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PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION



South County gymnast Collea Burgess competes on beam during the Conference 7 championship meet on Feb. 4 at Lake Braddock. Burgess won the Conference 7 all-around title and helped the Stallions earn their first team championship.

# All-Around Winner

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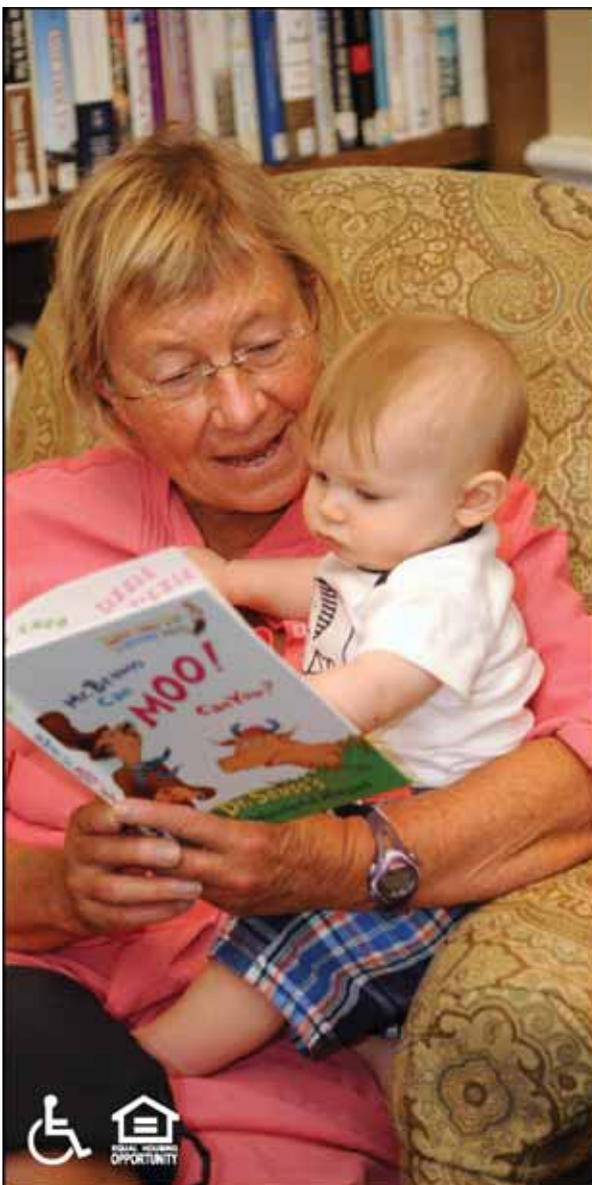
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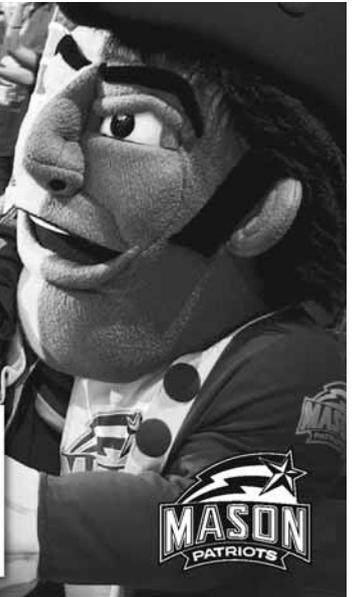
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(From left) Stephanie Oni and Lakeshia Lewis from Fairfax County government, Lauren Sterling of Western Fairfax Christian Ministries, U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10), Chantilly High School volunteer Keaira Baker, Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) and Chantilly volunteers Lauren Zarbo and Kemi Oni help kick off the Stuff the Bus event at the Giant in Clifton.



South County High School senior Jacob Seastrand (left) and junior Alexander Thomas (right) hand donated food to bus driver Futsum Ogbazion of Fairfax at the Stuff the Bus event in front of the Giant in Lorton.

## Stuffing the Bus in Clifton and Lorton

For members of the South County High School JROTC program, Saturday's "Stuff the Bus" food donation event was as much about community service as it was about "service learning."

"Community service is what you're doing; service learning is what you're getting out of it," said South County junior Alexander Thomas.

"We're learning how to help by getting people to donate," added junior Lauren Dost.

The students helped run one of two Stuff the Bus donation drives on Saturday, Feb. 7. Theirs took place at the Giant grocery

store in Lorton and benefitted the Lorton Community Action Center, while another occurred simultaneously at the Giant in Clifton and benefitted Western Fairfax Christian Ministries.

Fairfax County has organized "Stuff the Bus: Helping Fairfax Families" for five years, in collaboration with local grocery stores, non-profit organizations and Fastran buses with drivers from MV Transportation.

This year, the county lined up buses to appear in 13 different locations between Jan. 17 and Feb. 16.

At Saturday's drive in Clifton, U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) and Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) helped get the

donations rolling.

"We know people make donations around the holidays," said Comstock, "but there's still great need this time of year. It's great to have a reminder this is a year-round issue."

Lorton Community Action Center supplies food to between 240 and 280 local families each week, according to food program manager Stephenie Hart. "This area is definitely an area in need," she said, "especially along the Route 1 Corridor."

"Thirty-six percent of our kindergarteners have free and reduced lunch," Herrity said. "Sometimes it's easy to forget, but the need doesn't go away."

The drives in Lorton and Clifton each ran from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. In Lorton, they collected 2,280.6 pounds of food (97 percent over 2014) and \$807. The Clifton drive brought in 4,422 pounds of food and \$417.25.

With four events left, the 2015 Stuff the Bus program has collected over 26,000 pounds of food and more than \$6,000 overall.

For more information on the remaining Stuff the Bus dates and locations in February, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/food/stuffthebus](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/food/stuffthebus).

—TIM PETERSON



PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO/THE CONNECTION

Newly-engaged Mimi Stein and Jay Davis enjoy a game of table tennis during the Clifton Betterment Association's first ping pong tournament at the Clifton Town Hall on Saturday, Feb. 7. Stein and Davis got engaged earlier in the day.

## Town of Clifton Holds First Table Tennis Games

The Clifton Betterment Association held its first table tennis tournament on Saturday, Feb. 17 at the Clifton Town Hall. The competition was the brainchild of CBA members Michelle Stein, Lynne Strang, Steve Bittner and Jim Witt. Strang said it is a way to "provide a variety of activities,

have fun and get fit" during the winter. The tournament is part of CBA's Get Fit Clifton initiative, which had its first event, a group walk, in November. Under 17 winners received a certificate and a cupcake from Cupcaked, located across the street from the town hall.

— ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO



Participants of the Clifton Betterment Association's first ping pong tournament warm up before the adult competitions begin at the Clifton Town Hall on Saturday, Feb. 7.



Steve Bittner, Clifton Betterment Association vice president, and, Kevin Graine, winner of the 15 to 17 ping pong tournament division, enjoy a game of table tennis at the Clifton Town Hall on Saturday, Feb. 7.

# Combining Health and Mental Health

Community Services Board provides emergency services, prevention and treatment.

BY KENNETH MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

**O**ne 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](http://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

# NEWS

## Nagle, Arya to Address GOP Women Meeting

Chet Nagle, Naval Academy graduate, Cold War pilot, CIA agent and author will speak at the January meeting of the Republican Women of Clifton on the conflict in the Middle East and vulnerability of the US electrical grid to EMP and cyber-attacks. This topic bears on the cyber theme of Nagel's latest book Lazarus Man, which expounds on these issues using fact-based fiction.



**Chet Nagle**



**Golala Arya**

Golala Arya, Kurdish Iranian refugee, will contribute her insights on the conflict in Iran. The event will be Feb. 18 at Fairview Elementary School, 5815 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, at 7 p.m. with refreshments. The business meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. (This program was previously scheduled for Jan. 21, but canceled due to snow.)

Chet Nagle was born in New York and attended the US Naval Academy and Georgetown University Law Center. He worked in private and government defense roles focusing on the Middle East and Africa. Nagle founded an international geopolitical magazine, the Journal of Defense and Diplomacy, read in over 20 countries. He served as the Special Military Advisor to the Sultan of Oman where he received their highest civilian honor. Nagle currently consults with government and industry, appears on television and radio, speaks and writes. He is the author of three novels, his most current, "Lazarus Man," will be available for autographed purchase.

Golala Arya was born in Iran during the Islamic revolution and came of age amid the atrocities committed against women and a backdrop of war. Her father was active in the Kurdish opposition, which led to their eventual asylum in the United States. Arya's parents emphasized the value of freedom. She is a first generation college graduate, receiving her BA in Chemistry from Michigan State University and her MS in Chemistry from GMU where she currently is a PhD candidate. [www.CliftonGOP.com](http://www.CliftonGOP.com).

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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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 37<sup>th</sup> 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](http://artsteffen.ucpfund.org).

—TIM PETERSON

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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:

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



# 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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## 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 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.

Benson also helped Layfield explore the lighter, more textured hues she had been



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.**

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 “L” 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 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

### 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](http://www.SunDesignInc.com) for more.

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 installed 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 Durosco 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,



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.

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



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.

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.*

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# Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

## December, 2014 Top Sales



**1** 3208 West Ox Road, Fairfax — \$1,200,000

**2** 9516 Shelly Krasnow Lane, Fairfax — \$1,155,000



**3** 7400 Union Ridge Road, Clifton — \$965,000



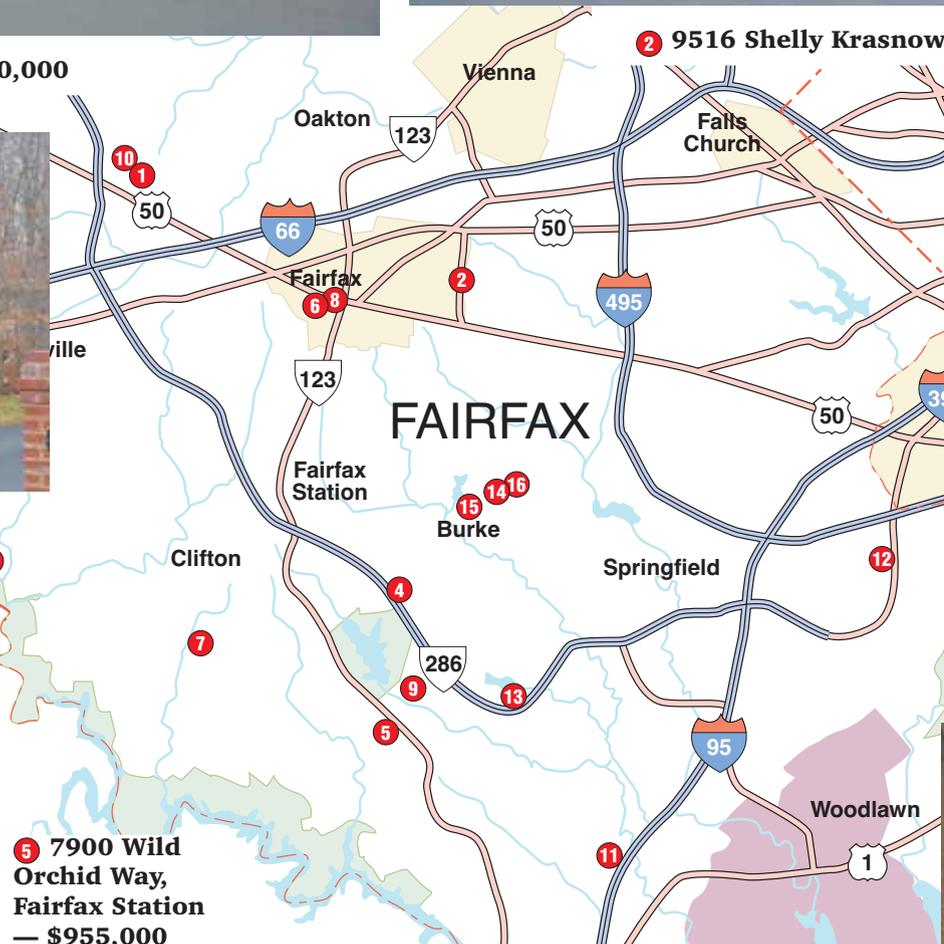
**6** 10693 Yorktown Court, Fairfax — \$945,065



**5** 7900 Wild Orchid Way, Fairfax Station — \$955,000



**8** 10689 Yorktown Court, Fairfax — \$881,960



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold	On
1 3208 WEST OX RD	5	6	1	FAIRFAX	\$1,200,000	Detached	0.50	22033	NONE		12/17/14	
2 9516 SHELLY KRASNOW LN	5	4	1	FAIRFAX	\$1,155,000	Detached	0.19	22031	PICKETT'S RESERVE		12/12/14	
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	
5 7900 WILD ORCHID WAY	5	4	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$955,000	Detached	5.00	22039	DOMINION VALLEY HUNT		12/29/14	
6 10693 YORKTOWN CT	3	3	2	FAIRFAX	\$945,065	Townhouse	0.04	22030	JAGUAR/YORKTOWN		12/09/14	
7 7110 TWELVE OAKS DR	5	4	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$940,000	Detached	5.00	22039	TWELVE OAKS		12/25/14	
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	
10 3589 ROCKY MEADOW CT	5	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$850,000	Detached	0.29	22033	WESTVALE		12/19/14	
11 8943 RHODODENDRON CIR	5	5	0	LORTON	\$844,000	Detached	0.31	22079	LAUREL HILL LANDBAY		12/24/14	
12 5929 EMBRY SPRING LN	4	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$816,000	Detached	0.09	22315	NORTHAMPTON		12/18/14	
13 7406 ARUNDEL PL	5	3	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$771,000	Detached	0.20	22153	MIDDLEFORD		12/12/14	
14 5311 RENAISSANCE CT	4	4	1	BURKE	\$765,000	Detached	0.22	22015	SIGNAL HILL CARRS		12/15/14	
15 5616 TILIA CT	6	3	1	BURKE	\$739,500	Detached	0.39	22015	BURKE ESTATES		12/22/14	
16 5314 RENAISSANCE CT	4	3	1	BURKE	\$727,500	Detached	0.22	22015	SIGNAL HILL CARRS		12/15/14	

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**13** 7406 Arundel Place, Springfield — \$771,000

# Airfield Closer to Taking Off

**Supervisors approve model airplane field at I-95 landfill.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

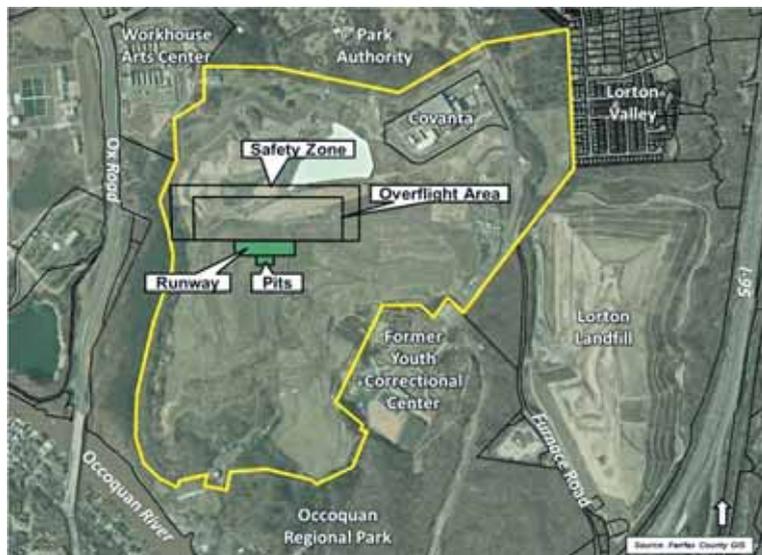
Robert Freas of Fairfax Station can't fly his model aircraft in his backyard. In fact, he has to drive to a field about 50 miles away for a facility that meets Academy of Model Aeronautics standards for planes like his. The fixed-wing fliers Freas and members Northern Virginia Radio Control (NVRC) club pilot can go up to eight feet long.

Since the club was founded in the 1950s, members have had difficulty finding and maintaining their own airfield in Fairfax County. But at the Jan. 27 Board of Supervisors meeting, the board unanimously approved the club's proposal to build a model aircraft facility on the western portion of the I-95 landfill complex in Lorton.

NVRC previously worked with the county to establish a field at Poplar Ford Park in Chantilly. However, the field's proximity to the Manassas battlefield and an equine facility to the south make it less suitable for larger aircraft. Also, only four to five planes can be in the air at one time, so having another facility was important to the health of the club.

Having a facility that can accommodate larger planes would also allow the club to host acrobatic competitions, a rarity in Northern Virginia.

"It's been kind of a draught," said Don Mason of McLean, former president of NVRC. "We have a million people, but don't have this kind of recreational facility."



An aerial view of the landfill property shows the parameters of the future Northern Virginia Radio Control club airfield in Lorton.

The NVRC leadership has been working with Fairfax County for the past three years to reach an agreement with the I-95 Recycling and Disposal Facility to use the site, a 290-acre landfill that closed in 1995.

The space is zoned for recreational use in the county's Comprehensive Plan, but the club was required to get special exception to the plan in order to move forward.

**THE LANDFILL** sits in Supervisor Hyland's (D-Mount Vernon) district and he made the motion to approve the proposal.

"I'm thrilled we finally found a way to do it," he said on Jan. 27.

Since the motion passed, unanimously, Freas (past president and currently treasurer of NVRC) said the next step is submitting a site plan for the facility. Though the airfield itself is largely just that, a field, the plan will also include a storage shed, shelter pavillion, mobile toilet and a 25-space parking lot.

The club is responsible for build-

ing the lot set at 25 spaces to accommodate one out of every three members using the facility, going up to 75. They'll be able to use the field only on weekends, from 9 a.m. to sunset, or until the recycling facility closes.

"It's not a big effort to start with," said Freas, "then we can actually use the property at that point."

Don Mason of McLean is another former president of NVRC. He said working with the county has been "long, arduous and tedious," but appreciates the help and guidance they've received from county administrators.

"I think that's the nature of the beast when you're trying to build something on public or private land," said Mason. "Everybody gets to have a say; the process is there for a reason. The Fairfax County officials we've been dealing with have been fantastic. They've been supportive and guided us when we've had hiccups."

SEE MODEL, PAGE 15

PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

## SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

### FEBRUARY

- 2/4/2015.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts I
- 2/4/2015.....Wellbeing - National Children's Dental Health Month
- 2/11/2015.....HomeLifeStyle
- 2/11/2015.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts II
- Valentine's Day is Feb. 14 • Presidents Day is Feb. 16
- 2/18/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools
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# Sharing the Ride

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

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**T**hough 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](http://www.virginiageneralassembly.gov) or email [district37@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district37@senate.virginia.gov) (Marsden) or [district35@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district35@senate.virginia.gov) (Saslaw).

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION



**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.**

## Good Citizenship Honored

**T**he 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 markswoman. 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.



**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.**

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

# 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.

## THROUGH SUNDAY/APRIL 5

**Reference.** W-16 - Vulcan Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Reference is a multi-media exploration of the various modes of influence that inform visual artists in both content and process. In Reference, participating artists incorporate performance, sound, process, and imagery to address the strong influence of other artists, visual and otherwise, upon their creative output as well as their deepest philosophical and spiritual understandings. No ticket required. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

## THROUGH SUNDAY/MARCH 8

**Julia Galloway.** Building W-8, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Julia Galloway is a utilitarian potter and professor. She is currently the Director of the School of Art and Professor at the University of Montana, Missoula. Julia makes useful pottery working at a mid-range firing at c6 in a soda kiln and re-firing her pottery at low temperatures to develop rich glaze surfaces. She combines wheel throwing and hand building techniques to make her pottery. No ticket required. 703-584-2900.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 13 - SUNDAY/FEB. 15

**Cabaret Series: Dreams of New Orleans.** 8 p.m. Fri., Sat. 1 p.m. Sun. W-3 Theatre, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Our musical romp through the Big Easy celebrates the Golden Age of Jazz! Just in time for Mardi Gras! Join our cabaret 'krewé' on a virtual parade down Bourbon Street, with both classic and contemporary songs from the stage and screen that evoke the spirit of the famed French Quarter. \$30 general, \$25 students, seniors, military. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 13

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

**Garden Talks with Master Gardeners: Purple Delights.** 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Historic Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Learn to set year-round garden accents with purple flowers, purple foliage, and purple fruits. \$10/p.p. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 102

9101or call 703-642-5173.  
**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.

**Julia Galloway.** W-16-McGuireWoods Gallery, Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Julia makes useful pottery working at a mid-range firing at c6 in a soda kiln and re-firing her pottery at low temperatures to develop rich glaze surfaces. She combines wheel throwing and handbuilding techniques to make her pottery. 703-548-2900.

**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 - SUNDAY/FEB. 13 - 15.

**Workhouse Cabaret Series: Dreams of New Orleans.** Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m., Sunday, 1 p.m. W-3 Theatre, Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Join the cabaret 'krewé' of Mary Payne, Calvin Register, Christopher Shaw and Karissa Swanigan-Upchurch on a virtual parade down Bourbon Street led by pianist Jacob Kidder and percussionist James Lawson, featuring both classic and contemporary songs from the stage and screen that evoke the spirit of the famed French Quarter! Ticket price includes planche campagnarde. A la carte cash bar available in venue. Ticket price includes planche campagnarde. \$30, \$25. 703-548-2900.

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/FEB. 13-28

**"Christos' Orange - Ten Years**

**Later."** Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts Center presents an exhibit by the artists in Gallery 5 Studio commemorating the ten year anniversary of the installation of "The Gates" in Central Park in New York City.

## 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-SUNDAY/FEB. 14-15

**Richard Strauss Salome.** Saturday, 8 p.m., Sunday, 2 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. With a steamy combination of biblical themes, sexual tension and murder, Richard Strauss' Salome surprised opera audiences when it appeared in 1905. Virginia Opera's upcoming Salome, co-produced with Portland Opera in Oregon, is an example of the lush musical sound of the early 20th century opera composition. Salome is an epic journey into the macabre - all set to the spellbinding music of Richard Strauss. For tickets go to <http://cfa.gmu.edu/tickets/> or call 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.

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# Model Airfield in Lorton Approved

FROM PAGE 13

**FREAS' GOAL** is to submit the site plan by the end of February or early March. Then, Freas and Mason have been told, it typically takes about 30 days to process such an application. It could be months before any actual construction takes place, but the club is optimistic nonetheless.

"It's great to be able to reuse the property like that," said Freas. "It's a win-win all the way around. Everyone's excited."

"People that belong to other clubs in the area, further out west, that live in Fauquier,

Woodbridge and Lorton, are sitting on the edge of their chair," said Mason, "waiting for this to open up to also fly large airplanes."

## NVRC airfield at Lorton: By the numbers

- ◆Grass runway: 400 feet
- ◆Pits area for assembling, assembling and repairing aircraft: 9,312 square feet
- ◆Maximum flying altitude: 400 feet
- ◆Flying zone: 2,000 by 500-foot airspace above the field
- ◆Use of the landfill by the club: \$5,000 annually



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# SPORTS

**South County gymnast Collea Burgess won the Conference 7 all-around title and helped the Stallions earn their first team championship on Feb. 4 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.**



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

## Burgess Overcomes Injury, Wins Conference All-Around Title

**SoCo gymnastics wins first Conference 7 championship.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**S**outh County gymnast Collea Burgess landed awkwardly during her beam routine at the Conference 7 championship meet and re-injured her left ankle.

The sophomore had worn a boot on her left foot for three months after breaking a bone during a club practice. Now, competing in the all-around for the first time since her injury, Burgess was in pain and in danger of finishing the meet as a spectator.

Burgess had completed bars and beam, but there were still two events remaining. South County head coach Val Taguding suggested Burgess, a Level 10 club competitor at Apollo Gymnastics in Woodbridge, ice her ankle and see if it felt better.

Burgess' mom had a less-sympathetic approach.

"I talked to [Burgess] and said ice it first and see how it feels," Taguding said. "... Her mom came and talked to her and told her to suck it up."

Burgess managed to "suck it up," finishing the meet in championship fashion. She placed first on floor (9.55) and vault (9.55) on her way to winning the Conference 7 all-around title Feb. 4 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

Burgess' effort also helped South County capture its first team conference championship in the program's three-year history. The Stallions finished with a score of 135.175, edging runner-up Lake Braddock (134.95). Both teams

qualified for regionals.

"I'm just so proud of our girls," Taguding said. "We went from a 112 [in our first meet] to a 135, which shows ... how much they've learned and how much they've grown as a team."

Burgess played a major role in the Stallions' success.

"It was huge," Taguding said about Burgess' return to the all-around competition after three months in a boot. "... We wouldn't have been in the top three ... if Collea hadn't [competed]."

Burgess won the all-around with a score of 36.05. Lake Braddock's Jordan Clark finished second with a total of 35.575, followed by T.C. Williams' Cailyn Lager (35.225) and West Springfield's Abbie Levine (35.125).

The top four all-arounds advanced to regionals.

Burgess started her evening with a fourth-place finish on bars (8.425) and a fifth-place performance on beam (8.525).

"Definitely, I was nervous to come back because I [feared] getting injured again," Burgess said about competing in the all-around. "The first two rotations I shook out the nerves."

South County sophomore Faith Baxter placed seventh on floor (8.9), eighth on vault (8.8), tied for eighth on bars (7.9) and tied for 10th on beam (7.95).

"It wasn't my best, but I think I definitely helped the team," said Baxter, who transferred to South County from Fayetteville, N.C. before the

school year. "I couldn't be happier."

South County's Alicia Williams finished sixth on bars (8.25) and Ashley Aleandre placed seventh on beam (8.425).

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.



**South County sophomore Faith Baxter competes on floor during the Conference 7 championship meet on Feb. 4 at Lake Braddock.**



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

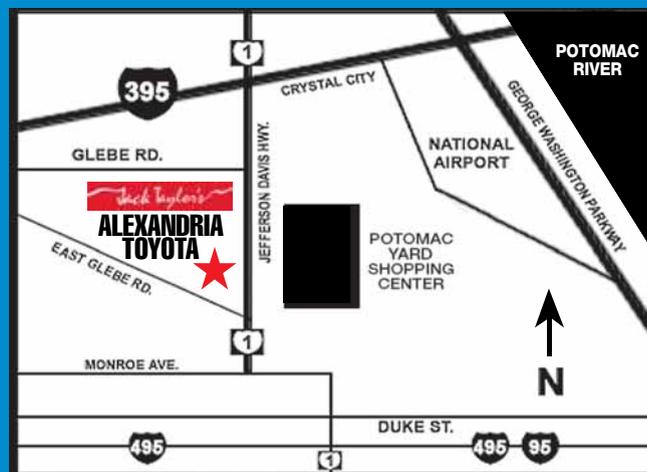
**Thousands of spectators, rowers, coaches, volunteers and vendors filled the gym and the hallways at T.C. Williams on Jan. 31 for the 30th annual Mid-Atlantic Erg Sprints. Pictured on the right is W.T. Woodson rower Jack Ning.**

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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  
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