

SUMMER FUN

PAGE 10

Burke
CONNECTION

Striding Strong

NEWS, PAGE 14

Rules on Noise Set To Change

NEWS, PAGE 3

Robinson Girls' Lax Wins Conference

SPORTS, PAGE 15

From left, Monica, Santiago, Diego and Nicolas Peña of Burke Centre prepare for a train ride after the Fragile X Walk through Burke Lake Park. "Nico" was diagnosed with Fragile X syndrome at birth.

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Rules on Noise Set To Change

Board of Supervisors scheduled to resume discussion and vote on proposed Noise Ordinance on June 23.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust asked to defer a proposal to adopt a new chapter of the county's noise ordinance to September so the board could have more time to weigh testimony of more than 30 speakers at the public hearing, May 12. Instead, the vote was delayed until June 23.

"You have a big challenge ahead of you, but peace and quiet in our neighborhoods is an important commodity to have," said Robert Winer, of Clifton.

"More effort is needed to resolve the issue," said Joyce Harris, a 31-year resident of McLean. "Protecting the rights of residents in a residential neighborhood should be a primary goal of the ordinance. Please defer your vote and allow more time to develop a solution that works for this issue."

MORE THAN 30 speakers testified including: Greg Budnik who discussed helicopter noise from training runs at Fort Belvoir; Mark Grove, of Fairfax, whose wife was recuperating from cancer treatment and had to contend with music from a supermarket across the street that had permits to play music until 11 p.m.; Keith Elgin, worship director of Vine Church in Dunn Loring, who wants to create events such as outdoor



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Joyce Harris, of McLean, testifies before the Board of Supervisors on the mandated rewrite of the county's noise ordinance.

movies and concerts during the summer months; to neighbors in Reston who say they cannot get relief from noise of nearby dog parks; to those who take their dogs to dog parks to spare neighbors from noise.

Sheila Casey, of Reston, said she can hear mowers on a nearby golf course before dawn with maintenance crews sometimes using headlights on lawnmowers before 5 a.m. "All I know is when those lawn mowers are running, I can turn on my air conditioning, I can put in my earplugs, and I still hear the noise," she said.

Issues don't seem as simple when engaging with the details.

"When babies cannot sleep, when the elderly cannot rest, when a voice teacher cannot instruct, when a family cannot share a meal together on their patio, when a homeowner has to close her windows and move to another part of the house just to

make a telephone call, when a cancer patient cannot recuperate and rest in her yard because music is amplified in the neighborhood at intrusive levels, then we know something is not right with life in Fairfax County," said Harris.

FAIRFAX AND OTHER Virginia governments have to rewrite their noise ordinance as a result of a Virginia Supreme Court decision overturning the ordinance in Virginia Beach, according to county documents.

The overall goals of the proposed Noise Ordinance is to recognize that there will always be certain levels of noise that occur in the normal course of daily living; to allow certain levels of daytime noise so that people can live, work and play during the day; and to minimize noise at night so residents have an appropriate quiet environment in their homes at night.

This would involve prohibiting certain activities, excluding certain activities from the Noise Ordinance, and other activities or sources of sound would be subject to maximum decibel levels, qualified by time, location and duration limitations.

Supervisors will also engage the School Board on the issue of amplified sound from high school campuses.

The noise ordinance covers everything from lawn mowers, barking dogs, loudspeakers at athletic fields and industrial operations.

For example, the noise of barking, howling, meowing, squawking or quacking animals that could be heard in a home with its windows closed is prohibited between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., according to county documents.

Other noise-makers that are specifically addressed, according to county documents:

- ❖ Using a loudspeaker or amplifier outside Sunday through Thursday between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., and between 10 p.m. and 9 a.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and the day before a federal holiday.

- ❖ Many specifics of operating power lawn equipment, including lawn mowers; on all properties, the operation of leaf blowers is prohibited between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m.

- ❖ Fixing cars or mechanical devices outside between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m.

- ❖ Collecting trash or recycling within 100 yards of a residence between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

- ❖ Loading or unloading trucks outside within 100 yards of a residence between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

- ❖ Using dog parks Sunday through Thursday between dusk and 7 a.m. or on Fridays, Saturday or the day before a federal holiday between dusk and 8 a.m.

For more, see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/zoning/noiseordinance/>

School Board Passes \$2.6 Billion Budget for 2016

Employees receive step pay increase but lose portion of planned market scale adjustment.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

\$7.6 million: That's how much Fairfax County Public Schools said the School Board needed to cut to meet the goals set out in its Fiscal Year 2016 Advertised Budget.

When the board voted 10-2 on May 21 in approval of next year's budget, covering that gap brought the step pay increase for employees down from a market scale adjustment of one percent to 0.62 percent.

More than 70 percent of the total bud-

get of \$2.6 billion comes from Fairfax County. The total transfer of \$2.01 billion to the school system's operating and debt service is over 52 percent of the county's general fund disbursement. That rate has been "consistent" for several years, according to the Fiscal Year 2016 Advertised Budget Plan.

The county transfer is a 3.4 percent rise from the Fiscal Year 2015 adopted budget plan, a difference of \$66.7 million. \$1.83 billion of that goes to school operations, \$187 million is the school debt service transfer.

In their Advertised Budget Plan, however,

the School Board requested a \$1.84 billion transfer for operations. They asked for a \$70.6 million increase and got \$56.6 million.

Some additional money from the Virginia General Assembly and a decrease in employer contributions to the Virginia Retirement system helped reduce that \$14 million to \$7.6 million.

The School Board's Approved 2016 budget is a 2.2 percent increase over 2015, or \$53.9 million. Though the budget team made \$61.4 million in reductions, pushing back school start times, adding full-day Mondays for elementary schools, enroll-

ment increases and reducing class size in certain elementary schools were all factors contributing to the increase from 2015.

For the 2014-2015 school year, enrollment was 186,785, up from 183,895 the previous year. That increase cost the school system an additional \$19.5 million. For 2015-2016, the projection is a \$21.3 million increase to cover enrollment growth.

COMING IN UNDER the market scale

SEE SCHOOL BUDGET. PAGE 6

From left, U.S. Navy Capt. Matthew Kosnar, supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5412-Burke Commander Scott Logan and State Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) led a Memorial Day ceremony at Burke Centre Conservancy.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOHN COOK



Boy Scouts from Troop 1345 raise the American flag on Memorial Day at Burke Centre Conservancy.

Memorial Day Ceremony Held at Burke Centre Conservancy

U.S. Navy Capt. Matthew Kosnar of Burke was the guest speaker at a Memorial Day ceremony held at the Burke Centre Conservancy. Members of Boy Scout Troop 1345 raised the American flag at the event, which was hosted by the Conservancy and Veterans of For-

eign Wars Post 5412-Burke. Elected officials including supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) and Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) were also in attendance.

—TIM PETERSON

FACETS Hosts 'Opening Doors' Benefit Breakfast

Three programs to support those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

BY MARISSA BEALE
THE CONNECTION

FACETS held its largest annual fundraiser this past weekend at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church. Attendees had a chance to hear from those whose lives were touched by homelessness at the "Opening Doors" Benefit Breakfast.

"It's hard to share my life story in five minutes," said Angela Peterson, one of a number of FACETS beneficiaries who spoke to guests about lives in poverty. She described her life as one filled with drugs, crime, abandonment, homelessness and even rape. Yet through the help of the organization she was able to become a homeowner. "FACETS didn't give me a hand out, but a hand up," said Peterson. She described her life, now, as one of acceptance, deliverance, good times, gratitude and love.

From 2008 to 2014 there was a 34 percent decrease in homelessness in Fairfax County, according to executive director of FACETS, Margi Preston. Still there are over 1200 that are still homeless. To combat this, FACETS has three

different programs to support those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

"The length of time [someone] spends in FACETS depends on the program and the person," said Preston. "The goal is always self-sufficiency." The three differed programs are "Preventing and Ending Homelessness," "Housing Services to Bring People Home" and "Education and Community Development to Break the Cycle of Poverty." The goal is to eradicate homelessness in the near future.

The work that FACETS does in the lives of area youth was demonstrated through Kaleabe Tewolde and Stephen Amoako, seniors at Fairfax High School who worked on an award-winning program to fight alcohol and drug abuse among the youth. Both boys were mentored by FACETS employee James Williams.

"I've been going [to FACETS] since fourth grade," said Tewolde. "I didn't even think college was even an option." But now, both boys will attend college in the fall, and plan to give back to FACETS when they are older.

"I would not have had as much community outreach without FACETS," said Amoako.



(From left) Melissa Werglund and Angela Peterson. Werglund, a FACETS employee, worked closely with Peterson to help her secure housing, find furniture and create a budget to manage her home.



(From right) Kaleabe Tewolde and Stephen Amoako spoke to the audience about how their lives were positively impacted by FACETS.

Several were moved by the story of one man who, despite a salary of over \$100,000, became homeless after an injury prevented him from being able to work. But the goal at FACETS is always to move clients toward self-sufficiency.

"Because of FACETS I was able to get through a challenging time and get a new start at life," said Terrence Fikes, who moved into his own home in December 2014.

A number of community leaders and representatives attended the meeting, including the office of Senator Mark Warner, the office of Congressman Gerry Connolly, del-

egates Ken Plum and Kathleen Murphy, Supervisors John Cook and John Foust, Councilmember Grace Han Wolf, State Sen. r Chap Peterson and NBC4 Northern Virginia bureau chief, Julie Carey who emceed the event.

"Where government ends, nonprofits begin," said Councilmember Grace Han Wolf after the event about the role of FACETS in the community.

FACETS operates throughout Fairfax County and has numerous events, volunteer opportunities and more that community members can join. For more information, visit facetscares.org.

News



Springfield Cub Scouts greet Honor Flight veterans from around the country.

PHOTO
BY JOE FLYNN

Springfield Cub Scouts Meet Heroes on the Mall

Cub Scouts from Pack 1683 of Springfield visited the nation's capital on Armed Forces Day, May 16 to experience a bit of history. Scouts and siblings ages 6 to 13 walked from the Metro to the World War II Memorial where they met Senator Bob Dole and greeted Honor Flight veterans from around the country. The Scouts enjoyed shaking hands and speaking to men and women who had served in the armed forces so many years ago. And many of the veterans stopped to take pictures of the Scouts to preserve their own memories of the event. After walking around the memorial, listening to stories and

enjoying some live, swing music, they ate a picnic lunch on the Mall, then headed over to the National Museum of American History. As a special treat, instead of just browsing the exhibits, the Scouts took part in a scavenger hunt, prepared by Cubmaster Jess W. Speaker. Parents and Scouts were divided into teams which scoured the exhibits for the answers to the clues on their list. There were even some photo clues, requiring a snapshot near certain exhibits. Not only did this change things up a bit, but guaranteed that there would be a few photos to document the activity.

— SUZANNAH FOSTER

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NEWS

**The Fiscal Year
2016 Approved
Budget for Fairfax
County Public
Schools passed by
a 10-2 vote.**



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

School Budget Adopted

FROM PAGE 3

adjustment and its effect on employees, particularly teachers, was a main subject of discussion during the meeting.

"It all comes down to our credibility," said Megan McLaughlin, representing the Braddock District. "Employee compensation is a top priority. Tonight, we're taking one of our most important priorities and short-changing it."

McLaughlin introduced two variations on a similar amendment to the budget that would each restore the full market scale adjustment. She proposed cutting the recurring funding that allows students to take Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests for free, saving \$5 million.

To buy time for additional community discussion and problem-solving, her amendments also called for Superintendent Karen Garza to set aside one-time funding to continue paying for students' test fees in the 2015-2016 school year.

One of her proposed sources of that one-time funding was drawing from the school system's flexible reserve fund of \$8 million. That notion was an unpopular one among the majority of other board members.

Sully District representative Kathy Smith said drawing from the emergency fund as a one-time solution was "just not a fiscally responsible decision. You pray that you don't need it."

Elizabeth Schultz, representing the Springfield District, had prepared an amendment that proposed reversing the board's recent decision to raise future members' salaries in order to offset some of the budget reductions.

But after both of McLaughlin's amendments failed, she said, "It's clear we're not getting any traction." Schultz then rescinded her amendment, calling it "shameful."

During the discussion, board members voiced frus-

tration with the Board of Supervisors for not fully funding their request.

"I'm very disappointed," said vice chairman Ted Velkoff. "I feel like the supervisors have unwittingly validated the cynics — you'll never be able to work with them."

Velkoff said more help could come from the General Assembly. "The focus needs to shift to Richmond," he said, where representatives are "failing to fund localities in the commonwealth. Frankly your Board of Supervisors and School Board don't have the tools they need in order to solve these problems."

At-large member Ryan McElveen acknowledged there are "always tensions between our two boards at budget time," but that "none of us wants to make enemies of the Board of Supervisors."

McElveen said John Foust (D-Dranesville) and other supervisors did "what they could for us." But, he said, "We're entering a new normal and unfortunately it's pitiful, absolutely pitiful."

IN HER STATEMENT announcing the vote, chairman Tammy Derenak Kaufax said, "We recognize that the Board of Supervisors cares about our great schools and shares our vision to make education our community's top priority. We also recognize that there are no easy answers to our budget challenges. We will continue to work with the Board of Supervisors, along with state and federal representatives, to find solutions that support our students, families, teachers and staff, maintaining FCPS' reputation for excellence."

But acknowledging the projected \$100 million deficit for the schools' 2017 budget, she said, "Tomorrow we know the even harder work begins." Referencing Garza's publicly shared concerns over the future shortfalls, the chairman added, "Our ability to best serve our children is in jeopardy now."

More information and resources about the FY2016 and FY2017 budgets are available online at www.fcps.edu/news/fy2016.shtml.

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Bulova, Garza Commit to Working 'As a Team' on Budget Challenges

Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova and Superintendent of the Fairfax County Public Schools Karen Garza have issued the following joint statement on May 26:

"Last week, we met to discuss the financial challenges facing both Fairfax County and the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). We acknowledge that all involved care very deeply about our community, our young people, and our schools.

Over the past five years, the Board of Supervisors has consistently increased funding to our

schools. We both acknowledge, however, the financial strain on FCPS as the system is faced with significant cost drivers such as enrollment growth, required increases to the state retirement system, and inequitable state funding formulas for education.

We discussed the unprecedented fiscal challenges facing both the County and FCPS in Fiscal Year 2017 (school year 2016-17). Both of our organizations are projecting significant budget shortfalls that must be addressed in the coming months.

We recognize that it is critical for FCPS and the County Board of

Supervisors to continue to work together to find viable financial solutions that are in the best interest of our children and the community as a whole.

We have agreed that we need to move forward as a team to find solutions to these funding challenges. We welcome the opportunity to work together to protect Fairfax County's quality of life and enable Fairfax County Public Schools to maintain the high quality educational programs that educate and nurture future Fairfax County citizens and employees."

Inova Center for Personalized Health's Cancer Program Receives \$50 Million Gift

Inova has received a \$50 million gift from developer and philanthropist Dwight Schar launching the Inova Dwight and Martha Schar Cancer Institute. The center will anchor the new Inova Center for Personalized Health recently established in Fairfax, providing a platform for the development and application of advances in cancer treatment and personalized medicine through genomics.

"This transformational gift is not only the largest in Inova's history, but also the largest gift given to a healthcare organization in Virginia," said Governor Terry McAuliffe. "The application and commercialization of the advanced sciences at the Inova Dwight and Martha Schar Cancer Institute will play a strategic role in building Virginia's new economy that integrates local and state governments, academic medical centers like Inova, and Virginia's great research universities with private enterprise. I commend Dwight for his vision, leadership and generosity."

In addition, internationally renowned cancer physician and researcher Donald "Skip" Trump, MD, was named the Inova Dwight and Martha Schar Cancer Institute CEO & Executive Director as announced by U.S. Senator Tim Kaine (D-Va). "As one of the world's preeminent researchers on rare cancers and treatments, we're extremely honored to bring Dr. Trump's incredible talent to the Commonwealth," said Kaine.

"Dr. Trump is uniquely qualified to develop new practice tools with his combined expertise in genomic-based research and innovative technology to better understand cancer."

"This initiative is an example of how the public and private sectors can work together to improve the lives and health of Virginians and others here in the national capital region," said U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-Va). "This vital cancer and genomic research, the academic collaboration, the creation of individualized therapies and the commercialization of translational research will combine to improve health outcomes while also strengthening Northern Virginia's growing reputation for world class research."

Knox Singleton, CEO of Inova commented, "Inova's approach to personalized cancer care is both unique and revolutionary. Here at the Inova Center for Personalized Health, we are developing an unparalleled approach building a team of world-renowned physicians and researchers, genomic resources like one of the largest genomic databases and bioinformatics firepower as well as the support and leadership of Governor McAuliffe and Dwight Schar. Together, we are forging that public/private partnership critical to transforming healthcare."

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OPINION

Voting, June 9

To listen to the national news, one would think that the next Presidential election is in November. But no. That's November 2016.

In the meantime, every year is an Election year in Virginia, and in 2015, virtually every state and local office is on the ballot.

In heavily Democratic districts (or any district that is solidly one party or the other), any real competition comes in the primary.

That's June 9 in parts of Fairfax County in the Mount Vernon magisterial district, and in House of Delegates Districts 44 and 45.

Four Democrats are on the June 9 ballot seeking to be the Democratic nominee to replace retiring Gerry Hyland as the Mount Vernon representative to the Board of Supervisors. Hyland has represented Mount Vernon since 1988.

Two Democrats are seeking to be the party nominee for House of Delegates District 44. Scott Surovell is giving up the seat he has held since 2009 to run for State Senate to replace retiring Sen. Toddy Puller (D-36).

Five Democrats are on the ballot on June 9 for House of Delegates District 45, to replace Del. Rob Krupicka who is stepping down.

If you live in one of the affected districts, you will vote on June 9 at your usual polling place. Be sure to bring photo identification.

IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, in November, all 10 members of the Board of Supervisors are on the ballot including district members and the chairman.

Also on the ballot: all members of the School Board including district members and three at-large members.

Fairfax County's Constitutional Officers, Sheriff, Clerk of Court and Commonwealth's

Attorney are on the ballot in November, as are three members of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Board Directors.

EDITORIAL

Every seat in the Virginia General Assembly will be on the ballot, including all State Senate and House of Delegates seats.

So every Fairfax County voter will face a variety of critically important choices in November. But first, consider the options on June 9.

On the Ballot June 9, Democratic Primary, Fairfax County

MORE ON Fairfax County voting: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm>

Member Board of Supervisors, Mount Vernon District, Democratic Primary

Four Democrats vie to replace retiring Gerry Hyland

- ❖ Daniel G. "Dan" Storck, Email: danforsupervisor@gmail.com, Website: <http://www.danstorck.org/>
- ❖ Candice L. Bennett, Email: candice@electcandicebennett.com, Website: <http://www.electcandicebennett.com>
- ❖ Timothy J. Sargeant, Email: timmjvernon@gmail.com, Website: <http://www.timsargeant.com>
- ❖ John R. "Jack" Dobbryn Jr., Email: info@jackdobbryn.com, Website: <http://www.jackdobbryn.com>

Mount Vernon Gazette/Connection coverage of the Mount Vernon Supervisor race

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2015/may/20/mount-vernon-candidates-seek-primary-victory/>

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2015/apr/16/democrats-debate-district-supervisor/>

to improve the quality of life for all Springfield residents, including senior taxpayers and families.

On Nov. 13, 2014, the Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls (BWSSCWoW) that I initiated in 2007 and for which I serve as Founding Chairman met with the incumbent Supervisor to request his leadership in obtaining a permanent facility for health programs for seniors. In particular, we asked for the addition of a fitness room to the Pohick Regional Library slated to be renovated in September 2015. We believe that this solution would implement a recommendation of the Fairfax County 50+ plan: "It also encourages seeking creative recreation solutions, allowing new facility types (i.e., adult fitness stations) to be explored and provided."

The incumbent said good words like "expanding use of existing facilities makes all the sense in the

world to me." However, our numerous requests for follow-up meetings have been ignored. I have become convinced that election debates would provide the public hearing on the solutions that BWSSCWoW have provided to redress the inequitable situation of Springfield senior taxpayers and families. I have pledged that, if elected, I will slash the half-a-million dollars annual administrative budget for the Springfield Supervisor so that the savings could pay for the Pohick senior fitness station. This pledge underscores my position as a fiscal conservative who believes in social justice.

And that is why this grandmother — who has been retired since 2007 after 30 years of public service with the U.S. State Department and the Intelligence Community — has decided to run for Springfield Supervisor. I should add that I appreciate the public service of the incumbent but it is

No, not for Hillary or Jeb or Carly. Locally, June 9, 2015 is an Election Day that counts.

Member House of Delegates, 44th District, Democratic Primary

Two Democrats compete for the nomination to replace Scott Surovell who is running for Virginia Senate District 36, to replace retiring Toddy Puller

- ❖ Paul E. Krizek, Email: paul@paulkrizek.com, Website: <http://www.paulkrizek.com>
- ❖ Justin M. Brown, Email: justin4va@gmail.com, Website: <http://www.brown4delegate.com>

Member House of Delegates, 45th District, Democratic Primary

Five Democrats vie to replace Rob Krupicka who is stepping down.

- ❖ Mark Levine, Email: mark@markfordelegate.com, Website: <http://www.markfordelegate.com>
- ❖ Julie Jakopic, Email: juliejakopic@gmail.com, Website: <http://www.juliefordelegate.com>
- ❖ Clarence Tong, Email: clarence.tong@gmail.com, Website: <http://clarencetong.com/>
- ❖ L.M. "Larry" Altenburg II, Email: larry@larryaltenburg.net, Website: <http://altenburgfordelegate.net/>
- ❖ Craig Fifer, Email: craig@fiferfordelegate.com, Website: <http://www.fiferfordelegate.com>

Connection coverage of the race for the 45th <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2015/may/19/fight-45th/>

Member Board of Supervisors, Mason District, Democratic Primary

Incumbent Penny Gross is facing her first primary challenge

- ❖ Penelope A. "Penny" Gross, Email: gross.penny@gmail.com, Website: <http://www.pennygross.com>
- ❖ Jessica M. Swanson, Email: swanson.jessica@gmail.com, Website: <http://www.swansonforfairfax.com>

Republicans, Party Canvass, June 4. Republicans in the 44th and 45th House District and 30th Senate District will choose candidates at a Party Canvass (sometimes called a firehouse primary) on Thursday, June 4, 6:30 - 8 p.m., at Minnie Howard Campus, 3801 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria.

There are no other Republican canvasses scheduled in any other state or local race in Fairfax County. The Sully district GOP Canvass for member of the Board of Supervisors was held in April. See <http://fairfaxgop.org/>

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail:
south@connectionnewspapers.com

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www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
burke@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ❖ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Amna Rehmatulla
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
arehmatulla@connectionnewspapers.com

Tim Peterson
Community Reporter
703-314-0789
tpeterson@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor ❖ 703-752-4013
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
[@jonroetman](http://jonroetman.com)

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Steve Hogan
Display Advertising, 703-778-9418
shogan@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
[@MaryKimm](http://MaryKimm.com)

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Deb Cobb, Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
[@TheismannMedia](http://TheismannMedia.com)

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



LETTER

Displeased with the Headline

To the Editor:
I was deeply displeased to read that your newspaper decided to use "The Importance of Including Everyone" as your headline for Tim Peterson's article about the Fairfax County School Board's vote on including gender identity to their nondiscrimination policy. As a journalist, I believe this smacks of bias and was entirely unnecessary.

The editors could have easily lead with a generic news headline, like "Fairfax County School Board Votes on Gender Identity." Instead, seeing the words they chose gave me the distinct and awkward impression that they were using a news story to not so subtly tell us the newspaper supports the school board's decision. In truth, the decision was not about including everyone, just those with "gender identity" issues.

While I applaud Peterson for

getting comments from parents on both sides of the issue, the article would have benefited from him probing the deep-seated rationales for each person's conclusion. My guess is that there was much, much more than bathroom and locker room awkwardness that got those hundreds of parents to show up to the school board meeting.

Juliana Erikson
McLean

Springfield Days, May 30-31

Springfield Days is a community-wide weekend-long celebration featuring free activities for a variety of interests May 30 - 31, including PetFest, a car show and, new this year, the Springfield Days Stride and the Springfield Market Expo.

Event Schedule -
Saturday, May 30:
Springfield Days Stride - 8:30 a.m.
PetFest - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Market Expo - 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Farmers Market - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Car Show - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Sunday, May 31:
Cardboard Boat Regatta - 10 a.m. boat registration, 2 p.m. races begin.
For a full schedule of events, registration forms and an updated sponsor list, visit springfielddays.com.

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Whose Life Has Not Been Touched by Alcohol or Substance Abuse?

Do you know a teen or young adult who has struggled with alcohol or drug abuse? The most recent Fairfax County Youth Survey shows that more than 40% of students report using alcohol, more than 20% marijuana, and more than 9% painkillers without a doctor's order.

The Unified Prevention Coalition (UPC) works with people like you and organizations across Fairfax County to reduce these numbers. UPC works to prevent underage drinking, binge drinking, prescription drug abuse, and use of heroin and other drugs. UPC's prevention programs save lives as well as money: \$10 is saved for every \$1 spent on prevention.

Give Where You Live Do More 24 on June 4!

Do More 24 is a one-day movement powered by United Way of the National Capital Area that encourages donors to contribute to local non-profits. **UPC asks for your support** to enable us to continue our prevention work in Fairfax County.

Support These Fairfax County Restaurants on June 4
A percentage of their June 4 proceeds will go to the Unified Prevention Coalition (UPC):

Glory Days Grill
(locations in Burke, Centreville, Fairfax, Herndon, Lorton and Reston from 5 p.m. to midnight)

The Auld Shebeen
(from 4 to 10 p.m.)

O'Sullivan's Irish Pub
(all day)

For the latest list of supporting restaurants and to make your personal donation, visit www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org.

Join the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County in creating a community where youth grow up safe and drug free.

For more information or to get involved, call 703-938-8723 or visit www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org.

Funding for this ad is provided by the federal SAMHSA Virginia Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant.

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SUMMER FUN: FAIRS & FESTIVALS 2015

May

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 28-31
Herndon Festival. Thursday: 6-10 p.m. Friday 5-11 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Herndon Town Green, 777 Lynn Street, Herndon. Four day outdoor festival with three entertainment stages, a carnival, two fireworks displays, Kid's Alley with children's art area, arts and craft show and more! All ages. Visit www.herndonfestival.net for more information.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 29-31
Workhouse Carnival and Arts Party. 5 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Rides, games, music, vendors, food and family fun and will take place on the south side of the Workhouse campus. This event will raise funds in support of the Workhouse's arts, education and history programs. Admission to the carnival is free, including the live entertainment and film screening, however rides and vendors will require additional fees and tickets. There is a \$5 parking fee per vehicle.

FRIDAY/MAY 29 - AUG. 28
Herndon Friday Night Live! 6:30 p.m. 777 Lynn Street, Herndon. Listen to great music on Friday nights during the summer. Visit herndonrocks.com/schedule.php for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 30
Arts & Crafts Fair. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Dranesville Church of the Brethren, 11500 Leesburg Pike, Herndon. Silent Auction, homemade desserts and fine china light lunch. Funds will support a comprehensive emergency response and recovery program to assist the Nigerian families made homeless and suffering by the attacks of Boko Haram. The response will include temporary shelters, emergency food, household supplies, clean water and sanitation, and trauma healing programs helping to bring peace to Nigeria.

SATURDAY/MAY 30-SEPT. 5
Reston Concerts on the Town. 7:30-10 p.m. Reston Town Center. The 25th season is extended through September 5 and kicks off with swing/jump blues favorite Big Joe & the Dynafloes. Bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets and enjoy live music in the Pavilion Saturday nights. Free. Rain or shine. Presented by Reston Town Center and Reston Town Center Association. Alcohol permitted at restaurants only. Concert information: 703-912-4062 www.restontowncenter.com/concerts.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 30-31
Great Falls Artfest on the Green. Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Great Falls Village Green. Great Falls Studios Spring Art Show and Sale under the big tent and a few little tents, too. A plein air competition and quick draw. With prizes and a reception. Sponsored by Arts of Great Falls. Then, a grand finale "Blues Explosion" to close the weekend and start the always popular season of Concerts on the Green by Celebrate Great Falls. For complete schedule and updates visit <http://www.greatfallsart.org/artfest/>

Springfield Days. 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m., South Run Park, 7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield. Springfield Days is a community wide celebration that includes a 5K run, "Pet Fest" and car show. Visit www.springfielddays.com for more.

SUNDAY/MAY 31- AUG. 16
Great Falls Concerts on the Green. 6-8 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre Green. Come out on Sundays and listen to some live music. Full schedule list: <http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org/concerts-on-the-green/>.

SUNDAY/MAY 31- AUG. 30
Stars on Sunday Concert Series. 3 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Featuring a lineup of performances that showcase the diversity of talent and culture in Northern Virginia. Concerts are free to attend and are perfect for families, a special date or a relaxing afternoon of music and dance.

SUNDAY/MAY 31
Avenue of Art. 1-5 p.m. Church Street in Vienna. Church Street becomes a pedestrian plaza with dozens of artists selling their original art and jewelry. There will be free art demonstrations, children's projects, face painting, caricatures, photo opportunities, food and wine. Music by the Difficult Run String Band. 703-319-3971. www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

Cardboard Regatta. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Witness the cardboard boat creations race along Lake Accotink's shoreline at 2 p.m. \$4 vehicle fee. Call 703-569-0285 or email julie.tahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Visit www.springfielddays.com for more.



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBARD/THE CONNECTION



PHOTOS BY DEB CORN/THE CONNECTION

Hundreds of spectators cheer on the participants in the 23rd Cardboard Boat Regatta at Lake Accotink Park in June 2013. This year's event will take place on May 31.

in classes benefit Cornerstones. Presented by Beloved Yoga. www.belovedyoga.com.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 19-21
Taste of Reston. Friday: 3-11 p.m.; Saturday: noon-11 p.m. Sunday: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Carnival games and rides with a family fun zone. Visit www.restontaste.com for more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 20
Clifton Wine Festival. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Children's Park, 7140 Main St., Clifton. Visit historic Clifton, with wine, food, music and arts and crafts to make it a celebration. Rain or shine. Visit www.cliftonwine.com for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 26-JULY 5
World Police & Fire Games. Thousands of athletes from 70 countries will converge in Fairfax County for 10 days of competitions. Entertainment and activities will be hosted by Reston Town Center during the games. Fairfax2015.com

SATURDAYS/JUNE 27-AUG. 22
Burke Arts in the Parks. 10 - 11 a.m. Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Entertain children, teach them the importance of protecting our natural resources, introduce them to live entertainment in an informal kid friendly atmosphere, and forge a connection between kids and parks. Call 703-323-6601.

SATURDAYS/JUNE 27-AUG. 22
Burke Arts in the Parks. 10 - 11 a.m. Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Entertain children, teach them the importance of protecting our natural resources, introduce them to live entertainment in an informal kid friendly atmosphere, and forge a connection between kids and parks. Call 703-323-6601.

SATURDAY/JULY 4
Fairfax's Independence Day Celebration. 10 a.m.-10:30 p.m. in the Downtown Fairfax Historic District. Independence day parade, historical tours, games, entertainment and fireworks. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/independence-day-celebration

FRIDAYS/JULY 10-AUG. 28
Braddock Nights Concert Series. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield or Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. Listen to musical performances in the great outdoors. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/ for location and schedule.

SATURDAY/JULY 11
Obon Festival. 5:30 -9 p.m. Highlighting Japanese culture at Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lakehaven Lane, Fairfax Station. Visit www.ekoji.org for more.



Turkish Rug Sale
June 9 & 10
4:30-9:30 p.m.
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May 30 - 31, 2015

Join us for FREE family fun all weekend

Saturday, May 30
Springfield Days Stride 2K
8:30 a.m., Springfield Town Center near Spring Mall Rd.
Walkers, runners, strollers and pets welcome.

PetFest
9 a.m. - 3 p.m., South Run Park
Springfield Days Proclamation from Supervisor, Jeff McKay, vendors, entertainment, Amtrak K9 demonstration, Paws on Parade, The Blessing of the Pets and more. Find the full schedule online. Well-behaved, leashed pets are welcome to join in the fun with their owners.

Springfield Market Expo
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Springfield United Methodist Church parking lot
Shop more than 60 vendors including crafters, home-based businesses, local merchants, food trucks and more.
B101.5 Broadcasting LIVE

Car Show
10 a.m. - 2 p.m., American Legion Post 176 in Springfield
Cars and other wheeled vehicles on display by local residents and businesses. Register an automobile free, or just stop by to take a look. The café inside the American Legion will also be open.

Farmers Market
10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Springfield Town Center

Sunday, May 31
Cardboard Boat Regatta
Lake Accotink Park
RACES BEGIN at 2 p.m.
Will they sink or will they float? You never know when it's a cardboard boat. Parking at Lake Accotink is \$4 on May 31.

Full schedule of events, more information, registrations and all updates at www.SpringfieldDays.com

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SUMMER FUN

Celebrate Fairfax! Returns June 5-7

Festival at Fairfax County Government Center features headline bands: KONGOS, 3 Doors Down, The Amish Outlaws — and much more.

Northern Virginia's largest community-wide event, the 34th annual Celebrate Fairfax! Festival, is set to take place June 5, 6, and 7 on the grounds of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Celebrate Fairfax! Festival features 25 acres of family programs, green living, thrilling carnival rides, nightly fireworks, and amazing concerts with more than 130 performances on eight stages. An exceptional lineup of national, regional, and local artists includes these headlining performances:

In addition to the outstanding entertainment schedule, there are plenty of enhancements to the festival programming at Celebrate Fairfax!, including Greenology, Fairfax County Karaoke Championship, the popular Silent Disco, a craft beer garden, the Fairfax County DockDogs Competition, The Hub — featuring local wineries, giant lawn games and two stages of entertainment — Emerging Artist Showcase, plus more than 40 carnival rides and attractions, and 30 food vendors with enough variety to please anyone.

General admission includes all performances; shows are included



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CELEBRATE FAIRFAX!

The Shupp Family enjoys their time in the Petting Zoo.



Giant Wheel at night.

with daily tickets to the event. Advance ticket sales began on April 1 at www.celebratefairfax.com, and as of May 1, tickets are available at all Northern Virginia Wegmans locations.

At the gates, general admission is \$15 per adult; \$5 per youth; free for children 2 and under.

Festival Hours: Friday, June 5, open 6 p.m. until 12 a.m.; Saturday, June 6, open 10 a.m. until 12 a.m.; Sunday, June 7, open 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. Find more information at www.celebratefairfax.com

The 34th annual Celebrate Fairfax! Festival is a presentation of Celebrate Fairfax, Inc. and will be held Friday, June 5 through Sunday, June 7 at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Celebrate Fairfax, Inc. is a nonprofit, 501(c) 3 organization commissioned in 1982 by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Its mission, "The Celebration of Fairfax County and Its Communities," is met through the production of the Celebrate Fairfax! Festival, Fall for Fairfax KidsFest, and educational programs such as Events101. For more information call 703-324-3247 or visit the website at www.celebratefairfax.com.

CALENDAR

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

FRIDAY/MAY 29

Community Walk to Support Josiah Lanier. 6-8 p.m. Cardinal Forest Elementary School, 8600 Forrester Boulevard, Springfield. In April, Josiah was diagnosed with a very rare type of brain tumor: Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG). It has a very low survival rate and requires aggressive medical intervention. The community will gather on the playground and then walk approximately a mile to Josiah's house (down Forrester Blvd. and Carrleigh Parkway) to show him support. Students and their families will be dressed in Josiah's favorite colors: black, blue and green. Join in the walk, where you will have the opportunity to provide a donation if you wish, or make a contribution through: <http://www.gofundme.com/sxjs64v>

Arts Open House Extravaganza. 4210 Roberts Road, Burke. Come to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Mason for a Celebration of the Arts, including poetry and musical performances as well as photography and arts displays. Enjoy free coffee and home-made baked treats sold by Friends of OLLI. Register by calling the OLLI office: 703-503-3384.

Riverbend Opera Company Presents Andrea Lecouvreur. 7:30 p.m. Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Tickets: \$15-\$25. Francesco Cileà's verismo masterpiece Adriana Lecouvreur, set in the early 18th century. This Riverbend Opera production features a cast of 15 professional singers, accompanied by orchestral ensemble and piano. (Projected English Surtitles).

Fun Flicks. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Watch movies based on children's books. See "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," "Papa Get Me the Moon," "The Very Quiet Cricket" and "The Mixed-Up Chameleon" by Eric Carle.

Bingo. 7 p.m. Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Benefits the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department.

Theaterworks: Miss Nelson. 10:30 a.m. GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 29-31

Workhouse Carnival and Arts Party. 5 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Rides, games, music, vendors, food and family fun and will take place on the south side of the Workhouse campus. This event will raise funds in support of the Workhouse's arts, education and history programs. Admission to the carnival is free, including the live entertainment and film screening, however rides and vendors will require additional fees and tickets. There is a \$5 parking fee per vehicle.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 30-31

Springfield Days. 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m., South Run Park, 7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield. Springfield Days is a community wide celebration that includes a 5K run, "Pet Fest" and car show. Visit www.springfielddays.com for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 30

Lights Out on the Bunny Brothers. 11 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Have fun

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

2015 Headline Entertainment Schedule for the Bud Light Main Stage

FRIDAY, JUNE 5 AT 8 P.M.: KONGOS

The brothers KONGOS — multi-cultural, multi-faceted, multi-instrumentalists — craft a unique and irresistible sound spawned from shared DNA, diverse influences and spot-on melodic and lyrical sensibilities. On Lunatic, their Epic Records debut, the band's talent shines on "Come With Me Now"; the rock-alt crossover tune kicking off with the accordion, jumping into foot-stomping, staccato rhythms, slide guitar, and soaring epic soundscapes reminiscent of U2 and their South African upbringing. "I'm Only Joking," whose lyrics hint at the album's title,

hits the mark with decisive tribal rhythms and Pink Floyd-esque mysterious modern rock. Thanks to an earlier self-release of Lunatic, KONGOS are already stars overseas, playing their numerous hits off Lunatic for crowds of up to 65,000 at South African festivals.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6 AT 8 P.M. 3 DOORS DOWN

Since forming in 1995, Mississippi rock quintet 3 DOORS DOWN has sold more than 16 million albums worldwide, garnered three Grammy nominations, two American Music Awards, and five BMI Pop Awards for songwriting, including BMI's coveted

"Songwriter of the Year" award. The band's debut album, 2000s The Better Life, which is now certified six times platinum, featured the smash hit "Kryptonite." Their sophomore album, 2002s Away from the Sun, saw similar success with its radio mainstays "When I'm Gone" and "Here Without You." Their subsequent efforts 2005s platinum certified Seventeen Days and 2008s 3 Doors Down debuted at #1 on the Billboard Hot 200 Chart. In 2012, 3 DOORS DOWN released The Greatest Hits, a collection of nine #1 hits and three new songs, returning to the Top 5 at radio with "One Light." The band will begin recording their sixth studio album in early 2015.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7 AT 4:30 P.M. THE AMISH OUTLAWS

THE AMISH OUTLAWS are made up of former and "Honorary Amish" men in full Amish garb that dance and sing a range of covers from Lady Gaga to Bon Jovi to Johnny Cash. THE AMISH OUTLAWS like to keep their audience guessing as to what they could possibly play next. The members include: Brother Amos Def, Brother Big Daddy Abel, Brother Eazy Ezekiel, Brother Elijah Rule, Brother Hezekiah X and Brother Jakob the Pipe Layer. According to their website, throughout each show, THE AMISH OUTLAWS "spin yarns about the Brothers' upbringing and adventures since Rumpsringa."

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

Burke Lake Road, Burke. Have fun learning about energy conservation with this fast-paced puppet show presented by Blue Sky Puppets. Cosponsored by Friends of the Kings Park Library. All ages.

The Mamas and the Papas: True Stories About Moms, Dads, and Kids. 7 p.m. The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Better Said Than Done is making childcare available for an easy and entertaining date night. Tickets are \$10 per person; tickets can be purchased online at www.bettersaidthandone.com or at the door. Childcare must be reserved by May 25.

Junior Robotics. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Presented by Bricks 4 Kidz. All the fun of building with LEGO bricks, PLUS the challenge of computer programming! Cosponsored by Friends of Pohick Regional Library. Age 6-8.

Hard Hat Movie Night. 6:30 p.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Join us after hours for family fun and a movie to kick off the next phase of Pohick Regional Library. All ages.

King Giant. 7 p.m. Empire, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Sixty Watt Shaman, Fog Hound. \$10-\$15.

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 veggies.

SUNDAY/MAY 31

A Fairfax Cabaret. 7-9 p.m. PJ Skidoos, 9908 Fairfax Boulevard, Fairfax. Live musical entertainment and talent. Tickets: \$50.

Cardboard Regatta. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Witness the cardboard boat creations race along Lake Accotink's shoreline at 2 p.m. \$4 vehicle fee. Call 703-569-0285 or email julie.tahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Visit www.springfielddays.com for more.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/JUNE 4-6

Huge Summer Book Sale. Thursday: 3-9 p.m. Friday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Fiction, history, hobbies, vintage, and children's books, in pristine condition.

Friends of Burke Centre Library Summer Used Book Sale. Thursday: 1-9 p.m. Friday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Great selection of books to read and gift for summer vacation.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 5-7

Celebrate Fairfax! Festival. Friday: 6 p.m.-midnight; Saturday: 10 a.m.-midnight; and Sunday: 11 a.m.-7p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Musical performances, rides, games and food. Call 703-324-3247 or visit www.celebratefairfax.com/.

SATURDAY/JUNE 6

Spring Campfire Saturdays. 7 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. An evening campfire for the whole family. Adventure awaits as you explore the woodlands and lake front spots where wildlife hides and resides, guided by a naturalist. Program ends with a cozy campfire, bring whatever you like to roast, smores provided. \$8-\$10.

SUNDAY/JUNE 7

Walk for Nepal Earthquake Victims. 7-10 a.m. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Nepal Earthquake - 7.8 magnitude followed by many aftershocks. The country is in desperate need of food, water, medical supplies, and housing. Millions of people have lost their homes and are living outdoors. The monsoon season is just around the corner and they need to build thousands of shelter for the homeless. We are partnering with IAHV a humanitarian organization to reach out to the people of Nepal that are going through major traumas.



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Community members prepare to embark on the third annual Fragile X Walk through Burke Lake Park May 17.



Members of the Robinson Secondary School Band perform near the conclusion of the Fragile X Walk through Burke Lake Park.

Striding Strong

Third Fragile X Walk draws more than 200.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Like many parents and children, one of Burke Centre resident Monica Peña's biggest challenges with her son Nicolas is communication. Unlike most children, "Nico" was diagnosed with Fragile X Syndrome at birth. The inherited genetic mutation is a cause of mental impairment, ranging from moderate to severe learning disabilities, that can be linked to Autism Spectrum Disorder.

According to the Fragile X Families of Northern Virginia organization, the syndrome affects around 1 in every 3,600 males and 1 in every 4,000 to 6,000 females.

Peña and her husband Diego's first son Santiago wasn't affected, though she and her sister discovered they were both carriers of the genetic change in the "Fragile X gene." That gene can be transferred to children, and with the right number of repetitions, manifest as the syndrome.

The Peñas weren't expecting to get pregnant a second time. Monica said "Santiago was already a miracle child." But along came Nico. Knowing chances were 50-50 he would have the syndrome, Monica had her umbilical cord blood tested at the birth. Nico had Fragile X.

"At a few weeks old, you think only of the worst," said Monica.

ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, the family started early intervention with a therapist that taught them how to handle Nico. Children with Fragile X are often easily overstimulated by sensory input and have more difficulty learning to walk and pick up language.

Before Nico's second birthday, the Peñas moved from Montana to Fairfax County. As part of the County's Infant and Toddler Connection early intervention program, speech and occupational therapists visited

and worked with Nico twice a month. Once he turned 2, he entered a special education preschool program at Little Run Elementary School in Fairfax.

Monica said the intimate class, geared towards autistic students, was instrumental in helping Nico pick up language. "Fairfax County was the place to be," she said.

On Sunday, May 17, the Peñas participated in the third annual Fragile X Walk through Burke Lake Park. Organized by the Fragile X Families of Northern Virginia support group, the goal is to raise awareness for the syndrome, which can go undiagnosed or be misdiagnosed as autism, and raise money for research.

This year, more than 210 walkers from around northern Virginia joined the effort, raising over \$51,000. A one-mile route took walkers around the frisbee golf course and concluded at the park's railroad station and playground.

Fragile X Foundation Chief Operating Officer Tony Ferlanda attended the event. "It's really an outstanding turnout, that demonstrates terrific leadership of the group and support from the Fragile X community," he said. "This is like a family reunion, the bond these families have, whether they're strangers or have known each other for years."

ONE OF THE GOALS of the Fragile X Families of Northern Virginia group is to offer a support structure and information for anyone affected.

"Your head's spinning with the diagnosis," said Fairfax Station resident Jimi Grande. "It's nice to have somewhere calm."

Grande's wife Buffy was one of the event's organizers. Their son Jimmo was diagnosed with Fragile X at 8 months old. Being on the more severe end of the spectrum, he is nonverbal and suffers from seizures.

Jimi said one of the more recent local vic-



Jimmo and Buffy Grande, of Fairfax Station, listen to fun folksy music after the third annual Fragile X Walk. Jimmo was diagnosed with Fragile X syndrome at 8 months old. Buffy was one of the co-organizers of the event to raise money for research and awareness of Fragile X.

PHOTOS BY
TIM PETERSON/
THE CONNECTION

tories has been the opening of a dedicated Children's National Fragile X Clinic in Washington, D.C. "So many times pediatricians don't understand what kids need," Jimi said.

And though each child's case is different, many are trying some combination of private therapy, special education in school, medication and clinical trials.

The Peñas at one time enrolled Nico in medicinal trials through the University of California-Davis Medical Investigation of Neurological Disorders Institute. Now 5 years old, he takes medication to help moderate his sensory perception and allow him to sleep better.

And though therapists encouraged the family to focus on just teaching Nico En-

glish, Monica's mother insisted on adding some Spanish.

Monica said one day recently she was saying something to her husband in that tongue when Nico started repeating what she had said.

"It blew my mind that he was learning Spanish," she said, "that he understood the difference from English."

In his case, Monica believes the combination seems to be helping. "Now we have more hope," she said. "I'm fully confident he's going to be self-sufficient. I saw him make a Nutella sandwich before Santiago did."

For more information, visit www.fragilexnorthernvirginia.com.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

SPORTS



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION

The Robinson girls' lacrosse team won the Conference 5 championship on Friday, beating Centreville 19-13 at Westfield High School.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

Robinson sophomore attacker Katie Checkosky, left, finished with four goals and four assists in Friday's Conference 5 championship game against Centreville at Westfield High School.

Robinson Girls' Lax Wins Conference 5 Championship

Rams beat Osbourn in opening round of regionals.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Robinson girls' lacrosse team entered Friday's rematch with Centreville in search of not only a conference championship, but proof the Rams' regular-season victory over the Wildcats was about more than just yellow cards.

Robinson defeated Centreville 25-20 in each teams' regular-season finale on May 11. The Wildcats received six yellow cards during the game and, by rule, played part of the second half down as many as three players. The Rams capitalized, scoring the final six goals of the contest. Robinson handed Centreville its first loss of the season and earned the top seed in the Conference 5 tournament.

The two teams met again in Friday's conference championship game. After surviving a Wildcat rally in the second half, the Rams had the proof they were looking for — and a championship banner to go with it.

Robinson defeated Centreville 19-13 on May 22 at Westfield High School, capturing its first conference/district title since 2009, according to results at laxpower.com.

THE RAMS led 14-5 at halftime and extended their lead to 16-5 with early second-half goals by Taylor Caskey and Elli Kluegel. But Centreville came back strong with a 7-0 run during a 10-minute, 33-second stretch. Senior attacker Reagan Newell's



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

Robinson junior attacker Taylor Caskey earned first-team All-Conference 5 honors this season.

goal with 9:41 remaining cut the Rams' lead to 16-12.

But Centreville would get no closer as Robinson senior attacker Izzy Obregon put one in the net with 7:25 remaining and the Rams scored three of the game's final four goals.

During the regular-season meeting, Centreville received six yellow cards and Robinson received two. On Friday, officials issued Robinson three yellow cards and Centreville one.

"We just wanted to prove to them it wasn't

"We just wanted to prove to them it wasn't the yellow cards, it was our ability to stay in the game and keep our heads strong."

— Robinson junior Taylor Caskey

the yellow cards," Caskey said, "it was our ability to stay in the game and keep our heads strong."

With the victory, Robinson entered the 6A North region tournament as Conference 5's No. 1 seed. The Rams defeated Osbourn 24-0 on May 26 and will face McLean on Thursday, May 28.

Centreville is Conference 5's No. 2 seed and defeated Osbourn Park 20-1 on Tuesday. The Wildcats will face Woodson on Thursday.

"We knew that we were the better team and that we did come out on top [during the regular season] and we proved it," Robinson sophomore attacker Katie Checkosky said. "We really wanted to prove it again and reiterate that we were the better team."

How much confidence did the Rams have after beating the Wildcats during the regular season?

"A lot of confidence," Checkosky said. "We knew we were going to be seeing them again because they're a great team and they have great players."

While Centreville is led by co-conference Players of the Year Caroline Wakefield and Newell, it was the Rams who came out strong Friday, building an 8-2 lead in the first 12 minutes. After Wakefield scored her

first goal of the evening with 12:13 left in the opening half, Robinson responded with four straight goals, taking a 12-3 lead when Obregon scored with 8:11 on the clock.

Goals by Wakefield and Newell cut the Robinson advantage to seven, but junior attacker Kaitlin Luccarelli and Caskey each found the back of the net to extend the Rams' lead to 14-5 at halftime.

AFTER A SLOW START, Wakefield and Newell picked it up in the second half. Newell had three goals and an assist during Centreville's 7-0 run, and Wakefield added two goals and an assist.

Newell, who will play for James Madison University, finished with four goals and two assists. Wakefield, who will play for the University of North Carolina, had four goals and an assist.

"I think our defense played so much better," Robinson head coach Liz Case said. "... Our goalie did amazing. [Danielle Valenti], she came up with great saves. ... I think as a whole, we realized how dangerous [Newell and Wakefield] are on the field and we ... were going to do everything we can to stop them and play good, solid body defense."

Sophomore attacker Elizabeth Murphy and freshman attacker Emily Marciano each scored two goals for Centreville. Senior attacker Kara Waddell had one.

Robinson's Checkosky, Caskey, Obregon and Kluegel each scored four goals. Luccarelli finished with two goals and Mackenzie Schuler had one.

Checkosky tallied four assists.

"Today, obviously it proved that we are a good team and we are able to play and we show up and play," Case said. "I'm just really glad that they were able to prove themselves again."

Obregon, Checkosky, Caskey, Schuler, and Kluegel each earned first-team all-conference honors.

Centreville freshman midfielder Paige Richbourg and junior midfielder Madison Duncan were also members of the all-conference first team.

SPORTS

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Robinson Boys' Soccer Beats Oakton for Title

The Robinson boys' soccer team beat Oakton in penalty kicks to win the Conference 5 championship on May 21 at Oakton High School.

The win improved the Rams' record to 10-4-2.

Robinson faced Osbourn on Wednesday in the opening round of the 6A North region tournament, after The Connection's deadline.

Woodson Girls' Soccer Knocks Off Top-Seed South County

The Woodson girls' soccer team upset No. 1 seed South County 3-2 in the Conference 7 championship match on May 21 at South County.

The Cavaliers' record improved to 13-2-1.

Woodson faced Langley on Wednesday in the opening round of the 6A North region tournament, after The Connection's deadline.

Lake Braddock Baseball, Softball Win Conference Titles

The Lake Braddock baseball and softball teams won Conference 7 championships on May 22, each defeating South County at home.

The baseball team won 12-4, improving its record to 17-5. The Bruins will host South Lakes in the opening round of the 6A North region tournament at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 29.

The softball team shut out South County, 1-0, improving its record to 18-1. The Bruins have shut out their last five opponents, and 13 of 19 foes this season.

Lake Braddock will host Hayfield in the opening round of regionals at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 30.



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION

The Robinson softball team defeated Centreville 12-11 to win the Conference 5 championship on May 22 at Westfield High School. It was the program's first conference/district title since 2008. Robinson will host Osbourn in the opening round of the 6A North region tournament at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 29.

South County Boys, Woodson Girls Win Lax Titles

The South County boys' lacrosse team defeated Woodson 12-7 in the Conference 7 championship game on May 21 at South County. Four days later, the Stallions de-

feated Fairfax 21-12 in the opening round of the 6A North region tournament on May 26.

South County will host defending state champion Robinson on Thursday, May 28.

In girls' action, Woodson defeated West Potomac 15-5 in the conference championship game. The Cavaliers beat Yorktown in the opening round of regionals on Tuesday and will host Centreville on Thursday.

A World of Passion and Darkness

Robinson's production of "Neverwhere."

BY ROBERTA BENJAMIN
ST. STEPHEN'S AND ST. AGNES SCHOOL

What if there existed a world, at the end of the alleys, in the sewers, in every shadow, and every lost or gotten place. Neverwhere based on the novel by Neil Gaiman. The decisions to aid a mysterious dying girl, named Door, changes Richard Mayhew's life forever. He plummets from his mundane life as a businessman and soon to be husband, into another world existing underneath London. Richard journeys through the "London Below" meeting monsters and angels, outrunning villainous assassins, searching for the killers of Doors family, and all the while trying to figure out how or if he can return to his ordinary life in the London Above. Richard Mayhew and those who fallen from the gaps of society carry the audience through this steampunk Alice in Wonderland-esque world, in a long epic, that seems like only a few seconds.

Most profound are the technological aspects of Robinson's Neverwhere. A intercrit set consisting of grey, grime, pipes, doors, and bridges woven together to resemble a savagely dystopia immediately caught the eye of the audience. Though only one piece, the set seemed to be ever-changing as small pieces were sliced in, doors were open, and different levels were used. The lighting with over seven hundred cues also aided the set. Creative lights reflected underworldly magic. These technical aspects contrasted the bleak London above, and the dark, yet enticing below.

The other highlight of Robinson's show was its execution of Gaiman's black humor. The charac-



PHOTO IS BY DIANNE JANCZEWSKI

Matthew Cook and Rachel Ingle in Robinson's production of "Neverwhere."

ters of Mr. Vandemar and the Marquis managed to be funny, sinister, and emotional. By playing characters, not caricatures Alex Bulova and Matthew Cook brought their roles Mr. Vandemar and the Marquis de Carabas to life in a way that seemed realistic, rather than absurd. Ultimately, the entire show was able to make the fantasticality of Neverwhere seem genuine, a goal Gaiman strived to accomplish in his novel.

Go for a night. Slip between the cracks of this world. Find a world of passion and darkness. Go see "Neverwhere" at Robinson High school, but warning you may not wish to return.

'Do More 24' to Support the Unified Prevention Coalition

Area residents are invited to support the substance abuse prevention work of the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County (UPC) June 4 in the Do More 24 fundraising campaign for local nonprofits. And it can be as easy as dining out June 4 at one of the local restaurants – including six Glory Days Grill locations, The Auld Shebeen and O'Sullivan's Irish Pub – that will donate a portion of their proceeds to UPC as part of this special fundraiser.

Do More 24 is a local, annual 24-hour fundraiser hosted by the United Way of the National Capital Area. On Thursday, June 4, community members and businesses in the D.C. metropolitan area are asked to contribute to local nonprofits that are confronting our region's most pressing challenges.

"Too many young people in our community are suffering from heroin and painkiller addiction and overdose, marijuana use and alcohol abuse," said Lisa Adler, president of the nonprofit UPC. "Substance abuse is a

public health issue needing a community response, and the Unified Prevention Coalition needs financial support to continue our vital work to prevent substance abuse by teens and young adults and its negative consequences affecting families and our community. We're grateful for the restaurant partners that have generously joined us to highlight the need to support prevention efforts."

Gary Cohen, Glory Days Grill's vice president of operations, invites county residents to "join with us on June 4 to help raise funds to support this important work."

For a complete listing of restaurants (and hours of participation) in the Do More 24 campaign on behalf of UPC, see www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org.

Adler also encouraged individuals to make a tax-deductible donation online at www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org during the campaign, which will run from June 1-5. She noted that \$10 is saved for every \$1 spent on prevention.

WEEK IN FAIRFAX

Free EKG Screening at Paul VI

There will be free EKG screenings for all teenagers at Paul VI Catholic High School, Saturday, June 13, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue will administer the screenings, and an on-site cardiologist will be there to evaluate results. Teens may then keep the results of the EKG for future reference.

Registration is open to the first 300 students so please sign at <http://ryanlopynski.org/events/paul-vi-catholic-high-school-heart-screening/> today.

Take advantage of this opportunity to detect and prevent future heart problems for our children. The screening only takes 10 minutes, is pain-free, and it could save the life of a child.

You can find further information at <http://ryanlopynski.org/>

White Elephant Sale at St. Mary's

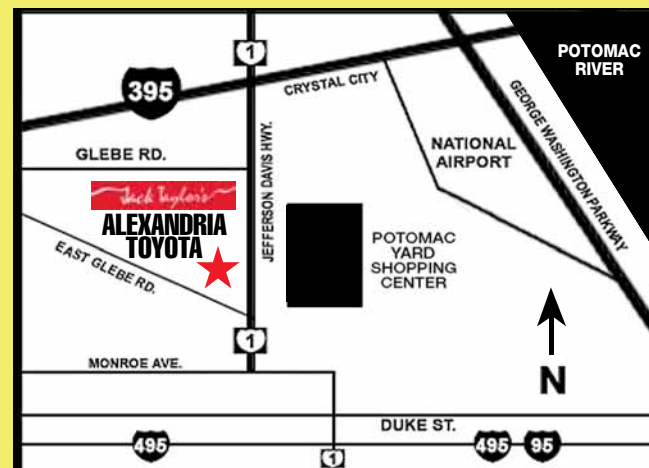
White Elephant Sale will be held at St. Mary's, 5222 Sideburn Rd Fairfax, Tel: 703-978-4141. Preview \$5 Thursday, June 11, 5-8 p.m. Free all other days: Friday, June 12, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, June 13, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sunday, June 14, 8 a.m.-noon.

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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/MAY 29

Keeping up With Kids. 2 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn the basics with our one-on-one technology volunteer about the social networking tools that can help you stay in touch with your kids and grandkids. Adults.

TUESDAY/JUNE 2

Evolution of Retail Summit. 8:30-10 a.m. Hampton Inn & Suites, 5821 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Experts will reveal how consumers shop now, what makes retail space successful, and what trends the future will hold. Free.

SATURDAY/JUNE 13

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. Learn how to protect your assets and obtain valuable Medicaid and Veterans benefits to pay for long-term care. jeannie@farrlawfirm.com.

SUNDAY/JUNE 14

Fairfax County Postpartum Caregiver Certificate. Noon. Plum Center, 6815 Edsall Road, Springfield. Basic overview and evidence based education for caregivers and parents caring for newborns age 0-3 months, including: diapering, swaddling, postpartum care of parents, SIDS safety and more. Prepares home-based caregivers to assist new mothers. Ideal for CNAs and LPNs working with home care agencies. Students receive certificate of completion upon successful completion of this course. Register: <https://aceclasses.fcps.edu/CourseDetails.aspx?AreaID=HCAC&AreaName=Home%20Health-%20Care%20Aide&CourseID=3667ad25-2f22-4b32-bf5e-731011223078&ProgramID=C->

FAITH NOTES

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

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

Lord of Life Lutheran offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Services in Clifton

PG&CategoryID=CRT&IsCourse=1

ONGOING

Senior Outdoor Pickleball, April-October, Wednesdays 8-10 a.m. Audrey Moore Wakefield Park Fairfax County, Courts 9 & 10, Beginners welcome. No cost. Email Gerald Rhoads at geraldrhoads6701@gmail.com.

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.redcrossna.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.

are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspRINGfield.org.

Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music.

More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.poplc.org.

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21 Announcements

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Opici Family Distributing of Virginia, LLC trading as Opici Family Distributing of Virginia, 7411 Alban Station Ct, suite A103, Springfield, VA 22153. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer Wholesaler & Importer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Dina Opici, President NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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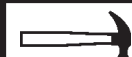
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