

South Glebe

The first transitway bus stops at a Crystal City station.

Transitway Comes To Arlington

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Fire Station 8
May Not Have To Move

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Becoming Aware of
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PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/THE CONNECTION

County Acknowledges Fire Station Could Remain on Hall's Hill Site

Other changes will have to occur for county response time to improve.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

“After two years of saying the current site was not adequate for a bigger fire station on the Station 8 site, the county reversed its position and provided site drawings last week indicating the current site was feasible,” said Nancy Williams of the Old Dominion Civic Association. “It would be interesting to know why that took so long,” she said, “but the most important thing is that local citizens were able to get the county to go back review the facts, with a different result.”

The other news at the Fire Station 8 Task Force meeting on April 14 was that some of the options for moving to other locations were no longer viable: Washington Golf and Country Club had indicated lack of interest in selling property on Glebe and Rock Spring which would have been a possible site.



PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

The Fire Station 8 Task Force met on April 14.


Three subgroups reported to the Task Force on Thursday: the first of these, the response time subgroup, underlined the fact that 7 out of 10 Arlington County fire stations did not meet the ideal response time

as outlined by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). They also noted that while technically moving the station north to 26th and Old Dominion would make it physically possible to reach three quarters

of the problem areas within six minutes, there were problems with that: one quarter of the area would remain outside that six-minute window, and even more concerning, the actual time travelled (TT) had never been physically modeled by the Arlington County Fire Department but had only been “eye-balled” on a map of Arlington. Lastly, the subgroup noted, hotspots which need attention now are not necessarily reflective of future conditions such as the VHC land swap or the Lee Highway plan.

Time travelled reduction is a good goal, the group added, but there are other ways of reducing the total response time. The Opticom system which synchronizes stop lights so that fire trucks can get through lights more quickly was not installed, for some reason, on two intersections that were created a few years ago on North 26th and Glebe and Old Dominion. Call processing time also has to go down to under a minute — the NFPA window — in order to improve total response times. The subgroup highlighted TriData’s highly critical report on the Call Processing Time (CPT), and its comment that “Dispatch Center technology and staffing is much less expensive than adding units and stations to reduce total response time.”

SEE SITE, PAGE 13



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Joint Transitway Comes to Arlington

Ribbon-cutting ceremony marks the launch of joint Arlington-Alexandria bus service.

BY VERNON MILES
THE CONNECTION

“This is Arlington,” said Sandra Borden from the Crystal City Civic Association as she points across Glebe Road, “and over there, that’s Alexandria.”

Four Mile Run divides Arlington and Alexandria in most places, with Potomac Yard as the northern tip of Alexandria bordering Crystal City at the southern end of Arlington. So far, those communities are fairly insular, but with new residential developments moving into Crystal City and a major Potomac Yard commercial redevelopment underway, a new transit system hopes to bridge that gap.

The Potomac Yard Transitway is a bus route with large sections of dedicated lanes that runs from the Braddock Road Metro Station up to Crystal City. The route includes a mile of dedicated lanes through Potomac Yard and, for a mile and a half through Crystal City, some lanes will be bus-only during rush hours.

The Alexandria section of the route has been operating since 2014, but April 17 marked the ribbon-cutting for the completed Arlington section. The new extension runs up from South Glebe road to 15th Street, past

“If we’re going to solve congestion on Route 1, this is how we have to do it.”

— **Katie Cristol, Arlington County Board Member**

the VRE and Metro stations in Crystal City. Officials from Arlington, Alexandria, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and various contributing groups attended the ceremony.

“This is the first bi-jurisdictional transitway in the Washington Area,” said Dennis Leach, director of Transportation for the Arlington Department of Environmental Services. “This is a big deal. It’s a great example of what we can accomplish with regional collaboration.”

The appeal of Transitway over traditional bus services is the more reliable and frequent times. The Potomac Yard Transitway buses arrive every six minutes with 95 percent on time performance, which Robert Potts, assistant general manager of Bus Services for WMATA, said is the highest in the region. Potts largely attributed this to the large stretches of dedicated lanes along the route.

“The dedicated thoroughfare from Glebe to Crystal City will speed up travel,” said Potts.

While Crystal City has a steadily increasing residential population, a set of new commercial developments is expected to flood into the Potomac Yard area with the completion of a new Metro station set to open in 2020. Several attendees expressed hopes that the Transitway would be a first step towards greater regional collaboration, particularly on transit issues.

“This is a poster child for what we can do when we work together,” said Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg.

“We’re all thrilled,” said Arlington County Board member Katie Cristol. “This is a great opportunity for a growing population center. It shows the way that partnership can bear fruit for our local residents, especially along this corridor. If we’re going to solve congestion on Route 1, this is how we have to do it.”

It hadn’t escaped the notice of the officials that the Transitway was one of the few praises being directed towards WMATA lately, with a crippled Metro system that left one Metro train stuck in a tunnel near Rosslyn on April 14 and fire on the tracks, also at Rosslyn, on April 18.

“One day, a few years from now, Washington will be known for its good transportation,” said Arlington County Board Chair Libby Garvey.

Potts says the current Alexandria metrobus (Metroway) traveling

along the Transitway has around 2,000 riders per day, which exceeds projections during development. 9A, a comparable bus route that runs through Potomac Yard and Crystal City, saw equal or slightly lower ridership, despite the 9A also extending to Huntington Station and the Pentagon. Transitway ridership has increased 34 percent in the last year. Both Potts and Alexandria City Manager Mark Jinks noted that BRT routes take several years to mature in ridership.

Local residents came out to the ribbon-cutting and were excited, but many said there’s still lots of work to be done in the area. In Crystal City, Borden said that the transitway is the first of a set of new developments in Crystal City designed to help attract young residents.

“This is a boon for the millennials moving into the area,” said Borden, and along those lines said that the area also needs more talking trails and dog parks, joking that; “millennials aren’t having kids, they’re having dogs.”



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/THE CONNECTION

Transitway bus, driven by Akil Nuriddin, takes on its first passengers.



Transitway bus route.

CONTRIBUTED

Local commuters praised the new stations, but lamented that so many of the Crystal City streets were being restricted from bicycles.

“On the one hand I’m excited to have this

dedicated bus way, but it is also restricting more of the roadway from bicycles,” said David Dann, who lives in a building overlooking the new bus station. “And there’s not enough bike racks, but still, it’s a good thing.”

Becoming Aware of Child Sex Trafficking

The problem extends throughout northern Virginia.

This story is part of a series focusing on sex trafficking in Northern Virginia.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

Frank Wolf, former U.S. representative from Northern Virginia, reads from the study he commissioned from the Polaris Project in 2011. It identified 21 cities in Northern Virginia with 82 Asian massage parlors suspected of sex trafficking.

She stands on the sidewalk outside the mall with her backpack full of 7th grade science and math books. An older man pulls up and she gets in the backseat of his car. He drives her to a nearby motel and sells her for sex a number of times that same afternoon before she returns to her unsuspecting parents. In the beginning, the victims often return home; later they may disappear and become part of a network, or be driven to other locations including massage parlors. Human trafficking of young teens, mostly girls, has become growing problem in Northern Virginia, according to those involved in the issue. Sometimes the girl is complicit, having been enticed by an attractive older man or teenage boy and slowly groomed until she thinks she loves him. Other times she has gotten herself unknowingly tangled in gang-related activity and is threatened if she wants out.

THE PROBLEM is complex: lack of awareness by teenagers at a vulnerable age, the skill of traffickers to manipulate and groom their victims, the ease of recruitment through the internet, a busy world where parents, teachers or friends don't ask enough questions about changing behavior, insufficient law enforcement penalties or resources and the denial that it couldn't happen here.

According to Melissa Snow, child sex trafficking specialist for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), this Alexandria-based organization has seen an increase in reporting of endangered and runaway children in Virginia. She says one out of five reported in 2015 became a victim of sex trafficking. Seventy-four percent of those were missing from child welfare care which means they already had experienced a fractured home life or came from abusive families.

"The victims often feel inside they are dirty and won't amount to anything. The biggest thing is to get them to understand victimization, what it is," said Deepa Patel, executive director of Trauma and Hope in Springfield.

While many may be puzzled about how a young girl, maybe even their neighbor, could get caught up in this web, Snow said, "We see constantly the importance of online traffickers. They can build trust so quickly because the victim is in her own home where she feels comfortable. The trafficker will spend incredible time finding out the teen's worries, hopes for the future and then use it against her."

Patel said: "We all have vulnerabilities, I'm a therapist and I have vulnerabilities; we all do on any particular day."

Beth Saunders, president of The Just Ask Prevention Project in Northern Virginia, said, "Trying to change is a cultural shift. We need to open up a dialogue, not making talking about human trafficking taboo." Just Ask concentrates on education and prevention working with businesses, schools and law enforcement to "put ourselves out of business by ending teenage sex trafficking."

Just Ask describes itself as "a public awareness campaign designed to expose the growing prevalence of teen sex trafficking in Northern Virginia and to inspire our community to end the scouting, manipulation and recruitment of our teenagers."

Saunders says she was aware of international human trafficking in her prior role as a business executive. The moment she knew it was a local problem was when her good friend at George Mason University's Transnational Crime and Corruption Group discussed teenage sex traffic here in Northern Virginia. "There is still a mindset, and I was guilty as well, of thinking trafficking was bringing girls from another country," she said. "These girls aren't trafficked; we have the infrastructure set up right here."

WHEN DID then U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) realize there was human trafficking of young girls and decide to do something about it? "I think it was gradual," he said. "Back in the 1990s on a congressional trip to Albania, we drove by a house where it was pointed out young women had been sexually trafficked." Wolf said, like many others, he assumed this took place in places like Albania. "Then I started to have people come and tell me sexual trafficking of young girls was happening right in our local neighborhoods."

Since Wolf was then chairman of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Commerce-State-Justice, he had money inserted in appropriations legislation for a study of local Asian massage parlors by the Polaris Project in 2011. The Polaris Project is an anti-trafficking organization that administers the national human trafficking hotline. Wolf and Polaris Project Executive Director Bradley Myles at the time acknowledged there are legitimate businesses performing massage therapy that are meeting all the rules and regulations and not offering sexual favors. But Polaris looked through Web sites where men post information on which massage parlors are most likely to provide sexual services and identified 82 in Northern Virginia.

Polaris did not do any further investigation but felt the circumstantial evidence was there to start a vigorous law enforcement probe. The Polaris Project listed 21 cities in Northern Virginia. Wolf held up the a copy of the study. "I can't give you this," but he began reading: "Alexandria, 6, Annandale, 7, Arlington, 2, Herndon, 8, Springfield, 7, Falls Church, 5, Vienna, 12." He read on. "Most people are stunned when they find out it is occurring right here in Virginia." The massage parlors are difficult to close down because they are sometimes large operations run by individuals who understand licensing and zoning regulations, who move women from place to place and, if under suspicion, just open a new massage parlor in a different location, he said.

Wolf also had money inserted into appropriations legislation setting up a Gang Task Force across Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax and including the FBI, the U.S. Marshals Service and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

He noted the Brenda Paz case in 2003: "She was a 17-year-old girl in the inner circle of a local M-13 gang. She decided she wanted to get out and turned in a lot of information to law enforcement that they didn't have at the time. She was put in witness protection. But the gang found out and planned her killing in a Holiday Inn in Fairfax. They took her to Meems Bottom Covered Bridge in Shenandoah County and brutally slit her throat." Wolf said fear can be one of the factors that keeps young girls from exposing their situation.

When did recognition of the problem begin for U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) who was active on the issue of human trafficking in the state legislature representing the 34th District before filling Wolf's congressional seat in 2014? Comstock said she thought it was when she met a woman in her 20s or 30s who had been a victim when

Resources

National Human Trafficking Resource Center

1-888-373-7888
nhtrc@polarisproject.org

Just Ask

President Beth Saunders
10660 Page Avenue #4161
Fairfax, VA 22030
FCPDHumanTrafficking@fairfaxcounty.gov
1-888-373-7888

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

Charles B. Wang International Children's Building
699 Prince St.
Alexandria, VA 22314-3175
24-hour call center: 1-800-THE-LOST
703-224-2150

Trauma and Hope

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Cell: 571-366-0086
deepa.r.patel1@gmail.com

she was a 13-14 year old. She learned that Virginia had one of the lowest ratings of enforcement against human trafficking in all the states. During 2012-13 she co-patroned a number of a bills in the state legislature addressing the growth of gangs and increasing the penalty from a misdemeanor for soliciting a minor age 16 or 17 and under for prostitution to a Class Six felony and soliciting a minor under 16 to a Class Five penalty. Comstock worked with Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) who sponsored Virginia's first stand-alone human trafficking statute. Hugo said last July after it went into effect, "Until today, Virginia was the only state in the nation without a decided human trafficking law and was one of only two states that did not specifically criminalize sex trafficking."

Comstock said Fairfax County Detective Bill Woolf was instrumental in recommending legislation to her that was needed. "He said we are on the street and we need legislation to increase penalties," she said. "Woolf is a knight in shining armor; he has done so much for this cause."

Woolf said, "I saw the need and started working it." He continued, "Traffickers work in the schools. Victims come from every high school in the county."

Sometimes it is a high school student recruiting in his own school. Elizabeth Payne, coordinator for Health, Family Life Education and Physical Education for Fairfax County Public Schools, said a new education program established in the county's middle and high schools in 2012 seems to be getting results. She said Woolf recently told her about a middle school student who heard about sexual trafficking in her class and realized this was happening to her friend. The girl told an adult teacher she trusted and the victim was recovered along with several other girls in the same school. "I think Detective Woolf was the first one to break a case, and they just kept coming. It involved so many of our students in high schools of different ethnicities and demographics. We knew we had to do something."

"Most people are stunned when they find out it is occurring right here in Northern Virginia."

**— Frank Wolf,
former U.S. Representative
from Northern Virginia**

NEWS



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

Arts Festival

White tents transform N. Highland Street in Arlington into an outdoor art festival on April 16-17 as couples, strollers, dogs and wheelchairs crowd the exhibits. More than 100 juried artists display vibrant paintings, pottery cups, hand crafted necklaces, photography and gift items priced from \$25 to \$30,000. This is the fourth Annual Arlington Arts Festival.

Streetscape Improvements For Rosslyn

With a series of new furnishings, the streetscapes of Rosslyn might start to look a little more vibrant. Within this year, Lucia deCorde, president and urban design director of the Rosslyn BID, said that Rosslyn residents and visitors will begin to see wayfinding posts, informational stalls, new benches and vegetation along the sidewalks.

“We started this project a couple years ago,” said deCorde. “We’re really looking at what we can do with the sidewalks for our pedestrians.”

While Arlington County is considering options for sidewalk widening in the Rosslyn area, the BID is looking at beautification measures and pedestrian improvements. In addition to new bike racks, deCorde also said that the Rosslyn BID is currently in discussions to add bikeshare stations throughout the area.

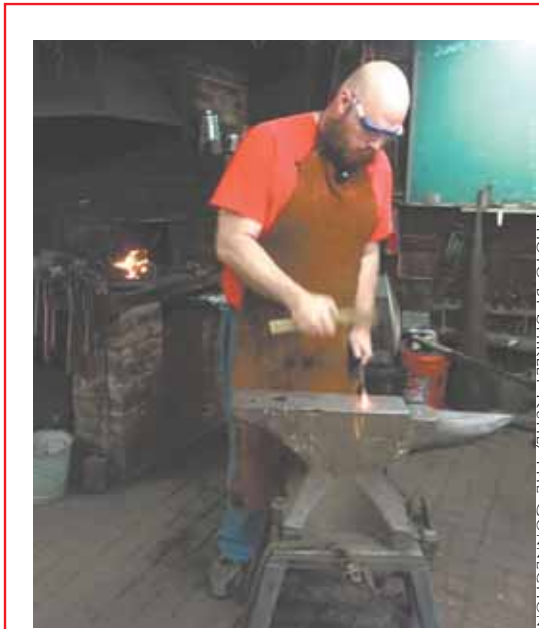


PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

Gulf Branch Blacksmith

Meyer Kachel is stretching out the hot metal to the size of his pinkie and will pound it “really thin and curl it into a key fob.” Kachel says everything he makes has a functionality to it. He is also juggling working on a Medieval weapon that needs an orange heat of 2,500 degrees. Kachel says he works at a Renaissance Festival all day teaching people how to use Medieval weapons “so I thought it was time I should make one.” He has been a member of the Blacksmith Guild of Potomac for 12 years. They meet at Gulf Branch Park in Arlington twice a month.



IMAGE CONTRIBUTED

New benches, planters, and lights planned for Rosslyn.

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FAIRFAX
CORNER

Hardly Non-Partisan

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the article [April 13-19 edition] entitled, "More than Tolerance," about the Muslim Town Hall Meeting held April 9 at the Arlington Library.

This Town Hall was promoted as a "non-partisan community event" hosted by NOVA Muslim Americans and Veterans Challenge Islamophobia. The non-partisan nature of the event was why I decided to attend.

LETTER But what I heard was not "non-partisan."

Simply put, the organizers staged an event to bash Virginia Republican legislators, and presidential candidates Donald Trump and Ted Cruz. The "Town Hall Meeting" was highly partisan and politically charged.

There were personal stories told, but no discussion about the tenets of Islam, no discussion about the tension between the Qur'an and the Hadith, and no discussion about the possible conflict within the Muslim community about their faith.

Speaker after speaker criticized Republicans. The Virginia legislators and Arlington County Board members who spoke were all Democrats. One Republican was invited to speak (representing Arlington County Republicans), but he sounded just like the Democrats. Even two British speakers politicized the event by bashing Republicans. Something was very odd about the make up of the panelists.

Especially odd was hearing Del. Alfonso Lopez (D-49) mock Americans who "want to ban Sharia Law." He was sitting right next to state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30), an openly gay man who would be condemned to death under Sharia Law.

Several of the Muslim speakers portrayed "their community" as victims, not able to "own our identify now." One said, "We can't deconstruct the stigma on our own." And another blamed "extremists and the media" for "owning our identity." This was baffling. None of them defined what their identify is, the identity that supposedly was stolen.

This portrayal of victimhood brings to mind what national Muslim leaders have been saying of late. They are calling on fellow Muslims to unite with the Black Lives Matter movement.

Question time was limited. The few people who asked questions played into the mantra of the speakers. There was little informative discussion. Twice, I tried to ask a question. The moderator acknowledged me, but wouldn't call on me. It was as if she already knew whom she would call upon.

A man representing the event's co-sponsor, Veterans Challenging Islamophobia, proudly admitted that his group is "disrupting presidential campaigns" with their signage "No Hate Speech Against Muslims." You can guess which campaigns.

The Town Hall organizers did a disservice to the Arlington community with this politically charged and thinly veiled event.

Catharine Scott
Arlington



From left are Melanie Preisser, Cecelia Gallegos, Eden Brown, Chevy Gallegos, Reece Preisser, Youssef Thomas and organizer Shandra Niswander.

Resolve to Run Final Week

Participants have raised \$3,200 out of \$16,000 goal.

On Saturday, April 9, runners gathered for a brunch buffet at the Army Navy Country Club to celebrate the end of their 3-month training period. Reece Preisser and Chevy Gallegos came out to run the final training run/walk and join their mothers for the carb-loading

breakfast. The youngest registered runner in the Arlington Thrive fundraising run is 12; the oldest is 71. The race will take place Sunday, April 24. So far, the runners have raised \$3,200 in funds for Thrive.

Residents who want to support the effort can do so on the www.youcaring.com website or send a check to Arlington Thrive, PO Box 7429 Arlington, VA 22207 with the name of the runner they support on the memo line.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 20

County Board Candidate Debate. 7-9 p.m. at Mad Rose Tavern, 3100 Clarendon Blvd. County Board Candidate Debate hosted by Arlington Young Democrats. Visit www.arlingtondemocrats.org to register or for more.

Should Parole Be Reinstated in Virginia? 7-9 p.m. at Rock Spring Church, located at 5010 Little Falls Road. Members of the Virginia Commission on Parole Review, appointed by Gov. McAuliffe last summer, will report on their findings at a panel discussion sponsored by Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) and Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ in Arlington. All are welcome. Visit www.oaronline.org.

Community Forum. 7-9 p.m. in auditorium at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, 125 S Old Glebe Road. The Arlington County Chief of Police, along with other panel members, will conduct a forum focusing on the community's trust and confidence in Arlington's criminal justice agencies. Following the moderated portion of the evening, panel members will engage in an open questions and answers discussion with audience members.

THURSDAY/APRIL 21

Scholarship Fundraising Banquet. 6:30-9 p.m. at China Garden Restaurant, 1100 Wilson Blvd. Support the college education of Arlington students; eat a large family style Chinese dinner. Tax deductible proceeds go to the Arlington Rotary Educational Foundation. \$50 per person, of which \$25 is tax deductible. Purchase your banquet admission online at www.arlingtonrotaryclub.org/AREF by April 15. After April 15, contact Joseph Lott at rotary@lottfamily.com or 703-625-6638.

Camping for Families. 7-9 p.m. at Unitarian

Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd. Join the Arlington/Alexandria Chapter of Holistic Moms Network, to hear experienced local moms D. Ohlandt and Mary Hackman share what makes for a successful family excursion to the many hiking and camping sites in the area. Free. Contact Rajae Nami at rajaenami@yahoo.com or visit www.facebook.com/events/984361098304687.

FRIDAY/APRIL 22

Traffic Alert: Friday Night Races. 6:15-8:15 p.m. The Crystal Run 5K Friday races will take place each Friday evening in April. The Arlington County Police Department will conduct road closures to accommodate this event. In addition to the closures, street parking in the area will be restricted. Visit www.runpacers.com/race/crystal-city-5k-fridays/.

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

28th Annual Watershed Cleanup. 10 a.m.-noon. Join ACE in the 28th annual watershed cleanup with more than 500 sites across the watershed. ACE volunteers will meet at N. Glebe and Chain Bridge roads. Details about the ACE meeting location will be sent upon registration at www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-potomac-watershed-cleanup-tickets-22495017202. For details on other sites along the Potomac, visit www.fergusonfoundation.org.

Teen Summer Expo. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Wakefield High School, 1325 S. Dinwiddie St. Area's largest job/internship/volunteer fair for teens. More than 100 employers, and more than 1,200 teens. Free. Email teenexpo@arlingtonva.us, call 703-228-1404, or visit aec.arlingtonva.us/draft/youth-services/teen-summer-job-expo/ for more.

Bites & Blues Party. 7 p.m. at Arlington Rooftop Bar and Grill, 2424 Wilson Blvd. Join us at The Bites & Blues Party to help raise support for Arlington Free Clinic's Dental Program. The event will feature music by the Moxie Blues Band, a live auction and a night of dancing. To make a donation or purchase tickets, visit www.501auctions.com/bitesandblues.

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"FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

"Flourishing After 55" from Arlington Office of Senior Adult Programs, for April 23-30.

Senior centers: Lee, 5722 Lee Hwy.; Langston-Brown Senior Center, 2121 N. Culpeper St.; Culpeper Garden, 4435 N. Pershing Dr.; Walter Reed, 2909 S. 16th St.; Arlington Mill, 909 S. Dinwiddie St.; Aurora Hills, 735 S. 18th St.

Senior trips: Historic Garden Week tour, Middleburg, Monday, April 25, \$47; Arena Stage, D.C., "All the Way," Wednesday, April 27, \$46; behind-the-scenes tour of Nationals Park, D.C., Friday, April 29, \$17. Call Arlington County 55+ Travel, 703-228-4748. Registration required.

Photography enthusiasts, Sunday, April 24, 3 p.m., Arlington Mill.

Free. Register, 703-228-7369

Aging alone unexpectedly, Monday, April 25, 1:30 p.m., Lee. Free. Register, 703-228-0555.

Pickleball games and instruction, Mondays, 11 a.m., Arlington Mill. Free. Register, 703-228-7369.

Ice skating, Mondays, 8:10a.m. – 9:20 a.m., Kettler Capitals Iceplex, Ballston Mall, \$1. Register, 703-228-4771.

Madison Chess Club, Mondays, 9:30 a.m. Games and strategies. Free. Details, 703-534-6232.

Table tennis, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Arlington Mill. Free. Register, 703-228-7369.

Chinese culture, Tuesday, April 26, 10:30 a.m., Thomas Jefferson Comm. Center. Free. Register, 703-228-4403.



Northern Virginia Transportation Commission Open House And Public Hearing On Transform 66 Inside The Beltway Multimodal Components

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

4:30 P.m. Open House, 6:00 P.m. Public Hearing

Reston Station, 1904 Reston Metro Plaza, Reston, Va 20190
(near The Wiehle-reston East Metro Station)

The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (nvtc) Is Seeking Public Input On The Multimodal Components Submitted For Fy 2017 Funding Consideration As Part Of The Virginia Department Of Transportation's (vdot's) Transform 66 Inside The Beltway Project.

Nvtc Will Select Multimodal Components For Presentation To The Commonwealth Transportation Board For Funding Using Toll Revenues From Vdot's Transform 66 Inside The Beltway Project. The Principal Objective Of The Transform 66 Inside The Beltway Project Is To Select And Fund Multimodal Components That Meet The Improvement Goals, Which Are To (1) Move More People, (2) Enhance Transportation Connectivity, (3) Improve Transit Service, (4) Reduce Roadway Congestion And (5) Increase Travel Options. The Improvement Goals Will Benefit The Users Of The Portion Of I-66 Between I-495 (the Capital Beltway) And U.s. Route 29 In The Rosslyn Area Of Arlington County.

Nvtc Urges The Public To Get Involved By Learning About And Commenting On The Proposed Multimodal Components During The Open House And Public Hearing On May 18, 2016. The Hearing Will Be Held At Reston Station, 1904 Reston Metro Plaza, Reston, Va 20190. The Open House Will Begin At 4:30 P.m. The Public Hearing Will Start At 6:00 P.m. A Hearing Officer Will Preside At The Public Hearing. Members Of The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission May Be In Attendance As Well.

The List Of Submitted Multimodal Components For The Transform 66 Inside The Beltway Project Is Too Extensive For Publication In This Advertisement. The List May Be Accessed By Visiting www.novatransit.org/i66multimodal; Calling Nvtc At 703-nvtc-321 (703-688-2321); E-mailing i66multimodal@nvtc.org; Or Visiting Nvtc's Offices At 2300 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 620, Arlington, Va 22201, Monday Through Friday, 9:00 A.m. - 4:30 P.m.

Comments May Be Submitted By Mail To Nvtc At 2300 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 620, Arlington, Va 22201; E-mail To i66multimodal@nvtc.org; Or Phone At 703-nvtc-321 (703-688-2321). The Public Comment Period Has Been Extended Through Close Of Business On Monday, May 23, 2016. For Additional Information On The Open House And Public Hearing On May 18, 2016, Contact Nvtc At 703-nvtc-321 (703-688-2321).

You May Pre-register To Speak By:

- E-mailing Nvtc At: i66multimodal@nvtc.org Or
- Calling Nvtc At 703-nvtc-321 (703-688-2321)

Accessibility For Persons With Disabilities Or Non-english Language Speakers: The Hearing Is Located At A Facility Believed To Be Accessible To Persons With Disabilities. Any Person With Questions About The Accessibility Of The Facility Should Contact Nvtc At 703-nvtc-321 (703-688-2321) Or i66multimodal@nvtc.org. Persons Requiring Special Assistance Or A Foreign Language Translator Must Notify Nvtc At 703-nvtc-321 (703-688-2321). Those Requiring Interpreter Services For The Deaf Must Call Nvtc At 703-nvtc-321 (703-688-2321) Or Via Virginia Relay By Dialing 7-1-1. All Requests For Special Services On May 18 Must Be Received No Later Than May 11, 2016.

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ENTERTAINMENT

'The Mystery of Love & Sex'

Signature Theatre stages unexpected love story of evolving friendship, finding one's own path, and the value of family.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Signature Theater in Shirlington is staging "The Mystery of Love & Sex" now through May 8. The story revolves around Charlotte and Jonny, complete opposites who have been best friends since they were children. Now, as college students on the eve of graduation, they toy around with taking their friendship romantic. Or not. But neither is sure they are even attracted to the other (plus, Charlotte thinks she might be really attracted to Claire). Meanwhile, Charlotte's parents push them for a definition even while their own relationship founders. Gradually, secrets and truths emerge as playing grown-up turns into actually growing up.

Shayna Blass plays the female lead of Charlotte, a 21-year-old attending college with her best friend, and neighbor, of 12 years, Jonny. "When the play opens, Charlotte is in the beginning of her entire life changing. Despite being brought up in a liberal home, with a southern mother and Jewish father, she is anxious about facing some hard truths about her life and the way she sees love," she said.

She said her biggest challenge was being

able to find all the intricacies of hiding one's self — especially around the people who know you the best and love you the most. "While Charlotte eventually is able to be comfortable in her sexuality, there is a crucial period of time in her life where the uncertainty is extremely painful," she said.

She added: "The cast, crew, and production team has done an incredible job of making the story a real one, with real people, and real pain and real joy. My hope is that after our show people are open to sharing a little bit more about themselves to the people they love."

Xavier Scott Evans plays the male lead of Jonny, a young man who is constantly navigating and questioning who he is an individual. "He is someone who is not comfortable with himself and is working to find what his purpose is on the planet," he said. "He's a thinker and not always outspoken or the most honest person. He is very smart but more often than not a true mystery."

He said one of the challenges in the play is finding the moments of truth. "A lot of the characters in the play are quick thinkers and fast talkers, but that doesn't mean what they're saying is actually true," he said. "So finding rabbit holes and following them to the end of the tunnel and in a split second finding a new rabbit hole is exciting

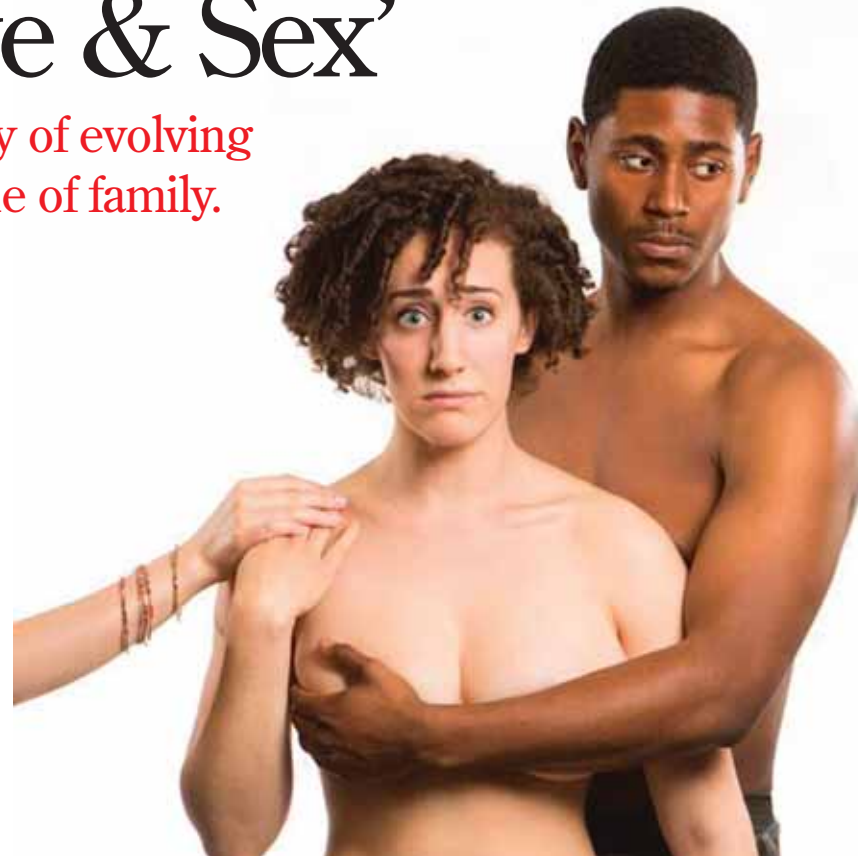


PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER MUELLER

Shayna Blass and Xavier Scott Evans star in Signature Theater's production of "The Mystery of Love & Sex" from April 5 to May 8.

but also extremely challenging."

He said he hopes that audience members take away that love is the strongest choice, period. "Differences come in all shapes and sizes but love is what can turn a lot of these differences into similarities. And I believe that everyone on this earth is seeking one thing love."

Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. is staging "The Mystery of Love & Sex" through May 8. Tickets are \$40-89. Post-Show Discussion Nights are April 20 and May 3; Pride Night is April 29. "The Mystery of Love & Sex" contains full male and female nudity and depictions of tobacco smoking. Visit www.sigtheatre.org.

CALENDAR

Email announcements to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

Scripts in Play Festival. Through April 23, various times at Theatre on the Run, 3700 South Four Mile Run Drive. Avant Bard presents four weeks of theatrical experimentation with an inaugural Scripts in Play Festival. Find more than a dozen readings of plays, classic and contemporary. Free. Visit www.avantbard.org for more.

Sci-Fi Book Club. Third Wednesday of each month, 7-8:30 p.m. at Java Shack, 2507 N. Franklin Road. Free. Visit www.library.arlingtonva.us.

Spark Fitness. Fridays in April, 6:30 p.m. at 2121 Crystal Drive. The 5K Fridays race route is flat and fast traveling through the heart of Crystal City along Crystal Drive and up past Long Bridge Park, the County's newest regional park. Runners will pass the Boeing Company's regional headquarters, this year's event sponsor. After the race, runners can stick around for a collection of area bar and restaurant specials exclusively for runners. Registration is \$20 per race, \$75 for the entire series. Visit www.crystalcity.org for more.

"The Flick." Through April 24, various times at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. "The Flick" follows the

story of three employees at a crumbling Massachusetts movie theatre. Tickets start at \$40. Visit www.sigtheatre.org for more.

Wednesdays in the Garden.

Wednesdays in April, 7-9 p.m. at Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. This series, taught by Arlington Food Assistance Center volunteers and by VCE Master Gardeners, is designed to teach gardening skills to a wide audience. Topics are: April 6, Growing Superfoods; April 13, Container Gardens for Edibles; April 20, Edible Landscaping & Fruit in the Garden; April 27, Water, Irrigation, Ollas & Rain Barrels. Free. Visit library.arlingtonva.us/ or call the library at 703-228-5990.

Accepting Talent Applications.

Through April 28. Arlington's Got Talent is a showcase (taking place on June 28) featuring local singers, dancers, comedians, and more. Visit www.leadercenter.com/arlingtonsgot-talent to apply.

Films on Israel/Palestine.

Sundays through May 1, 2:30-4 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd. A film series exploring the complex and emotional issues preventing peace in Israel/Palestine will be presented. Free. Call 703-524-7630 for more.

The Mystery of Love and Sex.

Through May 8, various times at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. Playwright Bathsbeba Doran returns to Signature with a play exploring intimacy and identity. Tickets start at \$40. Visit www.sigtheatre.org for more.

Exhibit: "Singing in the Rain."

Through May 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Fiber art inspired by songs from movies. Whether for self or gifts, jewelry, sculpture, clothing, and wall pieces are some of the items that will be exhibited. Free. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com for more.

Zumba. Wednesdays through May 25, 6-7 p.m. at Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Highway. Sessions will be led by a professional instructor who has her own studio in Arlington. The registration fee is \$20 for all five classes. Visit www.rosslynva.org for more.

Spring SOLOS 2016. Through June 12, gallery hours at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Arlington Arts Center announces its Spring SOLOS 2016 artists. Following a call in early 2015, jurors Melissa Ho, Assistant Curator at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C., and Chicago-based artist, Jefferson Pinder, recommended 14 artists for inclusion in center's 2015-16 cohort of SOLOS artists. Free. Visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org for more.

Exhibit: "As You Spread, I am Erased." Through June 12, gallery hours at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Hedieh Javanshir Ilchi explores the notion of "duality," to comprehend her cultural identity as an Iranian-American immigrant and the complexities that emanate from such cultural experiences. Her paintings reflect an interest in the fusion of Western abstraction and Persian Art, with an emphasis on the



"Speed of Sound," linocut, 2016

'On the Corner of Kansas & Nowhere'

"On the Corner of Kansas and Nowhere" explores the different functions of everyday life through the perception of the observer, an absent-minded body watching the world unfold around them. With this temporary installation, Jennifer Lillis creates a body of work that transforms the exhibition into a work of art. The exhibit will hang at the 34zero9 Micro Gallery, 3409 Wilson Blvd. through May 28. Visit 34zero9.wix.com/34zero9artstudios.

ENTERTAINMENT

ornamentations of "Tazhib," or the art of illumination. Free. Visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org for more.

Exhibit: "Emerging Artists of Vacation Lane." Through June 12, gallery hours at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. This exhibition features works by a group of six high school seniors: Agnes Cheng, Nathan Dobbins, Nana Gongadze, Salome Gongadze, Marie Johnson and Evan McLean, students in the AP art class at H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program. Free. Visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org.

Exhibit: "Jeweled Traditions." Through June 12, gallery hours at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Paper-cut scenes depict rituals of local families as remembered and enacted by Melanie Kehoss' summer campers at Arlington Arts Center during the summer of 2015. Free. Visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org for more.

Call for Entry: The Athenaeum Invitational 2016. Through Aug. 28. The theme asks artists to reflect on a moment of pure joy. It is inspired by the Lewis and Clark's expedition across the uncharted North American continent to reach the Pacific Ocean. After a two-year trek, William Lewis crested a hill, saw the vast body of water and cried, "The Ocean in view. Oh! The joy!" The entry fee is \$35. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Ball Sellers House. Saturdays, April-Oct., 1-4 p.m. at Ball Sellers House, 5620 3rd St., S. The Ball-Sellers House, the oldest building in Arlington County is open to the public for tours. The house was built around 1742 by John Ball and named the Ball-Sellers House to honor both the builder and the donor. Free. Visit

www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 20

Young Poets Lab. 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Shirlington Branch Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Teen poets are invited to write and recite their work. Free. Visit arlingtonva.libcal.com/event/2372129 for more.

THURSDAY/APRIL 21

Luncheon and Silent Auction. 11 a.m. at Washington Golf and Country Club, 3017 N. Glebe Road. Celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Birthday. Luncheon and silent auction fundraiser to benefit Arlington and Falls Church high school seniors pursuing their education in community and public service. Tickets are \$75. Call 703-533-3566.

Rock Spring Garden Club Flower Show. 2-4 p.m. at Little Falls Presbyterian Church Friendship Hall, 6025 Little Falls Road. Floral designs, horticultural exhibits, photography and more. Free. Visit www.rockspringgardenclub.com.

Phoenix Bikes Makers' Ball. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at 1750 Crystal Drive. Find food, drink, music, dancing, photo booth, roller racing, and a crafts table to benefit the Phoenix Bikes' youth program. Tickets are \$25, \$30 at the door. Visit www.phoenixbikes.org for more.

Arlington Rotary Educational Foundation Banquet. 6:30-9 p.m. at China Garden Restaurant, 1100 Wilson Blvd. Each year the Arlington Rotary Club sponsors a scholarship fundraising banquet. The tax deductible proceeds from the banquet go to the Arlington Rotary Educational Foundation which funds scholarships and stipends to help

current and former Arlington students attend college. Tickets are \$50. By tickets at www.arlingtonrotaryclub.org/AREF by April 15.

Book Talk. 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. Jon McGoran shares from his international thriller, "Dust Up," the third in his Doyle Carrick series. Free. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com.

Book Talk. 7 p.m. at Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Author Jeff J. Selingo discusses and signs "There is Life After College: What Parents and Students Should Know about Navigating School to Prepare for Jobs for Tomorrow." Free. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 22-24

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday at Gunston Arts Center, 2700 S. Lang St. Six young spellers come together at a local school to decide who will represent Putnam County in the national bee. Presented by Encore Stage & Studio. Tickets are \$10. Visit www.encorestageva.org for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 22-23

The Arlington Players: "Nice Work If You Can Get It." 8 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, 125 S. Old Glebe Road. A Gershwin musical set in the Roaring '20s. Tickets are \$24.50, \$21.50 for seniors and children. Visit www.thearlingtonpalyers.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Aprilfest. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Walker Chapel United Methodist Church, 4102 N. Glebe Road. The sale


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ENTERTAINMENT

includes a large selection of used books and media items, mulch, bedding plants and hanging baskets, and a bake sale. Cafe will serve breakfast and lunch. All proceeds go to charity. New in 2016: Dixieland Band (from the Falls Church Concert Band) will perform. Admission is free. Visit www.walkerchapel.org for more.

Raging Reptiles. 1-3 p.m. at Langston-Brown Community Center, 2121 N. Culpepper St. Master herpetologists from Infinity Educational Productions bring their reptiles to show off. \$8 fee. Call 703-228-4747, use code 730016 to register.

Passover Seder. 6 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd. Kol Ami (the Northern Virginia Reconstructionist Community) will host an inclusive Passover Seder. Herb Cooper-Levy, a member of congregation, will lead the ceremony, supplemented by those in attendance as they both read from Kol Ami's Haggadah (Seder book) and perform other parts of the evening's activities. A mostly potluck meal will follow. Admission is \$20 for adults, \$5 for children, plus a potluck dish. Visit www.kolamivirginia.org for more.

Borromeo Housing Fundraising Auction and Gala. 7 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 3304 Washington Blvd. Find dinner and a silent auction to support the young mothers at Borromeo Housing. Tickets are \$125. Visit www.borromeohousing.org for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 23-24

Virginia Ballet Company and School: "Snow White." 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and 7 p.m. on Saturday at Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus in the Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Virginia Ballet gives a spring recital of classic "Snow White." Ticket prices for reserved seating are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children, students and seniors, plus a \$3 fee per each ticket. Visit www.vaballet.org for more.

SUNDAY/APRIL 24

Yoga Session. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at The Echo Sculpture, 2503 Columbia Pike. Celebrate National Sculpture with Yoga instructor/artist Lisa Marie Thalhammer. Free. Visit www.arlingtonva.us for more.

Film Screening. 2:30 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd. This film is about Israeli public relations strategies and U.S. media. Free. Visit www.uucava.org for more.

French Chamber Music. Clarendon United Methodist Church, 606 N. Ivy St. Free. Visit www.ibischambermusic.org for more.

Mark Erelli. 8 p.m. at Iota Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. To celebrate a new album release, Mark Erelli will perform. Tickets are \$12, 21+ only. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com for more.

MONDAY/APRIL 25

Laughter Yoga. 6-7:30 p.m. at Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Laughter Yoga, for all ages, is a practice that reduces stress and strengthens the immune system. Free. Email arlingtonlaughteryoga@yahoo.com.

TUESDAY/APRIL 26

83rd Annual House & Garden Tour. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 115 E. Fairfax St., Falls Church. Part of Historic Garden Week, go on a tour featuring Gothic Revival, Greek Revival, Arts and Crafts and Victorian



PHOTO BY DAVID MOSS

Move Me Festival Returns April 30

Bowen McCauley Dance is celebrating 20 years and hosting the 7th Annual Move Me Festival on Saturday, April 30. Move Me is a family-friendly celebration of the arts and culture, promoting healthy lifestyles through movement and the arts, and featuring performances and artistic activities by local arts partners. Free. Visit www.bmdc.org for more.



PHOTO BY JOHN MCCAULEY

architecture. Two homes are on the National Register of Historic Places and are Virginia Historic Landmarks. Gardens include four 100-year-old holly trees, mature boxwoods delineating garden rooms, an herb garden and a garden of Victorian era plants. Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$40 day of the event. Visit www.vagardenweek.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 27

Lawn Chair Talk. 6-8 p.m. at the Tiffany Gallery at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Pairing one artist and one entrepreneur to discuss their personal journey and best practices, each will speak for a half hour followed by a Q&A with both speakers. Free, but registration required. Visit www.arlingtonarts.org for more.

THURSDAY/APRIL 28

Portfolio in Motion Premier Night. 6:30 p.m. at the Rose Bente Lee Center - Marymount University, 2807 N. Glebe Road. Marymount University's annual student fashion show. This year's show is themed "Checked In," a nod toward the glamour of a classic hotel. With mother/daughter dressing, evening wear, men's wear and highlighting the work of graduating seniors, who focus on signature sportswear, daytime and cocktail dresses. Tickets are \$50. Visit www.marymount.edu/PIM for more.

Book Talk. 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. The store welcomes two award-nominated Pittsburgh-based mystery

authors: Joyce Tremel (Brewing Trouble series) and Annette Dashofy (Zoe Chambers series). Free. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com for more.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 28-MAY 1

George Mason Used Book Sale. 3-9 p.m. Thursday. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, and 12-5 p.m. Sunday at Mason District Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Find books and videogames for sale. Free to attend. Visit www.georgemasonfriends.blogspot.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 29

REEP Community Celebration. 6-9 p.m. at Arlington Mill Community Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie St. Attend this event in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of REEP, which provides adult English classes. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$2 for children. Visit www.aspva.us/reep for more.

Book Talk. 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. New York Botanical Gardens instructor and author Marta McDowell shares from "All the Presidents' Gardens: Madison's Cabbages to Kennedy's Roses, How the White House Grounds Have Grown with America." Free. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com for more.

Concert: "Joys of Spring." 8-10 p.m. at Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike. The NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra will present "Joys of Spring," a night of

Spring-influenced compositions by popular composers, under the direction of Christopher Johnston. Tickets are \$15. Email reunionmusicsociety@gmail.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 29-30

Portfolio in Motion. 8 p.m. at the Rose Bente Lee Center - Marymount University, 2807 N. Glebe Road. Marymount University's annual student fashion show. This year's show is themed "Checked In," a nod toward the glamour of a classic hotel. Mother/daughter dressing, evening wear, men's wear and highlighting the work of graduating seniors, who focus on signature sportswear, daytime and cocktail dresses. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Visit www.marymount.edu/PIM for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at Clarendon United Methodist Church, 606 N. Irving St. Proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit the Kiwanis ELIMINATE Project (in partnership with UNICEF), working worldwide to protect the lives of more than 100 million mothers and their future babies by providing tetanus immunization. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children (5-10 years), and free for children under 5 with paying adult. Visit www.arlingtonvakiwanis.com.

Family Fitness Day in the Park. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Alcova Heights Park, 901 S. George Mason Drive. Find an obstacle course, yoga, and an

inflatable rock wall among other family friendly activities. Free. Call 703-228-6525.

Naturalist Guided Trail Sniff. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Potomac Overlook Regional Park, 2845 N. Marcey Road. Explore the trails with your dog at Potomac Overlook Regional Park with a naturalist for a fun hike. Learn about wildlife a dog might encounter in the park, and many of the scents that attract and interest canines. Adults only. Free. Use code #632946-B at park.arlingtonva.us to register.

Mid-Atlantic Spring Beer Festival. 12-7 p.m. at The Village at Shirlington, 4001 Campbell Ave. The springtime beer-tasting event will include a line-up of 35 regional breweries. Tickets are \$30 for beer-drinkers, free for non-drinkers. Visit www.capacitybrew.com for more.

Native Plant = Garden Success. 1-4 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. See native plants accustomed to local climate and wildlife (including deer). Free. Call 703-228-6535 for more.

Move Me Festival. 1-5 p.m. at Kenmore Middle School, 200 S. Carlin Springs Road. Move Me is a celebration of arts and culture, promoting healthy lifestyles through movement and the arts and featuring performances and interactive activities provided by over 20 arts partners from the D.C. Metro area. Free. Visit www.bmdc.org for more.

Go Gaga For Green. 5-8 p.m. at George Mason University Founders Hall, Arlington Campus, 3351 Fairfax Drive. Two signature features of the event are Operation Rain Barrel, a program that engages Arlington public school students in creating artistic rain barrels while they learn about sustainability and The Arlington Green Patriot Awards which honors individuals and organizations that exemplify their commitment to environmental sustainability. Tickets are free for Arlington Public School family, staff, and student, \$10 for community members, \$100 for patrons. Contact Toni Andrews at 703-993-9817 or tandrew7@gmu.edu.

SUNDAY/MAY 1

Glencarlyn Library Community Garden Plant Sale. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at 300 S. Kensington St. Native plants, tropicals, trees, herbs, ferns, perennials, shrubs and annuals propagated from the garden and from Country Gardens Nursery. VCE Master Gardeners, who maintain the community garden as a demonstration garden, will be on hand to help with plant selection and answer garden-related questions. Free to attend. Visit mgnv.org for more.

Yoga Session. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at Verizon Plaza, 1320 N. Courthouse Road. Celebrate National Sculpture with Yoga instructor/artist Lisa Marie Thalhammer. Focused on "Untitled" by artist Kendall Buster. Buster describes her sculptures as "drawings in space," referring to the open armature design that permits people to see through the structures. Free. Visit www.arlingtonva.us for more.

Organic Vegetable Demonstration Garden Open House. 1-4 p.m. at Potomac Overlook Regional Park, 2845 Marcey Road. Master Gardeners will be in the garden to answer questions, discuss growing vegetables in the Northern Virginia area, and chat about such things as composting and protecting the garden against insects and animals. There will be information and demonstrations about all aspects of vegetable gardening, such as getting started, gardening in raised beds, soil testing, soil preparation, and planting times. Free. Visit mgnv.org for more.

A Pathway to Success

Program offers private school education for low income students.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Sareth Meas says that her daughters, Alicia and Reaksa Keo, are bright students, but they were not reaching their full academic potential in their local public school. Because of her limited finances, private schools were not an option for her family.

After Meas learned about a program designed to promote academic achievement for deserving students, she was able to send Alicia and Reaksa to Alexandria County Day School (ACDS). Since then she has seen a world of difference in her daughters' learning environment and their academic success.

"[Public school] classes were a lot bigger and kids tended to become a lot more distracted, rather than at ACDS, where classes only have 12-14 kids in the room," said Meas.

Meas' daughters are enrolled in the Emerging Scholars program, which is based in Arlington. It was founded in 2002 by a group of educators from local independent schools. Its current executive director, Ruth Hazel Little, realized there were many talented students who would benefit from a private school education, but were not able to afford their tuition due to financial constraints.

"At that time, I was the admission director at a local independent school. We found that those students who had been admitted with significant financial need never fully assimilated to the environment and never felt part of the community," said Little. "Our goal was to welcome this group of diverse students into our schools and provide them with a platform for their success."

Emerging Scholars identifies students who demonstrate academic promise, prepares them both academically and socially for the rigors of some of the area's top independent schools and assists them with the application process.

Candidates apply and are admitted during fourth grade. To prepare for an academically demanding private school environment, students complete several requirements, including participation in a seven-

week session during the summer before their fifth grade year. They also attend Saturday classes during fifth grade at their current school. After completing the requirements, the students will be eligible to enroll in one of the independent schools with which Emerging Scholars partners.

Students are given need-based financial aid and are assisted with the application process by Emerging Scholars staff. Local educators say the program helps remove some of the barriers to receiving a top quality education that some underserved students might face when transitioning to a private school.

"When they arrive they're prepared both socially and academically for engagement within an independent school community," said Scott Baytosh, Head of School at Alexandria Country Day School. "The students view themselves differently and value a community where being a good student and learning are highly valued. Their perspective changes and they have an opportunity to blossom."

"We also require that a family member participate in the program," said Little. "We truly believe parents are an integral part of the process, so we hold parent workshops, which help to reinforce our academic and leadership expectations. As a result, we've found that we're actually changing a family, not just the child."

Details

For more on Emerging Scholars, see www.emergingscholarsprogram.org

Statistics and success stories underscore the validity of the Emerging Scholars philosophy. "The proof is that we've graduated almost 200 students from Emerging Scholars," said Little. "Our oldest ... scholars

are now seniors in college. They are attending top colleges and universities. One hundred percent of our students who graduate from independent schools are accepted into college, compared to the national average of about 70 percent."

One recent Emerging Scholars graduate was accepted into all of the 13 colleges to which she applied. "Many were Ivy Leagues," Little said. "She ended-up accepting a full scholarship at Columbia University, where she is on the dean's list."

Little shared two other success stories. "We have a young man who graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School and is currently studying medicine at UVA." And a female student who is interested in studying neuroscience received early acceptance to Northwestern University.

Meas says that Reaksa has been accepted into two local Catholic high schools and is close to making a decision.

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O'Connell Softball Sets Sights on Returning to Top of WCAC

Knights have lost to St. Mary's Ryken in previous two WCAC finals.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Senior first baseman Olivia Giaquinto said with every game and every practice, the Bishop O'Connell softball team is preparing to face the best.

For the last two seasons, the best in the WCAC has been St. Mary's Ryken.

After winning 10 consecutive conference titles, O'Connell lost to Ryken in the 2014 and 2015 WCAC tournament championship games.

"Pretty much with every game, it's preparing for that Ryken match," said Giaquinto, a four-year member of the O'Connell varsity who will play for Harvard. "Every practice we talk about pitching, what we're going to see with this pitcher ... [and] we're always trying to get prepared for the best pitching that we see and the best pitching is [Ryken's] Maddie Aughinbaugh. ... Two years [without winning a conference title], it doesn't seem like a lot, but for us it is."

"Two years [without winning a conference title], it doesn't seem like a lot, but for us it is."

— O'Connell senior Olivia Giaquinto

The Knights are on a quest to return to the top of the WCAC. This season, their first crack at Ryken ended with disappointment, as a pair of errors in the seventh inning turned a 2-1 O'Connell lead into a 5-3 home loss on March 23.

"That's our No. 1 goal this year, I think, is [a] WCAC championship," said junior outfielder/pitcher Patty Maye Ohanian, who is committed to the University of Virginia. "... I know how upset we were with our first loss to Ryken. I know that [facing Ryken again is] on top of our minds ... I know for a fact that we have the talent to beat them. Our problem is that we need to bring our focus and intensity to every game and we can't decide when to play and when to bring our energy. The moment we start showing up every inning, every pitch, we can beat anyone out there."

Sophomore pitcher Kathryn Sandercock, who is committed to JMU, suffered the loss against Ryken on March 23, allowing one earned run



PHOTOS BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION
O'Connell junior Patty Maye Ohanian is committed to the University of Virginia.

and five hits in seven innings while walking four and striking out 11.

While O'Connell prepares for its next matchup with Ryken, things have gone pretty well for the Knights. O'Connell defeated St. John's 2-0 on April 15 at Larry Graves Park in Falls Church, giving the Knights eight consecutive wins.

Sandercock hurled a two-hit shutout with 14 strikeouts.

"She's a talent," head coach Tommy Orndorff said. "She's very, very good. ... I think she's the real deal."

Sandercock said she probably throws in the mid-60 mph range during games, but has hit 69 mph during practice. She said she has "improved so much compared to [her] freshman year."

Entering Tuesday's action, Sandercock is 8-3 with a 1.14 ERA in the pitcher's circle. She has struck out 107 and allowed just 36 hits in 67 2/3 innings.

"She has improved [by] miles," Giaquinto

said. "She's our stud right now. ... She's the queen of the strikeouts right now. She throws it hard and, honestly, she's a killer right now. She's going to do great things her next two years."

Giaquinto is batting .481 with four home runs and 25 RBIs in 16 games this season. Ohanian is hitting .429 with two home runs and 17 RBIs.

O'Connell lost to McLean, 1-0, on Saturday and defeated Good Counsel, 9-3, on Monday, moving the Knights' record to 13-3.

O'Connell faced St. John's on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Knights will travel to face St. Mary's Ryken at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 22.

"We need a little bit more toughness if we want to be as good as we can be," Orndorff said. "If we're to fulfill our potential, we're going to have to get tougher — and you hope that games like [a 2-0 win over St. John's] do that."



O'Connell sophomore Kathryn Sandercock threw a two-hit shutout against St. John's on April 15, striking out 14 batters.

SPORTS BRIEF

Yorktown Girls' Lax Beats W-L

The Yorktown girls' lacrosse team defeated Washington-Lee 18-6 on April 15, improving the Patriots' record to 4-5 overall and 3-2 in Conference 6.

Laura Crawford had five goals and three assists for Yorktown. Kate Grattan finished with five goals and two assists.

Crawford and Emma Thurman each had six draw controls. Freshman goalie Sydney Stropes had 10 saves.

Yorktown faced Briar Woods on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Patriots will travel to face Oakton at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 21.

Current Site Remains Possibility

FROM PAGE 2

The second subgroup to report was the siting subgroup. Other than providing the news that the county had reviewed the current site and provided a site plan for a three or four bay station on the old site, the subgroup reviewed such factors as hot spots and property availability. This group noted it was industry best practice to locate a fire station in or near hot spots. The Virginia Hospital Center is such a hot spot. Task Force members asked why VHC gets 200 911 calls a day. They learned that if a person is at the hospital and having a stroke, 911 is called to get transported to the ER. This holds true for breaking a leg, having a baby, or any other emergency that takes place at the hospital.

The Finance Subgroup provided a report on what various options would cost. Noel Simon cautioned the group that the \$14.1 million estimated cost budget item was not an absolute figure: it would be better to think of it as a guideline, and that the county would also look at the merits of a more expensive option, but going too far above that line would have to be justified. Questions came up about whether the fuel pump had to remain with the fire station or could be located elsewhere, since it serves the whole county, and whether the temporary site would be a rented structure or a purchased one. The county had prepared a budget figure which reflected purchasing the temporary structure; they will go back and get the figure for a rental. The question of whether

the county should or would purchase the adjoining property was debated, as was the issue of whether the new fire house would be three or four bays. Finance data has to be reviewed and revised for the next meeting so that the options have clear price tags.

Local residents were upbeat about what had happened since the original debate on the fire station took place last year. Williams and other members of the community remained confused over what took the county so long to acknowledge the current site is in fact adequate, why the relocation to 26th and Old Dominion was so vaunted as a solution since the TriData report never mentioned it as an option, and why, over two years ago, then Fire Chief Jim Schwartz omitted the TriData information on call processing times in his briefing to the county on the issues. Williams has cited numerous examples of lack of communication in county government which have been made more apparent during the task force effort.

Simon closed the meeting on April 14 with a reminder to attendees: "each meeting is more important than the last." The task force aims to address the community's interest in improving response times — transparently, equitably, and intelligently, and with community input. He urged the approximately 30 attendees to go back to their constituencies and come prepared to the next meeting on April 28 at 7 p.m. at a location to be announced.

All the subgroup documents are on the task force website: see: www.projects.arlingtonva.us.

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Virginia Department of Transportation

Transform 66 Inside the Beltway Project
Eastbound Widening
Arlington County, City of Falls Church and Fairfax County

Public Information Meetings

Monday, May 9, 2016
 Washington-Lee High School Cafeteria
 1301 N. Stafford Street, Arlington, VA 22201

Wednesday, May 11, 2016
 Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School Cafeteria
 7130 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043

Meeting Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Presentation: 7 p.m.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will host public information meetings for the proposed eastbound widening as part of the Transform 66 Inside the Beltway Project. On February 10, 2016, Governor Terry McAuliffe and members from both parties and chambers of the Virginia General Assembly announced a bipartisan agreement to move forward on a plan to reduce congestion on I-66 inside the Beltway by widening a four-mile stretch from the Dulles Connector Road to Ballston. This proposal is intended to address an eastbound chokepoint where traffic merges onto I-66 from the Dulles Connector Road. The meetings will provide information about the Environmental Assessment (EA) that VDOT is preparing for the widening to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). To inform the EA, VDOT is conducting environmental analyses and coordinating with regulatory agencies to obtain information about environmental resources in the vicinity of the project.

Stop by to learn more about the project, discuss your questions with VDOT staff, and attend the formal presentation.

Review project information and project schedule at www.Transform66.org and at the public information meetings.

Give your written or oral comments at the meetings or submit them to Amanda Baxter, Project Manager, at the VDOT Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. You may also e-mail comments at any time to Transform66@VDOT.Virginia.gov. Please reference "Transform 66 Inside the Beltway" in the subject line.

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State Project: 0066-96A-417, P101, R201, C501 UPC: 108424

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ABC NOTICE
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Michael Isabella Jr, 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.

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The future comes one day at a time.
-Dean Acheson

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ABC NOTICE
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Comparatively Speaking, It's All Relative



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not quite admitting to being any more of a drag than I already am, but having had cancer now for seven years and nearly two months, has been hard to ignore (believe me, I've tried), but easy to embrace. What I mean by that is: There seems to be a subconscious "governor" (have you ever rented a U-Haul? A "governor" is a device that keeps the engine under control, thereby preventing miles-per-hour from exceeding a certain speed) that keeps my emotions from bursting any seams. As much as I try to attempt it, I just don't/can't/won't get as excited and/or as passionate about things as I used to, pre-cancer. Oh, I still want the Red Sox to win and for Duke to lose, but I don't suffer as much when neither scenario plays out.

And while I'm admitting things, it's not only my subconscious that is acting out/controlling my behavior, it's also my conscious mind, as in when I'm in touch/aware of my emotions/actions (or lack thereof). As my oncologist once said to me about cancer, in reply to a question I asked him about blaming it for my hair turning prematurely gray: "You can blame the cancer for anything," he said, and so I shall. Nevertheless, having an extraordinarily convenient excuse: cancer, might explain most (but not all) of my behavior, and it doesn't bring me much comfort. And so I rationalize some of that unexplained behavior as self-preservation. It doesn't make me particularly proud, however. Still, having survived cancer for as long as I have certainly does, but it's not enough to put a bounce in my step. (Or maybe that's merely the neuropathy in my feet flattening my gait?)

But it's probably not my actual steps that matter. It's more likely my attitude while I'm stepping. And though I'd much rather my feet not hurt, my reality is: I'm alive, quite unexpectedly (based on my original prognosis), so damn the neuropathy and full speed (more like half speed) ahead. And though I may not move as fast as I used to (who among us actually can?), I am still moving and breathing. I'm just not the man I used to be, and I can live with that because I'm still living. I just wish I could exercise a bit more control. But if I've learned anything during this cancer experience, it's that ceding control and accepting certain realities – within reason, and without giving in or giving up too much – is a prudent course of reaction to an incredibly difficult set of circumstances: diagnosed with a "terminal" form of cancer at age 54 and a half; and one for which there is no right or wrong pursuit. Any port in a storm I say, and stage IV non-small cell lung cancer certainly qualifies as a storm, as challenging as any Mother Nature could muster. The difference being, this storm never ends, it only changes in severity and frequency. Right now, the storm is constant. Either I learn to live with it or I die trying. And minimizing the bad and maximizing the good is part of that process.

If only there was a way to find some place (like "the vault" from "Seinfeld") where I could store my cancer diagnosis and only acknowledge it when absolutely necessary. Wishful thinking, but hardly rational. But what choice does one have, really? Unless you think outside the box, it may very well be a box (more like a rectangle, actually) where you'll soon find yourself not thinking at all.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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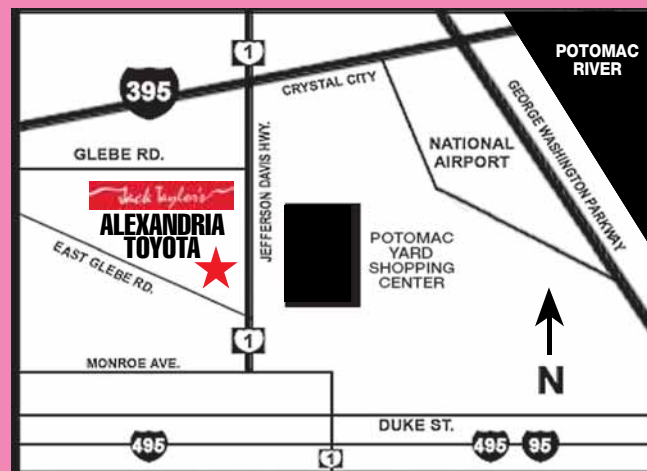
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BONUS: ADD A 4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT FOR \$39.95

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BRAKE SPECIAL \$99⁹⁵

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.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
TRUE START BATTERY SPECIAL \$139⁹⁵

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

Includes: 54 month warranty, 24 month FREE replacement, 24 month FREE roadside assistance, 60 month prodata. PLUS we'll check all battery cables & connectors.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
SPRING MAINTENANCE SPECIAL \$59⁹⁵

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 filters.

WEDNESDAY IS LADIES' DAY 15% OFF ANY REPAIR
Not to exceed \$100

GENUINE TOYOTA SIGHT LINE WIPER BLADES \$10 OFF ANY PAIR
Sight Line only

SPRING SAVINGS

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
DETAIL SPECIALS
STANDARD HAND-WASH & VACUUM Recommended Monthly **\$39⁹⁵**

Vacuum carpets, floor mats, upholstery & trunk, wipe down dash board, console & door panels, wash wheels, tires & fender wells, hand wash exterior door jams, and dress tires.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
LUBE, OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL
\$5 OFF NON-SYNTHETIC \$10 OFF 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.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION

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

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
15% OFF ANY ACCESSORIES

- Apparel • Window visors
- I-pad adaptors • All weather floor mats
- Toyota bedliners

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
QUALITY HAND-WASH VACUUM & WAX Recommended Every 6 Months \$139⁹⁵

Hand wash exterior door jams, wash wheels, tires & fender wells, hand-wax or glaze, vacuum carpets, upholstery & trunk, clean interior vinyl & leather, clean dash board, vents, console, door panels & windows, and dress tires.

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

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
EXTEND THE LIFE OF YOUR VEHICLE!

BG FLUID EXCHANGE SPECIAL

- TRANSMISSION FLUSH **\$189⁹⁵**
- POWER STEERING FLUSH **\$139⁹⁵**
- BRAKE FLUSH **\$139⁹⁵**
- FUEL INDUCTION FLUSH **\$139⁹⁵**
- ENGINE PERFORMANCE SERVICE **\$219⁹⁵**

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
30000 MILES FACTORY RECOMMENDED SERVICE \$159⁹⁵

Includes: Synthetic 10 More 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.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
PREMIUM FULL DETAIL Recommended Every 12 Months \$295⁹⁵

Full interior & exterior detailing, including trunk, shampoo carpets, upholstery & trunk, clean interior vinyl & leather plus conditioning, wash wheels, tires, fender wells & door jams, hand wax exterior, buff & polish, wax or glaze application, tar & sap 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.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
POT HOLE SPECIAL 4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT \$79⁹⁵

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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WE WILL MEET OR BEAT ANY LOCAL TOYOTA DEALERSHIP'S CURRENT ADVERTISED SERVICE SPECIALS

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
30000 MILES FACTORY RECOMMENDED SERVICE \$159⁹⁵

Includes: Synthetic 10 More 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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