

Fairfax Station ♦ Clifton ♦ Lorton CONNECTION

HomeLifeStyle

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Clear skies and warm temperatures welcomed visitors to the 48th annual Clifton Day on Oct. 11.

Talk of the Town

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First Decoding Dyslexia 5K Held at Burke Lake

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OCTOBER 15-21, 2015

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FAIRFAX COUNTY FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

2015 FCPS SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENTS

**Congratulations to these candidates,
as voted upon by our membership:**

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Ted Velkoff

BRADDOCK DISTRICT CANDIDATE:

Megan McLaughlin

DRANESVILLE DISTRICT CANDIDATE:

Janie Strauss

HUNTER MILL DISTRICT CANDIDATE:

Pat Hynes

LEE DISTRICT CANDIDATE:

Tamara Derenak Kaufax

MASON DISTRICT CANDIDATE:

Sandy Evans

MT. VERNON DISTRICT CANDIDATE:

Karen Corbett Sanders

PROVIDENCE DISTRICT CANDIDATE:

Patty Reed

SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT CANDIDATE:

No endorsement

SULLY DISTRICT CANDIDATE:

Karen Keys-Gamarra



See more at:

fcft.va.aft.org/news/2015-fcft-school-board-candidate-endorsements

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PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Mike Feeney, a teacher at Lake Braddock Secondary School, finished the race first overall in a time of just over 18 minutes. His wife Alison has dyslexia and teaches at Timber Lane Elementary School in Falls Church.



Calvin Rizek (left) of Fairfax is comfortable and confident in talking with other students about having dyslexia. He introduced supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), center, and Springfield District school board representative Elizabeth Schultz following the Decoding Dyslexia 5K Run for Dyslexia.

First Decoding Dyslexia 5K Held at Burke Lake

Raising awareness, advocating for more services in schools

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

When Fairfax resident Calvin Rizek was in first grade, he remembers not being able to read along with the class, but “just flipping pages, like everyone else.” Rizek’s older brother Jack had already been diagnosed with dyslexia, a common learning disability affecting a person’s ability to read and spell effectively. Their parents sought help outside the school system for Jack, turning to a private tutor. At one point when Calvin was hanging around during his brother’s lesson, the tutor observed that Calvin might be dyslexic as well. After he was tested and identified as having dyslexia, Calvin used remediation and tutoring, both in his Title I elementary school and with the tutor, to help him better understand how to link sounds and words. Now a high school senior, Calvin hopes to attend Virginia Tech and one day become a pediatrician so he can help other young students with dyslexia and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder.

As Jack and Calvin’s mother Joan fought for services in their schools, she became involved with Decoding Dyslexia Virginia, the local branch of a national advocacy organization with the aim of raising awareness of the disorder and providing people with more information about the resources available. That group recently hosted its first Decoding Dyslexia 5K Run for Dyslexia at Burke Lake Park on Oct. 11.

“Parents are stumbling through it,” Joan said. “We want to bring other parents to resources faster than we found them.”

Craig Wong of Herndon grew suspicious

when his daughter in third grade was having some problems with spelling. Some Internet research led him to believe she might have dyslexia. He had her tested with a professional psychologist through an online resource, who confirmed she had the disorder.

“I talked to my daughter’s school,” Wong said, “and I could tell they weren’t really familiar. They didn’t seem to be very proactive about what tasks, what action steps to take.”

Wong heard about Decoding Dyslexia Virginia and attended a meeting.

“All these parents had the same issues I did,” he said, “people in the school system who didn’t speak the vocabulary, not in special education, principals of schools, it was very odd.”

“I asked something,” Wong continued, “what should I expect from my school system? Other parents started nodding, murmuring behind me, and said that was a great question. There were lot of parents in the same situation.”

FRUSTRATED with what he saw as a lack of remediation opportunities through Fairfax County at his daughter’s school, Wong enlisted private tutoring, then worked one-on-one with his daughter and helped her improve her language skills by designing a computer game for her that functions much like using flash cards.

Wong’s daughter is now in seventh grade and on or above grade level for all topics, but not all parents have the time or resources to pay for such extracurricular activity.

Shannon Duncan of Falls Church had a similar experience with her youngest child, whose headaches in second grade became “struggling like crazy” in third grade with spelling and reading. Duncan and her friend and neighbor Lisa D’Ambrosio-Irons co-organized the Decoding Dyslexia 5K, which drew over 150 participants from around Fairfax County and Alexandria.

Duncan said they worked with her daughter’s school and couldn’t get any helpful services so they had her privately screened. In four months, she had gained half a reading level. Improving identification and remediation capacities within the school system is one of the goals of Decoding Dyslexia.

“That’s our hope,” she said. “We’ve been talking to Fairfax County administration: My kid is fine, she’s going to be OK, but based on the fact that I was educated, spoke the language of the system, had the time and wasn’t at work 24-seven.”

Fairfax County School Board chairman Pat Hynes acknowledges putting more focus on dyslexia in the schools is “long overdue.”

In accordance with a proclamation from Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D), the board is recognizing October as “Dyslexia Awareness Month.”

Hynes, who was previously a teacher in Fairfax County, said she found there to be a “great buffet” of curriculum development materials available, but maybe not enough direction.

“What can happen,” she said, “is we don’t always provide professional development that’s focused in the way that it needs to be. You’ll see in our Strategic Plan we’re getting tighter with our early literacy.”

SUPERINTENDENT Dr. Karen Garza has also required all elementary school administrators and instructional staff be trained to recognize dyslexia symptoms and warning signs.

“Early on, she recognized FCPS was not where it needed to be in terms of services for students with dyslexia,” said Braddock District school board representative Megan McLaughlin.

Springfield District representative Elizabeth Schultz said the disorder was the first topic she brought up when meeting with Garza after she arrived from Texas.

“A small hurdle can turn into an enormous obstacle,” Schultz said. “I’ve struggled, as a

Workshop on Dyslexia

There will be a workshop hosted by the Office of Special Education Instruction for parents of middle and high school students with dyslexia on Oct. 20 from 7-9 p.m. at the Dunn Loring Center, 2334 Gallows Road, as well as a workshop for parents of elementary school students with dyslexia on Nov. 13 from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. also at the Dunn Loring Center.

For more information on Decoding Dyslexia Virginia and upcoming events, including the 5K, visit decodingdyslexia.org.

parent of students with learning disability and dyslexia — what does any other parent face?”

Garza has also met with parents from Decoding Dyslexia on several occasions over the last three years. “She really welcomed the advocacy,” said McLaughlin, “and invested a lot of time trying to work with DDVA to understand the granular level of their children’s experience and the collective information they have.”

McLaughlin added that a new staff position is being “repurposed” from elsewhere in the system, who will be dedicated to overseeing dyslexia services.

“Decoding Dyslexia is a perfect example of an advocacy group holding a school system accountable,” McLaughlin said. “We have better education research, better understanding, now it’s time to step forward and provide the necessary services.”

“I appreciate what they’re doing now,” Duncan said. “There are so many parents who want the change to occur immediately. I have hope, though understand it physically is an impossibility, in a system this large. Teacher training needs to be pretty extensive, it needs to be multisensory, cumulative and simultaneously delivered. Teachers currently are coming from zero.”

“Six years ago, dyslexia was not uttered,” Duncan continued. “Those words were not shared. Fairfax County is definitely trying to change, right the ship. But it’s going to take a long time for it to turn around and head in another direction.”



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Portrait by Sharon Lynn Campbell

LONGINES

ANALYTICAL



Del. Marcus Simon (D) with Michael Hershman, chairman of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Commission. Simon headed the Mental Health subcommittee.

Police Commission Calls for Auditor, Civilian Review Board

Unanimous recommendations head to supervisors in wake of John Geer shooting, transparency missteps.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

After six months of meetings, the Ad Hoc commission created by Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova to review police practices has concluded its primary work. Chair of the commission's Independent Oversight and Investigations subcommittee Jack Johnson presented that group's final recommendations to the full commission on Oct. 8.

The subcommittee unanimously favored creating an Independent Police Auditor position that would "report directly to the Board of Supervisors and would provide oversight in cases of police use of force that lead to serious injury or death, including officer involved shootings," Johnson's letter to commission chairman Michael Hershman said.

The report also calls for establishing a seven-member Civilian Review Panel for cases of alleged police misconduct. The panelists are meant to work with the new auditor "as to serious use of force cases so that the panel can provide its views to the Board of Supervisors and the Chief of Police as to policy and practices changes that may be warranted," Johnson said in the letter.

"Oversight provides a meaningful voice or forum for the public and forms a crucial bridge between the public and the police," Johnson continued. "Increased transparency, trust, and communication between the police and the public can lead to greater community cooperation in achieving the ultimate goal of decreased crime and increased public safety."

It was the last full meeting of the ad hoc commission, and in addition to hearing from the indepen-

dent oversight committee, the commission voted unanimously to support the recommendations of all five subcommittees and to forward the recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Recommendations from the Mental Health Subcommittee call for an overhaul of how the criminal justice system responds to people in mental health crisis.

Commission chairman Hershman is scheduled to present the group's recommendations to the Board of Supervisors at its Oct. 20 regular meeting.

"It is Chairman Bulova's intention to move to accept the report and refer it to staff for discussion at the Public Safety Committee scheduled for Oct. 27 at 3 p.m.," said Bulova's chief of staff Clayton Medford.

The Board of Supervisors launched the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission in response to public concern over the shooting death of John Geer by a Fairfax County police officer. On Aug. 17, 2015, former Fairfax County Police officer Adam Torres was charged with the second-degree murder of Geer, who was shot dead in the doorway to his own home on Aug. 29, 2013 after police were called in a domestic dispute. Torres was fired in July 2015, almost two years later.

The commission has been meeting since March as a full commission and five subcommittees. Areas of focus by committee include Use of Force; Communications; Mental Health; Recruitment, Diversity and Vetting; and Independent Investigations and Oversight.

The final report from the Ad Hoc commission is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman/pdf/adhoc-final-10.8.15.pdf.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Michael Hershman, chairman of the police commission, with Sharon Bulova at the final meeting of the full commission before recommendations go to the Board of Supervisors on Oct. 20.



— REAL STORIES FROM THE EXPRESS LANES —

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me a better dad and a
better husband."*

- Donald B.
Stafford, VA

Public school teacher Donald lives in Stafford and works in Falls Church. Before the Express Lanes, he says his commute was stressful and unpredictable. When Donald would slug on the HOV lanes, sometimes it took him an hour to get work. He was always rushing and often resorted to fast food. Since the Lanes opened on 95, he still slugs or carpools to work, but now he can eat breakfast and dinner with his family and is able to spend more time with those he loves. He no longer misses important events and says his personal relationships have significantly improved.

See more real stories from the Lanes at ExpressLanes.com



Donald's story was one of our winning entries in our "Express Lanes Love Story" promotion.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Elise Neil Bengtson.

Volunteer Fairfax Names New CEO

Elise Neil Bengtson is the new Volunteer Fairfax CEO. She has years of experience in the federal government and nonprofits with a strong record of membership growth, volunteer recruitment, partnerships and fundraising. She has recently returned from a short three-year tenure in Tampa, Fla. to her home base in the Washington, D.C. area where she had lived for 24 years prior to her Florida move. She worked for the National Security Council at the White House for 15 years, served on the board of the National Symphony Orchestra for three years, was president of the

Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce and executive director of the Fairfax Partnership for Youth.

Simultaneously, she has always remained committed to volunteerism, especially in the arts and education.

Elise Neil Bengtson is a native of Charlotte, N.C., and graduated from Converse College. She is married to Jeff Bengtson and has two daughters, Maggie and Ava. Her favorite hobbies include volunteering, gardening, photography and travel (to over 20 countries).

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NEWS

Medical Education Campus in Springfield to Host Open House

Northern Virginia Community College's Medical Education Campus will host an informational open house on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 9 a.m.-noon at 6699 Springfield Center Drive in Springfield.

Those interested in exploring a career in health sciences will have the opportunity to meet NOVA students, staff and faculty, tour the high-tech campus, participate in hands-on demonstrations, receive materials from NOVA's Workforce Development and Adult Career Pathways (ACP) programs and learn about the various student organizations/clubs offered. The Clinical Simulation Center (CSC), which provides students in the nursing and allied health programs with hands-on experience, along with the campus's new anatomy virtual lab will also be highlighted and made available for viewing. "We have something for everyone, whether you are a recent high school graduate, or someone who is changing careers," said NOVA-MEC Provost Anne Loochtan. "We want to help potential students explore many of the lesser known, but very important and exciting health careers."

NOVA's Medical Education Campus is the first specialized community college campus in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It offers its students state-of-the-art facilities with a 32-chair dental clinic, a cadaver lab and a technologically-advanced patient simulators lab. The MEC offers ten Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degrees in Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Health Information Management, Emergency Medical Services, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Radiography, Respiratory Therapy, Physical Therapy, Medical Laboratory Technology and Occupational Therapy. Certificates in many medical disciplines, including Licensed Practical Nursing, Health Information Technology, Radiation Oncology, Clinical Coding, Phlebotomy and Emergency Medical Technology as well as continuing education for local healthcare workers and first responders are also available.

Light refreshments will be served throughout the day along with a chance to win prizes and receive giveaways. Parking is free at any level within the parking garage the day of the event. To register, visit <https://MECopenhous2015.eventbrite.com>.

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Closer Look at School Spending

Report: Local schools spend less to educate more challenging students.

Since Fiscal Year 2009, Alexandria Public Schools has reduced per pupil spending by 13.3 percent, adjusted for inflation. Arlington County Public Schools has reduced per pupil spending by 15.7 percent, but still spends the most per student of any school district in the state.

Fairfax County Public Schools has reduced per pupil spending by 6.5 percent over the same period, adjusted for inflation, but FCPS spends significantly less per student than either Alexandria or Arlington.

These numbers are from a draft report released last month by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission in a report on Efficiency and Effectiveness of K-12 Spending 2015. In FY 2014, the average Virginia school division spent 7 percent less to educate each student than it did in FY 2005.

These numbers are critical to understand as local schools, Fairfax County in particular, face a looming budget gap in the coming budget cycle. It's easy to skip the specifics, look at a large overall budget number and conclude that surely there is plenty of room to cut the budget. These numbers show the problem with that approach.

Fairfax County was among the Virginia school divisions with a reduction in resources and numbers of teachers per student which also had a growing percentage of "resource-intensive" students.

More than 27 percent of Fairfax County Public Schools students were living in poverty in 2014; that's 49,895 students, up from about 18 percent or 28,527 poor students in 2005. Number and percent of students with limited English have also grown over the time period. In 2014, 49,442 students, or 27 percent, in FCPS are limited English proficient, up from 35,091 or 22 percent in 2005. The report calls these students "resource intensive," and what that means is that it costs more to effectively teach them.

The larger chart comes from a different source, the 2015 Washington Area Boards of Education Guide, and shows Fairfax County with far lower per pupil costs and teacher salaries than surrounding school districts.

Arlington and Alexandria school districts also have large percentages of poor students.

Alexandria had 6,160, or 58.8 percent of its students living in poverty in 2005, and in 2014, 7,443 poor students, 55 percent. Alexandria has also had an increase in limited English proficient students, 33.3 percent of 4,510 students in 2014, up from 22.7 percent in 2005.

Public Schools	Fairfax County	Montgomery County, MD	Arlington County	Alexandria City
FY 2015 Cost Per Pupil	\$13,519	\$15,351	\$19,040	\$17,041
Average Teacher Salary	\$66,782	\$75,452	\$76,892	\$73,612
2014 ACTUAL ENROLLMENT				
Total Enrollment	183,895	151,289	23,421	13,563
Percent ESOL Enrollment	17.0%	13.2%	17.4%	25.5%
Percent Free/Reduced Price Meal Eligible	27.5%	34.3%	31.8%	59.7%
Percent Special Education Enrollment	13.8%	11.7%	14.7%	12.6%
2015 APPROVED ENROLLMENT				
Number Increase/Decrease from 2014 Actual	2,890	2,889	792	548
Percent Increase/Decrease from 2014 Actual	1.6%	1.9%	3.4%	4.0%
SCHOOLS				
Elementary	139	133	22	12
Middle	23	38	5	2
Traditional (K-8)	0	0	0	1
Secondary and High Schools	25	26	5	1
Special Education	7	5	2	0
Alternative	2	0	3	2
SOURCES OF REVENUE				
Local	69.6%	66.6%	83.0%	79.3%
State	23.3%	27.9%	12.5%	14.9%
Other	7.2%	5.5%	4.6%	5.8%
AUTHORIZED POSITIONS				
School-Based	93.2%	91.2%	90.9%	89.7%
Nonschool-Based	6.8%	8.8%	9.1%	10.3%

SOURCE: 2015 Washington Area Boards of Education Guide

GRAPHIC BY LAURENCE FOONG/THE CONNECTION

Comparison of local school district finances and enrollment from the 2015 Washington Area Boards of Education Guide.

INFLATION ADJUSTED PER PUPIL SPENDING			
Division	FY 2009	FY 2014	% Change (FY 09-14)
Alexandria	\$20,323	\$17,622	"13.3%
Arlington	\$22,214	\$18,736	"15.7%
Fairfax	\$14,901	\$13,931	"6.5%

Inflation-adjusted to 2014 dollars.

SOURCE: Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission report on Efficiency and Effectiveness of K-12 Spending 2015 <http://jlarc.virginia.gov/pdfs/reports/Rpt472.pdf>

In Arlington, 7,972 students, 33.9 percent were living in poverty in 2014, up from 6,373 students, 35.8 percent in 2005. Arlington has seen a drop in limited English students, from 35.5 percent (6,323 students) in 2005 to 28 percent in 2014 (6,591 students).

As the saying goes, if you think education is expensive, try ignorance. And if you think it's too expensive to effectively educate the population we have, consider the costs of services to people who don't have the education they need to live successfully later in life.

Effective leaders in Northern Virginia will have to lead the way to funding effective school systems in a challenging economic environment. But if you hear a candidate claim that schools can get by on less by being more efficient, ask if they have read this report.

According to the JLARC report: School districts reduced per-student spending on instruction through a combination of employing fewer teachers per student, limiting teacher salary growth, and requiring teachers to pay a higher percentage of health insurance and retirement benefit costs. Divisions report that these spending reductions are hindering instructional effectiveness.

School divisions reduced instructional spending by less than one percent, and non-instructional spending by 10 percent, at the statewide level during the time period.

You can read the Virginia JLARC report here: <http://jlarc.virginia.gov/pdfs/reports/Rpt472.pdf>

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAY/OCT. 17

Anti-Bullying Fair. Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. At this fair, there will be local colleges and anti-bullying organizations with booths to talk about what they do and how they help stop bullying. There will also be free lunch, guest speakers, and musical entertainment along with an

award ceremony for the T-shirt and poetry competitions.

NOVA Medical Education Campus Open House. 9 a.m.-noon. 6699 Springfield Center Drive, Springfield. Those interested in exploring a career in health sciences will have the opportunity to meet NOVA students, staff and faculty, tour the high-tech campus, participate in hands-on

TUESDAY/OCT. 27

Candidates Forum. 7 p.m. South County Middle School, 8700 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. Learn about and hear from the candidates for School Board and County Supervisor. Sponsored by the SC Middle School PTSO.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Future Quest 2015. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. George Mason University in the Johnson Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Future Quest is a free college and career forum for students with disabilities, parents and professionals. <http://futurequest.gmu.edu>.

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AREA ROUNDUPS

Democratic Women on Domestic Violence

The Oct. 18 meeting of the Democratic Women of Clifton and Northern Virginia (DWCNV) welcomes the general public to this event designed to educate the community about domestic violence occurring in the region. A panel of experts on this issue will discuss trends, causes, treatment and prevention of domestic violence in Northern Virginia and share an assessment tool designed to determine danger to victims attempting to distance themselves from abusers. The panel of speakers will include:

❖ Melanie Dunn-Chadwick who has been working for Fairfax County Public Schools' FECEP/Head Start program for 34 years, and for the last 15 years, as the Violence Prevention specialist;

❖ Nora Mahoney, the Family Law Practice group chair for Legal Services of Northern Virginia, supervising family law attorneys as well as externs and volunteers across five jurisdictions;

❖ Heather Sarmiento, M.Ed., the Prevention and Education coordinator in the Fairfax County Office for Women and Domestic and Sexual Violence Services;

❖ Jacqui Smith, Domestic Violence detective with the Fairfax County Police Department, Sully District Station, who will speak on her role in investigating domestic violence cases (simple assault and malicious wounding), abduction cases, stalking cases, protective order violations, and telephone threats.

The meeting will be held on Sunday, Oct. 18 at the Clifton Town Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton from 3-5 p.m. A short business meeting will precede the domestic violence agenda. For more information and to RSVP: cliftonwomendems@aol.com.

FCPS Art Teachers Exhibit Art for American Cancer Society, Oct. 16-17.

Six FCPS art teachers and one substitute teacher will exhibit their work at a benefit for the American Cancer Society on Oct. 16-17 at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Paintings, drawings, photographs and fine art jewelry by Kris Killinger of Centreville High, Elaine Florimonte and Kim Basinger of Westfield High, Jayne Matricardi-Burke of Woodson High, Kate Patsch of Fort Hunt Elementary, Angelika (Ana) Schafer of Aldrin Elementary, and substitute teacher Debbie Glakas will be featured at the Recent Works Show and Benefit from 4 to 9:30 p.m. on Oct. 16 and 2 to 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 17. Additional information is available on the event's Facebook page. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road.

Candidates Forum, Oct. 27

Learn about and hear from the candidates for School Board and County Supervisor. Forum will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. at the cafeteria in South County Middle School, 8700 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. Sponsored by the SC Middle School PTSO.

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.

The congregation of the **Greater Little Zion Baptist Church in Fairfax** will be celebrating its 124th Anniversary on Oct. 18. The theme for this 124th Anniversary is Faith, Family and Friends: Building Faith, Uniting Family, and Fellowshiping with Friends, Galatians 6:10. In advance of that service, they have scheduled a night of Revival and a Pre-Anniversary Praise and Worship Concert.

❖ **Revival** – Thursday, Oct. 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Vernon C. Walton-Guest preacher (First Baptist Church of Vienna)

❖ **Pre-Anniversary Praise and Worship Concert** – Friday, Oct. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Featuring local and regional music groups and praise dancers.

Zion Day Service – Sunday, Oct. 18 at 9:45 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Robert F. Cheeks, Jr. – Guest preacher (Shiloh Baptist

Church, McLean)

Location: Greater Little Zion Baptist Church, 10185 Zion Drive.

Rev. Dr. James T. Murphy, Jr., Pastor. For more information, call the Church Administration Office at 703-764-9111

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.

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A Place To Cook

Local designers transform outdated kitchens into timeless, elegant spaces.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Local designers recently took three Virginia kitchens in need of an overhaul and reimagined them to create spaces that are both spacious and elegant. Keeping with the open concept trend, the kitchens flow into the rest of their homes and allow cooks to prepare meals while mingling with friends and family.

When a Springfield couple decided that it was time to bring their 1960s kitchen into the 21st century, they enlisted the help of Stephanie Brick of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths also in Springfield.

"The original space was confined to a small kitchen box in the back of their house," said Brick, who relocated the kitchen to another part of the house in order to make the room larger, free-flowing and better suited for entertaining. It includes an island with bar-height seating, allowing the couple to prepare meals while enjoying the company of their guests.

The bold, contrasting colors of red, white and black cabinetry, accented by stainless steel appliances and fixtures, create a modern, European design.

Brick also transformed a cramped Burke kitchen with a U-shaped design that separated the food-prep room from the rest of the home into a warm and open space.

The kitchen includes dark cabinetry made from alder wood, which is contrasted against light granite countertops. "We eliminated the peninsula and the low-hanging cabinets above it and were able to open up the kitchen to the rest of the home," said Brick.



White cabinetry and white marble counter tops give this kitchen a clean, airy feel.

PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE BRICK



Dark cabinetry and contrasting light granite add warmth to this kitchen.

Instead of including a separate kitchen table, the Nicely design team modified the height of the end of the island for standard chair-height seating. "This family can now work, eat, and enjoy company without the restrictive barriers of their past kitchen," said Brick.

Together with Evelyn Nicely, Brick co-designed a free-flowing, bright white kitchen with clean lines in Arlington. White Carrera

marble counters and white cabinetry, along with recessed and natural lighting from an over-the-sink window combine to create an airy space. Guests and family members can mingle with the cook while gathered around a walnut butcher block-topped island. "[It] invites them to join in the kitchen preparations without being underfoot," said Nicely.

Home LifeStyle Renovated Home Included in Great Falls Studio Tour

12th annual event scheduled for this weekend.

By JOHN BYRD

A renovated, circa-1970s Georgian Colonial will be featured in the 12th annual Great Falls Studios tour Oct. 16-18. A comprehensive first floor makeover to the home of Joseph and Alison Lopez, the project by Sun Design Remodeling Specialists demonstrates new interior design modalities now being applied to traditional floorplans in older homes.

"There's a design revolution underway in northern Virginia," said Sun Design founder and chairman Craig Durosko. "We find there's a lot of interest in what's being done. An open house is one way locals see what ideas may apply to their own homes."

Sun Design Remodeling Specialists, a 30-year-old design/build remodeling firm, has sponsored the Great Falls Studios tour since 2012. This year, the event will feature the work of more than 40 local artists in 26 locations around Great Falls. Work by fine arts painters Alicia Sommers and Karen Bateman will be on display in the Lopez home.

The Lopez renovation draws attention to space planning and design concepts that "open up" a traditional floorplan by selectively reconfiguring existing interior walls.

The original 2,700-square-foot house, which the family purchased eight years ago, was built around a standard center hall template with a front-facing foyer and living room that segued to a rear dining room, kitchen, and family room configuration. To gain more living space, Lopez converted a 280-square-foot screen porch to a sunroom three years ago, but the

changes didn't resolve other inherent problems.

"The rear rooms were too dark and cramped," Joseph Lopez said. "Yet there was a lot of wasted space everywhere."

Other shortcomings:

❖ With 8-year-old twins about the house, circulation in the kitchen was problematic. The traveling U-shaped counter space in the kitchen was as much a barrier as an asset. Storage capacity was limited. There was no place to display the children's drawings which hung from cabinets and appliances.

❖ The living room and formal dining room were mostly unused — consuming a lot of first level square footage without much family benefit.

❖ The interior to the family room — which included a working fireplace — was notably dated.

❖ View and access to the lower-level playroom from the kitchen was obstructed by a landing two steps down that required a 90-degree turn.

❖ Despite a setting that backs up to a 50-acre, tree-filled easement, there were no clear sight lines from the kitchen to the back yard where the boys were usually at play when not in school.

"WE HAD STARTED thinking about making changes before we moved in," Joseph Lopez said. "We had many ideas for improvements — but didn't know what would work."

Enter Sun Design's lead designer Jon Benson and specialty designer Katie Coram.

"The first consideration was how to create a space plan that was consistent with how the family actually uses the house," Benson said.

"Everyone acknowledged that the dining room was too small and that the sizable living room didn't have much of a role in the family's everyday life — so there was some useful square footage we could re-deploy."

These observations in mind, Benson drafted a plan that deleted the wall between kitchen and dining room to form a 30-foot-by-14-foot family kitchen. The larger footprint created the space needed for a four-seat food prep island and dining counter, a breakfast area and a substantially enlarged pantry.

It also allowed for direct access to the staircase leading to the lower level. With the kitchen extended, Benson cut a new door to the downstairs and installed a straight staircase, making it easy for Alison to keep an eye on the boys from upstairs.

To improve natural light and sight lines, the designer eliminated the partial wall and sliders leading to the sun room, then designed a 12-foot opening utilizing "by-pass" sliders on a double track that telescope into the wall.

The result: Alison can easily keep an eye on the backyard from anywhere in the kitchen. Equally appealing: an indoor-out-

door continuum that brings the wooded setting into visual range from every part of the renovated kitchen.

"The beautiful view is one of the main reasons we bought the house," said Joseph Lopez. "Having it available in the rooms where we spend a lot of time is wonderfully fulfilling."

CONVERTING THE UNUSED unused living room into a spacious formal dining room with fireplace, likewise, satisfied the family's holiday entertainment requirements. As a bonus, the children now use the dining room to start their homework just steps from their mom in the kitchen.

With space planning issues under control, Alison Lopez huddled on finish work details with Coram.

"It was great bouncing ideas off of someone with her interior design skills," Alison Lopez said. "There were so many details — cabinet styles, colors and finishes; best granite options for the island counter top. Katie recommended a houndstooth pattern for the backsplash — which really improved on the white brick-style design I had been considering."

The stand-out inspiration, though, was Coram's suggestion that the family's "kitchen art" could be better presented in a 9-foot-by-5.5-foot message board mounted on the



PHOTO BY GREG HADLEY

Sun Design Remodeling is holding an open house in a recently renovated home in conjunction with the 12th Great Falls Studios Tour Oct. 16-18. The residence owned by Joseph and Alison Lopez demonstrates how open floorplans are being effectively introduced into homes that previously employed a more traditional room configuration. Designers enlarged the kitchen by relocating the formal dining room and creating a stronger visual linkage to a backyard filled with old stand trees. Tour hours are Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-5 p.m.

wall between the kitchen and the entrance to the dining room.

A steel surface covered in porcelain, the board accommodates photos and art held by magnets, but also offers a handy place to jot down "to do" lists written in an erasable

felt tip pen.

"It's a fun piece," Alison Lopez says. "Just looking at it makes me smile."

John Byrd (byrdmatx@gmail.com or www.HomeFrontsNews.com) has been writing about home improvement topics for 30 years.

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10 ♦ FAIRFAX STATION/CLIFTON/LORTON CONNECTION ♦ OCTOBER 15-21, 2015

Chairman Candidates Offer Stark Differences

Anti-taxer Arthur Purves challenging incumbent Chairman Sharon Bulova.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Sharon Bulova is exactly where she wants to be. “I believe in local government. It’s where the rubber hits the road, and where you’re closest to your constituents,” said Bulova, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, the top elected official in Fairfax County.

“My priorities, the number one priority, is to strike a balance between keeping taxes affordable to our residents while also making sure that we are investing in the services and the programs that people in Fairfax County appreciate, rely upon and live here for.”

Bulova, formerly the Braddock District Supervisor, took the helm of the county’s board in a special election in 2009 after U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly was elected to Congress in 2008.

Arthur Purves (R) is Bulova’s challenger in this November’s general election.

“You have to understand that the economic situation in this county is not good,” said Purves. “I already mentioned that we had close to the smallest job growth of any large county in the United States in the past year.

“We lost 14,000 jobs due to sequestration, we lost a lot of middle-income jobs after the housing bubble burst, the number of food stamps applications has doubled since 2008 and staffing for parks and libraries was cut by 100 staff members since 2008,” he said.

“To me, it’s crucial to cut taxes, not to prevent a tax increase, but to cut taxes.”

That was the beginning of the difference between the two candidates’ views about taxes at the Great Falls Citizens Association Candidates Debate held at The Great Falls Grange on Sept. 29.

Bulova said she works to “ensure that we continue to have an excellent school system and balancing that with public safety, human services, and great libraries,” said Bulova. “Also parks, fire and rescue, all the services including public works making sure that we can have clean air, clean water. Those are priorities of local government.”

About 200 people attended.

“LET ME POINT out that Virginia is one of seven states that still has the BPOL tax, the tax where business has to pay a tax even if it loses money,” said Purves. “Virginia used to be first, number one, in terms of being business friendly, in the nation and now we’re number four.”

“In Tysons Corner, all those new commercial office buildings going up, they aren’t attracting new businesses, they are just drawing businesses away from other office



Sharon Bulova (D) and Arthur Purves (R) listen to Ralph Appleton’s question at a debate at the Great Falls Citizens Association. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is the only position on the Board elected at-large.

“We are investing in the services and the programs that people in Fairfax County appreciate, rely upon and live here for.”

— Sharon Bulova (D), Chairman, Board of Supervisors

“The economic situation in this county is not good.”

Arthur Purves (R), challenger for Chairman Board of Supervisors

buildings in the county. So we need to attract businesses and the way to do that is to be more competitive than our neighboring jurisdictions.”

Bulova conceded that “these have not been easy times.”

“I was elected chairman just exactly as the great recession happened,” she said.

“I am a pro-business Democrat and one of my priorities is to stimulate our economy,” she said. “Diversifying our industry sector is something that our Board has been focusing on.”

She pointed at the growing hospitality business with Cvent, an event planning company that moved its headquarters to Fairfax County, and the World Police and Fire Games held this year, an economic and cultural success.

The county needs to ensure that “we are not so reliant on the federal government and defense related programs and that we are diversifying our economy into different industry sectors such as medical research and translational medicine,” Bulova said.

Revitalizing the older commercial and industrial sections of the county, including Tysons and Merrifield have been another priority, said Bulova.

“Transforming Tysons from what has been a highly successful commercial area into a mixed use walkable community that includes amenities and exciting programs for all of us to enjoy, and to make sure that is a walkable community that has the kind of bus service, transit as well as the Silver Line.”

GREAT FALLS Citizens Association’s Ralph Appleton asked the two candidates about transportation projects, including the toll roads.

“Are there inconsistencies between the

Board plan for I-66 and/or other toll roads inside the beltway and VDOT plans? If so, briefly highlight any differences and your positions on the differences and then, if you want, your position on toll roads — Good, bad, or what?” said Appleton.

“Bad,” said Purves.

He said Gov. Terry McAuliffe wants to toll I-66 inside the beltway for an extended period of time and then have HOT (High Occupancy Travel) lanes.

“These are tax hike lanes. That’s a better name than HOT lanes,” said Purves. “We really ought to understand why there is no money for transportation and infrastructure and it’s not an easy thing to solve. At the federal level, all money is being taken up by Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. We need to fix our entitlement programs if we are to ever fix our transportation problem,” he said.

Bulova is proud that she cut the opening ribbon for the Silver Line.

“There’s something I agree with Mr. Purves on and that is there was a time when the federal government was the level of government that paid for large transportation projects,” she said.

“Regarding tolls, we’ve had, at least from my point of view, a relative positive experience with managed lanes, HOT lanes on the Beltway,” Bulova said.

Bulova said one approach to transportation problems could include creating a network of choices, including carpool lanes and toll lanes. “So this may be a viable transportation project but there are things we care about and want to see dealt with, especially the impacts of the toll lanes on the surrounding communities. Once you get inside the Beltway on I-66 you can’t get on it during peak hours, and this project would allow everybody to use it during peak

Second Round of Debates

The Great Falls Citizens Association will hold a second round of debates with candidates for public office in Fairfax County on Monday, Oct. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike.

Participating in this debate:

School Board Member, Dranesville District: Janie Strauss* vs. Pete Kurzenhauser

School Board Members, At-Large (voters will choose three): Bob Copeland, Omar Fateh, Jeannette Hough, Manar Jean-Jacques, Peter Marchetti, Ryan McElveen*, Ilryong Moon*, Burnette Scarboro, Ted Velkoff*

County Clerk: Bettina Lawton, John Frey*, Marisa Wissar

County Commonwealth’s Attorney: Raymond Morrogh* (unopposed)

County Sheriff: Stacey Kincaid* vs. Bryan Wolfe
Soil and Water Board, At-Large (voters will choose three): Scott Cameron, George Lamb IV, Jerry Peters, Stephen Pushor

* denotes incumbent

hours.”

CONTROVERSY around the Fairfax County Police Department caused scrutiny and criticism of the Board, especially since the shooting of John Geer.

“My boss has a great saying. The saying is, ‘Bad news does not improve with age,’” said Purves.

“John Geer was a civilian and he was unarmed and he was shot by a Fairfax County policeman, and for 17 months the [Board of Supervisors] stood silent while the police department refused to give the details of that shooting to the Commonwealth’s Attorney who is responsible for conducting that investigation,” Purves said. “And the trust between the community and the police is a fragile thing and it’s a very important thing and this 17-month delay, I think, endangered that trust.”

Bulova said the Geer case could offer a case study in “everything that could go wrong as far as transparency, sharing what happened with the public and providing the information that was requested and making sure that justice was timely served. And things did not go well in that case,” she said.

Bulova created the Ad Hoc Police Practices Commission, which will report its recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on Oct. 20.

See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission.

“You’ll see all the work we’re doing,” she said.

Purves brought up the in-custody death of Natasha McKenna, a woman with mental illness who died in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center, after deputies used a taser on her four times while struggling to restrain her.

“It was a death that probably could have been avoided if the county had mental health court diversion program which it considered doing in 2004 and then abandoned,” said Purves. “Jails are the largest provider of care for mentally ill persons in the country.”

The county is working towards a “diversion first” program that could address some of those concerns. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/diversionfirst/>

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Clear skies and warm temperatures welcomed visitors to the 48th annual Clifton Day on Oct. 11.



Julianne and Adam Erbrecht and children recently moved to Clifton from Centreville, just in time for the Clifton Day festival on Oct. 11.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Talk of the Town Sun shines on 48th Clifton Day.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

It was a big way to be welcomed to the neighborhood. Adam and Julianne Erbrecht moved to Clifton two weeks before the historic town's massive annual festival Clifton Day. Julianne is music director at Burke Presbyterian Church and Clifton is closer than their old home in Centreville. "We love the atmosphere here," Adam said. "There's more space, it's a slower pace." However, Clifton's space and pace changed on Oct. 11, as hundreds of craft demonstrators, small business vendors, pony rides, musical performances and other activities filled the town's streets and drew thousands of visitors.

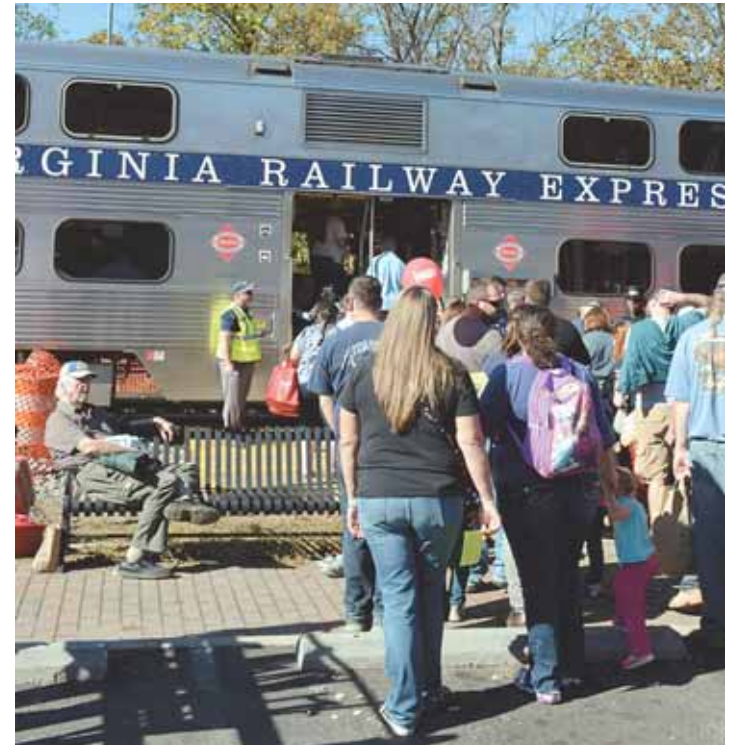
Some have been coming for many years, like Clifton Art Guild member Jack Pardue of the Mount Vernon area of Alexandria. Pardue stood quietly over a palette of oil-based paints he was using to recreate a scene from the Outer Banks on canvas.

For others, it was their first festival, or first time in Clifton. Laura Rutherford of Scotland was visiting with her friend and classmate at the College of William & Mary Emily Marter. Marter grew up in Clifton and has always loved neighborhood institution Peterson's Ice Cream Depot. "It's awesome to see everyone come over to experience this," Marter said.



College of William & Mary junior Laura Rutherford of Scotland (right) puckers up for Coulson at the Centreville Animal Hospital's dog-kissing booth. Rutherford was visiting her friend and Clifton native Emily Marter, coinciding with Clifton Day.

Fairfax and W.T. Woodson High School graduates Chris DiAntonio, Ellie Jordan and Kyle Boswell used their first time at Clifton Day to grow their Virginia Southern bowtie



The Virginia Railway Express offered special service stopping in Clifton throughout the Clifton Day celebration.

business. There were also beekeepers Jonathan and Marche Covington of Dunn Loring with their first Clifton Day tent for their colorful, carved beeswax candles.

Unlike last year's rainy, gloomy weather, clear, blue skies and temperatures in the sixties and seventies throughout the day encouraged the population of visitors.



From left, Del. Tim Hugh (R-40) chats with constituents Debra, Catherine, Jessica and Todd Krebs near the Virginia Railway Express tracks on Clifton Day.

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Members of the Clifton Lions Club (from left) Kirby Kerns, Jim Boatner and Kevin Carroll clean off the grills after cooking food for visitors at Clifton Day.



Sara Holbrook of Clifton (left) and a friend Holly Jones (right) prepared a voodoo scene for the 2014 Haunted Trail in Clifton.

Clifton's Haunted Trail Set for Oct. 24

The historic town of Clifton is preparing to add a new set of ghost stories to its collection. One of its primary annual fundraisers, the Haunted Trail, is scheduled to return for another year on Oct. 24.

Several hundred volunteers, including residents of Clifton, help organize the event. They prepare elaborate scenes and sketches to entertain and scare people who walk the trail through Buckley Park.

Julie Thompson with the Clifton Haunted Trail said to expect "a visit from the Bunnyman, roving monsters, zombies, witches, vampires, escaped convicts, the demented and deranged, just to name a few."

The walk takes approximately 30 to 45 minutes and covers eight acres of wooded park area. There is a rain date set for Oct. 25.

The Clifton Haunted Trail is scheduled to take place Oct. 24 at Buckley Park in Clifton from 7 to 10 p.m. Parking is available at the Clifton Flood Plan and Clifton Elementary School.

For more information, visit www.cliftonhauntedtrail.com.

—TIM PETERSON

Ester Pline of Clifton dresses up for the Clifton Haunted Trail in 2014.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF
ROBYN WITSCHY



Mark Harrington of Clifton participates in the 2014 Clifton Haunted Trail.



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.

Ongoing

Paintings of the Potomac Valley

Watercolorists. Through Nov. 7 at McQuire Woods Gallery, Bldg 16, The Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Gallery hours: Wed.-Sat.: 11 a.m.- 6 p.m.; Sunday: 12-5 p.m. The exhibition brings together some of the area's top painters in watercolor, acrylic and mixed media, presenting 100 original works including landscapes, florals, still life and abstracts.

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 14-18

Point A to Point B. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. It's just another day at the Lab, but today's particular assignment has the two employees scratching their heads: a ball keeps appearing from a spot labeled "Point A" and needs to travel to "Point B." The catch is that the ball can never travel the same way twice! As the two co-workers – one a careful scientist, the other an athletic risk-taker – begin to solve the puzzle together, they explore different modes of transportation in new, wonderful, and exciting ways. Tickets are \$9 for children and adults and can be purchased online at www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org or at the door on the day of the performance.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 14

Harvest Time. 11 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520

Richmond Highway, Lorton. Songs, stories and fingerplay about harvest. Age 2-3 with adult.

Don Hakenson to Present a Civil War

Forum. 7:30 p.m. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Noted Civil War Historian, Donald Hakenson will present a Forum titled, "Col. John Singleton Mosby's Most Successful Combat Operations and His Worst Defeat."

THURSDAY/OCT. 15 -18.

Vincent. Time varies. 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. In this 75-minute performance written by Leonard Nimoy and directed by Paul Stein, the story looks into the mind of a misunderstood genius Vincent Van Gogh and rumors flying in Paris after his death. Tickets: \$25. www.workhousearts.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 17

K-9 Krawl 5K. 9 a.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. A free walk to help increase awareness between domestic violence and the link to animal cruelty. Register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2015K9Krawl>

Trivia Night. 6:30-8:30 p.m. St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke. Have fun while providing funds for projects for children in our community. Bring friends and form a team.

Paws to Read. 11 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Practice reading aloud to a trained therapy dog. 15-minute sessions available.

Ballroom Social Dance. 7:30-10:30 p.m. 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Come join the evening to learn some new dance moves. Mini-lesson takes place from 7:30-8 p.m. followed by open dance from 8-10:30 p.m. Tickets: \$10-15. www.workhousearts.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 16-17

Gourmet Coffee Tasting. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Great Harvest Bread Company, 9000-S Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Free Gourmet Coffee Tasting with coffees provided by Rick's Roasters Coffee Company. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Wounded Warriors Foundation. 703-372-2339

SUNDAY/OCT. 18

DMV Run for the Warriors. 8:15-10 a.m. Burke Lake Park, Shelter A, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Local 5K and 1-Mile Walk/Run to raise support and awareness of military non-profit, Hope For The Warriors, which aims to restore hope for service members, their families, and

families of the fallen. General registration is \$35, students receive \$5 discount, veterans and active duty \$25, wounded warriors and Gold Star families are free, and kids are free if registered online. runforthewarriors.org.

NTRAK Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will have a display and running N gauge model trains.

MONDAY/OCT. 19

Small Wonders. 11 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Fingerplay and songs. Age. 12-23 months with adult.

TUESDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 20-25

Washington International Horse Show. 7 a.m.-5 p.m. and 7-10:30 p.m. Verizon Center, 601 F St., NW, Washington, D.C. One of the oldest and most prestigious equestrian sporting events in the U.S. Held each year in October in the heart of the nation's capital, WIHS welcomes spectators to six days of world-class international show jumping and top national hunter and equitation competition plus community events, entertaining exhibitions, boutique shopping and ringside dining and hospitality. \$15-\$60. <http://www.wihs.org/tickets/>.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 21

PJ Library Book Buddies. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Join us as we read 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.

Celebrate Calm. 7-9 p.m. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Ten ways to stop defiance, disrespect and yelling with America's calm coach, Kirk Martin and his son, Casey. Practical, life-changing and laugh-out-loud funny. Perfect for parents with kids 2 to 22. Leave with a dozen strategies that work immediately. 703-455-8458

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 21-25

Disney on Ice. 7 p.m. Eagle Bank Arena, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Celebrate the legacy of Disney in this ice skating spectacular as Mickey Mouse leads a parade of characters to sing along to your favorite Disney songs for the whole family to enjoy. www.ticketmaster.com.

FRIDAY/OCT. 23

TGIFairfax - Rock the Block. 6-9 p.m. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. This family friendly free concert series features fantastic live bands, great food and a beer and wine garden - all held in the heart of Old Town Fairfax.

SATURDAY/OCT. 24

Clifton Haunted Trail. 7-10 p.m. Chapel Road, Clifton. A terrifying annual event that winds through Clifton's 8 Acre Park. Visit cliftonhauntedtrail.com.

Pete the Cat: Groovy Fun. 10:30 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Groovy fun with Pete the Cat books, games and singing. Age 3-6 with adult.

Fall Festival. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 6304 Lee Chapel Road, Burke. Join us for fun for the whole family! There will be a haunted house, balloon artist, face painting, a moon bounce, pumpkin painting, food, and much more. More info at <https://www.facebook.com/AbidingPresence/>. 703-455-7500.

Homeless Walk Fundraiser. 10 a.m.-noon. Stevenson Place, 4113 Stevenson St., Fairfax. Join Pathway Homes in the fight to end homelessness in our community. Proceeds provide supportive housing services to homeless adults with serious mental illness in Northern Virginia. \$20-32. www.pathwayhomes.org/events.

Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Contest and Fall Fest. Dog costume, 2-4. Fall Fest, 4-9 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Compete for special prizes and goodies, and let your decked-out dog walk through the "boneyard" to sniff out hidden treats. \$8 per dog, and Free for children two and under. 703-569-3464. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink/>.

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NEWS

Students from Lanier Middle School in Fairfax spoke to the School Board about their environmental stewardship projects as part of a presentation surveying the Fairfax County Public Schools Get2Green program and School Environmental Action Showcase.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board To Discuss Delay for Presidential Primary

To alleviate congestion and chaos at 165 of the 196 Fairfax County schools and centers that double as polling places, the Fairfax County Board of Elections requested the School Board look at delaying school two hours on March 1, 2016 for the presidential primary.

Though every year is an election year in Virginia, voter turnout typically spikes during a presidential election cycle.

The item came up during new business at the board's Oct. 8 meeting and is scheduled to be voted on at the Oct. 22 business meeting. To implement the delay would require a revision to the 2015-2016 standard calendar, a release from Fairfax County Public Schools said.

A positive vote for the delay would reduce the to-

tal inclement weather days already incorporated in the calendar from 13 to 12.7.

In the only action item at the Oct. 8 meeting, the board members present voted unanimously in favor of an "expedited boundary adjustment" to balance enrollment between Freedom Hill Elementary School in Vienna and Vienna Elementary School, to take effect in Sept. 2016.

The adjustment involves reassigning a number of students from Freedom Hill to Vienna and thus entering the Madison High School pyramid. The change is meant to help with overcrowding and school efficiency, according to Virginia Code Section 22.1-79(4), and Policy 8130.7, Local School Boundaries, Program Assignments, and School Closings.

— TIM PETERSON

Sexual Violence Task Force Presents Recommendations

A Fairfax County task force established in March to review the state of sexual violence education and awareness presented a set of recommendations to the Board of Supervisors at their Sept. 29 meeting.

The task force comprises representatives from Fairfax County Public Schools, community leaders and staff from the Office for Women and Domestic and Sexual Violence Services.

They reviewed curricula from schools as well as ways organizations in the community can communicate positive messages about the opposite sex to youth and providing victim support services. The task force also looked at how perpetrators could be held more accountable.

School curricula already include an educational base for students on sexual assault, the task force found. But they also see the need for a "change in the culture of acceptance and apathy toward sexual assault in the community," a statement from supervisor John Cook's (R-Braddock) office said.

The two main recommendations from the task force include creating a Sexual Violence Curriculum Workgroup, as well as a new position to facilitate the new sexual violence coordinating team, and help with messaging and communication with communities about sexual violence.

"The community-wide sexual violence task force made great progress in developing these strategies to change the community's attitudes toward sexual assault," Cook said in the statement.

"The task force's work in providing these recommendations is an important step in reversing the course of our culture, and now we must take these recommendations and strategies and implement them effectively."

—TIM PETERSON

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CENTREVILLE DAY

West Springfield QB Muskett Throws 3 TD Passes in Victory

**Spartans DB
Pickell intercepts
3 passes against
West Potomac.**

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Peter Muskett had to be helped off the field after aggravating an injury to his right ankle during the second half of Friday's game at West Potomac. After sitting out a few plays, the West Springfield quarterback returned to action, only to end up limping off the field near the end of the third quarter.

"He's a warrior," Spartans head coach Jason Eldredge said, "and I had to drag him off the field to shut him down."

Muskett's effectiveness as a runner has been limited since he suffered an ankle injury on Sept. 11 against Mount Vernon, West Springfield's second game of the season. On Oct. 9, Muskett's right arm and a stingy performance from the West Springfield defense were enough to earn the Spartans a pivotal Conference 7 victory.

Muskett threw three touchdown passes, senior defensive back Jeremiah Pickell snagged a trio of interceptions and West Springfield avoided a three-game losing streak with a 28-9 victory over West Potomac.

MUSKETT COMPLETED 17 of 25 passes for 220 yards and threw all three of his touchdown passes in the second quarter. He connected with senior Darean Robertson for an 8-yard score with 8:26 remaining in the first half, giving the Spartans a 10-0 lead. With 4:23 on the clock, Muskett found Robertson for a 27-yard touchdown.

Robertson caught four passes for 48 yards. "I love Darean like a brother," Muskett said. "It's not only on the football field, [it's] at school every day, we sit together at lunch, we're in the same classes. He's one of my best friends and I'd do anything for him, so



West Springfield quarterback Peter Muskett threw three touchdown passes against West Potomac on Oct. 9.

just the fact that I get to come out here and throw touchdown passes to one of my best friends, it's awesome."

With 6 seconds left in the half, Muskett threw a 10-yard fade to Daniel Adu, and the 6-foot-2 junior made a leaping catch over a West Potomac defender in the back, right corner of the end zone, giving West Springfield a 22-0 halftime lead.

"We saw that Daniel caught the jump ball earlier down the sideline [and] we knew he could do it again," Muskett said. "We've been working on that all week in practice, actually, and honestly, he just made one of the best plays I've ever seen by a football player."

The win improved West Springfield's record to 4-2, including 2-1 in the conference, and stopped a two-game slide. The Spartans started the season 3-0, before suffering a 42-40 loss to still-unbeaten South County. The following week, West Springfield was blown out by Stone Bridge, 41-10.

Friday's win keeps the Spartans in the Conference 7 championship hunt. West Potomac dropped to 4-2, including 1-2 in

the conference. The Wolverines' only blemish prior to Friday was a 24-21 loss to still-unbeaten Lake Braddock.

"[This win] means everything to us," Muskett said. "After South County, I think we were too confident—not confident, but cocky and complacent—so Stone Bridge really shocked us. ... Coming in here to win this and then going into TC [Williams] and [Lake] Braddock, I think our momentum's definitely going to change a little bit."

Adu had five receptions for 65 yards. Najee Green had four catches for 80 yards. EJ Strother scored on a 1-yard run with 8:31 left in the third quarter, extending the Spartans' advantage to 28-0.

While the offense put up points, the West Springfield defense held a potent West Potomac offense to its lowest output of the season. The Wolverines entered the game averaging 40 points per contest, but managed just a safety and a 4-yard third-quarter touchdown pass from backup quarterback Tanner Jones to CJ Burch.

Jones completed 15 of 22 passes for 144 yards and a touchdown, but was intercepted three times. Starting quarterback Mark Ellis,

who "got a little dinged up" according to head coach Jeremiah Ross, completed 5 of 12 passes for 42 yards and was intercepted once.

Ellis entered Friday's action having passed for 1,383 yards and 14 touchdowns with just two interceptions in five games.

WEST SPRINGFIELD limited West Potomac to 50 rushing yards on 19 carries, for an average of 2.6 yards per attempt.

"We schemed them all week long," Eldredge said. "Here was my idea: I knew they were going to see [the] South County and Stone Bridge [results], and I knew at that point, they were going to think they could run the ball on us. They came out running the ball and [when] they couldn't do that ... then we bracketed their receivers when they had to go to pass. We just made them a one-dimensional offense at that point."

Pickell had a big night for the West Springfield defense. The 5-foot-6, 140-pound senior recorded nine tackles (two solo) and intercepted three passes.

"I think we played great," he said. "We played exactly how we prepared to play."

One week after many games were moved up a day due to potential inclement weather, Friday's kickoff was delayed more than two hours due to weather.

"I'm not into making excuses," Ross said when asked if the delay affected the Wolverines. "... Was it ideal? Probably not. We've had the same situation early in the year with Langley and we did fine. We had to move up the game last week because of weather and we did fine."

West Springfield will host T.C. Williams (2-4) for homecoming at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16. After Friday's game, West Potomac's Burch, who finished with seven receptions for 68 yards and a touchdown, left West Potomac High School in an ambulance with a possible concussion. On Tuesday, the senior said in a Twitter direct message that he will be cleared to play this week against Annandale.

The Wolverines will host the Atoms (4-2, 2-1) at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Lake Braddock Improves to 6-0

The Lake Braddock football team improved to 6-0 overall and 3-0 in Conference 7 with a 33-12 win over T.C. Williams on Oct. 10 in Alexandria.

Bruins running back Lamont Atkins carried 23 times for 118 yards and a touchdown. Peyton Scott had eight rushes for 92 yards and a score.

Quarterback Kyle Edwards completed

4 of 10 passes for 64 yards and was intercepted once. He also scored two rushing touchdowns.

Atkins returned a fumble for a touchdown.

Lake Braddock will host Woodson at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16.

South County Remains Undefeated

The South County football team contin-

ued its unbeaten season with a 37-7 home win over Woodson on Oct. 9.

Running back Demarcus Ramsey led the way for the Stallions with 17 carries for 101 yards and a touchdown. Michael Salisbury completed 11 of 20 passes for 174 yards, with one touchdown and one interception. He also carried 15 times for 74 yards.

Mike Williams carried eight times for 70 yards and had three receptions for 87 yards and a touchdown.

Bryan Acosta and Solomon Simay each scored a rushing touchdown.

South County will host Mount Vernon at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16.

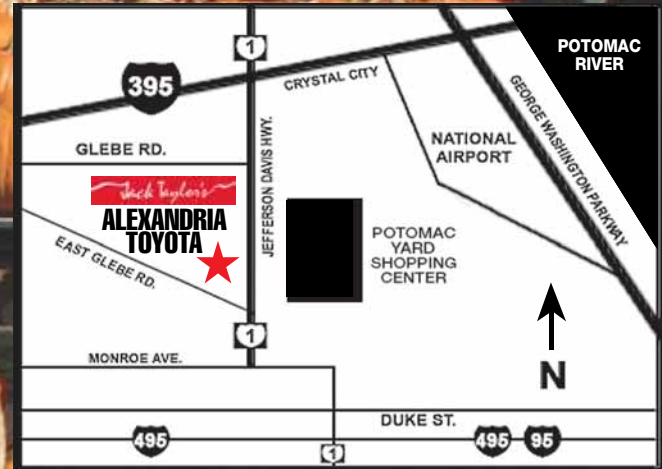
Robinson Wins Third Straight

The Robinson football team won its third straight game and improved to 4-2 with a 27-20 win over Stone Bridge on Oct. 9 in Ashburn.

The Rams will host Westfield at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16.

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21 Announcements

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Mosakap, LLC trading as Kapnos Kouzina, 8296 Glass Aly Ste 110, Fairfax, VA 22031. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises, Mixed Beverages Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Michael Isabella Jr. Owner
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21 Announcements

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According to the Lease by and between Kristina Carrigan of unit 1075 and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: clothes, luggage, a blender, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday October 23, 2015 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

According to the Lease by and between Marleny Sandoval of unit 1114 and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: furniture, boxes, a painting, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday October 23, 2015 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

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JUVENILE DIVISION IN THE INTEREST OF:
FFN: 515760 CASE ID:
T.R. 03/25/2014 14-289
Child DIVISION: D
NOTICE OF AN ADVISORY HEARING ON A TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS PROCEEDINGS
FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR AT THE ADVISORY HEARING CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THE ABOVE-LISTED CHILD. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR ON THIS DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED, YOU MAY LOSE ALL YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AS A PARENT TO THE CHILD NAMED IN THE PETITION ATTACHED TO THIS NOTICE.

TO: Matthew Francis
2987 District Avenue
Apt. 601
Fairfax, VA 22031
*YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE *that a Petition for Termination of Parental Rights has been filed in the Circuit Court of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of the State of Florida, in and for Hillsborough County, Florida, Juvenile Division, alleging that the above-named child is a dependent child and by which the Petitioner is asking for the termination of your parental rights and permanent commitment of your child to the Department of Children and Families for subsequent adoption.
*YOU ARE HEREBY *notified that you are required to appear personally on *November 23, 2015 *
*at 9:00 a.m., before the Emily A. Peacock, *800 E. Twiggs Street, Court room 310, Tampa, Florida 33602, to show cause, if any, why your parental rights should not be terminated and why said child should not be permanently committed to the Florida Department of Children and Families for subsequent adoption. You are entitled to be represented by an attorney at this proceeding.
DATED this _____ day of _____, 2015
PAT FRANK
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By _____
Deputy Clerk

21 Announcements

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