

Fifty-two swimmers from the Shark Tank Racing Squad raised more than \$25,000 for breast cancer research by participating in the team's sixth annual swimming marathon on Feb. 28 at South Run RECenter.



Shark Tank Racing Squad Sets New Record

NEWS, PAGE 11

Silverthorne: 'I'm Up to the Task'

NEWS, PAGE 3

City Sets Advertised Real Estate Tax Rate

NEWS, PAGE 3

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

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NEWS

Asking the Needed Questions

City Council and staff discuss City housing policy.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The City's housing policy was one of the items discussed during the Fairfax City Council's recent mini-retreat at the Blenheim Interpretive Center. Louise Armitage, the City's Human Services coordinator, posed a variety of questions for the Council to consider.

Regarding housing strategy, she asked, "Is there a need for a master plan, or do we have enough data? It would be costly, and would the value be significant if we did a comprehensive study? Should we seek a contract with Fairfax County to administer a comprehensive housing program [for us] or use our own housing staff?" Trouble is, said Armitage, "We don't have enough staff to do it."

As for the preservation of existing, affordable housing, she said there are federal grants to help the City do it. She also noted that, in most jurisdictions, affordable housing and a housing strategy are under the auspices of the economic development coordinator.

Armitage also brought up the equally important issue of creating new, affordable housing in the City of Fairfax. "We could repurpose empty office space and also provide micro units for affordable housing," she said. "And we'll continue to seek affordable housing proffers for new construction [projects here]."

"And do we want congregant or scattered affordable housing units?" she asked. "Generally, when we're talking about housing affordability, we're talking about workforce housing – not for those at the lowest end of the income scale."

Thanks to developers' proffers, Armitage said the City currently has \$800,000 earmarked for its Housing Trust Fund, but does not yet have the actual cash in hand. "Do we administer it ourselves or contract it out?" she asked the Council. "And we need this income to be sustainable."

"Or, in all new commercial development, you could have a certain amount of money donated to the Housing Trust Fund, based on the square footage [of the project to be built]," she continued. "This would be done by proffer. And we need to decide how to allocate the funds we get."

Mayor Scott Silverthorne recommended that the City "start by asking the county if it's willing to [administer the fund for us]."

Councilwoman Nancy Loftus asked when the City would first see any of the already proffered money deposited into the Housing Trust Fund, and Brooke Hardin, director of Community Development and Planning, replied, "Maybe toward the end of the next calendar year."

Loftus also wondered if the Council would lose control of that money once it is in the Housing Trust Fund, and Armitage told her, "We'd absolutely have to define how it's spent."

Furthermore, asked Loftus, "Does that money require administration, at all, until it's of sufficient size to do something with? So why have a contract with the county, at all?" Silverthorne said the City would not have to have the contract take effect "until the money's there." "And it depends on the purpose of the fund," added Hardin. "For example, if we receive applications for the use of those funds, and program information, then the county could review and vet those applications for us."

"This should probably be a stand-alone, work session item, and I'm not sure all the details have been worked out, yet," said Silverthorne. "And we can also put this item on the agenda for our next, city county dinner, in a few months."

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First Signs of Spring after a Rough Winter

Trees are covered with pink blossoms while yellow daffodils push through the ground outside the Fairfax Towne Center, off West Ox Road.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Silverthorne: 'I'm Up to the Task'

City of Fairfax Mayor kicks off re-election campaign.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Before an enthusiastic crowd of some 150 people, City of Fairfax Mayor Scott Silverthorne officially kicked off his re-election campaign, Sunday afternoon, at Red, Hot & Blue. He has already served two terms and is seeking a third.

Referring to the City Council, he said, "It takes a team, and we've gotten a lot done in the past four years. And it's been an honor and a privilege to serve as your mayor."

A slew of well-wishers turned out to support Silverthorne, including past and current City Council members, Del. David Bulova (D-37), State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, Braddock District Supervisor John Cook, Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel and Vienna Mayor Laurie DiRocco.

Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid noted how well the City and county have worked together in partnership on various projects. She listed Silverthorne's support of the child I.D. program and the Shiloh Project, pairing animals with at-risk youth.

"He also signed one of the toughest anti-tethering laws in Virginia," she said. "And the Sheriff's Office is working with the Fairfax City police chief and Mayor Silverthorne on the Diversion Program that diverts people to mental-health treatment, instead of jail, when possible."

Last year was a tough one for him because he had to deal with personal financial problems, as well as a cancer diagnosis. He had a malignant tumor on his neck and underwent radiation and chemotherapy, but it never affected his duties as mayor and he



Fairfax City Mayor Scott Silverthorne (in center) with a group of past and current elected officials during his re-election campaign kickoff, Sunday afternoon, March 13.

is now done with treatment and is cancer-free.

"I'm proud to give my support to Scott because he's a wonderful person and a fantastic friend," said Kincaid. "And what happens to him personally doesn't define who he is."

Former City Councilman Steve Stombres stressed that, "In the City of Fairfax, we put aside partisan politics. I believe Scott Silverthorne is the person to lead us as mayor. He's faced some difficult times recently, but I believe adversity reveals character, and he showed the resiliency that allows him to face tough times. [And in a mayor], we want someone who's been tested personally and professionally to make tough decisions."

Stombres said that, when he was on the City Council, "We didn't agree on every-

thing, but Scott always listened to my point of view and to the citizens, and he brought together residents with differing opinions. He was tough, but fair, doing what's right for the community."

He's a natural leader; Scott has a vision for the City and knows how to get things done. We need Scott to lead us in this community, and I'm proud to support his re-election effort."

Then, addressing the crowd, Silverthorne thanked everyone for coming to his campaign kickoff and also praised Petersen and Bulova for all their efforts in the General Assembly on behalf of the City.

"This is the best, small city in America," said Silverthorne. "It's well-managed and fiscally responsible and has a triple-A bond rating. The [real-estate] tax rate has only gone up one penny since I've been mayor.



Scott Silverthorne is running for his third term as City of Fairfax mayor.

And in transportation dollars, we've received \$20 million over the last few years in NVTA funds."

He said the City's rewrite of its Comprehensive Plan will be "the most important thing we're doing, going forward. It's the governing blueprint for the City's future and we've got to get it right."

We've got to grow our local economy, and we also need to build sidewalks, more complete streets and a great trail network because they're all important to the City's quality of life."

Pleased to have put cancer in the rear-view mirror, Silverthorne said, "I got a clean bill of health this week from my doctor, which is good news, and I'm up to the task [of being mayor]. We have a great team, and I have the energy, drive and experience to get things done."

City Sets Advertised Real-Estate Tax Rate

But the actual number may change in coming weeks.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

In February, Fairfax City Manager Bob Sisson presented his proposed FY 2017 budget for the City. Explaining in great detail that Fairfax needs more money for employee pay, infrastructure improvements and its school system, he recommended raising the real estate tax by 2.7 cents per \$100 assessed

valuation.

Doing so would make that tax rate \$1.0815. But Sisson said it is necessary to continue all the services the City provides, including public safety, as well as a slew of capital improvements, including street maintenance. He recommended a hike in education funding and also earmarked funds to give each City employee an average 1.5 percent pay raise.

And at the March 8 meeting of the City Council, the Council members set the advertised tax rate at the number Sisson suggested. However, Mayor Scott Silverthorne stressed that this action only "sets the maximum tax rate that can be adopted. It doesn't establish the actual tax rate."

Councilman Michael DeMarco made the

motion to advertise the rate at \$1.0815 per \$100 assessed valuation, and Councilman David Meyer seconded. "There's still a fair amount we can discuss," said DeMarco. "But setting it at the city manager's recommendation is prudent at this point."

"We still have challenging times ahead of us financially," added Councilwoman Ellie Schmidt. "So we need to decide our priorities and how we're going to fund them. Mine are safety and taking care of our infrastructure. But I know we'll have to make some reductions."

The Council eventually approved the motion, 5-1, with Councilwoman Nancy Loftus being the lone dissenter. "I hope we can stay at or below the current [real-estate tax] rate [of \$1.052 per \$100 assessed

valuation]," she said. "I'd like to keep some of our expenditures in line [with the current budget]. And the City will collect more money from the taxpayers, anyway, because tax assessments are up."

Regardless, there is a great deal of work to be done before the final budget and tax rate are adopted on April 27. First, Silverthorne and the Council members will spend many hours going over the budget, line by line, and making their own proposals before they set the final, real estate tax rate. City residents will also get a chance to comment on the proposed FY 17 budget and the real-estate tax rate during public hearings set for March 22 and April 12 and 27, at 7 p.m., at Fairfax City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Student Peace Award recipients pose after the ceremony.



PHOTOS BY REEM NADEEM/ THE CONNECTION

Mission: Promoting Peace

22 receive Student Peace Awards for efforts to promote peace.

BY REEM NADEEM
THE CONNECTION

With causes ranging from anti-bullying efforts to human trafficking awareness to interfaith dialogue, students in Fairfax County were recognized for their peacemaking efforts at the 11th Annual Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County on March 13.

Students and student groups in any of 29 Fairfax County Public high schools, as well as three private high schools, were eligible for nomination. This year, 22 students or student groups received the Student Peace Award, for their efforts to promote peace.

“As one of their counselors said, these are people who not only looked for opportunities to do good things, they went out and created the opportunities. So many, many of these students have gone and created their own organizations and their own clubs to help whatever the issue is they wanted to work on,” organizer Margaret Fisher said.

Mason Professor Al Fuentes, who travels to areas affected by war and natural disaster, spoke at the ceremony. Fuentes congratulated the recipients and spoke about his personal and professional experiences with fostering peace. Students received awards for a variety of peacemaking activities, however.

“As long as a student’s contribution is something for peacemaking or nonviolent resolution of conflict, the schools could decide for themselves what that meant, because we didn’t want to limit their thinking, and there’s just millions of ways you can make peace either in your life, or in your school, or the greater community or the world as a whole,” Fisher said.

EACH HIGH SCHOOL is responsible for selecting students to receive the recognition. Club leaders or counselors make recommendations and some schools allow students to self-select. Recipients of the award were informed in December so that they could include the recognition on college applications.

Because the awards are given to high school

juniors and seniors, the Student Peace Awards program aims to give students another achievement to strive for, in addition to academics and athletics.

“What we want to do is find a way to promote peace, that’s the only goal of this is to promote peace. We thought that encouraging young people to find projects that do that would be worth doing and we wanted to get the word peace into the conversation in schools,” Fisher said.

In addition to rewarding good student behavior, The Awards also aim to promote nonviolent solutions within the community, which in turn can spread globally, according to planner Paul Murphy.

“We need to reward positive behaviors. And to get people thinking in problem solving modes, not just whenever there’s a problem in the world, to think that it requires a military solution, but beginning with our communities, expanding nationwide and then internationally,” Murphy said. “I think it’s very important for people to see that there are alternatives to violence, and these kids are beginning to show it at a very young age and we want to encourage them.”

Once nominated for the award, recipients were guided through the process by representatives. Nancy James, who has served as a representative for several years, said she was assigned to work with senior Laith Abuhajja of the Islamic Saudi Academy, who was recognized for his interfaith efforts and volunteer work.

As the award program has grown, so has its importance to families of nominees. Luis Urbina drove from North Carolina to attend the ceremony for his daughter and award recipient, Renata Urbina Dela Flor, a senior at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

“We talked and she mentioned some stuff, but it’s good to see that it’s a lot more than what she said. You know, she’s very humble so it’s nice to see something like an award,” Urbina said.

RECIPIENTS were awarded \$250 as well as \$100 to be donated to an organization of their choice. However, according to organizer Nancy Davis, the monetary reward is certainly not the most valuable gift.

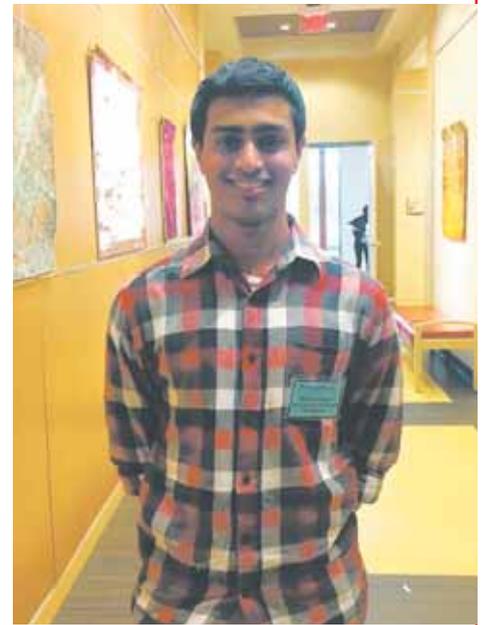
“I love to see the families’ expressions,” Davis said. “The families are just so happy to see their children recognized for this type of work. It’s not the athletic field - which is important too - and the monetary gift isn’t great but I think it’s wonderful seeing the parents so proud.”

What Did You Do to Win Peace Award; What Inspired You to Get Involved?

—REEM NADEEM

Nathan Pillai, junior, Burke Centre Library Teen Advisory Board and Robinson Secondary School

“I was recipient of Fairfax County Peace Award for our efforts in combatting bullying around the County. Well, we took a look at a Fairfax County student survey report and we found a shocking statistic that over 50 percent of students around the County had reported being bullied at least once. So we thought that was a shocking statistic and shouldn’t be happening in a County such as Fairfax, so we decided to take matters into our own hands by raising awareness through an anti-bullying fair, where we invited anti-bullying organizations from around the state to come and give presentations on their own efforts. And we invited students to come and tell their own stories about their experiences with bullying and how they dealt with the issues.”



Nathan Pillai

Trevor Christensen, senior, Mount Vernon High School

“I was nominated for this Peace Award, it was for helping another student who was being bullied. I brought him to my counselor, and I believe she was the one who made the recommendation.

I have a natural knack to sort of assist others. For instance I’m in the Army National Guard, it’s kind of a calling of mine to protect and help others.”



Trevor Christensen

Sarah Hobbs, senior, Quander Road School, Alexandria

“I made a video about mental health awareness last summer and my school nominated me for this award. Well, Fairfax County actually sought grant proposals at the end of last year to make a video about mental health awareness, and I actually suffer from mental illness and I love filmmaking, so I thought it would be a great opportunity for me to sort of put the two together.”



Sarah Hobbs

Logan Mannikko, senior, Westfield High School

“I received this award because of my support for people in the LGBTQ community and I’m transgender, so it’s a big thing for me. Mainly my own identity, and knowing that there’s a lot of students and kids in the community that aren’t accepted or supported by family or their peers.”



Logan Mannikko

City Provides Services for Spring Clean-Up in April

April is Spring Clean-Up Month in Fairfax, and the city provides many services to assist residents with spring cleaning. Information: 703-385-7995.

Clean-Up Day — Residents and businesses can help the city spruce up for spring by cleaning up their neighborhoods or any public areas in the city. Choose Spring Clean-Up Day, April 30, or any day in April during Spring Clean-Up Month.

Individuals or community groups wishing to participate should call 703-385-7995 or e-mail Heather.Turley@fairfaxva.gov to register and to receive free trash bags and arrange collection of materials. The city also provides safety support for citizens cleaning up along major streets.

Curbside leaf collection — Curbside leaf collection is provided in the city on Tuesdays in April. Please rake leaves loose to the curb. Bagged leaves will not be collected in April. Leaf-collection trucks will circulate through city neighborhoods April 5, 12, 19 and 26. There is no set collection schedule.

Please keep stones, branches and other large items out of leaf piles — they damage equipment and endanger workers' safety. However, light yard debris may be included.

Arbor Day tree planting — Come celebrate Arbor Day at 10 a.m. Friday, April 29 as the City of Fairfax plants a tree at Providence Elementary School, 3616 Jermantown Road.

Don't bag it — To save time and money, leave grass clippings on the lawn. Clippings can supply as much as 25 percent of the lawn's fertilizer requirements. Use a mulching mower, or mow every five to seven days so grass clippings will be short enough to blend with the rest of the lawn.

St. George's to Host Community Breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt

St George's United Methodist Church is holding their second annual Community Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 26. Both events

SEE WEEK, PAGE 7

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

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Easter Sunday is March 27

4/13/2016.....Real Estate Pullout – New Homes

4/20/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools

4/27/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools Pullout

4/27/2016...Mother's Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts I

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Worship Center

Children's Egg Hunt
March 26th 1:00 p.m.
Ministry Center

Easter Sunday Worship Services
March 27th
8:00, 9:30, & 11:30 a.m.
Worship Center

Antioch Fairfax Station

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Homelessness on Its Way Out in Fairfax

Homelessness should be rare, brief and non-recurring; 776 fewer homeless individuals in 2016 than in 2008.

Homelessness is down in Fairfax County in every major category, a fact confirmed on Jan. 28, 2016, the annual Point in Time Count. There were 145 fewer individuals homeless than the Point In Time Count a year earlier, 138 of those in families, and seven fewer homeless individuals. There also were no families in overflow motels, and no families were unsheltered in the 2016 count.

Sixty-four percent of the 577 family members who were literally homeless on Jan. 28, 2016 were in transitional housing, with the rest in emergency shelter. There were vacancies in emergency shelters for families and in domestic violence shelters; no families were unsheltered.

"This trend is beautiful," said Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. "The things we're doing are making a difference."

In 2008, the Fairfax County established the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness with a plan to end homelessness within 10 years.

"Seeing the numbers decrease in so many different areas is encouraging after working on the 10 year plan," said Dean Klein, director

of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. Since 2008, the number of people who are literally homeless on the day of the Point in Time Count has decreased by 776 individuals. "Since 2008 there has been a 42 percent reduction in the number of people counted as homeless, from 1,835 people in 2008 to 1,059 in 2016," Klein reported to the Board of Supervisors on Monday, March 14.

Julie Maltzman, manager of Continuum of Care, reported the details to the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness on Monday afternoon.

A coordinated effort among partners, more housing options and flexible funding helped to get formerly homeless families into more viable housing with appropriate services, said Joe Meyer, executive director of Shelter House. More public awareness around homelessness is also making a difference, Meyer said.

Still, 341 children under the age of 18 were among those literally homeless in this year's Point in Time Count, 32 percent of all homeless.

Eighty percent (190 people) of the adults in homeless families were female; 66 percent of adults (155) in homeless families were employed; a slight increase from 62 percent in 2015. Twelve percent (21) of families were considered "youth households," with all family members under 25 years old.

Single adults made up 46 percent of all homeless people counted, a total of 482. Forty-two percent (202 people) of single adults who were homeless suffered from serious mental illness and/or substance abuse, a 13 percent decrease from last year. Many had chronic

health problems and/or physical disabilities as well.

Thirty percent (146 people) were experiencing chronic homelessness. This is a significant decrease from last year when 42 percent (203 people) were experiencing chronic homelessness.

Among the factors helping to reduce homelessness, Maltzman said: the adoption of a Housing First approach; increased homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing efforts; prioritizing housing for individuals with the longest history of homelessness and highest vulnerability; additional permanent supportive housing for singles experiencing chronic homelessness; focus on housing veterans including use of Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers; new permanent housing opportunities for families with children.

To find out more, see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/>

Support the effort to end homelessness by contributing to the Build a Village campaign found there as well.

Support the nonprofit partners working to end homelessness, including FACETS, Cornerstones, New Hope Housing, Northern Virginia Family Services, Shelter House, United Community Ministries, Good Shepherd Housing, Alternative House, Homestretch, Pathways Homes and others.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Mary Kimm is a member of the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness.

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time to Speak Out for Quality of Life in Fairfax County

To the Editor:

Fairfax County is a composite of many things that make the quality of life rich for people living here.

- ❖ Low crime rate thanks to the police whose budget also pays for the School Resource Officers and the School Crossing Guards;

- ❖ Access to a variety of good health care including a Health Department whose Health Department budget pays for school nurses;

- ❖ 500 square miles of public parks, 300 miles of trails and the nation's only national park for the performing arts; libraries to enjoy with a variety of programs;

- ❖ Public Schools with great staff, a graduation rate of 93 percent, and 74 percent of graduates going on to postsecondary programs;

- ❖ Safety net services for people in need, including Family Services and diversity of economic housing;

- ❖ County Government recognized for environmental excellence, innovation, and technology;

- ❖ Desirable location for businesses and access to skilled and talented workforce: two times as many Fairfax County adults hold a bachelor's degree or higher compared to the national average, home to Virginia's largest university and community college;

- ❖ Close to museums, theaters, restaurants, shopping, fit and healthy living that is accessible by public transportation.

The county's proposed budget is \$3.99 billion of which almost 60 percent is directly (52.2 percent) or indirectly (School Resource Officers, Crossing Guards, Nurses, and debt service for interest paid on bonds for construction or renovation of school buildings and athletic fields) going to public schools. This year it is proposed to give the schools an additional 3 percent or \$54.75 million. About 27 percent of county households have children in the public schools. This ratio of increasing taxes paid to schools and the percentage of households with children in the public schools is not

sustainable to keep all quality of life services at the current level, especially with the huge increase in the 50+ age population the county is expecting in the next decade.

Residents who care about these quality of life programs should speak out to the Board of Supervisors during the budget cycle

Promoting Economic Vitality of Fairfax City

To the Editor:

As the local Fairfax City election approaches on May 3, 2016, now is the time to say "yes" to a forward-looking vision for Fairfax City's future.

We ask candidates for City Council and Mayor to take actions that promote the economic vitality of the City of Fairfax so that we may preserve and improve our quality of life. The City depends on an expanded tax base to include new commercial developments supported by nearby higher density

through April 9, 2016. Email, call, write, or testify that you want the entire elected Board of Supervisors to fairly and equally represent all interests and all services for all county residents. Speak out for the total quality of life in Fairfax County.

Johna Gagnon
Franconia

residential developments. In accordance with this goal we ask that initiatives that incorporate and promote the following goals be supported:

- ❖ the preservation of our neighborhoods, historic heritage, and existing open space;

- ❖ a range of transportation options to include biking, walking, and improvements to the street network for vehicular traffic;

- ❖ a variety of housing options

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15



Oak Valley Center Joins PHILLIPS Programs for Children and Families

PHILLIPS Programs for Children and Families, a local nonprofit helping youth with a variety of challenges and qualities succeed, will assume operations of Fairfax-based Oak Valley Center, a high quality educational program that also serves children with special needs, following the retirement of its founder. Starting March 1, Oak Valley has been renamed PHILLIPS School — Fairfax and become PHILLIPS third special education day school serving the region, including locations in Annandale and Laurel, Md. — which serves youth from D.C. and Maryland.

“This is an exciting new chapter for PHILLIPS and Oak Valley. Over the years, we’ve worked with the well-regarded school and its founder Dr. Jaren Van Den Heuvel,” said Piper Phillips Caswell, president and CEO, PHILLIPS Programs. “Jaren wanted Oak Valley’s important work to continue past his retirement. We look forward to honoring his legacy as we grow our capacity to serve more Northern Virginia families.”

Founded in 1994, Oak Valley Center—located in Western Fairfax off of Waples Mill Road—serves a similar group of students as PHILLIPS, providing high quality special education services to students with special needs. The addition of Oak Valley to PHILLIPS’ stable of programs will enable the nonprofit to grow its programs and provide more geographic diversity in the Northern Virginia region. Currently, Oak Valley serves 40 students. With the changeover, the staff



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Oak Valley Center is located in Western Fairfax off of Waples Mill Road.

will remain in place and a new program director will take over for Dr. Van Den Heuvel.

PHILLIPS serves students with special needs ages 6-22 who have significant learning and emotional challenges and for whom school has often been a place of repeated failure and frustration. For 48 years, PHILLIPS has helped youth succeed by providing customized support and education through three programs, including: Special Education Day Schools in Annandale, Fairfax and Laurel, Md.; PHILLIPS Family Partners offering home and community-based counseling and support; and PHILLIPS Building Futures, an onsite building trades youth training program in Fairfax and Loudoun counties.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Group Volunteering – The Helping Hands Program occurs every **May** in honor of Older Americans Month. Volunteers assist older clients with yard work and home projects including: deep cleaning, de-cluttering and organization. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Wakefield Senior Center** in **Annandale** needs **Fitness Instructors**. Volunteer instructor positions **could** lead to part-time employment. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Korean Meals on Wheels needs drivers to deliver meals. (Speaking Korean not required.) For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Hollin Hall Senior Center** in **Alexandria** needs instructors for the following classes: **Basic Woodworking, Basic Guitar, Italian and Ballroom Dance**. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Lewinsville Senior Center** in **McLean** needs instructors for the following classes: **Line Dance, Zumba Gold, Certified Arthritis Exercise, and Basic Guitar**. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Bailey’s Senior Center** in **Falls Church** is in need of a **Volunteer Trip Assistant**, for weekly shopping trips. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Week

FROM PAGE 5

are free and everyone in the community is invited. The pancake breakfast begins at 8:30 with the Easter Egg Hunt starting at 10 a.m. Both events will be held on the Church grounds at 4910 Ox Road, Fairfax—vicinity intersection of Ox and Braddock roads. Easter Egg Hunt age groups range from newborn to 10 years of age. Parent/legal guardian should escort children under the age of 2 during the Easter Egg Hunt. There will be children’s activities to go along with the breakfast and egg hunt.

All events held at
Eagle View Elementary School
 4500 Dixie Hill Rd, Fairfax, VA

Holy Week & Easter

Messianic Seder Meal
 Thursday, March 24, 6:30pm

Good Friday Service
 Friday, March 25, 7:00pm

Easter Vigil
 Saturday, March 26, 8:00pm

Easter Celebration
 Sunday, March 27, 10:00am

Details at www.ChurchoftheApostles.org

Eggstravaganza

8th Annual Easter Egg Roll

Free Community Event

2016

Saturday March 26, 2016
1 to 3pm

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Special accommodations will be provided upon request. For EVENT information or to request special accommodations, call Terry Leonard at 703.383.1170. Please allow two (2) working days in advance of the event in order to make the necessary arrangements. For additional ADA information, please contact the Fairfax County Office of Equity Programs at 703.324.2953/TTY 711



The winner of the first place award in the culinary challenge went to Marshall Academy in Falls Church/McLean. Each student received a \$200 scholarship.

Real Food for Kids' Culinary Challenge

11 teams of middle and high school students compete in school food competition.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Eleven teams of middle and high school students competed in the fourth annual Real Food for Kids' Culinary Challenge on Saturday, March 12 at Robinson Secondary School. Students from six middle schools, four culinary academies, and one high school competed by preparing the most nutritious and delicious school snacks, breakfast and lunch menu items.

The event included six expert-led workshops on food writing, promotion and photography, family meal planning and school gardening. There was also a breakfast discussion that addressed the future of school food by Rodney Taylor, the new Food and Nutrition Services director (FNS) in Fairfax County and a pioneer in the farm-to-school movement, and Loudoun County's FNS director Dr. Becky Bays, who also served as judges. It also included celebrity

judges Marjorie Meek Bradley, a Top Chef finalist; Aviva Goldfarb of "Six O'Clock Scramble" books; chef Kate Sherwood of the Center for Science in the Public Interest; and Bonnie Benwick, deputy food editor of The Washington Post, who focused on "Food is Hot." Scoring for the students was broken down by 20 percent presentation; 40 percent taste; 30 percent adaptability to school lunches; and 10 percent team organization.

"Today is such an exciting event because it demonstrates our community commitment to providing healthy food to every child," said Megan McLaughlin, Braddock School Board representative. "I am so proud of the Real Food for Kids organization for their leadership and advocacy in this area. Their powerful voice has inspired our school system to make real and substantive improvements to our school meals."

SEE FOOD FOR KIDS.
PAGE 15



The team from Washington Irving Middle School in Springfield prepared Beans and Barley Smart Snack. (From left): Katrina Kloplic, Jane Bruenjes and Malia Loehr.



PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Spelling Bee winner and Wakefield Forest Elementary fourth-grader Eric Kim easily spelled his first word "denim" at the Fairfax County Spelling Bee held at Lanier Middle School on Sunday, March 13. His winning word was "diffidence."

And the Winner Is ...

Wakefield Forest Elementary School student to compete at Scripps' National Spelling Bee.

BY MARISSA BEALE
THE CONNECTION

The 10th annual Fairfax County Spelling Bee, sponsored by the Fairfax County Council of PTAs (FCCPTA) and the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, took place on Sunday, March 13, at Lanier Middle School. Students from first grade to eighth grade, representing more than 60 elementary and middle schools from around the County, competed to represent the region at Scripps' National Spelling Bee, which will be held in May at National Harbor in Washington, D.C.

The first word of the competition went to first grader Xiwen Yao, from Oak Hill Elementary School in Herndon, who correctly spelled "bandit." The words became harder as the rounds progressed, and spellers were challenged with words from Latin, Greek, French, German, Swahili, Japanese and many other languages.

"I prepared by studying root words for each language," said Kunal Sharma, an eighth-grade student at Kilmer Middle School who came in second place at the regional spelling bee on Sunday. "My mom knows English and French, and she helped me a lot," he said.

AFTER 11 ROUNDS of competitive play, fourth grade student Eric Kim, from Wakefield Forest Elementary School, was declared the

champion for correctly spelling every word thrown at him. His winning word was "diffidence." In addition to being able to compete nationally, Kim also received a one year's supply of pizza from Papa John's, Webster's Third New International Dictionary and a one week's stay at the Gaylord Resort and Hotel at National Harbor with one family member, during Bee Week. To prepare, Kim studied for hours a day, and it paid off.

"He stopped wanting to practice," laughed his father. A dedicated student, Kim competed in an Odyssey of the Mind competition the day before winning the regional spelling bee.

"For those who are successful in the competition it becomes a second job. It's a matter of skill, but it's also a matter of luck," said Eliza Morss, the FCCPTA coordinator for the spelling bee.

In this elimination game, students study thousands of words to prepare. Scripps exclusively uses Webster's Third New International Dictionary, which contains 472,000 words, and any of those words are fair game on competition day. Spelling bees at the school level are run by volunteers who rotate out with greater frequency at the middle school level than do volunteers at the elementary school level, but the goal is for the competition to continue expanding.

"I had a grandparent say they would like to watch [the regional competition] on television," said Morss. "And I thought, why not.



Key Middle School seventh-grader Raiza Uddin makes to the third round of the Fairfax County Spelling Bee with the word "magnanimous."



Little Run Elementary fourth-grader Alejandra Prudencio needed some reassurance before the contest from her father. Her first word was "panic," which she spelled correctly.



Brianna (Min Hee) Son, a sixth-grader at Mosby Woods Elementary, spells the word "antibiotic" at the Fairfax County Spelling Bee held at Lanier Middle School on Sunday, March 13.

Next year it will definitely be televised," she said.

AT THE NATIONAL SPELLING BEE, which is televised each year, one of the first things students will take is a multiple choice vocabu-



Jin Wen Xie, an eighth-grader at Lanier Middle School, spells "commensurate" during second round of the Fairfax County Spelling Bee held at Lanier Middle School on Sunday, March 13.



Ayaz Parvez, the father of Sarosh Parvez, a sixth-grader at Fairhill Elementary, says his son's winning strategy for the Fairfax County Spelling Bee is "Confidence, confidence, confidence."



Brookfield Elementary third-grader Nimal Muthukumar's (pictured with his mother) winning strategy for the Fairfax County Spelling Bee is to sound it out.

lary test. The grade on that test will determine whether the student progresses to the next level of competition where they will spell before a judging panel.

"At the oral round there were a lot of successful kids. They then cut

off a certain group again based on your grade on the test," said Morss. "That's how they make the show entertaining and suspenseful."

Kim will join spelling champions from around the country and compete during Bee Week on May 22-27.

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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Scholarship. Deadline April 1. The Bull Run Civil War Round Table in Centreville is offering a \$1,500 scholarship to a high school senior who resides in Fairfax or Prince William counties and will attend college or community college in fall 2016. Information and application instructions can be found at <http://bullruncwrt.org>.

Carolina Shag. Wednesdays. 6:30-10 p.m. Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. nvshag.org.

Palingenesis. Feb. 19-April 9. Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. New art exhibition. Curated by Mojdeh Rezaei pour and Hannah Son, Palingenesis brings together an eclectic group of local and D.C. artists working in a variety of media. 571-212-7227. epicurecafe.cart@gmail.com.

Adventures in Learning. Mondays, 8:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. April 4-May 9. Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. community, personal development, finance, and more. Afternoon breakouts are book club, bridge, and canasta. Bring a brown bag lunch. \$30. www.scfbva.org. 703-426-2824.

Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe). Wednesdays. 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (Hello)! Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel! Free (we ask that you try to attend regularly). RSVP Naama.Gold@jccnv.org.

Smoke Free Bingo (with breaks for smoking friends). 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, \$1,000 jackpot. www.fairfaxvd.com. 703-273-3638.

Annual Mulch Sale. Through March 29. Supports the Robinson Secondary School Class of 2016 All Night Grad Party. Bagged, high-quality hardwood and pine nugget mulch. <http://www.robinsonangp.com/mulch.html>.

Local Color and More. Feb. 9-April 4. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The Bodzin Art Gallery presents an exhibit with pastels and acrylic by Lynn Goldstein,



PHOTO BY GREGOR EISENHUTH

Singers, Irish dancers and actors tell the story of the spirit of Ireland on Sunday, March 20 at George Mason University's Center for the Arts.

Celebrating the Spring Holidays

FRIDAY/MARCH 18

"Meat the Truth." 6:30-9:30 p.m. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Soup and salad supper and a documentary showing. Childcare provided. Free. accotinkuuc.org. 703-503-4579.

SUNDAY/MARCH 20

Celtic Nights: The Spirit of Freedom. 4 p.m. Center for the Arts George Mason University, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Cast of 14 accomplished singers, Irish dancers and actors tell this story of the spirit of Ireland to more than 50 communities in the U.S. \$29-\$48. cfa.gmu.edu. 888-945-2468.

Easter Event. 3:30 p.m. King of Kings Lutheran Church and Preschool, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. Lots of fun activities, picture with the Easter bunny, egg hunts for different ages, and decorating Easter trees. Eater hunt for special needs children, too. Children up to sixth grade. kofk.org. 703-378-7272 ext. 225.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Easter Egg Hunt. 10-11:30 a.m. Sangster Elementary School, 7420 Reservation Drive, Springfield. Parkway Bible Church will hold an Easter Egg Hunt. There will be separate egg hunts for the little tykes and the school aged kids. Pre-K and school-aged children and families. Free. www.parkwaybibleva.org.

Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt. 9 a.m. Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Free. All welcome. gracepresby.org.

Eggstravaganza. 1-3 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Egg roll, moon bounce, face painting, door prizes, carnival games and more. Sponsored by Jubilee Christian Center and Brincolin Moonbounce. Free. jccag.org. 703-383-1170.

Community Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt. 8:30 a.m. St. George's United Methodist Church, 4910 Ox Road, Fairfax. Egg hunts are by age group, newborn to 10 years. 571-218-9972.

plein air painting by Lorrie Herman, fiber by Karen Schulz and glass by David Barnes. Free. www.jccnv.org. 703-537-3000.

After the Holocaust. April 5-May 19. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The Bodzin Art Gallery presents an art exhibit observing the 70th anniversary of the

conclusion of the Nuremberg Trials. Watercolors by Alexandra Rozenman, a political refugee from Moscow, and sculptures by Paula Stern. Free. www.jccnv.org. 703-537-3000.

Celebrating our Children's Creativity. May 19-June 20. The Jewish Community Center of

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The J's Early Childhood Learning Center presents "A Reggio Exhibit," which showcases the philosophy of teaching art under the guidance of Sarah Vevoda. Free. www.jccnv.org. 703-537-3000.

THURSDAY/MARCH 17

Lunch N'Life. Noon-2 p.m. Jubilee Christian Church, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. The guest speaker will be Fairfax County Supervisor, Mr. John Cook (R-Braddock). Reserve by March 11 by calling 703-620-0161. 410. If you need a ride to the event, call 703-323-4788.

Out of the Past. 10 a.m. Green Acres Senior Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Susan Gray, Curator of the Fairfax Museum and Visitors Center, will discuss how First Lady Jackie Kennedy selected new china and crystal for the White House and the reasons behind the choices. Attendees may bring 1960s crystal glassware for show and tell. Non-members welcome. Free. 703-273-6090.

SATURDAY/MARCH 19

City of Fairfax Senior Center Appraisal Event. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Proceeds go to the City of Fairfax Senior Center. \$5 admission. \$5 per appraisal. 703-273-6090.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 18-19

2016 Mason Gala Dance. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Event supporting scholarships for School of Dance students. Special guest Robert Battle artistic director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. \$15, \$25. cfa.gmu.edu. 888-945-2468.

SATURDAY/MARCH 19

Music at the Box Office. 7:30 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. City of Fairfax band welcomes the coming of spring with an evocative selection of classic compositions for the silver screen. The program features music of famous 20th-century Hollywood composers. \$10, \$16. www.fairfaxband.org.

The Peace that Almost Was. 2 p.m. The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Author Mark Tooley, president of the Institute on Religion and Democracy, will tell the story of the 1861 Washington Peace Conference, a bipartisan, last-ditch effort to prevent the Civil War. 703-591-0560.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Children's Performance Series. 10:30 a.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Good Gollie, It's Mollie. Free. fairfaxarts.org.

Eggstravaganza. 1-3 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Egg roll, moon bounce, face painting, door prizes, carnival games and more. Sponsored by Jubilee Christian Center and Brincolin Moonbounce. Free. jccag.org. 703-383-1170.

TUESDAY/MARCH 29

Mason Author Series. 2:30 p.m. Fenwick Library Main Reading Room, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Dr. Giorgio A. Ascoli will be speaking about his book, "Trees of the Brain, Roots of the Mind" in this inaugural event. 703-993-3636.

Shark Tank Racing Squad Sets New Record

For the sixth year, swimmers piled on miles of laps in the pool, raising money to support their coach and the Avon Walk to End Breast Cancer.

The 52 members of the Shark Tank Racing Squad, between ages 8 and 18, brought in more than \$25,000 at the Feb. 28 swimming marathon that took place at the South Run RECenter. That total beat last year's record of \$23,200.

Each swimmer collected donations and then swam between 110 and 155 laps; the latter were referred to as "going the extra mile."

"It was truly one of the most beautiful marathons," coach Patty Friedman of Fairfax Station said in an email.

Friedman walked in the Avon Walk to End Breast Cancer and raised money independently for several years before getting the team involved. In the six years of the marathon, the team has raised \$100,000, she said.

A number of swimmers completed the marathon and extra mile despite injuries. Friedman said one athlete with a cyst on her breast provided the group more motivation and a reminder that part of the money they raised will help women who otherwise wouldn't have access to top surgeons.

"These kids have paid for a lot of mammograms and breast surgeries over these years," Friedman said.

W.T. Woodson freshman Riley Allison completed his third swim marathon as a Shark Tank athlete.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Of the six graduating seniors from Shark Tank Racing Squad, each have participated in at least two of the six annual swim marathons: (from left) Charlie Lertluprasert, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology; Nora Surbey, W.T. Woodson High School; Moira LeMay, South County High School; Caroline Paris, West Springfield High School; Holly To, West Springfield High School and Ethan Villavicencio, W.T. Woodson High School.



The To family of Springfield has had three children participate in the swim marathon in each of its six years running: (from left) Holly To, coach Patty Friedman of Fairfax Station, mother Jennifer To, Christopher To, Nicole To and William To.

"The event is very important to me because at any point in time someone I know could be diagnosed with breast cancer," he said in an email. "Even if it isn't somebody I know, I'm glad I can raise money to help anyone who is diagnosed with it."

As in past years, supporters from Shark Tank will accompany Friedman to the start of the two-day, 39.3-mile walk, beginning in Washington, D.C.

For more information or to make additional donations, visit www.tinyurl.com/tank2016.

—TIM PETERSON

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March 24 - Holy Thursday service at 7:30 pm

March 25 - Good Friday service at 7:30 pm

March 26 - Easter Egg Hunt at 10 am

March 27 - Easter Sunday worship at 8:00, 9:30, and 11 am

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Robinson senior Johnny Daniel scored a pair of goals during the Rams' season-opening victory over Broad Run on Tuesday.



Robinson freshman Declan Connolly scored three goals against Broad Run on Tuesday. The Rams defeated the Spartans 14-7.

Robinson Boys' Lax Beats Broad Run in Season Opener

Two-time defending state champs have new leaders.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Members of the two-time defending state champion Robinson boys' lacrosse team sat quietly at one end of the Coffey Stadium field during halftime of their season opener Tuesday night when they were greeted by the sound of reality.

Visiting Broad Run led 5-4 and the Spartans let the Rams — and others in attendance — know it, confidently cheering at the other end of the field.

"We just weren't really into it and we snapped into it once we realized that they're up," Robinson senior attackman Johnny Daniel said. "When we hear them yapping it up over in the corner of the field — that's our field. You can yap all you want, but it's Coffey Stadium [and] we're defending our field." The Rams woke up in the third quarter, outscoring Broad Run 7-0, and Robinson pulled away for a 14-7 season-opening victory.

Once Robinson got going in the second half, it didn't take long for the Rams to gain separation.

Five different Rams scored a goal during a 3-minute, 39-second stretch in the third quarter, taking Robinson from a 5-4 deficit to a 9-5 lead. Daniel and freshman attackman Declan Connolly each scored in the final minute of the period, extending the Rams' lead to 11-5.

Robinson led by as many as eight goals, when senior attackman Tristan Scoffield gave the Rams a 14-6 advantage with 1:04 remaining in the fourth quarter.

"I'm extremely happy with the way we responded in the second half," Robinson head coach Matt Curran said. "With a young team, you're in that position maybe for the first time and you're not sure exactly how



Robinson sophomore Nick Rowlett scored a goal during the Rams' win over Broad Run on Tuesday.

they're going to respond."

Eight different Rams scored at least one goal. Senior midfielder Austin Henry and freshman Connolly each scored three. Junior attackman Liam Curran and Daniel each scored two goals, and sophomore midfielder Reid Scarborough, junior midfielder Tyler Iriondo, sophomore midfielder Nick Rowlett and senior Scoffield each had one.

Junior goalkeeper Matt Bethard had eight saves.

Robinson enters the 2016 season with a talented roster, but the Rams have new players transitioning into leadership roles after graduating several prominent athletes from their back-to-back title runs.

Curran said Robinson still has high expectations, but the loss of experienced players means the Rams aren't as far along when it comes to implementing strategy.

"It doesn't matter what year it is and what kind of talent we have, our expectations every year are to win the state championship and I think that's how it should be," Curran said. "Do we take them along slowly? Yeah, we do. Last year, we had a ton of starters back so we could get into things that we were running the year before right away and some of these guys ... are learning it for the first time.

"... We don't have Jack Rowlett or Chapman Jasien or Jude Buckholz or Chris White, guys like that that were three- and four-year starters, anymore. Those guys are gone, so you guys — Austin Henry, Johnny Daniel, [senior midfielder] Danny Krug, [senior long stick midfielder] Eric Scales — you guys have to step up and they did. They responded. Just like anything, they're going to have to learn to be the guys, the captains, the leaders. They know how to do the lacrosse part, now they have to figure out how to be the leaders of the team and I think they certainly made a step [toward that]."

Daniel said players who might have been overlooked in the past now have a chance to step up. "We had a great amount of talent last year, but that talent kind of shadowed a lot of underlying talent," he said. "For example, Austin and I, we're a duo that's been kind of been overlooked for a while and now we have the chance to [lead]."

Daniel and Henry have both signed with VMI.

While Daniel, Henry, Krug and others transition into leadership roles, Connolly has an opportunity to be a young difference-maker. The freshman produced a hat trick in his first varsity game, including

"We just weren't really into it and we snapped into it once we realized that they're up. When we hear them yapping it up over in the corner of the field — that's our field. You can yap all you want, but it's Coffey Stadium [and] we're defending our field."

— Robinson senior Johnny Daniel

Robinson's first goal of the season.

"People need to be ready for him, honestly," Daniel said, "because that kid, he's one of the best players I've ever played with."

Curran praised Connolly.

"I've known Declan since he was in elementary school and coached him in some offseason stuff," Curran said. "He's got a really good head on his shoulders. He knows he's good, but he recognizes that this is a team game and he's always asking questions and he's always learning."

Robinson's next four games are at home, starting with a contest against Yorktown at 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 19. The Rams will host Northern at 2 p.m. on Monday, Langley at noon on Wednesday, March 23, and St. Ignatius (Illinois) at 7:15 p.m. on March 29.

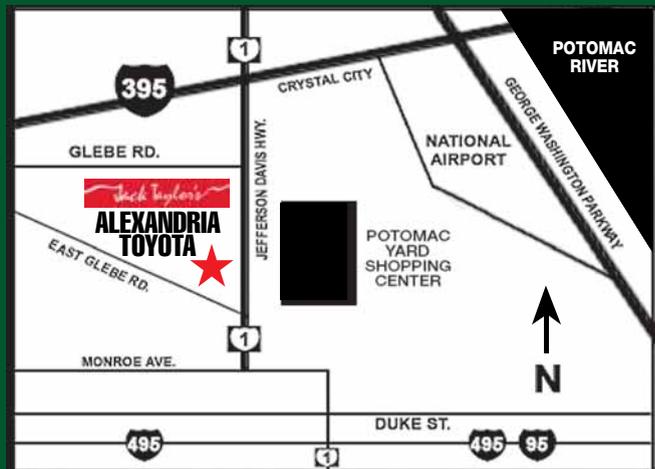
Robinson will travel to face Chantilly at 7:15 p.m. on April 1 in a rematch of last year's Conference 5, 6A North region and state championship games.

"Every year is state championship — that's what we want," Henry said. "We'll work [through] whatever we have to get that."

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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FAITH

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.

Harvester Presbyterian Church will hold Easter Sunday Service on March 27 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The church is located at 7800 Rolling Road, Springfield. www.harvesterpca.org

An Easter Cantata, "Risen," will be presented at **Jubilee Christian Center** on Easter Sunday, March 27, 8:45 and 11 a.m. services. The center is located at 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. There is no Easter Sunday evening service. Call 703-383-1170, or see www.jccag.org.

Lenten Soup Supper. Fridays from Feb. 26-March 18. 5:30-7 p.m. will be offered at **Holy Spirit School Cafeteria**, 8800 Braddock Road, Annandale. Meatless soup suppers on Fridays during Lent, followed by the Stations of the Cross in the Church at 7 p.m. Free. Contact Lambie Renner, lrenner@holyspiritchurch.us.

Jubilee Christian Center of Fairfax is restarting its "Living Free" support groups for the Spring on Wednesdays, starting on Mar. 30, 7:15 p.m. The support groups are free, and will cover "Stepping into Freedom," "Concerned Persons Group" (for family and friends of addicts), "Understanding and Overcoming Depression," "The Image of God in

You," and "Handling Loss and Grief." There will also be support groups meeting on Sundays, 10:10 a.m. 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. For information or to register, call 703-383-1170, email livingfree@jccag.org or see www.jccag.org.

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

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

Lord of Life Lutheran offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAY/MARCH 19

Library Forum. 10-11:30 a.m. George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Help plan the libraries' future by sharing your input. fairfaxcounty.gov/library. 703-324-8319.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 23

Budget Town Hall. 7-9 p.m. Community Room, West Springfield Government Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. County Executive Ed Long and representatives from the Department of Management and Budget will be available to answer questions. Sponsored by Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield). 571-585-4540.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6
 that enable people who work here to live here;

- ❖ the continued preservation and improvement of parks, recreation, and arts;
- ❖ the protection and restoration of habitat space and the underlying ecosystems;
- ❖ improved connections with George Mason University students, faculty, and staff.

These goals were echoed during the VisionFairfaxMason, a 2014 community-wide planning workshop that produced an

ambitious plan to strengthen the economic ties between the City and the University. We urge those candidates for city council and Mayor to move forward with the recommendations in this plan to ensure the continued improvement of the quality of life for all Fairfax City residents.

Support this vision! Email us at smartergrowthfairfaxcity@gmail.com and provide your full name.

Dean Ross
 Fairfax

Food for Kids

FROM PAGE 8

"The whole point of it is to encourage kids to participate in healthier cooking and foods that are in school. We're trying to encourage kids to help change school food and to live a more active lifestyle," said Diana Nash, Real Food for Kids event coordinator.

"This year we decided to open it up for middle schoolers and high schoolers. I'm really impressed with the level of skill

and preparation of the teams today," said Jenny Hein, executive director of Real Food for Kids.

An awards ceremony at the end included \$200 scholarships, \$50 gift cards to Sur La Table, a \$500 raffle award to Williams-Sonoma, gift certificate to Earl's Kitchen & Bar for six people, cookbooks and a Veggetti Spiralizer, among other gifts. All participating students left with their own gift bags.

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
 Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado, LLC trading as Chipotle Mexican Grill, 6230 Rolling Rd, Ste Y, West Springfield, VA 22152. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer On Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. M. Steven Ells, Manager
 NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
 Muse Paintbar, LLC trading as Muse Paintbar, 2920 District Ave, Ste 100, Fairfax, VA 22031. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer On Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Stanley J. Finch, member
 NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE PERMIT

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF CLIFTON PLANNING COMMISSION AND CLIFTON TOWN COUNCIL

April 5, 2016
 Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Planning Commission and the Town Council will hold a joint Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 7:30 P.M. at the Town Meeting Hall, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton, VA 20124 to consider a request for a special use permit for Peterson's Ice Cream Depot, located at 7150 Main Street. The special use permit request includes an expansion of the existing use, including, but not limited to, the increase in number of seats; an increase in parking; an expansion of the hours of operation; an increase in employees, from the previously issued special use permit. The application for this special use permit is available for review and downloading on the Town's website at www.cliftonva.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 the joint public hearing of the Town of Clifton Planning Commission and the Town Council and express their views with respect to the requested special use permit for Peterson's Ice Cream Depot.

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