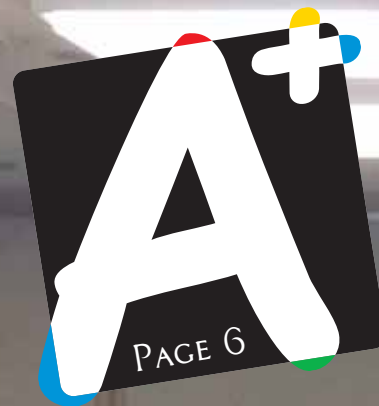




Springfield CONNECTION

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



Cracking Down On Internet Lending

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Paper or Plastic

Public hearing on yard waste bags follows premature administrative change.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

North Springfield resident Asher Grady has his leaf collecting down to a science. And with the mature trees around his quarter-acre lot, he needs to. Each fall, he said, he goes through between 60 and 80 bags of leaves, spending between eight and 12 hours to rake and bag them.

"I've developed a system," Grady said, "I use large Rubbermaid trash cans with the bag inside so I can tip them over and rake in the leaves."

When he's done, Grady places the bags of leaves and any other yard waste on the street where a private waste removal company that services North Springfield snags them.

The use of plastic bags is being questioned, however, and earlier last fall, Fairfax County quietly announced in September 2016 that residents should switch to using paper bags for yard waste instead.



The use of plastic bags to recycle yard waste is being challenged, as earlier this fall, Fairfax County quietly announced in September 2016 that residents should switch to using paper bags instead.

Grady first heard about the change on North Springfield's Facebook page. "There was nothing leading up to it," he said.

"It hasn't been well-publicized," said Ken Balbuena, president of the North Springfield Civic Association. "You expect something to be sent home from the county. Residents, they're not happy."

FOR AREAS declared a "Sanitary District," Fairfax County provides

a leaf and yard waste collection service that gets assessed on taxes as a fee. But county code still gives guidance on what type of bag may be used, regardless of who's collecting waste from whom.

Christine McCoy of the Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Division Recycling Outreach and Education says on the county's website that using plastic bags to collect yard waste is no longer a sustainable practice.

More Information

- ❖ For more information or to sign up to speak at the hearing, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/meetings/2017/jan-24.htm.
- ❖ For more information on yard waste policy in Fairfax County, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/yardwaste.htm.
- ❖ The announcement about switching from plastic to paper bags is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/make-the-switch-to-paper-bags-for-yard-waste-this-fall.

County and private haulers remove around 208,600 tons of organic yard waste, Fairfax County says. They claim an estimated 20 percent of that clings to the plastic bags and must be trashed rather than recycled and composted.

"In fact, it's something we can no longer afford to do if we want to make a real impact on protecting our planet," she says in a recorded statement.

According to county website, use of plastic yard waste bags is to be discontinued throughout Fairfax County effective July 1, 2017.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) said county staff has presented on making the switch from paper to plastic before, but the Board of Supervisors never voted on the matter.

The issue is actually scheduled

to come up at a public hearing on Jan. 24.

Herrity alleges staff said the facilities that accept yard waste from Fairfax County are now banning plastic bags, leaving the county no choice but to comply.

Herrity said he and his staff have been in touch with the two major facilities, "who said they have no intention to ban plastic bags."

"Flat out inaccuracies were reported to the board," Herrity said. "A decision was made before getting input from citizens, before the board voted on it. And the board authorized a public hearing under false pretenses."

Making such a change requires a county code change, Herrity said, which needs a vote by the supervisors.

Grady said he's tried using pa-
SEE PAPER, PAGE 11

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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.

Springfield
CONNECTION

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NEWS



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.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

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PHOTO COURTESY OF KIDS4PEACE

The Kids4Peace Interfaith Summer Camp is aimed at helping to break down religious stereotypes.

Planning for Summer Camp

Local camp fairs help families navigate the maze of summer camp offerings.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

In an effort to confront religious intolerance, a group of local middle school students will attend a camp aimed at bringing together children from different religions and giving them the chance to come together, make new friendships, visit houses of worship, learn about other traditions and practice dialogue to confront Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism.

"Campers will get experiences in synagogues, mosques and churches," said Shoshana Abrams of Kids4Peace. "They'll see how others pray, how they celebrate and what they believe. It's helping to break down stereotypes. A lot of interfaith action is needed to combat Islamophobia and bring together people of different faiths."

Kids4Peace's Interfaith Day Camp is one of a diverse variety of summer camps available to local children. From performing arts, wilderness adventures and sports to language immersion, standardized test prep and community service, the summer offerings in the Washington region are plentiful. Though warm weather is months away, this is the time to start planning for camp and finding the best fit, say child development experts. "You want to include your child from the beginning of the process," said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria. "Explore options by following their interests. I like to ask kids 'What problem would you like to solve?' For instance, would they like to learn how to play basketball, how to make a rocket, how to see other galaxies, how to paint with acrylics, how to star in a play? These [questions] will point you in a direction that is good for both you and your child."



Camp fairs, such as the Northern Virginia Camp & Summer Fun Expo, give families an opportunity to see the variety of summer camps available.

Face painting will be one of the activities available at the Northern Virginia Camp & Summer Fun Expo.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WASHINGTON PARENT



"We want parents to know that there are many different camp options out there."

— Jacky Dooly, Northern Virginia Camp & Summer Fun Expo

For More Information

2017 Camp & Summer Fun Expos
Sunday, Jan. 29: The Montgomery County Camp & Summer Fun Expo/Hilton Hotel & Executive Meeting Center/Rockville, Md.
Saturday & Sunday, Feb. 25-26: The Northern Virginia Camp & Summer Fun Expo/Dulles Town Center Mall, Dulles, VA.
www.washingtonparent.com/

Kids4Peace Camp: <http://www.k4p.org/chapters/washington-dc/>

Tips on Trips and Camps: (Feb. 12, 1-3:30 p.m.), Walt Whitman High School, 7100 Whittier Blvd. Bethesda, Md., 301-881-0547 or <http://tipsontripsandcamps.com/dc/>

Local camps fairs such as the Northern Virginia Camp & Summer Fun Expo, offer access to a variety of both day and overnight options in one location. "We want parents to know that there are many different options out there, and they're going to find out all the specifics about many camps," said Jacky Dooly, of Northern Virginia Camp & Summer Fun Expo and Washington Parent in Bethesda, Maryland. "There will be specific sports camps like swimming and martial arts. Maybe child has academic issues and they need to get caught up. If so, there are academic programs."

Before attending a camp fair, Dooly suggests that families prepare themselves, and there are questions that she recommends parents ask prospective camp officials. "Does the camp offer early morning care as well as later evening care?" she asks. "Find out information about the food that is offered at the camp. How much activity will your child get during the day? If you're interested in a particular camp, find out if it fits within your budget."

"I'd also want to know how they are going to keep your child safe, how they encourage participation, and the percentage of returning camp counselors and campers," added Lorente. "If you have a camp with high return rates that indicates that it is a place where people want to be."

Mandarin immersion, public speaking and science exploration are among the choices that will be available this summer at BASIS Independent Summer McLean. Noting that this will be the camp's inaugural summer, Asha Bruot, spokeswoman for McLean BASIS, says that there will also be "a traditional day camp for students in first through fifth [grades] with thematically-linked activities, classroom projects, outdoor games, drama, music, and art."

"Summer camp should be a place for your child to explore, play [and] become," said Lorente. "The school year has become so structured. I would want a camp that has embedded in it time for child-directed exploration [and] free-time."

AREA ROUNDUPS

Community Meeting on Biking Improvements Set for Jan. 24

Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) will host a community meeting to discuss two proposed bicycle improvements in Springfield and Braddock Districts on Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017, 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 Carrleigh 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.

FAITH NOTES

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

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.

Grace Presbyterian Church offers Sunday school for all ages at 9:15, and a blended worship service 10:30 a.m. every Sunday morning. Coffee and fellowship follows worship. Nursery care is provided from 9:00-11:45. 7434 Bath Street, Springfield. 703-451-2900 or www.gracepresby.org.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism.

The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

Lord of Life Lutheran offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421

Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by both traditional and contemporary worship services at 10:30 a.m. at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspRINGfield.org.

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

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., Latin mass at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. Additional mass offered Monday-Friday at 6:30 a.m. (except on Federal holidays) and 8:45 a.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

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

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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 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

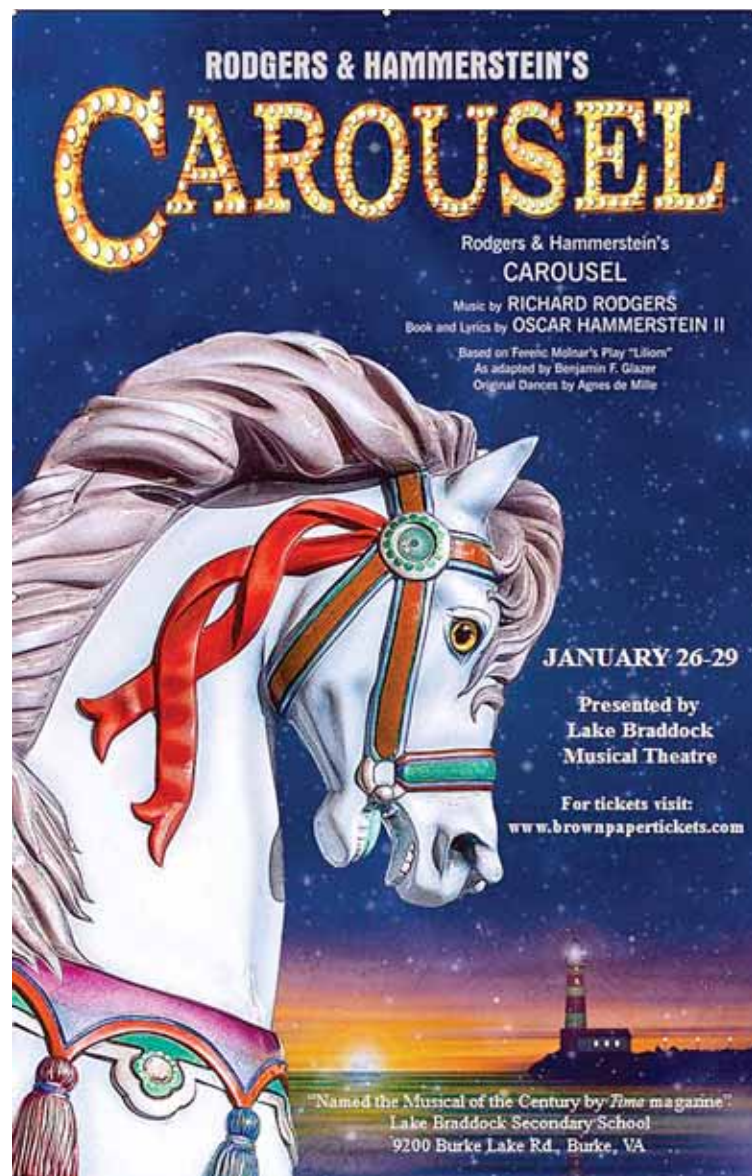
Writer Liane Kupferberg Carter at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia 7 p.m. 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The insightful author will speak about her memoir, Ketchup is My Favorite Vegetable: A Family Grows Up with Autism, an unflinching portrait of family life, and a look at what 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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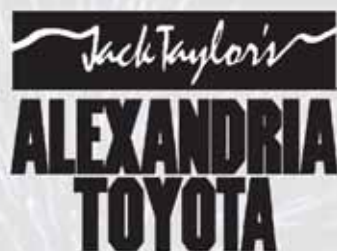
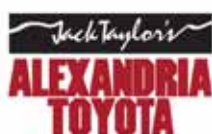
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BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



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.

Paper or Plastic

FROM PAGE 2

per bags before: "It was a disaster."

Due to their smaller capacity, Grady needed to purchase many more bags than he normally uses. "And there's really no way to close them, so when it was windy, they'd blow over on the street. When it rained, they fell apart."

Grady's experiences aren't unique and are why many North Springfield residents are

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.

upset about the potential change. Herrity said he's heard from many constituents on the topic as well.

THE BAG ISSUE is on the agenda for North Springfield Civic Association's next board meeting, the night before the hearing is scheduled. Balbuena said he may speak at the hearing if prompted by the community.

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@scottsurovell.org. Also, please come visit us in Richmond. It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

"Obviously this way is a more democratic approach," Grady said, "I support that."

Herrity expects the proposal to be deferred following the public hearing.

"I'm not happy it was considered a done deal," he said.

The public hearing is scheduled for Jan. 24 at the Fairfax County Government Center, located at 12000 Government Center Parkway.

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>.

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 Carrleigh 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.



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