

Protesters Demand Justice for John Geer

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Demonstrators from around Virginia met Jan. 8 in front of the Fairfax County Courthouse and Police and Fire Department headquarters to demand an independent investigation of the shooting death of John Geer.

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Legislators Meet Constituents

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

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Justin 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."

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."

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 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."

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."

Richard Kennedy of Lorton:



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

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

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."

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."

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."

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 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. 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.



Sen. Linda Todd "Toddy" Puller (D-36)

Bills/Causes

- ❖ Working on bills to help veterans, including a problem docket to help veterans and people with mental health problems with specific issues.
- ❖ Supporting expanding Medicaid. "I don't know how hard that's going to be or if it will go anywhere," said Puller. "It's just ridiculous to not get more people covered by health insurance."
- ❖ Working on congressional redistricting, hoping to facilitate more diversity in the governing body.
- ❖ Puller will be part of a town hall meeting Feb. 14 at the Mount Vernon Government Center, along with state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) and Del. David Surovell (D-44).



Del. Vivian Watts (D-39)

Bills/Causes

- ❖ Mental health, particularly making sure there is adequate training for professionals, not just process and procedure reforms. "We've got to address the long term staffing issues," said Watts. "We don't have accountability — the preventative nature of keeping people from going into crisis."
- ❖ Human trafficking, focusing on the issue of a person who's been convicted of a crime, often a sex crime, they committed in direct relation to their being trafficked.
- ❖ Working on maintaining adequate funding for transportation. "Congestion starts the minute you try to get out of your driveway," Watts said. "We're working hard to get a credible study so we have widespread understanding, the credibility of a funding formula that guarantees a funding stream to local government."



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. Scott Surovell (D-44)

Bills/Causes:

- ❖ Securing \$4 million in funding for the next round of work to implement the U.S. Route 1 transit study. That includes an environmental analysis and preliminary engineering for constructing the first two phases of median-dedicated bus rapid transit (BRT) from Huntington to Fort Belvoir.
- ❖ Bill that requires every school that wants to use electronic textbooks to provide every child with a computer.
- ❖ Resolution to ratify the equal rights amendment. "My mother testified in favor of it when I was in her stomach," said Surovell. "The reality is a lot of people in the GOP have concerns about giving women equal standing on everything that men have, consequences of birth control, reproductive policy, equal pay."

- ❖ Surovell will be part of a town hall meeting Feb. 14 at the Mount Vernon Government Center, along with state senators Adam Ebbin (D-30) and Toddy Puller (D-36).

Outstanding Public Servants Recognized

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Springfield Post 7327 each year participates in the VFW National Public Service Awards Program seeking to identify and honor local police, fire, and emergency medical technicians who have performed above and beyond in the conduct of their duties. The nominees submitted by local agencies were all of excellent qualifications. This year, the Springfield Post announces the following public servants for competition at the statewide and national levels:

• Police Officer Christopher F. Cosgriff from the West Springfield District Police Station.

• Emergency Medical Technician Dr. Jeffrey Alton from the Franconia Volunteer Fire Station.

The nomination packets for each awardee will be forwarded to the VFW Department of Virginia for competition in the VFW Virginia State Public Service Award Program, and, if selected, will be entered into competition at the national level.

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Steps To Prevent Gun Violence

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

Legislators 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.

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.

COMMENTARY

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
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Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail:
south@connectionnewspapers.com



NEWS

Supervisors Seek Outside Help with Transparency

“Independent expertise” to advise on information disclosure policies.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION



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

Eight 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 of-

ficers 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

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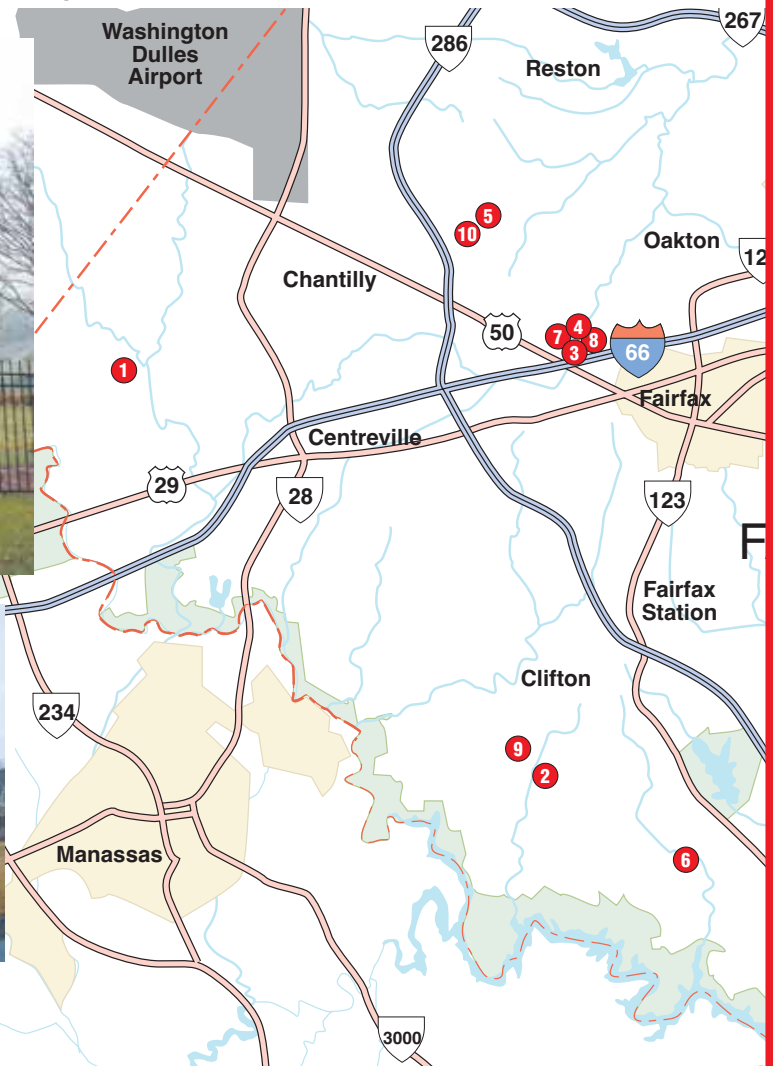
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4 11394 AMBER HILLS CT	5	5	2		FAIRFAX	\$1,626,036	Detached	1.08	22033	ESTATES AT FAIR OAKS	01/24/14
5 3438 FAWN WOOD LN	6	5	2		FAIRFAX	\$1,545,000	Detached	1.14	22033	OAK HILL ESTATES	11/24/14
6 7904 OAKSHIRE LN	6	6	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,495,000	Detached	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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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 fab-



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

rics 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 aluminum, 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.

"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."

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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:

1. **Our very best three games.** The three game plan has our three very best games:

- Nationally-ranked rival VCU? Yep, February 4, see you here.
- 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.

3. **Best seat locations.** When buying single-game tickets to our best game, you're hoping there are good seats left. Bringing the family? For the big games it's tough to get 4 seats together. And don't forget those high service fees. With this three-game pack you know you've got the good seats, to the good games, already in-hand. No questions asked, no worrying, you know you've got 3 chances to see one of the top-5 basketball conferences in the country, right here in Fairfax. You get big-time basketball at small-time prices.

When I look at the three game plan, it is indeed outrageous. And righteous.



It costs start at just \$22 per game (\$66 total) and youth (12 & under) are just \$12 per game (\$36 total). You can buy the three-game mini-plan today by calling your

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Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, and identify all people and pets in photos. Submission deadline is February 18.

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 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.

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!"

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

SATURDAY/JAN. 17

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meeting. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Board members meet biweekly to plan and implement projects and programs that will enhance library services for teens. Age 13-18. 703-249-1520.

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.
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 phone 703-425-9225.

TUESDAY/JAN. 20

Connected on the Homefront. 7-9 p.m. Immanuel Bible Church, 6911 Braddock Road, Springfield; Terrace Room. Bettina Dowell will be speaking on "Practical Praise" from Philippians 4:8. A monthly meeting for wives of active duty, reservists and retired military. Visit www.immanuelbible.net or 703-941-4124.

Stories for Threes to Fives: Hats, Scarves and Mittens. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Stories, songs and activities about warm clothes for cold days. Ages 3-5 with adult. 703-644-7333.

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.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 21

PJ Library Book Buddies. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Please join us as we read selections from the PJ Library and make a craft to take home. PJ Library provides families with a free treasury of Jewish books and music each month. Age 6 months to 5 years with adult. 703-249-1520.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/JAN. 22-25

Hairspray: The Broadway Musical. Thursday and Friday- 7:30 p.m. Saturday: 2 & 8 p.m. Sunday: 3 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. In 1962 Baltimore, plump teenager Tracy Turnblad's dream is to dance on The Corny Collins Show, a local TV dance program. When Tracy wins a role on the show, she becomes a celebrity overnight, and meets a colorful array of characters. Tickets: \$12.

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Facebook-organized Protesters Demand Justice for John Geer

Supervisors' responsibility also highlighted.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Cars honked in acknowledgement as Centreville resident Jason McCormack stood alongside Chain Bridge Road in Fairfax, near the Fairfax County Courthouse, with a handmade sign that read "Cops Are Bound By The Law, Too."

McCormack had joined several dozen protesters from around the state, braving freezing temperatures in the late morning on Jan. 8, demanding Fairfax County police answer for the shooting death of Springfield resident John Geer.

The protest was organized through a Facebook group called "Justice for John Geer" that at the time had nearly 700 members.

"I'm here for police accountability all across the board," McCormack said, his head almost completely obscured by a Baltimore Ravens beanie and a grey and black scarf.

"I lived in the court across from the Geer's house and it could've

been my kids out playing when the shot was fired. It could've been a whole other story. We need to stop letting the gun be the first thing you pull."

Following a domestic dispute with his longtime partner Maura Harrington, police had arrived at Geer's home and spoke with him for over half an hour while he stood in his doorway, unarmed, with his hands raised and resting on the frame.

As he began to lower his hands, he was shot in the chest and died in his house without receiving medical attention.

On the Monday before the demonstration, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova came forward to release an explanation from the county for the first time in nearly 17 months since the Aug. 29, 2013 shooting.

Bulova's statement came with a brief official account from the county of the events surrounding the shooting, that named the officer involved as PFC Adam Torres.

"I have been frustrated and disappointed with how long this investigation has taken," she said, citing the case's changing hands from the Commonwealth Attorney to the Department of Justice as a reason for the delay in information being released.

Protest organizer Mike Curtis of

Manassas urged demonstrators and the public to demand more explanation from their public leaders. "Don't just let her have her few minutes on the news and tell everybody she's for the same thing you are," he said. "She needs to be held accountable too."

Curtis is also one of the founders of the Justice for John Geer Facebook group.

He was joined in addressing the media and demonstrators by Richmond resident Nathan Cox, who founded the public interest Virginia Cop Block that seeks police accountability and transparency.

"If we don't hold our public servants accountable, things will just continue to run on a tyrannical type of basis," Cox said. "We're out here today because of the lack of a legitimate investigation. I personally am not cool with the police investigating themselves. We're out here today to demand an independent investigation, no conflict of interest."

Geer's friends Jeff Stewart and Jerry Santos also attended the event. "It's encouraging that some number of people are paying attention, encouraging that something organized is taking place and encouraging we got the number out with the conditions outdoors," said Santos.

"It's really discouraging that the

Why did you come out today?

Anna (left) and Sam (right) Houchins of the Fredericksburg area.

"This is entirely escalating out of control," said Sam. "This is a danger to all the gun owners of Virginia."



Seth Chambers of Winchester (Left)

"I'm here to make sure people are held accountable. Have the investigation be public. We demand answers."

Ewa Pinkowska of Woodbridge (Right)

"There's been a huge lack of accountability, which is unacceptable. If what they did wasn't wrong, there's no reason to hide it."



Josh Roberts of Harrisonburg

"What happened to him can happen to anyone."



county continues to be tone-deaf and half-blind," he continued. "They don't get it that they're on the wrong side of history, the wrong side of the law, the wrong side of decency."

Curtis said the group plans to continue its mission of seeking jus-

justice for Geer through email campaigns, attending public meetings and organizing additional events.

"This is the first step in what we're trying to do," he said. "We need to keep going, keep thinking this isn't the end, it's just the beginning."

Focus on Transparency

FROM PAGE 7
and change.

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

- lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way.
- 2. not appreciated or understood.
- 3. no longer owned or known



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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.

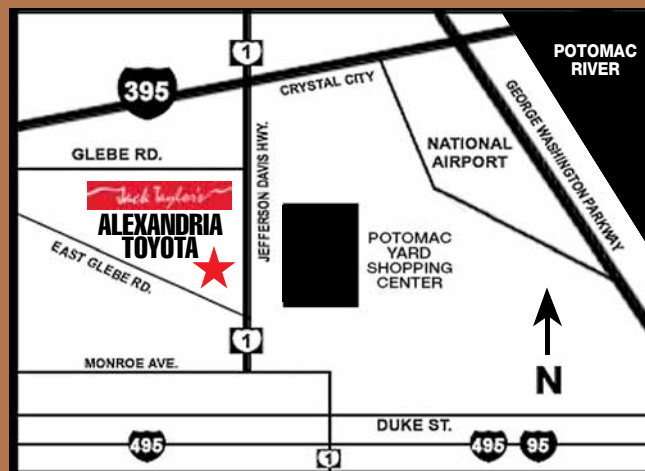
Lake Braddock will travel to face South County at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 16.

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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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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Native Foods California, LLC trading as Native Foods Cafe, 11050 Lee Hwy, Fairfax, VA 22030. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer and Wine on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Daniel Dolan, member
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 or 800-552-3200.

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21 Announcements

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 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.

21 Announcements

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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 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

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 or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

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

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism.

The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, 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.

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.



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