

Athletes on Fire

SPORTS, PAGE 16

Reston hosted the World Police and Fire Games Honor Guards competition on Sunday, June 28. Fairfax County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard won four gold medals.

Health Curriculum To More Closely Align with State

NEWS, PAGE 6

Bad Weather Delays Weatherman's Burke Presentation

NEWS, PAGE 13



WELCOME TO THE WORLD GAMES AND FAIRFAX COUNTY, WHERE FELLOW **POLICE, FIREFIGHTERS AND TEACHERS** HAVE A TARGET ON THEIR BACKS



As a public servant, you understand the commitment of fellow police, fire and teachers to goodwill, community involvement and education.

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When politicians place the burden on schools and public safety with underfunding and stagnant salaries, *we all lose.*

While you're here at the games, recognize Fairfax County public safety officials with a high-five. It might be the only support they get this year.

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Left, Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) presents Marian Homes president William Crowder (right) with a Virginia flag that was flown over the Richmond capitol in the group's honor.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Knights of Columbus celebrate the opening of the newest Marian Homes house in north Springfield.

Coming Home to Queen of Peace

Residents with disabilities move into new group house on Gresham Street in north Springfield.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Ten months ago, the unassuming single-level house on Gresham Street in north Springfield was a private residence. Today it's the permanent home of four individuals with disabilities, and a fifth is on the way.

There are 71 group homes like and including this one in Fairfax County, affording 316 people the opportunity to receive support and care services in a community-integrated setting. This model is in contrast to the aging state-run model for housing people with mental and physical disabilities in large, centralized "training centers" scattered around the state.

Claiming these centers were isolating people from having more normal, integrated lives, the state mandated residents be moved to smaller community-based centers.

The Northern Virginia Training Center located on Braddock Road is one of the large, older centers. It still has fewer than 70 residents in the process of being discharged to meet a March 2016 scheduled closing. Of the remaining residents 37 are from the Fairfax-Falls Church area.

Those individuals being discharged compete with thousands of people currently on the county's waiting list for disabilities services and supportive housing, which is managed by the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board.



Marian Homes president William Crowder (center) speaks at the Queen of Peace grand opening ceremony.

The group homes are a favorable option in Fairfax County, according to Community Services Board assistant deputy director Jean Hartman, along with two other alternatives: 37 apartment projects that each house two to three people and six Intermediate Care Facilities that can take as many as 12 individuals.

But together those options only house 423 individuals. The county's list has more than 7,000 on it who are waiting for either support services, housing or both.

"The impact of the state's decision to close training centers really just amplified what was already a preexisting need for housing," said Hartman, who referred to the high cost of living in Fairfax County compared to other parts of the state where people with disabilities have been discharged from other training centers.

MARIAN HOMES is a nonprofit organization linked to Fairfax Station-based Knights of Columbus St. Mary of Sorrows Council 8600 that was set up to help people with disabilities find supportive housing. The council is made up of 535 members.

Including this newest structure, Marian Homes owns three group homes in Northern Virginia, specially retrofitted to be more accommodating for residents like those leaving the training centers. The first one for five women in the Brecon Ridge subdivision of Fairfax was dedicated in 1998 and



Chimes chief operating officer Nancy Eisele gives remarks at the Queen of Peace grand opening ceremony.

a second for five men in the Fairfax subdivision of Greenbriar was purchased in 2010. All of the first 10 residents came from Northern Virginia Training Center.

To operate the homes and provide round-the-clock support for the residents, Marian Homes has partnered with Chimes of Virginia, the local base of large Baltimore-based Chimes Foundation of care providers.

On June 25, Marian Homes held the grand opening of its third house, located on Gresham Street in north Springfield. In this instance, the group used deferred-loan funding it was awarded from the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority to cover the \$510,000 mortgage.

Marian Homes volunteers started the demolition and reconstruction in late February this year, and spent another \$103,000 to have contractors finish transforming the interior from a three bedroom single-family unit to a five-bedroom dwelling where each of the residents can receive the support and care they need.

"It's better for them to live with other individuals," said Chimes chief operating officer Nancy Eisele. "In larger settings it gets lonely, there are limitations on social skills and communication. I think this model does work well for a number of people, with the right combination, who can really get along in a congregate setting."



Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) comments the collaboration between government and organizations that helped bring about the Queen of Peace transformation.

FAIRFAX RESIDENT JOHN GERMAIN is on the board of Marian Homes and designed the house's custom interior that required a complete teardown and rebuild.

"I'm elated," Germain said while looking around the sparkling new floorboards and generously wide hallways. "I'm happy to see the residents — I'm so joyful for them to have a place they can call home."

Phil Torrey of Fairfax Station is the Marian Homes treasurer and was on one of the demolition teams. "I helped take out that wall with a sledgehammer," he said. "It looks a lot different now. It's really nice."

Construction was completed in just 75 days, at the end of May. The first four residents moved in on June 15.

Renovations included converting the house from three bedrooms to five, adding a walkout entry, all-new flooring, building out the bathrooms to accommodate wheelchairs and a hoist mechanism and completely remodeling the kitchen. There are plans to add an electronic lift up to the side entrance of the house.

"It's been 10 months from getting the property to today," said Marian Homes president William Crowder. "It's really been a rocket ride for all of us."

The grand opening ceremony brought together local elected officials, Nancy Eisele and Rev. James Barkett, pastor of Saint Mary

SEE NEW GROUP HOME, PAGE 4

BURKE CONNECTION ♦ JULY 2-8, 2015 ♦ 3

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Marian Homes director William C. Baker (left) and District 14 Warden for the Knights of Columbus Fidel Rodriguez tour one of the fully transformed bathrooms in the Queen of Peace house.



New Group Home Welcomes Four People with Disabilities

FROM PAGE 3

of Sorrows Catholic Church in Fairfax, who blessed the house and gave it the name “Queen of Peace.”

“This is what government should be doing, supporting organizations like this,” said Del. Tim Hugo (R-40). Hugo then presented Marian Homes president William Crowder with a state of Virginia flag that had been flown over the capitol in Richmond.

Cook said the house is an example of what can happen when different organizations and government work together. It wouldn’t have been done nearly as quickly, he said, “certainly if you waited for county government.”

“We worked through government partnerships,” Cook added. “That’s why this works so well. There’s a need for more group homes. Don’t stop at four — we’re looking for five or six to come out.”

Jim McHugh of Fairfax is the deputy Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus Council 8600. “Our main principle is charity and our big event is Marian Homes,” he said. “I’m proud, excited for the opportunity to help another life, give five more people a place to call home.”

Dick LaFrance is known as the “guiding force” be-

hind starting Marian Homes. “It’s overwhelming,” he said, looking at the house, referring to it as “the promise of what we had in mind 20 years ago.”

Mike Lukacs used his experience as a realtor to find the Queen of Peace home. Finding a house that is suitable for this type of conversion isn’t easy. “For five bedrooms, single-level in Fairfax County, it’s just not out there,” he said.

But Lukacs is searching for the next Marian Home anyway. In fact, over the weekend following the Queen of Peace grand opening, he and John Germain were scheduled to look at potential homes for the next project.

Germain said the county has already invited them to bid on the next Request for Proposals that comes out in October.

With more people still in the process of being discharged from the Northern Virginia Training Center and thousands more on the waitlist for housing and services through the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Service Board, the county could use more than a few more houses like the Queen of Peace.

“Let’s get another five people in,” said Germain.

To find out more about Marian Homes, visit www.marianhomes.org.



Celeste Leyhe and her son Will are neighbors of the Queen of Peace house in Springfield. “Everyone has been really forthcoming and friendly,” said Leyhe. “It’s great they’re filling a need, to be part of the solution.”

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PEOPLE

Burke Author Launches Second Mystery Novel

Agatha Award nominated author Sherry Harris's second novel, "The Longest Yard Sale," was released on June 30, from Kensington Publishing. "Tagged for Death," a Mystery Guild selection, was released in December 2014.

Earlier this year, Harris, a military spouse and Burke resident, was nominated for an Agatha Award, in the Best First Novel category, for "Tagged for Death," the first in the Sarah Winston Garage Sale series. The Agatha, named for Agatha Christie, honors traditional mysteries. Previous nominees in this category include Elizabeth George and Janet Evanovich.

The series is about Sarah Winston, a former military spouse living in the fictional town of Ellington, Mass., pursuing her hobby of haunting garage and tag sales in search of lucrative bargains. Sarah's ex-husband is now the chief of police in Ellington and, in the first book, she uncovers evidence which implicates him in a crime. Her handling of the situation leads readers into the search for the truth among the town's residents, as well as those of the neighboring Fitch Air Force Base. Harris brings a unique insight into the lives of military family members and seamlessly weaves those details into her novel. In the second book, Sarah turns her hobby into a new career, but, when a dead body is discovered in her best friend's place of business, she is again pulled into the intrigue of finding out who committed the crime.

A short story contest, in a Dayton, Ohio newspaper, inspired Harris to start writing. That short story grew into full length manuscripts. She studied her craft and networked at mystery writer conferences, in hopes of selling her work. Her diligence paid off with a three book contract from Kensington Publishing for the Garage Sale Mystery series.

In addition to working on the third book in the series, Harris blogs with a group of fellow mystery writers at WickedCozyAuthors.com. When asked about her current success, Harris said, "Don't give up and work hard at your craft."

Barnes and Noble will host a book launch for "The Longest Yard Sale" on July 18, 1 to 3 p.m. at Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax.

For more information visit Sherryharrisauthor.com

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Health Curriculum To More Closely Align with State

School Board approves recommendations from advisers, with amendments.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Though it was the second packed house in as many months, it may be early yet to call crowded Fairfax County School Board meetings a trend. On May 7, parents, community members and a handful of students came out to Luther Jackson Middle School in Merrifield as the board approved adding “gender identity” to the school system’s non-discrimination policy. No one disputed the need for protection from bullying or fostering a positive, healthy and safe learning environment for all. But many who spoke that night were critical of the process. There was confusion as to what the effects of the policy change would be, and anger that engagement with the public ahead of time was lacking.

At the board’s regular meeting on June 25, the first and foremost action item was voting on recommended changes to the Family Life Education and health education curricula for grades Kindergarten through 10. The changes were proposed by the Family Life Education Curriculum Advisory Committee, an ad hoc group set up, according to the School Board, to align the school system’s lessons with Virginia Department of Education health standards and evaluate new standards for opt-out-optional Family Life Education.

CHANGES included adding gender identity and sexual orientation to Family Life Education, beginning in seventh grade, as well as moving a portion of the curriculum from Family Life Education to students’ health courses. Parents may opt their students out of any Family Life Education class, while the health lessons are mandatory for all students.

The committee briefed School Board members on its initial proposed changes at a work session on May 11; the recommendations came up as business at the board’s May 21 meeting with June 25 scheduled as the voting date.

Between May 21 and June 19, the recommendations were put online for community review. During that period, the School Board reports, staff received 561 emails, plus a petition signed by 116. It amounted to 225 pages of citizen comments, all of which can be viewed and read through the School Board’s agenda notes for the June 25 meeting.

Among the breakdown of responses (also posted in the June 25 agenda notes) 435 were opposed to “inclusion of transgender instruction and references to gender-fluidity,” while 54 supported “inclusion of sexual



Groups both for and against proposed changes to health and Family Life Education curricula took turns standing and cheering while their viewpoint was represented during citizen participation at the school board meeting.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

orientation and gender identity instruction.”

The petition called for the board to:

1. Prevent the removal of family-centered lessons from parent oversight and opt-out.
2. Provide comprehensive cross-references to Virginia health standards of learning for certain [Family Life Education] lessons proposed to be transferred to “health education.”
3. Refrain from approving the teaching of [Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender] topics in [Family Life Education] (while acknowledging the importance of teaching respect for all people).

In response to the comments and prior to the June 25 meeting, several changes were made to the recommendations, including:

- ❖ Grade 8 – Removed – “The concept that sexuality is a broader spectrum will be introduced.”
- ❖ Grade 10 – Removed – “Emphasis will be placed on an understanding that there is a broader, boundless and fluid spectrum of sexuality that is developed throughout a lifetime.”

But for the majority of citizens in attendance at the June 25 meeting, clad in red for solidarity, that wasn’t enough. Speakers before the board claimed many of the curriculum items coming out of Family Life Education and into health were not actually required as part of the state standards of learning. And the prospect of losing the opportunity to opt their children out of material not required by the state was infuriating for some.

“This vote is not about bullying or hatred,” said Laura Hanford. “The real point is process ... that culminated in outright deceit.”

After the initial motion from board member Sandra Evans to approve the curriculum advisory committee’s recommendations, members Patricia Reed and Elizabeth Schultz attempted a motion to postpone the

vote until July. They cited a steady stream of clarifying information coming in from county staff answering numerous questions from the board, as well as the feedback from community members.

“To rush is not good public policy,” said Reed, who added she was “receiving material as late as today.”

Schultz questioned who gave the advisory committee its direction and was critical that none of the board members had served as a liaison.

Their motion to postpone was voted down 10-2, which drew an outburst of cat-calls and derogatory comments from the audience.

Next board member Patricia Hynes introduced an amendment that appeared to be a compromise. It would direct Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza to “retain in Family Life Education any objectives that are not required by the 2015 VDOE Health Standards of Learning.”

Hynes commented the board had made a “mistake” in attempting to move some of the Family Life Education to health curriculum that wasn’t required by the state. But a large part of the audience was vocally upset there were no details presented as to which Family Life Education curriculum items this amendment would impact.

Schultz then offered a sub-motion: directing Garza and her team to further review the recommendations and how they align with state standards. This would also defer consideration of the changes for implementation in the 2016-2017 school year. Schultz again commented that the board’s preparation for the vote was lacking.

Schultz’s sub-motion was defeated. Then board vice chairman Ted Velkoff offered an amendment to Hynes’ original amendment that enumerated the 15 items originally from Family Life Education that would be returned. This would “make sure parents



Student Bennett Shoop addresses the Fairfax School Board at its June 25 meeting in support of the Family Life Education proposed changes, saying, “Knowledge can become acceptance too.”

have the opportunity to opt out,” Velkoff said. Twelve were not required by the state to be in the health standards and three were in response to the petition.

The list of numbers without corresponding policy descriptions drew more noise from the heavily anti-recommendations crowd.

ACCORDING TO AGENDA posted by Fairfax County Public Schools, those curriculum items that were part of Family Life Education, had been recommended to move to health and would be moved back under Velkoff and Hynes’ amendments are as follows (the K or number refers to grade level):

- ❖ **K.1** Student will recognize that everyone is a member of a family and identify members of their individual families

- ❖ **K.2** Students will identify positive ways in which family members and friends show love, affection, respect, and appreciation for each other.

- ❖ **1.1** Students will describe a community as people living and working together and will understand that family members make up a community.

- ❖ **1.2** Students will identify responsibilities of different family members.

- ❖ **3.1** Students will identify positive personal characteristics and attributes.

- ❖ **4.3** Students will identify the need to assume greater responsibility for self as an individual, as well as responsibility within family, peer groups, and larger community.

- ❖ **4.7** Students will recognize the values and challenges of friendship.

- ❖ **5.2** The student will identify roles, duties, and responsibilities of family members

- ❖ **7.2** The student will explore changes in peer relationships during adolescence.

- ❖ **7.3** The student will describe how adolescent development affects family relationships and practice effective strategies for communicating with family members.

- ❖ **8.2** The student will practice applying the decision-making process to situations related to adolescent development.

- ❖ **8.7** The student will identify family and personal expectations of dating relation

SEE SCHOOL BOARD, PAGE 16

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

(From left) HOT 99.5 Intern Harrison, DJ Houston, Dr. Katz and HOT 99.5 Intern Sklar celebrate the Burke optometrist's 30th anniversary in the community.

Optometrist Celebrates 30th Anniversary

In 30 years, Dr. Rick Katz has had over 100,000 patients. In some cases, he's helped five generations of the same family to see better. On June 27, the optometrist with MyEyeDr. celebrated three decades of serving the Burke community.

The celebration included a frames show with the vendors Nike, Nine West and Flexon. Local pop radio station HOT 99.5 representatives were also in attendance.

— TIM PETERSON

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Burke/Longwood Knolls \$599,950
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Corey Wallach, MD, completed his spine fellowship at the prestigious UCLA Comprehensive Spine Center which specializes in minimally invasive, motion preserving and traditional treatment for the neck and lumbar spine. He completed his residency at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, where he conducted research on biologic treatment strategies for degenerative spinal disorders, earning both national and international recognition for his efforts. He now serves as a medical director for the Inova Spine Institute.



Open Letter to Elected Officials and Candidates

Spend some of your campaign dollars in newspapers.

Here at the Connection, our email boxes are filling up with messages from people running for office. It's not surprising, since in November, virtually every state and local office in the commonwealth is on the ballot.

It's a good predictor for what will happen next in brick and mortar mailboxes of voters around the region.

What do candidates want from local newspapers?

Candidates, many of them incumbents, want to be quoted. They would like a reporter to come to their campaign announcements, to their kickoffs, to their forums. Candidates would like us to cover and print their statements on a variety of interesting and important issues. They would like to have their photos appear on the print and web pages of our newspapers

And for the most part, we will. We will cover the issues, the campaigns, the opinions, the fundraising, the political record.

While competition in local races is limited, money is not.

Current campaigns are on track to top the money spent in 2011 State Senate races. In 2011, Virginia State Senate candidates spent more than \$42.5 million. They have already spent more than \$20 million in 2015.

In Virginia state house races, in 2013 (members of the Virginia House of Delegate, like U.S. Congress, run for reelection every two years) candidates spent \$35.9 million.

In an example of the money these races can

attract, here is an extreme example from two years ago. In the 2013 race for House of Delegates District 34, Barbara Comstock raised \$1.4 million, narrowly defeating Kathleen Murphy (50.64 percent to 49.21 percent) who raised nearly \$700,000. Comstock went on to win the U.S. House seat vacated by longtime Rep. Frank Wolf, and Murphy went on to win the District 34 seat in a special election.

Comstock to her credit spent more than \$5,000 (about one-third of one percent) on newspaper ads (most in Korean publications), but more than \$87,000 on mailers. More surprising in a race for Virginia House of Delegates was that Comstock spent more than \$500,000 on TV and radio ads.

Murphy spent \$29,570 on mailers, \$950 on newspaper advertising and \$161,200 on TV and radio ads. (SOURCE: VPAOrg)

In other contested House races in 2013, it was more common to see expenditures between \$100,000 and \$300,000 per candidate. Most candidates spent zero dollars in community newspapers. Nearly every candidate spent tens of thousands of dollars on filling up voters' mailboxes with glossy mailers.

Of course it makes sense for candidates to target individual voters by mailing directly to their homes.

But does it really make sense to do that to the exclusion of other methods of reaching voters? Consider that 91 percent of voters who contribute to campaigns read newspapers in print or online, according to an independent study in 2012.

The Connection will not be endorsing candidates in the November elections. We'll be covering the local races to the best of our ability no matter who spends money on advertising. Other local newspapers will also cover the races without regard to advertising dollars.

That's not why we do what we do.

But to put on my publisher's hat (and not my editor's hat) for a minute, if you have a big marketing budget, and you value coverage of local newspapers (not just ours), why wouldn't you spend a portion of that budget (any portion) supporting that platform? There is a cautionary tale in the recent and abrupt closure of the chain of local papers that served Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland, as a recent and extreme example.

One California community in Los Angeles proposed legislation to let residents opt out of receiving election-related mail during a hotly contested mayoral election "where both campaigns and their supporters had flooded the mailboxes of registered voters with dozens of direct mail pieces," according to The Argonaut, a weekly newspaper there. Sound familiar?

But it's more than a charitable effort.

For the same reasons that the campaigns know they want local newspaper coverage, newspaper advertising is an effective way to reach voters.

According to an independent study during the last presidential campaign, cited by the National Newspaper Association: 86 percent of voters who cast ballots in the last local election read newspapers in print or online; 79 percent of voters ages 18 to 34 read newspapers in print or online; newspapers and their websites consistently outscore other media for being "reliable," "accurate" and "in-depth" about local civic and political issues; newspaper political advertising is the least "annoying" of any medium; 91 percent of voters who contribute to campaigns read newspapers in print or online.

Just a suggestion ...

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Medicaid Expansion Benefits Exceed State Costs

To the Editor:

Chris J. Krisinger wrote the Editor raising doubts about costs for an expanded Medicaid program under the Affordable Care Act and charging that proponents of expansion do not explain how to pay for it ("How to Pay for Medicaid Expansion," June 25). Mr. Krisinger was responding to an article written by state Delegate Ken Plum ("Political Prospects for Medicaid Expansion," June 4).

Contrary to Mr. Krisinger's letter, Virginia state government has explained how the costs will be paid. Data released by the Department of Medicaid Services and independently calculated by analysts at PriceWaterhouseCoopers, estimate that Virginia will save \$1 billion in state taxpayer funds over eight years by expanding the program for low-income and disabled people.

The savings come largely from current state expenditures for indigent care, which is paid at a rate of 50 percent by the state and 50 percent by the federal government. Those savings do not even include the economic benefits of \$1.5 billion annually in added federal spending in Virginia if we expand Medicaid. Without Medicaid expansion, the federal share of these expenses is scheduled to be withdrawn under the Affordable Care Act, leaving the state with the options of (1) picking up the unfunded balance or (2) leaving it to public hospitals and clinics to pass along added costs to patients with insurance. Option 2 could raise health insurance premiums by approximately 10 percent according to estimates.

With Medicaid expansion, the

SEE SIMMONS, PAGE 9

Medicaid Expansion: The Inconvenient Facts

To the Editor:

Delegate Ken Plum's Opinion article, "Political Prospects for Medicaid Expansion" (Connection, June 18-24, 2015) claims that "...facts support Medicaid expansion..." while actually the opposite is true. Numerous government and academic studies exist to show that expanding Medicaid will — in the long run — be detrimental to the poor, to health clinics and hospitals and, most alarming, to the taxpayers and the economy of the Commonwealth.

The notion that Virginia will "miss out on...federal funding" by rejecting Medicaid expansion is delusional and myopic. The federal government simply doesn't have the funds it promises the states who would enact this provision of the "Affordable Care Act." Current spending by Washington adds \$3.3 billion a day to the pub-

lic debt, a catastrophic and unsustainable situation discussed in a new government report. Medicaid costs are projected to grow exponentially in the future meaning that states will have to find their own funds to sustain this entitlement program. Already Medicaid accounts for nearly 25 percent of expenditures in most states, including Virginia, and is a significant driver of state budget crises. The logical and factual conclusion is that states will be stuck with an increasingly burdensome entitlement program. In the end there will not be any funds "freed up" in Virginia "for crucial underfunded programs" as Del. Plum claims.

Another fact, conveniently overlooked by Medicaid expansion supporters, is that Medicaid cov-

SEE PIOTTER, PAGE 9

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LETTERS

Simmons

FROM PAGE 8

federal government initially pays 100 percent of the costs and no less than 90 percent after 2021. In addition, thousands of new medical jobs would be created to care for these newly funded patients, including relatively well-paid doctors, physician assistants, nurses, and lab technicians, who would spend their salaries in local Virginia communities on homes, cars, groceries, and all the things families with decent incomes buy. And these families would pay state taxes into Virginia's general fund, which exceed any expansion costs that would be borne by the state under the Affordable Care Act.

Over the next 5 years, Virginians will pay \$10 billion in new federal taxes under the Affordable Care Act to pay the federal share of Medicaid expansion even if our state chooses to sit on its hands.

What a shame it would be for us to forfeit these dollars while nearby states of Maryland, Kentucky, and West Virginia, have all taken advantage of this program and bolstered their states' finances and health care. An estimated 250,000 to 400,000 Virginia residents would become eligible for health care they cannot get now without lining up for periodic free clinics that serve a fraction of the needy, or becoming so sick they qualify for indigent emergency care.

The Department of Medicaid Services and PriceWaterhouseCoopers calculations are available online and have been available for nearly three years. It is time for the naysayers to stop disregarding the facts and support Medicaid expansion and the economic growth that it holds for our state.

Rex Simmons
Fairfax Station

Piotter

FROM PAGE 8

erage itself does not guarantee access to quality healthcare. Again, the opposite is true. Expanding Medicaid would add thousands of new enrollees in Virginia, yet fewer and fewer physicians are accepting Medicaid patients because of low reimbursement rates. These new enrollees would be challenged to get timely care, as they would compete with current Medicaid enrollees already seeking treatment from a dwindling supply of providers.

A particularly disturbing fact is that Medicaid patients having major surgery in hospitals are more likely to die in the hospital than either uninsured patients or those with private insurance. Decades of research have proven that adults and children alike who receive care under Medicaid have higher mortality rates than privately insured patients.

Most troubling is the fact that Medicaid is a broken program rife with fraud and abuse. Advocating expansion of such a program defies reason and logic, and exhibits poor stewardship. Virginia and

other states need to continue pressuring the federal government to have the flexibility to reform Medicaid and allow Medicaid patients to have access to private insurance in a consumer-driven market. Several states are already doing this and are saving money while improving access to care.

These are but a few of numerous fact-based reasons to reject Medicaid expansion in Virginia, as the Republicans worked to do in the 2015 General Assembly. Virginians should be grateful not to be shackled to this failed program. Looking toward this year's General Assembly Election, let's put our support behind candidates who champion reform and who seek to improve the quality and delivery of healthcare.

Producing better health outcomes while limiting spending of both federal and state taxpayer dollars would be the "sure winner" in Virginia. Voters who look beyond rhetoric — and examine the facts — will grasp what's at stake.

Nancy Piotter
Fairfax Station

Call for Pet Connection Photos

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish on July 22, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by July 15.

Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans. We welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, tales of the bonds between your family and your pet, plus drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults. Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

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WELLBEING

July 4th Safety

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

It was a near accident at camp last summer that sparked action by one parent. Elementary school-aged campers splashed in the pool. Everyone was having fun. Then tragedy almost struck.

Jackie Wheeler says one second her 7-year-old son was frolicking on top of the water and the next he was bobbing just below the surface, gasping for air.

“One of the counselors took his eyes off of Noah for one second, and he started to struggle,” said Lee. “Ultimately, the lifeguard had to jump in and save him.”

Wheeler didn’t witness the incident, but its recounting was difficult for her to hear. That brush with danger became a defining moment for her family. She enrolled her son, who is now 8, and her daughter Ava, who is 4, in private swimming lessons at the YMCA in Bethesda, Md. “I want them to be safe around

From swimming to fireworks, safety precautions for a festive Independence Day.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACQUELINE WHEELER LEE

Ava and Noah Lee take private swimming lessons in Bethesda, Md. Safety officials encourage parents to make sure their children learn to swim.

the water, and I want them to be able to save themselves or someone else if necessary,” said Wheeler.

She’s not the only one thinking about safety. As Independence Day approaches and time spent at the pool, outside in sweltering temperatures and at fireworks shows increases, public health and safety officials are working to raise awareness about potential hazards.

WATER SAFETY

Ensuring that children learn to swim and keeping a close watch on them at the pool or beach are two ways that officials encourage water safety.

Parents and caregivers should also be mindful of recreational water illnesses, which are caused by swallowing or coming in contact with contaminated water in swimming pools and other bodies of

water. Help reduce the risk of recreational water illnesses by showering with soap and water before

entering a pool, taking frequent bathroom breaks and conducting regular diaper checks followed by washing hands with soap and water, say local health officials.

HEAT SAFETY

Sunburn is another health concern when swimming outdoors.

“Protect your skin and eyes from the sun’s damaging rays [by] wearing protective clothing and sunglasses,” said Kenya Fluellen, associate professor of nursing at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria, Virginia. “Always use sunscreen with a minimum SPF of 30.”

Heatstroke is the number two killer of children after car crashes, and Fairfax County has joined with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to remind parents and caregivers about the dangers of leaving children unattended in a car, particularly during the summer, which can lead to heatstroke and even death.

“You should never leave a child alone in the car, and that is certainly true in the summer when the



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARLINGTON COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fireworks are sold at a local stand at Lee Highway and N. Harrison Street in Arlington. Fireworks are synonymous with July 4th celebrations, but creating a fireworks display at home is illegal in some local jurisdictions.

temperatures are on the rise and cars get hot very quickly,” said John Silcox, public safety information officer, Fairfax County Health Department.

Fairfax County officials say there were 30 heatstroke deaths of children left in vehicles in 2014. Most parents simply forgot their children were with them. “Put something in the back of your car, such as a bag or a cell phone, so you’d be certain to check before leaving the car,” said Silcox.

FIREWORKS SAFETY

While fireworks are synonymous with July 4th celebrations, creating a fireworks display at home is illegal in some local jurisdictions. In both Alexandria and Montgomery County, Md., for example, all fireworks are illegal to possess or discharge, including gold label sparklers. In Fairfax County, any firework that explodes, emits a flame, sparks higher than 12 feet, or performs as a projectile is prohibited. Arlington County has similar prohibitions.

“We always remind people that the best and safest way to enjoy July 4th is to go to a professional

show and let the professionals handle it and just enjoy the show,” said Lieutenant Sarah-Maria Marchegiani, spokeswoman for the Arlington County Fire Department. “Some people don’t know that sparklers are dangerous for kids. They burn hot enough to cause third degree burns. We recommend that adults be the only ones to ignite fireworks.”

If you do want to put on your own backyard Independence Day illumination show, check local regulations, allow fireworks to cool completely and douse them with water before discarding them, advises Marchegiani.

Details

Local Fireworks Laws and Safety Information

- ❖ Arlington: <http://fire.arlingtonva.us/fire-code-information/fireworks/>
- ❖ Alexandria: http://alexandriava.gov/fire/info/news_firedisplay.aspx?id=62314
- ❖ Fairfax County: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/prevention/fmfireworks.htm
- ❖ Montgomery County: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcfrs-info/tips/citizens/fireworks.html

Heat and Car Safety

- ❖ www.safercar.gov/parents/index.htm

Water Health and Safety

- ❖ www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/water-safety
- ❖ Arlington: <http://health.arlingtonva.us/environmental-health/recreational-water-illness-rwi/>
- ❖ Alexandria: <http://alexandriava.gov/AquaticHealth>
- ❖ Fairfax County: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/eh/pools/pool-safety.htm
- ❖ Montgomery County: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcfrs-info/tips/citizens/pool.html

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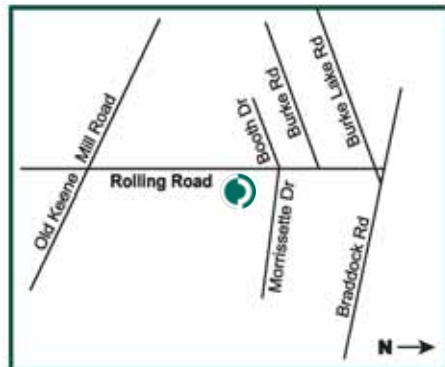
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Person Centered Dementia Care. 3 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. It’s hard to keep individuals with dementia active and engaged; learn to gear activities to them to make your time together enjoyable, frustration free, and memorable. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP or visit InsightMCC.org for more information.

SATURDAY/JULY 11

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.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 15

Are They Doing That On Purpose? Understanding Behaviors. 1:30 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Join us for this free program at 1:30 pm. Come and learn strategies for communication and dealing with difficult behaviors. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP or visit InsightMCC.org for more information.

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.
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In Jail: Don't Confuse Mental Health Services with Treatment

Fourteen mental health service staff at the disposal of 1060 inmates.

BY SAMANTHA TKAC
THE CONNECTION

A young man with ruffled hair and tired eyes peers out through the rectangular window of his single cell door. His gaze drifts across the green-tiled dayroom of the acute mental health facility in the Fairfax Adult Detention Center.

The high ceiling of the dayroom reveals a second floor of single cells, the entire facility currently occupied by 45 incarcerated men. The young man's eyes catch an observer's and he nods in greeting. Besides this subtle gesture, the dayroom is quiet and still. The tiny cell windows above and below are brightly lit and faceless.

The women's acute mental health facility is structurally similar yet compressed, holding 19 inmates. Both spaces contain central open spaces filled with metal tables and attached chairs. This is where supervisor Steve Weiss, the director of jail-based behavioral services within the ADC and his 14 team members of the Community Service Board sit down with each of the current 64 inmates to provide mental health services. But along with serving those in acute care, the 14 CSB team members provide mental health services to the jail's general population, serving a total of 1073 inmates within the last six months, according to CSB Communications Director Belinda Buescher. During that time, the jail held an average of 1060 inmates.

"In a perfect world we would have a much larger staff and we would have a presence 24/7. If we did that with the existing staff that we have now we would be spread so thin and services would be so diluted that we couldn't respond effectively when we are here," Weiss said.

Sheriff Deputy J. Perkins who works in the facilities explains the Sheriff Department's involvement with the facility's mental health care. He points to "Ob-Logs" short for "Observation Logs." "These are 15 minute checks because it's high observation ..." Perkins said. "It's just another piece of the puzzle in reference to their mental health status." Some of the check ups documented in the logs include whether or not an inmate takes their medication, what meals they're eating and when they're sleeping. "This gives you a real good picture in reference to how well they're doing or if they're deteriorating."

Checking on these individuals frequently and extensively is a necessity when servicing mental health issues, because a state of mind can alter drastically even over the course of a few minutes. Weiss explains that these circumstances mean that the inmates who are prioritized for care changes daily. "We come up with a list every day of who we must see based on the severity of need, and then what we do from that point on depends upon the urgency of the situation."

Weiss has worked in the Fairfax Adult

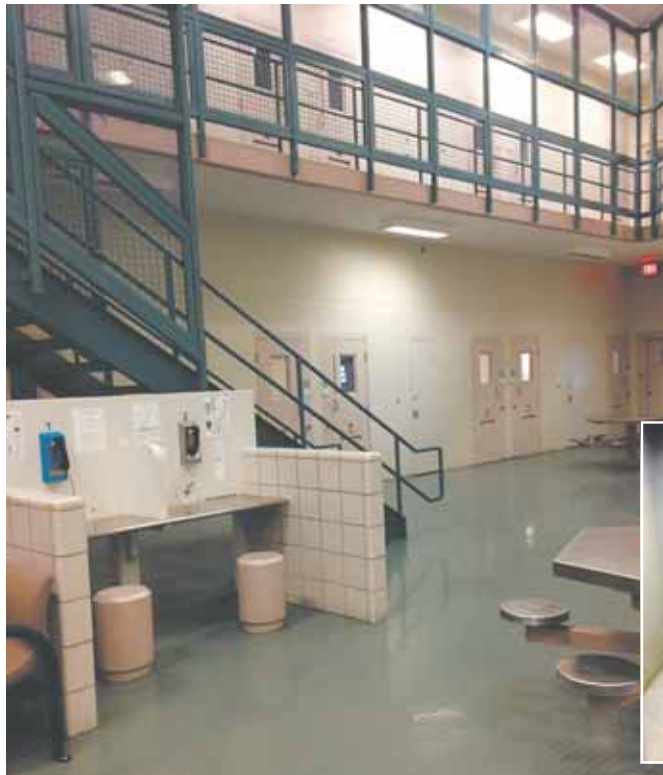
Detention Center for 11 years, and before that, in other mental health facilities. When Weiss retires in a few weeks, no one will be hired to fill his position, reducing the CSB staff from a total of 14 to 13. Psychology textbooks, behavioral therapy manuals and other informational texts about the human mind line the shelves of his office. Despite Weiss's knowledge and sensitivity toward mental health, he is adamant about referring to the services that his team provides as just that — services, not as treatment.

"I hate using the word treatment," Weiss said. "... People often believe, it's surprising — lawyers, police, family members especially, think 'Boy, I hate to see this person go to jail but at least they'll get treatment over there.' I don't really like to leave the impression that there is any equivalency between what we do here and what the person should receive or what they might receive in a hospital or in proper mental health treatment we want to do as much as we can for as many people as possible, but our objective is really not to provide primary treatment, it's rather to engage, stabilize, and to transition."

The CSB staff consists of social workers, psychologists, or psychiatrists who engage inmates by providing therapeutic group and individual sessions. Some of these sessions include goal-specific outcomes, such as substance abuse therapy. Other sessions may begin with confronting the most basic and important of mental health issues — figuring out what's wrong, and the needs of the individual. Weiss says that a benefit these services within the jail is that "There's no such thing as a no-show in jail for an appointment ... there's 100 percent show rate, that doesn't mean that people are always cooperative. ... There are instances where this is the first time when you're [the CSB staff] able to get a clear picture of what's going on. As crappy as life is in jail, it's the most stable that somebody has been."

Stabilization doesn't always occur.

"ONE OF THE FIRST stumbling blocks is the fact that often when people have an ill-



PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA TKAC/THE CONNECTION

Men's dayroom of the Acute Mental Health Facility in the Fairfax Adult Detention Center.

ness, whether it involves substance use or mental illness or both the illness itself prevents them from understanding that they're ill," he said.

Weiss describes this condition as "anosognosia" or "lack of awareness" which according to the Treatment Advocacy Center, is a condition that affects 50 percent of individuals with schizophrenia and 40 percent of individuals with bipolar disorder. "Because of what's wrong with you, you don't see anything wrong with you," Weiss said.

This among other untreated symptoms of mental illness may result in the inability to pursue treatment after being released from jail, despite the Jail Diversion programs in place for continuing care. This increases the chances of individuals with mental illness repeating offenses and being placed right back within the limits of the Adult Detention Center's CSB services, to which Weiss describes as a "catch all."

In Weiss's perfect world, people with mental illness wouldn't end up in jail. Yet besides the fact that there aren't enough beds available in state hospitals, there are also civil liberties that prevent a person with mental illness to be placed forcibly within a mental treatment facility. "For a lot of different reasons, people come to jail when the problem really isn't criminal activity," Weiss said.

He provides a hypothetical situation, "If I know that Sam can't make good decisions for himself, and can't care for himself, I can't just say, 'I'm putting Sam in a hospital.' There are laws that protect people." So when Sam starts to act out of control and

the police are called, he can't be taken to a hospital, but he can be taken to jail.

"It is not about this chunk or that chunk, all of them are equally important, the chain is only as strong as its weakest link," Weiss said. These "chunks" or services include the utilization of Crisis Intervention Training on behalf of the Fairfax County Police, the availability of Jail Diversion options such as substance abuse treatment and outpatient programs, and increasing the support of post-incarceration options, such as housing,

and placement within mental health treatment facilities.

"What we need to do is understand that this is a systemic issue ... there needs to be seamless movement," Weiss said. "I am in favor of more service in the jail — but that is a reflection of the failure of everything else." He reiterates that the issue of mental health treatment

within the community is, "A single problem with different pieces." Weiss can only work to improve one.

WEISS SPENDS his days not only with the inmates, but with family members and friends who are also affected by this system. On the upside, these interactions make up his favorite part of the job. "It's always being able to make something a little bit better for the person who is incarcerated or for the person that cares about them ... always, there's never any question about that."

But with love comes heartbreak, as Weiss describes the difficulty in seeing individuals whose, "only crime really is being mentally ill." He spoke to one such individual, a young man who was refusing therapy or medication "due to severe paranoia."

Weiss was trying to convince him to apply to receive disability checks. After lots of time and persistence Weiss received, "the smallest sliver of a maybe" from the man "which I'm sure by today is going to be a no." Weiss sighs, "But — it's not always a no."

Back in the lobby of the Adult Detention Center, a woman sits in the one of the plastic chairs and bounces a baby on her knee. Besides thumping the heel of her clog, she holds her body stiff as she looks above the baby's bobbing head and through the doors leading into the Detention Center. Weiss said, "When people come here, whether they're in the lobby worrying about the person inside or whether it's the person inside the jail — they're at the worst point in their life, and sometimes the smallest thing can make a very big difference sometimes it's saying to a mother — 'I promise you your son is going to be OK, we're watching him.'"



Holding cell in the basement of the Fairfax Adult Detention Center.



Single cell in the women's acute mental health facility in the Fairfax Adult Detention Center

TJ Grad Hits Bulls Eye Against Lyme Disease

As a Thomas Jefferson High School student in 2010, Temple Douglas recognized the possibility for a better Lyme Disease test. Several members of her family had Lyme disease and “I recognized the need,” she said.

“I’ve now graduated from college,” Douglas told the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, June 23, “so in the five years it’s gone from an idea to a research project to a clinical trial and now it’s available commercially.”

The test, which has achieved close to a 100 percent sensitivity for early stage Lyme Disease detection according to Supervisor Pat Herrity, has already been performed on numerous patients in Northern Virginia.

“This truly could be a game changer in the battle against Lyme Disease,” said Herrity. “With the short window you have to identify Lyme Disease, to have reliable information as soon as possible is critical.”

The Board of Supervisors gave Thomas Jefferson High School student Temple Douglas recognition in 2010 for her efforts to develop a better Lyme disease test.

“I’m really excited about this proclamation today for two reasons,” said Herrity,



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

George Mason University Professor of Biology Dr. Emanuel Petricoin cited Temple Douglas’ work as inspiration for a new way to test for Lyme disease. Both were honored at the Board of Supervisors in June.

“It is a great success story for Fairfax County, its school system and the healthcare industry and it represents a significant step for-

ward in the fight against Lyme disease.”

Because blood based tests had to wait for antibodies to be present to detect the

disease, Douglas “hypothesized that a urine-based test would highlight the bacteria itself, instead of the body’s response so it could prove more accurate,” said Herrity.

George Mason University Professor of Biology Dr. Emanuel Petricoin named Douglas’ work as inspiration for his new way to test for Lyme disease.

George Mason announced in late April that Petricoin’s team at the University Center for Applied Proteomics and Molecular Medicine along with a local Virginia company called Ceres Nanosciences exposed a new way to test for the disease that uses a patient’s urine.

Lyme Disease is the sixth quickest growing disease in the United States, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control, and has affected hundreds of families in Fairfax County.

“Early detection of the disease is critical,” said Herrity. “If not detected early, it can have devastating effects including achy joints, fatigue, Bell’s palsy and even stroke.”

— KEN MOORE



Brian van de Graaff addressing the OLLI audience.

PHOTOS BY NICK RODRIGUEZ



From left — OLLI Executive Director Jennifer Disano, WJLA Meteorologist Brian van de Graaff, and OLLI Member/Coordinator Stephanie Trachtenberg.

Storm Delays Meteorologist’s Burke Presentation

BY MARTHA E. POWERS
OLLI BOARD MEMBER

On the morning of Wednesday, June 24, WJLA meteorologist Brian van de Graaff planned to address an audience of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the Church of Good Shepherd in Burke. If only the weather had cooperated!

Unfortunately, dozens of trees and utility poles were felled by severe storms in Fairfax the night before, so van de Graaff was delayed by horrific traffic on the way to this event. The intersection

of Braddock Road and Ox Road (Rt. 123) was closed for many hours, snarling frustrated commuters on many alternate routes.

Nevertheless, van de Graaff regaled an audience from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the Church of Good Shepherd in Burke, an alternate venue hurriedly arranged when the Lord of Life – Fairfax church had no power. Speaking about his 15-year career as a weatherman at WJLA, van de Graaff gave OLLI members an insider’s view of life as someone whose live TV report began as early as 4 a.m. During “Snowmageddon” in 2010, van

de Graaff and his coworkers camped out in the hotel next door to their Rosslyn headquarters for days – a time that involved many off-the-record shenanigans.

Van de Graaff frequently mentioned his friend and mentor, fellow WJLA meteorologist Doug Hill. He also gave the audience a glimpse of how complicated the weather forecasting process really is: evaluation of many available weather information sources, calculation of possibilities for our wide and diverse geographical area, and the basic reality that sometimes the weather just can’t be predicted accurately. “When we get it wrong, we

admit it,” he declared.

Recalling a recent occasion when a tornado watch was declared for the location of his own home, van de Graaff recalled talking with his wife on the phone, urging her to get their kids into the basement immediately, which she did. “Our 3-year-old cried the whole time,” he recalled. “I’m still paying for that one.”

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at George Mason University offers intellectual and cultural experiences in a welcoming atmosphere to Northern Virginia residents in their retirement years. www.lli.gmu.edu



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Woodson High's Color Guard marches in last year's Fairfax City Independence Day parade.

July 4th in Fairfax County

SATURDAY/ JULY 4

Fairfax's Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks. 10 a.m.-10:30 p.m. in the Downtown Fairfax Historic District. Independence day parade, historical tours, games, entertainment and fireworks begins at 7 p.m. www.fairfaxva.gov.

Historic Pohick Church 4th of July Tours. 1-3 p.m. Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Costumed history docents will give free guided tours of the historic colonial church. <http://www.pohick.org>

July 4th in Paradise. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Open for normal business hours with live music and food available throughout the day. <http://www.paradiseparkwinery.com>

Vienna 4th of July Festival and Fireworks Show. 12-9 p.m. Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue, East, Vienna. Free event with food and drink, music, family games, children's entertainment and more. Fireworks show begins at 9:15 p.m. <http://www.viennava.gov/index.aspx?nid=894>

McLean 4th of July Fireworks Celebration. 8 p.m. Cooper Middle School, 977 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Food and music. Shuttle buses will be available at St. John's Episcopal Church at the McLean Community Center. <http://www.mcleancenter.org/special-events>

Great Falls 4th of July Celebration & Parade. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Village Centre Green, 776 Walker Road,

Great Falls. 5K walk/run, blood drive, Little Patriot Parade, and floats, horses, antique cars and pets making a loop in the Main Parade. Fireworks start after dusk at Turner Farm Park. <http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org>.

Herndon 4th of July Celebration. 6:30 p.m. Bready Park, Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Avenue, Herndon. A family-fun event featuring games, arts and craft activities, bingo, food face painting, balloon artists, and fireworks. Fireworks show is choreographed to music and begins at dark, approximately 9:30 p.m. www.herndon-va.gov.

Lake Fairfax Fireworks Spectacular. 4-8 p.m. Lake Fairfax, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Live music, enjoy the Water Mine park and more. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lakefairfax/>

Firecracker 5K for the Troops. 8 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. A 3.1 mile race, live music, face painting, waving flags, and free massages. www.praces.com/firecracker/

Mount Vernon's An American Celebration. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Daytime fireworks in patriotic colors fired over the Potomac River at 1 p.m. The event also includes an inspirational naturalization ceremony for 100 new citizens, military re-enactments, a special wreath-laying ceremony, free birthday cake for all and a visit from the "first" first couple, "General and Mrs. Washington." www.mountvernon.org.

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.

ONGOING

Stars on Sunday Concert Series.

Sundays, through Aug. 30. 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.

Burke Arts in the Parks. Saturdays, through Aug. 22. 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.

Summer Reading Program. Friday-Saturday, through Sept. 5. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Come to the library all summer for books and events. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

THURSDAY/JULY 2

Patriotic Floral Design Workshop.

1:30-3:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Create a centerpiece in red, white and blue just in time for your Fourth of July holiday picnic. The centerpiece includes flowers, flags and patriotic trim. Designer Chuck Mason demonstrates the project and provides assistance. \$35/ person plus \$25 supply fee. Register in advance for both program and supply fee. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

Fairfax's Government Center Farmers Market.

3-7 p.m. Thursdays, May 7-Oct. 29. Ten vendors including a Middle Eastern delicacy bakery and custom organic ice cream shop. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/governmentcntr-mrkt.htm.

Springfield Writers' Group.

7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Share your work, give and receive feedback in a supportive setting. Adults.

THURSDAY - FRIDAY/JULY 2-3

Bond: An Unauthorized Parody. 8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. A typical adventure, yet an original story, Gavin Robertson plays a variety of characters with minimum staging and maximum effect. With original music by collaborator Danny Bright, this is one spy story you won't see on the

big screen... Run, don't walk to this fantastic show. Tickets: \$10-\$30.

FRIDAY/JULY 3

Independence Day Fireworks & Concerts. 5:30 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. This year's event features "The Sixth Generation;" fireworks by Master Displays; games and children's activities; a variety of food trucks and beer and wine garden; and extended evening gallery hours.

Youth Jazz Concert. 8-9:30 p.m. Little River United Church of Christ, 8410 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Virginia Music Adventures, Inc. (VMA) and the Little River United Church of Christ present a free performance by the Monterey County All-Star Band and Vocal Jazz Ensemble. The concert will showcase the veritable talent of these Monterey-based high school honor ensembles.

Friday Evening Garden Tour. 7-8 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. View Green Spring's demonstration gardens in a different light. Master Gardener docents highlight the summer sights, fragrances and sounds at the end of the day, when changing light accentuates different plants and landscape features. \$12/ person for each tour. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring

Kingstowne Farmers Market. 4-7 p.m. Fridays, May 1-Oct. 30. Giant Parking Lot, 5955 Kingstowne Towne Center, Alexandria. Vendors products include fresh organic honey and hand held pies and rolls. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/kingstownemkt.htm

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 3 - 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

SATURDAY/JULY 4

Free Art of Movement Classes on the Quad: Pilates.

8 a.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Enjoy free, drop-in Art of Movement classes featuring pilates. No experience is necessary, bring your own mat and an open mind.

Burke Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-noon. Saturdays, May 2-Nov. 21. 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burkemkt.htm

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

Local Nursery Closing After 42 Years ~ Going Out of Business Sale

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

Springfield Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Springfield Town Center, 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. www.smartmarkets.org.

Fairfax Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays, May 9-Oct. 31. 10500 Page Avenue, Fairfax. www.fairfaxsatdaymarket.com.

SUNDAY/JULY 5

Stars on Sunday Concert Series: Just Wingin' It Bluegrass Band. 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.

Workhouse Farmers Market. 1-5 p.m., at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Every Sunday on the quad is a producer-only market for discerning shoppers featuring locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally raised meats and poultry and local foods from breads to salsas and sausages. <http://www.workhousearts.org>. Runs through Sept. 13.

Lorton Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays, May 3-Nov. 8. Featuring fresh produce, a Swiss bakery and potted plants and herbs. VRE Parking Lot, 8990 Lorton Station Boulevard, Lorton.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/lortonmkt.htm
Fairfax Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sundays, May 10-Oct. 25. 10500 Page Avenue, Fairfax. www.fairfaxsatdaymarket.com/

MONDAY/JULY 6

Yoga for Gardeners. 9:45-10:45 a.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. This class

features a gentle introduction to the Vinyasa method which helps participants increase the strength, flexibility and endurance necessary for gardening. The class is held indoors, and there are eight lessons. \$86/person. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

Magic Book Club. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Magic, music and fun with magician Brian Curry. Ages 6-12.

TUESDAY/JULY 7

Legos in the Library. 4:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Use your imagination and make friends with our LEGO bricks free build. Age 6-12.

Virtual Reality Tour. 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. An exploration of moderated virtual reality worlds consisting of a guided tour of significant projects, applications, and a demonstration of building. Age 12-18.

THURSDAY/JULY 9

Teen Video Production Workshop. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Learn basic editing, cinematography, and camera settings, from Sam Sikora a teen who has won awards at Robinson High School for his work.

FRIDAY/JULY 10

Fun & Games. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Game day! The library is bringing out their board games for an afternoon of gaming fun. Age 6-12.

Fun Flicks. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Watch movies based on children's books.

VFW POST 8469 Independence Day Community BBQ

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PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Parents wearing “Respect Parents’ Rights” and waving signs that read “Opt Out My Child” stand during citizen participation at the June 25 school board meeting.

School Board

FROM PAGE 6

ships and investigate the influence of mass media messages on dating and sexual behavior.

❖ **8.8** The student will demonstrate strategies for resolving conflicts that arise in families and peer groups.

❖ **9.1** The student will identify the family as a basic unit of society and his or her responsibility as a member of the family.

❖ **10.9** Student will describe his or her attitudes toward dating while examining values, morals, and ethics essential to positive dating relationships.

Those two amendments passed, after which Schultz made one final attempt to stay the vote by tabling the discussion. After that was voted down, the board voted

10-2 in favor of the recommended changes with Reed and Schultz as the dissenting votes.

Where the May 7 vote drew lengthy and numerous comments from the majority of the board members, the group was largely quiet aside from the champions of the motions and amendments.

“It is important to note that all [Family Life Education] designated lessons will continue to have the opt out provision,” School Board chairman Tammy Derenak-Kaufax said in a statement after the meeting. “Our parents’ role in determining if their child will receive [Family Life Education] lessons has not changed. We respect parents’ rights to make the choices they believe are in the best interest of their families.”



School Board members Sandra Evans representing Mason District (left) and Elizabeth Schultz representing Springfield District (right) discuss changes to health and family life education curricula at the board’s June 25 meeting.



PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

On Sunday, June 28 weather was clear for competitions in Reston for events such as the Honor Guard competition, Open Water Swim and Ice Hockey.

Athletes on Fire

World Police and Fire Games weekend events near Reston Town Center.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

Rain which lasted throughout Saturday, June 27 canceled several outdoor events in the Fairfax 2015 World Police & Fire Games. Yet a sunnier Sunday permitted competitions to continue in Fairfax County. In Reston, Honor Guards marched at the Reston Town Center pavilion, police dogs did an obstacle course at Lake Fairfax Park, and more than 100 open water swimmers swam two miles in Lake Audubon. Fairfax County Police Officer Sean Martin won the 35+ age group in the Open Water Swim (44:01). At Reston SkateQuest on 1800 Michael Faraday Ct., novice division teams participated in the Ice Hockey competition. The Novice Championship will be held on Friday, July 3.

“I am excited to watch all the games, it is a lot of fun,” said Mark Kordalski. Kordalski and Steve McFarland, firefighters with Fairfax County Fire and Rescue are both assisting the World Police & Fire Games Ice Hockey games held at Reston SkateQuest. Ice Hockey

games are also being held at Ashburn Ice House, and Prince William Ice Center at Dale City. “It has been interesting to see all the different sports representatives,” said Caitlin Warren, a front desk receptionist at SkateQuest and student at NOVA Community College. Lake Fairfax Park in Reston will host the Cross Country and Rugby games scheduled to begin Tuesday, June 30. For more info on the 2015 Games, visit fairfax2015.com.

The Fairfax 2015 World Police & Fire Games end July 5. Reston Town Center has another athletic event it will host on July 4, the annual Firecracker 5K.

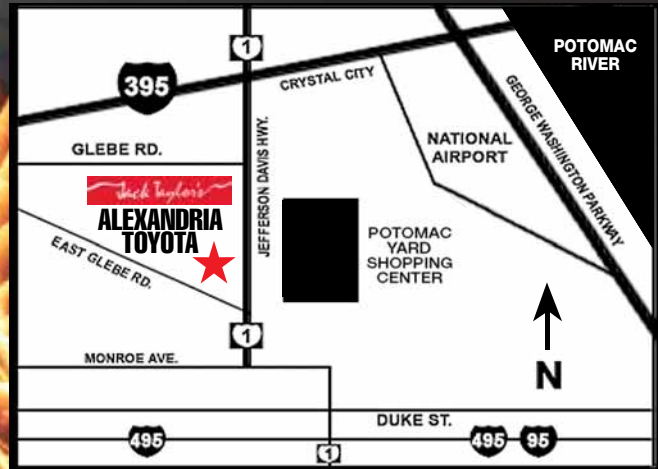
The sixth annual Firecracker 5K on Saturday, July 4 will be sponsored by Reston-based Leidos and benefit the USO of Metropolitan Washington. In this “Battle of the Branches” competition, whichever military branch has the most registered runners will have donation to the USO made on its behalf.

The race is July 4, 8 a.m. at Reston Town Center. Registration is \$35 and is open online through July 2. Price jumps to \$40 July 2-4. Discounts for under 14 or Active Military.

The course goes on streets through Reston Town Center, as well as on Cameron Glen Drive, Sunset Hills Road, Reston Parkway and Town Center Parkway. Roads will not be blocked to traffic, but lanes could be blocked. The course is relatively flat. For more info on the Firecracker 5K, see www.prraces.com/firecracker.

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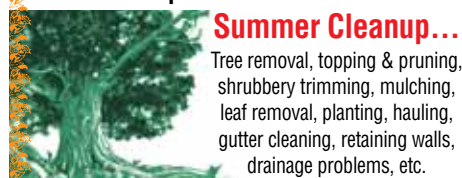
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

101 Computers

101 Computers

LEGAL NOTICE

Complaint For Absolute Divorce of Willie Gray Ward and Qwendolyn Branch Ward Issued at the State Of North Carolina In The General Court Of Justice District Court Division File No. 12CVD1715 10/24/12. Address and Phone number as followed.

Willie Gray Ward
3009B Buckingham Road NW
Wilson, NC 27896

Main Contact Phone Number 252-373-3341

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

VIRGINIA: IN THE GENERAL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH

CARTER LUMBER OF VIRGINIA, INC.,
PLAINTIFF,
v.
DANIEL ROBINSON, et al.
DEFENDANTS.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this suit is to recover money damages for breach of contract.
It is ORDERED that Daniel Robinson and Alaric Holdings, LLC appear at the above-named court on July 30, 2015 at 8:30 A.M. to protect their interests.
David M. O'Dell, Clerk
June 10, 2015

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15 Getaways

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

Correct First Time Auto Service, Inc trading as Ox Road Exxon, 5211 Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer off premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Poonam Sharma, member

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.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

According to the Lease by and between Kathleen M O'Rourke aka Kathleen D Meehan of unit 1060 and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: christmas decor, boxes, ladders, tool bench, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday July 17, 2015 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

According to the Lease by and between Khashayar Zargham aka K Zargham of unit 1077 and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: file cabinets, boxes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday July 17, 2015 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

According to the Lease by and between Steven Gonzalez of unit 2028 and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: bins, lamp, medical supplies, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday July 17, 2015 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

News



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Award winner Bella Thurgood with her mother Kate Thurgood and Jeannie Leson of Anna Maria Fitzhugh Chapter, NSDAR, June 18 at the award ceremony at Ravensworth Elementary School.

Youth Citizenship Honored

Anna Maria Fitzhugh Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in Springfield, has presented several awards at local elementary schools and at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

The DAR Youth Citizenship Award was presented to a sixth grade student who exhibits honor, service, courage, leadership and patriotism. The winner is chosen by the school faculty. (Below is a list of recipients at 11 area elementary schools.)

The DAR JROTC medal was presented to Cadet Captain Alexis Ollison at Lake Braddock Secondary School. Alexis is a member of the Doctors of Tomorrow Club at Lake Braddock Secondary School and the Medical Explorers Club of INOVA Hospital. Alexis will attend Old Dominion University and will study Nursing.



Alexis Ollison, Cadet Captain at Lake Braddock Secondary School, is pictured with her parents and Lise Harvey, Regent of Anna Maria Fitzhugh Chapter, NSDAR.

DAR Youth Citizenship Award Recipients 2015

- Cardinal Forest Elementary School: Alexandra Kowalski
- Cherry Run Elementary School: Patrick Beene
- Hunt Valley Elementary School: Ryan Massie
- Keene Mill Elementary School: Theresa Miceli
- Kings Glen Elementary School: Carter C. Shaw
- Orange Hunt Elementary School: Andrew Poe
- Ravensworth Elementary School: Isabella Thurgood
- Rolling Valley Elementary School: Reece Plimpton
- Sangster Elementary School: Ryan MacMichael
- West Springfield Elementary School: William Hover
- White Oaks Elementary School: Kylie Sullivan



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