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**Let's
Go
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PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

Many supporters and opponents to Residential Studio Units in Fairfax County attended the Planning Commission RSU Committee's planning session on Jan. 6.



Debate Over Residential Studio Units Continues

Housing advocates, Fairfax County supervisors, area residents address affordable housing.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County residents have yet to agree on the specifics of residential studio units and are continuing the debate on several aspects of the proposed amendment.

As of Jan. 6, the Planning Commission proposed amendment defines residential studios as efficiency units that make up a multiple-family residential building, or part of a building, in which 80 percent of the units must be for those who do not make more than 60 percent of the median income of the area. In the Washington, D.C. area, that is \$45,000.

The Residential Studio Unit Amendment has also been amended to remove residential studio units from consideration in lower density R-E through R-8 districts, where single family detached homes are allowed.

AS IT CURRENTLY STANDS, the amendment does not allow for the conversion of single family homes. It was this issue that several members of the Board of Supervisors, including Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), were opposed to and advised the Planning Commission RSU Committee to remove from consideration, along with removing from consideration the development of Residential Studio Units in lower-density neighborhoods.

"Some people thought someone could just go in and create a boarding house out of a single family home, so the Board asked the Planning Commission to just remove that option altogether," said Michelle Krock, executive director of the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance.

Herrity, however, said that he is still opposed to the income limit of \$45,000 for 80 percent of the units, and believes the market should dictate the rates.

"The ordinance still needs a lot of work. 80 percent of the units will be out of the reach of our policemen, firemen, teachers and other young professionals in Fairfax County because of the rent controls," Herrity said. "I think that's still the chief problem with the ordinance."

Herrity said he has been working with state delegate Jim LeMunyon (R-67) on issues related to residential studio units.

"I've been working with Jim LeMunyon on a piece of legislation that would keep these RSUs out of neighborhoods and prevent single family conversions," Herrity said.

According to Krock, residential studio units will provide those who work in positions vital to Fairfax County with an affordable place to live. Using Paycheck to Paycheck, a website that can compare the salary of different occupations in various areas,

Krock said she was able to compile a list of jobs that make anywhere from \$19,000 per year to \$48,000 per year, including automotive technicians, bookkeepers, childcare workers, preschool teachers, cooks, bank tellers, and others.

"Single persons who work in those occupations could be well served by housing of this type; housing that is just small and an affordable place for them to

live that doesn't have a huge amount of space that they have to pay for," Krock said.

According to Joe Pettit, a volunteer at the Church of the Nativity in Burke, residents' concerns of overcrowding and illegal board houses are not related to residential studio units, but many groups have linked the two.

"This is a reflection that Fairfax County lacks low-income rental housing. If we had more affordable rental housing, there would be less pressure. It

"The RSUs would fill the need for many people who need low-income housing."

— Joe Pettit, volunteer at the Church of the Nativity in Burke

SEE STUDIO, PAGE 5

VIEWPOINTS

Residential Studio Units: Pros & Cons

— JANELLE GERMANOS

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield)

"The ordinance still needs a lot of work. Eighty percent of the units will be out of the reach of our policemen, firemen, teachers and other young professionals in Fairfax County because of the rent controls. I think that's still the chief problem with the ordinance, that our young professionals, teachers, policemen and firemen are all placed out of these units."



Al Smuzynski, Fairfax Station

"The current amendment I think is going in the right direction, but it's got some serious flaws that will make it hard to actually build these."



Keith Bender, Springfield

"This proposal of 500 square feet with no walls doesn't address someone who is making \$60,000 a year and has three kids. But it needs to. There are a lot of problems here. You have to include the smallest before you can ever think of taking care of the largest. If we don't address the need of someone making seven dollars an hour or twelve dollars an hour, we're still going to have housing problems. We will just be managing the problems that we ourselves have created."



Nancy Mercer, Braddock District

"If we were smart, we would take this opportunity of all this angst, that everybody has, and fear, and we would sit down and look at all of the tools we have available, and look at what we can build."



Supervisor Jeffrey McKay (D-Lee District)

"I definitely think they should be in commercial districts, especially planned development commercial districts, which tend to be higher density. I think we should consider them in industrial areas because there's a lot of industrial areas that have untapped density and they do have connectivity to mass transit, and a lot of times they're bordering residential areas, but are not in them, and so the impacts can be better mitigated. I think there are some residential districts that make sense but the idea that first surfaced was anywhere and everywhere, and that makes no sense to me."



Rob Jackson, President, Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

"We certainly think the concept of RSUs have some merit, as there are not many efficiency apartments in Fairfax County, and if done correctly, they could benefit the community."



Michelle Krock, executive director of the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance

"This is meant to help working singles, but it could also be used to assist people who are homeless. Any kind of housing that is affordable is going to help low income people, so it's one of the strategies that the County can and should use, but it shouldn't be limited to just people who are homeless. It could serve a much greater percentage of the population."





PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Glen McCarthy teaching his guitar students at GMU.

‘Mr. Mac’ Nominated For Grammy Award

Glen McCarthy vying for first-ever music-educator honor.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Glen McCarthy played trumpet in high school; but when his parents gave him a guitar for graduation, it changed the trajectory of his life. He’s played guitar in bands ever since then – yet what’s defined him most, he says, is being a guitar teacher.

The longtime Little Rocky Run resident taught guitar at Robinson Secondary School for 30 years and, for more than 15 years now, he’s taught music-education majors at GMU the art of teaching guitar. He’s never done it for the recognition or accolades, but for the sheer joy of it.

Now, though, McCarthy is being acknowledged on the national stage. He’s one of 10 music teachers – whittled down from a field of more than 30,000 – in the running for the Recording Academy and the GRAMMY Foundation’s first-ever Music Educator Award.

“At first, I thought, ‘It’s cool that I’m being considered,’ but I didn’t think about my chances of winning,” he said. “It blows me away that I got to the top 25 and then the top 10.”

McCarthy’s come a long way since he began teaching at Robinson in 1976. He also broke

new ground when he taught FCPS’s first guitar class ever.

“I enjoy teaching, and band, chorus and orchestra are the traditional forms of teaching music in schools,” he said. “Typically, 20 percent of high-school kids – including a large number of girls – are taking those classes. But I find that guitar appeals to a different population of students and also attracts more boys.”

TOUGHEST, said McCarthy, was getting acceptance by the school system and other music educators that guitar’s something valid to teach in school. “When I started teaching, it was considered a rock-and-roll instrument,” he said. “And back then, there weren’t any established programs on how to teach guitar or when to teach students each new playing skill.”

Former Robinson colleague Ron Goad said McCarthy made his class “relevant and current” by letting his students play their favorite rock songs besides his planned lessons. “The ‘guitar-hoodlums’ some feared are actually an academic cross-section of students,” he added. “They include at-risk kids whose success in guitar class [extends] to other subjects, motivating some toward graduating, instead of dropping out.”

Still, some music teachers feared they’d lose large numbers of their students to guitar classes. “But that’s generally not the case,” said McCarthy. “Kids taking guitar may sign up for music-theory classes taught by the band teachers and will also be part of the jazz band.”

“When I spread the guitar gospel, I tell students that knowing



McCarthy

how to read music, combined with developing their guitar skills by ear, is a perfect marriage for learning to play music,” explained McCarthy. “I want them to be versed in both styles.”

Most rewarding, he said, was seeing how popular his classes were and how the guitar program grew, not just at Robinson, but throughout Fairfax County high schools. When he retired from FCPS in 2007, he was teaching six periods of guitar a day to 175-200 students total.

Now, besides instructing at GMU, McCarthy also substitute teaches for FCPS guitar instructors. He and his wife Suzy, former choral director at Lake Braddock Secondary, also perform during worship services at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Fairfax. She sings while he plays guitar.

He also performs with Keltish, an Irish band; in a wedding band with Centreville’s Ron Goad; and with the Too Damn Big Orchestra. “We called it that because there are too many people in it to make any

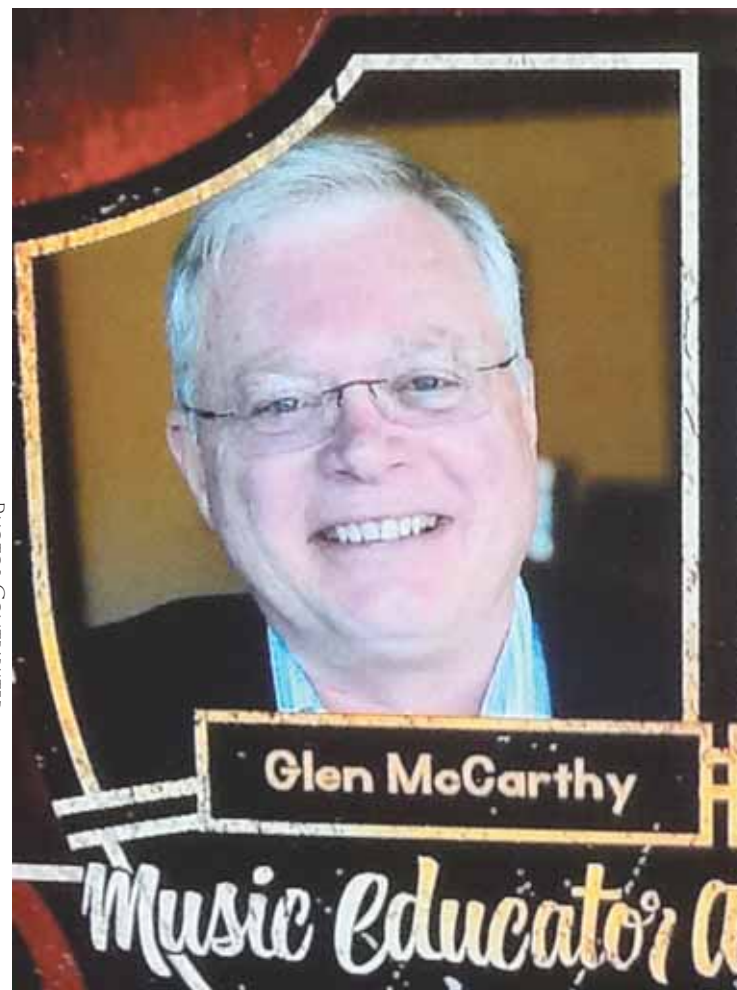


PHOTO COURTESY OF MIMI TOTTEN

McCarthy

money,” said McCarthy. “But we do it for the fun of it.” He’s also played guitar during Centreville High’s spring choral concerts and in the pit orchestra for Robinson’s recent musical, “Little Shop of Horrors.”

In addition, he co-chairs a national organization called Teaching Guitar Workshops, which offers weeklong seminars for music educators. “It introduces them to the right way to teach a guitar class,” said McCarthy. “Music teachers taking it receive a free guitar, music books and accessories, plus continuing-education credits. I’ve taught these workshops in Reston, about 10 years. But last summer, I also taught a week each in Riverside, Calif.; Colorado Springs and Toronto.”

When he retired from Robinson, the other FCPS guitar instructors established the Glen McCarthy Guitar Award for the outstanding guitar student at each high school. There’s also a plaque in each high school with his name on it.

“When I substitute teach at these schools, I introduce myself as Mr. Mac,” he said. “But eventually, one of the students will ask if I’m Glen McCarthy and, when I say yes, they all go, ‘Ooooh.’”

He tells his aspiring guitar teachers at GMU to make sure their future students leave class smiling so they’ll want to return. “Guitar’s an elective, so they have to make their program exciting and worthwhile to their students, or they won’t have a job,” he said.

McCarthy’s enjoyed teaching the same students for four years, nurturing their development and maintaining many of those rela-

tionships after they’ve graduated. “If I win the Grammy, that’s great,” he said. “But the videos posted about me and the comments from my former students have been heartwarming. They thanked me for giving them the gift of music, and you can’t say anything better than that.”

“His influence and positive outlook have enriched many lives,” said professional musician Randy Thompson. “I was one of his first students in the ’70s when he was a young, bearded and cool Glen. We later became good friends and, throughout the ’80s, played clubs, concerts and events together.” Proud of McCarthy’s nomination, Thompson said besides being “an education innovator,” he connected with his students in a way that “inspired them to have a relationship to their instrument.”

RECENTLY, because McCarthy pushed for it, an All-State Guitar Ensemble performed for the first time at November’s Virginia Music Educators Assn. conference. “It was a long time coming and the kids were just great,” he said. “And the VMEA gave me the thumbs up to continue it this year, too.”

McCarthy says winning the Grammy would validate the importance of what he does. “I’m still in shock, but I’m getting excited and keeping my fingers crossed,” he said. However, he already feels victorious because of the supportive comments he’s received from his colleagues. “I so respect their teaching,” he said. “And the fact that they’re saying similar words to me is so gratifying.”



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

In signing the final papers, Fairfax Water purchased the City of Fairfax water system.

Fairfax Water to Supply City of Fairfax Residents

The City of Fairfax completed the sale of its water utility to Fairfax Water, beginning the process of merging these two water systems.

"Fairfax Water is pleased to welcome the customers of the City of Fairfax service area to our family of 1.7 million Northern Virginians who receive water service from Fairfax Water. We look forward to continuing our history of providing exceptional service, quality, and reliability to our customers," said Philip W. Allin, Chairman of Fairfax Water.

In commenting on the transition Mayor Silverthorne said, "This is a win-win for all parties. City residents will continue to receive plentiful high-quality water plus lower

rates for water in the future. In the final analysis, we had to give first consideration to an opportunity that would save our residents money in the near and long term."

The City Council voted to sell the system in April 2013. In signing the final papers today, Fairfax Water purchased the City of Fairfax water system, transferred employment of the City's water system employees to Fairfax Water, and guaranteed the reduction of water rates for the City of Fairfax water system customers to be equalized to the Fairfax Water rates within three years.

For more information, visit www.fairfaxwater.org and www.fairfaxva.gov

Studio Units Debate Goes On

FROM PAGE 3

wouldn't eliminate people looking for boarding types of situations, but it would lessen it," Pettit said. "The RSUs would fill the need for many people who need low-income housing. That's the bottom line."

According to 2012 Fairfax County data mentioned in a staff note in the proposed amendment, less than one percent of the overall housing units in Fairfax County are efficiency units, while 23 percent of the population lives in single households.

"In some sense, portions of Fairfax are becoming like Arlington. People who have moved to the suburbs want to preserve the suburban atmosphere," Pettit said. "That was the type of housing they chose, and I can understand why they would want to preserve that, but it appears that more and more single individual living units are going to be needed."

SOME FAIRFAX COUNTY RESIDENTS at the Jan. 6 Residential Studio Unit Committee Meeting disagreed on who is meant to be the specific populations served by these units.

Clyde Miller, a resident of Falls Church, spoke at the meeting against the way the current proposed RSU amendment is written.

"There's no requirement and no thought in any of this language that any of this is regulated. It could have a halfway house in an R-12 residential district, unmanaged and unregulated. The County placed that in same pot with the notion that we need to do something for first-year school teachers, and they don't belong in the same pot. They need to be separated," Miller said.

Pettit, however, believes that residential studio units can help a variety of people.

"These are designed for people from all kinds of backgrounds, not just coming from the area of my particular interest, those with disabilities, but also older people, younger people, those just starting out that want their own place rather than boarding with some other people," Pettit said.

Keith Bender, a Springfield resident, believes that more thought needs to be put into the amendment.

"It's being crafted so it's a beautiful example of what could have been, but nobody wants to step up and build it," said Bender.

The next Planning Commission Residential Studios Committee will be on Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. in Conference Rooms 2 and 3 at the Fairfax County Government Center.

Read the draft to the proposed Residential Studio Unit here: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/rsu/1_6_14_draft_res_studio_amendment.pdf

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Broken Promises

Virginia's mental health services system fails to serve many of those in need of its services.

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

Last month the disAbility Law Center (dLCV) is sued a report on the condition of mental health services in Virginia. It is an eye-opening report: Broken Promises, the Failure of Mental Health Services in Virginia. Its findings are direct: "Despite the promises of reform to the mental health service system in the last decade, Virginia's mental health services system fails to serve many of those in need of its services."

According to dLCV, there are more than 40,000 Virginians living with serious mental illness and thousands more with less serious emotional disorders that require treatment including an estimated 130,658 children between the ages of nine and eighteen who need treatment. The dLCV which

advocates for all people with disabilities to be free from abuse, neglect, and discrimination considers the problem in part to be a misallocation of resources. As its report points out, on any given month about ten percent of residents of state hospitals continue to be hospitalized even though their treating professionals have found that they no longer need to be hospitalized. Thirty-one of the 133 individuals in such hospital placements in November, 2013, had been waiting for discharge for more than a year. The problem is that there are inadequate or non-existent facilities or programs in the community to continue services to these persons. At the same time, there were an estimated 26,990 inmates confined in local and regional jails of whom nearly



25 percent were known or suspected to be mentally ill. More than 3,500 persons in jails were diagnosed with a serious mental illness.

The dLCV maintains that funding is misdirected towards unnecessary hospitalization when funding is needed desperately for community-based crisis response services and housing options for people with mental health needs. Their position is not without controversy. Others maintain that both more hospital spaces and more community-based facilities are needed.

The tragic event surrounding the family of Senator Creigh Deeds has brought the need to the public's attention.

Outgoing Governor Bob McDonnell has proposed a more than \$50 million increase in the

budget for mental health services and has established a commission to develop a plan for mental health services in the Commonwealth. There is bipartisan support to address the issue in terms of additional funding as well as to amend existing statutes to permit persons who are a danger to themselves and to others to be held for a longer period of time until appropriate treatment is available to them.

We are past the time when we should have met the promises for reform to persons with mental health problems and their families. The 2014 session of the General Assembly must respond. You can view my interview with Colleen Miller, Executive Director of disAbility Law Center of Virginia and another interview with George Braunstein, Director of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, both on the topic of mental health reform at <http://vimeo.com/album/1650266>.

Problem-solving on 2014 Agenda

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN COOK
(R-BRADDOCK DISTRICT)

I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with my Board colleagues and Braddock residents on a number of important issues. Here are some of the key issues that will affect Fairfax County residents in 2014.

❖ Federal and state law requires the Board to pass a new Stormwater Ordinance this spring as part of Chesapeake Bay pollution control. Our stormwater program will also start to address flooding caused by prior development that did not adequately plan for run-off. I have been working to minimize the burden these requirements would place on homeowners seeking to make renovations, while still meeting important environmental goals.

❖ The Board will consider a zoning amendment to permit Residential Studio Unit (RSU) apartments. An RSU is a small zero-bedroom apartment, of no more than 500 square feet (the size of a good-sized living room), with a bathroom and kitchenette included. The Board has already voted to keep RSU's out of low-density residential areas. I hope we can work out remaining issues so we can allow the private sec-



tor to create new, market rate affordable housing at no cost to the taxpayers.

❖ I am co-chairing a joint Board of Supervisor-School Board Infrastructure Financing Committee charged with figuring out how to pay for school renovations, major maintenance needs of County buildings and parks, and new construction of schools, parks, and facilities to meet the demands of population growth. I am also part of a working group tasked with designing a new compensation plan for our County workforce that will keep employee pay compa-

rable to our competitors and still be affordable to the taxpayers.

❖ The County budget is in decent shape. Last year we dealt with our structural challenge by stopping the practice of balancing the budget with one-time money. Now, we should be able to balance this year's budget without raising the tax rate, holding agency spending basically flat, giving schools the 2 percent increase we promised them, and giving our workforce a cost-of-living raise.

❖ In Braddock District, one of the first uses of the new state transportation funding could be widening Braddock Road from Guinea Road to the Beltway, including HOV-Bus lanes. I will put together a citizen task force to ensure the interests of our neighborhoods are protected as we ex-

plore how to design this project. I am also looking forward to the completion of George Mason's "Campus Drive" project and the beginning of the County's improvements to the Braddock - Route 123 intersection.

❖ I am also looking forward to the launch of our newly-funded initiative against neighborhood speeding. I will be asking our neighborhoods to join in making the commitment to encourage residents to slow down and drive safely.

How are we going to accomplish all these things? By working together in a positive manner, involving our citizens, looking for solutions instead of problems, and adhering to principles of sound fiscal management. It's a new year. Let's get to work!

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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Jewish Community Center Announces Course Schedule

The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia (JCCNV) is pleased to announce the Winter/Spring 2014 course schedule for the Adult Learning Institute (ALI). Located at the JCCNV, ALI is dedicated to offering adults of all ages fulfilling opportunities to continue their love of learning and to nourish their intellectual curiosity. Course topics for the Winter/Spring 2014 semester include: biographies of great figures in the history of Zionism and Israel; an author talk on FDR and the Jews with Allan Lichtman; the short stories of Bernard Malamud; science and religion; German art history; and environmental sustainability. These classes will be taught by renowned instructors including distinguished professors from American University and George Mason University, journalists from The Washington Jewish Week and other Jewish media outlets, a leading congregational rabbi, the JCCNV's Community Shaliach (emissary) from Israel, as well as leaders of local businesses and organizations dedicated to advancing environmentally sustainable living practices.

To register for classes, visit www.jccnv.org for online registration; mail completed registration form, available online or at the JCCNV, with payment to: Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA 22031; or call the JCCNV front desk at 703-323-0880 and provide a credit card. Course registration kick-off will be held during the week of Jan. 20 in the JCCNV lobby. The first 40 first-time registrants will receive a special gift. For additional information, call 703-323-0880 or contact Sheila Budoff at Sheila.Budoff@jccnv.org or Carla Rosenfeld at Carla.Rosenfeld@jccnv.org.

Recycle During Electric Sunday

Residents may recycle old TVs, computers, peripheral electronic devices – such as keyboards, speakers, printers and scanners, as well as household hazardous wastes – including fluorescent light bulbs and tubes, for free, during Fairfax County's "Electric Sunday" events. The next one is slated for Sunday, Jan. 12, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, in Fairfax. For more information, call 703-324-5052.

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To Advertise Your Community of Worship, Call 703-778-9422

HOW TO GET YOUR ORGANIZATION'S SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE CONNECTION

Calendar Listings

The Connection Newspapers contain a Calendar of Upcoming Events every week. While we cannot guarantee that every event we receive information about will be listed, here is the information we need for your upcoming event to be considered for the Calendar. We welcome photographs of similar events held previously, which sometimes appear with Calendar items.

Name of Event:

Day of the Week, Date and Time:

Name of the Place Event will Be Held:

Address of the Place Event Will Be Held:

Name and Phone Number for More Information:

Three Sentences Describing the Event:

Please submit your calendar information at least two weeks before your event. Clear photographs from similar previous events are always welcome. All events should be open to the public. We give first priority to free events. E-mail listings to:

fairfax@connectionnewspapers.com

or mail to:

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On Jan. 19, George Mason University's Center for the Arts is presenting "Fahrenheit 451" by science fiction and fantasy writer Ray Bradbury.



PHOTOS BY MIGUEL DRAKE-MCCLAUGHLIN/ COURTESY OF AQUILA THEATRE

When Books Are Outlawed and Knowledge Discouraged

Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451" comes to Center for the Arts.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Continuing a series of enthralling professional touring theater productions, George Mason University's Center for the Arts is presenting "Fahrenheit 451" by renowned science fiction and fantasy writer Ray Bradbury. It is another in an "amazing assortment of performances," said Tom Reynolds, Center for the Arts director of artistic programming.

One of his best-known works, "Fahrenheit 451" (originally called "The Fireman" in 1953) is about people living in a time of censorship; a time when the government is all-knowing. The show will be presented by New York City-based Aquila Theatre founded to produce "the greatest works for the greatest numbers."

"It was a pleasure to burn" is the opening line of "Fahrenheit 451." These words set a dark mood as firemen set books on fire to suppress unorthodox thinking. The unconventional is to be suppressed. Nothing is private. Bradbury, himself, adapted his novel for the stage as well as the 1966 movie directed by François Truffaut, starring Julie Christie and Oskar Werner.

While written six decades ago, Bradbury conjured a world where "news" would be delivered to homes through "picture walls" long before the now



On Jan. 19, George Mason University's Center for the Arts is presenting "Fahrenheit 451" by science fiction and fantasy writer Ray Bradbury.

Where and Where

Aquila Theatre presents "Fahrenheit 451" at George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance Sunday, Jan. 19, 2014 at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$22-44. Call 888-945-2468 or visit www.cfa.gmu.edu

ubiquitous digital wireless delivery of information to our homes and shown on large monitors.

"People may be aware of the title name from the movie and original literary work. Now they can see it live, in person," said Desiree Sanchez, director of the Aquila production. "With a live performance, the audience will be engaged and emotionally connected quite differently" then when reading the book.

According to Sanchez, "Fahrenheit 451" is "absolutely amazing and incredibly fascinating. Bradbury was clairvoyant in what he wrote. We did not change his text, but did set it in contemporary times rather than deep into the future." Sanchez also noted that the production will use eye-popping mood setting projections and mood-setting lighting along with music by the influential rock band, Nine Inch Nails, founded by Trent Reznor.

Sanchez noted that the show focuses on the "important message of what can happen if we stop reading and become less aware of what is around us." "Fahrenheit 451" also raises many questions about the impact of

technology on people's lives. "Is life more empty with less in-person contact?" was a question raised in an interview with Sanchez.

And as Bradbury wrote, "Stuff your eyes with wonder... See the world. It's more fantastic than any dream made or paid for in factories."

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: <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2013/sep/26/fairfax-county-calendar/>.

SATURDAY/JAN. 11

2nd Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The Workhouse showcases the diverse work of more than 100 visual artists in a unique historic venue, creating an atmosphere that encourages visitors to immerse themselves in the richness of this creative community.

Broadway Night. 8 p.m. Rebecca S. Wilburn Auditorium, Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. The evening spotlights the musical talents of Hayfield Middle and High School students, and includes a dessert buffet. You will be greeted by the soulful sounds of the Hayfield High School Jazz Band and transported to a place called "Broadway" the moment you step through the front door. Come early for the delicious dessert buffet starting at 7:00 pm. (included in ticket price). Tickets are sold at the door: Adults - \$10.00, Students and Seniors - \$7.00.

SATURDAY/JAN. 18

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. Harris Theater, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets: \$25-60. For information call 703-563-1990 or visit: www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 19

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 2 p.m. Harris Theater, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets: \$25-60. For information call 703-563-1990 or visit: www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

TUESDAY/JAN. 21, 28

"Song & Character Study: An Audition Workshop for High School & Adult Students. 6-8 p.m. Truro Anglican Church, 10520 Main Street, Fairfax. High School and Adult actors and singers are invited to join CFTC for a four week class on song and character study. Each week will feature a master class setting where students will bring a song to workshop with the class. Instructors will assist the student with delivering text as a song, with emphasis on

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.

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

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



BY BARR WHEELER/COURTESY OF FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Attend the next performance of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra with Conductor Chris Zimmerman on Jan. 18 and 19 at the Harris Theater at George Mason University.

combining of acting and singing skills in a well-rounded performance. Cost: \$40 per student. \$65 for two people in the same family, \$90 for three or more people in the same family. www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org

THURSDAY/JAN. 23-SATURDAY/JAN. 25

I Never Saw Another Butterfly. 7 p.m. The Sovereign Grace Home School Co op Main Auditorium, 5200 Ox Rd, Fairfax. The play tells the unforgettable story of a young Jewish survivor of the Holocaust during World War II. \$7 for adults; \$5, students 3-17. www.facebook.com/Sawabutterfly and jubileecampaign.org/funds/tabitha-orphan-fund

THURSDAY/JAN. 23-FRIDAY/JAN. 24

Annie Get Your Gun. 7:30 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. This entertaining musical tells the fictionalized story of the life of Annie Oakley (1860-1926), a sharpshooter who starred in Buffalo Bill's Wild West, and her romance with sharpshooter Frank Butler. Tickets \$10. lakebraddockchorus.squarespace.com for information and online ticket sales

FRIDAY/JAN. 24

Messages of Hope. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. A Chris Lavelle Film, will be shown. A film event that will touch your soul, this documentary is based on Suzanne's true story of transformation that has captivated audiences. Participants can ask questions about the afterlife, hear the

contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

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

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.

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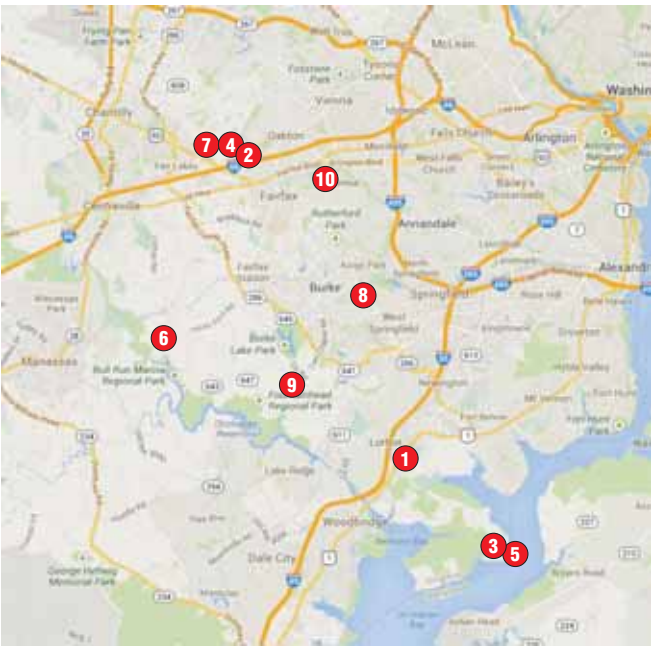


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Kitchen Organization for the New Year

Local organizers, designers and culinary experts offer smart tips for making space and clearing clutter.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

If organizing an unruly kitchen, one where there never seems to be enough space for storage containers and pots and pans, is on your list of resolutions this year, the project might be less daunting than you think. From creating a system for grouping spices to keeping plates in easy reach, local experts share secrets for a well-maintained kitchen.

Hang pots and pans inside pantry doors, says Sallie Kjos of GreyHunt Interiors in Chantilly, Va. "It organizes them, but decoratively can look effective."

Pots and pans can also be hung from the ceiling using a hanging cookware rack. "These are actually very pretty hanging over a kitchen island and it frees up cabinet space for other items when storage space is limited," said Susan Unger, of ClutterSOS in Vienna.

Victoria Sanchez, of Victoria at Home in Alexandria, agrees: "Pot racks are totally underutilized," she said. "They offer extra storage for your pots and pans and add a decorative element above an island or along the wall."

Unger also recommends storage



This kitchen by Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. was built with open shelving that offers extra storage as well as easy access to dinnerware.

racks that hang from walls and doors. "[They are] very functional and I've used them many times in kitchens and other rooms," she said. "It is not unattractive, but [it's] not a 'pretty' organizing item."

Reduce clutter any way you can. "Clear off the fridge," said Kjos. "Paint the inside of your cabinets with magnetic chalk paint and write your messages there with your calendar and coupons hidden away for a cleaner look."

When it comes to storing cooking utensils that need to stay within easy reach, Kjos said, "You can replace canisters that may look bulky with glass jars. Use urns to store your wooden spoons and spatulas to make them into a pretty and decorative arrangement."

Anna Reeves, owner of Tiny



Organizer Susan Unger, of ClutterSOS in Vienna, recommends storage racks that hang from walls and doors. "[They are] very functional and I've used them many times in kitchens and other rooms," she said.

Chefs with locations in Potomac, Alexandria, Fairfax, Arlington, Vienna and Oakton, gets back to basics when it comes to cooking and kitchen organization. She starts with an old-fashioned pad and pencil, organizational tools that would be helpful in most kitchens.

"One good tip is to write down everything you need before you sit down to make a recipe, so you have a list of all the supplies and ingredients" she said. "I have friends who start a recipe and then realize that they don't have all of the ingredients and tools they need."

Even something as simple as stacking storage containers becomes easier when they are similar in size. "Uniform Tupperware containers make for easy storage," said Reeves.

Kristen Robinson, a chef instructor at The Art Institute of Washington, a branch of The Art Institute of Atlanta, has an organizational safety warning, however.

"Most people don't realize that food poisoning usually occurs in the home due to improper food storage and handling," she said. "I label and date everything that goes in the refrigerator and freezer. It's important to label and date leftovers and pay close attention to expiration dates. One thing I do to keep items fresh on the shelf is to store my grains, beans and rice in mason jars. I label and date these items, too. I hate having open bags of these items and Ziploc bags can be clumsy."

IF YOU'RE LUCKY ENOUGH to have a kitchen remodel on your agenda for 2014, consider cutting-edge cabinetry that offers storage solutions. "I am both pleased and amazed at the new designs for base corner cabinets," said Joe Starkey of Old Town Bath and Kitchen in Alexandria. You can still find and still use traditional lazy Susans, but alternatives out there, [such as a] blind corner with full access or with swing out or with pull out, are staggering. Newer mechanics have allowed redesign of the actual storage areas."

Bill Millholland, executive vice president at Case Design/Remodeling, with offices in Bethesda and Falls Church said, "One particular project always comes to mind when I think of kitchen organization and clever storage solutions, and it incorporates the idea of placing heavy items [like] plates in a drawer rather than up high in a wall cabinet. This is both convenient and practical for people of all ages and abilities."

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SPORTS

Robinson Gymnastics Wins Five-Team Meet

The Robinson gymnastics team won a five-team meet on Jan. 6 at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. The Rams posted a score of 125, followed by West Potomac (111), TJ (103.575), T.C. Williams (94.2) and Annandale (38.5).

Robinson's Caroline Burda placed fourth in the all-around with a score of 32.25. She placed fourth on vault (8.6) and bars (7.65), fifth on floor (8.5) and eighth on beam (7.5).

Sarah Gross placed fifth in all-around (32) and Juliann Maroyka finished sixth (30.725). Gross placed second on floor with a score of 8.7 and Maroyka (8.65) was third.

Jacqueline Link, Devin Anderson, Bailey Young, Kayla Mathews and Amanda Hill also competed for Robinson.

The Rams will compete in a meet at Langley on Jan. 18.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The Robinson gymnastics team took first place with a score of 125 during a meet at Thomas Jefferson on Jan. 6.

out to cheer also will get free "cheer sticks" to help them get into the spirit.

FANQUEST, presented by Booz Allen Hamilton, is one of many events offered year round by Special Olympics Virginia.

Burke Lake Seniors Golf Club Seeks Members

Interested golfers are invited to join the Burke Lake Seniors Golf Club. Must be 55 and older, enjoy playing golf, meeting new people and having an all-around good time. Reserved tee times on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Par 3 Burke Lake Golf Course on Ox Road. Annual dues for the season – April 1 through Oct. 31 – are \$20 plus green fees at a reduced rate. For more information, call Charlie Ryan 703-690-4227.

Adult Softball Teams Wanted

Registration is now open for Fairfax Adult Softball. Deadline to register is March 3 with play beginning as early as April 4. Men's, women's, coed, corporate coed, elite and free agent leagues available. For further information, please call 703-815-9007 or email office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com. The registration process is conducted online via the FAS website at www.fairfaxadultsoftball.com.

Paul VI Student-Athletes Sign With College Teams

Two student-athletes from Paul VI Catholic High School in Fairfax recently signed letters of intent to play collegiate sports.

Steven Hillenbrand signed to play lacrosse at Rutgers University. A defensive player, Hillenbrand has been named Second Team All-WCAC twice and Second Team All-Virginia State. Hillenbrand has earned a 3.9 GPA, and is a member of the Student Government Association, Model United Nations and the VI Man. He also serves as team captain and is an Eagle Scout.

Ariana Freeman signed to play basketball at the University of Louisville. A combo guard, Freeman has been named First Team All-Met,



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Steven Hillenbrand and Ariana Freeman at the signing ceremony.

WCAC All-Conference, ESPN Top 100 and the Virginia Player of the Year. She scored her 1000th point last season. In addition, she serves as a Peer Mentor for students with intellectual disabilities and holds a 3.6 GPA.

South County Basketball Coach Hess Beats Former Team

Stallions win two out of three at tournament.

BY ANDREW MINER
FOR THE CONNECTION

The South County Stallions beat the Langley Saxons in day-two action of the Mount Vernon Holiday Basketball Tournament 59-52 in the consolation bracket play on Dec. 27.

Stallion coach Travis Hess wished South County played any other school than the one he formerly coached.

"It was the one team I didn't want to play," Hess said afterwards. "At least not so soon, after a tough loss the following night, it was easy to game plan but I still know most of the kids on that team as well as coach [Scott] Newman."

Newman, on the other hand, said, "[coach Hess and I] shared some funny texts back and forth and while we preferred not to play them it was just another game and we gave them all we had."

Hess, less than a year removed from being the head coach at Langley, squared off against first-year head coach Newman of the Saxons. Newman had been Hess' assistant at Langley for the last four years and there were still players on the Saxons who Hess had personally coached.

After the first quarter, the score was knotted at 12. Then the Stallions outscored the Saxons 17-7 in the second quarter.

"We gave better effort today than yesterday," Newman said. "South County is a good team and we are still young."

In the second half, South County jumped all over the Saxons. The Stallions extended their lead to 16 by outscoring the Saxons 15-9 and led 44-28 entering the fourth quarter. Langley, however, scratched and clawed back into the game by doing what it does best: draining 3-pointers. They hit three that quarter and by using a diamond press were able to cut the Stallion lead to four with 1:25 remaining. South County then hit six of its next eight foul shots to cement the victory in the final 73 seconds.

South County finished the tournament with a 72-66 win over Garfield on Dec. 28, improving the Stallions' record to 8-3. South County will host West Springfield at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 10.

Through snow days and a prolonged football season, Hess admitted, "it's on the coaching staff" and that "we haven't had enough practices" when asked how South County can better learn how to close games. Both tournament games the Stallions have let their opponents back into the game. They blew a nine-point fourth quarter lead before losing to Oakton the night before. Hess was excited to get back to practice, however, in order to "work on everything."

Lake Braddock Boys' Basketball Wins 7 of 8

The Lake Braddock boys' basketball concluded the 2013 portion of its schedule with a 7-1 record.

After winning their first five games, the Bruins suffered their first loss of the season on Dec. 26, falling to McLean 63-57 during the Glory Days Holiday Tournament. Lake Braddock bounced back the next two days with wins against Hylton (72-69) and Mills Goodwin (85-63).

The Bruins will travel to face Annandale at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 10 and will play at T.C. Williams on Jan. 14.

West Springfield Girls' Basketball Starts 10-0

The West Springfield girls' basketball team won each of its three games during the Westfield holiday tournament, improving its record to 10-0 during the 2013 portion of its schedule.

The Spartans defeated Cannon County (Tennessee) 66-51 on Dec. 27, Westfield 57-35 on Dec. 28 and Madison 64-57 on Dec. 30.

West Springfield will host South County at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 10 and travel to take on West Potomac on Jan. 14.

Special Olympics to Hold FANQUEST at Robinson

The Special Olympics Virginia's FANQUEST will be held on Saturday, Jan. 18 at 6 p.m. at Robinson Secondary School (5035 Sideburn Road) in Fairfax. Special Olympics basketball athletes will take to the courts for basketball contests, a shoot-out and an all-star game featuring two local Special Olympics teams. The public is encouraged to attend signing up at www.volunteer2cheer.com.

Check-in will be at the "Volunteer to Cheer" table at the gym entrance. You will be given materials to make posters and signs, and everyone who comes

PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

Kevin Koons, left, speaks to participants in the First Day Hike, including the Houck family of Burke.



Starting the New Year with a Hike

Area residents spend New Year's Day at Mason Neck State Park.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

Park rangers led visitors of Mason Neck State Park through a series of hikes on Jan. 1 as part of America's State Parks First Day Initiative. Mason Neck hosted three hikes on New Year's Day, each of varying difficulty.

Interpretive Ranger Kevin Koons led eager hikers on the third guided hike of the day, which included an easy one-mile walk along the Bay View Trail, providing views of marshlands and Belmont Bay. Koons said the park is famous for its bald eagle sightings.

According to Koons, Mason Neck State Park saw a great turnout for the First Day Hikes.

"I wasn't sure because of the statewide fee increase, but we had a great turnout," Koons said.

The hike included lessons about the park and treating nature respectfully. Koons pointed out trees that had been written on, and talked about the damage this does to the trees.

"Every time someone carves their name on a tree, it leaves scars on the tree," Koons said.

Several families came along for the hikes, including the Houck family from Burke, who came out for the hike because they wanted something to do on New Year's Day.

"We really wanted something exciting to do," said Mary Houck of Burke. "We like this a lot. I'm always driving them out to the hikes."

Koons ended the hike with a quote from Dr. Seuss's book, *The Lorax*, regarding treating nature correctly and reversing the negative effects that the environment has experienced.

"One of my favorite quotes is, 'Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not,'" Koons said.

Koons said he loves his job as an interpretive ranger and couldn't imagine doing anything else.

Michelle Morris of Lorton said her family loves going to Mason Neck Park.

"They love coming out here," Morris said.

According to Jess Lowry, the park manager of Mason Neck State Park, nearly 50 people participated in the hikes.

"Any time a person takes the opportunity to come out to a hike, I think it's successful," said Lowry. "Especially when it could be cold. I went to the first hike and it was very enjoyable. It set the tone for 2014."



Interpretive ranger Kevin Koons points out a vandalized tree during the First Day Hike at Mason Neck State Park. According to Koons, this type of activity negatively impacts the tree.

Burke Resident Brenna Houck, 17, participated in Mason Neck State Park's First Day Hike with her family.



Lorton resident Marissa Mitchell, 9, listens with her dog to ranger Kevin Koon during the First Day Hike at Mason Neck State Park.

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News

Leadership Fairfax to Host Annual Supervisors Breakfast

The Leadership Fairfax 23rd Annual Board of Supervisors Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 7 - 9:30 a.m. at

Hyatt Fair Lakes in Fairfax.

In its 23rd year, the breakfast provides leaders from business, government, and the non-profit sector an opportunity to hear straight from the Supervisors about happenings in Fairfax County, including the "State of the County" address from Chairman Sharon Bulova.

Leadership Fairfax will recognize Capt. Willie F. Bailey, of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, as the winner of the 2014 Katherine Hanley Public Service Award.

Capt. Bailey is recognized for his service, not only to the fire department, but also to the community. Throughout his career, he has spearheaded efforts to collect much needed items (such as backpacks, school supplies, and winter coats) for children in need in Alexandria and the South County area. He has been honored by the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, Alexandria City Schools, the Rotary Club of Tysons



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Capt. Willie F. Bailey, LFI '12, of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department will receive the 2014 Katherine Hanley Public Service Award,

Corner, Commerce Bank, Volunteer Fairfax, the Fire and Rescue Department, and Fairfax County Government, and was named a 2013 Living Legend of Alexandria.

Tickets are \$55 LFI member/ \$70 general public) or a corporate table of ten seat.



Burke Filmmaker Participates in New York Festival

Michael Deigh of Burke, an aspiring film director who graduated in 2008 from Lake Braddock Secondary School, had one of his movies, "The Greatest Act," named an official selection and shown Jan. 6 at the New Filmmakers New York film festival in New York City. He is seen here at the event just before his film screened. Michael is a graduate of the NYU Tisch School of the Arts for Film and Television. He lives in Burke and in Brooklyn, N.Y.



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