

Fairfax Civil War Day

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Representing the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, Co. B, are (from left) Bryan Cheeseboro, Louis Carter and Robert Wright.

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Summer Camps
Education & Activities



2015 Contest Winners Announced

**“What can you do to improve
your local watershed?”**



George Washington Middle School
students won top honors for their project
which aims to raise awareness on the
harmful effects of microbead facial exfoliates.

Thank you to all the students, teachers and partners who participated this year! Hundreds of area students in grades 6-8 competed to develop solutions to watershed issues. Classroom teams presented their proposals at the School Environmental Action Showcase on April 9 at George Mason University in Fairfax.

This program empowers students to imagine, develop and create solutions in their local watersheds, as they develop research, problem-solving, budgeting, community- involvement and presentation skills.

Nearly \$20,000 was awarded in cash prizes and school awards. Agrium is also providing \$10,000 to help implement student ideas.

Turning ideas into realistic solutions is the key to improving our local watersheds.

Alexandria/Arlington/Fairfax Finalists, Grades 6-8

Final Place	Award	Proposal Name	School
1	\$1,000	Microbeadless	George Washington Middle School
2	\$900	Ban the Bottles!	Lanier Middle School
3	\$800	Helping Grasses to Form Masses	George Washington Middle School
4	\$700	Every Drop Counts	George Washington Middle School
5	\$600	Saving Four Mile Run from FCB	Kenmore Middle School
6	\$500	Screened Storm Drains Save Streams	Kenmore Middle School
7	\$450	Helping with Rain Barrels	George Washington Middle School
8	\$400	Acorus Americanus Away!	George Washington Middle School
9	\$350	Compost Bin for Dog Waster	Kenmore Middle School
10	\$300	Rain Barrel Proposal	Kenmore Middle School



CaringForOurWatersheds.com



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM/THE CONNECTION

A masked community member (left) spoke near the end of the April 27 Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission meeting. He asked Captain Bob Blakely, Detective Chris Flanagan and Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh about use of tear gas and pepper spray by police being considered deadly or non-deadly force.

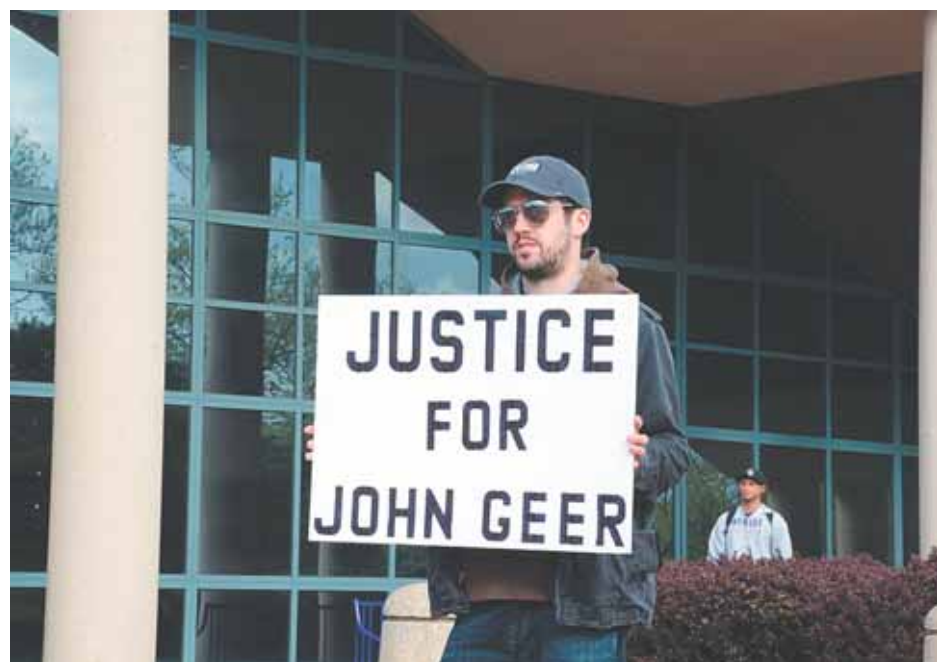


PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Adam Buchanan of Springfield protests outside the Fairfax County Government Center with the group Justice for John Geer.

'This is Not the Last Bite of the Apple'

Themed subcommittees announced at second police review commission meeting.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Increased Fairfax County Police presence was noticeable at the rear of the room after three masked men entered the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

Their faces were veiled by the iconic pale plastic and long, up-curved mustache made popular by the movie "V for Vendetta." The men had been protesting with the group Justice for John Geer prior to the meeting.

When given the chance to speak, they asked questions about police use of tear gas and pepper spray, and the difference between police officers and citizens with regards to the amount of time allowed after being involved in a shooting before giving a statement.

The masked men left the room once they had asked their questions, but were stopped on their way out by commission chairman Michael Hershman, who said he respected their rights to demonstrate as they did and thanked them for participating peacefully.

Though he reminded the commission discussion of the Geer case details are off the table while investigations are still underway, he said, "This is not the last bite of this apple."

THE BULK OF THE MEETING featured presentations from three guests: Fairfax County Police Captain Bob Blakely, Detective Chris Flanagan and Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh.

Flanagan, whose department deals with

cold cases, officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths, walked through his typical progression following an officer-involved shooting. This includes responding directly to the scene, conducting interviews of witnesses, returning to the scene with the officer and interviews with the officer after a day or so have passed.

"At the end of the day I have to be right," Flanagan said, commenting on adhering to administrative policies. "These take a long time."

Morrogh explained a bit about his role as a prosecutor of criminal, rather than civil, cases and addressed the issues of transparency that were a main focus in the formation of the Ad Hoc Commission.

On transparency, he said, "We're seeing the same questions around the country. I would turn over all reports as soon as I get it but it would be unethical to disclose information pretrial to the public."

Similar to Flanagan, Blakely described the course of events following an officer-involved shooting from the police perspective of Fairfax County Police Internal Affairs.

After the presentations, members of the commission and the public in attendance were able to ask questions of the three speakers.

Commissioner Peggy Fox of news channel WUSA9 asked if the men were in favor of dashboard cameras in police cruisers and body cameras on officers.

Their responses were in favor, including Morrogh, who said if a picture is worth a thousand words, "a video speaks ten-thou

SEE POLICE, PAGE 14

John Geer Protest Continues

Adam Buchanan of Springfield was among a group of about 20 protesters in front of the Fairfax County Government Center prior to the Ad Hoc commission meeting on April 27. He began following the case of John Geer after some of his friends who lived nearby where Geer was killed told him about the incident.

"I'm glad to hear about the grand jury," Buchanan said, "but all these cases, why are people getting killed in these situations? What can be done to prevent this in the future?"

Mike Curtis of Manassas is a founder of the Facebook Group Justice for John Geer, which organized the protest, as well as Northern Virginia Cop Block and vice president of the Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability.

Curtis said the protest was first advertised on Facebook about a week ahead of time and had more than 50 people signed up to come.

He responded to the announcement of a special grand jury being formed to look at the John Geer case: "It's happening, but they're never addressing the bigger problems in the county with transparency and accountability."

Explaining the motivation for the protest, Curtis referenced released emails between Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova, county executive Edward



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON

Fairfax County Police Captain Jeff Powell (center left) directs Mike Curtis (center right) of the Facebook group Justice for John Geer and Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability to use a different area in front of the Fairfax County Government Center.

L. Long, Jr and members of the Ad Hoc commission that showed opposition and reluctance to bringing Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability executive director Nicholas Beltrante onboard as a commissioner.

"I don't think I'm being cynical, but the pattern shows they're not dedicated to change," Curtis said.

Twice during the protest, Fairfax County Police officers approached Curtis and the group. The first time, Curtis said, they were asked to move their protest to the island on the other side of the circular driveway in front of the Government Center. The second time, Captain Jeff Powell spoke with Curtis, addressing concerns that the protest remain nonviolent and protesters not block pedestrians from entering or leaving the building.

NEWS



The Black Horse Cavalry (from left) Lee Towne, Bill Scott, Rich Schroeder and Derek Lanham participate in the 15th annual Civil War Day at Fairfax's historic Blenheim on Saturday, April 25.

Fairfax Celebrates Civil War Day

The 15th annual Civil War Day at Fairfax's historic Blenheim was Saturday, April 25.



Portraying Gen. and Mrs. Robert E. Lee are Bonnie and Frank Orlando.

PHOTOS BY
BONNIE HOBBS/
THE CONNECTION



HomeFront performs period songs.



Blacksmith Jeff Dunkelberger demonstrates how to make a cooking-pot rack.

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NEWS



Members of Co. D, 17th Virginia Volunteer Infantry and their rifles.



(From left) are Capt. Kyle Printz (Carpenter's Battery) and Karen Kressin and Lee Schreiber (both of the 1st Connecticut Light Artillery) with a 12-pound mountain howitzer.



The 28th Massachusetts Infantry encampment (from left) Mick Quinn, Rae-Ann Voelkner, Kevin Ritton, Bill Voelkner and Bob Quinn.



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FAIRFAX OUTLOOK: SPRING 2015



Artist's rendering of the Novus Fairfax Gateway development from Lee Highway.



The site plan for the Oak Knolls residential project.

What's on the Local Horizon

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Several development projects are either proposed or in the works in the City of Fairfax. Below is a snapshot of some of them:

Novus Fairfax Gateway

Novus Fairfax Gateway LLC got the go-ahead from the Fairfax City Council to transform part of the Kamp Washington triangle between Fairfax Boulevard and Lee Highway into a modern, community-serving, mixed-use project.

Planned for the 8.33-acre site are 403 multifamily apartments – including 24 affordable dwelling units, 29,000 square feet of first-floor retail and commercial uses. There'll be a 4,000-square-foot office space for use by the nonprofit CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates), plus a 5,000-square-foot restaurant and 11,000 square feet of residential amenities.

The commercial space and three- and four-story buildings will front on Lee Highway and Fairfax Boulevard. Five-story buildings will be centrally located and a seven-story parking garage will feature a half-story on top for a pool.

There'll be a through street with a connection at the Bevan Drive signal at Fairfax Boulevard, plus a new, un-signalized entrance on Lee Highway. The community's road network could correspond to the future redevelopment of the rest of the Kamp Washington triangle, while treating the section connecting Lee Highway to Fairfax Boulevard with several, traffic-calming elements to reduce cut-through traffic.

Oak Knolls

Oak Knolls is on a 6-acre site along Main and Oak streets in Fairfax. Built in the early 1960s, it currently houses 110 units in five buildings. Now, the Oak Knolls Realty Corp. wants to redevelop it into two, 32-unit condominium buildings; 30 stacked, two-over-two, townhouse-style condos; and 40, 22-foot-wide townhouses.

Altogether, there'd be 134 units – 94 condos and 40 townhouses – and all would be for sale, with no rentals. A pedestrian walkway would lead residents to their homes. The four-story, 32-unit condo buildings would have red-brick, fiber-cement siding, metal railings, stacked siding and bay windows on the corners. And a red-brick, courtyard wall along Oak Street would offer privacy to the 22-foot townhome units.



NORTH BLDG - FRONT - SOUTH



Artist's rendition of The Enclave north condo building (top, front view; bottom, rear view).

Homes, grocery renovation and road improvements.

Old Lee Highway

Old Lee Highway leads residents to homes, schools, businesses, shopping, the police station, Sherwood Community Center and Van Dyke Park. It runs 1.5 miles from North Street to Fairfax Circle and carries about 13,000 vehicles daily. It also has 21 local bus stops, plus on-street parking in some portions.

Old Lee Highway also pre-dates the Civil War and hasn't changed much since its neighborhoods were built. So now, wanting to improve it and transform it into a "Great Street," the City is studying how to do just that. It's garnering citizen input and has applied for \$2 million in FY 2016 revenue-sharing funds to do the actual work the study will recommend.

The three areas of Old Lee to be studied are Willard Way/Courthouse Plaza, Embassy Lane/North of Blenheim, and Artie's Restaurant/south of Old Pickett Road. The goal is not to add any more lanes, but to make Old Lee safer for pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles, while also beautifying it and improving its stormwater management.

The Enclave

Nearly 4 acres of the Mantua Professional Center on Pickett Road are available for development, and the IDI Group Cos. hopes to build 80 condos there off Silver King Court. The site's currently vacant and mostly heavily wooded.

Instead of the 55,000 square feet of office space that could be built there, the applicant is proposing 80 condo units in two, four-story buildings. There'd be underground parking underneath each building, plus a small surface lot and other parking spaces.

Called The Enclave, the condos would be constructed on the area formerly envisioned for three office buildings. And land on which two other office buildings would have been built would, instead, be preserved as open space for a village green enjoyed by the residents, school and existing office community.

Lotte Renovation

The Lotte market in Fairfax plans to renovate and remodel its store. It's cleaned up its site and intends to no longer have a mini mall, but to just sell groceries. It also hopes to rectify its traffic-circulation problems.

There'll be one, main entrance off Old Lee Highway, with one lane in and two lanes out, to deter unauthorized, off-site parking. Lotte will fund two, new signal poles and will create an interparcel connection to the west.

Four access points will be consolidated into one and additional landscaping islands will be created. There'll be a new, store façade and signage, and the parking area won't be used for anything else. There won't be trash and debris outside, and the former mini-mall will be demolished.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Artist's rendition of the improved and renovated Lotte market.

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OPINION

Fostering Connections, Faltering

Why are federal dollars acceptable for roads, but not for helping foster children?

While there is plenty of competition for the title “most vulnerable,” foster children are certainly among them.

In Fairfax County right now, there are more than 240 children in foster care. There is no benign way to end up in foster care. Foster children are victims of abuse and/or neglect significant enough for them to be removed from their families. On Tuesday, April 29, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors announced that May is Foster Care and Foster Family Recognition Month.

Ironically, May, 2015 could be a month of uncertainty for older foster children in many places in Virginia because of a failure in the Virginia General Assembly.

About 50 foster children a year “age out” of the foster care system in Fairfax County. There are children who may have spent much of their lives in foster care, and reach the age of majority while they are still in foster care, without being reunited with their families or being adopted.

“The research shows that our youth who have been in foster care are extremely traumatized,” said Carl E. Ayers, director of the Virginia Division of Family Services. “Children who have aged out of foster care are much more likely to be homeless, to end up in psychiatric hospitals, to end up in jail, to be young parents, to be on public assistance and just in general have higher rates of poverty. If you can

think of a negative outcome, that’s what we see [at high rates] with foster children who age out.”

But right now, about 150 young people between 18-21 who are receiving foster care services in Virginia, with as many as 50 of them here in Fairfax County, are discovering that because the General Assembly failed to pave the way for Federal “Fostering Connections” funding, they could be aging out sooner than they expected.

In 2008, President George Bush signed the Fostering Connections Act that gives for children who were in foster care up until the age of 21.

In Virginia, the General Assembly passed in 2014 a plan for implementation that required legislation in 2015 session. But that bill died in committee, and Virginia Family Services has begun the process of informing local agencies, like Fairfax County Department of Family Services, that once a foster child turns 18, they must be transitioned out of foster care.

By spending a little over \$3 million, the state could have gained more than \$10 million in federal money to help these emerging adults at a critical moment. Savings to localities would have been more than \$3 million.

But instead, foster children 18 or older will need to have services transitioned. Ayers says the department will work with local agencies to be sure that none ends up homeless, no one

Learn More: Foster Care

Orientation meeting, second Monday monthly, 7 p.m.
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703-324-7639
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/childrencyouth/fca.htm

ends up in the hospital. But for youth in foster care 18 or over, a new plan will have to be worked out, and each such youth will have to deal with one more uncertainty.

“It is very, very important that no one is turned on the street,” said Ayers, citing specific instructions that local agencies contact him personally if they are having trouble identifying services for any of the youth being transitioned.

Localities got the word via a “broadcast” memo on April 15, and are still sorting out what it all means.

In Fairfax County, the goal is for youth who are currently in foster homes to be able to stay in them by shifting how they are served, but there will certainly be a financial impact.

“With this being so new, our immediate step was to see exactly which kids will be affected, timelines and expectations,” said Nannette Bowler, director of Fairfax County Family Services. “We’ll scramble and do an assessment on all these children to figure out how we can support them given what has occurred.

“We’re going to have ... to look any avenue that we can to be sure these children are not derailed.”

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

COMMENTARY

Celebrate Mom, Dad—Without Selling One Short

BY CHRISTIAN PAASCH

In today’s marketing environment, it seems as though one gender cannot make progress without disparaging another. However, a few inspiring and refreshingly positive television ads have recently managed to gain popularity while avoiding this pitfall. I applaud Dove, Nissan and Toyota for having the courage to step away from the norm and, in doing so, not only bring men into the mainstream picture of the modern American parent, but also for doing so in a way that is perhaps more innovative than anything else: championing one gender without attacking, alienating or poking fun at the other gender.

Toyota has done a terrific job of bridging the strong bond between fathers and daughters. In the company’s latest ad, Toyota depicts the various stages of a daughter’s life where her dad is there to console, protect, guide

and eventually, set out into the world with tears in his eyes. The message of the ad is to make bold choices — what better term to describe what any parent would want for his or her child, in particular a daughter?

In a seeming balance to Toyota, Nissan focused on the relationship between a father and his son. Perhaps too stereotypically, the father here is depicted as the absent father, a race car driver in this instance, and the son looking on, wanting to be just like his father. Of course, the soundtrack to this commercial is none other than “Cats In The Cradle,” but thankfully, the father realizes before it’s too late that his son needs to physically see him and know that their relationship is more important than any job.

Dove has arguably the most moving, yet simple ad: clip after clip of young and adult children calling for “Dad” or “Daddy” at various stages of their lives. From

the toddler needing help to the adult calling his father with the wonderful news of a pregnancy, the commercial ends with a simple question and answer: “What makes a man stronger? Showing that he cares.”

So why do these ads matter? Why are they so special? Here again, the answer is simple: because they are a rarity. Because they champion the roles dads play in the lives of children, both boys and girls, without denigrating the crucial and complementary role mothers play in those same children’s lives. This spirit of gen-

der equality is one to celebrate and emulate.

In fact, the path these three companies have forged serves as a marketing model for others and reminds parents everywhere that they are parents first, united by the love for their children and made stronger by a mutual appreciation of their unique strengths and differences.

Christian Paasch is chair of the National Parents Organization in Virginia and has been appointed by Virginia Gov. McAuliffe to Virginia’s Child Support Guidelines Review Panel. He lives in Alexandria. Email christianpaasch@nationalparentsorganization.org.

WRITE US

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
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Lake Braddock catcher and Villanova commit Caroline Jones went 3-for-4 with a home run against Bishop O'Connell on April 25.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock pitcher Amanda Hendrix shut out Bishop O'Connell for six innings on April 25 before running into trouble in the seventh.

Lake Braddock Softball Suffers First Loss

Villanova commit Jones has three hits, home run against O'Connell.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Lake Braddock softball team was in control for six innings during Saturday's contest against Bishop O'Connell, one of the top private-school programs in the area.

Junior catcher Caroline Jones set the tone in the batter's box, driving in a run in each of her first three at-bats, including smacking a solo home run over the fence in left-center to lead off the bottom of the fourth.

Senior pitcher Amanda Hendrix held O'Connell scoreless, limiting the Knights to just three hits. The left-hander even worked her way out of a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the fourth.

After six complete innings, Lake Braddock led 3-0 and was on the verge of continuing its undefeated season. But the Bruins ran into trouble in the seventh, when a dominant performance transformed into an afternoon of adversity in a single inning.

O'Connell scored nine runs on eight hits during the top of the seventh inning and the Knights added a blemish to the Bruins' record with a 9-3 victory on April 25 at Lake

Braddock Secondary School.

The Knights sent 13 batters to the plate during the seventh inning and all nine members of the O'Connell lineup either reached base at least once or drove in a run.

First baseman Olivia Giaquinto led off the decisive frame with a single and later ripped a three-run homer. She finished the game 3-for-3, reaching base four times.

"Going into the top of the seventh," Giaquinto said, "we kind of came together and we were like, 'We've got to do this now and we're going to do this.'"

Lake Braddock head coach George Rumore said Hendrix suffered a back injury during the game and the team's No. 2 pitcher was unavailable due to being on an orchestra trip.

"Amanda's back went," Rumore said. "She pulled her back around either the fourth or the fifth [inning]. ... She hung in there, but then come the seventh her back was bothering her. I know I'm making excuses, it's just a fact."

JONES, a Villanova commit, had a big day in defeat. She went 3-for-4 and drove in all three Lake Braddock runs.

Jones gave the Bruins a 1-0 lead with an RBI double in the first inning, extended the lead to 2-0 with a solo homer in the fourth, and delivered a run-scoring single in the fifth.

Jones said she was motivated by

facing O'Connell sophomore pitcher Patty Maye Ohanian, who was Jones' teammate at Lake Braddock in 2014 before transferring to the Arlington private school.

"We want to win states, absolutely. We were so close last year. ... We really think we can do it this year."

— Caroline Jones,
Lake Braddock catcher



Head coach George Rumore and the Lake Braddock softball team are off to an 11-1 start.

"This was a game that I really wanted," Jones said. "I did really want to hit well. I used to play travel with [Ohanian], I played high school with her and I don't play anything with her anymore. ... I wanted to show her that we are a good team, we still can hit ..."

Ohanian, a University of Illinois commit, earned the win against her former team. She surrendered three runs on nine hits, while walking two and striking out three.

"Before the game in left field ... I said this game is more than just a win for me," Ohanian said. "I'm playing for kind of my name, kind of my respect. I want to walk out of here with my head held high. I knew that there was no one I'd rather do it with than all those [O'Connell] girls."

"I think they all had an understanding that this was a really important game for

me and so did Coach Tommy [Orndorff], and that's why he let me pitch."

Lake Braddock freshman center fielder Eleanor Mataya finished 2-for-4. Senior shortstop Katherine Plescow, Hendrix, and freshman third baseman Ally Kurland each had one hit.

The loss dropped Lake Braddock's record to 11-1, but Rumore remains confident.

"[It equates to] a high-dollar scrimmage and we had it," Rumore said. "Unfortunately, things happen."

Lake Braddock reached the state tournament last year and doesn't appear to be slowing down. Despite four new starters and the graduation of standout pitcher Ashley Flesch, the Bruins are 7-0 against Conference 7 opponents, including a pair of shutout victories against defending 6A state champion South County.

"I think we use [the O'Connell loss] as great motivation," Jones said. "I think we did play well until the last inning and we all recognize that we did play well. We just had one bad inning and it cost us the game. I still think that we're really motivated, we have our goals set high and I think we're still looking to achieve [them]."

What are the team's goals?

"We want to win states, absolutely," Jones said. "We were so close last year. ... We really think we can do it this year."

LAKE BRADDOCK will look to get back in the win column when the Bruins travel to face Lee at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 30.

"I was happy with [the Bruins' effort]," Rumore said. "We're No. 3, [O'Connell is] No. 2 [in The Washington Post softball rankings]. ... We play with whoever's in our district and the girls did a great job and we just needed [Hendrix's] back to hang in there a little longer and I think it would have been over."

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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.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 1,2,8,9

"Big the Musical." 7:30 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. The FX Players theatre department will debut its long awaited spring musical, BIG, the first two weekends of May. Following the storyline of the 1980's Tom Hanks movie, BIG revolves around a young boy who dreams of being an adult. After a Zoltar machine grants his wish, he goes on a heartwarming adventure where he learns that age does not determine how much fun you can have. For more information, please visit www.fxplayers.org or call 703-219-2351.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 1-9

Spotlight on the Arts Festival.

Dedicated to showcasing the very best of the visual and performing arts in the City of Fairfax. At a variety of venues in and around the city. Visit www.visitfairfax.com/category/spotlight.

SATURDAY/MAY 2

Springfield Smart Markets

Farmers Market. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Springfield Town Center, at the corner of Loisdale Road and Spring Mall Drive. Fresh local fruits and veggies.

Derby-Q Festival. 2-7 p.m. City of Fairfax. This outdoor community festival will showcase the area's premier brew master and BBQ vendors. The festival will feature

bourbon and scotch whiskey tastings. Live blues bands will perform on stage while the crowds anxiously await the Greatest Two Minutes in Sports - the Kentucky Derby, shown on the big screen. To purchase a ticket for this event please visit www.derby-q.com.

Historic Pohick Church Saturday Tour. 1-3 p.m. Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The Historic Pohick Church Docent Guild will give free guided tours of the historic colonial church. <http://www.pohick.org>.

Art of Wellness Fair. 1-5 p.m. Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Learn how to maintain and enhance your health by attending demonstrations and presentations and talking with the vendors. Enjoy this day of healing for body, mind, and spirit.

SUNDAY/MAY 3

Workhouse Farmers Market. 1-5 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The opening day of this year's farmers markets season.

FRIDAY/MAY 8

Spring Concert. 7:30 p.m. St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke. The Maranatha Singers will present an enjoyable evening of music with a guest appearance by the St. Stephen's Orchestra. The theme of the concert will be "Jammin' Juke Box". Refreshments served after the concert in the Welcome Center. Everyone is invited to attend. Free.

SATURDAY/MAY 9

Concerts from Kirkwood. 3 p.m. Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. Concerts from Kirkwood will complete its 2014 - 2015 season on May 9, with a special concert featuring the internationally renowned Spanish piano duo, Carles&Sofia. They perform regularly worldwide both in recitals for four hands and with orchestra. They have made an extensive number of recordings on the on the KNS- classical label.

West Springfield Baseball Alumni Festival. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. West Springfield High School baseball field. Gates open at 9:45 a.m. (no admission fee), the student/faculty softball game starts at 10 a.m., and the alumni game starts at

12 p.m. There will be jousting and carnival-style games, a bounce house, baseball skills games, raffles and an auction, concessions, and a spirited set of alumni playing baseball. Money raised will be used to renovate the batting cages and replace worn-out equipment. Test your skills at the games, bid on the items, watch the game, or just join us for lunch and help support the program. Contact Jason Olms at jmolms@fcps.edu

SUNDAY/MAY 10

Hands On Modeling Day Workshop. 1-4 p.m. 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. You and Mom can learn how to create and paint scenery for your model train display. Admission: Museum members and children 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; adults 16 and older, \$4. www.fairfax-station.org, 703-425-9225. Like us on Facebook, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 15-16

Alice in Wonderland. 7 p.m. Thomas Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. This modern retelling of the classic children's story has all of the characters you know and love, including the Mad Hatter, the Cheshire Cat, and the Queen of Hearts. With cell phone in hand, a present-day Alice encounters the Wonderland so many of us treasure in a musical that appeals to both children and adults. Tickets will be available at the door (\$5 for adults, \$3 for children, \$1 for children at matinee). Concessions available.

SATURDAY/MAY 16

Hope & Health Festival. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Lorton Community Action Center, South County Cares, and INOVA are providing the annual Hope & Health Festival at the Lorton Park, 9518 Richmond Highway, behind the Lorton Library. Free health screenings, food, inflatables, kids' games and activities will be available, rain or shine to all in attendance. LortonAction.org or call 703-339-5161, ext. 140.

7th Annual Occoquan River Fest. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Occoquan Regional Park, 9751 Ox Road,

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAREY BINFORD

(From left) Doug Klain and Zion Jang play with light sabers during Fairfax High's "Big: The Musical." Performances: Friday-Saturday, May 1-2, and Thursday-Saturday, May 7, 8 and 9, at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, May 3, at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 via www.fxplayers.org or \$15 at the door. For the Sunday matinee, tickets are \$5 for children 12 and under. And after the show, children can dance on the big piano, take a photo with the cast and make a wish with Zoltar.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

Lorton. This family event will feature free river boat rides, a children's midway, live animals, food, hiking, paddling and over 15 outdoor recreation, history and conservation organizations. The event is sponsored by NOVA Parks with assistance from the Occoquan Watertrail League, the Occoquan River Communities, Bob Beach Architects, Vulcan Materials, Rivergate Development, Prince William Marina and Lorton Station Merchants.

Creative Writers Club. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Do you enjoy writing fiction, poetry, non-fiction and/or memoirs? Join us for sharing, discussion and feedback of works in progress. Ages 12-18.

SUNDAY/MAY 17

3rd Annual Fragile X Walk. 7:45 a.m. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Early Registration is \$35 per adult (includes dry fit t-shirt) and \$15 per child (includes dry fit t-shirt). Children under 4 are free. Fragile X syndrome (FXS) is a genetic condition that causes intellectual disability, behavioral and learning challenges and various physical characteristics. FXS is the most common known genetic cause of autism. It can cause learning and behavior challenges ranging from mild to severe. Over 1 million individuals nationwide have, or are at risk, of carrying the Fragile X mutation. Late Registration after May 5 is \$40 per adult and \$15 per child and shirt sizes are not guaranteed. <https://www.crowdrise.com/FXSNOVA2015>.

THURSDAY/MAY 21

Fairfax Antique Arts Association. 10 a.m. Green Acres Senior Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Linwood Smith, guest speaker this month, will demonstrate how to repair old trunks.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 30-31

Springfield Days. 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m., South Run Park, 7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield. Springfield Days is a community wide celebration that includes a 5K run, "Pet Fest" and car show. springfielddays.com.

SUNDAY/MAY 31

Cardboard Regatta. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Witness the cardboard boat creations race along Lake Accotink's shoreline at 2 p.m.

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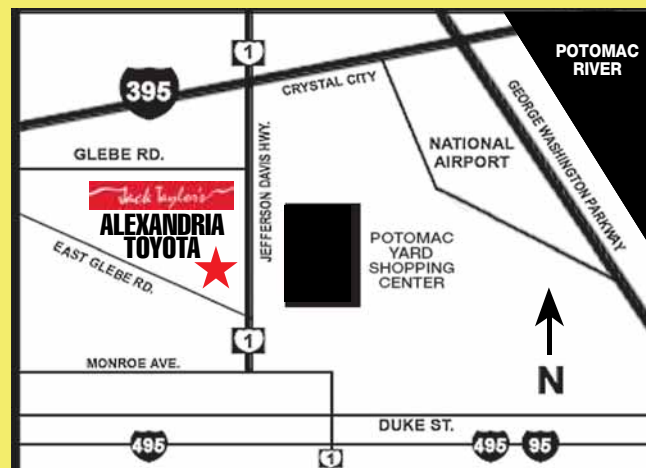


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hours of employment offered to the worker (showing offers in accordance with the three-fourths guarantee as determined in paragraph (i) of this section, separate from any hours offered over and above the guarantee); (4) The hours actually worked by the worker; (5) An itemization of all deductions made from the worker's wages; (6) If piece rates are used, the units produced daily; (7) Beginning and ending dates of the pay period; and (8) The employer's name, address and FEIN. Return transportation and subsistence is paid upon completion of 100% of the work contract. The employer may terminate the work contract if, before the expiration date specified in the work contract, the services of the worker are no longer required for reasons beyond the control of the employer due to fire, weather, or other Act of God, as determined by CO. In the event of such termination of a contract, the employer will fulfill a three-fourths guarantee for the time that has elapsed from the start of the work contract to the time of its termination. The employer will make efforts to transfer the worker to other comparable employment acceptable to the worker, consistent with existing immigration law. If such transfer is not affected, the employer will (1) return the worker, at the employer's expense, to the place from which the workers came to work for the employer or transport the worker to the worker's next certified H-2A employer, whichever the worker prefers; (2) reimburse the worker the full amount of any deductions made from the worker's pay by the employer for transportation and subsistence expenses to the place of employment; (3) Pay the worker for any costs incurred by the worker for transportation and daily subsistence to the place of employment. To apply, report in person or send resume to nearest State Workforce Agency & provide copy of this ad & job ref. number indicated below. Delaware Department of Labor - 4425 North Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19809-0828. Tel. (302) 761-8116, Ref DE299866. 6937081.1

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HELP WANTED

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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Notice is hereby given that the following watercraft has been abandoned for more than 60 Days on the property of: Hillcrest Marine Inc. 10117 Richmond Hwy, Lorton VA 22079 703-339-6200. Description of watercraft: 1972 Glastron 16' Yellow #1422045. Application for Watercraft Registration/Title will be made in accordance with Section 29.1-733.25 of the Code of Virginia if this watercraft is not claimed and removed within 30 days of first publication of this notice. Please contact the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries with questions.

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PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON, VIRGINIA PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE PERMIT PUBLIC HEARING OF TOWN COUNCIL

May 5, 2015

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Clifton, Virginia will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at the Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton, VA 20124 to consider the amendment of the special use permit of Clifton General Store / Main Street Pub, located at 7140 Main Street, to include and authorize an increase in number of seats and increase in parking onsite and off-site for the public and employees. The application for the proposed amendment to Clifton General Store / Main Street Pub special use permit is available for review and downloading on the Town's website at www.clifton-va.com and a hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend and express their views with respect to the requested amendment to the Clifton General Store / Main Street Pub special use permit.

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PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Members of the group Justice for John Geer protested outside the Fairfax County Government center prior to the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission on April 27.

Police Use of Force Re-examined

FROM PAGE 3

sand."

Connection Newspapers editor and publisher Mary Kimm followed that by asking Morrogh when the public would get to see the dashboard camera footage of the 2009 police shooting of David Masters.

Morrogh responded that he had no problem with the public seeing the video. He also confirmed recent media reports that he has decided to convene a special grand jury to review evidence in the killing of John Geer. Emotions bubbled over when commissioner Nicholas Beltrante asked Morrogh why it had taken 18 months since Geer's death to draw a grand jury. Morrogh remarked about letters he has received from Beltrante and commented negatively on the commissioner's skills before Herschman moved the meeting along.

Morrogh said that regarding information related to the Geer case, "I'd love to tell, I really would, but I'm not going to do it."

The commission was formed after public criticism of how Fairfax County police and government officials handled the release of information regarding that incident. Kimm alluded to this when she commented the evening's presentations about administrative policies "don't add up to events that brought us here."

Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova, who formed the commission and brought it before the supervisors for endorsement in March, said that one could write "a paper on

things that went wrong" in that situation.

Bulova listed the delayed sharing of information, the wrongful death civil lawsuit between the Geer family and Fairfax County and the Internal Affairs investigation into the incident. "It's been such a long time," she said.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS of the meeting included announcing the formation of themed subcommittees that will more closely examine Police Use of Force, Communications, Mental Health and Crisis Intervention Training, Police Recruitment and Vetting, and Independent Oversight and Investigations.

Shirley Ginwright, chairman of the Communities of Trust Committee, president of the Fairfax County NAACP and chairman of the commission's recruitment and vetting subcommittee, spoke to the need for more diversity on the subcommittees than exists on the commission, as additional citizens are allowed to be selected to participate at that level. "It's supposed to be inclusive of members of the community," she said.

The next meeting of the commission will be a public forum, held Monday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center.

Documents from the meeting, information on upcoming meetings and lists of commission and subcommittee members can be found online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission.

Fairfax County video from the April 27 meeting is set to be online soon.

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MONDAY/MAY 4

Collage Workshop at Fairfax Senior Center.
10-11:30 a.m. Green Acres Senior Center in Fairfax City, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. As part of Older Americans month & the Creative Aging Festival, create a collage using recollections, introspection, aged copies of photos and magazines to represent key moments from one's life and pearls of wisdom. Participants are encouraged to bring photocopies of four small pictures at different life stages, share their piece and its meaning to a greater audience there and in the community.

SATURDAY/MAY 9

2nd Annual Community Conversation on Teen Stress: Fostering Wellness and Resiliency. 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Hayfield High School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Marc Brackett, Ph.D., the director of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence will be featured as the keynote speaker. Tracy Cross, Ph.D., Professor at The College of William and Mary and Executive Director of the Center for Gifted Studies and Talent Development will speak in the afternoon about perfectionism and child and adolescent suicidality. This event will feature breakout sessions led by FCPS staff members and guest presenters. A variety of exhibitors will also be present. www.fcps.edu/dss/summit/.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 13

Reston - League of Women Voters meeting on growth in Fairfax County. Where is the County's growth going to go? What has changed in Fairfax County's land use and where do we go from here? Join in the discussion. 7:30-9 p.m., North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. Free, open to the public (men and women), call 703-757-5893. Background papers at www.lwv-fairfax.org.

THURSDAY/MAY 14

Medicaid Planning. 3 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Learn more about how to make your loved one's money last, including estate planning, auxiliary grants, and Medicaid. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP and for more information.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 20

Path of Progression in Alzheimer's Disease. 1:30 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. While not everyone travels the same path, join us for a discussion on what to expect as Alzheimer's progresses. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP.

THURSDAY/MAY 21

Lunch 'N Life. 12-2 p.m. St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Are You 50 or Better? Join for the next Lunch N' Life sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke. The program will feature Mr. Knox Singleton, CEO of INOVA Health Systems speaking on Current Health Issues.. For reservations, call Faye Quesenberry, 703-620-0161, by May 15. The cost is \$10; checks payable to SCFB. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office 703-323-4788. Visit www.scfbva.org for more information.

ONGOING

Senior Outdoor Pickleball, April-October, Wednesdays 8-10 a.m. Audrey Moore Wakefield Park Fairfax County, Courts 9 & 10, Beginners welcome. No cost. Email Gerald Rhoads at geraldrhoads6701@gmail.com.



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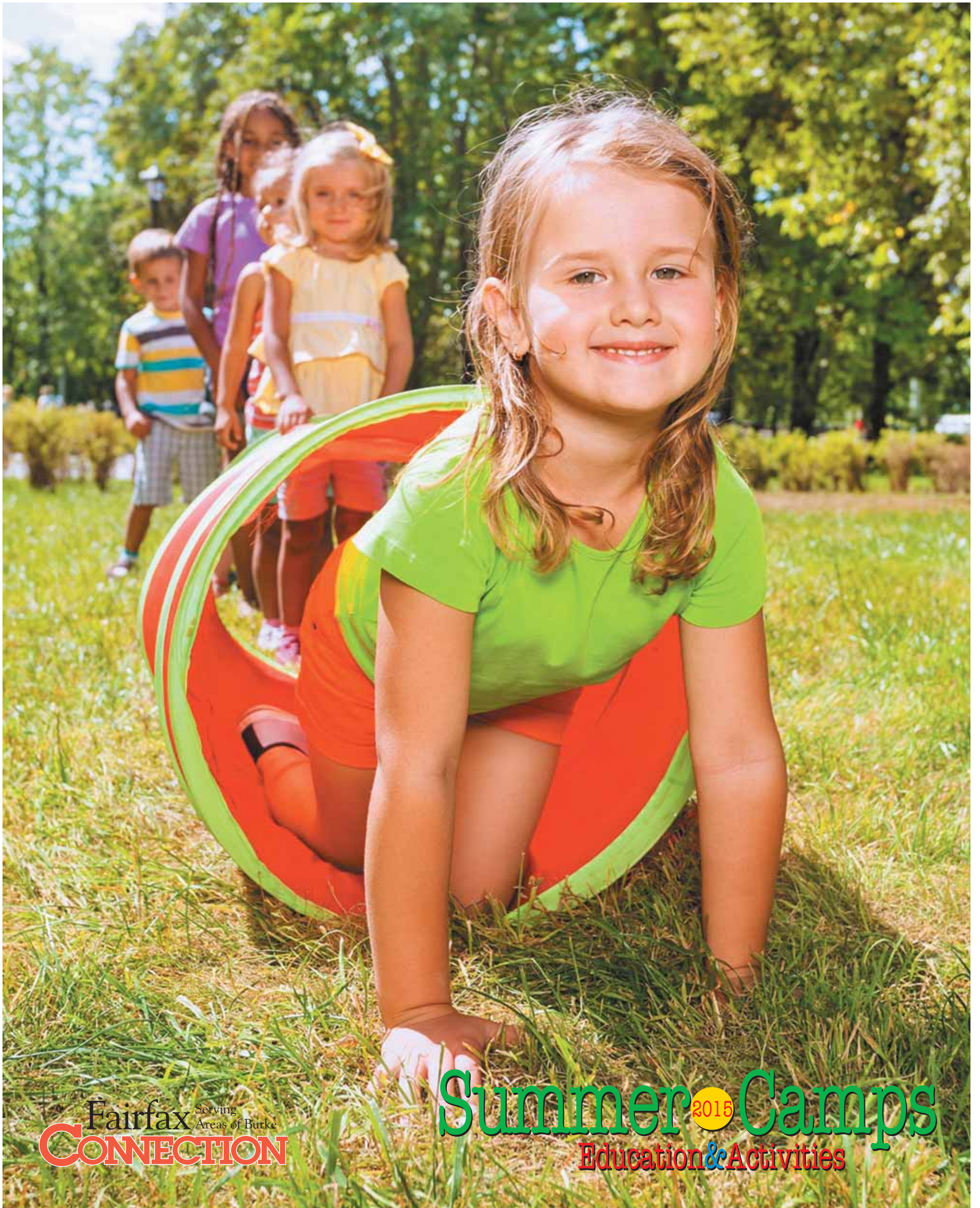
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Preparing for Summer Camp Away

Many emotions arise when a child leaves for camp.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Julie Kaminski remembers the language from her desperate letters to her parents: “I love you. I want to come home now!” She recalls penning a dramatic plea to be rescued from residential summer camp more than 40 years ago. Today, Kaminski is preparing for her daughter’s first camp experience away from home this summer.

“Looking back, I can see how going away to camp helped me become more self-sufficient, self-confident, self-reliant and taught me how to get along with so many different kinds of people,” said Kaminski, a local mother of two children.

“Of course I didn’t think that at the time. I was extremely homesick even though it was my idea to go to sleep away camp in the first place.”

A child’s first residential summer camp experience can be fraught with emotions that run the gamut from excitement to terror. While glee at the thought of a summer filled with sports, swimming, crafts and new-found friendships can be the dominant feeling, the thought of an extended period of time away from home can cause sadness and anxiety for both parents and their children.

An American Camp Association study showed that 96 percent of children who attend sleep away camps experience homesickness at some point during their stay. While these emotions are normal, parents can help children tame the pre-camp jitters. The life-long lessons gained from such camps make it worth the effort.

“Becoming comfortable with your child being away at summer camp, perhaps the first extended separation you have had, is a matter of trust,” said David Kaplan, Ph.D. of the American Counseling Association in Alexandria, Va.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Summer camp experiences can help children become self-confident and self-reliant.

“Trusting your child that they can handle themselves without your supervision. Trusting that they can handle relationships with other children. Trusting that they can get up in the morning, take a shower, wash their clothes, and change their sheets without your prodding.”

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT homesickness is normal and many campers experience it, can help children accept and cope with their emotions.

“Expecting to miss home and feel somewhat anxious helps children feel less surprised and overwhelmed when it occurs,” said Barbara Meehan, Ph.D. executive director, Counseling and Psychological Services, George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

A child’s apprehension can be eased when parents share their own camp experiences,

particularly positive memories.

“Don’t let your child get caught up in your own anxiety about leaving for camp,” said Linda McKenna Gulyn, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington, Va. “Kids sometimes worry about the parents they left behind. Be positive, but not sad that your child is leaving.”

Meehan says that developing a few self-soothing activities like playing outdoors or reading is one strategy for helping children deal with feelings of missing home. Identifying people with whom young campers can share their emotions is another means for dealing with homesickness.

“Talking to a camp counselor and even peers can help ease the difficult feelings and often they will learn they are not alone,” said Meehan.

Encouraging a child to make friends and become involved in camp activities will put

the focus on the positive aspects of camp. Packing letters and stamped envelopes and developing a plan for letter exchange can help a child feel connected to their families.

“Isolating and avoiding what feels hard can often worsen anxiety and homesickness,” said Meehan. “Remind your child they are stronger than they feel in the moment and that engaging in camp activities can be helpful.”

There are times however when a child might not be ready for residential camps. The American Camp Association reports that while most cases of homesickness subside, there are cases — if a child is not eating or sleeping, for example — when it could be time to seek help. “Consult with camp professionals about resources if your child’s anxiety worsens or persists,” said Meehan.

Camps&Schools●Notes

Paralympic Sports Team Seeking Players

The Fairfax Falcons Paralympic Sports team, a Fairfax County Neighborhood and Recreation Services Therapeutic Recreation program, is recruiting new players. The team provides a variety of sports experiences to athletes with physical disabilities impacting their lower extremities ages 4 1/2 to 18 (or high school graduation). Not all athletes use wheelchairs for everyday use. Some athletes are ambulatory and only use a wheelchair for sports. Their primary sport is wheelchair basketball, which runs late August through April. In the spring, they

offer a variety of sports including floor hockey, track, field, fishing, rugby, golf, and football. For more information, email fairfaxfalcons@gmail.com.

Summer at Massanutten

Each year, Massanutten Military Academy offers a five-week intensive summer school program, an opportunity for students to get ahead in their learning, make up for bad or failing grades, or increase their knowledge and participation in their JROTC leadership skills. Massanutten Military Academy offers the safety of a structured learning environment, as well as the fun of a summer camp through a combination of classroom time and weekend activities. The program is offered June 27-Aug. 1, 2015.

Credit for academic courses is transferable to the student’s current school. JROTC leadership credit equals one high school course credit.

STEM CAMP Massanutten offers STEM Summer Camp, two two-week camps running from June 29-July 10 and July 20-31, open to students grades 7-12. This summer camp offers students the chance to explore the many facets of STEM education including hands-on experiences. Upon completion of the STEM Summer Camp, students will receive a certification of completion. Massanutten Military Academy offers the safety of a structured learning environment, as well as the fun of a summer camp through a combination of classroom time and activities. Visit www.militaryschool.com/summer-school-2015.asp.

Diverse Camps Offer Summer Fun

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Scores of local camps in Northern Virginia that offer many opportunities for summer fun and learning. Here is a sampling of diverse camps that range from art to theater to field trips to swimming, tennis and music. There's even a camp for aspiring musicians who want to form a band.

ROAM Rock Camp

ROAM Rock Camp gives children the opportunity to build communication skills and confidence through the language of music. The camps are designed to focus on why each participant wants to be in a band, why they love music and what they want to get out of it. The goal is to create an environment or band that children will thrive in. They will hand select each member to create a group that best fits their age and experience. During the camp, groups will learn three to four of their favorite songs or even write songs if they wish. At the end of the week they will record the group and give them a CD to take home to show off their progress.

"The best thing about these camps is that we are able to show these young musicians from first-hand experience how to be players and performers. I wish I had something like this when I was growing up," said John Patrick, owner/director, who is the former co-founder of the national touring act Virginia Coalition.

Camps are offered from June 1 to Aug. 28. To register, contact ROAM to let them know every week your child would be available to do a camp. Deadline for registration is June 1.

Contact info: Rock of Ages Music, 114 E. Del Ray Ave., Alexandria VA 22301; call 703-838-2130. Email Roam.rockofagesmusic@gmail.com.

Burgundy Farm

Burgundy Farm offers two summer camps: a day camp at the 25-acre Alexandria campus in eight week-long sessions, and a sleep-away camp in three sessions at Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies in Capon Bridge, W.Va. Both camps are great options for children excited about learning in the outdoors with dedicated counselors. Day campers swim every day, and programs include sports, science and performing and visual arts. Sleep-away camp provides a mix of structure and freedom, fostering a respect to the natural world through greater knowledge of nature and self.

"At Burgundy Farm Summer Day Camp, our campers enjoy all the benefits of a sleep-away camp with the convenience of a day camp, including swimming, animal encounters, nature exploration, forming strong bonds and friendships with other campers and counselors, and the opportunity to build self-esteem and confidence in a fun and



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Campers enjoy the rock climbing wall at Burke Racquet and Swim Club's Sports Camp.

friendly environment," said Hugh Squire, director of auxiliary services.

Burgundy Farm Summer Day Camp is located on the Alexandria campus of Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria. Lower and upper divisions, grouped by age and interest, for children ages 3-years-8-months to 12 years old. Camp runs Monday, June 15-Friday, Aug. 7. Register at www.burgundyfarm.org/summer-programs. Contact Hugh Squire at hughs@burgundyfarm.org or 703-842-0480.

Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies Camp is located within 500 acres in a secluded valley near Capon Bridge, W.Va. Overnight junior session (age 8-10) for one week in August - currently waitlist only; senior sessions (11-15) for two weeks in June, July or August; adult weekend (21+) in July. Register at www.burgundycenter.org. Contact Michele McCabe at michelem@burgundyfarm.org or 703-842-0470.

Burke Racquet and Swim

Burke Racquet and Swim Sport Camp has been a hidden treasure in Burke for more than 27 years. Tucked behind the Kaiser Permanente Building in Burke, the indoor camp is the ideal setting for children who want to do a variety of sports. It offers swimming, tennis, and rock climbing daily. It also offers Zumba, soccer and camp games.

All of the Sports Camp staff has been back-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Girls Junior Elite enjoy soccer camp at the Soccer Academy at E.C. Lawrence Park in Centreville and Patriot Park in Fairfax this summer.

ground checked through Fairfax County; they are CPR/AED trained.

The camp offers full day (\$280 per week) and half day mornings or afternoons (\$180 per week). There is before and after camp care for working parents. The first week of camp begins June 22 and goes through Aug. 28. Call Burke Racquet and Swim Club at 703-250-1299.

Soccer Academy Inc.

The Soccer Academy offers a wide range of innovative, state-of-the-art programs that meet the interests and playing abilities of all players and teams. It caters to individuals and teams of all ages. All residential camps include a goalkeeping camp. Day camps include E.C. Lawrence Park in Centreville and Patriot Park for ages 5-14. Residential Camps at University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg and Randolph Macon Academy, Front Royal, for ages 9-18. Visit www.soccer-academy.com for camp locations, costs, dates and times. Call 703-393-7961 or email soccer@soccer-academy.com.

Kenwood Summer Day Camp

Kenwood Summer Day Camp makes it their mission to provide campers with new experiences and lasting friendships each summer. "Whether it's watching a baseball game, riding a roller coaster, or seeing knights joust from the front row, we take pride in giving them these opportunities and watching them share it with their new friends," said Justin Elcano, camp director.

Kenwood Summer Day campers can go on daily field trips to exciting destinations including water parks, mini golf, roller skating, amusement parks and more. Campers also have a wide variety of activities to keep them entertained while they are on campus. There is a large wooded playground that is home to many kickball, capture the flag, and basketball games. They have five themed rooms that hold arts and crafts, video games,



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

FCPA Camps and the Rec-PAC Program camps take place all over the county.

board games, ping pong, air hockey, and movies.

Kenwood summer day camp is open to children who have completed kindergarten through 8th grade. Camp starts June 15 and goes through Sept. 2. Visit the website to find a calendar with a schedule for each week at www.camp.kenwoodschool.com. Call 703-256-4711 or email camp@kenwoodschool.com.

Metropolitan School of the Arts

Metropolitan School of the Arts offer pre-professional summer dance, music theater and acting camps. It also offers a wide variety of youth summer camps where students can explore and learn many facets of the performing and visual arts, including mini camps for the youngest students, ages 3-5, youth camps for students in grades 1-6, and intensives for students age 8 and up. Private summer music lessons are also available for piano, voice, guitar, violin and drums.

"MSA summer camps are the perfect way to try something new and a great way to keep young bodies active and develop new friendships," said Melissa Dobbs, president of Metropolitan School of the Arts in Lorton and Alexandria. "Whether your child is passionate about the performing arts or just looking to have some fun, MSA camps offer creative programs for all skill levels."

The Lorton campus is at 9601 Ox Road, Lorton, and the Alexandria Campus is at 5775 Barclay Road, Kingstowne, Va. Call 703-339-0444 or visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

Langley School Summer Studio

The Langley School Summer Studio features more than 70 classes that allow for the personal, social, and intellectual growth of each camper in preschool to 8th grade. Innovative and engaging academic and STEM programs stimulate with math adventures,

robots, and Raspberry Pi. Exploration abounds as campers take exciting field trips to become field scientists who investigate the Chesapeake Bay, cyclists who traverse local mountain bike terrain, and magicians who create illusions. The spotlight also shines on experiences that get campers "in the studio" with a Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer or the lead choreographer and dancer for MC Hammer.

"Each year, we look to add to our diverse roster of classes while growing the perennial favorites to ensure The Langley School Summer Studio offers the best possible experience for our campers," said Director of Auxiliary Programs Jennafer Curran. "Whether taking part in one of many field trips, exploring a new interest like soccer or dance, or refining math or reading skills, our campers develop academically, socially, and emotionally ... and have a great time in the process."

The Langley School Summer Studio will run in six weekly sessions from June 15 - July 31, for students in preschool to grade 8. Classes are held at The Langley School in McLean, and take advantage of the 9.2-acre campus, featuring a wooded nature area, state-of-the-art athletic center, artificial turf field, computer labs, and age-appropriate playgrounds. Visit www.langley.school.org/summerstudio for details or to register online. Call 703-356-1920 or email summer@langley.school.org.

Bishop Ireton Camp

Bishop Ireton High School offers campers the opportunity to participate in sports and/or theater while developing individual and group skills and fostering a love of the activity. It offer boys camps (baseball, basketball, lacrosse and football); girls camps (basketball, lacrosse and volleyball); and coed camps (soccer, theater). Age ranges for the camps are rising 1st graders to rising seniors depending on the camp. The 17 camp sessions are conducted by the school's coaches or teachers and assisted by student counselors. Lunch is provided for full day camps by the cafeteria at no extra cost.

"Last year we had nearly 600

SEE PAGE 6

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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LearningRx-Fairfax Offers Day of Fun Brain-related Competitions

To raise awareness about the brain's ability to change at any age, LearningRx brain training centers across the United States are holding a Brain OlympicsRx event. The local cognitive skills center, LearningRx Fairfax, will be holding its event on Saturday, May 23, from noon to 4 p.m.

For every person that participates in our Brain Olympics, LearningRx-Fairfax will donate \$10 to Brain Injury Services.

The free event will be an entertaining but low-pressure environment to flex mental muscles with a day of cognitive competitions, including: The Brain Bee - a backwards spelling bee; The Deck-athlon - speed sorting specially designed cards; Noggin Art - complete art tasks on your head; Memory Marathon - how many words can you remember? Tangramathon - recreate the tangram formations; Speed Stack Cups - fastest time to create the pattern wins; Memory Math Sprint - a fun multi-tasking math challenge.

Other events will include designing a flag, fueling up on healthy

brain foods, learning about the cool capabilities of the brain and more.

The Brain OlympicsRx event is open to children and adults of all ages (seniors welcome) and abilities, and all games, snacks and prizes are free. Walk-ins are welcome but pre-registration is requested to help facilitate planning.

"These aren't academic exercises, they're cognitive fun," says LearningRx Fairfax Center Director, Rebecca Oliver. "We know that during the summer the average student loses approximately 2.6 months of grade-level equivalency in math computation skills and overall, teachers typically spend four weeks re-teaching or reviewing materials that students have forgotten over summer break. The Brain OlympicsRx event is a free and family-oriented event to help kids learn ways to fight this 'Summer Slide.'"

To learn more about the event or to register, call 703-995-9945.

LearningRx Fairfax is a local, cognitive skills training center that specializes in treating learning struggles.

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www.PotomacAcademy.org (Summer Programs) Ph: 703-993-9889
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Diverse Camps Offer Summer Fun

FROM PAGE 5

campers attend one of our sports or theater camps. The camps are a great way for youngsters to get to know us and for our coaches and theater teachers to get to know them," said Peter Hamer, summer camp director.

The camp brochure and sign up form can be found under the athletics tab at www.bishopireton.org. Contact Peter Hamer at hamerp@bishopireton.org or 703-212-5190.

Park Authority and Rec-PAC

The Fairfax County Park Authority offers more than 1,400 summer day camp options at 100 locations plus the six-week theme-based summer Rec-PAC programs at nearly 50 elementary schools every summer.

Camps are held at RECenters, historic sites, lakefront parks and schools and offer a variety of camp titles. Both camps and Rec-PAC offer children a chance to have fun, build friendships and have a safe and rewarding summer experience. The Rec-PAC program runs June 29 through Aug. 6 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. daily and is open to children in Fairfax County who are rising first graders through those who finished sixth grade.

Registration begins April 27 online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recpac. There is an \$8 discount per week for those who register before June 12. Partial scholarships are available for those who qualify through free and reduced lunch program. The large summer camp program begins early June with camps for preschoolers and later in June for school age campers.

From crafts and games to high-tech and high adventure, the Park Authority has something for everyone. Many camps offer swimming at RECenters each day as well as extended care for working parents. Sports enthusiasts can choose from an array of skill-development camps, including



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENN COOK

Students enjoy summer camps at Metropolitan School of the Arts in Lorton and Alexandria; musical theatre camps are just one of the many camps offered.

British soccer, basketball, football, baseball, cheerleading, archery, lacrosse or extreme sports programs. Enjoy the outdoors? Then check out the boating, fishing and biking camps. Specialty camps such as Young Chef's Cooking, Chess, Geocaching and Girls Leadership allow for exploring new interests or developing a new skill. There is also an array of STEM programs that stimulate cognitive development and enhance critical thinking. The search and browse options on the website (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/camps) make it easy to narrow choices by location, age of children, type of camp and week of summer or check out the 2015 Summer Camp Guide.

For more information about Rec-PAC or camps, call 703-222-4664 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Children participate in Field Day at Kenwood Summer Day Camp in Annandale.

Centreville Dance Academy

Summer Camp at Centreville Dance Academy is a great way for a child to experience dance in a fun and safe atmosphere. It offers a Princess Party Camp, Broadway Bound Camp, Glitz & Glam Camp, and Me & My Doll Camp. Dancers will enjoy pretending to be their favorite characters, dressing up, and creating fun crafts. On the final day of camp there will be an in-studio performance for family and friends.

"Summer camp is a great way to expose your child to all that dance has to offer. Dance camp is a wonderful place to build lasting memories and relationships with the CDA teachers and new friends. We love seeing the dancers grow each year," said Kathy Taylor, owner/director.

Princess Party Camp offers The Little Mermaid from July 6-10; Frozen from July 27-

31; Princess Ballerina from Aug. 3-7; and Frozen from Aug. 17-21.

Broadway Bound Camp is July 13-17. Glitz & Glam is July 20-24 and Aug. 10-14. Me and My Doll is June 29-July 13.

Register on the website through the Parent Portal. Centreville Dance Academy is located at 14215-G Centreville Square, Centreville. Visit www.centrevilledance.com, call 703-815-3125 or email office@centrevilledance.com.

SummerTimes

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes SummerTimes programs offers campers ages 3-18 an enjoyable and enriching experience with programs designed to stimulate curiosity and creativity, develop talents, and encourage exploration and personal growth. Most of the camp directors are SSSAS teachers and coaches, supported by alumni and students. Operating on three campuses with state-of-the-art facilities in the heart of Alexandria, the camp strives to inspire campers all summer long.

"At SummerTimes, your child will have the opportunity to see new sights in Washington, D.C., to expand artistic horizons in an art or filmmaking camp, learn about computer programming or jewelry making, challenge their abilities in one of our many sports camps, try their hand in TechPlay, or participate in a variety of fun activities in our traditional Day Camp. We pride ourselves on offering camps that will spark an interest in your camper, and will encourage them to create and try new things on their own in a safe and nurturing place," said Jim Supple, Director of Summer Programs.

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes summer programs run from June 15-Aug. 14, offering nine weeks with a variety of camps. With more than 145 different camp sessions to choose from, there is something for campers of every age. Visit www.summertimes.org to view camp offerings, pricing, registration procedures and more. Email summerprograms@sssas.org or call 703-212-2777.



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lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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Summer Fun for Adults

The region offers a wide range of programs for adults.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Summer fun is no longer reserved for children. Whether one's interests lie in exploring nature and hiking in the woods or immersed in history, art and literature on a university campus, the region abounds with warm weather opportunities.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at George Mason University offers its members a chance to satisfy their intellectual and cultural curiosities. Want to read and discuss the "Iliad" or play Symphony No. 5 on the piano? Classes in Homer's writings or classical music are available in Fairfax, Reston and Sterling, Va. \$375 gives members access to more than 400 trips, courses and clubs ranging from memoir writing to French cooking.

"This summer you can get outside with OLLI trips to the National Gallery of Art, the Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens,

and The Franciscan Monastery," said Jennifer Disano, OLLI executive director.

From oil painting to soap making, Arlington County is offering a diverse smatter of classes for adults. "We have a smorgasbord of programs and really cool classes where you can learn about nature or go on hikes," said Susan Kalish, a spokeswoman for the county.

Potomac residents who want to distinguish an amethyst from an iolite are in luck this summer. A gemology class is among the most popular adult classes at the Potomac Community Recreation Center.

"We've got a host of different programs from tai chi, yoga and karate," said Peter Selikowitz, the center's executive director. "There's even a laughter fitness class which is a fun way to reduce stress."

For those wanting to learn how to avoid internet scams, Marymount University has teamed up with City of Falls Church to present "Living Better with the Internet." The series of five classes is designed for seniors and will be held at the Falls Church Community Center this summer. "The best news of all is that the classes are free," said Odette Shults, a spokeswoman for the University.

Educators say that an uptick in interest among adults, particularly seniors, has led



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Many organizations offer summer fun and educational programs for adults.

to a diverse offering of learning opportunities. "There is an absolute trend and evidence-based research is driving the trend," said Andrew Carle of George Mason University. "Adult activities are being reinvented. What used to be arts and crafts and

now their being called wellness and enrichment and address the physical, cognitive, social and spiritual needs of adults. We're seeing people being given more choices on how to improve their lives rather than just giving them activities."

Play Unified

BY RICK JEFFREY
PRESIDENT, SPECIAL OLYMPICS VIRGINIA

In my 20-plus years in Special Olympics I still, on occasion, make the same mistake. I miss the boat. I underestimate the abilities either cognitive or physical of our Special Olympics athletes; athletes with intellectual disabilities. But by continually making this mistake, I, in essence, pretty much make them like everyone else; just another person, available to be judged and limited by what we see or what we think we see. You see, the limitations that all of us place on each other determine how we perceive each other, treat each other, like each other, fear each other, raise each other up or marginalize each other.

Ask most coaches out there and they will tell you that the biggest limitations on any student athlete are the ones coaches place upon them, among which might be too slow, not big enough or not tough enough. It might not be much different in the classroom where teachers might see a student as too lazy, too distracted or not interested. And these are just student athletes in any sport, in any classroom, at any high school in Virginia.

Now compound that with Down syndrome, autism or an undiagnosed disability resulting in a student's inability to keep up with peers. In most cases, the limitations in a school environment, an environment that moves all too fast, are enormous. And even in schools with wonderful inclusive classroom environments, the opportunity to



interact and really build friendships and relationships remains limited.

These students with intellectual disabilities are, in most cases, not receiving an opportunity to really participate in sports; an activity that, at its heart, teaches teamwork, trust and communication; an activity that at its core promotes competency, credibility and caring; the building blocks of human relationships. Sports and sports teams are probably more conducive to building relationships and creating friendships than possibly any other school activity. Plus throw in the opportunity to "wear the colors" and represent your school and you create an emotional bond that may be the most inclusive opportunity for any student.

IMAGINE A PARTNERSHIP between Special Olympics and high schools throughout Virginia. Imagine the opportunity for a student with an intellectual (or any) dis-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Rick Jeffrey

COMMENTARY

ability to play alongside his or her peers without disabilities in a Unified Sports team environment; to rely on each other, to communicate with each other, to believe in each other, to become Champions Together.

Imagine no more because Champions Together is here. In fact, it's right here in Fairfax at Robinson Secondary School and Robert E. Lee High School – and in 22 other high schools in Virginia.

This partnership with the Virginia High School League is aimed at bringing together youth with and without disabilities to build the first unified generation, a generation where youth will build upon the friendships and life lessons learned through sports and the Special Olympics movement so, later in life, they will not be afraid to live, work and THRIVE alongside their peers with different ability levels.

Champions Together high schools will form inclusive track and field teams this spring that will compete against other local high schools. Other components of the program include an inclusive student-led leadership team that will organize an awareness event to promote respect and inclusion, and promote philanthropy to support the future of the program.

AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS, we dedicate ourselves each day to building communities more respectful in their conduct, more inclusive in their makeup, more unified in their fabric. And each day the Virginia High School League is promoting education, leadership, sportsmanship, character and citizenship for students by establishing and maintaining high standards for school activities and competitions.

A new, young, energetic base of athletes and volunteers, which could include the sons or daughters of many reading this op-ed piece, will eventually transition from the schools into our communities and help Special Olympics Virginia and the Virginia High School League continue to achieve our missions.

The Champions Together program is new, and as it develops, we will learn a lot about how to build it, refine it and make it the best that it can be for everyone. And do you know who we will learn this from? We will learn it from our young people with and without disabilities who, through their participation and their ownership of this inclusive program, will prove to us that they are the future.

Let's Play Unified!

Rick Jeffrey has been the President of Special Olympics Virginia since 2000. He has served on many national and international committees for Special Olympics, and is currently serving on the United States Leadership Council where he is chair of the Sports Committee.