



Fairfax Station CONNECTION Clifton & Lorton

Clifton Primitive Baptist Church Re-Opens on Clifton Day

NEWS, PAGE 12

Community members wait for the Virginia Railway Express to pass out of Clifton on Oct. 9 in order to cross into the Clifton Day festival.

The Trump Question? Asked and Answered

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1880 Farmhouse Adored With Floral Preserves

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HomeLifeStyle

PAGE 8



OUR CONGRESSWOMAN

BARBARA COMSTOCK



A Plan to Protect Seniors



Barbara's parents live with her at her home in McLean.

The Washington Post
Bipartisan Doc-fix passes the House
3/26/15

*"As your Congresswoman, I
am standing up for seniors.
I will continue to vote to
replace ObamaCare, restore
Medicare, and protect
Social Security."*

Barbara Comstock

Barbara Comstock will stand up for seniors and protect Medicare.

- › Passed a bipartisan bill to strengthen Medicare so seniors are able to keep their trusted doctors.
- › Passed an amendment that stopped a planned increase in Medicare Part B premiums.
- › Voted for a bill to ensure the Social Security Administration protects seniors from identity theft.
- › Co-Sponsored the 21st Centuries Cures Act – which provides funding to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for research to find cures for Alzheimer's disease, cancer and diabetes.
- › Passed the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, which provides assistance to states and area agencies on aging and model programs.

ELECTION DAY
VOTE NOVEMBER 8TH

ABSENTEE VOTING INFORMATION:
BarbaraComstockForCongress.com/absentee

WWW.BARBARACOMSTOCKFORCONGRESS.COM PHONE: 703.731.4466 • EMAIL: INFO@BARBARACOMSTOCKFORCONGRESS.COM

Paid for by Comstock for Congress

The Trump Question? Asked and Answered

Comstock and Bennett trade jabs during first debate in heated race for 10th Congressional seat.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

At the first of two 10th Congressional District debates last Thursday, Democratic challenger LuAnn Bennett was not shy about hanging the Trump albatross around the neck of freshman Republican Congresswoman Barbara Comstock.

"Barbara Comstock stands for Donald Trump," Bennett said in her opening statement. "Trump's extreme agenda would cripple our economy, jeopardize our security, punish women for making their own health care decisions and, worst of all, the Trump agenda deeply divides our country."

Comstock never mentioned Trump's name during the hour-long debate, continuing her efforts throughout the campaign to avoid any firm statements about the controversial GOP nominee. She is seeking re-election in a seat which has long been in Republican hands, but in a district won by Barack Obama in each of the last two presidential elections.

As of Thursday morning's debate, Comstock had neither endorsed Trump nor publicly repudiated him, saying only that the Republican nominee would have to "earn" her vote.

"She's dancing on the head of a pin," Bennett said immediately following Thursday's debate.

LESS THAN 48 HOURS LATER, Comstock's equivocation came to an end, after a 2005 tape surfaced in which Trump is heard making lewd comments, in explicit language, bragging about his unwanted advances on other women. "When you're a star, they let you do it. You can do anything," Trump said on the tape obtained by The Washington Post.

Bennett was the first of the candidates to respond, stating "Trump's actions are vile and disgusting." She again tied Comstock to the GOP presidential nominee, saying (Comstock) "has stayed silent through Trump's insulting of immigrant families, military families and women."

That silence did not last long. Comstock issued a statement late Friday night, condemning Trump's remarks, announcing that she would not vote for Trump, and calling for Trump to step aside as her party's nominee.

"This is disgusting, vile and disqualifying," Comstock said in the statement. "In light of these comments, Donald Trump should step aside....I cannot in good conscience vote for



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) addresses media and supporters after the first debate between Comstock and Democratic challenger, LuAnn Bennett. The debate was hosted by the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, Oct. 6.

Donald Trump and I would never vote for Hillary Clinton."

Comstock apologized for being "late" with her statement, noting that she was attending her son's rehearsal dinner when the latest Trump story broke.

Neither candidate could have predicted the latest (and ongoing) drama surrounding Donald Trump during their first 10th Congressional Debate, hosted by the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce. The debate focused mainly on business and economic issues.

The candidates took questions on everything from clean energy and immigration reform to the federal minimum wage and union regulations.

Her voice raspy from back-to-back campaign events, Comstock appeared self-assured and comfortable speaking in front of the pro-business crowd of about 200 people. "You know me," Comstock said to the audience, who loudly applauded the incumbent several times during the one-hour debate. "You know I will fight for you," Comstock said.

Despite some loud jeers and laughter from the audience during Bennett's comments on the Affordable Health Care Act, the political newcomer remained composed and confident throughout the debate.

BENNETT OFTEN SPOKE directly to the audience, reminding the crowd of business leaders that she, too, understood the chal-

lenges and complexities of building a successful small business. She spoke about moving to Great Falls with her husband and starting a small real estate business 35 years ago, then running that company as a single mother after her first husband died of leukemia in 1994.

of work and children.

"I want to take my experience as a small business owner and get Congress working again and help build an economy that works for everyone," she said. "Barbara Comstock went to Congress and fit right in with a dysfunctional and obstructionist government."

During an exchange about how to improve Metro's safety and service, Bennett attacked Comstock's record, sharply criticizing the incumbent for voting against Gov. Bob McDonnell's landmark transportation bill while Comstock was in the Virginia House of Delegates. The bill included millions in funding for the Metro's Silver Line extension to Loudoun County.

Comstock shot back: "I am the only one on the stage working closely with Metro to restore safety." She defended the work of the GOP-controlled House of Representatives; she said she was successful protecting Northern Virginia's interests with the House leadership, and had persuaded Republicans to restore \$75 million in funding that had been cut from the Metrorail system.



U.S. House of Representatives 10th District candidate LuAnn Bennett (D) speaks to reporters after the first debate between Bennett and U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock, the Republican incumbent. The debate was hosted by the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, Oct. 6.

As the only Republican in Northern Virginia's congressional delegation, Comstock said she was the only person in the race "that will actually be in the majority, and will serve as a chairman" of a congressional subcommittee.

Bennett shot back that "She's part of a majority that can't pass a budget."

While Bennett repeatedly tried to yoke Comstock to Trump and his controversial statements and policies, Comstock took aim at Bennett's top-of-the-ticket nominee, saying Bennett supported "the trillion dollar tax plan that Hillary Clinton would put forward" a plan that will "kill the small businesses."

AFTER THE DEBATE, Comstock told reporters that she thought Bennett's attempts to tie her to Trump were "sad."

"It's sad she is focusing on this...I am focusing on being the best Congresswoman for this district."

Virginia's 10th Congressional District, which stretches from the wealthy McLean suburbs to the exurbs of Winchester, is thought to "lean slightly" Republican.

The second and final faceoff between the two candidates will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 19 in Tysons at the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce offices. The Chamber says that debate "will cover several issues at the intersection of federal policy and business."

1880 Farmhouse Adored with Floral Preserves

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

The Hampshires have preserved 25 acres of their land at 6925 Newman Road in Fairfax for the last 24 years.

They first established the Hantslot Local Agricultural and Forestal District on Jan. 23, 1984 for an initial eight-year term and have renewed their application in 1992, 2000 and 2008.

"Your property has many natural resource features and outstanding forest resources making it a valuable addition to the Agriculture and Forestal program in Fairfax County," according to James McGlone, urban forest conservationist with the Virginia Department of Forestry.

The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the request at a hearing on Wednesday, Oct. 5; the Board of Supervisors is scheduled to hold a hearing on Oct. 18 at 3:30 to make its decision.

Fairfax County offers reduced real estate tax assessments in exchange for a commitment to preserve "significant tracts of agricultural and forested land a commitment to preserve the land for the length of the term."

"Since 1955, when we purchased their property, we have invested considerable time and money to improve and maintain the pastures and forested land for our enjoyment, as well as for the traveling pub-

lic. We mow the fields to give them a park-like appearance and this also serves to control the growth of weeds. We maintain the board fences, painting them along Newman Road so they contribute to a distinguished rural atmosphere in Fairfax County," according to the Hampshires.

A SEVEN-ROOM FARMHOUSE built in the 1880 still exists and a newer house was built for family members in 1995. Approximately 12 acres of the property are in agricultural use as pasture and flower gardens, 10 acres remains forested or undeveloped and three acres houses the two residence on the site.

The property is located in Clifton between Colchester Road and Newman Road.

"The presence of upland forest, pasture and floodplain on the property suggests" considerable wildlife diversity. Deer and coyote are reported on the property, according to the Virginia Department of Forestry.

Approximately 8.5 acres of the property is in pasture for a two-horse operation and a patch of land is dedicated to growing flowers. According to the Hampshires, "an average yield of \$3,000 worth of cut flowers have been grown on and sold from the property. In addition, the fields are produced pasture for horses."

About 10 acres of riparian and upland areas are

SEE FARMHOUSE, PAGE 15

Lockard Named Interim Superintendent



COURTESY OF FCPS

Lockard

Dr. Steven Lockard will take over for Dr. Karen Garza as Fairfax County Schools superintendent for the interim period while the School Board searches for her replacement.

The school system announced the decision Oct. 6, just over two weeks after Garza's announcement on Sept. 19 that she would resign.

Garza said she will take the role of president and chief executive officer of Columbus, Ohio-based Battelle for Kids, a not-for-profit education organization.

Her resignation will take effect by Dec. 19 this year, she said.

Lockard has worked as deputy superintendent for FCPS since August 2014. In that role, he's been the supervisor of the chief academic officer, region assistant superintendents, school support executive director, hearings office and the student activities and athletic programs.

"Steve Lockard is a skilled, collaborative administrator who understands how our school district works," FCPS School Board chair Sandy Evans said in a statement. "He is a champion for students and ensures that student achievement is at the forefront of everything we do."

Prior to working for FCPS, Lockard was deputy superintendent of Frederick County Public Schools in Maryland. He's also worked in education as a teacher, assistant principal, principal and director.

"We have a number of challenging issues facing us in the next few months," Evans said, "and the board is confident that his leadership will enable us to make a seamless transition."

— TIM PETERSON

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2. not appreciated or understood.
3. no longer owned or known



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AREA ROUNDUPS

FACETS to Host 'A Taste of Fall'

FACETS is hosting its 17th Annual A Taste of Fall with FACETS—Carnival of Cultures, an evening filled with food, games, entertainment, and a live and silent auction, to raise funds to help families and individuals in Fairfax County who are suffering the effects of poverty including homelessness. Attendees can sample food and drink from a variety of Fairfax-area restaurants, wineries and breweries including: Amphora, Kona Grill, The Auld Shebeen, Coyote Grille, Caribbean Corner – Fairfax, Dickey's Barbecue Pit - Merrifield, California Pizza Kitchen, TGI Fridays, Paradise Springs Winery and more.

The event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 5, starting at 7 p.m., program starts at 8:30 p.m. at Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax.

A Taste of Fall helps support FACETS' life changing services. FACETS works throughout Fairfax County to help impoverished men, women, and children succeed by offering services, such as basic needs and financial assistance, counseling and outreach, educational enrichment programs, and housing.

HOW

Tickets are \$50 and include tastings of all food and beverages, including wine, beer,

sodas and a fall inspired signature drink. Register online at www.FacetsCares.org or at the door or call 703-352-3268.

Suspect Charged in Deadly I-66 Hit-and-Run

Khoa Do Dang Nguyen, 23, of Centreville has been charged with one felony count of hit-and-run for a crash that killed a Manassas woman on Interstate 66, early in the morning on Oct. 8.

Virginia State Police reported officers responded to the crash at 2:20 a.m. at the 56-mile marker of I-66 in Fairfax. The woman, driving a black Toyota Solara convertible, had pulled onto the shoulder of the westbound lanes.

She was walking along the side of the car to get something from the trunk, VSP said, when she was struck by a passing vehicle that then fled the scene.

The female passenger in the Solara wasn't hurt in the crash. The victim, Yesenia Esmeralda Funes, 37, of Manassas, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Nguyen turned himself in to police on Monday, Oct. 10 and was taken to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

—TIM PETERSON

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OPINION

Vote No on Ballot Question One

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

Since 1947 the Code of Virginia has provided that any agreement or combination between an employer and a labor union or labor organization whereby (i) nonmembers of the union or organization can be denied employment, (ii) membership in the union or organization is made a condition of employment or continuation of employment by the employer, or (iii) the union or organization acquires an employment monopoly in any such enterprise is against public policy and illegal. On the ballot on Election Day, Nov. 8, is constitutional amendment question one that would put this provision of law into the constitution. There are 26 states including Virginia that have such a provision in their constitution or in their laws. Why would Virginia need to have these provisions in its constitution as well in the Code?

The answer is a political one. The conservative Tea Party members of the legislature are seeking one more opportunity to demonstrate to their base just how anti-labor union they are. While they term this amendment "right to



COMMENTARY

work," its effect on workers is anything but a right. It gives employers more opportunity to deny workers access to a union or professional organization like a teacher's or firefighter's association. It allows some workers to gain the benefits of the work of the union or organization without contributing to it as the members do.

Virginia already has the 43rd lowest rate of unionization among workers in the 50 states at 5.4 percent. The number of unionized workers has been declining over recent decades. While professional associations for doctors, lawyers, CPA's, and chambers of commerce and other groups have been given almost free rein in how they organize, this amendment is aimed to curtail activities and growth among persons who belong to teacher, firefighter, police, and factory worker unions and associations. Current law and the proposed amendment are not uniform in the way different labor organiza-

tions are treated, and I believe these differences contribute to the widening gap in the labor force in pay and benefits.

Amendments to the Virginia Constitution are proposed in the General Assembly where they must pass with a majority of members voting for them. Once passed, they must be considered by a subsequent session of the General Assembly after there has been an election for members. There were no convincing arguments put forth during the debate as to why the amendment was necessary. Everyone watching the process recognized it for the political purposes it served. I voted against this amendment both times it was before the legislature. I plan to vote against it on Election Day on November 8, and I hope you will join me.

A second proposed amendment to the constitution will also be on the ballot. It would authorize the General Assembly to enact a law that would allow localities to exempt from real property taxation the real property of the surviving spouse of any law-enforcement officer, firefighter, search and rescue personnel, or emergency services personnel who is killed in the line of duty. I support this amendment and hope that you will vote for it as well.



PHOTOS BY TOM MANNING/THE CONNECTION

First Lady Michelle Obama waves to the crowd at the Johnson Center, George Mason University on Friday, Sept. 16.



Victoria David's political adventures began on Sept. 15 when First Lady Michelle Obama came to campus to campaign for Hillary Clinton – for the first time.

American Elections: French Perspective

BY VICTORIA DAVID

I am a French student who chose to come to study close to Washington DC for what I thought would be one of the most interesting elections in the history of Uncle Sam's country.

I was wrong. 'Interesting' is way too soft a term to describe what I've been witnessing so far.

My political adventures began on September 15 when First Lady Michelle Obama came to campus to campaign for Hillary Clinton – for the first time. After standing in line for three and a half hours, I was finally able to have a glimpse of "Michelle." It was short but intense. An incredible fervor surrounded the event. French politi-

cians often only gather a little enthusiasm, but she – along with the other speakers – was welcomed as a real star. And that was only the beginning of my political experience in the US.

The political activity progressively grew on campus. First, "register to vote" people gradually multiplied around campus. Trying to stop every single student that comes across them, they are running a race against the clock, trying to register as many people as possible before October 17. As I noticed most people ignored them, I realized the extent of the problem here in the U.S. The American political system is plagued with low turnouts and we are now facing an election where getting

people to go to the polls could make a huge difference. France is also confronted with abstention but automatic voter registration helps us increase turnouts.

I also have the opportunity to continuously take part in the political life of the university. After attending an engaging Democrat meeting, I was able to watch the first Presidential debate with other students before analyzing the first two debates in class. All of this helps me with familiarizing the issues and it allows me to hear student views and opinions. They all seem to be trying to make sense of this election, without much success.

From my European standpoint, I am not really surprised. In the

past few years, a number of European elections have clearly pointed at a rejection of the "system" and at a growth of extremism. It is not only happening in the US. But it is precisely because it is taking place here that it seems so important and frightening for us Europeans. French media are obsessed with US elections, while here the French Presidential campaign that is about to start is of little interest, even though we have our female version of Donald Trump, Marine Le Pen.

Victoria David is a French exchange student at George Mason University. She is also an intern with The Connection Newspapers.

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LETTERS

Leadership for Today's World

To the Editor:

As a retired U.S. Army Colonel who spent two-thirds of a 30-year career serving in Europe, I am deeply concerned about the state of world affairs. Having served through the end of the Cold War, I've come to know that American strength is the greatest force for good in the history of mankind. I have learned that an inadequately supported military cannot well execute the myriad of missions that the USA faces in the Post-Cold War and Post 9/11 World.

We need leaders in Congress who are committed to maintaining American strength both at home and abroad. That is why I am proud to support Barbara Comstock for Congress. Barbara has been a steadfast advocate for our men and women serving in uniform. She well understands the need for a strong national defense and has arduously worked to enhance our military and its capabilities.

LuAnn Bennett, on the other hand, openly admits she wants to cut defense spending. With ISIS on the rise, Russia returning to its Cold

War intrigues, North Korea testing nuclear weapons, and the growth of radical extremism here at home, how could anyone think now is the time to lower our defenses?

I know Barbara Comstock is committed to preserving our world class military and to defending our citizens and national interests. She will continue to work tirelessly for our men and women in uniform, just as she does on other issues important to the 10th Congressional District – like human trafficking, opioid abuse, and transportation.

James Mault

Colonel, US Army (Retired)
10th District Resident

Energy and Passion

To the Editor:

No one likes filing their taxes, but thanks to Congresswoman Barbara Comstock and 152 of her colleagues in Congress on both sides of the aisle, things might get a little easier for us: the hardworking taxpayers. Barbara Comstock is an original co-sponsor of the Free File Act of 2016. If this legislation is signed into law, millions of eligible Americans will

have access to a free and simple e-filing system that saves both time and money.

The Free File Act of 2016 makes complying with the burdensome tax system a lot easier. This legislation provides a free e-file system that more than 70 percent of taxpayers can use to file their taxes. It also ensures that all taxpayers, regardless of income, have easy downloadable tax forms to use when filing their taxes. Additionally, the legislation protects low income families from predatory lenders offering refund anticipation loans. And finally, the legislation makes sure that low income taxpayers have access to free tax filing software.

This is another example of Congresswoman Comstock's tireless effort to make a real impact. While some elected officials are worried about headlines and big splashes, Comstock is working on the issues that affect our everyday lives – and she doesn't worry about getting credit.

She represents District 10 with enormous energy and with a passion to use government to our benefit.

Mary D. Sullivan
Fairfax Station

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To make kitchen dining more inviting to guests, seats at the counter are slightly lower than standard height. Owner Dave Mulligan calls this a great spot to sample his holiday dishes. The design solution by Sun Design Remodeling will be open to the public November 5, from noon to 4 p.m.



PHOTOS BY BRYAN BURRIS

The original circa 1980s kitchen was classified as a “traditional” design, but the 30-inch cooktop range, small food prep island and limited cabinet storage were among many features the owners found restrictive.

Oak Hill Remodeled Home Tour Set for Nov. 5

Gourmet kitchen, spa master bath among spotlight features in makeover.

BY JOHN BYRD

A circa 1980's center hall Colonial enhanced by a gourmet kitchen, a spacious spa bath and a lower-level guest suite will be featured in a “Remodeled Home Tour” sponsored by Sun Design Remodeling on Saturday, Nov. 5.

The house at 3295 Willow Glen Drive in Oak Hill is owned by David and Nancy Mulligan. The residence will open to the public from 12-4 p.m.

Purchased by the Mulligans in the early 1990s, the original four bedroom production house included a 500-sq-foot kitchen and breakfast room, a large family room, and a 1,500-square-foot lower level. Despite qualms with the “builder grade” interior finishes and space-use problems, the couple occupied the house for nearly 20 years before deciding a makeover of several targeted rooms would better accommodate personal interests.

The project's scope partly reflects the couple's different priorities.

Nancy Mulligan's first goal was a large spa bath adjacent to the master bedroom. To this end, Sun Design Remodeling — the firm that had executed a whole house remodel for Mulligan's brother several years ago — was summoned to explore ideas.

“As we talked about the new master bath,” Dave Mulligan said, “I realized that Nancy and I had many plans for improving the house that we'd just been putting off.”

In the days that followed, Nancy Mulligan — collaborating with Sun Design's interior design team — completely renovated the master bathroom, then the guest bath, then



A glass enclosed walk-in shower accessible from two sides is tucked under a skylight.

added a full bath to the lower level.

For Dave Mulligan, a passionate amateur chef, the remodeling proposal didn't become personally engaging until conversation shifted to the kitchen.

“I saw that our kitchen was stuck in the 1980s,” Mulligan said. “It just wasn't a place where guests can gather in the same way they do in the living room or dining room.”

With its U-shaped counter surfaces, 30-inch cooktop range, limited storage and dim lighting, the existing kitchen was — in Dave Mulligan's words — “backstage” — a cockpit where the cook toiled away out of view.

As if to stress the point, one leg of the counter top sequestered the cook's zone from the breakfast table and family room.

“I understood how an open plan is supposed to function,” Dave Mulligan said. “But it's the details that make it work, and that's where design expertise really counts”

To this, Sun Design founder Craig Duroske added: “The kitchen's work zones were pretty well rationalized. The real is-

sue was: how well does the space satisfy the Mulligan's — functionally and aesthetically.”

To create a more fluid relationship between the kitchen and the front to the house, Duroske and team relocated an obtrusive hall closet, widening an archway so that the revised space would be in view from the front foyer.

Sight lines being critical, ceiling-flush HVAC bulkheads were re-routed to make way for tall cabinets trimmed in crown molding.

Other finish work details — Cherrywood cabinet facings, stainless steel appliances, textured marble back splashes — converge to present a textured, yet visually neutral surface.

All of which introduced the option for a still more differentiating effect: a custom-designed coffered ceiling.

“The ceiling is one of the best features,” Dave Mulligan said. “The process of creating it was fascinating.”

On the other hand, there's much to be said for the custom-designed food preparation island and dining counter.

With its 6' x 6' x 8' triangular surface, the configuration perfectly supports food preparation and clean-up tasks while accommodating place settings for three.

To make the island still more inviting, seats at the counter are slightly lower than standard height, a psychological invitation to join the party reinforced by the soft-leather chairs.

“As I see it, you're dining at the chef's table now,” Dave Mulligan said. “A great spot to sample dishes, sip wine ... and enjoy.”

On the more practical side, the new kitchen is equipped with two microwave ovens, two refrigerators, a convection steam oven and a 48-inch gas range with six burners. With the addition of a walk-in pantry, storage capacity has been increased by 50 percent.

Upstairs, the spacious master bathroom is also a distinct departure from tradition.

A glass enclosed walk-in shower accessible from two sides is tucked under a skylight.

Equidistant between custom-designed “his” and “her” vanities, the space is light-filled; tailored to personal convenience, yet useful.

Meanwhile, a Victorian-era tub with bronze feet snugly occupies a bay window that boasts garden views.

A pair of custom-designed linen closets flanking a granite-topped cadenza is both practical and a stand-out interior design element.

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors tours of recently remodeled homes as well as workshops on home remodeling topics. Headquartered in Burke, the firm recently opened a second office in McLean. For more information, call 703-425-5588 or visit www.SunDesignInc.com.

John Byrd (byrdmatx@gmail.com or www.HomeFrontsNews.com) has been writing about home improvement for 30 years.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTOS BY GEOFFREY HODGDON/WENTWORTH, INC.

Adding built-in shelves, like these by Wentworth, Inc., can transform an entertainment space in time for the holidays.

Home Improvements for the Holidays

Local contractors say there is time to spruce up your house and yard

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Changing temperatures and falling leaves are a signal the holidays are near. From Thanksgiving through the New Year, homes are filled with guests and schedules are stacked with parties. Getting one's home guest ready by the holidays may be daunting, but it's doable with proper planning and realistic expectations, say local contractors.

Now is the time to begin projects that don't require elaborate planning, building permits or products on back order. "A window and door replacement project could be completed before the holidays if you started the process right away," said Michael Winn, president of Winn Design + Build.

Fall is a perfect time to begin projects that depend on outdoor elements, he noted. "The weather in the fall is generally ideal so it can be a great time to take on those exterior projects," said Winn. "Be ready, be decisive and start now. The fall is a great time to undertake exterior improvements such as new siding, trim, roofing, painting and landscaping."

He added that he recently "renovated a front porch, [adding] new windows, new trim and exterior painting. A fresh coat of paint can do wonders and satiate your remodeling urges until after the holidays when you have the time to tackle something a bit more ambitious."

While there probably isn't time to complete an extensive kitchen

remodeling project, Winn says that smaller projects like adding new countertops, updating plumbing, changing electrical fixtures, painting and refinishing wood floors can be completed before the onslaught of holiday entertaining and breathe new life into a tired bathroom or kitchen.

"A bathroom may be a candidate if it's a 'pull-and-replace' [meaning that] the layout remains the same and the materials you select are stock or have a quick lead time," said Winn. "If you're not already well into the design process, your kitchen or renovation is probably best postponed until after the holidays."

Still, minor cosmetic improvements can give the illusion of a major change. "We recently designed and built a new entryway with built-ins for a client that creates a welcoming first impression for guests as well as needed storage for the owners," said Bruce Wentworth, president of Wentworth, Inc.

A pragmatic approach to a project is an important factor in increasing the likelihood that it will be ready in time for holiday entertaining. "If homeowners start early and have a realistic scope of work, it could be done," said Wentworth. "Quality work is important with home improvements and fast is not always part of that formula."

Architect Kai Tong of Hopkins and Porter Inc. in Potomac, Md., recently finished a project that he says offers a strategy and timeline

SEE HOMELIFESTYLE, PAGE 11

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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

The Pumpkin Patch will be open October 2 through 31, Sunday through Friday, from noon until 7 pm daily, and Saturdays from 10 am until 7 pm. Located at St. George's United Methodist Church, 4910 Ox Road, near George Mason University at the crossroads of Rt 123 and Braddock Road and across from the University Mall. A large variety of pumpkins and decorative gourds of all shapes and sizes will be for sale. www.pumpkinsusa.com

Batting Cage Occoquan Regional Park 9751 Ox Road Lorton. 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>

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 through Sept. 30 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. 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

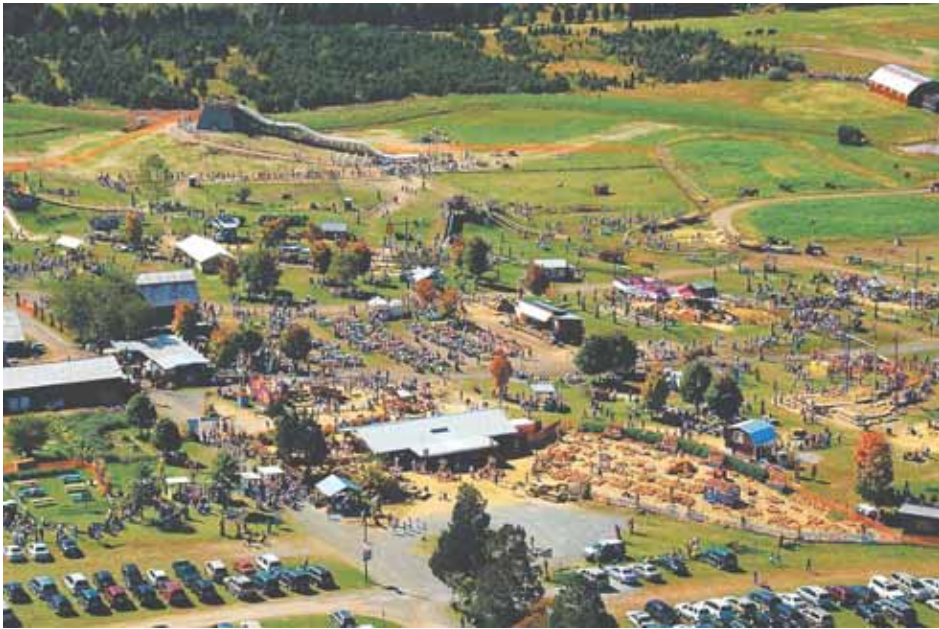


PHOTO COURTESY OF COX FARMS

This ariel view of Cox Farms captures the scene at the Fall Pumpkin Madness Festival. This year's events will begin Saturday Nov. 5 at 10 a.m. at 15621 Braddock Road, Centreville. www.coxfarms.com/fallfestival.aspx.

Plan Ahead Events

SATURDAY/OCT. 29

Clifton Haunted Trail 7 - 10 p.m. in the historic town of Clifton. Admission: Ages 13+ \$15 Ages 12 and under \$10. www.cliftonhauntedtrail.com/

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 2

Chronology of the Civil War in Fairfax County, Part I (1859-part of 1863). Preservationist and former Topographer, Ed Wenzel, will discuss his recent book at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Doors open at 7 p.m. Forum begins at 7:30. Copies of Wenzel's book will be available for purchase and signing. The Forum is free and open to the public. www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR. 703-425-9225.

SATURDAY/NOV. 5-6

Cox Farms Pumpkin Madness. 10 - 5 p.m. Cox Farms, 15621 Braddock Road, Centreville. Come out and smash, throw, and launch those old pumpkins. Bring back your used Jack-o'-lantern...We'll help you recycle it. Last admission 4 p.m. Visit: <http://www.coxfarms.com/fallfestival.aspx>.

TUESDAY/NOV. 8, 2018

Election Day. General election. Visit www.sbe.virginia.gov/ and www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm

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.fairfaxva.com. 703-273-3638.

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. 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. 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 barbmdmale@yahoo.com or Gayle Parsons, 703-644-4485, email gparsons3@cox.net.

SATURDAY/OCT. 15

Protecting Our Seniors 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Antioch Baptist Church 6525B Little Ox Rd. Fairfax Station. The Antioch Baptist Church Elderly Care Conference will address trends in elder abuse and exploitation. The Keynote speaker is Michele Leith, NOVA Community Outreach

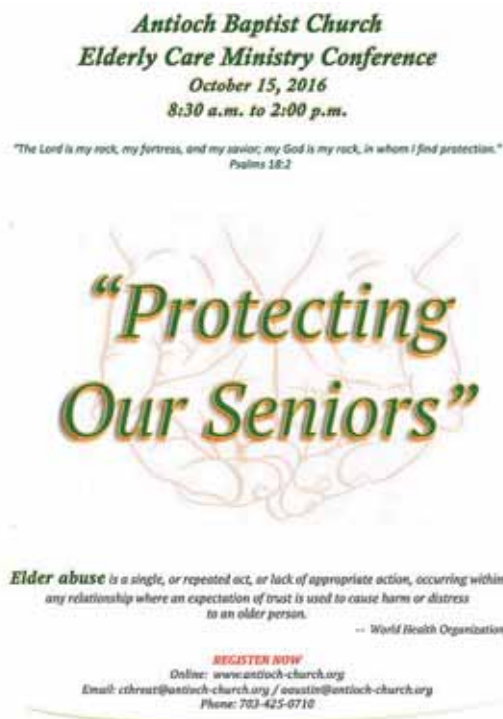


PHOTO COURTESY OF COX FARMS

On Saturday Oct. 15 The Antioch Baptist Church will host an Elderly Care Conference to address trends in elder abuse and exploitation. The Keynote speaker is Michele Leith of NOVA Community Outreach. The conference begins at 8:30 a.m. and lasts until 2 p.m. at Antioch Baptist Church located at 6525B Little Ox Rd. Fairfax Station.

Coordinator, Offices of the Attorney General. Cost: Free. Contact: Adrienne Austin 703-425-0710 aaustin@antioch-church.org. Or visit www.antioch-church.org. Registration is required. Visit the website to register for the event.

Pumpkin Preparedness Race 8 a.m. Vienna Volunteer Fire Department 400 Center St S, Vienna. Inaugural 5k road race to support first responders across Northern Virginia. Brand new course across quiet Vienna streets. All proceeds benefit the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System. Register at www.preparedness5k.com

10th Annual K-9 Krawl 5k 8:30 a.m. Fairfax County Government Center - 12011 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax. Please join us as we celebrate the 10th K-9 Krawl race. The event will include music, face painting, pet portraits, and free giveaways. The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department will be bringing their ladder truck and our K9 Unit will conduct a demonstration. There will

also be an opportunity to adopt available dogs brought by the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

Salt Fall Conference 9 - 11:30 a.m. Virginia International University 4401 Village Drive, Conference Room (VD-102), Fairfax. Social Action Linking Together will sponsor the Fall Advocacy Training Conference. Mark Shriver, President of Save the Children Action Network, will be the keynote speaker. Mark is the son of the late Sargent Shriver and Eunice Kennedy Shriver. He is the author of A Good Man, an inspirational and deeply personal story about a son discovering the authentic meaning of his father's legacy. Admission: Free Contact John Horejsi at jhorejsi@cox.net www.S-A-L-T.org

Pumpkin Festival 10 - 5 p.m. at St. George's United Methodist Church, 4910 Ox Road, near George Mason University at the crossroads of Rt 123 and Braddock Road and across from the University Mall. bounce-house, face painting, music, bake sale, hot dogs/drinks, photos and much more. Bounce-house, face painting, music, bake sale, food/drinks, photos and much more. Cost: Free. This project and others like it creates approximately 25 full time jobs and 550 seasonal jobs for Native Americans. www.pumpkinsusa.com

Halstead Square Festival 11 - 4 p.m. Halstead Square Dunn Loring Metro 2750 Gallows Road Vienna. Celebrate Northern Virginia's culinary and visual arts when Halstead Square Dunn Loring Metro hosts its first Food, Wine & Art Festival to benefit the Workhouse Arts Center. Cost: Free. www.halsteadsquare.com

Art Guild of Clifton Benefit Recital 3 p.m. at the Clifton Presbyterian Church 12748 Richards Ln., Clifton. Helen Rusnak, mezzo soprano and Anne Kempself, lyric soprano, will be performing works from classical to Broadway. Following the performance there will be a reception as well as an art exhibit, "Clifton Retrospective". As we are raising funds to continue our scholarship program, we are asking for a suggested donation of \$20. www.artguildofclifton.org

The McLean Orchestra "Hero's" 46th season Opening Concert 8 p.m. The Falls Church Episcopal 115 E Fairfax St Falls Church. The concert will include three works: by Giacomo Rossini, John Adams and Ludwig van Beethoven. The McLean Orchestra is led by Maestra Miriam Burns, beginning her fifth season as Conductor. www.McLean-Orchestra.Org

SUNDAY/OCT. 16

3rd Annual DMV Run For The Warriors Packet Pickup 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. Opening Ceremony begins at 7:30 a.m. Race begins 8 a.m. 7315 Ox Rd, Fairfax Station. The event features a 10k, 5K, and 1-Mile Walk/Run, all adaptive equipment friendly. The event features a 10k, 5K, and 1-Mile Walk/Run, all adaptive equipment friendly. All proceeds benefit Hope For The Warriors. General Registration will be \$35, and same day General Registration will be \$40. Student pricing is the same with a \$5 discount. For Veterans or those on Active Duty registration is \$25 for any race distance. Wounded Service Members and Gold Star Families all register for free. Please email runinfo@hopeforthewarriors.org for your discount code. Children under 10 register for free online. Registration at packet pick-up. Same day registration will be \$10. We ask that all participants not park at Shelter B, as this area is used for the race. <http://support.hopeforthewarriors.org/>

Home Improvements for the Holidays

FROM PAGE 9

that, if started now, would easily result in having an entertainment space by the holidays. His client wanted space for his television and sound equipment, so Tong designed a custom built-in unit for media and display.

"The design was intended to be the visual anchor of the new entertainment space, and to be harmonious with an existing lighted cove ceiling, adjacent columns and other architectural features in the room. The medium-stained cherry wood furthered that harmony," said Tong.

A millwork shop completed the design within six weeks. During that time, audiovisual specialists wired the space while the Hopkins and Porter team completed other renovation work, including preparing the wallpaper and removing existing wall sconces.

Tong said that overall, there was "very minimal on-site disruption." Securing a contractor to begin a

Smaller projects like those in this Vienna bathroom by Winn Design + Build include updating plumbing, changing electrical fixtures and painting, and can be completed before the arrival of holiday guests.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WINN DESIGN + BUILD

project could be a stumbling block, but not one that is insurmountable. "Most of the better contractors are in-demand and have production backlogs of two to six months," said Winn. "If your project is small and your timing is flexible, you may be able to

squeeze [it] into their schedule. Many contractors have 'gaps' in-between their projects, while they're waiting for a permit to be issued or if they finished a project ahead of schedule. They may be able to accommodate your project if the timing is right."

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR 2016
Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

OCTOBER	
10/12/2016.....	HomeLifeStyle
10/19/2016.....	A+ Camps & Schools
10/26/2016.....	Connection Families
10/26/2016	Election Preview
<i>Halloween is October 31</i>	
NOVEMBER	
11/2/2016.....	Wellbeing
11/9/2016.....	HomeLifeStyle
11/16/2016.....	A+ Camps & Schools
11/16/2016.....	Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide I
11/23/2016.....	Connection Families: Celebrations & Gratitude
<i>Thanksgiving is November 24</i>	
11/30/2016.....	Holiday Gift Ideas
DECEMBER	
12/7/2016.....	Wellbeing; Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide II
12/14/2016.....	HomeLifeStyle; Home for the Holidays
12/21/2016.....	A+ Camps & Schools; Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide III
12/21/2016.....	Connection Families: Safe for the Holidays

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Community members wait for the Virginia Railway Express to pass out of Clifton on Oct. 9 in order to cross into the Clifton Day festival.



From left, U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10), Clifton firefighter George Samartino, retired firefighter Karrie Boswell of Ashburn and supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) at Clifton Day on Oct. 9.

Clifton Primitive Baptist Church Re-Opens on Clifton Day

Oldest African American church in Fairfax County had been closed a decade.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Chuck Rusnak of Clifton stood in the middle of the Clifton Primitive Baptist Church, on all-original wooden floors laid in 1871 for an All-African American Church built on land donated by an emancipated slave.

On Clifton Day, an annual special event for hundreds of crafters and vendors to share their wares with thousands of visitors to historic Clifton, Rusnak and the other church trustees opened the doors of the religious building for the first time in at least a decade.

"We wanted the public to see this, a real treasure," Rusnak said. The church not only gave African Americans a place to worship during segregation, but also educate their children.

All the flooring, walls and pews are original, Rusnak said. It is the oldest African-American church in Fairfax County.

"You can feel the spirit in here," he said. "This is where they saw their first freedom."

Rusnak said some maintenance has already been done to the building, including adding electricity, but more structural work is needed.

Ideally, he said, it will become another community space for Clifton to host meetings, weddings and other events.

But they're also looking to learn more about the church and its history. Rusnak encourages anyone with information or stories about the church to reach out via the Clifton Primitive Baptist Church Facebook page.



Ethan Schwartz of Burke (right) gets a kiss from Kaylee the bulldog at Clifton Day on Oct. 9. Kaylee is a rescue with the Frederick, Maryland-based non-profit On the Rebound Bulldog Rescue.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/
THE CONNECTION



Charlene Gross of Clifton tells visitors to Clifton Day about the Daughters of the American Revolution organization being a community service outfit as well as an opportunity to research your family's roots. Gross traced her own family history back to Revolutionary War soldier Capps Dempsey.



Chuck Rusnak of Clifton is now a trustee of the Clifton Primitive Baptist Church, built in 1871 and just reopened for Clifton Day for the first time in a decade.



Boris Populoh of Clifton pours beer in front of the General Store on Clifton Day. Populoh is originally from Bad Lippspringe, Germany.



From left, Jake Werthmann, Thomas Mikolashek and Nathaniel Burk are Boy Scouts with Clifton-based Troop 1104.

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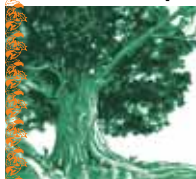
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Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac
Zone 6: The Arlington Connection
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

According to the Lease by and between Jadrien Wallace (of unit 1074) 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: bag, totes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday October 21, 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 October 21, 2016 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Puncetyme II inc trading as Squisito Pizza & Pasta, 8971 Ox Rd, Ste 245, Lorton, Fairfax County, VA 22079. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer On Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages, Christopher Rodney, Owner
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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-Elizabeth Barret Browning

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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SEALED BID SALE SALE OF REAL ESTATE 2828 and 2830 GALLOWES ROAD FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in the office of the Property Management Agent located at 1401 E. Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, until, but no later than, 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, November 1, 2016 for the following property:

The vacant commercial lot located at 2828 and 2830 Gallows Road, also known as Tax Map Numbers 049-2-01-0026B and 049-2-01-0020B in the county of Fairfax, Virginia containing 0.772 acre.

The value placed on this parcel is \$3,096,000.00.

Employees of VDOT, their immediate families or any person employed with the valuation and/or acquisition of this property are ineligible to bid. The property is being sold "as is" with conveyance by deed without warranty. For further information and proposals, contact VDOT at the above address or call Lee Strathy at (804) 786-3172.

NEWS



Boy Scouts Clean Up Silverbrook Road

Boy Scout Troop 688, sponsored by Christ United Methodist Church in Fairfax Station, conducted its bi-annual Silverbrook Road Clean-up Saturday, Oct. 8 in a light rain. There were 29 Boy Scouts and adults picking up trash and debris along the route from Hooes Road to Rt. 123 on Silverbrook Road. The Troop performs this community service twice a year to support their neighborhoods. For more information contact Sandy Latta slatta@fourthwave.com or 703-485-6801.



BULLETIN BOARD

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

ONGOING

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

The **Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to **drive older adults** to medical appointments and wellness

programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Shepherd's Center of Western Fairfax needs volunteer drivers for medical/foodbank appointments. Shepherd's Center serves 50+ residents in Clifton and western Fairfax/Fairfax Station, helping them remain independent and age in place at home. Office help also is needed for coordinating drive requests. More info is at www.scwfc.org or 703-266-3548 or scwfc.office@gmail.com.

Farmhouse

FROM PAGE 4

kept undeveloped as wildlife refuge and an unnamed, perennial creek and .5 acre in-line pond exists in the wooded area.

The family has owned the property since 1955. The property is located in the county's Chesapeake Bay Preservation area; it is lo-

cated within Popes Head Creek watershed area, which flows to the Occoquan River, and is situated entirely within the county's water supply protection overlay district, according to Planning documents.

The 1880 house is listed part of "Hantslot Farm" on the Fairfax Inventory of Historic Sites for the Springfield District.



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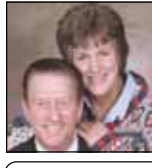
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