

Sharon Bulova was the first of nearly 100 speakers as area residents tell legislators of priorities ahead of the 60-day session of the General Assembly.

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Del. Eileen Filler Corn (D-41) and state Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37).

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PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

Keith Foxx of Springfield, who has volunteered as a mentor for foster children in Fairfax County for more than a decade, spoke in support of legislation sponsored by state Sen. Barbara Favola for Fostering Futures.

Schools, Guns, Judges, Marijuana and the Safety Net

Residents tell legislators of priorities ahead of the 60-day session of the General Assembly.



State Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35), head of the delegation.



Del. Dave Albo (R-42)



State Sen. George Barker (D-39)



State Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36)



State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34)



Del. Vivian Watts (D-39)



Del. David Bulova (D-37)

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Barbara Quesada, parent of a Franklin Sherman Elementary School student, reminded the General Assembly delegation from Fairfax that Nova Firearms opened its new store right next to the McLean elementary school.

During Quesada's three-minute testimony, Dranesville School Board member Janie Strauss, McLean resident Marilyn White and a dozen others stood in solidarity.

White held a sign that said, "Gun store free school zone."

"Please pass legislation so gun stores are not located within immediate proximity to schools," said Quesada, who testified before the county's delegation to the General Assembly Saturday, Jan. 10 at Fairfax County Government Center.

"This is not a second amendment issue, and it is so infuriating the amount of time it gets twisted," she said, requesting authorizing legislation to allow localities to regulate the proximity of a gun store to a school.

Nearly 100 speakers testified Saturday, Jan. 9, in a hearing that lasted more than 240 minutes.



Del. Paul Krizek (D-44) will serve as delegate in the seat vacated by Scott Surovell, who was elected to the Virginia Senate



Del. Mark Sickles leans over to talk to state Sen. Chap Petersen



Richard Kennedy of Lorton testified in favor of sensible marijuana policy and cited the "insanity of arresting people for use of a drug that is an order of magnitude safer than alcohol or tobacco."

Burke's Martina Leinz attended the CNN Town Hall meeting at George Mason University two nights before where President Barack Obama spoke about the need for gun reform.

Leinz, speaker number 88 on Saturday, said she was asked if she had been personally affected by gun violence. "I looked him in the eye and said, 'I am an American citizen. Of course I have been affected by gun violence — we all have,'" Leinz told the Fairfax Delegation to the General Assembly.

The 2016 session of the Virginia General

Assembly starts Wednesday, Jan. 13, and will last six weeks.

Leinz testified on behalf of the NOVA Chapter of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence and the Virginia Gun Violence Prevention Coalition.

"We cannot stop all gun deaths but certainly we should do everything we can to stop some. And surely we all can agree that there are some categories of people who should not have access to firearms — that is why we have prohibited purchaser cat-

egories; criminals, domestic violence abusers, the adjudicated mentally ill and terrorists should not have easy access to guns."

CHAIRMAN SHARON BULOVA was the first to testify Saturday.

"Fairfax County is often described as a wealthy community, but we also have many individuals and families struggling financially," she said. "More than 52,000 students in Fairfax County Public Schools qualify for free and reduced lunch. Only four school divisions in the state have more total children than we have children living in low-income households."

State cuts to K-12 education in recent years have cost localities \$1.7 billion per biennium, Bulova said, "and have been detrimental to our efforts to educate our children."

"A state that is in the top 10 in income should not be in the bottom 10 in state education funding," said Bulova.

Dozens spoke of the need for full funding for K-12 programming and education.

Steve Greenburg, president of the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, supports legislation for an increased county tax on cigarettes.

"If people are going to kill themselves and

SEE RESIDENTS, PAGE 4

Residents List Priorities for General Assembly

FROM PAGE 3

run up everyone's health care costs by smoking the stupid things, then we should certainly get some return for the costs they incur the rest of us," he said.

Advocating for the importance of the investment on education, Dean Howarth, a teacher from McLean, talked of the need for schools to emphasize critical thinking, not standardized test scores.

"We always say, 'Great minds think alike. No they don't, great minds think differently,'" said the physics and science teacher. "Students come back. You know what they remember? It's never ever their SOL score."

Del. Marcus Simon stopped the testimony to say Howarth was his physics teacher in high school.

Simon remembered Howarth getting students on rollerskates to learn about physics. But emphasis on standardized testing has robbed teachers of the freedom to teach in creative ways, Howarth said.

"Students have lost the joy of learning because their teachers are shackled," said Howarth. "I like being like Bill Nye, stoking fun in education."

Brad Ward, of Fairfax Station, also spoke for Critical Thinking Revolution and advocated for less rote teaching and emphasis on standardized testing. "In my professional life, I have never been given a multiple choice test," he said. "I never asked a potential employee to choose from a list of possible answers. ... Rote learning does not prepare students for the jobs of today."

Critical thinking is key to creative solutions, the engine of growth. Standardized testing yields standardized thinking."

THE DISPARITY between Virginia's rank as one of the 10 most wealthy states and spending on social services and education was invoked by many speakers.

Keith Foxx spoke in favor of state Sen. Barbara Favola's bill to help young adults that age out of foster care without being united with family or being adopted.

"It's critical that you support and fund Senator Favola's bill 'Fostering Futures' for the more than 500 young adults who age out of foster care at age 18 in Virginia every year," said Foxx, of Springfield. "Helping these young adults grow successfully to independence will save the commonwealth hundreds of millions of dollars over their lifetimes."

With a waiting list statewide of more than 10,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for access to services in the community (through Medicaid waivers), only 325 new slots are included in the Governor's proposed budget. This is the minimum number required by settlement agreement between the Justice Department and the Commonwealth, said Rikki Epstein, executive director of the ARC of Northern Virginia.

"We can't keep doing the minimum and



Brooke Annessa of Fairfax, Maya Simbulan (in wheelchair) of Burke, Brian Rosen of Vienna, and Sarah Pickford of Springfield spoke in support of Brain Injury Services of Northern Virginia. "We tell families we will walk with them after the unthinkable has happened. ... We give a voice back to survivors of brain injury and their families," said Annessa.

hoping the time will come when the problem solves itself," Epstein said, calling for the addition of 800 waivers in this cycle. This would "give hope to those with most urgent need, hope to those who have been waiting the longest."

Molly Long of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board pointed out that people moving out of residential facilities like Northern Virginia Training Center are getting priority for services ahead of those who have been on the waiting list for a long time, and the waiting list continues to grow. Nearly 1,000 people locally qualify for services urgently, but their waivers are not funded at the state level, including people with intellectual disabilities whose elderly parents can no longer meet their needs at home, and youth aging out of special residential services who are in danger of becoming homeless.

Long also cited the intense local battle with heroin addiction, and lack of resources.

"Detoxification is often the important first step," she said, but clients seeking help must wait two-to-three weeks or longer for a detox bed.

"Waiting decreases the chance of successful intervention, and puts people's lives in danger. We must have more detox beds."

Richard Kennedy of Lorton testified in favor of sensible marijuana policy and cited the "insanity of arresting people for use of a drug that is an order of magnitude safer than alcohol or tobacco."

SEVERAL OTHERS spoke of the poten-



PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Sharon Bulova, with entire delegation visible.



More than 30 people had signed up to speak for Critical Thinking Revolution. Shaista Keating said: "The era to teach to the test must indeed come to the end."

tial dangers of legalizing marijuana, even for medical purposes.

Sara Freund, of Great Falls, and a member of the Unified Prevention Council, said that states with medical marijuana laws have higher levels of youth use of marijuana. She also cited a recent survey showing that a higher percentage of Fairfax County 12th graders than national average have recently used marijuana.

Jerry Foltz of Centreville, a retired minister in United Church of Christ, was one of several speakers who requested increase of the minimum wage. "We need to support the people who are working hard," he said. "Those on the bottom rung who get a little increase in income, they spend it. That stimulates the economy. This should be nonpartisan issue to raise the minimum wage. It's a good year to do it. It doesn't cost much to do it, and it has all kinds of benefits."

And Medicaid expansion was discussed by many.

"Medicaid expansion is a life issue. Everyone has a right to health care coverage," said Bob Stewart, speaking for Social Action Linking Together, also citing good financial reasons for extending coverage to more people by expanding Medicaid.

Brooke Annessa of Fairfax, Maya Simbulan of Burke, Brian Rosen of Vienna, and Sarah Pickford of Springfield spoke in support of Brain Injury Services of Northern Virginia, and thanked members of the delegation for past support. "We tell fami-

lies we will walk with them after the unthinkable has happened. ... We give a voice back to survivors of brain injury and their families," said Annessa.

"YOU NEED TO WRAP it up," said state Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35), moderator of the four-hour plus hearing, said when people ran over their allotted time.

Others talked of the need for reduced class sizes, exposure to foreign languages in elementary school, and giving teachers more freedom to teach.

Attorneys talked for the need for all 15 allotted circuit court judges and eight juvenile and domestic relations court judges to be filled, and several called for keeping Judge Jane Roush on the Virginia Supreme Court.

"Cases are taking forever," because of the vacancies, said Joseph Dailey, of McLean speaking for the Fairfax Bar Association. "This is about justice for your constituents." A case that begins this week, he said, won't be resolved until after the next World Series is over.

Chief Public Defender Todd Petit asked the delegates and senators to enact legislation to change criminal discovery so defense attorneys "have all the evidence beforehand," to be able to go forward with a fair trial. The issue was studied in 2014 by the Virginia Supreme Court.

Fairfax's Douglas Stewart and McLean's Marc Rosenberg, of the Virginia Sierra Club, Eric Goplerud, executive director of the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, and John Cartmill, of Herndon, were just some of the speakers who addressed the environment as issues including storm runoff, infill development, tree canopy, transportation choices, clean energy, solar and wind power and the health of the rivers and Chesapeake Bay.

Rosenberg of the Virginia Sierra Club called for more efforts to clean up Virginia's rivers by addressing sewage treatment plants that overflow in heavy rains, runoff from farms, toxic chemicals and heavy metals from mining operations and coal pits. Many people support removing plastic shopping bags from the environment. "At least stay out of the way and let localities act in this area," Rosenberg said.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Liliana Silva, who attends St. Leo the Great Catholic School, bicycles through the safety-cone course at a Kids' Safety Day held by the City of Fairfax Police Department.

Keeping Young Bicyclists Safe

Fairfax City Council considers helmet ordinance.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Virginia code allows any county, city or town to mandate that bicycle riders ages 14 and younger wear protective helmets. So when a City of Fairfax resident saw children in his neighborhood riding on a public street without helmets, he was concerned.

He called City Mayor Scott Silverthorne and asked why Fairfax did not have a bike-helmet ordinance like other, Northern Virginia jurisdictions. So Silverthorne had Police Chief Carl Pardiny look into the matter and then brief the Council on his findings.

Pardiny did so last Tuesday night during the Council's Jan. 5 work session. He spoke about the importance of children's bicycle safety, the state's enabling legislation and the pros and cons of adopting a helmet ordinance.

"Bicycling is a great exercise and I've been cycling for years," he said. "I started the City's first police bike-patrol program in the early '90s, and I know firsthand the importance of a bike helmet. It's the single, most-important



Wearing a helmet while bicycling through safety cones is Daniels Run Elementary student James Wise. City Council is considering a helmet ordinance.

piece of equipment a bicycle rider can have."

Pardiny then presented several bike-safety facts from the Centers for Disease Control and Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

He said an estimated 66.9 million Americans ride bicycles and about 29 percent of U.S. households contain one or more bicy-

clists.

IN 2013, there were an estimated 520,000 emergency-department visits due to bicycle-related injuries, and half – or about 257,000 of them – involved youth under 20. And annually, some 26,000 bike-related injuries to children in

SEE HELMET, PAGE 10

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Budget Season Trainwreck?

County looks at “lines of business,” schools call for full funding.

Karen Garza didn’t move to Fairfax County from Texas to preside over the decline of Fairfax County Public Schools. For this year’s budget, the superintendent refused to cut to fit as the school system has the last two years, and called for a fully funded budget. It’s true that Fairfax County schools have more students who are poor and/or are still learning English and those students cost more to educate. It’s true that Fairfax County teachers make less than teachers in other bordering jurisdictions. It’s true that Fairfax County spends less per student by a significant amount than other bordering jurisdictions, even accounting for size.

It’s also true that Fairfax County, which provides most of the school funding, already transfers 52 percent and more of its annual budget to the schools. It’s true that the county has limited revenue sources, with almost all revenue coming from property taxes. Residential property tax revenues are not growing much. Fairfax County’s commercial tax base is flat or contracting with historically high vacancy rates. This is in part due to reduced spending by the federal government, but it’s also about new and likely lasting trends in the way companies use office space.

The county is facing a shortfall, not just for education, but for other important things like transportation, social services, recreation and

the environment.

The Board of Supervisors and heads of county departments are about to engage in an intensive effort to review every area of county spending, with supervisors devoting two full days a week for the foreseeable future on “lines of business” review in the budget committee. What results from this process could set the stage for some reforms and some savings.

But none of those invested in Fairfax County, not the elected officials, not the teachers, not the county employees, especially not the residents, want to preside over the decline of quality of life in one of the wealthiest counties in the universe.

What’s really needed is for the county to have access to a variety of revenue sources. It’s excruciating to raise property taxes across the board, knowing that some people will be hard hit since there is no relation to ability to pay. But that is almost the only option the county has.

This brings us to tax reform and the General Assembly. It’s pie in the sky, but localities in Virginia should have direct access to a portion of the income tax collected by the state. Northern Virginia pays the vast majority of the income taxes paid to the Commonwealth, but every penny set gets funnelled through a formula that by definition sends less money back.

Income is a measure of economic viability. There are other options, which we will detail in the future.

To find the names of your current representatives in the Virginia House and Senate, visit <http://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/> and enter your address.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

Clearing an Obstacle to Gun Violence Prevention in Virginia

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

Virginia has the dubious distinction of having had the biggest mass murder in history—Virginia Tech in 2007, and the first televised shooting—Smith Mountain Lake in 2015. Yet, the Commonwealth has never had a serious public debate on preventing gun violence. With the leadership being shown by the President and the strong interest on the part of the public, the 2016 session of the General Assembly is time for that debate.

Every annual session of the General Assembly is the same: A few legislators bravely put in their commonsense, can’t-we-do-a-little-something-about-gun-violence? bills. Now these bills even have the support of the Governor. In the House of Delegates the bills get referred to the Militia and Police Committee made up of mostly NRA sympathizers. The chairman



bill they like unless it eases regulations or restrictions and with one other legislator. That subcommittee hears the bills and summarily defeats them 4 to 1.

Their actions are totally predictable. Same thing happens every year. When Republicans gained a majority in the House of Delegates they changed the rules to allow the Speaker to refer bills of his choosing to the Rules Committee where they could be sent to the floor of the House of Delegates without recommendation. The official explanation for the change was that there could be bills of such public significance that they needed to be debated by the full legislative body

of that committee sends the bills to a subcommittee stacked with four legislators who have never seen a gun-related

and not simply by a committee.

Bills to enhance public safety and prevent gun violence seem to me to rise to the level of importance that they should be debated by the full body and not be defeated by just four of the 100 members of the House. The Speaker of the House who has absolute authority as to where bills are referred could simply refer gun-violence prevention bills to the Rules Committee where they would be sent to the floor of the House of Delegates without a recommendation. The ensuing debate and votes would clearly show whether the elected representatives in the House are standing up for the people who elected them, a majority of whom support commonsense gun violence prevention measures, or do these delegates represent the gun groups who feed money to their campaigns and who threaten them with primary opposition if they do not go along.

Pet Photos for the Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish on Feb. 24, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Feb. 17.

We invite you to send us stories about your pets, photos of you and/or your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your home or yard with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures. Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Does your business have a pet? Is your business about pets? Have you helped to train an assistance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

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NEWS

Full Speed Ahead for City Branding

Fairfax seeks the best way to promote itself.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

During a work session last May, Fairfax City Council members discussed the creation of a City "brand" to better promote what Fairfax has to offer.

Councilman David Meyer suggested the connection between GMU and the City of Fairfax could possibly be part of that branding. And Councilwoman Ellie Schmidt stressed focusing on economic development to attract new residents and businesses to the City.

Since then, the mayor and Council approved an increase in the Economic Development Office's FY '16 budget to fund development of a citywide branding strategy, plus a plan to implement it. Staff sent out a request for proposals and, out of 10 responses, three firms were selected for interviews.

Then, because of its vast amount of experience in this field, Gensler – a Washington, D.C.-based firm – was chosen. The total cost of the contract will not exceed \$100,000, and City Economic Development Director Nicole Hange said the goal is to be able to make a branding recommendation to the Council sometime around April.

THREE Gensler representatives attended the Council's Nov. 17 work session and gave a presentation on some of their company's past work and how they could help the City. They are Michael Altman, project manager and strategist; Kate Kirkpatrick, communications strategist; and Pierce Fisher, graphic designer.

"We want to make the best you there is," said Kirkpatrick. "I'm a Robinson [Secondary School] grad who spent lots of time in high school at the 29 Diner. So we're looking forward to putting our creativity and expertise to work to make you the most competitive city possible."

She said her firm intends to discover "the core" of the City. And, Altman told the Council, "We need to learn your strengths and aspirations. We'll do so by defining what Fairfax stands for: What's unique here, what's credible, what's your story and what could it be tomorrow?"

Afterward, he said, "We'll figure out the best way to express it visually – and Pierce will do this in a cohesive way – and how we should promote it. It takes about 24 weeks from beginning to end. We'll

talk to all the stakeholders and then come up with the best way to launch it."

According to the group's presentation, "Brand is not inventing what you should be but, rather, uncovering the potential of what you are." So Gensler will help Fairfax determine what it wants to be and for what it wants to be known. It will also decide how to let people know about the City in "the most compelling and consistent way" and help the Council envision what the successful branding will look like.

"We bring both specialization and a broad perspective," said Kirkpatrick. "We'll look at your assets and point of view and also the market you're competing in."

Altman then described some of Gensler's past projects branding towns, cities and businesses and explained how some of those techniques could be applied to the City of Fairfax. For example, he said, "We helped Herndon, which is also a historic place with many events."

Kirkpatrick said, "It's about bringing up and stressing your positives."

"We need to find out who you want to target and how best to reach them," added Altman. Councilman Jeff Greenfield then asked what next steps the City should take. And Altman said City Manager Bob Sisson, Mayor Scott Silverthorne and a few other people had already met to identify stakeholders with which Gensler should consult.

"So we'll contact them and look at your assets," said Altman. "And we'll report back to you and tell you what we think are your best opportunities for positioning the City competitively. We'll tell you what we've learned about you and your competitors, your strengths and your weaknesses."

He said the City will receive a set of brand guidelines, plus information about how to address and reach different target audiences. "Pierce will develop marketing-campaign logos, taglines and headlines [for the promotional publicity]," said Altman. "And we'll give you a marketing plan or strategy. And all of that will come together to support the brand guidelines."

"I'm excited about this and am looking forward to pulling it all together," said Schmidt.

COUNCILWOMAN Nancy Loftus then asked, "How will you make sure you're reaching all the different aspects of our community?"

"We'll have individual interviews, town hall meetings, polling, online surveys and exit interviews at various places in the City," replied Altman. "And we'll

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Ice Skating Attracts Area Residents

Some come for recreation, some for ‘special occasions.’

By JUDY CHO
THE CONNECTION

Hannah Zhou, a 4-year-old Vienna resident, went to the Fairfax Ice Arena with her mother Lucy, for the first time since her first skating lesson. “She’s telling me she wants to come back, more than twice a week,” Zhou said. “She watched ‘Frozen’ and said, I want to be like Elsa!”

A recreational place to many Fairfax residents during the winter, Fairfax Ice Arena serves as the go-to place for competitive skaters and families looking to have a good time. The ice rink, which is open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3:45 p.m., offers group and private lessons during the weekdays, allowing skaters to take advantage of the weekends to practice on their own. For some, skating at the rink is a family event. Andrew Chapin, a 43-year-old resident of Fairfax, was joined by sons Eamon, Oliver and Rhys this past Saturday. “Eamon has been skating for 4 years,” Chapin said. “We only live about 2 miles away so it’s a great way to get exercise.”

With the recent opening of the ice rink at Tysons Corner Mall, skaters have more choices available. Mia Nikole, 13, of Vienna, said, “I love skating, I come every weekend and the ice here is smoother.”

Evelyn Berez from Bristow in Prince William County, has worked at the food concession stand at the ice arena for close to 10 years. “I love the kids,” Berez said. “In the last two years, they opened another [rink] around Tysons Corner and Alexandria and Herndon but Fairfax Ice Arena has the best coaches.”

Gary Couzzi, 47, of Haymarket, has worked at Fairfax Ice Arena as a manager for 15 years. He said that the biggest factor in choosing ice rinks is location. “We get a large population right around the area and if you’re close to a rink, you’re going to stick with it,” Couzzi said. “Also, for competitors, we have some of the best coaches - Laurent Depouilly, Kalle Strid and Audrey Weisiger who are world Olympic coaches.”



PHOTOS BY JUDY CHO/THE CONNECTION

After 30 minutes of skating, George Mason University students Cheyenna Obrin and Nick Vaughn, who are on a date, take a short break.



Evelyn Berez (left) works at the food concession at Fairfax Ice Rink, serving snacks to skaters, family and friends during public skating hours.

In addition to frequent visitors, there are those who come to the rink for a special occasion: Nick Vaughn and Cheyenna Obrin, both students at George Mason University, went to the ice rink on a date. “I thought, why not? It’s the season,” said Vaughn. Obrin said, “He only fell once.”

See Public Skating Hours at <http://www.fairfaxicearena.com/public-skating>.



The new front elevation to the Torre home is elaborated in neoclassical themes that respond to an enlarged floor plan incorporating both a 300-square-foot addition and a spacious front veranda.

Split Decision

By JOHN BYRD

In 1984, Jack and Marie Torre purchased a circa 1960s split-level on a half-acre lot in Fairfax. At nearly 3,000 square feet, it was a perfect spot to settle down and raise two children. The schools nearby were excellent; there was an easy commute to work,

But there were some things about the property the Torres thought they might improve should they stay in residence long enough—a cabinet-cluttered kitchen with builder grade finishes, for instance; no powder room on the home’s main level; space-restricted dining room.

Skip ahead almost two decades, though, and the whole house remodel by Sun Design Remodeling that the public was invited to see earlier this month demonstrates the kind of sweeping improvements that can occur when owners set their sights on new possibilities.

In fact, the former split-level is no longer merely a house. It’s the Torres’ long-term residence, and one that is both substantially larger and iterated in a completely new architectural language

“The ideal of long-term ownership is the option to create a residence that becomes more supportive of favored activities and aesthetic preferences,” said Craig Duroske, founder and chairman of Sun Design Remodeling. “We are finding this kind of ongoing commitment to personalizing a residence much more frequently than in decades past.”

Duroske was at the house Jan. 9 to greet neighbors who wanted to learn more about whole house remodeling. Sun Design guided the Torres through every step of a comprehensive makeover. Many guests seem surprised at the project’s scope—that the vision had such continuity and coherence.

The Torres, meanwhile, are quick to acknowledge that Sun Design’s architectural solution came as a revelation, especially since they had hired architects on two separate occasions to develop plans that soon proved infeasible.

“We couldn’t add on to the rear because of setback restrictions,” Jack Torre said. “The bigger problem, though, was a six-foot roof overhang in front, and the seven steps required to walk from the ground level foyer to the primary living area. Because of these factors, we thought we were prohibited from enlarging the foyer, or expanding our living space around the kitchen.”

More recently, with their life as empty-nesters imminent, the couple was actively considering relocation; a chance visit to a remodeled split-level by Sun Design not far from their house, however, convinced

Marie to once again consider the remodeling option.

Shortly after the viewing, the Torres set up a meeting with Sun Design’s president Bob Gallagher, and several previously unconsidered options emerged.

At the top of the wish list, the couple wanted a larger, more functional kitchen, plus a larger dining room with distinctive formal elements, including a tray ceiling.

There should be a dedicated family room with a view of the tree-lined backyard, and a spacious powder room on the same floor as the kitchen.

The substantially enlarged gourmet kitchen envisioned would require a butler’s pantry and a wine refrigerator.

Still more challenging, the couple wanted to enter their home’s primary living area directly from the front door rather than ascending seven steps within a cramped ground-level foyer.

With these goals articulated, the problem for the design team was how best to implement critical components within a well-integrated whole.

Since new enclosed space couldn’t be added on the rear, the east side of the house was designated for the new dining room/sitting room wing.

Still more problematic, under the current floor plan template, one entered the house from a narrow front foyer ascending to a main level hall that segued to the living room (left), a set of staircases heading in two directions (right), or the kitchen straight ahead.

What lacked, Gallagher said, was a “procession” in which rooms unfold in an orderly, inviting sequence, even as sight lines coax the eye with intriguing visual continuum.

“The structural issue was finding an optimal way raise the front door to the main level of the house,” Gallagher said.

“This would require extending the front foyer eight feet to get past the existing roof overhang. We also needed to redesign the front elevation to better rationalize the difference between the grade at ground-level and the home’s main living area—a distance of about seven feet.”

What evolved was not merely a larger foyer, but an improved and more appropriate architectural context in the form of a spacious, classically apportioned front verandah that surrounds and presents the front entrance to the home.

“We were delighted as the plans for the front elevation began to shape up,” said Marie Torre. “It’s a completely new architectural style, yet perfectly accommodates the square footage we needed to reconfigure the interior of the main living area.”

The resulting interior revolves around two comparatively modest additions — albeit, enclosed spaces that



PHOTOS BY GREG HADLEY

Before: The roof overhang to this circa-1960’s split-level was thought to restrict any practical consideration to re-designing the home’s front elevation. On two occasions, the family hired architects to develop a solution, but nothing feasible resulted.

Circa 1960s split-level reinvented in spacious neoclassical style.

substantially enlarge the home’s main level.

The 44-square-foot foyer now situated on a new front porch is perfectly aligned with a front door that opens directly into a center hall, setting up entry into the living room or kitchen just a few feet beyond.

Meanwhile, the 300-square-feet added on the home’s west side houses a formal dining room and an adjacent rear-of-the house sitting area.

The room includes a two-sided fireplace also visible in the living room. The enlarged kitchen accommodates a custom-designed banquette and multiple storage pantries.

Marie Torre says the gourmet kitchen now in place



At over twice the size of its predecessor, the Torres’ beautifully articulated gourmet kitchen invites a substantial increase in natural light.

provides spaces for all her cooking utensils, even items that used to be stored in the basement. Moreover, replacing the roof over the main living area and raising the roof from eight feet to nine feet makes the room feel substantially larger.

Better yet, the remade rear elevation, which includes a bump-out with three divided light windows and relocated French doors, invites abundant natural light.

“This is really a completely different house,” said Marie Torre, “But one that is much more satisfying to occupy.”

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors tours of recently remodeled homes as well as workshops on home remodeling topics. Headquartered in Burke, the firm maintains a second office in McLean. For information, call 703.425.5588 or visit www.SunDesignInc.com.

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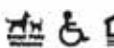
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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

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1/27/2016..... Community Guide
1/27/2016..... Winter Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment;
Valentine’s Preview

FEBRUARY

2/3/2016..... Valentine’s Dining & Gifts I
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Helmet Ordinance Discussed

FROM PAGE 5

volve a traumatic brain injury.

Furthermore, head injuries account for 62 percent of bicycle-related deaths in all age groups. But the risk of a traumatic brain injury increases significantly when helmets are not worn. And even minor head injuries can lead to “post-concussional syndrome,” including persistent neurological symptoms and headaches.

Meanwhile, helmet use has been estimated to reduce head injury by 80 percent and the odds of head, face or neck injury by 33 percent. And child bicycle-related fatalities have decreased 54 percent since 1999.

In 1993, Virginia adopted the enabling legislation paving the way for the creation of bike-helmet ordinances throughout the state. Once placed into law, violations are punishable by a \$25 fine. But the fines are suspended for first-time violators and for those who purchase helmets meeting Consumer Product Commission safety standards before their fines are actually imposed.

If enacted by the City, the ordinance would be enforceable on any highway, sidewalk or public bicycle path. And – when necessary and when funding allows – the Police Department will provide free helmets to City residents who can’t afford them for their children.

Pardiny noted that some 24 jurisdictions across the commonwealth – including the Town of Vienna, the counties of Fairfax, Arlington and Prince William and the cities of Alexandria, Manassas, Falls Church and Manassas Park – have already adopted a bike-helmet ordinance.

He also said that, in the past 10 years, there have been two, reportable, child bike-related, traffic accidents in the City of Fairfax. One was in 2008, and the other, in 2009, and both time, the bicyclist was found to be at fault. One was wearing a helmet and one wasn’t, and both were taken by ambulance for treatment. Pardiny said the disadvantages of a helmet ordinance could be a helmet’s cost, citations could be issued to children, some parents may object and it “could put police officers in an adversarial role with parents.” Regarding the cost, though, he said, “We can give helmets out for free to families who can’t afford them.”

An ordinance’s advantages, he said, are that helmets save lives and prevent injury, eliminate peer pressure, increase bicyclists’ visibility to drivers and would align the City with other jurisdictions in the region. “It could also increase helmet use,” added Pardiny.

He said the Police Department already holds events to teach children bike safety and make sure they’re wearing properly fitted helmets. Basically, said Pardiny, “We’re hoping to keep kids safe, whether through an ordinance or through continued outreach and education. I’d recommend adoption of an ordi-

nance, in conjunction with our continuing education.”

“One life potentially saved makes it worth it for me,” said Silverthorne. “And there are various organizations that offer free helmets. So I think it’s a no-brainer. I think it’s important that we send a positive message to the community that we care about kids’ safety.”

“I concur,” said Councilman David Meyer. “This isn’t punitive and it’s aimed at children’s safety. Some bicycles today are different than those from long ago because gear ratios can allow them to reach higher speeds faster. And there are more cars on the roads today, so there’s a need for greater bicycle safety.”

“Parents set the example, like when putting on a seatbelt,” he continued. “And if this is done, we’ll see less accidents and injuries. So I think a lot of positive results can come from this ordinance.”

Councilwoman Ellie Schmidt asked, “If citations have to be issued, would they go to parents or children?”

“In the event of repeated non-compliance, it would have to go to the child,” replied Pardiny.

“But if a helmet is purchased prior to the case going before a judge, the fine would be waived.” “Would you talk to the parents about the law?” asked Councilman Jeff Greenfield.

“Absolutely,” said Pardiny. “That would be part of our educational campaign before we’d take any punitive action. And we’ve uncovered no problems with the ordinance in other jurisdictions.”

However, Greenfield also worried about children “being afraid of law-enforcement officers because of this ordinance. So I want [officers] to be more focused on child safety-education and talking to parents before pulling out the ticket book.”

Councilwoman Janice Miller said that, usually, younger children wear their helmets because their parents make them, “but those 15 years and up don’t.”

PARDINY said it is always nice to have something “to back you up, if education doesn’t work. The ordinance only covers children 14 and under. And studies indicate that, the younger a child begins to wear a helmet, the more likely he is to continue doing so into his teens and adulthood.”

“I’m concerned about tickets written to children,” said Councilwoman Nancy Loftus. “Could we adopt it without any penalty, at all? We could just tell them wearing a helmet is a law in the City.” Pardiny said he’d have to consult with the City attorney.

And, added Loftus, “The word ‘purchase’ should be replaced by the word ‘acquire’ for those who get a helmet before their case goes to court.”

“I like that, too,” said Silverthorne. “We do have a City program that provides free helmets to children who need them.” The matter will go before the Council at a later date for official action.

“A lot of it is about understanding your experience and core values,” answered Altman. “And I’m excited that GMU is part of this.

I think it’s a great opportunity to have them at the table.

It’s about holding onto the values and spirit of what you are and getting to what you’d like to be.”

“It’s the single, most-important piece of equipment a bicycle rider can have.”

Carl Pardiny, City Police Chief

City Branding Goals Defined

FROM PAGE 7

get information from the recent charrette. We’re making this more about igniting people around ideas, memorable moments, favorite places, etc.”

“The City, by design, is evolving, with changing demographics,” said Councilman Michael DeMarco. “How do you capture that?”

The Fairfax Art League presents the Grand Re-opening Exhibit in The Village Gallery in Fairfax. The opening reception will be Saturday, Jan 23, 7-9 p.m. in The Village Gallery, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax.



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN STARK

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.

THURSDAY/JAN. 14

Art and Lunch. 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Presented by the Fairfax Art League. If attending email knstark72@gmail.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JAN. 15-16

Women of Faith Loved The Farewell Tour. Two-day event. Friday, 7-10 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. EagleBank Arena, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Celebration, stories, humor and hope. Popular speakers, powerful dramas and award-winning music combine for an experience that will resonate with women who need the assurance they are loved. www.WomenofFaith.com. www.ticketmaster.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 16

Comedy and Music. 8 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Our featured performer is Adam Ruben, a writer, comedian, storyteller, and, yes, a molecular biologist! He is the author of *Surviving Your Stupid, Stupid Decision to Go to Grad School*, a satirical guide to the low points and, well, lower points of post-baccalaureate education. His new one-man show, *I Feel Funny: True Stories of Misadventure in Stand-Up Comedy*, premiered at the 2015 Capital Fringe Festival. \$20-\$29. Dan.Kirsch@jccnv.org. 703-537-3075.

Volunteer to Cheer. 5:30-8:30 p.m. Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Special Olympics Virginia’s FANQUEST, needs your help to fill the stands with fans during a fun, family-friendly way to combat stigma and spread unity among youth. Sign up at www.volunteer2cheer.com.

SUNDAY/JAN. 17

Garden Gauge Model Trains. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Washington, Virginia and Maryland Garden Railroad Society will hold their annual G Scale (Garden) Train Show. Free-\$4. www.fairfax-station.org. 703-425-9225.

Washington Wedding Experience. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Eagle Bank Arena, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Find dresses, discover trends, chat with local wedding professionals, etc. <http://weddingexperience.com/show.html?show.id=4236>.

Washington Balalaika Society in Concert. 2 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Music of Russia, Ukraine, and Eastern Europe on traditional Russian folk instruments - the balalaika, domra, bayan, and related folk wind and percussion instruments. \$14-\$24. Dan.Kirsch@jccnv.org. 703-537-3075.

THURSDAY/JAN. 21

Genealogist Barry J. MacDonald. 7-8:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Meet local author and genealogist Barry MacDonald, who for nearly 40 years has traced his remarkable family tree through six centuries and two continents, including colonial New England and Virginia. Hear amazing family stories and get great advice to begin your own research. Adults and teens. 703-978-5600.

Fairfax Antique Arts Association. 10 a.m. Green Acres Senior Center, 4401 Sideburn Fairfax. historian Mary Lipsey with her latest talk “Escaping Detection During the Civil War.” Non-members welcome. Free. 703-273-6090.

FRIDAY/JAN. 22

Old Town Hall Performance Series-Beau Soir Ensemble.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

ENTERTAINMENT

A Night of Laughter and Jazz

Talented comic and music artists appearing at Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia.

By DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Warm up an expected cold January night with spirited youthful stand-up comedy and sparkling live jazzy music from two up-and-comers in the D.C. area. It promises to be a unique evening of melded performance from emerging artists with their own innovative entertainment notions.

"Our annual comedy night is a favorite with our patrons," said Dan Kirsch, Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia (JCCNV) cultural arts director. Kirsch went on to note he expects audiences will be "blown away" at the work of comedian Adam Ruben and jazz musician Victor Haskins.

In interviews, Haskins and Ruben agreed their joint performance will "transcend demographics so it has a universal appeal." Both aim to shift audiences away from the mundane of their day-to-day world.

Ruben is more than a comedian. He teaches storytelling with the D.C. area's well-regarded "Story District." He writes a humor column "Experimental Error" for the journal Science; has made appearances on the Food Network, the Science Channel, the Travel Channel, and NPR's "All Things Considered." He is the author of the satirical "Surviving Your Stupid, Stupid Decision to Go to Grad



Comedian Adam Ruben



Jazz musician Victor Haskins

School."

At 23 years old Haskins is a world-class trumpet player and composer/arranger. He is the originator of "ImproviStory," a concept in which storytelling drives the creation of improvised music springing from audience interactions. He has released an album of original compositions, The Truth. He has been the director of jazz outreach for the performing arts, National Symphony Orchestra Education Department.

Ruben indicated he wanted people to look away from their digital devices and their daily grind. "I'd like the audience to come away thinking about one aspect of life in a slightly different

Where and When

"Comedy & Music Night with Adam Ruben and Victor Haskins" at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia (JCCNV), 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Performance on Saturday, Jan. 17, at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$24 adults, JCCNV members & seniors (65+), \$20 under 30. All tickets include one beverage. Tickets \$20-\$29. Call 703-537-3000 or visit www.jccnvarts.org

way. That's the goal of most art, and it's simultaneously a little bit and a lot to ask for."

Haskins invited patrons this way: "Experience something you've (probably) never experienced previously—contributing both your ideas and imaginative energies to be a part of an extemporaneously created musical performance."

The JCCNV event isn't expected to be an evening "to just sit back and listen; for the audience will take part in its creation," added Haskins. "Come out for a night of laughter and creating music that you will have a hand in creating, and follow that with getting to share a lot of laughs!"

Be ready for a performance where little is to be taken too seriously, while experiencing an evening where you get to contribute, too.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Flute, viola, and harp trio.

Aquila Theatre: "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes." 8 p.m. GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Literature's legendary sleuth, from the brilliant mind of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, takes our stage in this riveting tale of mystery, suspense, and intrigue that will leave you on the edge of your seat. \$26-\$44. cfa.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/JAN. 23
Winter Bash! 7-9 p.m. Jewish

Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Electra Entertainment is bringing you the second annual Winter Bash. Featuring live DJs, stunning light shows, green screens, prizes and more. \$10, \$15. Barri.DeFrancisci@jccnv.org. 703-537-3037.

"When Did the Civil War End?" 2-4 p.m. Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Local author William Connery will speak on the Confederate Navy and the last Confederate raider, the CSS Shenandoah followed by book sale and signing of Civil War books. 703-591-0560.

The Band of the Royal Marines: Featuring the Pipes, Drums and

Highland Dancers of the Scots Guards. 2, 8 p.m. GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Two of Great Britain's most respected military musical institutions take the stage in full regalia, bringing to life the magnificent pageantry of British tradition and history. \$31-\$52. cfa.gmu.edu.

Art Reception. 7-9 p.m. The Village Greenery, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax. This exhibit will include paintings by the artists of the Fairfax Art League and will feature a solo show of work by artist Kathleen Stark entitled "My Life and Art." Free. 703-587-9481.

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WSHS Grad Robinson Moving Up Duquesne Scoring List

Senior has Dukes off to best start in program history.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

April Robinson began her Duquesne women's basketball career as a quiet freshman playing significant minutes while trying to fit in with a team full of upperclassmen.

Three years later, the 2012 West Springfield graduate has matured into a confident leader who continues building her case to be considered one of the best to ever wear a Dukes uniform.

On Jan. 7, Robinson returned to Fairfax County as Duquesne, located in Pittsburgh, traveled to George Mason for an Atlantic 10 Conference contest. Robinson finished with 11 points, seven assists and three rebounds, helping the Dukes defeat the Patriots 72-56.

ROBINSON, who won three district championships, one region title and made three state playoff appearances during her four years at West Springfield, said she's a different player than she was early in her college career.

"I have a little bit more confidence," she said. "As a team, we have a lot of momentum. Just to play in front of my family and all my friends, it's a great feeling. We ended up coming out with the win. Probably wasn't the prettiest game, but a win is a win. ... The biggest thing I tried to change is my leadership role. We have a young group of girls, a lot of freshmen, just trying to get them on the same page and show them what Duquesne is all about."

With her 11-point performance against George Mason, Robinson moved into 11th place on the program's all-time scoring list with 1,309 points, leaving her three points shy of the top 10 and 136 short of the top five.

"Honestly, stats don't really matter, it's just going out every day and giving it your greatest effort and just playing a good game," Robinson said. "Yeah, it's a good feeling, but we've still got a lot of work to do and my main goal right now is just to win the Atlantic 10 championship and go to the NAAs [and] make school his-

April Robinson and the Duquesne women's basketball team are focused on trying to qualify for the NCAA Tournament for the first time in program history.

PHOTO BY
CRAIG STERBUTZEL
THE CONNECTION



tory."

While Robinson downplayed her statistical accomplishments, it's hard to ignore her numbers. Despite shooting 0-for-8 and going scoreless against Fordham three days later, the 5-foot-8 point guard was still second on the team in scoring through 16 games at 13.7 points per contest. She was also first in assists (8.1) and tied for third in rebounding (6.3).

"She's our catalyst," third-year head coach Dan Burt said. "We go as she goes. She is the person that stirs the drink."

Burt was an assistant under Suzie McConnell-Serio when Robinson was a freshman during the 2012-13 season. Burt took over as Duquesne head coach in 2013 when McConnell-Serio, the 2004 WNBA Coach of the Year with the Minnesota Lynx, took the head coaching job at the University of Pittsburgh.

"[Robinson] was as quiet as a country mouse as a freshman on a team of all upperclassmen that was a very talented team and she started every game and understood her role," Burt said. "At the end of the year, our head coach left and [Robinson] had many opportunities to leave, and I'm sure she had a lot of people behind the scenes that were trying to talk her into that, [but] she was loyal and she stayed. As a sophomore, she really found her voice and began to lead. As a junior, she clearly became our catalyst."

"... She's done everything in a professional manner since the moment she arrived on our campus. I can't think of a practice that she has taken off. I can't think of her ever being disrespectful or taking a play off. April is the consummate professional and I think that's why once she's done with us, she'll be a very good professional player and then after that as a coach."

While Robinson will be remembered for her individual success, No. 32 can cement her legacy by

helping lead the Dukes to unprecedented heights as a team. Duquesne's 55-40 victory over Fordham on Jan. 10 in Pittsburgh improved the Dukes' record to 15-1 — the best start in program history — and extended their program-record win streak to 14 games.

DUQUESNE was ranked in the USA Today/Coaches Top 25 Poll for the first time in program history this week. The Dukes are ranked No. 25, tied with DePaul.

Robinson and the Dukes have their sights set on what would be another program first: qualifying for the NCAA Tournament.

"I said it [to Robinson] before the beginning of the year: you've already had a hall of fame career," Burt said. "You want to hang your jersey in the rafters — and we only have two people who have hung their jersey — you get us to the NCAA Tournament and your jersey goes in the rafters, and she's deserving of that."

Korie Hlede (1995-98), the program's all-time leading scorer with 2,631 points and a the No. 4 pick in the 1998 WNBA draft, and Beth Friday (2000-03), Duquesne's seventh all-time leading scorer with 1,410 points, have their jerseys hanging in the Duquesne rafters.

Duquesne will return to Robinson's home state in late January. The Dukes will take on Richmond at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 28, and will face VCU at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 31. The Atlantic 10 tournament is March 2-6 in Richmond. "A lot of people had their doubts about us, but I think we're making a name for our university," Robinson said, "and we're playing our best basketball right now and hopefully it continues." After initially downplaying her statistical accomplishments, Robinson said she will have fond memories of her success.

"I can tell my kids one day," she said.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Hayfield gymnast Molly Overstreet won the bars competition during a meet at Oakton High School on Jan. 9.

Hayfield Gymnast Overstreet Returns for Senior Season

Two-time state champ consider quitting due to back pain.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Molly Overstreet's back pain was severe enough that the two-time state champion didn't know if she would compete during her senior season.

Overstreet, who won a state vault championship as a freshman and captured the state bars title with a VHSL record score of 9.925 as a sophomore, endured constant back pain caused by a long career in gymnastics. As a junior, she continued to battle and managed to win a region title on bars and qualify for states in the all-around. After states on March 8, however, she decided to take a rest.

A lengthy rest.

"She landed ... whatever her last routine at state was and didn't do any gymnastics until November," said Hayfield assistant coach Kristin Overstreet, Molly's mom.

Overstreet was a member of the Hayfield cheer team in the fall. After roughly eight months away from gymnastics, she had a choice to make.

"Originally, right when cheer ended, she said, 'I'm not doing

it, I'm not doing it, I'm not doing it,'" Kristin Overstreet said. "I let her say that for a while, but then it just went back to it's her senior year, it's her last year, it's her last opportunity [and] we're going to have a good team this year ..."

Overstreet decided to return to the gymnastics team this year, and so far, it's been an enjoyable decision.

"I realized it's my senior year," she said, "why not do [gymnastics] one last time?"

Competing in their first meet of the season on Nov. 30 at Mount Vernon High School, the Hawks won as a team for the first time in the program's five-year history.

Hayfield gymnasts let out joyous screams when the results were announced. Head coach Shelly Pennow cried and texted her family. The accomplishment was announced over the loudspeaker at school.

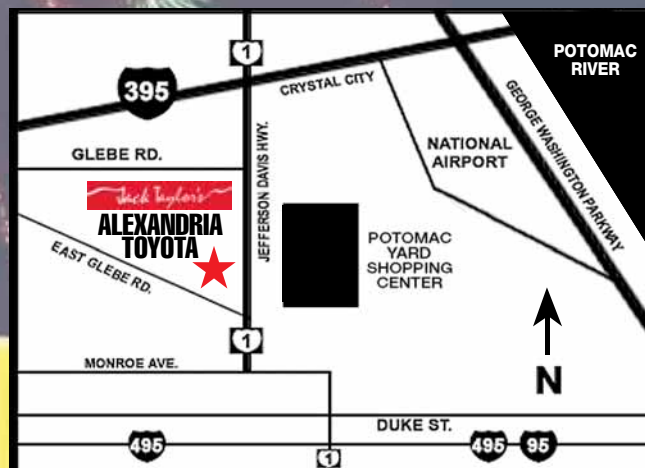
"It was awesome," Molly Overstreet said.

On Jan. 9, Hayfield competed at a four-team meet at Oakton High School. The Hawks finished third with a score of 134.4, falling 1.2 points shy of second-place Oakton. Yorktown

SEE OVERSTREET, PAGE 15

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
CONTROL (ABC) FOR A
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Premises and Mixed Beverage
license to sell or manufacture
alcoholic beverages, Sam
Shoja, 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.

ABC LICENSE
H Mart Burke LLC trading as H Mart, 9550 Burke Rd. Burke, VA 22015. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Ilyeon Kwon, owner
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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According to the Lease by and between Daniel Beach (of unit 3046) 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, stereo, computer, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday January 22, 2016 @ 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 Jennifer Johnson (of unit 3112) 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: painting, nightstand, boxes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday January 22, 2016 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE PERMIT

PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF CLIFTON PLANNING COMMISSION

January 26, 2016

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 7:30 P.M. at the Acacia Lodge Hall, 7135 Main Street, Clifton, VA 20124 to consider a requested special use permit for the Peterson's Ice Cream Depot, located at 7150 Main Street, which would include an expansion of the existing use, including, but not limited to, the increase in number of seats; an increase in parking; an expansion of the hours of operation; an increase in employees, from the previous special use permit. The application for the changed special use permit is available for review and downloading on the Town's website at www.clifton-va.com and a hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend the Planning Commission's public hearing and express their views with respect to the requested special use permit of Peterson's Ice Cream Depot.

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NEWS



PVI Student-Athletes Sign to College Teams

Seventeen student-athletes from Paul VI Catholic High School in Fairfax recently signed letters of intent to play collegiate sports. Pictured, First Row: Jasmine Whitney (Pittsburgh Basketball), Raven James (Villanova Basketball), Maddie Aker (George Mason Softball), Nick Ancona (Wagner Lacrosse), Michael McCormick (Gettysburg Lacrosse), Adam Baker (Mount St. Mary's Lacrosse). Second Row: Luke Davies (VMI Lacrosse), Jack Cunningham (Boston College Baseball), Clayton Baine (Radford Baseball), Michael Coritz (Naval Academy Baseball), Devon Adams (ODU Baseball), Tim Dickson (Delaware Valley Lacrosse). Back Row: Hannah Kurisky (Fairfield University Lacrosse), VJ King (Louisville Basketball), Corey Manigault (Pittsburgh Basketball), Kevin Kelly (James Madison University Baseball), Brooke Stanley (Winthrop Volleyball).

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAYS/DEC. 3-FEB. 3

Grief Support Group. 10:30 a.m.-noon. Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. The Clifton Presbyterian Church is offering to the church and community a Grief Support Group for those who have experienced a recent death and loss in their lives. This group will offer a safe and supportive place for participants to explore ways to walk the journey of grief and to "wrestle" with difficult, and sometimes unanswerable, questions. Dec. 3, 10, 17; Jan. 7, 12, 21, 28; Feb. 3.

office@cliftonpc.org. 703-830-3175.

THURSDAY/JAN. 14

How to Get the Best from Your Cable Company. 7-8:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Having trouble with your cable services? Learn how to deal with cable service problems like outages, blurry screens and frustrating customer service. Learn tips to save money, file complaints and make your community safer from an expert. Adults. 703-978-5600.

What to Look for in a Facility. 3 p.m. Insight Memory Care, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Learn what questions to ask, what to look for on a visit, and how to make choosing a residential facility easier. RSVP. 703-204-4664. InsightMCC.org.

Overstreet

FROM PAGE 12

won the event with a score of 144.2. Unlike previous years, Overstreet isn't the only Hayfield gymnast experiencing success.

"It's been good for overall team confidence," Pennow said. "It gives the less-experienced girls something to strive for. It gives them all a little bit more confidence and they're really pushing each other because they can see they have an actual shot at doing really well at conference as a team and it's not just about Molly this year."

Overstreet finished second in the all-around on Saturday with a total of 37.2, one-tenth of a point behind Yorktown freshman Julia Hays. Overstreet won the

bars competition with a score of 9.75, and placed second on beam (9.3) and third on floor (9.4) and vault (8.75).

"She's not there yet but I feel like she's getting there, maybe even a little bit quicker than last year," Kristin Overstreet said. "She's got a little bit of a fire in her." Hayfield's Jessica Combs finished seventh in the all-around (34.15), Raquel Pauly took ninth (33.05) and Rachel Wake finished 11th (28). Combs tied for second on beam (9.3) and finished sixth on vault (8.6).

Hayfield will compete in a meet at Mount Vernon at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 21. The Conference 6 meet is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Feb. 5 at Washington-Lee.



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Gorgeous home on over an acre * 3 finished levels * 2-story entry foyer * Huge kitchen w/island, Corian counters, desk * Sunroom off family room w/double doors to deck * Fireplace in family room * Lovely master suite w/tray ceilings * Master bath features soaking tub, separate shower, double sinks & enormous walk-in closet w/washer, dryer area * Finished LL w/rec room, wet bar, den, full bath & storage areas.

Call Judy at 703-917-7127



DIANE SUNDT

703-615-4626

Military Relocation Specialist



Lake Ridge

\$259,900

Beautifully updated 3 bedroom townhome backing to a lush common area. Newer kitchen with granite countertops, stainless steel appliances. Walk out basement with a large rec room & a rough in for another bathroom. Plenty of parking. Many amenities.

Call Diane at 703-615-4626.



John & Jennifer Boyce

703-425-JOHN (5646)

jennifer.boyce@longandfooster.com

www.425JOHN.com



Warrenton

\$510,000

Modern Luxuries paired with Historic Charming Vint Hill Community. Gorgeous 3,800+sf. Community Amenities - Pools, Ball Parks, Movie Theater, Café, Brewery, Winery, Marketplace, and Dog Park.



DAVID & VIRGINIA

Associate Brokers

703-967-8700

www.BillupsTeam.com



N. Arlington

Clarendon

\$965,000

Walk to Clarendon Metro! Spacious 6 BR, 4 Bath colonial w/ 2 car garage! Minutes to DC! Main floor master BR. 2nd MBR on upper level. Sun room. Updated Kitchen & baths! www.1700KirkwoodRoad.info



Fairfax Station

Crosspointe

\$724,900

New Listing! Exquisite Pulte Hawthorne model located on a premium wooded lot! Spectacular kitchen renovation! Inviting screened porch! Library with gas fpl & view of nature! www.8396CrosslakeDrive.info



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Your Local Father/Daughter Team!

703-503-1866 or 703-503-1835

TheJordanTeam@longandfooster.com

www.TheJordanTeam.com



Bull Run Mountain

\$339,900

2.07 acres. Well-built 3 bedroom/2.5 bath brick rambler*full walkout basement*2 fpl*fresh paint/new appliances*large decks*2 large skylights*large rec room and den/study/bedroom on lower level*area for garage/patio.

Buzz Jordan 703-850-4501



Sheila Adams
703-503-1895

Life Member, NVAR Multi-Million Dollar Sales Club

Life Member, NVAR TOP PRODUCERS



Fairfax

\$539,900

Lovely Split-Level with huge Sun Room addition. Three Bedrooms, 2 1/2 Baths. Finished Lower Level Rec Room with brick fireplace. Located in a quiet Cul-De-Sac.

Call Sheila Adams, 703-503-1895



Carol L. Manning, Associate Broker

NVAR Multi-Million Dollar Club | NVAR Top Producer

703.517.1828 | Email: ContactCarol@LNF.com

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Kathy.odonnell@LNF.com



Clifton

\$1,125,000

This fantastic home is situated on 5 acres near historic Clifton. Custom details throughout include hardwood floors, decorative molding, window-filled rooms and 3 fireplaces. The professionally landscaped yard surrounds several outdoor living areas and the pool, great for entertaining.



Catie, Steve & Associates

Direct: 703-278-9313

Cell: 703-362-2591

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Multi-Million Dollar Sales Club



Fairfax

\$364,900

Count your blessings by finding this 3 bedroom/2.5 bath heavenly townhouse sited on a quiet street. Features include a brand new kitchen with all new appliances, a large rec room with bonus room/den, a great-sized dining room overlooking a gracious living room w/picture window, plus a knock your socks off trex pa80. New windows, bathrooms, and HVAC too! It's all been done. An absolute MUST SEE!

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