

2015
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Newspaper

Fairfax CONNECTION

HomeLifeStyle

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



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City Council Race
Ends up in Court

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'Great Performances'
Continue at Mason

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 14

(From left) are twin sisters, Elyssa and Stacey Geissler, 11 1/2, with their boxer-lab mix, Petey, and Ashley Gutierrez, 12, with her Havanese, Ozzie. The City of Fairfax went to the dogs, last Saturday, June 4, when it held its first ever Fido Fest.

JUNE 9-15, 2016

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs **volunteer advocates** for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at **703-324-5861**, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact Kristin Martin at **703-324-7577**, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The **Wakefield Senior Center** in **Annandale** needs **Front Desk Volunteers** and **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.

The **Lewinsville Senior Center** in **McLean** needs instructors for the following classes: **Line Dance, Certified Arthritis Exercise, Current Events**, and a **Facilities Attendant** to help with front desk duties and activities as needed. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Meals on Wheels urgently needs route assistance in the **Francesonia** area, a volunteer to print and deliver updated route pages to the Manchester Lakes Retirement Community building in **Kingstowne**, and **drivers, coordinators**, and **co-coordinators** for routes throughout the county. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to **drive older adults to medical appointments** and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportu-

nities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Mott Community Center Senior Program** in **Fairfax** is looking for a volunteer **Tai Chi** instructor. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Gum Springs Senior Program** in **Alexandria** is looking for a **Line Dance Instructor**. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Kingstowne Center for Active Adults** in **Alexandria** needs Instructors for the following classes: **Country-Western Line Dance, Hula Hoop** and **African Style 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 **Hollin Hall Senior Center** in **Alexandria** needs instructors for the following classes: **Basic Woodworking, 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.

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Dan Drummond holds his new, beagle-German shepherd mix Morgan, 4 months, a rescue dog adopted from Homewood Trails.



Sonia Maravi with her dog Nicolas, 10 months.



Fairfax City Mayor Scott Silverthorne dog-sitting for Gilligan, a Great Pyrenees mix belonging to Geoff and Nellie Williams.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax's First Fido Fest

The City of Fairfax went to the dogs, last Saturday, June 4, when it held its first ever Fido Fest. It was hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department on the civic green outside the Sherwood Community Center.

It was the brainchild of Parks and Recreation Director Cathy

Salgado. And between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., a couple hundred dogs and their owners joined in the fun.

"It was a small, pet-friendly event," said Salgado. "And it also gave the City's pet-oriented businesses the opportunity to participate. Rescue groups were here, too, including the Friends of Homeless Animals and the Hu-

mane Society of Fairfax County."

The event featured a dog agility course, pet photo booth, small wading pools, a pop-up dog park and free, frozen dog treats from Rita's. And judging from the dogs' happily wagging tails, plus the smiles and laughter coming from their owners, Fido Fest was a doggone success.

James Hosinski, 6, cuddles his miniature dachshund, Brindie.



Tyrell Maltby with his silver Lab, Pete, 2 years.



Zach Muse poses with Luna, his 1-year-old pit bull mix.



Lizzie Dorsey, 10 1/2, brought her dog Gypsy, 3, from Forever Home Rescue, to Fido Fest.

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NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mayor R. Scott Silverthorne (right) and NVTA Chairman Martin E. Nohe (left) cutting a ribbon at the opening of the new lanes.

Third Lane Opens at Fairfax Boulevard

The City of Fairfax announces the opening of a third westbound lane along Route 50 (Fairfax Boulevard) from Bevan Drive to Jermantown Road. The improvements include the widening of southbound Jermantown Road to allow for two through lanes adjacent to the left turn lane and additional intersection improvements. This \$6.5 million improvement project received \$1 million from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) as part of its FY2015-16 Program.

The Jermantown project will enhance operations on both Route 50 and Jermantown Road by improving capacity for westbound traffic exiting the City and improving the Jermantown Road southbound

intersection approach. With the addition of a new westbound lane on Route 50 between Bevan Drive and Jermantown Road, afternoon peak period congestion on Route 50 traffic will decrease. The additional southbound right turn lane on Jermantown Road will decrease afternoon peak period traffic congestion for Jermantown Road commuters.

The geometric improvements on southbound Jermantown Road will improve mobility in the vicinity of the intersection with Route 50. This combination of improvements will allow for additional green-time at the intersection signal to be assigned to Route 50, which enhances regional mobility and improves operations on the route.

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NEWS

City Council Race Ends up in Court

Judges order a recount to determine winners.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The election for Fairfax City Council was held May 3, but the official winners won't be decided until this week. That's because a panel of three judges has determined that a recount should be held.

It's also precedent-setting because this marks the first time in the history of the Commonwealth that there will be a recount in a multi-candidate race for the same position. It was slated for this Wednesday, June 8; but at press time, the results were not yet in.

SEVEN CANDIDATES vied for six positions, with just three votes separating the two with the lowest vote totals, incumbents Nancy Loftus, with 1,819 votes, and Jeff Greenfield, with 1,816 votes. So Greenfield filed a motion with Fairfax County Circuit Court to have their votes recounted.

But then things got really complicated. "I found out on the filing date that everybody on the Council needed to be notified," said Greenfield. "So my attorneys filed an amendment to the motion and sent it out to everyone that day, May 13. But they didn't get it in the mail until the following Monday."

Loftus then had her attorneys file a motion to dismiss Greenfield's motion because he didn't originally notify all the Council members. The reason they all needed to be made aware of a possible recount is because two other Council candidates, Michael DeMarco and Jon Stehle, who finished fourth and fifth, respectively, had only a 1-percent difference between their vote totals.

Still, said Greenfield, four out of the five other Council candidates – including Stehle and DeMarco – submitted letters in support of the recount. Loftus did not and Ellie Schmidt took no position.

Greenfield and Loftus faced off in court last Wednesday, June 1, before Fairfax County Chief Circuit Court Judge Bruce White, plus Judges Joe Ellis and Beverly Snukals of Spotsylvania and Richmond, respectively. There, Loftus's attorney, Jason Torchinsky, argued that Greenfield's initial petition didn't name the other Council members and his



Jeff Greenfield



Nancy Loftus

amendment wasn't filed or served to the other candidates within the 10 days after the election results were certified.

"The original petition was deficient and should be dismissed – and the amendment recognizes that," said Torchinsky. "Both should be denied and the recount should not take place. There are at least two other candidates within 1 percent [of each other], and you can't declare the winners unless you recount all the ballots for all the candidates."

Although Greenfield's original petition only referred to himself and Loftus, said Ellis, "The [state] statute [regarding vote recounts] doesn't address a multi-candidate, multi-seat election. It's not clear."

Attorney Jay Myerson, representing Greenfield, said his client "followed the literal language of the statute and served just one candidate. I think the motion to amend could be denied and the court could still grant our original petition and include everyone in it."

"What we're asking is for a recount to go forward where the margin of victory was a mere three votes," continued Myerson. "And [this would] ensure the integrity of the election and let the citizens know the vote count was accurate. The statute says you have to file and serve the candidate ahead of you in a timely manner – and [Greenfield] did."

Myerson further contended that dismissing Greenfield's petition for a recount wouldn't serve the public interest. And, he added, "The Virginia State Supreme Court has ruled that statute should be liberally construed. The five other candidates voluntarily filed documents with the court and said they'd be willing to participate in a recount. And there are no precedent-setting cases addressing an instance like

SEE RECOUNT, PAGE 9

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PEOPLE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Elizabeth Benedetto in goal defending a free position shot, leading to a first half shut out at St. Joseph University on April 24.

Rookie of the Year

GMU student and W.T. Woodson alumna Elizabeth Benedetto earned Atlantic 10 Conference Rookie of the Week honor. Her

final home game of the season was Saturday, April 30 at 2 p.m. at George Mason University in Fairfax.

Honored for Leadership, Excellence



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Lake Braddock Secondary School JROTC Cadet Peter Bailey was awarded The Sons of the American Revolution Bronze Medal at a school awards ceremony on Friday, May 13. Presented by the SAR George Washington chapter, Cadet Bailey was honored for his leadership qualities and academic excellence.

Local High School Students Receive National Merit Scholarships

Out of over 1.5 million high school juniors across the country who took the PSAT, the National Merit Scholarship has been awarded to approximately 3,000 high school students, each of whom receives an annual award between \$500 and \$2,000 for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship.

The following are local students who received the National Merit Scholarship:

❖ Gordon A. Armstrong attends W.T. Woodson High School, in Fairfax, and plans to study mechanical engineering at the University of Alabama.

❖ Gabriela R. Huckabee, of Fairfax, attends Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology and plans to study astrophysics at Arizona State University.

❖ James N. Pan, of Fairfax, attends Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology and plans to study economics at the University of Chicago.

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NEWS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team will play at George Mason University on Friday, June 17 and also participate in a weeklong camp for children from June 13-17.

Amputee Softball Team Plays with Confidence

The crack of a bat hitting softballs and a cheering crowd will be heard at the George Mason University Softball Complex on Friday, June 17. But if you come out to see the game you will notice something different about the players.

Taking the field will be The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team (WWAST), which is composed of active duty and veteran soldiers with missing limbs who travel the country playing able-bodied teams to inspire and educate others while enhancing the health and welfare of wounded warrior amputees.

These men and women gave their service to the country and also give their time and care at the annual Kids Camp for children with missing limbs or amputations.

WWAST players will help 24 children build skills and confidence at the weeklong camp in Fairfax between June 13-17. "As a team we all look forward to Kids Camp," said Bucky Weaver, WWAST coach. "To be able to witness the bond between the children and the wounded warriors is such an inspiration. This is truly a life changing experience for these kids," said Weaver. The event culminates in a doubleheader, Friday June 17, at the George Mason University softball complex



The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team will help 24 children will develop skills in baseball and confidence at Kids Camp from June 13-17.

in Fairfax. Gates open at 5 p.m. and the event starts at 6 p.m.

The Kids Camp game will be followed by the WWAST taking on local celebrities. "This is truly a labor of love and community," said Dr. Jolanda Janczewski, Kids Camp director. "Countless volunteers and sponsors come together to make this weeklong event a success. WWAST is grateful to all who continue to reach out and contribute their time, their money and their heart," said Janczewski.

For more information, go to thewwast.org

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OPINION

Lifelong Learning: Endless Possibilities

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

In 1956 the then appointed Fairfax County School Board appropriated fifty dollars per month to be paid as a supplement to a school administrator to start an adult education program. Since the schools were still racially segregated, a program for white adults was started at Annandale High School, and a program for black adults was started at Luther Jackson School. The favorite offerings at both locations were classes in sewing including the Bishop Method of Clothing Construction, as well as typing and shorthand. The inexpensive, evening classes proved popular, and the program grew rapidly. Basic education classes for those adults who could not read and write were added as were night school classes to complete high school and to prepare for the G.E.D.

Recently I had the pleasure of attending a 60th anniversary celebration of the program at the Plum Center for Lifelong Learning on Edsall Road in the eastern part of the county. I was honored several years ago when the School



COMMENTARY

Board chose to name its first full-time adult education center for my work in adult and community education that spanned half the years of its existence. Starting as a part-time room coordinator in the evenings when I was a half-time intern teacher from the University of Virginia, I was able, for reasons too complex, to explain here to become an administrator of the program in three years. As many discover in pursuing a career, my good fortune of working in a program that I loved so much was more a case of being at the right place at the right time than any deliberate planning.

As Fairfax County and its school system grew, the adult education program that became known as the adult and community education program grew not only in enrollment but in the variety of its offerings. With the growth in the number of persons speaking English as a second language came classes in English for those speakers of other languages. Increased educational requirements in a soaring economy

resulted in more enrollment in evening adult high school and in vocational education programs.

While the adult and community education program afforded tax-paying citizens an opportunity to utilize the facilities their tax dollars had built, the program at the same time provided support for the school system's K-12 program. Students who were unsuccessful in the regular high schools were often allowed to transfer to the adult high school program as an alternative where they were often more successful. Parents could take classes in child development and parenting in order to help their own children. Adult and Community Education (ACE) provided administrative support for after-school enrichment classes in the elementary schools.

A catalogue of ACE classes and programs is mailed three times a year to Fairfax County residents and is available online at <http://www.fcps.edu/is/ace/documents/catalogs/2016/Summer2016.pdf>. As its literature promises, "the possibilities are endless." Endless for career and employment training, learning a new language, personal and academic enrichment. After all, as we have become aware—learning is lifelong.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Receiving Benefits, Ducking Responsibility

To the Editor:

John Knight's letter ("Seniors Unfairly Tapped for School Budget") in the last week's Connection made a case for a school tax "rebate" to senior property owners. His stated argument is that since elderly residents don't have children in the school system, they should get a financial break.

Since having no children in the system is the criterion, can we assume Mr. Knight would support cutting a rebate check for singles without children? Who knows whether they will ever use the system in these uncertain times? How about for families that send their children to private schools, don't they deserve a little break, too? And why, when you get right down to it, should businesses - that obviously don't put little ones into classrooms - not be entitled to a smidgen of property tax forgiveness?

Why pay for something you don't use? Pay for play! This thoughtful argument has potential application to a broad range of other areas of public policy, too. If I have health insurance, shouldn't I get a rebate for that share of my taxes that goes to pay for public health services? Shouldn't I get a modest re-deposit to my account

to compensate me for the cost of maintaining the county parks I don't use. I have never had a house burn down - not even once - and yet I'm expected to pay my full part of the taxes that fund Fairfax County Fire? How is that fair?

And just you wait until Mr. Knight starts in on figuring out which parts of the Commonwealth and Federal budgets don't apply him. We'll all be rolling in rebates!

But, of course, the world doesn't work the way Mr. Knight suggests it should. The same seniors whose real estate values have climbed over the years because of the quality of life - and the caliber of the public institutions - in Fairfax County, have a continuing obligation to pay to sustain that quality. The Fairfax County school system existed for their children because previous generations funded it. Having received the benefits, trying to duck the responsibility to keep the lights on for future generations is downright churlish.

Of course, getting that rebate is possible for those that really want to cash out. All it involves is selling and moving. Away.

Kyle Olson
Alexandria

Protect Homeowners, and School Budget

To the Editor:

Regarding John Knight's letter ("Seniors Unfairly Tapped for School Budget") in the last week's Connection: While the sentiment is nice and I would join anyone in complaining about the burden of taxes being put on all the homeowners; in my opinion businesses and developers get away with tax breaks. Our supervisors and planning commissions are over developing Tysons; creating traffic and other problems, and then they complain about the low occupancy rate. The fix to those problems is raising homeowner taxes. I don't think giving seniors a break due to the fact they no longer have kids in school is fair or wise. Those schools prepared

our kids and now have the task of preparing our and another generation of children's kids. Many of the people in our neighborhood who are young don't have kids. Shouldn't they also be given dispensation. I would prefer we pass the meals tax and stop giving other breaks to businesses and developers. That would be a much better means of supplemental funding of our schools and help to keep our homeowners' taxes from escalating. Well-educated children are resources to seniors, couples and singles without children and current parents alike.

Michael Knudsen
McLean

Fairfax CONNECTION

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Send Photos for Father's Day Galleries

Father's Day is Sunday, June 19, and as in years past, this newspaper will publish a gallery of photos of fathers, grandfathers, great grandfathers and sons and daughters. Send your photos, including names of everyone in the photo, ages of children, town of residence and

a brief description of what is happening to south@connectionnewspapers.com or upload directly to <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/fathersday/>

Please include the words "Father's Day" and your town of residence in the subject line.

18-Year-Old Man Charged for Alleged Sexual Misconduct with a Juvenile

On Friday, June 3, an 18-year-old man was charged for having inappropriate relations with a 12-year-old girl. An investigation determined that on at least two occasions, the suspect allegedly met with the victim and had inappropriate sexual relations with her. The incident was reported to school administrators on May 13. Neither incident occurred on school grounds.

Following a thorough investigation by Major Crimes detectives, two warrants were issued charging an 18-year-old man, of Fairfax, with rape of a child less than 13 years old. He was arrested on June 3 at Fairfax High School and transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. Investigating detectives and the Victim Services Section are working with the victim and family to provide care and assistance.

—FCPD PUBLIC AFFAIRS BUREAU

Bank Robbery in Fairfax

Officers responded to a holdup alarm at the BB&T Bank located at 8416 Arlington Blvd. on Wednesday, June 1 shortly before 4 p.m. A man entered the bank, approached a teller and handed him a note announcing a robbery. The suspect then placed a backpack on the counter and told the teller that it contained an explosive device. The teller handed over an undisclosed amount of cash and the suspect fled on foot leaving behind the backpack. Bank employees evacuated the bank. Nobody was injured.

The suspect was described as white, in his 50s, about 5-feet-5-inches tall, with a skinny build. He was wearing a flannel shirt, a hooded sweatshirt, green pants a white hat and sunglasses.

The police helicopter and K-9 unit searched the area. The bomb squad examined the backpack and determined that it did not contain any explosive material.

Anyone with information about this incident should contact Crime Solvers at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or by calling 1-866-411-8477. Tips may also be called in to the Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

Recount to Determine Winners

FROM PAGE 5

this – [recounting] a multi-seat race."

THE JUDGES then took a recess to deliberate. And when they returned, White said, "The panel finds that the motions to amend and dismiss be denied. The court adds the other parties to the action, and we will go forward with the recount." Snukals asked the attorneys, "How do you envision

the recount to proceed – a re-tabulation of the votes of all seven candidates?

"Yes," replied Torchinsky. "We anticipate one out of every three ballots will have to be hand-counted." Optical-scanner ballots and machines are used; so, he said, 'Any ballot where people didn't vote for all six candidates will be rejected by the machine and hand-counted."

He said there'll be four scanning machines, two recount officials –

one each representing Loftus and Greenfield – and at least one observer per machine. (Up to seven observers are allowed). Myerson agreed, but also noted that two email ballots that were received would have to be recounted, as well. The June 8 recount took place in Circuit Court and was anticipated to possibly take all day.

After last week's court hearing, Loftus said, "I'm glad the court agreed with us that the recount had to include all the participants,

not just Jeff and me. That's all we wanted from the very beginning." Greenfield said he just wanted to know for sure who's the right person to be sworn in on June 30 – him or Loftus. "I'm pleased with the judges' ruling," said Greenfield. "We ensured that the integrity of the election process is intact, and the residents of the City of Fairfax can be assured that we'll know who the voters intended to elect."

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF MERRIFIELD GARDEN CENTER



Adding a stone patio creates a low maintenance and aesthetically appealing outdoor space.



Drought-tolerant plants are aesthetically appealing and require little care once established.

Creating Low Maintenance Outdoor Oasis this Summer

Simple ideas for enjoying outdoor space and reducing yard work.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Warm weather and sunshine offer opportunities for spending time relaxing and entertaining outside. Local landscaping gurus offer suggestions for creating a low maintenance backyard that will allow for more time spent enjoying it and less time taking care of it.

When creating a patio, using a stone that will stand up to the elements and ensure wear and tear is a key consideration. "Bluestone is durable and more high-end, but it's going to last forever," said Dianne Duvall of American Plant in Bethesda, Maryland. "Another option is manufactured paving blocks that will mimic the look of cobblestone or brick and create a uniform look. It's important that it be permeable so that water will soak through rather than pooling up or running off."

Furniture and accessories made of high quality, durable fabrics and other materials can add to the low maintenance appeal of patios and

outdoor rooms, says Philip Smith, design consultant with Offenbachers, an outdoor furniture and accessories company with showrooms in Springfield and Fairfax. "Sky's the limit when it comes to color ... the season is full of vibrant pops and soothing undertones sure to please every style and preference," he said. "It is proving to be a very organic and lovely extension of the season's interior design trends."

Coneflowers and other native plants require little care, while adding potted plants to a landscape adds variety while preserving a yard's low-maintenance appeal. "If you have patios, you have to have potted plants, it's like putting curtains on a window," said Watkins. He recommends adding water-absorbing crystals called Moisture Mizer, which retain and then release water when the soil becomes dry. "It helps potted plants retain moisture because as the soil dries up, it releases moisture and can cut your watering down tremendously," said Watkins.

Adding hostas or other ground cover plants can decrease pesky weeds and cut down on yard work. "Try to plant with landscaping that covers the whole plant bed," said Watkins. "If you layer a ground covering plant it adds texture, color and height difference and fills in a plant bed. After 2-3 years the whole ground is covered, and the amount of mulch that you need to spend on the yard each year becomes less and less."

Building an outdoor room or patio means less foliage to maintain and more space for entertaining. "It's low maintenance because if you have a patio with pavers you only need to spend a half hour once or twice a year maintaining it," said David Watkins, general manager of Merrifield Garden Center in Falls Church.

"You need to sweep more sand in and take care of any weeds that come up between the stones. When

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This octagon-shaped McLean home was inspired by a California house.

PHOTOS COURTESY
MCNEARNEY
ASSOCIATES



Octagonal Dream Home on the Market

Home's shape and large windows make it a sun-drenched space.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

It was during a trip to California almost 20 years that McLean resident Susan Jordano first laid eyes on her dream home. The feature that she found most appealing was its octagonal shape.

In 2008, she was able to replicate the West Coast property, when she asked architect Joe Burton to design an eight-sided house in McLean. The resulting design was 6,400-square foot, four-bedroom, six-bathroom home with eight-foot windows and French doors.

"I think the feature I like the most ... is the covered porch where we can sit out on a summer afternoon or entertain as many as 65 for a sit-down dinner," said Jordano. "It is also delightful to sit out on a warm, rainy day and be protected."

An expansive breezeway is topped with a 16x16-foot skylight and connects the main house to a two-story garage. The octagon shape, which allows an abundance of natural light to stream into the home, is still one of the features that Jordano finds most appealing.

"I ... like the irregular shapes of the rooms and how well furniture fits in them," she said.



Large windows and an octagonal design allows light to stream into this home.

Her desire for the freedom to travel on a whim is behind Jordano's decision to sell her dream home and downsize to a condominium.

"This home is truly sun-drenched," said Marilyn Cantrell, real estate agent with McNearney Associates. "We took photos with the lights off. We didn't need them because there's so much daylight that comes into the house."

This home is located at 1115 Capitol View Court in McLean and is on the market for \$2 million.

"I will miss my garden most with the iris that are getting ready to bloom now," said Jordano. "I always cut them and bring them in and they make a lovely display. I have five or six different varieties and colors that will be blooming soon."

VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

Public Hearing Notice Fairfax County Secondary Six Year Plan

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and The Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, in accordance with Section 33.2-331 of the Code of Virginia, will conduct a joint public hearing in the Board Auditorium, Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035 at 4:30 p.m. on June 21, 2016.

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive public comment on the Secondary Six Year Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2017 through 2022. Copies of the proposed plan may be reviewed at the VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

Persons wishing to speak at this public hearing should contact the Office of the Clerk to the County Board of Supervisors at 703-324-3151.

PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Dad"



To honor dad on Father's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your dad and The Connection will publish them in our Father's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail photos, send to:

editors@connectionnewspapers.com

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Charles Smith, branch chief with the Stormwater Planning Division in the Department of Public Works, with Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and Braddock District Supervisor John Cook at the planting of the pollinator meadow located adjacent to the Fairfax County Government Center.



About 40 volunteers help plant a pollinator meadow near the Fairfax County Government Center in Fairfax.

Pollinator Meadow Planted by Government Center

Volunteers plant 2,000 plants, 48 different species — one-third grasses and two-thirds wild flowers.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Some 40 volunteers planted a pollinator meadow for two days last month on one acre of land adjacent to the Fairfax County Government Center in Fairfax. The volunteers from the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District planted about 2,000 plants (from 48 different species) — using about one-third grasses and two-thirds wild flowers. These are native plants with deep roots that attract bees and butterflies and help retain the stormwater from going into the nearby stream in the woods.

“Planting this pollinator helps the stormwater runoff to not reach the stream,” said Irene Haske, an information officer with the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. “The water will percolate down into the water table and it gets cleaned as it goes down further into the earth. It will help prevent runoff and erosion.”

She added: “When the sediment flows off the land, it buries the little critters; and they’re an important part of the ecosystem.... It’s not just saving the butterflies; it’s aesthetically pleasing as well.”

The project is being divided into four phases over several months: planting seedlings, planting plants that provide color and structure (last week’s efforts), providing invasive controls (to be done by a contractor over the summer), and planting woody



The sign for the pollinator meadow under construction, located adjacent to the Fairfax County Government Center.

shrubs (next fall) to improve the edge condition with native trees and shrubs.

AT A COST of \$3,500 for the project, the county purchased plants at Earth Sangha, a local nursery that works in the spirit of the Buddhist practice by propagating native plants from locally-gathered seeds. The county purchased native warm season grasses to hold the soil in place; including little blue stems, purple love grass, flowering liatris, asters and New York ironweed, among others. The cost included soil preparation and removal of invasive vines that were hanging on nearby trees, to be replaced with native edge plantings such as silky dogwood, pawpaw, chokeberry and redbuds. The edge plantings help fill the gaps between the meadow and the mature forest canopy nearby.

“What we’re trying to do is offer a number of seasons for blooming,” said Charles Smith, branch chief with the Stormwater Planning Division in the Department of Public Works.

residents and businesses alike; those that are interested in enhancing their own properties in an environmentally conscious and beautiful way.”

She said between Thursday’s and Saturday’s events, they’ve had 40 volunteers join in this partnership to enhance this portion of the Fairfax County Government Center property. “There have been volunteers of all ages that are actively planting this great meadow and also learning about what it can do to enhance the pollinator community and also enhance the aesthetics of an area.”

THE VOLUNTEERS planted containerized plants; the seeds of which can take 18 months to germinate. By planting plants that develop roots that are 12 to 36 inches deep, Suzy Foster, Landscape Architect III, said they help control runoff water from this site into the Chesapeake Bay. “We have to reduce sediment in our streams and channels. We do that in a variety of ways. This is infiltrating stormwater runoff as soon as it hits this meadow.” She added: “We’re creating a living sponge that will absorb more water than a typical lawn. We’re improving the sponge-ability of the soil and reducing the maintenance because we’re cutting down on mowing.”

Foster said homeowners can follow the lead and convert their own 8x8 or 10x10 lawn properties into native plants to help promote native insects and birds. “The real message is to plant native plants like butterfly weed, blazing star and black-eyed Susans and native oak and cherry trees to promote the insects, native mammals and birds,” she added. “If you could choose one plant, plant an oak tree; it supports more species of native insects than any other tree in the area.”

And she said by planting native plants, it helps support the native fauna, which includes everything from insects to deer.

Wearing His Art on His Sleeve

Young Fairfax artist with autism shows work at Our Daily Bread's "Artful Living."

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

HERE MY WORK IS YELLING AT THE STONE INSIDE THAT REFUSES TO LEAVE MY SOUL AND BODY IN PEACE." Those are 16-year-old Fairfax resident Ben Breaux's words that accompanied his mixed-media painting "The Kidney Stone" at the April 23 juried art contest and Our Daily Bread fundraiser "Artful Living."

Breaux is non-verbal autistic, and for the last three years has created art to express his feelings outwardly. It started with a therapist who was working with Breaux and simultaneously pursuing a master's degree in art therapy, who encouraged him to create.

Because he has difficulty grasping a paintbrush, Breaux takes old books and arm guards (which he periodically wears to protect his skin from self-inflicted scratching), coats them in paint and then presses them down on to canvas and construction paper, again and again.

As the books and guards break down and become coated with many colors and layers of dried Crayola Washable Glitter paint, they begin to leave bits of material behind on Breaux's abstract artwork. This gives the pieces a raised texture that's become a signature characteristic.

Breaux's mother Sara said he's fascinated by the work of Jackson Pollock and how he used mixed media as well.

Though Ben first got into art as a primary means of expression, in August 2014, he began learning to use the Rapid Prompt Method (RPM) of communication. By pointing to letters one at a time on a large alphabet board, someone on the other side can transcribe as Ben spells out words and constructs sentences.

Ben recently celebrated his 16th birthday party at the family's home. "It was the first time we knew what he wanted," in a celebration, Sara said. "We knew who he wanted to come, he was able to tell us."

"BEING ABLE TO DO RPM ALLOWS ME TO EXPRESS MYSELF IN WORDS," Ben said, "DOING ART ADDRESSES MY FEELINGS VISUALLY."

Ben has chosen to put those feelings on display, as well as up for sale, showcasing his art in Our Daily Bread's Artful Living show in 2015 and now 2016, as well as at the Robinson Secondary School Marketplace in fall 2015. Robinson is Ben's base school, though he attends the private special needs institution Ivymount School in Rockville.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left, Sara, Johnathan, Ben and Rick Breaux of Fairfax stand with Ben's painting "The Kidney Stone" at the April 23 juried art contest and Our Daily Bread fundraiser "Artful Living."



Ben Breaux, who has nonverbal autism, expresses himself visually through painting.

PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED

Ben chose to donate a portion of the money he earned from the Robinson event to Our Daily Bread, a Fairfax-based nonprofit that helps people with short-term safety net services. He said he supports their mission of helping put food on people's tables, because it's important for families to eat together.

"BEING AWARE OF THE NEEDS OF OTHERS AND DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT IS ALWAYS IMPORTANT," Ben said.

AT THE APRIL 23 SHOW, held at the Sherwood Center on Old Lee Highway, Ben's piece was the first sold, to Fairfax City School Board Chairman Toby Sorensen.

"I spotted Ben's mixed media piece and was immediately struck by its texture, color and composition," Sorensen said in an email. "I had no idea who the artist was or that he was a 15-year-old boy with autism. After a short walk around the exhibit, I re-



PHOTO COURTESY OF HERNAN VARGAS

Fairfax City Mayor Scott Silverthorne (right) speaks at the Our Daily Bread Fairfax "Artful Living" art contest, sharing the stage with ODB Development Manager Jennifer Rose (left).

alized this was the piece I wanted to buy. I am thrilled to support a young artist who is so talented and hope he continues to express himself in this way."

"I am thrilled he's had the opportunity to show his work in this venue," said Our Daily Bread Executive Director Lisa Whetzel. "What we are hoping is that all artists get visibility and share the community awareness aspect of what ODB is trying to achieve, while also showcasing their talent."

Of the 64 works of art that were in the show, 28 were purchased and ODB received more than 50 percent of the proceeds. ODB spokesperson Heather Webb said the show brought in more than \$45,000, the most raised at any of their events and almost double last year's tally. A portion of the proceeds will also go to the Spotlight on the Arts scholarship fund.

AWARDS for Best of Medium included:

Oil/Acrylic: "Taino Beach," Weston Muntain, Falls Church

Watercolor: "Own Little World," Angela He, Oakton

Pastel/Charcoal: "La Pointe," Vera Gilbert, Arlington

Photography: "Red Rope Boat," Annika Burstein, Oakton

Photography (tie): "Life in Darkness," Lindsay Martin, McLean

Other: "Little Wing," Lis Zadravec, Sterling

Best of Show: "Her Mind in Glass," Lydia Dye, Fairfax

People's Choice: "Deep in the Forest," Briana Camp, Fairfax

People's Choice (tie): "Welcome to Tibet," Dale McGrath, Herndon

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ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

Martha Graham Dance Company.

'Great Performances' Continue at Mason

Center for the Arts
announces next
season's 'Great
Performances.'

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

Virginia Opera "Turandot"

Where and When

"Great Performances at Mason," George Mason University, Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Subscriptions are available now; single tickets go on sale on Monday, Aug. 1, 2016. For information and subscription tickets call 703-993-2787 or visit www.cfa.gmu.edu.

ists who not only come to the Center to perform extraordinary concerts, but to spend time with Mason students as well as students in the schools in Northern Virginia to engage their minds and hearts in the creation of art," added Reynolds.

"I am excited about the 2016-17 season, because I believe it falls right in line with our mission to provide the best in the performing arts to the Northern Virginia community, and at the same time provide the students studying the arts with professional examples to emulate," said Thomas Reynolds, director of Artistic Programming, Marketing and Audience Services for the College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) at Mason.

With well over three dozen performances, the new "Great Performances" season runs from September 2016 through May 2017. Some highlights include the legendary Martha Graham Dance Company, eye-popping acrobatics of "The 7 Fingers of the Hand," the Taj Express with its luxurious "Bollywood Musical Revue" and the renowned National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine among many others.

Returning to the Center for the Arts will be the Virginia Opera bringing a series of opera masterpieces such as "Turandot" to their Northern Virginia home as well as Jeffrey Siegel's "Keyboard Conversations." The Holiday performances will include the Vienna Boys Choir and A Canadian Brass Christmas and others. Engrossing theater performances will again be in abundance with offerings such as "Judgement at Nuremberg" from L.A. Theater Work.

"We have a diverse group of professional singers, dancers, actors and instrumental-

ists who not only come to the Center to perform extraordinary concerts, but to spend time with Mason students as well as students in the schools in Northern Virginia to engage their minds and hearts in the creation of art," added Reynolds.

The annual "Arts by George!" Gala will bring "The Midtown Men" on Sept. 24. The group is composed of stars from the original cast of Broadway's "Jersey Boys." This year's "Arts by George!" was an opportunity

"to do something different while maintaining the spirit of what has become one of the arts events in Northern Virginia," said Reynolds. "The Midtown Men" will perform favorites from the 1960s and not just of "The Four Seasons."

Finally, the "Arts by George" event also showcases the artistic work of George Mason University/CVPA students and is a fundraiser for student scholarships. Over \$1.3 million for scholarships have been raised over the years, indicated Rick Davis, Dean, CVPA.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

Ongoing

Lovers and Madmen. June 18-Aug. 19. Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Features local artists. epicurecafe.org.

Fairfax Rotary Club Meeting. 12:15-1:30 p.m. Mondays. American Legion, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Meetings with luncheon and program. fairfaxrotary.org.

"Manifesto." May 21-June 18. Open Tuesday from 6-9 p.m. or by appointment. Olly Olly Art Space, 2nd Floor, 10417 Main St., Fairfax. Exhibition of five collections of art by the artists of Northern Virginia's Bunnyman Bridge Collective. "Manifesto" will feature creative experimental art of the hidden away; including sculpture, installation, painting, collage, photography, video and performance. ollyollyart.com. 703-789-6144.

"Disembodied." 5 p.m.-midnight. April 16-June 11. Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Epicure's spring exhibit invites artists to explore the concept of disembodiment. epicurecafe.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.

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.

Celebrating our Children's Creativity. May 19-June 20. The Jewish Community Center of 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 Vejvoda. Free. www.jccnv.org. 703-537-3000.

FRIDAY/JUNE 10

Teen Pizza Party. 7 p.m. Barnes and Noble Fairfax, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Pre-party for author event. Full cafe menu available. 703-278-8527.

Author Thomas Jones. 8-10 p.m. Barnes and Noble Fairfax, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Author of "Skywalking and Stargazing." Reserve space at CRM293@bn.com.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 10-12

White Elephant Sale. Call for times. St. Mary of Sorrows, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Church rummage sale. Antiques, jewelry, furniture, electronics, tools, etc. 703-323-0345.

SATURDAY/JUNE 11

Fairfax Station Railroad Museum and Barnes and Noble Book



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Lovers and Madmen exhibit at Epicure Cafe in Fairfax will be on view from June 18-Aug. 19.

Fair. 9-11 a.m. Barnes and Noble, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. The Museum will receive a percentage of net sales during the day for most purchases when patrons present a voucher from the Museum web site or just mention the Station at the check-out. Local authors will also be in the store that day signing books. For more information, www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR. 703-425-9225.

Landscaping Painting Workshop. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fairfax Art League Village Gallery, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax. Artist Fritz Treyz will guide you through a simplified process of capturing and expressing the essence of natural elements and organizing the elements into a cohesive pictorial statement using oil paint. \$75/\$85. kstark72@gmail.com. 703-569-8760.

Fishburne Education Fair. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Fair Oaks Marriott, 11787 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Fishburne Military School (Waynesboro, VA) invites interested students and parents to meet with members of the admissions team to learn more about the benefits of military school education. Call 1-800-946-7773 for more information.

Slovak American Society of Washington Annual Picnic. Noon-5 p.m. 12910 Westbrook Drive, Fairfax. Members and guests invited. \$15-\$30. RSVP by June 6: SASW, P.O. Box 2502; Springfield, VA 22152-2502. For information call Raymond Luca at 703-475-8356.

Bingo Fundraiser. 1-3 p.m. St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Proceeds benefit the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke (SCFB) and its work for area seniors. \$10. Purchase tickets at the door or at 703-426-2824.

SUNDAY/JUNE 12

Teen Writer's Workshop. 2-4 p.m. Barnes and Noble Fairfax, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Ms. Raasch, the author of the Snow Like Ashes trilogy will lead an interactive workshop for aspiring writers. Complimentary refreshments, with limited seating. Reserve your space by emailing CRM293@bn.com.

Sunday Afternoon in the Park. 2-4 p.m. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Live music in Old Town Square. 703-385-7858.

TUESDAY/JUNE 14

Ali: Leaving an Ethical Jewish Legacy. Noon-1:30 p.m.

Congregation Adat Reymim, 6500 Westbury Oaks Court, Springfield. Rabbi Bruce Aft leads a discussion on the meaning of Jewish ethics and what we want to pass along to our loved ones. \$24/\$36. 703-537-3068. jccnv.org.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 15

Afternoon Tea at Strathmore

11:45 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Enjoy full tea at the Shapiro Music Room at Strathmore. \$37/\$42. 703-537-3095. Michele.Endick@jccnv.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 18

Civil War Mosby Bus Tour. 8:30 a.m. Truro Rectory, 10520 Main St., Fairfax. Visiting Miskell's Farm, Waterford, Loudoun Heights, Charlestown, West Virginia, the Jefferson County Museum, the Blazer's Fight site (Kabletown) and more. Arrive at 8 a.m. to sign in. \$75/\$65. Sign up at 703-971-4984 or dhakenson@verizon.net.

Lovers and Madmen Opening Reception.

8 a.m.-midnight. Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Exhibit of local artists. epicurecafe.org.

Father and Daughter Dance.

6-9 p.m. Stacy C. Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Girls dress in their beautiful gowns and dads dress to impress. There will be special fairy-tale guests joining. Girls celebrate Father's Day with your dads, granddad, big brothers, godfathers, and family members. There will be lots of dancing, games, prizes, and good food. \$30. fairfaxva.gov/parksrec. 703-385-7858.

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Frosh Connolly Helps Robinson Boys' Lax Reach State Final

Rams beat Colonial Forge, will try for third straight state title.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Robinson boys' lacrosse team was playing well and Declan Connolly was holding his own, but the freshman attackman admitted he was still a little nervous after the Rams defeated T.C. Williams in the opening round of the region tournament.

Connolly has been one of Robinson's most dangerous playmakers, but he was still a ninth-grade starter in his first postseason with a program that had won the last two state championships.

Three weeks later, Connolly's postseason nerves seem to have disappeared. Meanwhile, opponents' hopes of keeping Robinson from reaching a third consecutive state championship game have also vanished.

Connolly totaled three goals and four assists and Robinson defeated Colonial Forge 14-3 in the 6A state semifinals on Tuesday night at Coffey Stadium. The Rams (19-2) will try to capture their third straight state championship when they take on James



CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Robinson freshman Declan Connolly had three goals and four assists during the Rams' 14-3 win over Colonial Forge on Tuesday in the 6A state semifinals.

River in the state final on Saturday, June 11 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

CONNOLLY scored the game's first goal and assisted the next three. Robinson led 9-0 midway through the second quarter and never looked back.

"I feel way settled in with the offense and the team now," Connolly said, "because [of] the practice we've put in and getting used to playing in these big games, like the Woodson game last week. ... I definitely feel more confident handling the ball and going to goal and taking shots that I know I can make."

The "Woodson game" was in reference to

"I definitely feel more confident handling the ball and going to goal and taking shots that I know I can make."

— Robinson freshman Declan Connolly

the 6A North region championship game on May 31. Robinson erased Cavalier leads of 6-1 and 13-6 before pulling out a 15-14 overtime victory that earned the Rams their second region title in three years and a first-round bye in the state tournament. Connolly had three goals and two assists in the contest.

"Honestly, [Connolly's performance on Tuesday was] nothing different than what I've seen all year," Robinson head coach Matt Curran said. "If he's had nerves, I haven't seen them. He's been solid all year long. ... He doesn't play like a freshman. He plays like a senior."

Johnny Daniel, one of Robinson's senior leaders, said Connolly has proven he belongs at the varsity level and the elder Rams rarely make No. 22 take care of such freshman duties as removing goals from the field after practice.

"At the start of the playoffs he was still

doing well, but it's natural for freshmen to get some nerves," Daniel said. "He's really ... grown into the player that he is and that he can become. At this point, he's not really even a freshman anymore. It's the end of the year, he's been starting for us almost every single game — basically all the games that he hasn't been injured. He's really not playing like a freshman at all anymore. I can count on him to handle any pass that I make to him. ... I always trust him and he's got some great vision, too."

Daniel and fellow senior VMI signee Austin Henry each had big games against Colonial Forge, as well. Henry finished with five goals and an assist and Daniel tallied four goals and an assist.

Junior attackman Liam Curran had four assists for Robinson. Junior midfielder Sam Swagerty and sophomore attackman Holden Patterson each had one goal and junior midfielder Nick Dillon had an assist.

"This season has been just an awesome ride," Daniel said. "I'm trying to leave a legacy with me and my brothers on my senior line ... for Robinson lacrosse for the younger guys to keep feeding off of. The guys above me did the same thing — people like (2015 graduates) Jack Rowlett and Chapman Jasien, (and 2014 graduates) Matt Smith and Sam Shaw the year before — I'm trying to be the same positive role model that I can be and try to get this last ring."

Defense Key as Robinson Girls' Lax Clinches Trip to State Final

Skrzypczak, Kluegel, lead Rams back to state title game.

BY AARON LUNDMARK
THE CONNECTION

There are many things to behold about the Robinson girls' lacrosse team.

The consistent offensive pressure, and regular faceoff success are a couple, but perhaps the most undervalued part of the Rams' success resides in the backend, with the reliable defense and goalkeeping they've been playing over the past two seasons.

The Rams' defensive play was key in driving them to a 19-7 victory over Centreville Tuesday night at Robinson Secondary School, earning them a trip back to the VHSL 6A state championship game, a game they won about a year ago.

"I think we've worked a lot on our defense this year, and it's shown," said Emily Skrzypczak, an Ohio State commit. "When our defense can get a takeaway and run it up, we can give such a good push for our offense."

The offense got a great push early on as three goals from Elli Kluegel and a goal from Taylor Caskey had them up 4-1 early on.



CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Emily Skrzypczak and the Robinson girls' lacrosse team earned their second straight trip to the state championship game.

Centreville stormed back, however, with back-to-back goals by Elizabeth Murphy before a goal by Jamie Chang tied it at 4 midway through the first half, causing Robinson head coach Liz Case to call a timeout.

"I just basically said they had to get tougher and they had to want it," said Case. "[Centreville] showed up early ready to play—we had to show we wanted to win and fight back. For the most part I think we did that."

What Case said made a difference, as after the timeout the Rams scored seven unanswered goals, including two by Katie Checkosky and two more by Caskey, which gave Robinson the 11-4 halftime lead.

"It's not often you get to go to a state championship game twice in your career, but to win two state championships has become the goal now."

— Robinson junior Elli Kluegel

"Coach [Case] wasn't happy, I'm not going to lie," Kluegel said. "It's not often we're down like that early, so it was a different situation for us. But coach told us if we wanted to win this game it had to start right then, and we stepped on the gas and didn't let off."

That proved to be the big momentum swing of the match, as Robinson didn't look back from there, and the Rams' defense took over, allowing only three Wildcat goals the rest of the contest.

Another factor that helps the Rams defense stay consistent is the performance of goalkeepers Maddie Malone and Danielle Valenti.

"Our goalies are phenomenal," said Skrzypczak. "We all know we're going to make mistakes, but when you know you have someone behind you to back you up, it's a great feeling to know you have that."

After Centreville scored two quick goals to open up the second half, a momentum swing occurred again as Robinson rattled off another seven unanswered goals to push the lead to 18-6 with 12 minutes to play.

"The defense has been doing really well," said Case. "They're able to communicate well and do more things than they've ever done before. They've been working together for so long and they know each other well, so it's great to see them playing good together."

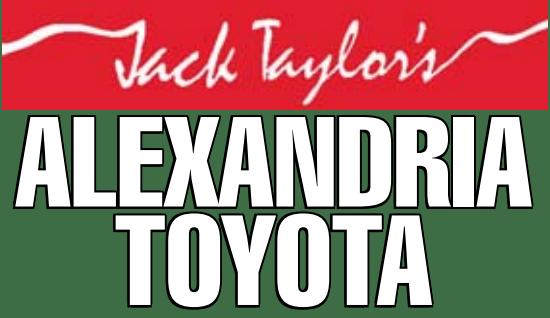
Each team would add one more goal each to make the final score 19-7 in favor of the defending state champs.

For Robinson, Kluegel and Caskey each netted five goals and an assist. Grace Tompkins, Kaitlin Luccarelli, and Checkosky also scored goals for the winners. Murphy scored four for Centreville while Chang and Emily Marciano also put in goals for the Wildcats.

As for back-to-back state title hopes, you can bet it's on the players' minds.

"Honestly, as a senior, this will be my last game ever [at Robinson] and I expect nothing other than a win," said Skrzypczak. "I love these girls, we're a family. So I'm definitely excited to play my heart out one last time with them."

Robinson (20-0) will face Woodson for a shot at winning its second consecutive state championship Saturday, June 11 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.



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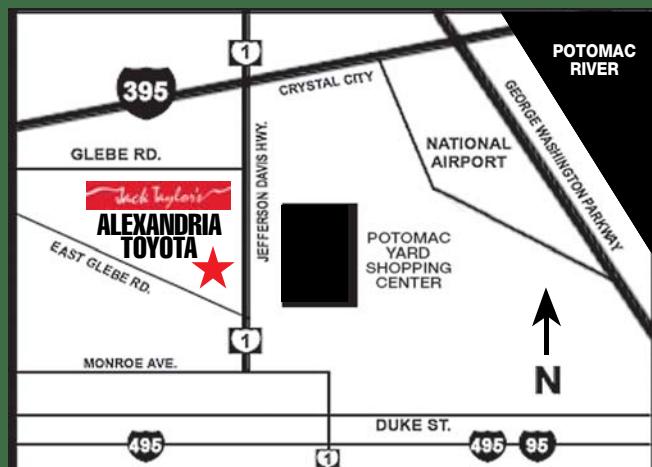
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WEDNESDAY/JUNE 15

Public Hearing on Monopolies and Towers Zoning Ordinance. 8:15 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Planning commission hearing. fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz.

Community Forums on Community Accessibility.

6:30-8:30 p.m. Mott Community Center, 12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Hosted by Fairfax Area Disability Board. The board will review the forum information to develop an action plan that addresses community recommendations, barriers, and service gaps. disabilityservices@fairfaxcounty.gov. 703-324-5874.

Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling Meeting.

7:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee District) will attend. fabb-bikes.org.

MONDAY-TUESDAY/JUNE 20-21

AARP Smart Driving Course. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Learn to adjust your skills to compensate for changes in hearing, vision, flexibility, and reaction time. Participants who attend both days will receive a certificate for a discount on insurance for three years. \$15/\$20. Bring meatless lunch. 703-537-3060. Carla.Rosenfeld@jccnv.org.

TUESDAY/JUNE 21

NVTA Workshop. 7-9 p.m. Providence District Office, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. In-person meetings are designed to capture feedback from a broad range of participants. Register at www.eventbrite.com/. Type Northern Virginia Transportation Authority to search for the public workshops.

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.

Irene Martinko, of Springfield, is on the spring 2016 dean's list at Muhlenberg College in Allentown Pennsylvania.

James F. Agnew, Kyle T. Deivert and Nathaniel Oliver, of Fairfax, are on the dean's list at Hampden-Sydney College.

Cameron Kisailus, of Franconia, graduated from Gonzaga College High School. He will be attending the University of Pittsburgh.

Michael Gerlach's, of Fairfax Station, is on the dean's list at James Madison University for spring 2016.

Kara Anne Crennan, an alumna of West Springfield High School Class of 2011, graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in June 2016.

Liana Ruiz was awarded the Virginia Credit Union Scholarship of \$2,500 scholarship. She will graduate from Robinson High School in June 2016 and will attend Virginia Tech in the fall.

Ketty Klimchuk, of Fairfax, is on the spring 2016 dean's list at Johnson State College in Vermont.

Abdullah Al Nouman, of Fairfax, graduated with a master of science, biomedical sciences from Iowa State University in spring 2016.

Robel Teffera, of Fairfax, graduated in spring 2016 with a bachelor of science in international business from Quinnipiac University.

May 2016 Oregon State University graduates from Burke include, **Kimberly L. Ogren**, doctor of philosophy, geography; **Jacob M. Sage**, bachelor of science, cum laude, construction engineering management.

Jennifer S. Richards, of Lorton, graduated with a bachelor of science, earth sciences from Oregon State University in May 2016.

Jeffrey A. Renner, of Fairfax is on the dean's list for spring 2016 at Baylor University.

Alexandra Hoenscheid, of Springfield, received the University of Mary Washington Alumni Award upon her graduation in May 2016.



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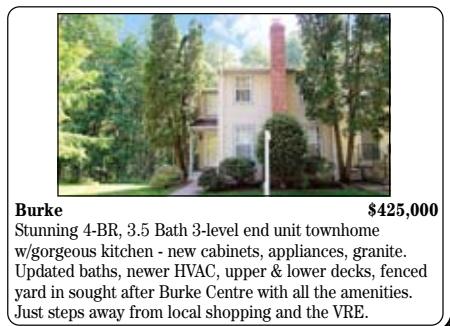


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