

I-95 South Shuts Down For Weekend Work

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Governor:
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I-95 near Alban Road in southern Springfield. I-95 will be closed Friday and Saturday for bridge work at Dumfries Road.



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Petersen to Governor: Explain, Deny, Return or Resign

Petersen first Virginia legislator to suggest McDonnell resign over alleged wrongdoing in accepting gifts from prominent donor.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The tipping point for state Sen. J. Chap Petersen (D-34) was the \$6,500 Rolex watch.

Reports about the Rolex, one in a series of lavish gifts reportedly given to Gov. Robert F. McDonnell (R) and members of his family by a major campaign donor, told Petersen it was time to send a stern letter to the governor asking him to “come clean on this matter” by explaining the gifts, denying the reports, or resigning from office.

On Tuesday, July 2, Petersen sent his letter, becoming the first Virginia lawmaker to suggest McDonnell’s resignation in the wake of the deepening controversy.

“When I heard about the Rolex watch and the circumstances of that gift, that was when I knew I had to speak out,” Petersen said on Friday. “I actually drafted my letter a couple days before, but did not send it right away. I was waiting to see if somebody else would step up, but nobody did. So we mailed it out on the morning of July 2. I also called the governor’s staff and emailed them a copy.”

LATER THAT NIGHT, Petersen appeared on MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow show, featuring Maddow’s liberal and animated take on the political news of the day.

Maddow asked him if it was the “overall weight of the allegation, the long list of things he has ... allegedly received in his capacity as governor” or one item in particular that prompted the letter.

“I have three daughters, so when I heard about the \$15,000 spent on the wedding reception, that kind of took me aback,” Petersen told Maddow. “There was a lot of joking about it, and I guess people thought maybe this was a one-time thing, maybe there’s an explanation.” But Petersen said as the weeks went by with revelations of “one item after another,” he was dismayed by the deafening silence.

“There’s been no explanation from the governor ... and hiding behind ‘no comment,’ that’s not working. The people of Virginia deserve better,” Petersen said.

In an interview Friday, Petersen said he didn’t know why other members of his party had remained silent about the gifts McDonnell reportedly received from Jonnie R. Williams Sr., CEO of Star Scientific, which manufactures dietary supplements.

“Because of that continuing silence, I felt compelled to step forward. I didn’t understand why everyone was afraid to speak out, when this was so obviously wrong,” Petersen said.

For the past several months, reports have



State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) in his Fairfax office.



Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) at a 2012 legislative conference.

Petersen’s Letter

Dear Governor McDonnell:

In recent weeks, I have read numerous reports regarding gifts your family reportedly received from Mr. Jonnie Williams and his company Star Scientific, Inc. The substance of these reports gives the strong impression that your family was materially and systematically benefited by this person and his company, at least over the past two years. Few, if any, of these gifts were reported in the public disclosures that you (like all of us) must file with the Secretary of the Commonwealth. In return, it appears that you allowed this person to use the Governor’s Mansion and the Governor’s Office for the purpose of giving unique credibility to his company. That is unacceptable.

I am writing you directly to ask that you come clean on this matter. If you or your family has received gifts of the type alleged, then you should disclose that fully and immediately.

If those gifts are consumer items which you have retained for personal use, then you should return them immediately to the donor — or sell them and donate the money to the Literary Fund. That is the only method by which the public can regain trust in your Office. Without that trust, there is no purpose in continuing to serve.

If you are unable to explain (or deny) these reports or return the items, then I humbly suggest that you should step down as Governor and permit the Lieutenant Governor to serve out the balance of your term, pursuant to Article V, Section 16 of the Virginia Constitution.

Chapman Petersen
Member, Senate of Virginia

surfaced about the lavish gifts Williams gave to McDonnell and first lady Maureen McDonnell, including clothing, money and trips. The gifts included \$15,000 in catering for the 2011 wedding of McDonnell’s daughter at Virginia’s historic Executive Mansion.

McDonnell has said he did not disclose the catering because it was a wedding present to his daughter, and he has been thorough in his annual financial disclosures regarding gifts. In January, he told The Richmond-Times Dispatch that the Rolex was a gift from his wife.

The ongoing revelations about the gifts, and the lack of disclosure from the governor, are at the crux of ongoing state and federal investigations.

On April 29, it was first reported that federal authorities were interviewing

McDonnell and the first lady about their relationship to Williams, as well as actions the McDonnells may have taken that benefited Williams and his company.

In May, it was reported that Richmond Commonwealth’s Attorney Michael Herring is investigating whether McDonnell violated state gift and disclosure laws.

According to The Virginia Public Access Project, Star Scientific and Williams gave \$130,000 to Virginia officials and a PAC that supports McDonnell from 2009 to 2012.

“It is not illegal to accept gifts,” said Del. Dave Albo (R-42), the most senior delegate from Northern Virginia. “They are just supposed to be reported.”

According to Virginia state law, McDonnell must disclose all gifts to him worth more than \$50. But he does not have to disclose gifts to immediate family mem-

bers or gifts received from family or “personal friends.”

“I’m not saying it’s illegal,” Petersen said. “I’m saying it’s unacceptable.”

Petersen said he was also bothered by the quid pro quo nature of the gifts. In August 2011, the first couple hosted a launch party for one of Star Scientific’s products at the governor’s mansion.

“The reports give the strong impression that your family was materially and systematically benefited by this person and his company. ... In return, it appears that you allowed this person to use the Governor’s Mansion and the Governor’s Office for the purpose of giving unique credibility to his company,” Petersen wrote in the letter.

Petersen said the only response he’s had to his letter from the governor’s office was a call from McDonnell’s lawyer. “His lawyer called me and basically told me that his client could not talk because of the investigation. My response was ‘this is not just a legal issue. Your client needs to tell the people of this state what’s going on.’”

“As an attorney, certainly Senator Petersen understands this office’s not discussing the details of matters pending in the legal process,” said Tucker Martin, a spokesman for the governor, in a statement released last week. “And, as a legislator, certainly Senator Petersen is aware that Virginia’s disclosure requirements do not pertain to the families of elected officials.”

Martin also called the letter “blatantly political.”

SOME LOCAL OFFICIALS agree.

“Chap’s letter was political grandstanding,” said Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock). “I am disappointed to see this issue out there. It is absolutely important to maintain integrity in government. But right now no one has proved any wrongdoing, so we just need to let the process [investigation] play out.”

“Honestly, I would prefer that someone else be doing this,” Petersen said. “I take zero joy in staking out this position.”

Petersen added that he has known McDonnell for 12 years and considers him sincere, forthright and unfailingly courteous.

“I still can’t believe that he would permit this type of dealings in his household. That’s why the Star Scientific reports are such a shock,” Petersen said.

During a gathering at Reston’s Lake Thoreau pool during the 4th of July holiday, several people were discussing the issue.

While some residents were highly critical, Peggy Hancuff said the issue of the governor’s alleged gifts was relatively unimportant. “There are politics that are important, such as voter ID and the governor’s election coming up, and then there are politics that are a distraction. This is a distraction. There are bigger issues out there,” Hancuff said.

Headed to the Beach This Weekend? Find Alternate Route to I-95 South

VDOT shuts down I-95 South for bridge work at Dumfries Road; detours to Route 1.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Motorists heading to Virginia Beach this weekend—or any southern destination on I-95—might plan to take the beltway in the middle of the night to avoid traffic delays and other traffic headaches.

That strategy usually works. But not this weekend.

Starting at 9:30 p.m. on Friday, July 12, and again on Saturday July 13, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will begin to close lanes on I-95 south from Dumfries Road (Exit 152) to Route 619 (Exit 150 - USMC Quantico/Joplin Road). Roads shut down to a full closure of I-95 south from 1 a.m. to 4 a.m. Saturday, July 13 and 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. Sunday, July 14.

The closures will allow VDOT crews to safely lift steel beams for a new bridge that will carry traffic from the future 95 Express Lanes located in the median to the right side of I-95 south before Exit 150 to USMC Quantico (Joplin Road.) Motorists will be detoured to U.S. Route 1, south to Joplin Road, adding about 20 minutes onto the trip.

To frustrated motorists who just want to get there faster, Steve Titunik, VDOT's communications director, has some advice: "Keep your eye on the prize."

"We've done these closures before," Titunik said. "We know it's not a breeze, but you have to remember that each one of



I-95 near Alban Road in southern Springfield. I-95 will be closed Friday and Saturday for bridge work at Dumfries Road.

Detour Information

- ❖ All I-95 southbound traffic will be directed off at Exit 152 A, Dumfries Road (Route 234) east to U.S. Route 1 south to Joplin Road, (USMC Quantico), Route 619 and back to I-95 south. One lane on U.S. Route 1 south will also be closed prior to Dumfries Road (Route 234) to accommodate detour traffic.
- ❖ Motorists can expect up to 20 minutes additional travel time from 9:30 p.m., Friday night, July 12, until 7 a.m., Saturday morning, July 13, and 9:30 p.m., Saturday night July 13, until 9 a.m., Sunday morning, July 14, as crews set-up the lane closures and detour route.
- ❖ All lanes will be restored by 9 a.m., Saturday morning, July 13, and 10 a.m. Sunday morning, July 14.
- ❖ Motorists should also expect nightly lane closures, Mondays through Saturdays, and during the day on Saturdays, throughout the summer weekends.
- ❖ A similar detour will be in place the weekend of July 19, for another bridge structure and steel lifts at Telegraph Road in Quantico.

these projects fits into a master plan to improve transportation options. It's about choices and options that, ultimately, can provide motorists a better driving experience, a more seamless connection to wherever they are going."

Currently, motorists hit a bottleneck when the reversible HOV lanes on I-95 end just

south of Dumfries Road and drivers from the two HOV lanes merge into the three I-95 southbound lanes.

The new bridge will ease that congestion. During the road closure, beams will be installed for the new bridge, which will be a "flyover" to carry Express Lane passengers over to the right-hand side of the gen-

eral occupancy lanes. In this section, the project extends along the same nine miles of road that are closed this weekend, from Dumfries Road south to Route 619.

Similar bridges exist along the HOV lanes near Potomac Mills shopping center, and are designed to avert the danger and delay that result when vehicles from the HOV or Express Lanes enter the general occupancy lanes from the left-hand side, and then have to cross three lanes of traffic to exit the highway.

The new bridge is part of the massive I-95 Express Lanes upgrade and expansion project—a total of 29-miles from Edsall Road in Fairfax County to Garrisonville Road in Prince William County. The project, expected to be complete in late 2014, will add capacity and more travel choices with the EZ Pass system, which includes new access points, new electronic signage and toll gantries.

Until these improvements are finished, be ready for:

- ❖ Extensive lane closures and delays during non-peak hours (day and night)
- ❖ Full highway closures and detours overnight, as necessary
- ❖ Slower-moving trucks entering the work zone on the left
- ❖ Limited shoulder access

"Plan ahead, slow down and drive with caution," VDOT officials advise. Titunik, who often takes calls in the middle of the night from irate motorists questioning the timing of these lane closures, said he know there's never a perfect time to shut down major roadways.

"I tell people it's like trying to throw a party at your house and change the carpet at the same time. It's tricky, but we do our best our best to minimize any disruptions," he said.

For more information on summer work projects, go to www.vamegaprojects.com/about-megaprojects.

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WEEK IN SPRINGFIELD

Express Bus to Tysons

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation Fairfax Connector has launched its new Express Connector bus service from Springfield to Tysons. The buses travel to Tysons via the 495 Express Lanes and commuters get to experience fast Express Lanes speeds without having to pay a toll.

Pedestrian, Bicycle Safety Urged

Fairfax County police are urging drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians to be vigilant this July. The number of cyclists involved in crashes increased from 85 in 2011

to 106 in 2012. So far in 2013, there have been 45.

An 18-month study of reportable bicycle crashes shows that at least a quarter of the bicyclists weren't wearing reflective clothing at the time of the crash; five bicyclists were reported to have been drinking alcohol and about 44 percent were doing something improper, such as riding on the wrong side of the road, failing to maintain proper control or disregarding a stop or yield sign. Police are working with private cycling groups around the region to increase public education efforts on bicycle safety issues.

Police also report an increase in pedestrians involved in crashes. There were 201 in 2012—up from 185 in 2011. So far this year, there have been 98. Police urge pedestrians to learn more about safety issues at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/pedestrian/pedsafety.htm>.

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.

THURSDAY/JULY 11

Crafters Needed. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Lorton Senior Center, 7722 Gunston Plaza, Lorton. Rent space to sell authentic, hand-crafted or original work; reserve early for the Saturday, Nov. 2 sale from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 703-550-7195.

MONDAY/JULY 15

Votes Needed. Mason Neck State Park is currently in second place in Coca-Cola's Take it to the Park Contest. The contest is offering grants of \$100,000, \$50,000 and \$25,000 for first, second and third place respectively, to be used for improvements to help restore, rebuild or enhance activity areas in the parks. The winners are chosen based on the number of votes they accumulate between June 6 and July 15. Vote at: <https://parks.livepositively.com/parks/index.html#vote>.

MONDAY/JULY 15-FRIDAY/JULY 19

Everywhere Fun Fair Vacation Bible Study. 9 a.m.-noon, at the Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Children ages 3-12 will make friends with neighbors and discover that God's love can be found everywhere; interactive Bible storytelling, global games, international music and cool crafts. Register between May 12-July 8 at www.franconiaumc.org. 703-971-5151 or frankiet@cox.net.

TUESDAY/AUG. 20

My Pro Day. 9 a.m.-noon at Lee High School, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. My Pro Day brings the excitement and fun of a pro baseball tryout experience to players of all ability levels. www.MyProDay.com.

TUESDAY/OCT. 8

Meet Candidates for State Delegate from Lee District. 7 p.m., at Franconia Government Center, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria. LDACO and League of Women Voters of Fairfax Area will co-host a meet and greet event for candidates for state delegate or their representative. LDACova.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 2

Bake and Craft Sale. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Lorton Senior Center, 7722 Gunston Plaza, Lorton. Browse 30 local artists, crafters and a terrific bake sale; bakers and crafters needed, reserve space now. 703-550-7195.

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, skyping, 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.americasadoptasoldier.org.



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JULY 22—JULY 26..CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS (PG)

JULY 29—AUGUST 2MEGAMIND (PG)

AUGUST 5—AUGUST 9.....DESPICABLE ME (PG)

AUGUST 12—AUGUST 16.....HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (PG)

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More Than Disclosure Needed

Time for limits on campaign contributions as well.

At least until after November's election, most candidates in Virginia seem to think that there should be some reform to Virginia's campaign finance and disclosure rules. At least it seems likely that most will support expanding disclosure rules to require disclosure of gifts to immediate family members as well as candidates/officials.

Up until recent news reports about gifts to family members of Gov. Bob McDonnell, almost all elected officials would defend Virginia's notoriously unregulated system of allowing candidates and elected officials to take unlimited amounts of money and unlimited gifts from anyone or any company at all. Because Virginia has such strict disclosure requirements, elected officials seem to think that it's OK to be awash in all that money.

EDITORIALS

Voters can look up who is giving money and draw their own conclusions. How could it hurt if the details are all out in the open?

Discovering that the system is entirely self-regulated with no independent auditor, no ethics commission and no penalties for failing to report gifts or contributions should give voters some pause.

Consider that only four states, including Virginia, have no limits on contributions. Most states have limits; for example, in Maryland, individuals can give \$4,000 to any one candidate and \$10,000 total in a four-year election cycle.

Pet Connection

The Pet Connection will publish July 24. Send us your photos by July 18.

We invite you to send us stories about your pets, photos of you and/or your family with your cats, dogs, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures. Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Tell us about your experience. You can also take this opportunity to memorialize a pet you have lost.

Send photos and identify everyone in the photo including the pets and tell us what is happening in the photo, and include your address (we will only print the town name).

Email editors@connectionnewspapers.com, or submit photos and stories directly on our website at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets/.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Omission As Good News

To the Editor:

The omission of additional Metrorail from I-66 planning is good news [Editorial: "HOT-Lanes and No Metro for I-66?", Connection July 3-9, 2013]. Metro to Dulles will cost Fairfax County taxpayers plenty. Extending it beyond Vienna would be costly and the return on investment is unknown. I carpooled on I-66 for eight years. The problem is single-occupant hybrids that apparently get great mileage because they come without passenger seats. Why can't hybrid snobs carpool and do their fair share to reduce congestion? HOV lanes are meant to reduce the number of cars, not reward those rich and smug enough to own a hybrid. There are also cars with DC and MD license plates heading east on I-66 at 6:30 a.m. These drivers live in Fairfax but retain out of state plates to avoid paying their share of Virginia's car tax.

Ms. Kimm advocates extending Metro without saying to where, "this route could be a logical extension of the Metro Orange Line past Vienna ... " The tunnel between Rosslyn and D.C. will be at capacity when the pricey Silver Line to Dulles opens. Extending the Orange Line would complicate tunnel throughout. Extending and maintaining Metrorail on I-66 would be expensive. The rush-hour fare from L'Enfant to Vienna is \$5.50. More troubling is the breezy remainder of her sentence, "and VRE is also operating in the area." That's akin to

saying Fairfax is near Baltimore. Is she so unaware of the location of VRE tracks and stations? VRE already runs to the Manassas Regional Airport southeast of Manassas. Extending VRE only encourages more commuters from Warrenton and Culpepper. The closest point that VRE approaches I-66 is greater than 3 miles and that's at the Bull Run boundary of Fairfax County where there's no station. Conversely, Bus Rapid Transit offers a low cost and quick solution that will get single drivers off I-66.

Ms. Kimm writes, "the 495 Express Lanes have not operated long enough to be fairly evaluated," but she goes on to deplore HOT lanes for I-66. Then, she notes, "There are significant benefits to the 495 Express Lanes project" and lists them. If she can't make up her mind, better to write nothing. Even more telling is her failure to comment on why the rightmost lanes of I-66 are closed outside of rush hour or why the speed limit on I-66 is only 55 east of Lee Highway; freeway speed limits are 65 in California even in areas as densely populated as Northern Virginia.

Michael Shumaker
Fairfax

Deeper Meaning Of Ramadan

To the Editor:

It's that time of year again! The blessed month of Ramadan has finally arrived. I'm sure many of my

peers still aren't certain as to why Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset during the month of Ramadan.

Fasting is another form of worship found universally in the world religions. However, I will shed light on the Muslim aspects with the hope that some questions are answered.

During the day, apart from restraining from food and water, all Muslims are particularly exhorted to refrain from vain talk, quarrels and fights, or any such behavior that is hurtful and impious.

The institution of fasting is extremely important because it cultivates the believer in almost every area of his spiritual life. Among other things, he or she learns through personal experience about what hunger, poverty, loneliness and discomforts mean to the less fortunate sectors of society. Abstention from even such practices during the month of Ramadan plays a constructive role in refining the human character.

Aneela Wadan
Fairfax

Time to Trust Science

To the Editor:

As news events of seemingly more immediate concern come and go, arresting our attention for a few weeks or months, there is one news item that just keeps coming at us relentlessly: Global Warming. As we fret over things of temporary import we may be distracted from dealing effectively

with something that is really important over the long haul.

I find it perplexing that many Virginians who rely instinctively on science to explain the universe and to transform our lives with new discoveries, still find convenient ways to ignore or dismiss scientific conclusions regarding the looming climatic disaster ahead.

As we shuffle our feet through a debate about whether Global Warming is real and what we should do about it, and while we all turn on our A/C earlier and earlier each year, science continues to point out, with precise observable data, that carbon continues to accumulate in our atmosphere and temperatures continue to rise as a result.

It's time we trusted science on this one. The president has just announced a suite of climate-related policies that form a thoroughly rational and responsible response to global warming. A good first step for us Virginians is to take to heart his specific effort to reduce carbon emissions from electric-generating plants which are the principal culprit in the carbon pollution of our atmosphere. Virginia has made some progress so far in this endeavor through the ongoing effort to replace coal with natural gas, but let's keep up the pressure to move to even cleaner sources of energy such as wind and solar power.

Virginians have always been leaders. Let's be leaders here, too.

Chris Johnson
Oakton

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NEWS

Giving a Local Voice To the Civil Rights Act

Next year, the nation will mark the 50th anniversary of the landmark Civil Rights Act. Last week, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) announced he is embarking on a yearlong living history project to gather testimonials and stories from local residents about the civil rights movement and preserve them for posterity.

In the coming weeks and months, Connolly will be asking Northern Virginians to volunteer their personal stories and testimonials about the struggles they faced, the successes they achieved, and their other experiences related to the civil rights movement.

Connolly and his staff will compile the material received and present it to the local school and library systems in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Fairfax.

"I believe our community can create a local and very personal archive on the civil rights movement in Northern Virginia that will be studied and cherished by future generations," Connolly said. "This will be a community-wide endeavor that will preserve an important part of the history of our region, our common-

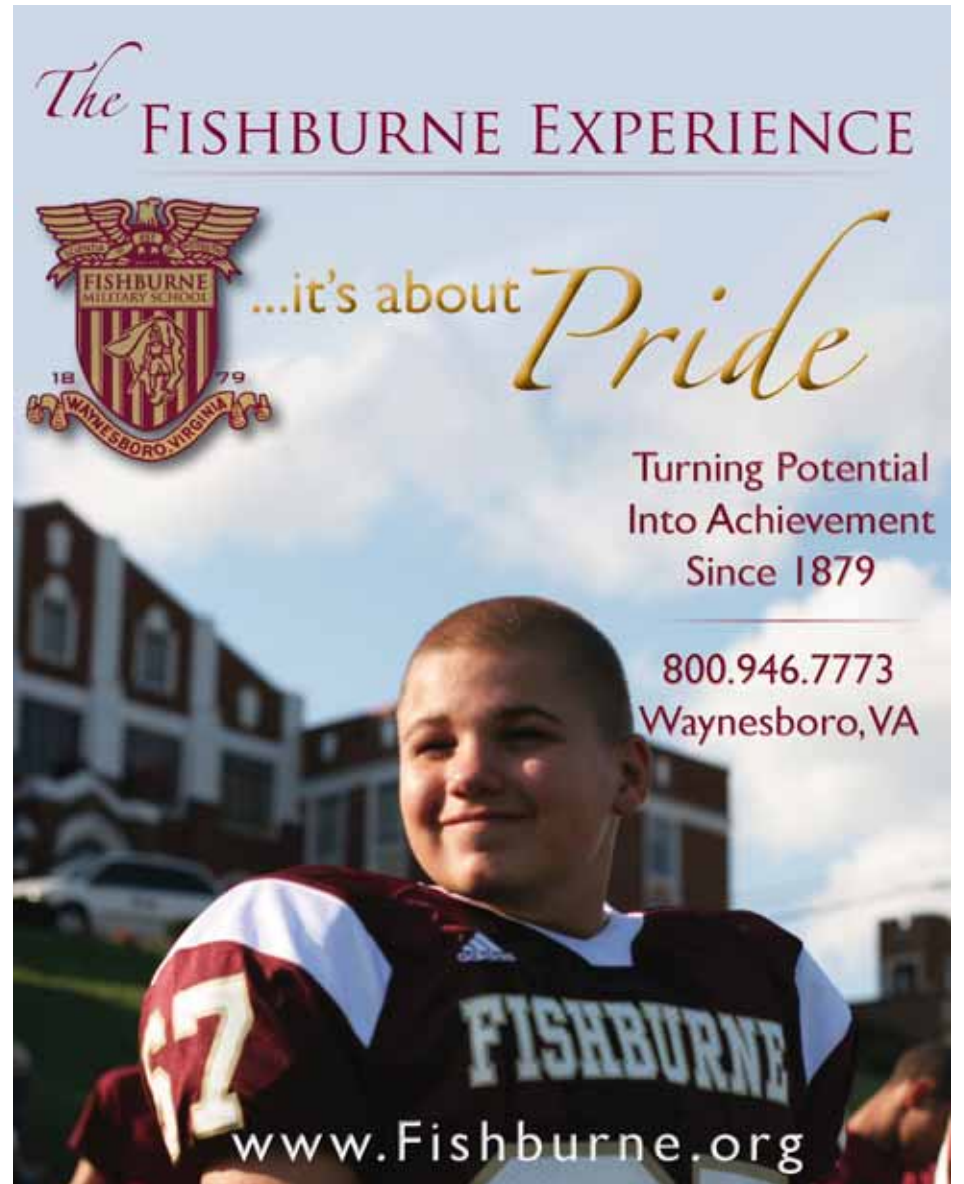
wealth, and our nation."

THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT of 1964 prohibited discrimination in public accommodations and banned discrimination based on race, gender, religion or national origin by employers. The legislation also created the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to investigate allegations of workplace discrimination. The enactment of the legislation is considered a seminal moment for both race and gender equality in the United States.

"The heroes of the civil rights movement fought valiantly for this legislation during what was a formative time for people of my generation and this country. The signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by President Johnson was one significant victory in the long struggle against institutionalized discrimination," said Connolly.

Recently, a retired Prince William County teacher, who was one of the first teachers to integrate all-white Prince William schools, had an opportunity to meet another civil rights icon, Congressman John Lewis of Georgia. Congressman Connolly hosted Fannie Fitzgerald for the unveiling of the

SEE CONNOLLY, PAGE 13



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Sea-themed accessories can add a beach-like tone to a backyard party, says Ann O'Shields of The Nest Egg in Fairfax.



PHOTOS COURTESY ANN O'SHIELDS OF THE NEST EGG



Ann O'Shields of The Nest Egg suggests serve wear made of melamine for outdoor entertaining. "Bright colors help set the tone for a festive gathering," she said.

A jewelry box that is kept in a bedroom is one of the least safe places for storing valuable jewelry.



MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

Ideas for Summer Outdoor Entertaining

Local tastemakers offer design, decorating ideas for alfresco soirees.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Summer is a time when many enjoy outdoor gatherings with friends and family. From soirees in small courtyard spaces to poolside barbecues for a crowd, warm weather is often synonymous with alfresco entertaining.

From shatterproof platters and plates to furniture that can withstand the elements, outdoor accessories are plentiful. Local décor and design experts offer ideas for chic summer entertaining.

Robin Wagner, an associate professor of interior design at Marymount University in Arlington, says function and safety are top priorities when designing an outdoor space. "In talking about outdoor spaces, people view it as an extension of their home," said Wagner. "There are ways of making it feel like your home, but you have factors like weather impacting it, for example, the sun fading the fabrics or rain making things problematic. Companies now make furniture specifically for outdoor spaces."

Ann O'Shields, of The Nest Egg in Fairfax, says options for outdoor furniture are abundant. "The past few years have brought a huge introduction of outdoor materials that allow you to create an outdoor living space that is as beautifully decorated as your interior space. Indoor-outdoor rugs, seating, entertaining pieces and even artwork allow you to introduce wonderful color and texture to your deck, patio and garden spaces. Comfortable seating invites guests to linger long after the barbecue is over to enjoy cocktails and the evening air."

Wagner offers a caveat when purchasing furniture for outdoor use, however. "You don't want to end up with something that might look fine on the outside but that is holding in mold or mildew on the inside," she said. "Make sure

it has the correct inside component of foam or fill that is impervious to mold or mildew."

When choosing colors for outdoor furniture, experts say to consider your surroundings. "If your garden is vibrant in color, you want neutral fabric to let the flowers stand out," said Wagner. "If it is an open space, say a pool or grassy area, then you want the furniture to be the focus and you use vibrant colors and patterns."

When it comes to lighting, designer Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design in Bethesda, Md., suggests LED lights. "They come in the form of pillar candles and small votives and you don't have to worry about them catching fire or the wind blowing them out."

Wagner said, "Solar lighting has come a long from what it was years ago. There are some great solar components out there. Don't think of lighting in the way you would inside your house. Use ambient lighting to set the mood for sitting outside and talking with your friends."

Susan Hergenrath, an assistant professor of interior design at Marymount University suggests stringing LED lights. "[They] can add sparkle. [They're] not just for winter holidays."

Candles are another lighting option, but they can serve multiple purposes. "Using candles not only helps keep the bugs at bay, but adds to the ambiance," said O'Shields.

While Hergenrath says homeowners should be mindful of candles that are unattended or if children are present, she also offers a decorative idea: "If you do use candles, vintage wooden spools make cool candle holders for tapers."

When it comes to casual serve ware, varieties are vast. "Melamine is a wonderful choice for outdoor serving while entertaining," said O'Shields. "Bright colors help set the tone for a festive gathering."

Proxmire adds that melamine can almost replicate indoor place settings. "There are melamine cups and plates that are patterned like Portuguese ceramic pieces," she said. "I had a client who went on [the website] Etsy.com and found navy blue and hot pink whale plates, monogrammed cozies and monogrammed disposable plates."

Unorthodox vessels can be used to hold accessories ranging from plants to utensils as well, allowing homeowners to expand their creativity. "Unexpected containers like a planter lined with plastic can be filled with ice to hold cold beverages," Proxmire said. "Mason jars are casual and [can be] used for flowers."

Chic and aesthetically appealing containers don't have to come with a high price tag, however. "The local flea market, yard sales [or] thrift shops ... have very cool 'found objects' you can use as containers," said Hergenrath. "I found a great old metal pail that is perfect. [I] love anything metal like old wash basins for ice and beverages."

In fact, when it comes to accessories, Hergenrath says inspiration and materials can often be found in one's own backyard. "Use greenery, flowers, sticks [and] rocks [that] you have readily available in your yard to create interesting decorations," she said. "Use sea shells in glass containers to add interest to flower arrangements."

Evelyn Kinville of The Behnke Florist Shop in Potomac, Md., suggests using zinnias, dahlias and delphiniums in warm weather floral arrangements. "Usually in summer there are things like mountain mint which has a minty aroma to the leaf and a small puffy looking flower," she added. "Many people have daisies and hydrangeas in their yard and, of course, the real classic is sunflowers."

Kinville adds that summer arrangements are often casual and colorful. "But they are also geared to the general décor that the person doing the entertaining might be using in the linens," she said. "Generally, though, bright colors are more popular in summer than paler flowers."

Hergenrath says that even though outdoor furniture, flowers and accessories help create an aesthetically appealing design, they are not the most important element for a successful outdoor event, however.

"Remember it is the people that make the party special, not the décor," she said. "Make your space comfy and welcoming, keep the mood happy and festive ... enjoy your family and friends."

Safeguarding Jewelry During Vacations and Beyond

Experts offer simple safety suggestions for protecting valuables.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Kenzie Campbell left her home recently for a week-long trip to care for her ailing father. While she was away, her Northern Virginia home was burglarized, and in addition to a flat-screen television and an iMac computer, the thieves got away with all of her jewelry.

"I could care less about the television and the computer," she said. "But they took a Cartier ring that I bought during a family trip to Paris, my grandmother's wedding ring and almost all of the gemstone jewelry that my mother had given me, like a pair of denim sapphire earrings, which were my birthstone," she said. "It is heartbreaking, not because of the monetary value, but because of the sentimental value."

Summer is a time when many go on vacation and leave their homes unattended. In fact, according to the FBI, more burglaries occur during summer months than any other time of the year. The U.S. Department of Justice further reports that an American home is broken into about every 15 seconds. However, experts say there are simple precautions the average person can implement to safeguard valuable jewelry from potential burglaries.

"A jewelry box is the worst place to store valuable jewelry," said jeweler and goldsmith George Kaufmann of Robert Bernard Jewelers in Potomac, Md. "A jewelry box is an invitation for a crook. Essentially, you're packaging all your valuables in one obvious place and making it easy for a crook to take."

In fact, the Jewelers' Security Alliance, a nonprofit trade association that provides crime prevention information, advises homeowners not to store their most precious jewelry in a bedroom or jewelry box. Statistically, it's the first place a burglar will look.

Campbell says that was her experience. "The burglars never went into my bathroom," she said. "They took all of the jewelry from drawers in my bedroom."

Diversion safes are clever options for hiding valuables. "There are a lot of items out there like books that are not really books but spaces for valuables or picture frames that are really security for jewelry," said Robin Wagner, an associate professor of interior design at Marymount University in Arlington. There are even safes disguised as household food containers complete with barcoded wrappers, as well as decorative, wax candles that are made with interior metal storage compartments.

Kauffman says certain pieces of furniture also work well for hiding jewelry. "I had a client who has a piece of furniture that was an antique and it had a secret drawer that rotated," he explained. "It was something that nobody would ever find."

He also recalls a clever hiding place from his childhood home. "When I was a kid, my mother wanted a vanity, so she took shelves out of the linen closet and made a little dressing table. It was deeper than what she needed, so she hid valuables in the shelves that were hidden. Every home has some kind of nook and cranny

where you can hide valuable jewelry. Unless a crook has time to spend hours combing through your home, these usually work."

It's also a good idea to consider adding covert jewelry storage spaces, such as those suggested by Kauffman, during a home remodeling project. Unfortunately, Bob Gallagher of Sun Design Remodeling in Burke said, "It is not something that people are thinking of when they go into a remodeling project. Clients don't bring it up often. People want to remain hopeful that they aren't going to be a victim."

However, says Gallagher, jewelry storage is not a complicated process during a construction project. "You build a safe into the actual construction project, inside the framing of the house. Sometimes people ask for safes to be recessed into a closet so people can't walk away with it, and you could hang a picture over the safe to cover it."

Fairfax resident Susan Hergenrath, an assistant professor of interior design at Marymount University agrees, offering a caveat about traditional safes. "You can buy a safe, but if it is one that can be picked up and taken out, it is not much good."

Knowing the value of your jewelry is another component of safeguarding it. "You have to have it tested to determine whether the stones are real and [to] determine their quality," said Kauffman. "Sometimes a ring might be stamped 14k gold, but that doesn't guarantee that it is real. Have jewelry appraised and that will tell exactly what you have."

Valuable pieces of jewelry should be insured through one's homeowner's insurance policy, say

experts. "If something is really valuable and irreplaceable, keep it in a safe deposit box at the bank," said Hergenrath. "Keep a photo and written inventory of your valuables and put that in the safe deposit box. That way if something is stolen, you have an accurate record."

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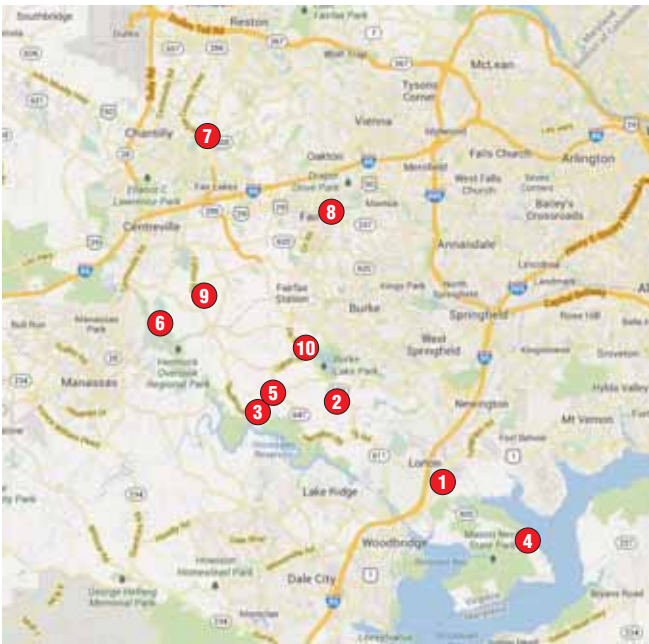
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2 8168 COTTAGE ROSE CT	5	..	4	..	2	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,380,000	...	Detached	...	5.34	22039	ESTATES AT ROSELAND	...	05/29/13
3 11602 LAWTER LN	5	..	5	..	1	CLIFTON	\$1,279,000	...	Detached	...	5.65	20124	WOLF RUN	05/22/13
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7 12719 LAUREL GROVE WAY	4	..	4	..	1	FAIRFAX	\$1,195,000	...	Detached	...	0.89	22033	OAK HILL ESTATES	05/10/13
8 3838 FARR OAK CIR	6	..	4	..	1	FAIRFAX	\$1,160,000	...	Detached	...	0.19	22030	FARRCROFT	05/09/13
9 12700 KNOLLBROOK DR	6	..	5	..	1	CLIFTON	\$1,150,000	...	Detached	...	5.00	20124	FERGUSON KNOLLS	05/30/13
10 6705 BROWNS POND LN	4	..	3	..	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,075,000	...	Detached	...	1.27	22039	DONOVANS RIDGE	05/29/13

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SPORTS



COURTESY PHOTOS

Lake Braddock rising freshman Ty Crabb was selected to participate in the U.S. Under-15 National Development Team program.

Rising Freshmen Participate in National Program

SPORTS
ROUNDUPS

Lake Braddock rising freshmen Ty Crabb and Lamont Atkins were selected to the U.S. Under-15 National Development Team program.

The program, which took place June 29-July 5 at Walsh University in Canton, Ohio, consisted of 100 eighth grade athletes from around the country. Coaching staffs included high school and college coaches, along with former NFL players.

Brooks Wins Mid-Atlantic PGA Junior Championship

Shannon Brooks of Vienna was the overall girls' winner of the 2013 Middle Atlantic PGA Junior Championship at Evergreen Country Club in Haymarket.

Brooks earned a spot to play in the Junior PGA Championship presented by Under Armour and Hotel Fitness, which will be held at Trump National Golf



Vienna's Shannon Brooks won the girls' overall championship at the 2013 Middle Atlantic PGA Junior Championship.

Club in Washington D.C. on July 30-Aug. 2.

With a four-hour rain delay in the second round, all 25 female competitors finally completed their rounds. Brooks had a two-round total of 140. Brooks shot a course record of 68 on day one and finished day two with a 72, beating the next competitor by two strokes. She also took the title in the girls' 16-18 age division. In the girls' 13-15 age division, Victoria Tip-Aucha of Manassas shot a score of 154 and won over Sienna Ferrick (156) of Vienna.

Vienna's Amber Liu finished eighth in the overall competition with a score of 159.

Cycling Events Enter 3rd Year in NVSO

The 2013 NVSO 10K and 20K cycling events will take place Sept. 8 at the Northern Fauquier Community Park, located at 4155 Monroe Parkway, Marshall, Va.

The competition is open to men and women in five-year age groups and is governed by the rules of the U.S. Cycling Federation (USCF). Medals will be awarded according to the best times in each age group.

Grand prix bicycle races held with a French twist.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

More than 300 cyclists participated in nine different races Sunday, June 30 at the Tour de Tysons.

Tour de Tysons

The first annual Tour de Tysons Bicycle Races was a fun-filled day of French cuisine, balloon twisting and intense cycling. Hundreds of neighbors cheered 300-plus cyclists who competed in nine different races around the 1-mile course—including a grueling 30-lap Elite challenge. National Capital Velo Club, PS Business Parks and Kaiser Permanente were among sponsors who helped contribute to the event's success.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBLITZ/THE CONNECTION

Oren Burks (right), a 2013 South County High School graduate, will play football at Vanderbilt University.

Burks to Play Football At Vanderbilt

Oren Burks, a 2013 South County High School graduate, was a defensive force on the football field for the Stallions. As a senior, the linebacker/defensive end totaled 123 tackles, 3.5 sacks and three interceptions, one of which he returned for a touchdown, en route to Patriot District Defensive Player of the Year honors. After a 1-5 start, Burks helped South County win five straight to reach the Northern Region Division 5 semifinals.

During Burks' junior year, the Stallions started 0-3 before winning 11 straight, including a region title, on their way to an appearance in the Division 5 state championship game.

Burks will continue his football career at Vanderbilt University, where he received a full scholarship. As a member of the Commodores, Burks will test his skills against opponents in the Southeastern Conference, which has produced the last seven BCS national champions.

Burks participated in a Q and A with the Connection via email.

❖ Connection: What made Vanderbilt the right fit for you?

Burks: Vanderbilt had the perfect balance of everything I was looking for in a school: world-class education, competing at the highest level and the opportunity to be a part of a team that is going to start a legacy.

❖ Connection: What position will you play?

Burks: I will play "star backer," which is an OLB/safety position where I will be able to make plays all over the field and use my athleticism to my advantage.

❖ Connection: What is your favorite memory of playing football at South County?

Burks: My favorite memory as a Stallion would have to be our playoff run in the 2011-12 season, which landed us in the Virginia Division 5 state championship game.

❖ Connection: What are you most looking forward to about the transition from high school to college?

Burks: I am looking forward to challenging myself both athletically and academically at the next level. I know the transition isn't going to be easy but I'm looking forward to the experiences.

❖ Connection: At what age did you start playing football? Did you imagine you'd one day play it in college?

Burks: I played one year of little league football when I was about 6 or 7. I didn't start playing football again until I was a freshman in high school, just for fun. I originally wanted to pursue a DI basketball scholarship but started to see more opportunities with football and really developed a love for the game. A lot of my coaches told me early on in my football career about the potential they saw in me but I never could've imagined that I would be where I am today.

❖ Connection: What will you study at Vanderbilt?

Burks: Human organizational development, which focuses on finding solutions to human problems in businesses, organizations and communities.

—JON ROETMAN

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.

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

Fairfax United Methodist Church has announced the selection of **Dr. Jonathan P. Giblin** as the new director of music ministries. Giblin comes to Fairfax after completing his undergraduate and graduate work at the University of Cincinnati. Fairfax United Methodist Church looks forward to welcoming him and invites the community to participate on June 9 in a service at 10300 Stratford Ave., Fairfax. Call 703-591-3120 for more information.

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

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 at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or 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 from 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.

CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. For more entertainment events in the county, go to: www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2013/may/22/fairfax-county-calendar/.

FRIDAY/JULY 12

The Hot Society Orchestra Of Washington. 7:30-8:30 p.m., at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. The Hot Society Orchestra of Washington performs dance music of the 1920's, 1930's and 1940's, re-creating the great sounds of early jazz-dance bands. www.hotsociety.net.

SATURDAY/JULY 13

Yoga on the Quad. 8 a.m., at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A free, 45-minute long yoga class held outside; bring your own yoga mat. workhousearts.org/events/general-events/free-yoga-quad-0.

5th Annual Ice Cream Social Fundraiser. Noon-4 p.m., at the W-8, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Workhouse Arts Center is organizing its 5th Annual Ice Cream Social Fundraiser, which involves the sale of handmade ice cream bowls created by the students, ceramic artists and instructors of the art center; music from the Backyard Blues Band playing and pony rides and fire station tours are also part of the event. \$15 per bowl. 703-584-2900 or <http://workhousearts.org/events/visual-arts/5th-annual-ice-cream-social-fundraiser>.

2nd Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m.,

Workhouse, 601 Ox Road, Lorton. This art walk showcases the diverse work of more than 100 visual artists in a unique historic venue. <http://workhousearts.org/events/visual-arts/2nd-saturday-art-walk-10>.

360 Degrees of Post-Traumatic Stress Opening Reception.

6-9 p.m., at the Workhouse in the Vulcan Gallery, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Works from soldiers in transition at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, including sculptures, prints and more made from veterans participating in the Combat Paper Project. www.combatpaper.org/index.html or <http://workhousearts.org/events/visual-arts/360-degrees-post-traumatic-stress>.

Claire Lynch. 7-8 p.m., at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The current Claire Lynch Band is a quartet that perfectly interprets the beauty, subtlety and genre of Claire's music. www.clairelynch.com.

Cool Cow Comedy. 7 and 9 p.m., Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. Rahmein Mostafavi hosts touring comedians in an evening of live stand-up comedy. \$15. <http://workhousearts.org/events/>



This Friday, July 12, join in with singing and dancing at the Rock-N-Kids summer program at 11:30 a.m. at Empire in Springfield.

performing-arts/cool-cow-comedy-2.

Ballroom Social. 7:30-10:30 p.m., Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Come for an evening of social ballroom dance led by an instructor; refreshments and cash bar included. Mini lesson: \$5; Social dance: \$10. <http://workhousearts.org/events/performing-arts/ballroom-social-dance-5>.

FRIDAY/JULY 19

The Capital Focus Jazz Band. 7:30-8:30 p.m., Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Dedicated to the preservation of traditional New Orleans jazz, Capital Focus has played at the Cherry Blossom Parade, the White House Easter egg rolls and jazz festivals throughout the United States and Europe. www.prjc.org/cfjb/muscn.htm.

Sixth Generation Concert. 8 p.m., Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The Sixth Generation is a dynamic rock and roll band at the forefront of musical style from the late 1960s. \$10-15. <http://workhousearts.org/events/performing-arts/sixth-generation-concert>.

SATURDAY/JULY 20

Pearl and the Beard. 7-8 p.m., at Workhouse Arts Center at Lorton, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Pearl and the Beard is three voices, one cello, one guitar, one glockenspiel, one melodica, several drums, one accordion, 96 teeth and one soul. www.pearlandthebeard.com/.

Clifton Film Festival. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. This film festival showcases original films made by the surrounding community at the Workhouse Arts Center. <http://workhousearts.org/events/performing-arts/sixth-generation-concert>.

Chef's Table. 8-10 p.m., Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Learn some basic cooking techniques while enjoying your family and friends. Couple: \$80. <http://workhousearts.org/events/general-events/date-night-chefs-table-10>.

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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.

Gabrielle Sakellarides, D.O., graduate of Robert E. Lee High School, daughter of Michael and Maria Sakellarides of Springfield, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in clinical exercise science from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2007 and graduated from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine with a degree of Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine on May 25.



Gabrielle Sakellarides

Cadet William Trexler Jasien, graduate of Robinson Secondary School, son of Katherine and William Jasien, graduated from the U.S. Military Academy on May 25. He concentrated his studies in Systems Management and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army with the Army Aviation branch and will report to Fort Rucker, Ala.



Cadet William Trexler Jasien

for his first assignment.

Alina Difazio of Fairfax Station was named to the Dean's List at Bluefield College for her achievements in the spring semester.

Chuckwuemenka Nnamdi Enchionya, son of Mr. and Mrs. Onyebuchi N. Enchionya, graduated from Saint James School on June 2.

Tiffany Fresco, graduate of Robinson Secondary School, daughter of Manuel and Mary Ann Fresco of Fairfax Station, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications with an emphasis in broadcasting at Susquehanna University on May 12.

Sean Padraig Brennan, graduate of South County Secondary School, daughter of John and Mary Ellen Brennan of Fairfax Station, a senior majoring in computer science at the University of Rochester, has been elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest academic honor society.

Be Part of The July Pet Connection

Send Your Photos & Stories Now to springfield@connectionnewspapers.com or complete our online form at springfieldconnection.com

Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, and identify all people and pets in photos. Submission deadline is July 19.

Connolly Launches History Project

FROM PAGE 7

Frederick Douglass statue in the U.S. Capitol and he introduced her to Congressman Lewis.

"Mrs. Fitzgerald was one of the brave and remarkable educators who integrated Prince William County Public Schools a decade after the Supreme Court handed down its decision in Brown V. Board of Education," Connolly said. "It is my hope that this project will preserve Mrs. Fitzgerald's story and many others like it. I also welcome our younger generations to share their thoughts on how and why the legislation is important to them and how it affects their daily lives.

Sadly, we continue to wrestle with issues of equality to this day, and the voices contained in this archive can be an important ally in the fight against discrimination."

MORE INFORMATION will be distributed as the yearlong archival history project moves forward. Written statements with phone, address and email can be submitted to Congressman Connolly's Prince William County District Office at 4308 Ridgewood Center Drive, Woodbridge, VA 22192. Call 703-670-4989 with any questions about the archival project.

—VICTORIA ROSS

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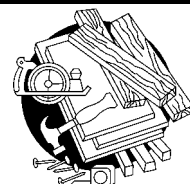
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PEOPLE

Local Doctor Helps Ugandan People

Fairfax Station resident Dr. DeeAnn Stroop travels to Uganda in what has become an annual trip to provide help to the people there.

BY OLIVIA OVERMAN
THE CONNECTION

Working in conjunction with the Hope 4 Kids International organization (H4KI), Fairfax Station resident Dr. DeeAnn Stroop has traveled to Uganda for the past three years, providing medical and other assistance to the people. “We provide medical assistance, dedicate clean water wells, feed and clothe children, and work with widows in a program that helps them to run a business so they can feed their family,” said Stroop.

Stroop has raised just over \$3,500 to date, which will allow her to hold about eight-and-a-half day clinics where she will help about 3,000 people. “I mostly treat malaria, dysentery and measles,” said Stroop. “People walk two days to attend the clinic, so they are not coming to me with a cold.

“A lot of children are dying from measles out there,” she said.

“I hold as many clinics as I can raise money for,” Stroop said, and working sunup to sundown in the sweltering heat can be tough when the only place for the clinic is a makeshift tent under a tree.

Suffering from the lasting impact of Lyme disease, Stroop has her own medical needs to overcome as well. Because of this she holds clinics every other day and restocks medications and rests on the days in between. Asked about the medications available, Stroop said, “it is hard to get real medications. There is a lot of corruption and some medications you just cannot get, but I’ve found a reputable pharmacist. They are about 15 years behind us in terms of the medications available.”

Faced with corruption and the possible threat from the Liberation Army, Stroop travels as part of a group of people from all over the country who all possess different skills. While some construct the wells, others teach the villagers how to maintain it and keep it clean. Describing the water in places without wells, Stroop said, “I would not let my dog drink the water that is available.” And having a well in a village allows the children to attend school, rather than having to walk 10 hours to get buckets of water for the family.

Volunteers help feed the children with highly nutritious protein-rich food packs that provide them with all the nutrition they



Dr. DeeAnn Stroop

PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. DEEANN STROOP

“We provide medical assistance, dedicate clean water wells, feed and clothe children, and work with widows in a program that helps them to run a business so they can feed their family.”

— Dr. DeeAnn Stroop

need for a day, make and bring temperature appropriate clothes for them while others help teach the children.

During the five weeks in Uganda, Stroop will primarily provide medical care in the villages surrounding Tororo and Fort Portal as well as spending time playing with, feeding and clothing children, helping widows and working on projects in Bunyinya. “I fell in love with the Ugandan people,” she said.

Stroop will have her airfare paid for by United Arab Emirates, so all the money raised will go to providing medical treatment to the people. Donations can be made for this trip on the H4KI website (www.hope4kidsinternational.org).