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On Wednesday, March 2, eight senior resident volunteers from Greenspring retirement community visited Crestwood Elementary School in Springfield in honor of National Read Across America Day and Dr. Seuss Day. The residents, donning miniature "Cat in the Hat" hats, read Dr. Seuss books to students from kindergarten through third grades.

Reading Dr. Seuss at Crestwood Elementary

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Commission Recognizes Outstanding Women in Fairfax County Government

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Edwyna Wingo of the Chantilly area began her career with Fairfax County as a nurse in the Health Department on Sep. 1, 1965 and worked her last full day Oct. 1, 2011.

Wingo graduated from the University of Virginia nursing school in 1964 and decided she didn't much care for rotating and night shifts. Looking for a more regular schedule, she found work in "Home Health," providing health services for individuals outside the hospital.

"The bug of public health really stuck," she said. "And I was on the cutting edge of public health back then. Home visits, community clinics, I did it all. And I never gave up on my love of patient care."

Wingo now works as part-time on special projects for the Fairfax County Health Department, including a car seat program for families whose income is low enough to make them eligible. She started with the project four years ago and said to date thousands of car seats have been given out.

Wingo is the longest-tenured of 12 women honored by the Fairfax County Commission for Women on March 1, Super Tuesday, at the Government Center prior to the Board of Supervisors regular meeting.

"I was absolutely floored when I got the email," Wingo said. "Fairfax County has been very dear to me. I've had opportunities in Fairfax County with the Health Department."

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova spoke to the group before moving into the Board's auditorium to begin the regular business meeting.

The Chairman opened with her response when people ask her what the obstacles were to her achieving her success in public elected office.

"I've benefitted from years of wonderful leadership of women in Fairfax County," Bulova said, referencing the late Jean Packard, the first woman to serve as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Audrey Moore and Kate Hanley.

"They've paved the way for me," Bulova continued. Then transitioning and acknowledging the 12 women being recognized by the Commission, she thanked them each for "your knowledge, and the way you served Fairfax County."

Eleven women, each having spent 40 years or more with Fairfax County govern-



Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova addresses the Fairfax County Commission for Women recognition program.

"I've benefited from years of wonderful leadership of women in Fairfax County."

—Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova

Laura Sizemore, a junior at Lake Braddock Secondary School and in her second year as the student representative to the Fairfax County Commission for Women, was in the audience for the recognition ceremony.

"I bring the perspective of teenagers to the commission," Sizemore said, "I know the school side of issues like dress code and sexual harassment."



Lake Braddock Secondary School junior Laura Sizemore is the student representative to the Fairfax County Commission for Women.



Pat Harrison is Deputy County Executive for Human Services and spoke on behalf of the Commission for Women during the proclamation ceremony with the Board of Supervisors recognizing March as Women's History Month.



Donna Bird a business analyst for Special Projects with the Department of Public Safety Communications.



Pat Burton is a management analyst II with Department of Cable and Consumer Services.



Beth Imming is a public health nurse II with the Department of Public Health, Annandale office.



Linda O'Brien is an administrative assistant III with the Reston District Station of the Fairfax County Police Department.



Mary Rezzarday-White is currently library assistant II for youth services in the Fairfax City Regional Library.



Doris Robey is a manager in the Department of Tax Administration, Personal Property and Business License division.



Nancy Stallings is an investigator for the Departments of Planning and Zoning, and Code Compliance.



Deanna Velasco is an administrative assistant IV in the Department of Family Services, Self Sufficiency Division, Fraud and Investigation Unit.



Edwyna Wingo works as a public health Nurse II with the Department of Public Health.



Susan Woodruff retired Jan. 21, 2016, as Director of the Department of Human Resources.

ment, represented a collective 433 years of service.

The 12th, Deputy County Executive for Human Services Pat Harrison, was scheduled to speak on behalf of the Commission for Women during a proclamation ceremony with the Board of Supervisors recognizing March as Women's History Month.

To see the 12 women honored for their vast careers with Fairfax County, Sizemore said it inspires her to work hard and do what she wants with her life, "not what people want me to do," she said.

The junior said computer science is a big passion and she plans to pursue a career in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or government.

Alexandria Man Charged with Assault after Police Barricade Incident

Alexandria resident Sayed Robbie Javid was charged with assaulting a police officer and falsely summoning police after an incident at his home on Larkspur Drive escalated into a barricade situation.

The 19-year-old first called 9-1-1 a few minutes before 5 p.m. on March 2, claiming there was an unwanted person in his home. When officers approached the house, Fairfax County Police said in a news release, someone from inside the home fired a weapon in their direction. Neither officers nor any area residents were hit, and a barricade was declared.

Detectives later determined Javid had initially fired rounds from a starter revolver that emits a flash and smoke from the muzzle, as well as a repeating explosion sound that is identical to firing a real bullet.

“Based on these elements,” a release from Fairfax County Police said, “officers’ instincts were to find immediate cover and safety, as they believed the pistol they saw and sounds they heard were from a real firearm.”

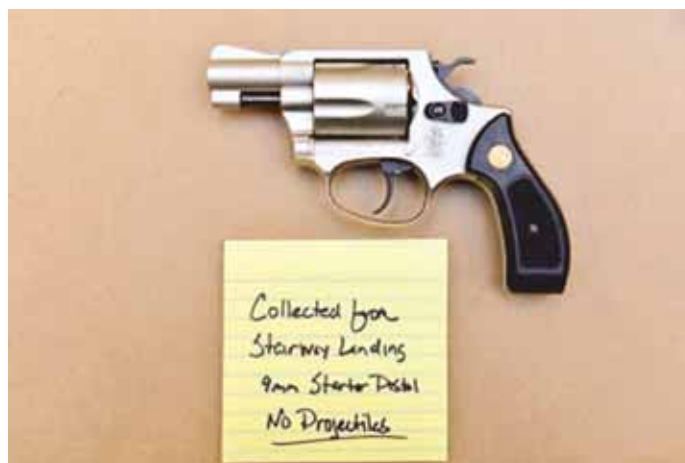
Police set up a perimeter around the house, summoned a SWAT team, crisis negotiators, the police helicopter Fairfax 1 and the K9 dog unit.

The department’s public information bureau began spreading information about the



Sayed Robbie Javid, 19, of Alexandria.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF
FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE



The starter pistol police allege was in Sayed Robbie Javid’s possession.

event through social media, letting people know Franconia Road was shutting down in both directions from South Van Dorn Street to Beulah street, and that residents should stay inside their homes while the situation was being resolved.

Javid came out of his home around 6:15 p.m., police said, armed with at least one weapon. When he initially refused commands to surrender, police brought him down with a round from a beanbag shotgun and apprehended him with the K9 unit. Police referred to this method as “less-lethal force.”

The young man sustained minor injuries, police said, and was taken to a local hospi-

tal before continuing on the the Adult Detention Center.

A search of the house resulted in several other, larger pellet guns police are saying were in Javid’s possession.

At 9 a.m. that morning, police responded to the house because of an argument between a father and son that turned physical. The father was charged with assaulting a family member. Detectives believe the evening’s incident may have been related to the earlier altercation.

Javid is being held on no bond at the Fairfax County jail.

—TIM PETERSON

Matthew Takes on Four More Life Sentences with Guilty Plea for Murders

Jesse L. Matthew, Jr., now 34, will never leave prison. Matthew was already beginning to serve three consecutive life sentences after he entered an Alford Plea for charges of abduction, sexual assault and attempted murder in Fairfax in 2005.

On March 2, Matthew chose to plead guilty to First Degree Murder and Abduction with Intent to Defile related to the deaths of Hannah Graham and Morgan Harrington, both college students at the time, a release from the Albemarle County Commonwealth’s Attorney said.

Harrington was a 20-year-old sophomore at Virginia Tech who disappeared from a 2009 Metallica concert in Charlottesville, Va. Graham, a Mount Vernon resident, was in her second year at the University of Virginia when she went missing in September 2014.

Matthew was indicted in Graham’s case in spring 2015 and for Harrington’s defil-



Matthew

ing and death in the fall.

With Matthew’s guilty plea, he takes on an additional four consecutive life sentences and waives the right to release or parole for geriatric or any other condition, as well as any right to appeal.

“This resolution serves the interests of justice by ensuring the defendant will never again pose a threat to public safety,”

Albemarle County Commonwealth’s Attorney Robert N. Tracci said in a statement.

“It is consistent with the wishes of the Graham and Harrington families,” Tracci continued, “and provides a measure of legal finality in cases that would have been subject to highly public trials and protracted appellate review. The agreement can be attributed to the outstanding work of law enforcement personnel and volunteers who made Hannah and Morgan’s cause their own.”

—TIM PETERSON



Reading Dr. Seuss at Crestwood Elementary

On Wednesday, March 2, eight senior resident volunteers from Greenspring retirement community visited Crestwood Elementary School in Springfield in honor of National Read Across America Day and Dr. Seuss Day. The residents, donning miniature “Cat in the Hat” hats, read Dr. Seuss books to students from kindergarten through third grades. Many of the Greenspring residents who regularly volunteer at area schools had former careers as teachers or educational specialists.



It Takes a Village

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When speaking with Kathy Albarado, one might not guess that she'd experienced periods of homelessness as an adolescent. Her success, confidence and ability to inspire others are readily apparent. However, her childhood experiences have given her insight into the magnitude of the problem with homelessness in Fairfax County.

"I was in and out of transitional housing," said Albarado, who is now president and CEO of Helios HR, a Reston-based human capital management consulting and talent acquisition firm. "Transitional housing bridges the gap. It helps [homeless people] get back on their feet."

It is that first-hand knowledge that led Albarado and Helios HR to the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness "Build a Village Campaign," a collaboration of local chambers of commerce, businesses, faith groups, non-profit organizations and individuals dedicated to raising awareness and funds to benefit the county's homeless community.

"As my husband says, 'the fall is not that far.' Some people are one paycheck or one illness away from being homeless and we've got the resources in this county to change that," said Albarado. "Fairfax County is one of the most affluent counties in the country. Even if we have one homeless person, it's one too many."

One hundred percent of the funds raised for the Build a Village Campaign will be directed to help end veteran homelessness and house homeless individuals being served through the county's Hypothermia Prevention Program, which provides shelter during freezing temperatures. The hypothermia shelters operate from November through March and have a policy of not turning away anyone in need during freezing temperatures.

"We have been out trying to identify veterans as quickly as possible and house them within 90 days from when we identify them," said Dean Klein, director of the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. "The money we raise will provide case management, housing assistance and medical or dental resources."

The campaign was launched in December 2015 and Klein says they hope to reach their goal of \$100,000 by the end of March. "We're trying to reduce as quickly as possible the number of people who are homeless and prevent more people from becoming homeless," said Klein. "This campaign



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HELIOS HR

Employees of Helios HR volunteer for Cornerstones, Inc. in Reston which provides support for those in need. Such charitable efforts help create an awareness of the extent of homelessness in the community and breaks stereotypes about homeless people.

"We're trying to reduce as quickly as possible the number of people who are homeless and prevent more people from becoming homeless."

— Dean Klein, director, Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness.

will help us to reach our goals and engage as many people and companies as possible to make this happen."

The way the program works is that local chambers of commerce, businesses, faith groups, non-profit organizations and individuals from Fairfax-Falls Church build virtual houses one brick at a time. Giving levels range from \$25 for a single brick to \$500 for a virtual door to \$5,000 for a virtual house. The Build a Village campaign will run through March 2016.

"It is an issue that the business community feels offers an important opportunity to assist," said Jim Corcoran, president and

Campaign designed to end homelessness in Fairfax County.

Build a Village Campaign

- ❖ \$25 buys a Brick
- ❖ \$250 buys a Gate, Window or Chimney
- ❖ \$500 buys the Door
- ❖ \$1,000 buys the Roof
- ❖ \$5,000 builds each Virtual House

To donate or get more information, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/build-a-village/>

lunches to the shelter's residents.

Making a personal connection with those in need is a benefit that Albarado believes will resonate with her staff and one that she hopes other volunteers will experience. "It made us feel good to see and meet the people we were helping," she said. "It's important to build awareness, because when people are aware they are more likely to get engaged and get involved."

In addition to donating money, personal involvement with non-profit organizations like Cornerstones, Inc. in Reston which provides support for those in need of human services such as food, shelter and childcare, helps create an awareness of the extent of homelessness in the community and breaks stereotypes about homeless people.

Meeting people who were helped by the donations and volunteer efforts has had a profound effect on Natalie O'Laughlin, communications manager at Helios HR. "We've been able to meet the individuals who have benefited from the programs and hear their stories, which are heartwarming, and give you a better idea of who is affected," she said.

In addition to donating to the Build a Village Campaign, Albarado hopes that community members will give of their time, which in turn, she believes, will encourage others to make financial contributions. "Volunteering with these non-profits is more effective than reading stats because people don't connect with statistics," she said. "But when you meet the people who are impacted by your work, it's really powerful."



Kathy Albarado cleans an apartment as a volunteer for Cornerstones, Inc. Her company, Helios HR, has joined the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness "Build a Village Campaign."

CEO of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

The county is on a trajectory to reach the goal by the end of the month. "We've had very good response since our launch," said Glynda Mayo Hall, Partnership Development manager of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. "Our governing board has also stepped up to their leadership."

Albarado's staff at Helios HR in Reston has volunteered with nonprofits that offer support to the homeless like the Reston-based Embury Rucker Community Shelter, which provides emergency housing for families and single men and women. Among the volunteer efforts designed to help the homeless in Fairfax County, Helios employees assembled and delivered bagged

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.

An Easter Cantata, "Risen," will be presented at **Jubilee Christian Center** on Easter Sunday, March 27, 8:45 and 11 a.m. services. The center is located at 4650 Shirley Gate Road,

Fairfax. There is no Easter Sunday evening service. Call 703-383-1170, or see www.jccag.org.

Lenten Soup Supper. Fridays from Feb. 26-March 18. 5:30-7 p.m. will be offered at **Holy Spirit School** Cafeteria, 8800 Braddock Road, Annandale. Meatless soup suppers on Fridays during Lent, followed by the Stations of the Cross in the Church at 7 p.m. Free. Contact Lambie Renner, lrenner@holyspiritchurch.us.

Time to Spring Forward

Daylight Saving Time begins this Sunday, March 13, at 2 a.m. So before going to bed Saturday night, make sure to turn all clocks, watches and the time on electronic devices forward one hour.

'The Little Mermaid Jr.' at Kings Glen Elementary

Kings Glen ES in Springfield presents "The Little Mermaid Jr." on March 15-17. With only a week left until the curtain rises, the Kings' Jesters afterschool theater club students, staff and volunteers are busy practicing dances, memorizing lines, painting sets, and sewing costumes all in preparation for one week of performances. The Kings' Jesters club is an auditioned group of 80 students that meets three days per week from October through March under the direction of Ashton Streavig. The show will be performed for the community at 7 p.m. with first-come first-served seating in the school gymnasium. Tickets cost \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door. Call 703-239-4000 to reserve your tickets today.

Lee High Library Seeks Book Donations

The Robert E. Lee High School Library is accepting donations of gently used books for its annual book sale through April 2016. All types of books are welcome—fiction, nonfiction, children's books, cookbooks, college textbooks and more. All proceeds will go toward new materials and computers for students. For further information or to make a delivery, contact the library at 703-924-8370.

NOVA-Medical Education Campus to Offer Free Dental Services

The Medical Education Campus of Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) is partnering with the Northern Virginia Dental Society to provide free dental services for low-income residents of Northern Virginia. Mission of Mercy, also known as "M.O.M.," is a two-day event that offers high-quality dental care to 700 to 1,000 local patients between Friday and Saturday, March 11 and 12, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To make an appointment call the Northern Virginia Dental Society at 703-642-5297.

NOVA's Medical Education Campus is located at 6699 Springfield Center Drive, Springfield. Parking is available on the first level of the parking garage in spaces marked Visitor.

NOVA dental hygiene students will work with dentists, hygienists, dental assistants and other a community volunteers who volunteer their time to provide services that include examinations, fluoride treatments and prophylaxis (teeth polishing).

To volunteer as a dental professional or as an interpreter, please contact NVDS at nvds.org.



St. Patrick's Celebration

**Corned Beef and Cabbage
Guinness Pot Roast and a Pint**
Thursday, March 17




Easter Brunch Buffet

Sunday, March 27th
Seatings: 10:00 am, 11:30 am,
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6138 Redwood Square Centre, Suite 204, Centreville, VA 20121

Bringing Back the Electric Chair

In a word: Barbaric.

No doubt Virginia and Texas will be the last two states to continue with the death penalty until, in evitably, evolving standards of decency lead the U.S. Supreme Court to declare that the death penalty is unconstitutional.

But fear of loss has motivated the Virginia General Assembly to amend a law that allows prisoners facing execution to choose between lethal injection and the electric chair so that the electric chair is used if drugs for lethal injection are not available.

It's barbaric, and execution debacles with electrocution and unproven drugs for lethal injection could speed overall rejection of the death penalty.

Most representatives from our area voted against, but in the House of Delegates, which voted 62-33 for the electric chair, Dave Albo, Jim LeMunyon and Vivian Watts voted in favor; Tim Hugo didn't vote but registered that he intended to vote yes. (Voting no were Jennifer Boysko, David Bulova, Eileen Filler-Corn, Charniele Herring, Patrick Hope, Mark Keam, Paul Krizek, Mark Levine, Alfonso Lopez, Bob

Marshall, Ken Plum, Mark Sickles, Marcus Simon and Rip Sullivan. Kathleen Murphy didn't vote but registered that she intended to vote no.)

The Virginia Senate voted for the electric chair 22-17. From our area, only Dick Saslaw voted in favor of the electric chair. Voting no were George Barker, Adam Ebbin, Barbara Favola, Janet Howell, Dave Marden, Chap Petersen, Scott Surovell and Jennifer Wexton.

EDITORIAL

Residents of the 35th Senate District could rightfully question whether they are getting the repre-

sentation they expect from Senator Saslaw (D), who without doubt will continue to be reelected until he chooses to retire. Saslaw voted for mandatory use of the electric chair if lethal injection drugs are not available, worked to kill legislation that would protect consumers from predatory lending and interest rates of more than 200 percent, and was chief patron of the notorious proffer bill, which, if signed by Gov. Terry McAuliffe as passed, will result in localities losing the ability to temper costs of development and likely property tax increases.

Making Good Choices On Saint Patrick's Day

Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), will offer the 2016 St. Patty's Day SoberRide program, providing free cab rides to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area next Thursday, March 17.

SoberRide will be available for 12 hours starting 4 p.m. on St. Patrick's Day and continuing until 4 a.m. on Friday, March 18 as a way to help keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

Make your own plans to celebrate safely by having a designated driver, celebrating where you can take public transportation or spend the night. But if those plans go awry, area residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI (8294) for a no-cost (up to a \$30 fare), safe way home.

For more information, visit www.soberride.com.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

A Step Backwards for Virginia

Virginia New American leaders respond to the nomination of Ken Cuccinelli for the State Supreme Court.

Today (March 8), the Virginia Senate Republican Caucus nominated former attorney general and 2013 gubernatorial candidate Ken Cuccinelli for the Virginia Supreme Court.

After the Senate failed to secure the votes necessary to put Appeals Court Judge Rossie D. Alston Jr. onto the State Supreme Court, the Senate Courts of Justice Committee promptly certified Cuccinelli by a party line vote for the position. He will be voted on by the full Senate tomorrow and it appears that the Republicans have the votes to secure his placement on the Court.

Despite the fact that Governor McAuliffe's pick, Justice Jane Marum Roush, is an eminently qualified and highly regarded jurist who has presided over many high-profile cases, including the trial of D.C.-area sniper Lee Boyd Malvo, Republicans have refused to give her a full 12-year appointment.

From immigration to contraception to climate change denial to LGBT rights, Ken Cuccinelli has built a career on extreme conservative positions that are out of step with Virginia today. He also has a long and sordid history of antipa-

thy towards New Americans, immigrants, and Latinos in particular:

❖ In 2013, gubernatorial candidate Ken Cuccinelli went so far as to compare immigration to pest control and immigrants to RATS.

❖ He drafted a bill that would deny unemployment benefits to employees who do not speak English.

❖ He derided the 2013 Congressional Immigration Reform Plan as legalization and "amnesty."

❖ He threw his full support behind Arizona's anti-immigration SB1070 law.

❖ As a state senator, he sponsored legislation aimed at stripping U.S.-born children of undocumented immigrants of their right to citizenship.

❖ As attorney general he embraced policies that would authorize police to check the immigration status of anyone they stop or arrest.

❖ He has been a strong opponent of in-state tuition for undocumented immigrants brought to the country at no fault of their own and at a young age by their parents.

J. Walter Tejada, Community Leader and former Elected Official, stated, "From Donald Trump

inciting his supporters by calling Latino immigrants 'thieves' and 'rapists' or candidates calling for a divisive southern wall or hateful rhetoric being used against New Americans, it seems all we've heard is anti-immigrant nonsense spewing from Republican politicians. The proposed placement of Ken Cuccinelli on the Virginia State Supreme Court would represent a very significant step backwards for Virginia."

Alfonso Lopez, Democratic Member of the Virginia House of Delegates, stated, "As the son of a Latin American immigrant and the first Latino Democrat elected to the Virginia House of Delegates, it's incredibly difficult to hear the vitriol that Republicans use against immigrants day in and day out. Today, by proposing Cuccinelli for the State Supreme Court, Republicans are endorsing a person with a long history of doctrinaire, 'Trumpesque' positions that are out of step with a modern Virginia."

Tram Nguyen, Executive Director of New Virginia Majority, stated, "On International Women's Day, the Republican Party could not have nominated a more divisive anti-immigrant, anti-choice individual to serve on Virginia's

highest court. Cuccinelli's extreme views have no place on the Supreme Court. Virginia's judicial system should not be the victim of political maneuvers."

Marvin Figueroa, President of the Democratic Latino Organization of Virginia, stated, "I am extremely disappointed that Republicans in the General Assembly would nominate an individual to Virginia's Supreme Court with such an extensive track record of radical opposition to immigrants and New Americans. Someone who has so ardently campaigned to amend the U.S. Constitution to end birthright citizenship should not be allowed to serve on our Supreme Court and trusted with defending Virginia's Constitution."

The Honorable J. Walter Tejada, former Member of the Arlington County Board

The Honorable Alfonso Lopez, Virginia State Delegate, 49th District

Leni Gonzalez, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

Marvin Figueroa, President of the Democratic Latino Organization of Virginia

Tram Nguyen, Executive Director of New Virginia Majority

Edgar Aranda-Yanoc, Chair of the Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations

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LETTERS

Lifting Stigma from Drug Users

To the Editor:

I believe that your in-depth look at Northern Virginia's heroin subculture ("Police Arrest 20 for Heroin Use in One Day," Connection, March 2-8, 2016)) was a step in the right direction towards helping to lift the stigma from drug users. You chose to expand upon the stories of the 20 people recently apprehended for the possession and/or distribution of heroin instead of simply focusing on the crime itself. I applaud how the fine men and women of the police departments of Loudoun, Fairfax, and Prince William counties chose to opt for rehabilitating those arrested instead of simply detaining them and risking that they return to drugs. Instead of placing a "bandage" on the chronic issue, they decided to

treat the wound itself in order to prevent it from happening later on. It was very thoughtful and sensitive of them to realize that this wasn't just a private trouble in the lives of the addicts, but instead a public issue in their community that needed to be rectified. Helping the victims out of their addictions instead of just incarcerating them may have also helped in reducing the number of deaths attributed to heroin and the health consequences that result from its use as well. All in all this was a very well written paper and your dedication to providing the whole truth about the situation is refreshing and welcomed.

Preston Taylor
Springfield

Write

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

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
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Charlie Bliss (right) and Charley Moseley received their first U.S. patent together as co-inventors in late 2015

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Meeting the Challenge of Our Time

Greenspring resident and colleague receive U.S. Patent for process aimed at combating global warming.

Data recently released from NASA and NOAA confirmed that 2015 marked the hottest year since record keeping began in the late 1800s. Their data also confirms that 2015 was not an outlier; in fact, 15 of the 16 hottest years in history have been recorded since the turn of the century. In response to the data, NASA Administrator Charles Bolden indicated that “climate change is the challenge of our generation.” Greenspring retirement community resident, 98-year-old Charlie Bliss, and his 78-year-old colleague Charley Moseley, are doing their part to suggest options for combating global warming; the two recently received a U.S. Patent (US 9,187,724), citing a method for utilizing captured carbon dioxide through the cultivation of microalgae, thus reducing harmful emissions to the atmosphere. Bliss will be honored for his achievements at Greenspring during the community’s annual Earth Day celebration this April.

Bliss and Moseley first met while working for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Pakistan in 1981. Moseley was the head of USAID/Pakistan’s Office of Energy and Environment, and Bliss was an officer in the central Office of Energy where his focus was on the USAID technical and economic assistance program to Pakistan. During this time, he with Moseley participated in a comprehensive feasibility study aimed at establishing the first modern coal mining and power generation installation in the country, while also meeting their international standards for environmental protection. In recent years, Bliss has served as an independent consultant focusing on his concern over the declining role of coal-based power generation in the United States. These activities led to the application for a U.S. Patent, for which he and Moseley are co-inventors.

Bliss and Moseley cite the Environmental Pro-

tection Agency’s (EPA) current plan to slow global warming tends toward closing power plants and eliminating the use of coal. They suggest a more constructive approach; cleaning up the burning of coal by finding uses for carbon dioxide other than storing it underground before it has the opportunity to enter the atmosphere. NOAA confirms that when the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere goes up, its temperature also goes up. While permanently storing carbon dioxide underground is a known option, Bliss and Moseley suggest that a better option is to produce a cost-effective way to capture the carbon dioxide and to find uses that yield revenue.

In their recently awarded patent, Bliss and Moseley have specified a method for cultivating and processing microalgae, which includes directing a continuous supply of carbon dioxide into an enclosed container, known as a photobioreactor, containing microalgae. Photosynthesis chemical reactions using renewable solar energy take place in the photobioreactor, producing both an algae biomass and a gaseous mixture. A separation occurs of the two substances, which can then be used in a variety of ways, such as for cattle feed and creating a renewable diesel fuel. Their patent industrializes the photosynthesis reaction and according to Bliss and Moseley, produces revenue rather than cost. The next step for them involves a physical demonstration that this is a viable process and a valuable substitution for current methodology. They have also just filed for a second patent complementing the first.

Charles Bliss has spent his career as a progressive chemical engineer specializing in energy and economic development. He was awarded the professional degree of Chemical Engineer in 1948 by The Cooper Union in New York; 63 years later in 2011, his alma mater recognized his achievements with the Gano Dunn award for outstanding achievement in engineering, industry, or finance. This most recent patent marks Bliss’ fifth U.S. Patent, but his first since the 1950s. Bliss first moved to the D.C. area from Boston in 1976; 13 years ago, he moved to Greenspring in Springfield. At age 98, Bliss suggests that his longevity may be due to the enduring ability to do what he loves. “I like retirement so much, I do it often,” said Bliss.



PHOTO BY KIAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 20-21, more than 80 students and community members took part in the weekend Virginia Production Assistant Training for Film and TV co-hosted by GMU FAVS at the Harris Theatre in Fairfax.



Peg Crowder with the Virginia Production Alliance, Anne Chapman and Emily Wyman with the Virginia Film Office, and film professional Gary Fiorelli smile for a photo at the GMU Harris Theatre in Fairfax.

Film Studies Progress at GMU

Student media at George Mason University.

On Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 20-21, more than 80 students and community members took part in the weekend Virginia Production Assistant Training for Film and TV co-hosted by GMU FAVS at the Harris Theatre. The program included instruction by Gary Fiorelli and representatives of film groups with the Virginia Film Office, Virginia Production Alliance, Women in Film and Video DC, and a dozen guest speakers. Fiorelli has worked on projects including Pirates of the Caribbean, Jarhead, and Runaway Jury. A reception was held the evening of Feb. 20 at ThunderShot Studios at 9425 Mathy Dr, Fairfax. “I thought the session was really helpful,” said GMU junior Kyle Finnegan.

Ryan Hill, a senior at GMU said the seminar sessions reflected on how the Film and Media Studies program has been expanding. ThunderShot Studios designed by industry insiders Lars Sandvik and Amy Krueger, noted the Virginia and D.C. market has many clients for video production. ThunderShot Studio, a modified warehouse, opened in September 2014. “In order to find air conditioning this quiet, you would have to go to either New York or Hollywood,” said ThunderShot Studios president, Lars Sandvik. ThunderShot Studios was engineered to an NC-25 sound



PHOTO BY PEG CROWDER

ThunderShot studio in Fairfax opened in September 2014. In February, the studio hosted an open house in connection with a seminar co-hosted by the Film and Media Studies Program at George Mason University.

isolation standard. The studio is a 60-foot-by-40-foot-by-16-foot space with 1,000 amps of dedicated studio power and a 180-degree hard cyclorama.

Anne Chapman of the Virginia Film Office and FAVS Program coordinator Rebekah Mejorado helped organize the February Virginia Production Assistant Training for Film and TV event at GMU. Approximately 60 percent of those who attended were not students, but were interested in the opportunity to learn new skills and network. For those entering the film and production field, it was an opportunity to learn about groups such as Women in Film and Video (WIFV). Founded in 1979, WIFV is

a resource for people who want successful media careers in the D.C. region. “We have a lot of regional reach,” said Ariel Magno, a membership coordinator at WIFV.

Film and Media Studies Program at George Mason University (GMU) has grown since it was founded in 2006. The Film and Media Studies (FAVS) Program explores films, new media, and forms of television to understand media’s contexts and effects. The program was founded when deans and the College of Visual and Performing Arts and the College of Humanities and Social Science, along with a group of local filmmakers, created the first multidisciplinary undergraduate degree in film in the Common-

wealth of Virginia. The program has been developed to feed a need for talented film and media professionals. “The film scene in Virginia and D.C. has been growing,” said GMU senior Josh Renkes.

Thursday, Jan. 7, President Obama and CNN host Anderson Cooper sat for a town hall discussion about “Guns in America.” The event was broadcast live from the Johnson Center’s Dewberry Hall on Mason’s Fairfax campus. Student media covered the town hall, and Mason Cable Network general manager Robert Horan was granted press access by the White House. College student operated newspaper Fourth Estate reporter Natalia Kolenko and photo editor Amy Rose covered a protest on the North Plaza.

IN ADDITION to being the location of professional film studios, Fairfax County hosts film festivals such as The Northern Virginia International Film Festival, which will be held April 21–30. This festival is for filmmakers who aim to bring a slice of Hollywood to Virginia. The founder and director of the film festival is 1994 GMU graduate Fernando Mico. Events for the festival take place at several locations including the Angelika Film Center at the Mosaic District of Fairfax. “We accept all genres and all sizes, with a focus on Northern Virginia filmmakers,” said Mico. The film festival also hosts seminars and forums on filmmaking.

Area Students Named to 2016 Virginia All-State High School Honors Choir

Sixty-five Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) high school students have been named to the Virginia All-State Honors Choir for 2016 and will perform as a group on Saturday, April 30 at the Sandler Center for Performing Arts in Virginia Beach. Additionally, 39 FCPS students were named alternates to the All-State Honors Choir.

Area students selected for the 2016 Virginia All-State Honors Choir and as alternates include:
Langley High School: Camila Maric, Akbari Ammad, Regan Herberg, and alternates Trevor Goldhush, Matt Arrison, and Paloma Ferraz (Mac Lambert, director).
Madison High School: Ben Schwartz,

Jordyn Pistilli, and alternate Kate Gibson (Claire Rowan, director).
Marshall High School: Sarah Koo, Conor Kelly, and alternates Sammy Graceson and Alexandra Stenseth (Keri Staley, director).
McLean High School: alternates Daniel Thomas and Eric Juneau (Linda Martin, director).

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From left, Burtons Grill & Bar chef Dylun Coolidge and his daughter Sofia, of Del Ray, and Burtons general manager John Moszocki, of Lorton, work in February to prepare the restaurant for its March opening.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Burtons features a spacious floor plan laid out around a large central bar.

Beating the Big 8 Burton's allergy-friendly Grill & Bar opens at Hilltop Village Center.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

The Big 8: milk, eggs, fish, crustacean shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat and soybeans. These represent the vast majority of all food allergies in the United States. Restaurants are becoming more sensitive to how these restrict the diets of their patrons. For Boston-based Burtons Grill & Bar, making their menu as accommodating as possible for multiple food allergies has become a major part of the business.

"It's not just tolerated, but embraced," said chef Dylun Coolidge, a Del Ray resident who's been working in restaurants in the Washington, D.C. area for the last decade.

Coolidge explained that the core menu for all Burtons restaurants can accommodate all eight allergies as well as patrons who require gluten-free options. Every dish on the menu has an "escape route," meaning there's a pre-planned alternate preparation for specific allergies.

"Thirty-five to 50 percent of our menu is available to anyone," Coolidge said. Though he admits having the recipe and preparing and serving it safely are two different things.

"No one in the chain, from A to Z," he said "doesn't understand the importance of it."

To ensure everything comes out safely, Coolidge said all staff are trained in the kitchen and undergo online food allergy education to fully understand how the food is being prepared and what the risks of a mistaken order can be.

IN THE KITCHEN, separate colored tongs, aprons and even fryers are used for preparing dishes unique to a certain food allergy. For a finishing touch of confidence, regular dishes are served on circular plates, while food allergy-specific meals come on square



The dining area of Burtons is divided into several different layouts with slightly different feels and ambiance.

plates, placed by a manager who then confirms which food allergy the dish is tailored to.

Burtons founder and CEO Kevin Harron wanted to make providing options to others with dietary restrictions a priority as he and his partners developed the Burtons concept. After growing up with casual dining restaurants including Bennigan's and Legal Sea Food, they witnessed a segment evolving.

"We saw the Baby Boomers starting to move away from casual dining," said Harron, a Boston resident.

"There were different concerns, people wanted food customized a certain way. Allergies have become a big part of doing business."

Harron and company thought they could improve the dining experience, while attending to food allergies, without immedi-

ately becoming a high-end steakhouse. "We felt there was fertile ground in between," he said.

Chef Coolidge is depending on actual fertile ground to power his menu, which he's proud will be filled with largely local produce and meat ("things you should be eating now, like root vegetable cassoulet, a little duck"), change seasonally and be even a little "hip," following current food trends.

For younger diners, there is a special a la carte menu that pulls no punches in terms of cuts of meat or full entree-level preparation. Coolidge's fifth-grade daughter Sofia's line-up of choice (\$8) includes steak fillet, cucumber, pasta, apples and frozen yogurt for dessert.

The chef's menu will change regularly and feature twists on typically more expensive dishes that help keep them in the more modest price point Burtons is striving for.

Think stuffed avocado with crab coming in at \$8. By using a little less crab, Coolidge moderates the price but beefs up the flavor and structure by adding red quinoa and scallions.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL and creativity, rather than simple cost-cutting, are part of the model. Sauces and salad dressings are prepared from scratch, in-house, rather than purchased from vendors, and they'll roast their own meat for pulled pork.

"It's knowing cuts, knowing the season, that lets you be more local," Coolidge said, and also thrifty.

Before Burtons had their soft opening on Feb. 29, general manager John Moszocki was making friends as a new member at the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce.

"The thing that most impresses me about Burtons Grill is their accommodation of food allergies," Chamber Executive Director Holly Dougherty said in an email. "My husband has a severe nut allergy and sometimes restaurants don't take that into account even after telling the server."

Dougherty said she was also impressed with the way Burtons has already reached out to its community in Alexandria, Fort Belvoir and Springfield. Coolidge said they've been in touch with the athletic boosters at nearby Hayfield Secondary School about hosting teams after sports events, as well as doing joint activities with the Metropolitan School of the Arts.

"This business isn't just food and service," said Moszocki, "we're building relationships."

"We're excited to be there," Harron said, "and hopefully we'll be relevant and embraced by the community, we're going to do our very best."

Burtons Grill & Bar is located at 6452A Old Beulah Street in Alexandria. For more information, visit www.burtonsgill.com.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Scholarship. Deadline April 1. The Bull Run Civil War Round Table in Centreville is offering a \$1,500 scholarship to a high school senior who resides in Fairfax or Prince William counties and will attend college or community college in fall 2016. Information and application instructions can be found at <http://bullrunwrt.org>.

Cell Phones for Soldiers. March 1-April 18. Liberty Tax, 5622-G Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Donate unwanted cell phones to help active duty military and vets call loved ones. 703-323-5580.

"Shrek the Musical JR." April 22, 23, 29, and 30. Burke Community Church, 9900 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Come see this talented group of young actors ages 8-18 as they travel Far Far Away with everyone's favorite ogre, a wise-cracking donkey, and a cast of fairy tale misfits. \$14. www.nvplayers.com.

FUN-Exercise. Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. Contact Chris Moore at moorefit@yahoo.com or 703-499-6133.

Art Classes. Tuesdays. Jan. 30-April 2 and Feb. 2-March 15. Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Winter art classes. Art lesson for youth 8 and up. Drawing plus color 5-8 years. Art workshop/Chinese brush painting for teens and adults. Ongoing enrollment. \$11/\$15 per class. Carol Zeitlin, www.czartlessons.com. 703-250-6930.

Lake Accotink Park Campfire Saturdays. March 26, April 16, May 14. Starts between 6:30-7 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Adventure awaits as you explore the woodlands and Lake Accotink spots where wildlife hides and resides, guided by a naturalist. Program ends with a cozy campfire. Bring whatever you like to roast. S'mores provided. Topics vary each month. \$8-\$10. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink/>.

Royal Lake Campfire Saturdays. March 12, April 30. Starts between 6:30-7 p.m. Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. Join us



PHOTO BY GREGOR EISENHUTH

Singers, Irish dancers and actors tell the story of the spirit of Ireland on Sunday, March 20 at George Mason University's Center for the Arts.

for an evening campfire at Royal Lake. Adventure awaits as you explore the woodlands and lake-front spots where wildlife hides and resides, guided by a naturalist. Program ends with a cozy campfire, bring whatever you like to roast, s'mores provided. Different topics. \$8-\$10. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/press/html/psa067-15.htm>.

Spring Backyard Burn Trail Running Series. March 13, April 17. Laurel Hill, Lorton; Pohick Bay, Lorton; Hemlock Overlook, Clifton. series of 5 and 10 mile trail running races held on some of the best trail networks in the Northern Virginia. <http://www.ex2adventures.com/byb-spring.php>.

Foon Sham: Culture House. Through April 3. W-16 Vulcan Gallery, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Foon Sham was born in Hong Kong and received a BFA from the California College of Arts and Crafts, and a MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University. He is professor of Art at the University of Maryland, College Park. www.workhousearts.org. 703-585-2900.

After the Holocaust. April 5-May 19. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The Bodzin Art Gallery presents an art exhibit observing the 70th anniversary of the conclusion of the Nuremberg Trials. Watercolors by Alexandra Rozenman, a political refugee from Moscow, and sculptures by Paula Stern. Free. www.jccnv.org. 703-537-3000.

Spotlight on the Arts Festival. April 15-May 9. Various locations. Celebrates three decades of arts in the City of Fairfax. fairfaxspotlight.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 11-12 Consignment Sale. Friday, 7-10 p.m.

Saturday, 8-11 a.m. Spring-Mar Preschool, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Find great deals on kids and baby clothes, toys, baby gear, shoes and accessories, as well as maternity and nursing gear. spring-mar.org/sales.

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

Real Food for Kids-Culinary Challenge and Wellness Expo. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Culinary Challenge and Wellness Expo: Learn about food writing and photography, family meal planning, school gardening and school food. Watch 11 student teams compete to create a delicious school breakfast, lunch or snack. <http://realfoodforkids.org/expo.html>.

Richmond Ballet II. 7:30 p.m. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. A performance of classical and contemporary dance, including "The Friar's Tale," "Excerpts from Stolen Moments," and "Rachmaninoff Rhapsody." \$20-\$34. www.jccnv.org. 703-537-3000.

Concerts from Kirkwood-Beau Soir Ensemble. 3 p.m. Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336, Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. Celtic-themed spring concert with harp, viola and flute. Free. www.kirkwoodpres.com. 703-451-5320.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner. 6-8 p.m. Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Fundraising event to support the many Christian outreach programs sponsored by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew Men's Group of Pohick Episcopal Church. \$15.00 per person or \$30.00 per family, with children under 12 free. pohick.org. 703-339-6572.

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March 25 - Good Friday service at 7:30 pm
March 26 - Easter Egg Hunt at 10 am
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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

MARCH

3/23/2016..Spring Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment
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APRIL

4/6/2016.....Wellbeing – Senior Living Pullout
Easter Sunday is March 27

4/13/2016.....Real Estate Pullout – New Homes

4/20/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools

4/27/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools Pullout

4/27/2016.....Mother's Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts I

4/27/2016.....Spring Outlook 2016

MAY

5/4/2016.....McLean Day Pullout

5/4/2016.....Mother's Day Dining & Gifts II

5/4/2016.....Wellbeing

Mother's Day is May 8

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Fairfax senior Noe'll Taylor dribbles the ball up the floor against Cosby in the 6A state quarterfinals on March 4 at Robinson Secondary School.



Junior guard Karah Murphree will be one of Fairfax's top returning players next season.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax Ends Historic Season in State Quarterfinals

Rebels finish 27-3,
including undefeated
regular season.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax girls' basketball team made history and got a taste of the big stage during the 2015-16 season. Head coach Pat Deegan said the Rebels laid the foundation for a successful future.

Fairfax's season came to an end on March 4 when the Rebels lost to two-time defending state champion Cosby 53-44 in the 6A state quarterfinals at Robinson Secondary School. Facing a pair of Division I recruits in 6-foot-3 center Tyra Whitehead (Wake Forest) and guard Jocelyn Jones (North Carolina), Fairfax trailed by three in the fourth quarter but wasn't able to come all the way back.

The Rebels were down 34-31 late in the third quarter when guard Karah Murphree drove to the basket, made a shot and an official called a foul. However, rather than having a chance for a three-point play and to tie the score, the official called Murphree for an offensive foul and the bucket was waived off.

"I definitely thought," Murphree said, "I had the and-1..."

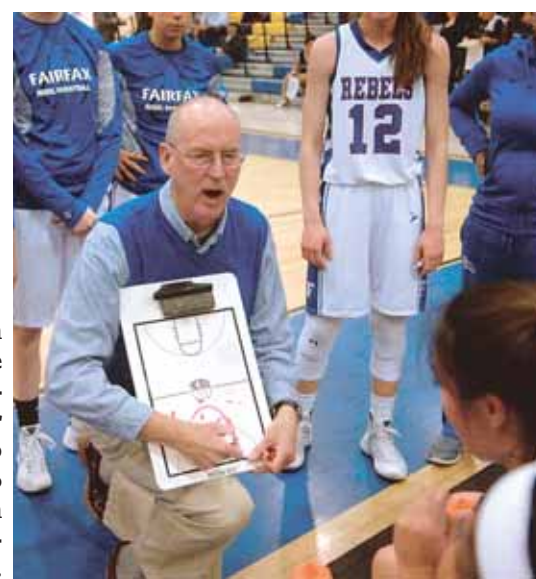
Cosby followed with a 3-pointer at the other end, extending its lead to six.

"It certainly blunted our charge at that time, but that's basketball," Deegan said.



Fairfax senior Jalita Montgomery was a primary contributor for a team that finished the season with a 27-3 record.

Fairfax head coach Pat Deegan led the Rebels to an undefeated regular season and trips to the Conference 6 and 6A North region championship games.



"I think we accomplished so much," said Taylor, Co-Conference 6 Player of the Year. "We made history at our school and I couldn't ask for better teammates."

Fairfax will graduate a trio of starters — Taylor, Montgomery and Alexandra Wendling.

"What these kids did was pretty awesome," Deegan said. "If I go back and look at the preseason predictions, a lot of people didn't even have us in the top four in our conference to start the year off. When you look at what we put out in the floor — [5 feet 3], 5-4, 5-5, 5-8, 5-8 — we're pretty small, but they didn't realize that. They like to play the game of basketball, they're great teammates, they bought into the whole thing ...

"What they did was I think they built a foundation for the kids to have even more success next year."

Murphree and junior Dominique Webster figure to be two of the Rebels' top returners next season.

"Hopefully [the seniors'] greatest legacy will be kids like Emma [Heslep] will sit there, and Dom will sit there and say, 'I'm going to be next year's Jalita and Noe'll,' and if they do that, their legacy will continue on."

Deegan, who has also coached at Westfield, Madison and Bishop O'Connell, said he has enjoyed his time with the Rebels.

"I've coached for 34 years," Deegan said. "I probably haven't had as much fun as I did with this group in the last 20 — maybe never. They were just a really special group to work with."

SPORTS ROUNDTUPS

Spartans Lose in State Quarterfinals

The West Springfield boys' basketball team, the No. 3 seed from the 6A North region, lost to 6A South runner-up Oscar Smith 48-41 in the state quarterfinals on March 4 at Old Dominion University.

The Spartans ended the season with a 23-6 record. West Springfield finished atop the Conference 7 regular-season standings, finished runner-up in the conference tournament and took third place at the region tournament.

The Spartans will lose forwards Lewis Djonkam and Brock Vaughn, and guards Andrew Storr and Spencer Askew, among

others, to graduation.

Robinson Lax Teams to Open Regular Seasons

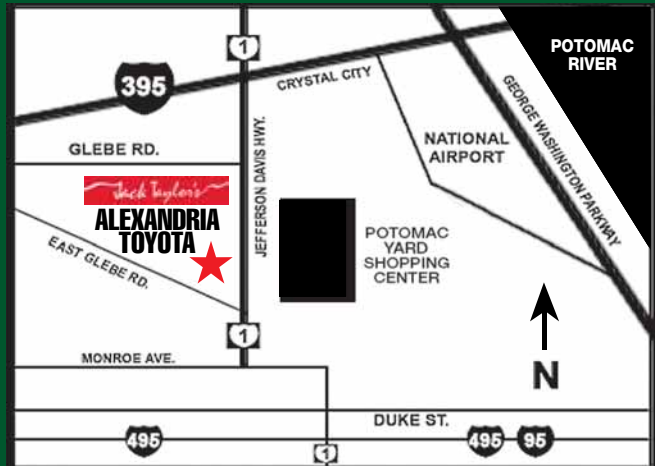
The defending state champion Robinson

lacrosse teams will open their respective regular seasons next week.

The boys' team, which has won the last two state titles, will host Broad Run at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15. The Rams are led by head coach Matt Curran. The girls' team, led by head coach Liz Case, will travel to face Broad Run at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE II

SUNDAY/MARCH 13

The Saga of Martha Washington's Will. 2 p.m. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. Katrina Krempasky with the Fairfax County Circuit Court Historic Records will relate the travels of the First Lady Martha Washington's will following its removal from the Courthouse by a Union soldier during the Civil War until the document was returned to Fairfax County in the early 20th-century. Free. 703-385-8414.

MONDAY/MARCH 14

AARP Virginia Dinner Group-Franconia. 4-8 p.m. Lucky's Sports Theatre and Grill, 7027 B Manchester Blvd., Franconia. AARP has reserved the private room of Lucky's Sports Theatre and Grill for our members and friends to enjoy dinner together with a 10 percent discount on dinner entrees. Register at <https://aarp.cvent.com/Franconia31416VA>.

THURSDAY/MARCH 17

Lunch N'Life. Noon-2 p.m. Jubilee Christian Church, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. The guest speaker will be Fairfax County Supervisor, Mr. John Cook (R-Braddock). Reserve by March 11 by calling 703-620-0161. 410. If you need a ride to the event, call 703-323-4788.

Out of the Past. 10 a.m. Green Acres Senior Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Susan Gray, Curator of the Fairfax Museum and Visitors Center, will discuss how First Lady Jackie Kennedy selected new china and crystal for the White House and the reasons behind the choices. Attendees may bring 1960s crystal glassware for show and tell. Non-members welcome. Free. 703-273-6090.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 18-19

2016 Mason Gala Dance. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Event supporting scholarships for School of Dance students. Special guest Robert Battle artistic director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. \$15, \$25. cfa.gmu.edu. 888-945-2468.

SATURDAY/MARCH 19

Music at the Box Office. 7:30 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. City of Fairfax band welcomes the coming of spring with an evocative selection of classic compositions for the silver screen. The program features music of famous 20th-century Hollywood composers. \$10, \$16. www.fairfaxband.org.

The Peace that Almost Was. 2 p.m. The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Author Mark Tooley, president of the Institute on Religion and Democracy, will tell the story of the 1861 Washington Peace Conference, a bipartisan, last-ditch effort to prevent the Civil War. 703-591-0560.

SUNDAY/MARCH 20

Celtic Nights: The Spirit of Freedom. 4 p.m. Center for the Arts George Mason University, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Cast of 14 accomplished singers, Irish dancers and actors tell this story of the spirit of Ireland to more than 50 communities in the U.S. \$29-\$48. cfa.gmu.edu. 888-945-2468.

Easter Event. 3:30 p.m. King of Kings Lutheran Church and Preschool, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. Lots of fun activities, picture with the Easter bunny, egg hunts for different ages, and decorating Easter trees. Easter Egg hunt for special needs children, too. Children up to sixth grade. kofk.org. 703-378-7272 ext. 225.

NOVA Pro Wrestling. 5-7:30 p.m. Annandale Sports Center, 6728 Industrial Road, Springfield. "Last Exit to Springfield," with Sonja Dutt, Logan Easton Laroux, Arik Royal, et al. \$20-\$25. novaprowrestling.tumblr.com. novaprotickets@gmail.com.

MONDAY/MARCH 21

Art Therapy Day at NVTRP. 9 a.m.-noon. NVTRP, 6429 Clifton Road, Clifton. A morning of therapeutic art activities designed to encourage self-confidence, socialization, and creative expression! Multi-media activities may include painting, movement, music, group art, drawing, creative play, and more. Ages 5-12. \$100. Sign up at office@nvtrp.org.

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HomeLifeStyle

Buying or Selling?

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Here we are, once again right on the heels of the Spring/Summer real estate season when it seems like “For Sale” signs become the most common lawn ornament or condo window decoration. Selling, and certainly buying a new home should be an occasion for celebration, but you might not be doing too much of that unless you understand the basics of either process and have them well under control.

With help from some knowledgeable sources like the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR), the National Association of Realtors (NAR) and some respected local experts, here’s a bit of a primer on buying or selling a property. We’re going for the basics here with a few comments about our local market.

Let’s start with sellers, since for the most part, they have the most work to do to get the job done. First question. Use an agent or go it alone? You may think only saving the real estate agent fees is the basis for the answer, but if you decide to be your own agent, be sure you have done the homework on legal and regulatory require-



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER

What’s wrong with this picture? It’s a gorgeous kitchen, but real estate agents will tell you that the green plastic cup, the dishwashing soap and the drainboard should all vanish from the selling photos of your house, and certainly during any showings.

ments, and be prepared for the paperwork. Sadly, one misstep here could be pretty costly and there goes those potential savings. And are you ready to be your own marketer and be available night and day and weekends to show your property? Another thought...many potential buyers are not comfortable dealing directly, especially during negotiations, with the homeowner and would prefer the buffer of a trustworthy agent that they can really share their thoughts with. Statistics have also shown that properties for sale by owner more often receive lower initial offers.

Let’s assume that you are working with an agent. Hopefully, you asked all the right questions before signing an agreement to sell. Don’t be shy. It’s okay to “interview” several agents and ask for references.

And a biggie – what’s the average variation between the initial listing price and the final sales price? The answer here may spare you some disappointments and provide some indication

about your real estate agent’s skills at pricing your property and negotiation the best price.

Now what? Put on your thickest skin, open your wallet just a tad, listen to that agent, and before you even have that first showing:

Be realistic about your asking price. “Don’t be too aggressive,” cautioned real estate agent Jennifer Boyce of Long and Foster in Burke. Anita Lasansky, CRB, managing broker-vice president Long and Foster Reston North Hills-Herndon, agrees with that advice, and adds that sellers around the Wiehle Metro station in Reston shouldn’t expect a big bump in sales price just because of Metro’s arrival. Lasansky has seen sellers factor in 5-10 percent increases on that basis, but “it just hasn’t had that effect,” she said. Getting a pre-appraisal or advice from a lender can help in setting the best realistic sales price, since most buyers will need a mortgage.

Think about getting a pre-sale home inspection. The buyer will have an inspection done, but being proactive could help locate potential problems that might stall, or even end a sale. While you’re at it, locate those warranties and manuals - something that really impresses those buyers, while last-minute searches could pose a problem at closing.

Clean and get organized. Neutralize as much as possible, put away the toys and pet paraphernalia. Pay special attention to closets and bathrooms.

First impressions. Check out curb appeal, from the condition of lawn and landscape to the front entryway. Trim those bushes. Edge that grass. Put down some new mulch, and clean up those oil spots on the driveway.

Photos. Most buyers today do their scouting online. Lots of quality photos attract the most visitors. Equally, photos that don’t show off each room to advantage, or contain pets wandering by, the piled-high laundry basket, or a reflection of the photographer can put your property on the “don’t want to see that one” list.

FOR BUYERS. Just as with the sellers, buyers should shop around for a trusted real estate partner.

Some of the basics as advised by the NVAR and NAR and some of their area experts:

❖ **Get pre-qualified.** pre-approved by a lender before you start looking.

❖ **Think about resale.**

❖ **Keep repair, maintenance and running costs in mind.** Even a brand-new home may require some work or customizing to suit your lifestyle, so consider those costs.

❖ **Don’t go “house-blind,”** when you are so taken with the house that you might ignore factors that could make for a poor buying decision. Visit the property several times, inside and out, at various times of the day and on different days of the week to get a real feel for the neighborhood.

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Good Advice:

"I let sellers know that they need to expect that some of their privacy will be compromised ... their home needs to be in showing condition every day before they leave, clean kitchen, beds made, everything put away, pets secured and comfortable, and that the home smells clean and fresh. I always suggest they visit model homes to see examples of what buyers fall in love with and why."

— **Megan Bailey, Bailey Fine Properties**

"For buyers, please be careful what you say. There could be a recording device in the house. Not unusual anymore with today's security technology. For example, don't look at pictures and say that their children look creepy. ... Sellers, put away medications and jewelry. It's rare, but prescription drugs are the number one item that 'goes missing' during open houses or showings."

— **Smita Lal, Long and Foster Reston North Hills-Herndon**

"Recently had a listing that needed a bit of updating. The seller was fine with spending some money, but balked at my suggestion to replace the fluorescent lighting in the kitchen. Four months later, the seller finally agreed to spend the \$1000 to replace the light. We ratified a contract 5 days after the work was done. Moral of the story: If you are hiring a pro to help you buy or sell a home, listen to their advice."

— **Andy Krumholz, Keller Williams Realty, Utopian Homes**

"I always tell my sellers, 'To be clear, I will give you a list of customized items to prepare your home. It will be in order of importance. I assure you, the more you complete, the fewer days on the market, and of course at the right price.' So far I haven't missed."

— **Lisa Carlisle, Long and Foster Reston North Hills-Herndon**



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HomeLifeStyle Remodeled Home Tour Set

Details

Sun Design Remodeling will be sponsoring tour of a recently remodeled Fairfax Station home on March 12, 2016. Headquartered in Burke, the firm has a second office in McLean. Call 703-425-5588 or visit www.SunDesignInc.com.

Home evolves from center hall colonial to open plan with boldly original finishes.

BY JOHN BYRD
THE CONNECTION

A dramatic “kitchen-centric” first floor interior design solution in a 30-year-old Colonial-style production house will be featured on a “Remodeled Home Tour” sponsored by Sun Design Remodeling on Saturday, March 12. The house at 7990 Oak Bridge Lane in Fairfax Station is owned by Andrew Smith and Madelynn McCarthy. The residence will be open to the public from noon-4 p.m. Purchased by Smith and McCarthy in 2002, the original house was a traditional center hall Colonial with four bedrooms. The couple, now in their late 50s, have occupied the home for 14 years.

While the 4,000-square-foot house (the couple’s second) has been satisfactory to the owners in many respects, the first floor’s comparatively small rooms, narrow doorways and builder-grade finishes had come to seem dated and cramped as the couple looked ahead to retirement years.

“We wanted our house to be more of personal residence that reflects our tastes,” Andy Smith said. “A place we can really enjoy for another 10 years, or more.”

As longer occupancy became a consideration, the production house limitations seemed glaring.

“The kitchen was space-constricted and pretty drab,” Smith said. “There was a small island with a cooktop that didn’t provide a useful working surface. Doors to the hall closet and powder room frequently obstructed traffic at the kitchen archway, which was too narrow. The kitchen clean-up area was too exposed from the family



Fairfax Station homeowners Andy Smith and Madelynn McCarthy relocated an adjacent dining room in order to gain 78 feet for a gourmet kitchen that accommodates a large food prep island and a three-stool wine bar a few steps from the back deck. The island surface is “blue flower” granite.

room. Overall, we wanted a more balanced, aesthetically-pleasing interior.”

An addition off the back of house was an earlier space-enhancement consideration.

“We had plans to remove the rear wall and add 800 square feet,” Smith said, “but when we looked more closely at our real requirements this approach didn’t make economic sense. Fundamentally, we just wanted a larger kitchen and pantry, and a warmer interior that would work well for entertaining; we weren’t sure how to accomplish this.”

A seminar by Sun Design Remodeling last year unveiled to a new way of assessing priorities.

“The program prompted us to explore ideas of re-purposing space within the home’s exist-

ing footprint,” Smith said. “I suddenly recognized we were getting almost no use from our 200-square-foot formal living room. It was just wasted space.”

Soon after the seminar, the couple contacted Craig Duroske at Sun Design Remodeling for an on-premise meeting.

“The way people now use their homes has changed dramatically in the past few decades. There’s a movement towards open, well-defined, interactive spaces, and departure from interior walls that may not be strictly necessary,” said Duroske, Sun Design’s founder and chairman.

Once Smith and McCarthy established that the front-facing living room could be incorpo-

rated into a broader floor plan reconfiguration, Sun Design’s team began re-assigning “use zones” within the existing first floor template.

Several critical decisions followed in rapid succession:

- ❖ The wall between the kitchen and the dining room would be removed, extending the kitchen while allowing generous square footage for a walk-in pantry and a new powder room;

- ❖ The hall powder room would give way to an enlarged and upgraded laundry room/ mudroom;

- ❖ All 200 square feet of the old living room would be re-purposed as a distinctively finished formal dining room accessed from the kitchen;

Simultaneously, a series of interior design conferences evolved into an inspired collaboration.

“In a finish work elaboration, the details are everything,” Smith said, noting that his enthusiasm for design extends from a lifelong interest in architecture. “Maddie and I had done a lot of research into the kinds of materials, colors and textures we wanted, but Katie Coram at Sun Design really helped us narrow and refine our choices.”

Some highlights of the makeover’s interior design solution include:

- ❖ A custom-designed barn door between the kitchen and the new dining room. While the interior makeover generally explores rustic, early American sensibilities, a glass-and-wood barn door created to specification by Sun Design carpenters is an iconic stand-out that keeps the dining room private as needed while allowing light from the west-facing rear windows;

- ❖ A dining counter/wine bar situated at the back door accessing the deck.

- ❖ A food prep island and dining counter, topped with blue flower granite and equipped with an under-cabinet microwave and a warming drawer.

- ❖ Six burner gas stove with hood.

- ❖ Dining room with coffered ceiling; Wedgwood interior design. In a nod to the 18th-century sensibilities, the new formal dining room’s elegant wall elevations include raised panels, crown molding and wainscoting.

“From room to room, the new first floor explores a lot of style elements in well-balanced combinations,” Andy Smith said, “It’s a much warmer, more inviting interior. People will enjoy seeing what we’ve done.”



The bow front farm sink, six-burner stove and food prep island form the three sides of a work triangle that facilitates cooking and clean-up tasks. The custom-designed barn door (right) leads into the new formal dining room.



With its coffered ceiling and Wedgwood interior treatment, the dining room explores 18th century (Colonial-era) themes. The circa-1890’s glass-and-wood barn door mounted on rollers was created by Sun Design. The innovation provides privacy, yet allows light from the home’s west-facing rear elevation.