ogre shell and becoming more human."

Cosker said the audience will also enjoy the show's energy and focus, plus the singers and dancers in the ensemble. "The choreography and costumes are awesome," he said. "People will step into a different world for two hours and have a good time."

**NEW ROBINSON GRAD** Spencer Boyd, who'll major in musical

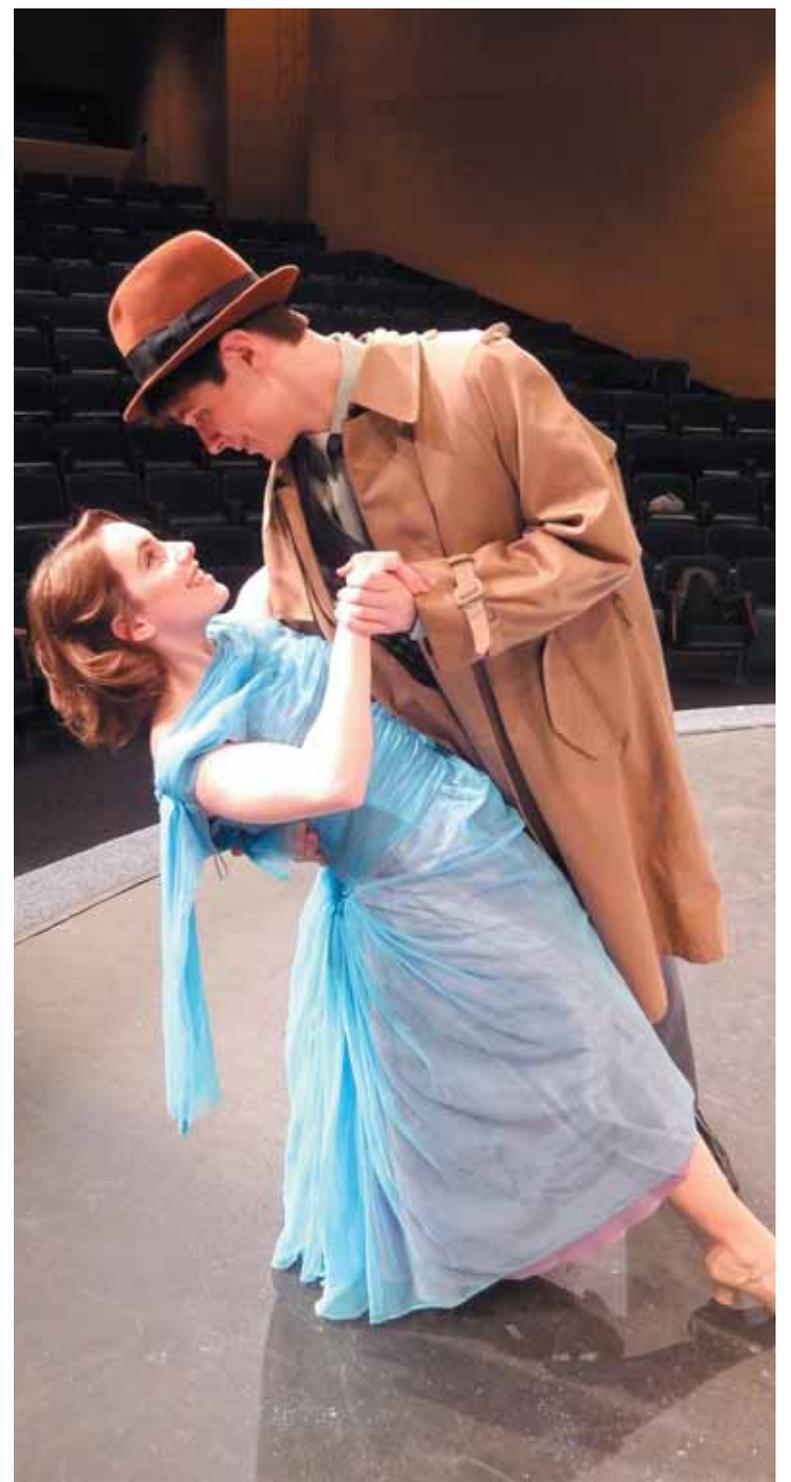
theater at JMU in the fall, portrays Lord Farquaad. "He's the Lord of Duloc, but is constantly searching for power," said Boyd. "He's over-compensating for his short height, so he wants perfection. He's banished all the fairytale creatures from his land because he only wants to rule over perfect people."

However, the only way he can become king is by marrying a princess like Fiona. "He's very proud and can be charming and charismatic," said Boyd. "But he's also mean, strict and ill-tempered – and the subject of his height is off limits."

"It's great playing him because he's just over-the-top with everything," continued Boyd. "He has a regal air of royalty, but is touchy about his height, so he's a very funny character to play." But Since Boyd is actually tall in real life, he'll be walking on his knees during the show to be short.

He especially likes the number, "What's Up, Duloc?" which he sings. "It's Farquaad's entrance song, makes fun of other Broadway numbers and is very humorous," said Boyd. Overall, he said, "This is a really funny, family-friendly show with a great message – let your freak flag fly and don't be afraid to be different. And it'll be really enjoyable to watch."

"Shrek the Musical" will be performed by The Alliance Theatre at Chantilly High, 4201 Stringfellow Road in Chantilly. Show times are: Friday, Aug. 1 and 8, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 2 and 9, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Aug. 3 and 10, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16 at [www.TheAllianceTheatre.org](http://www.TheAllianceTheatre.org) or 703-220-8101.



Spencer Boyd, sharing a fantasy dance with Maddy Ingram in Robinson's production of "Curtains," performs in "Shrek the Musical" over the next two weekends.

# ENTERTAINMENT

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.

## TUESDAY/JULY 29- AUG. 19

**The Bodzin Art Gallery "Fine Arts Open Exhibition."** Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. This annual show spotlights the many talents our own members, staff and creative community through the display of a variety of media. www.jccnvarts.org.

## FRIDAYS/AUG. 1-AUG. 29

**Braddock Nights Concert Series.** 7:30-8:30 p.m. Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. Listen to musical performances in the great outdoors. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/ for location and schedule.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 1-SUNDAY/AUG. 31

**"Sounds and Shapes" by Hadrian Mendoza.** Building W-8, Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts Center is proud to present our Featured Artists and Studio Exhibitions for the month of August. 703-584-2900 or www.workhousearts.org.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 2-TUESDAY/SEPT 2

**Glass Unpolished: Explorations of Time, Nature and Technology.** Workhouse Arts Center W-16 Vulcan Gallery, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Three artists from Virginia and Maryland use glass as a means to dig into the conceptual nature of discovery, time, fiction and experiment. 703-584-2900.

## SATURDAYS/AUG. 2-AUG. 23

**Burke Arts in the Parks.** 10 - 11 a.m. Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Entertain children, teach them the importance of protecting our natural resources, introduce them to live entertainment in an informal kid friendly atmosphere, and forge a connection between kids and parks. Call 703-323-6601.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 2- AUG. 9

**Children's Theatre: The Ice Queen.** 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. This original fairytale follows the Ice Queen's search for the love of her life. Will the Ice Queen and Jack Frost make the perfect pair and live happily ever after? Admissions: \$9-\$12. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 2-SUNDAY/AUG. 3

**Cabaret Series: Dueling Divas!** Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. Dueling Divas will battle it out with songs made famous by the Broadway stars of yesterday and today. Due to suggestive humor, this performance is intended for mature crowds. Admissions: \$25-\$30. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 2-SUNDAY/SEPT 7

**4th Annual Workhouse Clay National.** Workhouse Arts Center W-16 McGuire Woods Gallery, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. This exhibition represents the depth and breadth of contemporary ceramic

artworks being created throughout the country. 703-584-2900.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 2

**Mount Vernon Nights: Town Mountain (Bluegrass).** 7-8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. Town Mountain plays music that is a rough-hewn version of traditional bluegrass music. Picnic baskets, lawn chairs and blankets are welcome, but outside alcohol is not permitted. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

## Yoga with Jennifer.

8 a.m. Workhouse Arts Center Quad, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Enjoy free, drop-in Art of Movement Yoga. 703-584-2900.

## Children's Theater: Ice Queen.

1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center W-3 Theatre, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Our story unfolds as the sister of the mysterious Ice Queen and Charles (a Wise Man) is determined to find her true love. \$9-\$12. 703-584-2900.

## The Cellular Connection Backpack Giveaway.

12-2 p.m. The Cellular Connection, 6230-X Rolling Road, Springfield. Local families are invited to bring their children to the store to pick up a backpack filled with pencils, paper, a pencil box, folders, glue and more. 703-644-0238.

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 6

**Sprouting Success: Agriculture in the Classroom for Elementary Teachers (K-5).** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. This free session is full of hands-on lesson ideas and resources that are designed to be integrated into your daily curriculum. Light lunch provided. Registration required at 703-642-5173.

## Workhouse Farmers Market.

3-7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center Quad, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Stop by and get your fresh produce and more! 703-584-2900.

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 6-SUNDAY/SEPT 7

**Laura E. Bruce's "Up Close and Personal."** Building W-5, Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts Center is proud to present our Featured Artists and Studio Exhibitions for the month of August. 703-584-2900 or www.workhousearts.org.

## THURSDAY/AUG. 7

**Chairman Sharon Bulova's Evenings on the Ellipse Summer Concert Series.** 5:30-7:30 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center "Ellipse" (green lawn behind the building), 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. No matter what kind of music you like, bring your lawn chairs, blankets, families and dates. 703-324-7329.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 8-SUNDAY/AUG. 10

**The Laramie Project.** Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. The Laramie Project tells the story of Matthew Shepard, a gay student at the University of Wyoming, was kidnapped in 1998, tied to a fence, severely beaten, and left to die. The play based on interviews with friends, residents and others connected to the story. Admissions: \$10-\$15. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 9

**Mount Vernon Nights: Soul Crackers (Motown/Soul).** 7-8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. Soul Crackers

encompasses Memphis & Motown soul, and covers songs by artists like Sam & Dave, Average White Band, Martha & The Vandellas & Wilson Pickett among others. Picnic baskets, lawn chairs and blankets are welcome, but outside alcohol is not permitted. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

## Hula with Cherry.

8 a.m. Workhouse Arts Center Quad, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Enjoy free, drop-in Art of Movement Hula. 703-584-2900.

## Children's Theater: Ice Queen.

1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center W-3 Theatre, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Our story unfolds as the sister of the mysterious Ice Queen and Charles (a Wise Man) is determined to find her true love. \$9-\$12. 703-584-2900.

## 2nd Saturday Art Walk.

6-9 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Guests can tour seven unique studio buildings, meet artists, buy art and experience, all while enjoying light refreshments and music. 703-584-2900.

## Dog Adoption.

12-3 p.m. Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. 703-817-9444 or for more info or visit hart90.org

## SUNDAY/AUG. 10

**The Laramie Project.** 2 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center W-3 Theatre, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Come see the award-winning play based on hundreds of interviews with friends, residents and others connected to the of the Wyoming student. \$10-\$15. 703-584-2900.

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 13

**"Death and Dying During the Civil War."** 7 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Patrick McGinty, retired Naval officer and local historian, will present a Civil War Forum on the rise of the embalming industry during the War and how families attempted to confirm deaths of their loved ones when there was no trace of a soldier. 703-425-9225.

## THURSDAY/AUG. 14

**Chairman Sharon Bulova's Evenings on the Ellipse Summer Concert Series.** 5:30-7:30 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center "Ellipse" (green lawn behind the building), 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. No matter what kind of music you like, bring your lawn chairs, blankets, families and dates. 703-324-7329.

## TUESDAY/AUG. 15-THURSDAY/AUG. 24

**Legally Blonde: The Musical.** 2:30 or 7:30 p.m. depending on the day. Metropolitan School of the Arts Theatre, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Metropolitan School of the Arts Theatre of Lorton will present their version of Legally Blonde directed by Danilo Stapulo and choreographed by Jonathon Faircloth. \$20. www.metropolitanarts.org.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 16

**Mount Vernon Nights: IONA (Celtic).** 7-8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. IONA weaves together the traditional music of Scotland, Ireland, Wales, England, France, and Spain, featuring fiddle, vocals, flute, guitar and percussion. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

## Tai Chi with Daniel.

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-Werner Heisenberg

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) has worked with Fairfax County to develop and implement a Corrective Action Plan to address cleanup of petroleum hydrocarbons at the site. If you have any questions regarding the cleanup please contact:

Randy Chapman, Environmental Specialist Senior Project Manager  
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
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The annual Newcomers and Community Guides for each of our 15 communities with inside facts on what makes each community special, their secret places, the real power players, how to get involved and more.

Including the history, schools, parks, libraries, local people, elected officials, county/city offices, how decisions are made, a calendar of events and other vital community information.

Due to the popularity and long shelf life of this issue, an overrun of the publication is made to meet demand. Extra copies are delivered to select Chambers of Commerce, Realtors, Citizens' Associations and local government.

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# SPORTS

## Lake Braddock Grad Owens to Play Baseball at ECU

### Q&A: Former Bruins SS enjoys playing beach volleyball.

Jack Owens was a four-year member of the Lake Braddock varsity baseball program. As a sophomore, Owens helped the Bruins win the program's first state championship. The following year, he helped Lake Braddock capture the Northern Region title. Unfortunately for Owens, he missed part of his senior year due to a wrist injury, and the Bruins failed to qualify for the region tournament.

While Owens' high school career ended in disappointing fashion, he will continue playing baseball in college at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C. Owens recently participated in a Q&A via email with The Connection.

#### ❖ Connection: What made East Carolina the right fit for you?

Owens: Greenville is a great college sports town. The all-around school pride and attitude within the baseball team felt like a perfect fit.

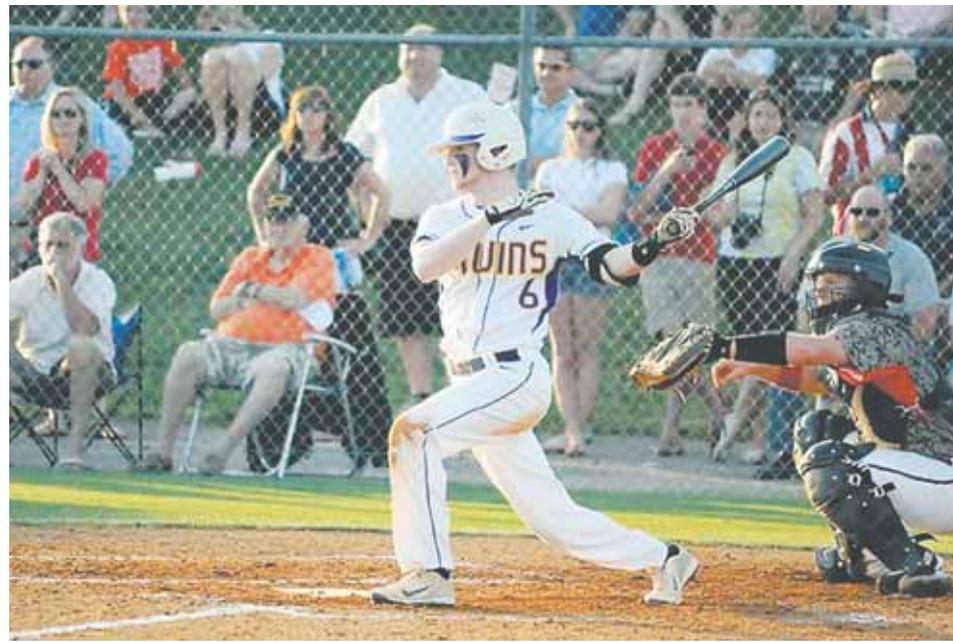
#### ❖ Connection: What is your major? What position will you play?

Owens: No major chosen yet. I'll be playing middle infield.

#### ❖ Connection: At what age did you start playing baseball? Have you always been a shortstop? When did you realize playing college baseball was a possibility for you?

Owens: I've been playing baseball since before I can remember. I've played everywhere from center field to catcher to shortstop. Shortstop felt like the right fit. I've known college was a definite possibility after freshman year when I developed and started getting attention from schools.

❖ Connection: The Lake Braddock baseball program seemed to deal with quite a



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

Former Lake Braddock shortstop Jack Owens helped the Bruins win the Northern Region championship during his junior season.

few injuries in recent years. How many times were you injured in your high school career and how much time did you miss?

Owens: I battled tendonitis in my knee for almost three years, which didn't sideline me but it was a handicap. I missed almost half of the 2014 season due to a torn ligament in my wrist. All healed now and I'm feeling 100 percent.

#### ❖ Connection: You won a state championship your sophomore year, a region title your junior year, and then the team failed to qualify for regionals your senior year. What was it like dealing with the disappointment of your senior year after all the success you experienced in the past?

Owens: The failure to win a regional or state title my senior year was tough. It was hard to comprehend that my last season in high school could end so quickly. But in my years at Lake Braddock, we made history. The 2012 Lake Braddock team will always

**“The 2012 Lake Braddock team will always be remembered as Lake Braddock's first state baseball title.”**

— Jack Owens

be remembered as Lake Braddock's first state baseball title.

#### ❖ Connection: What is your favorite memory of playing high school baseball?

Owens: I've had more good memories than I could ever remember but the thing that stands out to me most is when Coach [Jody] Rutherford was in a rare good mood and can joke around with the team. It's unbelievably funny and the team jells because of it.

#### ❖ Connection: If you could go back and change one thing about your high school athletic career, what would it be?

Owens: Not one thing. I worked my [butt] off and every hardship brought me to where I am today.

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

Owens: I'm excited to experience the freedom in college to mature and grow. The biggest thing for me though is the level of baseball I get to see. I'm excited to challenge myself.

#### ❖ Connection: Who is your favorite music artist? Why?

Owens: Zac Brown, because he has the voice of an angel.

#### ❖ Connection: What is your favorite movie?

Owens: 'The Other Guys.'

#### ❖ Connection: What is your favorite hobby outside of baseball?

Owens: Beach volleyball. My friends and I will play at Burke Lake for hours on end. We're not very good but it's still fun.

#### ❖ Connection: What location is the farthest you have traveled from the Washington, D.C. metro area?

Owens: I flew alone to Phoenix, Ariz., for the Perfect Game World Series, where the Evoshield Canes team I was a part of won, and I got my second ring.

#### ❖ Connection: Are you a pro sports fan? If so, who are your favorite teams?

Owens: I'm a big pro sports fan except for the NBA. I'm a big Steelers fan and a bigger Nationals fan.

— JON ROETMAN

### WSLL American 11/12 Team Wins District 9

The West Springfield Little League American 11/12 team went 7-1 in the Virginia District 9 tournament, playing through the loser's bracket to beat a venerable opponent, Fort Hunt Little League, twice. Their record is not the only testament to the team's grit. In the final round of the district tournament, they played games, or partial games, over five consecutive days in a win-or-go-home situation, surviving oppressive heat, rain, and lightning.

Down 4-0, the championship game on July 10 was delayed by thunder. The boys returned the following day to finish the game for the win over Fort Hunt, 6-4, forcing a second championship game. In a tight

battle, WSLL American chipped away to beat Fort Hunt 5-1.

WSLL American will represent District 9 in the state tournament, hosted by Bridgewater Little League in Bridgewater, Va. Their first games are scheduled for Friday-Sunday.

Scott Gudely is the team manager, and Mitch Morrison and Dan O'Grady are assistant coaches.

Team members are: Ben Dizon; Keita Elder; Brandon Gudely; Ethan Kemeny; Elijah Kemeny; Ryan Lipton; Will Morgan; Spencer Morrison; Jack O'Grady; Connor O'Grady-Walsh; Alec Reilly; Ethan Sogocio and Daniel Susa.

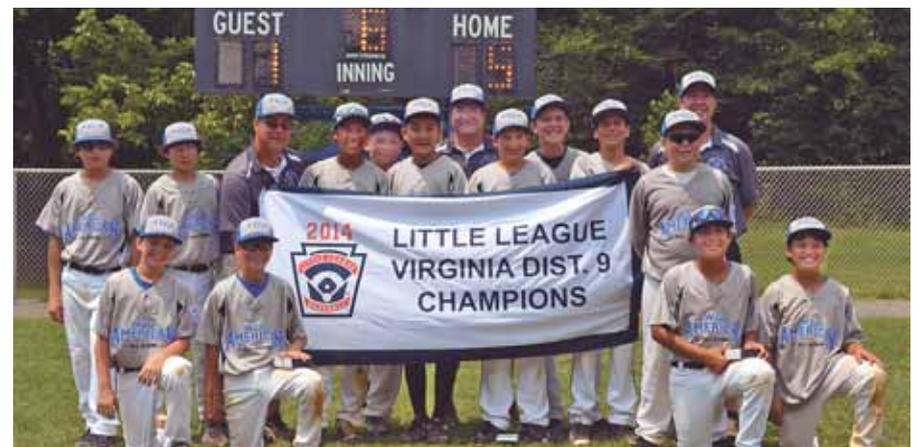


PHOTO BY STEVE LIPTON

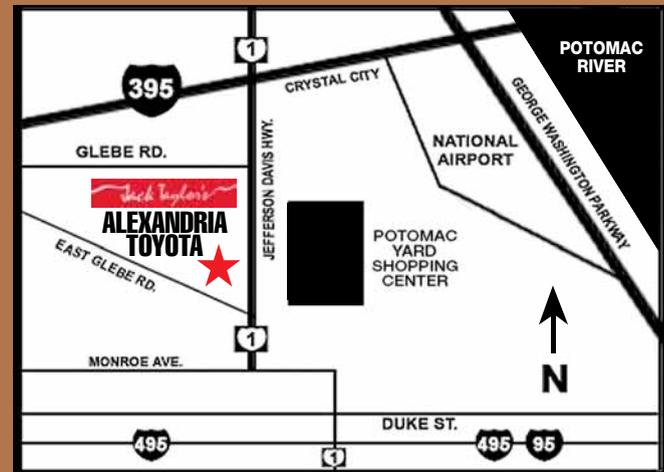
The West Springfield Little League American 11/12 all-star team won the District 9 tournament.

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Awaiting some last minute touches. Nice colonial with a gorgeous mostly fenced treed back yard, on a cul-de-sac. 3 levels, 2 car garage, nice size rooms.  
Call Kay for an update 703-217-8444



**JON SAMPSON**  
[jon.sampson@longandfooster.com](mailto:jon.sampson@longandfooster.com)  
[jonsampsonrealtor.com](http://jonsampsonrealtor.com)  
703-307-4357



**UNDER CONTRACT**  
Terrific End Unit Town House in Parkside at Dulles  
1,500 sq ft in this 3 BR/3 BA home  
**\$316,000**



**Cheryl Pryor**  
REALTOR® [ckpryor@msn.com](mailto:ckpryor@msn.com)  
703-801-9985  
**NEW LISTING!**  
**Vacation at Home!**  
Enjoy 1-Level Living in this spacious Rambler with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood floors & sunroom. Fenced backyard with large deck and in-ground pool. Convenient to Old Town, Huntington Metro, schools & military/government installations.  
Call Cheryl Today for More Information on this Outstanding Home



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



**Fairfax \$849,900**  
Beautiful Brecon Ridge Community  
40,200 Sq Ft Lot, Gourmet Kitchen, 3 Finished levels  
For Appt: Call Sheila 703-503-1895



**Mary Hovland**  
703-946-1775  
**Cathy DeLoach**  
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Your REALTORS®  
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**BARBARA NOWAK & GERRY STAUDTE**  
"My Virginia Home Team"  
703-473-1803, 703-309-8948  
[gerry.staudte@longandfooster.com](mailto:gerry.staudte@longandfooster.com)  
[www.MyVirginiaHomeTeam.com](http://www.MyVirginiaHomeTeam.com)



**Fairfax \$660,000**  
Beautifully updated 4 BR/3.5 BA center hall Colonial in Kings Park West! Great floor plan - three finished levels - featuring eat-in kitchen with enhanced cabinetry, granite counters & huge pantry adjacent to family room. Hardwoods on ML & new carpet on UL. All baths are nicely updated. Fabulous LL den & rec room offering kitchenette/bar area for entertaining family & friends. Convenient to VRE, Metrobus, GMU & top-rated schools!



**UNDER CONTRACT IN 4 DAYS**  
**Manassas \$265,000**  
Better than New, Affordable, Too!  
This 3 level, 4 BR, 3.5 BA TH has been renovated from the roof, through granite & SS appliances in the kitchen and right down to the fireplace surround in the recreation room on the LL. Backs to common area. Call Barbara at 703-473-1803 or Gerry at 703-309-8948.



**Richard Esposito**  
703-503-4035  
[Richard@LNF.com](mailto:Richard@LNF.com)  
Service is the difference I provide



**NEW LISTING**  
**Clifton \$399,000**  
Three finished level town home in Clifton. 2 master suites, stainless steel appliances in kitchen, separate dining room and living room w/gas fireplace. A commuter's dream location.

**ELLIE WESTER**  
703-503-1880  
L&F Founder's Club  
Lifetime NVAR Top Producer  
Life Member, NVAR Million Dollar Sales Club  
[ellie.wester@longandfooster.com](mailto:ellie.wester@longandfooster.com)



**UNDER CONTRACT**  
**Fairfax \$699,850**  
**Ridges of Glendilough**  
Updated and upgraded on a beautiful lot bordering on community common ground and Popes Head Creek. Dazzling kitchen with Granite and stainless and custom cabinets. There is so much more in this 3-level home on a 1/2 acre. Woodson HS.

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