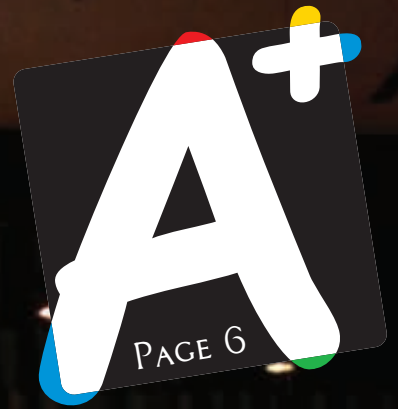




Burke CONNECTION



'Carousel' Coming To Lake Braddock

A+, PAGE 6



The classic Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Carousel" opens Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

Serving Others On MLK Day

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Senate Panel Cracks Down on Internet Lending

NEWS, PAGE 3

Lockard Channels Garza, Proposes \$2.8 Billion FCPS Budget

FY2018 focuses on employee compensation and classroom resources.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Public Schools interim superintendent Steve Lockard is asking for \$130.4 million more for the school system's FY2018 operating budget than the previous year, a 4.9 percent increase, to a total of \$2.8 billion.

Lockard spoke at the school board's regular business meeting, announcing the budget, on Jan. 12.

"This really is a basic needs budget," Lockard said in an interview. He stressed that two key priorities of the proposed budget are employee compensation and classroom resources.

"Our programs are what separate Fairfax County from other school systems," he said. "We're only as good as the people we have leading them."

Fairfax County Public Schools' population has eclipsed 188,000 students at around 200 schools



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fairfax County Public Schools interim superintendent Steve Lockard spoke at the FCPS school board regular business meeting, announcing the budget, on Jan. 12.

and centers. The staff is nearly 28,000 employees, 90 percent based in the schools.

In 2016, former superintendent Dr. Karen Garza led a charge for increasing teacher salaries, which she said have been lagging behind the market average and are causing Fairfax County to lose teach-

ers to surrounding jurisdictions as well as fail to attract high quality new instructors.

Last year's approved budget managed a step increase for employees and began a four-year plan for bringing salaries to the market average.

"We really started in earnest last

year," Lockard said, "the biggest part of the budget proposal continues that work."

The FY2018 proposed budget includes \$44 million for an average step increase of 2.5 percent for all eligible employees, including teachers and non-teachers. As part of that multi-year market average-matching plan, there's also a \$33.2 million investment for teacher pay.

Another \$41.2 million covers "anticipated increases in health insurance and contributions to the retirement systems," according to a release from FCPS.

Kimberly Adams is president of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs. She's also a librarian at Mantua Elementary School.

"The most encouraging thing is the superintendent kept class size and teacher compensation at the forefront," she said.

But getting a 5.7 percent raise over FY2017 in the transfer from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors "is going to be a struggle," said Adams.

Lockard said the FCPS budget requires 72.2 percent of the total revenue from the county.

"We're so appreciative of our funding partners at the Board of Supervisors for the collaborative work last year," he said. "We wanted to advocate for the needs that we have, but we need to be prepared should the funding not occur. We recognize the challenging fiscal times."

Pre-empting the school board's adoption of this budget and an advertised transfer from the supervisors, Lockard has already reconvened a budget task force that spent six months combing through the budget last year looking for inefficiencies and opportunities to trim.

"The group will examine work from last year, but also, any additional things we haven't considered," Lockard said, adding that the group is already at work.

One added stress contributing to what Lockard anticipates will be a \$90 million shortfall is a change in the schedule for paying into the Virginia Retirement System. An earlier plan had the school system paying a \$25 million obligation in FY2019, however that has been pushed up to FY2018.

"We've been actively lobbying to see if there's any way that can get moved back," Lockard said.

FCPS had also hoped to benefit from a meals tax that was on the ballot last November and could have contributed an estimated \$70

million to the school system. The measure was voted down, much to the dismay of teachers like Precious Crabtree, who teaches K-6 art at Deer Park Elementary School in Centreville.

"I was devastated as an employee," Crabtree said. And looking at the FY2018 budget, she acknowledged, "the reality is we're not going to get all of it."

But Crabtree added that she and other teachers are still hopeful, encouraged by the ambitious proposal.

"If you don't ask, say what you need, you don't get anything," she said.

Lockard is continuing Garza's work, she said, though the school board hopes to have a new superintendent in place by the end of the current school year.

"We need someone who is strong," Crabtree said, "who isn't going to back down. It's frustrating that every year is a struggle, that you have to fight."

Lockard said since 2008, FCPS has cut half a billion dollars from the operating budget, including 2,200 positions.

"We're constantly peeling back the layers of the onion to try to continue to become as efficient as possible," he said. "There comes a point where you begin to impact services you can provide."

Part of the proposed budget includes preliminary changes to the ERSC local retirement fund. Though perhaps not as visceral of a threat as cutting fourth grade strings, Fairfax Education Association president Kevin Hickerson said that potential change stops short of providing more competitive compensation overall.

"We cannot provide the level of education our students deserve if we are short staffed, stretched thin and losing employees to surrounding areas," Hickerson said in a statement.

Lockard emphasized that this proposed budget is just the beginning of a long budget process, and that the Commonwealth of Virginia has yet to sign into law its budget, which will have an impact on that FCPS shortfall.

"We remain hopeful and recognize the challenge," he said. "We're preparing ourselves to roll up our sleeves, figure out how to best meet our budgetary needs and continue to provide excellent services students deserve and have come to expect in FCPS."

A public hearing on the proposed budget is scheduled for Jan. 30. For more information, visit www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/budget/FY2018.



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Senate Panel Cracks Down on Internet Lending

Bill would subject unregulated loans to rules that apply to consumer-finance loans.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

The Wild West of online lending might be about to become a little tamer. That's because a state Senate panel narrowly approved a bill that would subject internet loans to the same restrictions that currently exist for consumer finance loans, a move that would cramp the anything-goes culture of online loans in Virginia.

"These international companies and Indian tribes shouldn't be able to run around and do things that companies here in Virginia are not allowed to do," said state Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36), who introduced Senate Bill 1126. "This bill would basically make it clear that Virginia's Consumer Finance Act does apply to companies who make loans over the internet, and it would make it clear that State Corporation Commission has the authority to license them."

The shadowy world of internet lending allows companies from all over the world to offer loans at interest rates from 600 percent to 5,000 percent. Recent years have seen a proliferation of Indian tribes also getting into the act, taking advantage of the uncertainty of a law that crafted regulations in 1918. Surovell's bill would make the companies apply for the same kind of license that other consumer-finance companies.

"This will provide for a level playing field," said Dave Irvin, manager of the Predatory Lending Unit at the Office of Attorney General. "They will be subject to the same limits on their rates under existing law."

Consumer-finance loans are currently subject to an annual limit on the amount of interest that can be charged, 36 percent for loans that are worth less than \$2,500. A separate bill introduced by Senate Demo-



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE

State Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) presents his bill regulating internet lending to the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee.

cratic Leader Dick Saslaw increases that threshold to \$4,000, although that has not yet been considered in committee. If successful, that bill would mean all consumer-finance loans offered over the internet would be subject to a 36 percent limit on the annual interest rate if the loan was for less than \$4,000.

"In the absence of action, the internet becomes a lawless place that plays by different rules than traditional commerce," said Kevin Mauer, associate director of the Virginia Catholic Conference. "Without protective regulation, the commonwealth's vulnerable consumers may fall prey to more and more opportunistic lenders."

Nobody spoke in opposition to Surovell's bill, which passed the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee with an eight-to-five vote.

"Without protective regulation, the commonwealth's vulnerable consumers may fall prey to more and more opportunistic lenders."

— Kevin Mauer, Associate Director,
Virginia Catholic Conference

"I just think it's helpful to make sure we regulate the internet like we do Virginia companies," said state Sen. Steve Newman (R-23), who made the motion to report the bill out of the committee to the Senate floor.

LAST YEAR, lawmakers considered and ultimately rejected a bill that would have legalized online lending in Virginia. It was

an effort pushed by an Indiana-based company known as OneMain Financial. Company officials approached Del. Terry Kilgore (R-1) about legalizing internet lending in Virginia, and Kilgore agreed and introduced legislation to do just that.

"I don't want to get between somebody and their money and somebody and what they want to do," said Kilgore at the time. "That's something that, as far as payday or title loans, I've not done that. If you want to borrow the money and that's the last person you can borrow it from then, you know, you may be in a position where you can borrow the money."

When Kilgore's bill was considered in House committee, Ken Kinion of OneMain disagreed with the idea that his company should have a physical location in Virginia.

"When you're making loans over the internet for synergy purposes, it's better to be done at a central location because it just comes through a wire in your home," said Kinion. "So it would be prohibitively expensive for us to set up an internet location in each state."

Del. Greg Habeeb (R-8) took issue with that.

"I find it frankly a little bit suspicious that somebody says well we don't want to set up an office in Virginia because man that's cheap to do," said Habeeb.

In the end, the committee killed the bill. Democratic Del. Mark Keam was happy the bill died but displeased at

what the episode represented. "This is a classic example of how in Virginia at the state General Assembly unfortunately lobbyists and special interests come up with a business plan for themselves. They come to the government to get the government to endorse and approve their business plan and then they go out and do what they want to do."

IN SESSION

Gun Battle

The celebration of Martin Luther King Day in Richmond is known as "Lobby Day," a time when people use their day off to travel to the Capitol and lobby about everything from education funding to disability awareness. One particular issue always steals the spotlight: guns. Every year, MLK Day provides a backdrop for a pro-gun rally and an anti-gun rally.

This year is an election year, though, which means the pro-gun rally included some not-so-subtle politics. Most Republican candidates for statewide office spoke at the pro-gun rally, although there was one conspicuous absence: former Republican National Committee Chairman **Ed Gillespie**. Prince William

County Board of Supervisors Chairman Corey Stewart took the opportunity to go on the offensive.

"You know he's here today. I just saw him up there in the General Assembly Building," Stewart told the crowd. "But did he even bother to show up and address you? He didn't. He sent somebody else, another politician to come and talk to you. The guy's afraid of his own shadow. He doesn't do anything unless his consultants approve of it. Everything is poll driven. Folks, that's not leadership. It's cowardice."

A spokesman for Gillespie says he sent Del. Scott Lingamfelter (R-31) to speak on his behalf because he had a scheduling conflict, a Martin Luther King Memorial Day event at Mount Vernon Baptist

Church in Richmond.

Heart Stopping Moment

Longtime Dominion lobbyist **Bill Thomas** was testifying against a bill introduced by state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) about carbon emissions when a sudden beeping sound flooded the committee room. Thomas stopped speaking and started fiddling with a machine at his side.

"I'm wearing a heart monitor, and it seems to want to tell me that my heart is beating a little rapidly," said Thomas, prompting nervous laughter from the other lobbyists in the room. "Some would say they weren't sure that I had a heart, but we'll blame that on Senator

Petersen."

Day of Tears

Leaders of a new nonprofit group known as Day of Tears persuaded Republican Del. Ben Cline (R-24) to introduce a resolution declaring Jan. 22 a "Day of Tears." That's the anniversary of the day the United States Supreme Court ruled in the Roe v. Wade case legalizing abortion. Nonprofit director Anne Fitzgerald says she would like to see states across the country take similar action.

"It's sad that we even have to have this conversation, that we are mourning 60 million children that are not with us. However, I am excited that we have gotten the ball rolling and that we are just in the beginning phases of a national

movement."

Virginia is the first state that the group has targeted, although it's just a House resolution rather than an actual bill. That means it won't be considered by the Senate or the governor. The resolution asks private flag owners to lower their flags that day, not state buildings. Nevertheless, advocates for women's rights say the resolution is an attempt to shame women who have chosen to have an abortion.

"I think it's inappropriate and a poor use of time by this legislative body to be passing judgment on women who have decided to have an abortion," said Anna Scholl, director of Progress Virginia.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

OPINION

Counting on Our Reps in Congress

Sound the call to action; resist changes that are against the values and beliefs of most Virginia voters.

While most voters in the United States did not vote for Donald Trump for president, it was all the more so here in Northern Virginia. Hillary Clinton won the popular vote nationwide by 2.9 million votes.

In Virginia, Clinton won 49.75 percent to 44.43 percent over Trump; 1,981,473 votes for Clinton to 1,769,443 votes for Trump.

In the City of Alexandria, Clinton won 75.56 percent of the vote, with 17.54 percent voting for Trump; 57,242 to 13,285 votes.

In Arlington, Clinton won 75.83 percent of the vote, with 16.64 percent voting for Trump; 92,016 to 20,186 votes.

In Fairfax County, Clinton won 64.43 percent of the vote, with 28.61 percent voting for Trump; 355,133 to 157,710 votes.

Most people in this area didn't vote for the

kind of changes that might be coming with this change of administration and party. They didn't vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act. They didn't vote to give massive tax breaks to the nation's wealthiest families, in many cases millions of dollars per family. Certainly they didn't vote for broadside attacks on Medicare, or to undo progress on climate change. This list could go on for some time.

EDITORIAL

With all of this and much more under consideration, we rely on our members of Congress, including our two U.S. senators, to fight, to stand up and resist changes that are against the values and beliefs of most Virginia voters, to sound the call to action in every case it is needed.

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer says he will not attend the inauguration.

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly and U.S. Sen. Mark Warner rallied with thousands in Alexandria

last weekend to oppose the repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

Even the one Republican member of Congress from the region, U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10), spoke out against Trump during the election.

Comstock could play an important role standing up for the values of voters in her district, and will play an important role in representing the interests of the region.

Call your representatives and tell them what matters to you. Every Virginia resident is represented by Virginia's two U.S. senators and one member of Congress. Of course this pertains to those who supported Trump as well.

Beyer: 202-225-4376

Connolly: 202-225-1492

Comstock: 202-225-5136

Warner: 202-224-2023

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine: 202-224-4024

We welcome your letters to the editor; submit at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An Apology to LGBTQ Community

To the Editor:

My community involvement began in 1989 with my opposition to Family Life Education (FLE). Among the reasons I opposed FLE were that it promoted the acceptance of homosexuality and said that gays cannot change. For 25 years I have made public statements that homosexuality was a choice and that it could be "prayed away." I was very wrong.

Feelings are generally not a choice, as is recognized by my church's website, mormonandgay.org. For my past statements, I apologize to the LGBTQ community.

I wish my social conservative friends would be more understand-

ing that probably most gay and transgender persons did not choose to have the feelings they have. Often these feelings begin at a very young age. A family member should be able to acknowledge same-sex attraction or gender preference without fear of rejection, loss of employment or opportunity. When we social conservatives ask gays to live celibate or ask transgender persons to use bathrooms for their biological gender, we should understand that we are asking a lot. We have not walked in their shoes.

I do not believe that most gay and transgender persons want to undermine Christian values; they want to be able to act on powerful feelings they did not ask to have. I do believe though that some who are promoting LGBTQ rights do oppose Christian values and advocate an androgynous society. For example a lawyer for

Gavin Grimm, whose bathroom case is before the Supreme Court, is the Secular Society Women's Rights Legal Fellow at the ACLU.

Eroding the standards of modesty between male and female makes society more dangerous for women. What may now seem to be a casual act for a man may be regarded as rape by a woman. The casualness we have introduced over recent decades I think is responsible for the well-publicized statistic that 20 percent of college coeds are sexually assaulted.

While I therefore believe bathroom use should be based on biological gender, I understand that this imposes a great hardship on transgender persons. I would hope that other social conservatives would understand this too.

Arthur Purves
Vienna

Stopping Gerrymandering in Virginia

To the Editor:

As the new legislative year begins in Richmond, I hope more voters will join the effort to stop gerrymandering in Virginia. An overwhelming majority of us (as well as Presidents Reagan and Kennedy in the past and Clinton, G.H.W. Bush, G. Bush, and Obama now) favor this cause.

To stop gerrymandering, we must change Virginia's constitution. And as long as our legislators can make law in back rooms and with voice votes (that record yea or nay but not individual legislator's votes), that won't happen. We'll all have to step up. To learn how, visit OneVirginia2021.org and look up "Delegate Jerry Mandering" on Facebook.

Dianne Thomas
Fairfax

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail:
south@connectionnewspapers.com

Bicycle Advocacy Workshop Feb. 4

Are you interested in making Fairfax County more bike-friendly? On Feb. 4, 2017, Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FABB) is hosting a free workshop that will provide attendees the basic tools and strategies needed to help make bicycling conditions better in Fairfax County. The workshop will be held on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Rd in Springfield (across the street from the Springfield Golf and Country Club).

There is no charge for the workshop; however, participants are asked to pre-register before Jan. 29, 2017 (www.fabb-bikes.org). Lunch will be provided. Topics include: components of a successful advocacy campaign, developing an advo-

cacy plan, online advocacy tools, and why citizen advocates make a difference. Attendees will have time to develop their own campaigns. Presenters are local citizens with a proven record of leading advocacy campaigns: FABB members Sonya Breehey, Bruce Wright, and Alan Young, and Fionnuala Quinn of The Bureau of Good Roads.

FABB is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization dedicated to improving conditions for bicyclists of all ages, nationalities, and walks of life. Over the past decade FABB has played a key role in advancing bicycling in Fairfax County. More information about the organization and workshop can be found at www.fabb-bikes.org or by contacting Bruce Wright at info@fabb-bikes.org or 703-328-9619.

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News



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Each “welcome home kit” contains environmentally friendly cleaning solutions and other green cleaning supplies. They’re intended to assist those people who are leaving the shelter get started caring for their new home.

Serving Others on MLK Day at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church

More than 50 volunteers spent time on Jan. 16 putting together 20 buckets of cleaning supplies for Bailey’s Crossroads Community Shelter residents who are transitioning to independent housing.

The group, which spanned age groups, celebrated Dr. King’s legacy “by heeding his call to serve others,” church representative Kristina Watts said in an email.

Church members either donated the items themselves or money to purchase additional supplies.

Each “welcome home kit” contains environmentally friendly cleaning solutions and other green cleaning supplies. They’re intended to assist those people who are leaving the shelter get started caring for their new home.

“The Accotink group also made colorful MLK-themed crafts for the children at Beacon House, a nonprofit, community-based organization that provides tutoring, mentoring and other programs to at-risk children in Washington, D.C.,” Watts said.

Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 10125 Lakehaven Court in Burke. For more information, email justice@accotinkuu.org.

—TIM PETERSON



More than 50 volunteers spent time on Jan. 16 putting together 20 buckets of cleaning supplies for Bailey’s Crossroads Community Shelter residents who are transitioning to independent housing.

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The classic Rodgers and Hammerstein musical “Carousel” opens Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

‘Carousel’ Coming to

Musical Theatre department revives a Rodgers & Hammerstein classic.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

After having done family-friendly and modern shows in recent years, Lake Braddock Secondary School musical theatre director Mary DeMarco of Clifton decided “it was time to do a classic.”

This month, a cast DeMarco said is the most vocally talented she’s had since the 2012 production of “Les Misérables,” brings to life Rodgers and Hammerstein’s award-winning and musically demanding “Carousel.”

“We have to be educational about it,” DeMarco said, “we don’t want them all to be the same era.”

Richard Rodgers (music) and Oscar Hammerstein

II (book and lyrics) adapted their

show from a 1909 play by Ferenc Molnár called “Liliom,” set in Budapest. They kept the plot largely the same, but relocated its events to the Maine coastline in America.

The pair’s second musical, after the acclaimed “Oklahoma!,” “Carousel” opened on Broadway in 1945 and saw numerous revivals over the decades in New York and London. It won the 1994 Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical after that year’s Broadway iteration.

Along the way, Billy is given a chance to make



Lake Braddock senior Josh Lee (center) plays Billy Bigelow, a lead role as carousel barker in the school’s musical theatre production of “Carousel.”

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PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

From left, Cecilia Spain, Kaitlyn Clark, Savannah Raeder, Kailynne Landry and Lauren Sally rehearse a carnival scene in Lake Braddock's "Carousel" production.

Lake Braddock

Where and When

"Carousel" opens Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre at Lake Braddock Secondary School, located at 9200 Burke Lake Road in Burke. Additional performances are scheduled for Friday, Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 28 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday, Jan. 29 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$12. For more information, visit www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2766869.

amends for his crime and his temper, which has caused him to be physically abusive with Julie.

"The roles are more mature than most of the students are used to, they're dealing with mature themes," said Kelsey Tolbert of Burke, who serves as musical director for the production. Tolbert is in her first year teaching middle school choir at Lake Braddock. The cast includes eighth grade students through high school seniors.

"It's a thoughtful show," director DeMarco said. "We have Heaven... who today can say they're doing something with Heaven... and a second chance to do something right."

In one scene, the Billy becomes frustrated once more and slaps a hand, though this time it's his daughter's.

She tells her mother Julie, and asks if it's possible for the action to feel like a kiss. Hammerstein wrote Julie telling her daughter yes, it is possible, and effectively rationalizing the violence.

In this staging, however, DeMarco said they decided to have Julie respond instead to the effect of, "No, it's never OK, and it always hurts."

"We have suicide in the show, we didn't

take that out," DeMarco said. "We couldn't leave abuse in there. We wanted to get that message across. We're working with young men and young women. To choose this one message... shows integrity."

SENIOR Madison Hite, playing a relative of Julie's named Nettie Fowler, said the change was discussed at the very first cast meeting late in the fall.

"No one had an objection to it," she said.

Then it was on to the challenge of working up nearly operatic pieces of music that can last from seven to ten minutes at a time.

"It requires more work to sing," senior Tim Ellis admitted. "It's harder on the voice to sing these longer scenes."

Tolbert said the difficulty is not only one of endurance, but also complexity, with some scoring calling for eight parts to be performed at once.

"And they can hold that," Tolbert said. "The quality of the musicians putting this together is just impressive."

Hite said that while the music that includes classic songs "If I Loved You," "June Is Bustin' Out All Over" and "You'll Never Walk Alone" is a bear to

work up, "it's absolutely beautiful."

"There's not one song in the show where you think, 'This isn't that good,'" she added.

DeMarco acknowledged "Carousel" was a bit less familiar to students than the recent production of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast." However, she said, "it's exciting to see young people do the classics," she said, "and bring it to life like it's their favorite show."

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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.

THURSDAY/JAN. 19

Classical Concert noon - 1 p.m. Old Town Hall 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy a classical music performance by the Friday Morning Music Club featuring works by various composers. Cost: Free fmmc@fmmc.org 703-352-2787 <http://www.fmmc.org/event/old-town-hall-concert-series-12/>

SUNDAY/JAN. 22

Nutrition Workshop 12:30 - 3 p.m. Fairfax Presbyterian Church 10723 Main Street, Fairfax. "Nutrition WS "Recovery, Restoration & Food." Presented by Deb Fitzgerald O'Connell BS in Human Nutrition and Food and an MS in Human Nutrition and Public Health. Tickets include lunch and childcare up to age 8. Multi Purpose Room, Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main Street, Fairfax. Take Presbyterian Way off of Main Street. Cost: \$10.00 includes lunch. nutrition@fairfaxpresby.com 703-766-5657. For online registration through January 15: fairfaxpresbyterian.org.

TUESDAY/JAN. 24

Documentary Film, "Thank You For Your Service" 7:30 p.m. at the Angelika Film Center Mosaic District, 2911 District Ave, Fairfax. Dealing with the mental health issues confronting many recently returning veterans, this is described as one of the best films of the year. It won best film at the 2016 G.I. Film Festival. Tickets are on sale at: <http://gathr.us/screening/18521>. There are no box office sales. Access the movie trailer at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNJrXxHCGDU.

THURSDAY/JAN. 26

Lake Braddock Secondary School's production of Carousel 7:30 p.m. 9200 Burke Lake Rd, Burke. This classic musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein was once named "the musical of the century" by Time magazine. Opening night is January 26 and the cast will have a dress rehearsal on Jan. 21st if you would like to get some photos of students in costumes. Cost: Tickets start at \$12 and are available from www.brownpapertickets.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 27

Lake Braddock Secondary School's production of Carousel 7:30 p.m. 9200 Burke Lake Rd, Burke.

SATURDAY/JAN. 28

Lake Braddock Secondary School's production of Carousel shows at 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. 9200 Burke Lake Rd, Burke.

History Lecture on Parson Mason Locke Weems 1 - 2 p.m. at Pohick Episcopal Church 9301 Richmond Highway in Lorton, on U.S. Route 1 between Telegraph Road and Pohick Road. The staff of the Weems-Botts Museum in Dumfries will be giving a lecture on the colorful and controversial figure of Parson Mason Locke Weems. Weems served as temporary Minister at Pohick Church from about 1800 to 1817. He was the writer of the biography of George Washington that contains the famous "Cherry Tree Story." 703-928-8184 or dickhamly@aol.com or www.pohick.org.



'Murder on the Nile' on GMU Stage

Aquila Theatre presents Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Nile" at George Mason University, Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance Sunday, Jan. 22, 2017 at 4 p.m. Tickets: \$26, \$37 and \$44. Call 888-945-2468 or visit www.cfa.gme.edu Note: There will be a pre-performance discussion 45 minutes before the show.



Mystery at Workhouse

Jason Krage, featured in the mystery 'Solitary Confinement' at the Workhouse Arts Center, W-3 Theatre, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Performances: Through Feb. 12, 2017. Friday & Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$20 (students/seniors) - \$30 (general admission). Call 703-584-2900 or visit www.workhousearts.org

SUNDAY/JAN. 29

Lake Braddock Secondary School's production of Carousel 3 p.m. 9200 Burke Lake Rd, Burke.

Virginia Dance Coalition Dance Festival 10 - 8 p.m. Ernst Cultural Center on the Northern Virginia Community College's Annandale Campus 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. The program includes three Master Classes (Ballet, Modern, and African) along with dancer wellness and career seminars. There are two performances - an Informal Showcase for emerging companies and artists, and a Gala Evening Performance for the professional and pre-professional groups. Registration info at www.VirginiaDanceCoalition.org 703-409-7988.

1898 Looting of Burke 4:30 - 6 p.m. Abiding Presence Lutheran Church 6304 Lee Chapel Rd, Burke. Cindy Bennett, BHS Treasurer, will speak on the 1898 looting of Burke by troops from Camp Alger during the Spanish-American War. Cost: Free. slawski_brian@yahoo.com www.burkehistoricalsociety.org **Concert by the Havenwood Trio** 6

p.m. Calvary Hill Baptist Church, 9301 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. 703-323-1347.

TUESDAY/JAN.31

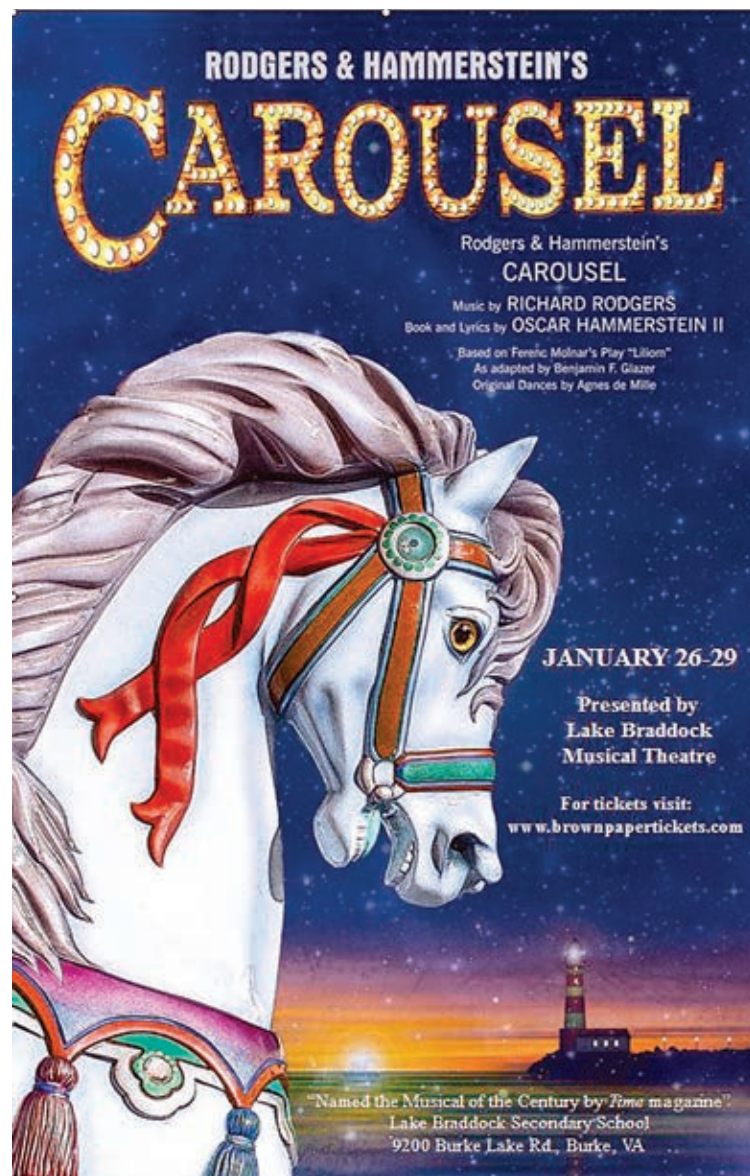
Writer Liane Kupferberg Carter at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia 7 p.m. 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The insightful author will speak about her memoir, Ketchup is My Favorite Vegetable: A Family Grows Up with Autism, an unflinching portrait of family life, and a look at what has really gone on in the two decades after her son's diagnosis. Tickets: \$11 General Admission, \$8 for JCCNV members, persons 65+ and under 30. Tickets are available at <http://bpt.me/2740223>. 703-323-0880 jccnv.org.

ONGOING

Senior Line Dancing 1 - 2 p.m. Little River Glen Senior Center 4001 Barker Ct, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. Studies have shown it aids in warding off Alzheimer's disease. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5

PHOTO BY RICHARD TERMINE/COURTESY OF CENTER FOR THE ARTS

PHOTO COURTESY OF WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER



Lake Braddock Secondary School's production of Carousel kicks off Thursday Jan. 26 and will have showings through Sunday Jan. 29. This classic musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein was once named "the musical of the century" by Time magazine. Tickets start at \$12 and are available from www.brownpapertickets.com.

per 8 week session. barbriba@hotmail.com 703-524-3739

Fairfax Rotary Club Meeting 12:15-1:30 p.m. Mondays. American Legion, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Meetings with luncheon and program. fairfaxrotary.org. Carolina Shag. Wednesdays. 6:30-10 p.m. Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. nvshag.org.

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 a.m. 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 conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice

Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. RSVP Naama.Gold@jccnv.org.

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

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/>



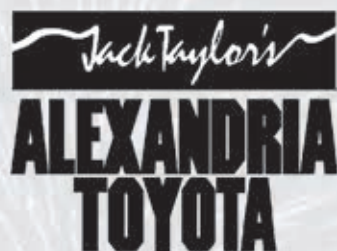
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COMMENTARY

Focusing on Public Safety

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



On Wednesday, Jan. 11, the 2017 Session of the General Assembly Session will gavel in for a 45-day "short" session. I am looking forward to a very busy six weeks and would like to update you on my plans for session. I am introducing nearly 40 bills, but here are a few highlights.

First, lagging state revenues continue to limit legislative initiatives and create funding priorities. The Virginia State Police is hemorrhaging Troopers due to lagging pay and a planned two percent raise for teachers and state employees was delayed after anticipated revenues fell short. They will be a priority this year.

My number one legislative priority will be prohibiting drivers from having mobile phones in their hands while driving. Between Jan. 1 and July 1 of 2016, traffic fatalities in the United States were up by 10 percent — for the first time in 50 years. Most experts attribute this to distracted driving. Anyone driving our roads only has to look at the vehicle next to them to realize this is a problem that requires attention.

Second, I am hoping to focus on Potomac River water quality. The City of Alexandria plans to continue to discharge raw sewage into the Potomac River for an additional 20-30 years. Del. Dave Albo and myself are carrying legislation requiring the city to stop discharging raw sewage within 10 years.

Also, in my research about ongoing pollution from coal ash, I discovered that Virginia currently imports about 600 cargo containers of coal ash from China into Virginia every year. I am introducing legislation requiring investor-owned utilities to recycle at least that much coal ash from dumps around Virginia every year so that we can start to clean up our coal ash dumps.

The Route 1 Corridor has a much higher incidence of pedestrian fatalities than any other road in Northern Virginia. I am introducing a "vulnerable user" bill which creates a lower criminality threshold and higher penalties for drivers who injure pedestrians and cyclists. Also, in an attempt to address the scourge of vehicles continuing to pass stopped vehicles on Sherwood Hall Lane, I am introducing legislation to make clear that bicycle lanes cannot be used by cars to pass other vehicles.

Once again, I am going to introduce legislation prohibiting school systems from requiring children to use electronic textbooks unless they provide them with portable computers. My bill passed the Senate last year and failed in a House Committee by one vote. Also, I am seeking to add computers to Virginia's Start of School Sales Tax Exemption. On a \$700 computer, this would be worth a \$45 savings.

I am also introducing legislation to allow the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue licenses to all persons who file Virginia income tax returns and pass a driving test. In other states adopting these measures, there are fewer accidents and hit and run cases. Also, if more people file income tax returns, it could result in over \$500 million in new revenue to Virginia.

Finally, I am introducing legislation to require predatory lenders who make their loans over the internet to be licensed in the Commonwealth. Many lenders from outside Virginia or even the United States are making 200 percent plus interest loans in Virginia.

As the session progresses, I welcome your feedback. Please send me an email at scott@scottsuovell.org. Also, please come visit us in Richmond. It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

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.

TUESDAY/JAN. 24

Springfield and Braddock District Biking Improvements. Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) will host a community meeting to discuss two proposed bicycle improvements in Springfield and Braddock Districts, 6:30-8 p.m., in the cafeteria of Irving Middle School, 8100 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. As part of the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) 2017 repaving program, bicycle infrastructure improvements are proposed for the following areas:

* Greeley Boulevard from Carleigh Parkway to Old Keene Mill Road.

* Hillside Road from Rolling Road to Old Keene Mill Road.

To view a map of the proposed project areas, visit: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/bike/springfield-braddockbikelanes.htm>.

The proposed improvements are limited to changes that can be made with roadway striping as part of the repaving process. Community members are invited to give feedback on traffic safety, bicycling and the pedestrian environment in Springfield.

TUESDAY/JAN. 24

ESL Classes Begin on Jan. 24 in Fairfax and Clifton

Lord of Life Lutheran Church will offer beginning, intermediate and advanced ESL classes at their Fairfax and Clifton locations. The course will take place between Jan. 24 and April 6, 2017 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church located in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. The registration deadline is Thursday, Jan. 19, 2017. There is a registration fee of \$15 and the textbook costs \$25. For more information, please visit: www.lordoflifeva.org or call 703-323-9500.

Vietnam Veterans Host Award Winning Documentary in Fairfax

On Tuesday, January 24, at 7:30 p.m., Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 227 will host the award winning documentary film, "Thank You For Your Service," at the Angelika Film Center, Mosaic District, in Fairfax. Dealing with the mental health issues confronting many recently returning veterans, this is described as one of the best films of the year. It won best film at the 2016 G.I. Film Festival. Tickets are on sale at: <http://gathr.us/screening/18521>. There are no box office sales.

The film takes aim at the failed mental health policies within the U.S. military and their tragic consequences. It tells the stories of four struggling Iraq War veterans, along with interviews of top military and civilian leaders. Observing the systemic neglect, the film argues for significant internal change and offers a

roadmap of hope.

Interviews include Defense Secretary Robert Gates, Admiral Mike Mullen, Generals David Petraeus and Loree Sutton, Sebastian Junger, Nicholas Kristof, Dexter Filkins, Senator Patty Murray, Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Colonels Lawrence Wilkerson and Dave Sutherland.

There will be a short panel discussion after the film featuring Carrie Ann Alford, Policy Director, Virginia Department of Veterans Services, Dr. Joseph Tarantolo, a psychiatrist in Washington, D.C. (who appears in the film) and Maura Levesque, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Vienna.

Counselors will be available in the audience in case anyone finds the film too disturbing.

Access the movie trailer at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNJrXxHCGDU>.

ONGOING

Fairfax-based non-profit Britepaths offers free Financial Education Classes Sessions at various locations in the Fairfax County area to low- and middle-income adults who reside throughout Northern Virginia. The offerings are free and open to the public, but reservations are required. <https://britepaths.org/news/get-financially-fit-new-year>

Volunteers Needed. PRS is looking for empathetic and caring volunteers to make phone calls to older adults who may be feeling socially isolated. The commitment is one 3-hour shift per

week for one year. Located in Arlington. Ages 21 & up. Intensive training provided. Learn more and apply: <https://prsinc.org/caring-volunteering/>. Questions? Email lpadgett@prsinc.org.

Reminder Crime Prevention – Please contact the Fairfax County Police Department at 703-691-2131 (non-emergency) to report ANY suspicious activity, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem at the time. It is better if police reports can be called in while the suspicious activity is in progress to the extent possible.



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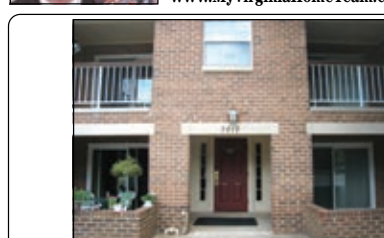
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