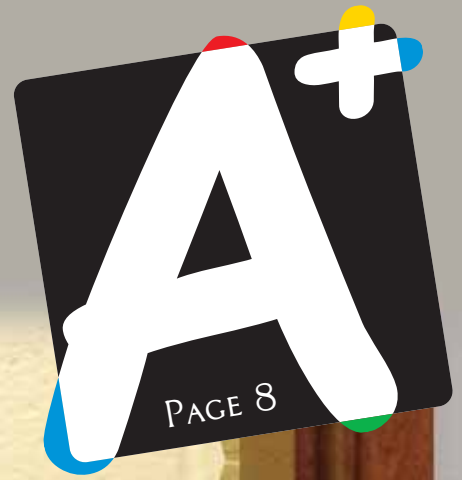


Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ♦ Kingstowne ♦ Newington

Former Fairfax County Police Officer Adam Torres (center) enters the courtroom on April 18, 2016 for what was scheduled to be the beginning of his trial for murder of Springfield resident John Geer.



Torres Pleads Guilty to Involuntary Manslaughter of John Geer

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Supervisors Approve
4-Cent Tax Rate Increase

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Rising Stars in Teaching

NEWS, PAGE 8



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Gov. McAuliffe signs Del. Filler-Corn's House Bill 1102.

Gov. McAuliffe Signs Del. Filler-Corn's Legislation Into Law

On Thursday, April 14, Gov. Terry McAuliffe signed several bills into law relating to sexual assault, including legislation related to the storage and testing of physical evidence recovery kits (PERKs), as well as legislation that enables a minor to consent to an evidence recovery examination over the objections of a parent or guardian and Del. Eileen Filler-Corn's (D-41) bill, HB 1102, which promotes collaboration between state agencies and campus law enforcement in the development of trauma-informed training to ensure that survivors of sexual assault receive the support and evidence-based treatment they need.

"From day one, the health and safety of Virginia's women has been a chief priority of our administration. That is why I created and enabled a group of leaders and advocates to offer solutions to enhance the services and protections this Commonwealth offers to survivors of sexual violence," said McAuliffe. "The survivors of these

malicious crimes are trusting in us to provide a full accounting of these cases and to bring perpetrators to justice. To ensure their safety, it is vital that we have all areas of law enforcement, government, and private organizations working together. The measures...provide a permanent and coherent solution for that process," he said.

"I'm so proud to have sponsored a bill that will reduce the trauma of survivors by developing training for law enforcement," Filler-Corn said. "The Department of Criminal Justice services and SCHEV working together will greatly improve the lives of survivors of sexual assault." The Delegate from Springfield was also pleased to serve as a co-patron on HB 1160, which establishes procedures for handling evidence kits in sexual assaults, after having introduced a similar bill this past session herself.

All legislation signed by the governor will take effect July 1, 2016.



Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) speaks about her Bill HB 1102 at the governor's bill signing ceremony in Richmond last week.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF JAHİ CHIKWENDIU OF THE WASHINGTON POST

Left, Adam Torres pleaded guilty to felony involuntary manslaughter for the 2013 shooting death of John Geer, who was standing with arms raised in the doorway of his home.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAHİ CHIKWENDIU OF THE WASHINGTON POST

Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond E. Morrogh (center) reached an agreement with Adam Torres' defense team for a guilty plea to a lesser charge one day before the scheduled beginning of his murder trial for killing John Geer.

Torres Pleads Guilty to Involuntary Manslaughter of John Geer

Former Fairfax County Police officer faced murder charges for 2013 shooting.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

It was over before it began. Neither prosecution nor defense gave opening statements in former Fairfax County Police Officer Adam Torres' trial for the August 2013 murder of Springfield resident John Geer. Instead on Monday, April 18, Torres pleaded guilty to felony involuntary manslaughter for the August 2013 incident.

Police had responded to a call that day from Geer's live-in girlfriend Maura Harrington that he was throwing her belongings out of the house. Torres and another officer talked with Geer for 40 minutes before Torres fired, hitting him in the chest.

Torres claimed Geer suddenly lowered his hands, making him think Geer was reaching for a gun.

Harrington and Geer lived together for more than 20 years and had two teenage daughters. Harrington had told Geer that she was moving out.

The Sunday before the trial was set to begin, Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond E. Morrogh said Torres' attorneys contacted him with the plea offer. Morrogh then spoke with Harrington, the family's attorney Michael Lieberman and Geer's parents.

With the deal, Torres would serve 12 months in jail, getting credit for the eight months already served. Being a convicted felon would prevent him from owning a firearm or becoming a police officer again, a priority for Harrington and her daughters, Morrogh said.

Geer's mother was "vehemently opposed



John Geer was standing in his doorway unarmed for 40 minutes before he was shot by Fairfax County Police officer Adam Torres.

to any agreement," Morrogh said, adding that she "wants a life sentence."

The sentencing is set for June 24, at which point the judge may accept or amend the length of Torres' sentence, or reject the plea altogether. If that happens, Morrogh said, the case would go to trial with a different judge. Torres is the first Fairfax County Police Officer in the history of the department to be charged in a shooting death.

"It's certainly not an ideal or perfect situation," Morrogh said during a press conference following the hearing, outside the Fairfax Courthouse. "My role is to get as much justice as I can, for victims and family."

Morrogh said Harrington was concerned about defense plans to call Geer's 19-year-old daughter — who was at a neighbor's house at the time of the shooting — to testify about her father's past actions and character.

Morrogh also said the defense had an

expert lined up to argue that Torres acted reasonably given the situation. "I thought we had real good evidence on where his hands were," Morrogh said, but "those are the kinds of things that can muddy the waters," for a jury.

"I weighed it all, this is my decision and I stand by it," Morrogh said.

IN A PHONE INTERVIEW, Lieberman said he was pleased Morrogh went with the plea deal. He said many prosecutors turn them down, but it can be difficult to get a felony conviction in cases like this with a police officer involved.

Lieberman said the family was also thinking of Torres' wife and children in accepting the plea. He supplied a statement from Geer's daughters in which they say, "Whatever his faults, Torres' wife and children did not murder our father, and it would be wrong to hurt them just to allay our own anger and pain. Robbing other children of



John Geer

time with their father would only make us complicit in another wrong."

The daughters cite the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Police Department, bodies which withheld details of their father's shooting from them for 17 months. That included personnel files and accounts of Torres having a history of outbursts and marital stress.

Until a \$12 million wrongful death case brought by the Geer family forcing the release of information, Fairfax County Police stood by policy they said kept them from releasing Torres' name or many other details of the shooting while investigations into the incident were ongoing.

"As for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County Police Department, we remain appalled by their actions in covering up the truth and putting Torres in the position to decide life and death given what they knew about his background," the daughters' statement continues. "Until such time that the ad hoc [commission's] recommendations are adopted and the policies of the FCPD are changed, we fear that these tragic events can occur again with different victims and different officers."

FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Chairman Sharon Bulova and Chief of Police Edwin Roessler sent out statements following the guilty plea that offered sympathy to Geer's family and friends. Though each have previously acknowledged the case wasn't handled as well as it could have been, their statements stopped short of admitting wrongdoing. They focused more on forging ahead.

"The death of John Geer and events that followed have sparked a number of changes

SEE TORRES, PAGE 4

NEWS

Breast cancer survivors turned out at Lucky's Sports Theatre & Grill in Alexandria to support survivor Lisa Gray's "Karaoke for a Cure" event.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Cancer Survivor Hosts Karaoke Fundraising Event

Lisa Gray of the Hayfield Farms area of Alexandria, a 16-year cancer survivor, hosted her second "Karaoke for the Cure" fundraising event at Lucky's Sports Theatre & Grill on April 12.

Gray has raised more than \$30,000 in support of breast cancer outreach programs and Susan G. Komen community grants in the National Capital Region.

During the two-hour event, more than 10 singers participated and helped Gray raise more than \$500. Gray also plans to take part in the 2016 Race for the Cure on May 7 at the National Mall.

Gray's fundraising page is online at www.info-komen.org/site/TR/GlobalRaceForTheCure/KomenGlobalRace?px=6830896&pg=personal&fr_id=5895.

—TIM PETERSON



Lisa Gray (right) of the Hayfield Farms area of Alexandria, a 16-year cancer survivor, hosted her second "Karaoke for the Cure" fundraising event at Lucky's Sports Theatre & Grill on April 12.



Jeff Stewart, John Geer's best friend, said Geer was "exercising his Constitutional right to stand in his home," and "admittedly a little stubborn that day."



John Geer's father Don Geer said he had "mixed emotions" following Adam Torres' involuntary manslaughter guilty plea on April 18, 2016.

PHOTOS BY
TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Torres Enters Guilty Plea, Sentencing Set for June 24

FROM PAGE 3

in our Police Department to include a transformation in the way officers are trained to respond to critical incidents," Bulova said in her statement. "The Board of Supervisors is moving forward with recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, demonstrating Fairfax County's commitment to maintaining the public trust and making our Police Department a national model moving forward."

The county recently posted a progress report online for the implementation of the commission's 142 recommended policy changes. (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission/progressreport.htm>).

In a statement, Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) said, "The process to resolve this sad chapter in Fairfax County history has been lengthy and frustrating, much to our own doing."

Though some policies have been changed or updated, including a Diversion First program to direct nonviolent offenders with mental illness to receive treatment services rather than jail time, Fairfax County has yet to adopt or implement an independent auditor or citizen oversight board — two of the recommendations receiving considerable attention.

Roessler's statement added, "The men and women of the Fairfax County Police Department have fully cooperated with all authorities during this investigation. The action of one former employee is not reflective of the honorable work done day-in and day-out by all members of our Department."

Geer's best friend Jeff Stewart, who witnessed the 2013 shooting and went on to serve on the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, re-

sponded critically to Roessler's words.

"They weren't compliant," Stewart said in a phone interview, "otherwise we wouldn't have had to involve the federal Justice Department and [U.S.] senators."

Morrogh handed his initial investigation of the incident to the U.S. Attorney Dana Boente, later explaining that Fairfax County Police were withholding information from him. And U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, got involved in November 2014 when he sent formal inquiries to Roessler and Boente about the stagnant case.

AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE following Monday's hearing, Morrogh commented on the Fairfax County attorneys who advised the Board of Supervisors to go along with not releasing the information, saying, "I've never seen anyone act like that. I hope it never happens again, it was dead wrong."

"Because of that, we were left with nothing for 17 months," said Stewart, "which in itself is a crime."

What's important now is keeping pressure on the supervisors to make sure a review panel is enacted and they develop some timeline policy for handling these situations."

Near the conclusion of the hearing, Torres said he was "truly sorry for my actions" and "heartbroken" for Geer's children. "No words I can say today ... adequately express my remorse."

Geer's father Don said he didn't hear the apology in the courtroom, and that it was the first one he'd heard from Torres.

"A little late in coming," he said. "Nothing on this has been done in a timely manner."

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Supervisors Approve 4-Cent Tax Rate Increase

One additional penny helps close the gap for funding schools.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

The gap between the Fairfax County School Board and total county budgets is a formality away from being the smallest since before Jan. 7 when FCPS Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza announced she wouldn't be making any additional cuts in her \$2.67 billion Fiscal Year 2017 budget.

In a 7 to 3 vote at an April 19 "markup" session, the Board of Supervisors approved a \$1.13 tax rate per \$100 of assessed value for FY 2017. This one-cent amendment to County Executive Edward Long's Advertised Budget would generate around an additional \$93 million in revenue for the Fairfax County, a release from Chairman Sharon Bulova said.

"This Budget provides a needed booster shot to support our excellent School System and to ensure the quality services our residents expect and rely upon," Bulova said in the statement. "Throughout these past months, our Board heard from thousands of residents advocating for an increase in taxes to address our community's needs."

FUNDS from the extra penny plus reallocated funds from the Third Quarter Review would send \$33.6 million more to Fairfax County Public Schools than initially expected from the budget Long advertised.

"This is a clear indication that we're committed to investing in what makes our County great: its schools, its employees, and its services," Supervisor Jeffrey C. McKay (D-Lee), the Board's Budget Committee Chairman said in a statement.

"Education is absolutely a top priority — and this budget reflects that," McKay's statement continues. "I'm also pleased to be able to make crucial steps forward in the areas of public safety, human services, parks, li-



Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza proposed a \$2.67 billion school system budget for FY 2017 that emphasizes increasing employee compensation and decreasing class sizes — all without making any further cuts.

braries and many of our other vital County services."

Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) was among the dissenting votes.

"This Board continues to run the County on the backs of its citizens during the same year it voted to give itself a raise and ignored my pleas to address the looming budget shortfall earlier in the year," Herry said in a statement. "If the Board does not set priorities and address its fiscal issues — including pension costs and growing the commercial tax base — we will be having this same conversation all over again next year, except this tax increase does not go away."

Fairfax County Public School Board Chair-



Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova reassured concerned members of the community that County Executive Ed Long's proposed budget is just "the beginning of the budget process."

man Pat Hynes responded to the new markup action with the following statement: "The increase in funding provides our schools the opportunity to make significant and critical investments in teacher compensation, reduce class sizes and retain vital student programming. I look forward to continuing to work with our community, and with the Board of Supervisors, to solve future budget challenges in the best interest of all residents of Fairfax County."

Superintendent Garza released a statement in which she thanked Bulova and McKay for their leadership, and the supervisors who voted for the markup amendment.

"I am grateful for the widespread community support we have received and thank

all parents, friends and families of FCPS who raised their voices in support of full funding for FCPS," Garza said in the statement. "The tireless commitment of these supporters was critical to #savefcps and secure the future excellence of FCPS. I am hopeful that this is reflective of a turning point in our community. This reinvestment in our community's most important asset, our schools, will provide great dividends for all the citizens of Fairfax."

Garza and Bulova both thanked the Virginia General Assembly, which was able to raise funding to FCPS by more than \$16 million.

Mount Vernon District School Board representative Karen Corbett Sanders also praised the "yeoman's work," in a phone interview, "that both our state delegation and county board worked together as a team."

"It's still within the realm where we can get there without significantly impacting our kids," she continued, "and that's what we wanted. This is a values budget that reflects the values of our community, what Fairfax County has been known for."

LESS ADVERSARIAL communication and more collaboration between the two boards, and more clarity from the School Board about how the money was being spent were key drivers in achieving the amendment, Springfield District School Board member Elizabeth Schultz said in a phone interview.

"It can't be high noon on Main Street," Schultz said. "We've tried that. All that does is cause a shootout. If we start talking about our common goals, our common mission to serve Fairfax County, ultimately the Commonwealth, now you are headed in a different direction."

"I'm happy we're finally here," Schultz continued. "I wish we'd gotten here earlier. Schultz said she is "cautiously optimistic this is the beginning of a new way of doing things between our boards."

The Board of Supervisors will formally adopt the marked up budget on April 26. For more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2017/fy2017-budget-mark-up-package.pdf.

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OPINION

On the Guilty Plea of Adam Torres

Geer's death exposed "obfuscation ... and a lack of public accountability."

Adam Torres, charged with murder in the death of Springfield resident John Geer, was the first Fairfax County Police officer in the history of the department to be charged in such a death. Monday, Torres entered a guilty plea to involuntary manslaughter, with a likely sentence of 12 months, most of that already served. He has been in jail for eight months.

Geer was a Springfield resident, a remodeling contractor and an involved father, always on the sidelines of his daughters' sports games. He was unarmed, standing in the doorway of his own home with his hands raised at the time he was killed.

The police and Fairfax County refused to release any information on the case for more than a year, and only then after repeated court orders. Public outrage over Geer's death was compounded by obfuscation and silence, the failure to communicate, and a lack of public accountability. Change is in the works, but there is much work to do.

There is still much to say about the death of John Geer and its aftermath.

But today, the wisdom of his two teenage

daughters is well worth reading and sharing:

APRIL 18, 2016 STATEMENT BY THE DAUGHTERS OF JOHN GEER

"Justice is rarely a simple matter, and it would be easy to vent our anger, our outrage, our sorrow, and voice opposition to the plea bargain struck between Adam Torres and the Commonwealth. Nobody would question the rawness of our emotions and our response to it; we have lost a father, and there can be no substitute, no future moment of affection, no further opportunities to be close the man who should be present as our greatest supporter. Torres took that away from us, the Fairfax Board of Supervisors and Fairfax County Police Department hid the truth of what happened to our dad for over a year, and there is no going back. ...

"Much like Dad's murder has repercussions for his family and the community, locking Torres in a cell will have an effect on others. Whatever his faults, Torres' wife and children did not murder our father, and it would be wrong to hurt them just to allay our own anger and pain. Robbing other children of time with their father would only make us complicit in another wrong. ...

"Where Torres failed to show prudence and mercy, we will show him and his family both.

"As for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County Police Department, we remain appalled by their actions in covering up the truth and putting Torres in the posi-

tion to decide life and death given what they knew about his background. Until such time that the ad hoc committee's recommendations are adopted and the policies of the FCPD are changed, we fear that these tragic events can occur again with different victims and different officers. We call upon the Board to immediately adopt and implement the Committee's recommenda-

tions without delay for the good of the FCPD and the citizens of Fairfax County.

"No family should have to suffer the loss of a mother, a father, or a loved one under circumstances like ours."

Send in Mother's Day Photos

Mother's Day is May 8 this year and every year at this time this newspaper calls for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery.

Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children in the photos. Please name everyone in the photo, ages of children, the approximate date, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. (We will not print your contact information, just names and town of residence.) You can upload photos and information directly to www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/ or email to south@connectionnewspapers.com.

A Bipartisan Compromise To Unclog the Region

BY JIM CORCORAN,
PRESIDENT AND CEO,
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

COMMENTARY

Northern Virginia's transportation crisis maintains a stranglehold on our regional economy and quality of life. It costs our region \$4.5 billion annually due to the countless hours we waste sitting in traffic, and has earned our region the dubious distinction as one of the most congested areas in the country. The Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce has long believed that unclogging our region's transportation grid requires a strategic, regional approach. We cannot expect to retain and attract business without implementing a 21st Century transportation infrastructure.

Thankfully, however, a significant compromise struck during the 2016 Virginia General Assembly Session has the potential to address the most serious choke point in our region: I-66 inside the Beltway. Improving travel along this important economic corridor is critical to maintaining our economic competitiveness and getting our region moving again.

The bipartisan compromise plan is the result of collaboration between the Commonwealth and localities that takes into account various jurisdictional transportation interests, creating a regionally balanced solution. Combined with the existing express lane network on I-495 and I-95 and in conjunction with new improvements to I-66 outside the Beltway, this project will provide reliable, enhanced travel options throughout the region by car, carpool, and transit. Each of these modes of travel will play a critical part in moving goods, services, and people to and from our region's key assets.

For those traveling along I-66 from points west of I-495, the scheduled improvements will contain enhancements and options including additional lanes, new bus service, and new commuter lots. Key to the plan is the ability of single-occupant drivers to use I-66 inside the Beltway during peak times for the first time in the road's history.

For those who reside inside of the Capital Beltway, this project will provide enhanced bus service, enhancements on parallel roads to

better protect neighborhoods, pedestrian access, and Metro station access improvements all geared toward providing more transportation options for residents and businesses along I-66.

Addressing much needed congestion relief on I-66 by adding an additional eastbound lane has been a priority for the Northern Virginia Chamber and the Northern Virginia business community for decades. The Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce congratulates Governor McAuliffe and lead-

ers in the General Assembly for working across party lines to achieve this historic victory for the residents of the Commonwealth.

We will continue to advocate for dynamic, regional projects like this as the business community looks to maintain our status as the economic engine of the Commonwealth and a cradle of innovation in the United States. We look forward to more bipartisan successes in the years to come as we work together to enhance our regional transportation network.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Inappropriate Use of FEMA Relief Funds

To the Editor

Your recent article "Fairfax County Schools to Apply for FEMA Relief Funds" is another example of attempting to exploit the American taxpayers.

I visualize the typical American taxpayer as a middle class couple living in the heartland of our country. They have two children. They go to church every week. They don't smoke, don't use illegal drugs, and use alcohol in moderation. Their children go to school each school day. They vote in ev-

ery election. They must struggle financially even when the economy is strong, but they pay their bills, and they pay their taxes. They pay for their children's education, and they save for their retirement.

I don't feel that it is appropriate for the Federal government, which consists of millions of such middle class families, to pay for the removal of snow at Fairfax County Public Schools.

Dave Elmore
Great Falls

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Fourth Fragile X Walk Scheduled for April 24

Since their first fundraising walk, the Northern Virginia Fragile X Family group has raised more than \$130,000 for research into Fragile X, an inherited genetic mutation that can cause mental impairment ranging from moderate to severe learning disabilities and linked to Autism Spectrum Disorder.

In 2015, there were more than 210 participants in the May 17 walk that helped raise more than \$51,000.

“The money raised has been used for many great things,” said one of the walk organizers Buffy Grande of Fairfax Station in an email, “but we are excited that our group fully funded the founding of the first national Molecular Biomarker Project. The project is a partnership between the National Fragile X Foundation and several Fragile X clinics across the country.”

According to the Fragile X Families of Northern Virginia, around one in every 3,600 males and one in every 4,000 to 6,000 females are affected by the mutation.

The fourth Fragile X Family

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://kajacom.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.

Fun Walk is scheduled for Sunday April 24 at Burke Lake Park, located at 7315 Ox Road in Fairfax Station. Registration opens at 8 a.m. and the walk (less than one mile) begins at 8:30. Train rides, music, balloons and face-painting will be part of a post-walk celebration.

For more information, visit www.crowdrise.com/foxnova2016 and www.fragilexnorthernvirginia.com.

—TIM PETERSON

PEOPLE

Springfield Twins Graduate from Air Force Training

Proud parents Joe and Joanne Zamfino have announced that their twin sons, Brian (left) and Kevin (right) Zamfino, of West Springfield High School Class of 2015, have graduated from U.S. Air Force Basic Military Training March 18, 2016. They are currently at Tech School.



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Orange Hunt Elementary counselor Leigh Ashurst receives a \$400 prize from the Beta Delta Chapter of DKG Society International.



Hayfield Secondary School history teacher Margaret LeGendre receives a \$400 prize from the Beta Delta Chapter of DKG Society International.



Browne School Campus kindergarten teacher Colleen Wilson receives a \$400 prize from the Beta Delta Chapter of DKG Society International.

Rising Stars in Teaching

DKG honors novice teachers.

By ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO
THE CONNECTION

The Beta Delta Chapter of DKG Society International awarded scholarships to novice teachers in Fairfax County and Washington, D.C. on Sunday, April 17 in Springfield.

The recipients were Hayfield Secondary School history teacher Margaret LeGendre; Browne School Campus in Washington, D.C. kindergarten teacher Colleen Wilson; and Orange Hunt Elementary counselor Leigh Ashurst. Each person received the Novice Teacher Grant of \$400.

Iris Warren, chair of the scholarship committee, said the candidates are teachers who are energetic, hard-working, innovative and willing to learn from others.

Colleen Wilson was surprised when she found out she won. "It was exciting," she said.

DKG members also awarded the first Brand Award to Olivia Alsbrooks. The award recognizes members who contribute in the day-to-day work that supports the chapter.

Brendan Lui, a student at The Potomac School, performed "Moments from Metamorphosis" on the tenor saxophone.

There was also a fashion show where members modeled clothes, shoes and accessories from Details of Occoquan.

Some 90 members and guests attended the luncheon held at the Springfield Golf and Country Club.

The event concluded with a basket raffle to raise money for the Novice Teacher Grant pro-



Olivia Alsbrooks (left) accepts the first Brand Award from Virginia Iota State president Linda M. Hall.



From left, DKG members Joy Worrell, Beta Delta Chapter president Judy Cosgriff, and scholarship committee chair Iris Warren attend the luncheon honoring novice teachers.

gram and other charities selected by members.

DKG Society International is a professional organization which

aims to promote professional and personal growth in women educators. For more information, go to <http://www.dkg.org>.

A Education Learning Fun

Removing a Barrier to Pomp and Circumstance

Gowns for Grads program at George Mason provides regalia for needy graduates.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When Muntaha Choudhary walks across the stage during George Mason University's graduation ceremony this May she will celebrate not only her bachelor's degree, which has been eight years in the making, but also the fact that she is the first person in her family to graduate from college.

Her financial circumstances could have put a damper on her graduation plans, however. She was not sure that she could afford the cost of purchasing a cap and gown, a requirement to participate in the graduation ceremony.

"Some people might say, '\$67, that's not a big deal,' but it is in my family," said Choudhary. "We're always on edge when it comes to money. My dad is a four-time time heart attack survivor, and any money that my family saves goes to medical bills or something. That's why it has taken me so long to graduate. I've had to pay my own tuition and help my family pay bills."

Choudhary and many other George Mason University graduates in need will have one less barrier to their graduation ceremony thanks to a new program at the university called Gowns for Grads.

Through the program, recent Mason alumni donate caps and gowns to students who can't afford the \$60-\$120 price tag for graduation regalia. The program was founded by Amanda Myers, a Mason alumna and an academic adviser in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The idea for the program was sparked when Myers was counseling a student who was nearing graduation, and had tapped out all of her financial resources to buy textbooks to complete her last semester. In fact, says Myers, the student's situation was so dire that she was on the brink of homelessness, and wasn't planning to participate in the graduation ceremony because she didn't have money to spend on the required clothing for graduation.

"I waited until the student left my office, and then I started crying," said Myers. "It was heartbreaking that something like not being able to afford a cap and gown would stand in the way of her graduation. When students have worked so hard to graduate, they deserve to be cut a break."

Since the program's inception in February, Myers has been able to meet the cap and gown needs of nearly 150 students through the generosity of Mason alumni from Northern Virginia but as far away as North Carolina and New Jersey.

Jumana Kamal graduated last year with a master's degree in Middle East and Islamic Studies. She chose to donate her graduation wear to the Gowns for Grads program.

"I very simply wanted to make it easier for at least one person who worked really hard to get to this one day," said Kamal. "If you're wondering about sentimental value, making someone else's day is much more rewarding to me than holding on to something for a keepsake."



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Amanda Myers started a program to provide donated caps and gowns to George Mason graduates who cannot afford them.

For more information

Contact Gowns4grad@gmail.com or visit: [Facebook.com/GMUcapandgown](https://www.facebook.com/GMUcapandgown).

After receiving her master's degree in Emergency Management and Homeland Security in 2013, Regina Yun kept her cap and gown and looked for a way to donate it, but didn't find one until she learned about Gowns for Grads. "I'm saving the environment by recycling and reusing and helping out a fellow student," said Yun. "I had my cap and gown packed up and ready to go. I hope a few students can get a few uses out of it."

Students who want to be considered for a cap and gown donation must complete an application and describe their financial constraints.

"Their stories are compelling," said Myers. "One student wrote, 'Eventually I became the first person in the family to earn a college degree; however, I have never been able to participate in any of the graduation ceremonies for the various levels of my academic journey due to financial constraints. I would humbly like to impress on your good offices to grant me the opportunity to rent a cap and gown to enable me to finally participate in my first ever graduation ceremony.'"

"Another student stated, 'I have had to pay for school out of my own pocket for years. Graduating will be the happiest day of my life, not only because I will no longer have to pay an arm and a leg, but also because I will be able to devote more time and money to helping my parents.'"

Myers designed the program to make it as easy as possible for alumni to donate. "All they have to do is send it to me and I can take care of the rest," she said. "I de-wrinkle them and use a cleaning spray to get them ready to be worn."

Mason alumni who are interested in donating and graduating students who would like to borrow a cap and gown are encouraged to send an email to Gowns4grad@gmail.com or visit: [Facebook.com/GMUcapandgown](https://www.facebook.com/GMUcapandgown).

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www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday

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~Reminder: Father's Day is June 19~



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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.; Carleigh 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; Hoos Road; Newton 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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PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Nicole Mittendorff, a firefighter-paramedic based at Station 32 in Fairfax Station, has been missing since Wednesday April 13.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA STATE POLICE

Virginia State Police reported Nicole Mittendorff's 2009 Mini Cooper was located, abandoned, by a U.S. Park Ranger on April 16 in the Shenandoah National Park Whiteoak Canyon trail entrance parking lot.

'This is Our 9-1-1 Call'

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

With Virginia State Police heading up the investigation and search for missing Fairfax County firefighter-paramedic Nicole Mittendorff of Woodbridge, Fire and Rescue Chief Richard Bowers said even though they want to lend resources and help, Fairfax first responders are largely in a holding pattern.

"We're used to fixing problems and taking care of things," Bowers said at a press conference on April 19. "This is our 9-1-1 call to the public and the media."

Bowers confirmed Mittendorff, 31, last made contact on Wednesday, April 13. Virginia State Police reported her 2009 Mini Cooper was located, abandoned, by a U.S. Park Ranger on April 16 in the Shenandoah National Park Whiteoak Canyon trail entrance parking lot.

"There is still no evidence to indicate anything suspicious about Mittendorff's disappearance," an April 18 release from Virginia State Police said.

Monday April 18, 100 members of volunteers, Virginia State Police Search and Recovery and Appalachian Search and Rescue Teams spent the day scouring steep terrain on several miles of federal park land around the trail. Searching began Saturday evening when the car was found and is scheduled to continue.

The April 19 conference took place at Fire Station 32, Mittendorff's base station located at 5600 Burke Centre Parkway. She was a three-year veteran of the department, Bowers said.

"If you've seen, heard or know something about the untimely disappearance of Nicole, contact Virginia State Police immediately,"

Bowers said. "Nicole, if you can hear us, get a message to us."

Bowers described the blonde-haired, green-eyed Mittendorff as a "motivated, dedicated firefighter-paramedic."

"She was always happy, she fit right in, she loved this job," Bowers continued, adding that he saw her come up as a high-performing recruit. He called her a "great shift member, she still is, of Fire Station 32. She always put someone else first."

Mittendorff's husband Steven, himself an employee of Virginia State Police, choked back tears to thank those searching for his wife, and everyone on Facebook who have liked or shared the page created to bring awareness to her plight.

"Sweetheart, I love you, I'm praying for you, I'm not sure where you are," Steven said to the cameras and reporters gathered, his wife's sister Jennifer

Chalmers standing at his side. "We're all looking for you... forward to your safe return."

John Niemiec, President of the Professional Firefighters and Paramedics IAFF Local 2068, announced a prayer vigil for Mittendorff was scheduled for Wednesday, April 20 at 7:30 at Fire Station 32.

"We remain strong, positive, hopeful," Niemiec said. "We're hopeful Nicole will be found."

Anyone with information on Mittendorff's whereabouts or who may have seen her in the National Park is asked to call Virginia State Police at 703-803-0026, #77 on a cell phone or 9-1-1 or email questions@vsp.virginia.gov.



Nicole Mittendorff

VIRGINIA STATE POLICE

Fire Chief Bowers and family plead for help finding missing firefighter Nicole Mittendorff.



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

(Center) Steven Mittendorff of Woodbridge, husband of missing Fairfax County firefighter-paramedic Nicole, speaks to the media on April 19 at his wife's Station 32 in Fairfax Station.



The Appalachian Search & Rescue Team spent Monday April 18 searching for Nicole Mittendorff around Shenandoah National Park's Whiteoak Canyon Trail entrance in Madison County.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA STATE POLICE

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

People's Choice Exhibit. Through April. Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, W-9, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Eighteen artists will display their artistic disciplines.

First Tee Life Skills. 5-6:30 p.m. May 10-June 21. Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. The Fairfax County Park Authority is partnering with The First Tee of Greater Washington, DC, to offer The First Tee Life Skills Experience Certifying Program, designed for young people ages 7-18. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/press/html/ir040-16.htm>.

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.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The United States Army Chorus and the West Point Alumni Glee Club will give a free performance at the Westwood Baptist Church on Saturday, April 23.

\$30. www.scfbva.org. 703-426-2824. **"Reflections of the Spirit"** Art Exhibition. April 3-May 1. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Exhibit by artist, Kathy Strauss. workhousearts.org. 703-492-8215. **"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.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 22-23

"Shrek the Musical JR." Check for times. 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.nplayers.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Spring Faire. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carleigh Parkway, Springfield. There's something for everyone - jewelry,

fashion, home décor, kitchen, garden, gourmet, and more. Proceeds benefit Bethany House to help victims of domestic abuse and The Woman's Club of Springfield. www.womansclubofspringfield.org. 703-451-2467.

Rock Creek Singers. 6-8 p.m. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. From the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington. Proceeds to benefit GEN OUT - the D.C. Metro LGBT Youth Choir. \$15-\$40. www.accotinkuuc.org. 703-503-4579.

Walk-4-Life and Health Fair. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. NOVA-Medical Education Campus, 6699 Springfield Center Drive, Springfield. Includes free activities, such as kickball, balloon twister, yoga, face painting, a caricature artist and live music for all 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.

Charity Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-noon. The Historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse, 8511 Hooes Road, Springfield. Proceeds benefit the Historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse. sydenstrickerschoolhouse.org.

Free Community Concert. 5 p.m. Westwood Baptist Church, 8200 Old Keene Mille Road, Springfield. United States Army Chorus and the West Point Alumni Glee Club. Free. 703-451-5120.

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.

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.

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.

Classical Ballet Theatre Children's Series. 2 p.m. 4 p.m. Ernst Theater, Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. "Day on the Ranch" and "Les Jeunes Filles" will be performed. \$10. <http://www.cbntva.org/childrenseries>.

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

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
Memorial Day is May 30

5/25/2016..Summer Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment

JUNE

6/1/2016.....Wellbeing
6/8/2016.....Father's Day Dining & Gifts
6/8/2016.....HomeLifeStyle
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Undefeated Lake Braddock Softball Blanks T.C. Williams

Bruins record seventh shutout of the season.

BY JORDAN SMALL
FOR THE CONNECTION

The undefeated season continues for Lake Braddock's softball team, as the team beat T.C. Williams 10-0 in five innings Tuesday night.

The Bruins were able to get the scoring started in the first inning on an RBI single by senior catcher Caroline Jones. Lake Braddock doubled its lead in the second inning off a home run from senior first baseman Ciara Johnson. T.C. was unable to recover from the early runs allowed, and would ultimately fall in five innings.

"I've been working on being more aggressive lately, and I just hit the pitch and it was right down the middle," Johnson said. "[Games like these] help us to watch the ball. It makes sure we are making the basic plays."

TC was unable to muster any offense against Lake Braddock senior pitcher Abby Thibodeau. With just two base runners allowed, Thibodeau was able to power the Bruins to another win. Since coming over from Paul VI, the Syracuse commit has fit right in as part of a line of great pitchers.

"She's been real important," Lake Braddock head coach George Rumore said. "She's a big plus for us. We had Amanda



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The Lake Braddock softball team, seen earlier this season, improved to 10-0 with a win over T.C. Williams on Tuesday.

Hendrix last year, Ashley Flesch the year before that. This is a team that over the last six years has, like, 120 wins and, like, 10 losses and most of those are playoffs."

While the story of the game was the hitting of Lake Braddock, T.C. Williams was able to rattle off a hit in the first inning, a great feat against the Lake Braddock pitching staff. Junior second baseman Kayla Shelley hit a chopper to the Lake Braddock

second baseman, and was able to beat out the throw to first. However, that would be the only hit of the game for the Titans, and one of only two base runners for the game.

"We needed our defense," T.C. Williams head coach Jen Ushe said. "We knew [Thibodeau] was going to be a tough pitcher, so we wanted to keep them to as few runs as possible. Unfortunately, we made some errors, but that was our goal

"[Abby Thibodeau has] been real important," Lake Braddock head coach George Rumore said. "She's a big plus for us. We had Amanda Hendrix last year, Ashley Flesch the year before that. This is a team that over the last six years has, like, 120 wins and, like, 10 losses and most of those are playoffs."

— Lake Braddock softball coach George Rumore

this week."

Next up for the Titans will be West Potomac on Thursday. T.C. will face off against the Wolverines at West Potomac. The game is scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m. The Bruins will travel to Woodson for their next matchup. The game will also be on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Robinson Girls' Lax Improves to 11-0

After playing in its two most tightly-contested contests of the season, the Robinson girls' lacrosse team experienced a more familiar result on Tuesday.

The Rams defeated Oakton 21-6 on April 19, improving their record to 11-0 overall and 3-0 in Conference 5.

Robinson defeated each of its first eight opponents by at least 10 goals. The Rams finally faced a challenge on April 12, when they held off Westfield, 14-13. Three days later, Robinson beat Woodson 18-13.

After Tuesday's 15-goal victory over Oakton, Robinson is outscoring opponents 204-59.

The defending state champion Rams have won 26 games in a row and haven't lost to a public school opponent since 2014.

Robinson will host Herndon at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26.

Robinson Boys' Lax Wins Eighth Straight

The Robinson boys' lacrosse team extended its winning streak to eight games with a 13-9 victory over Oakton on Tuesday.

The two-time defending state champion



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Katie Checkosky, seen earlier this season, and the Robinson girls' lacrosse team improved to 11-0 with a win over Oakton on Tuesday.

Rams improved to 10-1 overall and 3-0 in Conference 5.

Robinson will host Centreville at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 21.

West Springfield Baseball Beats West

Potomac

The West Springfield baseball team improved to 12-2 overall and 7-1 in Conference 7 with a 6-5 road win over West Potomac on Tuesday.

The win came four days after the Spartans beat Lake Braddock 3-2.

West Springfield improved to 4-1 in one-

run games.

The Spartans will host Annandale at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 21.

Lake Braddock Baseball Beats TC

The Lake Braddock baseball team bounced back from its first Conference 7 loss with a 6-0 win over T.C. Williams on Tuesday.

The Bruins had won 10 straight games and were undefeated in the conference before losing to West Springfield 3-2 on Friday. After beating TC, Lake Braddock is 11-2 overall and 7-1 in the conference.

The Bruins will travel to face Woodson at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 21.

SoCo Softball Returns to the Win Column

After suffering back-to-back losses, the South County softball team improved to 10-3 overall and 6-2 in Conference 7 with a 16-0 win over Annandale on Tuesday.

The Stallions lost to Lake Braddock 4-1 on April 12 and fell to West Potomac 8-4 on April 15.

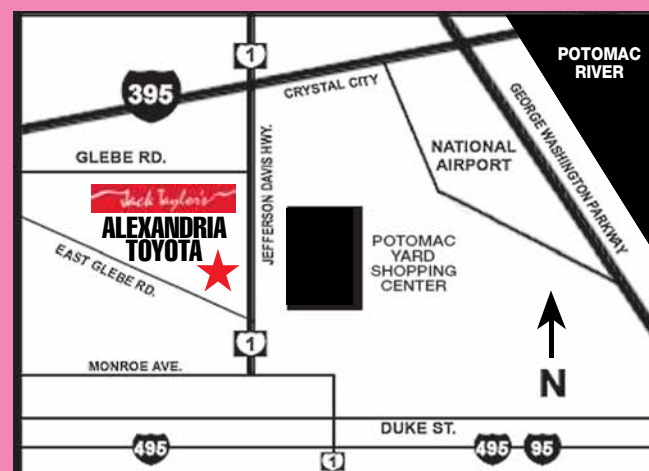
South County will host Mount Vernon at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 21.

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removal, dress tires, rubber molding & trim, clean dashboard, vents, console plus
door panels, clean overhead line, ashtrays & windows, and engine cleaning.

All details by appointment only.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**BRAKE
SPECIAL
\$99.95**

INCLUDES: Install Genuine Toyota
front brake pads, inspect front & rear
rotors & drums, check tire condition and
inspect all hardware. TCMC pads only.

MACHINE ROTORS
AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.

DOES NOT APPLY TO ALL VEHICLES. PLEASE SEE SERVICE
ADVISOR FOR DETAILS. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER
OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE
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TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**TRUE START
BATTERY SPECIAL
\$139.95**

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION
Includes: 34 month warranty, 24 month
FREE replacement, 24 month FREE roadside
assistance, 60 month pro-rata. PLUS we'll
check all battery cables & connections.

Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

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VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF
PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX
AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**SPRING
MAINTENANCE
SPECIAL
\$59.95**

INCLUDES: Genuine Toyota oil filter, up to
5 qts of conventional oil, inspect windshield
wipers, tire rotation, check tire condition,
check battery (with print-out), inspect and
adjust all fluid levels, inspect air Alexandria
Toyota's 27 pt. inspection & cabin air filter.

SYNTHETIC OIL \$10 MORE. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER
OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST
BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA
TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**LUBE, OIL & FILTER
SERVICE SPECIAL
\$5 OFF \$10 OFF**

NON-SYNTHETIC SYNTHETIC
INCLUDES: Change oil (up to 5 qts.), install Genuine Toyota
oil filter, inspect & adjust all fluid levels and complimentary
multi-point inspection with print out.

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MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
VARIABLE DISCOUNT

\$5.00 OFF with purchase of \$35.00 - \$49.99
\$10.00 OFF with purchase of \$50.00 - \$99.99
\$15.00 OFF with purchase of \$100.00 - \$199.99
\$20.00 OFF with purchase of \$200.00 - \$499.99
\$50.00 OFF with purchase of \$500.00 Or more

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**POT HOLE SPECIAL
4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT
\$79.95**

Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire
wear, steering problems and decreased fuel economy.

INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints,
struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

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TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**COMPLIMENTARY
MULTI-POINT
INSPECTION**

INCLUDES: Inspect tires, brakes, wipers,
lights, belts & hoses & fluid levels.

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TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/16.

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**30000 MILES FACTORY
RECOMMENDED
SERVICE
\$159.95**

Includes: Change engine oil & filter (up to 5 qts),
rotate tires, inspect wear and adjust pressure,
measure brake pad thickness & rotor runout,
replace cabin air filter (if equipped), replace
engine air filter, reset maintenance reminder light
(if applicable) and multi-point vehicle inspection.

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ZONE 2 AD DEADLINE:
TUESDAY NOON

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.

21 Announcements

ABC NOTICE
Anita's "New Mexico Style" Mexican Food, Inc. trading as Anita's "New Mexico Style" Bar & Grill, 8015 Braddock Rd, Springfield, VA 22151. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Restaurant, (Fast & Casual) license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Thomas Joseph Tellez, 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

ABC NOTICE
Siam Food, LLC trading as Yindee Thai, 8412 Old Keene Mill Rd, Springfield, VA 22152. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises/Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Waraphan Srikongyos Member/President

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate.
-Arthur Wing Pinero

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

101 Computers

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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- Zone 3:** The Alexandria Gazette Packet
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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 at noon. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

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The biggest things are always the easiest to do because there is no competition.
-William Van Horne

TREE SERVICE

TREE SERVICE

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.

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>.

Learn More About Becoming a Foster Parent. 6-7 p.m. Fairfax County Public Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Learn about Treatment Foster Care, the children, the process of becoming a foster parent and the support provided. Guest Speaker Nathan Crew from McLean Bible Church. Free. 540-613-5120.

THURSDAY/APRIL 28

Access to Capital Conference. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. Small businesses and entrepreneurs can connect with funders. Find out more or register at <http://www.atc2016.com/>.

FRIDAY/APRIL 29

Annual Spring Event: Luncheon & Silent Auction. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. International Country Club, 13200 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Hosted by Assistance League of Northern Virginia to benefit its Operation School Bell programs. Event will feature a presentation on Identity Theft and Personal Safety. \$65, \$30 is tax deductible. lindamshilts@gmail.com or 703-424-6652.

Understanding Mood Dysregulation in Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. 10 a.m.-noon. Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, Entrance 1, Room 100, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. Dr. Sajjad Khan, an experienced clinician and researcher at NeuroScience Inc., will cover assessment, and treatment of mood dysregulation in students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Register at 703-204-3941 or <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/prc/resources/events/documents/UnderstandingMoodDysregulationinASD.pdf>.

ONGOING

Burke Rotary Club Meeting. Tuesdays from 7:15-8:30 a.m. Anita's Restaurant, 9278 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Meetings with breakfast and program. www.burkerotary.org.

Burke Lake Seniors Golf League seeks members. Interested golfers are invited to join the Burke Lake Seniors Golf League. Must be 55 and older, enjoy playing golf, meeting new people and having an all-around good time. Reserved tee times on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Par 3 Burke Lake Golf Course on Ox Road. Annual dues for the season - April 1 through October 31 - are \$20 plus green fees. For more information, call Charlie Ryan 703-690-4227.

The **Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/.

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Welcome to this immaculate, bright and spacious brick front town house. Elegant open floor-plan with plenty of room to entertain. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bathroom and fully finished rec room complete this fabulous home. Excellent schools, convenience and commuting. Welcome Home.
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Fairfax Station \$629,900
Remodeled 4 Bedroom Home on Private & Secluded 3.8 Acre Lot. 3 Completely Updated Full Baths. Home Has Stainless Appls., Granite CTops, Hardwood & Ceramic Tile Floors, High End Kitchen Cabs, Newer Lighting Fix, Oversized 2 Car Garage w/new auto door, Gorgeous Rear Deck, Crown Molding & Chair Rail, Separate Laundry Room, & More.
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McLean \$1,199,900
Updated Beauty. 2 stop lights to DC! \$100,000 in new upgrades. 4BR, 3FBA, 2HBA, Gourmet Kitchen w/ Island, Family room off Kitchen, 3 gas Fireplaces, refin hdwds & new carpet, Den, Living, Din, Rec, Workshop, Storage, f/lid W&D, private gated Yard, Patio, 2 car Garage, Gas Genrtr. Close to Tysons Corner, Giant, & McLean Schools.
Amanda Scott 703-772-9190



Lorton \$939,800
Gorgeous newer-built (2013) pristine custom home on 1/2 acre lot! Open floor plan w/ 2-story family room & stone fireplace. High-end kitchen cabinetry, counters, appls, lighting. Expansive master BR w/ sitting area, luxury BA. BR #2 has own BA & WIC, BR #3 & #4 share Jack & Jill BA. Fully finished lower level with den/BR #5 & full BA#4. Private neighborhood. No HOA.
John & Jennifer Boyce 703-425-5646



Woodbridge Belmont Bay \$574,500
Luxury 3 story Brownstone-style end unit town-home, spacious deck with water view. Gorgeous throughout!
Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949



Fairfax \$729,900
Beautiful "Lindsay Park" Colonial beauty. Nestled in a richly Wooded Lot on small cul-de-sac. Gourmet Kitchen. Hardwood floors main LV, except FR. 4 BRs, 3.5 Baths. Open & flowing Floor Plan. Deck. Huge finished LL w/wet bar, walk out, huge den/office.
Sheila Adams 703-503-1895



Fairfax Station \$929,900
Gorgeous 5 acre setting with extensive landscaping/hardscaping, brick/slate walkways & patios with accent lighting & three stall barn. Incredible Chef's kitchen with huge island opens to beautiful sunny 2 story family room with walls of windows.
Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949



Fairfax \$292,000
Contemporary Condo. 2 BR, 2 BA condo with open floorplan. Wood floors, gas fireplace, Corian counters. Includes 1 Garage space. Terrific community amenities. Close to I66, Rte. 50, Fair Oaks.
Barbara Nowak 703-473-1803
Gerry Staudte 703-309-8948



Springfield \$499,900
Can't beat this North Springfield location inside Beltway! Lovingly maintained 4 BR, 3 BA split level on corner lot. LR w/gas fireplace. Nice-sized DR w/doors to screened porch & deck overlooking fenced yard. Modern kitchen w/new appls, cabinets galore & ceramic floor. Lower level boasts large rec room, 4th BR & full bath. Gorgeous hdwds. Replacement windows. 3 yr. old roof. Hop/skip to major routes, transportation.
Ki Hatch 571-214-1870



Fairfax Station \$985,000
Wonderful custom rambler in Redlac Forest. Renovated, open floor plan & filled with light. Main level master. 5000+ SqFt w/lower level completely finished, includes potential 5th bdrm for in-law/au-pair suite, full bath, office, workshop, storage. 4 stall barn & storage w/4 fenced fields. Must see to believe!
Claudia Callis 703-620-2790
Dana-Jean LaFever 703-609-3479



Fairfax \$638,000
Rise and Shine! Enjoy your morning cup in the sun room addition of this wonderful colonial sitting pretty on a cul de sac that NEVER SELLS & backing to parkland! Enjoy the huge living room, banquet sized dining room, 4 large bedrooms, an updated kitchen w/ granite counters & an engaging family room w/ a brick hearth fireplace. Walkout basement comes too! Impeccably maintained!
Catie, Steve & Associates 703-278-9313



Fairfax \$949,000
Fabulous 4 BR/3.5 BA, 2-car garage townhome with rooftop terrace in sought-after Mosaic District.
Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949



Centreville \$600,000
Delightfully updated. 4 BR with 2-car garage in sought after Centre Ridge. 3.5 full baths updated. HW floor on main and upper level. Fenced lot backs to trees.
Barbara Nowak 703-473-1803
Gerry Staudte 703-309-8948



Ashburn \$814,900
Spectacular Sunset views from large deck overlooking the 9th Fairway of Belmont Country Club. Hard to find first floor Master Suite plus second master bedroom on upper level. 4 BR, 4 1/2 BA, fully finished walk-out lower level. A perfect "10."
Ann Grainger 703-819-5300



Lake Anna \$1,199,000
Outstanding waterfront property with Panoramic Views. Approx. 5,800 sq. ft. of finished living space. Perfect for entertaining, entire first floor is dedicated to comfortable, sophisticated living area, main-floor master, a light filled 3-story great room looking over Lake Anna. 3-4-5 car garages, workshop & more.
Liz Wilson 540-226-6475



Manassas \$474,900
Meadowbrook Woods Beauty! Premium 1/2 acre cul-de-sac lot backs to wooded privacy! 9' ceilings, home office, generous bedroom sizes. Family room with gas fireplace. Eat-in kitchen with center island & SS appliances. Walkout basement.
David Billups 703-967-8700



Spotsylvania \$389,900
New Price! 3 BR, 3.5 BA custom home w/Lake views front & back! Home features large kitchen, energy efficient SS appliances & HVAC system, hardwood flooring, basement w/wet bar, wired for theatre system, Owens Corning wall system, path leads to lake. Boat slip leased for 2016 at new launch "The Cove."
Liz Wilson 540-226-6475



Fairfax \$475,000
Fabulous 4 BR, 3.5 BA four level townhouse. Recent updates include new kitchen, fresh paint & renovated bathrooms. Spacious deck overlooks brick patio & fully fenced rear yard backing to common area & trees for added privacy.
Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949

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