

Springfield CONNECTION

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Newington

Home LifeStyle

PAGE 10

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.

Considering the Effects of Mass Incarceration

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Bumpy Ride on Area Roads

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How Healthy Is This Neighborhood?

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BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at 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

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 16

Getting your Legal Ducks in a Row. 1:30 p.m. Alzheimer's Family Day Center, 2812 Old Lee Highway, Suite 210, Fairfax. An elder law attorney will lead this discussion on common legal considerations, such as power of attorney, wills and estates, guardianships, and trusts. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP and for more information.

SATURDAY/APRIL 19

Dog Adoption. 12-3 p.m. PETCO, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. hart90.org.

ONGOING

Singers Wanted for the

Celebration Singers. The women's show choir is interested in new talent to perform at various Northern Virginia community sites. Practices are Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in Burke. Contact Gayle Parsons, 703-644-4485 or email gparsons3@cox.net.

Online Scavenger Hunt. Visit Fairfax tasks those interested in becoming "citizen ambassadors" to the county (those informed on fun, creative weekend outings in the area) to find two Fairfax County Ambassador icons hidden throughout the fxva.com website in order to join the ambassador team; those who find all five hidden pins will receive a complimentary gift. www.fxva.com/online-ambassador.

News

Fairfax Arts Programs Receive Federal Grants

Seven local organizations involved in the arts and literature are receiving a total of \$230,000 in federal grants from the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA), U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) said.

Connolly said each dollar the NEA awards in federal funding, on average generates \$9 from non-federal sources. He said the grants, which support projects that involve the creation and presentation of artistically-excellent work, were awarded by the NEA after a competitive process.

Connolly said the organizations in Fairfax County receiving the federal matching grants are:

- ❖ Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts in Vienna: \$60,000 to support professional training programs for singers and fully-staged opera performances; and \$15,000 to support the radio series "Center Stage from Wolf Trap."

- ❖ George Mason University in Fairfax: \$25,000 to support a randomized, controlled trial examining the effects of visual arts, music, and dance therapy on the emotional and cognitive functioning of older adults.

- ❖ Arts Council of Fairfax County in Fairfax: \$40,000 to support the Global Arts Grant Initiative, a program designed to fund diverse cultural arts projects.

- ❖ American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras in Annandale: \$10,000 to support the Chamber Ensemble Program.

- ❖ Association of Writers & Writing Programs in Fairfax: \$75,000 to support the 2015 conference in Minneapolis; the Job List, Writer's Calendar, and other online services; and the publication and promotion of "The Writer's Chronicle."

- ❖ Fall for the Book in Fairfax: \$10,000 to support the 2014 Fall for the Book.

In this round of FY 2014 grants, the NEA has awarded grants to 900 organizations in 47 states and the District of Columbia. Projects include commissions, residencies, rehearsals, workshops, performances, exhibitions, publications, festivals, training programs and literature fellowships.

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NEWS

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.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Friends of Lake Accotink Park Staff and volunteers at the ribbon cutting ceremony, Saturday April 5, for the newly installed donation box at the Park's Marina.

Friends Promote Lake Accotink Park

Lake Accotink Park visitors can now show how much the park means to them, and lend their support via a secure donation box installed at the Lake Accotink Marina. Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP) President, Tony Vellucci, led an inauguration ceremony for the donation box prior to the Spring Watershed Cleanup Day April 5.

Vellucci introduced Jim Hickey, former FLAP President and Park Authority Elly Doyle awardee for his sustained support of Fairfax County parks, noting that Hickey was a key individual in making the donation box a reality. Donations are voluntary and will be used by FLAP toward stewardship and recreational park projects.

Lake Accotink Park needs public support more than ever as recent budget cuts have reduced staffing, and further cuts are proposed to Fairfax County's three lakefront parks to help balance the FY2015 county budget. Lake Accotink is slated for the elimination of the Park Supervisor position. The FY2010 budget resulted in the reduction of seven full time staff positions to five. Of those remaining five positions, three were re-allocated to Park Operations, leaving just two full time merit staff to operate the park. Vellucci noted, "Cuts made in previous years are already straining staff and, if anything, should be reversed."

FLAP encourages all citizens who care about Lake Accotink Park to promote this community asset in these challenging times by:

- ❖ Making the donation box a success,
- ❖ Communicating with elected officials about budget



Friends of Lake Accotink Park President, Tony Vellucci, scoops trash from the Lake at the Spring Watershed Clean Up Day, in which more than a hundred volunteers collected 480 pounds of trash from the Park's lake, streams and trails.

cuts, and

❖ Joining Friends of Lake Accotink Park.

Further, this year, Lake Accotink Park is due for the first rewriting of its Master Plan in 21 years, the last Master Plan being approved in March 1993. A Master Plan represents the long range — 10 years or more — plan for a park's development and is the guiding document upon which park projects are based; if a project is not included in the park's Master Plan, it does not have a good chance of being funded. Vellucci encouraged citizens to take the opportunity to attend upcoming public meetings and provide input on their vision for Lake Accotink Park.

Information links: Friends of Lake Accotink Park - <http://www.accotink.org/FLAP/>

Budget - <http://accotink.org/2014/FY2015Budget.htm>

How Healthy Is This Neighborhood?

New study reveals some parts of Northern Virginia are healthier than others.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Alexandria has the lowest rates of smoking in Northern Virginia, but it also has the highest rates of excessive drinking. Fairfax City has the highest rates of physical inactivity, although Fairfax County enjoys one of the lowest rates of premature death. Manassas City has the highest rates of sexually transmitted diseases in Northern Virginia. Arlington County has the highest rates of physical activity and therefore the lowest rates of obesity.

These are some of the findings of the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps program, a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

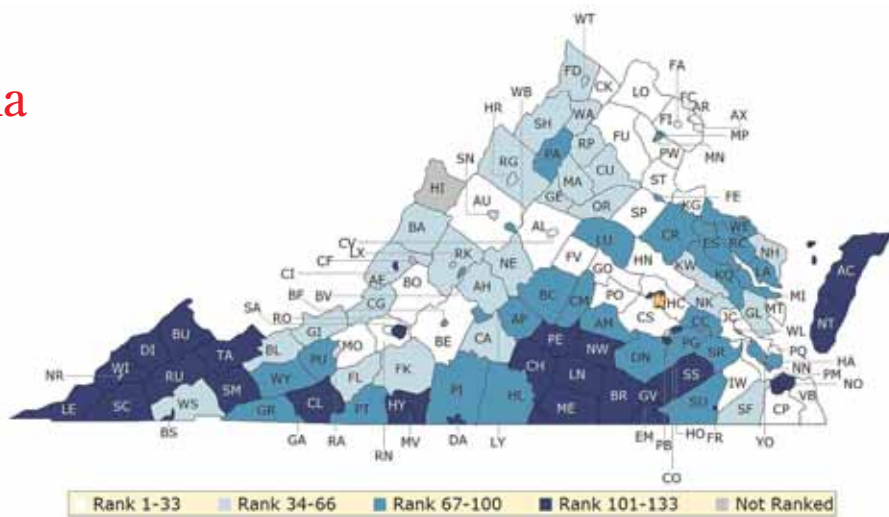
"This is an annual checkup of your community's health," said Julie Willems Van Dijk, deputy director of County Health Roadmaps at the University of Wisconsin. "It's a way to think about what we can do collectively to improve these areas."

"This is an annual checkup of your community's health. It's a way to think about what we can do collectively to improve these areas."

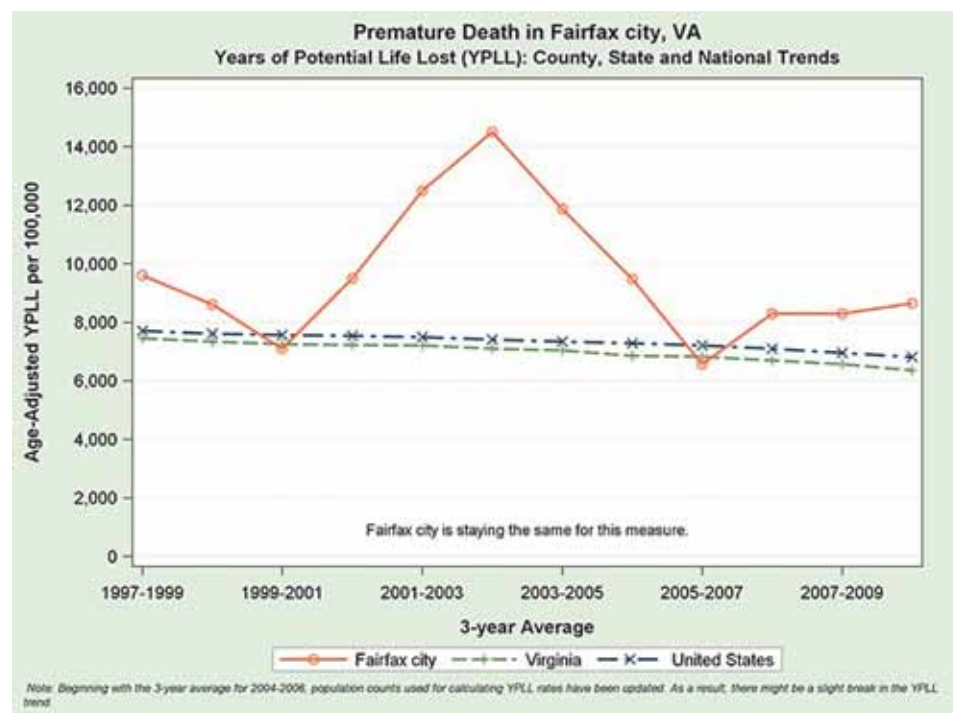
— Julie Willems Van Dijk, deputy director of County Health Roadmaps at the University of Wisconsin

The annual rankings measure everything from high-school graduation rates and obesity to smoking and unemployment. The goal is to reveal a snapshot of how health is influenced by where people live. Organizers say the point is to help communities have a discussion about how they can use the data to make changes. Even when the numbers are good — low obesity rates in Arlington and Alexandria, for example — that doesn't mean a community should become complacent.

"That's still one out of five people who are obese," said Van Dijk. "So



A map of Virginia rates health factors, including everything from high-school graduation rates and obesity to smoking and unemployment.



Premature death in Fairfax City is calculated by looking at years of life lost before age 75 per 100,000 people, but health officials in Fairfax City say the data is flawed.

while it's encouraging, I don't think we have a lot to celebrate there."

SOME OF THE STATISTICS are controversial, especially in Fairfax City. For example, one of the data points in the report measures premature death. That's a figure calculated by looking at years of life lost before age 75 per 100,000 people. According to the report, Fairfax City has the highest rate of premature death in Northern Virginia at 8,652 years lost. That's the highest rate in Northern Virginia, and one of the highest rates in Virginia. But is it accurate?

"The data on which the rankings are based is inaccurate for several reasons," said Louise Armitage, human services coordinator for Fairfax City in an email. "The main reason for the erroneous data is that the state health department continues to utilize ZIP code to assign jurisdiction of resi-

dency even though ZIP codes are not discrete to the city or to the county."

Armitage says an audit of deaths in Fairfax City shows serious irregularities. In 2008, for example, one audit showed 276 out of 417 recorded deaths in Fairfax City over a four-year period were actually city residents. As a result, only 34 percent of deaths that are reported to have taken place in Fairfax City actually happened in Fairfax County. Because of the small size of Fairfax City and the frequent confusion with Fairfax County, many of the statistics can be problematic. Armitage says she has raised these concerns with the researchers who compiled the report, who say they are hoping to refine the data in the future to make it better.

"I don't have any problems with her assessment," said Amanda Jovaag, an associate researcher with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. "That

seems perfectly reasonable to me."

NORTHERN VIRGINIA fares well overall when compared to the rest of the commonwealth. The top three healthiest jurisdictions are in Northern Virginia: Loudoun County, Fairfax County and Arlington County. The top 10 includes Alexandria and Manassas Park City. Health officials warn that the statistics can be misleading, though, and that people should not become complacent.

"Many of us who work in human services get concerned when we sort of pat ourselves on the back and say, 'Oh look, our percentages are so low. Isn't that wonderful?'" said Marlene Blum, a member of the Fairfax County Health Care Advisory Board. "We are an affluent community, and we're a highly educated community. But not everybody is doing well."

"Better educated people often drink but don't smoke. Cocktails are more acceptable than cigarettes."

— Julie Willems Van Dijk, deputy director of County Health Roadmaps at the University of Wisconsin

Some of the health concerns in Northern Virginia are emblematic of the kinds of problems in other communities in America that have well-educated people. For example, Alexandria has the second-lowest number of people who smoke cigarettes in Virginia overall and the lowest number of smokers for Northern Virginia. But it has the sixth highest rate of excessive drinking in Virginia and the highest rate of excessive drinking in Northern Virginia.

"Better educated people often drink but don't smoke," said Van Dijk. "Cocktails are more acceptable than cigarettes."

SOMETIMES THE NUMBERS show trends in combination. For example, Manassas City has the highest rate of children who live in poverty in Northern Virginia. It also has the highest teen birth rate per 1,000 female population. Researchers say these two data points speak to each other.

There's probably some linkage there," said Van Dijk. "We know that if mom has a baby as a teenager, the likelihood that child will be raised in poverty will be much higher."

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NEWS

Teens: Most in Need of Foster Care Homes

Virginia's largest age group in need of homes is between 16 to 18-years-old.

BY SYDNEY KASHIWAGI
THE CONNECTION

At 54 years old, Julie wanted to be an adoptive parent for over a decade. But it wasn't until last year that she finally brought a child home.

Single, she had recently left her federal government position and felt like she was ready. In May, she welcomed her 17-year-old foster son into her McLean home.

"For me I was never a parent before," said Julie.

"So I had to run fast and catch up."

Growing up, her foster son had never celebrated a birthday or Christmas, and only could escape the grips of his parents when he went to school. At 17, he decided that he could not live that life anymore and filed a complaint to school authorities. He was soon removed from his home and began living under Julie's care.

"Nobody's perfect, and I think a lot of people think that kids just come with so much stuff they can't overcome," said Julie. "Each kid is different."

According to the Virginia Department of Social Service's most recent data, there are 4,993 children in Virginia's foster care system this year, and about 25 percent of those children come from Northern Virginia. Every year thousands of foster children continue to wait for adoption, oftentimes even aging out of the system with no where to go once they're out.

At 17, Julie's foster son was among over 24 percent of Virginia's foster children who are between the ages of 16 through 18 — the state's largest age group in need of homes.

A pastor at Julie's Methodist church connected her to the United Methodist Family Services, a local non-profit private child-placement agency that helped match her with her foster son.

UMFS is one of the 300 private child-placing agencies in Virginia, and each month recruits about 16 new potential foster families into its program.

"I think that people within the Commonwealth would be surprised to know that there are children in their own back yards who are in the foster care system" said Mary

About UMFS

Established in 1900, United Methodist Family Services is a nonprofit social service agency that helps children and families throughout Virginia. Services include residential treatment, treatment foster care, school-based services, Project LIFE and adoption services. Visit www.UMFS.org or call 804-353-4461 to learn more.

Miller UMFS' resource parent recruiter.

"Foster care impacts every zip code in Virginia, so no community is immune to child abuse and neglect."

The Department of Health and Human Services Children's Bureau's most recent statistics between 2003 to 2012 ranked Virginia as the 24th state in the country with the highest number of children in foster care who are waiting to be adopted.

But although Virginia has one of the lowest numbers of children in foster care in the U.S., it is still one of the top states in the country where children age out of the foster care system.

"Foster care impacts every zip code in Virginia, so no community is immune to child abuse and neglect."

— Mary Miller, United Methodist Foundation Services resource parent recruiter

SANDRA BELL, Virginia's Local Department of Social Service's resource family program consultant for Northern Virginia, says that although there are many eligible foster families in the state who are ready to take in children, many of these families only want younger children.

"Very often foster parents come in with their own idea about what foster care is," said Bell. "And they sometimes want the child that they were not able to have on their own, they want a child who is zero to two-years-old who doesn't have any issues, and that's almost

impossible."

Most children who enter Virginia's foster care system were neglected, have behavioral problems or grew up in environments where their parents used drugs or physically abused them.

"Our job is to find homes for our children, not children for other people's homes and people don't realize that," said Bell.

Gene and Shelley, a Springfield couple who recently fostered the twin brother of their adopted daughter, say that potential foster parents need to have open minds.

In 2006, the couple adopted their daughter at age 12, who had already been in and out of foster homes and had a history of emotional trauma.

Although the couple's daughter had a

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WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS

Teens in Search of Home

FROM PAGE 6

twin brother, the state suggested that the siblings live separately.

"It's children who are older, siblings groups, children who have special needs ... they need people to step up to the plate for them, and not everyone is as flexible," said Shelley.

For years, Gene and Shelley pressed the state to let them foster their daughter's twin brother. And finally in 2011, the couple was able to bring their daughter's 17-year-old twin brother home.

The couple says that they will continue to devote their lives to their children.

Their foster son who had a history of behavioral problems has kept out of trouble and is wrapping up high school then going off to college this fall. While their daughter who once had attachment issues, she has worked through these issues and is now a freshman in college.

BUT Leslie Perez, UMFS' family systems coordinator, says that not all foster children, especially older foster children are as lucky as Julie's, Gene and Shelley's. Many foster children who age out of the system with nowhere to go end up homeless, unemployed, or incarcerated.

"Kids don't maintain those connections always," said Perez. "They don't have a home to go back to."

Julie, Gene and Shelley all agree that even though their foster children are old enough to leave their homes — that the door will always be open.

Last May, then Gov. Bob McDonnell launched the "Virginia Adopts - Campaign 1,000," a state-wide initiative to find permanent placement for at least 1,000 children in the foster care system by December 2013. During the campaign, local DSS offices tried to find permanent homes for the 100 longest waiting children in foster care, many of whom are teenagers.

As of 2014, Necole Simmonds, the director of public affairs at the state's DSS, says that 667 adoptions have been finalized from the 1,041 adoption matches made since the campaign.

"Adoptions can take years to become final," said Simmonds.

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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

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

Mother’s Day Photos

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.)

Send photos to editors@connectionnewspapers.com

Readers can also submit poetry, poetry about mothers and photos celebrating mothers directly through our website at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

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

Springfield CONNECTION

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OPINION

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: Fan-

tastic 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 comment: 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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Wayne Chiles, right, poses with a tent used in disasters provided by ShelterBox USA.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SPRINGFIELD ROTARY CLUB

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 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.



Wayne Chiles has received the President's Volunteer Service Award for raising awareness of Shelterbox USA.

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.

"Wayne is one of those 'go-to' people," said Alan Monroe, ShelterBox USA's director of volunteer programs. "He's always quick to say 'yes' and help out when needed. One year, there were 27 awareness events that no other volunteer was able to attend, and Wayne attended all of them on our behalf."

Although Chiles says he is just being recognized for putting in time, his hard work and dedication is recognized.

"He truly cares about the organization and understands the impact of our work. When he talks about ShelterBox, there's a tear in his eyes. You can tell it's really meaningful to him, and we're proud to have him a part of the ShelterBox family."

Chiles will be displaying the ShelterBox at the upcoming Viva Vienna event in May.

He said the ShelterBox display often speaks for itself.

"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.

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 clearing out winter clutter. From closets that are overstuffed with wool sweaters and down coats to kitchen drawers overflowing with batteries and appliance manuals, they offer 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,"



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CLUTTERBUSTERS!!

Inexpensive frames are a simple way to display a child's artwork and help eliminate clutter.

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."

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."

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 the better. Floor to ceiling shelving 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



Betsy Fein of Clutterbusters!! created order in this Potomac, Md., garage by grouping similar items together.

Tips for Spring Cleaning

"After a long winter such as this most recent one, it feels good to give a house a good, thorough cleaning. Start by walking through your home room by room and making a list of items to be completed.

"When you are finished, you may think the list in its entirety looks overwhelming and ... impossible to complete. Take one room at a time and then break the tasks for that room down into smaller tasks and estimate the time to complete the task. Determine how much time daily you can commit to the tasks and schedule it on your calendar. By doing it this way the project shouldn't feel so overwhelming. Be sure to finish each room before going on to the next."

— SUSAN UNGER

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 im-

possible to organize and maintain," said Fein. "Let's take bills. A simple system may be a file that says bills. It doesn't need to be in alphabetical order. A lot of clients are disorganized because they are perfectionists. If they can't maintain a complicated system perfectly, they'd rather just have it in a pile."

Once a home is finally organized, keeping it that way can be challenging. "You have to be disciplined about maintaining it," said Fein. "Even if you set aside 10 minutes a day to make sure you do a little maintenance in your kitchen, bedroom, office or wherever. Doing a little each day keeps it organized rather than letting it build up."

Once a person develops such a routine, it becomes natural for even the messiest among us, said Fein. "It takes 21 days to change a habit," she said. "For 21 days, put a reminder in your calendar phone, or leave yourself a voice message reminding yourself to do a little maintenance."

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- ❖ **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



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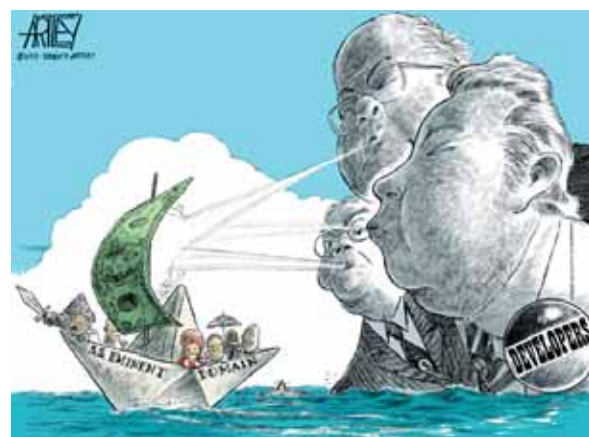
Renee Ruggles



Craig Sterbutzel

- ❖ **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.

Orange Elementary Math Night Transformed

Winter Olympics as theme of first STEM Night experience.

BY DONNA M. JONES

On March 20, Orange Hunt Elementary School revamped its former Math Night into a STEM Night that rocked the students and the community into an evening of learning and fun for the whole family. What began as a somewhat daunting endeavor, our new, small, STEM Planning Committee, which consisted of a half dozen science and math teachers and another half dozen of parent experts and scientists, planned an evening with over 20 hands-on experiments, activities and demonstrations aimed to educate students and community in the areas of Science, Technology, Math and Engineering.

As theme of our first STEM Night experience we used the Winter Olympics. We divided our 20+ activities into six stations: a Building and Engineering Station, an Estimation Station, a Strategy Station, a Conservation Station, a Coding Station, and a Demonstration Station. The Building and Engineering Station featured eight marble runs from The Science Place, toothpick-marshmallow architecture design, and cup stacking. Our Estimation Station featured measurement activities from The Science Place, scales and balances, a butter mint jar, recycled paper bags to weigh and bean pictures to cover...so much fun. Our Strategy Station featured strategy games, toothpick puzzlers, and paper bridge building. The Conservation Station featured Erosion and Composting experiments from The Science Place and a second grade composting petition initiative. Our Demo Station featured microscope viewings, electrical snap circuit building, a nature exploration station, and a Plasma Ball and Vacuum Chamber, all supplied by our parent scientists with permission from their labs. Our Coding Station featured computer programming and hand-on coding in our computer lab by our very own OH Instructional Technologist. Upon arriving to STEM Night, guests were greeted at the Wel-



Primary-grade students partake in erosion experiments during Orange Hunt's STEM Night.



STEM Night brought the community together. Here they build electrical snap circuits.

come Station where they received passports to guide them through the station rotations. The Olympic twist helped tie together logistical components of the evening. The six stations became the six countries that won most medals at the 2014 Winter Olympics. The ski post signs wrapped in snow directed guests to the station locations. The Science of the Olympics video was playing on televisions at all locations. Math and science students created posters on the Science of the Olympics which were displayed on walls and tables. Student guests received USA wristbands upon arriving and Olympic gold medals upon completing their rotations (most received these; as our supply ran out, students received flags instead). As an added bonus, over 40 of our sixth grade Orange Hunt

students helped set up, clean up, and manage the stations throughout the evening. They certainly earned their service hours assisting a turnout of 500 guests.

The first STEM Night at Orange Hunt Elementary was definitely a success and the positive response of appreciation very satisfying for all of us. The Orange Hunt School-Community connection was very apparent through the consistent support of parents and students who were involved and who participated in the educational evening. It was a beautiful thing to see the school full of bustling excitement and energy until 7 p.m. on a Thursday night...parents, teachers, and students...all learning and exploring together.

Donna M. Jones is Math Lead, STEM Planning Committee, and 4th grade Math, Science/German Immersion Teacher.

PHOTOS BY JASON PENSLE/PRINCIPAL



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

Considering the Effects of Mass Incarceration

A Public Forum on Criminal Justice Sentencing Reform held in Burke.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

There 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.

SEE SENTENCING, PAGE 18

CALENDAR

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

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.

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. **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

SATURDAY/APRIL 12

2nd Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The 2nd Saturday Art Walk at the Workhouse showcases the diverse work of more than 100 visual artists in a unique



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.

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. 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 under5 and for Museum members. For more information on the Museum events, visit, 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

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.

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://pracing.racebx.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. **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.

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. **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/. **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 or 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 or 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. **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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FAITH

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

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.

FAITH NOTES

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

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

Lord of Life Lutheran offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114

Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspringfield.org.

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

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m.

and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.poplc.org.

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.

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

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.

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



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



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COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

	<p>Messiah United Methodist Church 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield 703-569-9862 www.messiahumc.org</p>
<p>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</p>	

	<p>IMMANUEL BIBLE CHURCH Seeking God through Jesus, Sharing the Gospel, and Serving Believers. Sunday services at 8, 9:30, 11am Bookstore • Christian School 6911 BRADDOCK RD. SPRINGFIELD, VA 703.941.4124 WWW.IMMANUELBIBLE.NET</p>
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<p> To Advertise Your Community of Worship, Call 703-778-9418</p>	<p>BLUEGRASS worship Sundays @ 10 am Island Creek Elementary 7855 Morning View Lane Real casual. Come as you are! aldersgate</p>
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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

The 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.



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

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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 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 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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News

Sentencing Reform Discussed

FROM PAGE 13

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

"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.

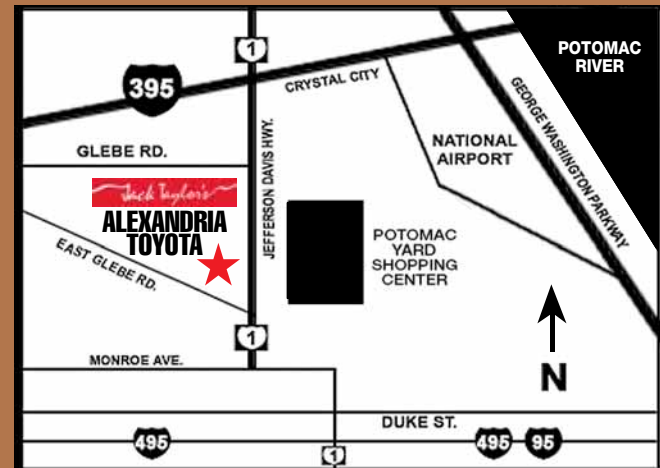
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