

Burke CONNECTION

From left are sisters Angelica and Esther Medina with colorful tomatoes and basil at the Westmoreland Produce stand. The farmers market at the Government Center is a hit with the customers.

'It's Nice to Shop Outdoors'

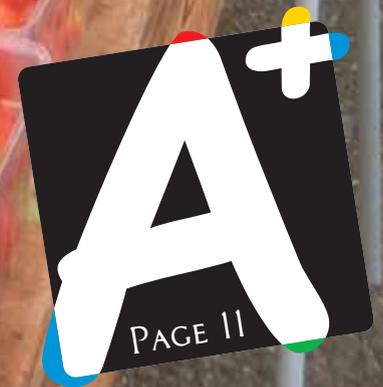
NEWS, PAGE 8

FCPS Inducts 1,200 New Teachers

NEWS, PAGE 3

New Day in Old Dominion

NEWS, PAGE 2



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

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

New Day in Old Dominion

Gay couples eagerly anticipate same-sex marriage in Virginia.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Dwayne and Rodney Byrum will be at the Fairfax County Court house long before it opens this Thursday on a civic mission decades in the making — to become one of the first same-sex couples to receive a marriage license in Virginia. The couple has already been married on reality television, appearing in the pilot episode of the TLC show “Wedding Island.” The marriage took place on Dec. 12, 2012 at 12:12 p.m. in Vieques, Puerto Rico.

That was reality television. This week, the marriage license will become a real-life reality.

“We’re bouncing off the walls happy,” said Dwayne Byrum, a native of Lumberton, N.C., who lives in Groveton. “It’s come along a lot faster than we ever dreamed than it would.”

Just a few short years ago, voters in Virginia approved a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. Since that time, a dramatic shift has happened as public opinion polls have flipped. That has allowed elected officials more latitude to take actions that would have been unthinkable a few short years ago. Democratic Attorney General Mark Herring, for example, voted in favor of the amendment as a member of the General Assembly. But now that he’s the commonwealth’s chief law-enforcement officer, he says it’s unconstitutional. Now the Virginia courts have struck down that law, and same-sex marriage could become legal in the commonwealth as early as this week unless the U.S. Supreme Court intervenes.

“This is especially exciting because Virginia had to be dragged kicking and scream-



Liane Rozzell, left, and Linda Kaufman exchange wedding vows in a 2010 District of Columbia service.

ing into marriage equality for races,” said Liane Rozzell, an Arlington resident whose D.C. marriage to her longtime partner could become legal this week. “So I think it’s really exciting to have Virginia be one of the states where marriage equality will be happening and it won’t be the last one.”

LAST WEEK, the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals declined to issue a stay of its ruling affirming that Virginia’s marriage ban is unconstitutional. Unless the U.S. Supreme Court issues its own stay, which it has done in nearly identical pending cases, Virginia’s marriage ban will end on Aug. 20. In a written statement outlining his action, the attorney general said he believes the case will prove compelling for the court because of the “stringent, discriminatory nature of Virginia’s marriage ban.” He also drew attention to Virginia’s previous ban on inter-

racial marriage, a legal precedent known as the Loving case.

“Virginia got that case wrong,” said Herring. “Now we have a chance to get it right and to help extend to all Americans the right to marry the person they love.”

Civil rights advocates across the commonwealth cheered the attorney general’s decision.

“There is no doubt that Virginia is ready for the freedom to marry,” said James Parrish, executive director of Equality Virginia in a written statement. “Marriage validates the commitment couples make to one another and, if the Supreme Court doesn’t intervene, achieving marriage equality in Virginia will be a tremendous step forward.”

FOR THOSE who have been fighting for marriage equality for years, recent events seem like a headlong rush into the future.

“We’re bouncing off the walls happy. It’s come along a lot faster than we ever dreamed than it would.”

— Dwayne Byrum

Back in 2006, many advocates for civil rights believed they could beat back the push toward adding a new amendment to the Virginia Constitution excluding a gays and lesbians from the institution of marriage. But advocates for the Marshall-Newman amendment won a decisive victory, winning with 57 percent of the vote.

“It was shocking,” a native of the Philippines who has lived with his partner in Ballston since 2001 and campaigned against the amendment. “I was surprised very much at how decisive than I thought it was going to be.”

Herring is the first state attorney general to argue successfully at the federal district and appeals levels that a state marriage ban should be struck down.

Virginia had supported a previous request for a stay because of the uncertainty that families could face if marriages proceed in Virginia and neighboring states and the Supreme Court ultimately rules against marriage equality.

“Throughout this process, we have fought for the principle of equality, moving the case forward in a swift and orderly way,” said Herring. “That is why I have asked the Supreme Court to review the case to quickly and definitively resolve the issue for the Commonwealth and all the states.”

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Wakefield Senior Center in Annandale needs Spanish-speaking volunteers to assist participants Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Sully Senior Center in Chantilly needs a certified personal trainer, preferably with experience working with older adults, for one hour, twice a week. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Wakefield Senior Center in Annandale needs an art instructor, who can teach a variety of mediums, and a garden group leader. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Kingstowne Senior Center in Alexandria needs an experienced boater to share the ins and outs of boating. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Hollin Hall Senior Center in Alexandria needs a DJ to provide a wide array of music from ballroom to line dancing, Wednesdays 2-4 p.m. and a ballroom dance instructor to teach a basic class on Thursday afternoons. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Adult Day Health Care Centers need marketing assistants to distribute brochures to health care providers. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Bailey’s Senior Center in Falls Church needs office assistance with the front desk and data entry, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Lewinsville Senior Center in McLean needs a certified volunteer Zumba Instructor to teach a class on Friday afternoons. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Meals on Wheels needs drivers in Lorton, Clifton, Franconia, McLean and Falls Church between the hours of 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on Mon-

day, Wednesday and Friday. Substitute drivers needed throughout the county. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Korean Meals on Wheels needs Korean speaking volunteers to deliver meals 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the Centreville, Reston area. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

❖Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor’s appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Author of “Conscious Classroom Management” Rick Smith speaks to new teachers on the first day of the FCPS Great Beginnings induction program.

FCPS Inducts 1,200 New Teachers

“Great Beginnings” program at South County High School prepares new and transferring teachers for their first week.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

As summer vacation in Fairfax County winds down, the hallways and classrooms at South County High school are already buzzing. Beginning Aug. 18, roughly 1,200 new and returning teachers — as well as those new to the school system — took part in a week-long induction program called “Great Beginnings: The Next Generation.”

The summer institute — now in its 15th year and sponsored for the sixth year by

the Apple Federal Credit Union Education Foundation — is a kickoff for the year-round support offered to new teachers by the FCPS office of professional practice and instructional services. Fairfax resident Richard Culp is one of the educational specialists in that outfit, who says that getting teachers off on the right foot and establishing a support network is critical to their success. And retaining them as teachers.

“Your first year of teaching is mostly about survival,” Culp said. Great Beginnings, which includes full days of keynote speak

SEE NEW TEACHERS, PAGE 4



New teachers practice role-playing exercises during the keynote speech of Rick Smith at South County High School.

VIEWPOINTS

What is the biggest challenge you face going into this year and what do you hope to gain from Great Beginnings?

Elizabeth Joyce, Fairfax resident, teacher at Rachel Carson Middle School

“I was teaching with a mentor last year, and it was challenging getting familiar with what all the rules and procedures need to be. Last year my responsibility was preparing lessons, but this year I have to do everything. I’m interested to see how it goes. The talk yesterday gave me a lot of great strategies. I’ll take anything I can get.”



Grace Masumoto, Centreville resident, teacher at Union Mill Elementary School

“The first few weeks: getting organized, on a routine right away. This week I’m looking to get support through our coaches, and hear things that have worked well in their classrooms.”



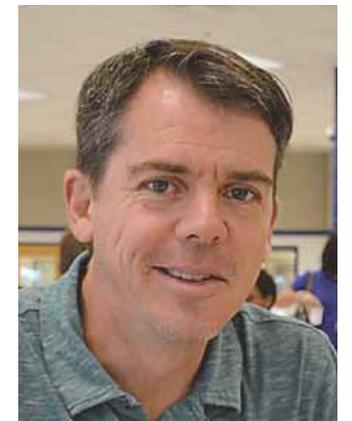
Haile Russom, Fairfax resident, teacher at J. E. B. Stuart High School

“It’s knowing all the kids’ names. Last year I had about 80 students; this year it will be about 160. Last year I got students who clicked with me to help me. Also I didn’t have my own classroom, so I didn’t know how I should tackle that. Yesterday they gave us suggestions on how to decorate. I want to include pictures all the kids can relate to, involving math, society. One would be Robin Williams — someone you can look up to. He’s one of the reasons I’ve worked so hard, and I’ll use him to communicate that whatever you’re going through, I’m here.”



Alejandro Gomez, Arlington resident, teacher at Franklin Sherman Elementary School

“I teach Spanish, and it’s challenging to incorporate technology into my class. It’s coming up with something online the kids will be interested in and they can practice at home. If you practice, practice, practice, you’ll get a lot better. I’ve taught over five years but this is my first in Fairfax County Public Schools. This week, I’m networking, meeting new hires and stepping back and seeing how things work again.”



PHOTOS BY
TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

SEE VIEWPOINTS, PAGE 4



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

New and returning teachers browse vendor tables and network with each other at South County High School.

New Teachers Learn Class Management Skills

FROM PAGE 3

ers, subject- or grade level-based breakout sessions called “cohorts” and designated time for networking, is all about establishing order early.

“Right now,” Culp continued, “what’s on their mind is ‘What is my classroom going to look like, where are my resources, how am I going to set up routines and procedures for classroom management?’ That’s what we focus on this whole week, and prepare them for what exactly they’re going to do when they meet those kids that first Tuesday after Labor Day.”

FOR GREAT BEGINNINGS 2014, the host venue changed to South County after having been held at Hayfield Secondary School for several years. Also new this year, organizers reached out to second- and third-year teachers, as well as providing a pilot for teachers in West Potomac and Mount Vernon High School pyramids. Keynote speakers included FCPS at large board member Ilryong Moon, 2013 Virginia Teacher of the Year Melissa Porfirio and “Conscious Classroom Management” author Rick Smith.

Smith’s talk featured numerous strategies

for dealing with stressful classroom situations, with interactive role-play opportunities for teachers to try out tools like “Soft Eyes.”

Mentorship is a statewide requirement from the Virginia Department of Education, and in Fairfax County, that includes one-on-one support, after-school classes and reaching out to non-classroom employees like occupational therapists and speech and language pathologists. According to Culp and director of Pre-K through 12 professional learning and school support Kathleen Walts, teacher development and retention are two major challenges and areas of focus. “Statistics show that 50 percent of the new teachers in classrooms today will not still be teaching in five years,” said Culp, “and our goal is to make sure that Fairfax County isn’t part of that.” “It’s really important for us to continue the teacher’s learning,” added Walts, a Manassas resident, “so that we can ensure that they’re not only high quality in their first year, but they continue to learn and grow as teachers, and continue to impact our students across the board.”

CURRENTLY, Fairfax County sits above the national average, with a 93 percent reten-

tion rate of teachers after their first year. Walts attributes that success in part to the relationships teachers of various experience levels and schools form with one another during the summer institute.

“In those relationships they’re learning with coaches,” said Walts. “And I think that part of it alone is significant in their development. They will spend time for the entire year with those cohorts, and continue to learn and grow together as a group.”

“It’s not part of the teachers’ evaluation process,” said Culp. “We’re there to support them. They feel free to speak to their coaches, their mentor about things that are challenging them, and know that that conversation isn’t going to go beyond.”

According to Culp and Walts, the nearly 1,200 fresh faces are all enthusiastic and eager to start molding minds. Their job is to keep them that way for weeks, months and years to come.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

FROM PAGE 3

Kristine Elsener, Falls Church resident, teacher at Robert E. Lee High School, second-year math cohort coach

“This week we’re talking about Fairfax County procedures and policies for teachers in their first week of school. The sooner they establish rules, the more easily kids will follow; the longer it takes, the harder it is to get them in line. And then like our speaker Rick Smith said, procedures are the train tracks, content is the train. And especially in high school: We take for granted that they’re older, but they still need to be shown procedures — taking a test, handing in homework. And it’s not so much rules as establishing how the class is going to be run. When I went through this program, I really enjoyed the keynote talks and brainstorming with other teachers about how to approach difficult situations.”



Clayton Allen, Waldorf, Md. resident, teacher at Lake Braddock Secondary School and Army Phlebotomist at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital

“I’m pretty organized, so the challenge for me is just knowing the acronyms and lingo of how things work. I have two other orchestra directors with me, and one who’s been around a little longer is showing me the ropes. I taught orchestra in the Tampa, Fla. area for five years before joining the Army, so it’s getting back in the swing of things. This week, I’ll take all the teaching helpful hints I can get. My experience here has been very positive; everyone seems so eager and willing to network. We’re trying to pair up and get stuff going with other programs. And the keynote speakers are very inspirational, making me remember how much I like rewarding and helping students.”



— TIM PETERSON



Richard Culp is an education specialist with FCPS professional practice and instructional services.

SCHOOL 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.

Jacob Augelli, an eighth grade student at Robinson Secondary, finished in fourth place overall in the 2014 United States Geography Olympiad, junior varsity division. The competition consisted of two parts: a written exam and a quiz bowl tournament; Augelli placed

sixth in the exam and tied for seventh in the quiz bowl tournament; overall scores were compiled by averaging each competitor’s ranking for each part. Over 70 junior varsity students from as far away as Guam competed in the written exam and in a preliminary quiz bowl round, while those with high scores advanced to the final quiz bowl round.

Questions ranged in difficulty from naming countries by their capital to identifying obscure islets

in the North Atlantic. The top four varsity students earned the right to represent the USA at the 2014 International Geography Olympiad in Krakow, Poland, this summer.

The Geography Olympiad was sponsored by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and HISTORY, commonly known as the History Channel, which also sponsors the National History Bee and Bowl. For more information on the competition, please visit

www.geographyolympiad.com.

The Citadel has recognized **Cadet Martin Krawczak** of Springfield on the school’s dean’s list for his academic achievement during the spring semester.

Recognition on the South Carolina military school’s dean’s list is reserved for students who were registered for 12 or more semester hours and received a grade point average of 3.2 or higher with no grade below a C for the previ-

ous semester’s work.

Yihan Zhou, Fairfax, earned a place on the Deans Honor Roll at Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kan., for the spring 2014 semester. Zhou is a junior majoring in general studies.

To be eligible, students must have enrolled in 12 or more credit hours and have a minimum grade point average of 3.60 for the semester.

Environmental Leader Joins NOVA Parks Board

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NOVA Parks) has welcomed Laura Grape to its Board. Grape will replace Jean Packard, who recently retired from the Board after 24 years of service.

Recently, Grape served as a facilitator on a workshop focused on safety on the W&OD Trail. She's currently the Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, and has worked with the University of Virginia Institute for Environmental Negotiation, Northern Virginia Regional Commission and Fairfax County Government.

"Succeeding Jean Packard on the Park Board is quite an honor. I look forward to carrying the torch with the other Board members in support of the Authority's grand vision," Grape said. "The regional park network is a refuge for me and my family, as it likely is for millions of other Northern Virginians, who value the parks as part of their community fabric. They are the hardened and soft paths, the forests, the waterparks, the boat launches, the holiday light show, the context for historic resources and the backdrops for family celebrations and memories. I'm thrilled to be one of Fairfax County's representatives and appreciate the Board of Supervisors' confidence in my abilities and perspective."

The appointment comes from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and Grape was nominated by Sharon Bulova, the Chairman.

"I was very pleased to nominate Laura Grape with



Laura Grape

her great environmental credentials," Bulova noted. "She will be carrying on the great legacy of promoting parks and the environment that Jean Packard has been so good at on the NOVA Parks Board."

The NOVA Parks Board consists of two appointed members from each of NOVA Parks six jurisdictions – the Cities of Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax, as well the Counties of Arlington,

Loudoun and Fairfax. Stella Koch, who is also the Board's Vice Chair, is Fairfax County's other representative.

"I have known Laura for almost a decade now through her previous work with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission on streams and the environment," Koch said. "We are fortunate to have such a skilled and knowledgeable addition to our Board." "We greatly value our relationship with Fairfax County and we appreciate the Board of Supervisors putting forward such an excellent representative like Laura," added Board Chairman Brian Knapp, a representative from the City of Fairfax.

NOVA Parks is a regional system of 27 destination parks that encompass over 11,000 acres and spans three Counties and three Cities. The system includes five water parks, three golf courses, two family campgrounds, six marinas, five historic parks, three reception and event venues, over 100 miles of trails including the W&OD Trail, and much more. For more information on the NOVA Parks system visit www.novaparks.com

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OPINION

Accountability for Police in Northern Virginia

There is more transparency in the police shooting in Ferguson last week than in police shootings in Northern Virginia.

This is not Ferguson, and tanks do not roll down the streets of Northern Virginia driven by police officers pointing sniper rifles at residents. But police departments here are engaged in serious and significant abuse of power. This is the perfect moment to do something about it.

The first paragraph of Virginia Freedom of Information Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1968, states that all public records “shall be presumed open.” But the legislation includes an exception that allows police to withhold “complaints, memoranda, correspondence, case files or reports, witness statements and evidence.”

Police officials in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria have adopted what they call a “blanket” approach to using their exemption. That

means they have decided to withhold any document they can without any analysis of whether they should, whether the case is open or closed, whether they are about a “police-involved shooting” or information requested by a family about a homicide victim.

This isn’t about race; this is about abuse of power. This is about lack of accountability and denying the public access to information that must be made public.

Consider:

Police shot and killed 46-year-old John Geer standing unarmed in the doorway of his home on Pebble Brook Court in Springfield on Aug. 29, 2013. Unlike in the case in Ferguson last week, the officer who shot him remains unnamed, and we have no official explanation of what happened or why.

In December, 2008, Fairfax County police officers chased 19-year-old Hailu Brook across the county line into Arlington and shot him dead. Brook, a senior at Yorktown High School, had reportedly robbed a BB&T in McLean. The autopsy report, one of the few documents his parents were able to obtain, shows that the teen was shot 20-25 times by three officers with large caliber handguns. Baffled by what happened to their son, the parents sought access to police reports and documents, but even now that the case is closed, their requests have been denied.

Other police-involved shootings include the November 2013 death of James Bryant, 28, a

resident at the Eleanor Kennedy homeless shelter in Mount Vernon, who assaulted other residents at the shelter and then police when they arrived, wrestling away the baton of one police officer; David Masters, an unarmed man with mental illness who was shot and killed by police in 2009 on Route 1 in Mount Vernon; there are many other examples.

Even for family members of crime victims, documents are routinely withheld by police agencies. One example is the 2009 murder of 19-year-old Kossi Djossou, who was shot at his workplace in Alexandria. After the murder, the Djossou family tried to find out what had happened, but their repeated attempts to get documents in the cases were denied. “How can something happen to your son, and you’re never going to know the facts?” asked Geoffrey Josseau.

Police wield power unlike any other entity — the power to detain and question, the power to arrest, the power to respond with force when necessary, the power to use deadly force.

With that power, comes responsibility — the responsibility to operate openly and with transparency, the responsibility to make available the greatest possible amount of information, especially the responsibility to provide the public with a full picture of what happened when something goes wrong.

It’s time for a change.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Good Old Times

To the Editor:
I really enjoyed Marilyn Campbell’s article about “Keeping School Clutter Under Control” [Connection, Aug. 13-19, 2014], which contains great advice about maintaining a tidy environment in the home relating to school activities and assignments. But I was a bit misled, thinking the local schools were finally putting an end

to clutter in the classroom. I went to elementary school from 1948 - 1956 in Chicago when a classroom consisted of 40 desks in rows and columns, a globe, a flag, and a blackboard. My First Grade class photo even shows 20 extra chairs around the back of the room for 20 more students who weren’t gifted with a regular desk. That was when our students were ranked number 1 in the world, dropping to number 2 when the

USSR launched Sputnik. I’ve only visited a few classrooms recently, but I was shocked by the amount of distracting clutter in each one. Desks aren’t in rows and columns, and some rooms didn’t even have desks. One of my nephews in Chicago has to sit face to face with a classmate. I suggested that he wear a bag over his head. At a class function in Fairfax County, the classroom had so much clutter most visitors couldn’t even pass

through on a tour. Supplies for every activity, project and lesson were strewn around the room or hanging on a wall much like an antique shop. I’m not sure when this trend got started nor the rationale behind it, but considering the ranking of our students in the world today, it might be time to go back to standards that existed when the U.S. was number 1.

Gene Phillip
Great Falls

Opposing Medicare Expansion

To the Editor:
Four years ago, a practical doctor said something like this: “So let me get this straight. We’re going to be gifted with a healthcare plan we are forced to purchase, and fined if we don’t, which purportedly covers at least 10 million more people, without adding a single new doctor, but provides for 16,000 new IRS agents, written by a committee whose chairman says he doesn’t understand it, passed by a Congress that didn’t read it (but exempted themselves from it), supported by a government which has already bankrupted Social Security and Medicare, all financed by a country that’s broke. So what the “blank” could possibly go wrong?”

Virginians are fortunate that

Medicaid Expansion was defeated in our state. The Fed’s promises of temporary bailouts are merely band-aids, inadequate to the task of repairing dysfunctional “business models” such as Medicaid, Medicare, Obamacare, and the Veterans Administration health care. Their inherent fraud, waste, and corruption end up destroying the very goals they aim to achieve; namely: quality, affordable, health care! Most doctors even refuse to accept new Medicaid patients anymore. They can’t afford to because Medicaid does not reimburse enough to cover their costs. This begs the question: Why would we want to expand a system that would put doctors out of business?

Last week, the California Insurance Commissioner, a Kaiser Fam-

ily Foundation survey, and a Government Accountability Report all reported cost increases, continued failures in the Healthcare.gov exchanges, and billions more in subsidies needed to prevent collapse. So where will the money come from to pay for the doctors, nurses, administrators, hospitals, clinics, contractors, pharmaceuticals, medical schools, research and development, retirement plans, supplies and suppliers, utilities, and overhead? If it’s all “free”, then who will pay for it? “Free” health care is unsustainable because people don’t make responsible decisions when something is free. Furthermore: When government pays our bill, then we lose our freedom because they get to tell us what to do. That’s a dangerous trade-off, because it leads to productive people being enslaved by

an insatiable government that promises to take care of all the world’s unproductive people. Poverty can only be cured by making people more productive, not by eroding their work ethic and creating a culture of dependency.

“Free” Care does not result in Health Care. It results in more layers of expensive bureaucracy that must be created (and paid for by us) in order to administer and enforce largely irrelevant regulations. This increases costs and destroys the doctor-patient relationship. Doctors should be accountable to patients, not bureaucrats. America’s health care system needs market-based solutions such as choice (that meets patient, not government, needs), portability, and tort reform.

Elinor Bartlett
Vienna

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Robinson Grad Never Far from Roots

Hometown entrepreneur set to open business in Fairfax.

BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO
THE CONNECTION

Baher Elgibali, 31, of Kingstowne, is no stranger to stress, having worked in real estate and construction for almost 10 years.

A former real estate specialist at Debbie Dogrul Associates - a Fairfax real estate company - Elgibali learned about the extreme sides of stress and found that massage was a way to relieve it.

A star basketball player during high school at Robinson Secondary School, he played sports and tried other methods to combat stress but his efforts were not enough. Massage was the one way he found to be effective and thought that maybe he was not the only who felt this way.

After conducting research and taking management classes online, he found that there was a dearth of affordable, high-end massage studios in Northern Virginia, specifically in Fairfax.

Elgibali is set to open a Revive Massage studio this winter. The site is under construction at 4290 Chain Bridge Road in Fairfax, and he is in the process of interviewing for staff.

He said that he wanted to bring in "quality therapists" and provide a client-first focus with affordable prices.

Elgibali's entrepreneurial spirit started early. A child of a Korean mother and an Egyptian father, he grew up in Burke and once went around his neighborhood three times selling chocolates for fundraising. "I'd get rejected but that didn't stop me. Finally neighbors would ask, 'If I buy chocolate would you go away?' I'd tell them to buy two," he said.

Robb Wittman, a former colleague, said that Elgibali "always had his hand into something. 'He was always moving...always looking for a business opportunity,'" said Wittman.

While attending college at James Madison University, Elgibali owned a University Painters franchise that operated in Fairfax, which he ran and managed, driving down from Harrisonburg every weekend.

The money he made painting supplemented his college expenses. "I paid off my student



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Local businessman Baher Elgibali, of Kingstowne, is set to open a Revive Massage studio this winter in Fairfax.



PHOTO BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO/THE CONNECTION

The site of Revive Massage in Fairfax will open at 4290 Chain Bridge Road in Winter 2014.

loans in two years," he said.

He moved on to real estate in 2007, during the housing crisis. After four months of no income and while still a trainee, he convinced a client looking to rent to buy a house instead, something he was not expected to do. Wittman said that Elgibali became the best buyer specialist at Debbie Dogrul Associates.

After his tenure at Debbie Dogrul's, he gathered a group of investors for a business venture flipping property. They renovated and sold over 40 properties in Fairfax and in Washington, D.C.

"He's always looking for a dif-

ferent approach...that didn't have to be within four walls of an office," said Logan Manning, Elgibali's childhood and best friend.

His entrepreneurship was solidified at around 18 years old when his mother, Myeonghee Elgibali, was let go from Exxon Mobil after 20 years of employment and a few years from being eligible for pension.

"I don't ever want to work for somebody if I don't have some say in my future," he said. "I think my mom is proud that I was confident enough to believe I could succeed regardless of the risks I am taking."



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NEWS

“This market helps local farmers, the quality is excellent, you get fresh produce and it helps the local businesses.”

— Steve Adams of Fairfax

PHOTOS BY
BONNIE HOBBS/
THE CONNECTION



(From left) are Sarah Keally and Whitney Kazragis with their produce purchases.



(From left) Duan Shankle and Bobane Dogomangue hold the lobster rolls they got from the food truck.



Holding their purchases are (from left) Jan Reimer and her daughter Katelyn, a 2013 Westfield High grad.



Tanya Logan, of Soul Cakes by Tanya, holding her red-velvet cupcake and peach trifle.



June McMullen of Nitro's Creamery holds a cup of vanilla ice cream that she made on site in minutes.

‘It’s Nice to Shop Outdoors’

Farmers Market at Government Center is a hit with the customers.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Whether customers are looking for juicy peaches, ripe tomatoes, coconut cupcakes or homemade ice cream, they'll find all those things and more at the farmers market at the Fairfax County Government Center.

Run by the county, it's held each Thursday, 3-7 p.m., in the parking lot of 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fair Oaks. It runs through Oct. 30 and often, there's a food truck, too, with the cuisine varying from week to week.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova wanted a market here and this is its first year in this location. And the reception has been welcoming.

During a recent market, Duan Shankle got two lobster rolls from the food truck and bread from Great Harvest Bread Co. “It's great that the market's here and that they have fresh produce,” she said. “And it's convenient for the Government Center employees.”

Co-worker Bobane Dogomangue agreed. That day she purchased some cheddar-garlic bread, corn and other vegetables. “I think the market's a wonderful idea,” she said. “It gives us access to fresh food that's healthy and lets us support the local farmers. It's important to give them the ability to continue.”

SISTERS ANGELICA AND ESTHER MEDINA helped customers at the Westmoreland Produce stand. They sold a colorful array of cherry and heirloom tomatoes, fresh basil, green beans and pole beans, plus eggplant, green peppers, cucumbers, squash and zucchini.

Among their customers was Fairfax's Steve



Nazy Dabestani picks out peaches at the Toigo Orchards stand.

Adams, who bought heirloom tomatoes and fresh basil from them. “Summer tomatoes are my favorite thing,” he said. “I'm going to make caprese stacks with them and will

also top some veggie burgers with the tomatoes.”

Since Adams, too, works at the Government Center, he called the farmers market

“super convenient” because he stops by on his way home. “I might also get some fresh peaches today,” he said. “This market helps local farmers, the quality is excellent, you get fresh produce and it helps the local businesses.”

Peggy McDonald of Fair Oaks said the farmers market brought back happy memories of her childhood. “My sister and I grew up with a garden in Loudoun County, and my mother and grandmother would can and freeze fresh vegetables,” said McDonald.

At the market, she purchased cheddar-garlic bread and said Three Way Farm had “fresh and nice-looking” produce. “I think this market's wonderful because it's so close to home and the food is so fresh,” she added. “More people should come to it. Last time I came, I got the juiciest peaches ever from Toigo Orchards and made a cobbler – and I bought more peaches today.”

Her husband Tom said they also got dog treats from Great Harvest Bread, and her sister, Linda Fogle of Chantilly's Brookfield community, was also glad they went to the market. “I come here to support the small farmers,” she said. “I got tomatoes, corn, cantaloupe and peaches. Having had my own garden for many years, I know how much work goes into it and how wonderful everything tastes when it's fresh.”

Fair Lakes resident Jan Reimer was there for her second time and purchased corn, tomatoes, peaches, zucchini and cucumbers. “Everything looked really good,” she said. “I also got a salted-caramel cupcake from Soul Cakes by Tanya. Last week, I had a mixed-berry trifle from her and it was very good. I come to the farmers market because the vegetables can't be beat and it's nice to shop outdoors here and meet all the different vendors.”

At the Soul Cakes by Tanya stand, vendor Tanya Logan offered a tempting array of scratch-made cakes, cupcakes, pastries and cookies. Flavors included coconut, red velvet and carrot cakes, plus chocolate, vanilla

and salted-caramel cupcakes.

“The lemon pound cake is our signature cake,” said Logan. “And one of our best sellers here is a trifle in a Mason jar. It's made out of lemon pound cake, peaches from the farmers, whipped cream and spice.”

ON THE WHOLE, she said, “Business is good. The market is catching on – not just to the Government Center employees, but also to people from the neighborhoods, so that's really helpful. People continue to rotate through to check it out.”

Other non-produce vendors include Nitro's Creamery and Kylie's Pop Shop. At Nitro's, owner June McMullen uses liquid nitrogen to make quick and creamy, homemade ice cream on the spot. Favorite flavors are vanilla and Nutella chocolate but, on any given day, could also include blueberry, mango or strawberry.

At Kylie's, owner Kylie Carey offers whimsical cake pops in flavors such as red velvet, dark chocolate, orange Dreamsicle, vanilla, lemon, chocolate chip and Heath bar. Cost is \$3 each, \$5 for two or \$25 for a dozen.

Customer Joel Bittorf was buying grass-fed meat from The Lamb's Quarter, plus cantaloupe, squash and eggplant from Three Way Farm. “The market has grown by word of mouth,” he said. “And people like the different food trucks, too. One week, there was a chicken-and-waffle truck, and last week's truck had Korean food and kimchi hot dogs.”

As for the market, he said, “It's a good idea; it lets people buy local and helps the farmers. And it allows people to see where their food comes from.”

Whitney Kazragis of Fair Lakes also had fun buying cantaloupe, zucchini and peaches. “Now that the weather's better, I'll come here more often,” she said. “I think it's really important to support Virginia agriculture and the location's great. Having the market weekly, at a regular time and a central location, is important; and it'll be really neat to watch it grow.”

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 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.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

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 8:30 and 10 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.

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway in Springfield, supports a Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) program on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Meetings are 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the church. All mothers and children are welcome. The program provides mothers an opportunity to get to know other mothers through discussions and craft activities. Register. 703-451-5320.

JCCNV Mother's Circle program, for women who are not Jewish but are raising Jewish children. Free education in Jewish rituals, practices and values, while respecting the participant's choice to retain her own religious identity. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax. Contact Laurie Albert,

703-537-3064 or email LaurieA@jccnv.org.

Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria, offers traditional Sunday church services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. plus Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Childcare is available 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

There will be a Terry Hall Concert on Saturday, April 14 at 4 p.m. with old spirituals, classic hymns, southern gospel favorites and more. 703-971-5151 or admin@franconiaumc.org or www.franconiaumc.org.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is for people interested in becoming Catholic or learning about the Catholic Church. A group meets at 7:30 p.m. on July 6 and 20 at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. A group will begin meeting every Wednesday starting September. Sessions are in the Old Parish Hall. All are welcome. Contact Carolyn Smith at 703-273-5369 or carolynsmith.stleos@gmail.com.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. www.jssa.org/growth-learning.

Metropolitan Community Church of Northern Virginia, 10383 Democracy Lane in Fairfax, presents worship services on Sundays at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. and choir practice (open to all) on Tuesdays at 7:15 p.m. www.mccnova.com or 703-691-0930.

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.

THURSDAY/AUG. 21-SATURDAY/OCT 4

Wake Up Call. Epicure Café, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. A new collection of contemporary art curated by The Bunnyman Bridge Collective. <http://www.epicurecafe.org/>

FRIDAY/AUG. 22

Keeping up with the kids. 2 p.m. 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn the basics of social media with a one-on-one technology volunteer to stay in touch with your kids and grandkids.

Fun Flicks. 10:30 a.m. 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Watch movies based on children's books, including: *Olivia Acts Out*, *Olivia and Grandma's Visit*, and *Olivia Plays the Piano*. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Pohick Regional Library. All ages. Sign up at: <https://va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp>.

FRIDAY/AUG. 22-SUNDAY/AUG. 24

Legally Blonde - the Musical. Workhouse Arts Center, W-3 Theatre, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. This Broadway musical follows the story of Elle Woods as she goes on a mission to find love (and herself) at Harvard Law School. Buy tickets and find showtimes at www.metro-theatre.org.

FRIDAYS/AUG. 22-AUG. 29

Braddock Nights Concert Series. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield or 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.

SATURDAY, AUG. 23

Master Gardeners Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Master Gardeners from Fairfax County Cooperative Extension hosts plant clinics each Saturday morning through the summer to answer any gardening questions. For adults.

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



PHOTO BY GLENN COOK/COURTESY OF METROPOLITAN PERFORMING ARTS

"Legally Blonde: The Musical" rehearsal picture. From left: Nakya Fenderson, Hank Von Kolnitz, Halle Kaufax, Lexi Rhem, Ben Cherrington, Roxy Matten, Chad Vann, Kyra Smith, Will Everett, Lizzy Rader. Performances through Aug. 24 at the Workhouse Arts Center, Theatre #3, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton.

between kids and parks. Call 703-323-6601.

SATURDAY/AUG. 24

Neighborhood plant clinic. 1 p.m. 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and advice regarding plants. For adults.

FRIDAY/AUG. 25

Magic Tree House Club. 3-4 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Let's read the sixth story in the series *Afternoon on the Amazon* by Mary Pope Osborne and discuss. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/ under "Events." 703-249-1520.

Pohick Prose Society. 7 p.m. 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Teens talk about books. Ages 13-18. Call for title: 703-644-7333.

Walk-in eBook clinic. 7 p.m. 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Help download library eBooks by bringing your device and its account ID and password. For adults.

TUESDAY/AUG. 26

Reading Buddies. 4-5 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Teen volunteers are

View artwork by Javier Padilla and more at Epicure Café's latest exhibition, Wake Up Call, a new collection of contemporary artwork by local artists on display through Oct. 4 in Fairfax.



available as reading buddies; read to them or they will read to you. Ages 5-8. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/ under "Events." 703-249-1520.

Neighborhood plant clinic. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and advice regarding plants. For adults.

Preschool LEGOS. 10:30 a.m. Thousands of LEGOS Duplos are at

the library, available for you and your friends. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Pohick Regional Library. Ages 2-5 with an adult.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 27

Animal Crackers. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Develop your child's early literacy skills with stories, songs and activities about animals. Age 3-5 with adult. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/

branches/bc/ under "Events." 703-249-1520.

FRIDAY/AUG. 29

S.T.E.M. Storytime. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Each month we will focus on one of the STEM subjects with stories, songs, and activities for preschoolers. Age 4-5 with adult. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/ under "Events." 703-249-1520.

Keeping up with the kids. 2 p.m. 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn the basics of social media with a one-on-one technology volunteer to stay in touch with your kids and grandkids.

SATURDAY, AUG. 30

Master Gardeners Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Master Gardeners from Fairfax County Cooperative Extension hosts plant clinics each Saturday morning through the summer to answer any gardening questions. For adults.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 6

Botanical Drawing. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Artist Caroline Hottenstein teaches shading and other techniques to render accurate and realistic plants. \$76. Register online using code 290 433 4401 at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring or call 703-642-5173.

Workshop: Casting Leaves in Concrete. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Horticulturalist Nancy Olney demonstrates casting and painting techniques and assists participants in making one to take home. \$65. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using codes 290 488 4301 and 290 488 4302 or call 703-642-5173.

Artist Book Signing. 12-2 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Artists from the newly published "American Botanical Paintings: Native Plants of the Mid Atlantic" will be signing books and talking. 703-642-5173.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 7

Art Show Reception. 1-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Come to the Horticulture Center and Historic House to see the work of artists of the Springfield Art Guild. 703-642-5173.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 12

Old Town Plaza Series Performance by Fairfax-McLean Brass & Drums. 7 p.m. Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Come out and enjoy the shops and restaurants at Old Town Plaza, along with live music, weather permitting.

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Removing Barriers to College

Local services help students complete college paperwork, remove barriers.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

LaQuita King relocated across the state from Chesapeake, Va., to Alexandria in the summer of 2013, moving into an apartment with her aunt and three cousins. King had just graduated from high school and was looking forward to taking classes at Northern Virginia Community College. So far, that hasn't happened.

"There were a lot of financial aid forms that I needed to fill out," said King, who is one of six children in her family and the first to finish high school. "Everything is online and if you make one mistake you have to start over. There were a ton of registration forms

that I had to fill out. It just got to be too much."

Finally, King got a job, although she still hopes to attend college one day. Her plight, say college officials, is not uncommon. In fact, the amount of paperwork that students must complete can overwhelm some students, particularly those with limited financial means and who might be the first in their families to seek higher education. A recent study by researchers at Stanford University showed that the stacks of forms that students must complete in order to enroll in college deter students from lower and working class backgrounds.

"Paperwork can sometimes hinder some students from attending because they may not know how to follow up in regards to what documents to submit, or may be afraid to do it and get discouraged if they do not have someone to help them figure out how to complete paperwork and requirements," said Laydy Reyes, program coordinator, Early Identification Program in George Mason University's Division of University

Where to Go for Help with College Paperwork

Fairfax County
 ♦ George Mason University, <http://eip.gmu.edu/>
 ♦ Department of Family Services, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/disabilities/transition.htm

Life.

However, programs, on college campuses and in the community can assist students. "There are counselors and programs available to help them," said Jennifer Gonzalez of the Public Information Office at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA).

For example, NOVA's College Pathway Initiatives is a set of four programs that provides support and service to students from underrepresented populations. The initiatives help remove some barriers to higher education while helping increase the number of students who succeed in and graduate from college.

REYES HAS SEEN FIRST-



COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Parents and students attend a college readiness presentation at Westover Public Library in Arlington.

HAND how a simple bit of assistance can mean the difference between attending college and not. "[There is] a Mason student who comes from a single parent household. ... The student was granted a scholarship through the Early Identification Program and Mason's financial aid services that has helped to pay for the student's college education," she said. "The student is currently a senior working on a degree in bioengineering."

Mason's Early Identification Program (EIP) has a long record of helping first generation students from low-income families cross some of the hurdles to a higher education. "Mason's Admissions Office plays an instrumental role

of support in collaborating with EIP regarding the college application process so that it is more simple, and that our students receive advice and resources to complete the application and successfully transition to Mason," said Reyes.

Some of the services that George Mason University offers are college essay and resume workshops where students have access to a computer lab and assistance completing college entrance essays. Mason also has no-cost Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) workshops where students and their families meet in a computer lab and get assistance completing financial aid forms.

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Robinson's Obregon to Play Lax at Maryland

Senior is attending her third different high school.

Isabel Obregon's high school lacrosse career started as a freshman at Woodson, where she earned Patriot District Player of the Year honors in 2012 while helping the Cavaliers win the district title.

The following year, Obregon transferred to Bishop Ireton, a private school in Alexandria that competes in the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference. After spending her sophomore season with the Cardinals, she returned to Woodson during her junior year. Back with the Cavaliers, she earned first-team All-Conference 7 and first-team all-region accolades while helping Woodson win the conference championship.

Along the way, Obregon committed to the University of North Carolina, de-committed, and then committed to the University of Maryland.

Obregon's high school career of change has continued into her senior year, as she now attends Robinson Secondary School, where she is a member of the Rams field hockey team. Obregon recently participated in a Q&A via email with The Connection.

Connection: You're committed to the University of Maryland. What made the Terps the right fit for you?

Obregon: I knew Maryland was the right fit for me when I visited the campus and met with the coach this past fall. I was previously committed to UNC and had visited a selection of other schools, but I never felt a more comfortable feeling than I did when I visited Maryland. I was able to see Maryland as my home for my four years of college, and could actually visualize myself there, which I really couldn't say about the other schools.

Connection: What position will you play?

Obregon: I'll most likely be playing attack at Maryland, because the coach recruited me for my quick hands.

Connection: At what age did you start playing lacrosse? When did you realize playing



Isabel Obregon, seen during her junior year at Woodson, is committed to play lacrosse at the University of Maryland.

college lacrosse was a possibility for you?

Obregon: I began playing lacrosse in the third grade, when my sisters began playing lacrosse. I realized I had the potential to play in college when I was in the seventh grade. I was playing a lot with my club team at the time and realized the improvement I had made and the potential that I had.

Connection: You transferred from Woodson to Bishop Ireton and back to Woodson. You originally committed to the University of North Carolina and then changed to the University of Maryland, correct? How would you describe the experience of your first three years of high school?

Obregon: Yes, I transferred from Woodson to Bishop Ireton halfway through my sophomore year, and then transferred back to Woodson halfway through my junior year. However, I will now be attending Robinson Secondary School for my senior year. (I know, that's a lot of school changing!) My neighborhood was redistricted to Robinson, and so I took the opportunity to go there. I am now in season playing field hockey at Robinson. And yes, I originally committed to North Carolina, but I de-committed and committed to the University of Maryland

this past December. My first three years of high school were pretty hectic to say the least, with all of the school changes and personal changes. However, I wouldn't change any of it because I have accomplished so much more than I could have ever imagined within these past three years.

Connection: What is your favorite lacrosse memory from your first three years of high school?

Obregon: My favorite lacrosse memory was when I was told that I received the Patriot District Player of the Year award when I was only a freshman. I didn't even know what the award was when I received it! I also loved playing with my sister, Elena, who was then a senior at the time.

Connection: What are you most looking forward to about your senior year of high school?

Obregon: I am really looking forward to my senior year because I'll be at a new school that I've heard so many great things about, and I'll be preparing for my first year at Maryland for the next year!

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

"My favorite lacrosse memory was when I was told that I received the Patriot District Player of the Year award when I was only a freshman. I didn't even know what the award was when I received it!"

— Isabel Obregon

Obregon: If I could change anything about my high school athletic career, I would probably have chosen to play basketball during the winter each season.

Connection: What is your favorite food?

Obregon: I'd have to say that pizza is my favorite food at the moment.

Connection: Who is your favorite music artist? Why?

Obregon: I absolutely love Drake. I don't know, there's just something about his music and lyrics. I've always been a huge fan.

Connection: What is your favorite movie? Why?

Obregon: My favorite movie is probably 'Step Brothers.' It's just a classic. Movies don't get much funnier than that.

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

Obregon: The farthest I've ever travelled was to Spain to visit my relatives.

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

Obregon: I love the Redskins and the O's.
Connection: Do you have a favorite athlete?

Obregon: Most definitely Jadeveon Clowney. He's an absolute beast.

— JON ROETMAN

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Reston to Host Charity Tennis Tournament

The 3rd Annual Rally for a Cause tennis tournament dates are set for Sept. 20-21, 2014 at Reston's Lake Newport tennis courts. The charity event will feature brackets for 3.0, 3.5 and 4.0 and above players, competing in men's and women's doubles and singles matches. The \$30 entry fee guarantees each player two matches with awards, raffle prizes and participation t-shirts. It is through the generosity of presenting sponsor, Dr.

Hani Thariani, and donations from local businesses that make this tournament possible. Entry is open to all tennis players, regardless of USTA membership.

All proceeds will go to the charity organization of each participant's choice: USTA Serves Foundation/Wounded Warriors Program Curriculum, supporting rehabilitation through tennis for wounded, ill and injured military service members and veterans or Cornerstones/Laurel Learning Center, providing comprehensive family services and developmental childcare programs. Last year's event hosted 65 players and raised \$3,100 for charity organizations.

Registration is now open. For more information or to sign up, email

rally4acause@restontennis.org or visit www.restontennis.org.

NVSO 10K, 20K Cycling Events Enter 5th Year

The 2014 NVSO will be held Sept. 13-24 with more than 50 events taking place at 19 venues throughout Northern Virginia. Events include 10K and 20K cycling, with each event entering its fifth year.

In addition to cycling, other events include 5K road race, badminton, volleyball, handball, racquetball, pickleball, tennis,

table tennis, swimming, diving, ten pin bowling, Wii bowling, card games, board games, track and field and more. Registration is available online at www.nvso.us. Registration forms are also available at senior centers, community centers, senior residences or by calling 703-228-4721. Registration fee is \$12 which covers multiple events. There is no onsite registration for any event. Information is available at nvso1982@gmail.com. Participants must be 50 years of age by Dec. 31, 2014 and live in a sponsoring jurisdiction. NVSO is sponsored by the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William and the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax.



Students Bring Home Grant for Unified Prevention Coalition

Eight members of the Unified Prevention Coalition (UPC) of Fairfax County's Youth Council recently attended the 30th annual Youth Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention Project Leadership Conference. It was held at Longwood University, and the teens returned home with strategic plans for the coming school year, plus a \$250 grant to carry out their ideas. Participating were (back row, from left) Sam Ahmed (Centreville HS), Omar Elhaj (Lake Braddock HS), and Matthew Bocharnikov (Oakton HS); and (front row, from left) Kristen Talman (Centreville HS), Sakira Coleman (South County HS), Anastasia Slepukhova (Lake Braddock HS), Jocelyn Escobar (Lake Braddock HS), Sandra Bocharnikov (UPC Youth Council coordinator), and Jasmine Gibson, Stone Bridge HS (formerly Herndon HS).

Recognized for 'Exceptional Success'

Sales Associate Youssef Zeroual of the Weichert, Realtors Burke/Fairfax Station office was recognized for his exceptional industry success during the month of July, Bruce L. Green, regional vice president of Weichert, Realtors, announced.

A top producer, Zeroual led the region, which comprises offices throughout Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier and Delaware counties, for resale revenue units.

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Youssef Zeroual

He can be reached in Weichert's Burke/Fairfax Station office at 9299 Old Keene Mill Road or by phone at 703-569-7870.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Be a part of our **Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Questions? E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431

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21 Announcements

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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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The McLean Connection
The Great Falls Connection

Three Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) teachers and the Technology and Engineering Education program at Fairfax High School have been recognized for excellence by the Virginia Technology and Engineering Education Association (VTEEA).

Timothy Threlkeld, who has taught technology and engineering education at Langston Hughes Middle School for eight years, was named VTEEA Middle School Teacher of the Year.

Threlkeld is known for teaching technological skills to his students while helping them understand the challenges of their use. His students learn problem solving skills; participate in project design, testing, and evaluation; build prototypes; and learn workplace readiness. He was recognized for providing high quality instruction that is learner-centered.

Josh Masley was named VTEEA High School Teacher of the Year. Masley, who has 13 years of classroom experience, has been instrumental in the integration of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) at West Springfield High. He teaches leadership skills to students through the school's chapter of the Technology Student Association (TSA) and student government. Masley also developed and teaches a leadership course at his school.



Middle School teacher of the Year: Timothy Threlkeld, Langston Hughes Middle School.



High School Teacher of the Year: Josh Masley, West Springfield High School.



Program of the Year: Fairfax High School's technology education program and its teacher, Emre Ege.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FCPS

Fairfax High School's technology education program and its teacher, Emre Ege, were recognized as the VTEEA Northern Region High School Program of the Year. The Fairfax High program offers seven courses that feature STEM integration; science and math are incorporated into each course and emphasized. Ege brings experience in art, design, architecture, engineering, and technology to the classroom, helping students to connect aesthetics, art, science, and math. He teaches students to consider all aspects of each problem in order to determine the best solution. During the

2013-14 school year, the Fairfax High robotics team—part of the Engineering and Research class—won first place in the nation and region in the Mini-Urban Challenge Competition sponsored by the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory. Ege studied architecture in Turkey and earned master's degrees from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree in education from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Programs are recognized for providing technology and engineering education instruction that is high quality and centered on the student.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FRIDAY/AUG. 22-SUNDAY/AUG. 31
eBooks. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Learn how to browse the collection, check out books and download to PC, Mac and eBook readers. Call the library at 703-451-8055 to schedule an appointment.

One-on-One English Conversation Practice. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Practice speaking English with a volunteer partner. Call 703-293-6227 for an appointment.

Personalized Internet/Microsoft Office Tutoring. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Learn how to use the Web or increase your skills. Call 703-293-6227 for an appointment.

FRIDAY/AUG. 22
Genealogy Help Desk. 2-3 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bring your family history stumbers to the experts. 703-293-6227.

English conversation group. 10 a.m. 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice your English conversation skills. For adults.

Basic computer skills. 1 p.m. 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn basic computer skills with one-on-one technology volunteers. For adults.

SATURDAY/AUG. 23
Teen Writer's Group. 2-3:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Join us for this new teen writer's group to share and discuss works in progress. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/under "Events." 703-249-1520.

Rain Barrel Workshop. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Green Acres Community Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax.

In only two hours, build your own rain barrel to take home as well as learn about the care and maintenance of your new rain barrel. The workshop costs \$55, about half the retail cost of a rain barrel. This workshop is sponsored by the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation

District. Space is limited. Register now: <http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org/be-green/live-green/barrel/>

SUNDAY/AUG. 24
American Red Cross Blood Drive. 12-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. To learn more and make an appointment to donate blood, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

MONDAY/AUG. 25
Library eBook Tech Help. 11 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Learn to use the library's eBook collection and compatible devices with a library staff member. 703-293-6227.

English Conversation Group. 7-8:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice English with others and improve your skills. 703-249-1520.

One-on-One English Practice. 7-9 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice speaking and reading English with a volunteer partner. Call 703-249-1520 to make an appointment.

TUESDAY/AUG. 26
Short Book Conversations. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Join our lively discussion of House Made of Dawn by Scott Momaday. 703-249-1520.

Library eBook Tech Help. 2-3 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Learn to use the library's eBook collection and compatible devices with a library staff member. 703-293-6227.

English Conversation Group. 7-8:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Practice speaking English with others and improve your skills. 703-293-6227.

English Conversation Group. 7-9 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Practice and improve your English. 703-451-8055.

Library meeting. 6:30 p.m. 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Kings Park Library Friends meeting. For adults.

Morning English Conversation Group. 10:30 a.m. Lorton Community Library, 9520 Richmond

Highway, Lorton. Practice English conversation skills. Adults. 703-339-7385.
English Conversation Group. 5:15 p.m. Lorton Community Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Practice English conversation skills. Adults. 703-339-7385.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 27
English Conversation Group. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Practice speaking English with others and improve your skills. 703-293-6227.

Keeping up with the kids. 11 a.m. 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn the basics of social media with a one-on-one technology volunteer to stay in touch with your kids and grandkids.

E-book clinic. 12 p.m. 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn to use the library's eBook collection and compatible e-book readers with a one-on-one technology volunteer. For adults. Registration required at <https://va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp>.

English conversation. 10:15 a.m. 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Join a conversation group to learn the English language. For adults. Sign up at <https://va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp?EventType=ALL&Libnum=12>.

English conversation. 7 p.m. 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Join a conversation group to learn the English language. For adults. Sign up at <https://va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp>.

THURSDAY/AUG. 28
Conversational Spanish. 2 p.m. 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice and improve your Spanish with a native speaker. For adults.

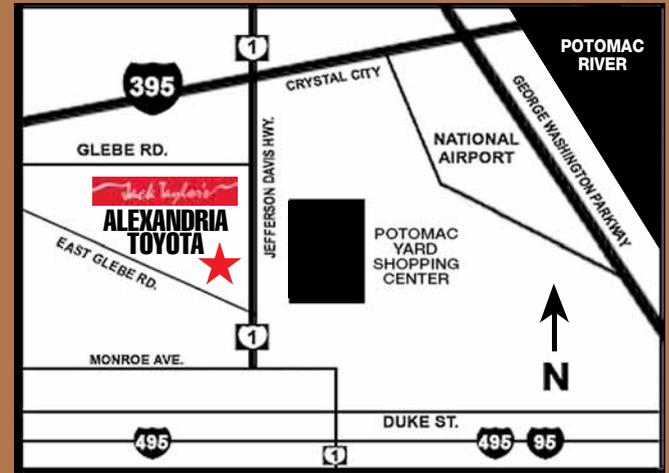
English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice your English conversation skills. For adults.

English conversation. 7 p.m. 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Join a conversation group to learn the English language. For adults. Sign up at <https://va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp?EventType=ALL&Libnum=12>.

Walk-in eBook clinic. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Help download library eBooks by bringing your device and its account ID and password. For adults.

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<p>OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL</p> <p>\$5⁰⁰ OFF</p> <p><small>Includes: Change oil, install Genuine Toyota oil filter, inspect & adjust all fluid levels and complimentary multi-point inspection with print out.</small></p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 8/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>	<p>VARIABLE DISCOUNT</p> <p>\$5.00 OFF with purchase of \$35.00 - \$49.99 \$10.00 OFF with purchase of \$50.00 - \$99.99 \$15.00 OFF with purchase of \$100.00 - \$199.99 \$20.00 OFF with purchase of \$200.00 - \$499.99 \$50.00 OFF with purchase of \$500.00 Or more</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 8/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>	<p>4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT</p> <p>\$79⁹⁵</p> <p><small>PREVENT UNEVEN WEAR</small></p> <p>Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear, steering problems and decreased fuel economy.</p> <p>INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 8/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>SUMMER DETAIL SPECIAL</p> <p>\$119⁹⁵</p> <p>Prepare your car's paint for the harsh winter road conditions. A full exterior buffing, paint sealant and wax, along with a vacuuming of the interior.</p> <p>Vans & SUV's add \$20.00.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 8/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>
<p>BRAKE SPECIAL</p> <p>\$99⁹⁵</p> <p>PADS</p> <p>Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.</p> <p>MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.</p> <p><small>DOES NOT APPLY TO ALL VEHICLES PLEASE SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 8/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>30000 MILES FACTORY RECOMMENDED SERVICE</p> <p>\$159⁹⁹</p> <p><small>Synthetic \$10 More</small></p> <p>Includes: Change engine oil & filter (up to 5 qts), rotate tires, inspect wear and adjust pressure, measure brake pad thickness & rotor runout, replace cabin air filter (if equipped), replace engine air filter, reset maintenance reminder light (if applicable) and multi-point vehicle inspection.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 8/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>BASIC MINOR SERVICE</p> <p>PERFORMED EVERY 5,000 MILES OR 6 MONTHS WHICHEVER COMES FIRST</p> <p>\$79⁰⁰</p> <p><small>2003 & NEWER Synthetic \$10 More</small></p> <p>Includes: Change engine oil & filter (up to 5 qts), rotate tires, inspect wear and adjust pressure, inspect brakes, top off under hood fluids, reset maintenance reminder light (if applicable) and multi-point vehicle inspection.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 8/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>DETAIL SPECIALS</p> <p>\$39⁹⁵ Wash & Vacuum</p> <p>\$139⁹⁵ Hand wash, wax & interior cleaning</p> <p>\$295⁹⁵ Full premium detail</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 8/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>
<p>VENTILATION SPECIAL</p> <p>\$79⁹⁵</p> <p>Includes: Clean condenser fins, check A/C performance, inspect drive belts for tension/wear and replace cabin air filter.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 8/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>	<p>TRUE START BATTERY SPECIAL</p> <p>\$139⁹⁵</p> <p><small>INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION</small></p> <p>Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month FREE replacement, 24 month FREE roadside assistance, 60 month prorated, PLUS we'll check all battery cables & connections.</p> <p><small>Does not apply to Hybrid Batteries. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 8/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>BUY 3 TIRES AND GET 4TH FOR \$1⁰⁰</p> <p><small>TIRE CENTER</small></p> <p>GOT TIRES? NO CHARGE ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE WARRANTY, AND FREE COURTESY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION. PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE. SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 8/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>HEADLIGHT RESTORATION SPECIAL</p> <p>\$89⁹⁵</p> <p>Plastic lenses can yellow with age, reducing the vehicle's market value. Headlight brightness & the overall safety during nighttime driving. The headlight lens restoration from us allows you to shine and restore headlights to like-new conditions.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Before</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>After</p> </div> </div> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 8/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>
<p>WE WILL MEET OR BEAT ANY LOCAL TOYOTA DEALERSHIP'S CURRENT ADVERTISED SERVICE SPECIALS</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 8/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>	<p>COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION</p> <p>Includes: Inspect tires, brakes, wipers, lights, belts & hoses & fluid levels.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 8/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>ROTATE & BALANCE SPECIAL</p> <p>\$59⁹⁵</p> <p>Includes: Rotate and balance all 4 wheels and inspect brakes and tires.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 8/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>	

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