

Welcome to Lanier Middle School



Garza Tours on the
First Day of School
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Enjoying
Music,
Relaxation
and Fun
NEWS, PAGE 7



Erin Lenart is
Lanier Middle's
new principal.

'Privileged to
Join the
Lanier Family'

NEWS, PAGE 4

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PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Cheerleaders welcome students walking into their first day at Robinson Secondary School.

Robinson Students Welcomed Back

New and returning students at Robinson Secondary School were welcomed on the first day with a corridor of cheerleaders, blaring music and an inflated ram tunnel leading to the front doors. And the smiling face of their principal, Matthew Eline, who joined the cheerleaders and held a sign saying “May I help you?”

It was meant to leave a special impression on students. “How many first days do you get in life?” said Eline. The sporting event-esque scene was meant as a kick off

for developing what Eline called a “kinder, gentler” Robinson.

“We’re absolutely about academics,” Eline said, but added that he’s looking for ways for the students to build “more community character” and connection to the school. A pep rally scheduled for the second day of school and special reward tie-dyed T-shirts as part of a campaign called “Dude, Be Kind” are among the ideas and activities planned to accomplish his goals.

— TIM PETERSON

VIEWPOINTS

What are you most looking forward to about today, this school year?



Matthew Eline, principal:

“The kids coming back, and teachers getting to do what we do.”



Eri Daniel, sophomore:

“A fresh start, for everything.”



Katie Tran, senior:

“Getting to my class right now.”



Ryan Keith, senior:

“Just being a senior, in general.”



Paige Ahmed, senior (left):

“Taking fashion design at Fairfax academy, and graduating.”

Caleb Allison, senior (right):

“I’m excited to see a lot of people I haven’t seen over the summer, and graduating.”



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Mantua Elementary School student leaders welcomed superintendent Dr. Karen Garza for her visit on the first day of school.

Garza Tours on the First Day of School

Though she visited several schools on the first day of the new year, Fairfax County Public Schools superintendent only received one welcome banner. That was from the articulate student leaders at Mantua Elementary School, who told her “sense of community” and “great teachers who encourage creativity” were among their favorite things about the school.

Mantua capped a full day of visits for the superintendent as she begins her third year with the school system. Her tour began at Hayfield Secondary School and included stops at Lynbrook Elementary School, Walt Whitman Middle School and J.E.B. Stuart High School.

Along the way, Garza said she was impressed with the “enthusiasm” and hearing the positive things students had “to say about going back to school.”

Improved literacy across all school levels is one of the goals of the system’s new

strategic plan and Portrait of a Graduate education blueprint. Garza spoke with teachers and principals about their plans to develop students into stronger writers and communicators.

In Mantua’s library, Garza experienced a project started last year where students learn to produce a QR code and link it to a video they make themselves about books they liked reading. Other students can then scan the code with library-provided iPads and essentially browse titles by reviews from their peers.

“It’s exciting to see it take hold,” Garza said.

Regarding the playing out of the first day of later start times, Garza said she’d heard generally positive feedback. “Largely people have been supportive of the change and we’re grateful for that. It was a very smooth start.”

— TIM PETERSON



Fairfax County Public Schools superintendent Dr. Karen Garza visits with a young student in Samantha Hartwell’s multi-age first and second grade classroom at Mantua Elementary School.

‘Privileged to Join the Lanier Family’

Lenart takes reins at middle school.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Erin Lenart, Lanier Middle School’s new principal, always pictured herself as an educator. Raised in Tennessee, her first dream was to become a teacher.

“When I was 3 or 4, my brother came home from school and told me about his wonderful teacher, and I was mesmerized,” she said. “I had a chalkboard, a picnic table and benches, and I ‘taught’ my stuffed animals.”

Then in high school, said Lenart, “I had an English teacher who challenged, frustrated and inspired me to the core. She made me better and want it more – she put the fight in me.”

So the determined young woman obtained a bachelor’s in English from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tenn., a master’s in educational leadership and an administrative license. Along the way, she also fell in love and married an Army intelligence officer, Michael Lenart. He’s now a major and they have a daughter, Chelsea, a freshman at GWU.

Erin Lenart taught high-school English in both Tennessee and Georgia before moving with her family to Northern Virginia when her husband was transferred to the Washington, D.C. area. From January 2009 to June 2010, she was an eighth-grade English teacher at Thoreau Middle in Vienna.

“I loved the challenge of the kids and figuring out how to reach them,” she said. “I was taking what I’m passionate about and getting them to be engaged in it and love learning through my content and teaching methods. It was also about getting to know the kids.”

IN LENART’S OFFICE at Lanier is a framed saying from a former student. It reads, “A teacher plants seeds that bloom in a life forever.” And, said Lenart, “I really



Erin Lenart is Lanier Middle’s new principal.

believe that. And you get another chance every August; it’s a rebirth, a renewal. You always get to try to improve and do better.”

She also had good leadership examples in her life. One of them was Bruce Jobe, her principal at Northwest High in Clarksville. “He was phenomenal – probably the most inspirational person I ever worked for,” she said. “He supported leadership development and innovative practices.”

In Lenart’s second year teaching there, he asked her to be a class sponsor. The next year, he put her in charge of all the school-spirit activities for students and staff. He also placed her on the superintendent’s advisory council because, she said, “He saw great potential in me. I was hungry to learn and absorb new things, and he urged me to go into administration.”

One of her priorities, she said, is to stay as connected with the students as possible. “You get into this profession for the kids,” said Lenart. “And the more we’re out there, the more we understand what teachers are doing and understand where the students are currently and their struggles.”

After teaching a year-and-a-half at Thoreau, she became the assistant principal there. “I loved it,” she said. “I really learned and better understood collaborative teaming, quality assessments and community-building because Thoreau already had these structures in place.”

Eventually, though, Lenart wanted to apply those concepts at the high-school level “to make a difference for kids and our profession, because that’s our future.” So in February 2012, she became the assistant principal at West Springfield High.

“It was a fabulous community, with phenomenal teachers and a supportive region and cluster,” she said. But she wanted to be a principal so, when Lanier Principal Scott Poole left to become Woodson High’s principal, she applied for his job and got it.

“He was much beloved here and did some fantastic work,” said Lenart. “It’s a family at Lanier and I feel privileged to join it. Even three of the state senators went here, and how lucky am I to be in Fairfax City and work with Superintendent Peter Noonan, Assistant Superintendent Phyllis Pajardo, Assistant Superintendent of Region Five Frances Ivey and Executive Principal of Region Five Becky Baenig?”

Lenart was officially announced as the new principal, shortly after the school year ended. “I was ecstatic,” she said. “Lanier always felt right to me – the demographics of the community and the diversity.”

“I knew Scott a few years and was familiar with this school and the fine work in teaming going on here,” she continued. “And the more I researched this community, I felt a strong match to it. I’m half Korean, and being able to work in a diverse community helps you understand your own diversity.”

Besides that, said Lenart, “Middle school is such a fun, quirky time for students, where kids are trying to come into their own identity.

They come in a little unsure of themselves and, within two years, they leave with a level of confidence and some assuredness about what’s next. It’s so fascinating to see and be a part of this process.”

She began her new job July 1 and started meeting the teachers and staff. “The feeling I get is that Lanier is a family that grows

together, celebrates successes together and asks tough questions of each other,” she said. “And we all rally around our students.”

Lenart also praised the level of commitment to the school by its teachers and senior leadership. Her philosophy of leadership is to “lead from the center, hear all perspectives and never, ever forget what it’s like to be a parent, teacher or student. So when there are decisions to be made and initiatives and work to be done, you may not make everyone happy, but at least you can articulate [the reasons for] it to your community and understand the ripple effect. It really does take a village.”

She plans to continue Lanier’s focus on literacy in all content areas, saying it’ll come from the teachers. And she noted a “sense of urgency” in making sure students are on grade level by the time they leave there. Although Lanier has some of the most state-of-the-art technology, Lenart said that, with Fairfax County’s budget challenges, the school will “take a hard look at reallocating some of our resources to have a replacement plan for it.”

She also intends to examine Lanier’s remediation and enrichment programs to make sure they’re differentiated for each student “to create the prescription each student needs to be successful.”

LENART EXPECTS the toughest part of her job to be finding the balance between work and home. “Because I want to learn so much, I’ll have to pull myself away from work so I can get home to my family,” she said.

The most satisfaction, said Lenart, will come from “working with the staff to better understand what made them so great so far and what opportunities I can bring to the table to help our school grow.” She’s also excited about “getting to be with the students, relearning the middle-school mindset and being a part of what’s next.”

And she’s looking forward to getting to know the parents via coffees, the PTA and informal meetings at school and community events in the City of Fairfax. Said Lenart: “I want to let them know that my work is our work, so I welcome their voice.”

DC Metro Church Donates Backpacks, Supplies to Fairfax City Schools

Over the weekend, DC Metro Church donated over 150 backpacks and school supplies to the City of Fairfax Schools. Pictured: school board members accepting the donations on Sunday. From left, School Board Chairman Toby Sorensen, Vice Chairman Carolyn Pitches, DC Metro Church member Maggie Toellner, Pastor Andy Rogers, Brad Toellner, School Board Members Mitch Sutterfield and Jon Buttram. The donations will go directly to Daniels Run ES, Providence ES and Lanier Middle School and were collected by DC Metro over the summer.



Fairfax County NAACP to Hold Freedom Fund Banquet

The Fairfax County NAACP will hold its annual Freedom Fund Banquet on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 1 – 5 p.m. at the Waterford Springfield, 6715 Commerce Street in Springfield. Special Guest Eric Broyles, co-author of "Encounters with Police: A Black Man's Guide to Survival," will be the featured speaker at this year's event. You won't want to miss it. Tickets can be purchased online at fairfaxnaacp.org.

Saturday Morning Coffee with Del. David Bulova

On Saturday, Sept. 19, Del. David Bulova (D-37) will continue a tradition started in 2006 by holding the first in a series of informal office hours to take place from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Constituents are invited to talk about issues of interest and to ask questions about legislation affecting our community. The format is casual and no appointment is needed.

Sept. 19 at Main Street Bagel, 10268 Main Street, City of Fairfax
Del. Bulova is also happy to arrange individual appointments on specific issues or concerns. Del. Bulova serves on the General Laws, Education, and Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources committees. He is also a member of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, the State Water Commission, the Joint Commission on Health Care, and the Housing Commission. For more information visit www.davidbulova.com.

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Focusing on Suicide Prevention

Help is a phone call away.

This week is Suicide Prevention Week. Preventing suicide means paying attention to mental health and treating depression, and there is no better time to focus on that than the first week of school.

In 2013, more than 41,000 people ended their own lives in the United States, more than 21,000 with firearms. (Compare to the number of murders in 2013, 16,120.) In 2013, more than 800,000 people were treated in U.S. emergency departments for self-inflicted injuries. More than a million adults report making a suicide attempt each year, while many more people struggle with thoughts of suicide, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death for Americans overall and the second leading cause of death among adolescents and young adults aged 15-29. More than half of suicides involve firearms.

In 2013, 1,047 Virginians died by suicide, with white males accounting for 716 of those deaths. The Southside region had the highest suicide rate at 19.3 per 100,000 in 2013, while the Northern region had the lowest rate at 10.1 deaths. (By comparison, there were 383 homicides in Virginia in 2013.)

Two groups particularly at risk are youth and the elderly. Data from the Virginia Department of Health indicates that rates of suicide in Virginia were higher for older people than youth

— but suicide is a leading cause of death for young people.

One strategy to prevent suicide is to learn about the warning signs of suicide, which can include individuals talking about wanting to hurt themselves, increasing substance use, and having changes in their mood, diet, or sleeping patterns, according to the CDC. When these warning signs appear, quickly connecting the person to supportive services is critical. Promoting opportunities and settings that strengthen connections among people, families, and communities is another suicide prevention goal.

Exhibiting any of the signs listed below is reason for an immediate call to the National Suicide Prevention hotline at 1-800-273-8255 (TALK). If you cannot reach someone on this line, go to an emergency room, make sure you or your loved one is not alone until professional help arrives and remove all firearms, sharp objects, drugs, alcohol and other things that could be used in a suicide attempt.

- ❖ Talking about wanting to die or kill oneself.
- ❖ Talking or writing about suicide or death.
- ❖ Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live.
- ❖ Talking about being a burden to others and how the world would be better off without him/her.
- ❖ Talking about being trapped or in unbearable pain.

- ❖ Complete withdrawal.
- ❖ Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge.
- ❖ Displaying extreme mood swings and acting recklessly.
- ❖ Looking for ways to kill oneself, such as searching online or obtaining access to firearms, pills, or other means to kill oneself.
- ❖ Giving away prized possessions and other personal things; tying up loose ends.

See <http://www.afsp.org/understanding-suicide/facts-and-figures>

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Correction

In last week's editorial ("How to Vote; It Matters," Sept. 2, 2015), a list of offices up for election in Fairfax County failed to mention school board races. Here is the corrected text:

Each voter in Fairfax County will vote a ballot with choices in one State Senate district, one House of Delegates district, Clerk of the Court, Commonwealth's Attorney, Sheriff, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, District member of the Board of Supervisors, District member of the School Board, School Board At-large (vote for three), Soil and Water Conservation Board (vote for Three), School Bond for \$310 million, Public Safety Bond for \$151 million. See <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm>

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Safety Is Paramount for the New School Year

A message from the Chief of Police about safety and the start of the new school year:

Dear Community Member,

As each school year comes to an end, the Fairfax County Police Department in partnership with our great community, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), and the Virginia Department of Transportation, begins a process to prepare for the start of school in the fall. Our mutual goal has always been and continues to be the safety of your children, pedestrians, and commuters to and from schools at the beginning and end of each day.

Your Police Department is committed to ensuring all children are safe at all crossings while maintaining efficient vehicle traffic flow. Based on your input, through an audit process, we have retrained crossing guards and upgraded several positions which are

now certified in directing and controlling vehicle traffic outside the scope of the crosswalk to help alleviate traffic congestion. We will continue to audit all locations throughout the school year as mandated by our policy. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Captain Michael F. Grinnan, Commander of the Traffic Division, at Michael.Grinnan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The following links are available to learn more about school crossings:

You can visit the Fairfax County Police Department map of all school crossing sites at <http://fairfaxcountygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=708ad1ef5c924029a9d12125d4c17ee8%20>

To view the Police Department's policy on school crossing guards, please visit: FCPD General Order 530.3.

For more information regarding your school start time, please visit: FCPS 2015-2016 Bell Schedule.

As a reminder, the beginning of each school year requires all of us to take extra caution in traveling our roadways and to be patient as others adjust to new routines in

our day to logistically get our children to and from school. As your Chief of Police, we welcome your input to improve the safety of our children.

Sincerely,
Edwin C. Roessler Jr, Col
Chief of Police

Giving Diplomacy a Chance

To the Editor:

I thank Senator Mark Warner for his September 3 statement supporting the deal our government has jointly negotiated with other world powers to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Nothing will be easy going forward with Iran. However, Senator Warner, like nearly 10,000 Virginians whose petitions we presented to him on Aug. 26, has rightly recognized that we must give diplomacy a chance well before force can be considered as a last, necessary choice.

Northern Virginia can be thank-

ful that both our U.S. Senators plus Congressmen like Gerry Connolly and Don Beyer favor pursuing our best available option, which is the negotiated deal on the table, rather than precipitously risk putting our country again down the pathway to unnecessary war. We can only hope many more of their colleagues in Congress will see the logic and morality of this choice.

Govind Nair
Fairfax

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
fairfax@connectionnewspapers.com

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

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

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter ♦ 703-778-9438
south@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor ♦ 703-752-4013
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
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Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

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

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

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

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

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

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





(From left) Andrea Hardwicke and Joetta Dingle proudly hold the ceramic bowl and spoon rest they painted.

Enjoying Music, Relaxation and Fun

Customers create like crazy
at Paint Your Own Pottery.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Supporting the slogan, “Create Like Crazy,” Paint Your Own Pottery is proving to be popular with both individuals and groups as a destination for fun. And it’s right in downtown Fairfax.

On a recent Saturday, Andrea Hardwicke painted a ceramic bowl there to use for soup or cereal. “I liked it a lot because I could do whatever I wanted,” she said. “I got to choose my colors and design and even use the different artistic styles I saw around the room. There’s lots of pretty artwork on display.”

The shop is in a yellow building at 10417 Main Street and is open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sunday, noon-6 p.m. And inside, within a cheerful atmosphere of brightly colored walls, a yellow-and-blue checkerboard floor, music and lots of tables and chairs, is where the magic happens.

“At any time, there are more than 300 different choices of pottery to paint,” said store manager Dawn Forester. “I believe it’s one of the largest and most diverse selections in Northern Virginia. The store’s been here 20 years, but it was recently remodeled and updated and is under new management.”

Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are strongly suggested for weekends during the school year. (Phone 703-218-2881; www.CreateLikeCrazy.com).

PEOPLE MAY DO paint-and-take projects, which are taken home the same day and not fired in the kiln.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Or if they make something that needs to go into one of the two kilns on the premises, they may come back and get it in a week.

“Our customers range from little kids to senior citizens,” said Forester. “People come, for example, to have their children’s handprints made, have birthday parties and other celebrations here, and corporate events, too. No experience is needed; we’ll give them as much or as little help as they like.”

Some people go there by themselves, such as a court reporter who recently came in to paint in between her court cases. Others want to make a gift for someone else. But usually, said Forester, people come in together. “It’s a social activity,” she said. “Sometimes, it’s a Scout troop and other times, it’s a couple on a date.”

Just ask Stephanie Villatoro. “Six of us came here today,” she said. “We’re with the girls’ ministry at Jubilee Christian Center in Fairfax, and this was our annual outing for the leaders to get to know each other. We were looking for something fun to do, and this is close to the church and is something different. I’d recommend it to others because it’s a fun, relaxing atmosphere to hang out and talk while making something beautiful to take home.”

“And you don’t have to have talent to do it,” said one of the leaders, Anna Maylett.

“You get lots of good instruction here, too,” added Joetta Dingle, who was there painting with Hardwicke. “This was my first time, and I made a spoon rest I’m calling the ‘Spoon Spot.’ I enjoyed

SEE PAINTING, PAGE 10

REGISTERING FOR FALL CLASSES



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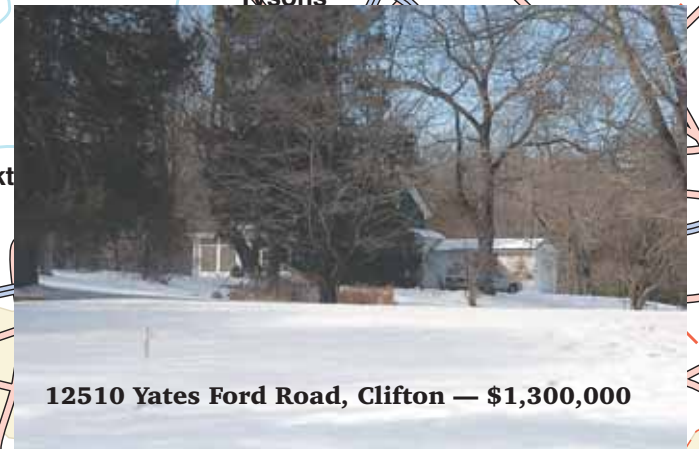
4 15629 Jillians Forest Way, Centreville
— \$1,475,141



6 7063 Balmoral Forest Road, Clifton —
\$1,415,700



9 9407 Old Reserve Way, Fairfax —
\$1,225,000



12 12510 Yates Ford Road, Clifton — \$1,300,000



7 7300 Bull Run Post Office Road,
Centreville — \$1,154,990



3 3423 Preservation Drive, Fairfax
— \$1,252,065

Address	BR	FB	HB	..	Postal	City	Sold Price	..	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 12995 WYCKLAND DR	6	..	8	..	2	CLIFTON	\$2,100,000	..	Detached	5.00	20124	WYCKLAND	01/16/15
2 5308 CHANDLEY FARM CIR ...	5	..	4	..	2	CENTREVILLE	\$1,625,100	..	Detached	5.00	20120	SULLY ESTATES	05/11/15
3 6049 RIVER DR	4	..	4	..	1	LORTON	\$1,580,000	..	Detached	1.03	22079	HALLOWING POINT RIVER ..	03/20/15
4 15629 Jillians Forest Way	3	..	3	..	0	CENTREVILLE	\$1,475,141	..	Detached	0.30	20120	JILLIANS FOREST	03/23/15
5 3413 MEYER WOODS LN	5	..	5	..	2	FAIRFAX	\$1,456,000	..	Detached	0.83	22033	OAK HILL RESERVE	05/15/15
6 7063 BALMORAL FOREST RD .	5	..	5	..	3	CLIFTON	\$1,415,700	..	Detached	3.00	20124	BALMORAL GREENS	01/23/15
7 6140 DOYLE RD	5	..	6	..	1	CLIFTON	\$1,400,000	..	Detached	5.00	20124	BRADDOCK WOODS	04/15/15
8 9752 THORN BUSH DR	5	..	4	..	1	FAIRFAX STATION ...	\$1,385,000	..	Detached	5.19	22039	ESTATES AT ROSELAND	04/01/15
9 11109 DEVEREUX STATION LNE	6	..	6	..	1	FAIRFAX STATION ...	\$1,332,500	..	Detached	5.00	22039	DEVEREUX STATION	05/28/15
10 3403 CEDAR CREST LN	4	..	4	..	2	FAIRFAX	\$1,330,000	..	Detached	0.83	22033	OAK HILL ESTATES	04/10/15

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'Remodeled Home Tour'

A 3,700-square-foot, four-bedroom center hall Colonial renovated in phases over nearly two decades will be featured in a "Remodeled Home Tour" sponsored by Sun Design Remodeling. The house, at 1611 Noral Place in Alexandria, is owned by Paul and Laurie Carter. The residence will open to the public Sept. 12, noon-4 p.m.

Purchased by the Carters in 1998, the home has evolved steadily over the years. Originally a production house with builder-grade finishes, the whole house remodel now on display demonstrates the kinds of improvements and upgrades that can occur when owners continue to occupy, modifying the environment to suit evolving interests.

"The ideal of long term ownership is the option to create a home that, over time, becomes more supportive of favored activities and aesthetic preferences," says Bob Gallagher, Sun Design executive vice president.

"We are finding this kind of on-going commitment to personalizing a residence much more frequently than in decades past."

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors tours of recently remodeled homes as well as workshops on home remodeling topics. Headquartered in Burke, the firm recently opened a second office in McLean. Call 703-425-5588 or visit www.SunDesignInc.com for more.

— JOHN BYRD



BEFORE: The original kitchen relied on rows of builder-grade cabinets for storage. Eliminating walls initially seemed impossible to Laurie, but custom cabinets by Sun Design's Jeremy Fleming created the opportunity for a wholly different floorplan.



PHOTOS BY PHOTO BY GREG HADLEY

AFTER: Paul and Laurie Carter, who remodeled their Alexandria home in several phases over nearly two decades, have made their home available for an "open house" Saturday, Sept. 12. The open kitchen plan (shown) was part of the final phase. Sun Design Remodeling introduced a transitional-style interior design.

Thinking of Downsizing?

Free seminar will focus on moving to a smaller place without sacrificing style.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Lifestyle Seminar

Quarry Springs
8101 River Road in Bethesda, Md.
Sept. 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Homeowners considering a move from a large home to a smaller dwelling will have an opportunity to receive expert advice on their transition later this month. Representatives from the real estate, moving and home design industries will host a lifestyle seminar to discuss downsizing issues like interior design, organizing and packing.

"The lifestyle seminar will address all aspects of moving and condo living, including what to keep, what to donate and how to decide," said Christine Basso of TTR Sotheby's International Realty.

"The experts at Town & Country Movers will discuss ways to make the entire moving process run smoothly from starting early to the most effective ways to pack to determining what

goes where." According to Basso, seminar attendees will also hear from design experts who will offer guidance on personalizing one's living space. They will also give advice on topics such as measuring existing and new furniture for space placement and incorporating an art collection into a home's design. The seminar will be held Sunday, Sept. 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Quarry Springs estate condominiums, located at 8101 River Road in Bethesda, Maryland.

The Quarry Springs complex will open later this year. To RSVP to the free event, contact Christine Basso at 202-302-2508. Visit <http://www.quarrysprings.com> for more information.

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

SEPTEMBER

9/23/2015 ..HomeLifeStyle Pullout – Real Estate & New Homes
9/30/2015 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
Halloween is October 31

10/28/2015..... Election Preview

NOVEMBER

11/4/2015..... Wellbeing
11/11/2015.....HomeLifeStyle
11/18/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools
11/19/2015.....Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide I
Thanksgiving is November 26

11/25/2015.....Celebrating Gratitude, Thanksgiving

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- Potomac Almanac
- Reston Connection
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- Vienna/Oakton Connection



Having fun painting pottery together are (from left) sisters Kiara and Mikaela Fenn, grandmother Gloria Fenn and mom Molly Stephenson.



Store manager Dawn Forester stands in front of one section of the many ceramic items customers may paint

Painting Their Own Pottery

FROM PAGE 7

it very much and I'm hoping to bring my granddaughters here, too." Customers select what they want to paint. The choices range from figurines to plates, bowls, cups, piggy banks, tea sets, vases, religious items, ceramic boxes and picture frames. And there are items for men, women, teens, boys and girls. "We even have firetrucks and sports trophies that people can paint," said Forester.

It usually takes 90 minutes to complete a project and, once it's fired, kitchenware may be used for eating and drinking. It's also top-rack, dishwasher safe.

"We give people instructions on how to get the best, possible results for their vision," said Forester. "We explain which colors go best together and have people think about their background colors, as well. We also tell them how to layer or blend the colors for their desired effect."

EVERY SATURDAY at 3 p.m., Paint Your Own Pottery holds a class. "It's to teach painting techniques so people will feel comfortable with it," said Forester. "The cost varies according to what they choose to paint, but they won't pay a studio fee. We also run various,

discount promotions throughout the year."

❖In addition, some noteworthy events are on the horizon. On the second and fourth Saturdays of the month, from 7-9:30 p.m., is Social Artworking. It's canvas painting on table-top easels. Participants receive step-by-step instructions and leave with a finished painting. The next one is Sept. 12, and people may bring the beverage of their choice, including alcohol for those 21 and over. Light refreshments are served.

❖The shop also plans to contribute bowls to the Capital Area Food Bank's Empty Bowls event, Sept. 30, in Springfield. It's a fundraiser for the organization, which feeds hungry people in need. For \$30, people may paint two, ceramic bowls – one for themselves and one to donate to the event.

"Our goal is to donate 30 bowls," said Forester. "People may do this here all month long through Sept. 26. And it's a good service project for students, too."

She's also proud of the business's community involvement with the arts. "We put City of Fairfax Theatre Co., Fairfax High, Woodson and Paul VI theater posters in our front window," she said. "And we add decorations to match the

play's theme.

Recently, Fairfax resident Molly Stephenson brought her daughters, Kiara and Mikaela Fenn, and their grandmother, Gloria Fenn, to the shop, and they laughed and chatted with each other while painting. Kiara, a fifth-grader at Providence Elementary, dabbed polka dots on a dinosaur figurine for her desk. And Mikaela, a Fairfax High freshman, painted a Triceratops figurine for a birthday gift. Meanwhile, their grandmother painted a happy face on a flower figurine for herself. "Whatever we do together is fun," she said. "But this is especially exhilarating, watching all the creations take shape."

Painting two bottle stoppers that may be Christmas stocking stuffers, Stephenson said, "I find it relaxing to come here, listen to music and just paint. It's also fun to see what your piece looks like after it comes out of the kiln, because it's always a little different."

And that's what Forester likes best, "When customers come back and pick up their finished items and you see the smiles on their faces. They say they're surprised at how bright the colors are and how good it looks, and that makes me happy."

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

SATURDAY/AUG. 1-SUNDAY/SEPT 13

Annual Workhouse Clay National Ceramics Exhibition. Workhouse Arts Center, W-16 Vulcan Gallery, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. This exhibition represents the depth and breadth of contemporary functional and sculptural ceramic artworks being created throughout the country. Visit <http://www.workhousearts.org/events/visual-arts/workhouse-clay-national-2015>.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 10

Storytime Yoga. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories, stretching and simple yoga poses. Bring a mat or towel and wear comfortable clothing.

Toddler Time. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Stories, songs, and activities. Library staff share with children a love for books, and parents learn to cultivate early literacy skills. Age 2-3 with adult.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 11

S.T.E.A.M Storytime. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM). Each month focus on one of these subjects with stories and activities appropriate for preschoolers. Age 4-5 with adult.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

Oktoberfest Volksmarch. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. A volksmarch, literally translated "people's walk," is a leisurely walk through a scenic, historic, interesting area over a pre-determined route. The free walk passes through lush forests and around Burke Lake. Choose from a five or 10-kilometer route (three or six miles) and walk, jog or run at your own pace. German food and drinks will be available to purchase, and the Kings Park German Band will play from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Workhouse Education Open House. 12-3 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Demos, hands-on workshops, opportunities to talk one-on-one with instructors as well as explore the campus. Young attendees will enjoy face painting, balloons and cotton candy. And as a bonus, interested students can take advantage of a 10 percent discount on tuition on a weekly class of their choice.

Rummage Sale Fundraiser. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Daniels Run Elementary School, 3705 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Multi-family rummage sale fundraiser to benefit the Fairfax High School Crew Team.

Lorton's Fall Festival. 11 a.m. Lorton Station Town Center, 8998 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Enjoy a magic booth, games, prizes and more. Visit www.lortonstationtowncenter.com/calendar-of-events.html for more.

Burke Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-noon. Saturdays, May 2-Nov. 21. 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burkemkt.htm

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.connectionnewspapers.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEANNIE WINSLOW, BURKE CENTRE FESTIVAL

The 38th Annual Burke Centre Festival will take place Sept. 12-13 to celebrate the spirit of the community with rides, activities and live entertainment for all ages to enjoy.

www.fairfaxsatursdaymarket.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 12-13

38th Annual Burke Centre Festival. Saturday, 9:30 a.m.- 5 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 6060 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke. Burke Centre's signature event, which celebrates the spirit of the community each year with rides, activities and live entertainment for all ages to enjoy. Visit www.burkecentreweb.com and click on Festival.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 13

Fairfax Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sundays, May 10-Oct. 25. 10500 Page Avenue, Fairfax. www.fairfaxsatursdaymarket.com/

Fair Lakes Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 4501 Market Commons Drive, Fairfax. www.greentowns.com/initiative/farmers-market/fair-lakes-farmers-market-fairfax-va.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 15

Tai Chi. 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Come experience the benefits of Tai Chi led by Dante Gilmer of Still Water Tai Chi Center. Wear comfortable clothes that allow movement. Adult.

Toddler Time. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Stories, songs, and activities. Library staff share with children a love for books, and parents learn to cultivate early literacy skills. Age 2-3 with adult.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 16

PJ Library Book Buddies. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Hear selections from the PJ Library and make a craft to take home. PJ Library provides families with a free treasury of Jewish books and music each month. Age 6 months to 5 years.

Multicultural Craft Workshop. 4 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Create a craft from another country. Age 6-12.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 17

Magic Tree House Club. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Read and talk about Tigers at Twilight, number 19 in the series. Having used their magic tree house to travel to India, where they must get a gift to help free the dog Teddy from a spell.

Mother Goose Storytime. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Come enjoy stories, songs and fingerplays and lay a foundation of early literacy skills for your baby. Birth to 23 months with adult.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 18

Best of FAVS Showcase. 3 p.m.

Harris Theatre, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Best of FAVS Showcase will be highlighting award winning student films.

Alphabet Soup. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Join for stories and activities about letters in the alphabet. Ages 3-5 with adult.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 19

Mosby Fall Bus Tour. 8 a.m. 10520 Main Street, Fairfax. Visit the Hibbs Bridge, North Fork Church (the formation of Company H), the scene of the Harmony Fight in Hamilton, Ebenezer Church and Harry Hatcher's House. To sign-up for the tour call Don Hakenson at 703-971-4984 or email: dhakenson@verizon.net.

Fairfax County NAACP Freedom Fund Awards Banquet. 1-5 p.m. Waterford Springfield, 6715 Commerce Street, Springfield. Eric Broyles, co-author of "Encounters with the Police: A Black Man's Guide to Survival" will be the event speaker. There will be book signing and books available for purchase. See the author discussing his book in a TV interview. The rest of the evening enjoy the silent auction, cash bar, door prizes and great speakers. Buy your tickets today and become a sponsor at www.fairfaxnaacp.org.

Fashion Show. 2-4 p.m. The Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax. Fashion show, silent auction and dessert. A Gogo Grandmothers benefit helping African grandmothers raising orphans of AIDS. Fashions by Stein Mart. \$15. To register go to burkecommunity.com/adults/women.

Children's Book Sale. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Fairfax City Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Thousands of gently-read books and nonbook media organized into categories including picture books, early readers, nonfiction, holiday, chapter books and more.

Potomac Jazz Club Picnic. 12-6 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Join the Potomac River Jazz Club for an afternoon of jazz music. Tickets \$25.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 20

Doggie Splashdown. 7 p.m. Fairfax Swimming Pool, 4200 Roberts Road, Fairfax. Bring your canine for a chance to romp in the pool. A \$5 cash donation per dog is suggested, with all proceeds going to the Humane Society of Fairfax County.

MONDAY/SEPT. 21

PJ Library Book Buddies. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Enjoy Jewish storybooks from the PJ Library and make a craft.



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West Springfield quarterback Peter Muskett threw four touchdown passes and ran for a score during the Spartans' 35-28 win over Robinson on Sept. 4.



West Springfield receiver Daniel Adu caught two touchdown passes against Robinson on Friday.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Muskett Leads West Springfield to Season-Opening Win Over Robinson

Junior quarterback throws four touchdown passes, rushes for one.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

With the score tied and 1:17 remaining in the fourth quarter of Friday's contest against Robinson, West Springfield quarterback Peter Muskett took the shotgun snap and headed around left end.

Moments later, the Spartan signal caller was sprinting down the sideline, turning a decent gain into a game-winning touchdown, putting the finishing touch on a fantastic season-opening effort.

Moments after Robinson tied the score, Muskett turned a quarterback trap play into a 55-yard touchdown, propelling the Spartans to a 35-28 victory on Sept. 4 at West Springfield High School. The junior and second-year varsity starter played a role in each of the Spartans' five touchdowns, leading West Springfield to its first season-opening win since 2012.

"He's a stud and he's only going to get better," third-year head coach Jason Eldredge said. "As soon as he actually starts reading the field, he's really going to be a scary football player."

Muskett took over as West Springfield's starting quarterback early in his sophomore season and led the Spartans to a share of the 2014 Conference 7 championship. West Springfield defeated Washington-Lee in the opening round of the 6A North playoffs before suffering a 27-24 season-ending loss to Lake Braddock in the quarterfinals.

THIS SEASON, West Springfield returns nine starters on offense and retained offensive coordinator Anthony Parker, bringing



Robinson running back Dajon Lee rushed for 119 yards and a touchdown against West Springfield on Friday.

continuity to that side of the ball while helping Muskett grow as a quarterback.

"The continuity thing is priceless," Eldredge said. "Unfortunately, one of [Muskett's] weaknesses early on is his ability to read and make quick decisions. That he's overcoming now, as you can see. Obviously, the physical gifts he brings to the table [are] something special, but at that position it's your mind that has to be just as sharp. Being in the same offense one year to the next is a huge help to that."

Muskett completed 11 of 18 passes for 287 yards and four touchdowns, with one interception against Robinson. He also carried 19 times for 130 yards and a score.

"I feel a lot more confident and we're clicking easier," Muskett said about his second season as a varsity starter, "and it's just completely different from last year."

Muskett connected with sophomore Jordan Hughes for a 57-yard touchdown late in the fourth quarter, extending West Springfield's lead to 28-20 with 2:49 re-

maining. Robinson responded with a six-play, 60-yard drive, capped by quarterback Alex Miller's 1-yard sneak for a touchdown. Senior running back Sean Foncha reached the ball out and broke the plane of the goal line on the ensuing two-point conversion attempt, tying the score at 28 with 1:26 remaining.

Muskett would score the game-winning touchdown on the first play of West Springfield's ensuing drive.

"He's much faster," senior left tackle Brock Vaughn said about Muskett, who increased his speed by running track. "... When he gets in the open field ... he's just gone."

After West Springfield and Robinson traded punts for much of the first quarter, Muskett gave the Spartans a 7-0 lead with a 94-yard touchdown pass to junior Daniel Adu with 1:38 remaining in the opening quarter.

Robinson led 14-7 late in the third quarter, when Muskett connected with senior Darean Robertson for a game-tying 48-yard

touchdown.

On West Springfield's next possession, Muskett again found Adu, this time for a 26-yard score, giving the Spartans a 21-14 advantage.

"Honestly, [Muskett] put the team on his shoulders and when we needed it, he responded," Eldredge said. "That's the character of that kid. He works his tail off in the offseason. For him to do what he did today, he's a stud."

Foncha scored on a 17-yard run with 7:08 remaining in the fourth quarter, diving into the end zone to cut West Springfield's lead to one. The Spartans blocked the Rams' ensuing extra-point attempt and maintained the lead at 21-20.

Foncha carried 16 times for 89 yards and one touchdown. Senior running back Dajon Lee led Robinson with 119 yards on 16 carries. His 7-yard touchdown run with 2:41 left in the second quarter tied the score at 7.

Miller completed 4 of 10 passes for 47 yards and a touchdown.

FOR WEST SPRINGFIELD, Adu finished with four receptions for 143 yards and two touchdowns. Hughes had four catches for 68 yards and a score.

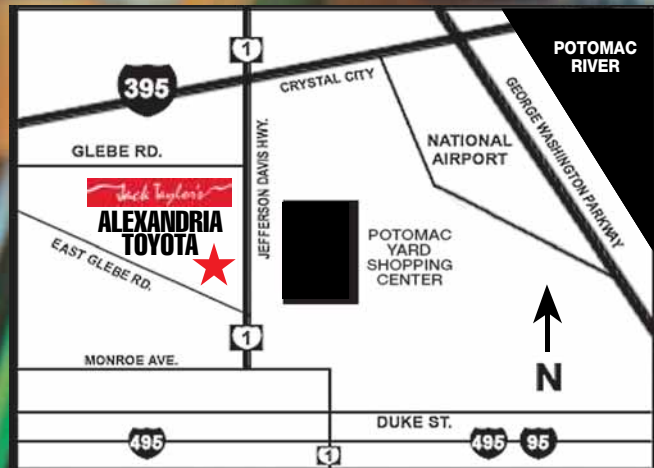
"[Our] ultimate goal is [a] state championship, but we view anything less than our 9-3 record last year as a disappointment," Muskett said. "We want to match that and surpass it."

West Springfield (1-0) will open conference play on the road against Mount Vernon (1-0) at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 11. Robinson (0-1) will host Woodson (0-1) at 7 p.m.

"We had injuries," Eldredge said. "We were down to our last guys — we had a JV linebacker crew out there in the fourth quarter — so to me, we gutted it out. The irony of that is the way we lost our season last year, on the 1-yard line in the quarterfinal against Braddock with 1 second to go, for us to come out and win in the last seconds, means that maybe we've grown up a little bit."

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INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE 30000 MILES FACTORY RECOMMENDED SERVICE

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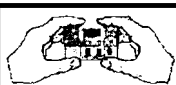
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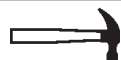
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Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 10

Creating a Personalized Playlist Workshop.
3 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Learn more about how to identify favorite music and how to set-up and tailor an individualized playlist. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP or visit InsightMCC.org for more information.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

Indoor Yard Sale. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. West Springfield High School - Cafeteria (Door 10), 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Massive indoor yard sale to benefit West Springfield High School's award-winning Spartan Theatre Company. Clothes, housewares, toys, games, books, DVDs and more for sale.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 15

Wakefield Chorale Singing Group. 7:30-9:30 p.m. United Baptist Church, 7100 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Love to sing? Come join the Wakefield Chorale — a group of local men and women who enjoy singing. Practices begin Sept. 15. No audition required. Join for good music, fun and friends. For more information, please call Susan at 703-255-3489 or Johanna at 703-569-0214.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 16

Financial Considerations for Caregiving.
1:30 pm. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. The financial costs of long term care and long term caregiving are enormous. Explore some of your options for this important aspect of caregiving. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP or visit InsightMCC.org for more information.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 18

Prospective Members Meeting. 7 p.m. GlowGolf, 8430 Old Keene Mill Court, Springfield. All members of the community age 18 or older are invited to attend these events; children are also welcome when accompanied by a parent or guardian. Kiwanis International is a global organization of members dedicated to serving the children of the world. Kiwanis and its family of clubs at all age levels —nearly 600,000 members strong—annually raise more than \$100 million and dedicate more than 18 million volunteer hours to strengthen communities and serve children.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 20

The 32nd Annual Infant Toddler Family Day Care Provider Appreciation Celebration. 1-3 p.m. PJ Skidoos Restaurant, 9908 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax. Infant Toddler Family Day Care (ITFDC), a non-profit organization providing child care resource and referral services in Northern Virginia, will celebrate its 32nd anniversary. ITFDC services and supports early child care educators who provide high quality child care throughout Northern Virginia.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/SEPT. 25-26

Children's Consignment Sale. Friday: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Saturday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Children's clothing and toys in good condition available for purchase.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 26

Community Coffee House. 6-9 p.m. The Historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse, 8511 Hooes Road, Springfield. Community coffee house, benefiting the Historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse featuring live music, coffee and baked goods donated by members of the community and local businesses. Donations appreciated.

ONGOING

Run/Walk/Ride Group. Every Saturday in August at 6:45 a.m. at 6951 Spaniel Road. Whether you walk, run or ride, come out and enjoy the fellowship and the time for personal fitness with conversation along the way. Feel free to invite a friend. For questions or to lend a hand with future Run/Walk/Ride dates, please contact Amy Poe at thepoes1@cox.net or 703-975-3209.

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21 Announcements

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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.

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21 Announcements

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Joseph Belcher, President.
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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