

# Burke CONNECTION

HomeLifeStyle  
PAGE 8



Braddock District Community Champion Jim Bertolini (right) took action when an older neighbor's home in the Ravensworth Farm area was cited for maintenance issues and got the community involved in helping with the home's repairs. (Left) Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said, "John's actions and attitude are an excellent example of what community engagement is truly all about."

## County Honors Volunteers

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## PEOPLE

### Robinson Student to Perform at Carnegie Hall

William "Liam" Glenn, a student at Robinson Secondary School, was selected for the 2016 Middle School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall. He will perform as a violinist at Carnegie Hall in June 2016 with the Honors Junior Orchestra. Participation in one of the three Honors Ensembles is limited to the highest rated middle school performers from across North America and select schools internationally.

Liam has studied music for four years under Matt Richardson at Potomac Arts Academy. Liam is a member of American Youth String Ensemble, part of the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras. Liam said, "It is quite an honor to perform at Carnegie Hall. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity."

Learn more by visiting [www.honorsperformance.org](http://www.honorsperformance.org) and [www.worldstrides.com](http://www.worldstrides.com).



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Liam Glenn, a student at Robinson Secondary School, will perform at Carnegie Hall.**

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### THURSDAY/APRIL 14

**Library Forum.** 7:30-9 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Help plan the libraries' future by sharing your input. [fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/library). 703-324-8319.

**SHARE Program.** 3 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Recently receive a dementia diagnosis? Learn about how the SHARE Program can help you and your partner with communication, building a support network, and making more informed decisions about care. Free. RSVP at 703-204-4664 or go to [InsightMCC.org](http://InsightMCC.org).

### SATURDAY/APRIL 16

**Living Well, Aging Well Summit.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Explores multiple ways to age well and features a transportation/mobility expo, technology fair, volunteer opportunities, a CarFit program, health screenings, presentations and more. Register at [www.livingwellfairfax.org](http://www.livingwellfairfax.org) or call 703-324-7647, TTY 711. Call 703-324-5219, TTY 711 for ADA requests.

### TUESDAY/APRIL 19

**Autism and Safety.** 7-8:30 p.m. Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1, Room 100, Dunn Loring. Learn Safety risks for individuals with special needs, proactive steps to reduce the risk of potential dangers, resources available in the community for emergency preparedness, safety guidelines and more. Register at 703-204-3941 or <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/prc/resources/events/documents/AutismSafety.pdf>.

### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 20

**Prepare to Care.** 1 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Learn about how to form your team, make a plan, find support, and still care for yourself. Free. RSVP at 703-204-4664 or go to [InsightMCC.org](http://InsightMCC.org).

### SATURDAY/APRIL 23

**Home Buying Seminar.** 1-2 p.m. Weichert Burke Office, 9299 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Free home buying seminar on Saturday. Guests will receive a personal consultation with mortgage and real estate specialists, and also have the chance to win a cash prize. For more information, visit [www.tinyurl.com/WeichertHomeBuyers](http://www.tinyurl.com/WeichertHomeBuyers).

**Western Fairfax Teen Job Fair and Resume Building Workshop.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Chantilly High School Cafeteria, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. This event is open to all teens in Fairfax County looking for employment and is a great opportunity in a low pressure environment for teens to speak with potential employers, build their resume, and seek and hopefully find a job. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfair.htm>.

### TUESDAY/APRIL 26

**Virginia Colorectal Cancer Roundtable.** 9 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Inova Center for Personalized Health, 3225 Gallows Road, Fairfax. Discussion on the nationwide initiative to reach an 80 percent colorectal cancer screening rate by 2018. Free. Advanced registration required, <http://tinyurl.com/vacrct>.

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PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

**Fairfax County Supervisors named their 2015 Community Champions at the 24th Annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards hosted by Volunteer Fairfax.**



**From left: Jenny Lawson, Points of Light vice president of corporate strategy presents the Daily Points of Light Award to Kathy Hertz of Clifton, joined onstage by Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, Chief Executive Officer of Volunteer Fairfax Elise Neil Bengtson, Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), Fairfax County History Commissioner and Clifton resident Lynne Garvey Hodge, Clifton Mayor William Holloway and Tyler Corey with the Sheriff's Department.**

## Volunteer Stars Shine Brightly at 2016 Service Awards

**24th annual event recognizes community champions, hundreds of volunteers.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**K**athy Hertz, a longtime volunteer in Clifton, spent more than a week in Lesvos, Greece just after Christmas with her cousin. The two of them volunteered in and around a refugee camp for individuals being funnelled to Athens and hopefully back to Germany or other European havens.

"This could be me in a different time and

place," Hertz said of the refugees, "running for their lives, strangers in a strange land."

Hertz was recognized for her work with the Daily Points of Light Award, as well as the volunteer service award for Adult Over 250 Hours at the 24th Annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards breakfast on April 8.

"Volunteering is activism," Hertz said, "standing up for what you believe in. I accept this on behalf of everyone who goes outside of their comfort zone for the

greater good."

In a statement for the occasion, state Sen. George Barker (D-39) said, "Almost no one else would do what (Kathy) did. She accomplished what she set out to do, helping those with the least."

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova was on hand for the awards, held at the Waterford at Springfield, along with each district Supervisor. Together, they honored the 178 group and individual nominees for volunteer service awards with an official proclamation declaring April 8, 2016 "Volunteer Recognition Day" in Fairfax County.

"In Fairfax County, we have a culture of

engagement," Bulova said. The day was meant for people in the community to "observe with friends, celebrate and promote volunteerism."

Each Supervisor named a community champion — one outstanding citizen or organization — and then winners of more than a dozen competitive volunteer service awards were announced by host Jeff Goldberg of ABC7/WJLA-TV.

Elise Neil Bengtson, chief executive officer of Volunteer Fairfax encouraged everyone in the audience to "share the gift of time, talent, wherever they are needed."

For more information, visit [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org).



Kathy Hertz (center) of Clifton is presented with the Daily Points of Light Award as well as Fairfax County Volunteer Service Award for Adult Volunteer Over 250 Hours, recognizing her recent volunteering trip to Lesvos, Greece to aid Syrian refugees.



Braddock District Community Champion Jim Bertolini (right) took action when an older neighbor's home in the Ravensworth Farm area was cited for maintenance issues and got the community involved in helping with the home's repairs. (Left) Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said, "John's actions and attitude are an excellent example of what community engagement is truly all about."



Lee District Community Champion Linda Waller (left) has helped organize the Springfield Community Bridge Walk and Springfield Days celebration, and serves on the Beth El Hebrew Congregation synagogue's board of directors. Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) said, "I have no doubt that if you opened up the dictionary to the Vs, you'd find a picture of Linda next to the word 'volunteer.' Our community will never be able to repay Linda for all her hard work."



Supervisor Linda Smyth (right) (D-Providence) named the Greater Merrifield Business Association the 2015 Providence District Community Champion for the organization's members' efforts to develop Merrifield and the Mosaic District. "Without the persistence of the Greater Merrifield Business Association," Smyth said, "Merrifield would not be the huge success story that it is today."



Lifetime Achievement award-winner Alan Schuman became a Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteer in 2002 and now sits on the Board of Directors. Schuman became a youth basketball coach for Great Falls Basketball in 2000, after first working as a juvenile probation officer and then Director of Social Services for the Superior Courts. In a statement, Fairfax CASA Executive Director Darcy Cunningham said, "Because of [Schuman's] professional experience, he has seen first-hand the importance of interventions and wrap-around services. He is a champion for the CASA community."



Larry Peacock (right) accepts the Springfield District Community Champion Award on behalf of George and Estella Lynch, who began volunteering at the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board Crossroads Residential Treatment Program in 2003. Supervisor Pat Herrity, left, (R-Springfield) said, "Whether it was driving, gardening or just being there to listen and talk with the residents, their work did not go unnoticed."



Adult Volunteer Under 250 hours winner Michele Duell (left) organized "Educators Night" at Richard Byrd Library in Springfield to celebrate the work of teachers and principals, and help keep their school libraries stocked. In a statement, President of the Friends of Richard Byrd Library Chris Peterson said Duell "puts her time, money and talents to work so Springfield children can flourish."



Les Esmond, chief cashier at Pender Re-Gift Thrift Store since May 2012, won the Senior Volunteer Award. The store is owned by Pender United Methodist Church in Fairfax. Awards host Jeff Goldberg of ABC7/WJLA-TV said, "Maryann Weber, executive administrator of Pender Re-Gift Thrift Store, is certain that their capacity to accomplish their mission would be diminished, if not impossible, without Les Esmond's continued and diligent service."



# Living Well Summit Piques Interest of County Seniors

Summit helps county residents improve with age.

BY MARTI MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

Local residents can learn how to age gracefully Saturday, April 16, at the Living Well, Aging Well Summit in the Fairfax County Government Center.

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., older adults, people with disabilities and their caregivers can see more than 100 exhibitors, and participate in seminars useful to improving the quality of their lives.

Keynote speaker Dr. Richard W. Lindsay will address the value of physical activity for living and aging well. He is a pioneer of the geriatric studies program at the University of Virginia's School of Medicine.

Part of the conference sheds light on transportation issues and offers solutions for people who cannot drive. Visitors will see the Fairfax County Connector bus, a Fastran shuttle and an accessible taxicab on display outside the government center entrance.

Across the street in the parking lot of the Pennino Building — at the corner of Post Forest Drive and the Government Center Parkway — CarFit specialists will examine the posture of senior motorists and make adjustments to maximize driver safety. Everyone is offered a free shuttle ride from this site to the summit, so they don't have to waste time finding a parking spot at the Government Center.

Inside, visitors can learn how to use Medicare for financial assistance with their long-term care needs, and access their medical records according to rules under the Health Insurance Portability and Accounting Act.

Instructors will show patients how to obtain valuable face time with medical professionals through their mobile devices without leaving the comfort of their homes.

People interested in volunteer opportunities may find a local non-profit organization in need of their time and expertise.

Area vendors will dispense health and wellness information. Diet, nutrition and exercise also are discussed at Living Well workshops — including a session on how to maintain the proper balance one needs to prevent falls and injuries.

## Summit on Living Well, Aging Well

**Recovering from a traumatic brain injury is an uphill climb for retired Army Lt. Col. Charles R. Thomas, 79, as he strolls up his driveway in Burke March 30. His caregiver, Gio Gavilanez — a certified nursing assistant with Vienna-based home health care agency Visiting Angels — holds onto a belt cinched around his client's waist to keep him balanced on a windy day as Thomas pushes a Drive Medical Nitro rollator his wife, Wanda, purchased last year for more than \$300 from Roberts Home Medical supply in Falls Church. Local residents like Thomas and their caregivers can visit more than 100 exhibitors and attend workshops on health and wellness issues**

**Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Living Well, Aging Well Summit in Fairfax at the County Government Center. The inaugural expo will show older adults and people with disabilities resources available to them through county agencies and community service providers. Admission and parking are free at the April 16 conference at 12000 Government Center Parkway. Registration is on the main level near the entrance. Visitors can call 703-324-7647, TTY 711 or sign up at [www.livingwellfairfax.org](http://www.livingwellfairfax.org).**



PHOTO BY MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Event chairwoman Melanie Rochon Bush, who holds a doctorate in health sciences and physical therapy, says the summit is “an opportunity for Fairfax-area residents to access information that is difficult to get in one place.”

## Fairfax Grows Up

According to a 2014 American Community Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau, Fairfax County has more than 1.1 million residents. Although the median age is 37.6 years, nearly 272,000 residents are ages 55 years and older.

Fairfax County demographers released a 2013 study that predicts 33 percent of county residents will be 50 years and older by the year 2040. Instead of flocking in droves Down South, local retirees are staying put — especially in Prince William and Loudoun counties.

For this reason, Fairfax County spokesman Brian Worthy said the Board of Supervisors is committed to older adults through its “50+ Community Action Plan,” adopted nearly two years ago as the last of the baby boom generation born in 1964 came of age.

“It’s a vision and action plan the county is executing,” he says. It is one of the guiding principles organizers used to plan the Living Well, Aging Well conference, according to Bush.

Patricia Rohrer, long-term care program manager in the Fairfax County Health Department says the summit is a brain child of the government’s Long Term Care Coordinating Council — “a citizen-driven program to examine gaps in the needs of the long-term care community.”

Bush said Fairfax County provided space and staff support for this function but plays “no part in establishing a budget.” The Living Well, Aging Well Summit has received support from the local business community and volunteers.

Sponsors include the Fairfax County Long Term Care Coordinating Council, the Fairfax 50-Plus Initiative, the Department of Health’s Area Agency on Aging, AARP, local hospitals and businesses, as well as community and advocacy groups.

Admission and parking are free to the general public at 12000 Government Center Parkway. Registration is on the main level near the entrance. Visitors can call 703-324-7647, TTY 711 or sign-up online at [www.livingwellfairfax.org](http://www.livingwellfairfax.org).

# Teenage Sharks Hungry for Win at Senior Summit

Necessity is the mother of invention and local teenagers are learning what tools they may need to make their lives easier during their golden years.

In a contest modeled after the popular ABC Television Network reality show “Shark Tank,” local high school students invented assistive technologies geared for older adults, people with disabilities and their

caregivers for the April 16 Living Well, Aging Well Summit in Fairfax.

Contestants must address one or more aspects of health and wellness, safety, social engagement and caregiving. Students were mentored by local business collaborator Refraction of Reston, which provides office space and business networking opportunities to technology entrepreneurs in the Reston Town Center.

Six teenage finalists have to wait exactly 19 days to find out who won this competition for winning innovation held March 28, when five judges watched students demonstrate their projects at the County Government Center. Panelists were on the lookout for user-friendly innovations that maximize independent use by older adults.

Event organizer Michael Behrmann said projects included a website for grandpar-

ents, a shoe device that helps visually-impaired users navigate their environment and a medicine cabinet that keeps track of prescription drugs.

Top innovators will receive four cash awards of \$750 from Reston business and technology consulting services firm INTEGRITYOne Partners. Runners-up will

SEE TEENAGE SHARKS, PAGE 5

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## NEWS

# Teenage Sharks

FROM PAGE 4

earn four other awards worth \$250 from this Reston-based business and technology consulting services firm.

Behrmann said INTEGRITYOne was so impressed with the competition, they added another \$1,000 to the pool “so that every project would get an award.”

This contest is sponsored by the 50+ Community Action Plan, which contains 31 local government initiatives designed to address Fairfax County’s growing elderly population with special needs.

Behrmann — who earned his doctorate in special education from Columbia University — serves the community as a member of the Fairfax Area Long Term Coordinating Council. According to this group, 120,000 Fairfax County residents have a disability and more than 60,000 locals are ages 70 years and older.

Behrmann led the committee that spent nearly a year creating the Shark Tank contest, which was

announced to local schools in August. Inventors from at least four Fairfax County Public Schools — including the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria — responded to the call. As a special education professor at George Mason University, Behrmann uses technology at his day job to capitalize on human potential as director of the Helen A. Kellar Institute for Human Disabilities — a GMU research arm that develops tools designed to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

“Shark Tank” winners are announced Saturday at the Living Well, Aging Well Summit inside the Fairfax County Government Center, where inventors will display their entries between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at 12000 Government Center Parkway.

The event is free to the general public. Visitors may call (703) 324-7647, TTY 711 or register at [www.livingwellfairfax.org](http://www.livingwellfairfax.org).

—MARTI MOORE

## FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to [vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

The **Church of the Holy Comforter in Vienna**, 543 Beulah Road, is offering the course “Your Faith, Your Life: An Invitation to the Episcopal Church.” Classes will be April 17; May 1, 15, 22; June 5 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Light lunch and childcare provided. Visit <https://tsu.me/1tg> to sign up for a book and

**Great Falls United Methodist Church**, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, will host annual yard sale/flea market on Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. You can now reserve a 10x10’ space (\$25) to sell your own treasures or donate items to the church (they would pick up). Come shop, donate and/or sell

your own things. 703-582-1640.

**St. Francis Episcopal Church**, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including a 7:45 a.m. worship service without music; 9 a.m. worship service, children’s chapel and children’s choirs; 10 a.m. Sunday school and adult forum; and 11 a.m. worship service with adult choir. 703-759-2082.

**The Antioch Christian Church** offers a time of Prayer and Healing on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. for anyone wanting encouragement and healing through prayers. People are available to pray with you or for you. Antioch Christian Church is located at 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna. [www.antiochdoc.org](http://www.antiochdoc.org)



## PHOTO GALLERY!

### “Me and My Mom”

To honor Mom on Mother’s Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother’s Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what’s going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To send digital photos, go to:

[www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday)

Or to mail photo prints, send to:

The Burke Connection, “Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,” 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314  
Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don’t send us anything irreplaceable. ~Reminder: Father’s Day is June 19~

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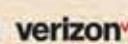
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# OPINION

## Award Winning Connection Newspapers

### Still striving to be the Connection to your community.

Connection Newspapers won dozens of awards from the Virginia Press Association for work done in 2015. Award winners were announced on Saturday, April 9, at an awards banquet in Richmond.

While the papers won awards in many categories, the common underpinning was community journalism, accessibility of information, and reporting on critical issues like transparency in government.

Thematically, the papers won multiple awards for stories and sections that were informative and helped make communities, events and resources more accessible to our readers.

Examples included Ken Moore's reporting on Robert Simon's role in Reston, which included coverage of Simon's 101st birthday, Simon's ongoing influence, and his obituary. The series won first place.

Print newspaper obituaries play a vital role in local communities, reflected in Jeanne Theismann's first place award for three obituaries in the Alexandria Gazette Packet. Earl Lloyd was born into "the cradle of segregation" yet persevered to become the first African American to break the color barrier in the NBA. Dr. Robert Wineland, "Dr. Bob," was a WW II

veteran and survivor of the Battle of the Bulge. He was a beloved local doctor for more than 60 years. And Ferdinand Day was the first African American to be elected to chair a public school board in the state of Virginia.

We are lucky to have cartoonist Steve Artley to skewer and edify many issues, including his first place cartoon that suggests Alexandria could solve parking and housing problems by placing both on barges in the Potomac River.

Jean Card, Renee Ruggles and Laurence Foong have collaborated over several years on the Insider's Guide to the Parks, which won awards in Mount Vernon and Vienna/Oakton, capping several awards for informational graphics.

Our Newcomers and Community Guide to Arlington was described as "Informative, well written, with good use of graphics." Winners included Steven Mauren, Eden Brown, Vernon Miles, Shirley Ruhe, Laurence Foong.

Sarai Johnson, Hope Nelson, Shirley Ruhe, and Steve Hibbard won second place for entertainment pages in the Alexandria Gazette Packet, weekly coverage of arts, entertainment, food and things to do in Alexandria.

Reporting on elections, the environment, health and fitness, and organizations that are designed to help others also garnered awards.

Kenny Lourie won for his ongoing column writing about living with cancer. Lourie both lives and writes with humor and perspective. The judge said, "Though filled with heavy subject matter, the author hooks readers by using his first-person perspective, humor and emo-

tion to describe the events of his life. These columns grab your attention from the first paragraph."

Abigail Constantino's photo that shows the great aunt of Natasha McKenna at a protest of McKenna's death in custody, won second place for general news photo. Eudora Paul's sign displays McKenna's last words: "You promised you would not kill me."

Tim Peterson's coverage of McKenna's death won second place in In Depth/Investigative. Peterson garnered the most awards of any Connection staff member, winning seven.

Mary Kimm's editorials on lack of police transparency and local government accountability won second place for editorial writing.

Kemal Kurspahic's opinion pages in the Herndon Connection won third place.

Jeanne Theismann, whose profile includes that she "dreams of one day writing headlines for the New York Post," won second place for headline writing in the Alexandria Gazette Packet. Headlines: Some Like It Haute, - story about the 10-year anniversary of a boutique warehouse sale; Soul Providers, a story about volunteers recognized for service to seniors; Something to Wine About, - on the opening of a new wine cellar; Luck Be a Lady, - on the opening of a new bath apothecary called Ladyburg; To the Rescue, about - a nonprofit started by firefighters to collect toys for underprivileged children.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### Connection Awards - Partial Listing

- ❖ Abigail Constantino, Fairfax Connection, Second Place - General news photo, Natasha McKenna's great aunt holds a sign: "You promised you would not kill me." Judge: "Good capture of emotionally charged event."
- ❖ Tim Peterson, Springfield Connection, Second Place - Personal service writing, coverage of three worthy causes. Judge: "This submission quickly makes the reader care about the causes championed in the stories. ... There was good detail presented in such a way as to make the reader want to donate to each of these causes by the end of the story - I was ready to get my checkbook out after reading each one."
- ❖ Tim Peterson, Springfield Connection, Third Place - Government writing, coverage on aftermath of police shooting of John Geer, Virginia General Assembly. Judge: "A very comprehensive look at the Geer case was well-thought out and I was very impressed with the state legislature package."
- ❖ Tim Peterson, Springfield Connection, Third Place - Public safety writing, stories on sex trafficking, police and fire department training and National Night Out. Judge: "Each of the stories in this submission is comprehensive in its handling of the topic, as well as engaging for the reader. The information offered is very good, and the presentation attractive. There was adequate space given to each story, which was then complemented by excellent artwork."
- ❖ Tim Peterson, Burke Connection, Second Place - Education writing. Stories on School Board action on gender identity, graduation of triplets, and renovation of a local school. Judge: "All three stories had outstanding ledes. Quality writing and reporting."
- ❖ Tim Peterson, Burke Connection, Third Place - Breaking news writing, about escape of prisoner from hospital and his recapture. Judge: "Excellent art, good storytelling."
- ❖ Tim Peterson, Fairfax Station/Clifton/ Lorton Connection, Second Place - Business and financial



PHOTO BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO

**Natasha McKenna's great aunt Eudora Paul carries a sign with McKenna's words the day she was tasered by officers from the Fairfax County Sheriff's Department. Photo by Abigail Constantino won second place for General News Photo.**

- writing. Stories on Goat Landscaping, sustainable farm, and a handcrafted greeting card company. Judge: "Good business stories with a great features twist. Very enjoyable stories."
- ❖ Ken Moore, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection, First Place - Feature writing portfolio included a trip to the farmers market, remembrance of Latin teacher Christine Sleeper and celebration of the one-year birthday of the Silver Line.
- ❖ Marilyn Campbell, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection, Second Place - Health, science and environmental writing
- ❖ Kenneth Lourie, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection, Second Place - Column writing. Judge: "Though

filled with heavy subject matter, the author hooks readers by using his first-person perspective, humor and emotion to describe the events of his life. These columns grab your attention from the first paragraph."

- ❖ Ken Moore, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection, Second Place - General news writing for election coverage. "Excellent coverage. ... Balanced and thorough. Effective at conveying why this is relevant for readers."
- ❖ Jon Roetman, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection, Second Place - Sports writing portfolio.
- ❖ Kemal Kurspahic, Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong, Mary Kimm, Oak Hill/ Herndon Connection, Third Place - Editorial pages
- ❖ Ken Moore, Reston Connection, First Place - Feature series or continuing story, on Reston founder Robert Simon. Judge's comment: "This was an in-depth series, very informative and interesting to read." Moore covered several key moments, including celebration of Founder's Day 2015 and Simon's 101st birthday; later, Moore wrote Simon's obituary and covered the celebration of Simon's life.
- ❖ Jean Card, Laurence Foong, Renee Ruggles, Vienna/Oakton Connection, Second Place - Informational graphics, Connection Insiders Guide to the Parks.
- ❖ Mary Kimm, Great Falls Connection, Second Place - Editorial writing for multiple editorials on police transparency. Judge: "Brings important pressure to bear on people in power."
- ❖ Ken Moore, Great Falls Connection, Second Place - Health, science and environmental writing; stories covering issues of deer, cleanup of groundwater contamination from gas station and tree preservation. Judge: "Excellent and informative."
- ❖ Laurence Foong, Great Falls Connection, Third Place - Informational graphics, Map of Property Assessments. Judge: "A very interesting concept."
- ❖ Ken Moore, McLean Connection, Third Place - Feature writing portfolio. Judge: "Great reads on interesting topics. Who knew there was such a thing as pinball championship, especially out of someone's basement? Pull out information added neat and tidy facts and/or information."

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## Weichert's Burke Office to Host Free Homebuying Seminar

The Weichert Burke office is hosting a free home buying seminar on Saturday, April 23, 2016 from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Burke sales office located at 9299 Old Keene Mill Road.

Throughout the seminar, attendees can expect to discuss what is selling in the local market area, affordable financing options, and how to buy at the right price in today's market. Guests will receive a personal consultation with mortgage and real estate specialists, and also have the chance to win a cash prize. For more information, visit [www.tinyurl.com/WeichertHomeBuyers](http://www.tinyurl.com/WeichertHomeBuyers).

To learn about the real estate services that Weichert, Realtors has to offer, stop by the Weichert, Realtors' Burke office located 9299 Old Keene Mill Road, or call 703-569-7870. For more information about the upcoming seminar or to RSVP, contact Diane Moreland at 703-569-7870 or [DMoreland@weichertrealtors.net](mailto:DMoreland@weichertrealtors.net).

## Summer STEM Academy at NOVA

High school juniors and seniors are invited to apply for a weeklong summer STEM academy at Northern Virginia Community College. Selected students will unravel a forensics mystery by conducting various STEM experiments in a college setting.

The summer STEM academy will be held at NOVA's Manassas Campus during the week of June 20 and at NOVA's Alexandria, Annandale, Loudoun and Woodbridge campuses during the week of June 27.

The \$30 registration fee covers all activities and lunch each day. Seats are limited and interested candidates must apply by April 30 at <http://kajacomo.wix.com/ncsi-stem-academy>.

Selected candidates will be notified by May 10.

Students who attend the academy will be eligible to apply for two \$500 scholarships to enroll in a college science course during NOVA's spring 2017 semester.

The STEM academy is sponsored by NOVA's College-wide STEM Initiative and funded by a Perkins grant. For more information, contact Academy director Ia Gomez at [igomez@nvcc.edu](mailto:igomez@nvcc.edu).

**Fairfax County Tax Delinquent Real Estate For Sale...**



# AT AUCTION!

**Wednesday, April 27, 2016 @ 2:30 P.M.**

**\* 10 Parcels! \* Homes, Condo, & Land! \***

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**Parcel 1:** (American Realty) 148,561 +/- Sq. Ft.; 5600 Backlick Road, Springfield; Braddock District; Tax Map #0802-01-0016; Acct. #407620309  
**Parcel 2:** (Bengal) 8000 +/- Sq. Ft.; Lantana Trail; Gunston Manor, Lots 50-53, Block 24, Sec. B; Mt. Vernon District; Tax Map #1194-02240050; Acct. #408079493  
**Parcel 3:** (Berkebile) 1.7783 +/- Ac.; Caisson Road; Sunrise Green; Legato; Springfield District; Tax Map #0563-01-0036; Acct. #407895000  
**Parcel 4:** (Haight) 3.939 +/- Ac. Near Fairfax County Parkway & Hope Park Road; Springfield District; Tax Map #0671-01-0084; Acct. #407569254  
**Parcel 5 (Improved):** (JFM) 8608 Rocky Gap Court, Lorton, VA 22079; Green Ridge Condos Addition; Lot 26; Mt. Vernon Dist.; Tax Map #0983-15-0026; Acct. #408045740  
**Parcel 6:** (Jones) 2.6732 +/- Ac.; 11815 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22030; Lincoln Park, Lot 30; Tax Map #0671-04-0030; Acct. #407569308  
**Parcel 7 (Improved):** (Kenney) 2547 Five Oaks Road, Vienna, VA 22181; Acredale, Lot 30; Providence District; Tax Map #0383-03-0030; Acct. #407812118  
**Parcel 8:** (Pennsbury) 1.149 +/- Ac.; Carrleigh Parkway; Cardinal Forest, Parcel 11, Section 3; Springfield District; Tax Map #0793-01-0009; Acct. #407975430  
**Parcel 9:** (Second Carr) 2.65 +/- Ac.; Southern Oaks Place; Hooes Road; Newington Commons, Parcel B, Section 1; Mt. Vernon District; Tax Map #0983-14-B, Acct. #407685462  
**Parcel 10 (Improved):** (Uwazie) 9325 Maybrook Court, Alexandria, VA 22309; Mt. Vernon Grove, Lot 499; Mt. Vernon District; Tax Map #1104-02-0499, Acct. #407715885

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## SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.


APRIL

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**  
5/11/2016.....HomeLifeStyle  
5/18/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools, Proms, Summer Planning  
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5/25/2016...Summer Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment

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# Home LifeStyle

## Modular Homes Come of Age

### Cost-controls and customizable interiors spur interest.

BY JOHN BYRD

What's behind the growing popularity of modular homes? Recent research shows that a house comprised of architecturally-specific, pre-constructed modules can be assembled on a homeowner's lot for 10-15 percent less than of the cost of a comparably-sized "stick-built" house. A house that would normally cost \$500,000, therefore, can be designed and constructed in the \$425,000 range.

Moreover, a modular home — one that's been designed as appreciably finished components produced under factory conditions — is a solid piece of work. To assure units can be shipped and installed safely, framing material is substantially reinforced. Also, since the process generates less waste — it can be an eco-friendly choice.

Modular homeowners Marcelo Dobrauchi and Rita Tersio, husband and wife, are eager to show people what's possible and to share their journey.

What you'll see from the curb is a lovely, seemingly-traditional Colonial-style home that's actually composed of pre-constructed modular units.

The components were assembled in Pennsylvania, loaded on six flatbed trucks and delivered to their new half-acre destination in less than a day. Modules were then assembled on the site in two days.

The follow-up consisted mainly of interior finish work tasks like installing the Brailizan etuve flooring or the glass facing cabinets in the master bathroom, kitchen and butler's pantry.

Tersio and Dobrauchi moved in with their two children this past November and soon began entertaining friends.

For the couple, who operate Terranova Construction K&B, the move has inaugurated a new phase in their professional development. As a rule, they had concentrated on remodeling solutions in conventionally constructed "stick-built" homes. But in 2003 on a business trip in Pennsylvania they witnessed a pre-constructed housing component being whisked through the air on a crane and decided to investigate.

"In an instant we saw how much more solidly constructed a modular home is than a house built by traditional methods," Tersio said. "We decided to familiarize ourselves with the current practices. Basically, we wanted to know how effectively a home coming out of this process could be customized."

One decision led to another and last year the couple purchased the Vienna lot, which soon became the site of the 4,200-square-foot, two-level structure they had shepherded from rough sketches to the finely detailed residence they now occupy.

"We wanted to comparison-shop two building methods," Tersio said. "As remodelers, we often see clients agonizing over price differences in upgrade choices. So we asked ourselves: suppose the home-



The island provides a food prep sink and shelves for cookbooks. In total, the kitchen is 320 square feet. There's a butler's pantry through the door that segues to a formal dining room.



Marcelo Dobrauchi notes that, while a modular home costs 15 percent less than a "stick-built" alternative, its customization and finishwork potentials are comparable.

owner has already saved a substantial upgrade voucher since the house itself costs less to construct? Since our specialty is interior design, we thought this alternative process was worth exploring."

Certainly this concern for presentation is evident in their new home where the couple opted for formal finishwork detailing and personal-use spaces throughout.

There is a 140-square-foot master bathroom with custom-cabinetry and fine mosaic tiling; a 200-square-foot formal dining room that incorporates wainscoting and embossed paneling; a spacious in-law suite; and a family room designed for puzzles and board games. There is a second floor art

studio and above all, a suite of rear rooms that revolves around a gourmet kitchen.

"We thought a lot about break-through kitchen design trends," Tersio said. "There's been a movement toward transitional-style: open, well-integrated spaces with effective work triangles that use formal design elements to define key activity zones."

To put their new kitchen to the test, the couple sponsored a cooking class last January led by Luca Tinti, a Tuscan chef who is also engaged to Tersio's sister.

"We wanted to welcome Luca to the family," Tersio said. "But were also responding to people who wanted to see just how customized a kitchen designed from a modu-

### Details

The Tersio-Dobrauchi home at 508 Plum St. SW in Vienna, will be open to the public on June 11. Call 703-761-0604 or visit www.terranovackb.com.

lar construction process can be."

At the end of the day, Luca's satisfaction that his requirements had been met spoke volumes.

"This space was obviously designed for serious cooking," Tinti said. "For instance, there are sources of water in all the right places ... pot-filler behind the gas range, the sink on the food prep island and the bow-shaped farm sink."

"There's a professional caliber gas range. Several ovens. Pull-out spice racks. It's not just an exceptionally well-organized plan; it also provides work stations for a whole range of steps necessary for sophisticated cooking." The 4-foot-by-12-foot food prep island, for instance, is positioned to support work triangles formed by perpendicular counter surfaces on either side of an archway which segues to the butler's pantry and formal dining room beyond. The island also doubles as a three-stool dining counter.

It's a plan that allows one dish to marinate — while another is being sauteed on the gas range, and a third is in the warming oven.

As a chef, Luca particularly appreciated finding all the necessary cooking implements at his fingertips.

"I could swivel in one direction and find cooking utensils, specially-sized pots and pans, and mixing bowls in custom-designed drawers" he said. "In the pantry, there's a special cubby for the pasta-maker. There's even a case for cookbooks built into the island."

None of this praise is a surprise to Dobrauchi, who is a seasoned kitchen designer. Still, the ease with which he could execute the kitchen's finishwork was a pleasant departure from the realities of the stick-built process.

"My experience in designing this house may be somewhat like that of a playwright who is so close to every detail of his work that he's completely forgotten about the audience until opening night. Suddenly people are excited about effects they are seeing for the first time, and all I can say is 'Yes, that's the reaction I intended to inspire.'" That said, Marcelo is equally enthused about the home's master bathroom, formal dining room and the old-world elegance of the spacious family room.

"The modular home design process can remove a lot of drudgery because you have the option to work with pre-existing templates," Dobrauchi said. "On the other hand, there's nothing you can't adapt to your requirements, and this allows the homeowner to concentrate on interior design, which is the arena where they really get to express themselves."

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

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# CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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

**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. Starts with exercise, followed by speakers. Afternoon of break-out activities. Bring a brown bag lunch. \$30. Register at 703-426-2824 or [scfbva.org](http://scfbva.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](http://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](mailto:moorefitt@yahoo.com) or 703-499-6133.

**Smoke Free Bingo** (with breaks for smoking friends). 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, \$1,000 jackpot. [www.fairfaxvd.com](http://www.fairfaxvd.com). 703-273-3638.

**Lake Accotink Park Campfire Saturdays.** 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/>.

**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](http://www.jccnv.org). 703-537-3000.

**Celebrating our Children's Creativity.** May 19-June 20. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River



PHOTO  
CONTRIBUTED

**West Springfield High School's spring musical "The Wedding Singer" runs April 28-May 1 at the school's theatre.**

to enjoy. Vision and health screenings for cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure will be offered throughout the event by healthcare professionals on-site. \$5 for the walk. [www.nvcc.edu](http://www.nvcc.edu).

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 23-24

**Fairfax Corner Art Festival.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 4100 Monument Corner Drive, Fairfax. The event will showcase the original artwork of 100 local and national leading artists and will feature a wide array of artistic media including paintings, sculptures, photography, ceramics, glass, wood, handmade jewelry, collage, mixed media and much more. [ArtFestival.com](http://ArtFestival.com). 561-746-6615.

## SUNDAY/APRIL 24

**Break a Sweat for a Homeless Pet 5K/10K.** 9 a.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Benefits the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. At the finish line, enjoy a hot dog bar with full fixings and other tasty treats. <http://www.metrorunwalkspringfield.com/run-walk-live>.

## THURSDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 28-MAY 1

"The Wedding Singer." Thursday-Saturday, 7 p.m. Sunday 2 p.m. West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. West Springfield High School's spring musical based on the movie of the same name. \$10. Age 13 and up. [www.spartantheatre.com](http://www.spartantheatre.com).

## SATURDAY/APRIL 30

**Both Sides Tour.** 8:15 a.m. Franconia Museum, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria. The Both Sides tour will follow Stuart from Rowser's Ford on the Potomac River north to Gettysburg, making strategic stops at the sites of major skirmishes along the way. \$100, includes bus, lunch and a fast-food value card and site fees. For information, contact Don Hakenson, 703-971-4984 or [dhakenson@verizon.net](mailto:dhakenson@verizon.net).

**Model Classic 2016.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Scale model exhibit. Also, doll houses, Lego, HO and N scale model railways. Lectures. Free, \$8, \$10. [www.novaipms.org](http://www.novaipms.org). 703-680-9354.

**Fairfax Library Foundation Fundraiser.** 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Barnes and Noble in Fair Lakes, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Barnes and Noble will donate 10% of all purchases made by library supporters that day. [info@fairfaxlibraryfoundation.org](mailto:info@fairfaxlibraryfoundation.org).

Turnpike, Fairfax. The J's Early Childhood Learning Center presents "A Reggio Exhibit," which showcases the philosophy of teaching art under the guidance of Sarah Vejvoda. Free. [www.jccnv.org](http://www.jccnv.org). 703-537-3000.

**"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf."** April 22-May 8. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Edward Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" won the 1963 Tony Award for Best Play and is considered one of the masterworks of American drama, with its dazzling language and unforgettable characters.. [fairfaxcitytheatre.org](http://fairfaxcitytheatre.org).

**Skating Equipment Collection.** Mondays, 7-9 p.m. Through May 9. Fairfax Ice Arena, 3779 Pickett Road, Fairfax. Gently used skating equipment needed for Kids on Ice. For information, contact [dondes@cox.net](mailto:dondes@cox.net).

## THROUGH SUNDAY/APRIL 17

**Northern Virginia Jewish Film Festival.** Angelika Film Center and Cafe at Mosaic, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. Festival will screen 14 contemporary Jewish-themed and/or Israeli-made feature films that explore identity and place in the world. \$10-\$70. For schedule and showtimes, go to [jccnvarts.org](http://jccnvarts.org).

## THURSDAY/APRIL 14

**Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Springfield Golf and Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Springfield Christian Women's Connection will discuss INOVA's Future. \$20. Reserve by April 11. [SpringWmConn@yahoo.com](mailto:SpringWmConn@yahoo.com). 703-922-6438.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 16, 23

**Charity Yard Sale.** 8 a.m.-noon. The Historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse, 8511 Hooes Road, Springfield.

Proceeds benefit the Historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse. [sydenstrickerschoolhouse.org](http://sydenstrickerschoolhouse.org).

## SATURDAY/APRIL 16

**Off the Wall.** 5-8 p.m. Art and Design Building, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Benefit to support student scholarships and visiting artists' fund for Computer Game Design Program, Film and Video Studies Program and School of Art. \$25/\$60. [Offthewall.gmu.edu](http://Offthewall.gmu.edu).

**Country Western Benefit.** 6:30-10 p.m. Accotink Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a benefit dance to raise funds for the Fisher House Foundation. Bring your own refreshments and a dish to share. \$20. [nvcwda.org](http://nvcwda.org). 703-860-4941.

**Trivia Night.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke. Fun, food, and prizes galore from the Optimist Club of Central Fairfax. \$15. 703-861-7317.

**"Giselle."** 7:30 p.m. Richard J. Ernst Community Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Gainesville Ballet's professional and junior companies with special guest stars. \$15-\$35. 703-753-5005.

## SUNDAY/APRIL 17

**Virginia Opera Children's Program.** 2 p.m. Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Little Red Riding Hood emphasizes musical storytelling, literature, language, and communication. Youngsters will be captivated by the antics of Little Red, Grandma, and the Wolf through this zany, fast-paced and high spirited adaptation. [vaopera.org](http://vaopera.org).

**Ninth Annual Spotlight Bluegrass Festival.** 6 p.m. The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. [fairfaxspotlight.org](http://fairfaxspotlight.org).

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PHOTOS BY LUCID FRAME PRODUCTIONS/COURTESY OF VIRGINIA OPERA

Christina Pier as Senta and Wayne Tigges as "The Dutchman" in Virginia Opera's "The Flying Dutchman."

## Power and Romance

Virginia Opera's  
"The Flying Dutchman"  
coming to the Center  
for the Arts.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

Its rumbling, intense music, shiver-inducing dark forces and ultimate story of redemption by love have enthralled audiences since its premiere nearly 175 years ago. Its title and ghostly matters are immediately recognized. It is "The Flying Dutchman," composer Richard Wagner's enduring tale of a sea captain sentenced to sail the turbulent seas with a doomed ship for all eternity. That is unless he finds a woman prepared to risk her own life to save him from a curse.

Famous for its tempestuous overture that brings the storm tossed seas to life, Wagner's "The Flying Dutchman" closes the Virginia Opera's performance season at the George Mason University Center for the Arts.

The production is directed by Sara Widzer, under the guidance of Francesca Zambello, artistic director, Washington National Opera. Zambello originally created the production. Virginia Opera's Principal Conductor, Adam Turner, will lead the Richmond Symphony Orchestra in the opulent driven score.

Bass-baritone Wayne Tigges (The Dutchman) and soprano Christina Pier (Senta) both indicated patrons will be treated to an exhilarating evening of powerful music, rich voices, abundant lively dramatic staging in an earthy

### Where and When

Virginia Opera presents Richard Wagner's "The Flying Dutchman" at George Mason University/Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances: Saturday, April 23, 2016 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 24, at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$48, \$80 and \$98. Call 888-945-2468 or visit [www.cfa.gmu.edu](http://www.cfa.gmu.edu). Note: There will be a free 30-minute pre-performance discussion with Dr. Glenn Winters (Doc Opera) 45 minutes before the curtain.

production. The scenic design which includes a sailing ship with plenty of riggings and rope will add character and vitality to the trance of "The Flying Dutchman."

"The Flying Dutchman" is a great fable that allows the imagination to soar. It is far from stuffy opera," said Tigges. He spoke of its music as one contemporary audiences can hear as "a hard-rock beat and power ballads. It is just so visceral." He described his "Dutchman" character as having a punk-rock edge "with great vitality and sensuality along costumes with an almost hard-metal/steam-punk visual appearance."

Pier described "The Flying Dutchman" as an opera with something for everyone, even if someone is new to opera. "It is accessible and will resonate." She described her character Senta as "fearless. She is a woman finding herself; beginning to know who she is." Unexpectedly caught between the man she is expected to marry and a mythical man she falls in love with, making her final choice of a suitor, "she is not giving up herself, but is validating the truth of who she is as she knows it."

Virginia Opera's "The Flying Dutchman" examines in a stirring manner, can loyalty and love save a cursed sea captain from a harsh fate. See for yourself; the stuff of legends.

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# Djonkam Earns Fairfax South MVP at Nova Challenge

West Springfield senior produces double-double in all-star game.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**A**t 6 feet 9, West Springfield senior Lewis Djonkam does most of his damage in the paint.

During the dmvstream.com Nova Challenge, an event featuring some of the top senior basketball players in Northern Virginia competing in two all-star games, a 3-point shootout and a dunk contest, Djonkam showed fans the diversity of his talents.

Djonkam did “big man” things: he swatted shots, scored points in the paint and posted a double-digit rebound total. But he also showed off his shooting touch, knocking down multiple perimeter attempts, including a 3-pointer.

At the end of the day, Djonkam produced a double-double, threw down a dunk, earned team MVP honors and had a blast while doing it.

Playing for the Fairfax South All-Stars, Djonkam scored 19 points and grabbed 13 rebounds during a 110-107 loss to the Prince William All-Stars on April 10 at Marshall High School.

**DJONKAM**, who is still weighing his college options, finished with four assists, two blocks and two steals and was named Fairfax South MVP.

“It was great,” Djonkam said. “Every kid on the court I love. I grew up with half the kids on the court. ... [It was my] last time playing with the kids. It was great. I loved it.”

Djonkam shot 6-for-12 from the floor, and made one of his two 3-point attempts.

“I’ve been working on that a lot,” Djonkam said about shooting 3-pointers. “When I came out today, I was like, ‘I’m going to show them what I worked on.’”

Wakefield’s Deng Nhial and T.C. Williams’ Jordan Jones each had 16 points for Fairfax South, and T.C. Williams’ Tavaris James finished with 14.

Spencer Askew, Djonkam’s teammate at West Springfield, scored 11 points and had three assists.

Woodson guards Matt Ayoub and Seamus Maloney each scored six points. Robinson’s Avi Silberman and Hayfield’s Romaine Oakley each had two points.

Later in the day, the Fairfax North All-Stars defeated the Loudoun County All-Stars 108-101.

Langley senior Nate Shafer scored 10 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and blocked seven shots for the Fairfax North All-Stars.

All-star games are known for run-and-gun offense, but Shafer, the 2016 6A North region Defensive Player of the Year, made life difficult for Loudoun County players who tried to score in the paint.



**West Springfield’s Lewis Djonkam finished with 19 points and 13 rebounds for the Fairfax South All-Stars during the dmvstream.com Nova Challenge on April 10 at Marshall High School.**



**West Springfield’s Spencer Askew scored 11 points for the Fairfax South All-Stars.**



**Woodson’s Seamus Maloney had six points for the Fairfax South All-Stars.**

PHOTOS BY JEFF MCQUILKIN



**Robinson’s Avi Silberman competed in the Nova Challenge on April 10 at Marshall High School.**

“I can still apply some tactics that we use [during structured basketball] to an all-star game,” Shafer said. “I typically find a guy that can’t shoot as well so I can camp in the paint and that gives me more blocks and more contested shots and more rebounds, so that sort of pads my stats in an all-star game like this, which is fun.”

Shafer, who will play at Swarthmore College, said he enjoyed making defensive plays in an offensive environment. During one possession, Shafer swatted multiple Loudoun County shots.

“Those kinds of plays get the gym on their feet,” he said, “so I like to do that.”

Blake Francis, a member of the state champion Westfield Bulldogs, earned MVP honors for Fairfax North, finishing with 23 points, six rebounds and five assists. He knocked down a 3-pointer at the halftime buzzer, cutting the Fairfax North deficit to

64-50. Fairfax North outscored Loudoun County 58-37 in the second half.

Francis, who shot 8-for-17 from the floor and 5-for-12 from 3-point range, is still

weighing his college options.

“It’s good experience,” Francis said, “going against the top talent in the Northern Virginia area.”

**CENTREVILLE’S** William Unterkofler scored 12 points and grabbed four rebounds. He also won the dunk contest, earning a perfect score of 30 on his final attempt, when he jumped, brought the ball between his legs and threw it down with his right hand.

Unterkofler will attend Virginia Tech but doesn’t plan to play basketball. He said he could first dunk a basketball in the ninth grade.

“It was pretty cool,” said the 6-foot-5 Unterkofler. “I’ve wanted to be in a dunk contest for a long time because I practice dunking all the time and I never get to show it, so it’s really exciting to get to come out and do it.”

Fairfax High’s Alex McNaughton, who will play at Salisbury, scored 17 points for Fairfax North and shot 6-for-9 from the floor, including 3-for-4 from behind the arc. Fellow Rebel Manny Miller had six points and seven rebounds.

## Lake Braddock Softball Improves to 8-0

**Senior pitcher Abby Thibodeau and the Lake Braddock softball team defeated South County 4-1 on Tuesday to remain undefeated. The Bruins improved to 8-0, including 5-0 in Conference 7, and have outscored their opponents 113-4. Lake Braddock will host West Springfield at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 15.**



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

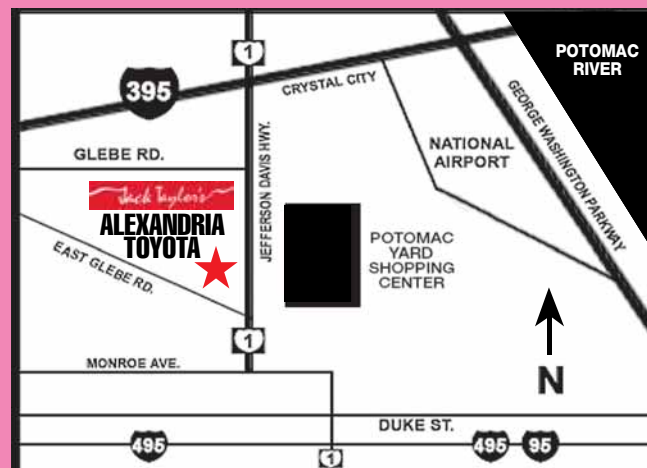


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**21 Announcements**

**ABC LICENSE**  
 Caboose 3, LLC trading as Caboose Brewing Company, 11389 Reston Station Blvd, Reston, VA 20190. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) FOR A Brewrey < 500 BBL + retail on/off license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Matthew Greer, managing 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.

**21 Announcements**

**ABC LICENSE**  
 Caboose II, LLC trading as Caboose Brewing Company, 8301 Lee Hwy, Fairfax, VA 22031. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) FOR A Brewrey < 500 BBL + Keg, retail on/off license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Matthew Greer, managing 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.

**21 Announcements**

**ABC NOTICE**  
 Ferment Nation LLC trading as Ferment Nation, 2711 Dorr Ave, Ste G, Fairfax, VA 22031. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer Importer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Jennifer McLaughlin, 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**

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**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

First Virginia Community Bank, 11325 Random Hills Road, Fairfax Virginia 22030 intends to apply to the Federal Reserve Board for permission to establish a branch at 43800 Central Station Drive, Suite 150, Ashburn Virginia 20147. The Federal Reserve considers a number of factors in deciding whether to approve the application including the record of performance of applicant banks in helping to meet local credit needs.

You are invited to submit comments in writing on this application to the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, P.O. Box 27622, Richmond Virginia 23261. The comment period will not end before April 29, 2016. The Board's procedures for processing applications may be found at 12 C.F.R. Part 262. Procedures for processing protested applications may be found at 12 C.F.R. 262.25. To obtain a copy of the Federal Reserve Board's procedures, or if you need more information about how to submit your comments on the application, contact Adam M. Drimer, Assistant Vice President, at 804-697-8980. The Federal Reserve will consider your comments and any request for a public meeting or formal hearing on the application if they are received in writing by the Reserve Bank on or before the last day of the comment period.

**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

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