



Springfield

CONNECTION

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The Row to Río

NEWS, PAGE 8

School Performance, Meals Tax Discussed with Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber

NEWS, PAGE 3

Local Authors Create a Space In Burke to Sell, Sign Their Books

NEWS, PAGE 4

Olympic Rower and West Springfield graduate Matt Miller and his wife Taylor, also a rower, hang out by the Olympic Rings in Río. Matt competed in men's four rowing at the Olympic Games in Río.

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There were around a dozen each of food vendors and sponsor booths, and about 100 crafters at the 2016 Burke Centre Festival.



From left, Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), Burke Centre Conservancy executive director Patrick Gloyd, Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), Burke Centre Conservancy Board of Trustees president Anita Musser and U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) at the opening of the 2016 Burke Centre Festival.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Welcoming Fall at Burke Centre Festival

Temperature dips
between massive
two-day event.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

With more than just a few degrees Fahrenheit separating Sept. 10 and 11, the two days of the annual Burke Centre Festival, the massive community event once again signaled the end of summer and beginning of fall in more ways than one.

"It always seems to kick off fall," said former Burke resident Jim Miller, who was demonstrating traditional Okinawan Karate from a Burke Centre Conservancy class.

"I like the community aspect of it — so many different cultures enjoying them-

selves," Miller said.

Miller's booth was just one of more than a dozen outreach booths at the festival, that included local politicians, churches and temples, and Fairfax County government and services.

There were also around a dozen each of food vendors and sponsor booths, and about 100 crafters.

Nancy Ruano of Burke said she likes that families have a chance to "see police officers and firefighters as a more friendly aspect" at their vendor booths.

The Burke Veterans of Foreign Wars, local Boy Scouts troop members and politicians supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) and Rep. Gerry Connolly participated in a patriotic opening ceremony for the festival, which fell on the weekend of September 11.

The festival was organized by the Burke Centre Conservancy. For more information, visit www.burkecentreweb.com or call 703-978-2928.



Kate Karpynska of Fairfax (right) and Sunrise Face Painting paints the face of Ainsley Coffee of Burke at the Burke Centre Festival.



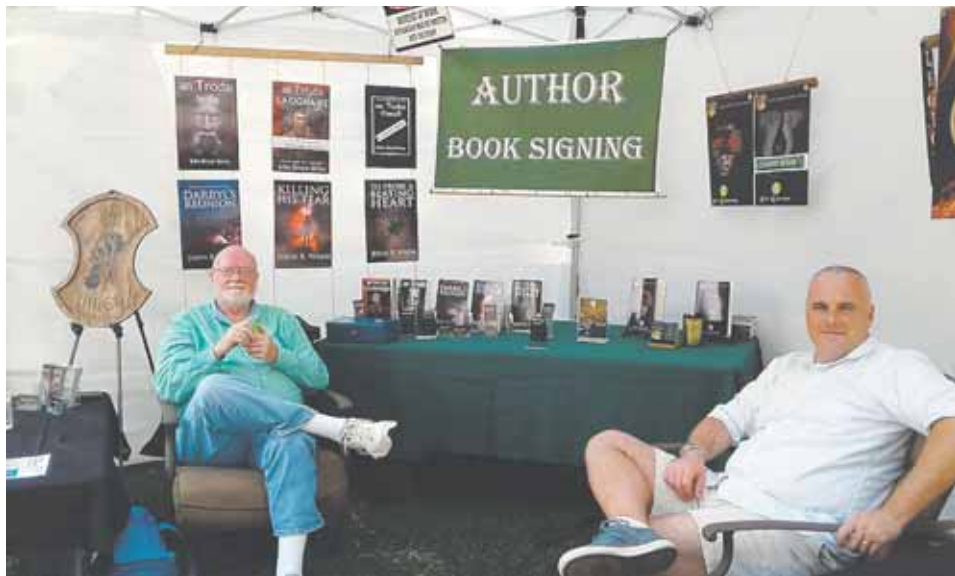
Paolo Mascola of Burke climbs to the top of the artificial rock wall sponsored by the Burke Racquet & Swim Club at the Burke Centre Festival.



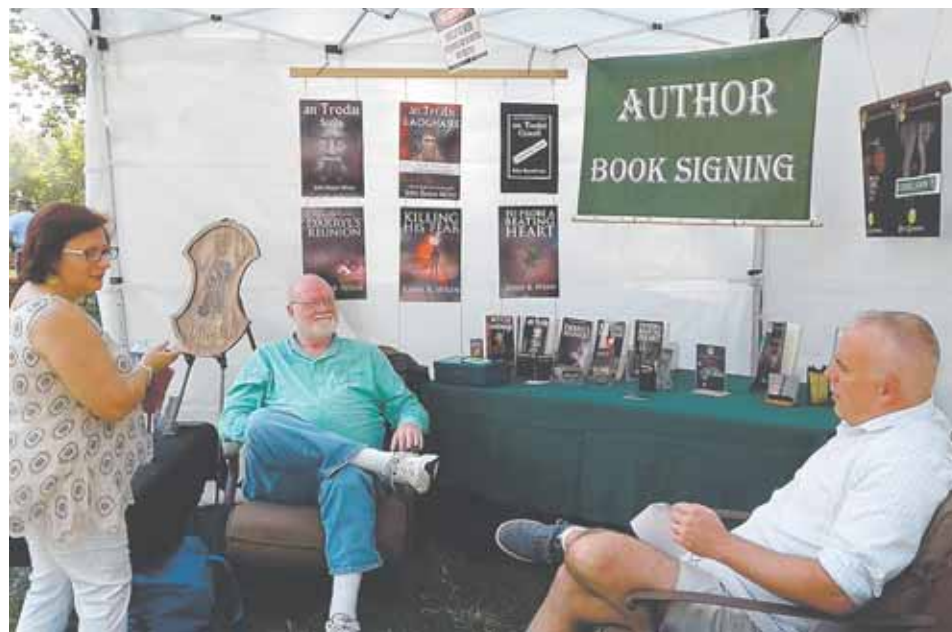
(Left) Anna Kormis of Springfield serves up samples of bread from Burke-based Great Harvest Bread Company to Burke residents Victoria (center) and Nancy Ruano (right) at the Burke Centre Festival.



Fairfax-based children's band Rocknoceros perform Sunday on the main stage at the Burke Centre Festival.



Fairfax County novelists John B. Wren, 72, of Fairfax and Eric Gardner, 40, of Springfield man their booth Sept. 10 at the annual Burke Centre Festival, where they sold and signed copies of their books to visitors.



PHOTOS BY MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Burke jeweler and tour guide Olya Yampolsky visits Fairfax County novelists John B. Wren and Eric Gardner Sept. 10 in their booth at the annual Burke Centre Festival.

Local Authors Create a Space in Burke to Sell, Sign Their Books

Eric Gardner of Springfield and John B. Wren of Fairfax set up booth at Burke Centre Festival.

BY MARTI MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Springfield author Eric Gardner has learned writing his book is easy. So is getting it published.

Selling it is the hard part.

He wrote a 500-page novel called “God’s Will” in 2008. It was printed through an independent publisher that didn’t give its author a publicity machine with a whirlwind book tour across the country.

Gardner, 40, promoted his first opus online at Wattpad, which he calls the literary version of music-sharing website Napster — an online service that revolutionized the way songs were sold after it met resistance more than 15 years ago from the music industry over copyright issues.

Through Wattpad, Gardner said he garnered 1.7 million reads in 15 months since the release of “God’s Will.” Because the action of his novel takes place around the world, he has captured an audience from Canada, Ghana, Australia and China.

The retired U.S. Army captain started writing in 2006, when his wife, Gretchen — also an Army officer — was deployed to Afghanistan for 15 months.

“I needed something to do at night,” Gardner said. “One page turned into two, two into three,” he added. It was a cathartic activity for the veteran-turned-stay-at-home-dad of two young daughters.

His contemporary fiction was re-released last month as a series of novels about good versus evil through a different publisher he found online through Amazon.

GARDNER sold “Defiance” — a 177-page paperback that sells for \$8.99 online at www.amazon.com and \$2.99 in the Kindle e-book edition — from a booth he rented with a fellow author John B. Wren, 72, of Fairfax on Sept. 10 and 11 at the Burke Centre Festival.

He also promoted his next book, “Awakening,” due out Oct. 15 for the same price. It is followed by “Sacrifice” Nov. 15 and “Gathering” next spring.

“I literally have 780,000 words written for this series and it’s still going,” Gardner claims. Each of his “XIII Legion Series Books,” he says, contains about 50,000 words.

Although his target market is men aged 18-34 years, Gardner was surprised to learn his true readership is middle-aged women.

He credits four strong female characters in his novels: two protagonists and two antagonists. As the father of two daughters, Gardner wants his fiction to contain solid female role models.

His books are “about mankind’s role in heaven and hell.” The stories, he admits, are somewhat macabre and terrifying.

It’s no surprise this highly-decorated infantry officer who has jumped out of planes found literary inspiration while serving his country in Afghanistan in 2005 and ‘06. Prior to that, Gardner said he was sent to West Africa for the ousting of Liberian warlord, President Charles Taylor, who was found guilty by an international tribunal years later for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Gardner says his characters persevere through the constant beat down of life. His main character, Gabriel, is asked to raise an army for God and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with angels to stop the fall of heaven.

“And gets the snot beaten out of him on every page,” Gardner points out “but he keeps going and going.”

“This is unapologetically honest,” in which Gardner describes his characters as really gritty and easily relatable to everyone who struggles with the question “why am I here.”

Wren and Gardner have known each other five years through the Northern Vir-



Suzanne Harrison of Burke gets her new copy of “Defiance” by Eric Gardner signed by the author of the “XIII Legion Series Books” Saturday at the Burke Centre Festival. John B. Wren of Fairfax - in background - signs a copy of his book to another festival-goer.

ginia Writer’s Club, which meets at area libraries the last Saturday of each month.

WREN, a semi-retired mechanical engineer, has published four books since 2011, when he penned a contemporary psychological thriller about a serial killer in “To Probe a Beating Heart.”

Sept. 16 marks the release of “an Trodai Laoghaire” at Amazon.com. It is the second in a trilogy of historic tales set in Ireland between 893 and 1042. This 110-page novella is available in paperback for \$12.95 and \$3.95 on Kindle.

Wren says his interest in Ireland stems

from his mother, who was born in a lighthouse in Ireland’s County Cork. The year 2014 marked the millennial anniversary of the Battle of Clontarf and inspired Wren’s trilogy about a family of medieval Irish warriors beginning with “an Trodai Scolai.”

The series, no doubt, required a “wee bit of research,” Gardner chimed. Wren says he takes pride in presenting an accurate account of historical fact while weaving his fictional characters in and out.

His next book, due out by November, is 300 pages long.

“You’re stepping up your game,” Gardner quipped about his peer’s upcoming book “an Trodai Conall,” which will sell for \$14.95 paperback and \$4.95 e-book.

Both Gardner and Wren get their books published through an online independent print-on-demand service called CreateSpace — a division of Amazon.com.

“I take care of all the editing and all the artwork,” Wren explains, before sending the manuscript.

Although they don’t enjoy the benefit of a publicity dream team, CreateSpace offers marketing advice for a fee and pays their authors as their books sell on Amazon and other retail outlets.

Gardner and Wren watch the profits trickle into their account.

The payoff hasn’t justified the hard work yet.

“We’re not gettin’ rich,” Wren admits. It’s the process of writing he truly enjoys.

Visit their websites johnbwren.com and www.Thirteenthlegionseries.com.

The Northern Virginia Writer’s Club meets Sept. 24 in the Kingstowne Public Library at 6500 Landsdowne Dr. in Alexandria, where guest speaker Dorothy Spruzen will discuss historical research for fiction writers between 1 and 3 p.m. Call (703) 339-4610 or visit www.northernvirginiawriters.org.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Burke Church to Host a Community Block Party

A community block party will be hosted by Burke Presbyterian Church on Sunday, Sept. 18, from 12:15 to 3 p.m. when it conducts a "Food Truck Ruckus: Make Some Noise About World Hunger." Both sweet and savory food trucks will be on the church grounds at the corner of Burke Centre Parkway and Oak Leather Drive for folks to purchase yummy treats of their choice. There also will be play tables for young children, as well as corn hole and other games for adults and children of all ages. Plus there will be a free photo booth to capture memories and the Delaney Hall Band will be playing your favorite tunes,

so stop by to sing along or just enjoy the jam of their unique blend of original music and faithful classic rock. Then plan to join in packing 10,000 meals for those in need overseas through Stop Hunger Now from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Those attending are asked to bring blankets or lawn chairs to sit on and a canned food item or dry goods item to help stock the food pantry for ECHO in Springfield to combat hunger in our neighborhood. Check out the church's Facebook page for the most current information about this event and mission opportunities to help the hungry in our world.

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History: Protests Required to Advance Justice

Local story: Protest, arrests, brutal treatment, torture of advocates for vote for women.

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In the United States, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights offer many protections of freedom and equality. But actually extending that protection and freedom to all has often required individual action and sacrifice, protest, demonstration and nonviolent civil disobedience.

That doesn't make every demonstration and every protest virtuous, but even when protest is not to our tastes, we should appreciate that we live in a country where the right to do so is protected.

Even something as basic as the right of women to vote only came about because of persistent, unpopular protests organized by a militant group, individual action, sacrifice and courage in the face of brutality and repression from existing authority.

The story of how women got the vote, that is to say how half the population of the United States escaped being disenfranchised, is a local story, and so appropriate to tell in the Connection.

EDITORIAL

Alice Paul, "one of the most notorious women in America, was the chairman of the National Woman's Party, a small and militant suffrage offshoot of the mainstream National American Woman Suffrage Association," wrote Catherine J. Lanctot, professor of law at Villanova, in "The Suffrage Pickets and Freedom of Speech During World War I."

In January 1917, Paul, Lucy Burns and other activists organized a relentless public protest outside the White House over President Woodrow Wilson's refusal to support the vote for women.

"By the fall of 1917, more than a hundred women had been arrested and imprisoned on charges of obstructing traffic and unlawful assembly, ostensibly because they attracted large and often hostile crowds to witness their demonstrations. ... Suffrage pickets found themselves at the center of increasingly violent confrontations with angry crowds and hostile law enforcement authorities. ...

"The judge assigned to their cases seemed perplexed by their stubbornness, patiently lecturing the women on world conditions, and explaining: 'We are at war, and you should not bother the President,' before sending them to

serve their sentence at the Occoquan Workhouse in Lorton, Virginia. This strategy backfired badly in mid-July, 1917, with a firestorm of controversy over the incarceration of several socially prominent women and the intervention of liberal lawyers who previously had been allied with Wilson. ...

"Wealthy women serving time in a workhouse brought extensive media attention." In fact, protest by women of privilege made a critical difference.

Conditions in the workhouse were brutal and filthy; women were beaten and tortured by force feeding during hunger strikes.

The 19th Amendment was ratified on Aug. 26, 1920: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

Edith Mayo, curator emeritus of political and women's history at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, put the history in context at a recent event: "I think one of the things we're trying to get across is one has to be vigilant about voting rights. The voter suppression of recent years has concerned a lot of Americans. It took such guts and determination for all these groups except for white men to get the right to vote that any slipping backward and trying to suppress the right to vote is a grave concern."

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Suicide Prevention: Everyone's Business

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Suicide Prevention Alliance of Northern Virginia (SPAN), I thank you for the Connection's compassionate and informative editorial printed in observance of Suicide Prevention Week, titled Take One Action to Prevent Suicide.

Suicidal thoughts can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or background; it is the third leading cause of death among young people in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as across the United States. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), there is one suicide in the U.S. every 13 minutes; nearly 40,000 people per year die by suicide in the U.S. In Fairfax County, an annual youth survey found that local youth in 10th and 12th grades are at significantly higher risk for depression and suicide ideation than their peers in other parts of the state.

Launched with grant funding from the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and in kind contributions from local governments, mental and behavioral health partners from across the region launched SPAN, serving as a new regional resource for information, events and activities relating to suicide awareness and prevention.

The goal of SPAN is to provide an array of resources and support to increase help-seeking, reduce stigma, and prevent suicide. Through sharing information and efforts with stakeholders across the region, creating opportunities to reach out and provide training, awareness campaigns, promoting health and wellness programs to prevent suicide, SPAN members hope to come together to make a meaningful difference.

Stigma around suicide is a major impediment and while we are making progress in building a firm foundation for suicide prevention, there's still so much more we need to do. Coming together around the concept of suicide prevention is easy but implementing regional efforts and collaboration is challenging. We need to remind our community that suicide preven-

tion is everyone's business every day.

Be involved. Be engaged. All of us can have a key role in saving lives. Please learn more about SPAN at <http://www.suicidepreventionnva.org/>.

Jane Woods

Chairman, SPAN Committee
Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board member

Election Concern: Hate Mongering

To the Editor:

I wanted to write to say how extraordinary the upcoming election is going to be. This is the first time in twenty years that I have been forced to do more than just vote. I am a conservative from Alabama that cast my first vote for Bob Dole and supported Bush through the 2000s. I broke ranks to vote for Obama because of McCain hawkishness, I was just out of the Marine Corps and had seen enough wars. I supported Romney in the following election, but was not distraught by Obama's reelection. Now is a different time.

My concern is not partisan disagreements, but the fundamental values of our country. I am conservative and not a Hillary fan, but I must admit that she is the safest and most conservative nominee. Even if it would mean a more conservative court and lower taxes for my family, it is not worth the risk of death, war, and economic collapse that a Trump candidacy would allow. My biggest concern is the hate mongering and race baiting. Being from Alabama, I have a masters in understanding race baiting and coded language. It is always a distraction for some failed policy or difficult problem. Trump is laying out a traditional argument that life would be better if these brown folks would go away. Rational people know that those people are taxpayers, employers, and citizens. I see arguments that Trump is a modern day Dixiecrat, but that is insulting to Dixiecrats, they were far more inclusive. This year is the know nothing party revival. I am frustrated that the Republicans have somehow found the one Republican that could possibly be more unliked than Hillary.

Bill Cahill
Springfield



SCHOOLS

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.

Alyssa M. Clark, Caitlyn M. Clark, and Amanda R. Harvey of Fairfax; **Steven D. Peterson, Richard D. Grant, and Emma L. Gray** of Fairfax Station; **Lauren L. Thomas** of Burke; **Sean K. Troutman** and **Michael R. Deets** of Springfield received scholarships on July 22 from the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation at the Truman Crawford Hall at the Marine Barracks Washington in Washington DC. The foundation awarded more than \$7 million in scholarship funding to a 2,300 Marine children for the 2015-16 academic year. Of those, 170-plus recipients are from Washington DC, Maryland or Virginia.

Local Fairfax High School Students Graduated From Inaugural AT&T-Girls Who Code Program in DC:

After seven intensive weeks, 19 talented high school girls – including sophomore **Caitlin Nguyen** of Fairfax County – from the DMV area will showcase their new computer skills by pitching the new apps and web designs they created during the first AT&T-Girls Who Code Summer Immersion Program in Washington, D.C.

Binghamton University has announced the Dean's List for the Spring 2016 semester.

Karen Lee of Fairfax, VA

Creighton University Dean's List for spring 2016 recognizes full-time students who earn a 3.5 grade-point average or better on a 4.0 scale.

Megan Hess of Fairfax, was named to the Spring 2016 dean's list.

Chantelle Dubois, a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii and Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadet, participated in Cadet Language and Cultural Immersion Training. It was the soldier's first-ever training deployment as a cadet.

Dubois is the daughter of Laura and David Dubois of Springfield, Virginia.

Zachary Jarrett, of Springfield and a West Springfield graduate of 2012, graduated in Spring 16 from Auburn University Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Science. He was accepted to the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine; Auburn Campus which he started July of 2016.

Jake Bannon, from Clifton, Va./Paul VI Catholic, is playing for Saint Michael's College Men's Soccer Team

James H. Lau '17, received the President's Award for Overall Academic Excellence. James is a biology major at Hampden-Sydney College. He is the son of Michael and Audrey Lau of Springfield, VA.



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—John Wooden



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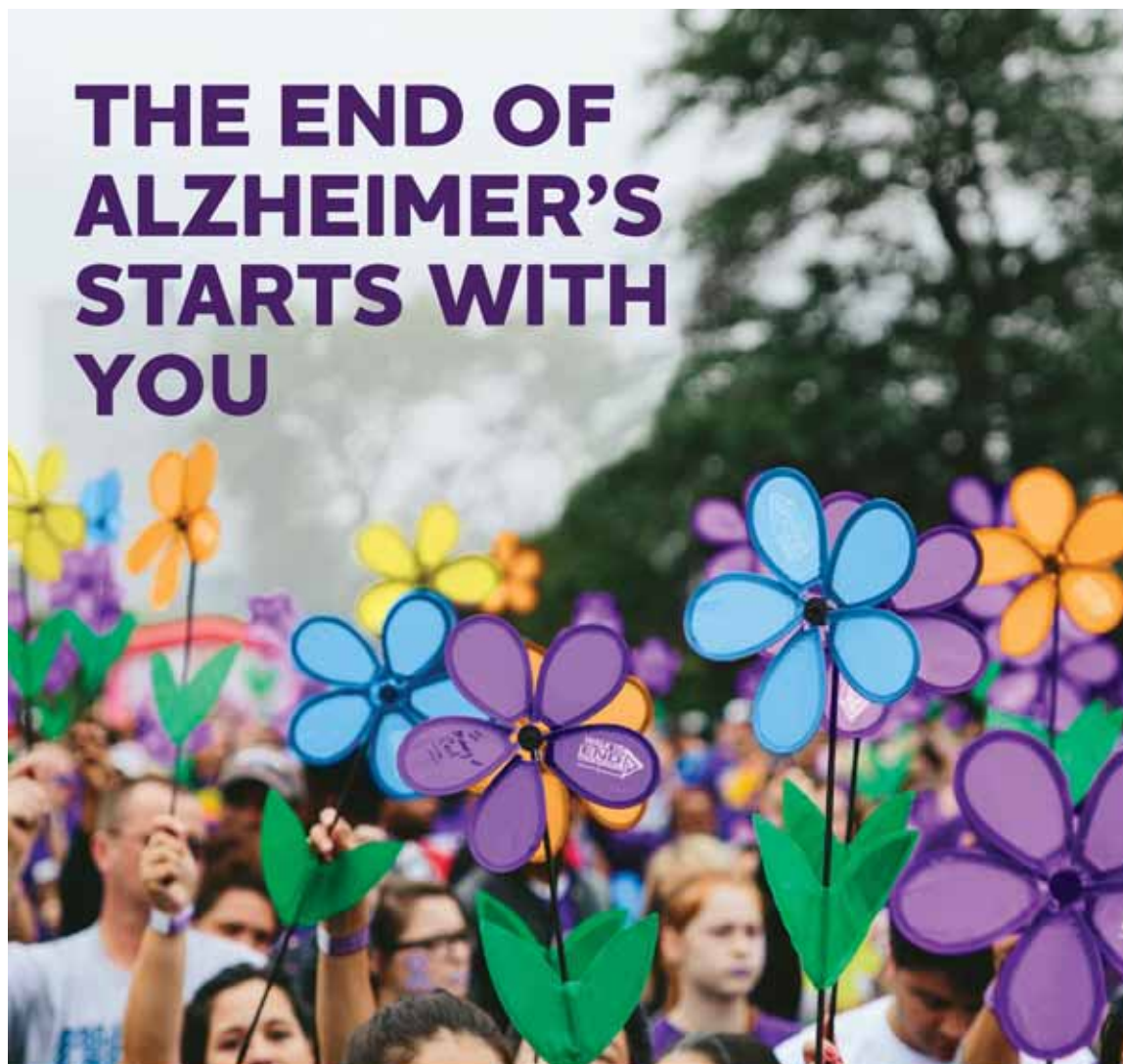
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF MATT MILLER

West Springfield graduate Matt Miller competed in men's four rowing at the Olympic Games in Río.

The Row to Río

2007 West Springfield grad competed in Olympic crew.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

As a freshman at West Springfield High School, Matt Miller passed the eye test for the rowing team. “He was a tall, skinny kid,” remembers former varsity coach and Springfield resident Rick Ferguson. “Tall is good for crew.”

Ferguson said Miller also “had a determination that a lot of kids don’t have. He was always very focused.”

Miller went on to row for four years as a Spartan, earning Washington Post “All-Met” honorable mention as a junior and full All-Met honors his senior year.

AFTER GRADUATING in 2007, he continued his rowing career with four years in a shell at the University of Virginia.

Miller had played a lot of sports growing up — baseball, soccer, basketball — and was even a wide receiver and tight end for West Springfield his junior and senior years.

But rowing, he said, he enjoyed because “racing is the purest form of competition.”

“It’s challenging,” Miller added. “You against the people next to you, just going to see who gets there first.”

After graduating from UVA in 2011, Miller wasn’t ready to let go of rowing, so he got involved with an elite sculling organization, the Potomac Boat Club, while working in energy trading as a day job in Washington, D.C.

“I wanted to see where this rowing thing could go,” said Miller, “how far it could take me.”

Training six to seven times a week, Miller was keen for the sport to take him pretty far. Around 2013, he was invited to train with the U.S. men’s national crew team at Princeton.

By the winter of 2014, he joined the team training center and moved to becoming a full time athlete.

Over the winter, training with the team in California, Miller said he was “losing con-

sistently, not doing well at all.”

But after a few months, his performance started to improve. In the spring, he said he started to believe the Olympics could be in his future.

Miller was later named to the men’s eight boat for summer World Championships in 2014 and 2015, in The Netherlands and France, respectively. He was getting closer.

In April 2016, he heard from the U.S. coaches he had been chosen to compete in Río with the men’s four-man boat. The official press release went out in June.

Miller’s team won gold at a World Cup event earlier in the season, giving them a lot of confidence going into the Olympic Games.

However after not finishing in the top three of the Olympic semi-final, that meant Miller’s boat would compete in the B-final and was eliminated from medal contention. They won that heat and finished seventh overall.

“It was a great experience,” Miller said, “we were just disappointed. We thought we had the speed to medal.”

BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL, Miller’s friend and coxswain Andrew Ferraro said he was not only a “very hard worker, putting in the extra effort,” but that he always knew how and when to have fun.

“As hard as he was working, he was always able to separate that,” said Ferraro, who now lives in Clifton. “He could be a little goofy at times too.”

Miller’s good training-life balance set him up for a quick transition following the games. Immediately after returning from the closing ceremony in Río, he reported to Charlottesville to begin classes at UVA’s Darden School of Business.

The Olympian’s parents still live in the same Springfield neighborhood where he grew up, which he said isn’t far from the parents of Ginny Thrasher, who took home the first gold medal of the 2016 games for air rifle.

Thrasher was also a West Springfield graduate, though from 2015.

“It was bound to happen somewhere in America,” Miller said of the coincidence. “Why not Springfield?”

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

Batting Cage Occoquan Regional Park

9751 Ox Road Lorton, VA 22079. Open through Oct. 30 Occoquan offers a baseball/softball batting cage, for hitters of all levels. Pitching machines offer other pitches like curveballs. Cost: 14 balls \$1.50 Team Rentals Per Cage: 30 min. \$18 60 min. \$34 <https://www.novaparks.com/parks/occoquan-regional-park/things-to-do/batting-cage>

Kayak Rental Occoquan Regional Park

9 - 6 p.m. daily through Sept. 30 This park offers hourly and daily kayak rentals for those interested in exploring the river. Kayaks are launched from shore and are available in one or two seat configurations.

Farmers Market & Food Trucks: 3-7 p.m. Thursdays through Oct. 27 at the Fairfax County Government Center front parking lot.

Rock the Block! 6:30 p.m. Every fourth Friday through Oct. 28. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. 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.

The Farmer’s Market at Springfield

Town Center. May 7- Nov. 19, 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.

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

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.

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.

FUN-Exercise. Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. moorefitt@yahoo.com or 703-499-6133.

EXERCISE PROGRAM Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 am year-round at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Rd. Fairfax, VA 22032. The exercises are for strength, balance and maintaining limberness. Contact SCFB office at 703-426-2824 for more information.

Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe). Wednesdays. 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (hello) Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na’ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. RSVP Naama.Gold@jccnv.org.

Smoke Free Bingo (with breaks for smoking friends). 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, \$1,000 jackpot. www.fairfaxvd.com. 703-273-3638.

Olly Olly Presents Lush Life Aug. 27 through Sept. 17 at Olly Olly located at 10417 Main Street, 2nd Floor in Fairfax, VA. Lush Life is an experiential hyper-color art exhibition that creates a world of luscious extravagance. Lush Life interrogates materialism, contrasts excessiveness with art-world sustainability, and connects the artistic fantasy to the mundanity of the artist’s day-to-day life and practice. Call 703-789-6144 for more information.

English Conversation Groups weekly at George Mason, Burke Centre, and Lorton Libraries Practice and improve your English. Day and start times vary. Visit: <https://va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp>

First Sunday Jazz Brunch

11 - 2 p.m. Recurring monthly on the 1st Sunday at **Bazin’s on Church** 111 Church St N.W., Vienna, VA 22180. Enjoy brunch accompanied by the soft jazz sounds of Virginia Music Adventure. Visit: <http://www.fxva.com/listing/bazins-on-church/1686/>

Stories From Strawberry Park

10 - 11 a.m. Tuesdays in **Mosaic - Strawberry Park** 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax, VA 22031. Enjoy a live interactive performance each week taught by a group of unique storytellers. For ages 10 and under. Held outside in Strawberry Park. In inclement weather and October through April, storytime will be held in Angelika Film Center. Recurring weekly on Tuesday. Visit: <http://www.fxva.com/listing/mosaic-district/2326/>

Singers wanted for the Celebration

Singers. A women’s show choir performing at various community sites in Northern Virginia. Do you love to sing? Make new friends? Bring joy to others through music? Come join us. Practice is held 10:30 am – 2:30 pm, starting again in September on Wednesdays in Burke. Contact: Barb Male, 703-250-5294, email barbmdale@yahoo.com or Gayle Parsons, 703-644-4485, email gparsons3@cox.net.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 14

The Springfield Christian Women’s

Connection will host a luncheon at Springfield Golf and Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road in Springfield 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. \$20 per person – all inclusive. Reservations are requested by Friday, Sept. 9, by calling 703-922-6438 or e-mail: SpringWmConn@yahoo.com. The Springfield Christian Women’s Connection invites everyone to luncheon program.

WANV Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Springfield Golf & Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, Va. 22152. The Women’s Association of Northern VA club cordially invite you to join us at Springfield Golf & Country Club for their first meeting of the year. Two authors will share info about the Franconia Museum and local history of our area. Deadline for reservations is September 9th and checks may be mailed to WANV P.O. Box 523651 Springfield, Va. 22152-5651. Cost: \$23. Contact Barbara Karcher at barbiekarcher@hotmail.com or call 703-451-5054.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 16

Mind in the Making: Kickoff 10 - 12:30 p.m. 2334 Gallows Road Dunn Loring, VA Entrance 1 - Room 100. At this introduction workshop you will learn the research behind the Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs. These evidence-based skills all involve what researchers call. “Executive Functions of the Brain.” Cost: Free. www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/prc/index.shtml or 703-204-3941.

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Vienna Smiles 7:30 - 5 p.m. 2553 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna, VA 22181. First come first serve. The Smiles Team, comprised of offices in Vienna, Fairfax, Arlington, and now, The Plains, VA. “This event is very important to us, as it’s one of our many ways of giving back to our wonderful community. 703-790-1953 rripps@mpaart.org

Golf Club Championship. 8 a.m. Burke Lake Golf Course, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Players compete in an 18-hole individual stroke tournament. Registration begins 2 weeks prior to event. Rain date: Sept. 24. Cost is \$35 and includes lunch. Roberta.Korzen@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fairfax City Regional Library Children’s

Book Sale 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. 10360 North Street, Fairfax, VA. Thousands of gently-read books and non book media organized into categories including picture books, early readers, nonfiction, holiday, chapter books and more. \$.25-.2.00. Some specials \$3 and \$4. Free parking. Email: friendsoffairfaxcitylibrary@gmail.com or call: 703-644- 4870

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-Mark Twain

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

According to the Lease by and between Joseph Strauss (of unit 1131) 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: dog beds, boxes, clothes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday September 23, 2016 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

According to the Lease by and between Barbara Franceschi (of unit 1069) 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: totes, bed, furniture, home decor, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday September 23, 2016 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
CafeSole, Inc trading as Cafe Sole, 7127A Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises and Mixed Beverages Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages, Son Ae An, President
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

21 Announcements

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LETTERS

Meals Tax: Vote 'No'

To the Editor:

I'm writing this letter to encourage the people of Springfield and Fairfax County to vote NO on the meals tax referendum on the Nov. 8 ballot. There are numerous reasons to vote NO, but first among them is that a meals tax is the most regressive form of taxation our government can impose. It taxes food without discrimination to your ability to enjoy a simple meal out with your family.

Second, Chairman Sharon Bulova of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors reasoned in her September "Bulova Byline" that a meals tax is "a source of revenue most towns and cities within or adjacent to us already have." What she did not mention is

that lower meal prices in Fairfax County is an attraction for people to spend their earnings in the County, thereby increasing the overall revenue base. Just because others are doing it does not make it right or proper. Finally, our citizens need to understand what politicians won't tell them: no business, including restaurants, pay taxes; they simply collect taxes from the consumers to pass to the government. Let's tackle this problem from the other direction by cutting wasteful services we no longer need or desire so more of us can enjoy more frequent nights out on the town.

Matt Rising
Springfield

Meals Tax: Vote 'Yes'

To the Editor:

I am writing to encourage a "Yes" vote on the Fairfax County Meals Tax. A few pennies on the dollar will:

- ❖ Retain the quality of our schools
- ❖ Support other services like parks, libraries, fire and police
- ❖ Relieve the burden on our property taxes
- ❖ Increase property values

We relocated to Fairfax County almost a decade ago. We used only two criteria to narrow down our home search in the region. The first was convenience to our jobs, and the second was the quality of the schools.

People buy houses in Fairfax County because of our great schools.

There's considerable research from various universities and NGOs documenting the fact that school quality has a significant

impact on property values. All of the neighboring counties in our region have a meals tax. Fairfax teachers are paid less, and Fairfax County Public Schools have larger class sizes than these other counties. If we fail to pass the tax, our schools are likely to lose most music, art, and sports programs, along with many AP classes.

My children's best teachers are leaving the county, and more are likely to do so, if we can't shore up our schools. There is extensive documentation of all of this information at YesMealsTax.org. I strongly urge your support of this critical initiative. Please visit the website to engage with the campaign as I have done. They welcome your questions, and need your donations and support.

Debra Louison-Lavoy
McLean

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.

The Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Rd., Burke, is offering day and evening English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes to serve members of the community who wish to improve their English skills. Class levels offered are based on enrollment needs. Fall 2016 registration takes place Sept. 7—8 and classes begin Sept. 20. For more information call the church office at 703-323-5400. Leave your name and contact information and someone will get back to you.

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 both traditional and contemporary worship services at 10:30 a.m. at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspRINGfield.org.

Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. and Cup of Fellowship at 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided from 9:45-11:15 a.m. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., Latin mass at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. Additional mass offered Monday-Friday at 6:30 a.m. (except on Federal holidays) and 8:45 a.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.poplce.org.

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Fall 2016 HomeLifeStyle



Interior designer Anne Walker used Willem Smith Quintana Swivel Chairs in Dreamer Apricot Leather to add a pop of color to a neutral palette.

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HomeLifeStyle Comfort Zone

Local furniture
maker combines
style and comfort

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

John W. Smith treks through a maze of sleek chairs and stately sofas in a large, sunlit showroom tucked in an industrial warehouse center in Fairfax. He pauses at dining chair, upholstered in beige linen and framed with espresso hardwood.

"Feel how smooth that is," he said, running his fingers along the wooden edge of the seat. "If you're at a sitting at the table for three, there's no sharp edge against the back of your calves."

Dubbed the "three-hour dinner party" chair, the Etesian is part of the Willem Smith Furnitureworks collection. Pieces ranging from the brown, leather San Luis, a streamlined version of a traditional wing chair, to the Francisco Metro Swivel, a petite recliner, to the Canapé sofa, fill the showroom.

"The comfort of the pieces sells them, but it doesn't look like big, over-stuffed furni-

ture," said interior designer Lowell Wade of Interior Motives in Alexandria.

Like many furniture makers, Smith strives to marry style and comfort. He's taken that commitment to a new level, however, creating and patenting his own seating mechanism to ensure comfort. Named piErgonom, it's a device that attaches the seat back to the seat cushion, preventing slippage and offering back support. Beauty and style matter to Smith, but in his liberal view of aesthetics, beauty springs from not only the physical appeal, but also the way a piece feels and functions.

"Comfort is the final element that determines whether the chair or sofa is a success," said Smith, a Great Falls father of four teenage daughters. "We sweat all of the details and are completely consumed by making all of our seating more comfortable."

Smith says that he is committed to minimizing his company's impact on the environment. His practices include using non-endangered hardwoods. All of the springs incorporated into the cushions of his seats are made from recycled steel. Most of the furniture and fabrics used are made in the United States. Buyers can choose from a range of textiles and finishes, including leathers and fabrics, which are displayed



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

John Smith of Willem Smith FurnitureWorks shows examples of leather used for the seating he creates. More photos online.

"Comfort is the final
element that determines
whether the chair or
sofa is a success."

— John Smith, Willem Smith
FurnitureWorks

in the showroom.

Born and raised on a farm in Ontario, Canada, Smith left a career in banking to

spend more time with his then-young family. He also itched to find creativity in his life. His pieces, which not only include seating, but also tables, cabinets and other wood works, are a blend of contemporary lines and classic styles.

Smith credits a talented team of what he calls "style leaders" with the aesthetics of his goods. "I have no illusions that I'm Yves St. Laurent and I wouldn't pretend to have an affinity for style," he said. "There is a difference between design and style. Design

SEE COMFORT ZONE, HOME PAGE 4

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Family Furniture

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

is the engineering, construction, materials and performance, and that's my focus."

Before hitting the market, for example, each piece undergoes a careful inspection by Smith and his business partner John "JB" Behrens.

"We know all of our pieces intimately," said Behrens. "The designs essentially come out of a collaborative process. We think about furniture logically and practically and we obsess over comfort."

"We focus a lot on scale and proportion and how that relates to a furniture buying decision," he continued. "When we have a chair, for example, John and I look at it together, think about what works, what doesn't, what things bother us, how can we figure out a solution to turn problems into positives."

A combination of versatility and comfort drew Potomac, Md.-based interior designer Anne Walker of Anne Walker Design to Willem Smith furniture during a recent home redesign. "All of their pieces are incredibly beautiful. They combine this very clever combination of Old World and classic style with innovation," said Walker. "The greatest strength is the comfort of their pieces. They take painstaking details. You

can tell the first time you sit on one of their products that they are extremely comfortable."

Smith's wife, Mary, helps with marketing and other tasks. "The clear differentiator for the furniture is the attention to comfort and functionality," she said. "There is a lot of furniture out there that may look good, but isn't functional. A lot of the public doesn't realize it. That's the fun of the marketing piece: educating others about this great solution for people. Like before there was Starbucks people didn't realize they were drinking bad coffee all the time."

This attention to detail attracts clients ranging from furniture-seeking homeowners to interior designers on a mission to create a showplace.

"Their furniture has a bespoke quality and an incomparable level of comfort," said Joseph Van Goethem of Joseph Van Goethem Interior Design in McLean. "I believe Willem Smith is the epitome of authenticity and timelessness." Even better, he added, "when I first took a client to Willem Smith, there was no smothering my client, no sales pitch. When your furniture is that good, there's no need to sell it."

They may not hover, but they are there to help. One woman shopper first visited



PHOTO BY DEB STEVENS/THE CONNECTION

Interior designer Anne Walker used Willem Smith Quintana Swivel Chairs in Dreamer Apricot Leather to add a pop of color to a neutral palette.

the Willem Smith showroom earlier this year after renovating her kitchen. She chose a dining table, dining chairs and bar stools to complete the space. "JB and John ... helped me pick style, scale, color and design that enhanced my space and really pulled it together beautifully. I invested sig-

nificantly into the renovation and I really wanted the space to come together, flow, and serve as a welcoming, bright and calm social space."

Locally, Peet's Coffee & Tea selected Willem Smith's Rio Java chair for the lounge area of its coffee shops.



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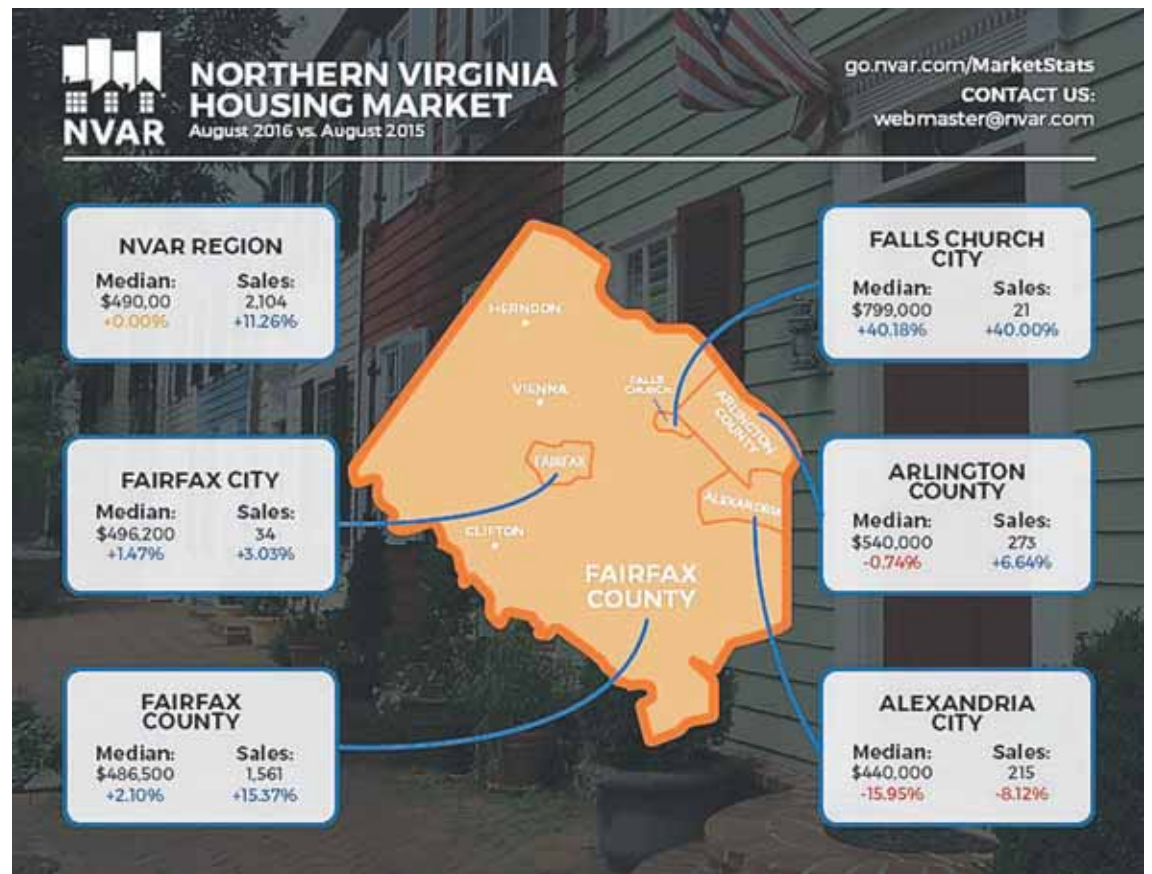


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