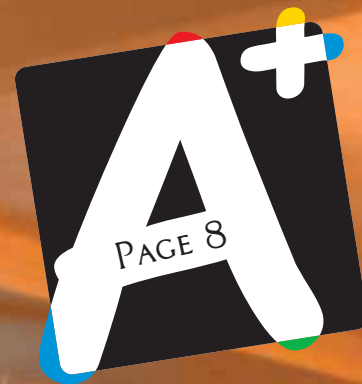


Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ♦ Kingstowne
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From left, Springfield's Auto-Grip co-owner Christine Heiby, employees Marsha Perry and Sonja Dunn, and co-owner D. David Heiby were recognized at the 11th Annual Brain Injury Services Volunteer Banquet.



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PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

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MARCH 17-23, 2016

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



From left, Springfield's Auto-Grip co-owner Christine Heiby, employees Marsha Perry and Sonja Dunn, and co-owner D. David Heiby were recognized at the 11th Annual Brain Injury Services Volunteer Banquet.



Chantilly-based HomeWorks Painting was recognized for donating \$5,000 to the pediatric program at Brain Injury Services in Springfield. Front row from left, Alex Wright and Charlotte Wright of Centreville, Erwin Simbulan and brain injury survivor Maya Simbulan of Fairfax. Back from left, HomeWorks owner Mike Katounas of Centreville and BIS pediatric case manager Brooke Annessa of Fairfax.

'You're Not Going Alone' Brain Injury Services honors volunteers and community partners.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Maya Simbulan of Fairfax is thankful for being normal. The Lake Braddock Secondary School freshman would like to pursue work with computer graphics and plays electric wheelchair soccer.

She owes her recovery from a traumatic brain injury, in large part she said, to Springfield-based Brain Injury Services, a non-profit organization that helps individuals around Northern Virginia find recovery and rehabilitation resources, to manage the effects of injuries and find a sense of community through others with shared experiences.

Seven years ago, Simbulan linked up with BIS Pediatric Case Manager Brooke Annessa of Fairfax.

"This has helped me to have a normal life," Simbulan said, "like going to school and playing soccer."

Simbulan's positivity and success has landed her as a speaker at BIS events and prominent roles in videos about brain injury.

Brain Injury Services pediatric case manager Brooke Annessa of Fairfax (left) has been working with brain injury survivor and Lake Braddock Secondary School freshman Maya Simbulan of Fairfax for seven years.



ON MARCH 9, she and Annessa took the stage together to recognize other community partners of Brain Injury Services at the organization's 11th annual Volunteer Banquet, held at the Waterford in Springfield.

Macy's was among the business partners highlighted for giving back to the community through BIS.

"We've been able to purchase critical items like prescription glasses and assistive technology," Simbulan said as she thanked the partners from Macy's during the banquet ceremony, "and even pay for summer camps for children" who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford it.

A first-time donor and community partner was Mike Katounas of Centreville and his business HomeWorks Painting, based in

Chantilly. This year they decided to donate a portion of sales made during their annual two-week winter promotion sale to a local nonprofit. Their total contribution was \$5,000.

"The work that they do, especially with kids," was part of what drew Katounas and the HomeWorks team to Brain Injury Services.

"I've worked with Special Olympics children, and we were able to specify the pediatric program, so 100 percent of our donation went to the kids."

Annessa said the pediatric program at BIS serves about 70 clients, from infants to age 22.

Leaders of BIS also recognized community partners who've taken on brain injury survivors as employees, as finding work af-

ter a traumatic incident can be difficult, if not impossible.

"Your sense of self," while out of work, said Christine Heiby, a co-owner of Springfield-based business Auto-Grip. "Your identity gets robbed."

Christine and her husband D. David Heiby's company is the North American distributor of a special type of automatic locking pliers manufactured abroad. They assemble the pliers in-house and then sell them, which requires a lot of repetitive work that's well-suited to individuals regaining their concentration and organizational skills after a brain injury.

"This gives them purpose and a place to go," Christine said. The Heibys hired three part-time employees through Brain Injury Services in February 2015 for temporary

positions. But the individuals have proven they were too valuable to let go.

"They're remarkable, the attitude they bring," D. David said. "They work their heads off."

"We think this is the future," D. David continued, saying they hope to hire more employees from BIS in the future, as well as veterans who are struggling to find work.

"It's important to give back to the community, for many who may not have those opportunities," he said.

Jennifer Adams of South Riding, keynote speaker at the banquet, wasn't aware of Brain Injury Services after she went through her traumatic brain injury, 12 years ago as a senior in college.

Adams was on the passenger side of a car that was turning when it was hit by another car going 70 miles per hour. Her head slammed against the window and she went into a coma for five days. It took her a year and extensive physical therapy before she returned to school.

Adams said she and her parents had to figure out resources and services by themselves, "learning as we went."

"A resource organization like this would've been great," she said.

LAST FALL, in 2015, Adams began volunteering with the Pals mentoring and socializing program of Brain Injury Services, finally getting connected to a community of people who've had experiences like hers.

Not everyone understands the loss of memory, organization and concentration that individuals who suffer brain injuries struggle with.

"We're kindred spirits," Adams said. "You learn that you're not going alone."

Adams encouraged the nearly 200 volunteers, donors and survivors at the banquet to "Go make a difference in someone else's life. Get out and volunteer."

For more information about Brain Injury Services, visit braininjurysvcs.org.



Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Karen Garza said the school system is eligible and will be applying for relief funds from FEMA for snow removal costs associated with the January blizzard.



Springfield District School Board representative Elizabeth Schultz.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fairfax County Schools to Apply for FEMA Relief Funds

January blizzard cost
FCPS \$7.2 million.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Winter Storm Jonas, Snowmageddon, Snowpocalypse 2.0 — no matter what it's called, the county-crippling January 2016 blizzard cost Fairfax County Public Schools \$7.2 million to pay for employee overtime compensation, additional contractors and equipment rental.

At the March 10 regular meeting of the School Board, Superintendent Karen Garza

said the school system will be applying for Federal Emergency Management Agency relief funds to reimburse that total.

"We'll see what happens," Garza said, pointing out that it's uncertain how much the agency might hand out. "It may take some time, but that's good news. We'll continue to monitor that."

Schools are eligible to submit for relief funds, as well as counties, towns or cities and certain nonprofit organizations. If FEMA determines the costs are eligible, the agency could reimburse three-quarters of the expenses, with the Commonwealth of Virginia kicking in another 12 percent.

Fairfax County director of Public Affairs Tony Castrilli said the preliminary estimated costs from the blizzard for Fairfax County, the town of Herndon and public schools is

\$19.5 million, according to the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management.

"This was the most expensive snow event in the county due in part to large expenses relating to snow removal activities," Castrilli said in an email.

If FEMA determines the submitted costs eligible for reimbursement, it would be welcome, if not immediate, assistance for the Fairfax County government and school system, whose budgets are at odds with one another: Garza's FY2017 budget featuring no additional cuts to programs or services, and notable increases to teacher compensation sits under-funded by roughly \$68 million from the advertised County transfer.

"The good thing about that," Springfield District School board member Elizabeth

Schultz said about the potential FEMA reimbursement, "hopefully that'll give a little bit of breathing room to the other side."

At the March 10 meeting, the School Board unanimously approved revenue and expenditure adjustments from the Third Quarter Budget Review of FY2016 — including the snow removal costs.

Coming out of the review, the school system ended up with \$5.3 million in available funds, a result of \$2.8 million in increased revenue and \$2.5 million in decreased disbursements in the school operating fund.

Nothing will be done with those additional funds until the FY 2016 Final Budget Review, when the School Board may need them to cover one-time costs or the obligations for the beginning balance for FY 2018.

Del. Filler-Corn Champions New Laws Preventing, Combating Sexual Assault

On Friday, March 11, Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), flanked by leading voices in the fight against campus and domestic sexual assault participated in a press conference in Richmond on the last day of the 2016 General Assembly session announcing the passage of several bills addressing this issue.

Filler-Corn introduced three bills this session focused on this topic.

❖HB 659 will require high school family life curricula on awareness, understanding and prevention of dating violence, domestic abuse, sexual harassment and sexual violence.

❖HB 1102 will require the Department of Criminal Justice Services to develop multi-disciplinary curricula on trauma informed sexual assault investigation.

❖HB 655 was incorporated into HB 1160 (patroned by Del. Rob Bell of Albemarle), relates to the storage of Physical Evidence Recovery Kits (PERKs), ensuring that all PERKs are stored for a minimum of two years or two years from the victim's 18th birthday, if the victim



Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) with advocates addressing the press conference.

is underage. "Yes, we had success last year moving the ball forward on these crucial issues," said Filler-Corn referencing related bills she helped shepherd last year, "but the key this session was to shift focus to education and prevention."

This year we did exactly that. My hope is that with earlier information, young people

can prevent incidents of sexual assault both on campus and in any and all settings."

The sentiment was echoed by several long-time victims' rights advocates who praised the legislation as thoughtful and substantive.

Said Gil Harrington, mother of Morgan Harrington and founder of Help Save the

Next Girl, in Richmond on Friday: "I applaud the work of Delegate Filler-Corn. House Bill 659 will teach high school students skills that may actually ensure their very survival in our complex world. House Bill 1102 will train investigators to respond with more compassion and help improve psychological health for victims."

Annie Clark, executive director of End Rape on Campus, termed the education component "a critical first step. If we wait until college orientation to talk about sexual assault, then we are way too late." She, too, credited the Springfield lawmaker for her leadership on the issue: "End Rape on Campus is so thankful for Delegate Filler-Corn's commitment to ending sexual violence and supporting survivors." HB 1102 and HB 1160 were among 21 recommendations of a state task force formed by Governor Terry McAuliffe and led by Attorney General Mark R. Herring.

All of the bills have an April 11 deadline for the Governor to either sign, veto or amend.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Student Peace Award recipients pose after the ceremony.

PHOTOS BY
REEM NADEEM/
THE CONNECTION



Mission: Promoting Peace

22 receive Student Peace Awards for efforts to promote peace.

BY REEM NADEEM
THE CONNECTION

With causes ranging from anti-bullying efforts to human trafficking awareness to interfaith dialogue, students in Fairfax County were recognized for their peacemaking efforts at the 11th Annual Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County on March 13.

Students and student groups in any of 29 Fairfax County Public high schools, as well as three private high schools, were eligible for nomination. This year, 22 students or student groups received the Student Peace Award, for their efforts to promote peace.

"As one of their counselors said, these are people who not only looked for opportunities to do good things, they went out and created the opportunities. So many, many of these students have gone and created their own organizations and their own clubs to help whatever the issue is they wanted to work on," organizer Margaret Fisher said.

Mason Professor Al Fuentres, who travels to areas affected by war and natural disaster, spoke at the ceremony. Fuentres congratulated the recipients and spoke about his personal and professional experiences with fostering peace. Students received awards for a variety of peacemaking activities, however.

"As long as a student's contribution is something for peacemaking or nonviolent resolution of conflict, the schools could decide for themselves what that meant, because we didn't want to limit their thinking, and there's just millions of ways you can make peace either in your life, or in your school, or the greater community or the world as a whole," Fisher said.

EACH HIGH SCHOOL is responsible for selecting students to receive the recognition. Club leaders or counselors make recommendations and some schools allow students to self-select. Recipients of the award were informed in December so that they could include the recognition on college applications.

Because the awards are given to high school

juniors and seniors, the Student Peace Awards program aims to give students another achievement to strive for, in addition to academics and athletics.

"What we want to do is find a way to promote peace, that's the only goal of this is to promote peace. We thought that encouraging young people to find projects that do that would be worth doing and we wanted to get the word peace into the conversation in schools," Fisher said.

In addition to rewarding good student behavior, The Awards also aim to promote nonviolent solutions within the community, which in turn can spread globally, according to planner Paul Murphy.

"We need to reward positive behaviors. And to get people thinking in problem solving modes, not just whenever there's a problem in the world, to think that it requires a military solution, but beginning with our communities, expanding nationwide and then internationally," Murphy said. "I think it's very important for people to see that there are alternatives to violence, and these kids are beginning to show it at a very young age and we want to encourage them."

Once nominated for the award, recipients were guided through the process by representatives. Nancy James, who has served as a representative for several years, said she was assigned to work with senior Laith Abuhaija of the Islamic Saudi Academy, who was recognized for his interfaith efforts and volunteer work.

As the award program has grown, so has its importance to families of nominees. Luis Urbina drove from North Carolina to attend the ceremony for his daughter and award recipient, Renata Urbina Dela Flor, a senior at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

"We talked and she mentioned some stuff, but it's good to see that it's a lot more than what she said. You know, she's very humble so it's nice to see something like an award," Urbina said.

RECIPIENTS were awarded \$250 as well as \$100 to be donated to an organization of their choice. However, according to organizer Nancy Davis, the monetary reward is certainly not the most valuable gift.

"I love to see the families' expressions," Davis said. "The families are just so happy to see their children recognized for this type of work. It's not the athletic field - which is important too - and the monetary gift isn't great but I think it's wonderful seeing the parents so proud."

VIEWPOINTS

What Did You Do to Win Peace Award; What Inspired You to Get Involved?

—REEM NADEEM

Nathan Pillai, junior, Burke Centre Library Teen Advisory Board and Robinson Secondary School

"I was recipient of Fairfax County Peace Award for our efforts in combatting bullying around the County. Well, we took a look at a Fairfax County student survey report and we found a shocking statistic that over 50 percent of students around the County had reported being bullied at least once. So we thought that was a shocking statistic and shouldn't be happening in a County such as Fairfax, so we decided to take matters into our own hands by raising awareness through an anti-bullying fair, where we invited anti-bullying organizations from around the state to come and give presentations on their own efforts. And we invited students to come and tell their own stories about their experiences with bullying and how they dealt with the issues."



Nathan Pillai

Trevor Christensen, senior, Mount Vernon High School

"I was nominated for this Peace Award, it was for helping another student who was being bullied. I brought him to my counselor, and I believe she was the one who made the recommendation."

I have a natural knack to sort of assist others. For instance I'm in the Army National Guard, it's kind of a calling of mine to protect and help others."



Trevor Christensen

Sarah Hobbs, senior, Quander Road School, Alexandria

"I made a video about mental health awareness last summer and my school nominated me for this award. Well, Fairfax County actually sought grant proposals at the end of last year to make a video about mental health awareness, and I actually suffer from mental illness and I love filmmaking, so I thought it would be a great opportunity for me to sort of put the two together."



Sarah Hobbs

Logan Mannikko, senior, Westfield High School

"I received this award because of my support for people in the LGBTQ community and I'm transgender, so it's a big thing for me. Mainly my own identity, and knowing that there's a lot of students and kids in the community that aren't accepted or supported by family or their peers."



Logan Mannikko



PHOTOS BY REEM NADEEM/THE CONNECTION

Gayle Hooper presenting the revision process during the public information meeting at Cardinal Forest Elementary School.

Lake Accotink Park ‘Loved to Death’

The master plan revision for the park will take around 18 months, community involvement sought.

BY REEM NADEEM
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Park Authority began the master plan revision process for local park, Lake Accotink. Community members attended a public information meeting March 14 at Cardinal Forest Elementary School.

Project manager and senior landscape architect Gayle Hooper said she is involved with several park master plan revisions every year, but she has a personal connection with Lake Accotink.

“I grew up in Springfield, not that far from Lake Accotink. I spent many a day there as a kid, as a teen, as a young adult, as a parent, as an adult,” Hooper said.

Lake Accotink hosts numerous events, such as concerts and birthday parties. Park facilities also in-

clude an antique carousel, mini golf, boat rentals and reservable picnic areas.

“The park has seen a lot of wear, it’s kind of being loved to death. I want to keep that connection with the community but I’d really like to make it so it’s a healthier balance in the process,” Hooper said.

The master plan revision is expected to take around 18 months. According to Kirk Kincannon, executive director of Fairfax County Park Authority, master plans are revised every 20 to 30 years based on changes within the community.

Currently, no decisions have been made about what revisions should be implemented in the master plan, but each public information meeting will contain an allotted time for public comment.

SEE LAKE ACCOTINK,
PAGE 7



In 1918, Lake Accotink spanned 110 acres and was 23 feet deep. Today, Accotink spans 50 acres and is shallow enough to walk across, according to Fairfax County’s website.

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Homelessness on Its Way Out in Fairfax

Homelessness should be rare, brief and non-recurring; 776 fewer homeless individuals in 2016 than in 2008.

Homelessness is down in Fairfax County in every major category, a fact confirmed on Jan. 28, 2016, the annual Point in Time Count. There were 145 fewer individuals homeless than the Point In Time Count a year earlier, 138 of those in families, and seven fewer homeless individuals. There also were no families in overflow motels, and no families were unsheltered in the 2016 count.

Sixty-four percent of the 577 family members who were literally homeless on Jan. 28, 2016 were in transitional housing, with the rest in emergency shelter. There were vacancies in emergency shelters for families and in domestic violence shelters; no families were unsheltered.

"This trend is beautiful," said Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. "The things we're doing are making a difference."

In 2008, the Fairfax County established the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness with a plan to end homelessness within 10 years.

"Seeing the numbers decrease in so many different areas is encouraging after working on the 10 year plan," said Dean Klein, director

of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. Since 2008, the number of people who are literally homeless on the day of the Point in Time Count has decreased by 776 individuals. "Since 2008 there has been a 42 percent reduction in the number of people counted as homeless, from 1,835 people in 2008 to 1,059 in 2016," Klein reported to the Board of Supervisors on Monday, March 14.

Julie Maltzman, manager of Continuum of Care, reported the details to the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness on Monday afternoon.

A coordinated effort among partners, more housing options and flexible funding helped to get formerly homeless families into more viable housing with appropriate services, said Joe Meyer, executive director of Shelter House. More public awareness around homelessness is also making a difference, Meyer said.

Still, 341 children under the age of 18 were among those literally homeless in this year's Point in Time Count, 32 percent of all homeless.

Eighty percent (190 people) of the adults in homeless families were female; 66 percent of adults (155) in homeless families were employed; a slight increase from 62 percent in 2015. Twelve percent (21) of families were considered "youth households," with all family members under 25 years old.

Single adults made up 46 percent of all homeless people counted, a total of 482. Forty-two percent (202 people) of single adults who were homeless suffered from serious mental illness and/or substance abuse, a 13 percent decrease from last year. Many had chronic

health problems and/or physical disabilities as well.

Thirty percent (146 people) were experiencing chronic homelessness. This is a significant decrease from last year when 42 percent (203 people) were experiencing chronic homelessness.

Among the factors helping to reduce homelessness, Maltzman said: the adoption of a Housing First approach; increased homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing efforts; prioritizing housing for individuals with the longest history of homelessness and highest vulnerability; additional permanent supportive housing for singles experiencing chronic homelessness; focus on housing veterans including use of Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers; new permanent housing opportunities for families with children.

To find out more, see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/>

Support the effort to end homelessness by contributing to the Build a Village campaign found there as well.

Support the nonprofit partners working to end homelessness, including FACETS, Cornerstones, New Hope Housing, Northern Virginia Family Services, Shelter House, United Community Ministries, Good Shepherd Housing, Alternative House, Homestretch, Pathways Homes and others.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Mary Kimm is a member of the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time to Speak Out for Quality of Life in Fairfax County

To the Editor:

Fairfax County is a composite of many things that make the quality of life rich for people living here.

- ❖ Low crime rate thanks to the police whose budget also pays for the School Resource Officers and the School Crossing Guards;

- ❖ Access to a variety of good health care including a Health Department whose Health Department budget pays for school nurses;

- ❖ 500 square miles of public parks, 300 miles of trails and the nation's only national park for the performing arts; libraries to enjoy with a variety of programs;

- ❖ Public Schools with great staff, a graduation rate of 93 percent, and 74 percent of graduates going on to postsecondary programs;

- ❖ Safety net services for people in need, including Family Services and diversity of economic housing;

- ❖ County Government recognized for environmental excellence, innovation, and technology;

- ❖ Desirable location for businesses and access to skilled and talented workforce: two times as many Fairfax County adults hold a bachelor's degree or higher compared to the national average, home to Virginia's largest university and community college;

- ❖ Close to museums, theaters, restaurants, shopping, fit and healthy living that is accessible by public transportation.

The county's proposed budget is \$3.99 billion of which almost 60 percent is directly (52.2 percent) or indirectly (School Resource Officers, Crossing Guards, Nurses, and debt service for interest paid on bonds for construction or renovation of school buildings and athletic fields) going to public schools. This year it is proposed to give the schools an additional 3 percent or \$54.75 million. About 27 percent of county households have children in the public schools. This ratio of increasing taxes paid to schools and the percentage of households with children in the public schools is not

sustainable to keep all quality of life services at the current level, especially with the huge increase in the 50+ age population the county is expecting in the next decade.

Residents who care about these quality of life programs should speak out to the Board of Supervisors during the budget cycle

Promoting Economic Vitality of Fairfax City

To the Editor:

As the local Fairfax City election approaches on May 3, 2016, now is the time to say "yes" to a forward-looking vision for Fairfax City's future.

We ask candidates for City Council and Mayor to take actions that promote the economic vitality of the City of Fairfax so that we may preserve and improve our quality of life. The City depends on an expanded tax base to include new commercial developments supported by nearby higher density

through April 9, 2016. Email, call, write, or testify that you want the entire elected Board of Supervisors to fairly and equally represent all interests and all services for all county residents. Speak out for the total quality of life in Fairfax County.

Johna Gagnon
Franconia

residential developments. In accordance with this goal we ask that initiatives that incorporate and promote the following

goals be supported:

- ❖ the preservation of our neighborhoods, historic heritage, and existing open space;

- ❖ a range of transportation options to include biking, walking, and improvements to the street network for vehicular traffic;

- ❖ a variety of housing options

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

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Lake Accotink Park 'Loved to Death'

FROM PAGE 5

Both individual speakers and those representing an organization were invited to comment. Commenters' concerns ranged from environmental issues to park accessibility.

"We heard a lot of comments tonight about connectivity and trails, nature, conservation, public access. This is one of probably a dozen or so meetings we'll have with the community as we develop the master plan process, so it's really too early to say what it's going to be, but it's really up to the community," Kincannon said.

Because Lake Accotink is part of more than one district, including Braddock, Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) attended the meeting.

"Doing something, that doesn't necessarily mean building something, paving something. It also means things like the sustainability, the lake, the ecosystem, the trail network and we already heard tonight some different thoughts on what should trails be and what should they look like,



PHOTO BY REEM NADEEM/THE CONNECTION

Project managers displayed boards presenting information about Lake Accotink, including facts about Recreation and Wildlife.

we have to find a balance on those things," Cook said.

At this stage in the revision process, project managers and planners are eager to hear public opinion regarding the park.

"It really is an open process. So people should get involved and come out, put their ideas down. And if neighborhoods want to have a meeting of their own, we're happy to help set that up and just get people talking about the things that we can do," Cook said.

The next public information meeting is scheduled for May 16, however a draft of the revisions will not yet have been created. Because sediment build up continues to be an issue in the lake, officials plan to conduct studies to find out the extent of the problem before making plans.

Hooper said, "we still need to have this discussion about how to make the lake a more sustainable system, which will be a big factor in how we look at the park."

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Rehoboth Beach, DE, May 9-13.....\$659
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Private Schools: When Leaving Unexpectedly

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When Ashley and Clark Leonard enrolled their son in a local independent school, they were excited about the prospect of him thriving in a new, smaller academic environment. He left his local public school after what the Leonards described as a “bullying situation.” However, mid-way though the year at his new school, the family decided that the private school was not a good fit.

“He just wasn’t happy, so we decided to take him out,” said Ashley, who lives in Bethesda, Md. “But we lost about \$30,000.”

Now that the application period for most independent schools is over and acceptance letters have been disbursed, the next step in the process, for those fortunate enough to have been admitted, is making a commitment to one’s school of choice. This often requires that parents shell out a hefty deposit and sign a contract, agreeing, among other things, to pay tuition for the upcoming school year.

However, some families may change their financial situation and can no longer afford the tuition. Other families may relocate during the school year or have a child who becomes ill and is no longer able to attend school. Or, like the Leonards, a family may simply decide the school is no longer a good fit.

Many parents are surprised to learn that even if their circumstances change, their financial commitment to pay full tuition remains. The reason for this policy is largely budgetary. “Most schools require a contract and a deposit because the separation of a student does not materially decrease the expenses of the school since staff, services, and provisions are contracted for the year in advance,” said Mary Herridge, director of Enrollment Management for The Madeira School in McLean.

While making the decision to commit as methodically as possible is the best option for avoiding financial loss, there are circumstances that arise which are beyond one’s control. For these instances, many schools offer parents a safety net option.

“We offer tuition insurance and recommend that families purchase the plan as protection,” said Herridge.

If a family’s financial situation changes, it is in everyone’s best interests to work together to find a reasonable solution,” said Mark H. Sklarow, CEO, Independent Educational Consultants Association. “The school wants to make the situation work as much as the parent do, so the parents should immediately reach out to the school officials to see what can be done. Often times a school will temporarily reduce the fee, hoping that the family’s situation will improve.”



PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Spelling Bee winner and Wakefield Forest Elementary fourth-grader Eric Kim easily spelled his first word “denim” at the Fairfax County Spelling Bee held at Lanier Middle School on Sunday, March 13. His winning word was “diffidence.”

And the Winner Is ...

Wakefield Forest Elementary School student to compete at Scripps’ National Spelling Bee.

BY MARISSA BEALE
THE CONNECTION

The 10th annual Fairfax County Spelling Bee, sponsored by the Fairfax County Council of PTAs (FCCPTA) and the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, took place on Sunday, March 13, at Lanier Middle School. Students from first grade to eighth grade, representing more than 60 elementary and middle schools from around the County, competed to represent the region at Scripps’ National Spelling Bee, which will be held in May at National Harbor in Washington, D.C.

The first word of the competition went to first grader Xiwen Yao, from Oak Hill Elementary School in Herndon, who correctly spelled “bandit.” The words became harder as the rounds progressed, and spellers were challenged with words from Latin, Greek, French, German, Swahili, Japanese and many other languages.

“I prepared by studying root words for each language,” said Kunal Sharma, an eighth-grade student at Kilmer Middle School who came in second place at the regional spelling bee on Sunday. “My mom knows English and French, and she helped me a lot,” he said.

AFTER 11 ROUNDS of competitive play, fourth grade student Eric Kim, from Wakefield Forest Elementary School, was declared the

champion for correctly spelling every word thrown at him. His winning word was “diffidence.” In addition to being able to compete nationally, Kim also received a one year’s supply of pizza from Papa John’s, Webster’s Third New International Dictionary and a one week’s stay at the Gaylord Resort and Hotel at National Harbor with one family member, during Bee Week. To prepare, Kim studied for hours a day, and it paid off.

“He stopped wanting to practice,” laughed his father. A dedicated student, Kim competed in an Odyssey of the Mind competition the day before winning the regional spelling bee.

“For those who are successful in the competition it becomes a second job. It’s a matter of skill, but it’s also a matter of luck,” said Eliza Morss, the FCCPTA coordinator for the spelling bee.

In this elimination game, students study thousands of words to prepare. Scripps exclusively uses Webster’s Third New International Dictionary, which contains 472,000 words, and any of those words are fair game on competition day. Spelling bees at the school level are run by volunteers who rotate out with greater frequency at the middle school level than do volunteers at the elementary school level, but the goal is for the competition to continue expanding.

“I had a grandparent say they would like to watch [the regional competition] on television,” said Morss. “And I thought, why not.



Key Middle School seventh-grader Raiza Uddin makes to the third round of the Fairfax County Spelling Bee with the word “magnanimous.”



Little Run Elementary fourth-grader Alejandra Prudencio needed some reassurance before the contest from her father. Her first word was “panic,” which she spelled correctly.



Brianna (Min Hee) Son, a sixth-grader at Mosby Woods Elementary, spells the word “antibiotic” at the Fairfax County Spelling Bee held at Lanier Middle School on Sunday, March 13.

Next year it will definitely be televised,” she said.

AT THE NATIONAL SPELLING BEE, which is televised each year, one of the first things students will take is a multiple choice vocabu-



Jin Wen Xie, an eighth-grader at Lanier Middle School, spells “commensurate” during second round of the Fairfax County Spelling Bee held at Lanier Middle School on Sunday, March 13.



Ayaz Parvez, the father of Sarosh Parvez, a sixth-grader at Fairhill Elementary, says his son’s winning strategy for the Fairfax County Spelling Bee is “Confidence, confidence, confidence.”



Brookfield Elementary third-grader Nimal Muthukumar’s (pictured with his mother) winning strategy for the Fairfax County Spelling Bee is to sound it out.

lary test. The grade on that test will determine whether the student progresses to the next level of competition where they will spell before a judging panel.

“At the oral round there were a lot of successful kids. They then cut

off a certain group again based on your grade on the test,” said Morss. “That’s how they make the show entertaining and suspenseful.”

Kim will join spelling champions from around the country and compete during Bee Week on May 22-27.



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

The winner of the first place award in the culinary challenge went to Marshall Academy in Falls Church/McLean. Each student received a \$200 scholarship.

Real Food for Kids’ Culinary Challenge

11 teams of middle and high school students compete in school food competition.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Eleven teams of middle and high school students competed in the fourth annual Real Food for Kids’ Culinary Challenge on Saturday, March 12 at Robinson Secondary School. Students from six middle schools, four culinary academies, and one high school competed by preparing the most nutritious and delicious school snacks, breakfast and lunch menu items.

The event included six expert-led workshops on food writing, promotion and photography, family meal planning and school gardening. There was also a breakfast discussion that addressed the future of school food by Rodney Taylor, the new Food and Nutrition Services director (FNS) in Fairfax County and a pioneer in the farm-to-school movement, and Loudoun County’s FNS director Dr. Becky Bays, who also served as judges.

It also included celebrity

judges Marjorie Meek Bradley, a Top Chef finalist; Aviva Goldfarb of “Six O’Clock Scramble” books; chef Kate Sherwood of the Center for Science in the Public Interest; and Bonnie Benwick, deputy food editor of The Washington Post, who focused on “Food is Hot.” Scoring for the students was broken down by 20 percent presentation; 40 percent taste; 30 percent adaptability to school lunches; and 10 percent team organization.

“Today is such an exciting event because it demonstrates our community commitment to providing healthy food to every child,” said Megan McLaughlin, Braddock School Board representative. “I am so proud of the Real Food for Kids organization for their leadership and advocacy in this area. Their powerful voice has inspired our school system to make real and substantive improvements to our school meals.”

SEE FOOD FOR KIDS, PAGE 15



The team from Washington Irving Middle School in Springfield prepared Beans and Barley Smart Snack. (From left): Katrina Klopke, Jane Bruenjes and Malia Lohr.

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703.658.1201
www.fcps.edu/is/ace



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Of the six graduating seniors from Shark Tank Racing Squad, each have participated in at least two of the six annual swim marathons: (from left) Charlie Lertlumpasert, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology; Nora Surbey, W.T. Woodson High School; Moira LeMay, South County High School; Caroline Paris, West Springfield High School; Holly To, West Springfield High School and Ethan Villavicencio, W.T. Woodson High School.

Shark Tank Racing Squad Sets New Record

For the sixth year, swimmers piled on miles of laps in the pool, raising money to support their coach and the Avon Walk to End Breast Cancer.

The 52 members of the Shark Tank Racing Squad, between ages 8 and 18, brought in more than \$25,000 at the Feb. 28 swimming marathon that took place at the South Run RECenter. That total beat last year's record of \$23,200.

Each swimmer collected donations and then swam between 110 and 155 laps; the latter were referred to as "going the extra mile."

"It was truly one of the most beautiful marathons," coach Patty Friedman of Fairfax Station said in an email.

Friedman walked in the Avon Walk to End Breast Cancer and raised money independently for several years before getting the team involved. In the six years of the marathon, the team has raised \$100,000, she said.

A number of swimmers completed the marathon and extra mile despite injuries. Friedman said one athlete with a cyst on her breast provided the group more motivation and a reminder that part of the money they raised will help women who otherwise wouldn't have access to top surgeons.

"These kids have paid for a lot of mammograms and breast surgeries over these years," Friedman said.

W.T. Woodson freshman Riley Allison completed his third swim marathon as a Shark Tank athlete.

"The event is very important to me because at any point in time someone I know could be diagnosed with breast cancer," he said in an email. "Even if it isn't somebody I know, I'm glad I can raise money to help anyone who is diagnosed with it."

As in past years, supporters from Shark Tank will accompany Friedman to the start of the two-day, 39.3-mile walk, beginning in Washington, D.C.

For more information or to make additional donations, visit www.tinyurl.com/tank2016.

—TIM PETERSON



Fifty-two swimmers from the Shark Tank Racing Squad raised more than \$25,000 for breast cancer research by participating in the team's sixth annual swimming marathon on Feb. 28 at South Run RECenter.



The To family of Springfield has had three children participate in the swim marathon in each of its six years running: (from left) Holly To, coach Patty Friedman of Fairfax Station, mother Jennifer To, Christopher To, Nicole To and William To.



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.

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.

Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Exhibit by artist, Kathy Strauss. workhousearts.org. 703-492-8215.

FRIDAY/MARCH 18

"Meat the Truth." 6:30-9:30 p.m. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Soup and salad supper and a documentary showing. Childcare provided. Free. accotinkuuc.org. 703-503-4579.

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.

SUNDAY/MARCH 20

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. novapro tickets@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.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Easter Egg Hunt. 10-11:30 a.m. Sangster Elementary School, 7420 Reservation Drive, Springfield. Parkway Bible Church will hold an Easter Egg Hunt. There will be separate egg hunts for the little tykes and the school aged kids. Pre-K and school-aged children and families. Free. www.parkwaybibleva.org.
Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt. 9 a.m. Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Free. All welcome. gracepresby.org.
Eggstravaganza. 1-3 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Egg roll, moon bounce, face painting, door prizes, carnival games and more. Sponsored by Jubilee Christian Center and Brincolin Moonbounce. Free. jccag.org. 703-383-1170

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://bullruncwrt.org>.

"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 moorefitt@yahoo.com or 703-499-6133.

Adventures in Learning. Mondays, 8:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. April 4-May 9. Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. community, personal development, finance, and more. Afternoon breakouts are book club, bridge, and canasta. Bring a brown bag lunch. \$30. www.scfbva.org. 703-426-2824.

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/>.

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.

"Reflections of the Spirit" Art Exhibition. April 3-May 1. Workhouse

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Celebrating the Spring Holidays

FRIDAY/MARCH 18

"Meat the Truth." 6:30-9:30 p.m. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Soup and salad supper and a documentary showing. Childcare provided. Free. accotinkuuc.org. 703-503-4579.

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. Eater hunt for special needs children, too. Children up to sixth grade. kofk.org. 703-378-7272 ext. 225.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Easter Egg Hunt. 10-11:30 a.m. Sangster Elementary School, 7420 Reservation Drive, Springfield. Parkway Bible Church will hold an Easter Egg Hunt. There will be separate egg hunts for the little tykes and the school aged kids. Pre-K and school-aged children and families. Free. www.parkwaybibleva.org.

Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt. 9 a.m. Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Free. All welcome. gracepresby.org.

Eggstravaganza. 1-3 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Egg roll, moon bounce, face painting, door prizes, carnival games and more. Sponsored by Jubilee Christian Center and Brincolin Moonbounce. Free. jccag.org. 703-383-1170.

Community Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt. 8:30 a.m. St. George's United Methodist Church, 4910 Ox Road, Fairfax. Egg hunts are by age group, newborn to 10 years. 571-218-9972.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

FRIDAY/APRIL 1

Annual Funfair. 6-9 p.m. Cardinal Forest Elementary School, 8600 Forrester Blvd., Springfield. family friendly event that combines food, a raffle, carnival type games as well as

moon bounces, a rock wall and an obstacle course to create an exciting, fun-filled evening. Tickets for sale at the door to purchase food, play games and enter the raffle. More information at https://sites.google.com/site/cardinalforestpta/home/Funfair



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March 25 - Good Friday service at 7:30 pm

March 26 - Easter Egg Hunt at 10 am

March 27 - Easter Sunday worship at 8:00, 9:30, and 11 am

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

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Robinson senior Johnny Daniel scored a pair of goals during the Rams' season-opening victory over Broad Run on Tuesday.



Robinson freshman Declan Connolly scored three goals against Broad Run on Tuesday. The Rams defeated the Spartans 14-7.

Robinson Boys' Lax Beats Broad Run in Season Opener

Two-time defending state champs have new leaders.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Members of the two-time defending state champion Robinson boys' lacrosse team sat quietly at one end of the Coffey Stadium field during halftime of their season opener Tuesday night when they were greeted by the sound of reality.

Visiting Broad Run led 5-4 and the Spartans let the Rams — and others in attendance — know it, confidently cheering at the other end of the field.

"We just weren't really into it and we snapped into it once we realized that they're up," Robinson senior attackman Johnny Daniel said. "When we hear them yapping it up over in the corner of the field — that's our field. You can yap all you want, but it's Coffey Stadium [and] we're defending our field." The Rams woke up in the third quarter, outscoring Broad Run 7-0, and Robinson pulled away for a 14-7 season-opening victory.

Once Robinson got going in the second half, it didn't take long for the Rams to gain separation.

Five different Rams scored a goal during a 3-minute, 39-second stretch in the third quarter, taking Robinson from a 5-4 deficit to a 9-5 lead. Daniel and freshman attackman Declan Connolly each scored in the final minute of the period, extending the Rams' lead to 11-5.

Robinson led by as many as eight goals, when senior attackman Tristan Scofield gave the Rams a 14-6 advantage with 1:04 remaining in the fourth quarter.

"I'm extremely happy with the way we responded in the second half," Robinson head coach Matt Curran said. "With a young team, you're in that position maybe for the first time and you're not sure exactly how



Robinson sophomore Nick Rowlett scored a goal during the Rams' win over Broad Run on Tuesday.

they're going to respond."

Eight different Rams scored at least one goal. Senior midfielder Austin Henry and freshman Connolly each scored three. Junior attackman Liam Curran and Daniel each scored two goals, and sophomore midfielder Reid Scarborough, junior midfielder Tyler Iriondo, sophomore midfielder Nick Rowlett and senior Scofield each had one.

Junior goalkeeper Matt Bethard had eight saves.

Robinson enters the 2016 season with a talented roster, but the Rams have new players transitioning into leadership roles after graduating several prominent athletes from their back-to-back title runs.

Curran said Robinson still has high expectations, but the loss of experienced players means the Rams aren't as far along when it comes to implementing strategy.

"It doesn't matter what year it is and what kind of talent we have, our expectations every year are to win the state championship and I think that's how it should be," Curran said. "Do we take them along slowly? Yeah, we do. Last year, we had a ton of starters back so we could get into things that we were running the year before right away and some of these guys ... are learning it for the first time.

"... We don't have Jack Rowlett or Chapman Jasien or Jude Buckholz or Chris White, guys like that that were three- and four-year starters, anymore. Those guys are gone, so you guys — Austin Henry, Johnny Daniel, [senior midfielder] Danny Krug, [senior long stick midfielder] Eric Scales — you guys have to step up and they did. They responded. Just like anything, they're going to have to learn to be the guys, the captains, the leaders. They know how to do the lacrosse part, now they have to figure out how to be the leaders of the team and I think they certainly made a step [toward that]."

Daniel said players who might have been overlooked in the past now have a chance to step up. "We had a great amount of talent last year, but that talent kind of shadowed a lot of underlying talent," he said. "For example, Austin and I, we're a duo that's been kind of been overlooked for a while and now we have the chance to [lead]."

Daniel and Henry have both signed with VMI.

While Daniel, Henry, Krug and others transition into leadership roles, Connolly has an opportunity to be a young difference-maker. The freshman produced a hat trick in his first varsity game, including

"We just weren't really into it and we snapped into it once we realized that they're up. When we hear them yapping it up over in the corner of the field — that's our field. You can yap all you want, but it's Coffey Stadium [and] we're defending our field."

— Robinson senior Johnny Daniel

Robinson's first goal of the season.

"People need to be ready for him, honestly," Daniel said, "because that kid, he's one of the best players I've ever played with."

Curran praised Connolly.

"I've known Declan since he was in elementary school and coached him in some offseason stuff," Curran said. "He's got a really good head on his shoulders. He knows he's good, but he recognizes that this is a team game and he's always asking questions and he's always learning."

Robinson's next four games are at home, starting with a contest against Yorktown at 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 19. The Rams will host Northern at 2 p.m. on Monday, Langley at noon on Wednesday, March 23, and St. Ignatius (Illinois) at 7:15 p.m. on March 29.

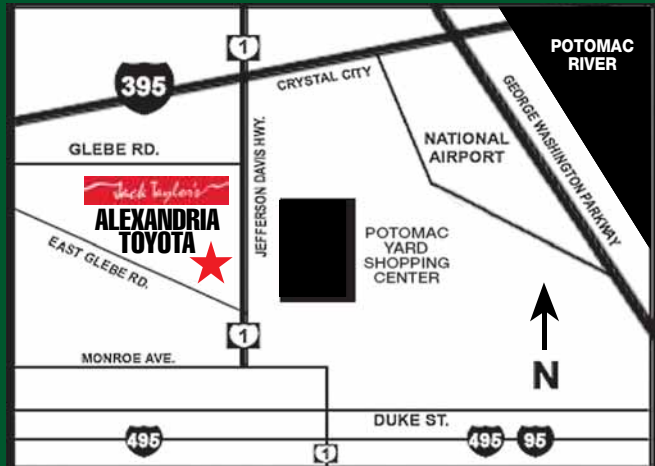
Robinson will travel to face Chantilly at 7:15 p.m. on April 1 in a rematch of last year's Conference 5, 6A North region and state championship games.

"Every year is state championship — that's what we want," Henry said. "We'll work [through] whatever we have to get that."

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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The Burke Connection
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Zone 3: The Alexandria Gazette Packet
The Mount Vernon Gazette

Zone 4: Centre View North
Centre View South

Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac
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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado, LLC trading as Chipotle Mexican Grill, 6230 Rolling Rd, Ste Y, West Springfield, VA 22152. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer On Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. M. Steven Ells, Manager
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.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Muse Paintbar, LLC trading as Muse Paintbar, 2920 District Ave, Ste 100, Fairfax, VA 22031. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer On Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Stanley J. Finch, member
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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21 Announcements

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE PERMIT
JOINT PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF CLIFTON PLANNING
COMMISSION AND CLIFTON TOWN
COUNCIL**

April 5, 2016
Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Planning Commission and the Town Council will hold a joint Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 7:30 P.M. at the Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton, VA 20124 to consider a request for a special use permit for Peterson's Ice Cream Depot, located at 7150 Main Street. The special use permit request includes 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 previously issued special use permit. The application for this special use permit is available for review and downloading on the Town's website at www.cliftonva.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 joint public hearing of the Town of Clifton Planning Commission and the Town Council and express their views with respect to the requested special use permit for Peterson's Ice Cream Depot.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

FAITH

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.

Harvester Presbyterian Church will hold Easter Sunday Service on March 27 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The church is located at 7800 Rolling Road, Springfield. www.harvesterpca.org

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.

Jubilee Christian Center of Fairfax is restarting its "Living Free" support groups for the Spring on Wednesdays, starting on Mar. 30, 7:15 p.m. The support groups are free, and will cover "Stepping into Freedom," "Concerned Persons Group" (for family and friends of addicts), "Understanding and Overcoming Depression," "The Image of God in

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.

SATURDAY/MARCH 19

Library Forum. 10-11:30 a.m. George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Help plan the libraries' future by sharing your input. fairfaxcounty.gov/library. 703-324-8319.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 23

Budget Town Hall. 7-9 p.m. Community Room, West Springfield Government Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. County Executive Ed Long and representatives from the Department of Management and Budget will be available to answer questions. Sponsored by Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield). 571-585-4540.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6
that enable people who work here to live here;

- ❖ the continued preservation and improvement of parks, recreation, and arts;
- ❖ the protection and restoration of habitat space and the underlying ecosystems;
- ❖ improved connections with George Mason University students, faculty, and staff.

These goals were echoed during the VisionFairfaxMason, a 2014 community-wide planning workshop that produced an

You," and "Handling Loss and Grief." There will also be support groups meeting on Sundays, 10:10 a.m. 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. For information or to register, call 703-383-1170, email livingfree@jccag.org or see www.jccag.org.

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

Lord of Life Lutheran offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 2

Breathe Out. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Fairfax United Methodist Church, 10300 Stratford Ave., Fairfax. Breathe Out has been developed to address teen stress. Registration required. breatheoutnow.wix.com/goldaward.
Donation Drop-Off. Noon-3 p.m. The Historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse, 8511 Hooes Road, Springfield. Community drop-off for household items, clothing, etc. to be sold at upcoming yard sale. Donations tax-deductible. sydenstrickerschoolhouse.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 3

Richmond Wrap-Up. 2-4 p.m. Virginia International Conference Room, 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax. Learn what your area legislator did during the Virginia General Assembly. Hear from state legislators. Bring your questions. Join the discussion. For more information go to s-a-l-t.org/ or call 703-591-7042 ext. 352.

ambitious plan to strengthen the economic ties between the City and the University. We urge those candidates for city council and Mayor to move forward with the recommendations in this plan to ensure the continued improvement of the quality of life for all Fairfax City residents.

Support this vision! Email us at smartergrowthfairfaxcity@gmail.com and provide your full name.

Dean Ross
Fairfax

Food for Kids

FROM PAGE 9

"The whole point of it is to encourage kids to participate in healthier cooking and foods that are in school. We're trying to encourage kids to help change school food and to live a more active lifestyle," said Diana Nash, Real Food for Kids event coordinator.

"This year we decided to open it up for middle schoolers and high schoolers. I'm really impressed with the level of skill

and preparation of the teams today," said Jenny Hein, executive director of Real Food for Kids.

An awards ceremony at the end included \$200 scholarships, \$50 gift cards to Sur La Table, a \$500 raffle award to Williams-Sonoma, gift certificate to Earl's Kitchen & Bar for six people, cookbooks and a Veggetti Spiralizer, among other gifts. All participating students left with their own gift bags.



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