



Fairfax Station

CONNECTION Clifton & Lorton

CONNECTION FAMILIES

PAGE 8

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.

'Some Measure of Justice'

NEWS, PAGE 3

Hope in the Fight Against Drug Dependency

NEWS, PAGE 4

Fireworks Set to Explode over Workhouse Again July 2

NEWS, PAGE 10



Thank you to the 2016 LBSS PTSA All Night Grad Party Supporters!

The Lake Braddock Senior Class of 2016 and their families would like to thank the following businesses, organizations and individuals for their support of the PTSA-sponsored alcohol- and drug-free All Night Graduation Celebration which was held on June 16th, 2016, at the Audrey Moore RECenter at Wakefield Park. We are grateful for their generous contributions and commitment to the young people of our community. Please support these organizations that invest in the success of Lake Braddock Secondary School.

Friends of the Class (\$1-49)

Bradley Terrill
Dunkin' Donuts – Burke
Commons
Keene Mill Elementary PTA
Preferred Travel, Inc.
Thomas & Lara Bove

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Peter & Amy Henry
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Corporate Level

Austin Grill
Burke Volunteer Fire &
Rescue
Fairfax County Park
Authority
Fairfax County Police
Department
South Run Regency HOA
Village Veterinary Clinic

We'd like to thank the faculty and staff of LBSS and especially the LBSS PTSA for support of our All Night Graduation Celebration.

A huge thank you to our volunteers: the parents, friends and relatives of the Classes of 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department and the Fairfax County Police for their vital presence at our party. Finally, we'd like to thank the staff of the Audrey Moore RECenter for all their help in making the night run smoothly.

Make plans now to support our 2017 party on June 19th, 2017.

'Some Measure of Justice'

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

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

For 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.

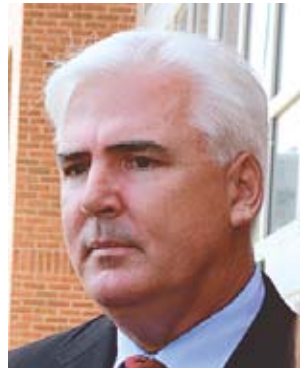
Following his release, Torres will serve a three-year probation period. Since his time already served counts toward the sentence, Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh said Torres could be released within days or weeks. Typically in year-long sentences, Morrogh explained, inmates exhibiting good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

Hope in the Fight Against Drug Dependency

Meeting highlights battles in every neighborhood.

BY ASHLEY SIMPSON
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County experiences heroin overdoses every day, according to county officials. To help raise awareness, a second county-wide Heroin and Prescription Drug Abuse Town Hall was held June 14 at Centreville High School.

"I first got involved in this issue when there were a couple heroin-related deaths in my district two years ago," Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity said. "It was an underreported problem so the board approved a motion to set up a task force. This is a battle that, frankly, everyone in this country — across our very county, in our neighborhoods, is facing. We are seeing evidence of this epidemic daily in Fairfax County."

Herrity, along with Sully District Supervisor Kathy Smith and At-Large School Board member Jeanette Hough, hosted the informational forum which attracted an audience of 50 residents.

"The board gets alerted every time there is an incident, and let me tell you: it's a daily occurrence," Herrity said. "We are getting several emails a week, and a large percentage of users are between the ages of 18 and 35. Among the high school students affected, there are plenty of kids you wouldn't suspect."

THE VICTIMS of heroin and other opioids don't fit a profile,

Herrity added that a 4.0 GPA and a college application filled with lists of extracurricular activities and award-winning sports performances do not rule out the possibility of drug use.

The town hall meeting featured speakers from the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Fairfax County Police Department, from the school system and from professional drug counselors who presented facts about the use of heroin in Fairfax County.

In his talk, Fairfax County Police Lieutenant James Cox said that during the previous weekend, there were more than four overdoses. Cox added he received a call about an overdose during the two-hour town hall meeting.

Herrity said that those who went to the town hall meeting came away with a message of hope. Among words of encouragement, the presenters let their audience know how to get help in Northern Virginia.

"This was a meeting to make sure people know there is a problem across all populations of Fairfax County, and on top of that, the depth and breadth of the problem," Herrity said. "We also let everyone know where to get help, that there is hope, and to let people know what we in the county are doing about it. The town hall structure



Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity leads the discussion at the county-wide Heroin and Prescription Drug Abuse Town Hall in Centreville High School on June 14.

also gave us the opportunity to hear what members of the community think we should do about it."

Aside from specialists and county officials, there were also people at the town hall sharing their personal stories.

Rona Powell, mother of a Centreville High School student who lost her life this past March to a prescription drug overdose, was also in attendance and addressed both the audience and the cameras from local Channels 5 and 7.

Despite her daughter's tragic death, Powell said she came away from the event — in the same place where her beloved daughter went to school every day just months before — with hope.

"I think this shows that there's hope for this community, for people throughout the country to be able to take hold of these ad-

dictions and these drugs and to give these kids education and support. Tonight, it felt like I wasn't alone," she said.

Powell added that since her daughter's loss, she is dedicated to preventing such lethal addictions from affecting other families. She wants to be an advocate for other parents in her position.

Herrity, who has served on the Board of Supervisors since 2009, said that, from what he's seen, the opioid abuse has been on a steep rise for the last five years. These strong prescription painkillers are highly addictive. On the flip side, Herrity explained, they are commonly prescribed for minor surgeries and when the patient's pain subsides, the pills remain in medicine cabinets for other household members to find and try one — or more.

"It starts in the medicine cabinet," he said.

"Someone in the family gets a prescription for pain pills like oxycodone. Then, another member tries a tablet. Then, their life quickly becomes 'chasing the dragon.' The street value of an oxycodone pill, for example, can be \$80."

This is where the addiction can morph into a heroin dependency. A much cheaper drug, heroin can be snorted or injected, and produces similar side effects and sensations of the prescription drugs that began the addiction in the first place. A heroin addict in recovery for eight years also addressed the crowd, showing firsthand that recovery from such a potent substance is possible.

Herrity said that while awareness is step one, he has already put motions before the board that will result in war on what seems to be such easy access to these lethal substances.

"At the town hall, we discussed a motion before the board to get licensed drug counselors back in schools," Herrity said, explaining that such professionals were removed from the public school system roughly three years ago. "Of course seeing this initiative come to fruition will take time, but the motion to work on the idea was passed. The Community Services Board is seriously looking into making this happen right now."

Herrity has other ideas too, but he emphasized that it all comes down to first and foremost spreading the word. He said he wished that there had been more attendants at the Centreville High School meeting.

"The biggest public feedback from parents that had children in recovery was that we need to get the word out," he said. "So many of these parents had no idea what their kids were going through. We are committed to ensure that we have the most educated possible community in order to prevent further tragedy. In addition to getting these counselors back in schools, we need to get these prescriptions out of medicine cabinets."

BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

THURSDAY/JUNE 30

Swearing-In Ceremony for Fairfax City Officials. 7 p.m. Veterans Amphitheater at City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. Fairfax. RSVP 703-385-7850.

TUESDAY/JULY 12

Grief Walk Support Group. 7-8:30 p.m. Immanuel Bible Church, 6911 Braddock Road, Springfield. A place where hurting people can find healing and hope in Christ. immanuelbible.net.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 13

Cops and Kids Day. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Meet the police chief, see demonstrations. Snacks and questions with

officers. Contact Sgt. Hinesley at police.information@fairfaxva.gov or 703-273-2889 to register.

Mental Health Resources for Local Youth.

1:30-3:30 p.m. Conference Center Rooms 9, 10, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Learn about the integrated network of community-based services and supports that are organized to meet the challenges of youth with serious mental health and other complex needs and the services designed to assist their families. Register at fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/cic. 703-324-3453.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 20

COBRA/04 Industry Day. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. 6550 Loisdale Road, Springfield. Military medical research conference on the upcoming DoD solicitation Omnibus 4 to acquire military medical research. Elements include medical simulation and information sciences, infectious diseases, military operational medicine, combat casualty care, and clinical and rehabilitative medicine. Advanced registration is available and recommended. Free. phil.borja@gmail.com. www.ee-volve.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 21

Coffee and Conversation. 8:45-10 a.m. The Bistro at Courtyard Springfield, 6710 Commerce St., Springfield. Lake Accotink Master Plan. Landscape architect Gayle A. Hooper with the Park Authority will lead the discussion. For registration information, 703-866-3500.

ONGOING

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

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

PEOPLE

Chandra Kumar Selected as the New Executive Director at Greenspring

Chandra Kumar has been selected as the new executive director at Greenspring, an Erickson Living retirement community in Springfield. In this role, Kumar will oversee the daily operations at the 58-acre campus with nearly 2,000 residents.

Kumar has more than twenty years of experience in the senior living industry, including serving the past two years as the associate executive director at Riderwood, an Erickson Living community in Silver Spring, Maryland.

"We are very excited to have Chandra leading the team at Greenspring," said Erickson Living's vice president of Regional Operations Chip Warner.

"She is a proven leader in senior living who has tremendous passion for this work and has consistently delivered superior quality services and health care for older adults."

Kumar's career history also includes serving as administrator for Friends House, a continuing care retirement community in Sandy Spring, Maryland, vice president



Chandra Kumar.

for Amertel Communication, as well as health care administrator and assisted living manager for Marriott Senior Living Services and its successor, Sunrise Senior Living.

Kumar holds a B.S. degree in Accounting from the University of Maryland, College Park, and an M.A. in Management of Aging Services from the Erickson School of Aging at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She has been a licensed Nursing Home administrator in Maryland for over twenty years.

Further information about Greenspring can be found at <http://bit.ly/hRFmTc>.

Metropolitan School of Arts Honors First Graduating Class

Metropolitan School of the Arts (MSA) of Alexandria held its first high school graduation since its opening. Ten area students earned their high school diploma from the Metropolitan School of the Arts Academy, now located in the newly renovated, expanded Alexandria school and studios. Students are heading to colleges around the United States, and earned \$1.6 million in academic college scholarships. Go to www.metropolitanarts.org for more information.

The 2016 Metropolitan School of the Arts Academy graduates include: Ben Cherington of Fairfax Station, headed to Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Penn; Sarah Christophersen of Fairfax Station, going to University of Michigan; Allison Hansen of Fredericksburg, attending College of Charleston in Charleston, S.C.; Samantha Horning of Woodbridge, headed to Emerson College in Boston; Roxanne King of Alexandria, going to Columbia College Chi-



Metropolitan School of the Arts, first academy graduates, from left: Charlyn Rand, Roxanne King, Lexi Rhem, Adia Walker, Samantha Horning, Georgia Monroe, Ben Cherington, Jeremiah Porter, Sarah Christophersen and Allison Hansen.

cago; Georgia Monroe of Ashburn, headed to PACE University in NYC; Jeremiah Porter of Brooklyn, N.Y., going to Ithaca College in Ithaca, N.Y.; Charlyn Rand of Virginia Beach, going to Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Fla; Lexi Rhem of Springfield, attending the The Hartt School at University of Hartford in Hartford, Conn.; and Adia Walker of Fredericksburg, to attend American Musical and Dramatic Academy in Los Angeles.

Metropolitan School of the Arts is closing its Lorton campus June 30, and moving its Academy to its newly expanded Alexandria/Kingstowne headquarters, that

will now provide additional space for its Academy, studios and soon-to-be constructed Black Box theatre.

"We're overjoyed to see these successful graduates go on to some of the most elite college programs, as well as achieving academic scholarships," said Melissa Dobbs, founder and president of Metropolitan School of the Arts of Alexandria. "We encourage everyone to visit our reconstructed space in Alexandria," said Dobbs.

To help support Metropolitan School of the Arts Black Box Theatre campaign, please visit www.metropolitanarts.org

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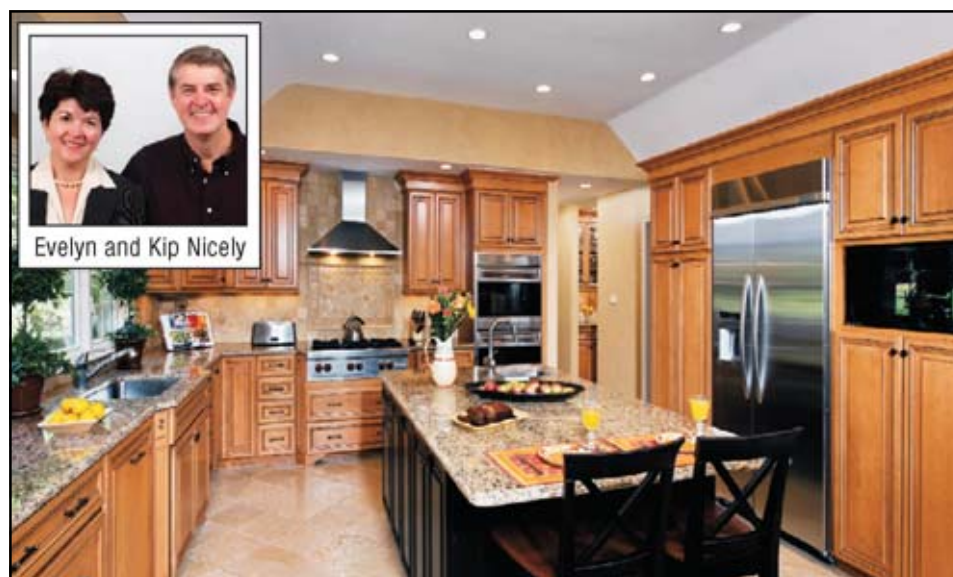
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Questions? E-mail: goinggreen@connectionnewspapers.com



THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

Your "Nicely Done" Kitchen or Bath is Right Around the Corner! A "One-Stop Shop" That Goes Above and Beyond Your Imagination



Are you living with an out-of-date kitchen? Not enough space for your dishes...much less to entertain guests the way you would like? For most people, the main purposes of a kitchen are to cook, eat and socialize. Why not own a kitchen that allows all of that to happen with ease?

Family owned and operated by Evelyn and Kip Nicely, Nicely Done Kitchens is dedicated to making sure each and every client is amazed with

their new kitchen.

Evelyn and her highly professional team of designers strive to make every one of your ideas come true, while offering valuable recommendations from their years of experience. They will also take care of all the measuring, construction logistics and tedious details.

Feel free to stop by their newly-remodeled showroom to browse the gorgeous displays and get ideas for your new kitchen.

Custom Kitchen and Bath Design, Remodeling and Project Management

– Also, KitchenLite –

Ask about our KitchenLite program for a cost-effective smaller remodel.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

The National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA)
The American Institute of Architects (AIA)
The American Society of Interior Designers (ASID)
The SEN Design Group (SEN), Nationally Ranked #5
The National Association of Remodeling Industry (NARI)
The Better Business Bureau of Washington, D.C. (BBB)



Come Visit Our Showroom
8934 Burke Lake Road

Kings Park Shopping Center—At the intersection of Burke Lake, Rolling and Braddock Roads.
Hours 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. M-F; 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sat.

703-764-3748

Watch our informative video at
www.NicelyDoneKitchens.com

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 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).

Email to south@connectionnewspapers.com or submit online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets.

For advertising, email sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431.

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.

Send to:
Letters to the Editor ♦ The Connection
1606 King St. ♦ Alexandria VA 22314
Call 703-917-6444.
Email vienna@connectionnewspapers.com



LETTERS

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 let-

ters 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. Visiting 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 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

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 Im-

age 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 or seewww.jccag.org.

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

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to

understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

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

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspgfield.org.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Chaplain Corps Candidate Applications

The Fairfax Community Chaplain Corps is accepting candidate applications up to August 2016. Eligible clergy are those ordained/invested clergy residing in Fairfax County.

Candidates from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds who speak a language in addition to English are encouraged to apply. The FCCC Corps provides chaplain services to Fairfax County residents following a disaster or crisis. They work in conjunction with Police and Fire and Rescue Chaplains.

To learn more contact Renice Holman at Renice.Holman@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-7608.

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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 be-

tween 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.”



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

PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED

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 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 easy to get bogged down in small conflicts that can cast a dark shadow,” said Best. “Doing some anticipatory work is a good idea.”

At the end of each day, take stock of how the vacation is going and make adjustments along the way as necessary, said Prince. “That way you don’t have the whole vacation go by and find out that the kids

“It’s important to give kids a voice because it’s their vacation, too.”

— Karen Prince, psychotherapist.

didn’t enjoy it,” she said. “There is often the expectation that a vacation is going to be nirvana the entire time and it doesn’t happen that 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.

Gary Kramer, D.D.S.
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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 Col-

lege. “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 students 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

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

PHOTO BY WILLIAM ATKINS,
COURTESY OF GWU

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 offer-

ings, 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.”

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Fireworks Set to Explode over Workhouse Again July 2

A fireworks display will once again be the highlight of a Fourth of July weekend evening program at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.

The colorful showcase is scheduled (more or less, depending on sunset) for around 9:15 p.m. on Saturday, July 2.

Prior to the fireworks, beginning at 5 p.m., visitors are being encouraged to visit open galleries and artists buildings around the 55-acre campus that was once home

to convicted criminals from Washington D.C. and later the metropolitan area.

Following are a Highlands Dance demonstration, Mt. Vernon Nights concert featuring Peter Mawanga and the Amaravi Movement, and the PBC Vocal Band.

Fireworks are one of several large-scale events including the also popular Springfest held at the nonprofit-managed Workhouse annually to establish it as a cultural and social hub in Lorton.

More than just a space for artists-in-residence to practice their craft, Workhouse CEO Ava Spece said the vision for the Workhouse is for a multimedia collection of spaces, for in-house productions, touring



A patriotic display of fireworks at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center.

music groups, classes and other activities.

That model has helped the Workhouse rise from struggling financially to covering about 75 percent of its \$2.2 annual operating costs with earned revenue and the other quarter from contributions.

Admission is free for fireworks, however parking for vehicles is \$10. A complimentary shuttle will run to and from the Vulcan Materials lot.

For more information, visit www.workhousearts.org/event/fireworks-at-the-workhouse. The Workhouse Arts Center is located at 9518 Workhouse Way in Lorton.

—TIM PETERSON

Clifton Resident Graduates from Congressional School

Willard Whitmore Sapp, of Clifton, graduated on Friday, June 10, from Congressional School, an independent day school for infants – Grade 8 on Sleepy Hollow Road in Falls Church. Sapp attended Congressional school from Kindergarten – Grade 8. While at Congressional, he was an honor roll student and achieved Maxima Cum Laude on the National Latin Exam, and distinguished achievement on the Word Masters challenge. He was also an integral member of the school's athletic teams participating in varsity soccer, basketball, lacrosse, and track and field. Sapp was awarded two of Congressional School's highest athletic awards, 2016



Willard Sapp of Clifton recently graduated and received two athletic awards from Congressional School. He is pictured with Congressional's Director of Athletics, Tavis Laws.

Male Student Athlete of the Year, and the Admiral Miller Athletic Award.

For high school Sapp will attend Gonzaga College High School, a Jesuit high school for boys, located in Washington, D.C.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

No Suspects Named as Police Investigate River Drive Homicide

In a June 20 update release, Fairfax County Police said detectives are continuing to investigate the March 11, 2016 murder of Johan De Leede.

De Leede, 83, was shot inside his home in the 6000 block of River Drive in the Ma-

son Neck area. Shots were fired from outside the residence before dawn, police said.

As part of the investigation, detectives have canvassed the Hallowing Point area going door-to-door on several instances, sometimes conducting follow-up interviews.



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

In 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



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. Note: Interfaith dialogue after every Sunday performance.

things in her life while asking herself; do I turn a cold shoulder to what I hear 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."

The lead detective in the case has also brought on more personnel to help analyze information that's been gathered, according to the release.

As of going to print, police have named no suspects in the murder case.

Police continue to ask anyone with information related to the incident, however

trivial it may seem, to contact the Major Crimes Division at 703-246-7800 or Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at <http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org> or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call police non-emergency at 703-691-2131.

—TIM PETERSON

ENTERTAINMENT



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.

Send notes to the Connection at 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/ performances. 703-324-7469.

The Farmer's Market at Springfield Town Center. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Through November. Corner of Spring Mall and Loisdale roads, Springfield. Enjoy fresh baked goods, produce, vegetables & fruits, meats & cheeses, and a host of other vendors. springfieldtowncenter.com.

Mestey Films Productions presents: Live Onstage: The Wizard of Oz in Fairyland. 1 p.m. Workhouse W-3 Theatre, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Every Saturday from July 2-30. Children's theatre production combining the stories of "The Wizard of Oz" with "Aladdin," "Alice in Wonderland" and "Snow White." \$14.50 adults, \$11.50 children 12 and under. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

Lovers and Madmen. June 18-Aug. 19. Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Features local artists. epicurecafe.org.

Peace: Our True Nature: Watercolor Batik by Amy Rivard. June 8-July 9. Workhouse Arts Center, Building W-9 Gallery, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Visitors will encounter watercolor batik paintings on Kinwashi rice paper, created by Rivard in the spirit of the present moment. amyrivardpaintings.com.

Plant Clinic. 9 a.m.-noon. Sundays till end of September. Lorton Farmers

Market, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Conducted by Master Gardeners. Answer gardening question, identify plants and insects, soil tests, etc. fairfaxgardening.org.

Davi D'Agostino. Through July 2. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. daily. Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 Main St., Clifton. Includes classic fine art oil paintings of European settings; doors, windows, and flower shops. 703-409-0919.

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. What to Bring: A yoga mat, a water bottle, and yourself. 703-385-7858.

SATURDAY/JULY 2

Fireworks at the Workhouse. 5 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Workhouse Full Campus, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. An Independence Day celebration featuring art exhibits, food trucks, local craft beer and wine, live music and fireworks. Free admission, \$10 parking in Vulcan Materials lot (free shuttle provided). All ages. Feel free to bring blankets and lawn chairs. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

Historic Pohick Church First Saturday Tours. 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Pohick Episcopal Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Costumed guided tours of the historic colonial church. The church's most famous congregants included the Washingtons, the Masons and the Fairfaxes. Free. www.pohick.org. 703-339-6572.

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.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 6

NVTRP Open House. 4:30-6:30 p.m. 6429 Clifton Road, Clifton. Come out to learn more about NVTRP and participate in a sampling of some new potential programming. Interactive sessions include, equine-assisted learning, art therapy, gardening and yoga. nvtrp.org.

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/performances/lee-district-nights.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.

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/performances/braddocknights.htm>.

SATURDAY/JULY 9

8th Annual Ice Cream Social. Noon- 4 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Includes a handmade bowl and ice cream, performance by The Great Zucchini, a raffle and a dunking machine (\$5 for three balls). All proceeds benefit the Workhouse Arts Center Ceramics Program. \$20. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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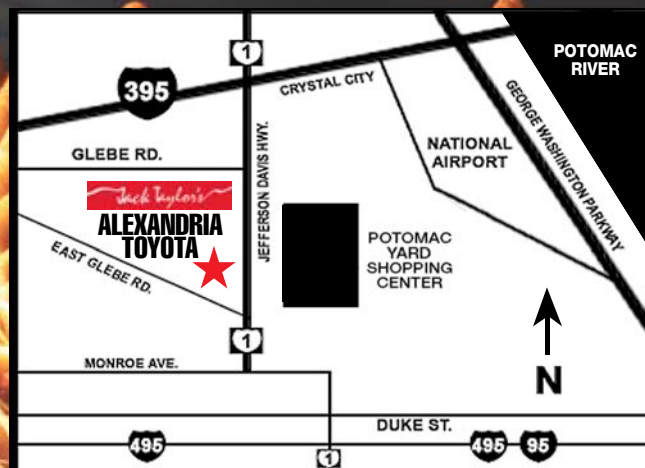
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**Let's
Go
Places**

SPORTS

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 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.

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21 Announcements

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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 or 800-552-3200

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