

Burke CONNECTION

Home LifeStyle

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Robinson Wins Conference Title

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Robinson sophomore
Caroline Burda finished
runner-up in the Confer-
ence 5 all-around competi-
tion for the second
straight year.

Thicker Than Blood

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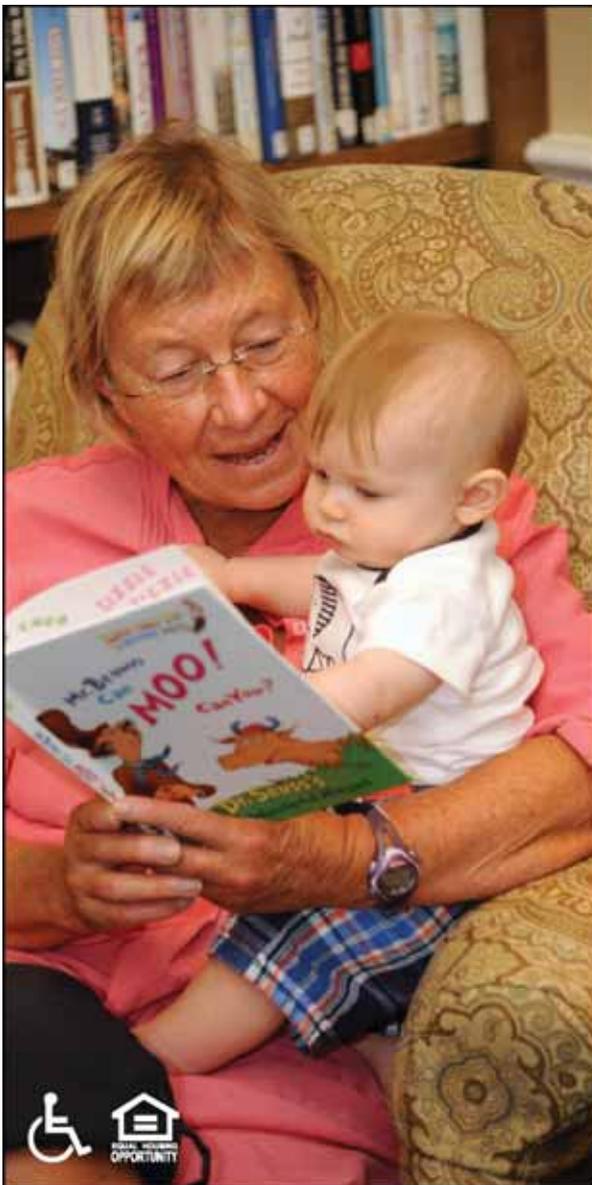
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FEBRUARY 12-18, 2015

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(From left) Stephanie, Ashley and Garrett Weatherbee stand by Jeff Weatherbee while he donates blood at the Friends of Sadie drive. Garrett, a Robinson Secondary School senior, was recently diagnosed with cancer and is currently in treatment.



(From left) Anna, Ethan, Erin and Sadie Lauer celebrate another Valentine's Day Blood Drive with Sadie's neuroblastoma in remission.

Thicker Than Blood

Sixth Annual Friends of Sadie Blood Drive draws more than 200 donors.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

For the sixth year in a row, Burke resident Amy Dozier celebrated Valentine's Day by helping manage a blood drive. Her daughter Madeline, barely a tween for the first Friends of Sadie drive in 2010, is now a 16-year-old sophomore at Robinson Secondary School. She's old enough to drive and old enough to donate blood for the first time.

With the drive's namesake Sadie Lauer of Burke by her side, Madeline reclined in a deep blue medical cot and prepared for her donation.

The same generosity helped save Lauer's life after she was diagnosed with neuroblastoma. At 3 months old, she had a cancerous mass buried deep in her neck.

Friends of the Lauer family got together and rallied other members of the community to donate blood for Sadie so she would have ample supply banked as she underwent surgeries to remove the mass.

When the seven neighborhood mothers, the "Friends of Sadie," saw how effectively they were able to bring people out to donate, they decided to make the drive an annual event in Burke. Sadie's cancer is now in remission, but on Feb. 8, the sixth Friends of Sadie Blood Drive drew 205 donors through the doors of The Woods community center.

With over 30 staff members from Inova Blood Donor services and 45 community volunteers on hand to help manage registration, recovery and child care, the drive yielded 216 units of blood products (red blood cells, plasma and platelets).

"That's 639 people we helped by products we put on the shelf," said Amy Dozier, referring to the general formula from blood services that each unit (roughly one pint) of blood product can go to serve three people.

THE NUMBERS were down slightly

from 2014's 245 units. Dozier attributed the decrease to the day's unseasonably warm temperature and sunshine. Windows were open all day at the community center during the drive, ushering in a comfortable breeze uncommon for around Valentine's Day.

"Next year we'll do better," said Dozier, "because we'll actually be on Valentine's Day." The first drive happened on the romantic holiday as it was the only day available for all the donors to come.

"Every year we have this wonderful opportunity to reflect on what is important: This is what Valentine's Day means to us now," said Sadie's mother Erin Lauer.

Even though Sadie's cancer is in remission, the drive continues year after year, having taken on another mission of raising awareness of childhood cancer.

"There's such dedication and passion," Lauer continued, "almost like they're doing it because one of their own has experienced cancer. That's the real story, the way they've created this community that cares."

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) came out to support the event, his fifth year in a row. "It's great to see the community come together for a cause," he said. "This is what can happen when people step up."

In addition to the blood donations, money from a bake sale and donation containers went to benefit The Truth 365, a collaborative organization using documentary and social media to help raise awareness of childhood cancer.

Television producer Mike Gillette of Ashburn helps run The Truth 365 along with Arms Wide Open Childhood Cancer Foundation (AWOCCF), Frankie's Mission, Journey 4 A Cure, The Rally Foundation and Band of Parents.

In between photographing the blood drive, Gillette said The Truth 365 is trying to bring about a national movement, similar to the one for breast cancer, to raise awareness and funding for better treatments and cures for childhood cancer.

"Children with cancer represent only about four percent of the federal government's budget for cancer research," said Gillette. "This event raises so much awareness. Children with cancer desperately need blood and to cover two issues like this, both are so important."

John Brennan (left) and his son John learn more about blood donation at the Friends of Sadie blood drive registration table.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMY DOZIER



Junior Friend of Sadie member Andrew Letzkus, a senior at Robinson, gets screened for donating blood by an Inova staff member.



Robinson sophomore Madeline Dozier waits to donate blood for the first time, with the drive's namesake Sadie Lauer.

MORE INFORMATION on Friends of Sadie and The Truth 365 can be found on their websites: www.friendsofsadie.org and www.thetruth365.org. For those who weren't able to donate on Feb. 8, another

drive will be held as part of the Burke Racquet & Swim Club 25th anniversary health fair on March 14. For more information, call 703-250-1299 or visit www.burkeclub.com.

Combining Health and Mental Health

Community Services Board provides emergency services, prevention and treatment.

BY KENNETH MOORE
THE CONNECTION

One teenager who attempted suicide revealed that if anyone had asked him beforehand whether he was thinking of hurting himself, he would have said yes.

That message rang loud and clear to Teresa Gallahan, school nurse at a Catholic school in Chantilly. The teen was part of a training video for a course on Youth Mental Health First Aid, offered by the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board.

Gallahan, from Herndon, was impressed that the instructor urged her to enter the phone number for the CSB Crisis Hotline into her cell phone on the spot.

"I'm trained to look for resources," said Gallahan, a Herndon resident, who has worked at St. Veronica School for approximately 7 years. Gallahan and her principal have now organized all teachers and staff to take the CSB training.

"Most parents appreciate that we keep an eye on their children," Gallahan said.

Since 2012, 1,750 have taken the CSB First Aid Mental Health Training. More than 10,000 people have taken the CSB online youth suicide prevention program.

Mental Health First Aid is one of the ways the Community Services Board serves all residents in the community.

TRACEY PHILLIPS was 24 weeks pregnant when her labor began.

She had three premature triplets; her second baby didn't survive, and her son and daughter spent five and four months in the neonatal intensive care unit.

"I had to recover from a C-section, we had to plan for my son's funeral, and we had two very sick children in the NICU," she said. "The human spirit finds a way."

Phillips' family was immediately helped by the CSB's Infant and Toddler Connection, which provides evaluations and early intervention services for infants and toddlers who might have developmental or in-

Who To Call for Help

In emergency situations (24/7)

❖ CSB Emergency Services, 703-573-5679, TTY 711

❖ Fairfax Detoxification Center, 703-502-7000, TTY 703-322-9080

❖ CrisisLink suicide hotline, 703-527-4077

❖ CrisisLink suicide text hotline, 703-940-0888

❖ Call 911 for a life-threatening emergency

During business hours:

❖ CSB Entry & Referral Services, 703-383-8500, TTY 711

❖ Infant & Toddler Connection, 703-246-7121, TTY 703-324-4495

For basic needs: food, housing, medical care, etc., 703-222-0880, TTY 711

Staff at all of the numbers listed above can take calls in English and Spanish and can access other languages when needed.



Fairfax County Community Services' Board opened its new facility in Merrifield.

tellectual disabilities or developmental delay.

"We would be looking at a very different picture had my family not been given early intervention," Phillips said. "When my daughter started to walk I was sure she was on the right track."

Phillips' children, now six, both have special needs. Phillips now works for the Infant and Toddler program and is grateful she can give back to other families who are beginning their special needs journeys.

"There's a whole movement of people with lived experience who have something to offer," said CSB Executive Director Tisha Deeghan, of hiring people like Phillips. "That voice is absolutely magical in helping."

"Even with all that happened to us, I have found other families that have been through much worse," Phillips said. "We have been through the worst of it, we can see a future."

During FY 2014, the CSB served 3,164 children through the Infant and Toddler Connection.

THE COMMUNITY Services Board plans, organizes and provides services for people who have mental illness, substance use disorders, and/or intellectual disability. The CSB served 21,249 residents during last year's fiscal year.

Most CSB services are primarily for people whose conditions seriously impact their daily functioning. But anyone with a related concern may contact the CSB for help in finding appropriate treatment and resources.

"We are here for everybody," said Deeghan, who moved to Fairfax for her new job in September. "We are the agency that deals with the most difficult and complex situations."

Deeghan took the helm at the Community Services Board in September 2014, coming from Michigan with 33 years of experience in mental health and substance use disorder treatment and prevention. Most recently, Deeghan was the senior vice president and chief operating officer for Genesee Health System in Michigan for 13 years.

Deeghan replaces George Braunstein who retired in 2014 after serving as executive director since 2008.

"I'm learning the Fairfax way, the Virginia way. There is so much wealth here, but there are two Fairfaxes," said Deeghan of her new home. "There is the wealth and the resources and the tremendous support from the Board of Supervisors. But there's another Fairfax, where people are very vulnerable, people who cannot find jobs, people who can't access services."

CSB'S NEW MERRIFIELD CENTER opened late last month at 8221 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive, and offers an integrated system of care, allowing people who are receiving services for mental health issues, substance abuse to receive other medical care at the same time.

"It's state of the art," Deeghan said. "It's the best example that I know of of an opportunity to bring integrated-care services to people."

Primary health care, pharmacy, dental clinic are available at the same location, as well as emergency services, entry and referral services, and more.

As one example, having a pharmacy onsite so patients are certain to receive their

Sign Up for Mental Health First Aid

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/events/mental-health-first-aid.htm



Tisha Deeghan, a Fairfax resident, became executive director of the Fairfax County Community Services Board in September 2014.

What Is the CSB?

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board is the public agency that provides services for people who have mental illness, substance use disorders, and/or intellectual disability. The CSB also provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services.

The Community Services Board serves three major populations: people with mental illness, people with substance abuse disorder, and people with intellectual disability and/or developmental disability. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/>

medications as soon as they are prescribed is a major advantage.

"It's exciting to me to see this system and all the creative community-based services in place," said Deeghan. "We're seeing much less need for high-end or restrictive services, such as hospitalization or residential placement, because we are getting so good at providing community-based services."

Providing integrated services is a national movement, Deeghan said. She cited a study a few years ago that showed that people with serious mental health issues often die 25 years

or more earlier than others from treatable illnesses, because they didn't have access to health care.

Of the people served at the CSB last year, only 40 percent said they had a primary health care provider.

One in every five people live with a mental health problem, according to CSB documents. Two-thirds go without treatment. "Mental illness and substance abuse disorders impact every single layer of economics," said Belinda Buescher, of the CSB.

"The human spirit finds a way."

— Tracey Phillips

Sharing the Ride

Uber prominent at state Sens. Marsden and Saslaw joint town hall.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Though over a dozen taxi cabs sat in the parking lot of Sleepy Hollow Elementary School, inside it was clear everyone drove themselves.

Members of the United Taxicab Operators Association (UTOA) brought a strong contingent to the Feb. 7 town hall meeting of Sens. Dick Saslaw (D-35) and Dave Marsden (D-37) to voice their support for legislation requiring more regulation of the popular rideshare program Uber.

"We want to stick to the core values of Virginia," said UTOA president Chand Dodhy of Alexandria. "They should have background checks and not be charging like a fish market. Their vehicles should be identified, with a dome light and consistent color."

Dodhy was encouraged that Saslaw and Marsden were listening to them.

"The bill has still got a ways to go," said Saslaw during the meeting's question-and-answer portion. "It's not over yet."

So far, the House of Delegates has passed Del. Tom Rust's (R-86) HB 1662 that opens the door for Uber and establishes licensing rules for "transportation network companies."

The Senate version, Sen. John Watkins' (R-10) SB 1025 has also passed, meaning each bill will cross over to the opposite house for consideration before a reconciled version goes to Governor Terry McAuliffe. Marsden was chief co-patron on the bill, though he also introduced his own version, SB 1102.

For West Springfield resident and taxicab driver Waqar Umer, he said Uber poses a threat to his livelihood. "Our wages have gone down, making it more difficult to pay insurance," he said.

In addition to Uber and other rideshare service, Umer came to the meeting with other concerns he's facing as a driver. "They can suspend my car, my license, but also my family's licenses for living at the same address. And Reagan National Airport has so many cabs, the parking lot is always full."



State Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) speaks at a town hall meeting Feb. 7 at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School.



State Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35) speaks at a town hall meeting Feb. 7 at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School.



(Left) Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) speaks with taxicab driver Waqar Umer (right) of West Springfield, following the Feb. 7 town hall meeting held at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School.

SASLAW AND MARSDEN used their presentation time in front of nearly 100 constituents to comment on legislation moving through the General Assembly.

Saslaw highlighted SB 1349 that effectively protects Dominion Power from rate reviews over a five-year period. "If this bill doesn't make it through," said Saslaw, "we could see a \$50 to \$70 increase per month."

In addition to road paving, equal rights and gun control, Saslaw also spoke on public schools. "We can't fund public schools now," he said. "The budget is back where it was in 2008. And there's a lot more students now. The tax structure can't support the state anymore."

Marsden spoke about allowing for the possession or distribution of marijuana for medical purposes such as treatment of epilepsy. On Tuesday Feb. 10, the House of Delegates passed a bill to that effect, HB 1445, introduced by Del. Dave Albo (R-42).

"I asked Dave [Albo], could you believe you would support anything that had cannabis written in it?" said Marsden. The similar senate bill 1235, of which Marsden is

chief patron, would also allow for oil extracted from the cannabis plant to be used for reducing seizures in young patients.

"This is a minefield," Marsden added, "with the difference between state and federal law."

Marsden also highlighted his bill 1374 that deals with registration and information provided to sex offenders.

"The registry has 21,000 people on it in Virginia," he said, explaining that the 37 pages of Virginia Code outlining their dos and don'ts "reads like stereo instructions in Russian." Marsden's legislation would help make this information more accessible, but also hold offenders accountable, that not receiving the information can't be used as a defense for failing to register.

TO TRACK Sens. Saslaw and Marsden and their legislation at the General Assembly, visit www.virginiageneralassembly.gov, or email district37@senate.virginia.gov (Marsden) or district35@senate.virginia.gov (Saslaw).

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

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PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

The W.T. Woodson High School Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees, staff and representatives line up for an official photo at the induction ceremony. From left — back row: Hall of Fame Co-chair Jim McLaughlin, David Marsden, Gabe Oliverio, David Strong. Front row: Bill Boice, Stuart Segraves, Shelby Pigott, Bill McCulloch, Carolyn Hadiji, Mounir Hadiji. Segraves and Pigott represented the late Scott Segraves, and the Hadijis were there for daughter Sarrah Hadiji who was unable to attend.

Woodson High School Inducts 2014-2015 Hall of Fame Athletes

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

2014-2015 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

W.T. Woodson High School in Fairfax welcomed eight new members into its Athletic Hall of Fame on Saturday, Feb. 7 at the Grand Atrium Banquet Venue in Tysons Corner. This is the third Hall of Fame “class” for Woodson. The honors program was established in conjunction with the school’s 50th anniversary in 2012.

They came from as far away as California, Texas and Florida and as locally as the high school’s halls themselves where inductee Billy McCulloch, as Woodson Assistant Lacrosse Coach, still works with the sport at which he excelled. They went on to work in business, investment, coaching, distinguished military careers and even a politician in the group with Virginia State Senator Dave Marsden from the 37th District in Fairfax County. With all of the catching up, the telling of tales and reminiscing about teachers, coaches, games, and events, the gathering had much the feel of a true high school reunion, despite the fact that the honorees represented five different decades and at least eight different sports between them. During the reception, a slideshow picturing the athletes at various times during their Woodson careers attracted much attention and some good-natured jibes about “that crazy hair”, or “those groovy shorts”, or “what the heck were you wearing there?” and Master of Ceremonies — and 1995 Woodson graduate - Jarrod Wronski (who now owns Metro DC DJs) had a time of it to wrangle the crowd to order and begin the official program.

Woodson Interim Principal Dan Meier gave the welcoming address before turning the proceedings over to Wronski and to Hall of Fame Committee Co-Chairs Dan Checkosky, Student Activities Director, and Jim McLaughlin, Woodson Class of 1984. The co-chairs spoke to the school’s long-standing traditions and successful athletics

- Bill Boice, 1979 – 1983, Wrestling, Football, and Baseball
- Sarrah Hadiji, 2003 – 2007, Cross Country, Indoor/Outdoor Track & Field
- Michelle Dodds Heotis, 1986 – 1990, Tennis
- Billy McCulloch, 1997 – 2001, Lacrosse, Football
- David Marsden, 1962 – 1966, Football, Basketball, Track & Field
- Gabe Oliverio, 1963 – 1965, Basketball, Baseball
- Scott Segraves, 1971 – 1975, Football, Wrestling, Baseball
- David Strong, 1962 – 1966, Football, Basketball, Track & Field

programs throughout the years. “Woodson really is dedicated to the values of the student athlete, meaning that excellence is the standard both academically and athletically,” said Checkosky. Checkosky and McLaughlin called for the recognition of the sponsors, the Hall of Fame Committee, the organizers of the event, and the Woodson coaching staff. There was a standing ovation for retired, long-time Woodson Coach Paul “Red” Jenkins, who was mentioned often throughout the proceedings. Then it was time to make the presentations.

There were so many accomplishments to be recognized for each inductee that the introductions took a considerable amount of time. The audience didn’t seem to mind, breaking into applause (and an occasional ‘whooping’ sound) when various titles, placements and championships were mentioned.

There was more applause, a good deal of laughter and even a few tears shed as each honoree addressed the assembly. Of the eight honorees, five were present to accept their awards. Two were unable to attend. Sarrah Hadiji, who now lives in Oregon, was represented by her parents, Carolyn and Mounir Hadiji. Michelle Dodds Heotis sent a letter of thanks that was read by MC Wronski. Stuart Segraves tearfully accepted the honor on behalf of his brother Scott who passed away in 1987.

What differences do you see between high school sports programs, then and now?

—ANDREA WORKER

David Strong, 1962 –1966 :

“I was in the first full class of Woodson when it started. The kids now, they are bigger, faster, stronger. I have to say, from what I see, they are just much more talented. At the game we attended last night, they were very impressive.”



Bill Boice, 1979-1983 :

“One thing that is disappointing about high school sports today is the diminished interest in some of the programs. I wrestled on the Woodson Championship team and all four years at West Point. I coached high school wrestling. Now I go to events and I see only one half of a venue even set up for seating when it used to be a packed house and multiple mats. Soccer and lacrosse seem to have taken over, but I think there’s room for these other sports with some support.”



Billy McCulloch, 1997-2001:

“I played lacrosse and football at Woodson. Now I am an assistant lacrosse coach here, and I have seen lacrosse really continue to grow. I think the athletes are better, too. The U-Teams have gotten better so it ups the game a level. I am just glad I am here to give back to the game and the students.”



Gabe Oliverio, 1963-1965;

“There’s no comparison. No way any of us could stack up against these kids today. With the earlier training and the camps, they are just better rounded and better prepared. The coaching has also advanced since back in the day. When I played, they wouldn’t let us touch weights! We might get hurt! We were probably like the Pillsbury doughboys compared to today’s athletes!”



David Marsden, State Sen. (D-37), 1962-1966:

“Like Dave (inductee David Strong) I am a member of the first graduating class at Woodson. The biggest difference? Virginia was still segregated when we started at Woodson. Before we left we had the first fully integrated team in Virginia. Some of the adults may have had a problem with that, but for us kids, we were just glad to have more good players on our team! Better nutrition, better training and better sports science are at play now. We weren’t allowed to drink water during the summer trainings. It was thought not to be good for you. Can you imagine? I think its safer now, and it’s something I keep working on, with a bill in the state senate aimed at just that.”





PHOTO COURTESY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH SCHOOL

Dibora Eshete receives the first Art Steffen Memorial Citizenship Scholarship at Mountain View High School's mid-year graduation awards ceremony. (From left) Art Steffen's social studies department colleague at Mountain View Catherine Collins, Dibora Eshete, Bev Steffen and Mackenzie Steffen.

First Art Steffen Scholarship Awarded

For nearly three decades, Edward Arthur "Art" Steffen taught at Fairfax County Public Schools.

He spent his last 10 years at Mountain View Alternative High School in Centreville. After retiring from teaching in 2012, Steffen continued to coach basketball, with his final position at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

Steffen died unexpectedly on June 15, 2014, and the subsequent celebration of his life brought over 1,000 people to the Fairfax County Police Association hall in Fairfax.

To honor Steffen's memory, his widow Bev and children Emily and Mackenzie decided to establish the Art Steffen Memorial Scholarship Fund that would recognize individuals in the areas of citizenship and basketball. The scholarship would assist with either financial aid or trade opportunities.

The citizenship scholarship is awarded to one student at Mountain View Alternative High School in Centreville, and the basketball scholarship goes to a female at Lake Braddock, Robinson, Centreville or West Springfield who is involved with either playing, coaching, refereeing or managing a team.

Steffen graduated from West Springfield High School in 1970.

The first Art Steffen Memorial Citizenship Scholarship of \$1,000



PHOTO COURTESY OF BEV STEFFEN

Art Steffen was most recently a basketball coach at Lake Braddock Secondary School before his sudden death in June 2014.

was awarded to Mountain View senior Dibora Eshete on Feb. 6 at the school's mid-year graduation awards ceremony. Eshete graduated on Feb. 10.

Another Mountain View student will receive a scholarship at graduation in June. The basketball scholarship will also be awarded at Lake Braddock, Robinson, Centreville or West Springfield at the end of the school year.

For more information about donating to the scholarship fund, visit artsteffen.ucpfund.org.

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Not the First or Only Time

Secrecy around police shootings has been a problem for at least a decade.

The official position of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on the need for changes in policy after the shooting of John Geer by police in Springfield in August of 2013 appears to be that this is the first time police policies have been a problem:

"Policies for handling police-involved incidents, which served us well for decades, were inadequate in this complicated situation."

Police-involved shootings have resulted in excruciating obfuscation and delay by Fairfax County Police dating back more than a decade. In this editorial, we refer to two high-profile cases, but these are not the only cases where police secrecy had caused incalculable pain to families while damaging the credibility of the police and other county officials. And this issue is not limited to Fairfax County. Alexandria and Arlington use similar approaches to limit public access to information.

Most Northern Virginia residents think very highly of their police. We are very safe here. People understand that sometimes mistakes happen, that sometimes force is needed, and that sometimes police will exercise deadly force. What they are unlikely to accept is secrecy that shrouds mistakes, and failure to take responsibility for explaining events of deadly force.

We'll quote the father of David Masters who wrote a letter to the Mount Vernon Gazette (a Connection Newspaper) in June, 2013, two months before John Geer was shot:

"I am the father of David Masters. David was shot to death by a Fairfax County police officer on Nov. 13, 2009 while sitting in his truck at a stop at the intersection of Route 1 and Fort Hunt Road. I don't know any more about the circumstances of this grim fatality now than I did then and now, as then, the records of this tragedy are not available to anyone outside the police department. The officer who shot my son was ultimately and I must say secretly fired by the then police chief, David Rohrer. But even that was done without any admission of culpability by anyone in the county. ... I don't understand why the Virginia Freedom of In-

formation Act gives blanket exemption to police matters. ... As it is now, the police department can, and seemingly does, operate in a culture of complete autonomy without fear that its actions will be held up to any kind of scrutiny."

The Connection reported in 2006 about the accidental shooting of an unarmed Salvatore J. "Sal" Culosi Jr. during his arrest on gambling charges:

"With red-rimmed eyes and her voice cracking, Anita Culosi expressed outrage Thursday evening [March 30, 2006] that a Fairfax County police officer will not be charged with a crime for accidentally killing her 37-year-old son. 'My son is laying in a cemetery,' she said, surrounded by family members holding framed pictures of her son. 'That man pulled a trigger and shot my son dead.'"

Anita Culosi's son, Salvatore J. "Sal" Culosi Jr., was accidentally shot to death by a Fairfax County SWAT team officer on Jan. 24 outside his Fair Oaks townhouse. He had been under investigation for illegal sports gambling for the previous three months, accepting at least \$28,000 in bets from an undercover Fairfax County detective.

In July, 2012, more than a year before John Geer was shot and killed, a group of citizens identified four cases, including Masters and Culosi, where police secrecy continued to block questions about shooting deaths. Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability characterized "questionable circumstances" around the shootings, noted that no one, including the families of the deceased victims, had been able to obtain a police incident report despite the fact that the four cases are closed.

CCPA Executive Director Nicholas Beltrante sent letters asking for the release of documents, "to find out what happened in the shooting deaths, why deadly force was used instead of a taser gun or beanbag gun, and to find out if police misconduct took place."

Beltrante said: "Our letters will highlight to the public the importance of amending the Virginia FOIA to require the release of police incident reports, and the value of improving

police accountability by creating an independent police citizen oversight panel made up of Fairfax county citizens Unnecessary use of deadly force by the police, if it is occurring, will undermine the integrity and confidence of the public in our police and our elected officials."

The revelations about the shooting of John Geer as a result of a civil lawsuit seriously undermine the credibility of the investigation process.

Aside from the officer who shot Geer, four other officers on the scene told investigators that same day that they were shocked by the shot that killed Geer and thought the shooting was unnecessary. There was no weapon in view, and Geer made great effort to be predictable in his actions, asking permission to scratch his nose, otherwise keeping his hands up on the doorframe.

But a day after the shooting, police released the following update:

"The preliminary investigation indicates that when officers arrived on the scene, they were met by an individual who displayed what appeared to be a weapon in a threatening manner and was subsequently shot."

And last month, before the statements of the other officers were released, the police released this update with the name of the officer:

"Geer was reported as having multiple firearms inside the home, displaying a firearm that he threatened to use against the police, and refused the officers' requests that he remain outside and speak to them. Officers, including a trained negotiator, attempted to peacefully resolve the situation. They spoke with Geer for more than 30 minutes as he stood in the doorway of his home. When Geer began lowering his hands at one point during the negotiations, PFC Adam Torres fired a single shot that struck Geer."

But investigators knew that the negotiator had not seen Geer holding a weapon.

We don't agree with this statement by Bulova: "The Board of Supervisors has taken the steps needed to ensure its policies allow for justice to be fairly and swiftly served."

This is not an isolated case. The Board of Supervisors must demand transparency from the police.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Failing in Their Duties

To the Editor:

I applaud your editorial on the Geer murder ("No Justification for Secrecy, Delay on Geer Shooting," Connection, February 4-10, 2015). The Connection has done yeoman's work in keeping this tragedy in front of the public, unlike other newspapers which are johnnie-come-latelies.

Our chairman and county Board of Supervisors have failed in their

duty to oversee the Fairfax County Poice Department, except Pat Herrity who seems to have spoken out against this scandal early. The "blanket approach" to deny FOIA requests you mention is simply a policy. Policies are guidelines for what should normally be done; they are not a legal requirement and can be changed with a stroke of the pen by the FCPD either on its own or at the direction of the Board of Supervisors.

I hope you will call for the resignation of the chief of FCPD; oppose re-election of the chairman and Board of Supervisors, less

Herrity; oppose re-election of our Commonwealth's Attorney; and payment of the \$12M to Geer's estate. The chief has condoned a cover-up and our elected officials have failed in their duties. The \$12M should come from the budget of the FCPD and our Commonwealth's Attorney, and foreclose raising the pay of the chairman and Board of Supervisors based on their inexcusable handling of this affair.

Mike Shumaker
Fairfax

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

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail:
south@connectionnewspapers.com





PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Clifton resident and Robinson senior Elizabeth Telford receives Good Citizens Award from the Daughters of the American Revolution's Thomas Lee chapter Regent Adrienne Kerchner on Saturday, Feb. 7 at the Army Navy Country Club in Fairfax.

Members of the Daughters of the American Revolution Thomas Lee chapter honor their 2015 Good Citizens awardee Elizabeth Telford at a Saturday, Feb. 7 luncheon at the Army Navy Country Club in Fairfax.

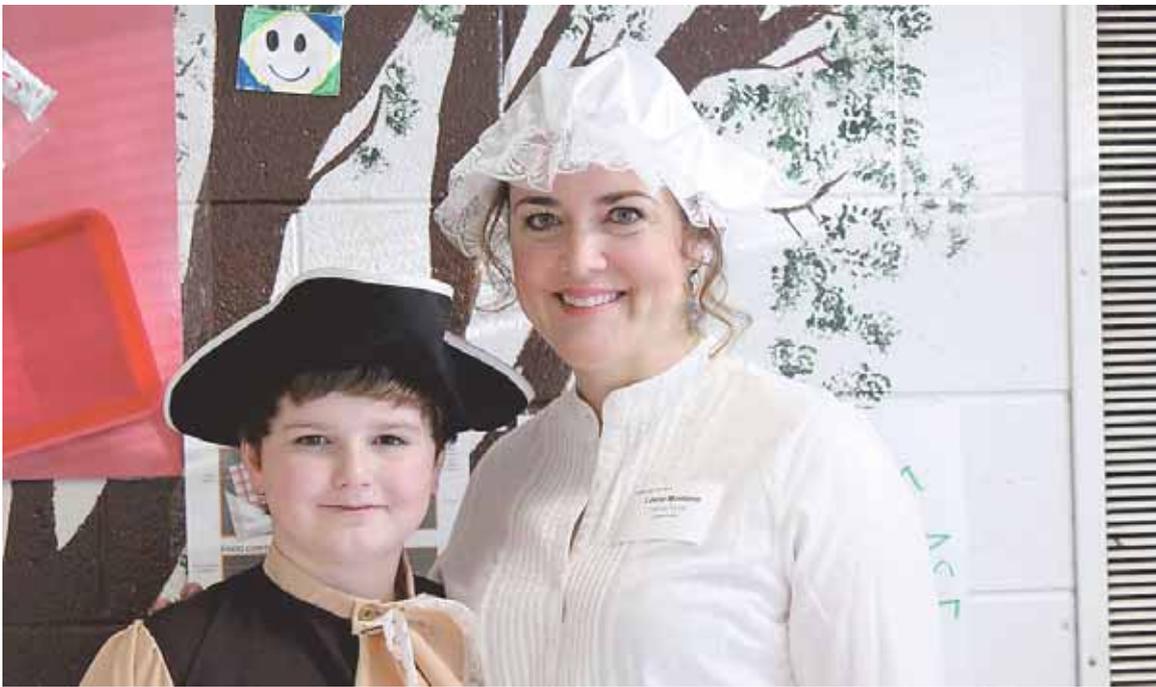
Good Citizenship Honored

The Daughters of the American Revolution's Thomas Lee (Fairfax) chapter, in an event held at the Army Navy Club in Fairfax, awarded their 2015 Good Citizens award to Clifton resident and Robinson senior Elizabeth Telford.

The award recognizes a high school senior who stands out among their peers and possesses the qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. Telford has a 4.2 GPA in Robinson's International Baccalaureate program and will graduate in

June a year ahead of schedule. She has twice participated in the Junior Olympics in Colorado Springs as a marksman.

She is fluent in Chinese, competes internationally in Kung Fu, and spent the last two summers training in China. She received a Congressional nomination to the Naval Academy and a Senatorial nomination to West Point. She is a member of the National, French, and Chinese Honor Societies and is president of Robinson's STEM Club.



Leslie Montoro and her son Michael.

Colonial Day at Cherry Run Elementary

Cherry Run Elementary School fourth graders in Burke held Colonial Day on Jan. 16. Students dressed in the styles of the 1700s. They learned the Virginia Reel and invited their parents in to the dance. Parents put together stations where students could stencil on cloth, hammer tin punch decorations, shake cream to make butter, and play games such as hopscotch, jacks, marbles and cat's cradle. The highlight of the afternoon was a visit from the U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps.

These musicians in their red coats and curled wigs paraded around the circular hallway in school, then arrayed themselves on stage. There an announcer told students about ways that music sent messages on the battlefield and army encampments.



Fourth-grader Michael Grundy

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Home Improvements Earn Remodeling Awards

Four Sun Design remodeling projects named Washington-area “Contractor of the Year” winners.

By JOHN BYRD

It's been a good year for Sun Design Remodeling.

In January, the full-service design/build remodeler won four “Contractor of the Year” awards from the Washington, D.C. chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI). Then, in February, an already locally-honored gourmet kitchen was named category best (“kitchen above \$150k”) in the 10-state southeastern region.

Winning projects include: a rear elevation poolside recreation solution; a French Country gourmet kitchen (the southeastern regional winner); an open kitchen plan in a traditional interior style; and a lower-level build-out to designed for use by three generations.

A look at the firm's tops-in-category prizes reveals much about homeowner needs and prevailing trends.

French Country Kitchen Is Local and Regional COTY winner: Residential Kitchen Over \$120,000

For Dr. Rick Layfield and his wife Kelly Layfield, the search for their dream kitchen started shortly after they purchased their 3,700-square-foot, four-bedroom home in Clifton eight years ago.

“The kitchen suite was a primary selling point,” Kelly Layfield said



PHOTO BY MITRO HOOD

GRAND WINNER: Sun Design Remodeling's reconciliation of a spacious Fredericksburg home to its poolside setting was named the Washington-area's Best Exterior design solution in the recent “Contractor of the Year” awards. The multi-component Craftsman-style architectural solution includes a large outdoor kitchen and comfortable gathering places.

of the 400-square-foot room.

But she found the rear of the house dark and dated. Sightlines to the children's backyard play areas were not well-aligned. And there was a visually obstructive bulkhead over the primary food preparation zone.

Also, the pentagon-shaped food preparation island and dining counter wasn't well suited for in-kitchen dining. And the corner breakfast area was cramped — making it hard to access a door to the back porch which used to be a pathway to the family's outdoor grill.

Fortunately, Kelly Layfield's first meeting with designer John Benson was productive from the start.

For instance, he proposed a rectangular food preparation island with a granite surface, parallel with the two corners of the cook's work zones.

To improve light, sightlines and floor space, Benson eliminated a corner window, adding a larger window over the sink and a three-foot-wide divided-light door in the middle of the rear elevation.

He then removed the side-porch door as well as two floor-to-ceiling windows, rebuilding the corner wall around two sets of windows and a custom-designed dining banquette.

The cumbersome bulkhead has been replaced with a coffered ceiling.

Details

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors tours of recently remodeled homes as well as offering workshops on home remodeling topics. Headquartered in Burke, the firm has a second office in McLean. Call 703-425-5588 or www.SunDesignInc.com for more.

Benson also helped Layfield explore the lighter, more textured hues she had been seeking: marble subway tile wall covering; surfaces in Granite Bianco Antico; white cabinets with glass facings; and an oven backsplash in a white quatrefoil tiling. The coffers, likewise, are delineated in a white and grey duotone.

“This is just the balance I was looking for,” Layfield said. “It feels like home.”

Open Floorplan Defines Casual But Elegant Kitchen

Residential Kitchen; \$80k to \$120k; COTY Honorable Mention

Steve and Melynda Britt's four-bedroom colonial in Vienna offered considerable charms when the couple purchased it 10 years ago.

There was a nicely finished library and living room, a formal dining room and a sizable family room in the back half of the house with a 13-foot cathedral ceiling framing a lovely view of mature landscaping.

The main shortcoming was the kitchen — accessible from the back of the foyer, yet cut off from the wrap-around family gathering areas by a knee-high serving

counter that converged into an “I” with a floor-to-ceiling wall partitioning the kitchen from the breakfast area.

Instead of creating privacy where needed, the rear suite configuration made a promisingly open space feel cramped and closed-in.

For Melynda Britt, the larger goal was a kitchen footprint that offered an efficient work space — integrated with the surrounding great room.

“Since the emphasis was on a more intelligent use of limited square footage,” Sun Design's Durosco said, “we thought custom-built-ins would help create better coordinated work zones.”

Critiquing the kitchen now, Britt is amazed at how much more effectively the solution works on several fronts:

- * The food preparation island not only protects the cook's work triangle, but is positioned for easy service to the family room;

- * The beverage station — an effective space divider — is accessible from both the breakfast area and family room.

- * The coffee bar is situated between doors leading to the dining room and the breakfast room — out of the chef's way.

- * The kitchen's mosaic tile flooring has been replaced by a refinished hardwood flooring that unifies the suite. White diamond granite backsplashes and surfaces, likewise, set an elegant tone.

- * “We can now comfortably entertain 20-25 guests,” Britt said. “Better yet, the space is really warm and comfortable.”

Finished Lower Level Offers Multi-Gen Family Solution Residential Basement/ COTY Honorable Mention

Eric Park and his wife Tina, both physicians, were already quite



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PHOTO BY GREG HADLEY

BEST RESIDENTIAL KITCHEN: The newly remodeled kitchen suite in Rick and Kelly Layfield's home in Clifton Heights features clean lines and compelling visuals.

busy 10 years ago when they purchased a 3,400-square-foot two-level neo-colonial in Falls Church. Blessed events, however, have a way of changing basic assumptions for the better. In 2007, the couple's first daughter was born; a second daughter followed four years later. Suddenly, active lives became even busier.

"Our plan all along was to create a family home," Tina Park said. "We saw the lower level eventually playing a part in our daily lives, but were only using it for storage. It wasn't until my mother began regularly helping us with the girls that we began looking at the house more closely."

At first Park's mother, Kay, would stay in the guest room, but gradually everyone started looking at ways to increase available privacy.

It's at this point that Sun Design Remodeling enters the story.

"A basement conversion is challenging," said Sun Design's Liz Lee-Sint, who guided the Park project from concept to completion, "especially when it's going to be mainstreamed with the rest of the house."

For Kay, the top priority was a suite with all the features of independent living, including a private entrance, a comfortable master suite and a fully functional kitchenette with dining for four.

On a separate note, the Parks envisioned a 195-square-foot family fitness center and a children's play zone with custom built-ins.

To gain uncluttered sightlines, Sun Design executed a few structural changes. The L-shaped stairway entrance was widened while preserving a necessary I-beam.

Describing the finished décor as "modern Asian contemporary," Tina Park stressed simple lines, soft tones and open visuals.

While the 150-square-foot kitchenette and dining counter provides everything needed for food preparation, the execution blends with other elements in a cleverly-zoned great room,

"It's really the nicest place in the

house now," Park said. "And it satisfies so many different needs that it's become our main gathering place."

House and grounds reconciliation judged this year's best

Exterior Solution/COTY Grand award winner

As Monte Zaben tells it, the rear elevation to his 8,300-square-foot colonial in Fredericksburg was so sun-exposed it was uncomfortable sitting by the pool he had just in

SEE SUN DESIGN, PAGE 15

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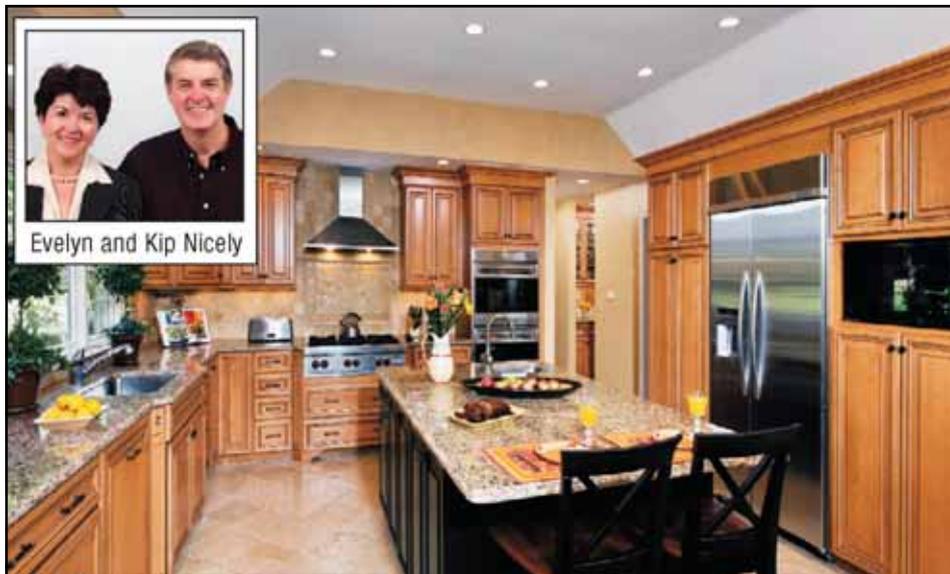
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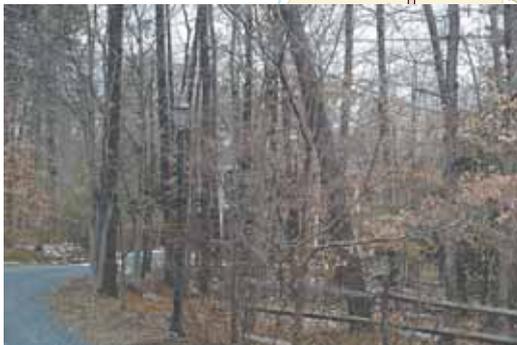
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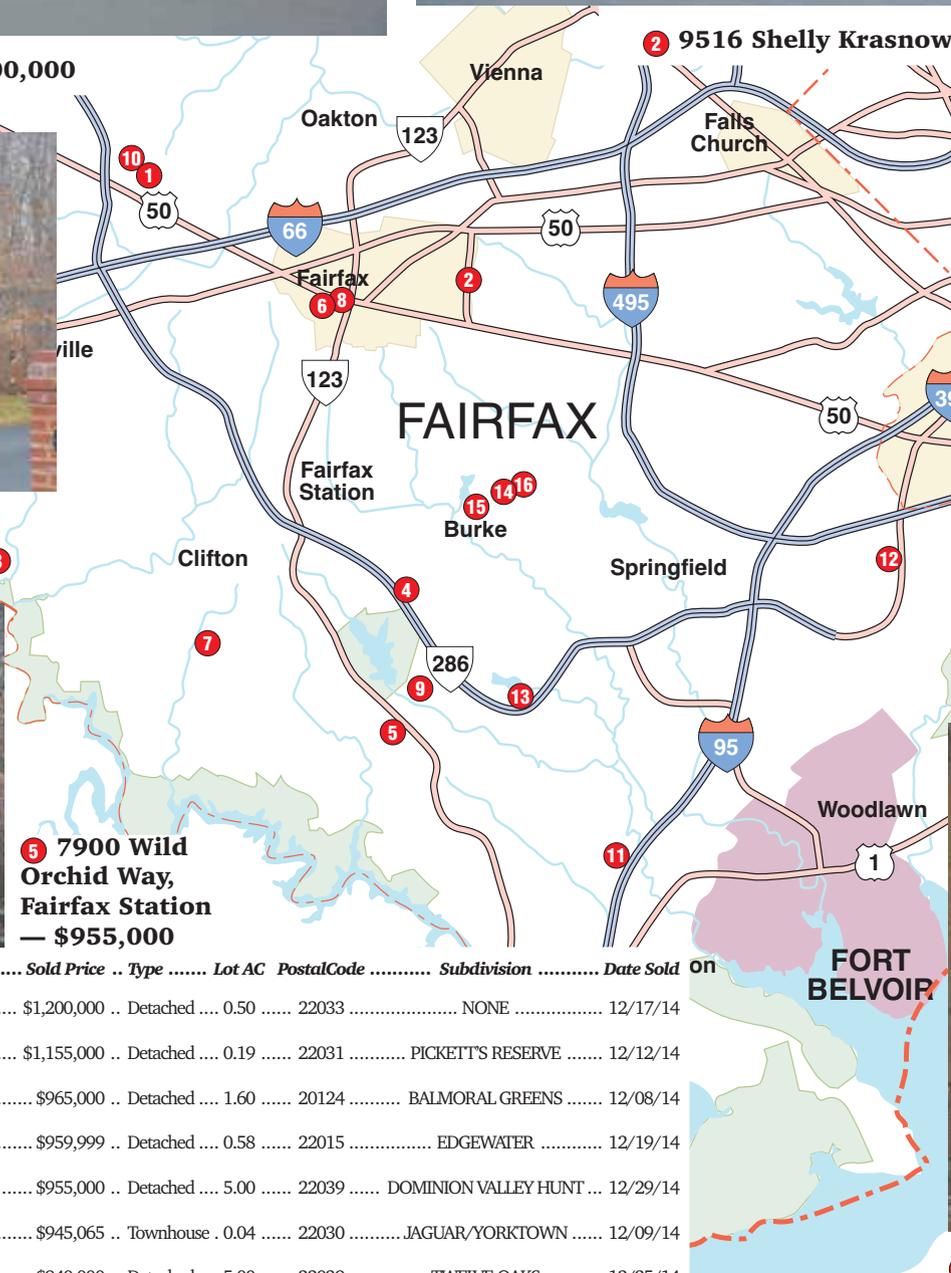
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3 7400 UNION RIDGE RD	4	5	2	CLIFTON	\$965,000	Detached	1.60	20124	BALMORAL GREENS		12/08/14	
4 6462 LAKE MEADOW DR	5	4	1	BURKE	\$959,999	Detached	0.58	22015	EDGEWATER		12/19/14	
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8 10689 YORKTOWN CT	3	3	2	FAIRFAX	\$881,960	Townhouse	0.05	22030	JAGUAR/YORKTOWN		12/18/14	
9 9736 ROLLING RIDGE DR	5	3	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$855,000	Detached	0.61	22039	SOUTH RUN		12/29/14	
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13 7406 Arundel Place, Springfield — \$771,000

VIEWPOINTS

Describe your ideal Valentine's Day Date

—TIM PETERSON

Sev Kerat, senior at South County High School, Springfield resident:

"We'd go ice skating, or something else active to move about and set the mood. Doing an activity makes me feel relieved instead of uptight."



Patrick LeMay, senior at South County High School, Lorton resident:

"The date would be something casual and classic, like a movie and dinner. Keeping it simple is good because you're afraid of making that one mistake. Dinner is good so we can talk, then the movie would be girl's choice."

Grant Kenny, Burke resident:

"It would be something active, like golf, going for a walk, camping or a sports event. Not boring like dinner and a movie."



Laurelyn Rawson, Fairfax resident:

"We would start with a climb to the top of Old Rag and end at one of the local wineries, like Barrel Oak Winery, with a fireplace and tasting a couple of their varieties."

Mark Jones, Fairfax Station resident:

"The day would include a running race with my wife, watching our kids at a swim meet and then going to downtown Clifton for dinner, just the two of us."



Liz Maquera, junior at West Springfield High School, Springfield resident:

"First we would go hang-gliding and then end up at a picnic in the park, somewhere like Great Falls Park. Later we would go to a movie, an action movie, that's not sappy, so we both can enjoy it."

Katy Morgan, senior at South County High School, Fairfax Station resident:

"I would just stay in with a cute boy, hugging on him and cuddling. He would make dinner for me because it's my birthday, macaroni and cheese from scratch, and then we would watch a chick flick."



Lauren Dzerski, sophomore at South County High School, Lorton resident:

"We would go out to a movie, then to dinner at a fancy restaurant, for steak. The movie would be a comedy."



Michael Murphy, junior at Lake Braddock Secondary School, Fairfax Station resident:

An activity would be good, like ice skating, then a nice dinner, candlelit, maybe a steakhouse. Then we would go out to a movie, all very classic. The movie would be either a romantic comedy or horror, because generally girls want to hold your hand if it's scary.

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Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, and identify all people and pets in photos. Submission deadline is February 18.

Virginia Opera's Special Gift for Valentine's Weekend

"Salome" at George Mason University Center for the Arts.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Salome, a name that conjures unforgettable impressions: passion, desire, murder. The opera "Salome" is based upon a once shocking Oscar Wilde literary work. This Valentine's weekend the Virginia Opera is presenting a production about how love's obsession in the wrong hands can lead to the most unfortunate, unforeseen consequences.

With "Salome" a key figure is a *femme fatale* young woman who uses her femininity to get her way. She even demands the head of Jochanaan on a silver platter. The production is propelled by the rich score of German composer Richard Strauss.

The music triggers chilling emo-



Kelly Cae Hogan as Salome in Virginia Opera's production of "Salome."

tions and highlights the drama of the story. The opera is world famous for its "Dance of the Seven Veils."

"Scandalous in every way, the work includes some of the most glorious music and some of the craziest, most debauched mo-

When and Where

Virginia Opera's "Salome" George Mason University Center for the Arts, at George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances Sat., Feb. 14 at 8 p.m. and Sun., Feb. 15 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$44 to \$98. Call 888.945.2468 or visit <http://cfa.gmu.edu/tickets/> Note: "Salome" will be performed in German with English subtitles. Each performance will feature a free pre-opera discussion lead by Virginia Opera's Dr. Glenn "Dr. Opera" Winters starting 45 minutes before the curtain.

ments in all opera," said conductor Ari Pelto. "It is fantastically exciting that Virginia Opera is able, and has the courage, to mount this production offering an unusually special night of theatre."

Directed by Stephen Lawless, "Salome" will feature Kelly Cae Hogan leading an eminent cast. Hogan was not long ago seen as Blanche DuBois in Virginia Opera's sultry "A Streetcar Named Desire." Alan Woodrow sings the key role of King Herod.

Herod's promise to Salome sets things in motion to a spectacular finale. Woodrow spoke of the character of Salome as "almost a bored school girl, who only knows that

she wants; when told 'no' she seeks out retribution."

Woodrow added that "Salome doesn't know how powerful she is. She is not aware of her powers of seduction over some men." The outcomes of her impetuous nature are not good.

To Woodrow, his Herod character is interesting in its complexity. Herod recognizes that Jochanaan is someone very special. He understands that Jochanaan should not be killed; there will be considerable consequences. But, since Salome has danced for Herod he must grant her wish. Woodrow made it clear that the last few minutes of the opera are something special to behold.

Virginia Opera partnered with Portland, Ore. Opera to produce "Salome." The production has a set design by Benoit Dudardyn and costumes from Ingeborg Bernerth that depict modern times in the Middle East. Virginia Opera President and CEO, Russell P. Allen, said, "With this production of 'Salome,' our audiences are receiving one of the most highly dramatic and intense operas ever written."

CALENDAR

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

FRIDAY/FEB. 13

A Tribute to Black History Month. South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. \$5.

Juan Gabriel. 9 p.m. Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Juan Gabriel is one of the top selling Latin music artists in history, having sold over 100 million albums worldwide. He has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, multiple Grammy and Latin Grammy nominations and awards, and was honored by the Latin Grammys as Person of the Year. Tickets available through Ticketmaster and Patriot Center box office.

Stereo Riots, Last Armistice, Burn the Ballroom. 6 p.m. Empire, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Musical stylings of three bands. \$10 to \$12. 703-569-5940.

Bingo. 7 p.m. Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Benefits the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department. 703-273-3638.

Dancing Heart-Innovative Music for Flute, Percussion and Piano. 8-9:30 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The Dancing Heart Ensemble grew out of a shared fervor to perform exciting, innovative music which transforms audiences and performers alike. The group commissions works, adds their own personal touch with new arrangements of existing pieces, and combines works around various captivating themes. Dancing Heart believes that audiences love to be informed and engaged, so they are informal, accessible and interactive. For information,

joanna.ormesher@fairfaxva.gov.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/FEB. 13-14

Vagina Monologues. 8-11 p.m. Harris Theater, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. At George Mason, The Vagina Monologues are performed in February as part of V-Day George Mason. First performed at Mason in 1999, the event is cosponsored by Wellness, Alcohol and Violence Education and Services, and Women's and Gender Studies. Proceeds from the performance benefit the Mason Victims of Violence Fund. \$5, 10, 15, 25. 703-993-2787.

SATURDAY/FEB. 14

Partner's Yoga. 1-2 p.m. Studio A. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Let's celebrate Valentine's Day with Partner's Yoga! A heartfelt and celebratory workshop of breath, partner yoga and just being together. Bring your sweetheart or a special friend! No prior Yoga experience necessary! Reservations required. \$20 per couple. 703-548-2900.

A Mug-Throwing Extravaganza. 6-9 p.m. Building W-8, Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Watch resident ceramic artist Brian Grow turn pounds of clay into mugs in three hours. Mugs will be available for purchase. 703-548-2900.

"The Sixth Generation" Valentine's Day Dance. 8 p.m. W-16-McGuireWoods Gallery, Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Join The Sixth Generation for a Valentine's Day concert in 60's Dance Hall Style at the Workhouse Arts Center! Award-winning rock-n-rollers, The Sixth Generation, perform live in the McGuireWoods gallery with plenty of room to dance the night away. \$20 to \$30. 703-548-2900.

Homecoming Block Party and

Tailgating. 1-3:30 p.m. Parking Lot K, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. It's the 17th annual Homecoming Pregame Block Party. Wander through heated tents and hang out with friends, and meet alumni. You just never know who you'll find. A great event for any Patriot fan, the gathering will include Mason's family-friendly area, complete with interactive games, crafts, and face painting for our younger Patriots 13 and under. Pre-register. For questions contact masonhc@gmu.edu

Annual Valentine's Day Banquet.

6:30-11 p.m. Waterford, 6715 Commerce Street, Springfield. The Family Ministry of the Greater Little Zion Baptist Church is sponsoring their Annual Valentine's Day Banquet. All couples and singles are invited to fellowship with us and enjoy an evening of dining, music, dancing and featured entertainment. The theme for this night of extravaganza and celebration of Valentine's Day is Celebration of Love. \$55 per person.

Chocolate And Tea Tasting Party.

10 a.m. - noon. Historic Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Enjoy the holiday by learning how carefully chosen specialty teas and fine chocolates compliment each other perfectly. \$27/p.p. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 102 6701 or call 703-642-5173.

Workhouse Cabaret Series:

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Sun Design Earn Awards

FROM PAGE 11



PHOTO BY MITRO HOOD

BEST RESIDENTIAL KITCHEN: Sun Design's winning kitchen solution takes full advantage of a 13' cathedral ceiling with a two-level window wall. Owner Melynda Britt says the space is much better organized, yet more accessible — perfect for entertaining.

stalled the year before. "We spent about a year trying to picture a backyard plan that would make the pool and grounds a more satisfying recreational experience," he said. "It was slow going."

After researching several options, however, he stumbled on Sun Design's portfolio of indoor-outdoor solutions, and set up a meeting.

From the start, company founder Craig Durosko proposed relevant ideas — including a design for a spacious, shaded pavilion outside the home's lower level.

Combining an extended radius that steps down to the pool with vaulted entrance way, the structure's architecture is welcoming.

Tapered craftsman-style piers support a seam metal roof. Inside, three distinct activity zones flow together: an open-air lounge, just outside the lower-level changing area, seats eight to 10; a cozy

poolside vista with a pair of wicker chairs; and an outdoor kitchen equipped with a traditional grill, a power burner and refrigerators.

As a practical consideration, Sun Design constructed a sound-abating, architecturally-appropriate brick wall around exterior HVAC units, and added a period-style heat-screening overhang to an upper level kitchen window.

A second level grilling deck is

now, likewise, under roof.

Happy with the outcome, Zaben said he enjoys the outdoor kitchen so much he was out grilling one of his specialties this past January.

"We make regular use of the outdoor space on just about every seasonable day," he adds. "It's very much a part of our lives now."

John Byrd has been writing about home improvement for 30 years. He can be reached at byrdmatx@gmail.com.

2ND ANNUAL Boys & Girls Club Fairfax Casino Night

Friday, March 6, 2015

The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner



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6:30-11:30pm

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SPORTS



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION
Robinson gymnast Bailey Young won the Conference 5 vault title on Feb. 5 at Centreville High School.



Robinson gymnast Caroline Burda competes on beam during the Conference 5 championship meet on Feb. 5 at Centreville High School.

Young, Burda Lead Robinson Gymnastics to Conference 5 Title

Rams win second straight championship, third in four years.

BY JON ROETMAN
 THE CONNECTION

The pain in Bailey Young's ankles is severe enough that she chose end a decade-long club gymnastics career, despite training to be a Level 10.

As a junior at Robinson last year, she competed for the school's gymnastics team, but only participated in two events.

Now a senior, Young decided to push through the pain and compete in the all-around. Despite tendonitis in both ankles from years of wear and tear, she participated in each of the four events during the Conference 5 championship meet, culminating with vault.

"Everyone else gets two chances to vault, but I know I (usually) only get one," said Young, referring to limitations resulting from ankle pain. "It's a lot of pressure [to] just [have] one vault that a lot of girls don't have."

Young landed her one vault attempt during the conference meet, held it long enough to appease the judges, and then had to be carried by a teammate back to Robinson's seating area, where she iced her left ankle.

YOUNG'S EFFORT on vault showed toughness. It also showed talent.

Young recorded a score of 9.2, earning an individual conference title while helping Robinson repeat as Conference 5 team champion on Feb. 5 at Centreville High School.

It was Robinson's third title in four years, including a Concorde District championship in 2012.

The Rams finished with a score of 136.55, well ahead of second-place Herndon (131.925). The two teams earned regional berths.

Oakton finished third with a score of 130.225, fol-

lowed by Westfield (119.75), Chantilly (119.6) and Centreville (90.425).

"It feels really good," Young said. "Obviously it hurts, but it's good to know the pain was worth it for today."

Young placed fourth in the all-around with a score of 33.975, earning a regional berth (top four all-arounds advance). Along with her win on vault, Young placed fourth on bars (8.35), tied for fourth on floor (9) and finished 12th on beam (7.425).

"She's a tough one," Robinson head coach Megan Smiley said. "I think it just shows how committed she is to Robinson and the program. She loves the girls, she loves the team. We're going to miss her next year."

Young wasn't the only Robinson gymnast overcoming an injury. Caroline Burda hurt her left knee during the regular season and wore a brace during the Conference 5 meet. She wasn't listed as a vault competitor in the meet program, but decided during the week to compete in the all-around.

BURDA, a sophomore, finished runner-up in the all-around for the second year in a row, this time recording a score of 34.05. She tied for second on bars (8.45), tied for third on beam (8.35), placed sixth on floor (8.95) and finished 22nd on vault (8.3).

"I thought that I did the best I could," Burda said. "I wish beam had gone a little bit better. It was a pretty low score for me, but I hope to work hard this next week and prepare for regionals and hopefully do better."

Robinson's Emily Gross placed second on vault (9.125). Britnie Sullins tied for fourth on floor (9), placed fifth on vault (9.075) and took sixth on bars (8.225). Kayla Mathews tied for third on beam (8.35), and Jennifer Groth tied for sixth on vault (8.9) and finished seventh on beam (7.825).

Herndon's Alexa Bradley won the all-around title (36.175), including first-place finishes on floor (9.575), bars (9) and beam (8.5). Oakton's Natalie Weaver placed third in the all-around (34).

The 6A North region meet was scheduled for Feb. 11, after The Connection's deadline. The state meet will be held Feb. 20-21 at Patriot High School.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

A Game-Winning Effort

Lake Braddock sophomore Bailey Edwards drives through the West Potomac defense during the Bruins' 41-40 overtime victory on Tuesday at West Potomac High School. Edwards finished with 12 points and knocked down 10 of 12 free-throw attempts, including the game-winner with 2.2 seconds remaining in OT. Lake Braddock made 20 of 23 attempts from the line. The Bruins will host South County at 5:45 p.m. on Friday.



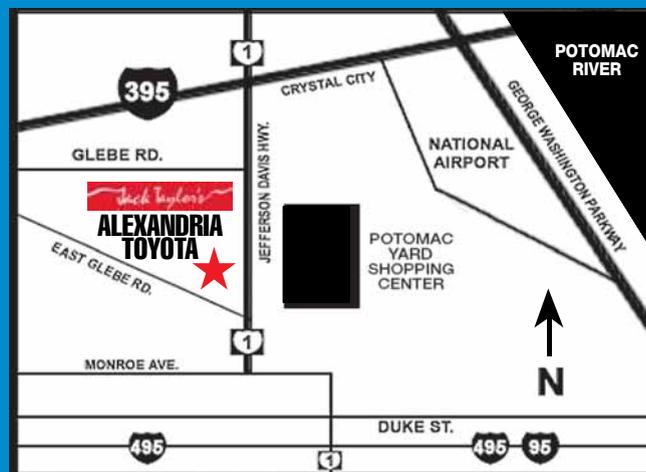
PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

Participating in Mid-Atlantic Erg Sprints

Thousands of spectators, rowers, coaches, volunteers and vendors filled the gym and the hallways at T.C. Williams on Jan. 31 for the 30th annual Mid-Atlantic Erg Sprints. Pictured on the right is W.T. Woodson rower Jack Ning.

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The Burke Connection
The Fairfax Connection
The Fairfax Station/Clifton/
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Zone 3: The Alexandria Gazette Packet
The Mount Vernon Gazette

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cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: totes, clothes,
chair, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday
February 20, 2015 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA
22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

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son and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and
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their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit
and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: fur-
niture, boxes, totes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise dis-
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Yajing Huang, owner
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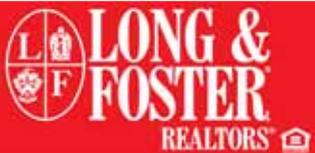
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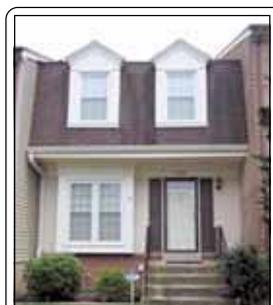
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