

Springfield CONNECTION

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Inside NEIGHBORHOOD OUTLOOK & WINTER FUN

ECHO Volunteer Turns 90

PEOPLE, PAGE 7

Mary Stuart (center) of Springfield was joined by friends and volunteers at ECHO in Springfield to celebrate her 90th birthday.



The Changing Face of Springfield

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTLOOK, PAGE 4

Supervisors Defer Decision on Salary Adjustment

NEWS, PAGE 3

Delegates, State Senators Hold Springfield Town Hall Meeting

Residents bring questions for legislators.

BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO
THE CONNECTION

State senators George Barker (D-39), Linda T. “Toddy” Puller (D-36), Adam P. Ebbin (D-30), Del. Mark D. Sickles (D-43), and Supervisor Jeffrey C. McKay (D-Lee District) held a town hall meeting on Saturday, Jan. 24 at the Thompson Center in Alexandria.

More than 40 people attended despite the overcast, drizzly weather. The panel acknowledged Puller, who announced her retirement earlier this month, and her work in the Virginia senate before talking about bills and issues they are working on during this short session of the General Assembly, which is scheduled to end Feb. 28.

With the conviction of former governor Bob McDonnell and Del. Joseph Morrissey, ethics was an



PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO/THE CONNECTION

From left, Supervisor Jeffrey McKay, state senators Adam P. Ebbin and Linda T. Puller, Del. Mark D. Sickles, and state senator George Barker hold a town hall meeting at Thompson Center in Alexandria on Saturday, Jan. 24.

echoing concern for this session. Sickles called for a “tightening of the ethics situation.” He is working on HB 2060, which requires reporting of travel expenses and reimbursements to an advisory council for review. Meanwhile, Ebbin will legislate SB 1289, which calls for the establishment of an ethics commission, a database for financial disclosures, and the curtailment of the value of gifts to officials.

Sen. Barker, who is working on 31 bills that run the gamut from education to mental health, said that his expectations for this session are modest. “I’m very pleased with the way the session started out. I think it’s going to be a constructive session.”

ATTENDEES, some representing specific causes, brought their questions for the legislators. Dick Kennedy, of the National Organi-

zation for Marijuana Reform, asked what can be done to further the marijuana bill. One of Sen. Ebbin’s bills aims to reduce the penalty for small amounts of marijuana possession to a civil fine instead of a criminal offense.

Bill Almasi, of Alexandria, asked about the proposal to rename a portion of Route 1, Richmond Highway, after Congressman James P. Moran. He said that it would be contrary to the congressman’s character and record to have something named after him. Supervisor McKay, who supported the renaming request, said that it is an effort to recognize Congressman Moran’s work, and he also deferred the issue to the jurisdiction of Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon).

Pavel Ivanov, of Alexandria, asked the legislators about energy efficiency. He asked that builders orient windows and new houses south in order to use active not passive solar. “Subsidies give us a bad name,” he said.

“What’s next for residential and commercial properties?” asked Vincent Johnson, of Kingstowne. Supervisor McKay said that resi-

dential offices are planned and that surface parking at Springfield Town Center will be gone. He added that the construction of an urban park between the Metro and the mall will improve the experience walking between the two locations. Though the plans around Springfield Town Center may take 10 years, he said, “It will happen.”

Del. Sickles and Sens. Puller and Ebbin listed the services and legislation for veterans issues in answer to Lt. Col. Deborah Snyder’s question. Del. Sickles said that two veteran centers are underway in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads. Sen. Puller addressed the work of Virginia Values Veterans and its partnership with businesses that hire veterans.

SEN. BARKER brought up Gov. Terry McAuliffe’s goal to eliminate veteran homelessness in Virginia this year, by Veterans’ Day. Supervisor McKay said that the efforts to count the homeless population, which began last year, will help in achieving this goal.

Norma Byron, of Kingstowne,

SEE TOWN HALL, PAGE 5

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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

The Changing Face of Springfield

Land use (re)development highlights.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

1. GSA: The largely vacant warehouse off Loisdale Road in Springfield is currently in the running to become the new headquarters of the FBI. The building, owned by the General Services Administration (GSA) is up against other options Greenbelt and Landover, though the phase of sites making offers won't be completed until late winter. The GSA is accepting development proposals through Feb. 10 to revitalize the site up to 2.1 million rentable square feet to house the FBI.

2. 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."

3. Corridor study of Van Dorn Street Corridor: "This year, I would like to determine if we can take advantage of the city of Alexandria that's already study-



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

The gleaming new mall is the first of multiple revitalization plans for Springfield Town Center (STC). Later stages include residential, office and hotel space, but their development will be dictated by the performance of the market, how the mall performs.

ing that corridor," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), "and tie into that all the way down to Kingstowne. I would love to see a bus rapid transit system put in on Van Dorn. We're not interested in widening it; we widened it to death in Fairfax County."

4. Bonefish Grille parking lot area: Kingstowne in general is taking a look at the town center, thinking about ways to liven up to compete with Springfield Town Center. The Bonefish parking lot has already

been approved for building four office structures, including a special exception to allow for a residential component. The mix of condos, apartments and age-restricted housing has gone through rezoning but is still in preliminary stages.

5. Liberty View: This 13.45-acre site near Beulah Street and the Fairfax County Parkway was approved for single family home neighborhoods, four office buildings and fifth structure that would be either a

hotel or office building, was approved in 2011 but progress stalled due to the office market and Sequestration. Plans are moving forward, albeit slowly.

6. STC: The gleaming new mall is the first of multiple revitalization plans for Springfield Town Center (STC). Later stages include residential, office and hotel space, but their development will be dictated by the performance of the market, how the mall performs.

7. Jennings Toyota: The new car dealership off Loisdale Road has already been completed, on a landfill no less. Part of that construction included a proffer for a new turf field at Loisdale park. That field is finished but won't be available for use until the spring.

8. Corbet Manor: 7717 Gambrill Road (Springfield/Fairfax Station). 7 Single family homes on 4.5 acres. Previously consolidated parcels.

9. 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.

10. 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.

Sources: Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and land use aide, Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) land use aide, the office of U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11).

Schools to Expand by \$856 Million

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



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

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.

"This is a plan," said Springfield School Board member Elizabeth Schultz. "What's

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

10 unidentified elementary schools will also begin construction after 2021.

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

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.

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."

News Town Hall

FROM PAGE 2

came because she wanted to know where she can bring a spotlight to the treatment that her husband Gene, who suffers from Alzheimer's, received at the Inova Alexandria Hospital on Jan. 1. Sen. Barker asked the Byrons to talk to him after the meeting.

Sen. Barker said that the issue of Medicaid expansion contributed to a level of tension last year that is not present in this session. "There's not one major dominant issue governing the session, and that always fosters good relations" because there is no divisive topic. Medicaid expansion "had everybody on edge a little bit," he said.

Legislative Priorities and Accomplishments, Highlights from the Town Hall Meeting

State Sen. George Barker (D-39th)

❖ Sen. Barker will serve in a four-year legislative committee on mental health reform.

❖ He has worked on making texting and driving something over which a driver can be pulled over.

State Sen. Linda T. Puller (D-36th)

❖ Sen. Puller announced her retirement earlier this month, but she will remain in office until there is a new person sworn in.

❖ She is working on a recommendation to extend Metro to Hybla Valley and bus transit to Prince William County.

❖ Her legislation on SB 675/SB 676 culminated in the opening of two Veteran Care Centers in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads, which will provide help to veterans, many suffering from PTSD, she said.

Del. Mark Sickles (D-43rd)

❖ Del. Sickles said that he is planning to work on a new Virginia Preschool Initiative, which would provide tuition assistance grants to parents of each qualifying 4-year old.

❖ He is also working on improving the special elections process and reducing the "too many political considerations," which would help candidates to win primary elections by giving voters more time to get to know them. There is not enough time between the primaries and the elections, he said.

❖ He also plans to address Medicaid fraud, which will help clear up reservations regarding expansion. The Medicaid fraud prevention bill would ensure that financial institutions provide financial information about applicants. "Many people game the system and try to hide assets."

More Information on 2015 State and County Legislation and Priorities

Senators
<http://apps.senate.virginia.gov/Senator/index.php>

Delegates
<http://virginiageneralassembly.gov/house/members/members.php>

Board of Supervisors
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/>

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OPINION 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

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PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Mary Stuart (center) of Springfield was joined by friends and volunteers at ECHO in Springfield to celebrate her 90th birthday. (From left) Ann Harahan, Dot Saia, Liz Alber, Sharon Crandall, Anita Eitler, Myriam Peterson, Camille Reilly, Margaret Norton, Mary Stuart, Jean Chandler, Bruce Chandler, Carol Rickord, Jean Hamilton, Barbara McDonnell, Ann Marie Quinn, Marianne DeHart, Linda Lindemuth, Elizabeth Savoie and Gabe Bajusz.

ECHO Volunteer Turns 90

Springfield resident Mary Stuart celebrated.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Mary Stuart of Springfield has been volunteering at ECHO for over a decade. She works in the linens and housewares departments of the faith-based charity (Ecumenical Community Helping Others), putting together donated sheets, towels and bathmats for clients.

On Friday, Jan. 23, she followed up her shift by celebrating her 90th birthday with pizza, cake and other volunteers.

Barbara McDonnell, also of Springfield, volunteers with Stuart in housewares and sang with her in the choir at St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Springfield.

"She's fun, outgoing, you'd never know for her age," said McDonnell. "She's very organized and good to work with."

Anita Eitler of Springfield shares three-hour shifts with Stuart each Wednesday and Friday. She said it's amazing how long Stuart has been able to keep volunteering.

"A lot of people who have gone through ECHO, after a while either have physical problems, family problems," she said. "They

give as much as they can, then decide can't do it anymore. Mary enjoys people and you want to get out when you enjoy people."

Stuart was born in the Bronx, N.Y., where she raised her daughter Marylinda and son Billy. Marylinda (married, now Doherty) settled in Northern Virginia, and Stuart left New York to move closer to her in the early 2000s.

Shortly after moving to Springfield, Stuart heard about ECHO and decided to sign up to volunteer. "And I've been here ever since," she said.

In addition to volunteering, Stuart attributes her independence and health to regular physical activity with her miniature cocker spaniel Lady.

"When you get near my age, you have to get yourself a dog," she said. "I walk my dog four times a day. In the summertime, I do a mile. It's the best thing to do, keeps blood moving."

Stuart is one of roughly 400 on ECHO's total volunteer bench, helping a client base of over 1,500 individuals and moving over 200,000 pounds of donated food per year.

"It's so sad; we are so lucky," said Stuart. "It's sad when a vet will come and knock on our door, and he has nothing."

"One client hugged me and cried so hard. It was a feeling that you've got to come back and work here, you just have to."

For more information about volunteering or donating to ECHO, visit www.echo-inc.org.

VOLUNTEER EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Fairfax County's free **Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group** meets by phone on **Tuesday, Feb. 10, 7-8 p.m.** to discuss Caregiving and Basic Tax Concerns. The guest speaker is an AARP Tax Aide Program Specialist who will share some basic tax information, as well as when to get an accountant or attorney involved. Register beforehand at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices and click on Telephone Caregiver Support Group. Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711.

The **Lewinsville Senior Center** in **McLean** needs an **office assistant** and instructors for the following classes: **Current**

Events, Knitting/Crocheting, Certified Arthritis Exercise, Ballroom Dance, Square Dance, and Tai Chi. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Gum Springs Senior Center** in **Alexandria** needs a **Spanish teacher** for a one hour beginner's class on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.



Be Part of The February Pet Connection

Send Your Photos & Stories Now to springfield@connectionnewspapers.com

or complete our online form at springfieldconnection.com

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



Fireside Grill



Celebrate Valentine's Weekend Feb. 13-15

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Thursday-Saturday 4-9 p.m.

**9000 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton, VA
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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

FEBRUARY

2/4/2015..Valentine's Dining & Gifts I

2/4/2015.....Wellbeing - National

Children's Dental Health Month

2/11/2015.....HomeLifeStyle

2/11/2015.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts II

Valentine's Day is Feb. 14

Presidents Day is Feb. 16

2/18/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools

2/25/2015.....Pet Connection Pullout

MARCH

3/4/2015.....Wellbeing

3/11/2015..HomeLifeStyle Real Estate Pullout

3/18/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools

3/25/2015.....Spring Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment

FCPS Spring Break 3/30-4/3

APRIL

4/1/2015.....Wellbeing - Senior Living Pullout

Easter Sunday is April 5

4/8/2015.....HomeLifeStyle

4/15/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools

4/22/2015.....Real Estate Pullout - New Homes

4/29/2015..Mother's Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts I

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- Vienna/Oakton Connection

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.

Late in their third year, and during their fourth year they become sexually mature and get the white heads and tails that are so characteristic and charismatic of our national bird. If you would like to see the eagle nest, and perhaps the eagles in it or nearby, take some

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
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<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burkelakepark>



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.

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

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Saturday, February 7th, 2015
10:00am to 2:00pm

Where: 5795B Burke Centre Pkwy
Burke, VA 22015

(located behind the Kohl's shopping center)

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 - Thinking your project through? How do you compare?
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Seminars run from 10-12pm.
Lunch to follow.
Please arrive at 9:45am for check-in.

Seating is limited!

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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 Rachel 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: Lights 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.

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

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.



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2ND ANNUAL Boys & Girls Club Fairfax Casino Night

Friday, March 6, 2015

The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner



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



We invite your organization to consider sponsorship opportunities for our 2nd Annual Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, Fairfax Region Casino Night.

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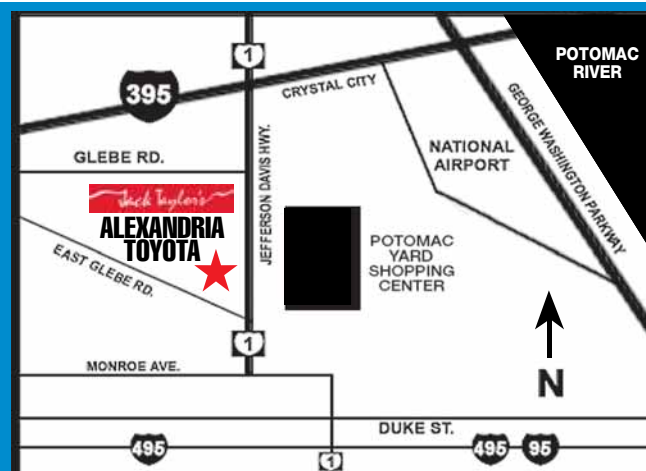
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Let's Go Places

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 Hadji (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.

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21 Announcements

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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, convert-
ed 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

21 Announcements

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6355 Walker Ln, Suite 406
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Lorton Office:
703.780.9014
8988 Lorton Station Blvd, Suite 200
Lorton, VA 22079

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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.

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.

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
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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

the risk of isolation. 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

dementia. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP and for
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ONGOING

Volunteer Fairfax seeks individuals, families, youth
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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.



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Preparing for an active 2015 Selling Season!

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JON SAMPSON
jon.sampson@longandfoster.com
jonsampsonrealtor.com
703-307-4357

This is the time to prepare for the spring market! Contact me for professional advice and council. I will gladly meet with you to make and execute plans to maximize the value of your home.



Cheryl Pryor
REALTOR® ckpryor@msn.com
703-801-9985
1st time HOME BUYERS don't stay on the sidelines, call me!

NOW is the PERFECT TIME to Buy a Home... Interest Rates are the Lowest in Years!



Sheila Adams
703-503-1895
Life Member, NVAR Multi-Million Dollar Sales Club
Life Member, NVAR TOP PRODUCERS



Fairfax \$420,000
Beautiful Fair Ridge Immaculate bright & sunny townhome, offering 3 BR's 2 full/2 half Baths, Skylight, Eat in Kitchen, Bay Window, Living Room features a wood burning FP, Glass slider steps out to deck, perfect for entertaining, Finished W/O Lower Level. Garage plus long driveway holds 2 more cars. Bus one block away to Vienna Metro. Call Sheila Adams 703-503-1895



Mary Hovland
703-946-1775
Cathy DeLoach
571-276-9421
Your REALTORS® Next Door

BARBARA NOWAK & GERRY STAUDTE
"My Virginia Home Team"
703-473-1803, 703-309-8948
gerry.staudte@longandfoster.com
www.MyVirginiaHomeTeam.com



Fairfax \$565,000
Beautiful 4 BR/2.5 BA Colonial in Kings Park West. New Kitchen - custom 42" cabinetry, granite, SS appliances & 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.



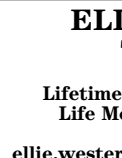
Centreville \$1700
Fantastic Rental 2 BR, 2 1/2 BA, 3 level townhouse w/1st floor Hardwoods, SS appliances, finished LL w/Rec Rm, 1/2 BA & W/O to deck. Short term lease considered.



Richard Esposito
703-503-4035
Richard@LNF.com
Service is the difference I provide.



Beacon Pond Burke Centre
The 2015 housing market is starting off to be a very strong season. I have already sold 2 Burke Centre homes! For more information on Burke Centre and your home - call me today. "I work and live in Burke Centre"
Richard Esposito
703-856-2529



ELLIE WESTER
703-503-1880
L&F Founder's Club
Lifetime NVAR Top Producer
Life Member, NVAR Million Dollar Sales Club
ellie.wester@longandfoster.com



Fairfax Sunroom \$503,900
The beautiful sunroom on the main level is just one of the many wonderful reasons to own this home. Gleaming hardwood on two levels, brand new carpet on the bedroom and rec room level, breathtaking back yard, patio and decking and a one-car garage in the Woodson HS district.

Access the Realtors' Multiple Listing Service: www.searchvirginia.listingbook.com