



2017
VIRGINIA
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Newspapers

Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

Shannon Mashaal and her children, members of ADAMS, make a new friend in supporter Dylan Rosenberg of Herndon at the peace rally drawing hundreds against immigration ban.

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From left — attorneys Hassan Ahmad, The HMA Law Firm, Ofelia Calderon, partner, Calderon Seguin PLC, and Pooja Bhagat, Bhagat Law Firm explain the workings of the executive orders signed by President Trump to an audience at a legal forum hosted by the All Dulles Area Muslim Society.



Hodan Abdi and her mother Anab Ali smiled for the camera, but once the photo was snapped, Hodan's tears returned. Her fiancé, due to arrive for his move to the United States and his wedding to Hodan, had been denied boarding on the flight.

Know Your Rights – ADAMS Hosts Travel Ban Legal Forum

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

In the wake of President Trump's executive orders cancelling or suspending visas and banning – at least temporarily – entry into United States by travellers from seven Muslim-majority nations, leaders at the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) quickly organized a legal forum to inform people of their rights under the new regulations.

Four immigration lawyers formed a panel, taking turns trying to explain the details of the Orders, “although that’s a bit difficult” admitted attorney Hassan M. Ahmad, the HMA Law Firm, “because things seem to be changing, getting tweaked, minute-by-minute. But we want to empower you with as much information as we have.” Ahmad was joined on the dais by Nick Katz, Senior Manager, Legal Program from CASA, Ofelia Calderon, Partner, Calderon Seguin PLC, and Pooja Bhagat, Bhagat Law Firm.

“There are two Executive Orders,” explained Ahmad. “Basically, one looks outward, looking to keep potential threats from entering the country. The second looks inward, at the people already in the United States.”

In Ahmad's opinion, the function of the former – “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States” – is already addressed under US laws. “What’s been added is that people entering the US must ‘support the Constitution’ – something so vague and hard to quantify in any way.”

The attorney said it seemed more like a “different way to catch you.”

As disruptive and traumatic as the “outward-looking” Order may be to some, Ahmad expressed even more concern regarding “Executive Order: Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvement” signed into effect on Jan. 25.

IN THE PAST, Immigrations Enforcement agencies targeted for deportation undocu-



Attorney Nick Katz, Senior Manager, Legal Program with CASA, left, talks with one of the forum attendees after the main presentations and the Q&A session. “Taking action is important, it will make a difference,” said Katz.

mented immigrants who had committed a serious crime before “moving down the list.” Now, according to Ahmad's reading of the Order (with which the other panellists agreed) “everyone is Priority One.” In addition, there are penalties and punishments for persons who “facilitate” undocumented immigrants in remaining in the country. The attorneys noted that this stipulation was largely aimed at so-called “Sanctuary Cities,” but that the way it was written, said Ahmad, “a lawyer could be considered a facilitator for helping their client.”

After their brief presentations, the panel offered to take questions from the audience. There was no shortage of takers on that offer.

“We are Green Card holders and have been here 10 years. Can we go home for my brother's wedding in Yemen?” was the first inquiry.

“I would not go back right now if I were you,” answered Ofelia Calderon. “Travel for Green Card holders is just not advisable. Not until we see where this goes after the first 90 days.”

“I am here legally from one of the banned countries. I have been working through the process to get my permanent status for more than 7 years. What happens to me?” asked another attendee.

“I’m sorry, but your case is on hold,” responded Calderon.

Anab Ali spoke for herself and her daughter Hodan Abdi beside her, telling the panel that Hodan's fiancé had been scheduled to arrive at Dulles Airport just a few days earlier. At the last minute they received word that he had been denied boarding on an Emirates flight from Dubai. “What do we do? This is terrible,” said Ali. “Yes, he is a Somali national because of his parents, but

he was born and raised in Dubai. He has never even been to Somalia.”

The plight of Anab, Hodan and Hodan's fiancé met with the sympathy of the attorneys, but no remedy. An attorney that Ali and her daughter met at Dulles when they joined the protests there over the weekend, volunteered to help and has been in contact with the bridegroom, but so far no way around the ban has been discovered.

THE QUESTIONS kept coming, and for the most part, the answers were disappointing to the person who asked.

Before wrapping up the Q&A session and moving on to one-on-one time with the lawyers, the four offered some general advice for those traveling, and those staying within the borders.

❖ Know your rights and don't be afraid to use them, respectfully. Keep up to date.

❖ Travel light. Avoid taking electronics, if possible, even to the point of leaving your personal cell phone at home and buying a “burner” phone that you can dispose of before your return.

❖ Remember – you have no right to counsel at the border, but if you have legal status you can either say nothing, or keep asking “Am I under arrest?” and “Am I free to leave?”

❖ Be prepared for questions, lots of questions. You do not have to answer questions about your religion.

❖ If you are in the process of getting Legal Permanent Residency or becoming a Naturalized US Citizen, even though your case may be on hold, keep getting prepared. Don't be “sent back for more documents and evidence” when your case is called.

Finally, the attorneys advised that people stay calm, stay hopeful and stay involved. Calderon told them how 1300 attorneys volunteered to attend the protests at Dulles and to assist those denied entry or returned to their port of origin. “Remember, you are not alone.

There are lots of people working to make this right.”

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe was so warmly welcomed by the crowd of ADAMS congregants and by their supporters, that it took him quite a while to finally head off to his next engagement. Time constraints did not keep him from participating in a selfie or two. Looking into the camera, McAuliffe shouted out “Register to vote, vote, take action and stand together!”



From left — Bruce Bailey of Centerville, Julia Persing of Reston, Janet Rider of Centerville and Jolene McNamara of Herndon, all members of Christ the Servant Lutheran Church in Reston, show their support for their “Muslim brothers and sisters” at the entrance to the ADAMS Center during the Friday Peace Rally.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Standing Together

Peace rally draws hundreds against immigration ban.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) campus has one foot in Fairfax County and the rest of the property in Loudoun. On Friday, it drew hundreds of people from all around the Northern Virginia region to show their support for the members of one of the largest mosques in the country at an event that featured appearances by Governor Terry McAuliffe and Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring.

This was no months-in-the-works assembly, but more an impromptu response to President Trump’s Executive Orders that suspend immigration from seven Muslim-majority countries for at least 90 days and the entry of refugees for at least 120 days. The move has caused travel disruptions, airport detentions and deportations since it was dropped without notice last week. Numbers are being disputed between different government departments, but the estimates are between 60,000 and 100,00 visas that were summarily and abruptly cancelled.

SUPPORTERS who turned up to reassure their Muslim neighbors found out about the rally mostly by word-of-mouth and through social media outlets. Bruce Bailey, Janet Rider, Jolene McNamara and Julia Persing learned of the event via a church email chain from Christ the Servant Lutheran

Church of Reston and decided they had to attend. “This is not political for me,” said McNamara. “This is about basic human rights. The people here need to know that there are plenty of us out there who support and love them.”

“This is very emotional for me,” said Rider. “This is a free country, with freedom of religion. Being here to support our Muslim brothers and sisters is such a small thing to do.”

From about 11 a.m. until almost 2:30 p.m. the supporters lined either side of the steps leading into the Center. Their spirits were lifted and the cold temperatures kept at bay by their grateful hosts, who passed through the crowd with coffee, donuts, cookies and pizza.

As the congregants exited from their prayer service, funnelled through the middle of the crowd, they were greeted with shouts of “We’re here for you!” “We love you and ADAMS!” and a sea of men, women and children waving signs.

“United We Stand.” “Patriots Protect All Religions.” “Love They Neighbor. (No Exceptions).” These were just a few of the sentiments displayed in varying degrees of artistic talent.

Some of the recipients of this goodwill seemed almost overcome with emotion. Many walked shyly through the runway, heads down, but with their hands over their hearts. Others walked along with smiles and waves, calling out “Thank you! Thank you so much!” There were tears, and spontaneous hugs between strangers. Shannon Mashaal, one of the congregants, stopped with her children to meet and thank Dylan Rosenberg of Herndon, and within minutes the new friends were taking selfies.

“I believe truly in unity,” said Rosenberg. “What’s going on is just not right. We need



Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel was on hand to lend her personal support to the rally. From left: Heela, 2, Venus Hashemee, Linda Mohrparaskevopoulos and Mayor Merkel.

to stand together, just like this.”

Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel couldn’t agree more, and showed up to add her voice to those of the rally attendees. Carrying her “We The People – One Love” sign, Merkel praised the ADAMS Center. “I’ve been coming here for years. They are the most welcoming of people and have done so much to support the community. I’m here as a private citizen in their support, but also as Mayor to make sure everyone knows that we really believe that ‘Herndon is for Everyone.’”

When the last private prayer group had ended, the ADAMS officials opened wide their doors and invited the crowd to come in and listen to the numerous speakers. Friendly chaos ensued, as the ADAMS members helped the non-Muslim supporters find their way in, stacking their shoes on shelves before walking on the prayer carpets, and getting welcoming invitations to “please, sit here by us.” Marilyn Pierce of Reston admitted to the congregant beside her that this

SEE HUNDREDS, PAGE 11

Faith Communities Come Together To Feed And Protect Homeless From Hypothermia

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

The county's Hypothermia Prevention Program is now offering homeless individuals refuge from the winter cold.

The program runs every year from Nov. 27 through April 1 and served 386 people last winter.

"We've seen over 170 unduplicated individuals throughout the program so far this season," says Chaka Meney, a case manager and hypothermia program assistant at FACETS, a nonprofit organization that helps the county run the program.

The program relies on faith communities that volunteer to give the needy a safe place to sleep and warm meals. Each volunteer faith community opens its houses of worship for a week at a time.

From Sunday, Jan. 29, to Saturday, Feb. 4, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fairfax in Oakton was one of the churches that participated.

"A year before we got started, we had people die on the street from hypothermia," says Jerry Poje, a member of the church. "We said we wouldn't let that happen again."

He helped start the countywide program in 2003.

"Not everyone knows the plight of homelessness in our communities or how easy it is to tumble into homelessness," he says. "They may have been living in their house and paying a mortgage but it all goes away when a health crisis happens."

MORE THAN 40 houses of worship, including churches, synagogues and mosques have volunteered space for the program this winter season in Annandale, Springfield, Fairfax, Burke, Herndon, Reston, Oakton, Vienna, Falls Church and Fairfax Station.

"If you talked with some of the people here at night, it's not freezing but it's damn cold," Poje says. And if it's raining, it's a mortal damage to your life."

The homeless are given a mat and blankets and can choose a spot to sleep for the night. Some houses of worship choose to separate guests by gender while some others do not. Some also provide showers if they have the ability.



The dining room at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fairfax in Oakton is set for service. Church volunteers at each church in the Hypothermia Prevention Program provide the homeless with dinner when they arrive, breakfast when they wake up and a packed lunch when they leave.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CHAKA MENEY



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Fairfax in Oakton could hold 38 homeless individuals overnight at a time. Capacity for areas that churches use for the Hypothermia Prevention Program are set by the Fairfax County Fire Marshal ahead of time.

"I'm thankful that I have a place to stay for the night because I have slept outside before," says a homeless man who was

staying at the church and requested to remain anonymous. He is a veteran of the Army and has been homeless for the last

three months.

"It's going to be about 25 degrees tonight and there's going to be some people out there that probably have on three pairs of pants and shirts, jackets and coats," he says. "Or you can stay up all night and wait until a library opens up and try to catch a nap in there, or you can sleep on a bus or go to a mall and hope that security doesn't kick you out."

He wants to study cybersecurity once he finds stable housing so he doesn't have to face homelessness ever again, he says.

In the meantime, he plans on saving up some money so that he can be a courier. But first he must save up enough money for a car.

"Guests are in different stages of homelessness, some are new and some have been for years," says Meney. "Some have mental illness, were recently evicted, released from jail or hospitals with no place to go."

Meney arrives at the church's early to assist her clients in applying for benefits and works to get them housing and employment assistance.

"I help them with resumes, access to mental health services and signing up for food stamps," she says as a man comes up to her to ask about a section of his application for SNAP benefits.

"It can be a rewarding experience as a case manager because I feel like I help them get out of homelessness," she says. "The goal is to get them housed."

The county's 2017 Point-in-Time Count of People Experiencing Homelessness was conducted on Wednesday, Jan. 25.

"We don't have the numbers yet because we're still compiling the data," says Dean Klein, director of the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. "We have continued to see a decline in our homeless numbers, but we're certainly very concerned for those who are homeless currently."

AS OF LAST YEAR'S COUNT on Jan. 28, 2016, there were 1,059 people who were homeless in the county. This represents a 12 percent reduction from the number counted in January 2015, or 145 less people.

The new numbers will be published in the spring.

VOLUNTEER EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Fairfax County's free Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group meets by phone on Tuesday, March 14, 7-8 p.m. Share your experiences, gain support and get important information without having to travel. Register beforehand at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults and click on Telephone Caregiver Support Group. Call **703-324-5484, TTY 711.**

The Fairfax Commission on Aging meets on Wednesday,

March 15 from Noon-3 p.m. at the Lincolnia Senior Center - Craft Room, 4710 North Chamberliss St. Alexandria. (Please note new meeting location.) The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults and click on Commission on Aging. Call **703-324-5632, TTY 703-449-1186** for meeting access needs - advance notice requested.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

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

Meals on Wheels Drivers are urgently needed in **Fairfax, Centreville** and the **Reston-Herndon** area. **Co-coordinators** are needed for routes throughout the county. Call **703-324-5406, TTY 711** or Register Now.

The Chronic Disease Self-Man-

agement Program needs volunteer leaders to facilitate 2-hour workshops during this 6-week program that meets in Fairfax County. For more information, contact Colleen Turner at Colleen.Turner@FairfaxCounty.gov, call **703-324-5489, TTY 711**, or go to www.FairfaxCounty.gov/DFS/OlderAdultServices/chronic-disease.htm.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to **drive older adults to medical appointments** and wellness programs. Call **703-324-5406, TTY 711** or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Meals on Wheels needs Drivers, Coordinators, and Co-coordinators for routes throughout the county. Call **703-324-5406, TTY 711** or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Contact Kristin Martin at **703-324-7577, TTY 711**, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

NEWS

Chief Withholds Name of Officer in Fatal Shooting

Roessler exceeds new 10-day information release policy.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Citing an incomplete threat assessment regarding the officer involved, Fairfax County Police Chief Edwin Roessler announced on Jan. 26 he would not be releasing the name of the 16-year veteran who fatally shot Mohammad Azim Doudzai, 32, at his Herndon-area home 10 days earlier.

The 10 days is in itself significant, in that it's part of new policy for FCPD that was recommended by the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission and approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Within 10 days of an officer-involved deployment of deadly force, or any other officer-involved incident where another person suffered life-threatening injuries, the chief of police is to release the name, rank, assignment, tenure of the officer(s) involved, and the current status of the officer(s), the policy reads.

"If the Chief has determined a credible threat to the officer's safety and/or the safety of their family cannot be fully investigated or mitigated within the 10 days and additional time is needed," the policy continues, "the Chief shall inform the Board in writing — through the Chairman of the Board and the Chair of the Board's Public Safety Committee — of his decision not to release the information or to delay the release of the information, and his reasons therefore."

THIS IS THE FIRST such incident since the policy was adopted, and Roessler's statement appears to follow it.

"The risk assessment has several factors that require further investigation," Roessler stated. "Because of the complexity of the investigation, I'm not in a position at this point to say whether a risk exists or not, therefore, it isn't prudent to release the officer's name at this time."

Roessler went on to say the shooting is still under investigation and the unnamed officer remains on administrative leave pending its outcome.

Police had previously released that officers were called to Doudzai's home after a call from two of his brothers, on their way to the hospital after having been shot by him. They had gone to the house at the request of Doudzai's girlfriend after they had

gotten in an argument, police said.

A perimeter was set up by police around Doudzai's residence, during which time they said multiple fires were set inside the house and there were several reports of gunfire.

Officers learned while negotiating with Doudzai there was an additional 29-year-old hostage, a non-related roommate, still inside the home. Officers decided to approach the home; when they did, Doudzai came out "with at least one knife in hand," police said, and was shot.

The unnamed officer from Roessler's statement fired a service weapon, however police said the other officers used less-lethal force on Doudzai as well.

The chief didn't give a specific date as to when or even if the officer's name and information would be released, except to say that, "I anticipate an update on the assessment in the near future."

Nor does the new communications policy lay out a specific time extension for the chief releasing that information. However, it does specify "the Board and the public expect the Police Department to release other appropriate preliminary factual information and updates to the public as soon as possible."

As of Feb. 6, FCPD Public Affairs Bureau director Julie Parker said there are no updates available in the case and that the risk assessment is still incomplete. That makes 21 days since the shooting of Doudzai.

"The risk assessment has several factors that require further investigation,"

— Fairfax County Police Chief Edwin Roessler

THE POLICY dictates the supervisors may review the chief's decision at the next regularly scheduled board meeting and, if they deem it necessary, may "direct the Chief to

release the name(s)."

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), chair of the board's public safety committee, said that the matter has been put on the supervisors' closed session agenda the day of their regular meeting on Feb. 14. If Roessler hasn't released the name by then, Cook said, he will appear at the closed session and provide detailed reasons as to why he's still withholding the name.

At that point the board will decide whether or not to give him more time or direct the chief to release the officer's name.

The Board of Supervisors approved policy also emphasizes that 10 days is a limit, not a standard, and the importance updating other information about the event.

The policy reads: "It is important to note the 10 day period is primarily related to the release of officer names and is only designed as a limit to not be exceeded without cause, not a recommended standard, and the Board and the public expect the Police Department to release other appropriate preliminary factual information and updates to the public as soon as possible."

— MONUMENTAL —

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OPINION

First Amendment Is Alive and Well

BY RONALD GOLDFARB

"Congress shall make no law ... abridging ... the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Having worked in D.C. and lived in Alexandria since 1961 when I came to work for Robert Kennedy in the Justice Department, I've experienced the First Amendment in real time action, by assembling and petitioning my government for redress of grievances.

In 1963 my wife and I stood near the Lincoln Memorial where Martin Luther King, Jr. pleaded to the world for civil rights for all people, and delivered his immortal "I Have a Dream" speech. About 250,000 people — black and white — peacefully gathered in the nation's capital to plead for President Kennedy to provide 19 million Afro-American descendants the right to vote, travel, and work.

Fears abounded. The D.C. police and FBI were present on the streets. There were altogether over 8,000 guardians of the peace. The federal government and many businesses were closed. Hospitals canceled elective surgery so all beds would be available for riot-related emergencies. Jails were emptied to provide room for predicted arrests. Judges were on around-the-clock standby.

These precautions were not necessary. The assembly was non-violent. People arrived from all over the world and marched with dignity. Many swarmed around the Reflecting Pool in

a field of humanity that ran all the way to the Washington Monument.

On that day we listened to the greatest orator of his time pleading for racial justice, claiming that the time had come "to lift our nation from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood," calling for "the fierce urgency of now," then urged on by Mahalia Jackson, departed from his prepared text and segued into his immortal plea, "I have a dream," that reverberates still in the hearts and minds of all decent people.

The New York Times called the event "the most impressive assembly for a redress of grievances in America's history." The Washington Post reported that the assembly was a happy combination of prayer meeting, picnic, and political rally, a crowd "united in a sense of brotherhood and common humanity." The next year, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed.

Unfortunately, many of the social injustices deplored on that summer day in Washington, D.C., have not yet been overcome. But Aug. 28, 1963, was a seminal moment in American history. It demonstrated the power and dignity of democracy in action.

In 1971, the scene was more fractious when my wife and I joined Vietnam War protests on the streets of Washington D.C., a gathering which was rougher and more proactive than the 1963 event. We were gassed, with many others, near Dupont Circle by police overreacting to the noisy protests. Eventually the public demonstrations worked. The war was ended, too late, but it might not have ended when it did without these public pro-

tests. Critics of the war hastened the end of it, and resulted in a president leaving politics.

In 1986, my wife, daughter and two human rights activist friends, the late Pat Derian and Rose Styron and their daughters marched on a sunny day near Congress in a sea of women who came from across the country to support the ERA. But this time their pleas were not successful in terms of reaching the goal that gave rise to that march. But peace prevailed and eventually the goals they asserted then have been advanced in major ways.

On Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017, an estimated half million Americans filled the streets of Washington, as did huge crowds in other cities in America and around the world to claim rights they felt were disparaged by the Trump campaign and election. The Saturday crowds far surpassed Friday's relatively insignificant inaugural crowds. President Trump now argues about the relative size of his crowds — those applauding his election, and those crying out against it.

My children who attended here in D.C. and other locations reported a cheering good spirit, upbeat communal behavior, welcoming friendly law enforcement officials, filled bleachers, and an upbeat camaraderie.

Now what remains after people returned to their homes away from Washington, D.C. is the question: how does this experience change the future? Will the energy become harnessed into a movement that changes politics? We all ponder that question, bravo to the people who are trying.

COMMENTARY

Crossing Guard Appreciation Day Feb. 8

BY JOHN C. COOK
SUPERVISOR (R-BRADDOCK DISTRICT)

If you have lived in Fairfax County for any amount of time, you are surely familiar with the traffic situation here. Congested roads and long travel times lead to frustrated and fatigued motorists, who may not always yield to pedestrians at a crosswalk. In the morning and afternoon, the situation is compounded by school children going to and from school. To help keep us all safe, and keep traffic moving in an orderly fashion, the County hires crossing guards to assist students and pedestrians in crossing the street at appropriate intersections. The service these workers provide plays an instrumental role in promoting student safety, and we should be thankful for their service to our children and the community. Crossing Guard Appreciation Day is Feb. 8, and I hope everyone will go out of their way to thank a crossing guard. (In fact, you can thank them every day!) Our students and pedestrians depend on them, and the County would not be as safe without them.

Safety at intersections, and roadway safety as a whole, is one of my priorities both as your supervisor and as Chair of the Board's Public Safety Committee. In that regard, I have

launched and participated in several safety initiatives. First, to improve safety for both motorists and pedestrians, I developed the "Slow Down" safe driving campaign. This campaign aimed to reduce neighborhood speeding through extensive community outreach efforts, and part of that outreach involved assistance from residents. If you are interested in spreading the word, my office still has available for free the yellow "slow down" signs, which you can place on your lawn to get the message out.

Second, to combat the issue of distracted driving, I joined Kirk Cousins (Washington Redskins Quarterback) in support of the "Phones Down Touchdown" campaign sponsored by Transurban. This campaign raises awareness of distracted driving, primarily by discouraging texting on the road. A significant number of accidents are attributable to texting while driving, and other forms of distracted driving. By keeping people focused on the road, and not their phone, we can improve everyone's roadway safety.

Recently, the Board joined my call to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to increase from three to six times per year its mowing of roadway median strips. This high grass is not only unsightly, but creates visibil-

ity problems for motorists.

These initiatives are great ways to promote community engagement and safe driving awareness, but, are not enough on their own. You can join with us by focusing on your own driving, speed, and attentiveness behind the wheel. Encourage your neighbors to do the same. And thank your local crossing guards. They are out there every day- rain, snow, or shine- working to keep our neighborhoods safe. Thank you!

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

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CALENDAR

Send announcements to www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 8

Fracking "What's the Fuss?" 7:15-9:00 p.m. Reston Community Center in Hunters Woods, Room 3, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Where is it taking place in Virginia, and what should we do about it? Join Reston LWV members as they continue a two-month study of this environmental issue currently being examined both nationally and in Virginia. Learn the facts about what is happening in Virginia, whether we should be concerned, and what we should do about it. Cost: Free. 703-471-6364 www.lwv-fairfax.org

THURSDAY/FEB. 9

Relay For Life Kickoff 7 - 9 p.m. Reston Association Conference Center 12001 Sunrise Valley Dr. Reston. This year marks the Reston Relay's 20th Anniversary. Guests will have the opportunity to register a team for the Relay For Life event, buy Luminaria, bid on auction items, and much more. It is a fun-filled, interactive kickoff! The community is invited and learn about how to help the American Cancer Society save more lives from cancer. www.RelayForLife.org/RestonVA 703-937-1909 RestonRelay@gmail.com

SATURDAY/FEB. 11

2017 Virginia Polar Dip Registration at noon Plunge at 2 p.m. Reston Community Center, Lake Anne Village Center, Reston. With the strength of an event such as the 2017 Virginia Polar Dip and the resources of Camp Sunshine, the goal is to raise in excess of \$100,000 in 2017. That is enough to send 40 families from the Mid-Atlantic area (including VA/MD/DC/DE/PA/WV/NC) to attend Camp Sunshine. All participants who raise at least \$100 will receive a highly coveted "I DID IT" event tshirt. csun.convio.net

Pre-Valentine Cooking Class at Il Fornaio 11 - 1 p.m. Il Fornaio, 11990 Market Street, Reston Town Center. Join us for our first men-only cooking class. Our chef will instruct you in an easy-to-prepare gourmet Valentine's Day dinner for your special someone at home. Recipes, shopping list, wine pairing and handy tips will be provided. \$75. [Facebook.com/IlFornaioReston](https://www.facebook.com/IlFornaioReston) Reservations: banquets.reston@ilfo.com or 703-437-5544

Handmade Valentine Card Workshop at GRACE 9:30 - 11 a.m. Greater Reston Arts Center,



The 2017 Virginia Polar Dip will take place on Saturday Feb. 11. Registration begins at noon the Plunge starts at 2 p.m. at the Reston Community Center in Lake Anne Village Center, Reston. With the strength of an event such as the 2017 Virginia Polar Dip and the resources of Camp Sunshine, the goal is to raise in excess of \$100,000 in 2017. That is enough to send 40 families from the Mid-Atlantic area to attend Camp Sunshine. All participants who raise at least \$100 will receive a highly coveted "I DID IT" event tshirt. csun.convio.net

12001 Market Street, #103, Reston Town Center. Using punches, origami, and stamping techniques, create a one-of-a-kind Valentine for someone special! Sign up the whole family for this fun workshop led by GRACE staff. Note: Parents will need to assist children with the creation of cards, and children must be accompanied by a participating adult. Adults may come on their own and do not need to be accompanied by a child. [Facebook.com/GreaterRestonArtsCenter](https://www.facebook.com/GreaterRestonArtsCenter) Registration required. 703-471-9242 restonarts.org

Parthenon Huxley at ARTSPACE HERNDON 7 - 9 p.m. Alternate Rock Singer and Songwriter. Huxley has released nine albums of critically acclaimed, award-winning music. Huxley will be accompanied by the prodigiously talented violinist Ben Hoyt of Baltimore's Peabody School of Music. Come out for this Valentines themed performance. <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/>

TUESDAY/FEB. 14

Valentine's Day Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. A coach will be ready in front of Talbots for Valentine's Day. 11900 Market St. Reston.rain or shine, in front of Pavilion. restontowncenter.com

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 15

Herndon Community Center Preschool Open House and

Registration 5:30-7:30 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Cost: Free 703-435-6800, ext. 2119

FRIDAY/FEB. 17 - SUNDAY FEB. 19

All Star Weekend Watch Party at American Tap Room 11 a.m. Feb. 17 through 11 p.m. Feb. 19 American Tap Room, 1811 Library Street, Reston Town Center Watch All Star Weekend festivities each day, including great food and drink features. 703-834-0400 americantaproom.com

SUNDAY/FEB. 19

Using Adobe Lightroom to Organize, Edit and Share Your Photography with Mary Louise Ravese 1 - 5 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Over the course of two days, Mary Louise Ravese of Bella Vista Photography, will concentrate on the essentials of Adobe Lightroom's main modules: Library, Develop, and the output modules of Print, Web, Slideshow and Book. Participants will learn how to organize their images so they can be easily found, quickly identify and optimize their images for tone, and more! Early Bird Discount: \$199 if registered by February 4, 2017, \$225 if registered after February 4. 703-956-9560. <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event>

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Kaia Andrade, 5, gets her first wrist corsage from her father Niel.

PHOTOS BY
FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION



Dads Take Daughters To Dance

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

More than 60 father-daughter pairings made their way to the gymnasium at the Herndon Community Center for the town's annual Father Daughter Dance on Saturday night, Feb. 4.

The Herndon Parks and Recreation Department hosts the semi-formal dance for girls aged 3 to 12 and their fathers, uncles, grandfathers or male guardians.

"I think it's a wonderful opportunity to get fathers to participate with their daughters and make a memory that lasts forever," says Holly Popple, who has been organizing the event for the last two years. "I wish I had an event like this when I was young to have a night like this with my father." Participants were treated to a catered buffet of appetizers and sweets, dancing and a photo booth. Ashburn-based Basement Media Productions has DJ'd the event for the last eight years and was sure to play a slew of Disney tunes for the event's "Once Upon A Time" theme.



Rick Jansky helps his daughter Rachel, 11, with her wrist corsage.



Father David Scoville pours a cup of punch for his daughter Itsuko, 9.

Fireplace as Focal Point

A hearth is in demand for cold weather.

BY JOHN BYRD

Fireplaces have never fallen out of favor," said David Foster, president of Foster Remodeling Solutions. "We may be seeing a preference for gas over a traditional wood-burner, but the hearth itself is hugely popular — with homeowners continually seeking distinctions in style, building materials and, even, where it will be located."

Foster says he's currently working on several home remodeling projects that feature a fireplace as an interior focal point.

"A fireplace offers aesthetic and functional benefits at one price," he said, "so it's an attractive option."

Fireplace-desire can also be a spur to creative thinking that stimulates a more engaging and original remodeling project.

Case in point, the new formal dining room created for Burke homeowners Dennis Perzanowski and Jack Ellison. The goal: convert a three season-room into a year-around dining room complete with a gas-fueled hearth on one elevation.

"We were looking for a mix of old and new styles," said Perzanowski. "We wanted to feature a traditional dining room set with sideboards, but there are modern touches such an industrial-style chandelier."

In this context, a gas fireplace with an brushed steel frame was a perfect offset. Mounted on the east wall elevation and with an oil painting just above, the stacked geometrical shapes lend balance and symmetry to an otherwise blank wall between two floor-to-ceiling windows.

Chris Arnold, a Foster partner who managed the project, knew there would be challenges in adding a hearth in a somewhat restricted available space, but with a little research found a 42" x 38" gas insert that perfectly suits the spot allocated for an eye-catching focal point.

"This is something of a formal dining room," Arnold notes, "yet the fireplace design is so understated it's visually compatible the rest of the décor."

interior design solution to a Vienna great room also depended on profiling a new hearth.

Ted and Wanda Rogers had asked had Foster to renovate the circa-1960's ranch they had occupied for 30 years.

The remodeler added more than 1,000 square feet of additional living space. But the question that generated really serious discussion was how best to introduce a new hearth.

Wanda Rogers wanted to eliminate the original builder-grade brick-facing fireplace, which was situated in the middle of the house and too drafty and cold.

Ted Rogers agreed in principal, but was attracted to a gas-fueled fireplace alternative, which offers considerable heating efficiencies.

As all soon learned, the existing 8-ft ceiling to the Rogers home was too low to yield much design benefit. That's when Foster proposed re-working the entire mid-house interior by opening sightlines out and up.

To implement changes that now called for connecting the new kitchen to a front-facing family room, the remodeler replaced an obstructive bearing wall with concealed structural supports.

Giving sightlines free-reign, likewise, meant removing the living room ceiling and shelling-in previously concealed roofing rafters.

An ascending vertical accent was now introduced: a floor-to-ceiling hearth constructed of dry stacked Ledgesones.

The new hearth is designed for a gas-fueled insert equipped with blowers and remote control. Vents draw air in from the outside. The couple can adjust a thermostat for the desired temperature. This is a useful since, at full speed, the unit can generate 55,000 BTUs of heat — enough to keep the entire great room toasty and warm even during the dead of winter.

Foster's architect proposed a wood-trimmed ledge above the fireplace, a simple motif that draws the eye upwards to the accent-lighted vaulted ceiling.

As a housewarming gesture, Foster fashioned a rustic mantle from the rough-sawn oak previously deployed in the rafters of the original structure. It's a little keepsake of the old place.

Though higher interior ceilings, theoretically, make a room harder to heat, the remodeler re-insulated the ceiling and installed an eco-slate roofing, dramatically improving the thermal efficiency of the entire residence.

RAISE THE ROOF

Meanwhile, not far away, the

SEE HOMELIFESTYLE, PAGE 9

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Fireplace as Focal Point

FROM PAGE 8

The new fireplace is flanked by arches: a recess for shelving and cabinetry on the left; a sympathetically curvilinear entry to the new master suite on the right.

"The effect in all directions is exciting," Wanda Rogers said. "Looking in from the kitchen, the room opens out and up; it feels really warm."

The new vaulted wall expanse also doubles as display space for her private art collection, which is now illuminated by track lights.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

FAMILY-GATHERING PLACE

In nearby McLean, a Foster client was looking for a floorplan re-configuration that would include a front-facing family-gathering niche — with a window wall and a fireplace.

"We all saw the aesthetic opportunity," Foster said. "There would be larger windows on all sides. But also a new front-facing family room — with an 11' cathedral ceiling dominated by an extensive window wall, and an appropriately post-modern hearth as the central interior focal point."

The window wall would help to contextualize a more symmetrical front elevation — one defined by a processional entrance way with double French glass doors and sidelights.

Taken as a whole, however, the floor plan is functionally a "great room" formed by clever variances in room width and ceiling height differentiated as clearly identified "use" spaces.

"The slightly narrower width confers a degree of intimacy on the family room that suits its purpose," Foster observes. "The hearth, in particular, really defines this."

The stainless steel hearth features gas burner elements embedded in river rock and functions as both a heat source and an ornamental focal point.

Flanked by open "cubbies" with glass display shelves, cherry wood cabinetry, and a wine rack abutting a wine refrigerator, the "built-ins" define a functionally separate family entertainment zone that includes a wide-screen plasma TV mounted above the fireplace.

The Grems decide on a formal and traditional look for the fireplace in the family room. The half-brick floor-to-ceiling backwall was replaced by symmetrical built-ins, crown molding and an elevated hearth with a marble surround and an Edwardian-style mantle.

A more congenial spot for holiday entertaining is hard to imagine.

FROM BRICK TO ELEVATED HEARTH

Ed and Kelly Grems of Vienna have worked with Foster on a number of projects over a decade, but held off on upgrading the family room because the family's design process was gestating slowly.

"We're particular; we let the look come to us piece by piece," Kelly Grems said.

One notable piece, was deciding on a formal and traditional look for the fireplace in the family room. In the end, FRS designers created interior elevations that bear no resemblance to the excess of brick that came with the original circa-1990s house.

The earlier half-brick floor-to-ceiling backwall was replaced by symmetrical built-ins, crown molding and an elevated hearth with a marble surround and an Edwardian-style mantle.

"It's an entirely different mood from the sun room," Grems said, "and perfectly satisfies another dimension of our lifestyle."

Foster Remodeling Solutions periodically offers workshops on home remodeling topics. For information call: 703-550-1371, or www.fosterremodeling.com

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



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Completely Off Topic



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

That topic not being cancer. The topic being candy, or rather the disappearance of candy, from my hiding place at home. The reason I'm even discussing/divulging this publicly is that I've been forced by circumstances beyond my control to already involve my wife, Dina, in the disappearance of said topic: my post-holiday purchase of 75-percent-off-the-regular-price of snack-size type candy, typically available the day after a holiday.

Before I proceed, let me provide a bit of context for some of you irregular readers: I love chocolate. I don't just have a sweet tooth, I have sweet teeth. However, given certain realities/habits in my life, I almost always (unless times/circumstances are desperate) only buy these delicacies when the items are on sale and even more so when the items are both on sale and I have coupons. Now add into that mix an extra \$5 off a \$15 purchase — or a percentage off \$20 or \$30 store-specific coupon, and I'm spending pennies (almost literally) on the dollar. On these occasions — and Rebecca, you should probably stop reading — I load up. ('Load up' for a typical person might mean months. For yours truly, honestly, it means weeks, sometimes even days.)

Now when I bring this much volume into the house, my wife, Dina, need not know anything about it. Generally, I will stash the non-cash in places where I'll doubt she'll look (and I'm not saying the oven; that's an old Henny Youngman joke), and when I do indulge, it won't be in her presence, nor will there be any sign that I've unwrapped anything.

One of my hiding places, which will now be changed, was downstairs in our cellar in a top drawer of an old bureau I use for collecting miscellaneous bank statements, credit card bills, insurance forms, etc., and for years, my candy and previously unmentioned consumables. On the particular day in question — a day now seared into my memory — as I am habitually wont to do, I went to my downstairs drawer to replenish my upstairs drawer (in yet another hiding place) and was shocked and awed to find my two remaining bags of Kisses and Rolos empty, both gutted like a fish, ripped along their sides with nary a wrapper to be seen, 40-50 bite-size pieces gone.

My first reaction was of course to accuse my wife. Doing so however, would have exposed my secret: I buy candy and hide it (although, she probably knows it, and since I'm not exactly losing any weight ...). But what other cause/culprit could be behind such a dastardly deed? A break-in? No. A ghost who loves chocolate? (We do live in a 250-year-old house.) Mice? Squirrels? It's possible. There are some animal-friendly access points under our foundation. And even though the bureau is flush up against a retaining wall/crawl space for critters, I did notice that the bureau drawer was open an inch or two. Barely enough access. Otherwise, there is no entry. But if critters were responsible, where are all the wrappers and/or feces or any other evidence of their transgression? There weren't any. If the candy was indeed pilfered, it was "The Great Escape" of candy heists. Forced with this dilemma and daring-do, I was forced to confront my wife with these facts and ask if she in fact was responsible. She denied everything and blamed either a ghost or an animal. She was surprised, or so she claimed, at where I had hid the candy, not that I hid candy, so we weren't breaking any new ground, but apparently, my secret had been safe.

It's been a few weeks since this non-insurance loss, and there's been no sign or evidence to indicate what happened to my chocolate. My wife seems to have forgotten the incident. As for me, I bought a 3.4-pound container of Kirkland-brand chocolate-covered raisins from Costco so my inventory is back where I want it to be. I just wish my Kisses and Rolos were back as well.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

From left — Robert Marro, executive director Alliance for an Indivisible America 2020 and a trustee and co-chair of government relations and media for ADAMS, Gov. Terry McAuliffe, Rizwan Jaka, chairman of the board, ADAMS, and Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring.

Hundreds Join Peace Rally

FROM PAGE 3

was her first experience inside a mosque. “I’m kind of nervous. Please let me know if I do something wrong.” She was quickly assured that there was no problem and nothing to worry about.

ALL OF THE SPEAKERS were welcomed with applause, but the appearance of Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe was greeted with a standing ovation and shouts of “We love you!” and “Thank you!”

McAuliffe declared loudly to the crowd that immigrants were the foundation and the fabric of America, part of the “great mosaic that makes us strong” and vowed to fight the new administration’s immigration policies and any other order or direction that discriminates or impedes human rights and dignity. He also urged people to register to vote, to always vote, and to keep in contact with their elected representatives.

Before turning the microphone over to the Attorney General, McAuliffe announced that Virginia had just won the right to par-

ticipate in litigation against the immigration ban and had also been granted the right to have the Commonwealth provided with a list of all persons who have been denied entry or removed from the United States since the Executive Order titled “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States” was signed.

Attorney General Herring provided a brief update on the legal proceedings and finished his remarks by urging everyone to stay focused and active. “These actions are unlawful, unconstitutional and un-American. Let’s stand together.” Before the assembly dispersed, representatives from a number of non-Muslim faith communities in the area stepped up to offer support from the communities they represented.

As the event came to a close, many of the rally participants acknowledged that it would take more than this one gathering to effect change. “It’s the proverbial marathon, not the sprint,” was how Linda Mohrparaskevopoulos of Herndon described what is needed. “But we’re prepared to keep coming back.”



About three hundred supporters turned out with signs calling for inclusion, tolerance and religious freedom at the All Dulles Area Muslim Society Center on Friday.



Swearing-in Ceremony for Acting Town Manager

Bill Ashton, Herndon's acting town manager, is flanked by his family, Mayor Lisa Merkel and members of the Herndon Town Council during his swearing-in ceremony on Tuesday, Jan. 24. Ashton, the town's IT director, is taking the interim post for when Art Anselene, the town's manager since 2007, retires on Feb. 28. Merkel and the council will be conducting a comprehensive search for a permanent successor to Anselene.

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ by noon on Friday.

Over-40 Softball League. A Fairfax-based league is looking for enough players to form another team. Players must be at least 40 years of age to be eligible. All games are doubleheaders - played on Sundays at Bready Park in Herndon between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. If interested, email skeduman@aol.com for more information.

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. The games are on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. For more information, visit www.goldengirls.org

"Stuff the Bus" — Help for Those Facing Food Insecurity

As the holiday decorations come down and the cold winter months settle in, many people continue to go hungry in our community. For many local, non-profit food pantries, this is the time of year where donations drop to one of the lowest points. To help address this need, Fairfax County is promoting its annual "Stuff the Bus: Helping Fairfax Families" program at 14 locations. This collaborative program, now in its seventh year, is a partnership among Fairfax County Government, local grocery stores and nonprofits to restock the shelves.

Each week a Fastran bus staffed by MV Transportation personnel will park at a different location and collect food donations. The campaign started on Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017 and will run each weekend through Monday, Feb. 20, 2017. All donation hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please visit our website for more information.

The U.S. Small Business Administration is reminding businesses in Virginia that working capital loans are still available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and private nonprofit organizations affected by the severe storms and tornadoes on Feb. 24, 2016. Deadline to file is March 7, 2017. <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. www.sba.gov/disaster. disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

THROUGH FRIDAY/FEB. 24

Divas Central Dress Drive with Reston Community Center. Monday, Jan. 23 through Friday, Feb. 24, collection in building lobbies.

Reston Community Center's mission for the annual Divas Central Dress Drive is to promote confidence and self-esteem by providing high school students a free prom dress and other accessories. Donate new or lightly used formal dresses, shoes, jewelry, handbags & accessories, collected in boxes located in building lobbies. restontowncenter.com

THROUGH FRIDAY/FEB. 24

Photographers Invited to Exhibit in "RPS Clicks @ USGS"

The Reston Photographic Society, a special-interest group of the League of Reston Artists, seeks photographers to enter their work in the "RPS Clicks @ USGS" exhibit. Entry forms must be completed online by February 24 and works dropped off on March 1. The exhibit and entry acceptance will be at the US Geological Survey, National Gallery, 12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., Reston, VA 20191. Visit the LRA website at www.leagueofrestonartists.org to enter works in the exhibit and for more information on this and other events.

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