

HomeLifeStyle

PAGE 8

Fashion Careers students from the Fairfax Academy posing a few of the 20 "Little Dresses for Africa" they made. Alexandra Cohen attends Oakton High School, Lexane Head, Hana Mahle, Kylie Heo and Enkrina Burulova attend Fairfax High School as their base school.

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Creating 'Little Dresses for Africa'

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Fairfax Cares participants with the meals they packed for local school-children.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CARRIE DORSEY

Fairfax High counselors Tara Johnson and Jenny Payne (in blue shirts) work with another volunteer.

Uniting for a Good Cause

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Some 32 percent of the students in Fairfax City public schools are on the free or reduced-price meal program, and 14 percent of City children don't have enough food to eat. So, a group of people recently got together to do something about it with an event called Fairfax Cares.

More than 300 volunteers gathered on a Saturday morning and packed 13,100 ready-to-cook meals for these students. It was done via a partnership among City of Fairfax Schools, nonprofit Generosity Feeds and City Councilman Jeff Greenfield, the event's honorary chairman. The meals were distributed to the City's four public schools to be given through their backpack programs to students who go hungry outside school hours.

"Ourisman Fairfax Toyota was our first and main sponsor, donating \$5,000, and honestly was the reason we were able to do it," said City schools spokeswoman Carrie Dorsey. "Jeff Greenfield also was a huge help, as well. He raised most of the money and was instrumental in getting this from plans to reality."

"This event was important from several perspectives," said Greenfield. "It was a great opportunity to bring our four school communities together to work on an issue many don't know exists – hunger. And parents, students and teachers came together to help other school children who experience hunger throughout the year." "What an amazing experience to see so many people come together to pack shelf-stable meals that will be used to help feed children and their families," he continued. "This event is a reminder about why Fairfax City is so special – people helping people."

Agreeing, Bob Hager COO/partner, Ourisman Automotive of Virginia, said, "We at Ourisman are proud and grateful to be an active supporter of local charities. We



Providence Elementary teacher Cindy Howe, (at far right) helps two volunteers at the event.

love to help those who are helping people in need."

LANIER PRINCIPAL Erin Lenart said her school was "excited to host this event. It was a fantastic opportunity to bring the City together around supporting our students who are food insecure, and it was an outstanding community builder, as well. We are committed to any opportunity we have to engage the entire community in the work we do."

"The 'buzz' at the event – and just knowing that people's volunteer work would go to support people they may or may not directly know – was incredible," she added. And it went so well; it felt like a race to get the meals done, and we had volunteers of all ages."

Watching everyone pitch in and help that day, said Lenart, made her feel both "humbled and proud to be a part of this community and all that Fairfax City has to offer our students. Seeing business owners,

residents and fellow students representing all walks of life, who came to rally around one incredible cause, was amazing to be a part of. The effort of those volunteers will be an immense gift for many of our students and families."

Greenfield and Dorsey are both members of the City's Hunger Task force, and she asked the group if it wanted to participate in the event. After getting the go-ahead from the school principals and School Board, things moved forward. And City Schools Superintendent Peter Noonan called it an "awesome success."

"We were so proud out how our community of schools pulled together in support of our neighbors that are food insecure," he said. "In our schools, we have a significant number of students – over 40 percent in some schools – who are on free and/or reduced lunches. The meals we packed will be distributed through the end of the summer."

Community comes together to pack meals for hungry, local children.



Providence Elementary second-grader Esmè Spokas lent a hand.

IN MANY CASES, said Noonan, the only meals City students get are the breakfasts and lunches they receive from school. "Our event helps bridge the gap from when our kids leave school in the afternoon to when we see them again the next day," he explained. "If community members are interested in helping our school families in need, they should reach out to the school counselors, as they have the most interaction with our families and can see that the resources get to those who are food insecure."

As for Generosity Feeds, it works to feed hungry children throughout the U.S. by spurring local businesses, schools, churches and civic organizations to collaborate on packaging 10,000 or more meals in less than two hours.

"Fairfax City Schools did an incredible job mobilizing City Council and top business leaders into their event," said Ron Klabunde, Generosity Feeds president. "Through their exceptional work, local businesses leaders provided funding for the food, local schools provided eager volunteers and City leaders attended to show their support."



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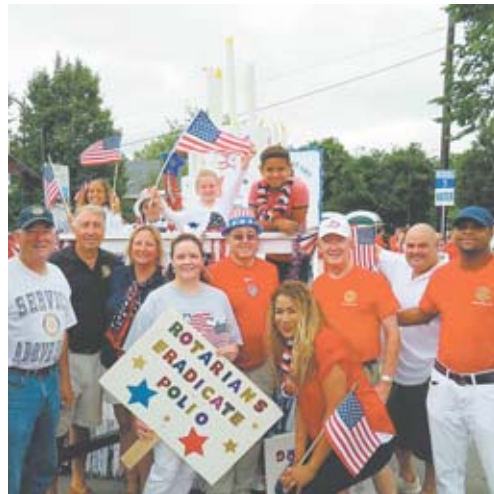
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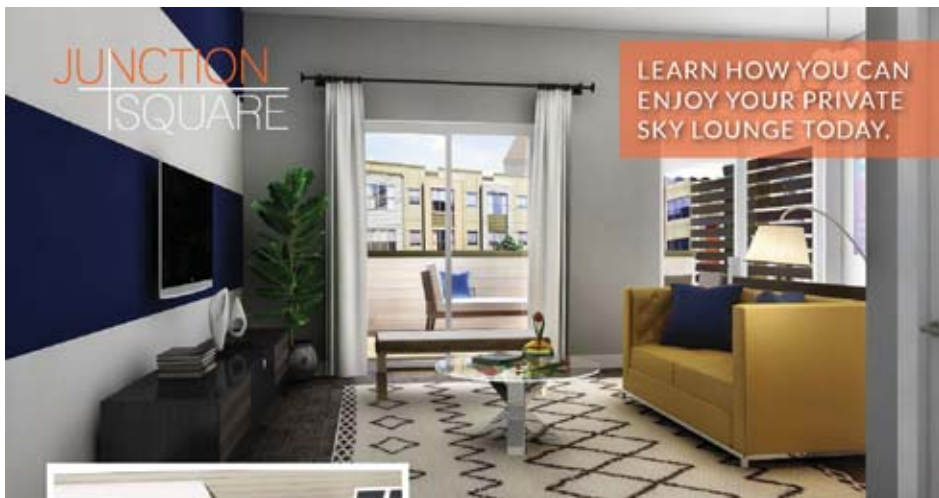


Fairfax Rotary Takes First Place in Float Contest

The Rotary Club of Fairfax won first place for its float in the City of Fairfax 2016 Independence Day Parade.



The Rotary Club's winning Independence Day Parade float featured a large birthday cake in celebration of the parade's 50th anniversary. Pictured here is Rotarian and past president Ron Hubbard on front left along with (from left to right) Rotarians Rob Rickert, Zinta Rodgers-Rickert, Jennifer Rose, Tom Palmer, Ron Cross, Rick Schroeder and Trey Scott. Additional helpers were: Chelsea Leigh (in front), and posing on the float: Lily' Anna Leigh, Tiger' Jay Leigh, Morgan Palmer and Ethan Scott.



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Share tips in upcoming Newcomers and Community Guides.

The Connection's annual Newcomers and Community Guides will publish Aug. 24 with a deadline of Aug. 17.

A bevy of interns, plus staff writers and editors, are preparing this year's 15 individual editions, but we need help from our readers.

We're hoping to share special places, activities, events, organizations and volunteer opportunities. What should someone new to your

neighborhood know about? Events that should not be missed? Organizations that do a great job? Places to volunteer? Tips for navigating your PTA or your school's front office? A great place to see the sunset? We'd love to have your photos to go along with your suggestions.

What are your favorite parks? Favorite historic sites?

What tips do you have for someone getting to know the community?

EDITORIAL

Faith organizations, nonprofit organizations, clubs, environmental groups, advocacy groups, youth sports teams and others who offer events open to the public are invited to send a paragraph about the organization and how to get involved.

We will publish a selection of local tips along

with a plethora of information useful to newcomers and long-time residents alike, including our award-winning Insiders Guide to the Parks, information on how to vote and more.

See last year's community guides by going to www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scrolling down to Newcomers.

Email tips and photos to editors@connectionnewspapers.com or send as a letter to the editor via the website at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>. Send in your Insider's Tips by Wednesday, Aug. 17.

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Summer Is Here: Time to Visit State Parks

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)

Eighty years ago this month, Virginia created the first state park system in the United States. With 35 miles of Potomac River frontage in the 36th Senate district, our community is lucky to have access to many natural resources, including our state parks.

Our state park system has its origins in the Great Depression. In 1933, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps built numerous park and recreational areas throughout the nation, as well as in Virginia. My grandfather grew up in Franklin County, Virginia, a county with no public high school so he had an eighth-grade education and when he turned 22 in 1933, no job.

He enrolled in the CCC and was directed to report to the Arlington County "countryside" (yes, countryside). Every day, he walked through farm fields to construct trails and plant trees on Analostan Island in the Potomac River, which had recently been renamed Teddy Roosevelt Island next to Rosslyn. The CCC also helped build the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

Channeling FDR's CCC energy, Virginia opened its first six state parks to the public on June 15, 1936 — Hungry Mother, Staunton River, Westmoreland,

Douthat, Fairy Stone and Seashore (now called First Landing).

Eighty years later, Virginians have 38 state parks, and three of them are right here in the 36th District. Coupled with the National Park Service's George Washington Memorial Parkway, Pohick Bay Regional Park, Bureau of Land Management facilities (Meadowood Recreation Area) on Mason Neck, three federal wildlife refuges along the Potomac River and Accotink Bay Wildlife Refuge on Fort Belvoir, 36th District residents have the best access to low-cost, outdoor activities and opportunities to enjoy nature.

In Fairfax County, the 1,825-acre Mason Neck State Park opened in 1985 after local citizens, led by Mount Vernon area resident Liz Hartwell, galvanized support to fight development threats on the Mason Neck peninsula. The park has numerous river views, trails and picnic sites and is an excellent spot to view Potomac River wildlife.

Make sure you get outside and take advantage of some of these assets. As a taxpayer, you own them. To add more support, you can join one of our local "friends" groups that partners with these public lands.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need any further information at scott@scottsuovell.org. It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

School Board Politics and Transgender Policy

To the Editor:

The perception from many like me is that the Fairfax County School Board is hungry for national media attention as evidenced by their 2015 vote on the Gender Non-Conforming and Transgender Student Policy. The fact is the board has had a strong nondiscrimination policy for many years, its verbiage covered, race, gender, culture, etc. So why did the board take it upon itself to identify and present the transgender issue when only .3 percent (according to a Williams Survey) of the population identified with this issue on a national level? A question never really posed to the board.

The Fairfax County School Board has lost its focus of the real issues such as the delivery of education in a global environment, renovations of current facilities in a timely manner, partnering education opportunities with institutions of higher learning, expanding language programs to the elementary schools, etc. It is my understanding the gender issue became a topic of discussion due to the persistence of a few individuals who took it to an at large member and then later to the local Democratic party. However, board members are to be impartial of political party loyalties but let us not be naive, board votes are driven by party directives.

Our education board is broken if they are letting political parties determine Board topics and votes on matters of curriculum and other issues for the sake of gain-

ing party votes during an election year. Let there be no misunderstanding, this is exactly what the transgender issue is all about, party votes and expanding a social agenda. It is doubtful parents and constituents know the board's vote in 2015 impacted the budget, student sports, the use of bathrooms, locker rooms, etc. Their seven-page policy is not meant for the occasional light reader.

The board has hit a sensitive nerve with their constituents and parents on this issue and now prefers to shy away from additional media controversy and discussion. In fact many parents are unaware the Transgender Policy is being brought forth again at a School Board Forum on July 14, which proves excellent planning on the board's part. The month of July is a wonderful time for controversial issues, the timing takes advantage that a large majority of parents and residents are gone on vacation; therefore it is easier to pass motions and generate policies. After such, the board will go into recess and all controversies will seem to be forgotten due to a lack of media attention. Thus there is little vocal objection from the public or notice.

Unfortunately for Elizabeth Schultz, FCPS Springfield District School Board representative, she has little hope in changing anything on this issue due to the board's political party influence and the timing of this issue. Her vote will continue to be a lonely vote. Common sense and true educational issues have been lost in Fairfax County.

Elizabeth Torpey Bradsher
Former Fairfax County School Board Member
Fairfax Station

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 7

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LETTERS

Misinterpretation and Misdirection

To the Editor:

This is a response to Mr. Peter Storm's specious letter, ("What Was the Founding Fathers' Intent?" (Connection, July 6-12, 2016) and the broader leftist propensity toward historical misinterpretation and misdirection regarding the 2nd Amendment.

Mr. Storm applied a selective "Founding Fathers" taxonomy (limited to the 56 signers of the Declaration) to assert that it's not possible to determine the Founders' intent behind the 2nd Amendment because they

were "hardly involved" in authoring the Constitution, save the six men who signed both.

With this logic, readers are presumably supposed to feel compelled to forswear an originalist hermeneutic and submit to the latest progressive assault on individual liberties.

Not so fast. This is a distinction without a difference.

Whether the authors and signers of the Constitution are binned as "Founders" or not has almost no bearing whatsoever on one's ability to discern their intent, or on their authority when it comes to interpreting what they wrote or agreed to. Besides, the more widely accepted taxonomy for the "Founding Fathers" is one that includes the delegates to the Constitutional Convention, a taxonomy to which our own National Archives subscribes.

And irrespective of how narrow or broad one's definition of "the Founding Fathers" is, the historical record is replete with compelling evidence that those men recognized and sought to protect an individual right to bear arms, as the Supreme Court reaffirmed most recently in Heller, and in so doing, serve as a check on the abuse of federal power.

So, when your readers hear things like Representative Connolly's call for reinstatement of the scary-looking (er...assault) weapons ban, they can easily consult any number of fellow Virginian Founders to see how contrary to their intent such proposals are: Thomas Jefferson and Richard Henry Lee (Declaration signers); or George Mason and James Madison (Convention delegates).

Progressives rely heavily on emotional appeals and logical misdirection to advance their anti-gun agenda, counting on the public to have forgotten their history. Your readers should not fall for it.

Jonathan Clough
Springfield

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HomeLifeStyle Bright White

White kitchens are a trend with staying power.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

The clean, crisp look of a white kitchen has staying power and versatility, according to the National Kitchen and Bath Association. The organization reports that white cabinetry is the top choice for 67 percent of its members. In fact, the percentage of homeowners requesting white kitchens has increased by 20 percent over the past two years.

The trend is also apparent locally, said designers. When a family of five returned to the Washington, D.C. area after spending 30 years in the U.S. Foreign Service, they settled into their home in Bethesda, a 1960 brick Dutch colonial that they purchased in 1986. They decided to give the home a makeover because, after being a rental for many years,

it felt dated and dingy. The family felt that the kitchen was old, dark and closed-off from the living room. They needed a larger space to accommodate their family of five.

The homeowners knew they wanted the new kitchen space to be free flowing and light-filled. They also wanted to incorporate some of their existing furniture, such as an antique table and chairs.

Designed by Bruce Wentworth of Wentworth Inc., the new kitchen is sunny and spacious. It includes white cabinetry and an island with dark gray granite countertops. A large stainless sink, dishwasher, pull-out trash and bookcase for cookbooks make the island functional. Facing the dining room is a shallow cabinet with mullioned glass doors.

Granite tops the counters in the remainder of the kitchen and white cabinetry houses a sub-zero refrig-



PHOTO BY JOHN COLE

A large picture window is the focal point of this white kitchen by Anthony Wilder Design Build Inc.

erator, microwave drawer, small prep sink and a gas range with a stainless steel range hood. "Wall cabinets with clear glass mullioned cabinet doors [give] visual depth and make space feel larger," said Wentworth.

When the owners of an Arlington home decided to update their dark and dated kitchen, they opened the space to the living and dining rooms and added natural lighting and white cabinetry. The result was a room with a crisp and airy aesthetic. The new, open concept allows the homeowners to better interact with family and friends.

"Prior to the remodel, the kitchen was essentially closed off to the rest

of the home," said April Case Underwood of Case Design/Remodeling. "I think the grouping of materials the client selected with us are unique, definitely not cookie-cutter, and these make the space really interesting," Underwood said.

Among the fixtures, accessories and materials used are Caesarstone countertops, a marble and granite backsplash and reclaimed shelving, provided by homeowners, which, "made the kitchen look more unique and gave it an eclectic feel," said Underwood.

"I think in general the perfect combination of the various materials, from smooth and glossy to rough and textured, is simple but interesting and shows beautifully," said Underwood.

A large picture window overlooking an expansive backyard is the focal point of a white kitchen in Falls Church. When the homeowners decided to renovate and expand the space, they enlisted the help of designer Keira St. Claire of Anthony Wilder Design Build, Inc. The project included adding



PHOTO BY JAMIE COBEL

A Potomac, Maryland, kitchen was lightened, brightened and redesigned by Rill Architects to give the home's owners to a connection to their natural surroundings.

additional space to the back of the house and removing a wall between the kitchen and the dining room.

"Although we opened up the wall between the kitchen and dining room, one challenge was maintaining a distinction between the two spaces, which was important to the client," said St. Claire. "In order to create a feeling of separation, while preserving the sense of openness ... [we designed] a custom glass cabinet piece, which is accessible from both rooms," said St. Claire.

The new unit gives the homeowners extra storage and a place to display their crystal. Sunlight from the new picture window in the kitchen reflects off the crystal stemware and refracts, causing both rooms to glisten with radiant, natural light.

White cabinetry was contrasted against dark wood as part of a kitchen renovation in Centreville. While the basic layout of the kitchen remained the same, the space, which was designed by Allie Mann of Case Design Build, Inc.,

was brightened with white cabinetry, a built-in pantry and a custom cherry wood island. "The white kitchen is classic and timeless," said Mann. "It can work with most color accent palettes."

A cramped and dark Potomac, Maryland, kitchen was lightened, brightened and redesigned to give the home's owners a connection to their natural surroundings, which included a landscaped yard created for outdoor entertaining.

The kitchen was designed by Jim Rill of Rill Architects who added a working island around which the family can gather and prepare meals. He described the new look as a, "simple, clean design with subtle elegance."

We added functional space with lots of windows and a place for everything, so kitchen could be cleaned up and used as an entertaining area," Rill said.

The family wanted a white kitchen, he said, because it, "creates a great backdrop for art and accentuates the exterior colors of spring, winter and fall."



PHOTO BY GEOFFREY HODGSON

In this kitchen, designed by Wentworth, Inc. a cabinet with mullioned glass doors face the dining room.



PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

Natural lighting and white cabinetry transform this kitchen, by Case Design Build, Inc. into a light and airy space.



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We are proud to welcome Leonard "Len" Clark, Jr. to the Union commercial team. Len's focus will be expanding Union's commercial real estate portfolio in Northern Virginia, Maryland, and District of Columbia. In addition, he is responsible for developing and managing the new affordable housing and community development transactions in Northern Virginia.

Len offers over 35 years of commercial real estate lending experience, community development and affordable housing projects. His experience also includes expanding various commercial real estate portfolios in Virginia, District of Columbia and Maryland as well as wealth management in these locations.

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in photos. Submission deadline is July 20.

CALENDAR

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. 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays through Aug. 25. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Fun music and good company. Paradise Springs and The Winery at Bull Run will be offering complimentary tastings of their premium reds and whites. If it rains, concerts will be moved inside to the Government Center Forum. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/>

Storytime in the Park. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-385-2712.

Wednesday Morning Tai Chi. 6:30 a.m. Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. At the pergola. 703-385-2712.

Rock the Block! 6:30 p.m. Every fourth Friday through Oct. 28. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Come any way you can - walk, run, ride your bike or drive! You don't want to miss out on this brand new concert series! Food is available for sale. Bring chairs and or blankets to sit on. Kids - wear swim suits and bring towels. Enjoy the new spray pad. No Pets allowed except service animals. fairfaxva.gov.

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. thehubtheatre.org. 703-537-3000.

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

Fairfax Rotary Club Meeting. 12:15-1:30 p.m. Mondays. American Legion, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Meetings with luncheon and program. fairfaxrotary.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.

THURSDAY/JULY 14

Children's Concert. 6:30-9 p.m. City of Fairfax Veterans Amphitheater, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. Join



PHOTO 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) will perform at the John Swaye Theatre in Fairfax, July 8-31.

the City of Fairfax Band and Sandy Spring Bank for this annual Fairfax tradition. Free balloons and ice cream for the kids. Instrument petting zoo, followed by a concert of your favorite tunes. Free. fairfaxband.org.

THURSDAY/JULY 15

Get Pop Cultured - Star Wars. 7 p.m. Barnes and Noble Fairfax, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Calling fans of Wookiees, Stormtroopers and Jedi Knights! All ages are welcome for a special offer, trivia, bingo, giveaways, cosplay and a learn-to-play Star Wars X-Wing Game event. 703-278-8527.

SATURDAY/JULY 16

Goodbyes Book Release. 5 p.m. The Old Fire Station No. 3, 3988 University Drive, Fairfax. Rock and roll, red carpet celebration for Fairfax City author Leslie Welch's debut novel "The Goodbyes." www.lesliewelch.com.

Get Pop Cultured - Pokemon. 4 p.m. Barnes and Noble Fairfax, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Learn how to become a Pokémon Champion, take a photo with a Pikachu and Charizard standee, enjoy a special offer and more as we celebrate 20 years of Pokémon. 703-278-8527.

Get Pop Cultured - Manga. 7 p.m. Barnes and Noble Fairfax, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Celebrate manga with drawing and coloring activities from renowned manga artist Camilla d'Errico. Enjoy a special offer on manga, activities, cosplay and giveaways. 703-278-8527.

SUNDAY/JULY 17

Joy Ike. 8 p.m. Epicure Cafe, 11213 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Philadelphia-based

independent artist Joy Ike's music, voice, and writing have drawn comparisons to female musicians such as Corinne Bailey Rae, Regina Spektor, Norah Jones, and Fiona Apple. But her percussive piano-playing and soaring vocals give homage to her African upbringing. epicurecafe.org. 703-352-9193.

NTRK Scale Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge model train show. Free-\$4. 703-425-9225.

THURSDAY/JULY 21

Lunch N' Life. Noon-2 p.m. Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. Features the Capital Swing Quartet, a woman's a cappella group. For reservations, call Faye Quesenberry at 703-620-0161, by July 15. \$10.00; checks payable to SCFB. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office 703-323-4788. scfbva.org.

Amphibians After Dark. 7 p.m. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Assist park naturalists with a calling amphibian survey. Learn how to identify frogs and toads by their calls as we explore pools and ponds. Ages 8-Adult. Children must be accompanied by an adult registered in the program. 1 hours. \$6 in-county, \$8 out of county. <http://parktakes.fairfaxcounty.gov/>.

Evenings on the Ellipse. 5:30-7 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Incendio (Latin). Fun music and good company. Paradise Springs and The Winery at Bull Run will be offering complimentary tastings of their premium reds and whites. If it rains, concerts will be moved inside to the Government Center Forum. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/>

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ENTERTAINMENT

"The Last Five Years" stars David Jarzen from West Potomac High School and Robinson Secondary's Madyson Hanton.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Rambunctious Theatre Company Presents 'The Last Five Years,' July 14-23

The Rambunctious Theatre Company is teaming up with Beyond the Page Theatre Company to bring you "The Last Five Years" starring David Jarzen from West Potomac High School and Robinson Secondary's Madyson Hanton. The show will be presented July 14 - 23 at West Potomac High School. All shows are 7 p.m. with a special 2 p.m. matinee on July 23. Tickets can be purchased at www.robinsondrama.org.

"The Last Five Years" is an emotionally powerful and intimate musical about two New Yorkers in their twenties who fall in and out of love over the course of five years. The show's unconventional structure

consists of Cathy, the woman, telling her story backwards while Jamie, the man, tells his story chronologically; the two characters only meet once, at their wedding in the middle of the show.

Jason Robert Brown's Drama Desk winner "The Last Five Years" has been translated into a handful of languages and was named one of Time Magazine's 10 best shows of 2001. A testament to the show's longevity and spurred by the show's regional popularity, "The Last Five Years" enjoyed an Off-Broadway revival at Second Stage in 2013. A film adaptation was released in 2014 starring Anna Kendrick and Jeremy Jordan.

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SPORTS



From left, Jasmine Hellmer, Sam Pomajevich, James Jones and Lane Stone from the Burke site of Nation's Capital Swim Club competed in the 2016 USA Swimming Olympic Trials held in Omaha.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Head Coach Pete Morgan (left) of Fairfax Station leads a practice at the Burke Swim and Racquet Club.

All Out for Omaha

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

I:01.19. For the last year, Oakton resident Jasmine Hellmer has gone to bed looking up at “1:01.19” written on a Post-It note stuck to her ceiling. That time represented the rising Flint Hill School junior’s greatest goal to date: the time standard to qualify for Olympic Trials in the 100 butterfly.

Now 16, Hellmer began swimming seven years ago. Though she said she “tries to have a balance” in her life, she’s progressed in the sport to a high level of commitment in the service of her goals. Hellmer’s group trains at the Burke Swim and Racquet Club eight to nine times per week in the water, plus a handful of on-land workouts for additional strength and flexibility work.

The facility is one of more than a dozen sites for the Nation’s Capital Swim Club, of which Olympic champion Katie Ledecky is one of the more decorated athletes.

“Social life is obviously difficult,” Hellmer said. “I always have to say ‘I have swim practice.’”

But in March at a National Club Swimming Association championship meet, the young swimmer’s dedication and specific focus on the 100 fly were rewarded. She got the cut.

Hellmer was one of four swimmers from the same group, coached by Fairfax Station resident Pete Morgan, to compete in USA Swimming’s Olympic Trials meet. The weeklong event took place in Omaha the last week in June.

IT WAS THE FIRST trials experience for her teammates, as well, who included Burke resident and recent Robinson Secondary School graduate James Jones, Springfield resident and recent West Springfield High School graduate Lane Stone and Stonewall Jackson rising junior Sam Pomajevich, who lives in Manassas.

Overall, Nation’s Capital fielded a team of 25 at the trials, the most qualifiers of any club in the country.

And if making the qualifying times wasn’t

difficult enough, in order to actually make the team, swimmers must emerge as one of the top two finishers in each event out of a field of between 150 and 180.

“From top to bottom it’s the fastest meet in the world every four years,” said Coach Pete Morgan. “The depth better than you see in the Olympics. I’m very proud — as a country, what goes on in the process.”

Pomajevich advanced the furthest of the foursome from Burke, placing 22nd in the 200 butterfly. In the process, he was chosen to be part of the National Junior team and compete in August at the Junior Pan Pacific Championships in Hawaii.

“I’m pretty happy with how I swam,” he said. “And I have time to improve for the end of the season.”

Morgan said for each of his swimmers, they talked prior to the meet about maximizing their experience, understanding it was highly unlikely they would make the National team in their rookie meet.

“It’s no easy thing,” Morgan said. “What’s their reality? For most, it’s a timed final experience.”

Hellmer didn’t go a personal best time in her race.

But her coach was quick to remind her, “OK, you got here,” she remembers Morgan saying. “We talked about the whole, pinpointed what I did wrong. Then he said, ‘This is where you learn, where you get to watch.’”

Aside from their own races, the athletes were able to spend time warming up and down around stars in their sport, such as Ledecky, as well as living legends including Michael Phelps.

Pomajevich said the bigger names mostly kept to themselves. He said he didn’t have any starstruck moments either, keeping the mindset that they were his competition.

AT ONE POINT Hellmer found herself in the same recovery pool lane as Phelps himself.

“Oh my God don’t get in this lane,” she remembers thinking. “I just stopped at the wall and let him pass. It was really cool. I got to see how he trained, how he got ready

for his races.”

James Jones, a standout on the reigning Virginia state champion Robinson men’s swim and dive team, competed in the 50 freestyle and raced a time trial 100 freestyle, effectively a competition warm-up.

One highlight he said was swimming in the same preliminary heat as eventual Olympics qualifier Anthony Ervin.

Though making the meet was a huge milestone towards each of the foursome’s ultimate goal of making the Olympic team, they also felt tuned in to the energy of so many others fulfilling their dreams at the same time.

“It was awesome to watch,” Jones said.

“Achieving everything they’ve been working for.”

The arena in Omaha seated around 14,000 spectators for the advanced rounds of the meet.

“Once the stands were filled, it was even more amazing,” Heller said, “and even more nerve-wracking. The arena was full of emotions, tears of joy for those having reached their goals and achieved their dreams. And tears of sadness if you came in third — they were really devastated.”

In four years, each of the swimmers from Burke expects to return to trials, facing potentially devastating near-misses, or tears of joy.



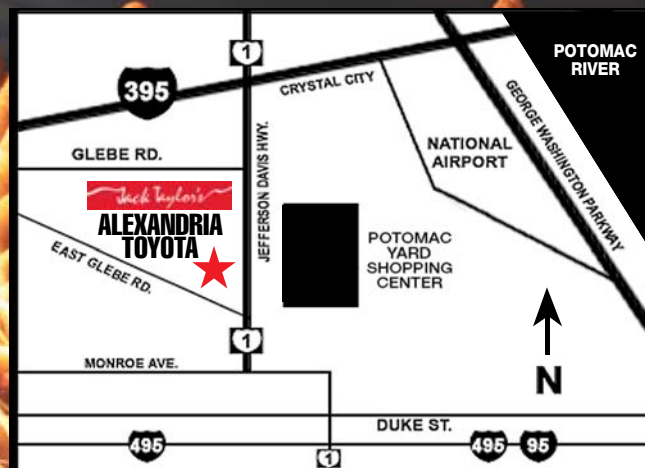
PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Girls Soccer Team Champions Heads to National Championship

Braddock Road Youth Club, Under 14 Girls, U.S. Youth Soccer Region I Champions head to the U.S. Youth Soccer National Championship in Frisco, Texas, July 25-31, 2016. Back row: John (JK) Kenny, R. McCarthy, A. Taylor, L. Rabinowitch, L. Teuschl, M. Kenefick, L. Waniel, J. Steele, J. Konte, J. Turner, Tyler Mischalow. Front row: A. Nagai, T. Bui, M. Johnstone, G. Lemley, R. Melendez, H. Ko, R. Castro, V. Weber

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Gordon Parks, Back to Fort Scott is organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in partnership with the Gordon Parks Foundation. Photo: Husband and Wife, Sunday Morning, Detroit, Michigan, 1950, Gordon Parks (American, 1912-2006), gelatin silver print. Courtesy of and copyright the Gordon Parks Foundation



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NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES'

SALE OF PROPERTY OWNED BY HUNTER MILL WEST, L.C.

LOCATED AT

10736 SUNSET HILLS ROAD, RESTON, VIRGINIA

SALE TO BE HELD AT THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

July 22, 2016, AT 9:00 A.M.

In execution of a certain Credit Line Deed of Trust and Security Agreement dated November 19, 2008, and recorded November 20, 2008 in Deed Book 20183 at Page 0376 among the land records of Fairfax County, Virginia (the "Deed of Trust"), made by HUNTER MILL WEST, L.C., a Virginia limited liability company, now securing CATJEN LLC, a Virginia limited liability company (the "Noteholder"), default having occurred in the payment of the debt secured thereby, and being instructed to do so by the Noteholder, the undersigned Substitute Trustees, will offer for sale the property described below at public auction by the main entrance to the Fairfax County Circuit Court, located at 4110 Chain Bridge Rd, Fairfax, VA 22030 on July 22, 2016, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

The real property encumbered by the Deed of Trust that will be offered for sale by the Substitute Trustees is commonly known as 10736 Sunset Hills Road (Tax Identification Number: 0183-02-0004) located in Reston, Fairfax County, Virginia, as more particularly described in the Deed of Trust, and all improvements, fixtures, easements and appurtenances thereto (the "Property").

TERMS OF SALE

ALL CASH. The Property will be offered for sale "AS IS, WHERE IS" and will be conveyed by Substitute Trustees' Deed (the "Substitute Trustees' Deed") subject to all encumbrances, rights, reservations, conveyances, conditions, easements, restrictions, and all recorded and unrecorded liens, if any, having priority over and being superior to the Deed of Trust, as they may lawfully affect the Property.

The Substitute Trustees and the Beneficiary disclaim all warranties of any kind, either express or implied for the Property, including without limitation, any warranty relating to the zoning, condition of the soil, extent of construction, materials, habitability, environmental condition, compliance with applicable laws, fitness for a particular purpose and merchantability. The risk of loss or damage to the Property shall be borne by the successful bidder from and after the date and time of the sale. Obtaining possession of the Property shall be the sole responsibility of the successful bidder (the "Purchaser").

A bidder's deposit of \$150,000.00 (the "Deposit") by certified or cashier's check shall be required by the Substitute Trustees for such bid to be accepted. The Substitute Trustees reserve the right to prequalify any bidder prior to the sale and/or waive the requirement of the Deposit. Immediately after the sale, the successful bidder shall execute and deliver a memorandum of sale with the Substitute Trustees, copies of which shall be available for inspection immediately prior to the sale, and shall deliver to the Substitute Trustees the Deposit and the memo-

randum of sale. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by the Purchaser. Settlement shall occur within thirty (30) days after the sale date, TIME BEING OF THE ESSENCE with regard to the Purchaser's obligation.

Settlement shall take place at the offices of Venable LLP, 8010 Towers Crescent Drive, Suite 300, Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182 or other mutually agreed location. Purchaser shall also pay all past due real estate taxes, rollback taxes, water rents, water permit renewal fees (if any) or other municipal liens, charges and assessments, together with penalties and interest due thereon. The Purchaser shall also pay all settlement fees, title examination charges, title charges and title insurance premiums, all recording costs (including the state grantor's tax and all state and county recordation fees, clerk's filing fees, congestion relief fees and transfer fees and taxes), auctioneer's fees and/or bid premiums, and reasonable attorneys' fees and disbursements incurred in the preparation of the deed of conveyance and other settlement documentation.

The Purchaser shall be required to sign an agreement at settlement waiving any cause of action Purchaser may have against the Substitute Trustees, and/or the Beneficiary for any condition with respect to the Property that may not be in compliance with any federal, state or local law, regulation or ruling including, without limitation, any law, regulation or ruling relating to environmental contamination or hazardous wastes. Such agreement shall also provide that if notwithstanding such agreement, a court of competent jurisdiction should permit such a claim to be made, such agreement shall serve as the overwhelming primary factor in any equitable apportionment of response costs or other liability. Nothing herein shall release, waive or preclude any claims the Purchaser may have against any person in possession or control of the Property.

If any Purchaser fails for any reason to complete settlement as provided above, the Deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs of the sale, including Trustees' fees, and the balance, if any, shall be delivered to the Beneficiary to be applied by the Beneficiary against the indebtedness secured by and other amounts due under the Deed of Trust in accordance with the Deed of Trust or applicable law or otherwise as the Beneficiary shall elect. There shall be no refunds. Such forfeiture shall not limit any rights or remedies of the Substitute Trustees or the Beneficiary with respect to any such default. If the Property is resold, such re-sale shall be at the risk and the cost of the defaulting bidder, and the defaulting bidder shall be liable for any deficiency between its bid and the successful bid at the re-sale as well as the costs of conducting such re-sale. Immediately upon conveyance by the Substitute Trustees of the Property, all duties, liabilities and obligations of the Substitute Trustees, if any, with respect to the Property so conveyed shall be extinguished, except as otherwise provided by applicable law.

/s/ Henry F. Brandenstein, Jr., Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Henry F. Brandenstein, Jr., Esq.
Venable LLP
8010 Towers Crescent Drive, Suite 300
Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182
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According to the Lease by and between Terrance Pinner (of unit 4147) and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: bags, clothes, shoes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday July 22, 2016 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

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Creating ‘Little Dresses for Africa’

Fairfax Academy’s Fashion Design class helps Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority provide dresses for African girls.

BY ALEXANDRA TECCO
THE CONNECTION

The Falls Church Chapter, Chi Beta Omega, of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority collaborated with the Fashion Careers class at Fairfax Academy for Communication and the Arts to exceed their chapter goal of dresses sewn for the nonprofit Little Dresses for Africa. Although this is one of the many AKA community projects, it is their first time collaborating with the Academy.

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority was “founded at Howard University in 1908. It’s the first sorority founded by, and for, women of color, to help and serve all mankind” said Lynn Perry, chapter president.

As a service sorority they work in the community and world through a variety of projects. The target areas their service focuses on include “Educational enrichment, health promotion, family strengthening, environmental ownership and global impact,” said Perry.

AKA chapters from across the nation will bring their chapter’s completed dresses to Atlanta for the national conference in July. Among the places in Africa the dresses will be packaged and shipped to are Southern Africa, Zambia and Botswana, said chapter Vice President Teri Reaves. Chi Beta Omega’s goal was each of their 29 members sewing a dress, Perry explained. Their collaboration with the Fashion Design class has helped them to exceed that goal. Chi Beta Omega will contribute 50 dresses towards AKA’s national goal of 20,000.

The dresses themselves are a fairly simple pattern, said Jin-A Chang, the Fashion Careers teacher. The dresses are made from brightly colored pillowcases and ribbon. Even with no sewing experience it can probably be completed in three days, Chang said.

Consequently for the students, who spent the year developing their technical skills designing high fashion from concept through creation, the chance to create dresses from pillowcases made the “students happy, because the dresses were easy,” in comparison, said Jin-A.

Chi Beta Omega provided the class all the materials for the 20 dresses. Thirty-five students in the Fashion 1 and 2 classes worked on the dresses, which they completed in 5 days.

“I was so impressed with the students’ excitement and their commitment to the project. I really felt that they felt a sense of accomplishment,” said Reaves.

To thank the students Reaves visited them with a cake expressing Chi Beta Omega’s gratitude in pink frosting. Reaves talked to the students about the AKA and the sorority’s dedication to service. She spoke



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN BLOOM

To thank the Fashion Careers students at Fairfax Academy for the Arts, Teri Reaves, the Vice President of the Falls Church Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority visited with a “Thank You” cake. Students Kylie Heo, Carmaine Esguerra, Enkrina Burulova, Fashion Careers Instructor Jin-A Chang, Hana Mahle, and Kriti Bhagat surround Fashion Careers instructor Jin-A Chang and Vice President of the Chi Beta Omega chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Teri Reaves. The base school of all these students is Fairfax High School.



PHOTO BY ALEXANDRA TECCO/THE CONNECTION
Vice President of the Chi Beta Omega chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Teri Reaves creating lapel decorations that will be used during the AKA national conference in July.



PHOTO BY ALEXANDRA TECCO/THE CONNECTION

On the final sewing circle day sisters from the Falls Church Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha work in an assembly line to meet their chapter goal of 50 dresses for the nonprofit “Little Dresses for Africa.” Rosey Clervil, Lynn Pery the chapter President, T’Nora Davis, Rachel Johnson, Teri Reaves the chapter Vice President, Jazmen Jackson, Krystil Smith and Patricia Johnson.

about the girls in Africa that would ultimately receive the dresses. “They may never know the impact, the effect on those little girls,” Reaves said, “how the simple dresses the students made will help the girls ... boost their self-confidence... show that they can be somebody.”

Reaves hopes that this is the start of Chi

Beta Omega’s relationship with Fairfax Academy for Communication and the Arts. The diversity of skills and talent the school has would be useful in many of the upcoming projects, Reaves said. “Many of our service projects are public... we want the community involved,” Reaves said.

The base schools represented by the 35

students who worked on the dresses include a variety of high schools: Fairfax, Oakton, Robinson in Fairfax, Woodson in Fairfax and Centerville, Chantilly, Falls Church, Herndon, James Madison in Vienna, Marshall in Falls Church, McLean, South Lakes in Reston and high schools in Springfield and Chantilly.