

Fairfax Station ♦ Clifton ♦ Lorton
CONNECTION

**Winter Fun, Food &
Entertainment**

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 3

Painting Pottery on a Snowy Day

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8

Margaret Eccles, from Oakton United Methodist Church paints a bowl at Color Me Mine in Fairfax Corner on Jan.23. She's making the bowl to contribute to the Our Daily Bread Fairfax's Feb. 27 fundraiser.

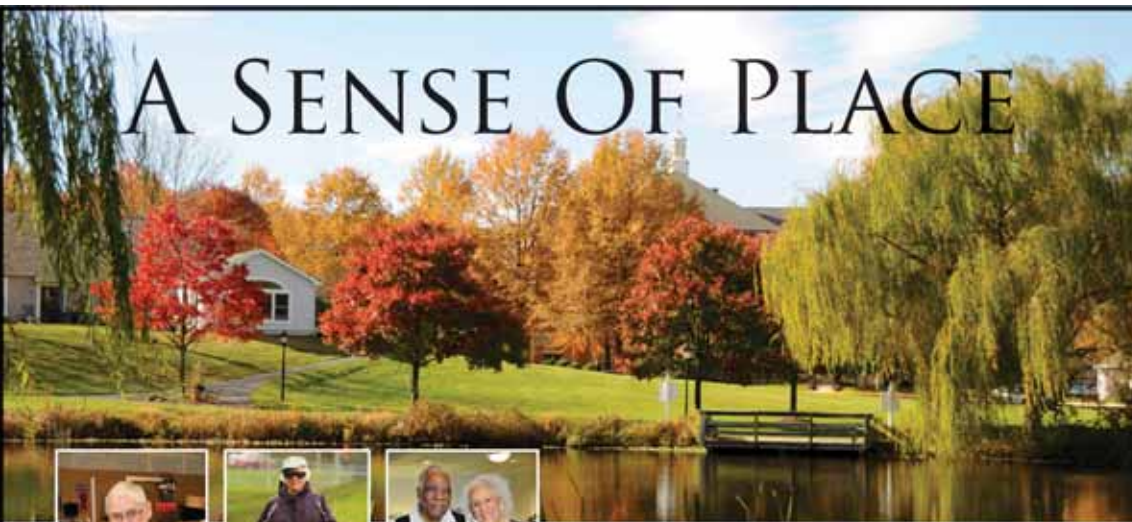

Rescue for Lorton Arts

NEWS, PAGE 4

Chocolate!

FUN, PAGE 9

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NEWS BRIEFS

Bulova, Petersen Town Meeting

Del. David Bulova (D-37) and Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) will hold their annual town meeting Saturday, Feb. 1, from 9-10:30 a.m., at the Fairfax City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. in Fairfax.

Helping Keep Children Safe

City of Fairfax police, in conjunction with the Optimist Club of Fairfax, will be offering Safe Assured identification kits for children on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at police headquarters at 3730 Old Lee Highway.

Parents will receive a full-color photo ID and a mini-CD containing digital fingerprints, a digital photo, video showing movement and mannerisms, a general physical description, vital personal information and a family code word. Private information is encrypted and accessible only by law-enforcement personnel.

Missing-persons posters can be created and printed directly from the CD in English, Spanish and French. The Safe Assured ID kits can also be used as a valuable aid for adults with special needs. The kits are free, but an appointment is necessary. Call Sgt. Mike Duncan at 703-273-2889 for more information and to make appointments.

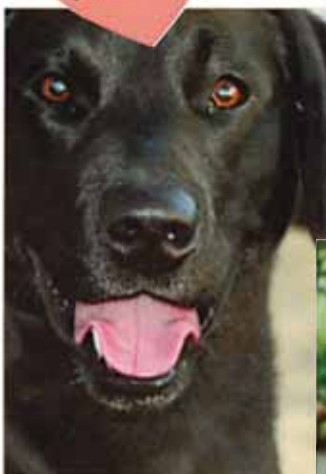
Donate Used Greeting Cards

Local residents may help the St. Jude's Ranch for Children by donating their used greeting cards. Just separate the front from the back of the cards—only the fronts are needed—and make sure there's no writing on the card. Then drop them off at the Fairfax City Hall, Parks and Recreation Office, 10455 Armstrong St., in Fairfax, through Feb. 28.

Child Car Seat Checks

City residents may have their children's car seats checked or installed by the City of Fairfax Fire Department. For an appointment, call 703-385-7830.

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During the month of February, in addition to celebrating Dr. Phillips joining our practice, we are also celebrating National Pet Dental Health Month by offering \$50.00 off of any dental procedure. We'd be happy to see your pet for a complimentary evaluation of their dental health and to provide a comprehensive estimate for any recommended dental services. To take advantage of the special offer, please call 703-455-1188.

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WINTER FUN, FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

Staying Warm and Entertained

Check out GMU's Center for the Arts for winter fun.

Burke Residents have been interacting with members of the George Mason University Fairfax Campus for some time. One of the benefits of this relationship includes use of Mason's many cultural and entertainment events at the Patriot Center and the Center for the Arts.

In February, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra will be coming to the Center for the Arts, featuring conductor and violinist Pinchas Zukerman.

At Mason's Art and Design Building's Fine Arts Gallery, "Black and White and Thread All Over" will be displayed until Feb. 21.

The exhibit, arranged by Virginia Commonwealth University Professor Sonya Clark, uses textiles, combs and hair as a commentary on race, culture and identity. An artist lecture and reception will take place in the Fine Arts Gallery Feb. 4, 1:30 p.m. Other events at Mason include the Haifa Symphony Orchestra of Israel, Walnut Street Theatre's "Driving Miss Daisy," and Mark Morris Dance Group.

Ticket prices vary. Visit cfa.gmu.edu for more information.

Burke residents can also travel to the City of Fairfax for the 2014 Chocolate Lovers Festival, taking place Feb. 1-2. Learn more at chocolatefestival.net

— JANELLE GERMANOS



PHOTO BY D. NAGL

Under the baton of Maestro Boguslaw Dawidow, Haifa Symphony Orchestra of Israel will be coming to George Mason's Center for the Arts this Saturday, Feb. 1 at 8 p.m.

VIEWPOINTS

What do you like to do for fun in the wintertime?

— JANELLE GERMANOS



Rylie Smedley, 9th grader at West Springfield High School
"I like going to D.C."

Morgan Geer, student at South County Middle School
"I like drinking warm drinks and baking cookies."



Emma Henderson, 12th grader at South County High School
"The Gaylord Hotel Ice Sculpture is really fun to look at. It's nice being so close to D.C."

Violet Smith, student at South County Middle School
"My family likes to go skiing a lot."



Olivia Hoffmaster, student at South County Middle School
"I like hanging out with friends."

Jimmy Luehers, student at George Mason University
"I like to eat."



Derrick Marrow, student at George Mason University
"I like sleeping and relaxing."

Laura Jasso, educator, JCC of Northern Virginia
"I love to play in the snow and sled."



Erez Cramer, student at George Mason University
"I like to sled and hang out in the snow."

Winter Fun with Local History

Take a break from the cold to learn about the Franconia Museum and Laurel Grove School.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

If tired of spending another cold winter day at the movie theatre or bowling alley, try something educational for a change. Take a step back in time this winter by visiting the Franconia Museum, located at the Franconia Government Center on Franconia Road. This museum, founded in 2006, offers information about the Franconia area that dates back to the Civil War.

Pictures, artifacts and stories are abun-

dant in the museum, bringing visitors back in time to an era when life was simpler.

The Franconia Museum has a simple mission: to promote the heritage of the Franconia area. The museum is heavy in Civil War memorabilia.

THE HISTORICAL LAUREL GROVE SCHOOL, a couple minutes from the Franconia Museum down the road on Beulah Street, offers another historical glance at life in the area. Every Saturday in February, the museum is offering an open house with free admission.

Laurel Grove School was a one-room school house for African-American children in Franconia from 1882-1932. Visitors to the school can learn about what it was like to go to school with multiple grades in one room.

The museum curator, Phyllis Ford of the Fairfax County Historical Commission, will also be present to ask questions.

"We decided to have an open house every Saturday in February for Black History

More Information

Franconia Museum

Address: 6121 Franconia Rd., Franconia, VA 22310
Phone: 703-971-4984
Hours: Monday-Wednesday, 10-2 p.m., Saturday 10-2 p.m.

Laurel Grove School

Address: 6840 Beulah Street, Alexandria, 22310
Phone: 703-322-0833
Open House: February 1, 8, 15, and 22, 11-3 p.m., no admission fee

Month. We're mostly opening up for the community to tell some of the history of how the school got started, and talk about the history from slavery to the Jim Crowe Period," Ford said.

Visitors can see a map from the 1860s showing where families lived in the area.

"We are trying to get three women who went to the school to visit on Feb. 22," Ford said.

"On the other Saturdays, we will be showing a video of the women."

New Leadership for Workhouse Arts Center

Board of Supervisors continues to debate future success of center.

By Janelle Germanos
The Connection

Laura McKie, a volunteer at the Prison Museum at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center, said she doesn't expect the museum's everyday operations to change too much as Fairfax County takes greater control over the center.

"I think everything will carry on as normal," McKie said. He is referring to the Jan. 14 Board of Supervisors' decision, which will abolish the current Lorton Arts Foundation Board. Fairfax County will assume \$30 million in debt, settling the agreement with Wells Fargo Bank, which the Lorton Arts Foundation has entered into a debt of \$60 million.

Still, county officials such as Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity question the Jan. 14 Board of Supervisors' decision. Herrity, who was the only Supervisor who dissented in the decision, said that foreclosure could have been avoided, even without Fairfax County assuming the Foundation's debt. "We had more time and we didn't take it," Herrity said. "This wasn't

our loan. We had no legal obligation to pay off this debt."

Braddock District Supervisor John Cook, however, said before the Board of Supervisors decision that if the decision to assume the loan was not made, foreclosure would have been inevitable. "The fact of the matter is, if this deal was not made today, the bank was going to foreclose on that loan this month, and we had to act," Cook said.

Cook said before the Jan. 14 vote that the Lorton Arts Foundation failed, something Herrity disagrees with.

"The Lorton Arts Foundation didn't fail. They did the best they could with the situation," Herrity said. He added that circumstances were tough, however, especially considering the location of the arts center.

"Even the Torpedo Factory in Old Town Alexandria isn't surviving," Herrity said.

In 2002, Fairfax County purchased 2,440 acres of federal land, which was the site of the historic Occoquan Workhouse Prison, for \$4.2 million. In 2006, the Lorton Arts Foundation renovated the former prison into an arts center after approval from the Board of Supervisors. Chairman Sharon



PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

Bulova has attended many events at the Workhouse Arts Center. McKie, who organized the "American Women: The Long and Winding Road" lecture series at the Prison Museum, said Bulova attended the first lecture and will participate in the event in March. "She is a big supporter of our program," McKie said.

Bulova issued a statement following the Board of Supervisors decision, stressing the economic difficulties faced by the Lorton Arts Foundation.

"However, like many nonprofits and businesses alike, the LAF has not been immune to the economic recession and slow recovery. Simply put, the past few years have proven an intensely difficult time to raise money for the arts, and the Workhouse Arts Center's operations have not generated enough revenue to cover expenses, especially debt it incurred for capital renovations," Bulova said in the statement.

Herrity said he is opposed to spending \$30 million of taxpayer's money, and believes Fairfax County should look at longer term solutions. "We shouldn't be bailing out a bank because it made a bad loan," Herrity said. "We should be looking at monetizing the surrounding land."

Cook, however, said that nobody is being bailed out with this agreement, and that the agreement was necessary to avoid litigation. "It is not true that there was no potential legal liability to the county. We own the land. We own the buildings," Cook said.

Lee District Supervisor Jeffrey McKay supported the decision in order to protect the county's investment in the Workhouse. "This is a county with over a million people. We ought to have an arts center in this county, but we ought to have one that is fiscally well-managed and controlled, and one that we have some lever of oversight with," McKay said.



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NEWS

Federal Grand Jury Indicts Fairfax Man

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A 46-year-old Fairfax man is facing more than a decade in prison after being indicted last week by a Federal grand jury in Alexandria. He is Padraic Collins, and he was indicted Thursday, Jan. 23, on a charge of production of child pornography.

According to U.S. District Court documents, he was allegedly found in possession of videos containing child pornography while he tried to cross the border into Canada. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Washington received information from HSI Toronto regarding Collins at the Lansdowne, Canada Port of Entry.

He was arrested by the Canadian Border Services Agency and charged with importing and possessing child pornography files on a handheld video camera and a laptop. Authorities say the seven videos confiscated reportedly show Collins engaging in sexual activity with an underage girl.

HSI Washington, in coordination with HSI Toronto and the Ottawa Provincial Police, determined the identity of the 11-year-old child in the videos. Court documents state that she allegedly identified Collins as her

abuser and confirmed the details of the sexual abuse.

According to authorities, the girl reported that the crime happened in Springfield. The indictment lists the alleged offense date as Dec. 18, 2011. It also states that the visual evidence documenting it was contained on Collins's Sony Handycam video camera and his Dell Latitude laptop computer.

If he is convicted, Collins could be sentenced to anywhere from a mandatory minimum of 15 years behind bars to a possible maximum of 30 years. He's scheduled for arraignment this Friday, Jan. 31, at 9 a.m., before Judge Claude Hilton in U.S. District Court in Alexandria. His plea or trial date should be set at that time.

The investigation was conducted by HSI Washington, with assistance from HSI Toronto, HSI Buffalo, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Ottawa Provincial Police and the U.S. Marshals Service. Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Alicia J. Yass, a trial attorney with the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the U.S. Justice Department's Criminal Division, is prosecuting the case on behalf of the United States.

For more information, go to www.projectsafefchildhood.gov.



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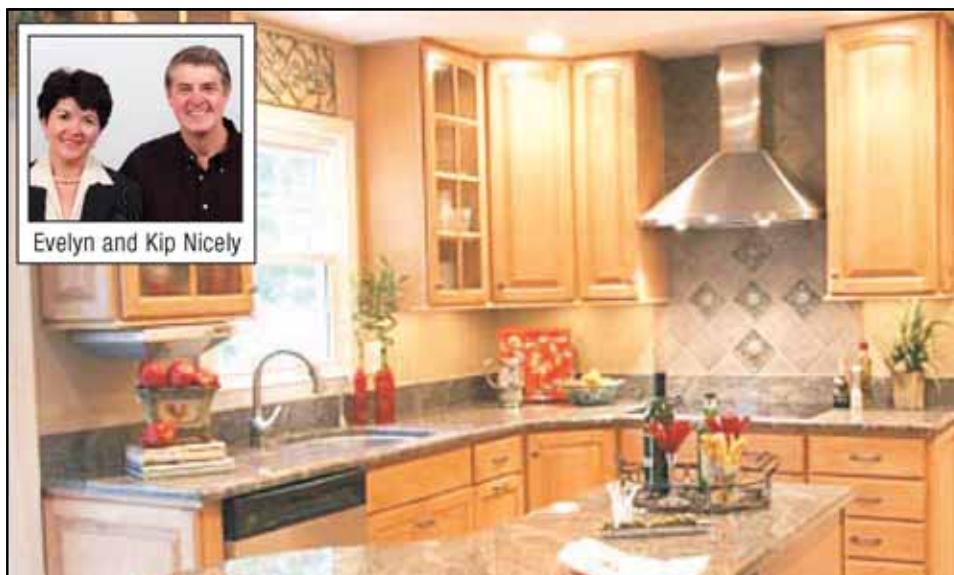
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OPINION

For Nonpartisan Redistricting

Virginia is a purple state, gerrymandered to bleed red.

Consider that in statewide elections, Virginia voters have chosen Democrats in the last two presidential elections, for U.S. Senate, for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General.

Almost none of these elections was by a wide margin, but it's clear that Virginia is a purple state leaning blue.

Here are the actual numbers:

2013

McAuliffe (D) 1,069,789; Cuccinelli (R) 1,013,389
Northam (D) 1,213,155; Jackson (R) 980,257
Herring (D) 1,103,777; Obenshain (R) 1,103,612

2012

Obama (D) 1,971,820; Romney (R) 1,822,522
Kaine (D) 2,010,067; Allen (R) 1,785,542

It's reasonable to assume that a state so evenly divided would be about evenly divided in political representation.

How is possible then that Virginia House of Delegates consists of 67 Republicans and 33 Democrats?

Why is it that Virginia's delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives consists of 11 Republicans and three Democrats?

The split in the Virginia Senate makes sense, a 20-20 split with a Republican Lieutenant Governor breaking tie votes the last four years and a Democratic Lieutenant Governor poised to break ties in the coming four years (pending this week's recount in the special election in District 6 to replace Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam).

Virginia's 11 Congressional districts should

be split about evenly. You could understand a split five Dems and six Republicans; or five Republicans and six Democrats. A four and seven split would smack of some unusual circumstance. But three and eight?

The answer is gerrymandering.

Both political parties have been guilty of this when in power, although new technology and better data have made the process more egregious, the effects more damaging.

Political parties should not control the drawing of political districts. Gerrymandering thwarts the will of the electorate. It is especially damaging in a Dillon rule state, like Virginia, where localities have only the power explicitly granted to them by the General Assembly,

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

BULOVA REPORT

By DAVID BULOVA

DELEGATE, 37TH VIRGINIA HOUSE DISTRICT

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is hard to believe that we are already entering our third week of session. Floor debates are starting to get longer (and more interesting) as bills move their way through the committees. Sen. Chap Petersen and I are looking forward to sharing what is going on in Richmond and answering your questions at our Town Hall meeting on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 9-10:30 a.m., at the Fairfax City

Progress in Richmond

Hall. We hope you can join us.

I am also happy to announce that I will be holding my second annual Constituent Day on Monday, Feb. 17. We will meet at 10 a.m. and then visitors will get a behind-the-scenes tour of the General Assembly Building and the State Capitol. Send me a quick email at info@davidbulova.com if you are interested in attending.

I appreciate the many responses that I received regarding HB848, which would allow Dominion Virginia Power to assess a small additional fee to recover the cost of

undergrounding significant portions of its infrastructure to increase power reliability. The feedback was generally favorable — with a few important caveats. The first concern was to make sure that the benefits would be felt here in Northern Virginia and that we weren't simply sending money to other parts of the state. Dominion confirmed that over a quarter of the undergrounding projects will be here in Northern Virginia.

A second concern was that, if we are being asked to pay more now, customers should be able to share

in the long-term savings. While the more immediate payoff will be to businesses and residents in the form of quicker restoration time, customers will also enjoy long-term savings under the rate review process established by the State Corporation Commission. The bill passed the House 95 to 1 this past Thursday with me voting yes.

Another major issue on which I have received a great deal of communication is the proposed repeal of the extra tax on hybrid vehicles. The tax was part of the transportation funding compromise enacted last year. While I did not support the hybrid tax, I voted for the package with the understanding that we had a better chance of repealing the tax than having another opportunity to pass a comprehensive transportation bill. I am pleased to say the House voted to repeal the tax this past Thursday. The measure now goes to the Senate, where identical legislation has already passed.

MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM REFORM

This year the General Assembly is tackling much needed reform to our mental-health system. While the need for reform has been widely acknowledged, the issue took on additional urgency when Sen. Creigh Deeds was stabbed by his son, who then took his own life. Hours before the tragedy, the son had released from custody after a psychiatric bed could not be found within the state-mandated time limit.

SEE PROGRESS, PAGE 14

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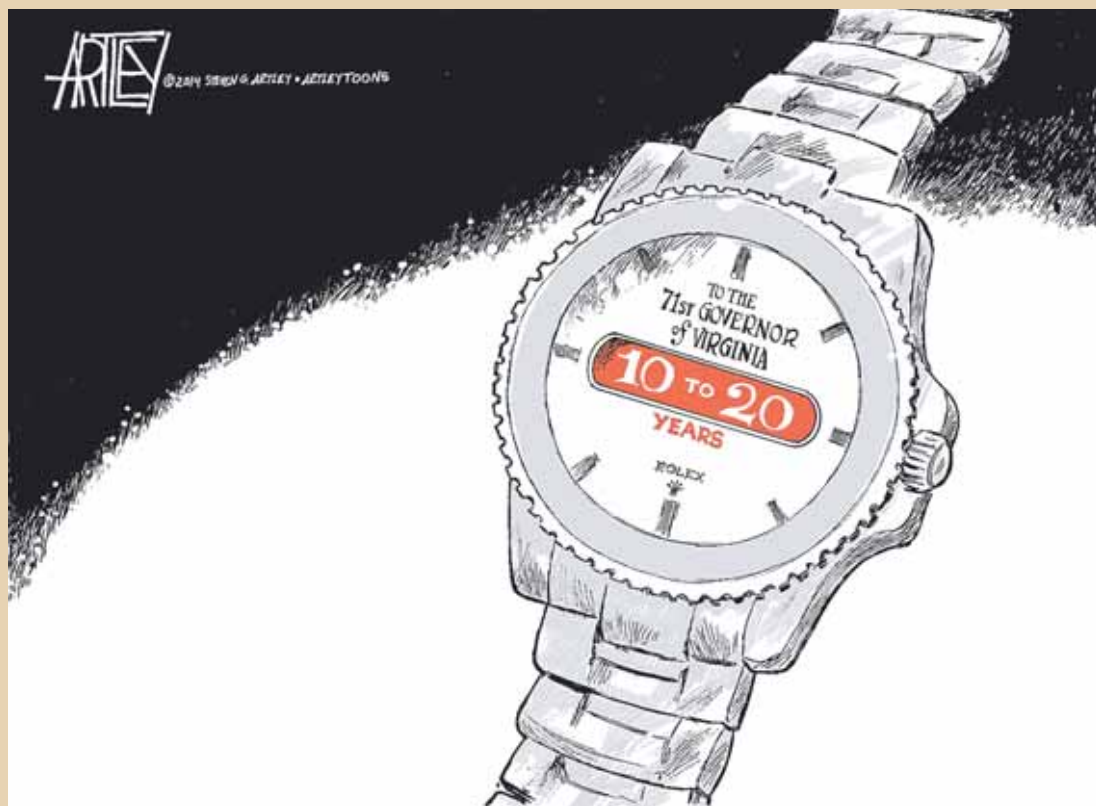
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Barbara Fisher, Elsie Benson, Nick Fisher, Lalita Hanshaw, Zack Cosgrove, Margo Milburn, and Margaret Eccles take advantage of a snow day on Jan. 23 to go to Color Me Mine in Fairfax Corner to paint bowls to contribute to Our Daily Bread Fairfax's Feb. 27 fundraiser. The paint-your-own pottery shop is a popular destination for families and friends.

WINTER FUN, FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

Painting Pottery on a Snowy Day

Color Me Mine in Fairfax is a paint-your-own ceramic studio where adults and children can choose from hundreds of bowls, plates, mugs, decoration pieces and more to paint with all sorts of different colors. After you have painted your artwork, the studio fires the objects in their kiln, and after a week customers can take their pieces of artwork home.

Color Me Mine is located at 4209 Fairfax Corner Avenue East, Fairfax. For more information visit, www.fairfaxcolormemine.com or call 703-803-7246.

Eileen Weisiger of Annandale (far right) takes advantage of a snow day on Jan. 23 to paint pottery at Color Me Mine in Fairfax Corner.



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

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CALENDAR

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SATURDAY/FEB. 1

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A Broadway Valentine. 8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. The very popular Cabaret Series at the Workhouse will be exploring the romantic section of the Broadway songbook with a tribute to Valentine's Day. Tickets: www.workhousearts.org/

SATURDAY/FEB. 1- SUNDAY/FEB. 2

Fairfax's Chocolate Lovers Festival. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive. Indulge in all things chocolate at this annual festival. www.chocolatefestival.net

SUNDAY/FEB. 2

A Broadway Valentine. 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. The very popular Cabaret Series at the Workhouse will be exploring the romantic section of the Broadway songbook with a tribute to Valentine's Day. Tickets: www.workhousearts.org/

TUESDAY/FEB. 4, 11

"Song & Character Study:" An



Chocolate treats for the eyes and tummies are found at the City of Fairfax Chocolate Lovers Festival this weekend Feb. 1-2.

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 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/FEB. 6 - FRIDAY/FEB. 7

All that Jazz! 7 p.m. West Springfield

High School, 6100 Rolling Rd, Springfield. A musical Cabaret presented by the students of the West Springfield High School choral department and will also feature special performances by West Springfield's own Personality Show Choir. Tickets: \$7. www.spartanchoir.com

SATURDAY/FEB. 8

Virginia Grand Military Band. 7:30 p.m. Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, NVCC Campus, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Performing works by Rodgers and Hammerstein, von Suppe and Sousa. Adults \$15. Band directors, students and children admitted free. Free parking. 703 426-4777. www.vgmb.com manager@vgmb.com

Second Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. Tour the studios, meet the artists, enjoy refreshments and purchase original works of art from nearly 100 Artists at the Workhouse.

SATURDAY/FEB. 15

Couple's Yoga. 2-3 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. \$20 per couple, no experience is necessary—both beginners and master yogis are invited to join. Register online: www.workhousearts.org/

A Valentine's Sweetheart. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. Give kids the opportunity to learn how to bake sweet treats, draw and paint portraits, and participate in other Valentine's Day activities. \$65 per

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

WINTER FUN, FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

Chocolate Lovers Festival in Fairfax, this Weekend

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

For anyone who likes chocolate, the City of Fairfax is the place to be, this coming weekend. The 22nd annual Chocolate Lovers Festival is Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 1-2, with tasty treats and fun-filled events for the whole family.

The Taste of Chocolate — which attracts visitors from throughout the Washington Metropolitan area — runs Saturday, Feb. 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 2, from noon-4 p.m., on both floors of the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive. Admission is free. Inside are a variety of chocolate cakes, all kinds of chocolate candies and bars, chocolate-covered strawberries, fudge, ice cream and even chocolate fountains into which customers may dip fruit, cake or marshmallows.

Visitors buy pogs for \$1 each and then browse around the vendors' tables to check out all the chocolate treats being offered. When they decide to purchase something, they pay for it in pogs. Strollers may be left on the building's front porch, and a fully accessible entrance is at the door on Main Street.

Vendors at this year's Taste of Chocolate include: BaTer Chocolates, C & D Sweets, Cakes by Shelby, Cameron's Coffee & Chocolate, Capitol Chocolate Fountains; Chocotenago, Cocoa Vienna, Confection Connection, Dave's Candy Kitchen, El Ceibo/Bolivia, Extreme Ice Cream, Fair Trade Winds, Fluffy Thoughts



One of the many creative entries in last year's Chocolate Challenge.

Cakes, Mike's Fudge, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Sugar Mama's, Virginia Chocolate Co. and Watergate Pastry. The Chocolate Challenge, a display of imaginative creations in chocolate — art, cakes and cupcakes — takes place at the Nutrition Kitchen, 3950 University Drive. It runs Feb. 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Feb. 2, from noon-4 p.m.

Both professionals and amateurs participate, and judges and visitors judge them in various categories. Visitors may also vote for the People's Choice Award winner.

Saturday's many activities kick off with the annual, Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast, from 8 a.m. to

1 p.m., at Fire Station 3, at 4081 University Drive. Then that evening will be the festival's first-time, "Chocolate and a Movie" night, featuring the original "Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory." It'll be shown at 7 p.m. at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Hwy.

For more information about the festival and a complete schedule of events, go to www.chocolatefestival.net or call 703-385-1661. A Chocolate Express will provide free, shuttle service between event locations. It'll run Feb. 1 from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Feb. 2 from 11:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Step Back in History While in Fairfax

As part of the Chocolate Festival, several historic buildings in the City of Fairfax will be open to visitors this Saturday, Feb. 1. They are as follows:

❖ **Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center**, 10209 Main St., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This structure was constructed in 1873 with bricks made at the Farr property across Main Street. The oldest brick, two-story school building remaining in Fairfax cost \$2,750 to build. Docents and volunteers now welcome visitors to stop in for chocolate goodies while learning about the city's colorful history. Admission is free.

❖ **Ford House**, 3977 Chain Bridge Road, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit the childhood home of Antonia Ford, a Confederate spy during the American Civil War. She provided Confederate military leaders with information gathered at her Fairfax home during the First Battle of Manassas.

When she was imprisoned, she fell in love with her Union jailer, whom she later married, and their son built the Old Town Hall. The Woman's Club of Fairfax created the exhibit at the Ford House, which is currently used as an office building. Admission is free.

❖ **Legato School**, Route 123/Chain Bridge Road, between Judicial Drive and Sager Avenue, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Learn about the noble heritage of chocolate and play some games at the one-room Legato School, the last of its kind in Fairfax County. It's been restored and is furnished as it was in the 1870s. Now operated as a museum, Legato School is located on the grounds of the historic Fairfax County Courthouse on Route 123. Admission is free.

❖ **Ratcliffe-Allison House**, 10386 Main St., noon to 4 p.m. The oldest standing house in the City of Fairfax depicts the lives of everyday people in 19th century Fairfax. And during the festival, it'll offer chocolate

treats. Built in 1812, it served a variety of purposes, including a stint as a cobbler shop.

The house is furnished with period pieces collected by one of its owners, the late Kitty Pozer, a famed gardener and writer who lived in the house until 1981. The Ratcliffe-Allison House features the exhibit, "Dr. Kate Waller Barrett: Mother to Many." The adjoining Kitty Pozer Garden may also be visited. Admission is free.

❖ **Historic Archives**: In the Historic Archives in the Fairfax Courthouse, people may view historical legal documents such as The 1739 Land Grant; a page from polling done around the county as citizens voted to secede from the Union; the Civil War Rule Book filled with graffiti from the soldiers stationed here; as well as original deed books, court-order books and images of pages from George Washington's will. The Old Courthouse will be open to the public for the first time since its renovation.

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WINTER FUN

Spend Winter at the Workhouse

Lorton's Workhouse Arts Center offers activities for friends and families to enjoy.

BY AMNA REHMATULLA
THE CONNECTION

Spending your weekends at home on these blistering cold days becomes boring after a while. Bundle up and venture off to the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton for a range of activities such as viewing art exhibitions, watching theatrical classics, laughing out loud to stand-up comedy, and creating your very own dinner from scratch with an experienced chef. Here is a list of events going on at the Workhouse Arts Center at 9601 Ox Road in Lorton.

Beauty and the Beast

Watch the classic Beauty and the Beast live onstage, where a self-centered prince is cursed to spend eternity as a hideous and frightening beast, will he ever find the way to break the spell? Show dates are Saturdays, Feb. 1-March 1 at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$9 for children under 12 years old. Limited seating is available so advance ticket reservations are recommended for this event. Reserved tickets may be collected at Will Call beginning 30 minutes prior to event, doors open for seating 15 minutes prior. Purchase tickets at <https://reservations.workhousearts.org/Info.aspx?EventID=9>.

Cabaret Series: A Broadway Valentine

Performers Caren Hearne, Linda Rose Payne, Mary Payne and John Hollinger explore the romance of the Broadway songbook with this early tribute to Valentine's Day. Accompanist Brandon Heishman leads vocalists on a journey showing that, for characters on the

CALENDAR

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A Broadway Valentine. 8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. The very popular Cabaret Series at the Workhouse will be



Nicole Aquillano's mug at Lorton Workhouse's International Ceramic Cup Show, "Drink This!"



Theo Uliano's mugs at the "Drink This!" exhibition. Don't miss your chance to view 71 works of art that offer a surprising sample of the many ways contemporary artists interpret the cup this weekend at Workhouse Arts Center.

stage, love is never easy, which is why some of the most memorable of music can be beautiful, tragic or even funny.

Tickets are \$25, includes planche campagnarde. The performance takes place on Saturday, Feb. 1 at 8 p.m. Purchase tickets at: <https://reservations.workhousearts.org/Info.aspx?EventID=9>

Drink This!

From the elegant tumbler to the comfortable simple mug, an exhibition of 71 works from five countries offers a surprising sample of the many ways contemporary artists interpret the cup in "Drink This!" Workhouse International Ceramic Cup Show.

Internationally recognized ceramic artist and professor Sam Chung said, "There were cups that told a story that transcended the object itself, while others created an innate craving for a drink that fit the cup's character. These were

the cups that pushed me over the edge."

The exhibit runs through Feb. 2, in Building 8 at Workhouse Arts. Hours 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and 12-5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is free. For more information, call 703-584-2982 or visit www.workhouseceramics.org.

2nd Saturday Art Walk

The 2nd Saturday Art Walk at the Workhouse showcases the diverse work of more than 100 visual artists in a historic venue.

Guests can tour seven studio buildings, mingle with artists, buy original works of art, all while enjoying light refreshments and music.

These monthly events are perfect for family art outings. Admission is free. The Art Walk will take place on Saturday, Feb. 8 from 6-9 p.m.

exploring the romantic section of the Broadway songbook with a tribute to Valentine's Day. Tickets: www.workhousearts.org/

SATURDAY/FEB. 1-SUNDAY/FEB. 2

Fairfax's Chocolate Lovers Festival. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive. Indulge in all things chocolate at this annual festival. www.chocolatefestival.net

SUNDAY/FEB. 2

A Broadway Valentine. 1 p.m.

Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. The very popular Cabaret Series at the Workhouse will be exploring the romantic section of the Broadway songbook with a tribute to Valentine's Day. Tickets: www.workhousearts.org/

TUESDAY/FEB. 4, 11

"Song & Character Study." 6-8 p.m. Truro Anglican Church, 10520 Main Street, Fairfax. Join CFTC for a four week class on song and character study. Cost: \$40-\$90. www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org

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WINTER FUN

Winter Fun in Lorton

Bundle up and enjoy the outdoors this winter.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax Station and Lorton residents have the Workhouse Arts Center, Gunston Hall, and several other arts and historic sites at their disposal for winter fun this season.

But what about a winter activity that is somewhat off the beaten path?

Being outdoors and hiking can be just as fun during the winter months, and the Fairfax Station, Lorton and Clifton area has a variety of great trails to keep people active.

It may seem cold, but winter is a great time to go hiking. There are fewer crowds, and if bundled up, short hikes can be rewarding during the winter season.

The Bull Run-Occoquan Trail is a great option for some hiking. The 18-mile trail goes along the Bull Run and Occoquan Rivers.

"If you did the whole thing, you would spend anywhere from seven to 10 hours hiking, and you'll maybe see a house, or maybe see a car. The only other people you will run into are other people hiking on the trail. That's how isolated it is," said Brian Bauer, the marketing and communications director at Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

Paul Gilbert, executive director of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, said the trail is a hidden treasure in Fairfax County.

"It's like hiking the Appalachian Trail. You're just 10 minutes from Fairfax, in Fairfax County, and you feel like you are in the middle of absolute wilderness. It's really cool," Gilbert said.

Occoquan Regional Park in Lorton has a variety of short trails that offer beautiful views of the Occoquan River.

The park is also home to historic



For some winter fun in the South County area, bundle up and try a trail, such as this one at Occoquan Regional Park.



Occoquan Regional Park provides great views of the Occoquan River.

By Janelle Germanos/The Connection

brick kilns, which were used to build bricks for the Lorton Workhouse Prison.

"I love Occoquan in general," said Lorton resident Hau Chu, 20. "It's just really nice."

Remember to wear layers, hats and gloves, wool socks, drink plenty of water, and bring snacks.

For residents who don't want to brave the cold, there are several indoor events to keep busy, including the Workhouse Arts Center. The Arts Center offers several events in the coming months, including comedy shows, art walks and more. Residents looking for educational fun this winter can try the Prison Museum at the Workhouse Arts Center, which details the history of the workhouse as a prison throughout the 20th century.

Occoquan Regional Park is located at 9751 Ox Road, Lorton. It is open daily from 8 a.m. until dusk, Jan. 1- March 17. For more information, call 703-690-2121.



Be Part of The February Pet Connection

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

Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, and identify all people and pets in photos. Submission deadline is February 20.



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Lake Braddock Boys' Basketball Beats Woodson

Bruins, Cavaliers have become Conference 7's top teams.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock boys' Basketball Coach Brian Metress stood down the hall from the Bruins' home locker room and praised Monday night's opponent.

"They're very good," Metress said about the Woodson Cavaliers. "They've beaten Robinson, they've beaten really good teams. I think they'll be there at the end. They're one of the top three teams in the region. We just want to be part of that."

"Woodson-Lake Braddock is becoming a big basketball game."

The Lake Braddock boys' basketball team defeated Woodson 56-50 on Jan. 27 at Lake Braddock Secondary School in the first of two regular-season meetings between what have become the top teams in the Patriot District/Conference 7. The Bruins improved to 10-3 while handing Woodson (13-4) its first conference loss of the season. Lake Braddock has dropped just one conference game — a controversial loss to Annandale on Jan. 10.

Woodson led 43-41 with six minutes remaining in the fourth quarter, but Lake Braddock took the lead for good with a 10-0 run, including three-pointers by freshman Corey Pelham and senior John Nice.

The Cavaliers pulled to within three with less than a minute remaining, but 6-foot-6 Lake Braddock sophomore James Butler grabbed an offensive rebound off a missed free throw and scored to extend the Bruins' lead to two possessions.

"It's one of those things where when the game is chaotic, certain guys can think, I might be able to get one here," Metress said about Butler's rebound and putback. "I think he was thinking all along, I might be able to get one of these. It was a big play."

Lake Braddock senior Will Gregorits led all scorers with 15 points. Junior forward A.J. Alexander and Nice each scored nine points for the Bruins.

Senior point guard Eric Bowles led Woodson with 13 points. Junior guard Jackson Boehman finished with eight, and senior forward Andy Stynchula and junior guard Trey Johnson each had seven.

Last season, Woodson beat Lake Braddock twice during the regular season and finished atop the district standings. The Bruins countered by beating the Cavaliers in the district tournament semifinals before capturing the program's first district title in a decade. Woodson went on to win the Northern Region title and advance to the state semifinals.

On Monday, Lake Braddock made more plays in the fourth quarter.

"It's always a big win," Alexander said of beating Woodson. "Last year, they beat us pretty good in the regular season, we came back and beat them in the



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock sophomore James Butler had a key offensive rebound and putback late in the fourth quarter of Monday's win over Woodson.

Patriot District tournament. They're a great team. Everyone is talking about them every year. Bowles is a great point guard — much respect out to him, he kept them in the game. It's a fun game. It's good playing competitive teams that can score on us.

"It's fun beating teams by a lot, but always good to have a good crowd-pleaser."

Woodson closed the second quarter with a 10-0 run and led 36-32 at halftime, but failed to widen its lead beyond six points in the second half.

"We had a chance to take control ... and it didn't happen," Woodson head coach Doug Craig said. "Give them credit. They made all the plays down the stretch and found a way to make enough plays to win the game. We had some opportunities and we didn't convert."

The Cavaliers and Bruins are scheduled to meet again on Feb. 4 at Woodson High School. However, a water pipe recently burst in the Woodson gym, leaving the facility unplayable. If the floor is not fixed in time, the game will likely be played at Lake Braddock or another facility.

While the Bruins got the best of the Cavaliers on Monday, Metress said there is still more work to be done.

"We're under no illusions," he said, "that this automatically gives us any more victories."

Mandela's 3-Point Play Lifts Bruins to Win

Lake Braddock girls' basketball edges Woodson.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

With her team trailing by two points late in the third quarter, Lake Braddock senior Caitlyn Mandela thought she was fouled on a shot attempt and informed an official of her displeasure with the no-call.

Mandela received a technical foul and Woodson capitalized by making one of two ensuing free throws, extending its lead to 30-27. Lake Braddock head coach John Giannelli had a talk with the forward before sending her back in the game.

"Caitlyn plays with a lot of emotion," Giannelli said. "Early in the year, I had her playing out at the [small forward] position and it was a little bit out of her game. Her game is more [suited for power forward or center] — the more contact, the more she's into the game and the more that fires her up."

"The thing with Caitlyn is her motor never stops. Sometimes I have to sit her down and say, let the game come to you instead of you go to the game."

Mandela didn't let the technical foul affect her aggressive approach. With the score tied in the final minute, No. 33 stepped up and made a play.

Mandela scored and was fouled with 33.9 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter. She converted the free throw and her three-point play proved to be the difference as the Lake Braddock girls' basketball team defeated Woodson 40-37 on Jan. 27 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

"I just saw an opening and took it," Mandela said. "I love driving to the basket."

The victory came three days after a 51-46 loss to Annandale and returned Lake Braddock to the winning side of .500 with an 8-7 record.

Woodson took a seven-point lead in the second quarter when a jumper by Jasmine Fasold gave the Cavaliers a 19-12 advantage with 1:50 remaining in



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock sophomore Caroline Jones scored a game-high 12 points against Woodson on Jan. 27.

the first half. But Lake Braddock responded with a 9-0 run in 87 seconds, giving the Bruins a 21-19 halftime lead.

No team led by more than four points in the second half. A bucket by Claire Swanson gave Woodson a 37-35 lead with 2:13 left in the fourth quarter, but Lake Braddock tied the score with a pair of free throws by Marcia Altman with less than a minute remaining and took the lead for good with Mandela's three-point play.

"Any time you get a win in the conference it's a big boost," Giannelli said. "I honestly think we stole tonight's game because I think Woodson played better than us. I absolutely think Woodson played better than us and we just stole it. To be successful during the season, you need to steal a couple games. I think that helps."

Sophomore Caroline Jones led Lake Braddock with 12 points. Altman finished with seven, Nirali Shah and Christine McGrath each scored six and Mandela added five.

Gillie Andes led Woodson with eight points. Swanson finished with seven and Tianay Zeigler and Caitlin Patrick each had six.

Lake Braddock will travel to face T.C. Williams at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 30 and will host Robinson at 5:45 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1.

Woodson defeated Annandale 34-30 on Tuesday and improved to 4-12.

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BULOVA REPORT

Progress in Richmond

FROM PAGE 6

Lack of funding is an important factor — and the Governor's introduced budget includes \$38 million for mental health. It is important to note that this infusion of funding essentially places Virginia at the same level of support for mental health services before major cuts during the recent recession. However, in addition to funding, there are important structural reforms that need to be addressed.

The area receiving the lion's share of attention is how long someone in crisis can be held against their will under an emergency custody order. It is during this period when a person is evaluated and a determination is made whether the individual should be held for treatment pursuant to a temporary detention order. Current law allows a person to be held under an emergency order for four hours, with the potential for a two-hour extension. If a psychiatric bed cannot be found in that time frame, the individual is free to leave even if the situation hasn't been stabilized.

According to a report released by the University of Virginia School of Law, it took more than six hours to find a bed in 3.2 percent of cases. That is a relatively small percentage, but it means that our system is failing a significant number of real people who are in the greatest need. While there is wide agreement that an emergency custody order should be longer than six hours, there is significant debate over how long that time period should be extended.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

child and includes the materials fee. Register
online: www.workhousearts.org/

SUNDAY/FEB. 16

The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will have a display and N gauge trains. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. Information on the museum and shows is at www.fairfax-station.org phone 703-425-9225.

SATURDAY/FEB. 22

Jeffrey Siegel, "The Power and Passion of Beethoven." 8 p.m., Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Circle, Manassas. The acclaimed pianist performs Beethoven's "Rage Over a Lost Penny," "Sonata Pathétique," and "Farewell Sonata" as part of his Keyboard Conversation series. \$20-\$38, Mason ID permits 1 free ticket on Feb. 11, 2014. HyltonCenter.org.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 19

Love, Faith and Other Dirty Words. 7:30 p.m. JCCNV, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The play, based on conversations with interfaith couples, is a funny, moving story of couples negotiating to maintain the balance between devotion to each other, and devotion to their separate faiths. Free. www.jccnvarts.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 22

7th Annual Lorton Monopoly Tournament. 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Gallery Building 16 - 2nd Floor, Lorton. Proceeds benefit the Lorton Community Action Center, a local human services nonprofit that assists individuals and families with emergency food and financial assistance, resources for improving life skills, tutoring and after-school programs. Registration Fee: \$25 (by Feb. 19). At

A second issue is how to ensure that available beds can be easily identified. Currently, psychiatric services must be identified by calling individual hospitals and facilities — a process that takes a lot of time. Virginia has been working on a real-time digital registry for several years. This is an absolute priority and will be essential to ensuring that individuals in need are linked with services in the least time possible.

Finally is the issue of how to treat mental health in the long-term — both to reduce the prevalence of reoccurring mental health crises and to keep those with mental health issues from ending up in our local and regional jails. A jarring statistic is that about 24 percent of the inmate population is known or suspected to be mentally ill. Nearly half of the mentally ill population has been diagnosed with a serious mental illness.

I want to thank the many constituents who have sent me e-mails and letters to advocate on behalf of this important issue. If you are interested in seeing what kind of bills have been introduced this session, the Virginia Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Health Illness website has a tracking chart of all legislation broken into topic areas. You can download the chart at <http://namivirginia.org/Bill%20chart%20122.htm>.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance or if you have any questions. I will be sharing the preliminary results of my 2014 constituent survey at my Town Hall meeting next Saturday.

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SUNDAY/FEB. 23

Train Scenery and Display Hands-On Workshop. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Model train experts and enthusiasts will teach visitors to the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum how to make authentic scenery and displays for model train layouts of different sizes. There is no charge for the workshop but regular Museum Sunday admission rates apply, \$4 for adults 16 and older; \$2 children 5-15; free for Museum members and children under 5. For more information on the Museum events, www.fairfax-station.org. 703-425-9225.

SUNDAY/MARCH 30

Jeffrey Siegel, "The Romantic Music of Chopin." 7 p.m., George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, MS 2F5, Fairfax. The acclaimed pianist performs Chopin's compositions as part of his Keyboard Conversations series. \$19-38, Mason ID permits 1 free ticket on March 18. cfa.gmu.edu.

SUNDAY/APRIL 27

Jeffrey Siegel, "Mistresses and Masterpieces." 7 p.m., George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, MS 2F5, Fairfax. The pianist performs music inspired by composers' major love interests. \$19-\$38, Mason ID permits 1 free ticket on April 15. cfa.gmu.edu.

Young Artists Musicales. 6 p.m., George Mason University Center for the Arts lobby, 4400 University Drive, MS 2F5, Fairfax. Piano students and winners of the Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association Honors Recitals perform short pieces. Free admission. cfa.gmu.edu.

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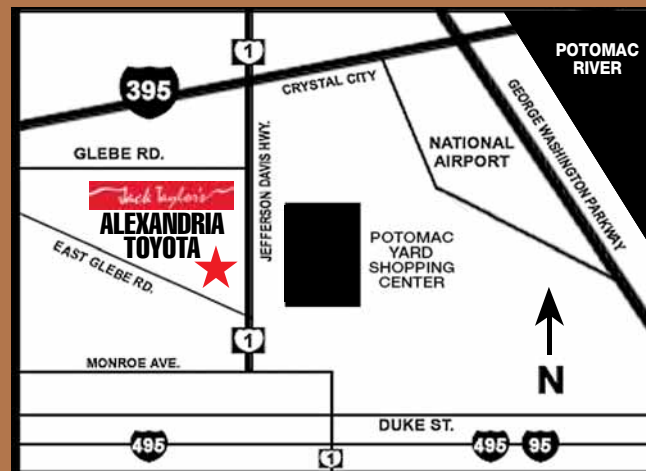
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Herndon \$249,900
Updated 3rd floor condo with almost 1000 sq. feet finished space. Hardwood floors in the living and dining room areas, upgraded kitchen, washer and dryer in unit. Walk to pool, weight room and club room. Minutes to Park and Ride on Monroe Street. New Metro coming in 2018.

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