

Moving Forward On Fairfax Roads

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Back-to-School Shopping in Fairfax

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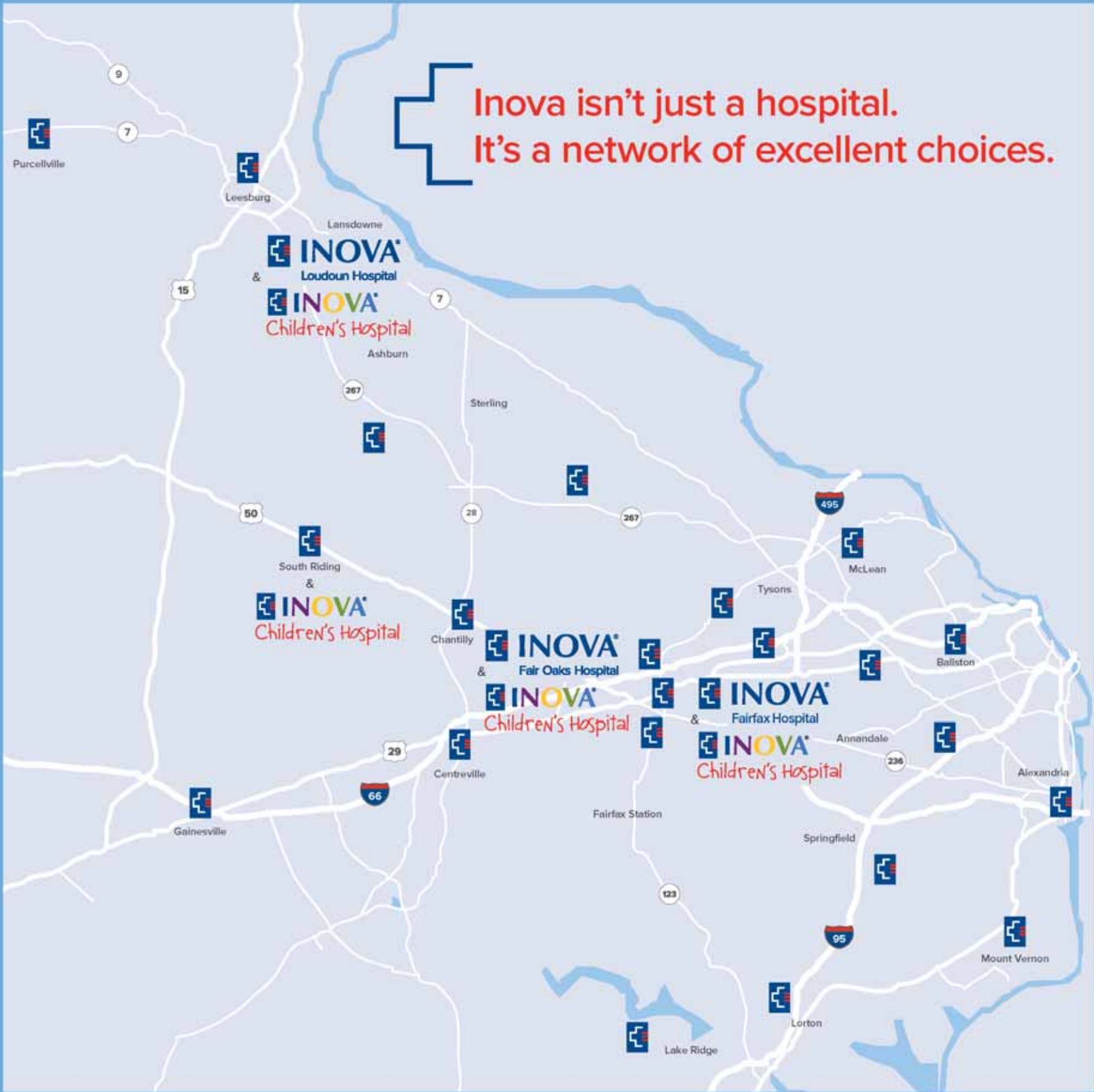
NEWS, PAGE 4

Cars driving in the afternoon in a residential area of Old Lee Highway in front of Fairfax High.

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Moving Forward with Local Road Projects

What's planned for Old Lee Highway and Fairfax Boulevard.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Several local road projects are either underway or in the pipeline for the City of Fairfax. Below are the details:

Old Lee Highway

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

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

The goal is not to add any more lanes, but to make Old Lee safer for pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles, while also beautifying it and improving its stormwater management. As things stand now, every few blocks of Old Lee have a different look and feel, so the City hopes to make it more cohesive. Brian McMahon with Parsons Brinckerhoff, a transportation planning and design firm, is the City's consultant on this project.

The study divided the street into three segments, and the results of a citizen survey were as follows:

- ❖ From North Street to the Sherwood Center, residents wanted a landscaped median with left-turn pockets, protected bike lanes with 3-foot-wide buffer strips separating them from the motor-vehicle lanes, plus a shared-use path.

- ❖ From the Sherwood Center to Ridge Avenue, they favored a protected bike lane and a shared-use path separating pedestrians from bicyclists. They also wanted on-street parking.

- ❖ From Ridge Avenue to Old Pickett Road, residents selected a landscaped median, protected bike lane and a shared-use path. And between Old Pickett Road and the bridge, they wanted Old Lee to stay four



Cars driving in the afternoon in a residential area of Old Lee Highway in front of Fairfax High.



Sunday afternoon traffic on Fairfax Boulevard.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

lanes.

In addition, in all three segments, people wanted the travel lanes reduced from 12 feet wide to 11 feet to calm traffic. And one homeowners association recommended the speed limit be reduced from 30 to 25 mph.

The Fairfax City Council then authorized a survey of the entire corridor to obtain more information before going further with the project. City staff will return the findings to the Council upon completion.

Fairfax Boulevard

Fairfax Boulevard is a 3.5-mile corridor that includes the Kamp Washington Center, East and West Connectors, the Northfax Center and the Fairfax Circle Center. And from January to June of this year, the Planning Commission reviewed the Fairfax Boulevard Master Plan. Then in July, City Planning Division Chief Cindy Petkac compared the Master Plan and the City's Comprehensive plan regarding that corridor.

The Master Plan describes buildings as two to four stories. It recommends a multi-way boulevard with five, narrowed travel lanes in the middle for heavy through traffic. Also included are landscaped medians plus one-way, access roads – called slow lanes – with on-street parking.

The Comprehensive Plan for Fairfax Boulevard recommends landscaped medians, as well, and enhanced streetscape features and smaller blocks to encourage pedestrian ac-

tivity. It, too, mentions slow lanes, but doesn't provide any details. And it supports a mix of uses and a balance of traffic with the safety and character of the corridor.

After its review, many of the Planning Commission's comments dealt with issues such as building height, density of development and right-of-way.

There was concern that the business community wouldn't want to provide the land required for the 156-foot right-of-way needed for the slow lanes. And the commissioners wanted to know where the access points would be for the one-way, local roads and how many such access points there'd be.

In addition, since the nearby signalized intersections back up, they wondered how efficient traffic circles are when backed-up traffic goes through them. So the commissioners recommended handling these and other matters in an update of the Comprehensive Plan. They also urged the development of a single, guiding set of principles for how to maximize, to the fullest extent possible, the economic viability and livability of the Fairfax Boulevard corridor.

Ongoing Road Projects

Meanwhile, work is progressing on other transportation projects on Fairfax Boulevard at Kamp Washington, Northfax (Route 123)

and Jermantown Road.

- ❖ **Kamp Washington:** The City will soon be adding a lane on westbound Route 29 for about one-fourth of a mile from the Kamp Washington intersection. Also included in the work will be the extension of the westbound lanes on Route 236 (Main Street) from Chestnut Street to Hallman Street, plus the installation of mast-arm signals to replace wire-span signals. Added, as well, will be new crosswalks, curb ramps, sidewalks and pedestrian signals.

- ❖ **Northfax:** Utility relocation work is already underway on the Northfax project. It entails installing new utility poles along Route 123 south near Fairfax Boulevard and crossing Fairfax Boulevard and then switching utility lines to the new poles.

Construction is scheduled to start in spring 2016. This project will also result in improvements to the Route 123/Fairfax Boulevard intersection, lane alignments and pedestrian accommodations. It's also expected to improve drainage and end flooding there.

- ❖ **Jermantown Road:** Fairfax Boulevard improvements between Bevan Drive and Jermantown Road include the widening of westbound Fairfax Boulevard from Bevan Drive to Jermantown Road, as well as widening and providing additional turn lanes on Jermantown Road.



From left, sisters, Nour, 7, Shahd, 5, and Fatima Badawi, 16, get brand new school supplies for the upcoming school year courtesy of Facets.



Children do arts and crafts activities after getting brand new backpacks and school supplies. Facets runs the recreation room at Ragan Oaks Court apartment in Fairfax.

Back-to-School Shopping in Fairfax Facets and partners provide brand new school supplies.

ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO
THE CONNECTION

“I wanna get school supplies so I can get smart,” said Sabrina Mohammed, 5, of Fairfax, as she excitedly entered the recreation center at Ragan Oaks Court apartments in Fairfax, which has been filled with school supplies provided by Facets.

Fifty-three children have signed up to receive book bags and school supplies on Monday, Aug. 17. Facets will also distribute back-to-school necessities at two other locations, Robinson Square in Fairfax on Tuesday, Aug. 18 and Barros Circle in Centreville on Wednesday, Aug. 19.

A total of 186 children from low-income families will get brand new school supplies.

“When they have something new and in good condition, it looks good and it does exactly what they need it to do, it helps boost their self-esteem,” said Facets’ D’Ivonne Holman.

Armed with the list they received from



Nathan, 7, and Naana Boateng, 10, of Fairfax get brand new school supplies from Facets.

their schools and escorted by their own personal shopper, a volunteer, the children, who ranged from elementary to high school, gathered notebooks and binders and rummaged for pens, crayons and scissors.

For items on the list that they cannot get during the distribution, such as graphing calculators, Facets will try to get them using monetary donations to the Back-to-School drive. Employees from Noblis in Falls Church helped distribute the supplies at Ragan Oaks Court. Volunteer Gloria Maser said that her company likes to do things that can connect with and involve the community directly. This is the second year Noblis has participated in Facets’ Back to School Supply Party. Naana Boateng, 10, of Fairfax, is excited to start the fifth grade at Eagle View Elementary school. She is especially looking forward to the field trips.

Mohammed cannot wait to start first grade at Eagle View, too. Her favorite subject is playing.

For more information on Facets and its programs, visit <http://facetscares.org/>.

Fairfax Man Guilty of Prostituting a Minor

Alexis Rahkeem Carter, or Bishop, of Fairfax, pleaded guilty to sex trafficking of a child. In a statement of facts filed with the plea agreement, Carter was a member of a group known as “Scheme Team.” Scheme Team prostituted at least two teenage girls and one adult woman and operated in northern Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Initially the gang robbed individuals and businesses, and eventually moved to selling narcotics and firearms, and sex trafficking. To groom the minor victims for commercial sexual activity, Carter performed sex acts on the minor victims. Carter obtained sex customers for the women and girls he prostituted by posting advertisements on the Internet.

Carter also set the prices that the women and girls he prostituted were supposed to charge sex customers for commercial sex acts, ranging from \$80 for a “short stay,” to \$500 for sex acts that involved a customer having sex with two girls.

Carter instructed the victims to submit to any sex act that customers wanted to perform on them. Victims were required to earn \$1,000 per day, and Carter took nearly all of this money, even searching the victims to ensure that they were not withholding money from him. Carter told the victims that he had guns, and would threaten violence and sometimes used physical violence on the victims.

In addition to threats and violence, to keep the victims compliant Carter frequently provided them with alcohol and controlled sub-

stances, including prescription painkillers, molly, spice and marijuana. Carter faces a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison, and a maximum penalty of life in prison when sentenced on Nov. 13, 2015. The maximum statutory sentence is prescribed by Congress and is provided here for informational purposes, as the sentencing of the defendant will be determined by the court based on the advisory Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

Dana J. Boente, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; and Clark E. Settles, Special Agent in Charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Washington, made the announcement after the plea was accepted by U.S. District Judge Claude M. Hilton. Carter was appre-

hended by officers from the Special Problems Unit of the Stafford County Sheriff’s Office after they discovered him prostituting a minor victim in Stafford County. This case was investigated by ICE/HSI and the Stafford County Sheriff’s Office, with assistance from the Stafford County Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael J. Frank is prosecuting the case. A copy of this press release may be found on the website of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Virginia. Related court documents and information may be found on the website of the District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia or on PACER by searching for Case No. 1:15-cr-256.

NEWS

AREA ROUNDUPS

County Offers Emergency Response Classes

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and also trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. With this training, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available. Fairfax County is offering four CERT training classes this fall.

- ❖ CERT Class 100 at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy (Monday, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30 and Oct. 5 — 7-10:30 p.m.)
- ❖ CERT Class 101 at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy (Monday, Wednesday,

Oct. 14, 19, 21, 26, 28, Nov. 2 and 4 — 7-10:30 p.m.)

- ❖ CERT Class 102 at the Old Firehouse Teen Center (Tuesday, Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27 and Nov. 3 — 7-10 p.m.)
- ❖ CERT Class 103 at the Lorton Volunteer Fire Department (Wednesday, Sept. 23, 30, Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov. 4 and 11 — 7-10 p.m.)

CERT training does not require any special physical strength or agility and is free. The CERT program also provides personal protective equipment for the training that students keep. Those who go through CERT training have a better understanding of the potential threats to their home, workplace and community and can take the right steps to reduce the effects of hazards. To learn more about the CERT program, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/cert/cert.htm.

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How to Vote; It Matters

Voting begins in two weeks, Sept. 18.

Election Day is Nov. 3, and on that day, virtually every state and local office is on the ballot. In-person absentee voting begins Sept. 18, barely two weeks from now. Virginia Law allows voters to absentee vote if they could be “working and commuting for 11 or more hours between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day.” You’re allowed to count your worst possible commute in estimating how many hours you might be working and commuting on Election Day.

On Election Day, Nov. 3, polls are open from 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.

To vote on Election Day, you must be registered at your current address no later than Oct. 13, 2015.

You can check your registration status online by going to www.sbe.virginia.gov.

It’s also worth noting that new, more restrictive voter identification regulations took effect last year.

FAIRFAX COUNTY: Each voter in Fairfax County can make choices in one State Senate district, one House of Delegates district, Clerk of the Court, Commonwealth’s Attorney, Sher-

iff, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, District member of the Board of Supervisors, Soil and Water Conservation Board (vote for 3), School Bond for \$310 million, Public Safety Bond for \$151 million. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm>

As of last summer, there are new requirements for voter identification that voters must bring with them to the polling place.

Virginia law requires all voters to provide an acceptable form of photo identification at the polls. Voters arriving to the polls without photo ID will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot and will have until noon on the Friday after the election to deliver a copy of identification to their locality’s electoral board in order for their provisional ballot to be counted.

Virginia’s photo ID requirements also apply to absentee voters who vote in-person in all elections. Here are the “acceptable” forms of identification: Valid Virginia Driver’s License or Identification Card; Valid Virginia DMV issued Veteran’s ID card; Valid United States Passport; Other government-issued photo identification cards (must be issued by U.S. Government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth; Valid college or university student photo identification card, must be from an institution of

higher education located in Virginia; Employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer’s business; Virginia Voter Photo ID Card obtained through any local general registrar’s office. “Valid” is defined as a genuine document, bearing the photograph of the voter, and is not expired for more than 12 months.

Any registered voter may apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo Identification from any general registrar’s office in the Commonwealth. Voters applying for the Virginia Voter Photo ID Card will have to complete the Virginia Voter Photo Identification Card Application, have their picture taken, and sign the digital signature pad.

For More Election Information

Fairfax County Board of Elections, 703-222-0776, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm>

12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Suite 232, Fairfax, 22035; FAX 703-324-2205; email voting@fairfaxcounty.gov

State Board of Elections, 804 864-8901 Toll Free: 800 552-9745 FAX: 804 371-0194

email: info@sbe.virginia.gov
<http://www.sbe.virginia.gov>

City of Fairfax General Registrar, 703-385-7890, <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/general-registrar>

10455 Armstrong Street, Sisson House, Fairfax, 22030; FAX 703-591-8364; email generalregistrar@fairfaxva.gov

EDITORIAL

Mystery of a Hitchhiker Helping a defeated figure in a pretty beach dress and flip-flops.

BY JOAN BRADY

My mother told me never to pick up hitchhikers. Or maybe she told me never to hitchhike. Probably both. But I did hitchhike twice in a single day, I was desperate, alone and needed help. I was 20 years old.

The first guy who picked me up had one hand on the wheel and the other down his pants. And the second told me that he was a burlesque cleaner and told me that women hired him to vacuum their homes and then vacuum off his clothes. I’m lucky I made it back to college without incident.

All of that ran quickly through my head a few weeks ago as I was driving home from dinner with my husband and saw a young woman, walking and crying, with her thumb stuck tentatively out.

I turned around and we passed her again in an attempt to assess the situation. Her need vs. our safety and the time it would take if we got involved. Her thumb wasn’t out anymore, but she was still crying. I u-turned again and we pulled over.

Jim rolled down his window, and asked, “Are you ok?”

“I’ve had better nights,” she sobbed.

“Do you have an address where you want to go?”

She was able to provide an address, albeit in the opposite direction of the way she was walking. It was about a 10-minute drive away. Jim unlocked the car door and she slipped inside.

We rode in an uncomfortable silence, punctuated only by her sobs, as I ran through a mental checklist. What happened to her? Where is her purse? Should we ask if we should call the police? She didn’t appear injured, but maybe there were injuries that we could not see? Is the address we are going to a safe place to drop her off? The questions ran in circles in my head.

I suggested she check the back seat for a box of tissues. Her sobs slowed as she grabbed a handful.

I asked if she was a student. She said no, and half laughed through her tears. “I’m 30, which makes it even more ridiculous that I am in this situation.”

What situation? What happened? I wanted to ask. But didn’t.

She didn’t have a trace of an



The hitchhiker

PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

accent, so we were surprised when she told us she was was not American-born. Her father was U.S. military and her mother had been unwilling to move to the U.S. After years of trying to convince her mother to emigrate, this young woman had come on her own.

As we talked, her tears stopped to an intermittent sniffle.

“Can I ask you why you stopped?” she asked.

“Joan saw you as we drove by,” Jim answered. “We turned around because she said you looked like you were in trouble.” The tears returned.

“We’ve all been in your shoes at some point or another. And hitchhiking isn’t safe. We thought it was better if we picked you up than

someone else.”

Silence and then: “I’m not religious. I don’t even believe in God. But I think God put you in my path for a reason. Things have been really bad lately.”

“Everyone goes through bad stretches. You have to figure out how to focus on the positive, but also to learn from times like these and remember them. It’s what you do with these experiences that matters,” Jim counseled her.

I watched in the rear view mirror as she nodded tearfully.

There were so many questions destined to be unasked and unanswered as we pulled up at the address she had given us.

She thanked us again, told us she would pay-it-forward and walked into the apartment building, a defeated figure in a pretty beach dress and flip-flops.

Her story will likely remain a mystery that will haunt us for a long time to come.

Joan Brady is a professional photographer; award-winning columnist; mentor and advocate for current and former foster children; a volunteer with paws4People, Fairfax Families4Kids, and others; and a resident of Great Falls. Reach her at joan@joanbradyphotography.com



Next Police Commission Forum

In an effort to open more opportunities for people around the county to participate and share their views, the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Commission on Police Policies and Practices will hold its next public forum in the Mount Vernon area on Sept. 14 at 7:30 p.m.

The commission wants to hear thoughts, comments and questions from the community regarding policing in Fairfax County. This is a great opportunity for residents to share their experiences and bring new insight and perspective to areas such as use of force, communications, mental health, diversity/recruitment/vetting, and citizen oversight. Community feedback and testimonies will help the Commission shape new policy recommendations for the Fairfax County Police Department.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors launched the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission in response to public concern over the shooting death of John Geer by a Fairfax County police officer. On Aug. 17, 2015, former Fairfax County

FORUM ON POLICE POLICIES AND PRACTICES:

Monday, Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m., Walt Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane, Alexandria VA 22306.

For more on the police commission, see www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission/

Police officer Adam Torres was charged with the second-degree murder of Geer, who was shot dead in the doorway to his own home on Aug. 29, 2013 after police were called in a domestic dispute. Torres was fired in July 2015, almost two years later.

The commission has been meeting since March as a full commission and five subcommittees. Areas of focus by committee include Use of Force; Communications; Mental Health; Recruitment, Diversity and Vetting; and Independent Investigations and Oversight. The commission is set to report findings and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on Oct. 20.

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.

Raymond J. King of Clifton earned his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering, with a focus on Robotics, from the Mechanical Engineering Department of the University of Utah at the close of the Fall 2014 semester. An NSF - IGERT

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

Ava Lakmazaheri from Thomas

Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) won the Best of Category Award and a first award in Robotics and Intelligent Machines at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, held in Pittsburgh. Lakmazaheri earned the awards for her project, Brain-Actuated Robotics: Controlling and Programming a Humanoid Using Electroencephalography. Lakmazaheri also won several special awards.



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WELLBEING

Workplace Fitness

Employer-based health and wellness programs are good for business.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

It's Wednesday afternoon and a cohort of George Mason University staff, students and faculty hit the pavement.

Clad in attire ranging from running shorts and brightly colored sneakers to neutral walking shoes and business suits, the group takes part in "Who's Walking Wednesdays," part of an initiative to get moving for health and wellness.

"It's really important to connect faculty and staff into well-being

and wellness practices," said Janet Walker, life/work connections manager at George Mason University. "It benefits everybody in terms of their own personal health and wellness. It creates a community where people interact over more than just work."

The effort underscores the role of workplace health and fitness programs can play in decreasing stress and improving overall well-being. A National Institutes of Health study of more than 29,000 employees who participated in comprehensive workplace health programs that included components such as fitness, weight con-

and wellness practices," said Janet Walker, life/work connections manager at George Mason University.

Workplace health programs can also consist of health education, fitness programs, health coaching and screenings.

"There's all sorts of research about how time spent outdoors and taking walking breaks at work fosters creativity and problem solving," said Jeanne Bliss, director of marketing, Center for the Advancement of Well-being at George Mason.

Bliss says university officials hope to impact the well-being of 10 million people within the next four years through the center. "We want to be a replicable model for well-being," she said. "That has been one of our strategic 10-year goals."

"We're in a position to help the next generation in terms of how they connect with their own workforce in terms of health and well-being," said Brandice Valentino, director of

"It's really important to connect faculty and staff into well-being and wellness practices. It benefits everybody."

— Janet Walker, life/work connections manager, George Mason University

rol and smoking cessation, showed a 14-percent decline in illness over a two-year period, as well

connect with their own workforce in terms of health and well-being," said Brandice Valentino, director of



Staff, students and faculty at George Mason University take part in "Who's Walking Wednesdays," an effort to increase physical activity and well-being. Research shows that workplace health programs can lead to increased productivity.

well-being programs and mindful living coordinator at the Center for

the Advancement of Well-being. "Our programs focus on topics for

well-being and integrating mind-fulness practices."

Amy K. Turner, executive director of Innovation Health, a North-

ern Virginia health insurance company formed as a result of a partnership between Aetna and Inova, says her company has improved the health of its workforce through tailored employee wellness programs.

Innovation Health has also created corporate wellness programs for its corporate clients. In fact, the company received the Loudon Chamber of Commerce Healthy Business Award, which honors the winners of the Loudon Healthy Business Challenge, a competition designed to recognize Northern Virginia businesses that have improved the health of their workforce through tailored employee wellness programs.

A group mentality is one of the keys. Group fitness activity can lead to success, say experts. "I feel like when you do it in a group and you're part of a group, you're more committed," said Turner. "It holds people accountable and promotes success."

"Our 'Get Active Challenge' is where employees set fitness goals and challenge other teams within their corporation," she said. "It engages employees to work together in teams, challenges them. We've found that it improves employee satisfaction."

SoberRide Hosts Fundraiser At Glory Days Grill

The Northern Virginia-based nonprofit organization behind the region's free cab ride service to prevent drunk driving, SoberRide, hosted a fundraiser on Aug. 18 at Glory Days Grill in Fairfax.

The Washington Regional Alcohol Program's (WRAP) inaugural "Football & Fundraising" event was opened to the public and featured former Washington Redskins Ricky Ervins, a sports memorabilia silent auction and door prizes. Glory Days Grill donated the hors d'oeuvres buffet for the event.

Ervins played for the Washington Redskins from 1991 to 1994 as a running back. He was the leading rusher in the Redskins' 1992 Super Bowl victory over the Buffalo Bills.

Items featured as part of the evening's silent auction included sports memorabilia from the Washington Capitals, Nationals, Redskins and Wizards most notably: an NHL hockey stick signed by Capitals' Nicklas Backstrom; a MLB baseball signed by Nationals' Ryan Zimmerman; an NFL jersey signed by Redskins great John Riggins; and an NBA basketball signed by the Wizards' John Wall, amongst other items.

Door prizes that evening included gift cards from Fleming's Steakhouse, Glory Days Grill, Mad Fox Brewing Company and Paladar Latin Kitchen, amongst others. Funds raised support WRAP's fight against drunk driving and underage drinking in Greater Washington. For more information, visit WRAP's website at www.wrap.org.

Former Washington Redskin Ricky Ervins signs autographs for some young fans.



Former Washington Redskin Ricky Ervins (second from left) joins WRAP's Gary Cohen, Lieutenant Rudy Landon, Liz Tobin, Kurt Erickson and Todd Heavner.



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Fairfax Symphony Orchestra to Celebrate Beethoven

Season opening performance on Saturday, Sept. 19.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Plenty of reasons to celebrate the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) about to begin its 59th season as Fairfax County's flagship orchestra. This year, under the baton of music director Christopher Zimmerman, the FSO will celebrate the genius of Beethoven's masterpieces while featuring the coming generation of virtuoso classical pianists.

Why feature Beethoven piano concertos? "I have designed most of our past seasons with some kind of binding thread, be it focusing on a composer, or a topic," said Zimmerman. "This year I thought both a composer and an instrumental medium would provide the focus for an interesting musical exploration as well as be a strong attraction in themselves.

"The audience will hear, and be fascinated by, how Beethoven's compositional style changes and evolves from concerto to concerto," said Zimmerman. "I hope also that their enjoyment of these works will be en-



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

hanced by the fact that we will be performing other orchestral works of his alongside these concertos, and also those of his immediate predecessor, Mozart, and successor, Brahms."

The pianists will include Alon Goldstein, already known to FSO audiences. He will be featured in the season opener on Sept. 19 at the Center for the Arts, George Ma-

son University. Awadagin Pratt, performing later in the season, "has developed an extremely distinguished career and is a major figure, particularly in this country." Sean Chen, George Li and Andrew Tysons each has had "a spectacular kick-off, all having won significant prizes at the world's most prestigious piano competitions," Zimmerman pointed-out.

Where and When

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra performs at the Center for the Arts, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Season opening performance Beethoven: "Coriolanus" Overture, Beethoven: Piano Concerto No.5 "Emperor" with Alon Goldstein, piano and Beethoven: Symphony No. 5. Performance on Saturday, Sept. 19 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$34-\$58. Ticket information call 703-563-1990 or visit www.fairfaxsymphony.org

❖ Read a biography of accomplishments of the five pianists at www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

Christopher Zimmerman conducting the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.

Each artist will provide audiences "with their tremendous gifts and convey to the audience their own fresh perspective."

As for celebrating the 59th season, Zimmerman acknowledged that "it is a major accomplishment". When asked about the upcoming, anticipated 60th season, now just a year away, it "is of course a milestone which we will hold as something special, but I will give nothing away at this point."

"In the coming years the orchestra will continue to perform at the level that the audience expects and is proud of and excited about. We will continue to collaborate with great instrumentalists and artists of the highest stature, and we will continue to present programs of the greatest and most beautiful (in all aspects of that term) music in combinations that hopefully will delight, stimulate and fulfill the audience in the way that this great legacy of orchestral music—past and present—can," said Zimmerman.

Meeting Favorite Authors in 'Your Own Backyard'

"Fall for the Book Festival" returns, Sept. 27-Oct. 3.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Book-lovers rejoice; the local treasure "Fall for the Book" is arriving for a week-long stay. This year's celebration will feature over 150 authors representing a wide-gamut of genres.

First held in 1999 at George Mason University (GMU), the free event is now an annual fixture.

Featured authors include bestselling "Outlander" series author, Diana Gabaldon; Ernest J. Gaines, MacArthur Foundation Fellowship recipient and author of "A Lesson Before Dying"; and "Going After Cacciato" author and National Book Award-recipient Tim O'Brien.

Local Fairfax County authors are well-represented throughout the Festival. It is "one of the go-to events for books and authors in the mid-Atlantic region," said Terry Alford, Northern Virginia Community College.

Alford will speak about "Fortune's Fool," his full length biography of the infamous John Wilkes Booth. "Booth is an unusual



Art Taylor



Beth Cabrera



Terry Alford



Suzy Rigdon

figure - talented, handsome, popular but driven, he thought, by a sense of fate which impelled him to his tragic end," said Alford.

For author Beth Cabrera (Fairfax), "Fall for the Book" provides an opportunity to interact with people from around the community and find inspiration. It is "a wonderful way for readers to come together and form a community of literature-lovers."

Cabrera will discuss "Beyond Happiness." Her book aims to help readers "thrive despite the challenges they continue to face." Cabrera notes that "for years I studied women's career paths and the challenges they faced and I realized that working women's well-being was suffering."

According to Suzanne Rigdon (Northern Virginia) the Festival provides "equal access

to all readers, and doesn't limit anyone's participation in this wonderful literary community."

Rigdon will participate on an urban fantasy panel speaking about her debut novel, "Into the Night." Her book is about "a twenty-something in Boston who goes on a first date with disastrous consequences and has to cope with her new life as a vampire under the rule of a sadistic Queen."

Art Taylor (Burke) will speak about his "On the Road with Del & Louise," a collection of stories centered on characters making their way across America. "Del's a small-time crook trying to go straight (and failing time and again); he first meets Louise when he robs the convenience store where she's working, and it's pretty much love at

Where and When

"Fall for the Book" events at George Mason University's Fairfax Campus venues and at other locations throughout Northern Virginia, D.C. and Maryland. From Sept. 27-Oct. 3. Events are free. Location and other details at <http://fallforthebook.org/>. Note: A Smartphone app is available at: <http://fallforthebook.org/2015/07/27/festival-launches-2015-smartphone-app/>

first sight" on a bumpy journey they take together.

"Fall for the Book" is an opportunity to find - free of charge - new preferences while re-enjoying old favorites all in near-by locations.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

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

SATURDAY/AUG. 1-SUNDAY/SEPT 13

Annual Workhouse Clay National Ceramics Exhibition. Workhouse Arts Center, W-16 Vulcan Gallery, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. This exhibition represents the depth and breadth of contemporary functional and sculptural ceramic artworks being created throughout the country. Visit <http://www.workhousearts.org/events/visual-arts/workhouse-clay-national-2015>.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 3

Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Build your child's early literacy skills while enjoying stories, songs and activities. Age 3-5 with adult.

Fairfax's Government Center Farmers Market. 3-7 p.m. Thursdays, May 7-Oct. 29. Ten vendors including a Middle Eastern delicacy bakery and custom organic ice cream shop. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/governmentcntr-mrkt.htm

FRIDAY/SEPT. 4

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

SATURDAY/SEPT. 5

Historic Pohick Church First Saturday Tours. 1-3 p.m. Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. During the colonial period, Pohick Church was the congregation of many of our country's most prominent families, including the Washingtons, Masons and Fairfaxes. <http://www.pohick.org>

Cabaret Series: Autumn in New York. 8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The Workhouse cabaret team will perform a musical score sure to ease us into the autumn season! Featuring the best songs 'selectively harvested' from Broadway that will have us looking forward to the end of the summer heat and prove that there's no better place for to enjoy fall weather than New York City. Tickets: \$25-\$30.

Teen Writers Group. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Do you enjoy writing fiction, poetry, non-fiction and/or memoirs? Join us for sharing, discussion and feedback of works in progress. Teen volunteer facilitates. Age 13-18.

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

Springfield Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Springfield Town Center,



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEANNIE WINSLOW, BURKE CENTRE FESTIVAL

The 38th Annual Burke Centre Festival will take place Sept. 12-13 to celebrate the spirit of the community with rides, activities and live entertainment for all ages.

6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. www.smartmarkets.org.

Fairfax Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays, May 9-Oct. 31. 10500 Page Avenue, Fairfax. www.fairfaxsatdaymarket.com.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 6

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

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

SUNDAY-MONDAY/SEPT. 6-7

LEGO Model Train Show. Sunday: 12-5 p.m. Monday: 12-4 p.m. 11200 Fairfax Station Road. A two day HO scale modular train display running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. They will be joined by Monty with a custom built LEGO train display.

MONDAY/SEPT. 7

16th Annual Labor Day Car Show. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Historic Clifton. Antiques, classics, foreign, customs, motorcycles and more. www.labordaycarshow.com.

Labor Day Picnic. 10:20 a.m. - 4 p.m. St. Mary's Church, 5612 Ox Rd., Fairfax Station. Mass, entertainment, rides, games, bingo, rummage sale, crafts, food and more.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 8

Pohick Daytime Discussion Group. 1 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. "The Storyteller" by Jodi Picoult. Adults.

Storytime at Old Town Square. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Come across the street to Old Town Square to hear some stories, weather permitting. Age 2-5 with adult.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 9

Kidney Foundation Fundraiser. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Whole Foods Market Fair Lakes, 4501 Market Commons Drive, Fairfax. Whole Foods Fair Lakes will be donating 5 percent of all purchases made between 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. to the National Kidney Foundation.

Chico's Fall Fashion Show. 11:30 a.m. Springfield Golf & Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. The Springfield Christian Women's Connection invites everyone to their fall fashion show. It will feature Chico's, a popular boutique that carries full lines in women's designer fashion and

clothing. \$18.50 per person. Reservations are requested by Monday, Sept. 7. SpringWmConn@yahoo.com

Fair Lakes Farmers Market. 3:30-7 p.m. 4501 Market Commons Drive, Fairfax. www.greentowns.com/initiative/farmers-market/fair-lakes-farmers-market-fairfax-va.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 10

Toddler Time. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Stories, songs, and activities. Library staff share with children a love for books, and parents learn to cultivate early literacy skills. Age 2-3 with adult.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

Oktoberfest Volksmarch. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. A volksmarch, literally translated "people's walk," is a leisurely walk through a scenic, historic, interesting area over a pre-determined route. The free walk passes through lush forests and around Burke Lake. Choose from a five or 10-kilometer route (three or six miles) and walk, jog or run at your own pace. German food and drinks will be available to purchase, and the Kings Park German Band will play from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Rummage Sale Fundraiser. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Daniels Run Elementary School, 3705 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Multi-family rummage sale fundraiser to benefit the Fairfax High School Crew Team.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 12-13


38th Annual Burke Centre Festival. Saturday, 9:30 a.m.- 5 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 6060 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke. Burke Centre's signature event, which celebrates the spirit of the community each year with rides, activities and live entertainment for all ages to enjoy.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 15

Toddler Time. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Stories, songs, and activities. Library staff share with children a love for books, and parents learn to cultivate early literacy skills. Age 2-3 with adult.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 16

Multicultural Craft Workshop. 4 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Create a craft from another country. Age 6-12.



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Inexperienced Fairfax Looks to Maintain Success

Defending region champ has won six straight conference titles.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Following a 1-1 tie against Woodson during the second day of the Blast ALS tournament at Lake Braddock Secondary School, junior forward Emily Deivert described the pressure of playing for the Fairfax field hockey program, which has won six consecutive Conference 6/Liberty District championships.

“Six years of people are going to come back and look down on us if we lose it,” Deivert said, “so we really have to just work hard and try to get back to where we were every year.”

Fairfax has compiled a 108-27-1 record during the previous six seasons and last year won its first region championship since 1993. This year’s team, however, returns just six players, including four starters, making the task of winning a seventh straight conference/district title a challenge.



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION

Freshman forward Alexa Brzezynski and the Fairfax field hockey team went 2-1- during the Blast ALS tournament Aug. 26-27 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

ing one for the Rebels.

“Nobody’s crying any tears for us [while we’re] rebuilding and we know that,” head coach Amber Beaudoin said. “Every time we come out to play, people are trying to put a nick in the [region championship] banner, and we know that. It’s been hard because, essentially, we’re a JV team right now.”

Deivert and junior midfielder Molly

Tenerelli are two of Fairfax’s returning players. Deivert totaled four goals and two assists during the two-day, four-game Blast ALS tournament, including a three-goal performance during a 4-1 win over Mount Vernon.

“She’s really a game player,” Beaudoin said about Deivert. “She’s not a particularly awesome practice player — we’re working

on that. When she comes out to play a game, she’s really, really tough — tough to beat. ... Molly Tenerelli has been really carrying us. ... She used to be playing an outside position, now she’s playing inside, so it’s an adjustment.”

Senior midfielder Victoria Brzezynski, sophomore midfielder Sydney Keating, senior midfielder Kat Pugh and senior goalkeeper Alexis Thomasson are also returners.

Fairfax finished the tournament with a 2-1-1 record. The Rebels beat Lake Braddock 3-0 and lost to Oakton 1-0 on the first day, and beat Mount Vernon and tied Woodson on the second day.

Junior forward Jillian Creel had two goals and two assists for the Rebels, and freshman forward Alexa Brzezynski had one goal and one assist. Tenerelli had two assists, Victoria Brzezynski had one assist and Thomasson totaled 15 saves.

Fairfax defeated South Lakes 5-1 on Aug. 31, improving its record to 3-1-1. The Rebels faced Mountain View on Wednesday, after The Connection’s deadline.

Fairfax will travel to face Langley at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

“They’ve got to come up to the level of play that we expect,” Beaudoin said about the inexperienced Rebels. “It’s been kicking and screaming a couple of times.”

Robinson Finds Early Success Despite Inexperienced Defense

Rams go 2-1-1 during Lake Braddock tournament.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Robinson field hockey program returns six starters from last year’s team that went 16-5 and qualified for the region tournament.

None of those starters played defense for the Rams in 2014.

“The biggest issue that we’ve had this year,” head coach Lindsay Arnsmeier said, “is we graduated our whole defensive line, including our goalie.”

So far, the “issue” hasn’t hindered the Rams.

Robinson defeated South County 3-2 on Tuesday, improving its record to 5-1-1. The Rams ran into trouble during the second day of the Blast ALS tournament on Aug. 27 at Lake Braddock Secondary School, when the team played its fourth and fifth games in a three-day period, but Robinson has otherwise experienced early-season success.

After beating Falls Church 7-0 in the season opener on Aug. 25, Robinson came back the following day and beat Mount Vernon



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION

Robinson senior Katie O’Loughlin, middle, moved from forward to defensive midfielder this season.

5-0 and Woodson 1-0 during the first day of the Lake Braddock tournament. The next day, the Rams fell behind the host Bruins but managed to earn a 1-1 tie thanks to a second-half goal by senior Gwen Carsten.

Arnsmeier said she could tell the Rams were tired.

“Towards the end is how we’ve been playing — [with] pressure,” Arnsmeier said.

“The last 10 minutes was how they’re expected to play. The first 40 minutes was not. ... I think we showed bits and pieces throughout the whole game that we were able to dominate.”

Robinson lost its final game of the tournament to West Springfield 2-1.

With the Rams lacking experience in the back, Arnsmeier moved senior Katie

O’Loughlin from forward to defensive center midfielder.

“Last year I played her as a forward and this year, just because she’s very defensive minded and very calm in the back, I’ve had to move her to defensive mid,” Arnsmeier said. “... She’s calm, she’s a leader, she communicates really well and she’s very good at seeing the field, so she can switch the ball back and forth. She’s good not only on offense, but defense, which is what we really need.”

O’Loughlin said she plays defense for her club team, so the transition wasn’t difficult, but she feels pressure to help some of her teammates.

“A lot of the girls, it’s either they don’t have a lot confidence in themselves or they’re still learning how to play defense,”

O’Loughlin said, “so I feel a lot of pressure to not only play well myself, but also support my teammates.”

Senior forward Charlotte Clark, senior midfielder Anna Turner and Carsten are also expected to be significant contributors for the Rams.

Robinson will travel to face Lee at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY



Suzanne Fry Harsel

Suzanne Fry Harsel of Fairfax, Virginia and Venice, Florida passed away peacefully after a short illness on August 27th, joining her beloved late husband of 49 years, Leonard Wallace Harsel. Born April 25, 1935 in Gary, Indiana, Sue was a proud graduate of Indiana University (1957), where she was a member of the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority. A lifelong educator and traveler, she taught in Germany, as well as in the US. Sue also spent nearly three decades on the Fairfax County Planning Commission, serving as its secretary several times, representing what is now known as the Braddock District. Upon retiring as an educator and a Planning Commissioner, she continued to be very involved with numerous volunteer, civic and church activities. She is survived by her devoted children and their spouses: Kari and James Gray of San Francisco, California; Joseph and Carol Harsel of Cockeysville, Maryland; and Karla and Tim Fink of Centreville, Virginia. She is also survived by her beloved eight grandchildren: Ben, Luke, Sean, Henry, Sam, Fiona, Kayla, and Lauryn; and her sister, Lynda Lou Vackar of Illinois. The family will be receiving visitors at Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home at 9902 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22032 on Friday September 4th, between 5-8pm and will hold a Celebration of Life service on Saturday September 5th at 10 am. Mrs. Harsel will ultimately be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. Online condolences may be shared on Suzanne's page at www.fmfh.com. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in memory of Suzanne Harsel, to Habitat for Humanity or Annandale Christian Community for Action ("ACCA, Inc")

QA Testers (Fairfax, VA) Participate in test case generation, execution, test case mgmt, test defect analysis & reporting. Perform functional testing, system testing, regression testing & user acceptance testing. Master's Deg in Engg, Comp Sci, Info System or equiv & 2 yrs exp or Bachelor's Deg in Engg, Comp Sci, Info System or equiv & 5 yrs exp. May req. travel to various unanticipated client sites nationally. Resume to Millenniumsoft Inc, 8301 Arlington Blvd, Ste 504, Fairfax, VA 22031.

School Age / Camp Director

School age program seeking mature experienced Program/Camp director. Must have supervisory experience in child care field. Position requires CDL or willingness to obtain CDL immediately. Applicant must be an effective communicator. Children's activity planning required. This is a year round position full time Mon - Fri. Excellent benefits, all fed holidays paid and off, earned annual leave, health and dental insurance, 401K. **IMMEDIATE OPENING.** Please send resume to acphollinh@aol.com or fax resume to 703.765.7801. EOE

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

Complaint For Absolute Divorce of Willie Gray Ward and Qwendolyn Branch Ward Issued at the State Of North Carolina In The General Court Of Justice District Court Division File No. 12CVD1715 10/24/12. Address and Phone number as followed.

Willie Gray Ward
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ABC LICENSE

JC's Springfield Restaurant & Bakery, LLC trading as JC's Springfield Restaurant & Bakery, 6315 Backlick Rd #199, Springfield, VA 22150. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer and Wine license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Nigest Goremis, owner
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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Springfield \$569,000
This meticulously colonial has 4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths on 3 finished levels. Lower level is a walk out to premium wooded lot.
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Centerville \$585,000
Terrific Opportunity! 5 BR, 4.5 BA Colonial backs to #3 on Chantilly Country Club Golf Course.
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Fairfax Station \$719,900
Updated kitchen & baths, new windows & HVAC, hardwood floors on 3 levels, 2 story foyer. Finished basement with kitchenette. Screened porch. Fenced back yard with mature trees!
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Fairfax City \$599,000
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Betsy Rutkowski 703-229-3368



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Centerville \$749,900
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