

Making the Brand

NEWS, PAGE 3

Springfield native Justin Kim
was chosen to compete on
the 22nd season of
“America’s Next Top Model”
reality television show.



Backyard Vegetable Gardens Feed Multi-Cultural Cuisines

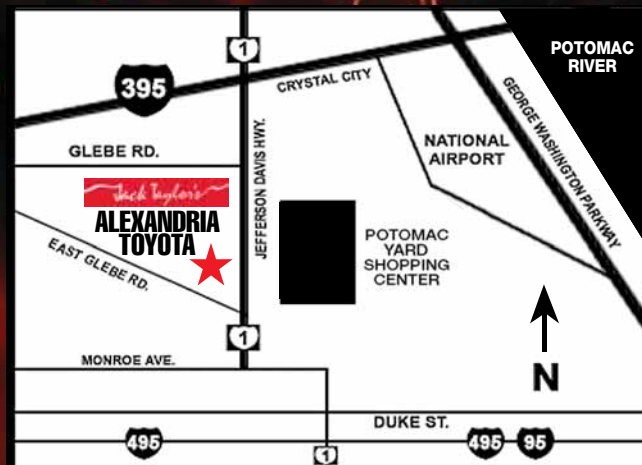
NEWS, PAGE 4

Introducing Shakespeare to Children

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10

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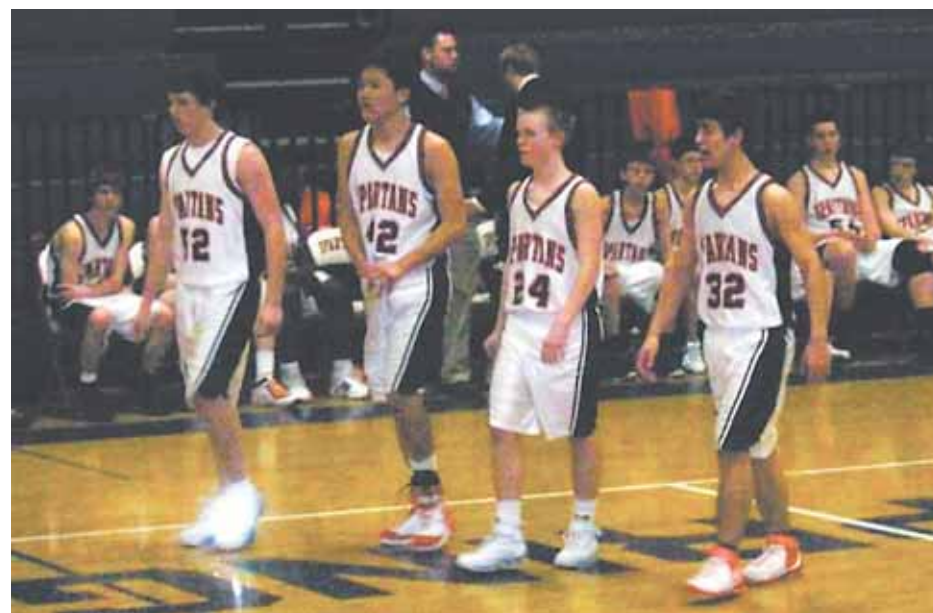
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**Let's
Go
Places**



Justin Kim (center) performs at West Springfield High School as part of a routine for the Mr. Spartan Competition and Homecoming Court.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JUSTIN KIM

Athletics and fitness became passions of Justin Kim's as he grew older. Kim (second from left) played several sports at West Springfield High school, including basketball.

Making the Brand

Springfield native competes on "America's Next Top Model"

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Justin Kim never planned to be a model. The 23-year-old Springfield native's parents encouraged him to pursue law or medicine. While studying law and society at George Mason University, Kim thought he might find a career with an agency like the FBI or criminal courts.

But during his sophomore year, a friend asked Kim if he could model for him at an upcoming fashion shoot.

"It was so random," Kim said. "I told him, 'No, I'm not your guy.'" But several weeks passed and the friend tried Kim again, desperate. This time he agreed.

The shoot went well, Kim said, and impressed a number of people, motivating him to enter a local runway event. Kim then signed with Georgetown-based T.H.E. Artist Agency and began working modeling gigs while finishing his degree at George Mason.

"It was complete culture shock going on set," Kim said. "I feel most models don't really intend on being a model, it just kind of happens. That's what happened to me."

One of the next big things to happen to Kim was being selected to appear on the 22nd edition of the popular reality television show "America's Next Top Model," which premiered Aug. 5 on the CW network.

AT A WATCH PARTY for the premiere in Georgetown, Kim was joined by fans and friends, including Renato Aronson, who has known him since the two were in first grade at Rolling Valley Elementary School.

"It was weird, really weird, seeing someone you grew up with on TV," said Aronson. "It's strange, but he fit right in, he didn't look uncomfortable."

In middle school, Aronson said Kim was self-conscious about his weight, which mo-

tivated him to pursue sports, fitness and develop a passion for keeping in shape. As a West Springfield Spartan, Kim played football, basketball and ran track.

Aronson remained close with Kim through middle school and high school, though Aronson attended Key Middle School and Robert E. Lee High School. Then both of them went to George Mason.

As Kim began to pursue modeling on top of college classes, Aronson said their close group of friends was with him each step of the way. "If one of us makes it, we all make it," Aronson said, "but we were real with him, from the beginning: This might not work out, it's a hard business. We said be prepared for the best and prepared for the worst."

Before Kim was accepted to "America's Next Top Model," he was rejected numerous times by other shows.

"He was getting really discouraged in the last year," Aronson said. "We just supported him, he pulled through. This is really up his alley. It's just awesome, see him work really hard, do school on the side and actually get his break."

In addition to the potential boost to his modeling career (the show's winner will receive \$100,000 from Zappos Couture and be the face of their 2016 national brand relaunch, a fashion feature in "Nylon Magazine" and be offered a modeling contract with Next Model Management), Kim is also excited for the opportunity to represent Asian-Americans on the show.

"We're underrepresented," said Kim, whose parents Mike and Gye Sun are first-generation Americans from South Korea. "There are a lot of stereotypes and misconceptions, in society, the entertainment industry. They're just represented in a manner in which it's not taken seriously. I'm an Asian-American male, a 6 foot-2 inch model — who is this guy?"

IN THE FUTURE, Kim plans to market his



Justin Kim began modeling in college, after a friend called him out of desperation for an additional model for a photo shoot.



As his modeling career moves forward, Justin Kim plans to promote his own line of fashion-minded fitness apparel and do charitable work including collecting shoes for people who are less fortunate.

own brand of fashion-minded athletic apparel and give back to the community by organizing shoe drives.

"A lot of students don't recognize their actual responsibility as a student, who represent their community — he did," said Vera "Woody" Woodson, who had Kim in her marketing class at West Springfield. "He has a responsibility to show what the possibility and potential is for students who may be interested in this across the United States."

Woodson, who now teaches at South County High School, said she encourages her students to follow their passions, even if it's not the direct job route.

"Justin said one thing he remembers from

class is I said you can become your own brand," Woodson said. "How you represent yourself determines a lot of your outcome, as well as your income. That stuck with him; it's why he's taken such a strong stance to represent his community and self well. He doesn't want to be a flash in the pan."

Woodson wasn't able to make the premiere party, but texted with Kim the next day.

"What is this possibility of Tyra's interest in you?" she asked him, referring to the show's host and supermodel Tyra Banks.

"He said, 'Everyone loves JSmooth.'"

"I won't say the fame hasn't gone to his head yet," Woodson added, "but he is genuinely a nice guy. Finally nice guys do win."



Giuka's garden in Alexandria.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION



Aronia Berries

Backyard Vegetable Gardens Feed Multi-Cultural Cuisines

In Fairfax County, tomatoes are a staple of local gardens along with peppers, cucumbers, potatoes, beans and herbs like mint, oregano and cilantro.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

There's nothing like a juicy red tomato fresh out of the backyard garden to brighten up a summertime salad or a sandwich. Or a bittermelon, aronia berries or "paradise apple," as persimmons are known in Bulgaria. The multi-cultural population in Fairfax County has grown roots in the backyard vegetable garden.

"In my country, the name is paradise apple," said Jiuka, an Alexandria resident from Bulgaria, as she held a small, green persimmon fruit on a tree in her yard. Jiuka's yard was full of cucumber plants, eggplant, green peppers, squash, tomato and okra, as well as aronia berries and drenka, another Bulgarian favorite. Planting her own fruits and vegetables "is very important, I came from a country where we had good agriculture," she said. She does all the gardening herself. "I learned from my mom," Jiuka said.

It's not just the "backyard" garden for Springfield resident Henrey Nguyen, who lives in a corner lot that is full of vegetables, herbs and fruit, mostly of an Asian variety. His grandmother "does all the work when it comes to the garden," Nguyen said. There are Bartlett Pears growing on a few trees in the yard, with melons, red peppers and bittermelon, an Asian specialty that gives soup its flavor. Bittermelon has another unexpected use in the garden, said Nguyen. "We used to have deer, they took a bite of the bittermelon and never came back," he said.

Some of Nguyen's vegetables and herbs go to local Vietnamese restaurants too where they know the owners, he said, like the Golden Cow, Pho Factory and Bangkok Noodle, all in Annandale.

JIUKA AND NGUYEN are not alone in the



Early stages of a bittermelon.

backyard garden craze. In fact, there is a surge of gardeners growing their own food in the last few years, according to the National Gardening Association, based in Williston, Vt. In their report, "Garden to Table: A 5-Year Look at Food Gardening in America," Americans growing their own food in home or community gardens went from 36 million households in 2008 to 42 million in 2013, an increase of 17 percent. The NGA attributes the increase to federal agencies increasing awareness and educational efforts, and by First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move," initiative that features food grown in the White House Kitchen Garden.

In Fairfax County, tomatoes are a staple of local gardens along with peppers, cucumbers, potatoes, beans, and herbs like mint, oregano and cilantro. Tomato gardening is what most of the questions the county Master Gardeners get, said Adria Bordas, a senior extension agent at the Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener helpdesk.

The Fairfax County Master Gardeners

Association, Inc. (FCMGA) is a nonprofit organization of volunteers who provide research-based horticultural information, tips, techniques and advice to home gardeners in the community.

Bordas noted that one of the strong points about vegetable gardening in Fairfax County is that gardens "can be a four-season veggie garden if you work at it with frost protection," she said in an email.

In Jiuka's garden, she has the tomatoes and cucumbers, but also a wide variety of fruit she likes to eat because by growing her own, she knows what goes into them as far as pesticides and fertilizers. "I try to be organic," she said. Bordas noted this as a possible healthier aspect of homegrown vegetables too.

Although Jiuka doesn't have bittermelon to fend off unwanted guests that nibble on the fruits and vegetables like Nguyen, she constantly battles with the local animals over the garden, especially the okra. "I have one rabbit that likes these leaves," she said. She puts nets over her blackberry and raspberry plants, but it's a constant struggle. "I'm



Red card in Nguyen's garden wards off animals.

Highlights from Report

- NGA report "Garden to Table: A 5-Year Look at Food Gardening in America" states:
- ❖ 1 in 3 households are now growing food, highest levels seen in a decade
- ❖ Americans spent \$3.5 billion on food gardening in 2013, up from \$2.5 billion in 2008
- ❖ 76 percent of all households with a food garden grew vegetables, a 19 percent increase since 2008
- ❖ Households with incomes under \$35,000 participating in food gardening grew to 11 million, up 38 percent since 2008

fighting with birds, they like it a lot," but admitted she's the imposter when it comes to the native birds and mammals.

BESIDES BEING FRESH AND ORGANIC, some of these exotic fruits and vegetables have health benefits that are not known to many in this area. Bittermelon, known as bitter gourd to some, has been known to be used for gout, cholera, eye problems and even hangovers. Aronia berries are used for urinary tract disorders, and another Bulgarian vegetable, drenka, helps digestion.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Firefighter Placed on Leave Following Facebook Comments

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue announced Aug. 5 one of the department's firefighters has been placed on administrative leave following comments he made through social media.

"The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department is aware of a recent social media post by one of our employees that concerns us," the department stated on Twitter on Aug. 4.

A spokesman for the department Dan Schmidt said they found out about the post through Facebook: Firefighter Khalil Abdul-Rasheed had written comments that many believed encouraged public violence towards police officers. Though the Fire and Rescue statements don't name the employee, Schmidt confirmed they refer to Abdul-Rasheed.

Fairfax Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 77 presi-

dent Brad Carruthers sent Fire Chief Richard Bowlers a letter after Abdul-Rasheed's posting had gained attention and visibility in the media. That letter was then posted on the Lodge's Facebook page.

"The last thing we would ever expect is to be attacked by a fellow member of the public safety community in our own county," Carruthers said in the letter. "This kind of vile and disgraceful social media activity is beyond inappropriate; it cannot and should not be tolerated by your department."

The Aug. 4 Fire and Rescue announcement continues, "We consider this a serious matter and the situation is currently under investigation."

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department will not tolerate committing or inciting violence against law enforcement officers. Fairfax County public safety agencies continue to have a strong working relationship and solid professional respect for each other."

Schmidt declined to answer out of which fire station Abdul-Rasheed is based.

— TIM PETERSON

SCHOOL NOTES

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

The Citadel has recognized **Cadet Martin Krawczak** on the school's dean's list for his academic achievement during the spring 2015 semester. Krawczak is a 2013 graduate of West Springfield High School. Recognition on the South Carolina

military school's dean's list is reserved for students who were registered for 12 or more semester hours and received a grade point average of 3.2 or higher with no grade below a C for the previous semester's work." Krawczak is a junior majoring in Business Administration and minoring in German.

Raymond J. King of Clifton earned his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering, with a focus on Robotics, from the Mechanical Engineering Department of the University of Utah at the close of

the Fall 2014 semester. An NSF - IGERT grant helped fund his post-graduate studies there. A 2003 graduate of Robinson Secondary School, Raymond went on to receive both his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech before marrying fellow VT engineering graduate, Amelia Davis. He is the son of Clifton residents Dr. Graham and Jane King.

Ava Lakmazaheri from Tho
SEE SCHOOL NOTES, PAGE 7

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AUGUST 24—AUGUST 28.....SHREK (PG)

AUGUST 31—SEPTEMBER 4.....RIO (PG)

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OPINION

‘Our Community Deserves Better’

Strongly worded recommendations for police on transparency and public trust; FCPD has miles to go.

Outrage over the shooting death of John Geer of Springfield on Aug. 29, 2013, by a Fairfax County Police officer led the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to form of the Ad Hoc Police Practice Review Commission, which began meeting in March 2015. The Communications Subcommittee was the first to give recommendations to the full commission, and the report pulled no punches.

“Communications in recent high-profile use-of-force and critical incident cases were mishandled, inadequate and untimely, leading to loss of public trust and questions about the legitimacy of police actions. ... Our community deserves better.”

“The failures in both communications and its Freedom of Information Act policies have created this crisis of confidence for FCPD. ... There must be significant change coming from the leadership of the county and the Fairfax County Police Department. No longer can they just pay lip service to the idea of transparency. Real change is needed – now. ...

“It is well past time for the Fairfax County Police Department to start providing timely, honest and effective communications with everything it does. We deserve nothing less. ...

“Constant ‘happy talk’ breeds suspicion,

while being direct and clear about mistakes and failures as well as accomplishments results in increased credibility.”

The Communications Committee, led by former Fairfax County Public Information Officer Merni Fitzgerald, calls for: a culture change to favor releasing as much information as possible; policy change to encourage transparency and accountability by establishing a culture of disclosure; adopting a predisposition-to-disclose, with public records presumed to be public and exemptions strictly and narrowly construed.

For example, the committee calls for: releasing the names of officers involved in any police shootings within one week; releasing video from body cameras, dashboard cameras and any other digital record of a police-involved shooting death immediately; a continuous process of information declassification for cases that are no longer active or are closed; releasing actual police reports, with redactions where necessary, rather than creating summary documents; providing unfettered access to blotter-type information to include a list of every incident and call with the basic who/what/when/where/how information.

The full report is eight pages, well-written and well worth reading.

CHANGE IN CULTURE is not coming automatically or easily to the Fairfax County Police Department. While the FCPD has released reams of information to the commission, that has not included much requested and needed information for the commission and its subcommittees to meet established scope of work.

For example, the Use of Force Subcommittee is tasked in its scope of work to “review (not investigate) recent use of force incidents

EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

Now Is Time To Unite for Education in Fairfax County

BY JIM CORCORAN
PRESIDENT AND CEO
FAIRFAX COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Recently, the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers ran advertisements in the Connection newspapers questioning the dedication of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the business community to the county’s education system.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Fairfax Board of Supervisors has worked tirelessly to support Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). In fact, approximately 70 percent of FCPS’ budget is unfairly shouldered by the county, which comes directly from residential and commercial taxes. From FY 1996-2014, contributions from the county quadrupled that of student growth. And this past April, the

Board of Supervisors, in its FY2016 adopted budget, increased funding for FCPS for the fifth consecutive year, funding our schools at 99.8 percent of their advertised budget; bringing the total increase from FY2012 to FY2016 to \$240 million.

All the while, residents and businesses are being taxed by lawmakers in Richmond, with little return in education dollars coming directly from the state to show for it. The Fairfax Chamber has, for decades, supported the full funding of K-12 education throughout the entire Commonwealth. The Chamber believes that the future growth of the Northern Virginia economy, and consequently Virginia’s economy, depends on a significant investment in K-12 education. The Chamber has been a leading voice in Richmond, working hand and hand with the county, to thwart any attempt to

cut the state’s contributions to FCPS.

Our work on behalf of FCPS extends beyond advocacy. Since 2010, the Fairfax Chamber has partnered with FCPS to establish the Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization allied with, but independent of, the county’s public school system.

Every two years, the Fairfax Chamber spearheads the School Bond Referendum committee ensuring there are appropriate dollars for the county’s education infrastructure to meet the needs of our growingly diverse community.

Additionally, the Fairfax Chamber has been recognized by the School Board for its years of dedicated partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools.

And we promise that will not stop. We will continue to advocate for the needs of our schools. However, the Fairfax County Federation

Read Report Online

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission/subcommittees/materials/final-recommendation-communication-subcommittee.pdf>

(lethal and non-lethal) involving FCPD as well as review any existing data summarizing all FCPD use of force interactions, officer involved shootings resulting in death or injury, and in-custody deaths from 2005 to 2015.”

In May, the committee asked what documents and reports would be available and when.

The following response was posted in June: “The Chief of Police will post a synopsis and other information regarding the department’s officer involved shootings but will not be releasing any case reports, files or documents from the criminal or administrative case.”

That response does not reflect a culture of transparency.

But what’s worse is that on Aug. 10, just weeks before the subcommittee’s final recommendations are due to the full commission, the committee still has not received the synopsis promised, or even a list of officer-involved shootings resulting in death or injury, and in-custody deaths from 2005 to 2015.

FCPD Chief of Police Edwin Roessler is scheduled to present the synopses to the committee on Aug. 12. All commission and subcommittee meetings are open to the public, see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission/>

— MARY KIMM,

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Mary Kimm, Connection editor and publisher, serves on the Ad Hoc Police Policies Review Commission. The opinions expressed here are her own, and do not speak for the commission.

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**Published by
Local Media Connection LLC**

**1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

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NEWS

Schools Budget Task Force to Consult Community on Possible Cuts

With Fairfax County Public Schools facing a projected Fiscal Year 2017 budget shortfall of \$100 million, the school superintendent Dr. Karen Garza established a task force to look at programs or services that may be eliminated in order to make up some of that deficit. According to an update from the Aug. 7 online newsletter from Fairfax County, the 36-member task force has already met four times since June and discussed ideas for balancing the budget that came from a community online forum.

Among the four and a half pages of preliminary suggestions drawn

from community input are eliminating athletics and varsity sports programs, downsizing the Advanced Academic Program, energy-saving measures such as shortening the period that athletic fields are lit, and not implementing the planned later school start times. Though no decisions have been made, the newsletter announcement said more suggestions will be posted online this month for community members to explore and offer feedback.

The school system also announced a pair of community meetings where more information on the budget process, task force work and the online feedback tool

will be provided. Those meetings include:

-Wednesday, Sept. 9, at South Lakes High School from 7 to 9 p.m.

-Saturday, Sept. 12, at Mount Vernon High School from 10 a.m. to noon.

Final suggestions from the task force are scheduled to go to the superintendent in October and be shared with the school board in November. Garza will formally present her budget to the school board on Jan. 7, 2016.

For more information on the Task Force and Fiscal Year 2017 budget, visit www.fcps.edu/savefcps.

— TIM PETERSON

SCHOOL NOTES

FROM PAGE 5

mas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) won the Best of Category Award and a first award in Robotics and Intelligent Machines at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, held in Pittsburgh. Lakmazaheri earned the awards for her project, Brain-Actuated Robot-

ics: Controlling and Programming a Humanoid Using Electroencephalography. Lakmazaheri also won several special awards.

Katie Bershadsky, born and raised in Burke, has been selected to the Delta Epsilon Iota Academic Honor Society in the local chapter at Kennesaw State University. Delta Epsilon Iota was estab-

lished to recognize and encourage academic excellence in all fields of study.

Bershadsky is expected to graduate in 2018 with a major in public relations.

Her parents are Scott and Kim Bershadsky. Her grandparents Malcolm and Marcia have lived in Burke for more than 30 years.



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

Home's Makeover Enhances Family Life

With time constraints, Sun Design converts large, dated house into residence that satisfies everyone's agenda.

By JOHN BYRD

Meet Roger Lataille, senior design consultant at Sun Design Remodeling and — more importantly — a remodeling resource homeowners turn to, and return to, whenever they need expert advice, hands-on support and commitment.

Case in point: in 2012, a north Arlington couple engaged Lataille to execute a top-to-bottom makeover to their 2,300-square-foot home. The goal was to implement functional improvements within a “transitional” interior design style that would work well for a growing family. Delivered on time and within budget, the owners dubbed the results “exceptional” in every detail.

Now, two years later, and with two daughters growing rapidly, the couple asked Lataille for ideas for an addition. As it turned out, the terrain around the property was too steep. While space enlargement discussions were still underway, however, the couple learned that elderly neighbors a few doors up the street were planning to

sell their nearly 5,000-square-foot colonial.

This was a promising development for Lataille's space-cramped client, but far from a slam-dunk.

The neighbor's house had been built in the late 1960s and hadn't been upgraded in decades. Still, more living space was a tantalizing proposition, and the couple soon asked Lataille for an assessment on remodeling the house to the standard he had achieved in their current residence.

In short order, Lataille and the clients walked through the house and — before any decision had been reached regarding a possible purchase — the designer developed preliminary sketches depicting several remodeling scenarios.

What was obvious to everyone from the start was that the existing house was seriously dated, even degraded in places — and that the desired upgrade would require considerable vision, budget-mindedness and team performance.

Adding to the drama: if the deal went through, the new owners wanted to put their current house on the market immedi-

ately, remodel the purchased property at once and move into their new residence as soon as possible.

There would be no interim period of rental properties or furniture in storage.

“Looking back, the qualitative difference between the interiors of the two houses was profound,” Lataille said. “The house being considered for purchase was like something from a 1970s movie set. There was large-pattern floral wall paper, wainscot paneling in many rooms; the family room adjacent to the kitchen was covered by a sled ceiling with faux exposed timbers.”

Moreover, the interior design style, Lataille elaborates, may have once been loosely described as rustic.

“But the look was plainly anachronistic in 2015,” he added, “A far cry from the contemporary transitional style my clients wanted.”

The kitchen, likewise, featured outmoded Colonial accents that including Dutch-style maple cabinet facings, a Delft mosaic tile back splash, and vinyl counter surfaces. There was even a 30-year-old microwave



Sun Design's Roger Lataille proposed a stacked stone hearth for a sitting area adjacent to the open kitchen. The textural vertical accent — evoking a cabin-like ambiance — creates an invitation to sit and interact that had previously been missing from a nondescript corner.

— “really a kind of museum piece,” Lataille said — “embedded in the food prep island.”

Downstairs, a spacious multi-function lower-level zoned as “game room,” “playroom” and “work room” had become stale from lack of use.

There was a tired old kitchenette in a rear corner — which meant that fixtures needed for sinks and refrigerators were already in place. But much of the lower level was little more than a partly below-grade basement — hardly a place for upbeat family entertainment.

IN THE PLUS COLUMN: the house featured generously-sized rooms and segues,



PHOTOS BY GREG HADLEY

BEFORE: Wood panelling, wainscoting, and a sled ceiling with faux rafters were among the dated interior details that defined the home's previous interior.

large windows accessing abundant natural light and an appreciably “open” first floor plan with sight lines in three directions.

“The kitchen-centric first level plan had considerable potential,” Lataille said, “but it needed a more cohesive interior — one that would support a more intimate scale.”

The first feature Lataille slated for deletion: the sled roof.

By uniformly dropping the ceiling to the standard 8 feet, the visual experience of anyone in the room now shifts to horizontal sight lines dominated by large windows and outside landscaping. The more sharply articulated indoor-outdoor continuum, in turn, adds focal points and intimacy — yet is more expansive.

To highlight perspective, Lataille proposed a

stacked stone hearth for a sitting area adjacent to the open kitchen. The textural vertical accent — evoking a cozy cabin-like ambiance — creates an iconic invitation to sit and interact that had previously been missing from a nondescript corner.

With a panoramic view on one side and the open kitchen on the other, the redesigned niche is transformed into a cozy spot for sitting by the window with a book, or chatting with the cook as meals are prepared.

With the exception of moving interior walls a few inches, the kitchen footprint remains fundamentally the same. Here, Lataille concentrated on introducing wholly new elevations — eliminating all vestiges of the Colonial-style finish work while developing a

SEE HOMELIFESTYLE, PAGE 12

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ENTERTAINMENT

PHOTOS BY RUTHIE RADO/COURTESY OF POCKET CHANGE THEATRE

From left — Aaron Sulkin, John Kinde, Jonathan Frye, Chema Pineda-Fernandez, Alison Talvacchio, Matt Succi and Nerissa Hart rehearse for “Midsummer on a Playground.”



Introducing Shakespeare to Children

Workhouse Arts Center debut for Pocket Change Theatre’s “Midsummer on a Playground.”

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Continuing to bring Fairfax County fresh, youthful performing arts talent to audiences, the Workhouse Arts Center has a special family-friendly treat in store. It is the debut of Pocket Change Theatre with its production of “Midsummer on a Playground.” It is a new adaption of Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.”

“Pocket Change Theatre’s upcoming performances of ‘Midsummer on a Playground’ is an inventive spin on Shakespeare and a welcome addition to our line-up of theatrical offerings for young audiences,” said Joseph Wallen, director of performing arts. “We hope this production is just the first of many that Pocket Change will produce in coming seasons, adding more options for parents wanting to share the magic of attending live theatrical experiences with their families at the Workhouse.”

One of the goals of Pocket Change is to have a series “to make Shakespeare accessible to kids by putting it in a fun, low-pressure environment,” said artistic director Ruthie Rado of Springfield. “When Shakespeare means a bunch of silly people on a playground, not a standardized multiple choice question, kids realize that Shakespeare can be exciting and fun.”

Pocket Change Theatre was founded by recent graduates of George Mason University. The founders include David Johnson, Colin Riley and Rado. In a phone interview, Rado indicated they wanted to create their own theatre company for young audiences to “push the boundaries of style and story.” A first production was “War and Peas” about “three brave vegetables on their quest to save their friend from the scary fruit bowl,” said Rado.

According to Rado, “while we have made cuts for length and added a preshow magic act, Shakespeare’s language remains intact. We firmly believe that Shakespeare can be understood and enjoyed by



From left — Aaron Sulkin, John Kinde, Jonathan Frye, Chema Pineda-Fernandez, Alison Talvacchio, Matt Succi, and Nerissa Hart rehearse for “Midsummer on a Playground.”

Where and When

Pocket Change Theatre presents “Midsummer On A Playground” at Workhouse Arts Center, W-3 Theatre, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Performances Friday, Aug. 28 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 29, at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets, \$12 adults, \$10 for ages 12 and under. Call 703-584-2900 or visit www.workhousearts.org

Note: This 45 minutes, no intermission performance of “Midsummer on a Playground” will have relaxed seating, making the show autism-friendly. This means that the house lights will stay up, lighting cues will be minimal, no loud sounds and audience members are free to move or step outside. This will be explained at the top of the show.

young audiences.” Pocket Change also aims to have a distinctive narrative that can be “dialogue light, making the show accessible to English as a Second Language and Deaf/Hard of Hearing audiences.”

“Midsummer on a Playground” is directed by Britany Martz (Fairfax Station and GMU graduate). She will use a theatrical framing device of a magic show as two traveling magicians “hypnotize” audience “volunteers” who will then unwittingly perform Midsummer while in a trance. Seven actors will play more than 20 roles.

“Not only is Shakespeare for everyone, but so is theatre,” added Martz. “No matter what you look like or where you come from, anybody can magically transform into a new character.”



Nancy Hannans’ recent paintings weave stories of love, joy and harmony in magical lands filled with unlimited possibilities. Hannans combines her love for storytelling and universal symbolism to communicate that we are all interconnected, and to celebrate our common humanity. Her artwork is on display at the Workhouse Arts Center through Sept. 6.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

THURSDAY/AUG. 13

Afternoon Book Club. 1 p.m. Richard Byrd, Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Join this afternoon book club, make new friends, and chat about books. This month’s title is “How It All Began” by Penelope Lively.

FRIDAY/ AUG. 14

Library Playdate: Toddlers. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. A fun place to play with other toddlers. Ages 1-2 with Adult. Sign up required. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

Kingstowne Farmers Market. 4-7 p.m. Fridays, May 1-Oct. 30. Giant Parking Lot, 5955 Kingstowne Towne Center, Alexandria. Vendors products include fresh organic honey and hand held pies and rolls. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/kingstownemkt.htm

SATURDAY/AUG. 15

Art of Movement Class. 8 a.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Enjoy free, drop-in Art of Movement classes featuring Yoga, Hula, Mat Pilates, Surfset and Tai Chi.

Date Night: Chef’s Table. 7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Create, cook and eat together at this fun cooking class. \$150 per couple.

Master Gardeners- Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Master Gardeners will answer all your gardening questions every Saturday morning. Adults.

Mount Vernon Nights 2015: The Revelers. 7-8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The Revelers, founding members of the Red Stick Ramblers and The Pine Leaf Boys “unquestionably the two groups at the vanguard of the Louisiana cultural renaissance” have joined together to form a Louisiana Supergroup which combines Swamp-Pop, Cajun, Country, Blues and Zydeco into a powerful tonic of roots music that

could only come from Southwest Louisiana. Free admission.

Tales to Tails. 11 a.m. Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, (Fairfax). Children ages 6-12 celebrate Prince Boo-Boo’s birthday with games, activities and reading to the dog. Please bring a birthday card. School age. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>

Burke Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-noon. Saturdays, May 2-Nov. 21. 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burkemkt.htm

Springfield Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Springfield Town Center, 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. www.smartmarkets.org.

SUNDAY/AUG. 16

Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge model train show. Admission: \$2-\$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org.

Lorton Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays, May 3-Nov. 8. Featuring fresh produce, a Swiss bakery and potted plants and herbs. VRE Parking Lot, 8990 Lorton Station Boulevard, Lorton. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/lortonmkt.htm

Fairfax Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sundays, May 10-Oct. 25. 10500 Page Avenue, Fairfax. www.fairfaxsatdaymarket.com/

Fair Lakes Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 4501 Market Commons Drive, Fairfax. www.greentowns.com/initiative/farmers-market/fair-lakes-farmers-market-fairfax.va.

MONDAY/AUG. 17

Lorton Evening Book Conversations. 7 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Discuss “Back When We Were Grownups” by Anne Tyler. Adults.

Paws To Read. 5 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice reading with Wylie, a trained therapy dog. Call or sign up for a 15-minute session. Age 6-12 with adult.

Let’s Hear It For The Girls! 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. All girls book discussion group of “Where the Mountain Meets the Moon” by Grace Lin. Age 9-12 with adult female.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

Deconstruction/Construction. 2:30 p.m. Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Join the City of Fairfax Regional Binary and Tech Shop DC-Arlington for an afternoon of demolition. We will deconstruct a common household electronic device. Teens. Sign up required. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>

TUESDAY/AUG. 18

S.T.E.A.M Storytime. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. Each month focuses on one subject with stories and activities for preschoolers. Ages 4-5 with adult. Sign up required. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

Brain Games at the Library. 2 p.m. Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Have fun and win prizes with our board and card games that challenge your thinking. Ages 8-12. School age. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>

Classics Book Club. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd, Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. This month's title is "Little Prince" by Antoine de Saint-Exupery. Adults.

Afternoon Book Discussion Group. 1:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. "Discuss One True Thing" by Anna Quindlen. Adults.

Great Decisions Seminar. 2 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Roundtable discussion of U.S foreign policy. Topic: Refugee Crisis. Adults.

Legos In The Library. 4:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Use your imagination and make friends with our LEGO bricks free build. LEGOs provided by Friends of the Kings Park Library.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 19

PJ Book Buddies. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Will read selections from the PJ Library and make a craft to bring home. PJ Library provides families with free Jewish books and music each month. Ages 6 months to 5 years. Sign up required. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

Bilingual Storytime. 4 p.m. Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Stories and songs in English and Spanish. Ages 3-5 with adult. Sign up required. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>

Hug a Bug! 10:30 a.m. Richard Byrd, Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Fun stories and activities about summertime insects. Age 3-5

Ongoing

Evenings on the Ellipse

Summer Concert. Thursdays, through Aug. 20. 5:30-7 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center Ellipse (Backyard), 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Relax with music, tastes of local wines and great company.

Burke Arts in the Parks.

Saturdays, through Aug. 22. 10 - 11 a.m. Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Entertain children, teach them the importance of protecting our natural resources, introduce them to live entertainment in an informal kid friendly atmosphere, and forge a connection between kids and parks. Call 703-323-6601.

Stars on Sunday Concert

Series. Sundays, through Aug. 30. 3 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton.

Featuring a lineup of performances that showcase the diversity of talent and culture in Northern Virginia. Concerts are free to attend and are perfect for

families, a special date or a relaxing afternoon of music and dance.

Summer Reading Program.

Friday-Saturday, through Sept. 5. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Come to the library all summer for books and events. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>

Follow Your Heart: Recent Work by Nancy Hannans

through Sept. 6 at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Nancy Hannans' recent paintings weave stories of love, joy and harmony in magical lands filled with unlimited possibilities. Hannans combines her love for storytelling and universal symbolism to communicate that we are all interconnected, and to celebrate our common humanity. The women in her work represent all cultures and races. They embody the beauty of the human spirit and are symbols of wisdom, strength, honesty, courage and perseverance.

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unique brand of entertainment. Purchase tickets at workhousearts.org.

THURSDAY/AUG. 20

Afternoon Reading Group. 1 p.m. Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. A Constellation of Vital Phenomena by Anthony Marra. Adult.

Springfield Writers' Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd, Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Share your work, give and receive feedback in a supportive setting. Adults.

FRIDAY/AUG. 21

Kingstowne Farmers Market. 4-7 p.m. Fridays, May 1-Oct. 30. Giant Parking Lot, 5955 Kingstowne Towne Center, Alexandria. Vendors products include fresh organic honey and hand held pies and rolls.

Fun and Games. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Board games and fun. Ages 6-12. Sign up required. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 21-23

Workhouse Music Hall. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Friday & Saturday: 8 p.m. Sunday: 6 p.m. A good old-fashioned rowdy music hall filled with laughter and songs (both vintage and modern songs that evoke the mood) will fill the air in an homage to the famously

SATURDAY/AUG. 22

Mount Vernon Nights 2015: The United States Air Force "Celtic Aire". 7-8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. "Celtic Aire," the premier folk ensemble of the Air Force, performs great classic Irish melodies with refreshing new flavor! From foot-stomping tunes to heart-warming ballads, these professional vocalists play it all while accompanying themselves on traditional Celtic instruments. Free admission.

Springfield Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Springfield Town Center, 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. www.smartmarkets.org.

Creative Writers Club. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Join for sharing, discussion and feedback on your works in progress. Teen volunteer facilitates. Ages 13-18. Sign up required. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

From Seed To Sprout. 10:30 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. See how amazing seeds are and learn to sprout seeds by making your own Bean Baby American Horticultural Society and National Capital Area Garden Club. Age 6-12.

FAITH NOTES

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

In September 2004 **The Church of the Good Shepherd (Episcopal)**, 9350 Braddock Rd., began offering an ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) program to serve members of our community who wish to improve their English skills. Since then, hundreds of students from five continents and more than 25 countries have attended morning and evening classes at Good Shepherd. For more information or

to volunteer call the church office at 703-323-5400. Leave your name and contact information and someone will get back to you.

The Church of the Good Shepherd ESOL Fall classes will be held Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:30 - noon and 7-9 p.m., Sept. 22 through Dec. 10.

Registration is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 9 and Thursday, Sept. 10 from 9:30 - 12 and 7-9 p.m. For information call 703-343-5400.

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also pro-

vided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

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



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Home LifeStyle

FROM PAGE 8

brightly luminous interior scheme composed of granite surfaces and ivory-hued cabinet facings.

The 3.6-foot-by-8-foot cook top island and three stool dining counter now features a dark walnut-colored base topped with a dappled granite surface. The dark-stained oak flooring, by extension, perfectly contrasts with the ivory-hued paneling that wraps a two-door refrigerator, a roll-out pantry and drawers custom-designed to satisfy the cook's requirements.

French doors with sidelights now connect the family room to a 17-foot-by-31-foot deck complete with hot tub and outdoor kitchen. The front stairs in the foyer have been re-finished; existing decorative capitals refurbished.

Downstairs, the once darkly cavernous lower-level has been elevated into an all-purpose family play area. Exposed vertical support beams are encased in dry wall, which, likewise, wraps HVAC vents. New wood-grained vinyl flooring, recessed lights and tawny/golden wall paint lend the space a light, cheerful ambiance.

The new play room features billiards, pinball and a card table where Dad hosts a weekly card game. The stacked stone tile fireplace situated in front of an L-shaped configuration of couches offers a perfect spot to watch a plasma screen TV mounted above the hearth.

The old kitchenette, transformed into the family's downstairs refreshment center, provides step-saving convenience that makes entertaining easier for everyone.

Family life — at its most fulfilling.

John Byrd (byrdmatx@comcast.net) has been writing about home improvement topics for 30 years.

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SPORTS

Lake Braddock Football Returns Plenty of Playmakers

Bruins were blown out by Westfield in 2014 region semis.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

There is no guarantee the Lake Braddock Bruins will face the Westfield Bulldogs this season. For the first time since 2008, the teams will not meet during the regular season.

But if you ask Bruins quarterback Kyle Edwards, Lake Braddock will inevitably cross paths with Westfield if the Burke school is going to capture its first state championship in football.

"They're going to be a team that we're going to have to beat if we want to go for a state championship," Edwards said. "We're not preparing for Westfield, we're not thinking about Westfield, but we know."

The Bulldogs have reached the region championship game each of the last four seasons, beat the Bruins in the semifinals each of the last two years and figure to once again be a contender in 2015. Last year, after beating Westfield during the regular season, Lake Braddock laid an egg during the postseason rematch. The Bruins turned the ball over three times in the first quarter, trailed 35-0 at halftime and 42-0 in the fourth quarter before a trio of late Bruin touchdowns made the final score 42-20.

Edwards passed for 382 yards in defeat, but turned the ball over three times during Lake Braddock's first 12 plays.

NOW A RISING SENIOR, Edwards enters his second season as the Bruins' starting quarterback and will lead a Lake Braddock offense loaded with talent. The 6-foot-2 signal caller is a threat through the air or on the ground, and figures to be more polished in his decision making with a year of experience under his belt.

"Really, what I'm looking for from Kyle is play just like you did last year and cut down on mistakes because mistakes kill you," Lake Braddock head coach Jim Poythress said. "Turnovers and interceptions kill you. He just needs to do what he's capable of doing, not try to force any of the action. Let his skill kids outside make plays [and] we should be fine."

Edwards will have plenty of weapons at his disposal as he attempts to lead Lake Braddock to a seventh consecutive Patriot District/Conference 7 title and a deep postseason run. Rising senior receiver/defensive back Peyton Scott is one of the Bruins' playmakers and figures to be an impact player on both sides of the ball.

"He's an X-factor type guy," Poythress said. "He can run back kicks, play D-back, play anywhere in the secondary. He played safety



Rising senior Kyle Edwards enters his second season as Lake Braddock's starting quarterback.



Rising senior Peyton Scott is one of many offensive weapons for the Lake Braddock football team.

Football Scrimmages

The Lake Braddock football team will host Hayfield for a scrimmage at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 13. Second-year Hayfield head coach Eric Henderson was a Lake Braddock assistant coach in 2012 and 2013.

Woodson will hold its Blue/White Game at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 13 at Pat Cunningham Stadium.

South County will travel to scrimmage Woodbridge at 6 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 14.

Robinson will travel to scrimmage Osbourn and Edison will travel to scrimmage McLean, both at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 20. Lee will travel to scrimmage West Potomac and Fairfax will host Stuart, both starting at 6 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 21.

last year, now we'll play him at corner. He can probably cover anybody in this region, I'm pretty certain. He can play out wide, he can carry the ball and he can crack a long run ... at any time."

Rising junior Lamont Atkins is the team's top threat at running back.

"He has tremendous hands," Poythress said, "but he can run the ball as well."

Rising junior Ibrahim Mansaray will also see carries. Poythress said Mansaray is "probably the quickest kid I've ever coached."

"He's short, but don't be fooled, he's built," Poythress said. "He's super strong."

Rising seniors Josh Churchill, David Fofi and Trey Stephens are also receiving threats for the Bruins.

"They have to stop not only weapons through the air running down the field on them, but also, in the backfield," Scott said. "They're not going to know where the ball is going. ... It's going to be tough to handle."

How does the quarterback keep all his weapons happy?

"It's not a challenge," Edwards said, "it's a great problem to have."

Rising senior tackle Aaron Lenhardt (6-5, 250) and rising senior guard Johan Marin (6-2, 245) are standouts on the offensive line.

Lake Braddock also returns plenty of tal-

ent on the defensive side of the ball. Rising seniors David Hibner and Kamron Abolfotouh return as defensive ends in the Bruins' 4-3 scheme. Atkins, and rising seniors Darius Johnson, Andrew Niedringhaus, and Daniel Dinges are returning linebackers. Scott, Mansaray and rising junior Asa Ward are standouts in the secondary. Rising sophomores Tyler Matheny and Jack Darcy could also be impact players.

Rising senior Nick Bruhn is the kicker.

LAKE BRADDOCK will open the season on the road against Lee at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 4. The Bruins' first home game is Sept. 11 against Annandale.

Lake Braddock's other notable regular-season matchups include Robinson (away, Sept. 18), Centreville (home, Oct. 2), West Springfield (home, Oct. 23) and South County (home, Nov. 6).

"It's a better group [this season] because there's no individualism," Poythress said of the Bruins. "

These people sometimes stand out and they're above everyone else and they make you miserable, even from a coach. ... They need to bond and jell together more as a unit and not little cliques on the outside. At the end of the day, that wears you thin. Seems like we have a good group."

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The Final EA and FONSI are being made available to the public and Federal, and local government agencies for review. Comments are due no later than August 28, 2015. Please send all written comments and inquiries to Mr. Paul Giamfi, Regional Environmental Planner, Office of Planning and Design Quality, Public Buildings Service -NCR, U.S. General Services Administration, 301 7th Street, SW, Room 4004, Washington, DC 20407 or by email at paul.giamfi@gsa.gov.

A copy of both the Final EA and FONSI is available for public review at the following locations: Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22304; and Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield, VA 22150 or via the internet at: www.gsa.gov/ncrnepea

21 Announcements

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