

# Springfield CONNECTION

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Newington

## Bulova to Create Transparency Review Commission

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Inside

## PET CONNECTION



# Meet Springfield's Best Friends

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Colin Hunt, 7, of Springfield with his new dog Hailey.  
"We couldn't remember the name Lucy, so I named her Hailey," he said.





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*Nitin Goyal, MD*

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## Community Reviews Plans for Silas Burke Property

**M**embers of the Burke and West Springfield communities were invited to review the plans of Sunrise Development, LLC to build an assisted living facility on the property of the Silas Burke House. The meeting was held Tuesday, Feb. 24 at the West Springfield Government Center.

Sunrise Development has applied for the property to be rezoned to accommodate the more densely populated living space they intend to build.

Though some have expressed concern for the well-being of the nearly 200-year-old former residence of Silas Burke himself if a new building were to go up nearby, Sunrise's proposal includes a guarantee that the house, "accessory structures" like the iconic windmill and immediate surrounding property, will be protected and maintained.

"The neat thing there is we're able to preserve the Silas Burke house in perpetuity," said Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), "without a big investment from the county, in a very tight fiscal time."

— TIM PETERSON



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUNRISE SENIOR LIVING

The rendering from Sunrise shows the existing Silas Burke house on the left, with a concept for the Sunrise community behind the house on the right.

## Bulova to Create Transparency Review Commission

Group would include citizens, legal community and other organizations.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hen Alexandria resident Natasha McKenna was removed from life support and died on Feb. 8, the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office posted a release on the county website. It was an update to an earlier post on Feb. 5 that explained McKenna was an inmate at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center who experienced a "medical emergency" on Feb. 3.

McKenna was scheduled to be moved to the Alexandria Adult Detention Center that day. When she fought against deputies transporting her, they used tasers to restrain her. At that point, the Fairfax County Police Department was notified and an investigation of McKenna's "in-custody inmate death" began.

February 19, the Police Department released another update, an 800-word description of the events leading up to McKenna's arrest and death.

She had called Fairfax County police

herself on Jan. 25 to report being assaulted. Officers accompanied her to a hospital and through a record check discovered an outstanding arrest warrant for assaulting an Alexandria police officer back on Jan. 15.

Though the officers involved have yet to be named, the content and amount of information released in under two weeks since McKenna's death is comparable to that which it took the county over a year to release following the officer killing of Springfield resident John Geer.

According to Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova, that was indicative of the board's commitment to "making a stronger effort than before to make sure that we're putting out as much info as possible."

Amid Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, writing letters to the county as to why Geer's investigation has taken so long and how it's been handled, as well as public pressure from organizations such as the Justice for John Geer Facebook group and Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability, Bulova previously announced the board would seek

outside expertise to examine its policies for releasing information on police action.

**AT THE FEB. 17 MEETING** of the board, supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) introduced a draft policy for transparency that had been making its way to the Fairfax City Council.

"You don't have to look far to find a good policy on transparency," said Herrity. "If this had been enforced, we wouldn't have had a lot of the problems with the Geer case."

That Fairfax proposal mandated a release of basic facts, any conflicting information and confirmed identities of individuals involved with the incident — all within 72 hours of the incident itself.

"There were some good recommendations," Bulova said, "but I'm not sure that is the only thing that we want to consider. We're prepared to take a look at a number of models and best practices, to include the one the city of Fairfax is considering."

February 20, Bulova took another step and announced the creation of a new commission, made up of citizens, members of the legal community and other organizations such as the NAACP, to review police policies.

"This gives the community an opportunity to take part in our review," said Bulova.

In her release, the Chairman named Michael Hershman, founder of the Fairfax Group and a citizen appointee to the Board of Supervisors Audit Committee, chair of this commission. She plans to bring it before the Board in its March 3 meeting for endorsement. At that time, Bulova has said she will also announce the rest of the commission's membership.

Though the commission is a step, Herrity remains critical of the Board's lack of open discussion on the Geer case and others involving excessive and or lethal force by police officers.

"The most disturbing thing to me is we haven't had a Public Safety Committee meeting in well over a year," he said. "I don't know why not, there's not a good answer. And too much of the board's discussion has been in closed session. We need to get out into open session and have a dialog on our policies and practices and get them fixed."

**BULOVA'S COMMISSION** will have the opportunity to review both the county's search for "independent expertise" on releasing information on officer-involved incidents and the Police Department's policies and training regarding use of force.



# Fairfax County REAL ESTATE

## 2015 Assessments by Area

Hunter Mill Supervisor **Cathy Hudgins (D)** saw no change in her home assessment. This year, her home was worth \$638,100, same as last year.



Dranesville Supervisor **John Foust (D)** saw a 0.75% increase in his property value when compared to 2014. The county valued Foust's house at \$2,917,660 last year and \$2,939,290 this year.



Mason Supervisor **Penelope Gross (D)** saw her home value go up 4.91% from \$440,970 in 2014 to \$462,630 in 2015.



Lee Supervisor **Jeff McKay (D)** saw his assessment go up 9.07% from \$710,220 in 2014 to \$774,620 in 2015.



Braddock Supervisor **John Cook (R)** saw a 4.68% increase in the value of his home over the last year. Cook's home was assessed at \$634,760 in 2014 and \$664,480 in 2015.



Fairfax County Chairman **Sharon Bulova (D)** saw her home value go up 7.36% from \$601,550 in 2014 to \$645,380 in 2015.

Mount Vernon Supervisor **Gerry Hyland** has no property listed.



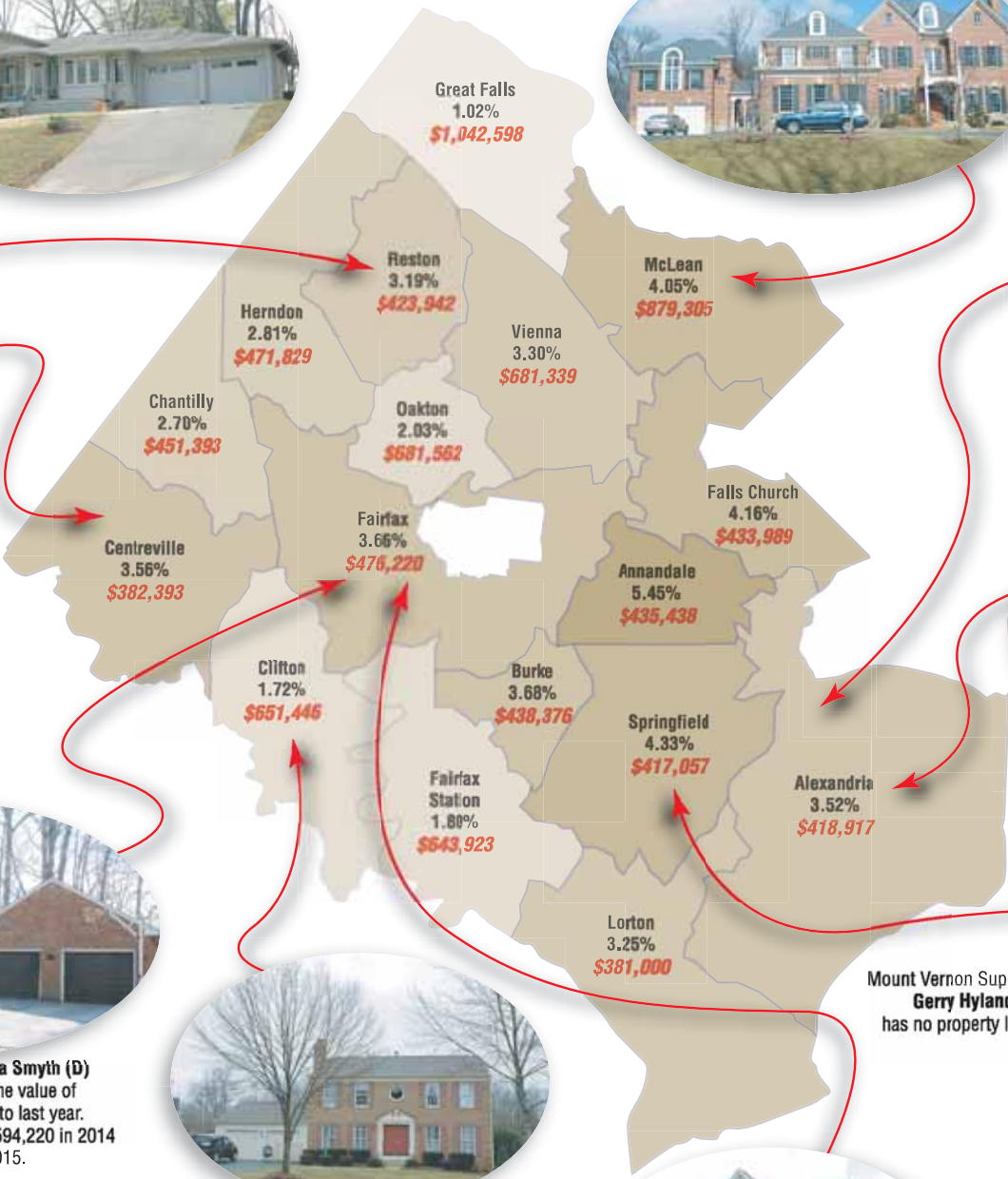
Springfield Supervisor **Patrick Herrity (R)** saw a 4.57% gain in his property value when compared to 2014. Last year, his home was worth \$573,460 and this year it is valued at \$599,660.



Providence Supervisor **Linda Smyth (D)** saw a 2.87% increase in the value of her house when compared to last year. Smyth's home was valued at \$594,220 in 2014 and \$611,280 in 2015.



Sully Supervisor **Michael Frey (R)** saw a 8.57% increase in the value of his home over the last year. Frey's home was assessed at \$252,830 in 2014 and \$274,500 in 2015.



**2015 County Average (Percent Change)**  
Single Family Detached **\$620,080 (3.27%)**  
Townhouse **\$385,338 (3.81%)**  
Condos **\$259,752 (4.48%)**

ZIP CODE AREA	2014 MEAN	2015 MEAN	PERCENT CHANGE
Alexandria/Mount Vernon	404,687	418,917	3.52
Annandale	412,942	435,438	5.45
Burke	422,815	438,376	3.68
Centreville	369,253	382,393	3.56
Chantilly	439,525	451,393	2.70
Clifton	640,436	651,446	1.72
Fairfax	459,412	476,220	3.66
Fairfax Station	632,518	643,923	1.80
Falls Church	416,666	433,989	4.16
Great Falls	1,032,117	1,042,598	1.02
Herndon	458,919	471,829	2.81
Lorton	369,023	381,000	3.25
McLean	845,113	879,305	4.05
Oakton	668,009	681,562	2.03
Reston	410,846	423,942	3.19
Springfield	399,742	417,057	4.33
Vienna	659,582	681,339	3.30

for single family, townhouses and condominiums

The average assessed value of a single family home in Fairfax County for 2015 is \$620,080, up 3.27%

SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY



## VOLUNTEERS

Fairfax County's free **Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group** will discuss using the Internet to help with caregiving on Tuesday, March 10, 7-8 p.m. Register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm). Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711.

The **Wakefield Senior Center** in **Annandale** needs volunteer **Bilingual English/Spanish** activity leaders, a **Canasta Player** to lead a group and certified instructors for classes in **Pilates, Chair Exercise** and **Ballroom Dance**. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Kingstowne Center for Active Adults** in **Alexandria** needs instructors for **Mosaic Art** and **Jewelry Making**. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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# Managing Mental Illness in Jails

**Natasha McKenna's death provides window on national concern.**

A national report released on Feb. 11 highlighted the prevalence of people with mental illness incarcerated in local jails.

"Serious mental illness, which includes bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and major depression, affects an estimated 14.5 percent of men and 31 percent of women in jails — rates that are four to six times higher than in the general population. ... While most people with serious mental illness in jails, both men and women, enter jail charged with minor, nonviolent crimes, they end up staying in jail for longer periods of time." See vera.org.

Natasha McKenna, a woman with a long history of severe mental illness, died on Feb. 8, five days after being repeatedly shocked with a taser, restrained, hooded and forcibly removed from her cell by six deputy sheriffs "pursuant to its protocols for managing combative inmates."

McKenna, a small woman according to press

reports, had been held in the Fairfax County Detention Center since Jan. 26, on a warrant from the City of Alexandria. Fairfax deputies were forcibly extracting her from her cell so she could be transported to the Alexandria jail.

Here is part of the police release on the incident:

"During the struggle to restrain McKenna, a member of the Sheriff's Emergency Response Team deployed a conducted energy weapon (Taser) on McKenna. While being restrained, deputies placed a spit net (which is designed to restrict and prevent spitting) on McKenna.

## EDITORIAL

A nurse from the ADC medical staff was present at that time to check on her prior to transport and cleared her for transport. Deputies attempted to put her in a medical transport chair, but McKenna continued to be combative and was moved to a restraint chair for transport."

To understand a little of what was happening, search for images of "spit net" and "prisoner restraint chair."

When the emergency response team was getting ready to load McKenna into a vehicle, "medical personnel from the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office checked McKenna and determined she was experiencing a medical emergency."

McKenna never regained consciousness.

The incident was recorded on video, but "the video is currently retained as evidence by detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department and will not be released at this time."

Less than two weeks after McKenna's death, the public knows a lot more about the details of this incident than previous cases involving the Fairfax County Police, but questions of what happened, how and why, greatly outnumber answers.

It is standard operating procedure in the United States to warehouse disruptive people with mental illness in jails. A 2006 Special Report by the Bureau of Justice Statistics estimated that 705,600 mentally ill adults were incarcerated in state prisons, 78,800 in Federal prisons and 479,900 in local jails, according to the National Institute for Corrections.

We have to ask what constitutes humane, effective treatment for people with mental illness, and often substance use disorders, who end up in jails. Are the brutal images of Natasha McKenna's handling a common experience for people with severe mental illness in jails? While deaths resulting from such incidents are rare, they do occur. What can be done to provide treatment?

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Breastfeeding is About Life

To the Editor:

As a fairly new Virginia resident, I like reading your summaries of county and state government actions that impact us all, including the General Assembly's crossover bills featured in your February 19-25 issue. I'd like to share one more. HB1499 protects mothers who breastfeed their babies in public; Del. Dave Albo is one of the co-patrons. With its passage in both chambers and a promised signature from Governor Terry McAuliffe, the Commonwealth will become the #48 state in the U.S. to support breastfeeding mothers and their right to feed their babies wherever necessary — be it a restaurant, rec center or retail store or any other public or private space where nursing moms find themselves needing to feed their children.

The grassroots coalition, VA Alliance for Breastfeeding Laws with its leaders Rebecca Geller (a local attorney and mother) and Kate Noon, should be commended for this family-focused effort. Concerned moms and dads from all over the state contacted their legislators, visited Richmond, and testified in support of the bill during its various committee hearings.

When babies are hungry, they need to eat. As nursing mothers,

we shouldn't be scared into using a designated lounge, public bathroom, or, worse yet, be told to leave the premises. Nursing is about sustaining human life. It's about growing a little human being into an adult. It's about life.

Studies by medical experts prove breastfeeding is best for babies. There are numerous health and emotional benefits to the baby and the mother. (The World Health Organization spells these out: [http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/exclusive\\_breastfeeding/en/](http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/exclusive_breastfeeding/en/)) There are economic advantages as well, as families and the Commonwealth (when helping our families through WIC and other supports) do not have to spend money on formula. About 80.5-percent of new Virginia moms breastfeed their babies at birth (CDC, statistics by state, 2014 report). By 6 months, it's only 53.7-percent who exclusively breastfeed or do a combination of breastmilk and formula to nourish their babies. By 1 year, it's 27.4-percent. Yet, breastfeeding is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatricians at least until a baby turns 1-year old.

I am a mother as well as a volunteer who helps moms with breastfeeding. I can share that

women experience many "boobytraps" in their breastfeeding journey that cause this statistical plunge. There are medical issues and societal issues. Not being able to breastfeed in public — or feel comfortable doing so — is one of those traps. When babies are infants, they are often eating every 2-3 hours. Not being protected to nurse in public, some women "shelter in place" in their homes. Yet, moms still need to

work, shop, take care of our families and carry on with daily life. Being restricted on where we can "legally" nurse in public makes breastfeeding success and life in general a little more difficult. And we don't need to make life more difficult for mothers; we need to support them for success! I'm so glad we'll finally have a law on the books to do just that.

**Anna Custer-Singh**  
Lorton

## Oversight Needed in Police Shooting Cases

To the Editor:

Kudos and thanks for your recent editorials voicing the concern of many Fairfax County citizens in connection with the investigation of police shootings.

James Madison said of government that we must "oblige it to control itself" through checks and balances, including vigilant oversight of administration.

It is difficult to conceive where Board of Supervisors oversight is more needed than over a group — even a group as honorable and courageous as our police officers — entrusted to exercise coercive powers, up to and including life

and death.

The Board of Supervisors should fulfill that oversight function, starting with investigative hearings into the reasons for the secrecy shrouding the shootings identified in your editorial.

State Sen. Barbara Favola and our new Del. Kathleen Murphy may also wish to consider whether to propose statutory changes to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

**Bruce Ellis Fein**  
Great Falls

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

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## LETTERS

### Monkey Business Is Deadly Business

To the Editor:

Maybe I missed hearing about it the last time a monkey attacked its owner.

But I sure remember each time an estranged husband or boyfriend blows away his wife or girlfriend and her innocent children. I feel the pain and disgust in my gut.

Apparently Virginia lawmakers don't have that same reaction because they voted to kill legislation that would ban convicted domestic abusers, stalkers or those convicted of sexual battery from having guns. But they did pass a bill to make it illegal to own a pet monkey because monkeys can sometimes be violent.

Virginia's illustrious forefathers—Washington, Madison and Jefferson—would hang their heads in shame at the shenanigans that went on in the Virginia legislature this session over gun laws. Our not-so esteemed lawmakers killed any efforts to make our communities safer from gun violence. They even killed a bill that would make it illegal for a 4-year old to have a gun!

Talk about monkey business. The Senate bill to take away guns from stalkers, sexual batterers and domestic abusers was approved by voice vote in committee but later reported out as dead.

After media inquiries, the committee voted again to pass the bill but it was sent to another committee to die.

Other gun safety measures died in committee when the chairman held an emergency hearing which limited public testimony.

Transparency in government anyone? Supporters were scrambling to follow the bills but the NRA lobbyist always seemed to show up in the right place at the right time.

In the House, lawmakers killed the domestic gun violence bill even after two women who were victims of domestic gun violence begged them not too.

Next time a domestic abuser in Virginia shoots his wife or girlfriend or a child we can thank the mostly white, male Republican rural lawmakers who sit on the Virginia committees that kill gun safety bills.

**Linda Falkerson**  
Reston

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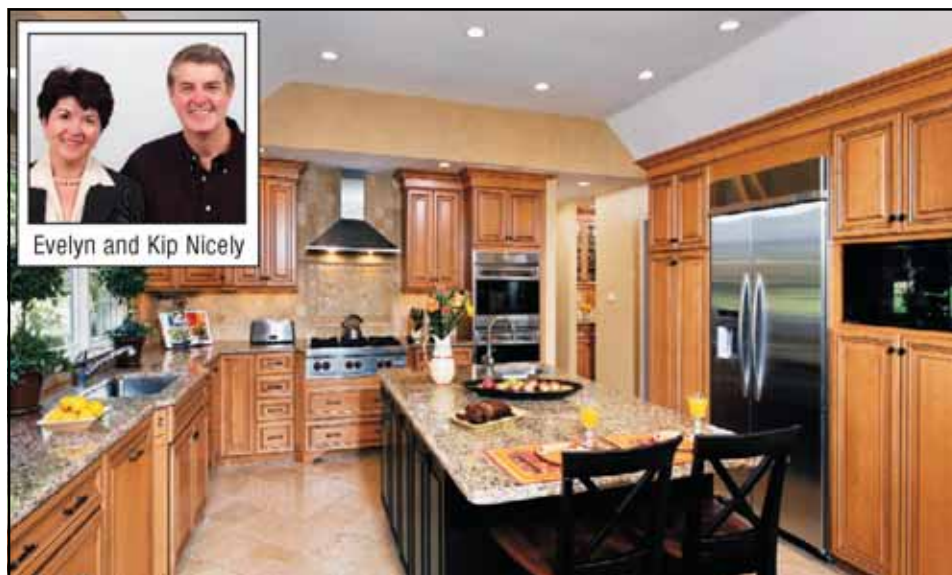


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# PET CONNECTION

## Meet Area's Best Friends



Kate, Chris and Colin Hunt, 7, of Springfield, with their dog Hailey. Six-month-old Hailey was a present for Colin's seventh birthday. "His first word was puppy or doggy," said Chris, "He always wanted one so we adopted Hailey one week ago."



Young and Saki Kim, 3, of Springfield, playing in the snow with their dog Rocky.



At the veterinarian, Margaret Dominy, of Springfield, and Zoe. "I adopted her from a co-workers of my husband's and she couldn't be cuter," said Dominy about her first cat. Dominy adopted Zoe a month ago and is happy to have a companion. "We've never been able to have a dog because we have problems fencing in the back," she said, "But we wanted a pet so an indoor cat works the best."



"We've been cat-sitting for five years," said Ed Rosa, of Springfield, about his cat Murphy. "He came to my house because we were going to cat-sit him for a weekend." Rosa grew up with animals but his wife took time getting used to Murphy. "At first she would tell me to do everything, but he's grown on her," said Rosa.



Julie Hill-Ping (left) and Gabriella Ping, of Springfield, with golden-sheltie mix Matt and chihuahua May. "My friend found Matt while biking," said Hill-Ping, explaining that Matt is shy due to being abandoned years ago. "May is more confident and content, and a little chunky."

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid. McKay said: "Vera, our 13 and a half-year-old rescue greyhound, joined our family through the Northern Virginia chapter of Greyhound Pets of America. Vera is the best ambassador you could have for rescue dogs—especially greyhounds. She's smart and affectionate and great with kids. Everyone loves her. When Vera was younger, she joined me everywhere at Lee District events—Springfield Days, the Springfield Community BridgeWalk, my office and more. Now, she's a senior citizen, content to lounge around the house and dream of chasing squirrels. Vera is our second rescue greyhound. Our first was Keota, also a wonderful dog."



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF MCKAY

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## FRIDAY/FEB. 27

### Garden Talks with Master

**Gardeners: Winter Beauty in the Garden.** 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Historic Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Learn about garden trees, shrubs and grasses that add instant beauty and interest throughout the cold winter months. \$10. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring) using code 290 102 9001 or call 703-642-5173.

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

**Bricks 4 Kidz.** 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn, build and play with LEGO bricks. Content designed by engineers and architects, with exciting themes such as space, inventions, and amusement parks. Ages 5 to 10. 703-249-1520.

### United States Army Band

**"Pershing's Own" Downrange.** 8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Downrange embraces TUSAB's newest mission as a strategic public relations asset for the U.S. Army, and stands ready to entertain audiences at home and around the world. The men and women of Downrange are not just "present and accounted for," they are constantly on the move and on the frontline — setting the popular-music entertainment standard for The U.S.



**The Irish are coming! Wild West Irish Tours is sponsoring a free Irish Music & Dance show at the Auld Shebeen Pub, 3971 Chain Bridge Road in Fairfax City on Sunday, March 1 from 2 to 5 p.m. The show will feature dancers Sandra and Laura Ganley, from County Roscommon, Ireland along with singer, Mai Hernon, who hails from County Sligo, Ireland and her group, Celtic Font. For more information call 571-236-9650 or visit [www.wildwestirishtours.com](http://www.wildwestirishtours.com).**

Army Band and the United States Army.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 28

### Collectors Showcase Fundraising

**Event.** 7:30-10:30 p.m. W-16 McGuireWoods Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Features the best in visual arts from all the Artist at the Workhouse. Ticket information

available at [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org). 703-584-2900.

**Seeds Workshop: Starting from Scratch.** 9:30 - 11 a.m. Historic Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Judy

Zatsick, Green Spring's own propagator/horticulturalist, teaches the ins and outs of starting your own seed collection. \$22. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring) using code 290 187 4201 or call 703-642-5173.

**Wag a Tale.** 10:30, 10:45, 11 and 11:15 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Need a little practice reading or just love dogs? Register to read to one of our therapy dogs. Ages 5-12. To register visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/kn/>.

### Teen Advisory Board (TAB)

**Meeting.** 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Board members meet biweekly to plan and implement projects and programs that will enhance library services for teens. Ages 13 to 18. 703-249-1520.

**Reading Buddies.** 11:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Pick a few of your favorite books and share them with your reading buddy. You read to them or they can read to you. Reading buddies are adult and teen volunteers. Ages 4 to 8. 703-249-1520.

### Fractured Fairy Tales: Writing

**Workshop.** 1:30 p.m. 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Join Young Adult author Kristin Bailey as she makes mistakes so you don't have to. Learn how to edit your writing and avoid common pitfalls by reading messed up fairy tales. Then as a group, we will make them right. This workshop will focus on the common writing issues of passive voice, blocking, and dialog open to both teen and adult writers. 703-249-1520.

### Polar Bear Reading Club Wrap Up

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11



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THE CONNECTION  
NEWSPAPERS



# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 10

**Party.** 2:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Come and celebrate the end of the Polar Bear Reading Club with Jonathan Austin, juggler, magician and unicyclist extraordinaire. Register each child and adult separately. 703-644-7333.

**Dessert on Broadway.** 1:30 and 7 p.m. Lake Braddock High School Cafeteria, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Entertainment and dessert provided by the Lake Braddock High School Choir. \$20. Send emailed request to lbdessertsonbroadway@gmail.com.

**Indoor Flea Market and Lunch.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Don't break the bank! Find that special treasure — many booths of odds and ends to browse through! Hosted by the Young at Heart Senior Center. Donations accepted after Jan. 1.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 1

**Irish Music & Dance Show.** 2-5 p.m. Auld Shebeen Pub, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. The show will feature dancers Sandra and Laura Ganley, from County Roscommon, Ireland along with singer, Mai Hernon, who hails from County Sligo, Ireland and her group, Celtic Font. 571-236-9650. www.wildwestirishshows.com.

**Appetite for Art.** 1-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Food has been a central theme in art for centuries. Experience these two great pleasures together in a sumptuous selection of food-filled masterpieces which express cultural and social values by depicting the rituals, customs and symbolism of food and dining through the ages. Bon appetit! After the program, enjoy a traditional English tea. Reservations required. \$32. 703-941-7987.

**Winter Lecture: Teeming with Nutrients.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Jeff Lowenfels explains how plants eat and what to feed them. You will be rewarded with an organic garden that is the envy of the neighborhood. A book signing follows the lecture. \$10 for advance registration, \$12 for out-of-county registrants or at the door. Register on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 182 4701 or call 703-642-5173.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 7

**Workhouse Cabaret Series: Heroines of the Stage and Screen!** Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. 8 p.m. Some

of Broadway's most beloved characters and some of the most memorable music are written for the leading ladies.

**Garden Under Glass: Terrarium Workshop.** 9:30-11:30 a.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Shake off the winter chill by creating a garden under glass. Miniature plants, lush mosses, stones and whimsical figures will bring a smile and remind you of warmer days. Care instructions included. \$38/person plus \$25 supply fee. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 185 8201 for the program and code 290 185 8202 for the supply fee or call 703-642-5173.

**Garden Sprouts: Hot and Cold.** 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. While it's winter in Virginia, it's summer in the Southern Hemisphere. Learn why seasons differ around the globe. Sample chocolaty treats, both icy and hot. Enjoy a story about chocolate, then scout the gardens for signs of winter and spring. \$6 per child. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 102 8901 or call 703-642-5173.

**Winter Lecture: Hellstrip Gardening.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Improve that patch of old turf on the streetside of the sidewalk by growing a hellstrip garden. Evelyn Hadden offers guidance on turning languishing, neighborhood parking strips into thriving, curbside gardens. Hadden addresses street trees, plants, poorsoil, laws and covenants, and pedestrian traffic. A book signing follows the lecture. \$10 per person for advance registration, \$12 for out-of-county registrants or at the door. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 185 6501 or call 703-642-5173.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 14

**Burke Racquet & Swim Club's 30th Birthday Celebration with Health Fair & Inova Blood Drive.** Blood drive: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Health Fair: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. 6001 Burke Commons Rd., Burke. Come and visit with your local doctors and health presenters. Free morning exercise classes, seated massages, rock climbing and more. You can even save a life by donating blood.

**History Symposium: Food in America.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. American cuisine, like the nation itself, is a melting pot.

## 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 practitio-

ners 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.

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# SPORTS

## West Springfield Girls Win Conference, District Title

The West Springfield girls' basketball team captured its fifth Conference 7/Patriot District title in the last six years Tuesday night, beating South County 55-37 in the conference championship game at Lake Braddock Secondary School. Junior guard Shelby Haynes led the Spartans with 15 points. Haley Blankinship scored 11 points and Maura D'Anna added 10. All three were named to the all-tournament team, and Haynes earned MVP honors. West Springfield will host Centreville at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 26 in the opening round of the 6A North region tournament.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTY KELLOGG

The West Springfield Swim & Dive Team rests in between events at the 2015 Virginia High School League 6A championship meet in Richmond. (Back row, from left) Sophomore Mark Simonsen, sophomore Kathleen McGovern, senior Taylor Whitesel, (middle, from left) sophomore Lane Stone, senior Abby Brewer, senior Andrew Jones, junior Nora Boyle, senior Luke Chapman, senior Robbie D'Amato, (front, from left) freshman Andrew Verdin, junior Taylor Buckner, junior Kathleen Amann, senior Connor MacKinnon and junior Samantha Torgersen.

## Local Swimmers Shine at States

Swimmers from 36 high schools from around Virginia competed in the Virginia High School League 6A state championship held in Richmond on Feb. 20. Divers from each team competed the day before. Athletes first raced in a morning prelims session to qualify for a finals competition that evening. At the end of the night, the top five overall points-winners for girls were Langley,

Oakton, Robinson, West Potomac and Chantilly. On the boys side, first through fifth place went to Oakton, Robinson, Langley, Frank W Cox High School (Virginia Beach) and Patriot High School (Nokesville).

For more final results of the meet, visit [www.swimtechusa.com/Vhsl](http://www.swimtechusa.com/Vhsl).

—TIM PETERSON



Hayfield Secondary School Swim & Dive Head Coach Steve Habusta (center) prepares his 200-yard freestyle relay team (from left) of senior Ben Lambert, senior David Dixon, sophomore Alex Desatrick and junior Zach Koons for competition at the 2015 Virginia High School League 6A championship meet in Richmond.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION



(From left) Annandale junior Aaron Boyd, Oakton senior Michael Ambrose, Langley junior Carter Bennett, Robinson junior James Jones, Oakton sophomore Tommy Hallock and W.T. Woodson junior David Herbert dive in to swim the 50-yard freestyle sprint at the 2015 Virginia High School League 6A championship meet in Richmond.



Friends and teammates from West Potomac (from left, sophomore Alexandria Puskar-Beckett and freshman Cassidy Bayer) and W.T. Woodson (from left senior Leah Rogers and sophomore Allison Goldblatt) link up after an awards ceremony at the Virginia High School League 6A swimming championship meet in Richmond.

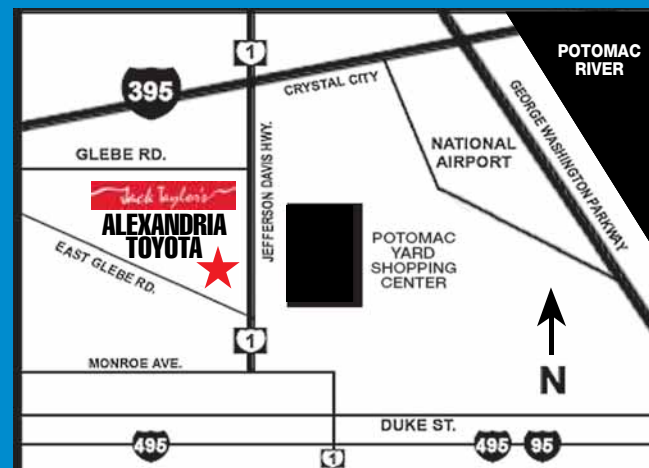


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## BULLETIN BOARD

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/FEB. 27

**English Conversation Group.** 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Practice speaking English with others and improve your skills. Adults. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/lo/>.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 28

**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. \$40. Contact herpomp79@gmail.com or 703-362-7079.

**VITA Tax Assistance.** 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Tax help. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earned up to \$52K. Adults. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/kn/>.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 5

**Friends Annual Meeting.** 6-8 p.m. Hear about the biggest ship collision of the 20th century, the Andrea Doria, at 7 p.m. Refreshments served.

### TUESDAY/MARCH 10

**March NARFE Fairfax Chapter 737 Meeting.** 11:30 a.m. American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax. The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) luncheon meeting. Lunch at noon (cost-\$11), followed by a presentation on "Elder Law" given by Evan Farr, Certified Elder Law Attorney & Three-time Best Selling Author. Chapter 737 meets on the second Tuesday of each month, except July and August. Membership is open to all federal employees, retirees, spouses and survivors. For more information on the benefits of NARFE membership visit [www.NARFE.org](http://www.NARFE.org).

### THURSDAY/MARCH 12

**Caregiver Bootcamp!** Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Join IMCC for a special day-long training event. The bootcamp will include presentations from experts in the fields of financial planning, medical issues, legal needs, and caregiver support. There will be a small fee for this session and lunch is provided. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP and for more information.

### ONGOING

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

**Singers Wanted for the Celebration Singers.** The women's show choir is interested in new talent to perform at various Northern Virginia community sites. Practices are Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in Burke. Contact Gayle Parsons, 703-644-4485 or email [gparsons3@cox.net](mailto:gparsons3@cox.net).

**Online Scavenger Hunt.** Visit Fairfax tasks those interested in becoming "citizen ambassadors" to the county (those informed on fun, creative weekend outings in the area) to find two Fairfax County Ambassador icons hidden throughout the fxva.com website in order to join the ambassador team; those who find all five hidden pins will receive a complimentary gift. [www.fxva.com/online-ambassador](http://www.fxva.com/online-ambassador).

**Senior Fall Prevention Classes.** 1:30-2:30 p.m., at the Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Tuesday and/or Thursday classes in a heated pool designed to work on balance and core muscles for injury prevention. \$10. 703-667-9800.

**American Red Cross CPR, First Aid and AED.** Various times, at 2720 State Route 699, Suite 200, Fairfax. One-year certification, digital or print materials and continued education on Mondays through Thursday and Saturday. \$70-110. [www.redcrossna.org](http://www.redcrossna.org).

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#### 21 Announcements

**Public Notice**  
Notice is hereby given that USMA LLC, 8110 Kenova Lane, Springfield, VA 22153, has applied for authority to operate as a Common Carrier of Passengers over Irregular Routes. If granted, the certificate will only authorize passenger transportation between points in the Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, and Loudoun, Virginia, to/from Reagan National Airport (DCA, in Arlington, Virginia), and to/from Dulles International Airport (IAD, in Loudoun, Virginia).

Any person who wishes to support or oppose the application, but does not wish to be a party to the matter, may submit a written statement to DMV Motor Carrier Services Operating Authority Case Management, P. O. Box 27412, Richmond, VA 23269-0001. The statement must be signed and contain the applicant's name and DMV Case Number MC1400328EF.

Any person who wishes to protest the application and be a party to the matter must contact DMV Motor Carrier Services Operating Authority Compliance Management at (804) 367-6504 to receive information on filing a protest.

The deadline for submitting letters of support, opposition, or protest is Thursday, March 5, 2015 (must be postmarked on or before).

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#### 21 Announcements

##### OBITUARY

**Dakota George Cape**, of Springfield, VA born December 18th 2014 passed away on February 7th 2015. He is survived by his loving parents, Cory and Kirsten Cape, brother Arkarian Spirek, grandparents, great-grandparents, great-great-grandmother, and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Visitation was held at Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home, 9902 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22032, on Sunday, February 15th, from 4-6 PM as well as Monday, February 16th, from 6-8 PM. A memorial service was held at Living Faith Church, 10266 Battleview Parkway, Manassas, VA 20109, on Friday, February 20th, 2015 at 9:30.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to: <http://www.gofundme.com/m2fd60>.

To read a full obituary or to sign an online guestbook for the family, please visit [www.fmfh.com](http://www.fmfh.com).

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the very best.  
-Winston Churchill

#### 101 Computers

#### 21 Announcements

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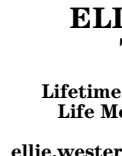
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