



# Springfield CONNECTION

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## HomeLifeStyle

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**Dr. Jennifer Bowles Viergutz of Springfield (left) owns Burke Forest Veterinary Clinic, where Elizabeth Exline of Burke (right) has worked for nine years. Exline changed careers to work at the clinic and recently completed a veterinary certification program to become a licensed technician.**

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## ‘A Pedestal Technician’

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**Veterinary tech switched careers to heal and pursue her passion.**

**P**art way through her career, Elizabeth Exline of Burke decided she needed to change her life completely.

She had attended art school and was working in a restaurant, being trained for management, when her beloved dog died.

After talking with Exline for hours, a long-time friend suggested she come help out at the Burke Forest Veterinary Clinic in Springfield.

Exline had interned at age 19 with Dr. Gary Schrader of Suburban Animal Hospital in Arlington before he retired, so she had some experience.

“I came for lunch,” Exline said of her first visit to the Springfield clinic, “and never left.”

She left the restaurant industry in 2007 and began working at Burke Forest in a role comparable to a physician’s assistant in a doctor’s office. “I had a panic attack, and then I just did it,” Exline said.

From an early age, she loved animals and envisioned herself in the veterinary industry. But school, opportunities in food service and other distractions drew Exline away from that path.

“Souls need to be fed,” Exline said, “and mine just wasn’t. I would’ve had an OK life, but that’s not why I’m put here. I want to have a great life, not mediocrity.”

Over the next several years, she became the practice manager: balancing personnel, patient schedules and everything going on in the office.

Dr. Jennifer Bowles Viergutz of Springfield took over Burke Forest, the first change in ownership in 30 years.

Dr. Bowles Viergutz called Exline “awesome” and “a Jack of all trades.”



**Dr. Jennifer Bowles Viergutz of Springfield (left) owns Burke Forest Veterinary Clinic, where Elizabeth Exline of Burke (right) has worked for nine years. Exline changed careers to work at the clinic and recently completed a veterinary certification program to become a licensed technician.**

“She knows all the clients by name,” Dr. Bowles Viergutz said, “she knows where everything is and how to work everything. She’s built trust and relationships, and she’s compassionate.”

**TO EXPAND HER ROLE** at the clinic, Exline enrolled in a Veterinary Certification program through Penn Foster College. She was able to take courses gradually while still working full-time.

When she completed the coursework, along with externships, after three years, Exline was named the Distance Education Accrediting Commission’s 2016 Outstanding Graduate of the Year.

Dr. Jim Hurrell is director of the Veteri-

nary Academy for Penn Foster and was a mentor to Exline.

“She’s a pedestal technician for our program,” he said. “Her hunger, integrity, hard work ethic make her an ideal tech to put in front of all our students. She really is the entire package.”

Dr. Hurrell said they’re seeing a lot of thirtysomethings, like Exline, coming into their program. They’re people who have maybe switched or re-started careers, worked in a vet’s office for several years and now want credentials and degrees to complement their functional knowledge.

What also impressed Dr. Hurrell about Exline was not only her technical skill set, but her soft, people skills, valuable for deal-

ing with owners of pets.

“She has the character for being loving and compassionate with the animals and the clients,” he said. “Dogs and cats never come into the hospital all by themselves with a credit card in their mouths. If I were still in clinical practice, she is exactly the kind of person I would look for to be a tech.”

Exline said she would like to specialize more in dentistry for pets.

Even just extracting a few teeth from a cat, she said, may not only dramatically improve the appearance of the animal, but also alter its personality.

“A cat can be super, super mean,” she said, “and then clients walk away saying, ‘I have a nice cat now.’”

**WITH THE NEW OWNERSHIP** and her new license giving Exline more opportunities to help more clients in more ways, she feels like she’s found the absolute right fit in her life. Things have come full circle.

“I knew I was supposed to end up here,” she said, adding that she derives great satisfaction from every day at the office. “Now I feel that in every aspect of my role.”

“So many people have to chase the dollar, and it is a tough economy out there that’s not getting easier,” Dr. Hurrell said. “But for the long haul, I would say, I really think people ought to chase those career dreams that bring joy into their lives. Sometimes that’s better than a paycheck.”

American Veterinary Foundation’s National Veterinary Technician Week is Oct. 16-22. Elizabeth Exline is being highlighted in two national veterinary journals out this month.

Burke Forest Veterinary Clinic is located at 6214 Rolling Road in Springfield. More information is available at [www.burkeforestvet.com](http://www.burkeforestvet.com).

## ‘Mediterranea’ at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church

**The Third annual Immigration Film Fest, Oct. 21-23, puts faces on immigrants and tells the stories of global immigration.**

**A**ccotink Unitarian Universalist Church Friday Night Film Series Presents “Mediterranea” on Friday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m. as a part of the Third Annual D.C. Immigration Film Fest.

Doors open at 7 pm; a discussion follows the film. Childcare is provided. Films shown on Big Screen with Surround Sound at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10215 Lakehaven Court Burke, 703-503-4579; [www.accotinkuu.org](http://www.accotinkuu.org); [administrator@accotinkuu.org](mailto:administrator@accotinkuu.org)

This is a non-religious event open to the public. Tickets start at \$6 and can be purchased at the door or here: [https://](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mediterranea-tickets-26956413358)

[www.eventbrite.com/e/mediterranea-tickets-26956413358](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mediterranea-tickets-26956413358)

About “Mediterranea”: Hailing from Africa, their eyes set on Europe, they come with empty hands and infinite dreams, drawn across deserts and oceans by the promise of a better life. Occasionally, they make the news, when a boat sinks en route or police crack down on the other side, but by and large, these immigrants remain invisible, despite the fact their personal struggles would make for incredible stories. In “Mediterranea,” director Jonas Carpignano recognizes that potential and yet resists many of the filmmaking choices

that would make the trek from Burkina Faso to Italy easily relatable to a mainstream audience, opting instead for a more rarefied art-film format. Though it allows us to share in their ordeal, the film doesn’t presume to “know” its protagonists by the end, yielding a more complex and challenging portrait.

The Third annual Immigration Film Fest is coming Oct. 21-23. This 3-day festival showcases over 20 films across the metro DC area. The films put faces on immigrants and tell the stories of global immigration. We hope the films inspire people to act to craft more humane policies towards the world’s refugees.

Tickets are \$6 each plus \$1.29 service fee. Ticket sales help cover the costs of the films and advertising for this volunteer-run event. If ticket purchase is a hardship or you don’t plan to stay/watch the film, let Julie know.

Tickets for Mediterranea (AUUC) can be purchased here.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mediterranea-tickets-26956413358>

Tickets for other films during the weekend event can be purchased here. <http://IMFilmFest.Eventbrite.com>

Note there’s a \$125 passport option which gets buyers into any of the films as well as the Saturday evening gala at George Washington University (food available, and meet some of the film producers). And passport buyers are entered into a lottery for two tickets to Mexico.





PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Participants include residents from neighboring communities.



Area residents can help end hunger and raise funds for hunger relief on Sunday, Nov. 20, at the 24th Annual Burke Area CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Hunger Walk.

# Burke Area CROP Hunger Walkers Help Save Lives

Looking to make a real difference? On Sunday, Nov. 20, hundreds of area residents will be joining together in the 24th annual Burke Area CROP Hunger Walk, and you can be part of it. The Burke Walk is one of more than 1,100 CROP Walks held each year as part of a nationwide effort to raise money and awareness for hunger relief, locally and globally. Worldwide, nearly 800,000 people, or about one in nine, face hunger every day. Poor nutrition causes nearly half the deaths in children under five — 3.1 million children each year. One third of children in developing nations are malnourished; in the U.S., nearly one in five children lives in households that struggle to put food on the table.

The good news? CROP Walkers are helping to change these statistics. When people participate in the CROP Walk, they are not supporting “cookie cutter” programs that might not be sustainable. They are creating solutions that are tailored for each community’s culture, resources, and unique needs. They are saving lives!

In the past 23 years, more than 5,900 Burke CROP Walkers have raised more than \$408,800 to relieve hunger globally through



The walk begins at Living Savior Lutheran Church, 5500 Ox Road in Fairfax and ends at Fairfax Presbyterian Church.

Church World Service, and more than \$102,200 to help hungry people in our own community. Last year alone, the Walk raised more than \$37,000, and the goal is to do even better this year.

The money raised helps provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs from seeds and tools, to wells and water systems, to

technical training and micro-enterprise loans. An afternoon of CROP Walking will also make a difference to communities here in the U.S. recently ravaged by floods and fires to recover. And twenty-five percent of the money raised in the Burke Walk stays in the Burke, Springfield, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, and Clifton area to support the important anti-hunger and emergency as-

sistance provided by Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO) and Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM).

You can be part of making a difference by joining other local residents at the 24th annual Burke Area CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, Nov. 20. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m., with the walk starting at 2 p.m., at Living Savior Lutheran Church, 5500 Ox Road, in Fairfax Station. The walk ends at Fairfax Presbyterian Church, Fairfax, with a water break mid-way. Shuttles will be available at both the starting and ending locations. Upon completion, participants will enjoy refreshments, awards, and live entertainment to celebrate the community spirit of a job well done.

All walkers must register. There is no registration fee; however, walkers are encouraged to sponsor themselves and set a personal fundraising goal by collecting pledges from others. Registration/Sponsor envelopes can be obtained from participating groups, or by contacting Janet Smith (703-455-9025 or [BurkeVA.CROP@cox.net](mailto:BurkeVA.CROP@cox.net)). Walkers can also register online at [www.crophungerwalk.org/burkeva](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/burkeva). For more Walk details, visit [www.burkecropwalk.org](http://www.burkecropwalk.org).

## Inova’s Knox Singleton Receives Community Leadership Award

J. Knox Singleton, CEO of Inova Health System, was recognized by the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia for his history of leadership and stewardship, providing world-class healthcare to all members of the diverse Northern Virginia community, regardless of ability to pay with the 2016 Community Leadership Award. The longest standing community based recognition award in Northern Virginia, it was presented at the Community Foundation’s annual Raise the Region Gala on Oct. 7, 2016 at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner.

The award is presented annually for outstanding commitment and dedication to improving the quality of life for all Northern Virginians. Over 600 business leaders, philanthropists, and community organizers participate in this event to celebrate the charitable work of the Community Founda-

tion and to raise funds to support the critical needs of the Northern Virginia community.

With the support of Event Champions, Dr. Gary Mather, Mark A. Moore and Donna Morea, the Raise the Region Gala hosted over 600 philanthropic, business, and community leaders and raised \$544,000 to support the Community Foundation’s work and mission to grow philanthropy to meet the most critical needs of Northern Virginia.

J. Knox Singleton is CEO of Inova, the region’s leading not-for-profit healthcare system that serves more than 2 million people annually. Since 1983, Knox has led Inova’s evolution from a collection of small, stand-alone hospitals into an award-winning health system, nationally recognized for clinical excellence, innovation and outstanding patient care. In keeping with

Inova’s community service mission, Knox serves on several boards. He is co-founder of the Global Good Fund, which works to coach and mentor future leaders, and co-founder of the Community Coalition for Haiti, which creates community-driven solutions in healthcare, education, and community development in Haiti. Knox has received numerous personal awards and recognitions, including the 2015 CEO of the Year by the Washington Business Journal.

“As the CEO of our region’s leading non-profit health care system, Knox has brought his personal, life long commitment to the needs of the underserved to the fore,” said Eileen Ellsworth, President of the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia. “As a result, Inova Health System works for the entire community, helping all Northern Virginians live longer, healthier lives. This is a



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**J. Knox Singleton, CEO of Inova Health System, was recognized by the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia.**

singular and unique achievement, and we were therefore delighted to honor Knox Singleton with this year’s Community Leadership Award.”

Find more information at [www.cfnova.org](http://www.cfnova.org).



## AREA ROUNDUPS

### 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

### 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](http://www.FacetsCares.org) or at the door or call 703-352-3268.

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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 43<sup>rd</sup> 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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# LETTER

## 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 maintain-

ing 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

## Volunteer Events & Opportunities

Fairfax County's free **Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group** meets by phone on **Tuesday, Nov. 8, 7-8 p.m.** Share your experiences, gain support and get important information without having to travel. Register beforehand at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Telephone Caregiver Support Group. Call **703-324-5484**, TTY 711.

**30th Annual Northern Vir-**

**ginia Dementia Care Consortium Caregivers Conference, Friday, Nov. 11, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.** The conference "Gems: A Treasure Chest of Ideas" will have speakers and resources on topics important to caregivers. The \$30 fee includes continental breakfast, lunch, materials, and certificate of attendance.

First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King St., Alexandria. Find out more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Caregivers

Conference.

**10 Legal Issues Caregivers Should Know About, Thursday, Nov. 3, 7-8:30 p.m.** Caregivers often make health and financial decisions for loved ones.

Learn what documents loved ones need in place, if the document age matters, and what happens if the documents fail or can't be drafted. George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale.

**Gary Kramer, D.D.S.**  
**Sara Bunin, D.D.S.**  
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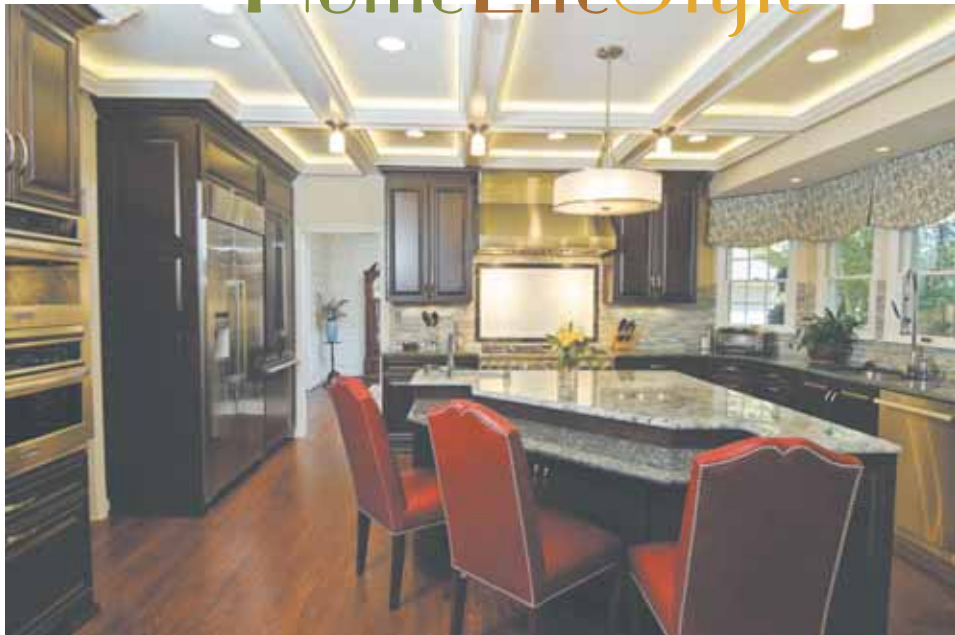


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To make kitchen dining more inviting to guests, seats at the counter are slightly lower than standard height. Owner Dave Mulligan calls this a great spot to sample his holiday dishes. The design solution by Sun Design Remodeling will be open to the 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](http://www.SunDesignInc.com).

John Byrd ([byrdmatx@gmail.com](mailto:byrdmatx@gmail.com) or [www.HomeFrontsNews.com](http://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.**



**Adding a new backsplash, counter and lighting in a kitchen such as this one by Wentworth, Inc. can transform a room in time for holiday entertaining.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF WINN DESIGN + BUILD

**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.**

# 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 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.

ing existing wall sconces.

Securing a contractor to begin a 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."

### THE CONNECTION

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## SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR 2016

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

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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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# CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/) or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication at noon. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

## ONGOING

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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

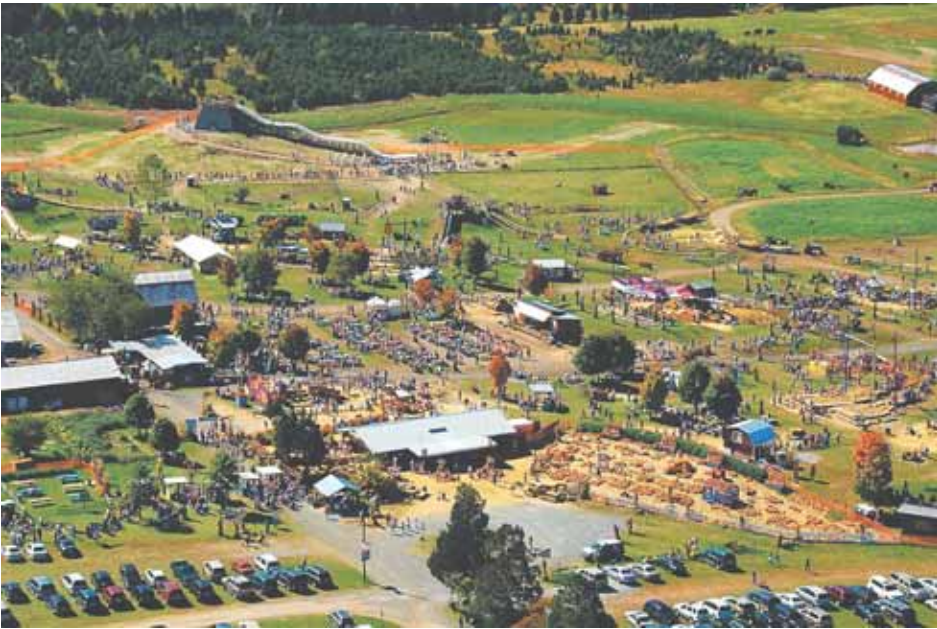


PHOTO COURTESY OF COX FARMS

**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](http://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/](http://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](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](https://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/](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/) and [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm)

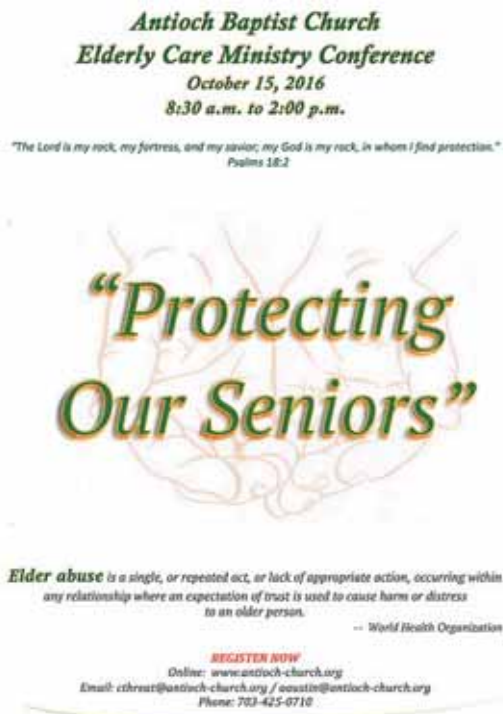
conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. RSVP [Naama.Gold@jccnv.org](mailto:Naama.Gold@jccnv.org).

**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](http://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



**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.**

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 [barbdmale@yahoo.com](mailto:barbdmale@yahoo.com) or Gayle Parsons, 703-644-4485, email [gparsons3@cox.net](mailto: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

Coordinator, Offices of the Attorney General. Cost: Free. Contact: Adrienne Austin 703-425-0710 [aaustin@antioch-church.org](mailto:aaustin@antioch-church.org). Or visit [www.antioch-church.org](http://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](http://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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:jhorejsi@cox.net) [www.S-A-L-T.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.artguildofclifton.org)

**The McLean Orchestra "Hero's"** 46<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.McLean-Orchestra.Org)

### SUNDAY/OCT. 16

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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 at Shelter B, as this area is used for the race. <http://support.hopeforthewarriors.org/>



# FAITH

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

**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](http://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](http://www.Lordoflifeva.org).

**First Baptist Church of Springfield** offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by both traditional and con-

temporary worship services at 10:30 a.m. at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or [www.fbcspRINGfield.org](http://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 Mon-

day-Friday at 6:30 a.m. (except on Federal holidays) and 8:45 a.m. 703-817-1770 or [www.st-andrew.org](http://www.st-andrew.org).

**RCIA, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**, is for people interested in becoming Catholic or learning about the Catholic Church. RCIA classes are held on Tuesdays beginning September 15 and continuing through April. The classes are usually from 7:30 pm until 9:00 pm and they meet in the Guadalupe Room in the Parish Hall, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. A group will begin meeting every Wednesday starting September. Sessions are in the Old Parish Hall. All are welcome. Contact Carolyn Smith at 703-273-5369 or [carolynsmith.stileos@gmail.com](mailto:carolynsmith.stileos@gmail.com).

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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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## 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.

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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.

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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.



### 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](mailto:slatta@fourthwave.com) or 703-485-6801.



### BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://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](mailto:Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov). Also visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltcombudsman/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltcombudsman/).

**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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.scwfc.org) or 703-266-3548 or [scwfc.office@gmail.com](mailto:scwfc.office@gmail.com).

**The Wakefield Senior Center in Annandale** needs **Front Desk Volunteers** on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. and Fitness Instructors. Volunteer instructor positions **could** lead to part-time employment. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

**Volunteer Fairfax** seeks individuals, families, youth and corporate groups for service opportunities at a variety of nonprofit agencies. One-time special events or ongoing activities are available at [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org) or call 703-246-3460.

**Singers Wanted for the Celebration Singers.** The women's show choir is interested in new talent to perform at various Northern Virginia community sites. Practices are Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Burke United Methodist Church, 6300 Burke Center Parkway. Contact either Barbara Male ([barbdmale@yahoo.com](mailto:barbdmale@yahoo.com)) or Gayle Parsons, ([gparsons3@cox.net](mailto:gparsons3@cox.net)) for more information.





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