

# Burke CONNECTION

## Home LifeStyle

PAGE 10

From left are Chuck Croft, Judi Schwartz, Gary Reese and Joe Gutierrez around a 45-year-old Japanese white pine in Croft's yard in Burke.

## Bonsai Show at Garden Center

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## Bumpy Ride on Area Roads

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## Burke Resident Recognized for Volunteer Service

NEWS, PAGE 4



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## COMMUNITY

### Fairfax Rescue Dogs to Help Recover Mudslide Victims

Three dogs part of the Fairfax County fire and rescue team are now in Washington State helping to recover victims of the mudslide that occurred March 22. The dogs include Bayou, Fielder and Hugo. The death toll of the landslide is now at 33.



**Bayou is one of three canines from Fairfax County traveling to Washington State to recover victims of the mudslide that occurred.**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AUTUMN MANKA/VIRGINIA SEARCH AND RESCUE DOG ASSOCIATION



**Fielder is one of three canines from Fairfax County who is helping recover victims of the mudslide in Washington State.**



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The intersection of Lee Chapel Road, Burke Centre Parkway and Burke Lake Road in Burke has been filled with potholes this winter and is a problematic area.



PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

## Bumpy Ride on Area Roads

Repaving will occur when funds are available and weather is warmer.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS  
THE CONNECTION

It's no secret that drivers traveling along Burke Centre Parkway as it turns into Lee Chapel Road at the intersection of Burke Lake Road are bound to run into a few potholes.

Traveling into Springfield, Old Keene Mill Road is also abound with potholes, making the drive a bumpy experience.

These intersections have become even more of a problem area due to the snowy winter.

But, as the weather warms up, and if the money is there, the roads will be repaved.

The Virginia Department of Transportation exceeded its snow budget this year by over \$100 million, but pothole repairs are still possible.

"Make no mistake, this winter has put a strain on our maintenance budget," said Transportation Secretary Aubrey Layne in a VDOT press release in March. "However, we have sufficient resources to ensure our roads are well-kept and we will continue to be good stewards of public funds. This winter has been rough, but we're committed to delivering a safe and reliable transportation system. Motorists and the public can expect to see crews on the roads day in and day out working to improve transportation in Virginia."

Repaving is expected to begin soon along Old Keene Mill Road.

"One of the major complaints I've heard is the sta-

tus of Old Keene Mill Road. This is one of many roads in poor condition in our area. The good news is that VDOT has completed all necessary evaluations and investigations on this road and has included it as a priority on the future paving schedule. So once money is accumulated, this project should begin," Del. Dave Albo wrote in an email to his constituents on April 7.

Because VDOT has said that safety is its first priority, adjustments are being made to accommodate for the costs of snow while still making pothole repair possible.

"Like me, many of you have seen the toll the winter months had on the condition of our roads. One upcoming project many of you will be interested in is the resurfacing of the Lee Chapel/Burke Centre

Parkway/Burke Lake Road intersection. This intersection should see pavement work during the Fairfax County Public Schools spring break of April 14 - 18," Del. Eileen Filler-Corn wrote in an email on April 4.

To report potholes to VDOT, email novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov or call 1-800-FOR-ROAD (800-367-7623) for the VDOT operator.

**"One of the major complaints I've heard is the status of Old Keene Mill Road. This is one of many roads in poor condition in our area."**

— Del. Dave Albo (R-42)



**Burke Centre Parkway is set to be repaved soon, when the money becomes available.**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), right, with Tena Bluhm of Fairfax after testifying in favor of HB 550 to benefit local HOAs.**

## Bill to Help Homeowners' Associations

Del. Filler-Corn passes legislation to help constituent homeowners' associations.

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), working with constituents, has spearheaded legislation aimed at helping many residents of her district and across Virginia. The 41st District contains several self-managed homeowners' associations, made up of volunteers in the community working in the best interests of their shared neighborhood.

Currently, the Code of Virginia requires that all homeowners' associations respond to a written records request within five business days. While five business days is an ample amount of time for a HOA that has a common interest community manager in charge of association management, these requirements often represent a burden and problem for self-managed communities.

HB 550 extends the time for self-managed unit owners' associations to respond to a written request for information from five days to ten days. "By doubling the time allotted to return requested information by self-managed Associations, we are providing flexibility and added convenience for these organizations," said Del. Filler-Corn. "Self-managed communities are run by volunteers in the community who have dedicated time to help their neighborhood. The governing members

of these associations often have full-time jobs, which can require significant commitments, including travel. Therefore, it is not always possible for these associations and their members to respond to these requests within five days."

Tena Bluhm, a 41st District resident of Fairfax and local homeowner association president worked with Del. Filler-Corn on this legislation. "The present five day time frame to produce copies of an association's books and records places an unreasonable burden on such an association. The passage of HB 550 will greatly relieve the burden and help self-managed associations remain in compliance with the Code of Virginia," said Bluhm.

"These community associations are the lifeblood of many towns and counties across the Commonwealth. I know the important role they play in my district, and I highly value their input and opinion," said Filler-Corn.

HB 550 was supported by the Virginia Legislative Action Committee which is a committee of Community Associations Institute and the Virginia Realtors Association.

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn's bill, HB 550, was signed by Governor Terry McAuliffe on March 7 and will take effect on July 1.

**"Self-managed communities are run by volunteers in the community who have dedicated time to help their neighborhood."**

— Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41)



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## COMMENTARY

# Earth Day Offers Opportunity to Reflect

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN C. COOK  
(R-BRADDOCK DISTRICT)



Later this month, residents across Fairfax County will celebrate Earth Day and renew their commitment to protect our natural resources. As you do your part in your own homes and communities, I ask that you join with the County to support initiatives that will preserve these resources for the generations still to come.

As part of its Environmental Improvement Program, the County will continue its efforts to promote walkable communities and develop trail systems to connect them. We will encourage low impact development and increase tree conservation wherever possible. We will continue to promote telecommuting to improve air quality, and ensure that public parking spaces can accommodate electric vehicles. We will promote mixed use development near transit and encourage green building practices in new construction. We will continue to facilitate recycling, including fluorescent lamps, rechargeable batteries, and obsolete electronics at the popular monthly Electric Sundays.

Probably most important, however, we will continue and expand our efforts to protect our streams, the Potomac River, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay by implementing projects identified in our Watershed Plans and enforcing our recently passed Stormwater Ordinance.

Fairfax County is one of 150 counties, cities, and towns that were required by state and federal law to adopt new rules to prevent pollutants from entering into our streams and rivers.

This ordinance will shift the focus from simply detaining water, to treating stormwater before it flows off of a property during activities such as construction. The Stormwater Ordinance focuses on projects that disturb more than 2,500 square feet of land. It allows for exemptions and

grandfathering in some cases to avoid being overly burdensome on homeowners. The vast majority of the ordinance, over 90 percent, addresses the specific requirements of the Commonwealth. For the remainder, the County worked closely with environmental groups, the community, and the building industry to develop local requirements and processes. The creation and implementation of the Stormwater Ordinance is one of the many ways that the Board of Supervisors has lead on environmental protection.

As an individual, you can take small steps in your own backyard. Replace some of your lawn with native plants, shrubs, and trees and don't fertilize that lawn this spring; shop with reusable grocery bags and take advantage of locally grown produce at our farmers markets; fix dripping faucets and conduct an energy audit around your home and recycle whenever possible. You can also spend an afternoon at one of the Friends of Accotink Creek stream cleanups, or Audrey Moore RECenter clean up days in April and May. For more information on these programs or to learn how you can have an impact, please contact my office by emailing [Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov). Small steps will help to ensure that Earth Day remains a reason to celebrate for our children and grandchildren.

## Burke Resident Recognized for Volunteer Service

**Wayne Chiles, a member of Springfield Rotary Club, raises awareness of ShelterBox.**

BY JANELLE GERMANOS  
THE CONNECTION

President Barack Obama, along with ShelterBox USA, has recognized Burke resident Wayne Chiles with the President's Volunteer Service Award as a result of his efforts to help victims of disasters throughout the world.

Chiles has worked to raise awareness and funds for ShelterBox, an organization



COURTESY OF SPRINGFIELD ROTARY CLUB  
**Wayne Chiles, right, poses with a tent used in disasters provided by ShelterBox USA.**

SEE VOLUNTEER, PAGE 7



## BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 9

**Free Dual Seminar.** 7-8:30 p.m. 2700 Fair Lakes Circle, Suite 120, Fairfax. Simplified Stock Investment Management and 1031 Tax-Free Property Exchanges. Register by calling 703-969-4966.

**Issues and Activities of Virginia State Legislature 2014.** 1:30 p.m. American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Avenue, Springfield. Delegate Mark Sickles (D-Franconia) will report on the issues and activities of the 2014 Virginia State Legislature and will include his thoughts on the influence of the recent Democratic party political changes in the State Legislature. Q&A to follow.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 12

**Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn** (41st District - Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Springfield) will hold April office hours at Panera Bread (6230 Rolling Rd, West Springfield) from 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. No appointment necessary. Please drop by.

**Dog Adoption.** 12 to 3 p.m. PETCO, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. 703-817-9444 [hart90.org](http://hart90.org)



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# Considering the Effects of Mass Incarceration

A public forum on Criminal Justice Sentencing Reform held in Burke.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS  
THE CONNECTION

PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

**T**here is a racial disparity in the number of people incarcerated in the United States. Nearly one in ten black men in their thirties is in jail. This number has increased due to the war on drugs, which has also seen a racial disparity in the numbers of those convicted.

"Black men have the highest likelihood of incarceration—one in three are likely to serve a prison sentence at some point in their lives," said Nazgol Ghandnoosh of The Sentencing Project. "For drug convictions, the racial disparities are even higher, and this is even though there is research showing that people of different ethnic backgrounds use drugs at the same rate."

Ghandnoosh joined other leaders in the community at a discussion on this topic at "The Effects of Mass Incarceration: A Public Forum on Criminal Justice Sentencing Reform" hosted by Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church in Burke.

**PENALTIES FOR CRACK**, the crystallized form of the cocaine, which comes in powder form, are harsh compared to those for cocaine. Although the drugs are pharmaceutically the same, a person possessing 28 grams of crack faces a mandatory five year sentence, while 500 grams of cocaine are required for this mandatory sentence.

Panelists also included State Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) who prior to getting involved in politics worked in the juvenile justice system.

The prison population has grown exponentially in Virginia, Marsden said at the forum. Virginia has over 60,000 people in its prisons and jails and spends about \$1 billion a year to house these prisoners.

Marsden said there are 22 people in Virginia who committed a crime when they were juveniles in which no one died, but will spend the rest of their lives in jail with life without parole. This includes Travion Blount, who at age 15 robbed a party with two adults at gunpoint. No shots were fired and he didn't hurt anybody.

The adults were given plea bargains of ten and 13 years, but Blount is facing the rest of his life in prison.

"Travion decided to go in and let the judge make the call instead of making a deal with the prosecutors, and got 146 years," Marsden said.

Marsden introduced a bill that after 20 years of a life sentence would allow these juveniles to receive another chance at a sentence from a four-judge panel, but it failed to pass the House of Delegates.

Locking those who commit crimes in jail and throwing away the key is not always the best option, Fairfax County Deputy Executive David Rohrer said at the public forum.

Rohrer, who spent 32 years in the Fairfax County Police Department, acknowledged the importance of police enforcement as



**Lt. Shawn Martin of the Fairfax County Police Department speaks at a public forum on the effects of mass incarceration on April 6.**

well as human services.

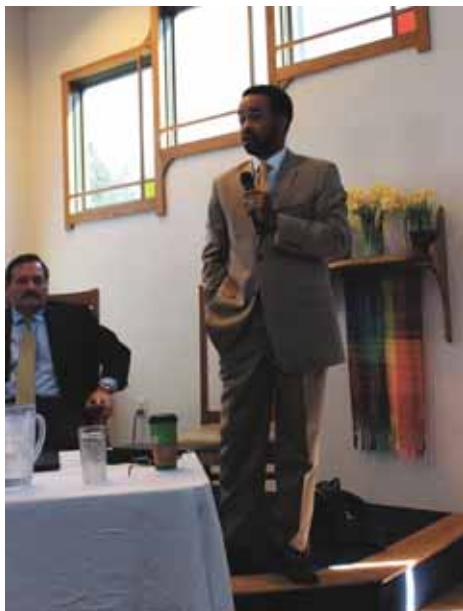
"I do not believe in only enforcement. It's about education, prevention and intervention strategies," Rohrer said. "Everything we do should be systems-based."

Rohrer said that the focus should be on more than just reforming the prison system, but also tackling the root problems. A good example of this, he said, is the creation of jobs and Fairfax County's new housing first initiative.

"It's not just about changing prisons or systems. It's how we invest in people," he said.

Lt. Shawn Martin of the Mount Vernon Police Department said that Fairfax County police are participating in a pilot program launched in collaboration with the juvenile justice system, public schools, neighborhood community services, and Northern Virginia Mediation Service.

The program will focus on restorative justice, and will prevent juveniles from being



**Derwin Overton, the executive director of OAR of Fairfax County, speaks about the organization's initiatives to break the cycle of crime at a public forum on April 6.**



**State Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) speaks to an audience gathered at a public forum on mass incarceration and prison reform on April 6.**

convicted of crimes. Both the victim and the perpetrator, who must admit to the crime and recognize wrongdoing, are brought together by mediators to discuss the problem and find a solution. The program is being tested at the Mount Vernon sub-station.

"I'm optimistic that we're going to launch it for the entire county," Martin said.

Derwin Overton, the executive director of OAR, acknowledged at the forum that it can be difficult for offenders to return to society. This is especially true when it comes to employment, which is one area in which OAR assists former prisoners.

**EVEN IN FAIRFAX COUNTY**, there is disproportionality when it comes to mass incarceration.

The Fairfax County population is approximately 12 percent Hispanic and 9 percent African American. According to Overton, 37 percent of the clients receiving services from OAR are African American, 33 percent are Caucasian, and 29 percent are Hispanic.

**"I do not believe in only enforcement. It's about education, prevention and intervention strategies."**  
— Fairfax County Deputy Executive David Rohrer

"That alone lets you know there is disproportionality as far as individuals getting incarcerated in the community," Overton said.

Rohrer said Fairfax County is looking at the disproportionality with it comes to incarceration.

As for the racial disproportionality in prisons, Ghandnoosh said the problem is a socio-economic one, as those in less prosperous communities turn to other ways to receive income.

"Violent crime is not something we turn to in more affluent communities. In less prosperous communities, these are the ways of solving and addressing some of life's problems," Ghandnoosh said.



**Nazgol Ghandnoosh of The Sentencing Project, Fairfax Deputy County Executive David Rohrer, and Derwin Overton of OAR were among the panelists at a public forum on mass incarceration on April 6.**



## COMMUNITY

# Volunteer Honored

FROM PAGE 4

that provides shelter for those affected by disasters and humanitarian crises.

"I am incredibly honored to work alongside our volunteers, including Wayne," said Emily Sperling, president of ShelterBox USA, in a press release. "It is through their continuous efforts that we are able to bring shelter, warmth and dignity to so many families displaced by disaster around the globe."

Chiles has worked with the Springfield Rotary Club and other organizations throughout the area to raise awareness for ShelterBox.

He participates in community activities and fairs, demonstrating the work of ShelterBox by setting up the tents and supplies that people in a disaster would use.

"I've been in rotary now for 30 years. Back in the spring of 2004, our rotary club in Springfield learned about this project," Chiles said. "We liked what we heard about it, we contributed and we liked the fact that at that time, the organization sent us a notice telling us where our ShelterBox had been delivered, following a disaster in the Caribbean. We decided to continue to support it."

Chiles has volunteered with ShelterBox through several natural disasters, including the 2004 Tsunami in Indonesia and Hurricane Katrina, encouraging groups in the area to donate to the cause.

Chiles even joined a group from his church, Burke United Methodist, on a mission trip to Mississippi to help those impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

"It seemed like ShelterBox was working in that same vein. The more I learned about it, the more deeply I came to appreciate the project," Chiles said. "It was a match made in heaven."

The people who Chiles interacts with, he says, have made the project successful by making donations.

April 6 through 12 is National Volunteer Week, which began in 1974. ShelterBox USA responded to over 25 disasters in 19 countries last year, providing essential equipment to survivors.

Chiles will be displaying the ShelterBox at the upcoming Viva Vienna event in May. "If I have the time and space to set up the tent, I really don't have to say a whole lot. People who see it and understand it as disaster response recognize quickly how beneficial the materials we provide are," he said.

## PHOTO GALLERY! "Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

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Or to mail photo prints, send to:  
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# OPINION

## Connection Papers Win Awards

Reporting, photography, design and editorial cartoons commended at annual Virginia Press Association meeting.

“Great work exposing serious challenges and obstacles in the way of the public’s access to public information. The articles are well written and well researched, providing concrete and compelling examples of the flaws in the systems.”

That was what the judge said when awarding first place for In-depth or investigative reporting to Michael Lee Pope in the Arlington Connection.

The Virginia Press Association announced its press awards for 2013 at the annual meeting on Saturday, April 5, in Richmond.

Pope also won first place for education writing, for business and financial writing, and awards for health, science and environmental writing and for government writing. Stories appeared in the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette and the Connection papers.

Bonnie Hobbs won first place for general news writing for her coverage of the proposed roundabout in Centreville. “Good work getting all viewpoints of the issue without assigning judgment to who is right and who is wrong,” wrote judges.

Jeanne Theismann won first place for public safety writing and for public service writing in the Alexandria Gazette Packet.

Connection Newspapers won first place for information graphics for the 2013 Insiders Guide to Fairfax County Parks, designed by Jean Card with photos by Renee Ruggles and Craig Sterbutzel.

First place for special sections went to the Connection’s HomeLifeStyle pullout.

Victoria Ross won for feature series/continuing coverage for coverage of foster care. Judges note: “Fantastic blend of fact and narrative, and it packs an emotional punch. The stories are very well-researched, tightly written and highly effective.”

Ross also won for personal service writing for her coverage of “digital legacy,” and control of one’s online content after death.

Cartoonist Steve Artley began cartooning for the Alexandria Gazette Packet in December 2013, with only three cartoons in the year, but two of them won awards. His cartoon on the threatened use of eminent domain in the City of Alexandria drew this comment from the judge: “One of the best examples of editorial cartooning I have seen in years and reminiscent of editorial cartoons poignant and relevant enough to still be included in history texts today. Wonderful use of the paper boat as the flagship of eminent domain with tons of little



Michael Lee Pope



Steve Artley



Bonnie Hobbs



Victoria Ross



Jean Card



Mary Kimm

touches which push the entry even higher.”

Alex McVeigh won an award for investigative or in-depth reporting in Great Falls. Donna Manz won for her feature stories in Vienna.

The annual Insiders/Newcomers edition of the Alexandria Gazette Packet won third place for special edition, including work by Steven Mauren, Jeanne Theismann, John Bordner and Jean Card.

Editorials written by Mary Kimm won second and third place awards.

For a complete list, see [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

### Winners

#### FIRST PLACE

First Place for Investigative Reporting, Uncovering Secret Government. Michael Lee Pope, Arlington Connection — Judge’s comment: Great work exposing serious challenges and obstacles in the way of the public’s access

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Mother’s Day is May 11, 2014, and every year at this time, we call for submissions to our Mother’s Day photo gallery. Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children. Please name everyone in the photo, the approximate date, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. (We will not print your full address or contact information.)

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to public information. The articles are well written and well researched, providing concrete and compelling examples of the flaws in the systems.

First Place for Education writing. Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Alexandria Education Dollars. Judge’s comment: This is by far the best entry in the contest. Michael Lee Pope wrote several strong articles on the cost of administration in his market. He did a very nice job of making a numbers story interesting.

First Place for Business and Financial writing. Michael Lee Pope, Mount Vernon Gazette — Judge’s comment: The story about car title loans offers an interesting look at this industry, which is proliferating due to a change in state law. Kudos for looking at how much the industry contributes to state legislators’ political campaigns. Business taxes — is it fair to charge higher rates for certain professions? Pope provides a balanced look at the pros and cons. The story on a transit study covers the debate over urban vs. rural development in Mount Vernon. Pope combines thorough reporting with competent writing.

First Place for Public Safety Writing, Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Judge’s comment: Creative, compelling ledes. First Place for General News Writing, Bonnie Hobbs, Centre View — Judge’s comment: The creative lede pushed this one over the top. Good work getting all viewpoints of the issue without assigning judgment to who is right and who is wrong.

First Place for Personal Service Writing. Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Judge’s comment: Each story is an interesting and vivid snapshot of the deceased with good use of quotes and anecdote to bring the subject’s personality to life and also convey why he or she was valued in the community. It is hard to write about someone who has died in a way that is upbeat and positive, but this writer has achieved this.

First Place for Informational Graphics for Insiders Guide to the Parks, Jean Card, Laurence Foong, Renee Ruggles and Craig Sterbutzel, Mount Vernon Gazette — Informational graphics: Fairfax County parks.

First Place for HomeLifeStyle, Mary Kimm, Laurence Foong, Geovani Flores, Marilyn Campbell, John Byrd, Tim Peterson and Jean Card, The Vienna/Oakton Connection — Specialty pages or sections: Judge’s comment: Clean design

SEE VIRGINIA, PAGE 9

## Burke CONNECTION

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## Virginia Press Association Awards

FROM PAGE 8

and easy to read. Choice of fonts work well together.

### OTHER AWARDS:

Steve Artley, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Illustrations — Eminent Domain. Judge's comment: One of the best examples of editorial cartooning I have seen in years and reminiscent of editorial cartoons poignant and relevant enough to still be included in history texts today. Wonderful use of the paper boat as the flagship of eminent domain with tons of little touches which push the entry even higher.

In-depth, investigative reporting, Alex McVeigh, Great Falls Connection — Judge's comment: Great work continuing to follow an important environmental story that had the potential for far-reaching impacts. These articles also do a good job explaining the nature of the underground contamination and, in understandable terms, the geology behind the way they spread.

Alexandria Gazette Packet, Insiders/Newcomers Guide. Steven Mauren, Jeanne Theismann, John Bordner, Jean Card, Geovani Flores and Laurence Foong, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Judge's comment: A good package of information for newcomers. A good array of photos of community members.

Health, Science and Environmental Writing, Michael Lee Pope, The Arlington Connection — Judge's comment: Good solid stories on interesting subjects. A lot of good historical background adds significantly to the sterilization story. The lead on the chicken story was very good.

Government Writing, Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Judge's comment: We preach to our reporters to follow the money. Michael Lee Pope does great job of following the money trail to great news stories. Continue to keep them honest.

Feature Series/Continuing Story. Victoria Ross, The Burke Connection — Feature series or continuing story. Judge's comment: Fantastic blend of fact and narrative, and it packs an emotional punch. The stories are very well-researched, tightly written and highly effective.

Personal Service Writing, Victoria Ross, The Fairfax Connection. Judge's comment: Good job using the individual story and relating it to the wider issue. Would have liked more follow-up details about whether the social media companies are complying with the

law and what the parents found on the son's social media sites.

Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Column writing. Judge's comment: These columns were well written and informative as well as entertaining.

Editorial writing. Mary Kimm, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Editorial writing. Judge's comment: Very well done. Writer does an outstanding job presenting the

paper's stance on the issues of the day.

Editorial writing. Mary Kimm, The Fairfax Connection — Judge's comment: These editorials were articulate and to the point.

Education writing: Michael Lee Pope, The Arlington Connection — Judge's comment: Concise, well put thoughts.

Page Design, Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette — Judge's com-

ment: Good job taking something that can be boring and hard to follow and making it interesting and easy to navigate.

Cartoon, Steve Artley, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Illustrations. Judge's comment: The shackles of the tea party! Ol' Ebenezer Elephant will be surely listening for the chimes of the hour after this ghost appeared before the foot of his bed. Fantastic work

all the way around.

Feature photo. Louise Krafft, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Summer Fun. Judge's comment: Sweet found moment.

Feature writing portfolio Donna Manz, Vienna/Oakton Connection — Feature writing portfolio. Judge's comment: Powerful ledes (and a great one for the 'puppies' story) and captivating narratives. Well-informed and well-written.

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## Home LifeStyle Clean for Spring

Local organization experts offer tips  
to help with spring cleaning.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Betsy Fein found herself in the middle of a spring fling in Fairfax recently. She wasn't at a festival or involved in a new romance, but in the midst of organizing a cluttered bedroom that was littered with piles of shirts, pants, shoes and books. Spring often means renewal and local organizers like Fein are offering suggestions for getting organized without getting overwhelmed. "Spring is a time when you have all the winter stuff in your closet and you want to change it out for summer, so you're flinging it out," said Fein, of Clutterbusters!!

(www.clutterbusters.com) in Rockville, Md. "Because this child was younger, we suggested that they hang a lot of things," said Fein of her recent project. She also advised the parents to install a second rod in the closet. "They could have shirts on top and pants on bottom." Fein recommended using photographs to help with organization. "They can take a picture of a pair of socks, for example, and put it on the drawer so the child can see that socks go in that drawer." She even included an idea for outgrown clothes. "Keep a colorful bin on the bottom of the closet, so when you realize that clothes don't fit any more you can toss them in the bin and donate them."

The idea would work for adults, too. "Pack away all your winter clothing and unpack your spring and summer items," said Susan Unger, of ClutterSOS (www.cluttersos.com) in Vienna. "Be sure to evaluate each item and

ask yourself ... 'Does it fit? Do I love it? Is it in good shape? Do I feel good in it?' If all these answers are 'yes' and it is a keeper, then place it in your closet or drawers.

"Be sure to group like items together such as skirts, dresses, t-shirts, [and] shorts. Decide if the discards should be tossed or donated depending on the condition," she said. "Be sure to keep a list of new items to buy."

When you store those bulky winter clothes, make sure you use sealed containers. "Store them in bins and make use of vertical space that is hard to reach or other rooms [like the] basement," said Jody Al-Saigh of Picture Perfect Organizing (www.pictureperfectorganizing.com) in Arlington. "Before storing clothes for next winter, be sure they are laundered first. A little-known fact [is that] moths don't actually go after the clothing fibers but rather the human perspiration and dander that build on clothes."

An easy place to start spring cleaning is your file (or pile or drawer) of appliance manuals and instruction booklets. "Store them all in an accordion file, by brands, by type of appliance, by room or area," said Al-Saigh. "Or look up the manual online, download and toss the paper one."

Be sure to purge often or when new items are purchased. "Don't toss warranties or receipts for warranties or rebates. Keep those in

your file," said Al-Saigh. "Keep the accordion file somewhere handy like the garage shelf [or on] top of fridge."

NOW THAT THE END of the school year is growing closer, piles of children's artwork are growing taller. "We did a family room that had a bookshelf and toys, kids' artwork and stuff all over the place," said Fein. "We had to help the parents make decisions about what to keep. We used a method called the three Fs: Frame-worthy, flush (or toss) and file. With kids' art, you have to be ruthless and realize that it is not all a Picasso."

For frame-worthy artwork, Fein suggests tape frames or inexpensive acrylic frames. "Tape frames are sticky on the back, but they look like real frames. You can swap out the artwork and reuse them."

For artwork that can be filed, Fein suggests using a keepsake box or creating a photo book. "You can take digital photos of the art work and put together a book on Snapfish or Shutterfly. ... Your child will be proud and you won't have stuff all over the place." Spring's mild weather also makes it an ideal time to clean out a garage. "It's not too hot and not too cold," said Al-Saigh. "Wait for nice weather, take everything out and sort it in the driveway."

Al-Saigh suggests using sidewalk chalk. "Section off areas for piles for items to keep, donate and trash," she said. "When putting back the keep stuff, group items together and create zones such as tools, gardening, sports equipment, camping, bicycles. The more you can hang on hooks on the walls or from the ceiling is good to maximize the vertical space.

"Get creative. Use old barrels to store hockey sticks upright, hang a mesh bag full of soccer balls," she added. "Remove things that don't belong in your garage like photos, paperwork, fragile memorabilia."

Fein points to a Potomac, Md., garage that she recently helped a client reorganize. "It was a normal looking garage where stuff was everywhere," she said. "Bikes and sports stuff were all over the place, so it was a matter of putting like things together."

It helps, Fein said, to make organizing fun. "Don't think of it as a chore. ... Play music and get the whole family involved. Play games with your children, like beat the clock or beat the time."

Start small. "A lot of times people think 'I have to organize my whole basement and I have 40 years of stuff,' said Fein. "If you have decided to spend the whole weekend, three hours in you say this is too much and you quit. Maybe start with a drawer." Keep it simple. "With filing papers, sometimes a person's filing system is so detailed that it is impossible to organize and maintain," said Fein.

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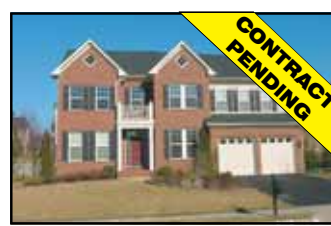
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Winners of Awards in the 2013 Virginia Press Association Editorial Contest

## First Place Winners

- ❖ **Bonnie Hobbs**, *Centre View* – General news writing.
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, *Arlington Connection* – In-depth or investigative reporting: •Uncovering Secret Government
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Education writing: •Alexandria Education Dollars
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, *Mount Vernon Gazette* – Business and financial writing: •Car Title Loans
- ❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Public safety writing.
- ❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Personal service writing.
- ❖ **Mary Kimm**, **Laurence Foong**, **Geovani Flores**, **Marilyn Campbell**, **John Byrd**, **Tim Peterson** and **Jean Card**, *Vienna/Oakton Connection* – Specialty pages or sections: •HomeLifeStyle
- ❖ **Jean Card**, **Laurence Foong**, **Renee Ruggles** and **Craig Sterbutzel**, *Mount Vernon Gazette* – Informational graphics: •Fairfax County parks



## Second Place Winners

- ❖ **Steven Mauren**, **Jeanne Theismann**, **John Bordner**, **Jean Card**, **Geovani Flores** and **Laurence Foong**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Special sections or special editions: Insider's Guide.
- ❖ **Steve Artley**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Illustrations – Eminent Domain.
- ❖ **Jean Card**, *Mount Vernon Gazette* – Page design.



**Michael Lee Pope**



**Bonnie Hobbs**



**Jeanne Theismann**



**Jean Card**



**Steven Mauren**



**Laurence Foong**



**Geovani Flores**



**Marilyn Campbell**



**Steve Artley**



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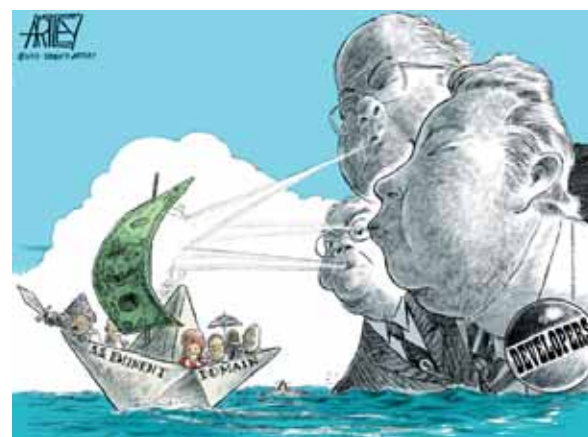


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- ❖ **Mary Kimm**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Editorial writing.
- ❖ **Alex McVeigh**, *Great Falls Connection* – In-depth or investigative reporting.
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, *Arlington Connection* – Health, science and environmental writing.
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Government writing.

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**Steve Artley**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Illustrations – Eminent Domain.

- ❖ **Victoria Ross**, *Burke Connection* – Feature series or continuing story.
- ❖ **Victoria Ross**, *Fairfax Connection* – Personal service writing.
- ❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Column writing.



**Louise Krafft**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Feature photo: Summer Fun.

## Third Place Winners

- ❖ **Steve Artley**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Illustrations.
- ❖ **Mary Kimm**, *Fairfax Connection* – Editorial writing.
- ❖ **Louise Krafft**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Feature photo: Summer Fun.
- ❖ **Donna Manz**, *Vienna/Oakton Connection* – Feature writing portfolio.
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, *Arlington Connection* – Education writing.



# News

Standing near some bonsai in Chuck Croft's yard in Burke are (from left) Joe Gutierrez, Gary Reese and Chuck Croft with Judi Schwartz (seated).



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

## Bonsai Show at Garden Center

Learn about, see and vote for favorite trees.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

The Northern Virginia Bonsai Society will hold its Spring Show this weekend at the Merrifield Garden Center. It's at 12101 Lee Hwy. in Fairfax and the free show runs Saturday, April 12, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, April 13, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bonsai experts will give demonstrations, and attendees may vote on the trees they believe should then compete at the Potomac Bonsai Association show at the National Arboretum.

"Most, if not all, bonsai trees are regular trees that, if planted outside, would grow to full size," said club member Dr. Joe Gutierrez. "But we keep them in a small pot and purposely train them to stay small. We do it by repotting into appropriate-sized pots and pruning the roots and branches."

"The trunks get bigger and older-looking, but the roots get smaller because small roots feed a tree best," said member Gary Reese. "And the bonsai are planted in inorganic, ground-up rock." Formerly on the Fairfax County School Board and the 67<sup>th</sup> District delegate, he's a 30-year member of the club.

They have 62 members from throughout Northern Virginia. "We educate ourselves, the public and new members about the styling and horticulture of bonsai," said Burke's Chuck Croft.

Club President Judi Schwartz said no experience

is necessary because they have a mentoring program for those new to the art. "We bring in some of the best bonsai experts in the world to give lectures and workshops," added Reese. "You can bring in your own trees and they'll give you advice; it's a tremendous, eye-opening experience."

Bonsai are planted in crushed lava, baked clay and pumice. "The most important thing is that they drain well," said Croft. "So we have to feed and water them regularly."

"You have complete control over the tree's water and nutrients," said Gutierrez.

"That's why people joke that the definition of 'bonsai' is to almost kill a tree," said Reese. But, said Croft, the actual definition is "tree in a pot."

The art began in China and is more than 2,000 years old. "It spread to Japan through the Buddhist monks," said Croft. "And the Japanese established rules, called bonsai, for designing and styling trees. The Chinese version, called 'penjing,' is a little more free form."

"But thankfully, when it came to the U.S., we used those rules more as guidelines and used trees that grew here," said Reese.

"Bonsai is the technique of miniaturizing trees," said Gutierrez. "The foliage and tree should be in scale with each other."

"I tell people the tree's going to tell you what to do by its own shape and the way it's growing," said Croft. "We like to work with trees that nurseries have left over and nobody else wants, or half-dead trees, so they sell at reduced rates. Then we can nurse them back to health and style them around the character

SEE BONSAI, PAGE 18

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# SPRING FUN

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**WEDNESDAY/APRIL 9 - SUNDAY/APRIL 20**  
**Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Presents Built to Amaze Circus.** GMU Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets: \$15-\$30. For more information and show timings visit, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**THURSDAY/APRIL 10- FRIDAY/APRIL 11**  
**"Making Mona Lisa."** GMU, Mason Hall Atrium Galley, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. An exhibition of photography and painting by Priscilla Briggs that documents the oil painting industry in Xiamen, China.

**FRIDAY/APRIL 11- SUNDAY/APRIL 13**  
**Virginia Opera's "Carmen."** Friday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Virginia Opera, will present George Bizet's sultry tragedy about opera's most famous femme fatale, "Carmen." The opera has enthralled audiences for more than a century and is one of the most popular. Tickets are Friday: \$44-\$86; Sunday: \$48-\$98. Youth Discount: tickets are half price for youth through grade 12. Call 888-945-2468 or visit [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu)

**SATURDAY/APRIL 12**  
**2nd Saturday Art Walk.** 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The 2nd

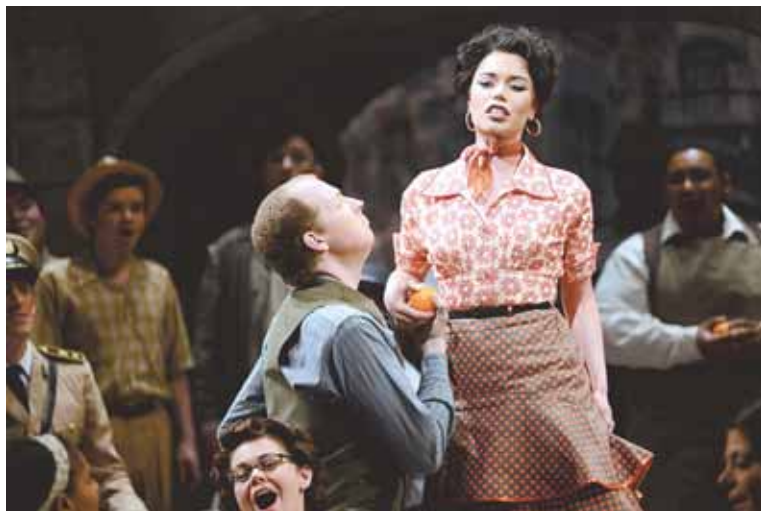


PHOTO BY DAVID A. BELOFF.

**Ginger Costa-Jackson as Carmen in Virginia Opera's production of "Carmen," playing April 11 and 13 at GMU's Center for the Arts.**

Saturday Art Walk at 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. Guests can tour seven unique studio buildings, mix and mingle with artists, buy original works of art, experience ever-changing.

**Once Upon A Time...** 7:30-10 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. A fairy tale themed costume ball. The evening includes music, social dancing, unique silent auction opportunities, food, laughter and special live performances by cabaret vocalists.

Admission includes entertainment, light refreshments and two beverage tokens. Tokens may also be used for voting for the "Queen" of the night. Costumes are not required for entry, but do we encourage all to find some fairy tale inspiration for their attire- there will be a 'door prize' or two for the most imaginative costumes! Limited admission, early reservations strongly recommended. \$40 per person. <http://workhousearts.org/events/performing-arts/once-upon-time>

**Easter Egg Hunt and Bake Sale.** 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. children (2 years old - 6th graders) are welcome to the free Easter Egg Hunt and bake sale. <http://www.franconiaumc.org>.

**Spring Upscale Resale.** 9 a.m. -3 p.m. The Salvation Army Fairfax, 4915 Ox Road, Fairfax. The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary is selling new or gently used purses, scarves, jewelry, lamps, art, silk floral arrangements, Christmas and home decor, glassware, knick-knacks, kitchen goods, toys, furniture, sporting goods and more.

**SATURDAY/APRIL 12- SUNDAY/APRIL 13**  
**Spring Show.** Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. The Northern Virginia Bonsai Society is proud to announce that its Spring Show. Bonsai from beginning to expert will be exhibited and the Club will be demonstrating how to make a bonsai. Visitors may cast secret

ballots on which of the bonsai exhibited should go onto the Potomac Bonsai Association show. Contact Person: Gary A. Reese. [greese67@msn.com](mailto:greese67@msn.com). 703-860-3374

**SUNDAY/APRIL 13**

**Table Top N Gauge Model Train Show.** 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Admission is \$4 for adults 16 and over; \$2 for children 5-15; free for children under 5 and for Museum members. For more information on the Museum events, visit, [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org). 703-425-9225.

**SATURDAY/APRIL 19**

**2014 Lions Club Flea Market.** VRE parking lot, 6900 Hechinger Drive, Springfield. Cost is \$20 per space, first come, first serve. Website for rules: [sfhostlions.org](http://sfhostlions.org)

**Family Fun.** 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Cherry Run Elementary School, 9732 Ironmaster Drive, Burke. There will be free pony rides, moon bounce, balloon clown, petting zoo, hot dog lunch, and of course lots of eggs.

**THURSDAY/APRIL 24**

**Deep Ocean Exploration: Uncovering Hidden Valleys and Soviet Subs.** 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. The secrets of the ocean - whether hidden valleys or clandestine Soviet subs - have been discovered. Dr. Gary Weir, NGA's Chief Historian, will unveil these underwater stories and surprises. If you love the ocean or history, it's going to be an exciting evening.

**SATURDAY/APRIL 26**

**Singles Dinner and Movie Night.** 5 p.m. PF Chang's in Fairfax Corner, 4250 Fairfax Corner Avenue, Fairfax. Cost of \$30 at door includes dinner, soda, tip and movie ticket. RSVP required. Sponsored by New Beginnings, a support group for separated/divorced men and women. Call 301-924-4101 or visit [www.newbeginningsusa.org](http://www.newbeginningsusa.org).

**2014 Healthy Strides Community 5K/10K.** 7:30 a.m. Burke Lake Park. Head on out to Burke Lake Park on April 26 and join the Fairfax County Park Authority for the Healthy Strides Community 5k/10k!! Enjoy a scenic run around the beautiful grounds of Burke Lake Park. The 10k runs along a wooded path and takes runners around the lake. While the

5k follows a scenic tree-lined road through the park. Register here: <http://prrracing.racebox.com/events/register/5224ef94-365c-408a-b417-7f46c0a86524>.

**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](http://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](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**ONGOING**

**Workhouse Farmers Market.** 3-6 p.m., at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Every Thursday on the quad is a producer-only market for discerning shoppers featuring locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally raised meats and poultry and local foods from breads to salsas and sausages. [www.smartmarkets.org](http://www.smartmarkets.org).  
**First Fridays at the Clifton Art Guild.** 6-9 p.m. at Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 C Main St., Clifton. Enjoy a wine tasting and mix and mingle with the Art Guild of Clifton artists. 703-830-1480 or [www.artguildofclifton.org/](http://www.artguildofclifton.org/).

**Saturday Farmers Market.** 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at the parking lot at the intersection of West and Main Streets behind Wells Fargo Bank in Fairfax. Every Saturday there is fresh produce, goods and wares at the market. [church@sovgracefairfax.org](mailto:church@sovgracefairfax.org) or [www.FairfaxSaturdayMarket.com](http://www.FairfaxSaturdayMarket.com).

**Sunday Farmers Market.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the parking lot at the intersection of West and Main Streets behind Wells Fargo Bank in Fairfax. Every Saturday there is fresh produce, goods and wares at the market. [church@sovgracefairfax.org](mailto:church@sovgracefairfax.org) or [www.FairfaxSundayMarket.com](http://www.FairfaxSundayMarket.com).

**Fairfax Mosaic Wednesday Night Freshbikes Rides.** 6:30 p.m., at Fairfax Mosaic Freshbikes, 2910 District Ave., Fairfax. Weekly bike rides leave from the Fairfax Mosaic store, the newest addition to the Freshbikes family of stores in the area. [www.freshbikescycling.com](http://www.freshbikescycling.com).

**Join Jewish War Veterans of the USA.** The Burke Post E 100 at 5712 Walnut Wood, Burke, invites Jewish veterans and service members to join. 703-209-5925.

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**Get ready, the circus is coming to town! Join in on the fun with Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey as they present Built to Amaze Circus, beginning April 9 at George Mason University's Patriot Center.**



# FAITH

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**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](http://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, 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](http://www.Lordoflifeva.org).

**First Baptist Church of Springfield** offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship ser-

## Easter Services

### SUNDAY/APRIL 13

**Palm Sunday Service.** 8:30 and 11 a.m. Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. This Sunday commemorates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and begins the series of observances focusing on the events of Holy Week — the beginning of the passion or suffering of Jesus leading to and including the crucifixion.

### THURSDAY/APRIL 17

**Maundy Thursday Service.** 7:30 p.m. Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. This is a service to commemorate Jesus' Last Supper and the beginning of our

sacrament, the Lord's Supper. At the Last Supper, Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment to love one another as He had loved them.

### FRIDAY/APRIL 18

**Good Friday Service.** 7:30 p.m. Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death on the cross at Calvary.

### SUNDAY/APRIL 20

**Easter Sunday Services.** 6, 8:30 and 11 a.m. Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Join to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

vice at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or [www.fbcspRINGfield.org](http://www.fbcspRINGfield.org).

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

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

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road,

Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or [www.poplc.org](http://www.poplc.org).

**Kirkwood Presbyterian Church**, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway in Springfield, supports a Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) program on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Meetings are 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the church. All mothers and children are welcome. The program provides mothers an opportunity to get to know other mothers through discussions and craft activities. Register. 703-451-5320.

## COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

**Messiah United Methodist Church**  
6215 Rolling Road, Springfield  
703-569-9862  
[www.messiahumc.org](http://www.messiahumc.org)

April 13 - Palm Sunday worship at 8:15, 9:30, and 11:00 am  
April 17 - Holy Thursday service at 7:30 pm  
April 18 - Good Friday service at 7:30 pm  
April 20 - Easter Sunday Celebration at 8:00, 9:30, and 11 am  
Sunrise Service at Springfield Golf & Country Club at 6:30 am

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**GAYLORD NATIONAL RESORT**



# SPORTS

## Rebuilding Robinson Shows Resiliency in Loss to Yorktown

**Rams overcome 3-0 deficit to tie Patriots before falling to 0-6-1.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Robinson boys' soccer team, in the midst of a rebuilding year, entered its April 7 match against Yorktown in search of its first victory.

Midway through the first half, it appeared the Rams would play the role of speed bump to the mighty Patriots, who three days earlier knocked off defending region champion Oakton. By game's end, however, Robinson had shown the kind of resilience that could lead to future success.

Yorktown scored in the opening minute, twice in the first five minutes and led 3-0 in the 19th minute. Undeterred, the Rams battled back to tie the score at 3-all with a goal by Henry Lunario in the 72nd minute. However, Yorktown captain Joe McCreary answered in the 78th minute, lifting the Patriots to a 4-3 victory at Robinson Secondary School.

**THE LOSS** dropped Robinson's record to 0-6-1, but head coach Robert Garza said he was pleased with the Rams' resiliency.

"After the game, I told them you basically won this game," Garza said. "Don't look at the score, [focus on] the fight that you guys had in you. I'm very proud of you. ... To me, in my book here, forget what the score says, we did win this because of the fight and we came back. Such a young team, still trying to learn to play with each other, was able to bring that fight back."

Garza is in his second season as head coach of the Rams. He replaced Jac Cicala, a member of the Virginia-DC Soccer Hall of Fame who won four AAA state championships with the Lake Braddock boys' program and took the George Mason University women's team to the 1993 NCAA final. Cicala retired in 2012 after leading Robinson to the Northern Region title and Garza was hired after nine seasons at Mount Vernon.

Garza has spent his first two seasons implementing a style of soccer which focuses on speed and possession. Last year, Garza's first with Robinson, the Rams finished 6-9-2, reached the Concorde District championship game and lost to T.C. Williams in the opening round of the regional tournament. This season, following a 4-2 loss to Oakton that dropped Robinson's record to 0-4-1, Garza decided to go primarily with young players.

"This is our rebuilding year," Garza said. "We graduated the whole team last year, as you can tell by our roster, a lot of freshmen and sophomores. Obviously, it's been a struggle this year. The Oakton game to us, we felt like we cracked Oakton a little bit, and it's been a step up for us. We're starting to come together. It's a process, but they're coming together."

While Robinson failed to win in its first seven games, the Rams managed to score 12 goals and showed signs of life against Yorktown.

"[The underclassmen are] the ones fighting and we saw right here," Garza said after the Yorktown loss. "[We] definitely saw they have fight in them tonight."



**Robinson's Noah Zorzi (19) scored a goal against Yorktown on April 7.**

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



**Robinson boys' soccer coach Robert Garza said sophomore Keyvan Montero (2) is one of the program's future leaders.**

Yorktown improved to 5-1 with the victory, including a 1-0 win over Oakton three days earlier. The Patriots seemingly squashed the idea of a letdown against the winless Rams early in the match, building a 3-0 lead midway through the first half. Iain Holmes scored in the opening minute, and Justin Gonzales gave the Patriots a 2-0 lead with a goal in the fifth minute. Holmes' second goal extended Yorktown's advantage to 3-0 in the 19th minute.

**FROM THAT POINT**, Robinson slowly chipped away at the lead. Lucas Puranen scored in the 26th minute, cutting Yorktown's lead to 3-1 at halftime. Noah Zorzi scored in the 47th minute and Lunario netted the equalizer in the 72nd minute.

"The level dropped, big time," Yorktown head coach David Wood said. "... It's tough sometimes, because we've been on a big-time roll of not giving up goals and scoring goals."

Rather than letting Robinson come all the way back to win, Yorktown found a way to salvage the contest with McCreary scoring the game-winner shortly after returning from a yellow card.

Garza praised the performance of sophomore defender Keyvan Montero and freshman forward Nicholas Short.

"They're both the smallest kids on the team and they take the most hits and they deliver the most hits back and they have so much fight," Garza said. "We use them as an example to the returning players — bigger kids who are so scared to go in for a ball. These two kids are so small and they go in hard every single ball. They get the snot knocked out of them, they get right back up, they deliver a hit back and they keep going through. Those two are the future leaders of this program."

Robinson faced Centreville on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Rams will host Langley at 7 p.m. on April 23.

**Woodson junior point guard Eric Bowles was named to the boys' 6A all-state basketball team.**



CONNECTION FILE PHOTOS

## Bowles, Berglund Earn All-State Honors

Woodson junior point guard Eric Bowles and West Springfield senior shooting guard Amy Berglund were among those selected to the 2013-14 Group 6A all-state basketball teams.

Bowles led the Woodson boys' team to its second consecutive region championship before falling to Landstown in the state semi-finals. Along with Bowles, the boys' all-state team included Colonial Forge's Marco Haskins, Herndon's Dorian Johnson, Battlefield's Trevor Blondin, South Lakes' Brandon Kamga, Landstown's Darius Bolstad, Patrick Henry's Christian Kirchman and Woodside's Chris Orlina.

Berglund surpassed 1,000 career points and led the West Springfield girls' team to the Conference 7 title, a trip to the region final and a berth in the state tournament. Along with Berglund, the girls' all-state team includes Cosby's Dorothy Adomako, Stonewall Jackson's Nicole Floyd, Cosby's Jocelyn Jones, Bethel's Britani Bryson, Madison's Kelly Koshuta and Centreville's Jenna Green.

Berglund plans to play for University of Northwestern St. Paul.

## Capital Classic Rosters Announced

The 41st Annual Capital Classic will be held April 26 at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria. The Classic will feature three games, including a pair of Metro All-Star games. North vs. South will tip off at 3 p.m., followed by East vs. West at 5 p.m. The main event, a matchup between the U.S. All-Stars and the Capital All-Stars, will begin at 7 p.m.

Robinson's Joe Bynum, Bishop Ireton's Daniel Noe, Edison's Chief Amoah and Oakton's Robert Bacon are among those suiting up for the South all-stars.

Lake Braddock's Will Gregorits, Woodson's Andy Stynchula, Paul VI's Evan Taylor, Wakefield's Re'Quan Hopson, and Herndon's Kent Auslander and Dorian Johnson are among those who will suit up for the West all-stars.

Tickets are available at [capitalclassic.ticketsocket.com](http://capitalclassic.ticketsocket.com).



**West Springfield senior shooting guard Amy Berglund was named to the girls' 6A all-state basketball team.**



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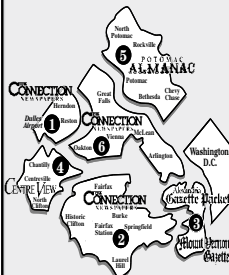
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## 21 Announcements

### PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF CLIFTON PLANNING COMMISSION

APRIL 22, 2014

Notice is hereby given that the Clifton Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 7:30 P.M. at the Acacia Lodge, 7135 Main Street, Clifton, VA 20124 to consider the amendment and revision of the Town of Clifton's Zoning Ordinance resulting from the revision of Section 9-13 of the Zoning Ordinance which contains provisions pertaining to Parking in the Town. The proposed revision to Section 9-13 of the Zoning Ordinance is available for review and downloading on the Town's website at [www.cliftonva.us](http://www.cliftonva.us) and a hard copy of the proposed Zoning Ordinance changes may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend and express their views with respect to the proposed amended and revised Section 9-13 Parking of the Town of Clifton Zoning Ordinance.

## 21 Announcements

### ABC LICENSE

Ha To Pham Trading as Rice Pot Asian Cuisine, 4709 Backlick Road, Annandale, VA 22079. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a wine and beer on premises, mixed beverages on premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Ha To Pham, Owner  
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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## 21 Announcements

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, April 21, 2014 commencing at 10:00 AM, at 5801 Rolling Road, Springfield, Virginia 22152, in order to enforce the warehousemen's lien for storage and related services, we will sell by Public Auction the personal effects in the accounts of: Antonio Adair, Mark Beesley, Judith Boston, Greg Devane, Thomas Manski, Donna Perry Mmoh, Randolph Modlin, Spiro Nomikos, David Parker, and Leona Taylor.

These effects are stored with any of the following: Ace Van & Storage Co., Inc.; Interstate Moving & Storage, Inc.; Interstate Moving Systems, Inc.; Interstate Relocation Services, Inc. dba Ambassador International, Ltd.; Ambassador Relocations, Inc.; Ambassador Worldwide Moving, Inc.; or Interstate Van Lines, Inc., at 3901 Ironwood Place, Landover, Maryland; 22455 Powers Court, Sterling, Virginia; or 5801 Rolling Road, Springfield, Virginia. All parties in interest please take notice.

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements



Paul D. Camp Community College in Franklin, VA is currently recruiting for

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This position will ensure that the mission and educational objectives of the College are attained through its Nursing and Allied Health Programs; provide strategic leadership for planning, development, assessment, evaluation, administration and continuous improvement of curriculum and instruction. A detailed job description and directions on applying can be found on the Paul D. Camp Community College web site ([www.pdc.edu/employment](http://www.pdc.edu/employment)). Application packets should be e-mailed to [jobs@pdc.edu](mailto:jobs@pdc.edu). For further information contact Human Resources at 757-569-6708.

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# Bonsai Show Comes to Merrifield

FROM PAGE 13

they've developed."

Their trees stay outdoors year 'round. "We keep the wind from drying them out," said Schwartz.

And, added Croft, "If it's warm enough and there's enough precipitation, you don't have to water them during the winter." Gutierrez said freezing temperatures don't hurt them as long as the soil has moisture in it when it freezes.

However, said Schwartz, "Indoor tropical trees cannot survive outside in this climate. So they go indoors and need special lighting and watering, plus regular care. But they're fun because you get to play with them all winter."

"There's no special, single, bonsai tree," said Croft. "Any woody plant can be turned into a bonsai. The trees most forgiving of mistakes [with their care] are Japanese maples, conifers, azaleas and boxwood."

Reese said pine trees also work well, although they require "an entirely different technique to miniaturize their needles. Anyone interested in learning how should come to our group."

A 21-year club member, Croft said, "I enjoy the people and working with bonsai trees. It's relaxing and stress-reducing. Some of us have even traveled to other countries to see other people's bonsai. They all have different ways of displaying their trees. Some put a tree in a setting, beside a small stature, or place a painting behind it."

Schwartz does bonsai because "it's an art form and I'm proud of what I can create. I'm especially proud when I get flowers to bloom on something difficult. I've been with the club since 1998 or '99; it's like a second family and I enjoy meeting people."

Gutierrez, the club's longest member, has been with it since 1974. "I like the camaraderie, plus the intellectual challenge of keeping plants alive," he said. "I'm a retired surgeon and I'm interested in the plants' physiology. And like I enjoyed doing surgery, I enjoy doing surgery on the plants." He's nicknamed "The Magician," because of his way with bonsai. And, said Reese, "Joe can turn a scrap tree into a beautiful work of art." Schwartz and Reese each have 25-30 trees, Croft has 100 and Gutierrez has 257.

As for Reese, he loves bonsai because of the trees. "They show you what you've done right and wrong, teach you patience and give you comfort," he said. "And if you're on the School Board or in the legislature, you need patience and comfort. Bonsai also teaches you persistence, focusing on the long-term result."

Celebrating 45 years, the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society meets the second Saturday of the month, 9 a.m., at Walter Reed Community Center in Arlington.

See [www.NVBS.US](http://www.NVBS.US) or email [greese67@msn.com](mailto:greese67@msn.com) or 571-239-8821.



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**Fairfax Station - \$1,095,000**  
Custom "Deck House" on beautiful 5 acre horse property

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**Springfield** \$345,000  
Gorgeous 2 Bedroom 2 Full Ba Townhouse in popular Springfield Oaks. Hardwood Flrs Main Level. New Carpet Upper and Lower Lvl's. Kitchen Has Brand New Stainless Appliances. Fully Finished Walk Out Basement Has Remodeled Full Bath & Guest Rm. Master Ba Has Jacuzzi Tub His/Her Imported Vanities & Tile. New Windows, Doors, & Much More.



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**Colchester Hunt!**  
\$599,500  
RENO-mazing! Stunning remodel of the main level starting a chef's kitchen w/pro stainless appliances (Wolf cooktop and more!), granites counters, custom backsplash and amazing center island. Open floor plan featuring great room and red oak hardwoods throughout. Sited on a fenced 1/2 acre - all the work has been done! [www.6106kingscolordr.com](http://www.6106kingscolordr.com)

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**Burke** \$1,800  
Beautiful 3 finished level townhome near public transportation, commuter routes, shopping & restaurants \* 3 bedrooms \* 2.5 baths \* Newly updated kitchen \* Step-down living room w/fireplace \* Walkout recreation room.  
Call Judy 703-503-1885



**Classic Hollow in Manassas**  
\$765,900  
Grand 8 BR, 7.5 BA 3 fin lvl home on 2 acres \* 2-story foyer w/dual curved staircases \* Formal liv & din rms \* Butler pantry \* Eat-in gourmet kit w/SS appliances, granite, island w/prep sink \* 2-story fam rm w/stone fireplace \* Back staircase \* 2 main lvl BR suites \* Upper lvl features master suite w/sitting rm, 4 other BRs, 4 BAs & 2nd fam rm \* W/O basement w/rec rm, BR, full BA & huge unfinished area.  
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**Mt. Vernon Area**  
\$600,000  
CUSTOM BUILT!!  
Large 5 Bedrm, 3.5 bath Colonial on beautiful half-acre wooded lot! Located near end of quiet cul-de-sac, this 3 level home has an oversized 2 car garage + additional off street parking. Many extras including Sun Rm, Fam. Rm w/ Fireplace off Gourmet kitchen, Deck, Finished basement, and Master suite w/ walk-in closet and luxury bath! 703-981-3277.

Mt. Vernon Area  
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CUSTOM BUILT!!  
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**Fairfax Station** \$745,900  
Beautiful 4Brm, 4.5Ba Rambler w/main level master, wonderful kitchen, Hdwd floors, on approx. 2 private acres w/park-like setting. Circular drive, 2-car gar & 3 Fpls. Wheelchair friendly, fantastic LL, w rm suite, great workshop & walkout access. Country setting & close to everything!!



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**Annandale** \$375,000  
Brand New on Market  
Strathmeade Square  
Excellent location: 1/4 mi to Fairfax Hospital, 1/2 mi to Beltway; 3 Lvl TH, 3 BR 2 BA on upper Lvl; Lge LR & Sep DR with Hdwd floors, Half bath, Updated Kitchen opens to patio & fenced Yd on MN Lvl; Den/FR plus Full Bath and large Util Rm on LL. Freshly painted, vacant and ready to go. Call Kay Hart, 703-217-8444 for details: Open Sunday 4/13  
**Coming Soon**  
Two LVL Rambler on Wooded 1.4 AC parcel with stream in Annandale. 3 BR, 3 Full Baths, Hardwood in LR, Separate Library. What a View! Fantastic Opportunity in close in location. Call Kay for pre-market information 703-217-8444



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**I will help you through the process.**



**Cheryl Pryor**  
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**Springfield** \$479,900  
Beautiful expanded rambler in sought-after Ravensworth. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths with new carpet throughout. Gorgeous master suite with updated master bath!! Move-in ready. Great schools.



**Sheila Adams**  
703-503-1895  
Life Member, NVAR Multi-Million Dollar Sales Club  
Life Member, NVAR TOP PRODUCERS



Call Sheila to see this 5 Level Brecon Ridge Beauty!!  
Sited on 40,441 Sq Ft Cul-de-sac lot, 5 BR's, 3 Newer Baths, Fabulous Remodeled Kitchen Opens to Family Rm, Huge Rec Rm w/Stone FP, Mud Rm, Lower Level for storage w/WO-Huge 2 Car garage w/commercial Size Garage Doors



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[www.MyVirginiaHomeTeam.com](http://www.MyVirginiaHomeTeam.com)



**Fairfax** \$550,000  
Spacious 4BR/3BA "Regent" with 1-car garage on cul-de-sac lot in family-friendly neighborhood. Family room has fireplace and access to patio & backyard. Newly enhanced kitchen, hardwoods, updated bathrooms, and freshly painted. Close to Metrobus, VRE, and GMU.



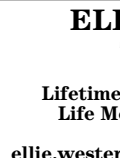
**Burke \$675,000**  
Sheer Elegance  
This 3-lvl, 4 BR, 3 1/2 BA, 2-Car Gar Single Family Home features 1st Fl HW, upgraded Kit w/granite Ctrs, SS Appl & 2 story LR. UL has spacious MBR & MBA w/whirlpool, Sep Shwr and Dbl vanity plus huge RR w/wet bar, BR and Full BA. A must see!



**Richard Esposito**  
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[ellie.wester@longandfoster.com](mailto:ellie.wester@longandfoster.com)



**Springfield** \$349,900  
A delightful, updated and sparkling townhome in convenient Newington Station. So many updates include hardwood flrs, windows, and more. A picturesque back garden professionally designed and executed by Merrifield Nursery! Will be coming on the market soon!

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