

Fairfax Station ❖ Clifton ❖ Lorton
CONNECTION

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OUTLOOK &
WINTER FUN**

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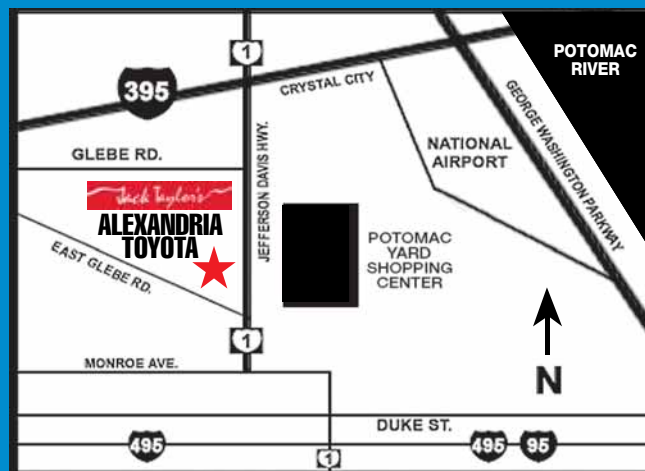
Adult Bald eagle, probably the female, on the rim of the nest at Burke Lake. This eagle landed on the nest rim directly from an apparent courtship flight with the other eagle. Notice that the eagle (she) is looking back and up probably to see if the other bird, (the male) is coming in to mate.

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Let's Go Places



PHOTO BY NORMAN BAYNE

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock being sworn-in by the Speaker of the House John Boehner.



PHOTO BY NORMAN BAYNE

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock with family in her Capitol Hill office.

Serving You in the People's House

Barbara Comstock reflects on her first few weeks in Congress.

BY BARBARA COMSTOCK
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (R-10)

January 2015 marks quite a few new beginnings for the Comstock family – a new Congress, a new job representing the 10th District of Virginia in Congress for me, and our first granddaughter, Hailey Isabel Roller, born on Sunday, Jan. 18, to my daughter Caity and her husband Andrew. A new year, full of new hopes and new beginnings. I have never been so optimistic and committed to getting this country back on track. We must create a country full of opportunity and hope for every child and grandchild in this country. As I've met with my colleagues, it's clear that there is a strong commitment to working together and getting things done for our constituents — first and foremost — growing a healthy economy, helping our hardworking taxpayers make ends meet, dealing with the growing international threats we face, and finding ways we can produce a more efficient and effective government.

OPENING DAY AND SWEARING-IN:

Standing in the halls of Congress with my family and our family priest on Jan. 6, preparing for my swearing in, we couldn't help but see and hear the echoes of the past and consider the heavy responsibility on all who are privileged to serve in these halls. Only a little more than 10,000 people have ever served in Congress throughout our history. It is truly an honor to serve as the first woman to be the 10th District's congresswoman. One of the best things about my job is that unlike many of my colleagues, I



C-SPAN PHOTO

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) speaking on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

get to go back to my district every night and see my constituents at the grocery store, at church, driving into work, on the Metro, at restaurants or just about any place I may go. The people in my district also reflect a broad and diverse group of experts who can provide me with great guidance in any number of issue areas.

On Jan. 6, our first day of session, we held an open house for 10th District constituents. In between meeting constituents, I had the opportunity to do interviews with C-SPAN, and NBC 4 News talking about my first day in Congress and what it was like to be a freshman congresswoman. As noon-time approached, it was time to head to the House Floor. After Speaker Boehner was nominated and sworn in, all of the other Members of Congress jointly took our oaths of office on the House floor together. There were many young children with their parents on the House floor, while parents and spouses were watching us in the House gallery.

The House got right down to work that

afternoon, voting on The Hires More Heroes Act. This important legislation provides a great opportunity to help both veterans and small businesses. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 71 percent of small business owners say Obamacare makes it difficult for them to hire more employees. The Hires More Heroes Act simply allows veterans to stay on the healthcare program provided through the VA or Tricare. The legislation passed unanimously in the House of Representatives. Following the vote I went back to my office and met with more constituents and joined with family and friends in town at numerous celebratory events.

MY COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: I am fortunate that my committee assignments for this session reflect many of the same issues that I worked on in the Virginia General Assembly that are very important to my District. I have been appointed to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the Science, Space and Technology Committee

and the House Administration Committee which oversees the U.S. Capitol itself as well as the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian where many of my constituents work. In my second week, Chairman Lamar Smith appointed me to chair the Research and Development Subcommittee on the Science, Space and Technology Committee. Having worked extensively with our local technology community and having served as the chairwoman of the Science and Technology Committee in the House of Delegates, I was pleased to be able to continue work in this area and particularly focus on how we can best promote and create the jobs of the 21st century. One of the first subcommittee hearings we will have will deal with the challenging issue of cybersecurity.

On the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, we will be tackling a highway bill this year, as well as the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration. Both of these have wide-ranging impacts in our area and I am pleased I will be able to serve on this important committee at this critical time. One of the first bills the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee brought to the House floor was the The Keystone XL Pipeline Act at the end of our first week. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee shares jurisdiction on this important legislation with the Energy and Commerce Committee. My first brief speech on the House floor was in support of the Keystone XL Pipeline. Republicans and Democrats alike, as well as unions like the Teamsters and LIUNA, and groups such as the Tea Party, and the Chamber of Commerce all support this important project. Why? Because it is a jobs bill — plain and simple. Keystone XL passed by a strong bipartisan vote. Now the Senate is expected to pass it with a strong bipartisan majority and it will

SEE COMSTOCK, PAGE 13

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NEIGHBORHOOD OUTLOOK



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION
Alex Soper, owner of All That Glitters, wears a necklace of fools gold fingerling stones on a metal chain from her Alex's Designs collection. Prices range from \$45 to \$12

All That Glitters is located at 7144 Main Street, Clifton, across from the Trattoria Villagio Restaurant.

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All That Glitters Caters to the Fashion-Conscious

In addition to jewelry, Clifton store sells designer handbags, home décor, scarves, bath products.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

All That Glitters, located in the Town of Clifton, is an accessories and jewelry boutique that specializes in fashion-forward pieces and vintage designs. Located in the historic Weaver House, at 7144 Main Street across from the Trattoria Villagio Restaurant, the store is owned by Alexandra Soper, who took over three years ago from Martha Mikeska. In addition to a vast selection of fashion jewelry, the store sells scarves, candles, bath products, designer handbags and home decor. Some of the designer names it offers are Brighton, Vera Bradley, Pandora, Anne Coplik, John Medeiros and Kelly Rae Roberts. "My whole vision when I took over the store was to create a place where women could come and find any type of jewelry piece; I try to carry a wide variety of styles and price points to appeal to everyone," said Soper. Her target market is fashion-conscious, affluent women ages 30-65. She has one of the 12 women-owned businesses in the Town of Clifton.

Soper also offers personal styling services for \$50 per hour, a one-stop shop for closet audits and styling needs. For event styling, she'll go along as a personal shopper and help you pick out items, for say, a wedding or fancy event. For the closet audit, she'll edit your closet to see what's out of style, and donate items to Goodwill or a consignment shop. With her concierge service, she'll find pieces for



John Medeiros cuff bracelets in rhodium platinum and 14 carat gold can be stacked with other bracelets. From \$105 to \$115.



Spartina 449 handbags and accessories from Daufuskie Island, S.C., feature products made of linen trimmed with leather that come in geometric and simple patterns. Handbags range from \$75 to \$210; wallets are \$50.

you to try on in the comfort of your own home; it's for someone who has no time to shop. Her styling service packages range from \$100 to \$300 based on need. All That Glitters also offers a wish list service that makes gift giving for men really easy. When men come in and give their wife's or girlfriend's name, they have three to five items



The Lampe Berger home fragrance system from France comes in a wide variety of fragrances from florals to musky tones. Lamps are \$30 to \$70; fragrances are \$25 to \$40.



A handmade silver necklace from Bali and a turquoise necklace in sterling silver from Taxco, Mexico. The Bali collection includes earrings, bracelets, pendants and necklaces and prices range from \$28 to \$400.

to choose from rather than the whole store. "So for men, it's really easy and simple," said Soper, who worked at the store for 10 years before taking over and giving it a facelift. All That Glitters is located at 7144 Main Street, Clifton. Call 703-830-6995. Visit www.allthatglittersva.com or email info@allthatglittersva.com.



PEOPLE

Bill Reynolds

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 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.

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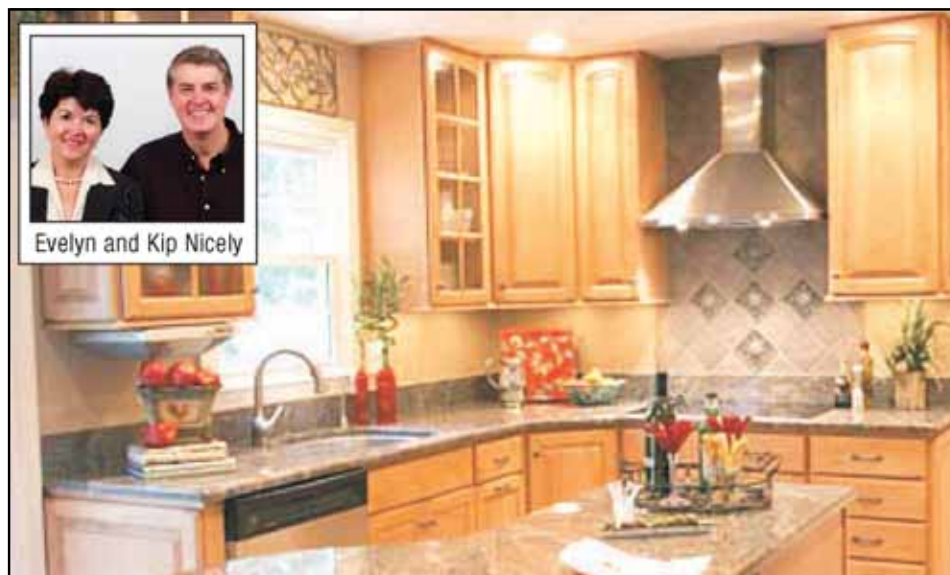
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Outlook

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).

Submissions should arrive by Feb. 18.

Email editors@connectionnewspapers.com, or submit photos and stories directly on our website at www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter

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



NEIGHBORHOOD OUTLOOK

The Changing Face of Fairfax Station, Lorton and Clifton

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

In largely residential areas, land use officials in the offices of Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) and Jeff McKay (D-Lee) say to expect to see more “infill” redevelopment in the future. Most of Fairfax County is “built out,” so these are instances of larger lots or previously unconsolidated parcels being redeveloped and revitalized to increase the residence, retail or office capacity of the land.

1. Gambrill Pointe subdivision: These 20 homes built on 11 acres at roughly Gambrill Pointe Court and Ridge Creek Way were built in 2014 and are in the process of being sold.

2. Park Pointe subdivision: 18 single family homes on 7.7 acres have been approved on the east side of Gambrill Road, near the Fairfax County Parkway. The plan is currently in the site review stage of redevelopment.

3. Madison Homes development: The developer Madison Homes is working on a subdivision of 12 single family homes on 5 acres around 6408 Spring Lake Drive. That plan is currently in the site review stage of redevelopment, but could see construction take place in 2015.

4. Corbet Manor: Seven single family homes on 4.5 acres of what were previously unconsolidated parcels of land will be located around 7717 Gambrill Road.

5. Monopole in Clifton: The Clifton Creek substation of Dominion Virginia Power already has a monopole on a 95-acre site around 12895 Clifton Creek Road, however Dominion and Verizon Wireless have applied to move the pole to a different location with more height. No date is set for the development, but Herry’s office expects some time early this year.

6. Vulcan Materials Graham Quarry: Vulcan, together with the Fairfax County Water Authority, are proposing ways to

increase the area in the former Lorton Prison property that can be mined. One collaborative possibility is using the dug-out quarry as a water holding reservoir.

7. Wegmans at Hilltop Village Center: Though the new destination grocery-restaurant was previously slated for a late spring opening, Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) now says to expect an opening in the May-June timeframe — among other reasons, due to the substantial training employees must go through. The 350,000 square-foot facility will be an anchor at Hilltop Village Center (the corner of Telegraph Road and Beulah Street), which will also feature a gym and other retail.

“One thing we’ve experienced at the Springfield Town Center is its popularity is unbelievable,” said McKay. “And the appetite, especially for restaurants, literally, is so big in that area, that the more we can build and provide services to people closer to where they live, the better.”





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NEIGHBORHOOD OUTLOOK



Eagle Nest at Burke Lake.



A soaring adult Bald Eagle.



A resplendent male Red-breasted Merganser at Burke Lake.

Bald Eagles and Winter Waterfowl at Burke Lake

Winter is a great time to see eagles.

By DONALD SWEIG
THE CONNECTION

A pair of nesting bald eagles and often colorful, transient, wintering waterfowl are two of winter's best attractions on the 218-acre Burke Lake, at Burke Lake Park in Fairfax Station. The very large Eagle nest high in the naked leafless trees is easily seen from the shoreline by the boat launch or from the floating pier nearby; just look across the lake to the north.

On any given day you may or may not see the eagles on or near the nest. Bald eagles tend to use the same nest year after year, adding additional sticks and branches each year until the nest can become quite large and quite heavy, as much as 7 or 8 feet in diameter and 10 or 12 feet deep, and weighing 1,000 pounds or more. The Burke Lake eagle nest has been there for a number of years.

BALD EAGLES, in the mid-Atlantic/Chesapeake region usually mate and lay eggs in mid-February. They incubate the eggs for about a

month (34 to 36 days) before the chicks hatch, and then it takes about 10 to 12 weeks before the young, juvenile eagles are ready to fledge and leave the nest.

In late January or especially early February the adult eagles can sometimes be seen mating on a branch or snag near the nest. Soon after, one may see a white head slightly sticking above the edge of the nest as the eagles incubate their eggs.

seen walking and bounding around in the nest, and flapping their wings, although at this point they're still being fed by their parents. By mid to late June they should be fledged and have left the nest.

Young Bald Eagles are almost entirely brown when they first leave the nest; by the end of the first and during second year they begin to get some transient white on the body or under the wings.

binoculars and have a look for yourself from the boat launch area or the floating pier.

Bald eagles are a very special bird, they're always fun to see.

Also, most winters, particularly in late January, all of February, and in early March, Burke Lake also hosts a good variety of interesting, often colorful, and beautiful wintering waterfowl. One may see Common, Red-breasted, and Hooded Mergansers, Common and Red-throated loons; Bufflehead, Ruddy ducks, Ring-necked ducks, Gadwall, Pied-billed and Horned Grebes, and in 2014 even a number of White-winged Scoters.

JUST GOING TO LOOK is all part of the adventure; one never knows what one may find. (Perhaps even a Common Goldeneye ... you never know). Most of the waterfowl should be easy to see; take some binoculars and some kind of a bird book guide if you have one. The birds are frequently in the middle of the lake or flying back-and-forth over the lake.

They are often or usually visible from the shoreline at the boat launch, on the path that goes around to the north toward the dam, or from the dam itself.

So go have a look. The winter wonders at Burke Lake may just be too good to miss.

To Go

BURKE LAKE PARK
7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039
703-323-6600
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burkelakepark>



Male Common Merganser landing on Burke Lake.



Adult Bald eagle, probably the female, on the rim of the nest at Burke Lake. This eagle landed on the nest rim directly from an apparent courtship flight with the other eagle. Notice that the eagle (she) is looking back and up probably to see if the other bird, (the male) is coming in to mate.



Two adult Bald Eagles flying together over Burke Lake in what was apparently courtship flight.

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WINTER FUN

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?

CALENDAR

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



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.

social construct, tradition, myth, and fairytale.

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."

SATURDAY/JAN.31-SUNDAY/APRIL5

Reference. W-16 - Vulcan Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Reference is a multi-media exploration of the various modes of influence that inform visual artists in both content and process. In Reference, participating artists incorporate performance, sound, process, and imagery to address the strong influence of other artists, visual and otherwise, upon their creative output as well as their deepest philosophical

and spiritual understandings. No ticket required.
www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

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>.
Winter Lecture: Ornamental Edible Garden. 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Historic Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Designer Sandra Clinton will share the delightful history of kitchen gardens. Learn how to make your edible landscape pleasing to the eye as well as to your taste buds. \$10 (out-of-county and walk-ins \$12.) Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 182 2201 or call 703-642-5173.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11



Enjoy Island Creek Elementary School, Kingstowne For Sale By Owner • \$299,000

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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.

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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

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.

SUNDAY/FEB. 8

T-TRAK Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. 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.

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. Tickets are \$10 General Admission, \$5 Senior/Military. Students/Children are free with a paying adult. www.nationalconcertband.org.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 11

Coping with Life Behind Bars: Art and Music. 7:30 p.m. W-3 Theatre, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. A panel discussion about the liberating and rehabilitative power of art and music for offenders of all ages. A special display of art created by D.C. prisoners will be on view. Part of the Prison Lecture Series. Free, \$10 suggested donation. Register in advance. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

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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 Segraves (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.

Comstock: First Few Weeks on the Hill

FROM PAGE 3

go to the President's desk. While the President has already threatened a veto before we even passed the bill, I would hope that the broad bipartisan support for this jobs bill would be cause for the President's reconsideration.

GROWING RANKS OF WOMEN IN CONGRESS: This year marks the first time there have been over 100 women serving in Congress. In the first weeks, we had a meeting of the bipartisan Women's Caucus and we discussed issues where we can work together. Over the holidays, I had already gotten together with a Democrat friend of mine, Rep. Debbie Dingell, to discuss how we can work together on my Young Women's Leadership Program that I first started in 2013. I look forward to continuing to work on this program to expose young women to women leaders who serve in a broad range of professions and we will be starting our application process again this spring. As my first weeks coincided with my daughter Caity and her husband Andrew preparing for the birth of their daughter, Hailey, I feel even more blessed to have this privilege to serve our community and prepare for the best future for the next generation.

KEEP IN TOUCH: As has been the case for the five years I served as the delegate for the 34th District, my door will always be open for all of my constituents in Virginia's 10th District. I want to continue the great tradition of Congressman Frank Wolf's



PHOTO BY NORMAN BAYNE

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock with constituents at her open house in the Cannon House Office Building.

much heralded constituent service. That is why we hired many of his district staff to continue in their positions. We are opening up an office in Sterling at 21430 Cedar Drive, Suite 218, and if you are on Capitol Hill stop by 226 Cannon House Office Building to say hello. We also will have a Winchester office that will open in March. Fortunately, we were given the same phone number as Congressman Wolf's 202-225-5136 and you can follow what's going on in Congress by visiting Comstock.House.Gov. If you are on Facebook go to facebook.com/RepBarbaraComstock and "Like" our page and if you are on Twitter go to twitter.com/RepComstock to follow our activities. Once again, I look forward to serving you in the people's house.

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 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

2ND ANNUAL Boys & Girls Club Fairfax Casino Night

Friday, March 6, 2015

The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREATER WASHINGTON FAIRFAX COUNTY REGION

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington/Fairfax Region help hundreds of at-risk youth every day right here in Fairfax County.

Casino Night is a fun-filled evening featuring:

- Full complement of staffed gaming tables including Texas Hold 'em, Black Jack and Craps, Roulette
- Fabulous dinner buffet * open bar * amazing raffles, live and silent auction
- Celebrity Emcee with music and dancing.

The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner

1700 Tysons Boulevard, McLean, Virginia 22102 • On the Silver Line

Tickets: www.bgcgw.org/fairfax/casino-night/

Friday, March 6, 2015
6:30-11:30pm

Tickets: \$95.00 per person,
\$175.00 per couple
Special Overnight Guest Room Rate
at the Ritz-Carlton for
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We invite your organization to consider sponsorship opportunities for our 2nd Annual Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, Fairfax Region Casino Night.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington/Fairfax Region help boys and girls of all backgrounds build confidence, develop character, and acquire skills fundamental to becoming productive, civic-minded, responsible adults. BGCGW provides a safe and positive environment for our youth.

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Sunday Worship:

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21 Announcements

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auction conducted by an independent auction service, con-
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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

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
We are pleased to announce that

Mount Vernon Cardiology Associates, Ltd.
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To make an appointment or
To request medical records please contact:

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Alexandria, VA 22310

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NEWS

Making Child Care Safe

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn presents new legislation.

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-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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

established 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.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

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. 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

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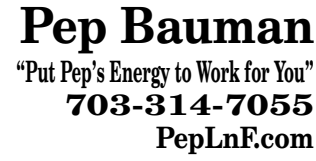


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