

Springfield CONNECTION

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PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

JULY 30 - AUGUST 5, 2015

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**Fairfax County Supt. Karen Garza on the
Board of Supervisors' failure to
provide schools the funding needed to thrive.**

“... the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has failed to fully fund Fairfax County Public Schools. This is extremely **disheartening** - we entered this budget year making a good faith effort to work collaboratively ... and in the end they **did not deliver**. Supervisors are sending a clear message that they are **unconcerned** about the increasing challenges of our students, our teachers, and our schools ... we face a **devastating** shortfall ... due to years of **chronic underfunding** ... we will not be able to sustain the current quality nor the full range of academic programming we currently offer our students.”

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Indictment Coming in John Geer Case?

Special grand jury began hearing testimony this week.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Since shooting John Geer dead in the doorway of his Springfield home on Aug. 29, 2013, PFC Adam Torres of the Fairfax County Police Department has remained at work, albeit out of the field, but undisciplined by police and unprosecuted for any criminal wrongdoing.

The next chapter of the nearly two-year-old case began unfolding Monday, July 27 when a special grand jury called by Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh first met to hear testimony. Unlike regular grand juries that listen to multiple cases, a special grand jury, provided for in the Virginia Code, convenes to make a decision on one specific case.

The purpose of this such group is to decide whether there is probable cause to put Torres on trial.

According to Michael Lieberman, the lawyer who has been representing Geer's family and mother of his children Maura Harrington, the special grand jury has six months to issue a report after being impaneled. At that point, the judge has discretion to intervene.

At the end of January this year, Fairfax County released 11,000 pages from the police department investigation of the incident, detailing their findings of what took place that afternoon. The report said Torres was joined by four other officers outside Geer's home at the time of the shooting. Geer's best friend Jeff Stewart and father Don Geer were also in the area, close enough to see what happened. They make



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL LIEBERMAN

John Geer standing in his doorway in Springfield, minutes before he was shot by a Fairfax County Police officer.



John Geer

up the seven witnesses to the shot fired.

Torres claimed to see Geer quickly lower his hands to waist level after a 40-minute period of talking. During that time Geer had rested his hands on the top of the door frame and reached down to scratch his nose from time to time. Torres said the action he saw provoked him to fire. The other officers' accounts describe Geer's hands moving slowly at either shoulder or ear level and contradict Torres.

Geer's father and Stewart remember the version the other officers described.

Lieberman said he doesn't understand why a special grand jury was needed in this case. "They have seven witnesses," he said. "Six say one thing, one person says another. To me, that's more than enough for probable cause."

Among the witnesses, Morrogh had pre-

viously called one of Geer's two daughters Haylea to participate in the special grand jury. The girls had been with Geer that afternoon, when he became upset hearing that their mother and his partner Harrington was planning to move out of the house. He began throwing some of her belongings out of the house and the daughters called Harrington, who then called the police. When Geer knew the police were coming, he had his daughters go to a neighbor's basement.

Morrogh was not available for an interview, but in an email said that "The daughter is a witness to the events leading up to the shooting."

After Lieberman sent a letter questioning the move, Morrogh decided to not call Haylea after all. "She has nothing to offer — to put her on, to say bad things about her father," Lieberman said. "To me there's only seven witnesses. Maura's not one of them. Haylea's not one of them. It took

place over a split-second."

Stewart, who is one of the witnesses and who remained on the list to testify before the special grand jury, was worried some of the testimony, including his, might be used in "trashing John's character."

"I'm not going to sit there and let them condemn John, try in some way assassinate his character as a defense for an officer shooting him in the chest."

Shortly after the incident, Stewart told investigators he knew Geer had been drinking that day and had told Stewart when he knew police were coming, something to the effect of, "The next time you see me, I may have a bullet in my chest."

"My open-minded discussion of thoughts that day, in shock, had no bearing of basis, or support from the facts," Stewart said. "John didn't want to be shot that day, now we know he said as much."

"I told the FBI John was executed," Stewart continued. "This has nothing to do with whatever his intentions were or weren't. With what I saw that day, he had not made the move yet, to initiate that action. The burden of de-escalating that situation was on the police."

Stewart is also member of the Fairfax County ad hoc commission to evaluate police policies, which was convened largely in response to Geer's death and the limited, untimely manner in which the police department and county government handled releasing information about the case.

"John's death brought to light a lot of issues," Stewart said. "The Culosis were brought back out, Masters were brought back out," he added, referring to Dr. Salvatore Culosi and David Masters, two other men shot and killed by Fairfax County police officers. "I guess it's been worth it to this point — I'm still reserving judgment."

For Geer's family, Lieberman said "They're still upset. Now they don't have confidence in the system. They've been through a horrendous experience for two years where people of authority have just let them down completely. Justice was just denied for the longest time."

Leadership Fairfax Announces New Openings for the Class of 2016

Leadership Fairfax President & CEO Karen Cleveland announced that the first round of applicants for the 2016 classes of the Leadership Fairfax Signature Program and the Emerging Leaders Institute have been selected and a second round of applications are now being accepted.

Interested individuals from the corporate, nonprofit and public sectors are invited to submit their applications for the second round for the class of 2016 scheduled to begin in September 2015. Information sessions where applicants can learn more about the programs and how to apply will be held

*Monday, Aug. 3, from 5:30-7 p.m. at

the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, 1886 Metro Center Drive, #230, Reston;

RSVP to moniek@leadershipfairfax.org or call 703-752-7555.

The Leadership Fairfax Signature Program brings together senior leaders from all over Fairfax County in an experiential, cohort style community leadership development program. Participants immerse themselves in community issues working in teams to study real-world problems and develop real-world solutions. Program days are once a month from September through June and are tuition based.

The Emerging Leaders Institute is a 10 month program that brings together moti-

vated, energetic, young professionals from the business, nonprofit and government sectors. Participants polish their leadership skills, receive individual mentoring and coaching and participate in community service projects that enhance their person and professional resumes. ELI helps participants develop leadership skills and competencies that accelerate the process of becoming a leader at work and in the community.

Leadership Fairfax (LFI) is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to finding, training and growing leaders in Northern Virginia. Through its three programs — Leadership Fairfax, Inc. (LFI), Emerging Leaders, Inc (ELI), and Lifetime Leadership Program

(LLP) — LFI seeks to build and connect leaders who raise the tide not only in their local community but in the whole of Northern Virginia. Graduates represent a diverse alumni in the arts, business, education, government, health, religious and social service sectors. Alumni from all three programs become part of and stay connected to a fast growing network of like-minded leaders. Leadership Fairfax is nonpartisan and inclusive. Leadership Fairfax is located at 8230 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 100, Vienna. For more information, visit www.leadershipfairfax.org or call 703-752-7555.



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NEWS



Diners take part in Restaurant Week at Chuy's Mexican Restaurant at Springfield Town Center on Saturday, July 18.

Restaurant Week at Springfield Town Center

Chuy's Mexican Restaurant at Springfield Town Center took part in Restaurant Week last week, July 12-19, where diners could sample a pre-fixed menu of lunches and dinners at a discounted price.

"It was a fairly good success for us," said Scott Rodgers, general manager of Chuy's. "The early part of the week we saw a lot of participation in it, and Thursday through Sunday it was extremely busy so it was hard to tell. Incrementally it's between a 5 percent and 10 percent boost for us."

He said the savings for customers amounted to \$4 for lunch and \$6 for dinners, for about a 20 percent savings.

The \$25 Prix Fixe, three course dinner included a choice of chile con queso and choice of deluxe quesadillas, panchos (beef or chicken) and cup of tortilla soup. The second course included fajitas for one (beef, chicken or combo), the Elvis Presley Memorial Combo, chicka-chicka boom-boom enchiladas, and steak burrito. For dessert, there was tres leches. The Prix Fixe lunch version was more scaled-down for \$15. Other restaurants from Springfield Town Center that participated in Restaurant Week included Nando's Peri Peri, &pizza, Maggiano's Little Italy and Yard House.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Chuy's Mexican Restaurant at Springfield Town Center.

**David Arias displays a
taco with queso
cheese sauce at the
Elvis Presley Booth at
Chuy's Mexican Res-
taurant in Springfield
Town Center.**

PHOTOS BY
STEVE HIBBARD/
THE CONNECTION



WEEK IN SPRINGFIELD

Springfield Man Charged with Murder in July 16 Shooting

Thomas R. Lienau, 53, of Springfield was charged on July 24 with the second degree murder of Mohammed Moshin Najim, 25, according to Fairfax County Police.

Moshin sustained a gunshot wound on July 16 that proved to be fatal after he was taken to Inova Fairfax Hospital. Moshin and the suspect were acquaintances, police said, and "there had been an altercation in the home" earlier on the night of the shooting.

The suspect is currently being held without bond.

— TIM PETERSON

Missing Student Located and Reunited with Family

Fairfax County Police reported Cesar "Steven" Boquin Zambrano, 16, of Springfield was found on July 22. He had been missing since June 1 when he was last seen at Robert E Lee High School. Police said Zambrano was found "in good condition" walking down Route 29 at midday on Wednesday, July 22. The 16-year-old was then reunited with his family.

— TIM PETERSON

Race Against Crime on Saturday

This weekend on Saturday, Aug. 1, at 8 a.m. the Board of Directors for Fairfax County Crime Solvers will host their third annual 5K Race Against Crime at the Fairfax County Government Center. This race is open to everyone and supports their non-profit program that works to aid law enforcement by providing a means for the public to report criminal information anonymously and protected under state law.

This is a family event. Children will enjoy exploring the emergency vehicles and may visit the child fingerprinting station. McGruff the Crime Dog will be there too. There is a free kid run immediately following the 5K. Multiple food vendors will be on hand as well.

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet Lieutenant Joe Kenda from the Investigation Discovery television show, "Homicide Hunter." He will emcee the race and be available for autographs and photos with the runners.

Crime Solvers is in need of volunteers as well. If you are not able to run but would still like to be a part of this fun event, visit <http://fairfaxcrimesolvers.org/5k.html> and register as a volunteer today.



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OPINION

Wind Energy

Wind energy needs to be a part of the renewable mix of energy sources in Virginia and the nation.

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

With the federal Clean Air Act requiring higher air quality standards, many fossil-fuel power plants will be closing or converting to other fuel sources. On trips to the western part of our country and abroad, especially to Germany, I am reminded of the significant role that wind plays in being used to generate clean and sustainable electricity. In 2014, wind power added significantly more new electricity for consumers than any other source in the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

According to an American Wind Energy Association announcement last year the United States has more wind energy supplying its grid than any other country, enough to power 15.5 million American homes. Wind is the fifth largest electricity source in the U.S., generating 4.4 percent of all the electricity in this country. In Denmark, wind-produced electricity provides just under 40 percent of the



COMMENTARY

nation's power. Scotland has enough wind-produced electricity to supply all its homes. Wind power is the leading source of Spain's electricity and is the largest component of Germany's renewable sources that now constitute a quarter of its power. China leads the world in investments in wind power.

Among the states Texas, Iowa, California, and Oklahoma, each generated enough electricity from wind to power more than a million homes. Other states with significant wind capacity include Kansas, Illinois, Minnesota, Oregon, Colorado and Washington. Virginia and other eastern states do not make the list because they do not have as significant a wind resource. For Virginia, only off-shore and in the mountains mostly in the southwest is there wind sufficient to site a wind turbine farm. Dominion, the largest power provider in the Commonwealth, has invested in wind-powered electricity generation in West Virginia, Indiana, Illinois, and in Virginia where it holds a lease from the federal government for off-shore wind development.

The success of wind-produced electricity in Europe has been realized from a feed-in tariff system that has effectively subsidized investments. In the United States, the Production Tax Credit has been the primary federal tax incentive for wind energy. As all countries look for ways to save money these incentives are in danger at a time when wind energy is beginning to demonstrate its value.

Virginia is the first state to secure a wind energy research lease to build and operate turbines in federal waters. Dominion's plan to build a pair of six-megawatt test turbines about 24 nautical miles off-shore from Virginia Beach seems to be in trouble as bids to build the turbines are about twice that projected. The expectation has been that eventually there would be 300 turbines in the off-shore area. Stakeholders are currently at work to identify options to salvage the project.

Wind energy needs to be a part of the renewable mix of energy sources in Virginia and the nation. Congress needs to extend the federal tax credit that keeps our development of wind energy competitive with the rest of the world. Consumers need to be open to buying wind and other renewable energies even if there is a cost premium. Our air quality depends on it.

LETTERS

Slavery in 'the Land of the Free'

To the Editor:

America, "the land of the free." I have always considered it necessary for a land of free people to assist in freeing the enslaved.

Yet 36,000,000 men, women, and children throughout the world are enslaved through human trafficking, according to the Global Slavery Index. That is more than there have ever been at any point in time in the history of humanity.

How can a world that is supposedly improving socially also have a constant increase in slavery? The two cannot coexist, and it breaks my heart to see the number of human beings forced into slavery increase each day. Human trafficking is the use of force or fraud to control someone to labor without payment or engage in sexual activity. This crime occurs all over the world, from Malaysia to Northern Virginia. In Northern Virginia alone, from October 2013 through January 2015, 290 victims of trafficking have been identified, according to the NOVA Human Trafficking Initiative.

Malaysia, also a center for modern day sex-trafficking and slavery, is a popular destination for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking.



Though the Government of Malaysia proposed amendments to help decrease trafficking, these amendments have yet to pass through Parliament. Furthermore, despite Malaysia's significant increase in trafficking investigations, the government only convicted three traffickers in 2014, a sharp decrease from the 9 convicted in 2013 prior to the increase in investigations.

Crime does not dissipate naturally. Significant investigations and convictions are necessary if there is any hope for a decrease in human trafficking in Northern Virginia, Malaysia or worldwide.

Congress currently is reviewing the End Modern Slavery Initiative Bill.

If passed, the U.S. Government will authorize the formation of a

nonprofit grant-making foundation to fund projects and programs outside of the United States in hopes of putting an end to slavery. The passing of this bill is a crucial step in the fight to end slavery.

Olivia Grady

Fairfax
Rising senior at Woodson High.

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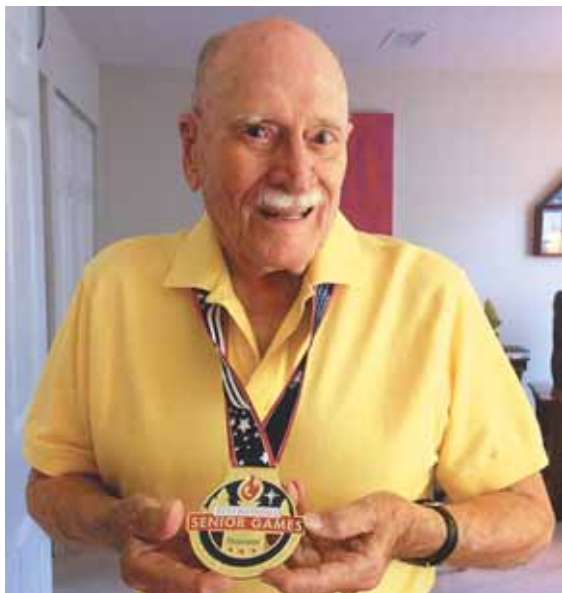
Charlie Edwards, 96, Brings Home Gold from the National Senior Games

Less than 1 percent of the nearly 10,000 senior athletes who competed in the 2015 National Senior Games held in Minnesota were over the age of 90. That statistic makes the gold medal that Charlie Edwards brought home from the games even more impressive.

Edwards was awarded the gold medal in the men's compound release archery competition in his age group (95-99) and was the most senior archer at this year's competition. At age 96, Edwards traveled to Minnesota for the competition in July, marking his second national competition; in 2013, he brought home a bronze medal in his age group at the National Senior Games in Cleveland. Edwards qualified for the 2015 National Senior Games at the Virginia Senior Games held last year.

Edwards first picked up a bow and arrow in 2011 after a friend encouraged him to join the Archers club at Greenspring retirement community in Springfield, where they both lived. Just six months later, Edwards earned his first gold medal at the 2012 Virginia Senior Games. In order to train for competition, Edwards can be found at least once per week at Ft. Belvoir Archery Center, located just a few miles from Greenspring. There, he practices on targets indoors at 20 yards and outdoors at 40, 50 and 60 yards.

While Edwards had never tried his hand at archery before moving to Greenspring, he is no stranger to sporting competition. He was on the 1939-1940



Charlie Edwards

Lehigh University wrestling team that earned collegiate championship honors, and in his later years, Edwards grew fond of golfing and fishing. He was a Navy fighter pilot during World War II and then went to work for the Atomic Energy Commission until retirement.

Prior to moving to Greenspring, Edwards was a longtime resident of Falls Church.

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Repairing a ‘Crisis of Confidence’

Ad hoc commission subcommittees report on police policy review.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

“It is well past time for the Fairfax County Police Department to start providing timely, honest and effective communications with everything it does.”

When former director of Fairfax County public affairs Merni Fitzgerald delivered the final report and recommendations of the communications subcommittee of the Fairfax County ad hoc commission to review police practices, commissioner Joseph Cammarata responded immediately to those words in report’s introduction.

Cammarata wondered aloud at the commission’s July 27 meeting if the police members of the subcommittee had read the report themselves. He said if they agreed that the department had been “dishonest” in its past communication, “We’ve got a real problem. Whoever was giving dishonest communication, those people should be fired.”

Some heated exchanges among commissioners followed, including over the fact that the word “dishonest” wasn’t technically used.

Fitzgerald, chair of the Communications subcommittee, answered that the report “reflects the views of the subcommittee.”

“We’re not here to assign blame,” said Michael Hershman, chairman of the commission. “That was never the intention.”

“Communications in recent high-profile use-of-force and critical incident cases were mishandled, inadequate and untimely, leading to loss of public trust and questions about the legitimacy of police actions,” the report said. The most recent incident was the Aug. 29, 2013 shooting death of John Geer standing unarmed in the doorway of his Springfield home.

It continued: “The failures in both communications and its Freedom of Information Act policies have created this crisis of confidence for the Fairfax County Police Department. If the department had policies that fostered real transparency, it’s unlikely the controversies in recent years would have lasted so long and there likely would not have even been a call to form this Commission.”

“It is strongly worded,” said Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova. “We suffered from a lack of candor, that enraged a segment of the community. Not just



Christian Klossner, deputy director of the Washington, D.C. Office of Public Complaints and at-large member of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement board of directors, was the guest speaker at the July 27 meeting of the ad hoc commission to review Fairfax County Police policies.



Fairfax County Chief of Police Edwin Roessler reminded members of the community and ad hoc commissioners that he now has a personal scorecard through the Fairfax County website for citizens to rate his performance.

in the Geer case, but that really brought it to a head.”

Commissioner and Lt. Col. Tom Ryan with the Fairfax County Police department said, “The words don’t hurt us. We recognize the need to get better at release of information.”

“It isn’t easy to have your profession laid open,” Ryan continued, “we welcome that. We want to hear where we’re failing.”

The subcommittee’s recommendations fell under the categories of Maximum Disclosure, Minimum Delay; Community Engagement; Policies, Procedures and Personnel; Freedom of Information Act; Culture of Transparency and Moving Forward. It also proposed future regular review dates for the Board of Supervisors to the recommendations and implementation of input from the commission.

Shirley Ginwright, chairman of the Communities of Trust Committee, president of the Fairfax County NAACP and chairman of the commission subcommittee on



Mike Curtis, Manassas resident and vice president of the Mount Vernon area-based Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability, asked guest speaker Christian Klossner if an officer-involved death would automatically trigger an investigation by the Washington, D.C. Office of Police Complaints.



Lt. Col. Tom Ryan with the Fairfax County Police Department said police recognize “the need to get better at release of information,” during the July 27 meeting of the ad hoc commission to review Fairfax County Police policies

diversity, recruitment and vetting of police officers, also shared that group’s final report and recommendations.

Ginwright said that subcommittee appreciated the chief of police’s existing diversity council that “is paying off,” but thought the department could do more outreach into community forums. The subcommittee, among its recommendations, called for a “diversity goal” for each district commander that would make them independently responsible “for enhancing diversity within the department.”

Once each subcommittee has filed a final report, the commission will assemble a comprehensive final report and recommendations to submit to the Board of Supervisors later in the fall.

Christian Klossner, deputy director of the Washington, D.C. Office of Public Complaints and at-large member of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement board of directors, was the guest speaker that pre-

sented first at the meeting.

“Things are moving away from reactive models,” Klossner said during his presentation, “moving towards more proactive, addressing causes and not just the symptoms.”

When asked about the effectiveness of his organizations, Klossner responded there needs to be better data collection on use of oversight. “The key is building trust,” he said.

The next full meeting of the ad hoc commission is scheduled for Aug. 17 at the Fairfax County Government Center. For the Sept. 14 meeting, commissioners will be at Walt Whitman Middle School in the Mount Vernon area of Alexandria.

More information on the police policies review commission, including the full text of final reports and proposals from the communications and diversity, recruitment and vetting subcommittees is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission.

Yhomi Warshansky leads in Jazzercise during the Family Sports Challenge on Saturday, July 18, at Van Dyck Park in Fairfax.



PHOTOS BY
STEVE HIBBARD/
THE CONNECTION

Family Sports Challenge Benefits ODB’s Backpack Program

In spite of the morning rain, a Family Sports Challenge was held Saturday, July 18 at Van Dyck Park in the City of Fairfax to benefit Our Daily Bread’s Collect for Kids Back to School Program. Sponsored by local nonprofit Parties 2 Inspire, the City of Fairfax Parks and Recreation Department and XSport Fitness, participants paid \$5 or donated backpacks and scientific calculators for a chance to take part in a number of sports challenges, including Jazzercise, a hula hoop contest, and soccer, football and basketball challenges.

“This has been an extraordinary day because through the rain, we’ve had so much help with our volunteers, including the George Mason Women’s Basketball Team, and other nonprofits joining in to inspire our community and children with health, fitness and fun to raise awareness for families in need,” said Hawanya Turner, president of Parties 2 Inspire, which sponsored the event.

“Our Back-to-School program is part of a countywide effort to help local kids in need go back to school with all the supplies they need,” said Heather Webb of Our Daily Bread (ODB). “We’re working to help 2,000 kids in Central Fairfax.”

ODB’s goal is to provide supplies for 2,000 quali-

fied needy children who attend Fairfax High School, J.E.B. Stuart High School, the elementary and middle schools that feed into them, and some additional central Fairfax schools that have requested assistance.

Webb said a donation of \$15 can translate into all sorts of school supplies in the Collect for Kids’ Back to School program. Some 52,000 school children who qualify for the free or reduced meals in the schools, or 27 percent of the school population, are eligible to receive backpacks with school supplies.

Anyone interested in helping may donate through Our Daily Bread’s website, www.ODBFairfax.org, or mail a check to 4080 Chain Bridge Road, 2nd Floor, Fairfax, VA 22030. Donations of new backpacks and/or gently used scientific calculators are also welcome. They may be brought to ODB’s offices through Aug. 7, Mondays through Fridays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Contact Dawn Sykes 703-273-8829 or holiday@ODBFairfax.org or visit www.ODBFairfax.org.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Tamar Williamson of Burke participates in the Basketball Three-Point Challenge.



Demitri Turner and Andrew Yoon, both of Lorton, won the Basketball Three-Point Challenge.

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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

Evenings on the Ellipse Summer Concert. Thursdays, through Aug. 20. 5:30-7 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center Ellipse (Backyard), 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Relax with music, tastes of local wines and great company.

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.

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.

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 30

Preschool Science 123. 2:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Enjoy fun experiments. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

The Living Rainforest. 2:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Meet animals from the rainforest. Ages 6-12. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>.

FRIDAY/JULY 31

Library Play Date. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stop by with 1-2 year olds and allow them to play with other toddlers. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 31-AUG. 2

Cabaret Series: Sizzling Summer Nights! Friday-Saturday 8 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd., Lorton, W-3 Theatre. A raunchy ramble featuring red-hot jazz mixed with some tropical tunes and some of the spiciest sun-drenched songs written for the stage. Tickets: \$25-\$30.

SATURDAY/AUG. 1

Mount Vernon Nights 2015: Grand Ole' Ditch. 7-8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd., Lorton. Enjoy free public concerts featuring a different genre and musical group each week.

5K Race Against Crime. 8 a.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. This race is open to everyone and supports their non-profit program that works to aid law enforcement by providing a means for the public to report criminal information anonymously and protected under state law. As part of the run, police officers, fire fighters



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

'The Age of Love'

Come out to the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia on Aug. 2 to watch the documentary, "The Age of Love." This charming movie follows the humorous and poignant adventures of 30 older adults in Rochester, N.Y., who sign up for a first-of-its-kind speed-dating event exclusively for 70-to 90-year-olds.

and sheriffs deputies all compete against each other in the Public Safety Challenge. This is a family event where children will enjoy exploring the emergency vehicles and may visit the child fingerprinting station. McGruff the Crime Dog will be there too. There is a free kid run immediately following the 5K. Multiple food vendors will be on hand as well.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Master Gardeners provide horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice to home gardeners. Adult. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>

SUNDAY/AUG. 2

Christ Church Opening Services. 9:30 a.m.-noon. at Christ Church, 7600 Ox Road. Services at the new location. Visit www.christchurchva.org.

Hands On Modeling Day. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Visitors learn how to paint and display railroad scenery as well as participate in artifact cleaning. Tickets: \$2-\$4.

"The Age of Love." 4 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. This charming movie follows the humorous and poignant adventures of 30 older adults in Rochester, NY, who sign up for a first-of-its-kind speed-dating event exclusively for 70-to 90-year-olds. Recently widowed, long divorced, or never married, we watch as they prepare for the big day, meet their possible dates, and then anxiously await the results. Through comic and bittersweet moments, they reveal intimate confessions of what it is like to still yearn to be seen and understood, and how much or how little their hearts have changed over a lifetime. Includes movie, post-discussion and dinner. Tickets: \$18-\$22.

TUESDAY/AUG. 4

Robin and His Merry Band. 2:30 p.m. Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Impressions Theatre presents the musical story of Robin Hood. Ages 6-12. Sign up required. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 5

Read! Build! Play! 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Read a story, build with DUPLOs and play with friends. Ages 3-5 with adult. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

FRIDAY/AUG. 7

Stewart Huff Live. 8-10 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Comedian Stewart Huff brings his humor to the Workhouse. Tickets: \$15.

"Despicable Me 2." 7 p.m. Strawberry Park, just outside of Angelika Film Center, 2911 District Avenue, Fairfax. Girls on the Run NOVA is presenting a free outdoor screening of "Despicable Me 2." The event is a way for families to learn more about their unique youth development program while also celebrating 15 years of service and 50,000 girls served.

Fun and Games. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Board games and fun. Ages 6-12. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

SATURDAY/AUG. 8

Mount Vernon Nights 2015: Robin and Linda Williams. 7-8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd., Lorton. A Prairie Home Companion favorites Robin & Linda Williams just released a new hit album, These Old Dark Hills. Come enjoy live music and fun..

2nd Saturday Art Walk. 6- 9 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd., Lorton. Experience the diverse art of over 100 artists on a historic venue. Free Admission.

Creative Writers Club. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Join for sharing, discussion and feedback on your works in progress. Ages 13-18. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

SUNDAY/AUG. 9

Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Table Top (TTRAK) model trains will be on display and running. Admission: \$2-\$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org.

TUESDAY/AUG. 11

Cupcake War for Teens. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Teens will create cupcake confections with frosting, sprinkles, toppings and accessories to learn decorating tips. Ending with a fun competition. Sign up required. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 12

The One Man Band. 10:30 a.m. Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Sing, dance and read to the rhythm with Peter McCorry. All ages.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

AUGUST

8/12/2015.....HomeLifeStyle

8/19/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools – Back to School – Private Schools

8/26/2015.....Newcomers & Community Guide Pullout

SEPTEMBER

9/2/2015.....Wellbeing

Labor Day is Sept. 7

9/9/2015..HomeLifeStyle Pullout – Real Estate & New Homes

9/16/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools Back to School, Open Houses

9/23/2015.....Fall Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment

9/30/2015.....Professional Profiles & Your Business in the Community

OCTOBER

10/7/2015.....Wellbeing Senior Living Pullout

10/14/2015.....HomeLifeStyle

10/21/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools

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- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

SPORTS

The Greater Fairfax 16-18U Babe Ruth baseball won the Southeast regional and will compete in the Babe Ruth World Series. Pictured are: (front) Coach Brian Seeley, Nathan Nguyen, Brandon Reiser, Zach Beck, Tyler Murray, Kyle Wilkinson, Sean Culleton, Ben Stine, Nick Render, Zach Thurston, (back) Coach Karl House, Kenny Barry, Michael Camarata, Matthew Sedlock, Zach Bright, Jimmy Nicholas, Trey House, Matthew Blaise, Jake D'Ercole, Joe Larimer, and Coach Aaron Tucker.



COURTESY PHOTO

Greater Fairfax 16-18U Babe Ruth Baseball Wins SE Regional

The Greater Fairfax 16-18U Babe Ruth baseball team is headed to the 2015 Babe Ruth World Series to be held Aug. 8-15 in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Greater Fairfax earned the right to represent the Southeast Region by winning the Southeast Regional tournament, which was held from July 22-26 at historic Shepherd Stadium in Colonial Heights.

During double elimination play, Greater Fairfax defeated Putnam County Tennessee, Union County North Carolina, Northern Fairfax, and Lumber River, North Carolina (twice) in order to advance to the World Series. The 2015 Greater Fairfax 16-18U tournament team is the first team from Virginia ever to advance to a World Series. In 2013 and 2014 Greater Fairfax was the Southeast Regional runner up to Alabama.

The team is coached by Aaron Tucker and Karl House, and managed by Brian Seeley.

Local Fencer Wins United States National Championship

Local fencer Phil Sbarbaro, member of the Virginia Academy of Fencing in North Springfield, the world's largest fencing school, and member of the board of directors of the National Fencing Foundation, won

the veteran 70-79 years old men's sabre national championship at the 2015 United States Fencing Association's Summer National Championships in San Jose, CA, taking place between June 29 and July 6.

In addition, Sbarbaro, together with two other Virginia Academy of Fencing members Chris Matt and Jeannine Bender, qualified for the 2015 Veteran World Championships taking place from Oct. 19-25 in Limoges, France.

Matt fences in the Veteran 50-59 year old men's sabre category. Bender fences in the veteran 60-69 year old women's sabre category.

Senior Olympics Offers Wide Variety of Events

The 2015 NVSO will be held Sept. 12-25 at 23 venues throughout Northern Virginia. More than 50 events are open to adults 50-plus years of age living in a sponsoring jurisdiction. NVSO is sponsored by the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier and Prince William.

Other NVSO events include track and field, swimming, diving, cycling, tennis, table tennis, golf, miniature golf, ten pin bowling, eight ball pool, volleyball, pickleball, men's basketball, handball, racquetball, badminton and bocce. Participants can register online at www.nvso.us or by mail. Registration fee is \$12 which covers multiple events. Deadlines are Aug. 28 by mail, Sept. 4 online.

For more information, call 703-228-4721 or email, nvso1982@gmail.com.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

Please register child and adult separately. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>

THURSDAY/AUG. 13

Toddler Time. 10:30 a.m. Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Join for stories, song and activities. Ages 2-3 with adult. Sign up required. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>

FRIDAY/ AUG. 14

Library Playdate: Toddlers. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. A fun place to play with other toddlers. Ages 1-2 with Adult. Sign up required. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/

SATURDAY/AUG. 15

Mount Vernon Nights 2015: The Revelers. 7-8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The Revelers, founding members of the Red Stick Ramblers and The Pine Leaf Boys "unquestionably the two groups at the vanguard of the Louisiana cultural renaissance" have joined together to form a Louisiana Supergroup which combines Swamp-Pop, Cajun, Country, Blues and Zydeco into a powerful tonic of roots music that could only come from Southwest Louisiana. Free admission.

Tales to Tails. 11 a.m. Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, (Fairfax). Children ages 6-12 celebrate Prince Boo-Boo's birthday with games, activities and reading to the dog. Please bring a birthday card. School age. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/

SUNDAY/AUG. 16

Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge model train show. Admission: \$2-\$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org.

TUESDAY/AUG. 18

S.T.E.A.M Storytime. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. Each month focuses on one subject with stories and activities for preschoolers. Ages 4-5 with adult. Sign up required. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

3

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 AUGUST 10—AUGUST 14 .. HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (PG)
 AUGUST 17—AUGUST 21 KUNG-FU PANDA (PG)
 AUGUST 24—AUGUST 28 SHREK (PG)
 AUGUST 31—SEPTEMBER 4 RIO (PG)

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Notice is hereby given that the Virginia Department of Transportation is accepting written and telephone comments through August 31, 2015 regarding the restriction of through truck traffic between Edsall Road (Route 648) and Braddock Road (Route 620) via any combination of the following routes:

Spring Valley Drive (Route 2462)
 Mitchell Street (Routes 2919 & 2967)
 Canard Street (Route 972) and
 Clinton Road (Routes 3025 & 3403)

The proposed alternate route for trucks is as follows:

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Comments may be provided to VDOT, District Traffic Engineer, 4975 Alliance Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030 or at 800-FOR-ROAD (1-800-367-7623).

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights Division at 1-800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711.

Illinois De-Commit Ohanian Faces Uncertain Future

Bishop O'Connell softball standout training in California.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Patty Maye Ohanian arrived in Mission Viejo, Calif., on Friday to train for what she called her “most important” travel softball tournament of the year.

Ohanian, a Burke resident and rising junior pitcher and slugger on the Bishop O'Connell softball team, plays travel ball for the SoCal Bandits, a Huntington Beach-based branch of the Illinois-based Beverly Bandits. Ohanian and her teammates will compete in the 16U premier division of the Premier Girls Fastpitch tournament Aug. 1-8.

Travel softball tournaments are nothing new to Ohanian, a competitive and driven athlete who has dedicated countless hours to her craft. But this tournament has taken on added importance after a coaching change at the University of Illinois shifted Ohanian's softball future into a state of uncertainty.

Ohanian spent most of her 10U-16U travel seasons playing for the Vienna Stars. She also played one season with Virginia Glory and attended multiple camps with the goal of getting noticed by college coaches.

Ohanian's hard work paid off with a full scholarship offer from the University of Illinois. Ohanian, then a freshman at Lake Braddock Secondary School, committed to the Fighting Illini.

THE FOLLOWING YEAR, Ohanian transferred to Bishop O'Connell and excelled in both the pitcher's circle and the batter's box. She posted a 1.75 ERA in 44 innings pitched, and batted .594 with nine home runs and 57 RBIs in 30 games. She was named VISAA state Player of the Year and was a first-team All-Met selection by the Washington Post.

“People ask me [about the effects of committing early] a lot,” Ohanian wrote in an email. “They ask me if I got lazy. They ask me if I stopped practicing. The answer is, NO. I don't play softball for the scholarship. I play softball to be the best I can be. I am not naturally the ‘perfectly built softball player.’ I'm ‘too short’ to be a pitcher, and I'm ‘not from the right area.’”

“Every day I take off, someone else is taking advantage of it. The only thing that changed for me was how much more I knew I had to work hard to compete in the Big 10. Everyone who watches me play tells me I seem very intense, and I am. I mentally challenge myself every pitch of every game because I know how intense college will be. I play because I love to compete, with myself and others. I want to see how far I can take this thing.”

Things were going smoothly for Ohanian until Terri Sullivan, who spent 16 years as head coach of the Illinois softball program, announced in early June that she would retire. Ohanian, who listed Sullivan as one



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Burke resident and Bishop O'Connell rising junior Patty Maye Ohanian de-committed from the University of Illinois during the summer.

of the main reasons she committed to Illinois, retweeted the coach's retirement announcement from the Illini Softball Twitter account.

“Going into my unofficial visit, I was timid, knowing nothing about the university,” Ohanian wrote. “When I met the coaches, I felt unbelievably at home. The head coach that recruited me, Coach Sullivan, and her assistants, Coach [Donna] DiBiase and Coach [Katie] O'Connell, were exactly what I was looking for in coaches. They were athletic, and energetic. My personality fits well with that type of leadership. After looking in to the university, I found out how great of a school it was academically, too.”

How did Ohanian react to the news of Sullivan's retirement?

“My initial reaction was very upset,” she

wrote. “I was sitting in [O'Connell] Coach [Tommy Orndorff's] office during lunch one day when I got a text from one of the recruits telling me what had happened. As I said before, one of the main things I liked about the school so much was her, and once she was gone it felt like what I had imagined it to be like was all gone.”

Less than a month later, Illinois hired Tyra Perry as head coach. According to Ohanian, “the commitment fell through about a week later.”

“Pitching is a hard thing,” Ohanian wrote. “Some coaches want power pitchers, some want junky movement pitchers. Some want 6-foot tall girls and some want girls like me (5 feet 8). The new coach and I weren't a good fit, personality-wise or pitching-wise.”

After committing early in her high school career and seemingly saving herself from a

stressful process down the road, Ohanian finds herself uncommitted entering her junior year.

“The early college softball recruiting has gotten out of hand,” Ohanian wrote. “Girls in the seventh and eighth grade commit to colleges. There was no specific reason why I committed then, to be honest. It was normal. I was right on schedule with all other 2017 pitchers who want to compete at the highest collegiate level.”

When asked what she meant by softball recruiting getting “out of hand,” Ohanian mentioned several reasons.

“I said that because softball is one of the earliest sports that recruit,” Ohanian wrote. “Girls in the seventh and eighth grade commit to college, similar to me. The problem with this is that five or six years is a long time in the collegiate athletics business. Coaches can change, and even more than once, in that time period. Girls can peak early, and not get any better from their eighth grade year on. Or, girls can peak late, but by the time they're up to speed, spots are already filled.”

“The early recruiting puts players, parents, and coaches in tough positions and forces them to make decisions that seventh and eighth graders should not be making. A lot of the time, everything works out, but the amount of times things change or go wrong after a player commits early and then de-commits for various reasons is growing too fast.”

— Patty Maye Ohanian via email

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OHANIAN IS CONFIDENT everything will work out.

“On my travel team, we have girls going to DePaul, ASU, Louisville, Southern Utah, and Miami of Ohio, but we also have many other girls who have not committed,” Ohanian wrote. “All that changes now is that I go back into the pool of girls who are not committed. There are plenty of Division I schools who still need pitchers and hitters. I know what I want in a school, I know how far away I want to go, and what I like and dislike in programs and coaches now. I truly believe I learned a lot from this experience.”

Next up for Ohanian is the Premier Girls Fastpitch tournament.

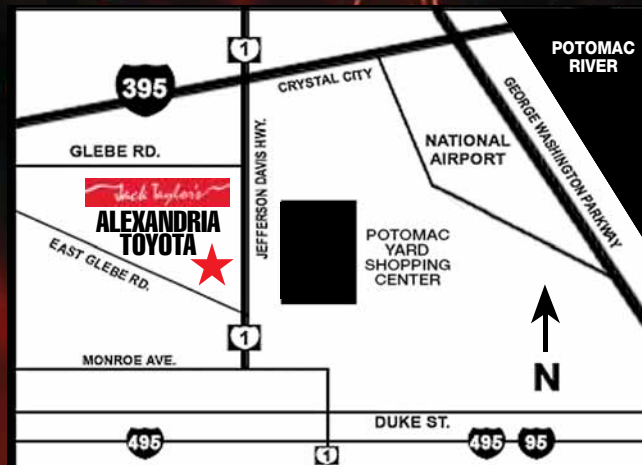
“This tournament is the most important of the year, so it was definitely important all year long,” Ohanian wrote, “although now that I de-committed, I know the importance of performing well in front of all the scouts that will be at the tournament.”

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21 Announcements

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Zin Springfield, VA LLC trading as Zinburger Wine and Burger Bar, 6795 Springfield Mall, Springfield, VA 22150. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises/Mixed Beverages license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Bradford Honigfeld, 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

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21 Announcements

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/JULY 30

Spanish Conversation Group. 2 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Participants can practice and improve their Spanish with a native speaker. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches.
Walk-In Ebook and Computer Clinic. 10 a.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Help with basic computer skills and downloading library eBooks. Bring device account IDs and passwords.

FRIDAY/JULY 31

Basic Computer Skills Training. 1 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Participants can learn basic computer skills with one-on-one technology volunteers. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches.

SATURDAY/AUG. 1

Teen Advisory Board. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Young adult volunteers work together on developing library programs for their peers. Age 13-18. http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/

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.

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



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