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WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT



Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ♦ Kingstowne ♦ Newington

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OUTLOOK 2017

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The large warehouse off Loisdale Road in Springfield is still a candidate for future home of FBI headquarters. The building, owned by the General Services Administration (GSA) is competing with sites in Greenbelt and Landover.

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PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 1, 2017

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



More than 100 Fairfax County Police officers were part of the security detail as Donald Trump is sworn in Jan. 20 as 45th president of the United States.



PHOTOS BY MARK MOGLE/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County police officers, in foreground, provide security to President Donald Trump's limousine as it makes its way through the streets of Washington during the Inauguration Day parade Jan. 20. More than 3,000 officers from across the country were sworn in to assist with Inauguration activities, including 105 officers from the Fairfax County Police Department.

Inauguration Day

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

Local officers provide security for inaugural events.

More than 100 officers from the Fairfax County Police Department assisted in security during Inauguration Day activities Jan. 20 in Washington, D.C. as Donald Trump was sworn in as 45th Presi-

dent of the United States. The 105 FPD officers were among the more than 3,000 local law enforcement officials sworn in to help with security

throughout the day. FPD officers began arriving in DC around 2:30 a.m. and worked throughout the day, ending their shift around 10 p.m. that night.

"Although it was a long day, we are proud of the exemplary professionalism displayed by each one of them," posted the FPD on its Facebook page.

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IMAGE COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

A site plan shows the footprint of the new Burke Lake golf course clubhouse and driving range.



IMAGE COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

The current driving range will be expanded to two levels.

Neighborhood Development Update

BY TIM PETERSON

The Connection keeps a running list of land use projects being planned, under construction and nearing completion in the community. The list is updated quarterly.

Burke Lake Golf Course — 7315 Ox Road
A new clubhouse and expanded driving range and parking lot highlight upgrades to the Burke Lake Golf Course in Fairfax Station that's more than 40 years old. The clubhouse will be more than doubled in size to 4,000 square feet. Construction is underway, including work to make the driving range two stories. The driving range is expected to re-open by this summer, with the clubhouse following by October. The clubhouse remains open during construction.

Ox Road Estates — Adare Drive and Ox Road
An infill project of ten single family homes is under construction.

Corbet Manor — Around 7717 Gambrill Road

Seven single-family homes by Christopher Companies are going into 4.5 acres of what were previously unconsolidated parcels of land. Construction began in July 2016. The model home is set to be completed by February.

Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Area — Liberty Crest at Laurel Hill 8400 Lorton Road

Phase I of transforming the 80-acre former reformatory property — scheduled to be completed in Spring 2017 — includes setting up 165 apartments in former prison cells and common spaces, building out 107 homes and modernizing the infrastructure. Phase II will add more apartments, condos and 110,000 square-feet of retail space.

Springfield Town Center 6500 Springfield Mall

New stores and restaurants are continu-

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Ongoing Area Developments

- 1 **Burke Lake Golf Course** — 7315 Ox Road
- 2 **Ox Road Estates** — Adare Drive and Ox Road
- 3 **Corbet Manor** — Around 7717 Gambrill Road
- 4 **Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Area** — Liberty Crest at Laurel Hill 8400 Lorton Road
- 5 **Springfield Town Center** — 6500 Springfield Mall
- 6 **Vulcan Materials Graham Quarry** — 10000 Ox Road
- 7 **Woodglen Lake Dredging** — Southeast of Sideburn Run and Zion Drive



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

(Left) Scott Carver of Oakton, Director of DC Region and Northern Virginia for the Liberty Crest at Laurel Hill general contractor Southway Builders, Inc., explains how a "finger" building of former jail cells is being converted into apartments.

ing to open in the 1.35 million square-foot revitalized shopping center. Later stages of redevelopment planning for the area include residential, office and hotel space — the timing of which is all market-dictated.

Vulcan Materials Graham Quarry — 10000 Ox Road

Fairfax Water is planning to reconfigure the quarry as a reservoir in two phases: Phase I will establish storage of around 1.8 billion gallons 2035, while Phase II should add another 15 billion gallons of storage capacity by 2085.

Woodglen Lake Dredging — Southeast of Sideburn Run and Zion Drive

The project began with fish relocation to Lake Accotink in November 2014 and is now complete. The contractor added vegetative plugs to the bottom of the lake that will support a new fish population. Over the summer 2016, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries began restocking the lake with fish, the first in a three-year cycle. This year restocking will be done with different species. Work will continue for two more years.

Dominion Power Substation — Off Ox Road, near Roseland Drive

Dominion is planning to build a new security fence around the existing power substation. The action has been approved by the land use committee but hasn't yet come before the Fairfax County Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors.

Sources: Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) and land use aide, Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) and land use aide, Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and land use aide.

Is Wider Better?

Reducing Braddock Road congestion to be discussed Feb. 6

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Next month, residents will hear an update on the status of the Braddock Road Multimodal Study. The purpose of the study is to examine ways to relieve traffic congestion along the major corridor from Guinea Road to the Beltway. Those could include intersection improvements, lane additions, pedestrian improvements, “and the issue of whether or not to do a transit center,” said supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock).

Cook previously formed a Braddock Road Task Force citizen council to give input and review these potential improvements to the corridor. Recommendations from the task force will also be presented at the Feb. 6 community meeting, scheduled from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Lake Braddock Secondary School cafeteria.

“The study shows some pretty significant improvements coming from what are fairly modest improvements,” Cook said.

Some of the options being looked at include a series of intersection improvements from Guinea to the Beltway, making some of those right in-right out and taking out the traffic light at Kings Park Drive.

“The question is, by adding HOV or a general purpose lane, does that help more?” said Cook. “We’ll be talking about that in the February meeting.”

Addressing congestion is hardly limited to that stretch of Braddock Road. Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) said there are plans to “turn dirt” on expanding the capacity of I-66 this year, which he calls “big news for the west end of my district for sure.”

Part of the Fairfax County Parkway is due to be widened, as well on Rolling Road.

Even in Clifton, which Mayor Bill Holloway said has been a victim to some extent of its own success in attracting more visitors and shoppers, is looking at redesigning the scape of its historic Main Street.

“People are there all the time, weekends, evenings — it’s looking like a beach town without the



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Next month, residents will hear an update on the status of the Braddock Road Multimodal Study. The purpose of the study is to examine ways to relieve traffic congestion along the major corridor from Guinea Road to the Beltway. Those could include intersection improvements, lane additions, pedestrian improvements, “and the issue of whether or not to do a transit center,” said supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock).

beach,” Holloway said. “It’s really heartening to me to see it’s so alive.”

Unique to Clifton, they hope to slow down traffic and improve safety through town, improving pedestrian and parking issues as part of managing an expanded capacity.

Ed Zolnik, an associate professor in the George Mason University Schar School of Policy and Government, said these projects for increasing capacity without adding new roads are nothing new.

“Widening seen as more immediate,” Zolnik said, “to add more capacity, which is necessary, with most people making their trips in a private vehicle.”

Though Zolnik said the Braddock Road multimodal study is on-trend with urban planning that’s attempting to provide mass transit alternatives to individual vehicles, building new roads and expanding existing ones is unavoidable.

“From a public purpose perspective, it’s what we encounter on a daily basis,” he said, “everyone sees that.”

And with expanding capacity, Zolnik said the cynical planning viewpoint is that solution to con-

gestion is antiquated, though “there’s an immediacy to this kind of problem.”

“Just using the argument ‘We have to reduce congestion,’ it’s a vicious cycle,” he said, “as it could engender much more congestion going forward.”

Working on a multimodal solution is consistent with how transit planning has evolved, the professor said. And as more transportation choices are offered in the Braddock Road corridor and other roadways around Fairfax County, it should help mitigate the ultimate limitations of the roadways for private vehicles.

“People are adapting to the environment they’re in, as much as imposing their will,” Zolnik said. “This is not new, but there’s a long timespan this takes to get online, operating.”

The Braddock Road community meeting is scheduled for Feb. 6 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in the cafeteria of Lake Braddock Secondary School. At 6:30, attendees can direct questions to Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) staff and review information at various stations. At 7:30, attendees will hear recommendations from the Braddock Road Task Force.

AREA ROUNDUPS

No Ban on a Plastic Yard Waste Bag in County

At Tuesday’s Board of Supervisors meeting, the public hearing to consider an ordinance to amend and readopt Chapter 109.1 of the Fairfax County Code on the prohibition of plastic bags for yard waste was deferred indefinitely. The Board of Supervisors also voted unanimously to approve Supervisor Herrity’s motion to immediately communicate to the citizens, trash haulers, and lawn service companies that there is currently no approved ban in Fairfax County.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) stated, “I am glad our residents will have the ability to weigh in on any attempt to ban plastic bags for yard waste and that the County is clarifying that no ban currently exists.

I believe a ban would negatively impact our residents and our recycling efforts.”

West Springfield High to Host Valentine’s Fundraiser

American Cancer Society Crop/Craft — “Make Your Own Valentines Table” — will be held Saturday, Feb 4, 9 - 5 p.m. with Fun Vendor Shop: 2 - 4 p.m. at the West Springfield High School Cafeteria (6100 Rolling Road, Springfield). Vendors include: Stella & Dot, Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, Karinas Kreations, Tupperware, Stampin’ Up, LuLaRoe, Thirty-One Gifts, Creative Memories, Scentsy. All donations go to American Cancer Society. Call Leslie Carlin at 703-866-4962 or email fourcarlins@verizon.net for info.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY DOZIER

Inova staff members gather with Anna (center left) and Sadie Lauer (center right) outside The Woods community center in Burke, after completing the sixth annual Friends of Sadie Blood Drive in 2015.

Friends of Sadie Blood Drive Returns Feb. 12.

The eighth annual Friends of Sadie Blood Drive is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 12 from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

In early 2010, friends of the Lauer family in Burke first organized a blood drive for Sadie Lauer who was three months old at the time. Sadie had been diagnosed with neuroblastoma and underwent several surgeries to remove a cancerous mass in her neck. The procedures required quite a bit of replacement blood, inspiring the friends to act and reach out to the community for help.

The first drive was so successful, an annual drive in Sadie’s honor was established. Sadie is alive and in remission.

“Friends of Sadie” organizers hope to continue raising awareness of childhood cancer, as well as supplying Inova Blood Donor Services with much-needed blood.

The drive will take place at the Woods Community Center in Burke, 10100 Wards Grove Circle. A photo ID is required to donate. Donors should allow one hour for the process.

There will be free childcare and activities offered, as well as a bake sale with all proceeds going to The Truth 365. For more information, contact INOVA at 1-866-256-6372, sponsor code 7637, or visit www.friendsofsadie.org.

—TIM PETERSON

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SCHOOL 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.

Tara Ackerman, graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary School and resident of Burke earned semester honors from Kansas State University in the fall semester of 2016. Students earning a grade point average of 3.75 or above on at least 12 credit hours receive semester honors along with commendations from their deans.

Meredith Elaine Shock, Burke, VA resident, has been named to the dean's list at James Madison University for the fall 2016 semester. Students who earn dean's list honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of between 3.5 and 3.899. Shock is scheduled to graduate in 2017 and is majoring in writing, rhetoric & technical communication.

Nabila A. Guled is a senior majoring in organizational leadership. Nabila has been named to the Fort Hays State University Dean's Honor Roll for the fall 2016 semester.

Ms Meghan Chandler Presing of Fairfax earned a MSW - Master of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. UWM is the second largest university in the State of Wisconsin, with approximately 26,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

James Hua Lau a senior at Hampden-Sydney College, has been recognized as an outstanding campus leader in the 2016 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*. James is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael N. Lau of Springfield, VA.

Fourty-three students from Hampden-Sydney College were selected for this year's edition. Students are nominated by seniors, administrators, faculty, and coaches based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities, and potential for continued success. They join a select group of students from more than 2000 institutions of higher learning in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and several foreign nations.

A private college for men, Hampden-Sydney is ranked nationally by *U.S. News & World Report*. The College is known for its liberal arts curriculum, the Honor Code which stresses individual and collective responsibility, and a focus on the education of young men.

Three Fairfax County residents have been recognized for academic excellence during the fall 2016 semester at New River Community College.

Justin Luu of Fairfax made the President's List

Elisa Stephano of Burke made the President's List

Cristian Rice of McLean made the Dean's List

To be placed on the President's List, a student must have taken 12 college-level semester hours or more, attained a grade point average of 3.5 for any one semester, and earned a minimum of 20 semester hours at New River Community College. A Dean's List student is one who has taken 12 college-level semester hours of credit or more and attained a grade point average of 3.2 for any one semester. New River Community College is located in Dublin, Virginia and is one of the Commonwealth's 23 community colleges.

Honor Students from Fairfax at Baylor University in Waco, Texas

Ho Yeon Kim, College of Arts and Sciences

Vincent Lorenzo Rimanelli, College of Arts and Sciences

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must be an undergraduate with a minimum grade-point average of 3.7, while enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours.



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UPCOMING SPECIAL SECTIONS

FEBRUARY

2/1/2017.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts I
2/1/2017.....Wellbeing - National Children's Dental Health Month
2/8/2017.....HomeLifeStyle
2/8/2017.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts II
Valentine's Day is February 14
2/15/2017.....A+ Camps & Schools
2/22/2017.....Connection Families: Pet Connection

MARCH

3/1/2017.....Wellbeing
3/8/2017.....HomeLifeStyle Real Estate & Remodeling Pullout

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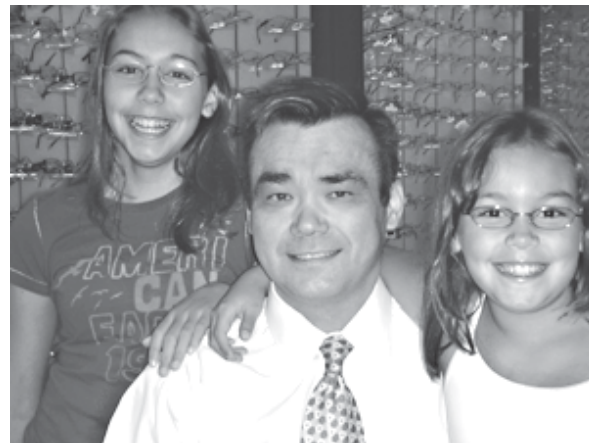
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OPINION

Not Helping the Local Economy

Federal hiring freeze will have rippling effect.

The hiring freeze announced earlier this week, will not help the local economy which has struggled in recent years due to the sequester, automatic cuts and limits to federal spending. The federal government is a critical part of the local economy and had helped recession-proof the Northern Virginia area, but more recently it has been a negative.

Kudos to U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) for speaking out against a foolish freeze on federal hiring. As the lone Republican representing Northern Virginia in Congress, her opposition is important.

"The federal budget cannot be balanced on the backs of our federal workforce. I don't support this type of across-the-board freeze and think it is better to look at priorities and areas where appropriate cuts can be made and where we can consolidate efforts or identify unnecessary costs that can be eliminated," Comstock wrote. "As the General Accounting Office has previously reported, past hiring freezes in both Republican and Democrat administrations have cost the federal government money in the long-run because of staffing problems, or problems in recruiting or disruption of key government operations and required services to the American people. We will be monitoring and highlighting the results of this freeze and how it is impacting the mission of various agencies."

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) identifies the freeze as one of many "anti-federal workforce policies" in the works.

"Past hiring freezes in both Republican and Democrat administrations have cost the federal government money in the long-run because of staffing problems, or problems in recruiting or disruption of key government operations and required services to the American people."

— U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-VA10)

"An across-the-board federal hiring freeze is a mindless way to manage. ... It fails to take into account the need to actually beef up certain capabilities in the federal government, like cybersecurity," Connolly said. "This Executive Order, coupled with many of other anti-federal workforce policies being proposed in Congress, will have a depressing effect on our ability to recruit and retain the next generation of federal workers."

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) calls it

scapegoating. "The number of federal workers is at its lowest level since the 1960s, and over 30 percent will be eligible to retire in the next year," Beyer said. "A report by the General Accounting Office (GAO) on previous federal hiring freezes stated such freezes are not an effective strategy for shrinking the size of the workforce, and only serve to disrupt agency operations and in the long-term increase the cost of government operations."

Bills to Watch in General Assembly

In no particular order, more to come next week:

- ❖ SB 1005 Community services boards and behavioral health authorities; services to be provided, in particular, access to same-day access to mental health screening services.
- ❖ SB 923 raises felony larceny threshold to \$500 (\$1,000 would have been better).
- ❖ SB 1379 that discourages universities from stockpiling cash, and instead lowers tuition for Virginia students and families.
- ❖ SB 931 removes the exemption for "working papers and correspondence" for university presidents.

❖ SB 1376, requires a 30-day notice from the Board of Visitors before tuition can be raised.

❖ SB 1102, records of closed investigations of unattended deaths were not exempt from the state Freedom of Information Act.

❖ SB 1442, requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services to identify an evidence-based, standardized instrument for mental health screening for anyone incarcerated in local, regional, and community correctional facilities.

❖ Various proposals for nonpartisan redistricting.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protesting Vote Suppression

To the Editor:

I am fed up with gerrymandering and other tactics politicians use to stack the votes in their favor! Gerrymandering distorts the electoral process, undermines democracy, and renders legislative elections a

meaningless exercise. I am a tax-paying citizen of Virginia, but my one vote does not count as one vote. Here in Virginia, state legislators redraw district lines, which means that the party in power of the State House and Senate can draw the lines to serve their own interests, not those of our communities. Since Virginia has been Republican controlled, that means that my Democratic vote has less value in my district than a Republican vote does in another district.

According to Governing.com, Virginia is ranked as one of the most gerrymandered states in the country (fifth worst!), both on the congressional and state levels

based on the lack of compactness and contiguity of its districts. Throughout the State, counties and cities are broken in half or into multiple pieces to create heavily partisan districts. Most of the "elections" in Virginia therefore result in no change in party because of these gerrymandered districts!

With Republicans in control of the Virginia House and Senate, the gerrymandering, not only suppresses Democrat votes, but has had a detrimental impact on persons of color causing distinct echoes of Jim Crow laws. Are we going to allow discriminatory disenfranchisement to proceed unchecked in our State? I urge all Virginians and Virginian Representatives to support changes to the Virginia constitution and enactment of laws that would strengthen voting rights, make voting easier and fairer, and eliminate unfair redistricting that politicians use to keep themselves in power.

Nancy Blethen
Springfield

Area Residents Join March on Washington

One of the thousands of signs displayed at the Saturday's March on Washington, D.C. The Women's March on Washington turned out to be one of the largest demonstrations in the city's history, according to city officials, drawing more than 500,000 participants. The march was scheduled to follow on the heels of Friday's Inauguration of the 45th president, Donald Trump.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN LOVAAS

Springfield
CONNECTION

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to
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OPINION

America in Black & White

BY JEAN JIANOS

Growing up in America in the 1950s and 1960s, many children watched television only in black and white. Some children believed that the world beyond where they could see was only black and white, devoid of color even though their homes, their neighborhoods, their schools, their crayon boxes were filled with colors.

Families watched “The Wizard of Oz” annually on television in black and white. While some parents and grandparents may have remembered the awe and wonder of seeing Dorothy step out of her twister ravaged, black and white home into a Technicolor world, the children had never seen “The Wizard of Oz” on a movie screen. Although the children could appreciate that something new and different was happening to Dorothy, they couldn’t experience that for themselves. Imagine the exhilaration, and the shock, of seeing “The Wizard of Oz” for the first time on a color TV. Imagine the bewilderment of parents and grandparents at the reaction of those children. “Do you mean,

you never knew that Oz was a world of many colors?”

Such was the realization in watching the televised images from the inauguration of the 45th President of the United States of America. This monochromatic view is what many Americans had been seeing on television, at the movies, in the news. Americans were seeing a black and white America, devoid of color, and came to expect, if not accept, that leaders can’t be women and people of color, even though their homes, their neighborhoods, their schools are filled with strong and courageous women, and strong and courageous people of color. American women and Americans of color know what is happening at each presidential inauguration, but until the inauguration of the 44th President of the United States, people of color could not experience that for themselves.

Imagine the shock of seeing a world of many colors when you have been raised in black and white. There were some Americans who were content to continue to watch television in black and white, and who could not see the sense of spending more money on a color TV, but eventually every Ameri-

can began watching television in color. Some may have waited until their black and white televisions were broken and could not be repaired or replaced in kind, but once they experienced color television for themselves, they accepted, and expected, a more vibrant and realistic view of the world.

Imagine the bewilderment at the televised

images from the inauguration of the 45th President among the majority of Americans who thought we had left our black and white mindsets behind and moved, together, into a world of many colors.

The writer is a local freelance reporter and contributor to the Connection Newspapers.

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.fbcspgfield.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.

JCCNV Mothers Circle program, for women who are not Jewish but are raising Jewish children. Free education in Jewish rituals, practices and values, while respecting the participant’s choice to retain her own religious identity. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax. Contact Laurie Albert, 703-537-3064 or [HYPERLINK "mailto:Laurie.Albert@jccnv.org"](mailto:Laurie.Albert@jccnv.org) Laurie.Albert@jccnv.org.

Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria, offers traditional Sunday church services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. plus Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Childcare is available 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. 703-971-5151 or admin@franconiaumc.org or www.franconiaumc.org.

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

vocacy 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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Mental Illness Takes Center Stage in Richmond

Death of Fairfax County inmate among recent controversies prompting action.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

The death of a woman who struggled with mental illness at the Fairfax County jail is among the many recent controversies in Virginia correctional facilities, a reform effort that spans from changing how deaths behind bars are investigated to how law-enforcement officers interact with suspects who suffer from mental illness.

“When you talk to pilots about planes crashing, they don’t say it’s any one thing that happens. It’s a multitude of things,” said Del. Patrick Hope (D-47). “And each piece of legislation that we have will have some sort of stop gap to make sure that it doesn’t happen again.”

Back in 2015, an African-American woman diagnosed with schizophrenia named Natasha McKenna died after being hit four times at the Fairfax jail with a Taser stun gun while she was restrained. The medical examiner eventually ruled that she died from “excited delirium,” although critics say that’s a designation created to protect law-enforcement officials.

More recently, an inmate at the Hampton Roads Regional Jail named Jamycheal Mitchell, who also had mental illness, died of starvation. His family was in Richmond last week lobbying lawmakers to take action now.

“We plead with legislators to ensure that changes are made in the



FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE
Deputies restrain Natasha McKenna at the Fairfax County Jail, where she was hit with a Taser stun gun four times while restrained. Her death led to questions about how deaths behind bars are investigated and how law-enforcement officers interact with people who suffer from mental illness.

law to better protect young men like Jamycheal who suffer from mental illness,” said Roxanne Adams, his aunt, during a press conference in Richmond last week. “We ask that real changes be implemented at Virginia jails to prevent another mentally ill young man like Jamycheal Mitchell from dying.”

MENTAL-HEALTH REFORM is at the top of the agenda of lawmakers on both sides of the aisle yet again, prompted by the most recent cycle of tragedy and reform. But it’s an old story, one that dates back to the deinstitutionalization of psychiatric hospitals decades ago. The last major round of reforms came after state Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-

25) was attacked by his son, who struggled with mental illness and died from suicide immediately after the attack on his father. Deeds sought help for his son on the day of the attack but was turned away.

Since that time, Deeds has been engaged in an ongoing effort to reform mental health services, including reshaping the community service boards that provide those services in the Commonwealth.

“Because the changes are significant and costly, we have adopted a staged approach to implementation,” said Deeds in a written statement. “The first step is to require same day access to service.”

Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe put mental-health reform at the top of his agenda this year, mention-

“We’ve had a number of deaths over the last year and a half that we know about, and who knows if there are others in the past. This is too much, and many of it is preventable.”

— Del. Patrick Hope (D-47)

ing it first in his list of priorities for the year. The governor’s budget includes new funding to allow community services boards across the commonwealth to offer same-day service for people in the midst of a behavioral-health crisis. McAuliffe says that will allow them to serve Virginians rather than turning them away, as happened in the Deeds case.

“One result of our challenged mental health system is that too many individuals who suffer from behavioral health disorders wind up in jail, where there are not enough resources to properly care for them,” said McAuliffe. “To solve that problem, I have proposed legislation and funding to expand mental health screenings in local

and regional jails.”

THE INTERSECTION of law-enforcement officials and people who suffer from mental illness is a major theme of legislation this year. One of the changes that’s already receiving agreement from both sides of the aisle examines how these deaths are investigated. A Republican senator from Chesapeake is pushing for the state Department of Corrections to investigate all deaths behind bars, which he says will provide some consistency to a haphazard system that varies greatly from urban areas to rural parts of the commonwealth.

“It’s not trying to point fingers,” said Sen. John Cosgrove (R-14). “It’s just trying to find out what may have gone wrong. Was there negligence on anybody’s part?”

Cosgrove’s bill, which has bipartisan support, would require the Virginia Department of Corrections to investigate all deaths, write a written report and submit it to the General Assembly and the governor. That would apply for all deaths behind bars, which could clear up some of the confusion and ambiguity caused by investigations that happen behind closed doors and without accountability. The bill has received no opposition from sheriffs or police chiefs so far.

“There appeared to be an absence of responsibility and accountability for those reviews and investigations” said Brian Moran, secretary of Homeland Security and Public Safety. “So the governor has led with the Board of Cor-

rections. They have expertise currently. They have some relationship with jails.”

ONE OF THE BILLS would replicate the concept of Fairfax County’s Diversion First program at the state level, giving law-enforcement officials more discretion to help a suspect find help rather than locking them up behind bars. The bill, introduced by Hope, would give officers the ability to transport suspects to a crisis-stabilization unit in misdemeanor cases if the officer believes the suspect suffers from mental illness. That would include misdemeanor cases when victims want to press charges.

“This is a bipartisan effort, and I can’t stress that point enough,” said Hope. “We’ve had a number of deaths over the last year and a half that we know about, and who knows if there are others in the past. This is too much, and many of it is preventable.”

Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31) has introduced a bill that would require mental health training for all correctional officers at Virginia jails. The idea is that they would be able to recognize the signs of mental illness — signs like Natasha McKenna biting Alexandria officers who responded to a call for service or Jamycheal Mitchell slowly starving behind bars after being incarcerated for stealing \$5 worth of snacks.

“Now is the opportunity for us to make our voices heard,” said Favola. “It’s sometimes so unfortunate we have to suffer a horrific tragedy to move the policy agenda forward.”



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Bonnie Brae residents Anna Kim, Jonah Kim, Samuel Kim, Gabriel Kim, Jacob Snawder and Bela Kekesi are members of the 4-H Club and a group called Salamander Savers. They traveled to Richmond to meet with (center) Del. David Bulova (D-37).

Residents Go to Richmond

With the Virginia General Assembly underway, many individuals and groups are traveling to the capital of the Commonwealth to lobby lawmakers.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) welcomed members of Girl Scouts of America Troop 797 to Richmond and introduced them on the floor of the House of Delegates.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Hayfield Secondary School students traveled to Richmond to talk with (center) Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) about the VA STAR (Virginia Student Training and Refurbishment) program.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Lamont Atkins, Lake Braddock Secondary School’s former star football player, was announced as the 2016-2017 Gatorade Virginia Player of the Year.

Lake Braddock’s Atkins Selected Virginia Player of the Year

Atkins starts classes, football practice at University of Virginia.

On Dec. 12, 2016, Lake Braddock Secondary School’s former star football player, Lamont Atkins, was announced as the 2016-2017 Gatorade Virginia Player of the Year. The Gatorade Company selects one winner from each state based on athletic excellence, academic achievement, and exemplary character. Atkins was given the opportunity, through Gatorade’s Play it Forward program, to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a \$1,000 donation. After playing multiple sports as a youth in the Springfield South County Youth Club, he decided to pay it forward by giving the \$1,000 donation to the Springfield South County Youth Club.

After graduating from Lake Braddock early, Lamont Atkins

enrolled at the University of Virginia as a mid-term enrollee and started classes and football practice on Jan. 18, 2017. A standout in multiple sports, he left Lake Braddock as the all-time leading rusher with 3,656 rushing yards and 56 touchdowns. In addition to the Gatorade Virginia Player of the Year award, Atkins was selected to the Washington Post’s All-Met Team, and the Virginia High School League’s 6A All-State Team both as a running back and a linebacker. A standout on both sides of the football, he was recognized as the 6A Patriot All-Conference Offensive and Defensive Player of the Year. Most recently, Atkins was selected for induction into the Northern Virginia Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony is scheduled for March 5, 2017.

IN SESSION

Nuclear Deterrence

Sen. **Chap Petersen** (D-34) called it the “nuclear option,” an idea floated by Sen. **Richard Stuart** (R-38) that the city of Alexandria should lose all state funding unless it cleans up its sewage problem by 2020. Stuart and other lawmakers expressed frustrations that Alexandria continues to dump 13 million gallons of raw sewage into the Potomac River each year without a clear plan to fix the problem.

As it turns out, the nuclear option was a good negotiating point.

Behind the scenes, Sen. **Adam Ebbin** (D-30) worked with Stuart to craft a compromise — Alexandria agrees to clean up the mess by 2025 in exchange for state funding. Ebbin first announced the compromise to Connection Newspapers during a Facebook Live video.

“We will have an accelerated timetable,” said Ebbin on Facebook Live. “But I expect no loss of state funds, which is super important to me, and I’m happy I was able to work that away.”

Studying Internet Loans

The Wild West of internet loans may be getting a bit tamer, although lawmakers on both sides of the aisle say there’s more they need to know about the growing trend. Over the course of the last week, members of the House and Senate both moved toward having state regulators take a look at internet companies that offer consumer finance loans over the internet. The move comes after charges that companies from across the globe and some companies affiliated with Indian tribes were evading Virginia law designed to protect consumers.

“There have been some questions raised by not the

companies that this intended to regulate but the companies who are already regulated,” said Sen. **Scott Surovell** (D-30), who introduced the legislation on the Senate side. “The Bureau of Financial Institutions has indicated they’d like to take a deep dive into this and make some recommendations to us for next year.”

Pro Publius

Letters to the editor are one of the most-read parts of every newspaper. That’s just as true today as it was back in the summer of 1787, when newspapers were flooded with letters for and against ratification of the Constitution. Some of the letters in support were written under the pseudonym **Publius** became famous and are now known collectively as the Federalist Papers — a group of op-ed columns written by **Alexander Hamilton, James Madison** and **John Jay**.

This week, lawmakers in Richmond moved toward requiring that the Federalist Papers be taught in public schools. Del. **Tag Greason** (R-32) says he took a look at the Federalist Papers before he introduced the bill, and he says he sees some modern parallels.

“Today I would say it’s more like maybe a document you might get from a lobbyist,” said Greason. “I have this vision of Hamilton running around saying, ‘Hey have you heard about this thing, the Constitution? Here let me explain it to you. Let me explain why I support it. Let me tell you why I support it.’”

Critics say public schools should also consider teaching articles written that were critical of the Constitution, which led to the creation of the first ten amendments, better known as the Bill of Rights.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

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. 26

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

SATURDAY/JAN. 28

Lake Braddock Secondary School's production of Carousell 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.

SUNDAY/JAN. 29

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

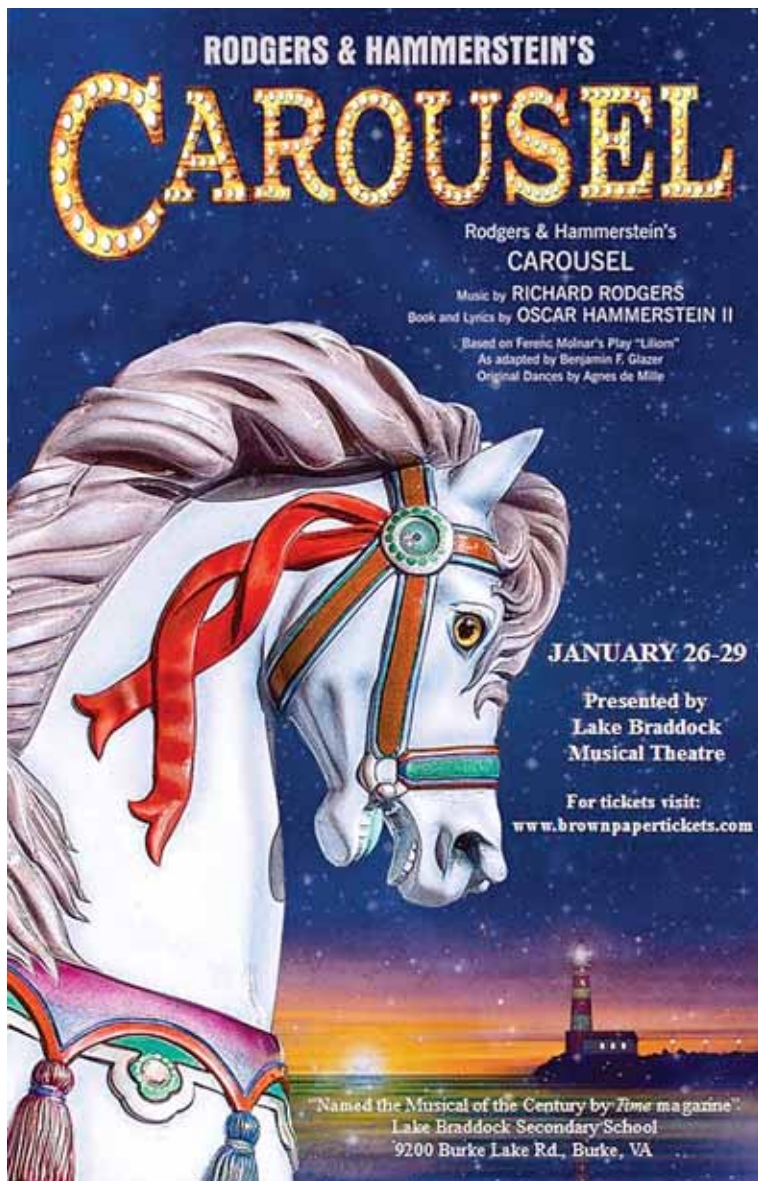
Virginia Dance Coalition Dance Festival 10 - 8 p.m. Ernst Cultural Center on the Northern Virginia Community College's Annandale Campus 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. The program includes three Master Classes (Ballet, Modern, and African) along with dancer wellness and career seminars. There 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 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



Lake Braddock Secondary School's production of Carousell 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.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

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

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>.



There will be a LEGO Workshop for children ages 6 through 11 on Friday, Feb. 3 from 2 - 5 p.m. The workshop will take place at the Sherwood Community Center, located at 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Fee: \$30/day. Registration Forms are available in office or online at www.fairfaxva.gov/parksrec. parksrec@fairfaxva.gov 703-385-1695.

bpt.me/2740223. 703-323-0880 jccnv.org.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 1

Fairfax Pets on Wheels New

Volunteer Orientation First Wednesday of each month. 7:30 - 9 p.m. 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. An orientation for new volunteers interested in visiting residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities with their approved pets through the Fairfax Pets On Wheels program is held the first Wednesday of every month starting at 7:30 p.m. Please check our website, www.fpow.org for each month's location. Prior to attending, please complete the online application found at <http://www.fpow.org/volunteer>. Please do NOT bring your pets to this orientation. Also, see weather policy for possible cancellations. www.fpow.org 703-324-5424.

A Sacred Walk 7:15 p.m.

Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hooes Rd., Springfield. 703-451-8223, sydenstrickerumc.org/sacred-walk Donna Authers will guide you through the pages of her book, A Sacred Walk. If you fear death or the dying process or you would like to know how best to provide practical, emotional, and spiritual support to a friend or loved one living with a life threatening illness, this evening and this book are for you. sydenstrickerumc.org/sacred-walk

FRIDAY/FEB. 3

Early Release LEGO Workshop 2 - 5

p.m. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Ages: 6 - 11. Spend your afternoon having a great time building and playing with thousands of specialty pieces and dozens of mini figures. Fee: \$30/day. Registration Forms are available in office or online at www.fairfaxva.gov/parksrec. parksrec@fairfaxva.gov 703-385-1695.

SATURDAY/FEB. 4

Make Your Own Valentines Table.

American Cancer Society Crop/Craft: 9-5 p.m. with Fun Vendor Shop: 2-4. West Springfield High School Cafeteria (6100 Rolling Road, Springfield). Vendors: Stella & Dot, Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, Karinas Kreations, Tupperware, Stampin' Up, LuLaRoe, Thirty-One Gifts, Creative Memories, Scentsy. All donations go to American Cancer Society. Call Leslie Carlin at 703.866.4962 or email fourcarlins@verizon.net for info.

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

Fairfax Pets on Wheels New

Volunteer Orientation First Wednesday of each month. 7:30 - 9 p.m. 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. An orientation for new volunteers interested in visiting residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities with their approved pets through the Fairfax Pets On Wheels program is held the first Wednesday of every month starting at 7:30 p.m. Please check our website, www.fpow.org for each month's location. Prior to attending, please complete the online application found at <http://www.fpow.org/volunteer>. Please do NOT bring your pets to this orientation. Also, see weather policy for possible cancellations. www.fpow.org 703-324-5424.

dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov

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. mooreffitt@yahoo.com or 703-499-6133.

"Out of the Blue..." Art Show

Workhouse Arts Center February 8 to March 8 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Building 9 Hours: Wednesday - Sunday 11 - 6 p.m. Part of the Workhouse Arts Center 2nd Saturday Artwalk. "Out of the Blue..." is the featured artist show of Karen Chin. Her collection of pieces are "Out of the Blue" unrelated topics and represent a collection of subject matter that has been accumulating on her art to-do list. The show includes a nod to the hearts, reds and pinks of February.

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

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

Dramatic, Suspenseful, Colorful

"The Magic Marksman" from Virginia Opera at Fairfax's Center for the Arts.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

"It's a suspenseful thriller, with passionate romance and the struggle between good and evil." That is how Adam Turner, principal conductor, Virginia Opera, described "The Magic Marksman," the Opera's next offering at the Center for the Arts.

"It's basically a story of 'boy loves girl, girl loves boy, but boy must win shooting competition to win the girl, but because of his recent bad luck he decides to bargain with the Devil, in exchange for a perfect shot...' Turner added.

With a haunting score by Carl Maria von Weber, the "The Magic Marksman" (Der Freischütz) is "a highly entertaining opera, full of spooky, suspenseful, supernatural elements, with the central theme of a man's passionate struggle," said Turner. "It has a 'Legend of Sleepy Hollow'-like mood to it."

Where and When

Virginia Opera presents "The Magic Marksman" at George Mason University, Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances: Saturday, Feb. 4 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$54-\$90-\$110. Call 888-945-2468 or visit: www.cfa.gmu.edu. Note: "Opera UpClose" 45 minutes before each performance; a "behind the scenes" discussion with Dr. Glenn Winters. Sponsored by Friends of the Center for the Arts.

The von Weber's score is dramatic, suspenseful, and colorful. "Our audiences will be chilled to the bone by Weber's unique orchestration." Weber paved the way for composers of the European Romantic Era.

To make the opera even more accessible to audience members, the opera will be sung in English. The Virginia Opera commissioned a new English translation courtesy of "The Magic Marksman" director Stephen Lawless and writing partner Dan Dooner. "It has a stylistic approach mirroring that of 19th-century American author Washington Irving," said Turner.

The Center for the Arts pre-show "Opera UpClose" discussion will be

once again led by Dr. Glenn Winters. "I tailor my discussions to illustrate that opera composers can employ all the same literary devices used by novelists: point of view, foreshadowing, symbolism and so forth. I also enjoy pointing out how operatic music can reveal psychology of the characters or serve as a mirror of the society and era in which it was created."

Winters noted that in its own way "The Magic Marksman" could be seen as the great-grandfather of "Star Wars Episode IV: The Empire Strikes Back" with Luke Skywalker, Yoda



Corey Bix and Joseph Barron featured in Virginia Opera's 'The Magic Marksman.'



Corey Bix appearing in Virginia Opera's 'The Magic Marksman.'



Kara Shay Thomson appearing in Virginia Opera's 'The Magic Marksman.'

Performers featured in "The Magic Marksman" include Corey Bix, seen in last year's Virginia Opera production of another supernatural thriller, "The Flying Dutchman" and dramatic soprano Kara Shay Thomson, who will make her Virginia Opera debut joining opera favorites Katherine Polit and Jake Gardner.

"The Magic Marksman" may be a less well known opera, but Turner made clear that with its reality twists, forays into the supernatural and lush dramatic music, it will mesmerize.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

(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.

NARFE Monthly Meeting Every Second Tuesday 11:30 a.m. American Legion Post 177 located at 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax. NARFE Fairfax 737 monthly luncheon meeting. Enjoy lunch accompanied by a special program. Lunch at noon. Cost: \$11 Speaker/Program-12:45PM. rrharney2@cox.net 703-501-0020

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/>

Plan Ahead Events BFLS

MONDAY/FEB. 13

GMU Visiting Filmmakers

Series: 13th with cinematographer Hans Charles 4:30 p.m. Johnson Center Cinema 4400 University Dr, Fairfax. sponsored by Film and Media Studies, Film and Video Studies, African and African American Studies, Women and Gender Studies, BSA, DKA, and University Life. 703-993-2768 <http://www.fxva.com/event/>

SATURDAY/FEB. 18

Valentine's Day Banquet. Greater Zion Baptist Church will host Family Ministry 2017 Valentine's Day Banquet, 6:30—11 p.m. at Waterford Reception at Springfield, 6715 Commerce Street in Springfield. Cost: \$50 per person. Contacts: Anthony and Terri Bazemore @GLZBC (703-764-9111); abazemore6@verizon.net; terrib6@verizon.net

Special features: Dinner Buffet, Music & Dancing. Payment deadline: Feb. 12.

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PEOPLE

Salisbury Helps Lead UA Army ROTC to Competition

South County graduate excels at the University of Alabama.

BY DAVID MILLER
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Conner Salisbury was destined for a career in the U.S. Navy. His father, Keith, was a Navy SEAL and continues to be the strongest influence in his life.

“My pop-pop (grandfather) was a Marine and served in Vietnam, but I got all of my military influence from my dad,” Salisbury said. “I’d always dress in military costumes for Halloween. He’d show me military landmarks, like the obstacle course at Coronado (San Diego).”

Salisbury’s father later became the strongest influence on convincing him to follow a career in the Army, specifically through the Army ROTC program at The University of Alabama.

Shortly before he graduated from South County High School in Fairfax, Virginia, Salisbury learned he wasn’t cleared medically to attend the U.S. Naval Academy. He was disappointed. It was the path his father took to becoming a SEAL; it was the path he’d always envisioned for himself.

“I was going to Key West the next day, either way, to celebrate or get over it,” Salisbury said. “I got the letter when I got home ... I received a congressional nomination, but I didn’t get a medical waiver. I didn’t know what to do. I put on my running shoes and ran ... four miles as fast as I could. I looked at my watch, and my time and the pace was the fastest it’s ever been.”

Like most high school seniors, Salisbury had back-up plans. Salisbury, an all-state wrestler, had options to wrestle at small schools in Virginia. Or, he could attend UA. He and his father discussed UA while on vacation, and the family later visited the campus.

“The campus was beautiful, and of course there’s football,” Salisbury said. “I just fell in love with it.”

The military was still on his mind, but now in the back of it. Salisbury decided he’d apply for OCS once he graduated, until he learned about the Army ROTC program and the Army’s Ranger and Delta Force units, considered the Army equivalent of the Navy SEALs.

A self-described workout junkie, Salisbury was recruited by ROTC leaders to try out the Ranger Challenge team, a select group of cadets who train and compete in such Army-related events as weapons assembly, land navigation and fitness. Salisbury was sold. After serving as an alternate his freshman year, Salisbury has played a prominent role in leading the team to the 2017 Brigade Ranger Challenge, Saturday, Jan. 21, at Camp Blanding in Starke, Fla. UA’s team will face the winners from six Southeastern states and Puerto Rico. The winner of



Salisbury earned an Army ROTC scholarship after his freshman year in the program.

Conner Salisbury, a Fairfax, Virginia, native, has helped lead the Ranger Challenge team at The University of Alabama to the Brigade Challenge, Saturday at Camp Blanding in Starke, Florida.



Lorton Area iBOT Brainiacs Go to World Festival

Lorton area First Lego League (FLL) team known as the iBOT Brainiacs, a team of students from Lorton Station Elementary and South County Middle Schools, coached by Carey Hancey-Shier, won top honors at the FLL Robotics State Tournament held at James Madison University. Team members Bryson Shier, Shreyas Mayya, Jay Rajurkar, Arjun Kumar, and Baylor Shier competed in the two-day event. On the first day of competition, entries were judged in the following categories: Robot Design, Project Solution, and Core Values. The second day of competition included participation in the Robot Game, which involved programming their robot to do more than ten missions in two and a half minutes. This team beat 108 of Virginia and Washington, D.C.’s best teams from all the regional tournaments to earn a bid to the World Festival in St. Louis, Mo. At the World Festival,



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

iBOT Brainiacs, a team of students from Lorton Station Elementary and South County Middle Schools, beat 108 of Virginia and Washington, D.C.’s best teams to earn a bid to the World Festival in St. Louis, Mo

val, which will occur in April, the iBOT Brainiacs will compete against champions from all the states as well as from 82 other countries.

Latest: UA Wins Ranger Challenge

UA won the Brigade Ranger Challenge — a regional tournament involving the winners of five Southeastern states and Puerto Rico — Saturday at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center in Starke, Fla. UA won five events: fitness, weapons qualification, hand grenade assault course, casualty care and the ruck march. The team also took fourth in weapons assembly and third in the one-rope bridge.

UA’s Ranger Challenge team will compete for the first time in the finals at the Sandhurst Competition at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, where they’ll face the winners of eight other brigades, international teams and teams from West Point. The Sandhurst Competition will be April 7-8.

this regional will compete in an international competition at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

“I had no clue this competition existed when I got here,” Salisbury said. “My first year, I performed at a high level, physically; I could do more pushups and sit-ups than anyone, but tactically I was young and wasn’t up to par with them. When I heard I didn’t make the starting nine last year, it got to me. I went from being the alternate or 10th or 11th man to being one of the guys recognized for helping our team win the state competition this year.”

Salisbury helps lead the pace for the ruck march and typically scores around a 370 in the PT test. He runs a sub 12-minute clip in the two-mile run and can knock out 106 pushups. His most significant gains, have been in his focus and performance in tactical events, which are a direct result of the team’s unity, said Brandon Sinnott, cadet and team commander.

“His work ethic is superior to many, many cadets, including myself, especially in physical events,” Sinnott said. “He has highest fitness scores, consistently. He’s also matured over the year. Last year, he maybe didn’t know how he fit in, but this year, he understands where he is in the team and how to help everyone else perform at a high level.”

UA ROTC scholarship monies from the Army total more than \$800,000 a year. Some ROTC cadets earn scholarships prior to enrolling; others work toward scholarships once they enroll. Salisbury, despite his high school credentials, had to meet scholarship benchmarks during his freshman year.

“I sat down and had to prove myself from Day 1,” said Salisbury, a communication major. “Some people came in with four-year scholarships, and in my class, not everyone has continued with it.

Who you are on paper can only tell you so much. When I got here, I scored high on my PT test, but I wanted to make an impression. I got in class and tried to learn more and more. The classroom is where I’m weakest, but I’m hungry and I keep learning.

“Now I’m contracted to the Army, and I can’t wait to make a career out of it.”

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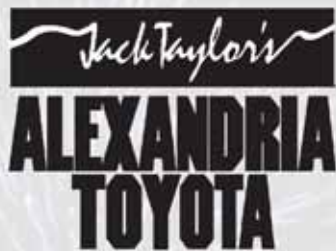
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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Lead Agency: Department of Army

Title of Proposed Action: Supplemental Environmental Assessment of
Communications Line Extension, Davison Army Airfield, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Affected Jurisdiction: Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Prepared By: Directorate of Public Works, Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Approved By: Colonel Angie K. Holbrook, Commander, Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Abstract: This Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) documents potential impacts to the physical, biological and human environments associated with the extension of a new underground communications line from the main garrison area of Fort Belvoir to Davison Army Airfield (DAAF). The proposed ductbank is required to provide enhanced voice and data telecommunications connectivity to DAAF from the existing communications network within Fort Belvoir. After evaluating communications network needs at DAAF, Fort Belvoir network personnel identified a single viable alternative, extending the ductbank along the Poe Road corridor (Proposed Action). This Poe Road Alternative was selected based upon the location and availability of existing network infrastructure connection hubs at either end of the alignment and required communication system diversity needs. The No Action Alternative was evaluated to provide a baseline for evaluating impacts of the Proposed Action. None of the impacts associated with the Proposed Action are considered significant. As a result, it is anticipated that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be published in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Review Period: Interested parties are invited to review and comment on the EA and draft FNSI during a 30 day period. Please submit any comments to Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, Attention: Directorate of Public Works, Building 1442, 9430 Jackson Loop, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5116 or email your comments to: usarmy.belvoir.imcom-atlantic.mbx.enrd@mail.mil.

The EA and draft FNSI were available for review on the internet at: <http://www.belvoir.army.mil/envirodocssection2.asp>. Documents were also provided for public review at the following libraries for a period of 30 days:

Fairfax County Library
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Fairfax County Library
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'Gray Ghost' Revisited

The exploits of Col John Mosby are being recounted in a 3-week course.

BY DAVE RYAN
OLLI OUTREACH DIRECTOR

Many Northern Virginians probably think of guerilla fighting as a relatively modern phenomenon, exemplified by the fighting units of the Viet Cong in Vietnam and Fidel Castro in the Sierra Maestra Mountains as he sought to overthrow the Batista regime in Cuba.

Yet over 150 years ago, right here in our own backyard, Colonel John Singleton Mosby, a Confederate army cavalry battalion commander nicknamed the "Gray Ghost," used similar guerrilla tactics to terrorize the Union Army stationed in Northern Virginia.

The exploits of Col Mosby are being recounted by CIA veteran Patrick Diehl in a 3-week course beginning Jan. 25 at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at George Mason University.

From 1863-65, Mosby led a small (usually 150-200 men) but daring group of cavalry that operated behind Union lines in Fairfax, Prince William, Loudoun, and Fauquier counties, as well as areas around the Shenandoah Valley. Loudoun and Fauquier counties, in fact, known as "Mosby's Confederacy" because it was so risky for Union soldiers to travel there.

Mosby's "Rangers" struck isolated Union detachments without warning, and usually captured most of the men and their horses. Then the Rangers would seemingly vanish into the countryside, not to be found by pursuing Union forces. The secret to this



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Mosby and men on Fairfax Courthouse Raid, 9 March 1863.



PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

John Singleton Mosby.



PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

John S. Mosby.

Or how about the Great Train Robbery outside of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, when Mosby captured Sheridan's payroll of \$176,000.

Mosby also provided excellent intelligence to Robert E. Lee and Jeb Stuart on Union troop movements heading south to Richmond. Mosby was regarded as the finest scouting source for Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

Mosby's activities were a serious thorn in the side of the Union authorities trying to control the Northern Virginia counties. At one point there were 10 Union regiments pursuing him, and there were approximately 60 military engagements from 1863-64. The Rangers suffered a total of 85 killed in action and 200 prisoners at war's end. By contrast, historians generally estimate Union losses at around 2900 killed, wounded and captured and a total of 3500 horses and mules stolen.

OLLI provides first-rate educational, social, and cultural opportunities for citizens of Northern Virginia. More information about its program and events can be found at olli.gmu.edu

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.

BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAY/FEB. 11

Town Hall Meeting. Del. David Bulova (D-37) and Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) will hold a town hall meeting, from 9-11 a.m., at Fairfax City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. in Fairfax. All are welcome to attend, hear about their legislative agenda, ask questions and share concerns.

FEB. 11 - 12, FEB. 18-19, AND FEB. 26

Loudoun Freedom Girls Basketball Tryouts
Tryouts to form girls' teams from 2nd grade through 11th grade for the 2017 season will be held the weekends of Feb. 11 - 12, Feb. 18-19, and Feb. 26. If you are interested in your daughter playing at a higher competitive level and developing into a great player, consider trying out. See www.loudounfreedom.com for the full schedule, how to register Contact loudounfreedomball@gmail.com

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>

"Thrifty Thursdays" Basic Budgeting Classes in Annandale, Chantilly and Alexandria 7-9 p.m. Heritage Building 7611 Little River Turnpike, East Wing 1st Floor Conference Room D Annandale. Thursday, January 19, 2017 & Thursday, April 20, 2017.

South County Government Center 7-9 p.m. 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Thursday, February 16, 2017 (Room 220) & Thursday, May 18, 2017 (Room 220) Chantilly High School 7-9 p.m. 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Thursday, March 16, 2017 (Room 253) & Thursday, June 15, 2017 (Room 253) For All Sessions, RSVP to: Carole Rogers at crogers@britepaths.org or 703-273-8829 Register Now for Free Parenting Classes — Sessions Begin Jan. 23, 2017

The Fairfax County Department of Family Services' Parenting Education Programs is enrolling families for several upcoming parenting classes. These programs are special in that both parents and children attend the classes together but are taught in separate classrooms. Classes are free for Fairfax County residents. Depending on the curriculum, classes meet once a week from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. for 12, 13, 18, or 24 weeks. Free childcare and dinner are provided each night. There are a variety of classes available throughout the year, but the following three

- classes will start this month:
- ❖ January 23, 2017 through June 26, 2017 – Ages 0 to 4 – Curriculum taught in Spanish. Mondays, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Main Street Development Center in Fairfax.
 - ❖ January 23, 2017 through May 1, 2017 – Ages 5 to 11 – Curriculum taught in English. Mondays, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Fairfax Church of Christ.
 - ❖ January 31, 2017 through May 9, 2017 – Ages 5 to 11 – Curriculum taught in Spanish. Tuesdays, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Springfield.
- Registration is required, so please register as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Raiza Barraza by phone at (703) 324-7745, or by email at raycelly.barraza@fairfaxcounty.gov. You may also contact Natalie Bailey by phone at (703) 324-3617 or via email at natalie.bailey@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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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