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Newspaper

# Fairfax CONNECTION

The South County Youth Club cheerleaders will return again. Fairfax Fourth of July features parade, music, superheroes and fireworks.

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

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ONLINE AT [WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



# Celebrating Half a Century

Fairfax Fourth of July features parade, music, superheroes and fireworks.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Get ready for Fourth of July fun – because when it comes to this holiday, the City of Fairfax pulls out all the stops. And this year’s celebration is the 50th annual, so it promises to be extra special.

There will be a gigantic parade – (no kidding; it usually lasts two hours), food, festivities at the fire station and fireworks at Fairfax High. And as if that weren’t enough, there will also be live music and superheroes.

“Without question, the Fourth of July is the best day of the year to serve as mayor,” said Fairfax City Mayor Scott Silverthorne. “Our City knows how to celebrate the Fourth better than anywhere in Virginia.

“I’ve participated in our parade for as long as I can remember. First as a young Cub Scout, then riding with my father (former Mayor Fred Silverthorne) during his time in office, and for the past 23 years as councilman and mayor. The parade gets better every year with more floats, entertainment for kids and terrific marching bands, including our own Fairfax High Rebels.”

## Parade

The parade starts Monday, July 4, at 10 a.m. at 4100 Chain Bridge Road, travels down Main Street and up University Drive to the reviewing stand on Armstrong Street. On display will be floats, marching bands, large inflatable balloons, bagpipers, dancers, horses and clowns; and, as always, Uncle Sam is the grand marshal.

A Flying Circus flyover will kick things off. Six bands, including the Fairfax High Marching Rebels, Woodson Marching Cavaliers, Washington Redskins Marching Band and the Fairfax High Alumnae Kazoo Band, will entertain the crowd.

Various honor guards, such as the Joint Armed Forces Color Guard, will participate, as will the South County Youth Club All-Star Cheerleaders, Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Cub Scouts, firefighters, police, beauty queens, the Fairfax Library Precision Book Cart Drill Team and the McGrath Academy of Irish Dance.

The Fairfax Jubil-Aires will sing barber-shop tunes and the Fairfax Kena Shriners will zoom around in miniature cars. Also among the performers will be Rocky’s Fiddlers, the Tuba Guy, the Emerald Society Bagpipe Band and the Children of the Light Dancers.

Organizing the parade are the Independence Day Celebration Committee and the City of Fairfax Parks and Recreation Department. And helping make it possible are countless volunteers who’ve tirelessly do-



The Tuba Guy will perform again in the 50th annual parade.

PHOTOS BY  
BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

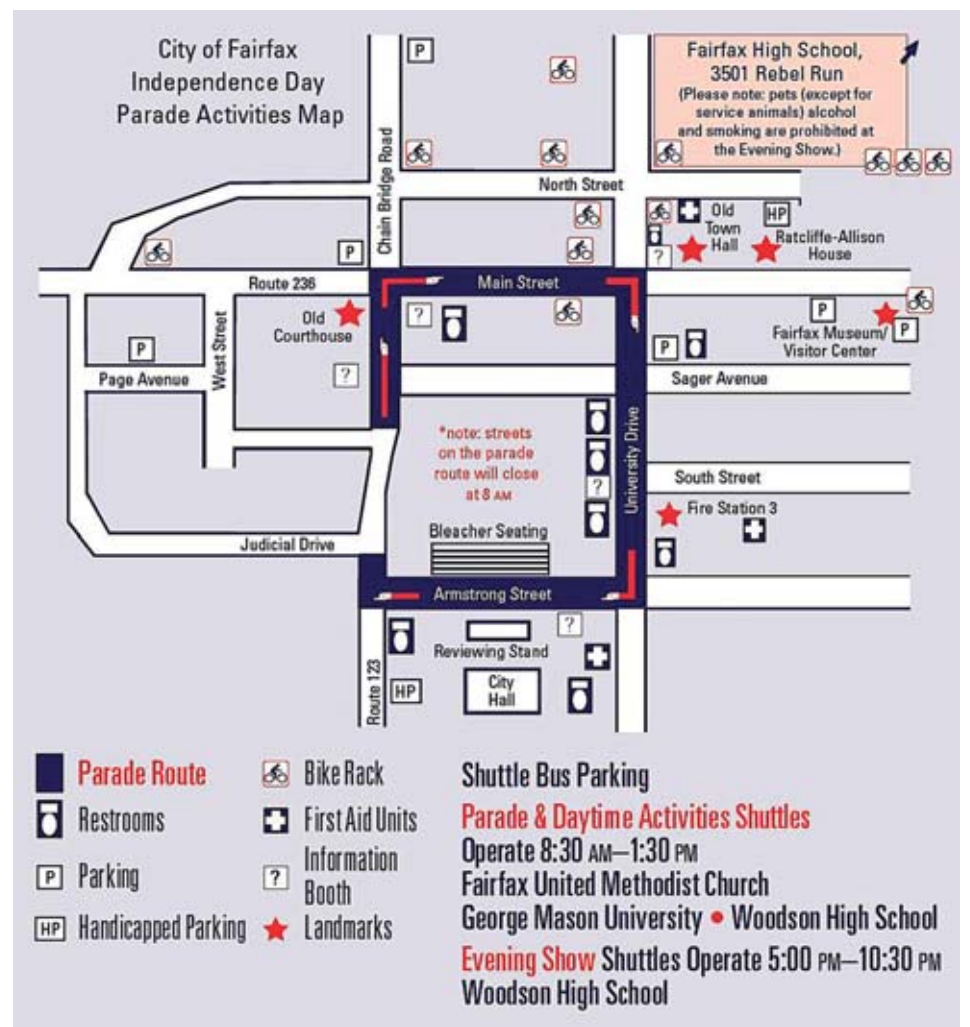


Cub Scouts pose for a photo during last year’s parade.

nated their time and talents. The event goes on, rain or shine; and except for service animals, attendees should leave their pets at home,

## Superheroes, Firefighters

Heroes come to save the day at noon in the SunTrust Bank parking lot, across from Fire Station 3 at 4081 University Drive. Everyone can meet and take photos with their favorite superheroes, including Superman, the Flash, Ironman, Batman, Robin, Spiderman, Supergirl, the Green Lantern, Wonder Woman and Captain America. In



Evening Show shuttle buses will run from 5-9 p.m. from Woodson High to Fairfax High. Afterward, buses will return spectators to Woodson until 11 p.m. Parking at Fairfax High is limited, so shuttle use is encouraged. Limited handicapped parking is available at both Fairfax and Woodson high schools.

## Open Houses

Historic buildings will also welcome visitors on July 4. The Fairfax Museum and Visitors Center, 10209 Main St., will be open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and the Ratcliffe-Allison House, 10386 Main St., will be open from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

## Music and Fireworks

The evening festivities will run from 6-10:30 p.m. at Fairfax High’s football field, 3501 Rebel Run. The Hackens Boys will kick things off with some toe-tapping, country-music favorites, followed by the City of Fairfax Band.

Then the group, Party Like It’s..., will take the stage to perform hits from the ’80s to today, before and after the spectacular fireworks display at 9:30 p.m. Spectators are encouraged to bring chairs.

## Sponsors, Information

The main sponsors are Fair City Mall, 97.1 WASH-FM, and Cox Communications. For more information on the Independence Day activities or to volunteer, call 703-385-7858 or visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/July4](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/July4).

addition, an Old Fashioned Fireman’s Day will start at the station at 12:30 p.m. and will feature food, drinks, games and a firefighter competition.

## Parking, Shuttle Buses

Streets on the parade route will close at 8 a.m., but shuttle buses will run from 8:30-10:30 a.m. from George Mason University’s Rappahannock River Parking Deck, 4400 University Drive; Woodson High, 9525 Main St.; and Fairfax United Methodist Church, 10300 Stratford Ave. They’ll return again, from 12:30-1:30 p.m., following the parade.



## ‘Some Measure of Justice’

### Former Police Officer Torres sentenced to 12 months for killing John Geer.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**F**or the first time in its three-quarters of a century in existence, a Fairfax County Police officer has been convicted and sentenced after an officer-involved shooting death.

After pleading guilty to felony involuntary manslaughter in the shooting death of Springfield resident John Geer, former Fairfax County Police Officer Adam Torres could be a free man within a matter of weeks.

Torres was set to go to trial April 18 for murdering Geer, shooting him in the chest with his service weapon in August 2013, when the defense and prosecution announced the surprise agreement.

Fairfax County Circuit Court Judge Robert J. Smith announced Friday June 24 he was ruling in concert with the sentence length set forth in the plea agreement: 12 months jail time.

Smith spoke to a crowded courtroom that he had “reached a solution that may not please everyone.” But he said he hopes it brings “some measure of justice” to Geer’s family, Harrington and their two daughters.

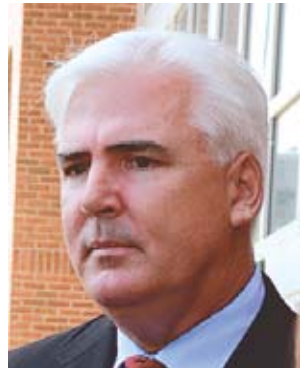
Following his release, Torres will serve a three-year probation period. Since his time already served counts toward the sentence, Commonwealth’s Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh said Torres could be released within days or weeks. Typically in year-long sentences, Morrogh explained, inmates exhibiting good behavior can be released in as few as 10 months.

Torres’ attorney John F. Carroll said that Torres has been a “model inmate” in his time in the prison. After the Geer shooting, he was placed on administrative leave before being fired many months later. Torres ran the intern program successfully, Carroll said, and exhibited “no indications of a continuing problem.”

**ANNE GEER**, John’s mother, spoke at Torres’ sentencing hearing, the final witness in the case. Clad in a black suit, she walked past Torres and his attorneys, keeping her eyes fixed in front of her.

Anne Geer had already heard of the potential punishment for Torres at the plea hearing, and the confirmation of the 12-month jail sentence was upsetting to her.

Anne Geer cited the great length of time she and her family didn’t know any details of her son’s death, including the name of the officer who shot him. She said her John “was executed by a police officer” and that Judge Smith’s sentence “completely negates



**Adam Torres’ attorney John F. Carroll speaks to reporters outside the Fairfax County Courthouse following his client’s sentencing of 12 months in jail for felony involuntary manslaughter.**



**Having already heard and been opposed to the potential punishment for Adam Torres at the plea hearing, confirmation of the 12-month jail sentence was upsetting to John Geer’s mother Anne.**



**Commonwealth’s Attorney Raymond Morrogh said he felt the 12 months was “appropriate,” though not the ideal outcome in the shooting death of John Geer.**

**Clad in a black suit, John Geer’s mother Anne walked calmly past Adam Torres and his attorneys.**

PHOTO COURTESY  
OF JOHN  
MCDONNELL/THE  
WASHINGTON POST



the intent to kill.”

“If I went out and shot and killed somebody,” she said in interviews following the hearing, “I’d never see the light of day again.”

The police and county released virtually no information about the case for 17 months. After the Geer family filed a \$12 million wrongful death lawsuit that also called for the release of incident information, a court order forced release of details and the name of the officer who fired the fatal shot.

“It’s Insulting to suggest for the crime of murder someone would only spend one year in jail,” Anne Geer said. “John will spend forever in his grave. I ask: Where is the justice for John?”

Torres was among several officers who responded to Geer’s residence after his longtime girlfriend and mother of his children Maura Harrington called the police.

Geer was upset over hearing that she was planning to move out. He was throwing her belongings out on to the lawn.

A 40-minute conversation took place be-

tween Torres, another officer and Geer, while Geer stood in the doorway of his home with hands resting above his head on the doorframe.

Torres claimed to have seen Geer drop his hands suddenly and reacted quickly and shot Geer. His version wasn’t corroborated by the other officers with him on the scene.

Torres gave an apology at the plea hearing in April, but had no response or statement at sentencing.

In a brief interview following the proceedings on June 24, Torres’ attorney Carroll was asked whether his client truly thought he had done anything wrong.

“He absolutely has remorse,” Carroll said, adding Torres expressed that as part of the plea.

Carroll repeated that “many of the facts” of the case “are not in dispute” and that the agreed upon sentence was “a good resolution for everyone.”

Commonwealth’s Attorney Morrogh, also speaking after the sentencing, said he felt the 12 months was “appropriate,” though not the ideal outcome. “It’s a fact of life you

### Statement of Thanks from the Geers

In addition to her remarks in court, Anne Geer released a statement thanking the media for their coverage of her family’s saga, and the progressive policy work of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission:

“The media have made important contributions not only in keeping the public informed of the progress herein but keeping us apprized of the bureaucratic lack of transparency and cooperation, of the stonewalling, politics and secrecy, which have undermined the character of our justice system as it applies to this action. We thank you all for your dedication and especially for your accuracy in this particular case.

“And last but not least, we would like to thank the members of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission for the hundreds of hours and hard work they contributed to making important guidelines for use of force, accountability and transparency within the Police Department. Full implementation should make drastic improvements in the way the police community interacts with its citizens, thus providing a valuable model for other jurisdictions in our nation. We look forward to that.”

can’t please everyone.”

Morrogh said he would’ve preferred to try the case, but acknowledged it’s “very difficult to convict a police officer ... you can’t second guess them.”

By avoiding trial, the family also avoided the possibility of one of Geer’s daughters being forced to testify.

**THE FAMILY** just wanted to see Torres punished, Morrogh said. “It’s not a perfect punishment.”

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and Police Chief Edwin Roessler released individual statements in response to the ruling, mailed together.

“The death of John Geer was a tragic event and a painful chapter in Fairfax County history,” Bulova’s statement reads. “With today’s sentencing, the justice system has done its part. Although Adam Torres’ act cannot be undone, there are many things Fairfax County can do to ensure future tragedies such as this never happen again. The Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County Police Department have worked together to implement policy changes recommended by the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission. These changes are reengineering the way officers are trained to respond to critical incidents and the way the Police Department and the County communicate information to the public. We are committed to promoting community trust and making our Police Department a national model moving forward.”

In his statement, Roessler said, “My thoughts and prayers remain with the Geer family, the friends and loved ones of Mr. John Geer, the community we proudly serve and the men and women of the Fairfax County Police Department. We support the judicial process and the Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney. The action of one former employee is not reflective of the honorable work performed by the members of our Department, sworn, civilian and volunteer.”



# 'The Measure of a Community' The Lamb Center celebrates its new Fairfax home.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**I**t took hard work, hope, planning, fundraising, faith and dedication; but at long last, the Lamb Center is in its new home. Although it actually began business there May 31, its official grand opening and open house was Sunday, June 26.

It included speeches, a prayer circle and a ribbon-cutting. And before the event ended, some 350 people came to check out the new facility and marvel at how far the Lamb Center has come since its humble and cramped beginnings.

"This is what the Lord planned and it's been a long time coming," said Lamb Center Executive Director John MacPherson. "We're grateful for God's blessings on this place and for the volunteers and all those who've given sacrificially to it."

For more than two decades, The Lamb Center in Fairfax has been a daytime, drop-in shelter offering hot meals, showers, laundry services, and recovery and employment counseling for the poor and homeless. The guests come from all walks of life. Many have mental illness, some are veterans and still others have simply fallen on hard times.

"We started in 1992 in a 1,100-square-foot pawn shop with little more than strong coffee and mighty prayers," said MacPherson. "By 2,000, we [rented] a 3,200-square-foot building at Fairfax Circle."

Now, the organization is open six days a week, receives about 150 people/day and just moved into a two-story, nearly 10,000-square-foot building of its own at 3160 Campbell Drive.

**AND LAST SUNDAY** was a day to celebrate. Among the attendees were Lamb Center board members, staff, volunteers, guests and supporters, plus dignitaries including U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), Fairfax City Council members David Meyer, Janice Miller, Jon Stehle and Ellie Schmidt, and Fairfax City Manager Bob Sisson.

"I served with Gerry when he was Board Chairman and the Board vowed to end homelessness within 10 years," said Bulova. "It was important to me to carry on that work, and we've made progress. We've reduced the homeless population in Fairfax County and Fairfax City by 42 percent."

"We need to help people who've lost their homes and jobs to get a roof over their heads and return to solid footing," she continued.

"And the Lamb Center supports them with showers, food and medical care. This wouldn't have happened without the partnership between the faith community, county and City. And I thank Gerry for the work he's done and all of you for the great work you do."

Speaking next, Connolly said, "Oh, happy day. In the bitter cold and extreme heat,



**Cutting the ribbon on the new Lamb Center are (front row, from left) Richard Dwyer, Carole Waring, Ellie Schmidt, Mary Petersen, Gerry Connolly, Sharon Bulova, Janice Miller, Chap Petersen (with daughter Ida) and David Meyer. In back is John MacPherson.**



**Some of the attendees holding hands in a prayer circle, asking for blessings upon the Lamb Center.**

**(From left) John MacPherson receives the beam-signing artwork from Brad Moser and Ty Gautsch of Scott-Long Construction Co.**



PHOTOS BY  
BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

this'll be a life-saver to people. And there, but for the grace of God, go I." He said people don't always make the right choices or things beyond their control adversely affect them. "And it's the measure of a community how people respond," said Connolly. "We should treat people with dignity, and this will give them a great place to be."

Miller said the City of Fairfax is "proud to partner with the Lamb Center in making today a reality."

Homeless people here once lived in the woods; this building represents new chances for that population.

I'm proud to be part of a City Council that's inclusive and gives chances to people, no matter who they are or their circumstances." She then thanked former Lamb Center Board of Directors Chairman Mary Petersen for her "fundraising prowess" and the volunteers for "the work they do here every day."

Ty Gautsch, project manager with Scott-Long Construction Co., the building's general contractor, said, "There's a lot of steel, pipes and copper wire here, and also intangibles, including the spirit of Christ." He then presented the center with a large, wooden piece of art containing replicas of some of the messages people wrote to the Lamb Center during a beam signing in February.

The artwork, itself, contains the words, "Everyone's thoughts and prayers are written behind these walls."

Petersen's son Chap then thanked his parents for all their efforts that led to the new building. And, he added, "For everyone who's contributed to this place in any way, God will bless you."

**LAMB CENTER** Assistant Director Patti Brown read a message from the center's founder, Martyn Minns. "It's hard to believe how much has been accomplished by this remarkable, yet simple, ministry," he wrote. "The poor have great gifts to give – their faith, trust and friendship have no price tag."

Next, calling the center's Operations Director Dave Larrabee "the lifeblood of this place," MacPherson asked Larrabee to say a prayer as everyone there held hands in a circle.

He prayed, "Thank you, Lord, for finding us this beautiful, new home and for your faithfulness and belief in us."

Walking inside the facility for tours and a reception, Lamb Center Building Committee member Allen Griffith said the center carries out the Biblical message of Isaiah 58: "Share your housing, food and clothes; and if you do, God will hear your prayers and heal you."



**Dave Larrabee addresses the crowd.**





Allen Griffith in the medical exam room.



People chatting in a classroom.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

## Giving Thanks for One More Miracle

### Anonymous couple pays off the Lamb Center's mortgage.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

After the official ribbon-cutting for the Lamb Center's new building, attendees socialized at a reception and took tours. Many also reflected on what the day meant to them.

"I have a sense of thanksgiving for the people, guests, staff and volunteers here," said former Lamb Center Board of Directors Chairman Mary Petersen. "It's a real community."

She's been involved in the Lamb Center since it opened in 1992 and on its Building Committee for eight years. The organization has a ministry of 75 churches supporting it, and Petersen helped spearhead the fundraising for the new facility.

"It was a team effort, but unconventional," she said. "We didn't have consultants; we just kept working and the Lord provided. The county gave us a \$500,000 grant, early in the process, and that was so encouraging. And we had many anonymous, large contributions. People came to the Lamb Center, saw what a wonderful ministry it was and wanted to be involved."

Petersen also praised the City of Fairfax for making the center's move to a new site possible. Many years ago, City officials weren't so welcoming. But, she said, "The City's attitude changed with the election of the new mayor, Scott Silverthorne, and City Council in 2012. They were much more supportive of our ministry; and in November 2014, they approved our special-use permit to open here."

She said the volunteers love the spacious, new building and Sunday's grand opening was the culmination of something they'd all

worked on for so long. "And it finally came together," said Petersen. "This was a day of joy." As for helping the Lamb Center, she explained, "We feel like we're called to do this – and it's a great privilege."

**GIVING TOURS** of the new, two-story facility, Lamb Center Building Committee member Allen Griffith said the old building was 3,200 square foot and this one is 9,500. The second floor contains offices for counselors, the county nurse and various meetings. There are classrooms – plus room for another, a medical exam room, a clothes closet and sewing machine for alterations, as well as space for a future dental office.

"We didn't have a clothes closet in the old place," said Griffith. "And there's a tremendous upgrade in communications. We used to have to yell to each other, but now we can phone between the two floors."

There's an office for the center's executive director, John MacPherson, plus a classroom for job training, AA meetings, skills and budgeting classes, Veterans Administration meetings, etc. "So one of this place's enormous advantages is privacy for the guests for their meetings," said Griffith. "We didn't have that before."

The building also contains a food pantry with storage space for paper products, toiletries, eyeglasses, food, a refrigerator and freezer. And there are more offices, a chapel, laundry and kitchen on the first floor.

One of the guests, German Andino, has gone to the Lamb Center for several years. During Sunday's grand opening, he said, "It's a nice place."

I help in the kitchen and with cleaning and also get services here. And my wife and I take people to and from their medical appointments."

"This place has its own parking," he continued. "And with the offices for the nurse and social worker, it's more private for meetings, so it's better. It feels like home, sweet home."

Lamb Center Treasurer Caroline Walsh

called the new place "a dream come true – truly a miracle. At this time, a year ago, we didn't know where we'd be financially. But thanks to the generous donations from so many people, our mortgage payment here is much less than the rent we were paying for a space one-third the size."

**THE BUILDING** cost \$4.5 million and, by Sunday's ceremony, the Lamb Center had already raised \$4 million.

So, said Walsh, "We're praying for another

miracle that we can raise another \$500,000 so we can pay off the mortgage and pour all our donations into programs and support for our guests."

Little did she know that, by the end of the day, their prayers would be answered. "It has been an amazing journey," said Petersen, later that evening. "An anonymous couple came at the end of the event and pledged the remaining \$500,000 to pay for the building. We give thanks for one more miracle."



PHOTO BY MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

### Home for Summer

School buses leave Lanier Middle School in Fairfax for the last time Thursday, June 23 as they shuttle students home for summer break.



## Getting Home Safely on Independence Day

Independence Day is a national celebration, and for many, that celebration includes alcohol. The summer overall and July 4 in particular are times of greater risk for drinking and driving.

This is true for the young adults over 21 living with you, and unfortunately also for many teens who are under 21. More on that below.

For all revelers: Make a plan. Plan to celebrate with access to public transportation. Plan to have a designated driver. Plan to celebrate in a place safe and comfortable to spend the night.

But in case those plans go awry, here is an alternative safety net.

**EDITORIAL** On the night of Monday, July 4, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program will offer free taxi rides home (up to \$30), beginning at 10 p.m. for six hours until 4 a.m. the morning of Tuesday, July 5. Participants must be at least 21. Call 1-800-200-TAXI.

On July 4, 2015, more than 230 people used WRAP's SoberRide service rather than possibly driving home impaired.

In summer, 44 percent of all U.S. traffic deaths are caused by alcohol-impaired drivers, according to statistics provided by WRAP. SoberRide is a way to help keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

On July 4, historically, more than 40 percent

of traffic deaths in the U.S. are caused by drunk drivers; more than 20 percent of the drunk drivers involved in those deaths had blood alcohol concentrations of nearly twice the legal limit, said Kurt Erickson of WRAP.

SoberRide is only available for those over 21. For parents of young adults who may be living at home and parents of those under 21, this is time to talk. Ask about plans, ask spe-

cifically about getting home. Let your younger family members know that you would much rather pay for a cab or come get them yourself than run the risk of losing them.

This is a message important for the tail end of graduation season and good for the whole summer, which is the time of the highest risk for teen drivers.

Visit [www.soberride.com](http://www.soberride.com) for more.

### Connection Families, Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish on July 27, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by July 17.

We invite you to send us stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures.

Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Does your business have a pet? Is your business about

pets? Have you helped to train an assistance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

Or take this opportunity to memorialize a beloved pet you have lost.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

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### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Gross Misreading of the Second Amendment

To the Editor:

This is in response to U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly's opinion piece titled "Stem Gun Violence Epidemic" (The Connection, June 22-28).

It frustrates me that so many anti-gun people, including U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine and, most recently, Representative Connolly in his editorial in the Connection, simply do not understand history. Specifically, they either ignore, are ignorant of, or simply don't grasp the truth behind the Founders' intent when they wrote the Second Amendment (2A). Mr. Connolly's observation that "certainly our Founding Fathers did not envision AR-15 semi-automatic rifles when they drafted the Second Amendment" demonstrates a profound lack of understanding of the intent of the 2A. That the Founders didn't have the AR-15 in mind when they wrote the 2A may be true, but it's also totally not relevant to what they did have in mind.

What Democrats and anti-rights [advocates] want is to ban all effective weapons in American hands. Without realizing it (maybe), they pursue and promote Marxist goals of making the public subservient to the government boot. That is the exact opposite of why the 2A is in the Constitution in the first place: it is there to balance federal power.

Ever since the so-called Gun Control Act of 1968, when officials could get all the machine guns they wanted, but you and I could only get single-shot rifles like the AR-15, we have been sub-armed. The balance of power flipped decisively to government. Ours fire only one shot at a time, and are all we have left. Antis-

think they're assault weapon machine guns, but they took those from us back in 1968.

Then they yell at the NRA for blocking "reasonable common sense bills." They are nothing of the sort. Banning the AR-15 — the finest defensive rifle made in America, the choice of police who are otherwise outgunned against exactly the same criminals common civilians face — would have no effect against jihadis.

If Americans are sub-armed, limited to bolt-action wood guns, or some other total infringement that leaves America in a completely unbalanced state, the shining light of freedom will have been extinguished. The jihadis will have won. With asymmetrical warfare underway, we should be teaching Americans how to shoot, and arming them better, not passing laws to infringe their gun rights.

The founders were not thinking of muskets and blunderbusses when they crafted the 2A. They said the right to bear "arms" shall not be infringed. "Arms" is a very broad term, deliberately used because they felt the citizenry necessarily must be on equal footing with the government when the need to resist tyranny arises. ... Stated simplistically, if the government has howitzers, so, too, should the citizenry have howitzers. ...

Additionally, the founders and framers idea of "well-regulated" had nothing to do with government restrictions on gun ownership (hence the very clear declaration, "Shall Not Be Infringed," at the end of the 2A) or the government's ability to monitor gun owners, but instead had to do with a militia of civilians being well-trained and self-sufficient. (Recall

that George Mason stated, "I ask, sir, what is the militia? It is the whole people except for a few public officials.") The 2A's purpose is to protect a free State from government tyranny. The gross misreading that government is supposed to regulate the Second Amendment is like suggesting a burglar ought to have the security code to one's home alarm system. It's ridiculous. ...

Aside from the government, if a violent armed criminal threatens me, my family, and my home, it stands to reason that I should have at my disposal the same level of defensive means that he/she/they has/have at their disposal for offensive means. (Don't think of flintlock muskets!) Targets of violent criminals are entitled to be on equal arms footing if they are to survive. Now that's "common sense!"

**Paul Carlock**  
Fairfax Station

### Write

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

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# LETTER

## Reading Begins At Home

To the Editor:

As a current teacher, I observe children who develop literacy skills at home achieve in school. Studies show home environment has an impact on children's beginning reading skills. One way to develop literacy skills is to ask questions while reading (e.g., what will happen next?; how did the story end?) One study found 92 percent of first graders were stronger readers because of literacy skills fostered at home.

"You may be thinking, what skills should we work on?"

Your child's teacher is a resource for suggesting beginning reading skills. Many children need letter/sound recognition, and rhyming skills. Letter/sound recognition can be reinforced by writing letters on cards, mixing them, and practicing 6-8 cards daily.

Also, sing nursery rhymes to stress the rhyming pattern. If your child doesn't enjoy reading independently, ask him/her to read aloud, or take turns reading.

Having access to books helps children practice, and research shows when students read at home their reading achievement and motivation increases. Vis-

iting the local library and/or having a book swap (i.e., where children trade/share books) can provide children multitude of books at little/no cost. As parents, it is important to understand that children need to be motivated to read. A study revealed reading engagement is directly linked with reading achievement.

There are activities to motivate your child to read. Visiting the library; choosing daily time to read ; having a bookshelf for your child's books; choosing magazines to be delivered. Reading is a skill beginning in early childhood and developing throughout schooling. Research shows if children are exposed to a variety of literature early, they are more motivated to read difficult material in adolescence.

When children are exposed to literacy skills early, they are more likely to be successful. As a parent, remember that supporting literacy skills begins at home.

Carla Richter  
Fairfax

## FAITH NOTES

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

**Grace Presbyterian Church** in Springfield, 7434 Bath St., is hosting a Camp Hanover Day Camp July 11-15 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Children who have completed kindergarten to sixth grade

are invited to attend. To register, or for additional registration, visit [www.camphanover.org/grace-day-camp](http://www.camphanover.org/grace-day-camp)

**Jubilee Christian Center** of Fairfax is restarting its "Living Free" support groups for the Spring on Wednesdays, starting on Mar. 30, 7:15 p.m. The support groups are free, and will cover "Stepping into Freedom,"

"Concerned Persons Group" (for family and friends of addicts), "Understanding and Overcoming Depression," "The Image of God in You," and "Handling Loss and Grief." There will also be support groups meeting on Sundays, 10:10 a.m. 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. For information or to register, call 703-383-1170, email [livingfree@jccag.org](mailto:livingfree@jccag.org) or see [www.jccag.org](http://www.jccag.org).

## Two Listings in Mosby Woods – City of Fairfax



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# Planning Memorable, Meaningful Family Vacations

**Tips for turning summer trips into a lifetime of memories.**

By MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

As summer gets underway, vacation-bound families are packing their bags and heading out of town. Vacations often fly by — months of planning and anticipating can be over in the blink of an eye. With a little advanced planning and forethought, however, even a quick weekend trip or a visit to relatives can become meaningful and memorable.

To begin with, give all family members an opportunity to be part of the travel planning. “Let kids have some input into what the plan is,” said Linda Gulyn, professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington. “For instance, if you want to take them to the beach, let them choose something that they want to do at the beach, something that’s important to them. That creates a balance between each kid’s interests and the family’s interest.”

Allowing children to have a say in the plan sets the stage for a memorable vacation. “You can show them pictures in a guide book of age-appropriate activities that you would be willing to do as well,” said Karen Prince, LCSW, a Bethesda, Maryland-based psychotherapist. “It’s important to give kids a voice because it’s their vacation, too.”

Indulging in some screen time on a family vacation is fine, said Gulyn, as long as there is a balance between screen time and family time, and screen limits are set before the vacation begins.

“Try to be positive about it instead of punitive,” she said.

“Negotiate screen time and make it reasonable. Always get the kids’ input to reduce family stress. You don’t want the family vacation to be dominated by these issues if you can negotiate them ahead of time.”

Don’t rule out allowing a child’s friends to join the family vacation. “I think what happens as kids get into adolescence they want to form an identity outside the immediate family,” said Gulyn. “Including a



Allowing children to choose age-appropriate activities from a travel guidebook is one way to include them in the vacation planning process.

friend is a nice balance because the family unit gets respected and the family gets to know and spend time with the friend.”

From family group shots to picturesque scenery of mountaintops and oceans, documenting a trip with photographs will help preserve your favorite memories. This is made easier with the ubiquity of smart phones and tablets, and the entire family can participate.

“Encourage kids to take pictures of the event on their phone as opposed to just messing around with it,” said Gulyn. “Social media is very picture oriented. If kids have the job of taking the family pictures, that’s cool.”

“You can give [children] an inexpensive camera that you get for \$10 at CVS,” said Prince. “That way they can capture memories as they go.”

Discuss expectations and hopes for the vacation so each family member can clarify his or her own interests and hear other family members’ ideas, and the family can set realistic plans that keep

everyone’s needs in mind. “I’d recommend a wish list and perhaps agree everyone gets to have at least one wish fulfilled,” said Amy L. Best, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at George Mason University. Make a plan for mediating conflicts that are likely to arise in even the most easygoing families. “It’s

way. Things come up unexpectedly and you adjust.”

“Family vacations are an opportunity to teach kids how to be part of a team and how to cooperate,” said Prince.

“Be prepared for activities that you enjoy but they don’t,” said child psychologist Stacie Isenberg, Psy.D., “If you love viewing art but your kids don’t, bring drawing pads

and books to keep them occupied while you admire the artwork for just a little longer. Create challenges and games for them during less exciting outings, such as ‘I spy’ or scavenger hunts.”

It’s a good idea to create some family vacation rituals, advises Best. “If it’s a place you return to frequently, try some new things, but do the round of traditions,” she said. “This will strengthen kids’ attachments to the place and create lasting positive memories.”

Remember to schedule time for rest and food breaks. “Even the best travelers need some time to replenish themselves,” said Isenberg.



PHOTO BY WILLIAM ATKINS, COURTESY OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Online and professional education courses like this landscape design class offered at The George Washington University’s Arlington campus are growing in popularity.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Students can take continuing and professional education classes at the University of Virginia Academic Center in Falls Church.

## Continuing Education

**Online classes offer flexible options for earning credentials outside the classroom**

By MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Interested in learning to landscape your yard using sustainable practices? Want to practice Spanish before traveling to South America? Didn’t take philosophy seriously in college, and want to take a refresher course? Looking to get an advanced degree or certification to secure a job promotion?

Opportunities for continuing and professional education abound for the intellectually curious.

One trend in continuing education that local educators say is on the rise is online learning. A study by the Babson Survey Research Group shows the number of students enrolled in distance learning courses increased each year for the past 13 years.

Driven by advancements in technology, the explosion of online learning is making education — once available only to those with extra time and funds — accessible to anyone with a tablet or laptop computer.

“Our online courses have increased at about 20 percent a year for about three years,” said Stephen Nodine, Ph.D., associate vice president for E-Learning and director of Distance Education at George Mason

University.

One of the reasons for the rapid growth of online courses is the flexibility that they offer working adults. “Students are able to schedule a course that they couldn’t work into their daily schedule,” said Nodine. “People who are looking to advance in their career or change careers can earn a graduate certificate and have a new credential without having to come to campus.”

The demand for courses that enhance professional marketability is another factor behind the popularity of online continuing education. “One example of how this works is in the [information technology] field,” said Jennifer Lerner, associate vice president for e-Learning at Northern Virginia Community College. “One program that is in demand is cyber security if someone needs an additional certificate to prepare them for the new kinds of IT roles, like Cyber Security.”

The flexibility that online courses offer does not mean that they are less challenging than courses taught at a university, said Lerner. In fact, the standards of academic rigor are comparable to those offered in a traditional campus setting.

“Students need to be really organized and really self-motivated,” said Lerner. “Online courses aren’t for those who take an out-of-sight-out-of-mind approach to learning. Students need to just be committed with online courses as they would for an on campus class. They shouldn’t be the last thing on your priority list that you expect to fit it in without a time commitment.”

Jennifer Webb, senior associate director of Graduate Enrollment for New Student Graduate Admissions at Marymount University, said that while traditional online programs are best suited for stu-

dents who have strong time management skills and adequate technology literacy, “many programs now have support and format opportunities which offer additional structure and engagement, and are, therefore, well suited for all types of learners.”

The reasons that some students choose online courses vary, said Nodine. “There are some students who might be in Iowa and want to take a class that we offer and they can’t get to a university near them,” he said. “There are also students who live in Bethesda, for example, and work full-time and get to classes in Virginia.”

Universities tailor their offerings to meet the needs of online and continuing education students by staying current with market research, said Nodine. “One thing we look at is employment trends in new professions, information that we get from the Bureau of Labor and Statistics,” he said.

“We constantly review our programs to ensure the curriculum is current and prepares students to assume appropriate positions in the job market,” said Cathy Anderson, Ph.D., interim associate dean for Academic Programs and Services, School of Continuing and Professional Studies at the University of Virginia. “We recently updated our Leadership and Project Management curriculum based on research, market and competitive analysis.”

Universities strive to make their online classes accessible and relevant. For example, The University of Virginia’s School of Continuing and Professional Studies has academic centers in Falls Church. The George Washington University offers courses on campuses in Arlington, Alexandria and Ashburn, as well as more than 100 degree and certificate programs online.

“Online education remains an

extremely high priority for both faculty and administration at GW,” said Geneva Henry, George Washington University’s dean of libraries and academic innovation who oversees the university’s online learning programs. “Because of the success of our current online offerings, we will continue to grow our online courses, as the demand from faculty and students is currently very high.”

Anderson said the university reviews the mode of delivery for its classes and programs to assess whether students’ needs are being met. “For example, we recently converted our accounting program to the online ... to allow us to reach a larger audience and provide more flexibility to current students,” she said.

Advances in technology and a desire to meet student requests have altered the way online classes are offered. “In the past, a lot of online courses were set up where there wasn’t a lot interaction between students and teachers. We would put the content up and let students access it,” said Bodine. “We’ve moved away from that to let students engage with each other.”

Anderson said UVA’s School of Continuing and Professional Studies is launching a new graduate certificate in Health Sciences Management launches this fall. “We are also in the process of developing additional offerings in cyber security and data analytics,” she said.

“We are also exploring the option of adding Master’s degree options in the area of some of our graduate certificate programs.”

## Public Hearing

### CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, July 12, 2016  
at 7:00 pm

City Hall  
10455 Armstrong St  
Room 100

The City Council is holding a public hearing to consider the draft zoning and subdivision ordinances prepared as part of the City’s Zoning Rewrite process. Members of the community are encouraged to attend and provide comments.

The purpose of the Zoning Rewrite is to develop clear and user-friendly ordinances that are consistent with present-day plans and policies. The draft ordinances are available on the website below.

[www.zoningfairfax.com](http://www.zoningfairfax.com)
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## SCHOOLS

# Three Generations of FHS Grads

**W**hen Claire Higginbotham graduated June 15 from Fairfax High, she became the third generation in her family to graduate from that school. Celebrating her accomplishment were her father, Forrest Higginbotham, FHS '82; her paternal grandfather, Brent Higginbotham, FHS '50; and her two maternal grandparents who graduated in the early '60's, Christina Thurston and Michael Eidson.

"This is a unique situation that highlights the City of Fairfax and Fairfax High School," said Forrest Higginbotham. "So many other schools were not even built in 1950, so its age is a special feature of FHS. And the fact that three paternal generations in succession have attended FHS speaks to the desirability of the school district as a home. Claire's mom, Ginger Higginbotham, further noted that her mother, Christina Fay Thurston, graduated from Fairfax in 1965 and was its 1964 homecoming queen. Her father, Michael Roy Eidson, graduated in 1963 and was nominated as Johnny Rebel in 1962.

"When my father graduated in 1950, there were few other high schools in Fairfax and none further west," said Forrest Higginbotham. "Woodson was built in 1962 and Robinson in the 1970s. My brother and sister have moved out of the area, so my progeny and I are the last of the Higginbotham legacy in Fairfax. My two older kids went to Paul VI, which was Fairfax High School in 1950, so they experienced the same building as three of their grandparents."

"The facility from which my daughter and I graduated was built in the early '70s, so we have stayed true to the institution of Fairfax High, if not the physical facility," he continued. "Each of our three generations lived in a different location, but within the



PHOTO COURTESY OF FORREST HIGGINBOTHAM  
**(From left) are Christina Thurston Whiteside, FHS class of 1965, homecoming queen 1964, Claire's maternal grandmother; FHS graduate Claire Katherine Higginbotham; her father, Forrest Higginbotham, FHS class of 1982; and her paternal grandfather, Brent Higginbotham, FHS Class of 1950.**

Fairfax High School district. It's a fun legacy because so few high schools are old enough to have three generations."

Claire will attend JMU in the fall. Meanwhile, her father wonders "what the chances are of her someday having a child with the last name of Higginbotham who will also graduate from Fairfax High School?"

—BONNIE HOBBS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CARRIE DORSEY

## Cheering on the Fairfax High Graduates

**Before students graduated from Fairfax High on June 15, they first held a Graduation Walk so they could visit children in their former elementary and middle schools. The seniors were bused to Lanier Middle and Providence and Daniels Run elementary schools. Then, all decked out in their caps and gowns, they paraded through the hallways, touching hands with the younger children who cheered them on their way.**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HUB THEATRE

**Cast members of Hub Theatre's "Redder Blood": (from left) Dawn Ursula (as the Voice of God) and Jenna Sokolowski (as Sadie).**

## A Wily Look at Relationships

### "Redder Blood" at Hub Theatre.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

**I**n its world premiere at Fairfax's Hub Theatre, "Redder Blood" is a comedic play that "grapples with relationships in a deeply complex, fascinating, funny manner," said Gregg Henry who directs the show. It is a "searching play that will embrace you."

"Redder Blood" is written by local playwright Helen Pafumi. It touches upon faith, belief and self-worth as the play journeys from the serious to the comical; even to the absurdist. The starting point is unease and plenty of noise in a tight knit, interfaith family facing demanding times. Things begin to spiral out of control; but not totally.

Pafumi's play asks some major questions. What should a daughter, Sadie, do if she hears the voice of God giving her guidance while her parents' marriage is breaking apart? What should Sadie do about the "good guy" love interest who has finally stepped into her life?

"Redder Blood" aims to have the audience be part of the questioning on its wide range of comically presented matters including how one's spirituality shapes self-worth.

The cast includes Helen Hayes Award recipient Jenna Sokolowski as Sadie, the young woman who hears the voice of God and then struggles with how to respond. What happens if she does not answer the voice of God?

"While 'Redder Blood' is about "spiritual and supernatural matters, it is grounded in the reality of everyday family life and exchanges family have around the dinner table," said Sokolowski. The play shows Sadie "struggling to control things in her life while asking herself; do I turn a cold shoulder to what I hear



Helen Pafumi

## Where and When

Hub Theatre and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia present Redder Blood at the John Swaye Theatre, New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Performances July 8 – 31, 2016. Tickets \$30 adults, \$20 for seniors (65+) and students. Call 1- 800-494-8497 or visit [www.thehubtheatre.org](http://www.thehubtheatre.org). Note: Interfaith dialogue after every Sunday performance.

or take a risk by opening myself up?"

Helen Hayes Award recipient Dawn Ursula joins the Hub cast as the ever present voice of the Supreme Being.

Why the title "Redder Blood?" It is based upon centuries old guidance given by a wise sage who was asked what to do in a difficult situation with a life in balance. "Who says that your blood is redder than that of the other fellow?"

"Redder Blood" is full of "droll humor, crackling romance, a lovingly dysfunctional family, and deep spiritual searching," said Jeff Dannick, executive director, JCCNV. The J is co-producing the show with the Hub Theatre.

Inviting the Northern Virginia community of theater-goers and the curious to the probing world premiere of "Redder Blood," Dannick added "audiences will be in for a treat. Pafumi's play is hilarious, profound and meaningful."



# ENTERTAINMENT

Send notes to the Connection at [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/) 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

**Evenings on the Ellipse.** Thursdays, 5:30-7 p.m. July 7-Aug. 25. Fairfax Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Fun, music and good company. Paradise Springs and Bull Run wineries will provide tastings. [fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance). 703-324-7469.

**Redder Blood.** Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sundays, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. July 8-31. New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax, Virginia 22031. A premiere co-production between the Hub Theatre and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, written by Helen Parfumi. Follows character Sadie, a woman who hears the voice of God. \$20-\$30. [www.jccnv.org](http://www.jccnv.org). [thehubtheatre.org](http://thehubtheatre.org). 703-537-3000.

**Lovers and Madmen.** June 18-Aug. 19. Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Features local artists. [epicurecafe.org](http://epicurecafe.org).

**Carolina Shag.** Wednesdays. 6:30-10 p.m. Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. [nvshag.org](http://nvshag.org).

## FRIDAY/JULY 1

**Friday Yoga on the Square.** 8 a.m. Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. Join Fabrizio for one hour outdoor fluid vinyasa. Fabrizio is a motivated instructor with advanced training in yoga and specialization in ashtanga principles. He is energetic, has a collaborative spirit, and enjoys inspiring others to reach long term health and fitness goals. What to Bring: A yoga mat, a water bottle, and yourself. 703-385-7858.

## SATURDAY/JULY 2

**Walking Tour of Old Town Fairfax.** 10 a.m. Historic Fairfax County Courthouse, Chain Bridge Road and Main Street. Docents from Historic Fairfax City, Inc. \$10/\$5. 703-385-8414.

**Kidz Korner.** 10:30 a.m. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. A variety of children's activities and entertainment in Old Town Square. World Karate will provide a karate demonstration and interactive show. Free. <http://www.wkfairfax.com/>.

## SUNDAY/JULY 3

**Sunday Afternoon in the Park.** 4-6 p.m. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Weather permitting. [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov).



The Lovers and Madmen exhibit at Epicure Cafe in Fairfax will be on view from June 18-Aug. 19.



Davi D'Agostinos' oil paintings will be on exhibit through July 2 at the Clifton Wine Shop.

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/lee-district-nights.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/lee-district-nights.htm).

## TUESDAY/JULY 5

**Yoga on the Square.** 6:30 a.m. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Bring a yoga mat, a water bottle and yourself. If you have any questions or concerns, [novayogagirl@gmail.com](mailto:novayogagirl@gmail.com).

## WEDNESDAY/JULY 6

**Morning Tai Chi.** 6:30 a.m. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. At the pergola. Weather permitting. [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov).

**Summer Concert Series.** 7:30-8:30 p.m. Lee District Park, 6601 Telegraph Road, Franconia. Bring your family, friends and a picnic dinner. David Kitchen Band. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/braddocknights.htm>.

## THURSDAY/JULY 7

**Summer Nights in the City — Summer Under the Stars.** 8 p.m. Veterans Amphitheater, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. Alte Kameraden. [fairfaxband.org](http://fairfaxband.org).

## FRIDAY/JULY 8

**Summer Concert Series.** 7:30-8:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Bring family and friends and a picnic dinner. Featuring Kings Park Band. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/braddocknights.htm>.

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PHOTO BY AMY RIVARD

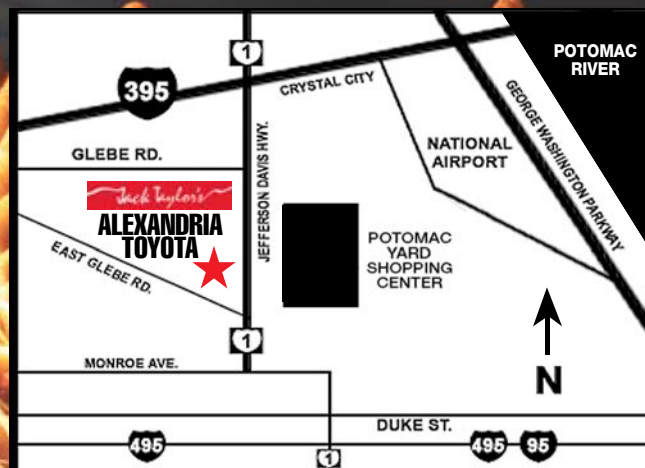


Amy Rivard, *The Three*, 2016, Watercolor Batik on Kinwashi Rice Paper will be available to view at the Workhouse Arts Center W-9 Gallery from June 8-July 3.



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**Let's  
Go  
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# Lake Braddock Graduates Reunited in Futures League

Alex Lewis and Jack Owens are members of the Martha's Vineyard Sharks of the Futures Collegiate Baseball League.

BY THOMAS JOYCE  
FOR THE CONNECTION

After high school, they went to different schools and it appeared as though they would never be teammates again. But baseball has brought Lake Braddock alumni Alex Lewis and Jack Owens back together this summer in a vacation haven.

Both Lewis, a rising senior at Longwood University, and Owens, a rising redshirt sophomore at Virginia Tech, are members of the Martha's Vineyard Sharks of the Futures Collegiate Baseball League. And simply put, they are thrilled to be teammates once again.

"It feels awesome," said Owens. "He's one of my best friends. We've played a lot of years together. And, I want to play more. It's been fun."

"It's pretty cool," Lewis added. "We've been playing since we were in Little League. After high school, I never thought I would be able to play with Jack again. So it's been cool to play with him right now."

Originally, they both went to the same elementary school. And as Lewis mentioned, they were Little League teammates before playing together again at Lake Braddock High School. And surprisingly, it was a local connection who gave them the opportunity with the Sharks.

First year Sharks head coach Mike Cassidy was an instructor at NOVA South Baseball Academy in Woodbridge, which is how he came in contact with Owens. He coached Lewis on a summer ball team and spent more time with the two in 2013, when he was an assistant coach at Lake Braddock.

Not only did Cassidy's offer entice them because it was an opportunity to play ball competitively in the summer, but the location also sold them on it.

"I love it. It's paradise," said Owens of Martha's Vineyard. "You get to play on an island on a place where people go on vacation — celebrities and all that. And we get to play baseball there. It's two birds with one stone. It's the best place ever."

"It's pretty cool," Lewis added. "It's a vacation spot, so it's pretty



**Alex Lewis:** "We've been playing since we were in Little League."



**Jack Owens:** "He's one of my best friends. We've played a lot of years together."



**Lewis swung a hot bat at Longwood University this past spring.**

cool to spend our summer playing ball and enjoy the island."

Lewis swung a hot bat at Longwood University this past spring, hitting .369 with a .409 on-base percentage and five home runs in 57 games this past season. He only has one more year of school left so right now, he is focused on enjoying the time he has on the diamond.

"I'm just trying to stay consistent and trying to have fun every time I'm out here," he said. "I'm trying to just cherish every moment I step onto the field."

Owens, listed at 5-foot-10, 165

pounds on both the Sharks and Hokies' rosters, said his main focus this summer is putting on weight. He wants to weigh 185 pounds in order to improve his power at the plate.

Originally going to Eastern Carolina University as a freshman, Owens sat out this past spring as a transfer at Virginia Tech. But he is looking forward to contributing next spring.

"I'm loving it," he said. "Coach (Patrick) Mason is a great guy. I've got some great teammates and I think we're going to have a really successful year next year."

## SCHOOL NOTES

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

**Kyle Austin Walsh**, of Fairfax, and **Abigail Lynn Lackey**, of Springfield, were named to the honors list for the 2016 spring 2016 semester at Averett University in Danville.

**Katherine Marie Hough**, of Fairfax Station, is on the dean's list at George Mason University for spring 2016.

**Anna Kormis**, of Springfield, graduated from Emory and Henry College in spring 2016.

**Kyle Austin Walsh**, of Fairfax, graduated from Averett University in June 2016. was among the 261 students to receive diplomas during Averett University's May 7 Commencement, **Megan R. Seymour**, **Megan F. Cummins**, **Thomas S. Cohen**, of Fairfax, **Joshua D. Harlowe**, **Samantha E. Kinde**, **Melissa A. Schwartz**, of Springfield; **Sean C. Baird**, of Fairfax Station; graduated from Boston University in spring 2016.

**Helene J. Decosse**, **Alexis J. Fahrney**, **Jessica M. Ochoa**, of Fairfax, are on the dean's list at Boston University for spring 2016.

**Seth Lehman**, **Thet San**, of Fairfax, graduated from Furman University in spring 2016.

**Luke Hartman**, **Natalie Heintz**, of Springfield, graduated from Manhattan College in spring 2016.

**Maria Larrazabal Carrillo**, of Fairfax is on the dean's list for May 2016 at Iowa State.

**Kayse McGough** of Fairfax is on the dean's list for May 2016 at St. Mary's College.

**Jared Rondeau** of Clifton, graduated May 2016 Triple Major in Physics, Mathematics, and Chemistry from Emory and Henry College.

**Moriah Dreisbach**, of Fairfax, is on Union University's president's list for spring 2016.

**Irene Martinko**, of Springfield, is on the spring 2016 dean's list at Muhlenberg College in Allentown Pennsylvania.

**James F. Agnew**, **Kyle T. Deivert** and **Nathaniel Oliver**, of Fairfax, are on the dean's list at Hampden-Sydney College.

**Cameron Kisailus**, of Franconia, graduated from Gonzaga College High School. He will be attending the University of Pittsburgh.

**Michael Gerlach's**, of Fairfax Station, is on the dean's list at James Madison University for spring 2016.

**Kara Anne Crennan**, an alumna of West Springfield High School Class of 2011, graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in June 2016.

**Liana Ruiz** was awarded the Virginia Credit Union Scholarship of \$2,500 scholarship She will graduate from Robinson High School in June 2016 and will attend Virginia Tech in the fall.

**Ketty Klimchuk**, of Fairfax, is on the spring 2016 dean's list at Johnson State College in Vermont.

**Abdullah Al Nouman**, of Fairfax, graduated with a master of science, biomedical sciences from Iowa State University in spring 2016.

**Robel Teffera**, of Fairfax, graduated in spring 2016 with a bachelor of science in international business

from Quinnipiac University.

May 2016 Oregon State University graduates from Burke include, **Kimberly L. Ogren**, doctor of philosophy, geography; **Jacob M. Sage**, bachelor of science, cum laude, construction engineering management.

**Jennifer S. Richards**, of Lorton, graduated with a bachelor of science, earth sciences from Oregon State University in May 2016.

**Jeffrey A Renner**, of Fairfax is on the dean's list for spring 2016 at Baylor University.

**Alexandra Hoenscheid**, of Springfield, received the University of Mary Washington Alumni Award upon her graduation in May 2016.

**Thet San**, of Fairfax, is on the dean's list at Furman University in South Carolina for spring 2016.

**Natalie Heintz**, of Springfield, received Manhattan College's Gunn Alumni Medal during the 2016 commencement.

**Allison Campbell**, a 2007 graduate of West Springfield High School, graduated from Washington University in St. Louis Olin Business School in May 2016.

**Peter Wang**, a student at South County High School, has been named a 2016 U.S. Presidential Scholar, a program administered by the U.S. Department of Education.

**William Greenwood**, Burke, graduated with a bachelor of science in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Kansas in May 2016.

The following area students graduated from Hampden-Sydney College: **Kyle Thomas Deivert**, of Fairfax, graduated cum laude with a B.S. in biology. **Nathaniel Tillman Oliver**, of Fairfax, graduated cum laude with a B.A. in economics and business. **Ali Adil Sali**, of Fairfax, graduated with a B.A. in history. **Austin Mitchell Perryman**, of Fairfax, graduated with a B.S. in mathematical economics.

**John Cossio**, of Springfield, graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University in spring 2016. He majored in voice.

**James Lau**, of Springfield, was elected to the honor society Phi Beta Kappa. Membership recognizes the highest academic achievement, moral character, responsible citizenship, and broad intellectual curiosity. James is the son of Michael & Audrey Lau of Springfield.

Twins **Brian** and **Kevin Zamfino**, West Springfield High School Class of 2015, graduated from U.S. Air Force Basic Military Training in March 2016. They are the sons of Joe and Joanne Zamfino.

**James Lau**, of Springfield, was inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society for college men and women at Hampden-Sydney College in Farmville, Va.

**Kayla Zellmer** of Fairfax has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester at St. Mary's College in Indiana.

**Reilly Brown**, a sophomore English major at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa., has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester. She is a graduate of West Springfield High School, she is the daughter of Patrick Shaw and Nicole Brown of Springfield.

**John Hollinger**, of Fairfax, was awarded dean's list at Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



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### 21 Announcements

**ABC LICENSE**  
Black Dog Studios LLC trading as Pinot's Palette, 2727-I Merrilee Dr. Fairfax, VA 22031. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for an Art Instruction license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Christine Reas, Member

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

### 21 Announcements

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SOLD

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