

Fairfax Station ❖ Clifton ❖ Lorton  
**CONNECTION**

# Presenting 'The Last Five Years'

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The Metropolitan School  
of the Arts students  
Chad Vann of Alexandria,  
Sam Cornbrooks of Springfield,  
Kyra Smith of Alexandria, and  
Ben Cherington of Lorton present  
"The Last Five Years" musical this  
weekend in Washington, D.C.

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JANUARY 15-21, 2015

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# Supervisors Seek Outside Help with Transparency

**“Independent expertise” to advise on information disclosure policies.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**E**ight days after offering the public the first of any kind of official explanation for officer-involved shooting of Springfield resident John Geer, the Board of Supervisors took another step.

Though they didn’t share any further information on the case, chairman Sharon Bulova and the panel returned from an extended closed session on Jan. 13 with a motion with the potential to affect government transparency.

“Until John Geer was shot on August 2[9], 2013,” Bulova’s motion statement reads, “the procedures adopted by the Police Chief for public disclosure regarding officer involved shootings seemed to establish a reasonable balance between the county’s duty to make timely disclosure and the concerns the police chief has expressed about conducting a professional investigation and the safety of officers involved in a shooting incident.”

The statement goes on to explain that the police policies don’t account for the way this particular case has been passed from the Fairfax County Police Department to the Commonwealth Attorney to the Department of Justice, all over the course of the past 16 months and change.

**THOSE 16 MONTHS** included a \$12 million civil case filed against the county. As part of that case, a Fairfax Circuit Court



**Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova reads her statement calling for outside input on improving information disclosure policies.**

judge has ordered more documents and records of the police action the day of the shooting be produced within the month.

“The board is also aware of concerns expressed by some members of the public to the effect that the police chief should not be responsible for both establishing and implementing the policies for disclosures relating to police-involved shootings,” Bulova’s statement reads.

There are no more admissions or revelations on the Geer case itself. Instead, Bulova claims to have “reached out to Attorney General Mark Herring for his suggestions for a process for us to identify professional organizations and/or resources that can work with us to review our policies and recommend appropriate changes.”

The idea would be to prevent such a delay from happening again, given a case with

similar circumstances.

In addition to her attempt to connect with Herring, Bulova moved to direct the County Executive to locate “independent expertise in the field of Police Department operations and, specifically, in the area of policies and procedures with respect to information disclosures in the case of police involved shootings.”

The County Executive would also be charged with figuring out funding source and procedure for the board to retain such a resource. Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) was the first of all the supervisors to weigh in on the motion.

“I reluctantly support the motion,” he said. “I think it’s too little too late. The actual motion gives no policy direction on transparency, though I believe that’s the intent. “There’s no provision to engage our

citizens in the process,” he continued. “This to me smells of outsourcing policy-making. I hope that’s not the intent. I believe we need to engage our citizens, engage our staff and have a transparency conversation on this topic.”

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) didn’t read the motion as an attempt to exclude the public, nor as too little too late. But, he conceded, “there is a perception in the public that police should not be advising us on police disclosure procedures. I think that’s legitimate.”

Supervisor Michael Frey (R-Sully) voiced his lack of support for the motion, saying: “Our role in the investigation was completed promptly. “It’s not any of our actions, or a result of anything we did that the U.S. Department of Justice has not completed their investigation over the course of a year. That’s not anything we did, there’s no lack of transparency on our part or any fault of our process.”

**SUPERVISORS** Cook (R-Braddock), Hyland (D-Mount Vernon), Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), McKay (D-Lee) and Smyth (D-Providence) all signed on with the motion, acknowledging the benefit of looking at policy changes to speed up the information disclosure process.

“The community needs to know where does the buck stop?” said Hudgins. “It actually does stop with us. This gives us more than the opportunity to maintain the due diligence to the case that it needs. It gives us also an opportunity to work with the community, I hope.”

Bulova’s motion calls for contracting with whatever organization the County Executive, in consultation with the Attorney General’s office, comes up with by February or March.

The motion passed with only supervisors Frey and Hyland dissenting.

## The \$2.4 Billion Question

BY REENA SINGH  
THE CONNECTION

**F**airfax County Public Schools’ Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza is proposing a \$2.4 billion budget for the 2015-16 school year.

The proposed Fairfax County Public Schools’ budget includes funds for full-day Mondays, teacher compensation and later high school start times while still finding room for \$55.4 million in cuts.

“We are great because we have great people,” said Garza at the School Board meeting Jan. 8. “Compensation is a priority, and it’s reflected in the budget I’m presenting to you tonight.”

She said that the non-competitive compensation offered to teachers makes some look elsewhere like Alexandria City Schools or Arlington Public Schools.

\$39.7 million will be used for step increases for teachers.

More than 80 percent of the budget is going towards instruction, however, with \$18.6 million being added due to the expected enrollment increase.

Enrollment is expected to reach 188,106 next school year.

The budget is \$64 million - 2.6 percent increase - from the current year’s budget. Even so, there have been \$55.4 million in reductions with more planned for fiscal year 2017.

None of next year’s budget included staff cuts according to Garza. However, at this time next year, she said the School Board can expect a deficit of \$100 million.

“It’s my opinion that we have nothing left to cut,” she said, adding that the school system has cut a total of \$435 million since 2008.

## FCPS Superintendent presents next year’s budget.

“This includes more than 2,175 positions,” she said. “These are real cuts.”

She was also concerned that there would be no room for innovation in the upcoming strategic plan due to the lack of school funds.

“We urge our county Board of Supervisors to fully fund this request,” she said.

Dranesville District School Board member Jane Strauss recalled Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova stating at a previous meeting about the importance of funding education.

She also commended Garza for compensating teachers more money.

“Paying our teachers has got to be the number one priority in this budget,” Strauss said. “We cannot afford to continue to sink.”

Student Representative Harris LaTeef, Langley High School senior, was pleased there were no staff cuts for the upcoming

year.

“Cutting positions when Fairfax County Public Schools is experiencing record student enrollment growth would be counterproductive and I’m glad this has been avoided,” he said.

“However, the true way we can avoid cuts that could detrimentally impact our school system is greater funding from the Board of Supervisors. The 10th largest school district in the United States needs to be fully funded.”

Mount Vernon District board member Dan Storck agreed that more funding is needed from the county, but added that an additional stream of revenue may be necessary if the state funding continues to be inadequate.

“I hear all the time that we cannot continue on the path that we’re on, and I know we do recognize that,” he said.

## Legislators Meet Constituents

**General Assembly Fairfax delegation holds public meeting prior to session start in Richmond.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**J**ustin Dolan addressed the state delegates and senators from his wheelchair rather than the podium. The 34-year-old Falls Church resident has cerebral palsy, and received an Individual & Family Developmental Disabilities Support waiver.

"I can use my waiver to fund a staff person to help me with my daily care needs, when I can find someone who wants to work for \$11.47 an hour with no benefits," Dolan said. "The thing I really need is enough support for me to move out of my mom's house and live in the community with friends, but the waiver doesn't provide that."

Dolan asked for a reduction of the waiver wait list, a redesign of the waiver system itself to offer increased services. He was one of more than 70 speakers given an opportunity to address a panel of delegates and senators about to travel to Richmond to begin the 2015 General Assembly session.

The forum took place Jan. 10 at the Fairfax County Government Center.

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova was first to speak, addressing the importance of funding K-12 education in Fairfax County.

"We're pleased both the General Assembly and Governor [Terry] McAuliffe were able to protect K-

12 from recent funding cuts," she said. "In the longer term, we still need your help."

Bulova cited the more than 52,000 students in FCPS that qualify for free and reduced lunch, a figure she said outnumbers the total population of all but four school divisions in the state.

FCPS School Board Chair Tammy Derenak Kaufax followed Bulova, claiming the current K-12 funding isn't serving the community well and decrying teachers' salary ranking with respect to the cost of living.

"I urge you to work on the SOL, reducing the impact of that assessment on students," she said.

More than 70 members of the public were each given three minutes to address the delegation. Though the subject matter varied from social services for mental illness and substance abuse disorders to filling circuit court judge vacancies, one common theme was the lack of resources, people trying to do more with less.

Several individuals spoke out about the closure of the Northern Virginia Training Center (NVTR), a state residence serving people with intellectual disabilities. Opened in 1973 at 9901 Braddock Road, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities plans to close the center in March 2016 in favor of a more community-based system.

"The quality of life has been compromised by degrading services," said Judith Korf of Reston. Korf was at the forum representing the Parents and Associates of the Northern Virginia Training Center. "We need to keep it open in a smaller and more effective footprint."

Jonathan Damm of Reston used his three minutes to raise the issue of toxic turf fields at FCPS schools. His main concern was children being exposed to chemicals on ground-up tire rubber used to make the fields. "We need to ban the use of crumb rubber," he said. "There are alternative materials that could be used, but they're more expensive."



**Sean Corcoran of Fairfax (left) speaks with Del. Mark Sickles (R-43) following the Fairfax delegation public forum.**

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION



**Chris McHugh (left) of San Francisco, legal guardian of his brother Joseph who lives at the Northern Virginia Training Center, speaks with Del. David Bulova (D-37) following the Fairfax delegation public forum.**

### VIEWPOINTS

### What brought you out today?

#### Julia Stephens of Fairfax:



"I'm with Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services. In seven months of operation,

our crisis texting program in response to the number of suicides in schools has had 2,100 texting conversations."

#### Al Francese of Clifton:



"I'm here with Centreville Citizens for Rail, advocating for eight-car Metro trains, a second

tunnel under the Potomac and a dedicated long-term funding source."

#### Teresa Champion of Springfield:



"I'm here with the Virginia Autism Project, pushing for the governor to pardon

Reginald 'Neli' Latson. Latson is a young man with autism and intellectual disability who needs treatment rather than punishment."

#### Grace Reef of Burke:



"I'm here with Child Care Aware of Virginia. Our top priority is that children not die in child care. Safety is

an issue with providers that can be unlicensed until they have over six unrelated children."

#### David Marks of Fairfax:



"I'm here with the Fairfax Bar Association. We need to pay for our judges. They have a

massive caseload. It's justice denied to our citizens."

#### Debbie Kilpatrick of Clifton:



"I'm here as president of the Fairfax County Council of PTA. Fairfax County is an

excellent place to live, work, raise children and grow old. We need to continue to invest, and explore funding options."

#### Teresa Elder of Springfield:



"I'm here supporting HB 1445. My son Tommy is 22 and has had a seizure disorder since he was six months

old. I've seen the benefit of medical marijuana. We're not talking about recreational marijuana."

#### Richard Kennedy of Lorton:



"Most marijuana fears have been disproved. It has amazing benefits, it's better than

consume. Kids shouldn't use it, but prohibition isn't helping."

#### Connor (left) and Sharon (right) Cummings of Fairfax:



"I'm here supporting SB 957, closing a loophole regarding autism. Early intervention is

responsible for much of my son Connor's success today. Education for parents is needed to help them understand their children."

#### Suzette Kern of Springfield:



"I'm here as the secretary of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services

Board, supporting early intervention services for infants and toddlers."



# General Assembly Session Approaches

Delegates, senators, community leaders reflect on priorities.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

With the sentencing of former Virginia governor Bob McDonnell fresh on their minds, many northern Virginia members of the delegation to the state General Assembly expect ethics reform to be a focal point at the session beginning Jan. 14.

"I'm hoping we're going to take what was a painful experience to watch into a positive 2015," said Del. David Bulova (D-37). "It gives us a chance for asking how do we do things better down in Richmond, and to minimize the chance someone falls into that same trap."

McDonnell was found guilty on corruption charges, of receiving gifts in return for political favors, and sentenced to serving two years in prison.

The General Assembly addressed ethics last year, including a bill more tightly regulating legislators' travel, according to Del. Mark Sickles (R-43).

"When we tackled that last year, a significant number in the General Assembly really felt that however ill-advised, the governor wouldn't be convicted," said Del. Vivian Watts (D-39). "The conviction made everyone realize it doesn't matter how Virginia laws have been on the books more on gentleman's honor than letter of the law. You can be convicted under federal standards of behavior and we need to take a very strong look at what we're doing."

**BUDGET BALANCING AND MEDICAID EXPANSION** will also draw attention, according to legislators. The assembly will massage a two-year budget that was passed in a 2014 session.

"Our economy has been soft the last two years and we have required deposits to make into our rainy day fund, Virginia Retirement System, all sorts of bills to pay," said state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34). "There will probably be cuts across the board; almost every state agency with a three-to-five percent reduction, is probably what the governor will be seeking."

"Expanding Medicaid may be a fight, but it's already been fought," said Del. Dave Albo (R-42), referring to the special session in September 2014 when the General Assembly opposed a bill that would take advantage of federal assistance under the Affordable Care Act.

"Except it's not free," Albo continued. "I would love to take care of the 400,000 people, what the bill basically seeks. The federal government says they have money

to pay 90 percent. Just the 10 percent share for Virginia is \$230 million. We're already in the hole before we walk into the General Assembly. Where are we going to find \$230 million?"

Others disagree, that passing on the federal money is too much of a missed opportunity.

"It's the right thing to do," said state Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37). "If people could vote without political consequences, it's the right thing to pass. But if you touch anything to do with Obamacare, you will get challenged in a primary. I'm not optimistic. We've already lost over a year now where the government pays 100 percent."

**CONTINUED FUNDING** for transportation and social services are hopes from some of northern Virginia's civic and business leaders.

"We're blessed, as recipients of some top of the line road projects in the greater Springfield area over past 10 years," said Nancy-jo Manney, executive director of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce. "Maintenance of those nice roads is key. If we don't have the infrastructure maintained, adequate to future growth, businesses won't come, and won't stay."

Holly Dougherty, executive director of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce echoed the sentiment that past transportation improvements have been well-received, but continued work such as road width consistency along U.S. Route 1 from the Beltway to the Prince William County line, as well as re-synchronizing the highway's traffic lights, is imperative. "Congestion relief will help economic development, things that give the best return to Virginia taxpayers. That will help our businesses so they're more competitive in this part of Fairfax County."

Whether or not they already receive much funding from the state or county, non-profit executive directors like Meg Brantley at ECHO in Springfield will be watching the budget cuts carefully. "If they did something, cut away Medicaid, that would mean community-based organizations would need to pick up the tab for more medical programs than they do now."

Robert Petitti, executive director at Koinonia in Franconia, said another angle to watch is whether the state can earmark money for social services agencies and side-step the county, where he believes money gets lost.

"The money that's given out typically isn't geared for non-government organizations," he said. "It could be done, it's just do the politicians have the will to do it?"

"The non-profit community can't be looked upon to take the slack for providing services," said Lisa Whetzel, executive director of Our Daily Bread in Fairfax. "We're already stretched to the bone for doing more with less. We need to talk about a revenue stream, a new one, but I don't know what that would be."

## Delegates, Senators List Top Priorities



### Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37)

#### Bills/Causes

- ❖ Minimum wage bill: "It's so critical to get money in the hands of people who will spend and not invest it," said Marsden. The three-year proposal would raise wages \$.75 first year, \$1.10 the second year and \$1 the final year, reaching \$10.10. "It keeps everyone on a level playing field. Maryland and D.C. already have higher minimum wages."
- ❖ Bill averaging legislators' salaries used for calculating retirement over 10 years, as opposed to the current method based on the final three years of service. Marsden says this would minimize the temptation to lure legislators to administrative positions to "manipulate the balance of power."
- ❖ Working on getting the Department of Corrections, state police to provide the 24,000 registered sex offenders in the state more information on rules such as where they can live and how they can travel.

❖ Senator Marsden will host a town hall meeting at 10 a.m. on Feb. 7 at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School.



### Sen. George Barker (D-39)

#### Bills/Causes

- ❖ Bill that would allow students in all grades to retake their SOL shortly after the first exam if they don't pass. Currently this is an option for high school students only. "It helps their confidence, keeps them involved in school," said Barker. "And it's a more accurate assessment of how schools are doing."
- ❖ Working on a mental health study commission, lasting from 2014-2017, that looks broadly at the whole system. Interim reports come out at the end of 2015.
- ❖ Bill trying to get more money directed to secondary roads, especially roads that operate as primary roads but are classified as "secondary."
- ❖ Sen. Barker will host a town hall meeting at 10 a.m. on Jan. 24 at Thompson Center in Kingstowne, along with delegate Sickles and senator Adam Ebbin (D-30). An additional meeting in Prince William County will be at 10 a.m. on Jan. 31 at the James J. McCoart Administration Building.



### Del. Mark Sickles (R-43)

#### Bills/Causes

- ❖ Making sure we don't cut K-12 education spending. "And and if possible, not cut higher education spending any more," said Sickles. "I hope we don't."
- ❖ Making the current pre-kindergarten program more "user-friendly," Sickles said. "Fairfax County didn't use all the slots, money allocated to us under that program. The school board had good reasons, I'm not criticising them. But we need to make it more flexible and inviting for them to take the money."
- ❖ Bill that allows terminally ill patients to consent to use pharmaceuticals that haven't been fully tested.
- ❖ Sickles will host a town hall meeting at 10 a.m. on Jan. 24 at the Thompson Center in Kingstone, along with senator George Barker.



### Del. Dave Albo (D-42)

#### Bills/Causes

- ❖ Bill that would change the wording of "prescribe" to "refer" as it relates to doctors giving patients access to medical marijuana. This only allows for cancer and glaucoma. It would benefit people like those with Dravet Syndrome, epilepsy that begins when children are infants, who claim marijuana extract helps reduce seizures. "It doesn't get you high," said Albo. "Who am I to say you shouldn't have access to something that helps your kid?"
- ❖ Bill that would give people the opportunity to decide whether their marriage certificate says "spouse and spouse" or "bride and groom."
- ❖ Working on preventing people from developing a dependency on oxycodone prescription drugs. One idea is putting prescriptions in a health network that allows multiple doctors to see once a prescription has been made and filled, so patients can't take advantage of getting multiple medication fills.



### Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41)

#### Bills/Causes

- ❖ Two bills on child care reform, including a focus on requiring fingerprinting and a background check, and closing the threshold loophole that allows homes with six or fewer unrelated children to operate unregulated.
- ❖ Ensuring campus sexual assaults are handled properly. HB1433 would require local law enforcement and campus agencies to report cases to the Commonwealth attorney's office within 48 hours. "It's all about sharing information and making sure every stone is looked under," said Filler-Corn.
- ❖ Budget, ethics and congressional redistricting will come up at Filler-Corn's mid-session office hours, Jan. 24., 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Peet's Coffee and Tea in Springfield.



## Railroad Museum Needs Volunteers

The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum needs volunteer docents on Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. and during special Museum events. Greet Museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits and the Museum's railroad and Civil War history. Ideal for people who live in the Fairfax, Burke, Clifton or Fairfax Station area and want to contribute to the local community through volunteerism. Training and orientation provided. Many other Museum volunteer opportunities are available such as gardening, publicity, exhibit planning, special event planning and outreach to other community organizations. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Call Michael at 703-945-7483 for more information. [www.fairfaxstation.org](http://www.fairfaxstation.org), 703-425-9225.

## Volunteer Drivers Needed

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax Burke serves those 50+ and who no longer drive. Volunteer Drivers are needed for trips (Monday - Friday) to medical appointments and Companion Shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. If you can volunteer your time, please contact Barry Wickersham at 703-359-2918.

## Fairfax Adult Softball Seeks Teams for 2015

FAS, the Nation's largest ASA, nonprofit adult softball league is urging teams to join ASAP in order to enjoy the spring discounted team rate. Contact Fairfax Adult Softball (FAS) before March 1 to ensure your spring evenings are filled with fun, camaraderie, and a spirit of competitive challenges every game night.

FAS is currently accepting applications for adult softball teams and free agents. Men's, Women's, Coed, Corporate Coed, Elite, Senior's (age 50+), and Social Coed leagues are available this spring. Applications are accessible via the FAS home page at [www.fairfaxadultsoftball.com](http://www.fairfaxadultsoftball.com). For further information, call 703-815-9007 or email [office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com](mailto:office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com). Grab your friends, family, co-workers and neighbors and sign up today.

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# OPINION

## Steps To Prevent Gun Violence

BY MARTINA LEINZ  
PRESIDENT, NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF  
THE BRADY CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT GUN  
VIOLENCE

**L**egislators convening for the 2015 Virginia General Assembly session this month have a great opportunity to make the Commonwealth a safer place for us all by voting in favor of the modest and responsible recommendations recently put forth by Governor Terry McAuliffe regarding gun violence prevention.

### COMMENTARY

Governor McAuliffe has proposed six key pieces of legislation intended to keep firearms away from dangerous individuals. Three of the initiatives are regarding criminal background checks at gun shows. Currently, only Federally Licensed Firearms Dealers are required to run criminal background checks prior to selling or transferring firearms. Private sellers are exempt from this requirement leaving the door wide open for criminals to easily gain access to guns.

One of McAuliffe's proposals would make unlawful purchases more difficult by prevent-

ing gun shows from advertising that they are not required to conduct background checks. Another proposal would give the State Police statutory authority to process voluntary background check requests of private sellers. The most substantive of the three proposals would close the existing loophole and require background checks for all purchases at gun shows.

None of these three proposals goes far enough. Ideally, criminal background checks would be universal; required on all firearms transactions including online sales. They are, however, a step in the right direction and would do much to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals.

Another proposal is to return the limit of handgun purchases to one a month so the Commonwealth won't hold the dubious distinction of being one of the most prolific gun-running states in the nation. Other initiatives include a bill to keep guns from people subject to protective orders and one to revoke concealed handgun permits for parents delinquent on child support payments. This later proposal would affect the roughly 9,000 parents with

such permits who are delinquent collectively on child support payments of over \$15 million.

These six modest proposals would be very effective in reducing violent crime by keeping guns out of the hands of people who should not have them. None of the proposals would prevent law-abiding citizens from owning weapons and none would infringe upon Second Amendment rights of responsible adults.

With the Republicans controlling both the House of Delegates and the Senate, there are bound to be disagreements with any legislation proposed by Democratic Governor McAuliffe. However, everyone should agree to these modest proposals to keep Virginians safe. It is not a partisan issue; it is a simple matter of public health and safety.

With great opportunity comes great responsibility. I sincerely hope the General Assembly embraces that responsibility and votes accordingly. If you agree, please contact your elected officials and tell them you are counting on them to vote in support of all proposals to curb gun violence in the Commonwealth.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## County Shouldn't Spray Against Fall Cankerworm

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to a recent letter to the editor about Fairfax County's Fall Cankerworm Insecticide Spraying Program.

I am a professional entomologist and I have been in charge of the U. S. National Insect Collection at the Smithsonian Institution, a Fairfax County resident for 21 years, as well as a biologist experienced in conservation. I have been following the issues regarding the program in Fairfax County to spray *Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki* (Btk), a kind of biological insecticide, to control a native moth, the Fall Cankerworm (scientifically, *Lepidoptera: Geometridae* or *Inchworms*).

Bt was first used to control *Lepidoptera* (moth) pests of agricultural crops; however, this naturally-occurring bacterium was found to be deadly to all moths and butterflies (*Lepidoptera*). Since this discovery there have been many types of Bt developed, but those used against moths are still deadly to non-target species, including native species. However, the areas in Fairfax County being sprayed are not crops or timberlands for harvest, but rather forests, parklands, neighborhood gardens. These are places to preserve wildlife and nature, and to protect them for the benefit of not only Fairfax County residents, but also for all Virginians and visitors. Without scientific monitoring or

surveys, we do not know how many or even which native species live in any particular area being sprayed. Therefore, to inadvertently spray this deadly microbe, even if the intention is to target certain areas, is not prudent.

The letter writer does acknowledge that spraying Btk can kill other kinds of caterpillars, "... but only if they are up and eating the first baby leaves." However, it is well known that plant chemicals that often prevent insects eating certain plants only are present in older leaves (for example, tannins in Oak leaves); therefore, many species of caterpillars are only able to eat, and even prefer, what he calls "baby leaves." He also claims that research shows that spraying increases the diversity of other species of butterflies and moths. However this research is apparently about the Gypsy Moth, a non-native (invasive) species from Asia. Reducing Gypsy Moth numbers could indirectly benefit other, native insect species. However, spraying to kill the native Fall Cankerworm is likely to severely harm many (as yet undetermined) native species of butterflies and moths and may even increase diversity of other non-native pest species potentially harming the fauna and flora of Fairfax County. Getting rid of the Fall Cankerworm will eliminate a potentially vital food source for many migratory and resident birds, as well as rep-

tiles, amphibians, predatory insects, and other wildlife that rely on caterpillars for their survival. His assertion that "birds can safely eat the dead caterpillars" is misleading because in spring (when the spraying actually takes place), many insectivorous birds need to find enough live caterpillars to feed their nestlings or fuel their northward migration and it is not clear if they would even eat dead caterpillars.

Episodic population outbreaks ("infestations") of native species such as the Fall Cankerworm are part of the natural ecological rhythm of our forests and woodlands, so why disrupt it? Based on previous research I have done (for example with Elms) and observations of the natural history in the forests of the northeastern USA, I do not believe that occasional and/or partial or even complete defoliation of most native eastern forest tree species will cause tree death. The severe defoliation from by Gypsy Moth in the 1970s demonstrated that only very severe and repeated defoliation over many years truly killed native trees; our local Fall Cankerworm outbreaks are natural and nowhere as severe and will not become so.

The far wiser approach to this problem would be for Fairfax County to sponsor some scientific surveys, to determine which species of butterflies and moths are

present in the intended treatment areas, i.e. the biological diversity. Also advice to homeowners about how to monitor and/or treat their gardens would be helpful.

I have discussed this Fall Cankerworm issue with several experts on butterflies and moths at the Smithsonian and the USDA and they all agree with my statements above.

In conclusion I feel strongly that Fairfax County should cease spraying against Fall Cankerworm, because such spraying does more harm than good to the ecosystems and neighborhoods of Fairfax County.

**David G. Furth, Ph.D.**  
Department of Entomology  
Smithsonian Institution

### Write

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

Letters to the Editor  
The Connection  
1606 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-917-6444.  
By e-mail:  
south@connectionnewspapers.com

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## NEWS

### Metro School of Arts Students Present 'The Last Five Years'

Students of the Metropolitan School of the Arts (MSA) of Alexandria and Lorton will debut their first, student-directed, produced performance on Fri., Jan., 16 at 7:30 p.m., Sat., Jan. 17 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Sun., Jan. 18 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at The Atlas Performing Arts Theatre at 1333 H Street., NE, in Washington, D.C. Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased online at [www.metropolitanarts.org](http://www.metropolitanarts.org).

"The Last Five Years" is a live production of Jason Robert Brown's masterpiece, which was recently rated one of the top five musicals of this decade. It premiered at Chicago's Northlight Theatre in 2001 and was then produced Off-Broadway in March 2002. The story explores a five-year relationship between Jamie Wellerstein, a rising novelist, and Cathy Hyatt, a struggling actress.

This production is completely student run and performed by Metropolitan School of the Arts



COURTESY PHOTO

**MSA Students: Chad Vann of Alexandria, Sam Cornbrooks of Springfield, Kyra Smith of Alexandria, and Ben Cherington of Lorton.**

high school students studying to have careers in theatre. Chad Vann of Alexandria is the director, while Sam Cornbrooks of Springfield is the producer. Ben Cherington of Lorton and Kyra Smith of Alexandria are performers in the musical.

"We are so proud of our students' initiative and passion to

take on the entire production of this show, with their talent and creativity," said Melissa Dobbs, founder and president of Metropolitan School of the Arts Alexandria and Lorton.

For more information, 703.339.0444 or visit [www.metropolitanarts.org](http://www.metropolitanarts.org), Facebook or Twitter.

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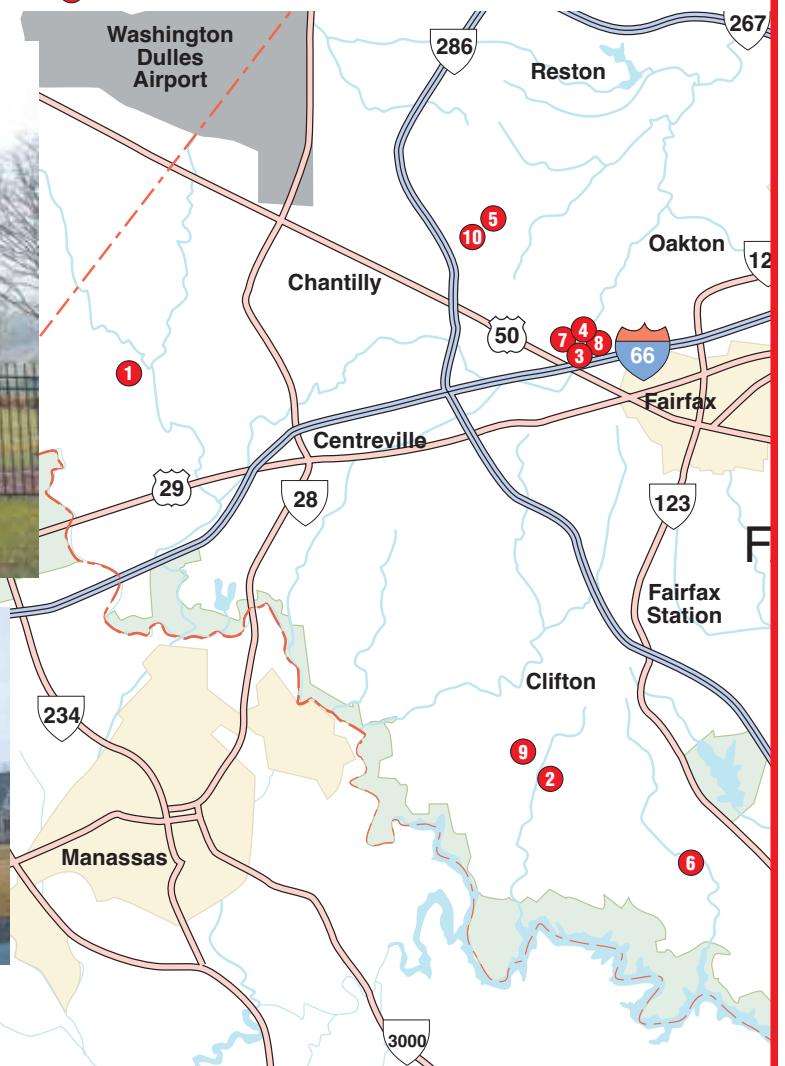
**3** 3802 Millard Way, Fairfax — \$1,700,000



**5** 7904 Oakshire Lane, Fairfax Station — \$1,495,000



**4** 11394 Amber Hills Court, Fairfax — \$1,423,061



**10** 3514 Rose Crest Lane, Fairfax — \$1,350,000

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|-----------------------------|----|----|----|--------|-----------------|-------------|----------|--------|-------------|----------------------|-----------|
| 1 15604 JILLIANS FOREST WAY | 6  | 1  |    |        | CENTREVILLE     | \$2,650,000 | Detached | 5.59   | 20120       | CARDINAL FOREST      | 06/30/14  |
| 2 7540 CLIFTON RD           | 7  | 9  | 1  |        | FAIRFAX STATION | \$2,250,000 | Detached | 4.82   | 22039       | CRAFTOWN             | 01/02/14  |
| 3 3802 MILLARD WAY          | 5  | 5  | 1  |        | FAIRFAX         | \$1,700,000 | Detached | 1.21   | 22033       | THE OAKS             | 02/18/14  |
| 4 11394 AMBER HILLS CT      | 5  | 5  | 2  |        | FAIRFAX         | \$1,626,036 | Detached | 1.08   | 22033       | ESTATES AT FAIR OAKS | 01/24/14  |
| 5 3438 FAWN WOOD LN         | 6  | 5  | 2  |        | FAIRFAX         | \$1,545,000 | Detached | 1.14   | 22033       | OAK HILL ESTATES     | 11/24/14  |
| 6 7904 OAKSHIRE LN          | 6  | 6  | 1  |        | FAIRFAX STATION | \$1,495,000 | Detached | 5.00   | 22039       | THE ENGLISH HILLS    | 04/30/14  |
| 7 11647 PINE TREE DR        | 5  | 4  | 1  |        | FAIRFAX         | \$1,469,005 | Detached | 1.00   | 22033       | FAIRFAX FARMS        | 09/22/14  |
| 8 11389 AMBER HILLS CT      | 5  | 5  | 2  |        | FAIRFAX         | \$1,423,061 | Detached | 0.83   | 22033       | ESTATES AT FAIR OAKS | 02/27/14  |
| 9 11900 CUSTIS ACRES DR     | 5  | 5  | 0  |        | CLIFTON         | \$1,380,000 | Detached | 8.22   | 20124       | TOWERING OAKS        | 08/01/14  |
| 10 3514 ROSE CREST LN       | 5  | 4  | 1  |        | FAIRFAX         | \$1,350,000 | Detached | 0.83   | 22033       | OAK HILL ESTATES     | 05/23/14  |

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# HomeLifeStyle

## Backyard Dreaming

Local tastemakers say winter is the best time to plan an idyllic backyard retreat.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Spring may seem light years away from the frigid January temperatures, and lounging in your backyard is probably the last thing you want to do at the moment, but landscape designers say now is the time to start planning a summer retreat.

"January is a good time to start thinking about your backyard," said Alex Ikenson, co-owner of Home Escapes, located in Herndon. Home Escapes, which had specialized in hot tubs and outdoor furniture, merged recently with Urban Retreat, an indoor furniture and accessory company.

"A lot of things we sell are special order and take a few weeks to come in, so you don't want to start too late," said Ikenson.

From swim spas to fire pit tables, options for outdoor landscapes are plentiful.

"People now are spending more time at home and less time going on vacation, and making their backyards more of a living space, creating a living space," said Rosanne Tsantes, sales manager of Home Escapes.

"Outdoor furniture companies have responded to the surge with beautiful pieces of furniture."

Touted by industry insiders as comfortable, durable and easy to maintain, the array of outdoor fabrics on the market rival their indoor counterparts.

"The whole industry has expanded to true designer furniture and fabrics. There are hundreds of beautiful fabrics available," said Tsantes. "If you were to pick out aluminum furniture, you could choose from at least 10 frame colors, where it used to be just black and green. We have brush tones with gold tint, antique tones, ... There are some really gorgeous finishes."

Accessories can be customized to fit virtually every budget and space as well. "Everything is made to order," said Jodie Labovitch, an interior designer with Urban Retreat. "They're not pulling it off the shelf."

Outdoor fire pit tables, powered by gas, are crowd-pleasing accessories that come in every size from compact coffee table to dining room table. Styles run the gamut from rustic to sleek.

"The tabletops can be porcelain or alu-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROSANNE TSANTES

Swim spas, upscale furniture and fire pit tables are among the options in outdoor furnishings for those who want to create a backyard living space.

minum, stone or granite," said Tsantes. "There is even an artisan top that looks like carved leather. Now you can go into your back yard and feel like you're on vacation somewhere in the islands."

Adding the resort-like feel are swim spas, the large cousin of the ubiquitous hot tub.

"A swim spa allows you to exercise, even during the winter, by swimming against the current," said Tsantes. "They are like hot tubs, only about 12-16 feet long and eight feet wide. You can run out in the winter and swim and then sit on the spa bench, just like you would in a hot tub."

Even those who don't have an expansive backyard can create cozy retreats.

"Outdoor furniture companies are making pieces for those with small spaces to those with huge Great Falls homes with a large backyard," said Tsantes.



Options for outdoor décor, including swim spas and fire pit tables, abound at a newly formed showroom in Herndon.

"Indoor and outdoor furniture are now blending," said David Cintorino, president of Home Escapes. "People are using their outdoor spaces like indoor spaces, that is a current trend. Outdoor furniture companies are creating furniture to keep up with that trend."

## RIGHTEOUS OR OUTRAGEOUS?

My boss thought our three game ticket plan was outrageous. I thought it is righteous. So what do you think: righteous or outrageous?

BY ANDY RUGE, ASSOCIATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Here's what you get in the three game plan:

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- Homecoming against Richmond? Of course, February 14.
- Frequent NCAA tournament contestant Davidson? Check, January 24.

These are the games people want to see anyway. With this three game plan, however, you can lock up better seat locations than the single game buyer.

2. **Free gifts.** Heck, everyone loves free stuff, so we included it. At the Richmond game you get a Mason Basketball koozie. At the VCU game you get a Bobblehead of Mason legend George Evans. At the Davidson game, you get a George Mason bobblehead. For each three game package that you buy you get those three gifts.



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# GOP Women of Clifton to Hear Two Speakers on Middle East Conflict

**C**het Nagle, Naval Academy graduate, Cold War pilot, CIA agent and author will speak at the January meeting of the Republican Women of Clifton on the conflict in the Middle East and vulnerability of the US electrical grid to EMP and cyber-attacks. This topic bears on the cyber theme of Nagle's latest book "Lazarus Man," which expounds on these issues using fact-based fiction. Golala Arya, Kurdish Iranian refugee, will contribute



**Chet Nagle**

her insights on the conflict in Iran.

The event will be Jan. 21 at Fairview Elementary School, 5815 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, at 7 p.m. with refreshments. The business meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Chet Nagle was born in New York and attended the US



**Golala Arya**

Naval Academy and Georgetown University Law Center. He worked in private and government defense roles focusing on the Middle East and Africa. Nagle founded an international geopolitical magazine, the "Journal of Defense and Diplomacy," read in

over 20 countries. He served as the Special Military Advisor to the Sultan of Oman where he received their highest civilian honor. Nagle currently consults with government and industry, appears on television and radio, speaks and writes. He is the author of three novels, his most current, "Lazarus Man," will be available for autographed purchase.

Golala Arya was born in Iran during the Islamic revolution and came of age amid the atrocities

committed against women and a backdrop of war. Her father was active in the Kurdish opposition, which led to their eventual asylum in the United States. Arya's parents emphasized the value of freedom. She is a first generation college graduate, receiving her BA in Chemistry from Michigan State University and her MS in Chemistry from GMU where she currently is a Ph.D. candidate.

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# ENTERTAINMENT



**View Drink This: The Workhouse Arts Center's International Cup Show on display through Feb. 2. Earthy wood-fired tea bowls, translucent tumblers, and richly textured mugs are among 76 works selected by Welsh master ceramist Phil Rogers for the third annual Workhouse International Ceramic Cup Show.**

## CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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.

### THROUGH MONDAY/JAN. 19

**Dada Re-Discovered.** Building W-16 Vulcan Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Dada Re-Discovered explores how contemporary media and ideas can filter past Dada concepts and artwork. The exhibit will feature sound, video, performance and other visual mixed media. 703-584-2900. [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org).

### THROUGH MONDAY/FEB. 2

**Drink This! The Workhouse International Cup Show.** Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Sunday-Tuesday 12-5 p.m. and Wednesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Earthy wood-fired tea bowls, translucent tumblers, and richly textured mugs are among 76 works selected by Welsh master ceramist Phil Rogers for the third annual Workhouse International Ceramic Cup Show, "Drink This!"

### THROUGH SUNDAY/FEB. 8

**Dressing for the Occasion: An Exhibition of Costumes and Textiles Representing Fairfax Personalities and Events.** Exhibition, Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax. Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 703-385-8414.

### THROUGH MONDAY/FEB. 9

**"Synesthetic Landscapes."** Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Andy Ilachinski describes his colorful, powerful and magically manipulated images as "Synesthetic Landscapes," referencing the psychological, creative – even mystical – experience of synesthesia, a joining of the senses (smelling sounds, hearing colors, feeling shape) to communicate a point of view to another through his photographs. Showcase artists: Marcia Gordon, "Gems by Meg;"

Piper Strong, Metal Works/Judaica; and Joyce Zipperer, metal sculptor/mixed media/metal shoes and jewelry. [www.jcnavarts.org](http://www.jcnavarts.org).

### FRIDAY/JAN. 16

**Frozen Movie Sing-Along and Craft Event.** 6 p.m. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Do you want to build a snowman? Bring a parent and your friends before the movie to make snowflakes, craft an Olaf, put together a Frozen necklace, and also either Sven reindeer antlers OR an Elsa tulle cloak to make and take home. A Smorgasbord of cheese sandwiches, Olaf noses (carrot sticks), and FROZEN Ice cream cups will be served. If you prefer, or if allergies are a concern, you are welcome to pack food of your choosing or eat before the party. Fee: \$12 per child (Deadline to register: Wed, Jan. 14). [parksrec@fairfaxva.gov](mailto:parksrec@fairfaxva.gov)

### The Friday Morning Music Club.

11a.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. A community of music lovers and musicians, the Friday Morning Music Club, Inc., has promoted classical music in the Washington area for over 120 years. FMCC's public concerts—now held throughout the week—provide performing members with a host of outlets for their talents as well as delighting audiences in Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia.

### SATURDAY/JAN. 17

**Date Night Chef's Table.** 7-9 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Anyone can go out for dinner and a movie so why not make your night something special to be remembered? Date Night cooking classes are designed to be fun, relaxing and an escape from the daily grind. They are great way to learn some basic cooking techniques while enjoying your company and making new friends. The menu items will be prepared by participants working together at each of the cooking islands. Participants will be served a tasting portion of all the entrees and a pre-chef-selected drink of choice. \$85 per person, covers food and drink.

**Ballroom Social Dance.** 7:30-10:30 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Start your

evening by learning some new moves with a ballroom mini-lesson! Each month will feature a new style of dance ranging from the ChaCha to the Tango. Mini-lesson begins at 7:30 p.m. and is \$5 per person. Then take your new moves to the dance floor when open dancing begins at 8 p.m. Open dance is \$10 per person. Complimentary refreshments and a cash bar will be available in the gallery. There is no need to get fancy unless you feel like it—the dress code is casual. All skill levels are welcome—even if you have two left feet!

### Make Your Own YouTube Video.

11 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn the basics of creating your own content for YouTube. Ages 12 to adult. Bringing your own laptop is recommended. 703-978-5600.

### SUNDAY/JAN. 18

**G Scale Model Train Show.** 1-4 p.m. 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. The Washington, Virginia & Maryland Garden Railway Society "WVMGRS" members will have a display running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. Information on the museum and shows is at [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) phone 703-425-9225.

### TUESDAY/JAN. 20

**Tales to Tails.** 4:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Need practice reading? Read aloud to a friendly, trained therapy dog. Ages 6-12.

### THURSDAY-SATURDAY/JAN. 22-24

**One-Acts Presented by South County High School.** 7 p.m. South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. One-Acts directed by junior and senior thespians. Tickets will cost \$5 per night or \$10 for all three nights.

**Our Town.** 7 p.m. Sovereign Grace Co-op Main Auditorium, 5200 Ox Rd, Fairfax. Become immersed in a classic American story about truly enjoying everyday life. \$8 for adults; \$5 ages 3-17. <https://www.facebook.com/OurTownSovGraceCoop>

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# Fairfax Gymnast Barborek Dominates in Final Home Meet

Senior wins all-around by more than 3 points.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

Saturday marked the final home meet in Fairfax senior captain Rachel Barborek's high school gymnastics career.

She would make it a memorable afternoon.

Barborek was honored, along with fellow senior captain Ally Farrington, prior to the Jan. 10 meet at Fairfax High School. She then proceeded to win each of the four events and finish first in the all-around competition with a career-best score.

She even won the senior handstand contest prior to the award ceremony.

"It was awesome," Barborek said. "I couldn't have asked for a better meet. Everything came together so perfectly. Every meet before this, I've had an off event, but today I had all on events. It was really great."

Barborek finished in a first-place tie with McLean's Calista Pardue on floor with a score of 9.55. She finished alone in first place on beam (9.675), bars (9.525) and vault (9.575). The result was an all-around score of 38.325, more than three points better than second-place Carolyn Brown-Kaiser of McLean (34.6).

"I think this is the best Rachel has done in the past two years that I've coached her," Fairfax head coach Marissa Gaines said. "This is the strongest she's looked ... and she was on fire."

Perhaps the biggest surprise of Barborek's afternoon was her performance on vault — the event that has plagued Barborek in the past.

**ON THIS DAY**, aided by a slowed approach on the runway, Barborek flipped a Yurchenko Pike and celebrated with a burst of exuberance.

"I've had trouble flipping that vault," Barborek said. "It's a mental problem and I did it today without a problem. It was crazy."

Barborek, who is also a member of the Fairfax swim and dive team and pole vaults for the track team, was a Level 10 club gymnast with Capital Gymnastics, but quit after her sophomore year. This is her third year as a member of the Fairfax High gymnastics team (she didn't compete for the Rebels as a sophomore). Last season, Barborek placed fifth in the all-around at the VHSL state meet. Now a senior, Barborek has her sights set on bringing home the all-around state title.

What makes Barborek such a successful gymnast? "Her determination," Gaines said. "No matter what, she just keeps fighting for what she wants and she stays motivated."

Along with Barborek's individual success Saturday,



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Fairfax senior Rachel Barborek finished first and tied for first in all four events during a Jan. 10 gymnastics meet at Fairfax High School. She also won the all-around competition.**

Fairfax produced the highest team score in its history, as well. The Rebels amassed a total of 125.825, finishing runner-up to McLean (139.45).

Barborek said the addition of her mother, Susan Barborek, to the Fairfax coaching staff has helped the team improve. Susan Barborek was a gymnast at the University of Michigan.

"It's been better than I expected," Susan said about her experience as a first-year Fairfax assistant coach. "We have a really good group of girls. It's nine or 10 girls and they all work hard."

Fairfax placed fifth at the Conference 6 meet last season, narrowly missing a top-four finish and a berth in the 6A North region meet. The

**REBELS** have their sights set on qualifying for regionals this year.

Along with Barborek, Gaines said sophomore Madeline McDuffy, freshman Anna Whetzel and freshman Kathleen Summers have been standouts for Fairfax.

Whetzel placed sixth on vault (8.8) and floor (8.1) on Saturday. Summers finished fifth on vault (8.825). McDuffy did not compete due to injury.

Fairfax is scheduled to compete in meets at Washington-Lee High School on Jan. 22 and Jan. 24. The Conference 6 meet is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 2 at McLean High School.

**Lake Braddock junior James Butler scored 28 points and grabbed 13 rebounds during a loss to T.C. Williams on Jan. 13.**



PHOTO BY  
CRAIG STERBUTZEL/  
THE CONNECTION

## Butler has Big Night in Loss to T.C. Williams

Six-foot-8 Lake Braddock's junior finishes with 28 points, 13 rebounds.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

James Butler and his 6-foot-8 frame gave T.C. Williams fits Tuesday night. The Lake Braddock junior finished with a game-high 28 points and 13 rebounds.

But while Butler and the Bruins had a distinct size advantage, the Titans used a combination of speed, defensive pressure and deadly perimeter shooting to earn their fifth consecutive victory.

T.C. Williams defeated Lake Braddock 69-58 on Jan. 13 in Burke. The Titans scored the game's first 10 points and led 17-6 at the end of one. Butler opened the second half with back-to-back buckets, cutting the T.C. lead to five, but the Titans responded with a 19-6 run to pull away.

T.C. Williams led by double digits for the entire fourth quarter.

The win improved the Titans' record to 6-4, including 4-1 in Conference 7, while the Bruins dropped to 10-3, 3-1.

"We're playing great, we just let this one get away from us early," Butler said. "They're a fast, athletic team. ... They're one of the best teams in the conference."

Lake Braddock fell short, but it wasn't due to lack of effort from Butler. No. 42 scored 12 of the Bruins' first 15 points and had 20 points through three quarters. Butler opened the fourth quarter with a bucket and a pair of free throws, but it wasn't enough.

Butler could have surpassed his career high of 30 points if he had shot better than 8 of 14 from the free-throw line.

Butler was on the Lake Braddock varsity last year as a sophomore and saw limited time as a freshman. Now a junior, Butler said he has been more offensive-minded this year.

"[I] started off offensively strong and it's carried over the rest of the season," Butler said. "I'm a major part of the offense and I take it as a responsibility. I have to produce. If I don't produce it's like I affect the team negatively."

Ten of Butler's 13 rebounds were offensive.

Senior forward Reagan Jones, listed at 6 feet 6, finished with 13 points and nine rebounds. Sophomore guard Corey Pelham had seven points.

Lake Braddock will travel to face South County at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 16.

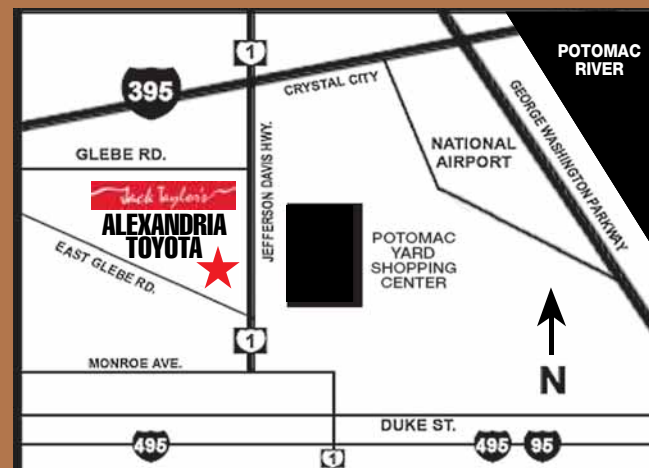


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**Evening Book Discussion.** 7:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Book is Arcadia by Lauren Goff.

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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 legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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**PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE PERMIT**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**TOWN OF CLIFTON PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**JANUARY 19, 2015**

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 19, 2015 at 7:30 P.M. at the Acacia Lodge Hall, 7135 Main Street, Clifton, VA 20124 to consider the amendment of the special use permit of Trattoria Villagio, located at 7145 Main Street, to include and authorize the use of outdoor music, specifically sound (music) that will be distributed via Trattoria Villagio's outdoor wall mounted and rock speakers, located within the controlled area of the patio, and to be played/heard at a controlled decibel level no greater than 70 dBA. The application for the proposed amendment to Trattoria Villagio's special use permit, is available for review and downloading on the Town's website at [www.clifton-va.com](http://www.clifton-va.com) and a hard copy 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 requested amendment to the Trattoria Villagio's special use permit, to authorize outdoor music.

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### FRIDAY/JAN. 16

**14th Annual Preschool Fair.** 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Audrey Moore Rec Center, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale. Over 20 local preschools will be in attendance. Come to find the right preschool for your child. Visit [www.burkemomsnorth.org](http://www.burkemomsnorth.org) for a list of participating schools and to contact organizers. There will also be a Silent Auction with items from local businesses during the fair. All proceeds from the fair will benefit Comfort Cases. [www.comfortcases.org](http://www.comfortcases.org)  
**Genealogy Databases.** 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Search for your ancestors using the library's genealogy databases and other free Internet databases. Adults.

### SATURDAY/ JAN. 17

**Genealogy Help Desk.** 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bring your family history stumbers to the experts. Accomplished genealogists and library staff will be on hand to assist you. Ask at the Virginia Room desk or call 703-293-6227.  
**Tips for Buying & Using a New TV.** 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Tips for buying and using a new TV: What to look for & what to watch out for. Presented by the Fairfax County Department of Cable and Consumer Services. All Ages.

### TUESDAY/JAN. 20

**Afternoon Book Discussion Group.** 1:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. To Try Men's Souls: A Novel of George Washington and the Fight for American Freedom by Newt Gingrich. Adults. 703-978-5600.  
**Great Decisions Seminar.** 2 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Roundtable discussion of U.S. foreign policy. Adults. 703-978-5600.  
**Evening Book Discussion Group.** 6:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho. Adults. 703-978-5600.  
**Pohick Evening Book Discussion Group.** 7 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Fall of Giants by Ken Follett. Adults. 703-644-7333.  
**English Conversation Group.** 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Practice speaking English with others

## FAITH NOTES

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

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

### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 21

**Is Forgetfulness a Problem?** 1:30 p.m. Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. What is normal aging versus dementia? When is it time to seek help? A discussion on signs of dementia and testing currently available. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP and for more information.  
**Genealogy Using Military Records.** 1 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Exploring military records and pension files for your veteran ancestor, with an introduction to federal records of the National Archives and Records Administration. Adults. 703-978-5600.

### THURSDAY/JAN 22

**Spanish Conversation Group.** 2 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice and improve your Spanish with a native speaker. Adults. 703-978-5600.  
**Library Tech Help.** 6 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Get your library-related electronic resources questions answered. Includes help with eBooks and compatible devices. Please bring your library card, eBook reader, and laptop.

### FRIDAY/JAN. 23

**Genealogy Help Desk.** 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bring your family history stumbers to the experts. Accomplished genealogists and library staff will be on hand to assist you. Ask at the Virginia Room desk or call 703-293-6227.

### SUNDAY/JAN. 25

**Burke Historical Society Meeting.** 4:30 p.m. Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 6304 Lee Chapel Road, Burke. BHS Fundraising Chair Cindy Bennett will speak on the 1918 murder of Eva Roy in Burke. In addition, we'll have a short "State of the Society" address and a very brief video about the history of Burke School.

### MONDAY/JAN. 26

**Library Tech Help.** 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Get your library-related electronic resources questions answered. Includes help with eBooks and compatible devices. Please bring your library card, eBook reader, and laptop.

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 service 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).





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