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CAPPIES REVIEW

A Play On Point

BY LYDIA GOMPPER
GEORGE MASON HIGH SCHOOL

Twenty-one teenage actors filed slowly - solemnly - onto an intimate stage to sit in a quiet semi-circle, accompanied by the croon of a single violin. A few of them stood, frozen and facing the audience, until the first monologue began, introducing the tale

of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student who was brutally murdered by two Laramie residents in 1998.

So commenced The New School of Northern Virginia's production of "The Laramie Project," a play created in 2000 by Moisés Kaufman and the members of the Tectonic Theater Company. The show is an amalgamation of over two hundred interviews, journal

entries, and media reports, sewn together into a mosaic depicting the tragedy of Shepard's death, as well as its effect on the Laramie community. The New School's twenty-one performers together portrayed over sixty roles, delivering a stunning, hard-hitting exposé on small American communities, religion, the media, and, of course, the pervasiveness of hate.

The show had very few props or

set pieces, but this only served to augment the honest nature of the play's content. A single projector was used to show a sequence of photographs overhead, including various shots of Matthew Shepard himself, which helped to drive home the veracity of the production.

Fantastic contributions were brought to the stage by a wide variety of cast members. Lowell

Weissman, a junior, impressed in several roles, although his shining moment was his confession as Aaron McKinney, one of the two perpetrators in the Shepard case. His stiffly nervous posture and stilted speaking made the moment feel so very real. The other of the two murderers, Russell Henderson, was beautifully performed by senior Vince Vilasi, who took my breath away as he struggled to force out a plea of "guilty" in return for his own life. Vilasi also wowed as bartender Matt Galloway, one of the last people to see Matthew Shepard before his death.

Senior Ross Rubin was incredible as Doc O'Connor, the candid, oddly sage townie, and later as the infamous Reverend Fred Phelps, who protested with his congregation at Shepard's funeral. Rubin's various accents were consistent and distinct, and his physicality - from the laid-back stance of O'Connor to the sharp anger of Phelps - was on point. The manic gleam in his eye during the funeral scene was enough to legitimately terrify the audience.

Senior Caitlin Kelly, junior Kamryn Leoncavallo, and sophomore Hallie Schlaffer all gave memorable performances. Kelly impressed both as gay professor Cathleen Connolly and feminist Zubaida Ula. She particularly stood out with a monologue performed during a candlelight vigil, when she spoke passionately about the necessity of taking communal responsibility for the crime committed. Leoncavallo was charming and thought-provoking both as Shepard's friend Romaine and as Lucy Thompson, who questioned why only Shepard's death got such attention, while other deaths went relatively unnoticed. Lastly, Schlaffer gave one of the most emotional performances of the night as Reggie Fluty, the police officer who was called to the scene on the day Matt Shepard was found. Her eyes looked truly haunted. Other stand-outs include Chris Drucker as the Baptist minister, Alex Anchell as Jedidiah Schultz, and Kyle Welty as Aaron Kreifels.

The New School of Northern Virginia created a thoroughly excellent production. With a topic that means so much to so many, it might have been easy for the show to lose its way, or seem overly forced. But the New School did not have that struggle. The emotions flowed naturally, and many audience members left the room wiping tears from their eyes.

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PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission held its first meeting March 23 at the county government center.



Commission members Sal Culosi (left), father of Dr. Salvatore “Sal” Culosi Jr., who was killed by a Fairfax County Police officer, and Nicholas Beltrante (right), executive director of the Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability, attend the first meeting of the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

‘A Way for Something Good’

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

While several other members of the recently created Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission stated their general intent to listen and learn and help, Salvatore Culosi had a more specific request.

“My son would still be alive today,” Culosi said, “but for 2006 Fairfax County policies to routinely use SWAT and aggressive procedures against citizens certified to be low risk.”

Culosi’s son Dr. Salvatore “Sal” Culosi Jr. was killed by a Fairfax County Police officer Jan. 24, 2006 outside his Fair Oaks townhouse. Culosi Sr. told other members of the commission that he was told by then-Fairfax County Police Chief and current deputy county executive David M. Rohrer that use of force policy changes had been made since his son’s shooting. During his introduction at the commission’s first meeting on March 23 at the Fairfax County Government Center, Culosi said he has yet to receive a list of the changes. But, he said, the members of the commission, created by Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and endorsed by the rest of the board, should have that list as they proceed with developing recommendations for further policy changes.

“I want to assuage the public this commission is not a political cover,” Culosi said.

Bulova later responded that the information Culosi referred to would be provided to the commission.

WITH MORE THAN 35 MEMBERS, comprising citizens, legal experts, academics and representatives from the media and law enforcement, the commission is approaching the size of the Virginia Senate, which has 40. Bulova compared the “not too large” size to previous commissions created to review redistricting and a meals tax.

While members repeatedly commented on the “diversity” of the commission in terms of experience and expertise, Great Falls resident Jerry Santos was critical of other imbalances. “The optics are bad,” he said, observing that of the 30-plus members, less than a third are female and the majority are middle-aged Caucasian men. “I’m the only Hispanic in the room,” he said. “It’s outrageous, them throwing out the word diversity.”

The commission was created amid a swell of media and public attention to the case of John Geer, a Springfield man who was shot dead by Fairfax County Police Officer Adam Torres on Aug. 29, 2013. Details of the shooting, including the name of the officer, were kept hidden from the public and the Geer family, until Jan. 30, 2015.

The commission, Bulova reiterated, was set up to review the police department’s policies for use of force and release of information compared with best practices in other jurisdictions, and to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for potential changes.

“We are not investigators,” Bulova reminded the commission members. But hopefully, she said, “this is a way for something good to come out of something tragic.”

Jeff Stewart, a close friend of Geer’s who witnessed the shooting and said he was contacted by Bulova for the commission at the beginning of the selection process, said he is hoping for a “positive and constructive” process. Stewart added he would “like to see independent oversight” of the police department by citizens “at the very least. I hope that can come about in a timely manner.”

Bulova set a deadline for handing over recommendations for policy changes to the

Emotional beginning for Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.



Commission chair Michael Hershman, right, and Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova speak at the first meeting of the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, with former Commonwealth Attorney Robert Horan.

use of force, communication and co-operation policies, recruitment and vetting of officers and the Crisis Intervention Team. Chairs of the subcommittees will have the authority to appoint additional citizens to be part of those groups, and their meetings will also be open to the public.

The next public meeting of the commission will be April 27 in rooms 9 and 10 of the Fairfax County Government Center, beginning at 7:30, and is open to the public. The April meeting will be “foundational” with regards to establishing the subcommittees and their objectives, and answering the question “Why we’ve found ourselves in this position.”

“I want to assuage the public this commission is not a political cover.”

— Salvatore Culosi

Commission member Lt. Col. Tom Ryan, deputy chief of police for police administration, said, “Our organization is a learning organization. There’s still room to be better and learn where we’ve gone wrong. I come here with an open mind.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION on the commission and to find a full list of commissioners and meeting schedule, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission. Questions for the commission chair Michael Hershman or requests to be involved with the work of the subcommittees can be directed through Bulova’s office, by calling 703-324-2321 (TTY 711) or emailing chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Hoping to Create 'A Great Street'

City seeks public input to improve Old Lee Highway.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

To the City of Fairfax, Old Lee Highway is a critically important road leading residents to homes, schools, businesses, shopping, the police station, Sherwood Community Center and Van Dyke Park.

But believing it can be improved, the City applied for and received a grant for technical assistance to help determine what should be done there.

"We want to create a great street," said Brian McMahon with Parsons Brinckerhoff, a transportation planning and design firm, and Fairfax's consultant on this project. "Streets do change over time, and we hope this transformation will meet the community's vision."

Old Lee runs 1.5 miles from North Street to Fairfax Circle. About 13,000 vehicles a day travel on it, as do thousands of kindergarten-through-college students. It has 21 local bus stops, and some portions have on-street parking.

And last Thursday, March 19, nearly 150 people attended a meeting on the project at the Sherwood Center. But first, McMahon addressed City Council in February. "We want to create a sense of place," he said. "And public involvement is the linchpin to the success of this project."

City Transportation Director Wendy Block Sanford said Fairfax already applied for \$2 million in FY 2016 revenue-sharing funds to do the actual work the study will recommend.

"We need to promote walk-ability, bike-ability and safety, too, so people can get to the Circle," said Councilman Michael DeMarco.

"It's a busy street, but a neighborhood street," added Councilwoman Ellie Schmidt.

AT LAST WEEK'S PUBLIC MEETING, Councilman David Meyer told attendees they'd be providing input into a conceptual plan. "Old Lee Highway is one of the oldest roads in Virginia and pre-dates the Civil War," he said. "But it hasn't changed much since the neighborhoods went in. We have the opportunity to make it safer for pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles, and the Council wants to know what the community wants."

Sanford said the Council of Governments awarded Fairfax a Great Street grant for the study. "We're looking at what's your vision for this street – not major changes, like adding lanes."

"Great streets are streets that are memorable, reflect the community and foster social interaction," said McMahon. Giving an overview of the current Old Lee Highway corridor, he said, "Every few blocks have a



Resident Amy Wilson indicates "pedestrian comfort" on the priorities list because she likes to walk in the area.

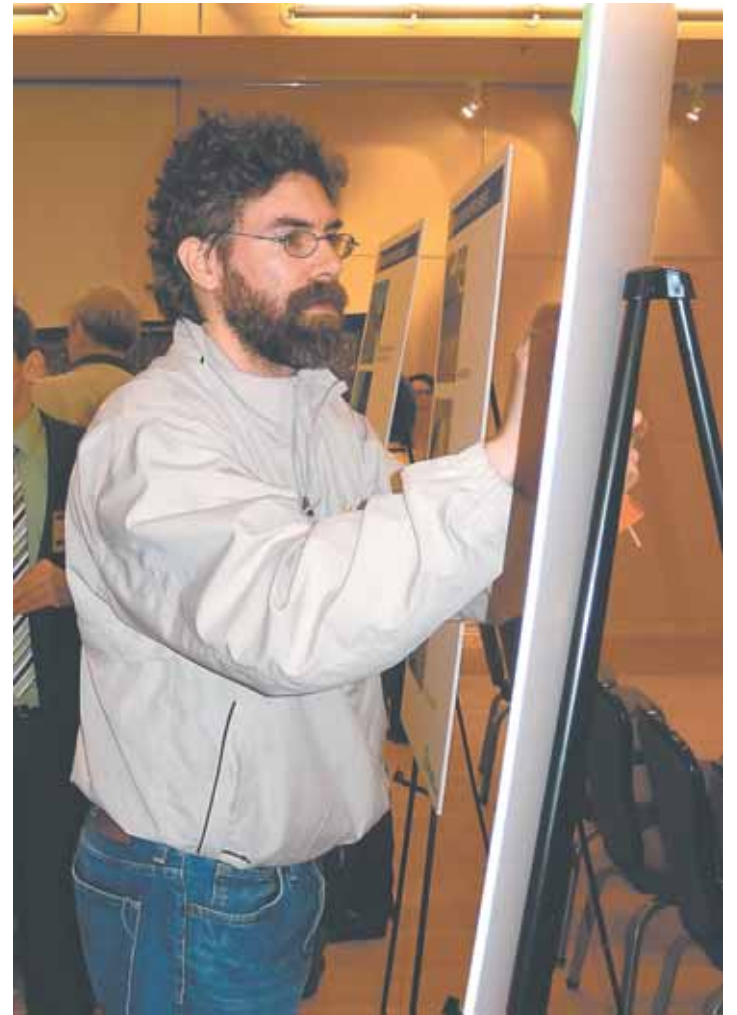
different look and feel. Are there areas of it we want to improve? Some are residential, some commercial, some near offices and some historic-looking."

"Do you want the power lines imbedded so they're not in view?" he asked. "Some pedestrian and bike paths are very close to traffic; should this be changed? And some individual properties have their own access points, creating confusion for drivers."

McMahon said traffic on Old Lee hasn't grown since 2005, but there have been accidents. The trouble spots have been at the road's intersections with North Street, Layton Hall Drive, Rebel Run (near Fairfax High), the Sherwood Center, and Army Navy Country Club's entrance and exit. Noting that 76 percent of Old Lee motorists are driving 30 mph or less, he asked residents if that speed limit should be lowered to 25.

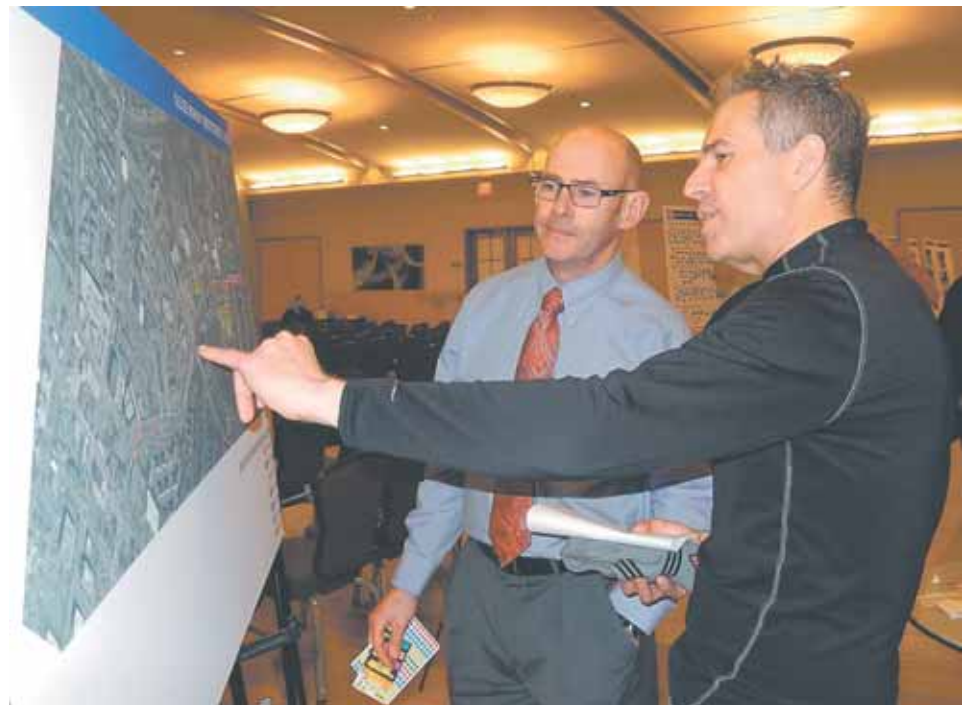
Besides developing a big-picture vision for those traveling and living near Old Lee, McMahon said the project will also involve beautification plus better stormwater-management practices. "We're getting community feedback tonight – your likes and dislikes," he said. "But we're not going to widen Old Lee Highway."

"We want to bring diverse user groups together and give precedence to people walking and biking," he continued. "We also want the street to provide comfort with its trees and have special design features, such as the light fixtures, tree spacing and pavement."



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Resident D. Michael Parrish wants a sidewalk on the right side of Old Lee, going North toward Fairfax Circle.



(From left) Transportation consultant Brian McMahon and resident Jeff Dove discuss the project.

Residents then viewed various informational boards about the road. They also placed colored dots and sticky notes on other boards to tell McMahon and Sanford what issues and/or road characteristics were important to them.

And at six Streetmix computer stations, they used interactive software to describe

what they wanted to see along Old Lee, including bike racks, signage, light poles, planter boxes, etc. They could also take the Website's address with them, create their own streets on their home computers and email them to Sanford.

SEE OLD LEE, PAGE 5

NEWS

Old Lee Highway Re-imagined

FROM PAGE 4

The address is www.streetmix.net/ (but it won't work with Internet Explorer; use Chrome, Firefox or Safari). Submit design images by April 3 to Wendy.Sanford@fairfaxva.gov. "You don't have to get everything right," said McMahon. "Just give us an impression of what's important to you."

He said the three areas of Old Lee to be studied are Willard Way/Courthouse Plaza, Embassy Lane/North of Blenheim, and Artie's Restaurant/south of Old Pickett Road. "Create your vision and we'll take your feedback, brief the Council and then return in May to present two alternatives at another public workshop," said McMahon.

THE COUNCIL will be briefed again in June and consider adopting the conceptual plan.

Depending on how they use Old Lee, different residents have different concerns. For John Morris, president of the Fair Oaks Homeowners Assn., the issues are safety and beautification.

"Old Lee has a curved hill coming from the country club, down to the bridge and Ridge Avenue," he said. "Cars coming out of Ridge can't see Old Lee traffic to their right, coming downhill. They have to pull into the road to see it, and pedestrians crossing Old Lee at the Ridge Avenue entrance are also in danger from the speeding, downhill drivers."

Morris said motorists coming from Artie's parking lot on Old Lee and "making illegal U-turns both on Old Lee and Ridge" add to the problem. "A blinking, caution light could go at the entrance to Ridge on Old Lee, or uphill on Old Lee," he said. "Or traffic enforcement could be increased."

"Or they could slightly elevate the crosswalk and paint it with reflective stripes so drivers could see it and would have to slow down," continued Morris. "And in my neigh-



Colorful dots illustrate residents' priorities for Old Lee Highway.

borhood, many elderly residents can't cross Old Lee quickly from the Ridge Avenue entrance."

He'd also like to see beautification all along Old Lee, but especially in this area, up to Fairfax High. "I'd propose an underground utility study to maybe bury the power lines and new conduits for future growth," he said. "Then Old Dominion Power wouldn't have to hack the tree limbs because of the overhead power lines and make the trees less appealing."

Meanwhile, D. Michael Parrish said he values bicycle and pedestrian comfort on Old Lee, plus lighting for driver safety. "I kind of like the road the way it is," he said. "But the right side, going north toward Fairfax Circle, should have a sidewalk. And turning left to get into the Sherwood Center and the park is a problem because of all the traffic."

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/MARCH 27

Ancestors Tutoring. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Sign up for a one-on-one genealogy tutoring session. Adults. To register visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>.

SATURDAY/MARCH 28

Microsoft Word. 2:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Learn the basics of word processing

with Microsoft Word. Bring your questions! Adults. To register visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

Vita Tax Assistance. 10 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Tax help. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earn up to \$52K. Adults. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/rb/>.

Reading Program: Wag A Tail. 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre Drive, Alexandria. Age 5-12 register to read to one of our therapy dogs.

Teen Advisory Board. 12 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre Drive, Alexandria. Great opportunity for students Grade 8 and up to volunteer in the teen section of the library. Please visit <https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov>.

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United at Last with Family

Fairfax man's relative who died in 1863 is reburied.

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

James Davis died in 1863, but he was just buried earlier this month in the Oakton Baptist Church Cemetery in Chantilly.

Actually, it was his second burial. The first was shortly after his death, but his remains were recently moved so a memory-care facility may be built upon his original gravesite.

"He's the first person with whom I've ever had the chance to experience a resurrection," said the Rev. Lewis Holmes, the church pastor, during the March 9 graveside service. "Out of the thousands of funerals I've done, it's the first one where we've gotten to take someone's remains and put them back into the ground."

Several of Davis's descendants – members of the Birch family – were there to witness his re-interment. Among them was his great-great-grandson, Ray Birch, 89, who was raised in what's now called Fair Oaks and lived in the City of Fairfax for 58 years.

The roots of the Davises and Birches run deep in this area. And shortly before the reburial, Birch related some of his family history. He said Davis was his great grandmother's father.

"She was born in 1846 and remembered the Civil War," said Birch. "She used to tell us about hearing the cannon fire from the Battle of Bull Run in Centreville, and also from the Battle of Ox Hill [in Fairfax], which was fought in a fierce rainstorm."

YEARS LATER, Fairfax County preserved almost 5 acres of the 500-acre Ox Hill battlefield and erected monuments to the two Union generals who died there in battle. And in 1914, as a teenager, Birch's father cleared the land for those monuments.

As for James Davis, he was a farmer who owned property at Flatlick Branch in Chantilly, by the Centreville/Walney Roads intersection with Route 50. "I have the Birch family Bible and also did some genealogy," said Birch. "James married Elizabeth Cross and they had four children, three daughters and a son."

Eventually, Birch's paternal grandfather was born in Chantilly on the Davis farm property. His own father, Alvin Birch, was born on property that later became the Greenbriar community – and what's today known as the Birch Pond community nearby was named after him (Alvin).

Ray Birch graduated from Fairfax High in 1942, when it was in the building that now houses Paul VI High. He later married his wife Dot and worked for Fairfax County for 30 years before retiring in 1977. "I rose

from a clerk typist to assistant director of finance," he said.

Getting back to Davis, he died of natural causes at age 56 and was buried on his farm. But now, a century-and-a-half later, Artisan Land Group LLC is going to build The Arbors of Chantilly on that same property, off Downs Drive and Route 50. A 48-unit, residential structure, it'll focus on caring for people with Alzheimer's and dementia.

However, when it was discovered that there was a grave on the property, the developer needed to find its exact location so it could be moved. So Artisan President and owner Sean Ambrose contacted local banker Rick Hutchison to ask if he knew any longtime area residents who might know where the grave was.

"In the late 1970s or early '80s, the county

was putting in a water or sewer line next to the property," said Birch. "I saw it and told the county there was a grave there, so the county put the grave on its maps."

But Artisan was unable to find it since its marker – a red rock on which Birch had painted a white cross – had disappeared long ago.

So Hutchison connected Ambrose with Birch and, about a year ago, Ambrose, a lawyer and an archaeologist contacted Birch to enlist his help finding the grave. "My father had told me about that grave when I was a kid," said Birch. "I was the only living person who knew where it was."

The foundation of an old house was still onsite, and Birch told Ambrose to look for the grave 20 feet northwest of it. "They went back and found it," he said. "Now Artisan

is moving [Davis's remains] and paying for his reburial. I suggested Oakton Baptist Church because it was my grandparents' and great grandparents' church. It was established in 1874 as an Episcopal church, and we appreciate the church letting us bury him there."

THE CHURCH CEMETERY contains graves from the Birch family going back several generations. "There are 12 family graves there now," said Birch. "My grandparents and great grandparents are buried there, along with some aunts and my sister, who died as an infant."

Regarding Davis's reburial, he said, "I think it's unique being able to say you went to your great-great grandfather's burial. And it unites the family's past history with the current generation."

During last week's service, which brought together family members from both Virginia and Maryland – including three great-great-granddaughters – everyone recited The Lord's Prayer. And Holmes told them that, one day, "James's body will rejoin his

spirit in heaven."

The church cemetery is right beside Route 50, and Birch said afterward that he was thinking during the service "what a different world it is today from when James was alive. Cars were whizzing by and airplanes flew overhead – and none of these things were invented then."

"I think this is great," said Birch's wife, Dot. "It's a historic event and it's important because there are still relatives living."

Barbara Miller, who's married to Davis's great-great grandson, Jack Miller, said, "I just think it's neat that he came home to rest with his people. And it's so nice to see all the family together. I think he'd be at happy knowing he's here where his children and grandchildren are buried."

Brothers Asa and John Swart Jr., also Davis's great-great grandsons and Fairfax High grads, attended the service, too. "It's not something you see very often," said Asa.

"I'm glad they were able to restore him to a natural place to be buried with his family," said John.

Even Ambrose was there. He said they hope to break ground on the Arbors of Chantilly this fall, with construction expected to take about 10 months. "I feel great because this really worked out well," he said. "It was amazing to find out about this cemetery and see all the other family members that are buried here. I think Mr. Davis would be happy to be here with his family and not in a field somewhere."

Summing it all up, Ray Birch said, "All those who came here today at least know where his final resting place is. This closes a chapter."



James Davis's relatives gathered for his reburial in the Oakton Baptist Church Cemetery in Chantilly.



Dot and Ray Birch

PHOTOS BY
BONNIE HOBBS/
THE CONNECTION

NEWS



Northern Virginia Family Service Receives a Grant

Last week, Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) and State Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) joined Secretary of Commerce, Maurice Jones and Delegates Ken Plum (D-36) and Michael Futrell (D-2) to announce that Northern Virginia Family Service's Lending Circles program received a \$45,000 grant from the Governor for nonprofits to develop and test an innovative approach to service delivery in Virginia. Northern Virginia Family Service, in Oakton, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to helping vulnerable children and families on their road to independence.

WEEK IN FAIRFAX

Petersen Kicks off Campaign

Sen. Chap Petersen's (D-34th) 2015 re-election campaign kick-off will be held Tuesday, March 31, from 7-9 p.m., at the Fairfax Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive in Fairfax.

Del. Filler-Corn To Hold Office Hours

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) will hold March office hours at Panera Bread, 6230 Rolling Road, West Springfield, 10 – 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 29. No appointment necessary.

Safe Sleep for Infants Bill Signed Into Law

On March 17, Governor McAuliffe signed into law House Bill 1515 sponsored by Del. David Bulova (D-37) to require that hospitals and others providing maternity care give new parents information on safe sleep environments for newborns.

The legislation was a priority recommendation of the State Child Fatality Review Team.

The Review Team was established by the General Assembly to investigate fatalities involving children and to make recommendations for preventing fatalities.

According to a 2014 report by the Review Team: "In 2009, 119 infants less than one year of age died unexpectedly in a sleep environment in Virginia, approximately one infant every three days.

After natural disease, sleep-related death is the leading cause of infant death in Virginia, a loss of life nearly 10 times the number of infants who died as a result of abusive head trauma and almost 30 times the number of infants who died in motor vehicle collisions." House Bill 1515 was supported by the Medical Society of Virginia, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the American Council of Nurse Mid-Wives, and INOVA Health Systems.

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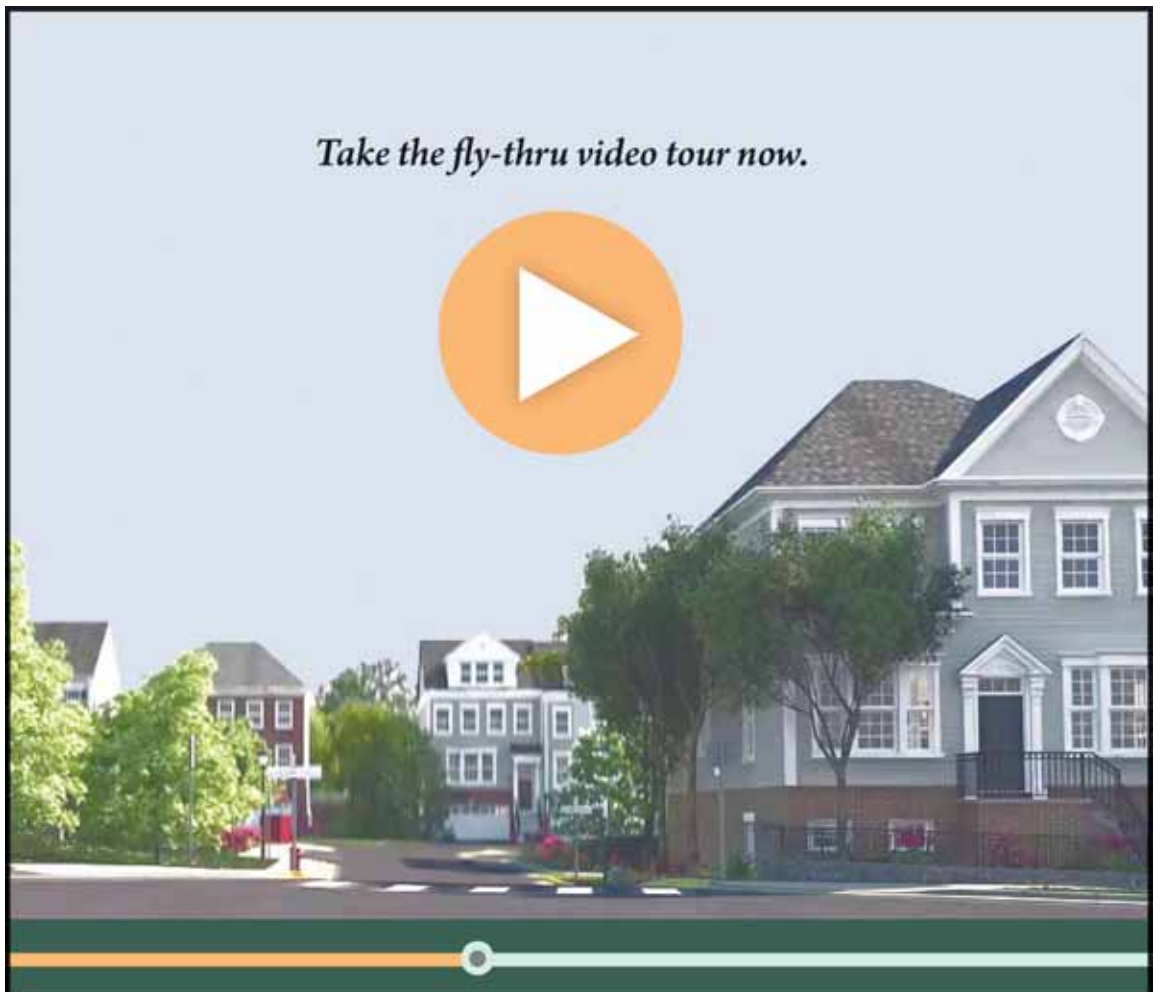
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OPINION

Housing and Health

BY DAVID LEVINE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GOOD SHEPHERD
HOUSING AND FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

Many homeless people experience an episode of homelessness because of a chronic physical or mental illness, a disabling injury, or other health issues. Several years ago, the National Alliance to End Homelessness estimated that people living in homeless shelters were more than twice as likely to suffer from an acute medical condition. Many have fallen into homelessness because of repeated failures in their health. The medical bills mount, they can't pay rent, and they end up evicted from their housing.

The link between health and homelessness is no mystery. Recognizing that link, the 100,000 Homes Campaign was a national movement to focus on permanently housing those homeless Americans who face the highest risk of death from living homeless on the streets. In June 2014, the four-year 100,000

COMMENTARY

Homes Campaign had successfully moved 101,628 homeless individuals into permanent housing. As the Campaign reported: "That number represents an estimated annual taxpayer savings of \$1.3 billion and reflects the collective work of 238 U.S. communities who have joined the Campaign"

The Campaign proved that homelessness can be ended. But it also showed that housing is itself a life-saving tool.

Housing provides the supports that many chronically ill and disabled homeless people require for their conditions. With a stable address these homeless people can call home, they can plan their treatments and doctor visits. They can transit from home to treatment centers and back home again without any fear. The neighbor next door will be there to drive them. Their prescription medicines will be available to them in a medicine cabinet in their bathrooms. They have a bed where they can rest after a painful treatment or hospital stay.

So much depends on having a home.

The other link between housing and health comes from the housing itself. According to the Environmental Health Watch (EHW), nearly six million households "live with moderate to severe home health and safety hazards." People living in such housing may experience higher risks of illnesses and injuries from greater exposure to asthma triggers, lead hazards, excess moisture, pest infestations, and toxins.

The financial savings are significant from a basic healthy home. In other words, these savings come from homes that are dry, well-ventilated, pest- and contaminant-free. Healthy homes lead to improved health results. Asthma-related healthcare costs are lower and labor force productivity is greater from such homes. According to EHW estimates, billions are saved from healthy homes in reduced healthcare expenditures.

When anyone considers the link between housing and health, it really comes down to this idea: housing matters for life. It is that critical.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Turning Every Rock For Education Budget

To the Editor:

Fairfax County is cited as having an average household income that is one of the top ten of all the counties and cities in our nation. Yet the proposed budget for the county's fiscal year 2014 reads in part: "We cannot fund all our priorities and investments," and "We have turned over every rock looking for increased savings opportunities."

Clearly they have neglected turning over every rock looking for increased revenue opportunities, and they should have. Increased revenues could be found by increasing the county's real estate tax rate, now at \$1.09 per \$100 of assessed value of properties. Each penny of increase in the tax rate would yield the county an additional \$22.6 million.

By leaving the county tax rate unchanged for another year, we are short-changing our public school students. The teachers for these students have starting salaries that are 3 percent lower than teachers in neighboring counties. This small gap, however, increases to 20.5 percent for teachers with a Masters degree in their tenth year. Difficult to retain the best teachers in these circumstances.

There is another opportunity to be found under another rock in the projected 2014 budget, viz: The meals' tax assessed on meals in restaurants. A tax of a mere 4 pennies on the total dollar expended

by a restaurant patron would yield some \$80,000 to the county's coffers. No one is hurt. Thus, it's politically safe.

In conclusion, it is certainly not too much to ask our community with the 10th highest average income in the US to be a leader of our country in caring for the education of our children. Retaining the best qualified teachers to inspire our children requires us to lead in the salaries for those teachers.

Bob Simon
Reston

A Cornerstone in Danger

To the Editor:

We are a community that values education. We're known nationwide for our world-class education system. And for good reason: with outstanding teachers, motivated students, and active leadership, we have every right to take pride in the top-tier education that our community has asked for. But it scares me, as a student, to think that this cornerstone of our county may be in danger.

For years now, we have been cutting back on our investment in education. Since 2008, Fairfax County Public Schools have lost nearly \$500 million in funding while growing by nearly 22,000 students. With enrollment growing faster than our resources can keep up, this means real cuts in real classrooms are affecting me and my 188,000 colleagues.

It is not just on paper. It touches

every one of us, from kindergarten to adult education. I spent a fair amount of my childhood in a temporary building barely passing as a classroom. I have had to wait in line to get access to a set of four textbooks in a class of nearly 30. I have seen great teachers, the kind who inspire real change and passion for learning in their students, come and go because of the fact that we are no longer competitive for teacher salary. If we settle for less than the best, then we have compromised our community values.

Half of my teachers work multiple jobs. Two years ago, I ran into an old teacher of mine at a restaurant. As I was sitting at the table, she approached me, beaming with joy to see a past student. After a pleasant nostalgic conversation, there was a pause. She produced a pad and pen, and said "By the way, I'll be your server tonight."

It does not have to be this way. By becoming competitive in teacher pay, investing in capital improvement, and allocating meaningful materials to classrooms, we can make strides to improve our system. But this annual battle of the Boards is not sustainable. We need to create a shared partnership and build meaningful progress on the common ground we share. And as community members, it is up to you to bring that message to your supervisors.

Ben Press
Vienna

The writer, age 16, is a junior James Madison High School in Vienna.

There is No 'Away'

To the Editor:

I am dismayed by what my neighbors' put out for "trash." Yes, we all know about Goodwill, Purple Heart, various organizations that collect clothing, kitchen gadgets and other items. We are all pretty good about recycling paper, glass, plastic, and cardboard. But much is put on the curb that is not trash. Below are just a few of what I have seen on the curb side for trash pick-up this past trash day.

A bike; this is one of the worst items to put out with trash. Bikes of the World collects "any serviceable complete (or nearly-complete) bicycle, adult or children's," - See more at: <http://bikesfortheworld.org>.

Wall-to-wall carpet. Here is a link to how the wall-to-wall carpet industry is recycling their products and keeping carpet out of landfills. <http://carpetswalltowall.com/carpet-recycling-process/>.

A child's dresser. Was it useable? Could wood glue on a drawer or two make it whole? Habitat for Humanity Restore takes would take that dresser, other old furniture, kitchen sinks, bookshelves, old bathtubs, they are easy to call and ask what they take and don't take.

<http://www.habitat.org/restores>

So, as spring "cleaning" arrives and de-cluttering our houses happens, and we "throw away" we need to think first about how to keep items out of the landfill, because there is no away.

Kay Fowler
Herndon

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SPRING FUN



PHOTOS BY MARISSA BEALE/THE CONNECTION



Anne Wierein and her husband, both from Fairfax, enjoying St. Patrick's Day at The Auld Shebeen.

The Cellar at The Auld Shebeen was alive with live music, dancing and much toasting.

St. Patrick's Celebrated at The Auld Shebeen

Donning everything from shamrocks and emerald-colored beads, to funky green-and-white stovetop hats, guests at The Auld Shebeen in Fairfax enjoyed live music, food and camaraderie all for just a \$5 cover fee on St. Patrick's Day.

"This is my first time out in about five or six years," said Kurt Abendschien, from Fairfax, about spending St. Patrick's Day at The Auld Shebeen. "So far I really like it."

Packed, crowded and lively are just three words that will describe any Irish Pub on St. Patrick's Day, and The Auld Shebeen on March 17, was no exception. The establishment's upstairs restaurant features live traditional Irish music on certain days of the

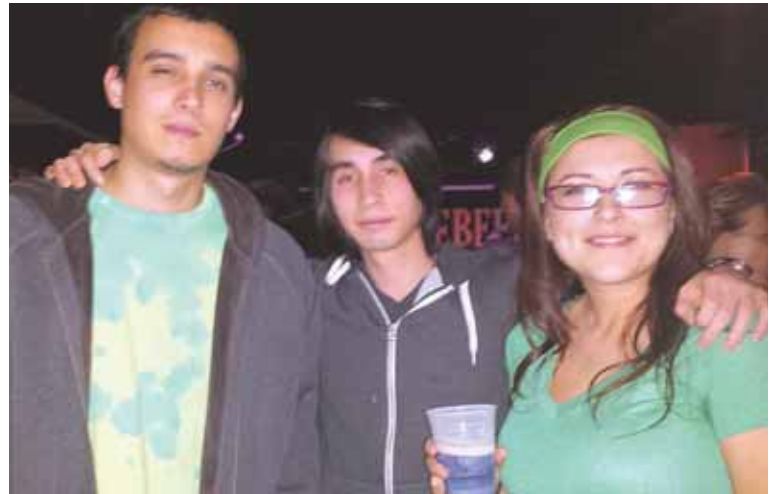
week. The lower level, called the Cellar, is where guests can have fun with karaoke every Friday night, and listen to live DJs throughout the week.

"This is our second St. Patrick's Day, but usually we come here," said Anne Wierein. Earlier that night she and her husband had dinner at the restaurant before venturing downstairs for live music.

"This is my first time here, and it's pretty cool," said Natalie Best from Fairfax, who was there with friends from George Mason University.

"This is probably my fifth time here," said Gabriel Rivera, who was there with his fiancé and mother-in-law. "It's awesome here. We really love it."

— MARISSA BEALE



From left — Joey Nettelton, Mario Encinas and Natalie Best stopped in at The Auld Shebeen for St. Patrick's Day.

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VIEWPOINTS

Where do you go for fun and recreation in the Spring?

Interviews conducted by Steve Hibbard at Fairfax City Library and Pohick Library in Burke.

Ashley Contino of Fairfax:

“In the sun, I do the local farmers markets and I run outside.”



Angela Martin of Fairfax:

“I like to go to Oak Mar Rec Center; I also like Van Dyke Park.”



Mike Grow of Fairfax:

“I like to go to Burke Lake; I like to go bike riding along the bike trails along the Potomac River, C&O Canal and Mount Vernon Trail.”



Amanda Martin of Fairfax:

“I like to go to Massanutten.”



Wynne Tysdal of Fairfax:

“Burke Lake is one of my favorite places and Daniels Run Park.”



John Carr of Pittsburg, visiting daughter Susan who lives in Fairfax:

“We are going to the Petting Zoo Farm this afternoon.”



Stephen Diehl, originally from Fairfax and now from Centreville:

“One of my favorite local areas is Burke Lake. I like to go for a jog around the lake, take out a boat and play frisbee golf. They have an ice cream shop there; there's a lot of attractions there.”



Marilyn Feldman of Fairfax:

“My favorite thing to do when the weather gets warmer is al fresco dining. I love the Mosaic District on Lee Highway. I love the outdoor eateries at Lee Highway and Gallows Road. It's a pleasure to go sit outside eating or just watching people.”



Janhavi Deorukhkar of Fairfax:

“I would say Fairfax Corner. I think it has everything you need — good food and a movie theater.”



Fashion, Music and Silent Auction

BY STEVE HIBBARD
CENTRE VIEW

The 35th annual Fashion Show, Luncheon, and Si-lent Auction sponsored by the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary Fairfax County Corps will be held on Friday, April 17 at 10:30 a.m. at the Waterford at Fair Oaks (across from Fair Oaks Mall). Fashions will be presented by Lord & Taylor.

The event features a social and silent auction preview at 10:30 a.m.; a welcome at 11:15 a.m.; entertainment provided by singer Elisabeth Turchi, who will sing Broadway tunes, opera and jazz at 11:30 a.m.; a luncheon catered by the Waterford consisting of American garden salad, chicken Wellington, medley of fresh vegetables, and chocolate mousse dessert at 12 p.m.; and the fashion show at 12:50 p.m. About 350 people are expected to attend.

“This is my fifth year of doing it and each year we are growing,” said Master of Cermonies Angela Ganey. “This is the biggest fundraiser of the year; the same people are coming back and everything we do is for the people of Fairfax who are needy.”

“With the theme, ‘Step Into Spring and Do the Most Good,’ it's a lovely gathering and a chance to contribute and have an enjoyable time and be with friends and

see the Spring fashions from Lord & Taylor,” said Meg McLane, co-president of the Women's Auxiliary of the Fairfax Corps who's in charge of the models.

Tickets are \$40 (\$10 is tax-deductible). To purchase tickets or donate gift certificates and merchandise for the silent auction, contact event coordinator Angela Ganey at angelaganey@verizon.net or 703-250-5809.

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SPRING FUN



From left: Mary Bresnahan, Barbara O'Brien and Nancy Kay from Fairfax, have been friends for many years. O'Brien has six great-grandchildren.



From left: Judy Caddel of Burke, Jane Wiedhahn of Annandale, and Betsy Jouannet of Fairfax, getting ready for lunch and the fashion show.

PHOTOS BY TERRANCE MORAN/THE CONNECTION

The Shepherd's Center Hosts Spring Fashion Show

The Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke held its first fashion show for the fashion conscious women of Fairfax and Burke. The spring outfits were provided by Draper and Damon's of Fairfax and the models are members of the Shepherd Center community. With piano accompaniment by Sylvia Mulherin the models had numerous outfit changes and delighted the more than 130 attendees.

Prior to the lunch catered by St. John Davis Center, a dozen vendors showcased their offerings for Shepherd's Center guests. The vendors included, Avon, Beading for Haiti, Pampered Chef, Mystical Rose Flowers and Silpada Jewelry. Their tables were

filled with browsers and customers. The Shepherd's Center provides life-enriching programs for older adults in the Fairfax-Burke community with the goal of enabling them to live independently. In the past year, the Shepherd's Center provided over 1,000 rides for their over 800 clients. The Shepherd's Center provides bi-monthly luncheons, learning classes in art, history, health and exercise. In addition, the center helps their clients with shopping, visitation for shut-ins, and monthly meetings for caregivers of dementia patients. Drivers and office workers are always needed for their medical transportation and companion shopping programs. Contact their office at 703-323-4788.



From the left: Jan Wilcox of Mason Neck, Sharon Holcombe, Gail Calabrese and Ingrid Sides of Fairfax, waiting for the Fashion Show to begin.



Kim Moden, of Fairfax, modeling a spring outfit from Draper and Damon's.



Joanne Dair, of Fairfax, models a pink outfit fit for Easter from Draper and Damon's.



Mary Walher, of Fairfax, models a spring tunic and hat to the guests at Shepherd's Center.

SPRING FUN

Members
of the City
of Fairfax
band.

PHOTO COURTESY
OF FAIRFAX BAND
ASSOCIATION



Fairfax Band Gives Their 'Regards to Broadway'

Broadway's coming to Fairfax. On March 28, at 7:30 p.m. the City of Fairfax Band (CFB), with vocals by The Mason Cabaret, presents a "Give Our Regards to Broadway" program at Fairfax High School (3501 Rebel Run). (Tickets and information: www.fairfaxband.org)

The CFB, local musicians nationally recognized for excellence, will perform an all-Broadway program featuring now-playing tunes as well as medleys from the Great White Way's golden age. Concertgoers will hear selections from "Wicked: the Untold Story of the Witches of Oz," still playing to worldwide acclaim. It is the Tony Award-winning dark-themed take on "The Wizard of Oz" story. Also on the bill is a suite from Leonard Bernstein's classic musical

"Candide." His music also will be heard in a medley of tunes from timeless Jerome Robbins-directed/choreographed shows including Bernstein's "West Side Story," Stephen Sondheim's "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," and "Fiddler on the Roof" by Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick.

The Mason Cabaret, 12 talented and dynamic singers from George Mason University's School of Theater, will join the band to perform melodies from popular shows.

Tickets for unreserved seats are just \$15 for adults or \$10 for seniors age 60 and over. They are available in advance at (www.fairfaxband.org) or at the door. Parking is free.

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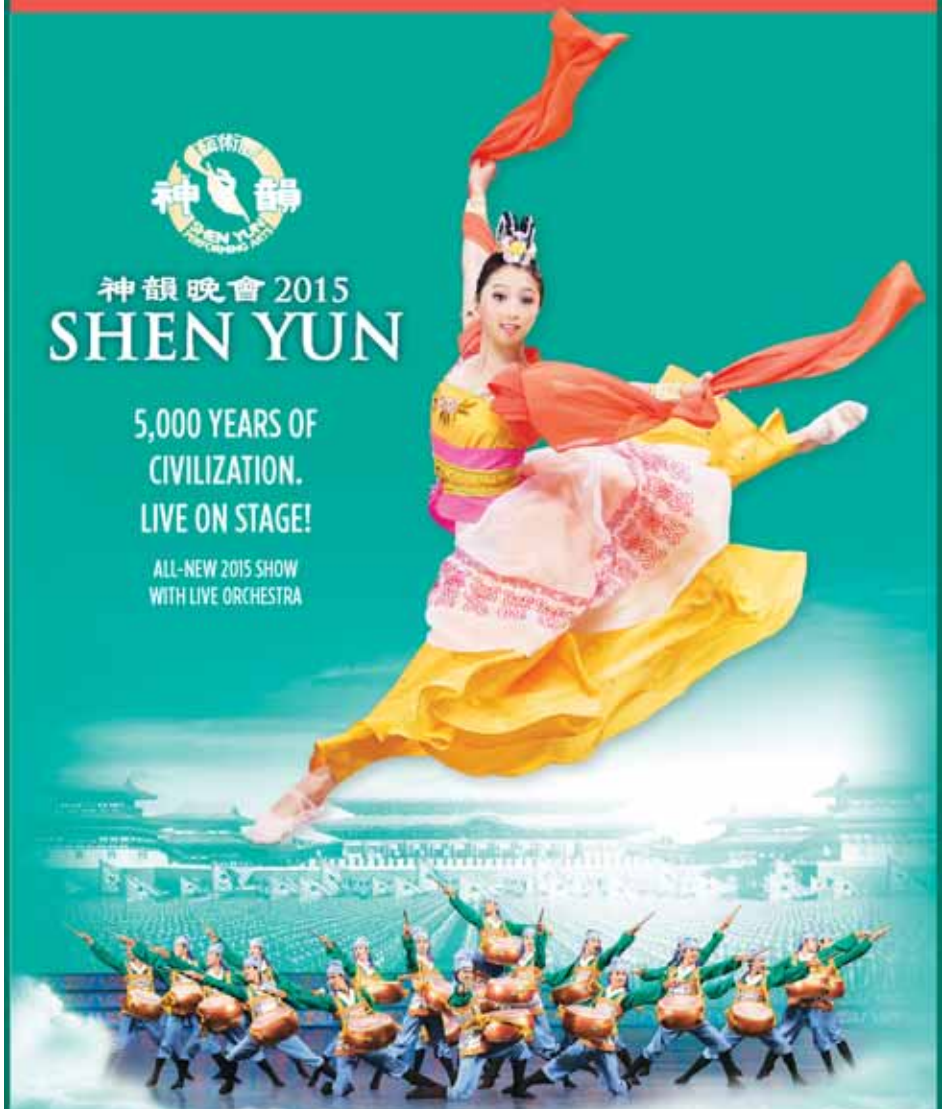
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Or to mail photo prints, send to:
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Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR
Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

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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.....A+ Camps & Schools Pullout
4/29/2015.....Mother's Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts I
4/29/2015.....Spring Outlook 2015

MAY
5/6/2015.....McLean Day Pullout
5/6/2015.....Mother's Day Dining & Gifts II
5/6/2015.....Wellbeing
Mother's Day is May 10
5/13/2015.....HomeLifeStyle
5/20/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools, Proms, Summer Planning
Memorial Day is May 25
5/27/2015.....Summer Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment
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ENTERTAINMENT

George Mason University School of Dance, Dance Company group.



PHOTOS BY TIM COBURN/COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Youthful Energy on Mason's Stage

George Mason's Dance Company presents “2015 Dance Gala Concert.”

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Dance is a captivating art form. An exploration set to music. It is motion and stillness, turns and jumps done with personal style.

It is “Shakespeare in the air,” according to William Reeder, dean, George Mason University College of Visual and Performing Arts. He called dance at Mason “simply extraordinary, and world-class.”

“We want to be on pulse with what is most relevant,” said Susan Shields, director, School of Dance. And its critical, “we provide a unique blend of serious conservatory training within the liberal arts education. The George Mason University dance major is a talented mover, an emerging artist/movement poet and a thinking arts advocate.”

Area audiences can take in the fresh, youthful energy of Mason's dance students at this year's George Mason University Dance Company Gala Concert. Come as well to see honorary event chair and dance legend Jacques d'Amboise. He is a Kennedy Center Honors recipient and founder of the National Dance Institute that uses dance to inspire children to excellence.

Based upon interviews, Mason dance majors promise to hold nothing back performing works by an array of contemporary choreographers. The choreographers include Andrea Miller of Gallim Dance, Alexandro Cerrudo from Hubbard Street Dance, and the late Ulysses Dove who performed with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Joey Day (Vienna) said that Mason provides “such a very supportive environment. The School of Dance took a chance on me and is open to my style and hip-hop background.” He also discussed how dance movements can visually “describe a particular person and a relationship.”



Susan Shields, director, George Mason University School of Dance.

Where and When

George Mason University's Dance Company presents “2015 Dance Gala Concert” at Center for the Arts, 4400 University Ave, Fairfax. Performances Friday, March 27 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, March 28 at 8 p.m. with a special pre-performance Gala Dinner Celebration with honorary chair, renowned dancer and choreographer Jacques d'Amboise. Will also be performed at the Hylton Performing Arts Center in Manassas on Sunday, March 29 at 4 p.m. Tickets for the performance \$15-\$25. Tickets for the Gala Dinner start at \$150. For tickets call 888-945-2468 or visit George Mason University Center for the Arts Box Office. General information about School of Dance, call 703-993-1114 or visit dance.gmu.edu.

For David Kurland (Reston), Mason School of Dance provides great opportunities to see and learn from master performers as he “pushes himself.” He spoke about Mason providing trainers to help dancers get and stay in shape. Kurland also mentioned learning about the visual aspects of dance from a film course where he is learning how to “find different angles and ways to give attention to the hands and feet of a performer.”

Katherine Stewart (Chantilly) said that dance is helping her to learn to take risks “to express internal emotions about herself and to generate creative ideas.” The School of Dance supportive environment is providing a “great place for self-examination along with pushing my boundaries beyond my own expected limitations.” You never know, you may see someone from the Dance Gala Concert on a bigger stage in the near future; however, you can see them here first.

ENTERTAINMENT

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.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 26-29

Season of Innovation: "An Experiment with an Air Pump." March 26-28, April 2-4, 8 p.m. March 28-29, April 4, 2 p.m. Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. This contemporary consideration of art and science takes place in the same house but, in time, on the eve of two very different centuries. Furtive romance, farcical commotions and dark secrets infuse this unique examination of women's roles in medical research and the ethical challenges unfolding in anatomy in 1799 and genetics in 1999. \$25, 15. 888-945-2468.

Northern Virginia Jewish Film Festival. March 26, 7:30 p.m. March 27, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. March 28, 8:40 p.m. March 29, all day. Angelika Film Center & Cafe, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. Films to be screened include 24 Days, Above and Beyond, Apples from the Desert, Arlo & Julie, Beneath the Helmet: From High School to Home Front, Disobedience: The Sousa Mendes Story, God's Slave, The Green Prince, Kidon, Life as a Rumor, Magic Men, The Outrageous Sophie Tucker, The Prince of Egypt and Touchdown Israel-Tackle Football in the Holyland; plus a live storytelling event by SpeakeasyDC. \$10-24. 703-537-3000.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 27-28

2015 Dance Gala Concert. GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. This eagerly anticipated annual event showcases an extraordinary repertory company of dancers at the beginning of their professional careers, performing a program of contemporary choreographic masterpieces by Andrea Miller, Alejandro Cerrudo and Ulysses Dove. Recent alumni of the Mason Dance Company have been invited to join some of the world's most prestigious dance companies, including Mark Morris Dance Group, Limón Dance, Elisa Monte Dance and Pascal Rioult's company, RIOULT.

Family Math Games. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Come as a family to try our games! Build math and logic skills as a family. We'll have games for all levels with tips for parents to use at home. All ages. To register visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 28-29

Bunny Paws! Saturday, 8:30-9:30 a.m. Sunday, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Fair Oaks Mall, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. Bring your dog or cat to visit and have photos taken with the Easter Bunny. Dogs and cats must be on a leash or in a carrier and up-to-date on shots. Please use mall entrance next to Todai restaurant. <http://www.shopfairfaxmall.com/events>.

Hoppity Easter Weekend. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Fair Oaks Mall, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. Bring your little ones for free face painting, balloon creations, spring crafts, and more! In Grand Court West.

SUNDAY/MARCH 29

Arts and Crafts Day at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. 1-4 p.m. Suitable for all ages involving the themes of the Museum - Railroading, the Civil War and local



PHOTO BY DONNA MOULTON

Mark your calendars: The Virginia Historic Garden Tour - an 8-day event that stretches across the Commonwealth, where each spring visitors are welcomed to Virginia's most beautiful gardens, homes and historic landmarks. The Clifton and Fairfax Station Garden Tour is on April 21. This self-drive tour features stables, vineyards, a world-class garden, Georgian-revival architecture, and a 10,000 square-foot contemporary home with a vanishing edge swimming pool - four private homes with gardens and two stables in all. Tour ticket includes a tea at the Clifton Presbyterian Church. Advance ticket sales: \$30. www.vagardenweek.org.

history. 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Admission is free to Museum members and children 4 and under; \$2 children 5-15 and \$4 adults 16 and older. www.fairfax-station.org, 703-425-9225.

Art Show Reception. 1-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Come to the Horticulture Center and Historic House at Green Spring Gardens and see the work of artists of the **Sumi-Society of America**. Meet the artists at the reception, and enjoy light refreshments. The art show begins on Feb. 24 and ends on April 26. Call 703-642-5173 for more information.

Easter Egg Hunt. 11 a.m., 12, 12:45, 1:30, 2:15, 3 p.m. Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Hunt for eggs filled with treats and treasures on the grounds at Lake Fairfax Park. Pre-paid reservations required. \$6-8. 703-437-1794.

SUNDAY/MARCH 29-APRIL 5

Easter Bunny Photos. Daily. Fair Oaks Mall, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. A sure sign of spring is the arrival of the Easter Bunny, and those on the bunny trail will soon find him happily settled in his new home in Grand Court West. The Easter Bunny excitedly awaits visitors in Bunnyville, a charming, three-dimensional Bunny town featuring the Kid Junction Bunny Home of the Ultimate Party Experience, Hare Salon, and 24 Carrot Bank. The last stop in Bunnyville is a professional photo with the Easter Bunny in front of his Bunny House. Customers will receive a \$10 or \$20 card from Shutterfly with the purchase of select photo packages (\$22-44), and all children receive a small gift from the Bunny just for visiting! Locally presented by Kid Junction.

MONDAY/MARCH 30

Music and Movin' with Miss Susan. 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Co-sponsored by Friends of the City of Fairfax Regional Library. Age 6 months - 5 years with adult. To register visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

Crazy 8s Math Club. 4:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Funny Money: Take coins to a new level by weighing them, flipping them, rolling them, and, finally, winning them in an extreme version of Rock, Paper, Scissors! Grade K-2. To register visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

TUESDAY/MARCH 31

Brain Games at the Library. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Have fun and win prizes with board games and card games that challenge your thinking and build skills. Age 8-12. To register visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

SATURDAY/APRIL 4

Historic Pohick Church First Saturday Tours. 1-3 p.m. Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. During the colonial period, Pohick Church was the congregation of many of our country's most prominent families, including the Washingtons, Masons and Fairfaxes. The Historic Pohick Church Docent Guild will give free guided tours of the historic colonial church. For more information please call 703-339-6572 or visit <http://www.pohick.org>.

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Robinson senior Chris White (32) scored four goals against Dominion on March 21.



Senior attackman Chapman Jasien and the Robinson boys' lacrosse team enter the 2015 season as defending 6A state champions.

Confident or Cocky?

Defending champion Robinson boys' lax has high expectations.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Matt Curran was an assistant coach for the Robinson boys' lacrosse program when the Rams won the state championship in 2006. Robinson returned a large portion of its team the following season, leaving Curran and the rest of the coaching staff to manage the egos of a team full of championship-expectant teenagers.

Despite the potential for overconfidence, Robinson would repeat as state champion in 2007.

Seven years later, Curran, having taken over as Robinson head coach, guided the Rams to the 2014 6A state championship. Many talented athletes returned from that title-winning group, leading to lofty expectations for this year's squad.

"We have so many guys back from that team, that the expectations are high again," Curran said. "... In 2006 and 2007, when I was an assistant on the team, we won it two years in a row and we had 19 seniors on the 2007 team. The expectation was that we were going to win it. We did, but it was definitely a [challenge] trying to keep them confident but not cocky."

"The good thing is I've been in that situation before and it feels very similar [to this season]."

Keeping the Rams' egos in check could prove challenging, even for an experienced coach like Curran.

ON MARCH 21, Robinson scored seven of the game's eight second-half goals en route to an 11-4 victory over Dominion at Langley High School. The win improved the Rams' record to 3-0, including victories over Lake Braddock and C.M. Wright.

"We just have all the confidence in the world right now," Robinson senior attackman Chris White said. "We don't think any team can beat us and until they do, we're on top."



Robinson junior attackman Johnny Daniel scored two goals against Dominion during an 11-4 victory on March 21.

How do the Rams deal with carrying a championship target on their backs?

"We just keep in mind that we're the top team," White said, "and no one can beat us if we play as good as we can."

Sound confident? Cocky?

"We're definitely confident, but we talk almost daily about not getting cocky," said Robinson senior attackman Chapman Jasien, a four-year starter. "That's a hard thing to do after you win a title. We're trying our best to stay modest and keep grinding every week to make sure we get better and better."

After starting 1-3 last season, Robinson won its final 17 games, including victories in the Conference 5, 6A North region and 6A state championship games. Counting the three wins in 2015, the Rams have won 20 straight games.

"We ran into that last year before we even won anything," Curran said about potential over-confidence issues. "These guys

knew that they were going to be good, so they got really cocky early. This year, it's the same kind of thing. I've got to tell them: 'Guys, you're not a good team yet. You will be later on, but right now you're not.' They're probably like, 'You're full of it,' but it's true — they're not yet. They certainly have the capability, [though]. We have the talent."

The Rams definitely have the talent. White scored a team-high four goals during Robinson's victory over Dominion and leads the team with 11 goals through three games.

"Honestly, I think he's the best finisher in the area," Curran said about the 5-foot-9, 160-pound attackman. "He's a three-year starter. He's a scrappy little guy. We don't ask for him to carry too much and drive against his man, but he'll finish and he just gets it done. He's one of those guys that ends up at the end of the day with three, four goals on the scoreboard every time."

Jasien totaled three assists against Dominion and leads the team with five.

Senior long-stick midfielder Jack Rowlett, who will play for the University of North Carolina, is tied for second on the team with five goals.

"In my opinion," Curran said, "Jack is probably the best player in the area, overall."

Junior midfielder Austin Henry, junior attackman Johnny Daniel and senior attackman Thomas Gallogly each scored two goals against Dominion. Senior midfielder Alex Sands added one.

Henry and Daniel each have five goals this season, Gallogly has four and Jasien has three.

Sophomore goalkeeper Matthew Bethard totaled eight saves against Dominion. Junior keeper Ryan Keith leads the team with 13 saves. Curran said he is trying to determine which goalie will start long-term.

Senior defenseman Jude Bukholz is a four-year starter for the Rams.

NEXT UP FOR ROBINSON is a home game against fellow state-power Chantilly at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, March 26. The Chargers have reached the state final in five of the last seven seasons, winning championships in 2008 and 2013.

"Robinson, we have a lot of respect for them," Chantilly defenseman and Ohio State commit Brendan Wallace said after the Chargers beat Herndon 10-1 on Monday, improving their record to 2-0. "They're a good team — they're one of the best teams in the area— but we think we have a pretty good club too."

Whether it's managing player egos or dealing with each opponent trying to knock off the defending state champion, Robinson will face challenges throughout the 2015 season.

But challenges won't stop the Rams from aiming high.

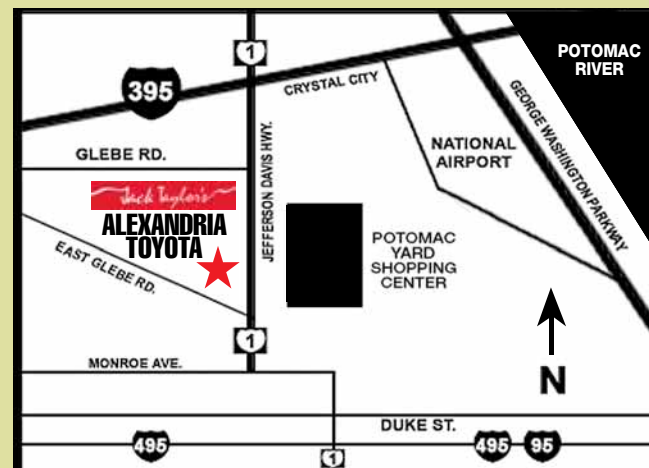
"We're trying to improve as a team [and] individually," Jasien said, "but we want the title again. That's what we're working for."

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PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE PERMIT
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PLANNING COMMISSION
March 31, 2015

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 7:30 P.M. at the Acacia Lodge Hall, 7135 Main Street, Clifton, VA 20124 to consider the amendment of the special use permit of Clifton General Store / Main Street Pub, located at 7140 Main Street, to include and authorize an increase in number of seats, an increase in parking onsite and off-site for the public and employees. The application for the proposed amendment to Clifton General Store / Main Street Pub's special use permit, is available for review and downloading on the Town's website at www.clifton-va.com and a hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend and express their views with respect to the requested amendment to the Clifton General Store / Main Street Pub's special use permit.

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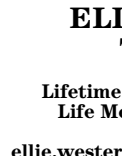
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