

Springfield CONNECTION

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7954 Hidden Bridge Drive, Springfield. "There's no real obstacles out there, no real cliffs. New buyers don't know what it was like eight years ago," said Dane Work of Re/Max Preferred Properties, Fairfax.

Fairfax County's
Homeless Population
Declines 12 Percent

NEWS, PAGE 4

Serving Others
On Spring Break?

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Housing Market Update

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WELLBEING

PAGE 8

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY DANE WORK

VEHICLE exchange PROGRAM

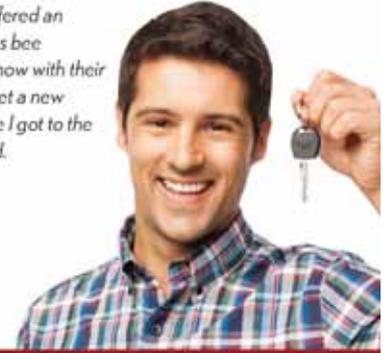
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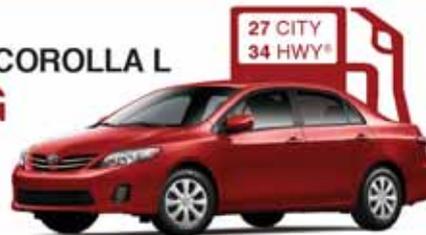
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Housing Market: Strong, But Slowing

Energized housing marketplace, but government cuts will eventually cool things down.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

A few weeks ago, George Mason University Professor Stephen Fuller, Ph.D, published an update of his July 17, 2012 report that projected imminent and hard-hitting economic effects from sequestration. A main component of the update regards the government mellowing the blow by using furloughs rather than layoffs. Payroll reductions still add up to equivalent job losses, the report explains, but the negative economic response ought to be slower to take effect.

Given the nose-to-nose nature of government spending and real estate economy, particularly in Northern Virginia, these calming words should inspire more confidence in a market that is already thriving.

First, interest rates have been in the basement: Freddie Mac reported a 30-Year Fixed-Rate of 3.57 percent for March this year, as opposed to 3.95 percent in March 2012 and 4.84 percent in 2011 (for reference, March 2005 was 5.93 percent).

Second, home prices are rising: RealEstate Business Intelligence reported a 10.23 percent increase in average sold price in Fairfax County between February 2012 and 2013. Even though inventory is shrinking across the county, distressed sales (foreclosures and short sales, for the uninitiated) are down. On the whole, everyone has warm fuzzies about the market.

"It's as healthy as it's ever been," said Dane Work, an associate broker with Re/Max Preferred Properties in Fairfax. "Everything is a hot potato. The whole market is red hot, white hot."

BUT HOW LONG until the extended honeymoon phase is over? And what will that market look like? According to GMU Professor of Finance Gerald Hanwek, a lot like it has before.

"The hype is, fundamentally, what you would expect from a market like this," said Hanwek, "not very dynamic, as had been in the past. For quite a while, this has been a terrific housing market in Fairfax County."

Hanwek came to GMU in 1985 after spending nearly two decades in the research division at the Federal Reserve Board. Today, in addition to teaching MBA finance courses, he is also associate dean for graduate programs.

The professor has seen real estate go through cycle after cycle over the decades, and is convinced "it really just took time to allow housing prices to get on a path of ris-



9816 Amsterdam Street, Lorton. "We may be building faster cars, but if there's fewer cars to sell, car sales won't make much money," said Ron Kowalski.

ing, at a rate they had in the past.

"When I first came here in 1968," Hanwek continued, "the thought was housing prices should always go up 10 percent a year. That was a rule. And in fact they did for some time."

Then, of course, there were bumps in the late 1970s and early 80s: double digit inflation caused price rising to slow and mortgages were harder to come by. The 80s and 90s looked more hopeful, but then an early 90s recession put the brakes on again.

"Now we've hit a plateau," said Hanwek, "to where we probably should take off and start having price rises between 4 and 6 percent a year, on average, for residential properties. Once we hit that, and that's been happening now for several years, prices are high enough—after they had fallen in 2005 and 2006—that people are willing to buy and sell. Enough time has passed."

But interest rates won't stay down; they can't, at least not much past 2014. And sequestration will take effect, whether government agencies start cutting expenditures in earnest later this year or into the next. "We're going to see a considerable slowdown in government spending," said Hanwek. "It's going to affect this area disproportionately, and it affects the housing market quickly."

And when the cuts do truly sink in? Fairfax County is an expensive place to live: furloughed workers and government contractors without projects will have a harder time affording to stay. Potential replacements could come from the service industry, but their salaries can't compete with those in the defense industry.

"There's going to be, perhaps, a real depression of price at the top line for homes as opposed to the lower price homes," said Hanwek. "\$300,000-\$400,000—in that range, they're not going to be as depressed. We'll go back to that two-tier question. It's happened here a lot and it will happen again."

Hanwek expects a repeat of what this

area saw between 1989 and 1990, when a slowdown in military spending caused the population of Northern Virginia to drop by 50,000.

"The long-term outlook is for slowing home sales and stagnating prices," he said. But, "after several years, after we've absorbed what's happening with the Federal Government, then prices will start to rise on their trend levels again. We're just running out of property, the supply is dwindling."

WHY THE DWINDLING SUPPLY? There are several factors, according to Hanwek, all of which result in people hanging on to their properties. Among them is a gradual increase in the number of retirees in this area. Another is people simply waiting to see how high prices will rise. And though more prevalent on the west coast, there are also more instances of business investors buying properties to rent.

But none of this should dissuade anyone, encouraged Hanwek. "Sell. Sell and buy," he said. "If you want to move, sell now, buy now. Buying six months ago would be even better, buying a year ago would've been even better. But buy. Over the next year, two years, it's going to be a good market. After that we're going to see Federal Government cuts actually start to impact."

"I'm incredibly optimistic," said Work. "I have been for about a year and a half. It makes me look like a saint. The writing was on the wall for some of this."

"It's such a great opportunity for the end user, for occupants," he continued. "Everybody's got to live somewhere. Now is the time to lock in on something and secure it."

That's assuming everybody qualifies for a mortgage right away. Which can be difficult.

However, "if they loosen the standards too much," cautioned Hanwek, "we'll be back in the world of the subprime loan: 110 percent funding of their house, and that's absurd. We know what happens." Hopefully,

VIEWPOINTS

'Perfect Storm' in Area Real Estate Market

Patricia Mancini, Avery-Hess Realtors, Springfield

"Being a bedroom to D.C., Springfield is a commuter's dream: VRE, buses, etc. It's an affordable target, more so than Arlington. Though prices have gone up 22 percent since



February a year ago (average was \$285,635 in 2012, \$349,015 in 2013). But we have hardly any inventory, only 41 active listings, 25 attached townhouses. It just breaks my heart. As soon as we get a listing, it's sold. Just March alone, we had 11 listings, eight have sold. We still have buyers coming in. They're frantic. They feel like they're missing the market. And frankly, they are. Multiple markets are being done. It's absolutely incredible what's going on. I feel like it's all over and we didn't learn our lesson back in 2005. They're coming out of their short sales, allowed to get loans. They've saved their money, have good credit. They're going conventional; there's a pecking order. Cash talks."

Ron Kowalski, Ron & Susan Associates, affiliated with Re/Max Gateway, Lorton

"Distressed sales are down incredibly over the last year, in the county as well as Lorton. In March 2012, they made up 44.4 percent of the market in Lorton. In March 2013: 18.2 percent. Foreclosures only make up 4 percent of that 18.2 percent and 14 percent are short sales. Eighty-two percent are regular sales. A year ago, regular sales were only 55.6 percent. But right now in Lorton, there are only 55 homes on the market. In March of 2012, only 48 houses on the market. Five years ago, in 2008, there were 307 active. That's huge. That's crazy. Sales are suffering, there's just not enough to sell. Lorton still has some negative perceptions because of the prison, even though it's closed. But once people get here and realize what's happening, the great parks and trails—it's one of the fastest growing parts of the county. Except there's no big scale building being done, not a nice balance of homes being built to keep up with the continued influx to this location. It goes in cycles. A need will create the urgency; it will be corrected and fixed."



—TIM PETERSON

THE COUNTY LINE

Fairfax County's Homeless Population Declines 12 Percent

Emphasis on rapid re-housing, prevention keys to success.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Despite the developing impact of across-the-board sequester cuts, and the rising cost of rental housing, the homeless population in Fairfax County declined 12 percent in the past year, and 26 percent since 2007.

"It's a remarkable achievement," said Michael O'Reilly, chairman of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness, who released the figures Monday, April 1, along with Dean Klein, Fairfax County's director of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH).

According to Fairfax County's annual "point-in-time" survey, the number of homeless individuals decreased by 184 people, from 1,534 in 2012 to 1,350 in 2013. Since 2007, the number of homeless individuals decreased by nearly 500 people or 26 percent—from 1,813 in 2007 to 1,350 in 2013.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that jurisdictions across the nation conduct a statistically reliable and unduplicated count of the homeless over the course of one day in January. The survey covers only those who are literally homeless—in shelters, in time-limited transitional housing or those who are unsheltered and living on the street.

THE GOAL of the count is to identify the number of homeless people at a given point in time and to collect demographic information about those who are homeless to provide direction for future development of housing and services. It is also a requirement to qualify for state and federal funds.

"When we launched the 10-year plan in 2007, we fully expected to have some success," O'Reilly said. What Fairfax County did



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova speaks about her experiences interviewing some of the county's homeless population during "Registry Week," which kicked off the 100,000 Homes Campaign on Feb. 23. "This was something I will never forget. It was one of the most powerful experiences of my life," Bulova said.



Volunteers, elected officials and representatives from area organizations attended a community debrief on March 4 at the Jubilee Christian Center. The debrief was held to reveal the results of a countywide survey on homelessness held the last week of February.

not expect were economic hurdles such as the 2008 recession and this year's sequester. "I think with those challenges, if that number [1,813] had remained constant, and we managed to tread water, that would have been seen as a success. But we've managed to reduce those numbers."

Klein said Fairfax County's key initiatives, such as rapid re-housing and expanding the range and availability of prevention services and resources contributed to the decline in homeless individuals.

"These numbers are very encouraging and energizing for our community of nonprofit, government, business and faith community partners who are working day-in and day-out on behalf of some of our most vulnerable citizens," Klein said. "I am pleased to see that the strategies embedded in our 10-year plan are working."

O'Reilly said the OPEH's effective implementation of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), which prioritizes transparency and allows the county to analyze data from a number of nonprofit service providers, is an "often overlooked indicator" that provides a valuable big picture of homelessness in the county.

"We also gained momentum from the re-

Highlights: 2013 Point-in-Time Count of Homeless

The PIT count was conducted on Jan. 30, 2013.

- ❖ Of the 1,350 people who were literally homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community, 747 were people in families (55 percent of all homeless), and 603 were single.
- ❖ Thirty-three percent (452 people) of all persons who were homeless were children under the age of 18, the same percentage as last year.
- ❖ There were 19 fewer families who were homeless in 2013 compared to 2012, with 90 fewer people, including 53 fewer children and 37 fewer adults.
- ❖ Fifty-eight percent of adults in homeless families were employed. In 2012, 59 percent of adults in families were employed.
- ❖ In 2013, 27 percent of all persons in families were homeless due to domestic violence, a decrease from 40 percent in 2012. Thirty percent of families identified domestic violence as the reason for homelessness.
- ❖ Single individuals account for 45 percent of all homeless persons counted, a total of 603 people.
- ❖ Single adults decreased by 13 percent (94 adults) compared to 2012.
- ❖ Fifty-seven percent (341 people) of single adults who were homeless suffered from serious mental illness and/or substance abuse, a decrease from 64 percent in 2012, and many had chronic health problems and/or physical disabilities.
- ❖ Twenty-two percent (134 people) of single adults were employed, and 9 percent (57 people) were identified as veterans.

cent 100,000 Homes Campaign, but we still need new resources, new partners, ideas and affordable housing," Klein said.

"Affordable housing continues to be a challenge," O'Reilly said. "Although we have seen success in the past four years, we have significant challenges ahead with sequestration and the rising rental housing costs."

A BRIEFING on point-in-time highlights from around the region is planned for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments board meeting on April 10. The highlights will be available next month through Fairfax County's website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless>.

Bulova Appoints Mary Cortina, Faisal Khan to Park Authority Board

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) recently appointed two new representatives to the Fairfax County Park Authority Board.

Faisal Khan, the first Pakistani-American member of the Park Authority Board, is a force in Fairfax County cricket circles and has been a strong advocate for the game. He is a founding member and current manager of the DC Metro Area Cricket League and is also the captain of his team, the Comets. Cricket—a bat and ball game—was first played in southern England in the 16th century. The expansion of the British Empire led to cricket being played overseas, and the first in-

ternational cricket match was held in Karachi in 1935. Although field hockey is the national sport of Pakistan, cricket is the most popular sport in the country, according to the National Cricket Association.

Khan's first official park events took place last year when he participated in a ribbon-cutting for two new turf fields at the Oak Marr RecCenter in Vienna. Both fields are striped for multiple sports, including cricket.

Khan, an advocate for all sports, said he believes that sports play a vital role in bringing together diverse communities.

"Mr. Khan is a local business owner and will bring a valuable perspective to the board," Bulova said. "In business, Mr. Khan is a great advocate for product quality and

excellent customer service, two attributes that our excellent park system embraces as well."

Mary Cortina has been an active and engaged member of the Fairfax Community. For nearly a decade, she worked for the National Wildlife Federation supporting their mission of wildlife preservation in a variety of different roles. As a member of the Burke Centre Board of Trustees, she played a leadership role in assisting with the design of a new parking garage in the Burke community.

In 2007, Cortina was appointed to serve on the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance Exception Review Committee, and continues to make contributions to the

county in this capacity.

"In addition to Mary Cortina's extensive volunteer background," said Bulova, "she also brings business acumen to the table, having served in a variety of positions dedicated to technical support, planning and budget."

Khan and Cortina will take the place of Jan Hedetniemi, who is now at-large planning commissioner and Marie Reinsdorf. Bulova said she is excited that these new appointees will be able to contribute "fresh enthusiasm and perspectives" to the mix of talent already on the Park Authority Board.

—VICTORIA ROSS

West Springfield High Students Advance to State Competition

Seven West Springfield High students have qualified to advance to the National History Day state competition after finishing in first or second place at the District 5 competition. First place winners were Grayce Angle in Individual Performance for "The Change from the Classical to the Romantic Periods;" Meghan Holub and Lauren Catington in Group Exhibits for "Great Fire of London;" Gabi Milef in Website Individual for "Edward Jenner: The Slayer of the Speckled Monster;" and Amy VanderBerghe, Briana Bittner, and Brett Bowker in Group Documentary for "Tesla." Seven students received honorable mentions.

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OPINION

April Is Poetry Month

Send us your poems, your Mother's Day photos, and even your poems about mothers.

April is poetry month, and we invite our readers to share their poems with us. Some will appear in the print edition and some will appear online.

We'd love to have a note from you about what inspired your poetry, and an illustration, photo of you, etc., are welcomed as well. Include the text of your poem, your name and address (we will only print your name and town name, not your full address), email address and phone number to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

Here are some poetry happenings from around the area:

Alexandria's new poetry society, based at the Duncan Library, will hold its second meeting at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub on April 8 from 8-10 p.m. and will explore beat poetry. For more, contact the Duncan Library at 703-746-1705.

At presstime, Alexandria was expected to announce the name of the new Alexandria Poet Laureate, replacing Amy Young.

Bernadette Geyer of Vienna was selected for the 2012 Hilary Tham Capital Collection for

her poetry manuscript, "The Scabbard of Her Throat."

The Iota Club and Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, holds an annual poetry event on Mother's Day. This year's event, Sunday, May 12, 6-8 p.m., will feature Bernadette Geyer of Vienna and James Arthur. Iota Club and Café is at 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington.

Virginia's current Poet Laureate, Sofia M. Starnes, has launched The Nearest Poem Anthology project, which will collect 50-100 poems submitted by Virginia residents "that are most meaningful to us and thus create a testimony to the immediacy of poetry and its closeness to everyday life." Submissions will be accepted through June, and should include the full text of the poem, the name of the poet and the source, including where you encountered the poem, and 200-250 words of persuasive explanation of why you selected the poem. "This should include some information about yourself and why you consider your selected poem 'nearest' to you," Starnes writes. "The compelling nature of your write-up — your story — will play an important role in the se-

Contrary to Popular Belief

Poem by Bernadette Geyer of Vienna
We are not even
as solid
as a pan flute
carved from a grain of rice
passed down
through generations
in folk tales and dreams.

Information about submitting your favorite poem for a Virginia anthology: <http://sofiastarnes.com/NearestPoemAnthologyBrochure.pdf>.

lection of the poems to be included." Visit <http://sofiastarnes.com/NearestPoemAnthologyBrochure.pdf>.

Mother's Day Photos

Mother's Day is May 12 and every year at this time we call for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery. Send photos of you and your mother, grandmothers, great-grandmothers. Please name everyone in the photo, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. Send photos to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

You can also submit poetry, poetry about mothers and photos celebrating mothers directly through our website at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>.

EDITORIAL

Paying More for Less

Poorer taxpayers are hit the hardest.

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN COOK
(R-BRADDOCK)

When it was first presented to the board, I described the county executive's proposed FY 2014 budget as asking taxpayers to pay more for the same services, and asking county employees to work harder for the same pay. It's clear that county taxpayers are hurt by this budget. The average home assessment increased by 3 percent, and I know many in Braddock saw higher increases than that. The county executive also added 2 cents to the rate. That is bad enough, but making matters worse, poorer taxpayers are hit the hardest.

In one condominium community in working class Annandale, assessments went up over 20 percent and middle class townhouses are, on average, up more than single family homes. The result is that some lower and middle class taxpayers will see huge tax increases due to assessments. This adds to an already increased burden as the two-year payroll tax holiday ended this year and the new transportation funding bill (a good thing for Fairfax overall) means the sales tax will go up a full percent.

Whenever taxes are raised, some automatically conclude that government must be out-of-control with rampant spending increases. While that makes for a great political sound bite, it's not always accurate. Total general fund disbursements increase only 1.45 percent in the county executive's proposed budget, less than the local 1.8 percent inflation rate—all in all, a rather flat budget.

What explains the proposed county tax increase then? A year ago, the county projected commercial



real estate growth of about 8 percent. That was the increase last year, and would be consistent with normal growth at the end of a recession (commercial real estate is the last to enter and the last to recover from a recession). Instead, this year commercial real estate assessments did not grow at all. Since commercial real estate is

roughly 20 percent of the real estate tax, that fact alone accounts for almost all of the 2-cent rate increase proposed by the county executive.

Commercial real estate has stalled almost entirely due to uncertainty over the federal budget. It's not sequestration itself that's the problem; it's that no one knows what is coming next. Business needs certainty. The federal government is operating on three-month continuing resolutions. In contrast, the county budget we vote on this month runs through June 2014. Unless and until there is some long-range certainty in the federal budget, commercial real estate will remain stagnant and residential taxpayers will either make up the difference or see county services decrease.

I am hopeful our board will scale back the county executive's proposed tax increase and come together with a common sense consensus budget. But no matter what the final terms are, it won't be pretty. The truth is, we are going to pay more for less, and that's the real life consequence of what is happening in Washington, D.C.

LETTERS

A Photo ID: Victory for Voters

To the Editor:

The voters of Virginia won a great victory when Governor McDonnell signed SB 1256, which changes Virginia's law to require a recent photo ID as the only acceptable identification for voting. Thus, a positive identification can now be made with a visual check to verify that the person coming to vote is actually who he claims to be. The existing law allows a number of passive identifiers such as a voter registration card or even a utility bill which proves nothing other than that the person has in his possession a piece of paper with a name and address on it. The person's identity is not verified.

Voters across the commonwealth now can be assured that their individual vote will not be nullified by a fraudulent vote. Opponents of this bill will argue that there is no evidence of fraudulent voting and thus SB 1256 attempts to solve a problem that does not exist. However, when non-verifiable identification is allowed, it is virtually impossible to identify and convict fraudulent voters except in the most flagrant of cases where multiple votes are

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

proven to be cast by a single voter or where the person attempting to vote is clearly known not to be the voter listed in the registration book.

Photo identification has become a necessary requirement for many of our routine daily activities. Yet, somehow opponents of this bill believe that proving our identity to exercise our constitutional right to vote is less important than proving our identity before boarding an airplane or cashing a check at a bank or donating blood. Since the new law provides for free photo IDs to be issued to those few without one, it is meaningless to claim that requiring a photo ID for voting will disenfranchise various groups such as the poor, the elderly and minority groups. In fact, studies from other states have shown just the opposite result. Voter registration and turnout have actually increased within these groups after enactment of a photo ID law.

Anne Damon
Fairfax

each of these media left out was that over one quarter of the people surveyed by the army of volunteers were over age 55. Much was said about the 23 percent of those surveyed that fell into the 18-34 age bracket. I think most would agree that people in this age bracket are physically more able to withstand the rigors of being homeless than people over the age of 55—and especially more so than those over the age of 70. People age 18-34 are also much more able to gain employment than seniors. I could go on, but am just curious why not one media outlet (including The Connection) chose not even to mention this fact. Like most people, I would like to see homelessness totally eradicated in our county and all counties for that matter.

Seeing senior citizens living on the streets, in their cars and in county homeless shelters is particularly unnerving. Hopefully others will feel the same way.

Robert Paxton
Falls Church

An Overlooked Aspect of Homelessness

To the Editor:

Thank you for the well written article, "Putting a Face on Homelessness," by Victoria Ross (The Connection, March 6-12, 2013). There were also articles and stories in local media, including The Washington Post, local radio and TV stations. One thing

An Interesting Perspective

To the Editor:

I found Andrea Worker's article, "Muslim Women Encouraged to Explore STEM" [Connection, March 28-April 3, 2013] to be well-written as well as informative. It brought an interesting perspective to an issue affecting the continued progress of America.

Maha Habbal
Fairfax

BULLETIN BOARD

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.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 10

NARFE Springfield Chapter Meeting. 1 p.m., at the American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave. Springfield. Experts will talk about growth and changes of Springfield, including the total remodeling of Springfield Mall and the addition of new hotels. 703-569-9684
orharahan@verizon.net

ONGOING

John Witt Chapter of the Colonial Dames of the 17th Century. The patriotic, genealogical and heraldic society for women of lineal descendants of an ancestor who lived or served prior to 1701 in one of the original colonies in the geographical area of the present U.S. is accepting new members; the chapter meets four times yearly. jsmithtot@aol.com

Mount Vernon Rep. Dan Storck Community Office Hours. 10 a.m.-noon, at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. School Board Member and Mount

Vernon District Representative Dan Storck hosts drop-in community office hours the second Saturday of each month. Dan.Storck@fcps.edu or Barbara.Larsen@fcps.edu.

Volunteer Computer Instructor

needed at the Lorton Senior Center, 7722 Gunston Plaza, Lorton. Classes for beginners (using the mouse, writing and saving letters, navigating the internet, email, etc.) and advanced beginners (computer maintenance, search engines, websites for seniors, email address books, skype, shopping and paying bills online, etc.) are in need of teachers. 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices.

Thank veterans for their service

via the post: draw or write a note of thanks and encouragement—no need to seal in envelopes, Adopt a Soldier will do that—and send to Americas Adopt A Soldier, P.O. Box 1049, Springfield, VA 22151. www.americasadoptsoldier.org.

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 - Homework Stress-Proofing
 - Tips for Talking with Your Teen*
 - Current Youth Substance Use Trends*
- * Offered in Spanish and Korean
Translation services available upon request

Contact

Lisa Adler
lkadler@supotairfax.org

Funded partially by Virginia ABC, Virginia SPF-SIG, and federal STOP and Drug Free Communities grants

The Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County (UPC) is a nonprofit organization with more than 50 community partners working together to keep youth and young adults safe and drug-free.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2013



Urban Plunge installing electric fencing at NVTRP.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Serving Others on Spring Break?

Spring break means something entirely different to a group of youth from Springfield.

BY BRIAN MEIGHEN

Spring break can mean so many things to different people. Just in hearing the term we think of white sandy beaches, sleeping in late and of course the end of winter. However, spring break means something entirely different to a group of youth from Springfield: it means an opportunity to serve others.

Each spring break at Messiah United Methodist Church begins with an opportunity for the church youth to serve others within the D.C. metro area. This is not a plush service project where people stay in hotels or travel to exotic locations. These youth stay right here in our local area, sleeping and eating in their church youth center and provide service to help others. This is a longstanding service project within the church, with 2013 being the 20th anniversary of the mission project, called Urban Plunge.

The impact these junior and senior high students make goes well beyond the actual work product that is created, which is significant. This impact brings hope, joy and a sense of caring to people who have never before met these youth. These youth spend four-and-a-half days in a wide variety of service projects ranging from working with small children in southeast D.C. daycare centers, working to prepare meals at the D.C. Central Kitchen, The Northern VA Therapeutic Riding Program, Food for Others, SERVE and the Soldiers Home in Washington, D.C., just to name a few of the projects.

In speaking with Urban Plunge Program Coordinator Deb Meighen, she stated that "we can serve so many different organizations because the team of 48 youth and adults breaks into four smaller groups each day, with each group of 12

independently working pre-arranged projects. Both the adult chaperones and the youth are simply amazing with sharing their gifts, talents and time.

"These youth are taken out of their comfort zones, away from their homes, their game systems, their cell phones and many of their friends. These youth come to serve with a joyous heart and a boundless desire to make our world a little better place," she said. Some of these programs have been supported annually by Urban Plunge while others are added each year.

Of course the impact of this program is felt inside the church as well. "Each of these youth are growing to know themselves and their faith a little better every day," says Monty Holcombe, one of the longtime adult leaders of the program. Many of these youth continue to serve on Urban Plunge year after year, realizing the importance of their work and learning that you can sometimes even have fun while you make what might be an important difference in someone's life.

On a bright but cool Saturday afternoon, Linda Aikey of the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (NVTRP) addressed the group after they had painted, installed an electric fence, landscaped, installed a new floor and improved a therapy room: "You can look around you and see the impact you have had today! Our organization depends upon volunteers like you to make sure that the property can be maintained and so that the Therapeutic Riding Program staff can dedicate their time to the NVTRP clients."

For these students, spring break is a time to make a fresh start and a positive difference for others. Over the years hundreds of youth have participated in this program and have volunteered many thousands of hours.

WELLBEING

Researchers Address 'Concussion Culture'

Education and proper health care are keys.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

With the impending warmer weather comes an increased number of children participating in outdoor activities. Some local health care professionals and researchers are issuing words of caution.

"More children will be outside playing with friends, riding bicycles and engaging in contact sports. These activities and others where impact is a possibility place children at risk for a concussion," said Dr. Faith Claman, who holds a doctor of nursing practice and is an assistant professor in the Malek School of Health Professions at Marymount University in Arlington.

Local educators say it is important to know the facts. "A concussion is a brain injury, which often occurs as a result of a fall or blow to the head or body, said Dr. Dalila Birem, associate medical director of Molina Healthcare of Virginia and Fairfax Community Health



PHOTO COURTESY GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Researchers in George Mason University's College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) joined the Advancing Healthcare Initiatives for Underserved Students (ACHIEVES) project to offer concussion education.

Care Network. "Normally, the brain is cushioned by fluid, but when jolted violently, the brain crashes into the skull, resulting in damage to the soft tissue."

Birem says that while some people may lose consciousness, more common symptoms of a concussion include headache, blurred vision, fatigue or irritability.

"Others may experience no symptoms at all [and] with rest, most people fully recover from a concussion," said Birem. "However, severe concussions or repeated incidents may lead to more serious

consequences, such as problems with speech, mobility or learning."

Researchers at George Mason University in Fairfax are taking action. "Concussions are running rampant across the country right now and it seems that no one, from middle school student athletes to professional players, are exempt," said university spokeswoman Catherine J. Probst. "As a result, some states are enacting new laws to change this concussion culture. Virginia's General Assembly [passed legislation] that requires student athletes and their parents

to receive annual concussion education. ... The law also states that schools form concussion management teams to provide and document concussion education for students, staff, coaches and parents."

Implementing the legislation presents challenges, however. "Many Virginia public schools lack the necessary resources to properly deliver concussion education," she continued.

To address the dearth of resources, researchers in Mason's College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) joined the Advancing Healthcare Initiatives for Underserved Students (ACHIEVES) project to offer effective medical care and concussion education.

"The project has already reached more than 80,000 student athletes, staff, coaches and parents to deliver more effective medical care and concussion education," Probst said.

ACHIEVES offers services that run the gamut from implementing an electronic medical record-keeping program to offering both online and face-to-face sessions. Probst says university researchers hope the ACHIEVES project will serve as a model for other school systems at the local, regional and national levels as more states enact concussion laws.

Residents Receive Free Dental Care

Event was part of The Northern Virginia Dental Society's 10th Annual Mission of Mercy

Several hundred low income and uninsured residents of Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax County received free dental care recently when the Northern Virginia Dental Society (NVDS) hosted its 10th Annual Mission of Mercy (MOM) project.

During the two-day event, which was held at Northern Virginia Community College's Medical Education Campus in Springfield, area dental care professionals donated their time and expertise to help those in need.

"It really is an incredible initiative and I truly believe in the work that the Northern Virginia Dental Society does. There were so many volunteers, especially dentists helping hundreds and hundreds of patients. This was my second year helping out," said

Jenny Del Carpio, of Molina Healthcare, one of the event's sponsors.

A total of 844 low-income and uninsured received dental care. "The MOM Project ... was a wonderful event," emailed Cathy Griffanti, executive director, Northern Virginia Dental Society. "Many of the area legislators stopped by the project and witnessed the dedication of the oral health care providers in Northern Virginia and what we do to give back to the community."

Griffanti said that patients were pre-screened and pre-registered for the MOM Project through local social service agencies, and estimated that the value of services provided was approximately \$355,000.

— MARILYN CAMPBELL



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOLINA HEALTHCARE

A total of 844 low-income and uninsured patients received dental care during the Northern Virginia Dental Society's 10th Annual Mission of Mercy (M.O.M.) project.

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Local families hunt for Easter eggs at Pohick Bay Regional Park Wednesday, March 27.



PHOTOS BY
LASHAWN AVERY-SIMON/
THE CONNECTION

Hunting for Eggs at Pohick Bay Park



Leah Tesema snatches an egg during the Easter Egg Hunt at Pohick Bay Regional Park.



Lena Resson shows off her Easter egg on Wednesday, March 27.

The Easter Bunny arrives at the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Pohick Bay Regional Park Wednesday, March 27.



ENTERTAINMENT

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.

FRIDAY/APRIL 5

Battle of the Bands.

7-9:30 p.m., at South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Local rock bands compete for prizes at a night benefitting the South County HS Class of 2013 All Night Graduation Party; raffles, door prizes and concessions are available. \$7. SoCoANGP@cox.net.

SATURDAY/APRIL 13

Spring Faire.

10 a.m.-3 p.m., at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carleigh Parkway, Springfield. Jewelry, fashion, home decor, kitchen, garden, gourmet foods, door prizes and more to benefit Bethany House's work to help victims of child abuse. www.womansclubofspringfield.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 18

2013 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards.

8 a.m.-10 p.m., at Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. The Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards serve as a community-wide celebration of volunteerism and the awards honor individuals, groups and organizations that have given outstanding volunteer service. Nominations/online application are due Feb. 4 by 4 p.m. 703-246-3825 or www.volunteerfairfax.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 21

NTRAK display and N Gauge Trains.

1-4 p.m., at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax. Display of the Northern Virginia NTRAK (T-TRAK layout). \$3 for adults. \$1 for children. 703-425-9225 or www.fairfax-station.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 30

Event Planning Expo Open House.

4:30-7:30 p.m., at Empire Nightclub, 6335 Rolling Road, Springfield. Area vendors share information from open exhibit stations; exhibitor space available. lori@empire-nova.com or www.empirevenue.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 11

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Masterworks VI.

8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Christopher Zimmerman, tenor Brennen Guillory and soprano Joni Henson perform Wagner's "Prelude and Liebestod," Tristan und Isolde and Prelude to Act 3, Lohengrin; Verdi's Overture to La Forza del Destino, Overture to I vespri siciliani, Love Duet Finale Act I Otello, "Dio ti giocondi, O Sposo" Otello, "Dio mi potevi, scagliar" Otello, Willow Song Otello and "Libiamo," La Traviata. \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.



Sakura, Sakura by Lukaszewski.

Asian Art and Culture Day At the Workhouse

On Saturday, April 6, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton, is the National Cherry Blossom Festival and Asian Art and Culture Day, featuring workshops, demonstrations, performances, talks and exhibitions featuring Asian art and culture. Join for a Japanese tea tasting, origami workshops and film, brush painting demonstrations, artist talks, cherry tree planting and more. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 17

The Enchantment of Beauty and the Beast.

7 p.m., at Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. The Rose Hill Players will perform the play "The Enchantment of Beauty and the Beast." \$5 for adults. \$3 for children.

SATURDAY/MAY 18

The Enchantment of Beauty and the Beast.

7 p.m., at Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. The Rose Hill Players will perform the play "The Enchantment of Beauty and the Beast." \$5 for adults. \$3 for children.

THURSDAY/MAY 30

Friends of Richard Byrd Library Book Sale.

3-9 p.m., at Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Find media offerings of all kinds, many in pristine condition, to use as a gift or to start a summer reading stack; credit cards accepted. rbfriends@gmail.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 31

Friends of Richard Byrd Library Book Sale.

10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., at Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Find media offerings of all kinds, many in pristine condition, to use as a gift or to start a summer reading stack; credit cards accepted. rbfriends@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 1

Friends of Richard Byrd Library Book Sale.

10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Find media offerings of all kinds, many in pristine condition, to use as a gift or to start a summer reading stack; credit cards accepted. rbfriends@gmail.com.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 10

SUNDAY/JUNE 2

Friends of Richard Byrd Library

Bag Book Sale. Noon-3 p.m., at Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Find media offerings of all kinds, many in pristine condition, and fill a bag chalk full to take away for \$5; credit cards accepted. rbfriends@gmail.com.

ONGOING

John Witt Chapter, Colonial

Dames of 17th Century. The patriotic, genealogical and heraldic society for women of lineal descendants of an ancestor who lived or served prior to 1701 in one of the original colonies in the present U.S. is accepting new members. jsmithtot@aol.com.

Fairfax Station Artist in JCCNV Exhibit, 'Resistance Through Art'

Lynn Goldstein's work is part of the JCCNV exhibit Resistance Through Art, on view from now through April 15 at the Bodzin Art Gallery, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, with a reception on Sunday, April 7, from 5-8:30 p.m. The exhibit is sponsored by the JCCNV and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington. Goldstein's work is symbolic of the "everyday that was taken away from 6,000,000 people" in the Holocaust. www.lynngoldstein.com.



"Treatise," by Lynn Goldstein, who turns a new page on artwork to remember the Holocaust. European books are used in an interactive art installation to draw viewer's attention to the reality of the devastation.

FAITH NOTES

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

Knollwood Community Church Fellowship Center, 10000 Coffer Woods Road, Burke, holds a 12-week Stretch Your Faith-themed yoga class series through Saturday, May 16, on both Tuesday evenings from 6:15-7:30 p.m. and Thursday afternoons from 1:30-2:45 p.m. All levels are welcome; bring a yoga mat, towel and optional yoga strap and blocks. The first class is free. \$72 (one day per week) or \$8 drop-in rate. 571-239-3416, sandyro@holyyoga.net or www.facebook.com/holyyoganova.

Reverend Russell D. Heiland, Jr. has been appointed senior minister by the **Unity of Fairfax Board of Trustees.** During interviews at Unity of Fairfax, Rev. Heiland shared his enthusiasm for youth, family and campus ministries. He finds young adult ministry to be especially rewarding and invites church leaders to think, act and be outside the box.

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, www.fbtministries.org.

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 8:15, 9:45 and 11:15 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service. 7300 Gary Street, Springfield. 703-451-1500 www.fbcspRINGfield.org.

Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is at 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.poplc.org.

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The Ritz-Carlton
Tysons Corner**

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SPORTS

Robinson Boys' Lax Beats State Champ Langley

Sophomore Jasien leads Rams with three goals against Saxons.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

On March 27, the Robinson boys' lacrosse team lost to an unknown opponent. The following day, the Rams beat the four-time defending Virginia state champion, leading head coach Matt Curran to voice concern about his team potentially resting on its laurels.

While Curran might have to play the role of team psychologist, the Rams showed during spring break they can hang with the best.

Robinson defeated Langley 9-6 on Thursday, March 28, at the Ram Slam tournament at Robinson Secondary School. The Rams jumped out to a 5-0 lead against the four-time defending state champion Saxons and cruised to victory.

Now Curran will have to deal with any repercussions.

"It gives them confidence," Curran said. "What I don't want it to do is make them cocky, get their heads too big. ... We can't get complacent. We can't think, oh we beat Langley so we're really good. We lost [on March 27] to a team called Midlothian these guys have never heard of before. They're a good team. I feel like there's a lot of parity so we can't—and I've got to try to impart it on young guys—that we can't come out and think just because our name is this and their name is that that the game is going to go a certain way."



Robinson sophomore attackman Chapman Jasien scored three goals against Langley on March 28.

Robinson goalkeeper Nick Kondracki finished with 12 saves against Langley on March 28.

SOPHOMORE ATTACKMAN Chapman Jasien led the Rams on offense, scoring three goals. Jasien, listed at 5-feet-6, 140 pounds, led Robinson with 17 goals through five games.

"He's an exceptional player," Curran said. "... He's not a big guy, but he's super quick and he's very, very strong for a little guy and I think that he's deceptive in that people think they can push him around and they can't. He also has the absolute best stick skills on our team—some of the best stick skills I've ever seen in a player, especially a sophomore. He started last year as a freshman; he's that type of player."

Jasien's third goal gave Robinson a 7-2 lead with 5:52 remaining in the third quarter. The Rams led by as many as six in the second half.

"We really just wanted to play smart and get the job done, that's really all we discussed," Jasien said. "We didn't even talk about them being four-time defending state champs because that's obviously intimidat-

ing. We just said play smart and just get it done."

Senior attackman Charlie Morrisette and senior midfielder Connor Lloyd each had two goals for Robinson. Freshman midfielder Johnny Daniel and sophomore attackman Chris White each had one.

Curran praised the effort of sophomore defenseman Jack Rowlett, who is committed to the University of North Carolina, saying he played a "phenomenal" game.

Junior goalkeeper Nick Kondracki finished with 12 saves.

"He played extremely well, especially down the stretch," Curran said about Kondracki. "This is a very good team we played, so he did a good job coming up with some really big saves—saves that you want a good goalie to make, or you're kind of expecting, but they don't always make them, and he did today."

Kondracki and the Robinson defense held Langley without a goal for the first 22 minutes of the contest.

"I felt great," Kondracki said. "During my warm-up, I didn't do too well, but I stepped up."

Daniel scored the only goal of the first quarter, giving Robinson a 1-0 lead. The Rams extended their lead to 5-0 before Langley scored a pair of goals in the final two minutes of the first half. Robinson outscored Langley 3-0 in the third quarter, including a pair of goals by Lloyd, and took an 8-2 lead into the fourth quarter. Morrisette's goal with 7:32 remaining gave the Rams a 9-3 lead before Langley scored the final three goals of the contest.

ROBINSON LOST its following game, falling 15-9 to Madison on April 1. The Rams went 2-2 during spring break, moving their overall record to 4-2. Robinson beat Bethesda-Chevy Chase (13-1) and Langley at Ram Slam, and lost to Midlothian (7-6) and Madison.

The Rams will travel to face Woodson at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, April 5.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Northern Region Baseball Top 10

The Madison Warhawks held onto the top spot in the latest Northern Region baseball top 10 poll.

Robinson moved up to No. 2, followed by Lake Braddock (3), Oakton (4), Chantilly (5), McLean (6), West Springfield (7), West Potomac (8), Herndon (9) and Langley (10).

McLean, West Potomac, Herndon and Langley each made their first appearance in the top 10.

The Concorde District has the most representatives with four. Three Patriot District and three Liberty District teams were voted in. No teams from the National District made the top 10.

T.C. Williams, South County, Westfield, Stone Bridge and Yorktown each received votes.

Lake Braddock Baseball to Host West Springfield Friday

The Lake Braddock baseball team will host West Springfield at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 5, in a rematch

of last year's Patriot District and Northern Region championship games.

Lake Braddock got the best of West Springfield in the district final, but the Spartans avenged the loss by beating the Bruins in the region championship game.

Lake Braddock went on to win the state title.

This year, Lake Braddock improved to 5-2 with a 5-4 victory over St. John's on March 30. The Bruins faced South County on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline.

West Springfield lost a pair of one-run games at the Mingo Bay Classic in Myrtle Beach, S.C., dropping the Spartans' record to 3-4. West Springfield took on T.C. Williams on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline.

Lake Braddock Softball Starts 6-0

The Lake Braddock softball team improved to 6-0 with an 11-1 victory over Mount Vernon on March 23. The Bruins outscored their first six opponents 51-5.

Lake Braddock faced South County on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Bruins will host West Springfield at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 5. Lake Braddock will face Edison (noon) and West Potomac (2 p.m.) on Saturday during a spring break tournament at Madison.

Lake Braddock Boys' Soccer Improves to 3-0

The Lake Braddock boys' soccer team defeated Yorktown 5-3 on Tuesday, improving its record to 3-0.

Aaron Hollins scored three goals for the Bruins and Stephen Durbin added two. Akram Bensalem had two assists, and Shady Abdel-Salam and Zack Hopkins each had one.

Lake Braddock will host Westfield at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 4.

West Springfield Girls' Lax Wins 5 of 6

The West Springfield girls' lacrosse team started the season 5-1, including winning three of four during a trip to Orlando, Fla.

The Spartans faced Annandale on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline. West Springfield will travel to face Lake Braddock at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10.

Robert Richard Carvajal, 81, of Springfield, Dies

Robert Richard Carvajal, 81, of Springfield, died at home surrounded by his family on Monday, March 18. Burial was at Fairfax Memorial Park Cemetery. He was the husband of Beatrice Serrano Carvajal; father of Susan Stein (Joe), Robert Carvajal and Connie Carvajal; son of the late Constantino and Helen Carvajal; and brother of Rosalie Nakata and the late Sally Alvarez.

Carvajal was a resident of Kings Park in Springfield since October 1971. He was born on July 28, 1931, in Los Angeles, Calif. Carvajal graduated from Roosevelt High School in Los Angeles in 1950. He entered the United States Army in 1950 and served in the Korean War. He was honorably discharged from his military service in 1954.

Carvajal moved his family from California to Virginia in 1971 where he worked as an associate di-

rector of the Campaign for Human Development, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. He later worked at the Department of the Interior in the Division of Reclamation Support in the Office of Surface Mining until his retirement in 2010.

Carvajal was known for his enormous smile and infectious laugh. He had a passion for antiques, collecting books, discussing politics and was an ardent Democrat. He had a teasing nature and enjoyed playing the piano, dancing, watching soccer and tennis, and wearing Hawaiian shirts. He loved celebrating and always provided the biggest fireworks display on the 4th of July and large chocolate eggs at Easter. He is survived by his wife Beatrice; daughter Susan and sons Robert and Connie; four grandchildren, Jennifer, Julie, Joey and Jeffrey; and great-grandchildren Jacob, Madison and Jameson.

Armed Men Arrested After Burke-area Burglaries

Fairfax County police charged two Springfield men after connecting them with a series of burglaries that took place in the Burke area during the afternoon hours of March 19.

Andrew Kovch, 27, of Vogles Way and Jimmy Le, 23, of Grey Fox Drive were charged with burglary, attempted burglary and grand larceny.

Shortly before 1 p.m. on March 19, officers responded to a report of a burglary from a homeowner in the 9800 block of Lake Meadow Court. The homeowner reported encountering a young man wearing a gray, hooded sweatshirt and dark pants in the home. The suspect fled in a dark, late '90s compact car.

Ten minutes later, according to police reports, officers responded to an alarm of a residence in the 10000 block of Waterside Drive. A door had been forcibly opened but no people were located. A short time later, police responded to a home in the 8600 block of Norfolk Avenue in Annandale for a resident reporting that she'd spotted an unknown man in her home. The suspect fled, but witnesses described the vehicle and a second person that was picked up nearby.

Upon hearing the look-outs, patrol officers observed and stopped a vehicle matching the description on Roundabout Way in Springfield. In the course of the investigation, officers found that the driver



Andrew Kovch



Jimmy Le

was armed with a semi-automatic pistol. Officers reported they found more than 200 rounds of ammunition, a loaded revolver, a mask, gloves, as well as property that could link the suspects to the crimes inside the vehicle.

"We're grateful to residents who paid close attention to details and called us right away, as these crimes were occurring," said Captain Joe Hill, commander of the West Springfield Police District. "Thanks to good communications, our officers were able to link these men to these crimes and make apprehensions."

BULLETIN BOARD

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.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 10

NARFE Springfield Chapter
Meeting, 1p.m., at the American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave. Springfield. Experts will talk about growth and changes of Springfield, including the total remodeling of Springfield Mall and the addition of new hotels. 703-569-9684 orharahan@verizon.net

ONGOING

Mount Vernon Rep. Dan Storck Community Office Hours. 10 a.m.-noon, at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. School Board Member and Mount Vernon District Representative Dan Storck hosts drop-in community office hours the second Saturday of each month. Dan.Storck@fcps.edu or Barbara.Larsen@fcps.edu.

Volunteer Computer Instructor needed at the Lorton Senior Center, 7722 Gunston Plaza, Lorton. Classes for beginners (using the mouse, writing and saving letters, navigating the internet, email, etc.) and advanced beginners (computer

maintenance, search engines, websites for seniors, email address books, skypeing, shopping and paying bills online, etc.) are in need of teachers. 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices.

Thank veterans for their service via the post: draw or write a note of thanks and encouragement—no need to seal in envelopes, Adopt a Soldier will do that—and send to Americas Adopt A Soldier, P.O. Box 1049, Springfield, VA 22151. www.americasadoptsoldier.org.

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When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

Burke

6012 Deep Lake Way.....\$753,995..Sat 12-6.....Clark Massie.....Tetra..703-391-6345
9502 Harrowhill Ln.....\$599,900..Sun 1-4.....Diana Khoury.....Long & Foster..703-401-7549
7023 Veering Ln.....\$559,950..Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808
6411 Whippany Way.....\$424,950..Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808

Centreville

5092 Village Fountain Pl.....\$410,000..Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812

Chantilly

42344 Astors Beachwood....\$800,000..Sun 1-4.....Chris Pezzana.....Weichert..703-447-1662

Clifton

12421 Clifton Hunt Dr.....\$945,000..Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812
6417 Springhouse Cir.....\$614,500..Sun 1-4.....Robin Jenks Vanderlip.....Keller Williams..703-969-4966
7467 Clifton Rd.....\$539,000..Sun 1-4.....Robin Garbe.....Long & Foster..540-349-1400

Fairfax

3783 Penderwood Dr.....\$959,000..Sun 1-4.....Bill Hoffman.....Keller Williams..703-309-2205

Fairfax Station

9803 Thorn Bush Dr.....\$1,298,900..Sun 1-4.....Eileen Lanser.....E-Realtors..703-625-9058
8112 Vista Point Ln.....\$899,000..Sat 1-4.....Chris Rendall.....Prudential..703-672-0646
7713 Stoney Creek Ct.....\$839,950..Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808
8728 Foxhall Terr.....\$769,900..Sun 2-4.....Tracy Jones.....Acquire..703-690-1174
8303 Knotty Pine Ln.....\$749,000..Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812
6321 Youngs Branch Dr.....\$695,999..Sun 1-4.....Christine Shevock.....RE/MAX..703-475-3986
9116 Silver Pointe Way.....\$609,900..Sun 1-4.....Bob Lovett.....RE/MAX..703-690-0037

Falls Church

3804 Munson Rd.....\$819,000..Sun 1-4.....Patrick Kessler.....Keller Williams..703-405-6540

Kingstowne/Alexandria

6611 Thurton Dr.....\$539,950..Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207
6534 Kelsey Point Cir.....\$460,000..Sun 1-3.....James Nellis.....RE/MAX..703-503-4375
6019-F Curtier Dr.....\$289,950..Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207
7428 Salford Ct.....Call Agent..Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207

Lorton

9044 John Sutherland Ln..\$1,090,000..Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365
8970 Fascination Ct #210....\$347,905..Sat 12-3.....Shawn Evans.....Long & Foster..703-790-1990
8960 Fascination Ct #316....\$339,990..Sun 12-3.....Shawn Evans.....Long & Foster..703-790-1990
8960 Fascination Ct #112....\$269,990..Sun 12-3.....Shawn Evans.....Long & Foster..703-790-1990

Manassas

14049 Baneberry Cir.....\$620,000..Sun 1-4.....Rachel Pullen.....Century 21..703-774-8800
7755 Glade Ct.....\$560,000..Sun 1-4.....Suzanne Burch.....Century 21..703-328-5606

Springfield

6407 Velliety Ln.....\$645,000..Sun 1-4.....Charlene Bayes.....Prudential..703-281-8854
8603 Langport Dr.....\$499,999..Sun 1-4.....Mary Ruehl.....Coldwell Banker..703-451-2500
8818 Trafalgar Ct.....\$479,000..Sun 1-4.....Susan Metcalf.....Avery-Hess..703-472-6512
5218 Montgomery St.....\$405,000..Sat/Sun 12-4.....Edith Coupland.....Classic..703-505-2328
7255 Beverly Park Dr.....\$389,900..Sun 1-4.....Fatana Barak.....Samson Props..571-218-2507
5927 Minutemen Rd.....\$259,000..Sun 1-4.....Marian Williams.....ERA..703-359-7800

Triangle

18826 Pier Trail Dr.....\$374,900..Sun 1-4.....Gary Gabriel.....Long & Foster..571-332-1459

To add your Realtor-represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Erin Peck at 703-778-9449 or E-mail the info to epeck@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

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21 Announcements

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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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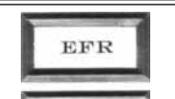
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-Werner Heisenberg

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
According to the Lease by and between (1112) Alan Cottrell and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the Manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: boxes, furniture, TVs, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on April 18, 2013 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

According to the Lease by and between (2028) Andre W Hicks and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the Manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: bike, chair, boxes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on April 18, 2013 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

According to the Lease by and between (24032) Shirley Jones and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the Manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: totes, boxes, clothes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on April 18, 2013 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

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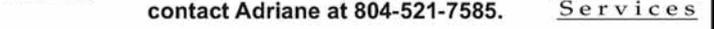
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