

Heaven for Chocolate Lovers

WINTER FUN, PAGE 8

Fairfax's Barborek Wins All-Around at W-L Invite

SPORTS, PAGE 12

Megan Wilson with the Confection Connection's offerings at the Fairfax City Chocolate Lovers Festival last year. This year's festival will be held on Feb. 7 - 8, in Old Town Fairfax.



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**NEIGHBORHOOD
OUTLOOK &
WINTER FUN**

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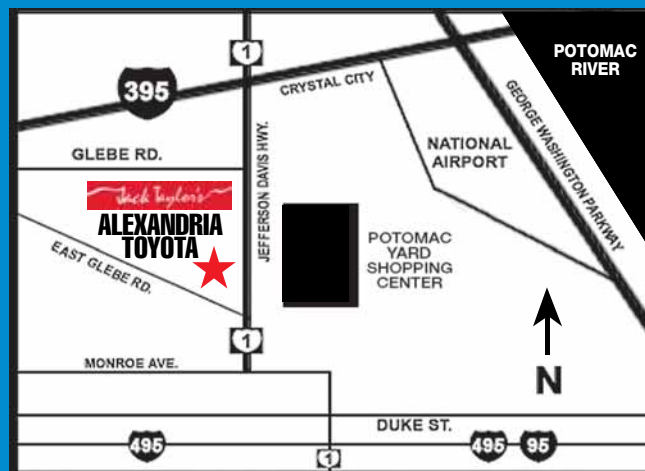
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Let's Go Places

Supervisors Defer Decision on Salary Adjustment

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

How should a county supervisor be compensated for his or her service? That question continues to be up for discussion, as the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to defer voting on a compensation adjustment that would take effect Jan. 1, 2016.

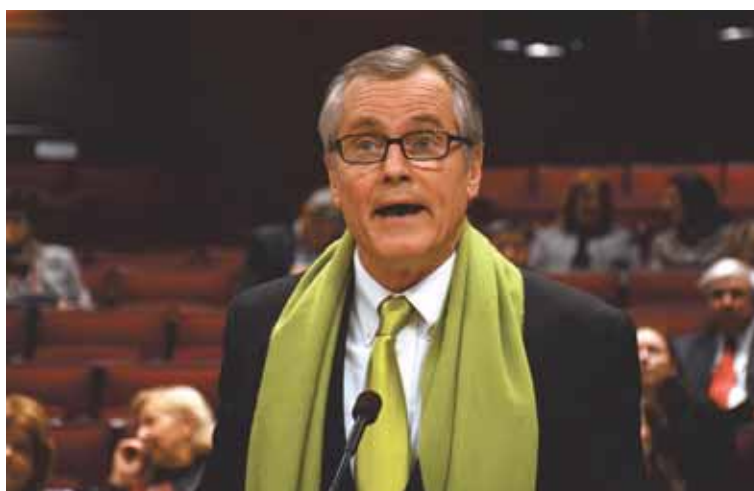
Two weeks ago, on Jan. 13, Chairman Sharon Bulova brought the adjustment up as a board matter.

ALL SUPERVISORS, including the chair, currently make an annual salary of \$75,000. In order to alter that figure, Virginia law states a vote by the supervisors can only take place once every four years and must be within the same year as elections for a new board. At the Jan. 27 meeting, Bulova reminded those gathered for public hearings that 2015 is that opportunity year, and that a decision must be made before April 15. The proposal on the floor was increasing annual salaries to \$95,000 for board members and \$100,000 for the chairman.

"If there is no affirmative vote, the next window wouldn't be until year 2019, and it wouldn't be effective until 2020," said Bulova. "That would've been a 12-year span of time."

Carey Campbell of Springfield speaks at the Jan. 27 public hearing on proposed Board of Supervisors compensation adjustments.

PHOTO BY
TIM PETERSON/
THE CONNECTION



Division among board members surfaced on Jan. 13. Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) and Linda Smyth (D-Providence) opposed the measure as poor timing given the county's budget challenges.

"Now is not the time to be considering raises," Herrity said two weeks ago. "We've increased homeowners' taxes 14 percent, our residents don't have the luxury of raising their salary."

"We're facing another difficult budget year," Smyth said on Jan. 27. "I'm concerned about the message something like this sends." Those who support the adjustment argued that the current salary doesn't adequately compensate what they said is the

ever more time-consuming role of being a supervisor.

"I've believed we should recognize reality, make the job full-time and raise the salary measurably," Supervisor Michael Frey (R-Sully) said on Jan. 13.

Frey also cited the importance of having more people vie for the office.

"Call it what it is, it's an anti-competitive position," he said. "We figured out how to make it work on this salary. The more difficult we make it for others in the community to run, the less competition we have. I just think that's wrong."

THREE MEMBERS of the public offered

their testimony during the Jan. 27 hearing.

Carey Campbell of Springfield shared anecdotes of going door to door around Braddock District discussing bike share options and "other positive, constructive policies" with residents.

With regards to the salary adjustment, in his rounds, Campbell said he "did not find support for this proposal."

Bruce Nielson of Fairfax offered his support for the measure. "The first question must be what has taken so long?" he said.

Nielson applauded the job the supervisors do, but decried their salaries falling well below similar positions in neighboring jurisdictions, including council members in Washington, DC, Montgomery County and Prince George's County.

As the board addressed one motion to adopt the adjustment, Herrity introduced another motion to defer the decision. He said at the previous meeting they had resolved to keep the public record open until March 3.

Frey acknowledged, "I don't think this issue has caught fire with the public," referencing the handful of emails he's received.

Supervisor Penny Gross (D-Mason) supported giving people more time to weigh in.

"I want to hear more from the community," she said. "I've received very little from my constituents. I'm not there yet."

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), left, and constituents Jane and Reede Taylor of Burke discuss schools and traffic at Filler-Corn's office hours held in Peet's Coffee & Tea in Springfield.

PHOTO BY
TIM PETERSON/
THE CONNECTION



Filler-Corn Holds First Mid-Session Office Hours

Though Del. Eileen Filler-Corn made headlines in the first week of the General Assembly for her proposed legislation on how sexual assault on college campuses is reported, she was game for any topic at her first mid-session office hours.

The delegate held court on Jan. 24 from 9:30-11 a.m. at Peet's Coffee & Tea in Springfield.

She said it offers a much better opportunity than a larger town hall meeting to engage with constituents about issues that are

personal to them.

"We don't have an office, this is our office," said Filler-Corn. "I'm always available, but some people are more intimidated by calling or emailing. They know I'll be sitting here."

Burke residents Jane and Reede Taylor didn't know about the office hours ahead of time, but interrupted their breakfast at Peet's to meet Filler-Corn.

"I'm so glad she's out here, seeing what's going on," said Reede. "She's trying to find

out, trying to understand."

"I get great ideas for legislation from these," Filler-Corn added, "like my bill helping self-managed homeowners' associations that's now law.

That literally came from a meeting like this."

Filler-Corn's next office hours will be Feb. 15, 10-11:30 a.m., at Chesapeake Bagel Bakery, 5719 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke.

—TIM PETERSON

VIEWPOINTS

What brought you out this morning?

Jane Taylor of Burke:

"We came in for breakfast and saw her sitting there with her sign up. We've never met her but it seems like she's interested in getting to know who she's representing. I like that."



Reede Taylor of Burke:

"I don't know how to beat traffic; I asked her if she can do something about that. And we need to keep the school system strong. It sets the tone for the whole community."



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTLOOK

Bleachers, HVACs, Tile, Paving, Walls and Roofs

Noonan explains the City schools' needs.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

At the recent, joint meeting of the Fairfax City Council and Planning Commission, Schools Superintendent Peter Noonan detailed the City Schools' five-year CIP. "We have outstanding students and teachers and world-class facilities," he said. Yet several needs still exist, including the following:

❖ Daniels Run Elementary:

Curb and gutter repairs are needed around the building, and paving projects include the blacktop on the south side of the building, plus the path system leading from the school to Daniels Run Creek. Many rooftop HVAC units need replacing, and 12 rooms need to be converted from carpet to tile to reduce germs and for easier cleaning.

❖ Providence Elementary:

The bus loop needs repaving and a French drain must be installed to support water runoff. Curb and gutter repairs are needed, as well, in addition to HVAC replacements and conversions of 13 carpeted rooms to

tile.

❖ Lanier Middle:

The Bevan Drive bus loop must be repaved because of wear and long-term weather beating. And the school's roof is in need of repair/replacement. "It's a sprayed-on roofing system not covered by Fairfax County's maintenance system," said Noonan. "But FCPS could do it if we replaced it [when its warranty ends]. This isn't for FY '16, but in the next several years." In addition, the school's elevator is nearing the end of its useful life and will be replaced when needed.

❖ Fairfax High School:

It, too, needs concrete repairs to sidewalks, curb and gutter, plus HVAC replacements. The building's exterior stucco walls are deteriorating and must be repaired, over the next five years. The cafeteria floor is buckling, so its tiles must be replaced in 2017 – and asbestos abatement may or may not be a factor in the work.

The home-side bleachers have been inspected and minor repairs have been made because of the 2011 earthquake. "We know



City Schools Superintendent Peter Noonan.

they're safe but, in time, they may need some shoring up," said Noonan. "This project may represent a significant and unforeseen cost to our schools, should there be a need for large-scale repair."

Also included is the restoration of the theater's orchestra pit.

It was covered several years ago, but the school now wants to install a system allowing for the pit's easy opening and closing for a variety of programs and purposes. In addition are outdoor, athletic-infrastructure projects, such as repairing the football press box, plus portions of the fencing on the school's western and northern perimeters.

The total FY '16 request for these projects at all four schools is \$460,187 – although the actual amount needed for the bleacher repair is not yet known.

"Our CIP requests have been small to non-existent in past years," said School Board Chairman Toby Sorensen. "But our renovations are approaching the 15-year mark."

Councilman David Meyer asked if the cafeteria tile replacement can wait until

2017, and Noonan said he believes it can. "And FCPS will pick up the cost of asbestos abatement, which is significant," said Noonan. "We pay for the tile."

Regarding the high school's stucco walls, he said fixing them all at once would be more efficient, but doing them in phases would save money.

Meyer, however, said he'd prefer they all be done at one time "for less disruption to the students."

Councilwoman Janice Miller had a question about enrollment, which is generally projected to increase. "Over the past year-and-a-half, a number of new developments have come on line," she said. "Do we have an actual count of the students that came from them?"

Noonan said the school system would also like that information and he'd obtain it. Furthermore, he said 221 elementary-school students who currently live in the City attend county schools. "A significant number" attend Advanced Academic centers at Mosby Woods Elementary and Rocky Run Middle, said Noonan. Mayor Scott Silverthorne then asked for those numbers in writing.

All in all, said City Manager Bob Sisson, "We've had seven to eight years with virtually no school CIP expenditures. But the day of reckoning will soon be here."

Schools to Expand by \$856 Million

Capital Improvement Plan approved, rising enrollment causes concerns about classroom space.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

Five more school buildings and renovations for several existing ones may be approved by 2020.

The Fairfax County School Board approved the \$856 million Capital Improvement Program (CIP) at the Jan. 22 meeting to set priority on the projects the school system wants done in the next five years.

"We're developing a long view, because we have significant capital concerns," said Superintendent Karen Garza.

During the meeting, she and several board members said the projects will have to have separate public hearings and votes. The CIP was approved unanimously.

THE PLAN calls for the addition of five elementary schools and one high school.

Both South Lakes High School and Westbriar Elementary School will have additions with construction expected in 2021. Additionally, capacity enhancements at Langley, West Springfield, Herndon and Oakton high schools are proposed.

"Construction funds for renovations at nine elementary schools and one middle school, a renovation at one high school, and planning funds for renovations at eight elementary, one middle, and two high schools are also included and were part of the 2013 bond referendum," according to a press release.

The majority of the projects in the plan are expected to be completed between 2016 and 2020. The only renovation planned in the CIP that will begin after are at North West County Elementary, Fairfax-Oakton area elementary, Silverbrook Elementary, Hughes Middle, Cooper Middle, Frost Middle, Oakton High School and Falls Church High School. Light renovations at 10 unidentified elementary schools will also begin construction after 2021.

The plan, which is reviewed annually, is preparing the school system for nearly



Fairfax County Schools Superintendent Karen Garza answers questions from the School Board about the Capital Improvement Program.

198,000 enrolled students projected in the next five years.

\$220 million of the projects are funded through previous school bonds. Another bond referendum will take place in the fall.

The county Board of Supervisors also recently approved to provide FCPS an additional \$16.1 million to offset infrastructure replacement so bigger projects can begin taking priority. Typically, the funding is limited to \$155 million.

The Department of Defense is funding 80 percent of the build cost of a new elementary school on Fort Belvoir - with the rest of the balance funded by the county.

"This is a plan," said Springfield School

Board member Elizabeth Schultz. "What's being executed now, how it will be done - that we don't know. We do have to have some very real conversations, especially with our peers at the Board of Supervisors, because they don't manage 2.6 million square feet. It's something quite less than that."

She said that during her visit to a local school that morning, she was concerned that parents were still having trouble getting into the parking lot to drop off their children six minutes after the bell had rung - a reason she said these capital improvement plans are important.

"How do you materialize visually or understanding 2.6 million square feet?" she asked. "The NASA Assembly building in Florida is one of the largest buildings that I looked up. That's eight of them. If you've ever been to the Louvre, it's four Louvre museums."

MEMBER AT LARGE Ryan McElveen said board members are not the only one's excited about the CIP.

"This is the first year I have ever had someone come up to me on the streets of Washington, D.C. and ask me about the CIP just randomly," he said. "We always question as a board whether the community reads these documents, and I think it's become quite clear this year that they do."

PHOTO BY REENA SINGH / THE CONNECTION

Joining Fairfax One Team

New maintenance supervisor comes from Afghanistan.

Fresh from the cold, brown hills of Afghanistan for the past three years, Bill Reynolds is still getting acclimated to his warm, bright, comfortable new work environment at the helicopter hangar off of West Ox Road. A native Texan, Reynolds is a cheerful, grateful man and says he's "tickled" to be doing a job he loves "a little closer to home". As part of the Fairfax One team, Reynolds works with and oversees the strict safety maintenance of both FCPD helicopters. As a military contractor, he tended to a fleet of over 30 Cessna 208's; the entire Afghanistan air force. He traveled from base to base around the countryside, rising at 5 a.m. and working until 7 p.m. each day for seven days a week.

Reynolds stayed in a fenced-in encampment, and with his few hours of free time, he typically exercised or watched television. Standing in line for meals or other resources was a way of life. His first interview with Fairfax county personnel was from his home-base in Kandahar a few months ago. After a series of interviews and checks, Reynolds eventually was offered and accepted the position. He arrived in Virginia on Dec. 15 and began employment with the FCPD on the Dec. 29.

Law enforcement isn't new to Reynolds; he was an FBI contractor for several years prior to his overseas



Bill Reynolds

service. He took care of aviation assets for two of the agencies units based in Northern Virginia.

Traffic doesn't bother Reynolds; neither do other pesky little things that may annoy some. With a positive attitude and a friendly smile, Reynolds embraces the five day-a-week schedule with a team he enjoys, and looks forward to a long career with the FCPD.

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Outlook

Many bright spots will be overshadowed in the coming budget season.

Long awaited, the opening of the Silver Line promises to bring transformation to Tysons and around the current station in Reston, with another Reston station and Herndon to come.

The opening of Springfield Town Center has been greeted by enthusiastic shoppers, showing plenty of demand for retail and restaurants.

EDITORIAL

Housing prices are up, although so is the number of houses on the market, while the number of houses sold is down from last year.

But from local government, current economic conditions overall look more like this:

Job growth has slowed, and the jobs that are being created are lower paying. There is a decline in federal and business services employment, while the job growth that the region is experiencing is dominated by gains in hospitality and retail sectors. Slowing job growth and lower wages mean lower demand for home purchases and retail spending, while declines in federal jobs and government contractors mean lower demand for office space. The region is growing, but it is growing at a slower rate than projected one or two years ago.

Lower demand for office space translates into 19 million square feet of vacant office space in Fairfax County alone. Just for some sense of

scale, that is like having eight malls the size Tysons Corner Center (2.4 million square feet) completely empty. Arlington County has an office vacancy rate of more than 20 percent; in Rosslyn, the rate is approaching 30 percent (27.7). Overall, Northern Virginia has an office vacancy rate of more than 17 percent.

Not only are companies moving their offices from older office space to newer space, more transit-oriented space, but as they do so, they are downsizing the amount of space, leaving more less modern space vacant in the process.

The result will be a very difficult budget year in Northern Virginia. It's also a call to do things differently.

Critical to a successful economy will be to create housing that service and hospitality workers can afford. We have a massive shortage of affordable housing, and the opportunity transform some of the massive quantities of vacant office space into thoughtful, well-designed housing.

Be Part of the Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a bi-annual themed edition, will publish Feb. 25, 2015.

We invite you to send us stories about your

pets, photos of you and/or your family with your cats, dogs, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your home or yard with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures. Can your dog catch a Frisbee 10 feet in the air, or devour an entire pizza when you turn your back for less than a minute?

Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Tell us about your experience.

Have you helped to train an assistance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

Or take this opportunity to memorialize a beloved pet you have lost.

Send photos and identify everyone in the photo including the pets (great preference for photos of pets and people), tell us what is happening in the photo, and include your address (we will only print the town name).

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Urging Delegates to Vote 'No'

To the Editor:

This Friday, members of the Constitutional Law Subcommittee of the Courts of Justice in the House of Delegates will vote on HB2321 — a dangerous and unconstitutional 20-week abortion ban. My legislator, Del. Dave Albo (R-42), is the chair of this subcommittee, and his leadership and opposition to this legislation is crucial to the sanctity of a woman's deeply personal healthcare decisions.

Although nearly 99 percent of abortions in the United States occur before the 21st week of pregnancy, the 1 percent of abortions occurring later in pregnancy involve tragic, unforeseeable medical circumstances (such as rare, severe fetal anomalies or serious risks to a woman's health). Thus, this legislation proposes to thwart the judgment of doctors in exigent cases where sound, professional judgment is absolutely critical. Medical associations including the American Congress of Obstetricians and

Gynecologists (citing the Journal of the American Medical Association) oppose these laws, because they are dangerous to the health of women.

Yet medically unqualified politi-

cians in the House of Delegates insist that they know better.

In Nebraska, Danielle Deaver's water broke at 22 weeks. Her doctor advised her that (with most of the amniotic fluid drained) the fetus could not develop or survive and that the risk of prosecution made abortion impossible. What kind of politics forces a patient to carry a fetus that is certain to be stillborn?

Similar measures in Wisconsin, Alabama, and Texas have been or soon will be defeated on constitutional grounds. Virginia's version (introduced by some of the more extreme members of the legislature) reflects the same fundamental lack of understanding of both the law and the medical circumstances in which Virginia patients find themselves. Qualified physicians must be free to review each patient's context, make the medically correct diagnosis, and administer the appropriate treatment (expeditiously in emergencies). Instead, we've reached an alarming time when politicians have proposed to criminalize medically necessary decisions (such as the one presented in Ms. Deaver's case) with a Class 6 Felony.

The House of Delegates is not the body from which a woman seeks medical counsel or permission to act in the manner that is critical to her health. It is her doctor (sworn to protect her health, as well as extensively educated and sedulously trained to do so) who she rightfully trusts with

these decisions. No woman addresses a legislative committee for personal medical decisions.

Recognizing this basic understanding of roles, Delegate Albo must uphold this truth and vote no on HB2321.

Son Huynh
Springfield

A Challenge for Garza

To the Editor:

Your article "How Does She Do It" - Karen Garza's vision: the irresistible force moving immovable object of Fairfax County Public Schools (The Connection, December 24-10, 2014) showed FCPS Superintendent Dr. Garza as a force for change. In the Fairfax County school system, students demonstrate excellence by collaborating and achieving good grades with the assistance of teachers.

Teachers play a massive role in the successful education of students because teachers have high expectations for their students, they consistently stress the material that students need, and the teachers provide in class discussion which allows students to relay what information they have obtained. However, the total combination of homework assigned by high school teachers for any one student is often ex-

cessive. As a result, students become overwhelmed with excess homework, even though the students might already understand the specific material. Students with excessive homework in school have less time to spend in after school activities, less time to study on their own, and less time to accomplish personal achievements.

Most experts agree, as do Fairfax County Public Schools' own guidelines that high school students should only have two hours of homework per night, in total. Currently, many teachers expect at least one or more hours of homework for each of their classes, especially at the honors levels. Another problem is that the teachers are not coordinating large tests and assignments as efficiently as possible. The end effect is that students taking various classes have too much homework dumped on them all at once, as well as at too many tests on certain testing days.

Students will be able to obtain more sleep next year due to the later start times of high schools. Superintendent Garza plans to solve any issues that arise in the school systems; hopefully she will recognize that the failure to coordinate and limit homework among teachers is also a massive issue for high school students in FCPS.

James Adams
Herndon



WINTER FUN

A Children's Classic Comes to Life

Fairfax Academy student has lead role in "Beauty and the Beast."

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A beloved children's story comes to life when Centreville High presents the Disney musical, "Beauty and the Beast." And playing one of the lead roles is senior Nick Ingargiola, who attends the Fairfax Academy for musical theater.

"The actors have just blown me away," said Director Mike Hudson. "We had a preaudition last May, and we had no idea we'd get this level of talent. About half the kids are choral students, but we're also blessed with theater students who can sing."

The show features a cast of 58, crew of 16 and a 15-piece orchestra, and the actors have been rehearsing since early October. Art students worked on the scenery, creating the village, Belle's house, the woods and the interior of the Beast's castle, complete with a central staircase. And the special effects will include lasers, two types of fog and smoke.

Besides that, added Hudson, "The costumes are beautiful and there will be a custom-made Beast head. But our Beast isn't frightening – he actually has a charming personality. And we'll be selling light-up roses before each show, and there will be a chance for the children to join in and wave them at the show's end."

Three students choreographed all the dance numbers and, said Hudson, "I cannot praise them enough – they've done an amazing job. Our choreography is second to none." Overall, he said the audience will appreciate the cast's "spontaneity and enthusiasm; everyone's worked so hard on this production. Since this is the Disney version, children will recognize the songs, especially 'Be Our Guest' and 'Human Again,' and we've got marvelous voices and musicians."

PORTRAYING THE BEAST is Ingargiola, a Fairfax Academy student. Describing the Beast as a "complicated character," Ingargiola said he was a prince who was changed into a beast by an enchantress after refusing to buy a rose from her.

"He's angry and depressed and doesn't know how to love or care for anything," said Ingargiola. "He lives in a castle with his servants, but he has to learn to love or be doomed to be a beast forever. And when he encounters Belle, he eventually falls in love."

Ingargiola says it's challenging "to emote through a gigantic, beast costume and mask. So I have to be



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Rehearsing a scene (but not in costume) are Cameron Daly as Belle and Nick Ingargiola as the Beast.

really expressive with my eyes. But I have a gorgeous song to sing, 'If I Can't Love Her.' It portrays the agony of his existence and is tragically beautiful and lets the audience understand him better."

Thrilled to have this role, he said, "It's cool evolving with the Beast; he's shy and not used to talking with people. And it's adorable to see him flounder about and try to make this girl like him, let alone love him. He has so many dimensions to his personality." Besides the tender love story, Ingargiola said the audience will also be impressed with the show's special effects. And, he added, "The dance numbers are really spectacular. The choreographers have done a wonderful job – it looks like professionals did it."

THE CURTAIN RISES Thursday-Friday, Feb. 5-6, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 7, at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 8, at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15 via www.theatrecentreville.com or at the door (but people are advised to get them online or from a cast member for the Saturday matinee).

In addition, there will be a meet-and-greet at 1 p.m. in the school cafeteria before the Saturday matinee, and it's free to any ticket-holder. Children will be able to meet and talk with Belle, Gaston, Lumiere, Mrs. Potts and the Silly Girls and take photos with them. Centreville High is located at 6001 Union Mill Road in Clifton.

WEEK IN FAIRFAX

Seven Cars Broken Into in Hickory Farms

Fairfax County Police, West Springfield District, reported seven cars in the Hickory Farms neighborhood were broken into between roughly Jan. 14 and 19. Hickory Farms is situated in between Braddock Road, Burke Station Road, Roberts Road and Route 236-Little River Turnpike. The neighborhood notified residents of the break-ins via an email. The FCPD said this type of crime, typically a nighttime activity, is a widespread problem rather than an isolated incident. Opportunistic criminals will go from car to car in a neighborhood, checking for unlocked doors.

If residents see any suspicious activity in their neighborhood, the FCPD reminded, they should call them immediately. Police also recommend always locking car doors and not leaving anything valuable in the vehicle.

— TIM PETERSON

Bulova, Petersen Hold Town Hall Meeting

Del. David Bulova (D-37) and state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) will hold their annual, town hall meeting on Saturday, Jan. 31, from 9-10:30 a.m., at the Fairfax City Hall, 10455 Armstrong Street in Fairfax.

Bring this ad to your appointment & receive a 90-minute Traditional Thai (reg \$120) or Malee Signature Deluxe (reg \$130) for \$90!

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Door Prizes! • Seminar at 1:00 P.M.

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Monday, February 2, 2015 • 7pm

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Charlie Grace, 4, happily holds her chocolate treat from Extreme Ice Cream.



Fairfax's Madeline Feinberg, 5, dips a treat into the chocolate fountain while dad Matt watches.



Hens and chicks cupcakes at the 2014 Chocolate Challenge.



This "Despicable Me" minion cake was a prizewinner.

Heaven for Chocolate Lovers

Fairfax's annual festival is Feb. 7-8.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Heaven for chocolate aficionados – that's the City of Fairfax Chocolate Lovers Festival. And this year's 23rd annual extravaganza is set for Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 7-8.

The scrumptious and fun-filled weekend features everything from a competition to see who can make the most beautiful and creative chocolate sculptures, cakes and cupcakes to a chocolate-themed movie and a luscious sampling of chocolate treats from area vendors. It's also a chance to buy mouthwatering presents for Valentine's Day.

Indeed, said Fairfax Mayor Scott Silverthorne, "Chocolate Lovers and Valentine's Day make the City of Fairfax a perfect destination in February. The festival began more than 20 years ago and attracts people from all over the region and beyond. "Whether you like white, milk or dark chocolate, there's chocolate for every taste," he continued. "Last year, we had a record crowd, and I expect this year's to be even bigger and better." Besides, added Silverthorne, "Who can resist chocolate-covered strawberries? They're my personal favorite."

The festivities actually begin a week earlier, on Friday, Jan. 31, with a Sweet History Walking Tour of Old Town Fairfax's Historic District. It runs from 4:30-6 p.m. and

includes the Ratcliffe-Allison House, Old Town Hall, historic Fairfax County Courthouse and the Ford House. Pre-registration is required. For more information and to register, go to www.chocolatefestival.net; click on "Events" and then "Sweet History Walking Tour."

Then on Feb. 7-8 will be a full slate of activities including face-painting, musical performances, fairy tales, a fire-safety puppet show, a Chocolate Caper mock trial, cupcake-decorating, magic, juggling and open houses in historic buildings. A Chocolate Express will provide free, shuttle service between event locations. It'll run Saturday, Feb. 7, from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 8, from 11:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Chocolate Festival initially began as a joint effort of the City of Fairfax, Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Fairfax Coalition, Downtown Fairfax Merchants Assn. and George Mason University. The goal was to attract visitors to Old Town Fairfax, encourage participation in the community and foster cooperation among the city government, businesses and local residents. This year's sponsors are the 29 Diner and Twins Ace Hardware.

Since the first festival was held in February 1993, it's become one of the City's most popular events. A treat for all the senses, it's chocked-full of activities for children and adults, alike. Offering a

wide array of chocolate candy, cake, sauce, pancakes, fudge, ice cream – and even chocolate fountains and a commemorative, chocolate cookbook – the festival promises something for everyone.

Pancakes, Taste of Chocolate

A good place to start on Saturday, Feb. 7, is at Fire Station 3, at 4081 University Drive, with the annual, Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feast on regular or chocolate-chip pancakes, plus sausage, coffee, juice and milk. Cost is \$7, adults; \$4, children ages 4-10. Children 3 and under eat free with a paying adult (limit two children per adult). Face-painting will be available. The festival's centerpiece, the Taste of Chocolate, will be held Saturday, Feb. 7, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 8, from noon-4 p.m., on both floors of the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive (corner of Main Street and University Drive). Strollers may be left on the building's front porch; a fully accessible entrance is at the door on Main Street.

Admission is free; visitors buy pogs for \$1 each and then browse around the vendors' tables to check out the wide array of chocolate treats being offered. When something catches their fancy, they pay for it in pogs. For example, a slice of cake could

cost three pogs, or a customer could buy three small pieces of candy for two pogs. The vendors set their own prices, and roaming volunteers in red aprons will have plenty of pogs on hand for people wanting to purchase more.

And the variety of goodies is a chocolate lover's dream-come-true. There are chocolate cakes, all kinds of chocolate candies and bars, chocolate-covered strawberries, fudge, ice cream and even chocolate fountains into which customers may dip fruit, cream-filled doughnut holes or marshmallows.

This year's Taste of Chocolate vendors include: C & D Sweets, Cakes by Shelby, Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates, Capitol Chocolate Fountains; Chocotenago, Confection Connection, Dave's Candy Kitchen, El Ceibo, Extreme Ice Cream, Fair Trade Winds, Fluffy Thoughts Cakes, Mike's Fudge, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Sugar Mama's Ice Cream, The Chocolatier's Palette, Virginia Chocolate Co. and Watergate Pastry. The Independence Day Celebration Committee is sponsoring this event.

Chocolate Challenge

Another major highlight of the festival is the Chocolate Challenge, a display of imaginative chocolate cakes, cupcakes and sculptures. It takes place at the Nutrition

Kitchen, 3950 University Drive, and runs Feb. 7, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Feb. 8, from noon-4 p.m.

Both professionals and amateurs participate, and judges and visitors judge them in various categories. Visitors may use their admission ticket to vote for the People's Choice Award winner and also participate in the silent auction of challenge entries, plus items from local businesses.

Celebrity judges include City Councilman Jeff Greenfield, Dean Thomas Prohaska of GMU's College of Health and Human Services, Sabrina Campbell of Occasionally Cake, and Mike Hensley of Victoria's Cakery. Donated cakes and other items will be open for silent-auction bidding through Feb. 8 at 2:30 p.m. Admission is \$1/adult; children under 18 are free. A designated stroller-parking area is outside the building.

Each year, the Chocolate Lovers Festival Committee chooses a charitable organization to which it donates part of the proceeds raised during the festival. This year's recipient of the Chocolate Lovers Festival Grant is The Lamb Center. Besides offering food, clothing and hot showers to the homeless, it works with other entities to try to find them job counseling, transportation and housing.

For more information about the festival, go to www.chocolatefestival.net or call 703-385-7858.

SEE FESTIVAL, PAGE 13

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Sweet History Tour of Historic Fairfax

New this year is a Sweet History Walking Tour of Old Town Fairfax's Historic District. It's slated for Friday, Jan. 31, from 4:30-6 p.m., and allows participants to step back in time for a peek at Fairfax's past.

The tour begins at the Ratcliffe-Allison House, 10209 Main St. The City's oldest standing house, it was built in 1812.

Furnished with period pieces, this home depicts the lives of everyday residents in 19th-century Fairfax. Next is the Old Town Hall, which was constructed in 1900 by Joseph E. Willard and contains the Huddleston Library.

The third stop is the historic Fairfax County Courthouse. Built in 1799, the first Confederate officer casualty of the American Civil War took place on the courthouse grounds, and the building was occupied by both sides in the conflict. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1981, and the original wills of

George and Martha Washington are currently on display in the Court Clerk's office.

The tour's last stop is the Ford House, the childhood home of Antonia Ford.

A Confederate spy during the Civil War, she provided Confederate military leaders with information gathered at her Fairfax home during the First Battle of Manassas. When she was imprisoned, she fell in love with her Union jailer, whom she later married; their son built the Old Town Hall.

The tour ends at De Clieu Coffee on Main Street, where participants will be served hot chocolate.

Tour cost is \$10/person, with free admission for one child, 5 and under, per paying adult; participants are encouraged to bring flashlights.

Pre-registration is required. For more information and to register, go to www.chocolatefestival.net; click on "Events" and then "Sweet History Walking Tour."

— BONNIE HOBBS

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Open Houses, Exhibits during Festival

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

This building was constructed in 1873 with bricks made at the Farr property across Main Street. The oldest brick, two-story, school building remaining in Fairfax cost just \$2,750 to build. Stop in for chocolate treats while learning about the City's colorful history; free admission.

◆ **Historic Records and Archives**, Historic Fairfax Court House, 4000 Chain Bridge Road, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Visit a historic display of legal documents, including: A page from the polling done around the country as citizens voted to secede from the Union; the "Civil War Rulebook" filled with graffiti from the soldiers stationed there; George Washington's will; a church pew deed; and a court order written by George Mason in 1767 to settle a boundary dispute between Peter Smith and James Jennings.

◆ **Ford House**, 3977 Chain Bridge Road, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visit the childhood home of Antonia Ford, a Confederate spy during the American Civil War. She was imprisoned and fell in love with her Union jailer, whom she later married; their son built the Old Town Hall. Free admission.

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

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

◆ **Ratcliffe-Allison House**, 10386 Main St., noon-4 p.m.

The oldest standing house in the City of Fairfax depicts the lives of everyday people in 19th-century Fairfax and will offer visitors chocolate treats. Built in 1812, it was once a cobbler shop. Kitty Pozer, a famed Fairfax gardener and writer, lived here until 1981; free admission.

— BONNIE HOBBS

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Thinking of remodeling? This event is the perfect opportunity to take advantage of free expert advice with no obligation. Learn about the hot topics you should consider when remodeling.

Seminars:

- Kitchen and Bath Trends
- Apples to Apples -
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- Reinventing Your Home for Today's Lifestyle

Seminars run from 10-12pm.
Lunch to follow.
Please arrive at 9:45am for check-in.

Seating is limited!

RSVP: info@sundesigninc.com or
call Erin at 703.425.5588



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 SATURDAY/JAN. 31

Exhibit of Colorful Nutcrackers. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed on Tuesdays. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. See an amazing array of nutcrackers, both old and new, in a colorful case exhibit. Did you ever wonder where the craze for collecting nutcracker dolls came from? Nutcrackers have a fascinating history. The first nutcrackers were produced to crack nuts more effectively and the oldest known metal example, on exhibit in Tarent, Italy, is from the third or fourth century B.C. The Leavenworth Nutcracker Museum in Leavenworth, Washington, shows a bronze Roman nutcracker dated between 200 B.C and 200 A.D. German nutcrackers, made as decorative pieces, were developed around 1500. Early nutcrackers were in the shapes of animals, birds and people. Later, they were made in the likeness of kings, soldiers, church leaders and ruling class figures. Fine wood carved nutcrackers were created across Europe, especially in France and England by the 15th and 16th centuries. Admission: \$7/adult, \$6/student, \$5/senior or child.

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 FRIDAY/FEB. 6

Bodylore. Olly Olly, 10417 Main Street, 2nd floor, Fairfax. Olly Olly, an alternative art space in Fairfax is pleased to present its inaugural pop-up art exhibition, Bodylore, an exploration of the human figure and an investigation into the body as social construct, tradition, myth, and fairytale.

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.jccnvarts.org.

The Bravura Ensemble - Chamber Music Classics. 8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The Bravura Ensemble is a Washington D.C.-based chamber group devoted to performing chamber music repertoire ranging from 18th-century works to modern-day music. Clarinetist Albert Hunt earned a Doctor of Musical Arts



Olly Olly, an alternative art space in Fairfax is pleased to present its inaugural pop-up art exhibition, Bodylore, an exploration of the human figure and an investigation into the body as social construct, tradition, myth, and fairytale. Here is "Fishing" by Carolina Seth. The exhibit runs through Feb. 6 at Olly Olly, 10417 Main Street, 2nd floor, Fairfax.

Degree from The Juilliard School and has performed around the world as a soloist and chamber musician. He has also played in orchestras such as the Cleveland Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, and the Orchestra of St. Luke's. Violinist Rachele Betancourt is a member of the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra in Germany and is an international competition winner. She frequently performs solo and chamber music recitals in the Americas and in Europe. Come join us for an evening of chamber music featuring clarinet, piano and strings.

Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Master Gardeners introduce a wide variety of ferns, which add texture and interest to damp or shady garden spots. \$10. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 182 2301 or call 703-642-5173.

Preschool Age Puppet Show: Lighters and Matches for Tools. 11 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Our dedicated Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department highlights fire safety.

SATURDAY/JAN. 31

A Sweet History Walking Tour. 4:30-6 p.m. It begins at the Ratcliffe Allison House and includes Old Town Hall, the Ford House and the historic Fairfax County Courthouse. It concludes at De Clieu Café with complimentary hot chocolate. Cost: \$10 per participant. With one paying adult, free admission is provided for one child, age 5 and under. Pre-registration is required. For more information and to register, go to www.chocolatefestival.net. Click on "Events" and then "Sweet History Walking Tour."

Uno, Dos, Tres con Andres! 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Sing, shake, and sound out rhythms while trying regional Latin dances and practicing Spanish words. All ages. 703-249-1520.

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.

FRIDAY/JAN. 30

Tiny Tots. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Join instructor Susan Alverson for music, movement and song. Ages 1-2 years with adult. 703-249-1520.

Winter Storytime. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Let it snow! Build your child's early literacy while enjoying stories, songs, and activities about winter. Ages 3-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

Fun Flicks. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Watch movies based on children's books. All ages. Please register each child and adult separately. 703-644-7333.

Keeping Up with the Kids—Learn about Flickr, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and Skype. 2 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn the basics with our one-on-one technology volunteer about the social networking tools that can help you stay in touch with your kids and grandkids. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Garden Talks With Master Gardeners: Fern. 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Historic Green Spring Gardens, 4603



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This upgraded 3-level town house is move-in ready with space and plumbed for second full bath. Wonderful starter or retirement home. The spacious eat-in kitchen features custom cabinets, granite countertops, recessed lighting, and a bay window. Dining room, living room and all bedrooms have gleaming hardwood floors. Both bathrooms are light and bright; upstairs bathroom features an extra-deep soaker tub. The basement has a finished, extra-large rec/media room with custom built-ins and is wired for surround sound. Living room opens to fenced backyard backing to trees and a stone patio perfect for outdoor dining and/or garden. Low yard maintenance. Home has two assigned parking spots, and community amenities include playground, pool, and club house. Recently updated roof and HVAC. Ideal access to I-95, Fairfax County Parkway and bike trails, Springfield Metro and Town Center, Fort Belvoir, Kingstowne shopping, and the new Wegman's grocery store.

Search zillow.com, 8311 Stationhouse Court, 22079 for more details and photographs, and/or call Michael 239-565-1456





PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:

Chris Zimmerman, music director, Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.



Sylvie Bodorova, composer

FSO Presents 'An Evening in Prague'

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra presents "An Evening in Prague" at the George Mason University, Center for the Performing Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance: Saturday, Feb. 7, at 8 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$50. Tickets at 888-945-2468 or visit www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

Garden Talks With Master

Gardeners: Landscaping Garden Plan. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Historic Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Landscape designer Amy Neiberline discusses successful plant combinations by showing how to develop a plant and price list based on your individual garden condition. \$36/p.p. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 102 7501 or call 703-642-5173.

SUNDAY/FEB. 1

Super Bowl Party. 5:30 - 10:00 p.m. Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Come and support your team on our big screen TV. Lots of food and fun activities in a safe (nonalcoholic) environment with nice people. Bring your own chair/rugs/blankets/pillows. Contact 703 971-5151 or admin@franconiaumc.org. Website <http://www.franconiaumc.org>.

Tea with Tempo For 13-Adults:

Meet John Philip Sousa, The American March King Composer and Bandmaster. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Historic Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Historic re-enactor Ron Anzalone wonderfully portrays this musician. Event is rounded off by traditional English tea. \$38 (\$15 for program only.) Reservation at 703-941-7987.

MONDAY/FEB. 2

Children's Performance Series -

Mr. Skip. 10:30 a.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Start the week off with Mr. Skip, our favorite music man! Mr. Skip, who is all about music and movement, sings original and classic kids songs like Old MacDonald to the five and under crowd. He gets the kids off their seats and moving. Even the parents and grandparents have fun as Mr. Skip plays his own brand of music. Come along and join in the first Monday in the month, you'll be glad you did!

An Evening of Arias & Duets -

Virginia Opera. 7 p.m. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Join the Virginia Opera for this delightful musical event featuring arias and duets from your favorite operas and operettas, including selections from our 2014-15 Season. This unique collection of popular song selections will be performed by Virginia Opera Mainstage and Emerging artists. Admission is free. There is limited seating; reservations requested.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 4 - SUNDAY/MARCH 8

Julia Galloway. Building W-8, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Julia Galloway is a utilitarian potter and professor. She is currently the Director of the School of Art and Professor at the University of Montana, Missoula. Julia makes useful pottery working at a mid-

range firing at c6 in a soda kiln and re-firing her pottery at low temperatures to develop rich glaze surfaces. She combines wheel throwing and hand building techniques to make her pottery. No ticket required. 703-584-2900.

FRIDAY/FEB. 6

Friday Night Film Series: Ivory Tower. 7-9:30 p.m. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10215 Lakehaven Drive, Burke. As tuition rates spiral beyond reach and student loan debt passes \$1 trillion (more than credit card debt), IVORY TOWER asks: Is college worth the cost? From the halls of Harvard, to public colleges in financial crisis, to Silicon Valley, filmmaker Andrew Rossi assembles an urgent portrait of a great American institution at the breaking point. This is a non-religious event open to the public. www.accotinkuuc.org

SUNDAY/FEB. 8

National Concert Band. 3 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run Road, Fairfax. In celebration of its 40th anniversary season, the National Concert Band, founded by retired members of the D.C. Services Bands, will perform Gustav Holst's The Planets Op. 32. Here's an opportunity to hear the complete seven-movement suite, each named after a planet of the solar system and its corresponding astrological character. Tickets are \$10. www.nationalconcertband.org.

Tree Clearance Sale 30% OFF All Trees 2013 & Prior	Free Estimates Patios, Walkways, Retaining Walls, Paver Driveways, Landscaping! <small>OFF-SEASON PRICING</small>
Selected indoor plants 1/2 price	60-75% Off Pottery Lowest Prices Since 2008!
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Concrete Fountains, Benches, Statuary and Birdbaths 25% off	Bagged, Shredded Hardwood Mulch \$3.49 (3 cu. ft bags)
Bonsai, Cactus, Succulents 25% off	Bulk Mulch \$19.99 cu. yd. FREE Fill
Fragrant, blooming Citrus Plants 10% Off	Cravens Nursery & Pottery 9023 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax, Virginia 2 miles west of I-495 on Rt. 50. 1 mile from I-66 (Vienna Metro) 703-573-5025 Open 7 days a week Visit our new Web site: www.cravensnursery.com

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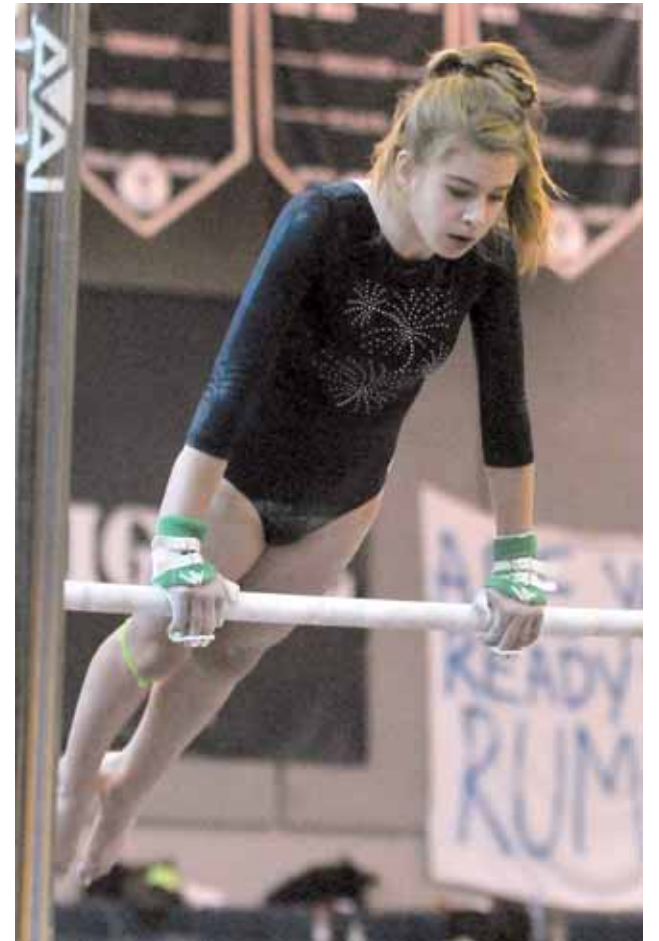
SPORTS



Fairfax senior Rachel Barborek won the all-around competition at the Barbara Reinwald Invitational on Jan. 24 at Washington-Lee High School.



Hayfield junior Molly Overstreet, the defending 6A state bars champion, placed third at the Barbara Reinwald Invitational on Jan. 24 at Washington-Lee High School. Overstreet has been battling back pain this year.



The Woodson gymnastics team placed fifth at the Barbara Reinwald Invitational on Jan. 24 at Washington-Lee High School.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax's Barborek Wins All-Around at W-L Invite

Conference 6 championship meet scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Feb. 2.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

As Rachel Barborek waited to start her floor routine during Saturday's Barbara Reinwald Invitational, the Fairfax senior looked around at the gymnasts and spectators inside the Washington-Lee High School gymnasium and realized most of them were looking right back.

"Today on floor, in one corner I could see everyone was staring at me," Barborek said. "I was like, that's cool, I guess. It doesn't bother me, especially not on floor, because I like to perform."

Barborek put on a show, earning a score of 9.3 and causing onlookers to say things such as "she's so good" and "she's fun to watch." Barborek's performance on floor

helped her overcome a sub-bar performance on beam and eventually capture first place in the all-around on Jan. 24.

Barborek produced a score of 36.525, edging Washington-Lee senior Sophie Hatcher (36.35). W-L's Annie Hatcher placed third (35.35), followed by Yorktown's Juliette Mitrovich (34.975), T.C. Williams' Cailyn Lager (34.925) and Hayfield's Molly Overstreet (34.55).

Barborek's day started with two falls on beam, resulting in a seventh-place finish and a score of 8.55. She bounced back with a second-place finish on floor, a third-place finish on vault (9.2) and first-place performance on bars (9.475).

"It really was not my best at all," Barborek said about her overall performance. "I started with two falls on beam and I really thought that Sophie was going to beat me.

It was a nail-biter at the end."

Washington-Lee won the team title with a score of 105.75 (top-three format). Yorktown finished runner-up (101.55), followed by T.C. Williams (97.725), Fairfax (93.45) and Woodson (90.975).

The ultra-competitive Conference 6 championship meet is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 2 at McLean High School. Barborek is the defending conference all-around champion. She finished second at the 2014 6A North region meet, earning a trip to states.

"I'm pretty confident that I'm going to do well," Barborek said. "I'm just going to practice hard."

McLean senior Lizzy Brown-Kaiser, who finished conference runner-up last year, Washington-Lee's Sophie Hatcher and Annie Hatcher, and Yorktown's Mitrovich could also be in the running for the conference

all-around title.

Hayfield's Overstreet, a junior, captured a three-way share of the AAA vault state championship as a freshman and won the 6A bars state title as a sophomore with a state-record score of 9.925, but has battled a back injury this year. She finished third on bars (8.85) and floor (9.05) Saturday.

The team competition will likely come down to Washington-Lee, the three-time defending region champion, McLean, last year's conference champion and region and state runner-up, and Yorktown. Only the top two teams advance to regionals.

"Our conference is the hardest by far because McLean and W-L have been the top two teams in the region each of the last three years, Yorktown head coach Joanne Price said. "Going up against them in an entry-level meet is a hard position to be in. They're both excellent teams."

The 6A North region meet is scheduled for Feb. 11 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Woodson Hall of Fame Induction

W.T. Woodson High School's third Hall of Fame induction will take place from 1-5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7 at the Grand Atrium in Vienna.

The inductees will include: Gabe Oliverio (basketball, 1965), David Strong (football, basketball, track, 1966), David Marsden (football, basketball, track, 1966), Scott Seagraves (football, wrestling, baseball, 1975), Bill Boice

(wrestling, 1993), Michelle Dodds (tennis, 1990), Billy McCulloch (lacrosse, 2001) and Sarrah Hadiji (cross country, indoor track, outdoor track, 2007).

Basketball Skills Camp

Jump Ball Basketball is running a basketball skills camp for boys and girls in grades 3-8 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 16 at Patrick Henry College in Purcellville. Visit www.catocinbasketball.com to register or email JumpBallBasketballVA@gmail.com for more information.

Register Now for Spring Baseball

Registration is now open for Vienna Little League, home of the 9/10 Virginia State Champs.

Spring baseball is right around the corner. For boys and girls ages 5-12, Vienna Little League offers an excellent program to help develop your child's love for the Great American Pastime.

Tryouts begin Feb. 6. New members meetings will be held Jan. 21 and Feb. 18. Visit www.vll.org for more information and to register online. Come join the fun.

WINTER FUN

Festival map

PHOTOS BY
BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION



Chocolate Festival Event Schedule

Saturday, Feb. 7

◆Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive
Join the Kiwanis Club of Fairfax for its Chocolate Lovers Pancake Breakfast. The menu features pancakes (regular and chocolate chip) and sausage. Coffee, juice and milk also will be served.

◆Face Painting

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive
Children may have their faces painted. Cost is \$2 per child.

◆Taste of Chocolate

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive

◆Chocolate Challenge and Silent Auction

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Nutrition Kitchen, 3950 University Drive

◆Child Fingerprinting

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Historic Fairfax Court House, 4000 Chain Bridge Road
The Fairfax County Sheriff's Office will offer fingerprinting for children.

◆Be Our Valentine: Music with Cody & BJ

11 a.m.
City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St.

◆Harley Eye Candy Photos

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
City of Fairfax Regional Library front porch, 10360 North St.
Sit on a Harley-Davidson motorcycle, courtesy of the Fairfax Harley Owners Group and take photos. (Weather permitting).

◆The Chocolate Caper Mock Trial

Noon — Wolf vs. Pig
Historic Fairfax Courthouse, 4000 Chain Bridge Road
The Fairfax Bar Association will hold a mock trial based on a children's fairytale to explain the justice system to children and adults.

◆Fire Safety Puppet Show

12:30 p.m.
City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St.
Enjoy the City of Fairfax Fire Department's singing puppets as they teach children important fire-safety lessons.



Mayor Scott Silverthorne enjoys a tasty, chocolate confection.

◆So You Think You're Smarter Than a Lawyer?

1:15 p.m.
Historic Fairfax Courthouse, 4000 Chain Bridge Road
Play a legal game against a lawyer.

◆Chocolate-Dipped Tales

2-3 p.m.
City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St.
Kaydee Puppets present a show for children.

◆The Chocolate Caper Mock Trial

2:30 p.m. — Joey Wolfcryer
Historic Fairfax Courthouse, 4000 Chain Bridge Road
The Fairfax Bar Association will hold a mock trial based on a children's fairytale to explain the justice system to children and adults.

◆Cantare

3:30 p.m.
City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St.
Music and magical tales from the heart of the rain forest for all ages.

◆Chocolate and a Movie — The original version of "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," featuring Gene Wilder, will be shown at 7 p.m. at the Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway.

Attendees will receive a "golden" ticket; a drawing will be held at intermission and the winning ticket will

receive a mini iPad. Popcorn and an ice-cream-sundae bar are included in the fun. Admission is \$5/person.

Pre-registration is requested by Feb. 4. Only a limited amount of walk-ins will be allowed. For more information and registration, visit www.chocolatefestival.net and click on "Chocolate & a Movie" under the Events tab.

Or register at: City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St.; Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Road; or the Sherwood Center.

Sunday, Feb. 8

◆Taste of Chocolate

Noon - 4 p.m.
Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive

◆Chocolate Challenge and Silent Auction

Noon - 4 p.m.
Nutrition Kitchen, 3950 University Drive

◆Construct a Cupcake

Noon-4 p.m.,
Twins Ace Hardware, 10310 Main St.,
Complimentary cupcakes to decorate and eat; open to all ages.

◆Fire Safety Puppet Show

12:30 p.m.
City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St.
Enjoy the City of Fairfax Fire Department's singing puppets as they teach children important fire-safety lessons.

◆"Chocolate-Covered Fairytales" with storyteller Gary Lloyd

2 p.m.
City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St.

◆Jonathan Austin - Magic & Juggling

3:30 p.m.
City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St.
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City of Fairfax, the City of Fairfax Police Department will be
disposing of the below listed unclaimed property, by public
auction conducted by an independent auction service, con-
verted to department use or generally disposed of. Any person
who feels they have a legal claim, with reasonable proof of
ownership, should contact MPO Lynn Coulter of the City of
Fairfax Police Department at 703-385-7829 between the hours of
9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekdays until close of business
Friday, February 13, 2015.

Below is a summary list of all items. For a complete list, please
go to the City of Fairfax website:
<http://www.fairfaxva.gov/unclaimedproperty>

- 73 - Assorted Bicycles
- 30 - Assorted Cell Phones
- 9 - Assorted Electronics
- 16 - Miscellaneous items
- 5 - Mopeds

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NEWS

Making Child Care Safe

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn presents new legislation.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D - 41) speaks at a press conference in Richmond on Monday, Jan. 26.

On Monday, Jan. 26, Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D - 41), representing Springfield, Fairfax, Burke, Fairfax Station, was joined by her colleague Del. Rich Anderson (R - 51) of Prince William County, advocates from Child Care Aware, including Burke and 41st District resident, Grace Reef, and parents and grandparents of children who tragically lost their children while in the care of unlicensed day care facilities at a press conference to urge the passage of her 2015 legislation - HB 1552 and HB 2046. "These common-sense bills will help prevent needless deaths and ensure children are in the safest care possible. We shouldn't wait another moment. No family should have to worry about the safety of their children in child care," said Del. Filler-Corn.

Del. Filler-Corn's legislation is aimed at ensuring that child care in Virginia is as safe and accessible. HB 1552 would require licensed child care providers to go through an extensive background check which includes a fingerprint check to ensure that these providers are fully vetted and are who they say they are. Last year, HB 412 with Del. Filler-Corn as the Chief Co-Patron, es-

tablished a work group to make recommendations that could be put into legislation to address this issue. Elly Lafkin, a young mother, lost her first born child in the care of someone with past felony charges, however this information was unknown as her aliases were not picked up in the background check because there was no fingerprinting involved.

"It is tragic that in today's day and age someone with five aliases and felony charges could be allowed to care for a newborn," said Filler-Corn.

Her second bill, HB 2046 would drop the threshold of children allowed in a home for licensed providers. Currently, child care providers that care for six or less unrelated children are exempt from state safety regulations. This bill looks to close that threshold gap to ensure children are safe while in the hands of child care providers.

"People who are in the business of caring for unrelated children, people who are paid every week, whose income is made through caring for children, should have a license," concluded Filler-Corn.

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 -Werner Heisenberg

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

FRIDAY/JAN. 30

Adult English Conversation Group. 1 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Practice your English conversation skills in a fun group setting.

SATURDAY/JAN. 31

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meeting. 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.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.

Boating Safety Class. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 8592 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. State required powerboat safety class provided by U.S Coast Guard Auxiliary. Includes textbook, certificate and card, free membership in Boat US and West Marine discounts. Contact herpomp@yahoo.com or 703-362-7079. \$40

2015 NAACP Fairfax Branch Open House. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Rd., Burke. Meet NAACP branch officers, political officials and network. Newly elected officers will be sworn in during this time. Lunch will be served. Please RSVP by Jan. 20 to fairfaxnaacp@gmail.com. Visit www.fairfaxnaacp.org for more info.

Genealogy Help Desk. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bring your family history stumpers 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.

THURSDAY/FEB. 12

Overcoming Isolation and Setting up a Social Network. 3 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Come and discuss strategies to help you maintain or develop a social network and reduce



Supporting Northern Virginia Family Services

Bellezza Spa of Centreville has collected more than 75 non-perishable food items for Northern Virginia Family Services of Fairfax, while offering a 10 percent discount for any customer who donated five or more canned goods. For more information, go to www.bellezzaspava.com or call 703-266-0063. "We appreciate the support from our customers who helped us contribute to Northern Virginia Family Services food pantry," said Paola Berrios, owner of Bellezza Spa of Centreville. Pictured - from left - Bellezza Spa staff: Anne Brown, esthetician, Tara Kong, nail technician, Stacy Zambrana, manager, and Paola Berrios, owner.

the risk of isolation. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP and for more information.

dementia. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP and for more information.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 18

Diagnosis Dementia...Now What? 1:30 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. This discussion will help you start planning for the future, while also adjusting to a new life with someone who has

ONGOING

Volunteer Fairfax seeks individuals, families, youth and corporate groups for service opportunities at a variety of nonprofit agencies. One-time special events or ongoing activities are available at www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.



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& breakfast nook overlooking flat, fenced backyard. Newly remodeled basement w/family room, game area, legal egress, & storage. Updated bathrooms, new windows, gas heat, garage & more! Close to schools, VRE & Metro bus.



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