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News

The Importance of Including Everyone

Hundreds turn out as School Board votes to add "gender identity" to nondiscrimination policy.

By Tim Peterson
The Connection

iscrimination is bad, and every one should have a safe environment in which to learn. These sentiments were common to the Fairfax County School Board members and the hundreds of parents who packed the auditorium and front lobby of Luther Jackson Middle School for the board's May 7 meeting.

But as the board convened to take action on adding the words "gender identity" to its nondiscrimination policy, there was significant, emotional discord in the audience and among several board members as to how the board had arrived at making this decision and what implementation of the policy update would ultimately look like.

Though signs and banners are typically allowed inside the school's auditorium during School Board business meetings, additional security at the May 7 meeting prohibited those with signs from entering. Dozens of citizens therefore crowded around the open doors to the auditorium and periodically vocalized their opinions.

In November, the School Board voted to add sexual orientation to the list of categories for which a Fairfax County student, employee or applicant for employment should not be discriminated against. That list also includes age, race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status or disability.

At-large member Ryan McElveen introduced the gender identity update to the policy at a forum in March of this year. Then it came up as new business at the board's April 23 regular meeting and was scheduled for a vote on May 7.

McElveen gave several reasons justifying the motion, beginning with a March opinion by Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring that local school boards do have authority under Virginia law to make such decisions.

Regarding the protection of transgender students and employees, he said, "The truth is we already do, but that protection has never been clearly outlined in our policies."

Several public speakers at the beginning of the meeting voiced concerns that this policy change would make bathrooms and locker rooms unsafe by allowing members of one biological gender to use the opposite facility.

"Fears about this policy change are unfounded and need to be better understood," McElveen said. "After we pass this policy tonight, nothing will change in how we handle cases of transgender and gender nonconforming students and employees."

McElveen added that students and employees will continue to go through a thorough vetting process with regards to any gender-nonconformity, and that the board



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Citizens were actively engaged in the discussion leading up to the Fairfax County School Board's 10-1 vote in favor of adding gender identity to the district's nondiscrimination policy.

has "never received a concern regarding a bathroom incident of this nature."

Another justification raised by McElveen was the board is being compelled by the U.S. Department of Education office of civil rights to amend its policy as part of a national gender identity protection rollout. "In this light, amending is non-negotiable," he said, "unless we want the government to come after our federal funding."

The School Board's counsel John E. Foster confirmed McElveen's statements, saying "the federal government has been very clear they expect local school divisions to amend their policies to include gender identity."

NOT ALL BOARD members agreed with that interpretation, however.

"That the government could compel individual local school boards around the country or risk losing federal education money like Title IX funds is unconscionable," said Elizabeth Schultz, representing the Springfield District.

"Is my federal government really threatening me, as a duly elected local official who has sworn an oath to the constitution of Virginia to run this school system, to do their bidding by inserting 'gender identity' or face taking our children's lunch money?"

Schultz also voiced concerns that the board had not taken sufficient time to fully examine how it would implement the policy update and what the effects would be, both for staff workload and cost to the school system.

She motioned to postpone action on the policy until October, "so that the board can be provided the commensurate draft regulation and handbook language, and determine the overall impact of the proposed revision to Policy 1450."

Patty Reed, representing Providence District, agreed with Schultz.

"This is about whether our board is being responsible or foolhardy," she said. "Frankly the process we've used to get to

this point is troubling and embarrassing — so many fundamental questions that remain unanswered.

The board members, Reed continued, "clearly have caught the public by surprise and not done justice to our established public engagement process."

Ultimately, Schultz and Reed were outvoted and the action moved forward, amid spontaneous outbursts from an increasingly boisterous audience.

The board finally voted 10-1 in favor of updating the policy to include "gender identity." Schultz was the only dissenting vote, with Reed abstaining.

IN CHAIRMAN Tammy Derenak Kaufax's statement regarding the decision, she said, "No decisions have yet been made regarding accommodations that will be provided under the revised policy. Our next step will be to hire a consultant to assist in developing appropriate regulations that protect the rights of all students and comply with state and federal law."

Following the vote, citizens began filing out of the auditorium and lingered in the lobby and covered area leading into the school.

Josh Israel of Fairfax was one of the public speakers before the School Board, in support of the update. "This policy sends an important signal to all our teachers, staff and students — particularly those who are transgender — that they need not be afraid," he said in his remarks.

After the vote, Israel said, "They demonstrated they understand the importance of including everyone."

In response to Schultz's comments during the meeting that Fairfax County policy should instead simply read "Don't discriminate," Israel said, "It still has to mean something; until these are enumerated, there isn't any enforcement. It's encouraging that 10 School Board members recognized that tonight."

Devon Flynn of Centreville is a junior at George Mason University. He came out

The New Policy

"No student, employee, or applicant for employment in the Fairfax County Public Schools shall, on the basis of age, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, marital status, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity, as required by law. It is the express intent of the School Board that every policy, practice, and procedure shall conform to all applicable requirements of federal and state law."

What Happens Next:

"No decisions have yet been made regarding accommodations that will be provided, under the new policy. FCPS will hire a consultant to assist in developing appropriate regulations that protect the rights of all students and to comply with state and federal law."

Source: www.fcps.edu/news/policy1450.shtml

against the proposition. "I was hoping with the majority here opposing it, the board would see and respond to our opinions," he said.

One big issue for Flynn is the "federal one size fits all" aspect of the policy update. "They have no place to tell a county, a school district," what to do, he said. Another concern for him is bathrooms and locker rooms: Flynn said he would move his future children to another county if students are allowed to use facilities designated for the opposite sex.

"I think it's a shame," he said.

Dalia Palchik, an Annandale resident and teacher at Sheridan School in Washington, D.C. supports the policy update. "As a teacher, I've seen kids struggle," she said afterwards. "It's time we do everything we can to help everyone, including the most vulnerable." Palchik is also running to represent Providence District on the School Board.

John Thom of Fairfax came to the meeting to get a sense of what was happening and how the public was feeling. "I didn't see a need to change the policy, and why this inexplicable rush to pass it without analysis?"

"Proper deliberation is what I hear people asking for — did they collect all the information and have a substantial debate?"

THESE QUESTIONS were answered by School Board vice chairman Ted Velkoff: "The reason we that haven't had a full-blown community engagement about this policy is because, frankly, nothing is changing," he said during the meeting.

"The notion that outside agitators promote, that this policy change will cause a sudden massive upheaval, is not true," Velkoff continued. "The proof is that we have been dealing with transgender persons in FCPS and none of these catastrophic consequences has ever materialized."

Student representative to the School Board Harris LaTeef refrained from weighing in on the motion, other than to say the majority of students he talked to supported changing the policy. The Langley High School senior did, however, implore the audience for something else:

"Come budget time next year I want to see this passion, this vigor, this community involvement when it comes to funding our schools," he said. "That is a true threat to our children, our community, the underfunding of our schools."

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The HAZE documentary film contains graphic imagery but is a must-see for all parents, their college-bound teens, and anyone who is concerned about the dangers of underage and high-risk drinking.









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The Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County is a non-profit organization working to prevent substance abuse by youth and young adults with partners at the local, state and national levels. This event is partially funded by a federal STOP grant. Funding for this ad is provided by the federal SAMHSA Virginia Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant.

News

City of Fairfax Seeks a Brand

It would identify the City's unique qualities.

BY BONNIE HOBBS THE CONNECTION

t's been 15 or 16 years since the City of Fairfax has given serious thought to possibly adopting a brand-marketing campaign. So, to learn how the City could better promote itself, City Manager Bob Sisson arranged for an expert in that field to address the City Council.

Via a remote-communication setup, Don McEachern, CEO of North Star Destination Strategies, spoke to the Council from his office in Nashville. He did so during the Council's May 5 work ses-

"We do brand prints to help communities be as competitive as they can be," he explained. "We say, 'Your brand is what people say about you when you're not around,' and branding is what you do about it."

"Your reputation is the end game, and peers are the most credible source of information about a place," continued McEachern. "First, you need to understand what your reputation is, come to an agreement about it and decide where the community is and where it's going."

He said his company's research director is an economist and North Star has worked with 200 communities throughout the U.S. The smallest, in Kentucky, had 350 people, and the largest was the state of Florida. But most are small- to medium-sized communities. For example, he said, "We worked with Williamsburg, Charlottesville, Roanoke and Danville and are wrapping up our work in Manassas."

"It's economic development, tourism and communities all working together," said McEachern. "It's understanding what's relevant, distinct, authentic and own-able about your community. First comes research-gathering and articulating the DNA discovery — what your community's about. We also provide educational materials to explain this to people."

North Star obtains the community's perspective in a variety of ways, including learning what Realtors say to sell homes there and how businesses recruit new employees. "We conduct lots of one-on-one interviews with people in a town's businesses," said McEachern. "And we'll use consumer data to see how Fairfax is different from other cities in the region."

HIS COMPANY also checks out "the most-similar workforce to yours and sees what's missing in your city," he said. "Then we'll give you a list of the 200-400 businesses most likely to relocate to your community. We'll also do a qualitative study plus quantitative research. It's typically about four months worth of research, and then we write a brief and a development plan."

"How do you select who you talk to in the community?" asked Mayor Scott Silverthorne. "We want it to be broad-based."

"We'll ask you to send our questions to 400 community leaders," replied McEachern. "Then come meetings and moving forward with the creative and strategic recommendations. And we develop a strategy and a written concept."

But, he added, "We're not an ad agency. You still develop and produce the work; we make the recommendations. And then you'll determine how you'll connect the brand to existing activities and to further development." He then showed several photographic examples of communities North Star has suc-



Ellie Schmidt



David Meyer

cessfully branded. "We've had the pleasure of seeing our brands work for 12 or 13 years," said McEachern.

Silverthorne said one of the challenges the City has is that "there are two Fairfaxes — the city and the county. And I always think of us as the real Fairfax. So it's important to us to differentiate between the county and City."

McEachern told him, "You need to quantify that in the research, see what people really understand and

"It's all about positioning ourselves differently from our neighbors," said Silverthorne. "When I asked people why they chose to live in the City, nearly 90 percent said, 'By accident - but we wouldn't change." He also said he thinks the City needs a slogan that's jazzier than simply saying, "A sense of place with small-town charm."

"We have historical places, we're building a robust arts culture and we also have several, hugely popular events," continued Silverthorne. "Some 2,500 people came to Derby-Q, the other day, but how do we build on it? There are so many events here, and we need to get our message about them out better."

"After you have a brand, you need a marketing strategy to go forward," Councilman Michael DeMarco told McEachern. "Any thoughts?"

"Your brand is your authentic, own-able self," answered the CEO. "Being able to articulate that identity is really key — and its execution is different for every city. And you build more support for your brand as you go forward."

Councilwoman Nancy Loftus asked how long it takes from the time North Star is retained by a community until it delivers its final product. And McEachern said it normally takes eight to 10 months.

Councilwoman Janice Miller asked how his company would use City staff to develop the plan and implement the marketing. "We'll work with and talk with them," he said. "It's a little client-directed regarding what we should focus on. And at the end of the day, someone has to be responsible to [carry things out] and connect the brand to ongoing innovation."

"How do we tie in special events to the business community and help local business people do better?" asked Miller. McEachern said one way would be to "cobble together events" to encourage visitors to extend their stay in Fairfax.

Councilman David Meyer was also concerned about helping George Mason University. "Today, GMU is the largest employer in central Fairfax, with a halfa-billion-dollar payroll and 6,300 full-time employees. But every year, they have to recruit new freshmen to go there. There's not a natural connection between GMU and the City of Fairfax, and I think it could possibly be part of our branding."

AGREEING, McEachern said there's "a lot of halo effect from the perceived cultural events and quality of life of having a university nearby. That relation-

SEE CITY SEEKS, PAGE 5

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

City Seeks A Brand

ship is important and we could ask people what their perception of the university is."

Meanwhile, Councilwoman Ellie Schmidt said, "I think it's important to focus on economic development. Having a brand would help us pull all our assets together and attract new residents and businesses to the City."

Sisson noted that City Council has talked about doing a city-services survey, "asking residents how well they think we're doing our job." He then asked McEachern if other communities have included it as a component of their research, and the CEO said they have.

Silverthorne then recommended giving the Council "time to digest all this [information]. Maybe we could do that survey at the same time. We'll take this under advisement and consider it during our upcoming retreat."

Wegmans Employees Receive Scholarships

Wegmans Food Markets has announced that the Wegmans Employee Scholarship Program will award college tuition assistance to 1,736 new recipients for the upcoming academic year. Wegmans expects to pay out approximately \$4.9 million in tuition assistance to both new and returning scholarship recipients during the 2015/ 2016 school year.

Since the program began in 1984, more than 32,000 Wegmans employees have been awarded scholarships totaling \$100 million.

All stores will celebrate the scholarship recipients and 2015 graduates on Saturday, May 16, when free slices of graduation cake will be served at a time selected by each individual store. See store for details.

Scholarship recipients from the Fairfax Store include: Marcelo Balderrama, Muyba Ashley Burson, Matthew Creel, Joseph Friedlander, Margeaux Gagnon, Sehrish Hussain, Roxanna Hymanson, Jennifer Krebs, Katchapol Kunchaekan, Benjamin Loxton, Gisele Nansi, Phuong Nguyen, Prince Peprah, Andrew Powers, Lauren Pupko, Joseph Stafford, Tirajeh Tahvildar Akbari, Jennifer Tenzin and Rimoun Youssef.

Part-time employee scholarship recipients are eligible to receive up to \$8,800 total).

to \$1,500 a year for four years (a maximum of \$6,000), and fulltime employees can receive up to \$2,200 a year for four years (up

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The City of Fairfax is hosting an open house and presentation on the draft comprehensive Zoning Rewrite. An overview of the zoning and subdivision ordinances, highlighting updates and revisions to the City's land regulations will be presented. The community is encouraged to attend either gathering to ask questions and provide input.

The purpose of the Zoning Rewrite is to develop clear and user-friendly ordinances that are consistent with present-day plans and policies. The drafts are available on the website



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News

Fairfax Judge Dismisses Four Cases of Driving While Intoxicated

Police officer failed to follow general order for recording.

By Tim Peterson The Connection

airfax-based attorney Eric Clingan thought it was odd the Fairfax County Police officer who asked his client to perform a field sobriety test didn't have his body microphone on. Nor did the test take place in view of his patrol car's dashboard-mounted camera.

He contacted three attorneys handling similar cases with the same officer as the complainant, including Fairfax-based attorney Justin Weiss, Faraji Rosenthall and a lawyer from Fairfax County's Public Defender's office. In each instance, the officer's body microphone was off and the sobriety test was conducted off-camera.

"It became obvious to us that it certainly seemed like it had to be more than just a coincidence," said Clingan. "Four separate nights, four different individual defendants."

Clingan then looked up the Fairfax County Police Department General Order 430.8, which details the mobile in-vehicle video program.

The order requires microphones and cameras to be regularly checked for proper functioning, and to be turned on at all times while interacting with civilians. The cameras are capable of swiveling 360 degrees.

"Even if the officer has to take the individual to the side of his vehicle, nothing prevents him from going into the car and moving the camera to capture that performance on video," Clingan said.

"The Fairfax County Police Department has clearly given this officer the ability to record it."

All four cases of Driving While Intoxicated came before Judge Ian M. O'Flaherty in Fairfax General District Court on Friday, May 8. And the judge dismissed each of them for due process violations.

"A case like this will hopefully send a message to the police department and to the community that we have the ability to record both audio and video interactions with the police, and that's for everyone's safety and everyone's protection," said Clingan. "It effectively eliminates misunderstandings, miscommunications and, frankly, misremembering of details over any kind of conduct or confrontation."

"It emphasizes the importance of making sure this technology is used properly," said Rosenthall. "There's more to it than getting cameras; there has to be a change in thought process. In all cases, [recording] helps defense attorneys as often as it helps police officers, taking away from failings of human memory and eyesight."

- Week in Fairfax

Memory Café To Meet on May 26

A new Memory Café opened at the Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden, Fairfax. It will meet on May 26, from 1-3 p.m. A memory café is a place where those with Alzheimer's and their caregivers can find resources, support and companionship.

For more information, contact Carol Blackwell at lovriver@aol.com or 571- 236-6933.

Del. Bulova's Campaign Kickoff

Del. David Bulova (D-37) will formally announce his reelection campaign this Sunday, May 17, from 3-5 p.m., at Brion's Grille at University Mall in Fairfax. This past General Assembly session, he introduced successful legislation on eth-

ics reform, economic development, renewable energy, and affordable housing.

Bulova has represented the district since 2005. Over the past several years, he has spearheaded efforts to enhance the quality of the education system, reduce traffic congestion, fight human trafficking, protect the Chesapeake Bay, and require cleanup of the Pickett Road Tank Farm.

It's Farmers Market Season

The 2015 Farmers Markets are open for business in the City of Fairfax. The Saturday market runs May 9-Oct. 31, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., and the Sunday market runs May 10-Oct. 25, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The location is 10500 Page Ave., one block from West and Main streets, behind Wells Fargo Bank and adjacent to the historic Fairfax County Courthouse.

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News



State Sen. Barbara Favola, U.S. Rep. Don Beyer and Del. Eileen Filler-Corn at the new Merrifield Center Services.

Merrifield Service Center Opens

-Falls Church Community Services Board's (CSB) new Merrifield Center Services was officially opened with a ceremony of local leaders and stakeholders. This new center will help facilitate the services provided by the Fairfax-Falls Church CSB. Among those in attendance were U.S. Rep. Don Beyer, State Sen. Barbara Favola, Del. Eileen Filler-Corn, Fairfax County Board Chairman Sharon Bulova, former

n March 27, the Fairfax Chairman Kate Hanley, Fairfax City Mayor Scott Silverthorne, Providence Supervisor Linda Smyth and former Delegate Jim Scott. The Fairfax-Falls Church CSB is the public agency that plans, organizes and provides services for people in the community who have mental illness, substance use disorders, and/or intellectual disability. The CSB also provides early intervention services for infants and toddlers who have developmental delays.



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OPINION

Public Comment at Police Commission

Come out to testify before the commission on Monday, May 18.

ohn Geer was shot dead by Fairfax County Police Officer Adam Torres on Aug. 29, 2013, and the outrage over the quality and timing of the release of information about the shooting led to the formation of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, which will hold a public forum next Monday, May 18.

Geer was standing unarmed with his hands up inside the doorway to his home in Springfield when he was killed. Police had been called to the scene because of a domestic argument, and while Geer was a legal gun owner, as are one-third of all Virginia residents, no crime had been committed. Aside from the officer who shot Geer, four other officers on the scene told investigators that same day that they were shocked by the shot that killed Geer and thought the shooting was unnecessary. (One officer described his first reaction: "WTF.") Geer made great effort to be predictable in his actions, asking permission to scratch his nose, otherwise keeping his hands up on the doorframe.

Still it took a year and a half and a court order before police officials released the name of the officer who fired the shot and about 11,000 pages of documents related to the in-

gation, it was easy to feel that the meager police statements in the meantime had been deliberately misleading.

In January 2015, just before the statements of the other officers were released because of the court order, Police Chief Edwin Roessler released this update with the name of the officer: "Geer was reported as having multiple firearms inside the home, displaying a firearm that he threatened to use against the police, and refused the officers' requests that he remain outside and speak to them. Officers, including a trained negotiator, attempted to peaceably resolve the situation. They spoke with Geer for more than 30 minutes as he stood in the doorway of his home. When Geer began lowering his hands at one point during the negotiations, PFC Adam Torres fired a single shot that struck Geer."

It was public concern about the huge delay in any information released, and the inconsistencies between police releases and the investigative record that resulted in the Board of Supervisors forming the police review commission. The commission has undertaken a broad review of policies and practices but will not report on the Geer shooting itself.

The Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission is holding a public forum on Monday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairfax County Government Center Board Auditorium. Members of the public may sign up to speak by filling out the online form, or by calling the Clerk

vestigation. Reading the details of the investito the Board's office at 703-324-3151. See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/ speaker bos.htm

— Mary Kimm

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Mary Kimm is a member of the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

Call for Father's Day **Photos**

In the last two weeks, we printed Mother's Day photos submitted by readers, and now we call for photos for Father's Day.

Father's Day is Sunday, June 21, and once again the Connection will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Every year at this time, the Connection puts out the call for photographs of fathers and their children, grandfathers and their children and grandchildren.

Send in photos as soon as possible, with the following information: the town where you live, the names of everyone in the picture, the approximate date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and a sentence or two about what is happening and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to tell us your town name and neighborhood. Photos are due by June 15.

You can submit your photos online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/fathersday. You can also email photos editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

Rebuttal on School Funding

Schools have been county's top priority, receiving \$2 billion.

By Sharon Bulova Chairman Boardof Supervisors

n April 28 the Board of Supervisors adopted the FY2016 Budget. Our board approved a total transfer to the schools of \$2.01 billion, an increase of \$66.7 million (an increase of 3.43 percent) over FY2015 and nearly two-thirds of all new revenue associated with increased property values. The total school budget, which is comprised of the county transfer, plus state and some federal funding, totals \$2.6 billion.

Education is our board's highest priority; it is not, however our only priority. The school transfer amounts to almost 53 percent of our General Fund Budget. Public safety, human services, parks and libraries all receive a fraction of what FCPS does and these services are also critical to making Fairfax County one of the best places in the country to live, work, raise a family and grow older comfortably. It is also important that real estate taxes are affordable to our Budget. Enrollment estimates, and

residents, many of whom are still struggling to get back on their feet following the recent recession.

Fairfax County's Direct General Fund Budget, services and programs, excluding the School Transfer is \$1.81 billion. This year the General County disbursements increased by only 2.06 percent, less than the increase in the School Transfer.

Fairfax County worked hard this year to advocate for a larger share of state funding for our schools, getting \$9.9 million more than anticipated through the state budget. With these funds, FCPS is within \$4.1 million of their total \$2.6 billion Advertised Budget proposal; a gap of just 0.16 percent (sixteen hundredths of a percent).

The superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools Karen Garza increased her request for a transfer after the state budget increase was announced and shortly before our budget adoption.

In her April 28 release, the superintendent indicated this figure is now \$7.6 million or 0.297 percent of FCPS Proposed Operating



ated costs, can and do change as the school year approaches and FCPS staff refines their estimates. The

the associ-

gap, therefore, is somewhat of a moving target.

Our Board of Supervisors continues to be supportive of the school system and our partners on the School Board. When the Board of Supervisors adopted the FY2016 Budget, we also gave county staff Budget Guidance for FY2017 which provides a planning target for an additional increase of 3 percent next year.

As we look ahead at the fiscal outlook for next year, we know that we will continue to be affected by a sluggish economy and the effects of federal cutbacks and sequestration. Like the schools, the General County side of the ledger is projecting a budget shortfall for the next (2017) Fiscal Year. This will have to be resolved, as Fairfax County is required to adopt and maintain a balanced budget.

This spring, the Board of Supervisors will lead the community in a Lines of Business review. This process will be a comprehensive review of all the programs and services the county provides. It will help the board to identify redundancies, establish further efficiencies, consider strategic changes to reach intended outcomes and make sure that the investments we make conform to the community's expectations. In our Budget Guidance, we invited our counterparts on the School Board to participate and we hope they will undertake a similar process for FCPS.

I also hope that the School Board is able to fill the vacant Auditor to the School Board position they created in October of 2014. The Board of Supervisors has had an Auditor to the Board since the 1990s. This independent, critical perspective on the budget and county programs can help elected leaders identify efficiencies and has saved taxpayers millions of dollars.

■ Fairfax

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LETTERS

Rush to Misjudgment

To the Editor:

Since being elected Sheriff of Fairfax County, Stacey A. Kincaid has been actively working to transform her Office into one of positive pro-active engagement throughout the county. The hallmarks of her office are her attending civic meetings, listening to residents, and ensuring she is directly accessible to the public.

One does not spend a significant part of her life in law enforcement without developing compassion for those in need. Natasha McKenna, jailed in Fairfax on an Alexandria warrant, was desperately in need of mental health treatment, due to a long history of schizophrenia.

As a person who has worked in Law Enforcement and Corrections cess. Criminal investigations usu-

for over 20 years, I have seen that, despite the increasing number of mentally ill inmates in our jails, corresponding resources are not being appropriately provided. According to a December 2014 report by Mental Health America (MHA), Virginia is ranked 47th for adults with any mental illness reporting unmet needs. Most of that need in Virginia lies within our county jails. As the death of Natasha McKenna is actively investigated by the Fairfax County Police, it needs to be said that criminal investigations take time. They require meticulous attention to detail and the gathering of factual evidence. This is done to protect the rights of the accused, victims and integrity of our judicial proally do not lend themselves to the rapid appetite of our instant 24news cycle or the expectations created by one-hour crime shows.

The Fairfax Sheriff's Office is fully cooperating with the on-going investigation in regards to Natasha McKenna's death. Sheriff Kincaid has dedicated her life's work to protecting and serving her community. Further, she has been active in advocating that those who are mentally ill are better served in a mental health facility - not a jail. Sheriff Kincaid is absolutely dedicated to transparency and accountability, and I urge everyone to give her the time and opportunity to prove that to all of our citizens.

Jimmie Barrett

Fairfax

Disappointing Vote

To the Editor:

On May 7 the Fairfax County School Board added "gender identity" to their nondiscrimination policy. The vote was 11 to 1 with Ms. Elizabeth Schultz being the only vote against this motion. In this motion the

School Board took a social topic that is of interest to a vocal minority and made it an educational matter for a majority. In doing so they neglected their duties of discussing such a topic with the com-

munity and reviewing its impact on all students, teachers and the system. More importantly they neglected the delivery of education in one of the nation's largest school systems.

In Fairfax County schools receive close to 70 percent of the county's budget yet too often we as residents ignorantly believe "level heads" will prevail when making decisions regarding education on behalf of our children and the taxpayer. This vote suggests other-

This School Board's vote was a disappointment to the public and an example of the wrongs instigated by party zealots who place special interest candidates on the ballot. The result is a policy and governing disaster. November can't come fast enough.

Elizabeth Bradsher

Former Fairfax County School **Board Member** Fairfax Station

Performing with City of Fairfax Band

West Springfield bassoonist Hunter Lorelli wins Fairfax Band Young Artist competition.

unter Lorelli will take up his bassoon with the City of Fairfax Band as the winner of the group's Young Artist Competition. The West Springfield High School senior is currently the principal bassoonist with the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra and was a finalist for the Army and Navy Band Young Artist Concerto competitions this year.

Lorelli's feature performance with the band will be on a Charles T. Yeago transcription of Mozart's Concerto in B Flat Major. The May 16 concert titled "Song and Dance" also includes music from "Fiddler on the Roof" and works from John Philip Sousa, Ira Hearshen, Frank Ticheli, John P. Zdechlik and Robert Russell Bennett.

'Song and Dance" takes place at 7:30 p.m. at WT Woodson High School, 9525 Main Street in Tickets are available www.fairfaxband.org.

-TIM PETERSON



Hunter Lorelli performs with the City of Fairfax Band May 16.



SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

MAY

Memorial Day is May 25

5/27/2015.....Summer Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment JUNE

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Local REAL ESTATE

March, 2015 Top Sales



Home Life Style

Adding On

"Bump-out" plus first floor reconfiguration meets family's evolving space requirements.

By John Byrd

t what point does a house become "old", which is to say — no longer a good fit for its usually adaptive occupants?

Michael and Kim Napolitano of Reston pondered this question recently, deciding to investigate options for adding living space to their 33-year-old, 2,000-squarefoot colonial.

"When we moved in 12 years ago," Michael Napolitano said, "the kids were in grade school, Kim was working in an outside office, and our home's first floor plan supported all our daily requirements. Also, we've always loved the beautiful setting which is about an acre with many mature trees." About five years ago, though, Kim started working from home and quickly set up an office in the basement. An Lshaped work-station under a transom window, the arrangement was intended to be "a step" towards a more suitable accommodation.

Meanwhile, the three children entered high school. As they grew, so did the number and size of their friends — and the duration of their visits. Gradually, the Napolitanos began to notice that their once ideal home was no longer meeting their changing needs. The front-to-back family room on the west side of the house, for instance, seemed "disconnected" from the rest of the house since one had to pass through the dining room or the foyer to get to the kitchen. The dining room seemed smaller; ditto the upstairs master bedroom with its limited closet space and tiny master bath.

The formal living room, while fine for holidays, was gradually becoming under used. The breakfast area —a slight step down from the kitchen — was just too small.

In fact, the entire first level plan
— about 1,200 square feet in all
— seemed positively crowded
when the family was entertaining.

WHAT TO DO? "When we reviewed the Napolitano's preferred improvements "wish list," it was clear that the existing first floor footprint was really only about 400 feet short of a plan that would satisfy all the current requirements — including relocating Kim's office to the first floor," designer

Suzanne Glatz said. "The real question was: could a slightly expanded first level be reconfigured in a way that would fulfill such a wide range of new needs."

Glatz, of Foster Remodeling Solutions, had been hired last year by the Napolitanos to develop and supervise a budget-sensitive makeover. Trained as both a space planner and an interior designer, Glatz has been particularly strong in finding creative ways to add square footage to space-restricted older homes. "Basically, Suzanne invited us to think about the floor plan differently," Michael Napolitano said. "Once you recognize that you don't have to live in conformity with the room-assignment template provided by the original builder, you start to see the possibilities." The first consideration: repurposing the 12-footby-35-foot family room.

"The front part of the family room — which segues from the front foyer — made perfect sense as a place for Kim's office," Michael Napolitano said. "But I hadn't considered it's possibilities as a master bedroom suite until Suzanne pointed it out." "Also, I was aware that newer homes often feature a kitchen that directly interacts with the family room," he added. "I just didn't see how we could accomplish that in this house." As this option became more compelling, Glatz sketched out a plan for a 360-square-foot "bump-out" extending from the home's south-facing rear elevation.

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY

square feet of the newly enclosed space would be an open family entertainment zone within a 500-square-foot L-shaped "great room" that would incorporate the kitchen, breakfast room and a new computer work station.

The new enclosure's remaining square footage would extend the former family room, which would now be converted into a first-level master bedroom suite.

The resulting accommodation features a 58-square-foot walk-in closet (more than triple the size of its predecessor), and a 190-square-foot luxury bath complete with glass-encased walk-in shower, soaking tub, and a hisand-her vanity.

One enters the new suite ment topics for 30 years.



The new space plan to the Napolitano home called for an enclosed "bump out" off the home's south-facing rear elevation. The added square footage accommodates a family entertainment zone in a newly formed great room and master bedroom.

Details

Foster Remodeling Solutions periodically offers workshops on home remodeling topics. Call 703-550-1371 or visit www.fosterremodeling.com.

through a discrete foyer off the great room. Among its many visible charms, the new suite features glass-facing double French doors that swing open directly to the patio. To engineer the enlargement, Glatz removed about half of the home's rear elevation, shoring up the existing second floor with a horizontal I-beam secured on vertical supports.

A sliding glass door on the east side of the new great room opens to a tree-lined side yard where the Napolitanos plans to add a patio.

"The great room is a perfect solution for us now," Michael Napolitano said, "We can be together in the same place working on different projects — cooking, homework, television — without disrupting each other. It offers a nice balance of family time and independence."

The first level interior design — a collaboration between Glatz and Kim Napolitano — explores "transitional"-style sensibilities.

Wide-plank provincial hickory flooring extends throughout the great room, new office and master suite, lending a unity that works well with existing furniture.

The tawny gold wall coloring in the great room, dining room and office in combination with white ceiling, likewise, confers warmth.

By contrast, the master bath unfolds in a restful taupe that complements the wood-grain porcelain flooring and silestone counter tops.

In short, a perfect setting for a white Jacuzzi holstered in a wood frame — and a few blissful moments all to one's self.

John Byrd (byrdmatx@comcast.net) has been writing about home improvement topics for 30 years.









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Photo Gallery

"Me and My Dad"

 ${f T}$ o honor dad on Father's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your dad and The Connection will publish them in our Father's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail photos, send to:

editors@connectionnewspapers.com

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/MAY 14

Storytime Yoga for School Age Children. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 4:30 p.m. Join certified yoga instructor Karen Hamilton for stories, stretches, and simple yoga poses. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a mat

or towel. Funded by the Friends of

Burke Centre Library. Openings. **Salsa's Ancient Rhythm.** Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 7 p.m. Teens and adults participate in an interactive presentation by Mr. José Obando, Salsa consultant for the Metropolitan Museum of Arts's Department of Musical instruments, as he reveals the history and music. Openings.

FRIDAY/MAY 15

Classic Tales. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Develop your child's early literacy skills with stories, songs, and activities. Age 3-5 with

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 15-16

Alice in Wonderland. 7 p.m. Thomas Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. This modern retelling of the classic children's story has all of the characters you know and love, including the Mad Hatter, the Cheshire Cat, and the Queen of Hearts. With cell phone in hand, a present-day Alice encounters the Wonderland so many of us treasure in a musical that appeals to both children and adults. Tickets will be available at the door (\$5 for adults, \$3 for children, \$1 for children at matinee). Concessions will be available

SATURDAY/MAY 16

Hope & Health Festival. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Lorton Community Action Center, South County Cares, and INOVA are providing the annual Hope & Health Festival at the Lorton Park, 9518 Richmond Highway, behind the Lorton Library. Free health screenings, food, inflatables, kids' games and activities will be available, rain or shine to all in attendance. LortonAction.org or call 703-339-5161, ext. 140.

7th Annual Occoquan River Fest. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Occoquan Regional Park, 9751 Ox Road, Lorton. This family event will feature free river boat rides, a children's midway, live animals, food, hiking, paddling and over 15 outdoor recreation, history and conservation organizations. The event is sponsored by NOVA Parks with assistance from the Occoquan Watertrail League, the Occoquan River Communities, Bob Beach Architects, Vulcan Materials, Rivergate Development, Prince William Marina and Lorton Station

Creative Writers Club. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Do you enjoy writing fiction, poetry, non-fiction and/or memoirs? Join us for sharing, discussion and feedback of works in progress. Ages 12-18.

Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA) Benefit Buffet **Luncheon**. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Springfield Outback Steakhouse 6651 Backlick Road, Springfield. The Springfield Outback Steakhouse will be presenting a fundraiser to benefit the FARA.Cover charge is \$30 and includes an all you can eat buffet. Live entertainment. Co-sponsored by the Washington Area Parrot Head Club. www.curefa.org, or contact

Donna Rambler at the Springfield Outback at obs4713@outback.com or by phone at 703-912-7531

Springfield Smart Markets Farmers Market. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Springfield Town Center, at the

corner of Loisdale Road and Spring Mall Drive. Fresh local fruits and

Car Show. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. The entry fee for all vehicles is \$10, and entries are now being accepted. Spectators will be admitted free of charge. The car show is presented by MNR Dips. Cars and trucks will be judged in three classes. One vehicle will win the "All Show People's Choice" award. Trophies and prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third-place winners. To enter a car or truck, call 571-264-7479 or email $Treybrown 321@gmail.com.\ Vendor$ opportunities are available.

Creative Writers Club. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Do you enjoy writing fiction, poetry, non-fiction and/or memoirs? Join us for sharing, discussion and feedback of works in progress. Teen volunteer facilitates. Age 13-18.

SUNDAY/MAY 17

3rd Annual Fragile X Walk. 7:45 a.m. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Registration after May 5 is \$40 per adult and \$15 per child and shirt sizes are not guaranteed. https:// www.crowdrise.com/FXSNOVA2015.

N Gauge Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station.Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. Information on the museum and shows is at www.fairfax-station.org phone 703-425-9225.

Historic Colonial Church Service at Gunston Hall Plantation.

10:30 a.m. Gunston Hall is located at 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. A colonial Anglican Service of Morning Prayer will be held at Gunston Hall. The service will be led by the Rev. Mr. Lee Massey, a colonial Rector of Pohick Church, as portrayed by the Reverend Thomas Costa, D.D. The service will use the Order for Morning Prayer from the 1662 English Book of Common Prayer, the service George Mason and George Washington used in their regular Sunday worship. For more information call 703-550-9220 or visit www.gunstonhall.org

Workhouse Farmers Market. 1-5 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The opening day of this year's farmers markets season.

MONDAY/MAY 18

2Let's Hear it for the Girls. 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. All girls book discussion group. The Bad Beginning by Lemony Snicket. Age 9-12 with adult female.

MONDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 18-24

GI Film Festival. Angelika Film Center, 2911 District Avenue, Fairfax. The nation's only military film festival. Cinematic stories of mothers, daughters, fathers, wives, brothers and more. GIFF15.com.

TUESDAY/MAY 19

Tai Chi. 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Come and experience the benefits of Tai Chi introduced by Dante Gilmer of Still Water Tai Chi Center. Wear comfortable clothes that allow movement. Adults.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 20

Terrific Twos and Threes. 10:30

a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Storytime with a focus on early literacy skills. Age 2-3

THURSDAY/MAY 21

Fairfax Antique Arts Association.

10 a.m. Green Acres Senior Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Linwood Smith, guest speaker this month, will demonstrate how to repair old trunks. He will have a few small samples to show. He will also share stories about growing up in Olde Town Alexandria

Magic Tree House Club. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Read and talk about story number 15 in the series, Viking Ships at Sunrise. Their magic tree house takes Jack and Annie back to a monastery in medieval Ireland, where they try to retrieve a lost book; ages 6-8.

SATURDAY/MAY 23

Screening of Big Dream. 1 p.m. GMU, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Big Dream is a documentary film that follows the stories of seven young women in technology fields around the globe. Each story takes a look at these young women's ambitions and how they overcome personal challenges to pursue careers in STEM

Springfield Smart Markets

Farmers Market. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Springfield Town Center, at the corner of Loisdale Road and Spring Mall Drive. Fresh local fruits and

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 23-24

Fairfax Swimming Pool Open

House. 12-4 p.m. Fairfax Swimming Pool, 4200 Roberts Road, Fairfax. The public is welcome to visit the pool. Free moon bounce and pizza for sale on Saturday. More information and membership options at http://www.fairfaxpool.com.

SUNDAY/MAY 24

OAR Jazz and Wine Festival. 2-5 p.m. The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Tickets are \$50 and guests will enjoy a meal catered by Spilled Milk catering with paired wines. All funds will go to support OAR's programs. Registration: http:// www.oarfairfax.org/employmentopportunities?id=195

Workhouse Farmers Market. 1-5 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The opening day of this year's farmers markets season.

SUNDAY-MONDAY/MAY 24-25

Art Guild of Clifton Show and

Sale. 5-8 p.m. on Sunday. 12-5 p.m. on Monday. 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Artists will display and sell works featuring local themes across a range of media. Admission is free for Museum members and children 4 and under; \$2 children 5-15; \$4 adults 16 and older. www.fairfax-station.org, 703-425-9225.

TUESDAY/MAY 26

Tai Chi. 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Tai Chi introduced by Dante Gilmer of Still Water Tai Chi Center. Wear comfortable clothes that allow movement. Adults.

Pokemon Club. 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Bring your Pokémon trading cards to trade or play the Pokémor game. Age 6-12

WEDNESDAY/MAY 27

Tiny Tots. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Join instructor Susan Alverson for music, movement and song! Funded by the Friends of Burke Centre Library. Age 1-2 years with adult.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Casey Schlenker, Lanier Middle, seventh grade, with her water-conservation-themed paper cup.



Daniels Run fourth-grader Tony Rojas was an award-winner.

Fairfax Students Celebrate the Earth

Sponsored by the Environmental Sustainability Committee, the Earth Day Art Show was April 29 at Fairfax City Hall.



Dillon Khalil, Daniels Run Elementary, grade 1.



Aubrey Campbell, Daniels Run, grade 4.



Lanier seventh-grader Jonah Robert depicted environmental disasters.



Lanier students Hannah Herzog, Grace Famello and Montana Berry created this eagle from recycled materials.







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SPORTS

Cool-Headed Rams Hand Centreville First Loss

Obregon leads Robinson with eight goals; Wildcats receive six yellow cards.

> By Jon Roetman The Connection

he hype surrounding Monday night's matchup between the Robinson and Centreville girls' lacrosse teams built throughout the day with comments on social media.

Things got even more intense when focus shifted to the field.

In a battle for the top seed in the Conference 5 tournament, the Rams and Wildcats engaged in physical play, and combined for 45 goals and eight yellow cards. There was even a brief sideline dispute between head coaches.

Each team made a second-half run to take the lead. But in an environment Robinson captain Taylor Caskey described as "insane," it was the Rams who best kept their cool and came out on top.

Playing with a three-player advantage thanks to six Centreville yellow cards, Robinson scored the final six goals and captured a 25-20 victory on May 11 at Robinson Secondary School.

THE RAMS finished the regular season with a 13-1 record, including 5-0 in the conference. Centreville suffered its first loss of the season (10-1, 4-1) and will be the No. 2 seed in the conference tournament. Each team will receive a first-round bye and an automatic berth in the 6A North region tournament.

"It was intense," said Caskey, a junior midfielder. "It was building up the whole day — back and forth on social media; everyone was getting so hyped for the game. We wanted this so bad. We haven't beat Centreville [since 2011] and I think we were just looking for the redemption we were looking for for so long.

"... I think that was the most physical game I've ever played. ... It was insane." Robinson led 17-10 at halftime but

Centreville came surging back.

The Wildcats trailed 18-12 when an official issued Centreville standout Caroline Wakefield a yellow card — Centreville's fourth of the night — with 21:07 remaining. US Lacrosse rules state once a team receives its fourth yellow card of the game, the team will be a player short for the remainder of the contest and will lose another player for each subsequent card issued.

Despite being short-handed, Centreville scored eight of the next nine goals and took a 20-19 lead when Wakefield scored with 14:56 remaining.

Within the next six minutes, however,



Robinson junior Taylor Caskey scored four goals during Monday's victory over Centreville.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



Robinson senior Izzy Obregon scored eight goals Monday, helping the Rams beat Centreville 25-20.

Centreville received two more yellow cards, putting the Wildcats in a 12-on-9 disadvantage. Robinson capitalized by scoring the final six goals and taking the game.

The Rams also scored four straight goals in the first half during a Centreville yellow card, extending their lead to 16-9

Robinson head coach Liz Case said she told the Rams to "keep calm and just play" in regard to dealing with Centreville's physical style.

"I wanted [us] to play a clean game," Case said. "I'm very adamant about how they are at practice with checking and fouling. I call them out on it. They have to do push-ups. I feel that's one thing that saved us in this game is we did keep our composure. We didn't get too emotional in the sense that [we] started swinging and playing bad. It worked to our benefit because [the Wild-

cats] did it. Having so many people down, we were able to take the lead."

While Case preached calmness, the Robinson head coach exhibited a moment of frustration in the second half when she yelled at Centreville head coach Christina Griel, telling her not to coach her players while they're in the penalty box.

"Just play by the rules," Case said after the game. "It is what it is. If she saw me doing it, I'm sure she would call me out, too. [Out of] respect, I'm going to call her out on it basing it on the fact that she knows the rules. ... We had yellow cards too, but I'm not over there coaching them."

Officials warned both teams.

"I don't have a comment for that," Griel said. "I don't think she likes where I was standing, I guess."

Griel said the Wildcats "might have three

"I think that was the most physical game I've ever played. ... It was insane."

- Robinson junior Taylor Caskey

or four yellows on the whole year" prior to Monday's game. She said the team can learn from the loss before entering the postseason.

"Clearly, some of my younger players didn't quite know how to handle a game like this, but they'll learn from it [and] they'll be better next time," she said. "... [Losing players to yellow cards is] a tough thing to battle back from. So for the score to be what it is and for us to be beating a team like that a man down, I'm proud of the effort that they put out and it didn't go our way in terms of the fouls and they'll be better for it next time.

"... Adversity is always a benefit and it's a learning experience. It's a whole new season from here on out."

Robinson senior attack Izzy Obregon produced a hat trick in the game's first four minutes, helping the Rams jump out to a 4-0 lead. She tallied six goals in the first half and finished with eight.

OBREGON, who will play for the University of Maryland, said she wanted to play well against Centreville standouts Wakefield (University of North Carolina) and Reagan Newell (James Madison University).

"I did take it on myself to be a little more aggressive," Obregon said. "It was more of a personal game because I'm best friends with Reagan ... so there was some rivalry there."

Caskey and sophomore attacker Katie Checkosky each scored four goals for Robinson. Senior midfielder and team captain Mackenzie Schuler finished with three goals, and senior attack Sasha Towne, junior attack Kaitlin Luccarelli and sophomore midfielder Elli Kluegel each had two.

Newell led Centreville with eight goals and Wakefield totaled six. Paige Richbourg finished with three goals, Emily Marciano had two and Elizabeth Murphy had one.

"Reagan and Caroline are two amazing players," Caskey said. "We've been trying to guard them forever. When we all get into it, it gets a little tough to keep our emotions together. I would say there was a good amount of roughness out there tonight because people just wanted this win more than anything

"To us, this was the game that meant it all."



Artist Benjamin Breaux of Fairfax, 15, with his work "BalancE," which won the People's Choice Award. With parents, Sara and Rick Breaux.



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), Fairfax City Mayor Scott Silverthorne and Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid.

Our Daily Bread Hosts Artful Living

The event raises more than \$27,000 to support Our Daily Bread's work.

airfax-based non-profit Our Daily Bread held its Artful Living event in association with Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts Festival on May 1, at the Stacy C. Sherwood Center in Fairfax City. Attendees enjoyed a juried art show with 45 works submitted by local artists, entertainment by local Latin-jazz band Batida Diferente, appetizers and wine from Dolce Vita and a craft beer tasting. The event raised more than \$27,000 to support Our Daily Bread's work to provide emergency assistance, financial education and mentoring, mentoring to new mothers and

seasonal assistance to working families who live throughout the Fairfax County area.

Regina, a former client who graduated from Our Daily Bread's Project BRIDGE Program last fall, spoke about how she worked with ODB staff and a volunteer mentor for more than a year to get out of debt and become financially selfsufficient. Volunteer Financial Mentor Ken Kozloff spoke about how rewarding he found his work with ODB clients to help them learn to budget and resolve financial issues.

Del. Ken Plum (D-36) served as the event's "Celebrity Auctioneer,"



Regina, who graduated last fall from Our Daily Bread's **Project BRIDGE Program,** talks about how ODB's support helped her become financially self-sufficient.

auctioning off items including a game-day experience with Jayson Werth of the Washington Nationals, dinner and an evening at the opera at Wolf Trap, and a Winter-



Ken Kozloff, a volunteer at Our Daily Bread, talks about his work as a Financial Literacy Mentor.

green vacation rental. Attendees also purchased works of art, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Our Daily Bread. Local artists Mercia Hobson, Peter Toth and



Del. Ken Plum (D-36) served as celebrity auctioneer.

Jordan Xu served as judges for the event. A complete list and photos of the winning art works is available at www.odbfairfax.org/ ArtfulLiving2015WinningArt

Connolly Announces Arts Competition Winners

ive high school students from Fairfax County and Prince William County took top honors in U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly's seventh annual Congressional Arts Competition. Connolly announced the winners Saturday at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center. Students submitted 176 entries to this year's competition.

Hayun Chong of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology took first place honors with her work titled "The Art Room." Her artwork will be hung in the U.S. Capitol for a year alongside the winners of congressional arts competitions from across the United States.

More than 300 high school students, parents, and teachers gathered at the Lorton Workhouse at a reception announcing the winners. Connolly said this High School for the work "Time year's competition featured some outstanding work from students attending high schools across Fairfax and Prince William.

Jiwon Lee, a student at W.T. Woodson High School in Fairfax, took second place for "Time Fly-The third place winner was

Husna Khan of Potomac High School in Dumfries for a piece titled "This Isn't a Cheetah."

Woorin Jang, of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, took fourth place with the work "Motion."

And the fifth place winner was Margaret Anderson of Woodbridge High School for her piece titled, "In Like a Lion."

A special Rising Star award sponsored by the Workhouse Arts Center was won by second place winner Jiwon Lee of W.T. Woodson

Flying." It will be displayed at the Lorton Workhouse for the next

"The entries in this year's competition were outstanding. They reflect the high level of interest in the fine arts among Northern Virginia students and the dedication of our region's arts teachers and patrons to encouraging artistic skills in our high schools," Connolly said. "I congratulate all of the students who participated in the competition. The quality of their work was impressive. I'm also grateful to the Workhouse Arts Center, its staff, and the judges for all of their time and effort to make this annual event a success and help showcase the work of our stu-

Judges for this year's competition were: Janay Turner of the Arts Council of Fairfax County; Brett



Jiwon Lee, of W.T. Woodson High School in Fairfax, second place winner.

Johnson of the Workhouse Arts Center; Emily Hawes and Jim Gallagher of the Prince William Art Society; Holly McCullough of the Greater Reston Arts Center and Signe Friedrichs of the Council for the Arts of Herndon.

Connolly's annual Congressional Art Competition is open to all high school students who reside in Virginia's 11th Congressional District. Public, private, and homeschooled students are invited to participate.

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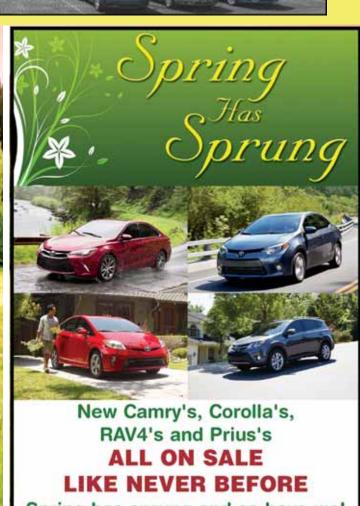
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-William Van Horne

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ty") into the Voluntary Remediation Program ("VRP"), administered by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality ("VDEQ"). In accordance with the VRP, voluntary investigations, cleanup, and human health assessments have been completed. Soil, groundwater, and soil gas samples at the Property indicated the presence of petroleum constituents related to former VDOT operations at the Property. A site and human health risk assessment following development determined the impacts at the Property did not present an unacceptable health risk to site users in consideration of proposed site use restrictions. Actions required for continued protection of human health and the environment at the Property

include engineering controls and institutional controls (deed restrictions) limiting property use to commercial, restricting groundwater use for any purpose, and adherence to a site-specific Health and Safety Plan during deep excavation at the Property. The VRP is prepared to issue a "Certificate of

Satisfactory Completion of Remediation" for the Property pending completion of the VRP process and completion of the 30-day public notice period expiring on June 14, 2015. If you have questions or wish to comment during this time, please call Mike Bruzzesi at (703) 608-5969 or submit comments in writing to Mr. Bruzzesi at Land Strategies, Inc., 26037 Springdale Drive, Chantilly, VA 20152.

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The Sully Senior Center in Centreville needs a certified personal trainer, preferably with experience working with older adults. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-**324-5406**, TTY711 www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Bailey's Senior Center in Falls Church needs an office assistant to answer phones, greet and check in participants and complete data entry. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Annandale Adult Day Health Care Center in Annandale needs Spanish-speaking social companions and a lunch assistant. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand click on Volunteer Solutions.

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Vietnamese Meals on Wheels needs drivers in Annandale to deliver meals. (Speaking Vietnamese not required.) For these and other volunteer opportunities, call703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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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.

SATURDAY/MAY 16

Living Trust Plus Seminar: How to Protect Your Assets from the Expenses of Probate and Long Term Care. The Law Firm of Evan H. Farr, P.C., 10640 Main Street, Suite 200, Fairfax.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 20

Path of Progression in Alzheimer's Disease. 1:30 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. While not everyone travels the same path, join us for a discussion on what to expect as Alzheimer's progresses. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP and for

THURSDAY/MAY 21

more information.

Lunch 'N Life. 12-2 p.m. St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Are You 50 or Better? Join for the next Lunch N' Life sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke. The program will feature Mr. Knox Singleton, CEO of INOVA Health Systems speaking on Current Health Issues.. For reservations, call Faye Quesenberry, 703-620-0161, by May 15. The cost is \$10; checks payable to SCFB. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office 703-323-4788. Visit www.scfbva.org for more information.

ONGOING

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Volunteer Fairfax seeks individuals, families, youth and corporate groups for service

opportunities at a variety of nonprofit agencies. One-time special events or ongoing activities are available at www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

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.

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.

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.redcrossnca.org.

Dementia Care Givers Support Groups

Various times, at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The groups are for those caring for someone with dementia or for those interested in learning more about providing care giving to a person with a disorder that affects memory and cognition and may impact behavior and physical abilities. 703-451-8626 or Eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.



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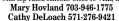
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Mary Hovland 703-946-1775

Cathy DeLoach 571-276-9421





Burke Centre

\$305,000 Move-in ready, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, 3 level condo in Burke. Updated throughout. dryer in unit. Lower level deck backs to trees. Convenient to VRE. Fairfax County Parkway, shopping, and in Robinson School District

Charles Shaw 703-989-7169



\$389.500

Well maintained, stunning with many upgrades, welcoming foyer, spacious, eat in kitchen, hardwoods, energy efficient windows, newer roof & hvac, spacious, beautiful rec room, patio with fenced, private, backs to trees, bike or ride to VRE.

Mary FitzHenry 703-250-8915



New listing in Burke Station Square. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath colonial with over-sized 1 car garage on quiet cul de sac. Family room with wood-burning fire place opens to a beautiful patio with fenced back yard. Within 1/2 mile of VRE & Pentagon bus stop. Lake Braddock School District.

Charles Shaw 703-989-7169



Fairfax Station

\$895,000 Stately Colonial on 1 acre in sought after community. Family room with built-in cabinets, skylights, cathedral ceiling & French doors to grand deck. Remodeled Gourmet kitchen and spectacular baths

Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949



Gourmet Kit w/ Corian, 42" cabs, island, Family w/ Fpl, Dining, Sunroom HDWDs, custom paint & window treatments, new lux MBA w/ walk-in shower. Fin LL w/ Rec room & Fpl, BA, Games room, Bonus room, WICs, Scr porch w/ EZ Brz windows, Deck, 2 car Garage, irrigation system. Golf View! Amanda Scott 703-772-9190



Elegant 6,000+ fin sq. ft. home in sought-after Willow Springs.
Entertaining is effortless with Open Floor Plan & Oversized
Rooms. Gleaming HDWDs. Wooded Lot. Updated Huge Kitchen &
Luxury Master Bath. MBR Balcony. Lower Level Nanny Suite possible. Sauna, Cedar Lined Closet. Quiet Street. Move-In Ready



Alexandria \$475,000

Adorable in Alexandria! This 2 BR plus Den, 3 Level Townhome features upgraded Kitchen with granite counters, 1st floor hardwoods, Lowe Level Rec Room and Den. Close to Metro. Barbara Nowak

Gerry Staudte 703-309-8948



Resort lifestyle in this immaculate 3 BR, 2 BA & Regency 55+ community. Porch, deck, patio overlook lush landscape. Hardwoods granite, Master on main, sitting room, office, loft, unfinished L

Mary LaRoche 703-919-0747



Gorgeous Home! New Gourmet Kitchen, hardwood floors, amazing landscaping, gorgeous baths, finished full basement. Close to schools, VRE, shopping, major commuter routes, and Pentagon express buses. You must see this home!

Diana Khoury 703-401-7549



Sunny and clean home with 3 BR, 2.5 BA and 2-car garage located

Barbara Nowak 703-473-1803 Gerry Staudte 703-309-8948



Work from Home! Perfect 2 story office space. Excellent main road exposure with plenty of good parking. Or, great Rambler with huge 1st floor Master bedroom, Blocks to Sho droom. Blocks to Shopping. **Sheila Adams 703-503-1895**



Heritage Hunt 55+ upgraded beauty.

Screened porch & Golf Course lot! 3 BR (2 on Main level), 3 BA Gourmet Kitchen w/ 42" cabs, Corian & island, Dining, Family room & Fireplace, Den w/Built-in, HDWD, Loft, 2 car Garage, Irrigation system, fenced yard. HOA inc. Phone, Internet, Cable, Trash & fitness. Golf membership avail. Golf View!

Amanda Scott 703-772-9190



Amazing view of woods, comm greens and mountains, Generous open floor plan allows for easy entertaining. \$3K+ custom blinds thruout. Gourmet kitchen has new granite counters, SS appliances



Gainesville

Heritage Hunt 55+ pristine 1-level SFH on Golf Course. 2 main level BR, 2BA, Gourmet Kitchen w/ 42" cabs, island, new neutral paint & hdwds, Family room w/ gas Fireplace, Dining, Sunroom, MBR w/WIC, updated Lux MBA w/walk-in shower, Prcln tile, 2 ca Garage, Deck, Irrigation system. HOA include Phone, Internet, Cable, Trash & fitness. Golf membership avail. Golf View! Amanda Scott 703-772-9190



Bring your horses to a fabulous 5 stall barn on this equestrian paradise! The property includes a gorgeous home with updated baths and kitchen with granite counters, breakfast bar, top of the line appliances, high ceilings, open floor plan, decks overlooking the paddocks from several levels.

tion on over 1/2 acres. 3 bedrooms & 2.5 baths. Minutes to DC & close to Rte. 50 & 7.

Dana LaFever 703-609-3479



One level brick SFH approx. 3,000 sq. ft. in Sleepy Hollow Featuring hardwoods, updated baths, custom kitchen with gran te, SS appliances, a large carport and a huge family room

Betsy Rutkowski 703-229-3368



rooms, 4.5 baths, over 4,800 square feet of living space on 3 finished levels. Lower level entrance with full bedroom & kitchenette. Richard Esposito 703-503-4035

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