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United Response to Hate

NEWS, PAGE 3

More than 100 people filled the Ernst Cultural Center at Northern Virginia Community College's Annandale Campus on Sunday, March 26, to hear more than a dozen elected and faith leaders, as well as local organizations speak about hate speech, bias incidents and hate crimes.

Forest to Table

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Forest to Table

Hunters share venison chili at Lorton Community Action Center.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Bob Flanagan of Fairfax Station and Tom Dalton of Springfield serve up samples of two styles of chili, just like a vendor at a grocery store. Except their chili — each man is responsible for one pot, either sweet and spicy or mild and chunky — is made with local venison. And the grocery store is actually the Lorton Community Action Center food pantry.

The men are members of Suburban Whitetail Management of Northern Virginia, an organization of bowhunters who provide a free service of controlling deer population on private property and suburban development. Flanagan estimates they harvest about 600 deer annually from around Fairfax County. He calls that “a small dent” in the county’s exploding population.

From that harvest, the hunters have the deer processed and distribute excess venison among friends, the Hunters for the Hungry organization and LCAC.

Several times per month, SWM drops of between 60 and 80 pounds of ground veni-

son, frozen and vacuum-packed for guests to make into hamburgers, pasta sauce, tacos or, of course, chili.

“To be able to donate the deer in one way or another is fulfilling,” Flanagan said at the chili-tasting on March 28. This is the second year the two men have done such an event at LCAC.

Dalton added that it means a lot they’re able to help people locally with their hunting, as well as chipping away at the overabundance of deer in the area.

The men said the mild winter made for a good hunting season, though the flip side they’re seeing a significant increase in the fawn ratio already this spring. Based on that, they expect about a 20 percent increase in deer this year over 2016.

“We need more private landowners and agencies to buy into the idea of management,” Flanagan said. Fairfax County manages its own lands, including allowing hunters on to parks at specific times.

“Most people either don’t know about [deer management services] or don’t want it,” he continued, “they like seeing the deer around.”



From left, Tom Dalton of Springfield and Bob Flanagan of Fairfax Station are members of Suburban Whitetail Management of Northern Virginia, an organization of bowhunters who provide a free service of controlling deer population on private property and suburban development.

But with more deer around, that often means more damage to private gardens, as well as dangerous collisions with vehicles.

AFTER THE VENISON CHILI DEBUT at LCAC last year, executive director Linda Patterson said it really opened doors for people trying new things. That’s especially valuable when they can’t always predict which meat they’ll have donated from one of the area grocery stores.

“They’ve become adventurous,” she said, “it’s helped broaden their horizons.” Where some guests of the pantry would only ever pick up one type of meat, now they’re willing to try several kinds. That’s carried over to vegetables as well, Patterson said, aided by nutrition and cooking demonstration classes LCAC offers.

Patterson said they’ve actually seen a 10

SEE VENISON, PAGE 5

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With a recent rise in hate crimes taking place across the country, Attorney General Mark Herring has addressed the issue at numerous events in Fairfax County already in 2017.



Fairfax County Chief of Police Edwin Roessler (right) said there were 83 hate “events” in the county last year, and 60 in 2015. Most of these, he said, involve graffiti and hate speech.

United Response to Hate

Community and faith leaders, elected officials speak about hate speech, bias incidents and hate crimes.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

More than 100 people filled the Ernst Cultural Center at Northern Virginia Community College’s Annandale Campus on Sunday, March 26, to hear more than a dozen elected and faith leaders, as well as representatives from local organizations speak about hate speech, bias incidents and hate crimes.

With a recent rise in hate crimes taking place across the country, Attorney General Mark Herring has addressed the issue at numerous events in Fairfax County already in 2017.

“There is a lot of fear out there,” Herring said. “I have felt it.”

Herring spoke about a web page he created for his website located at www.nohateva.com, dealing specifically with hate crimes: how are they defined, how to report one, what are resources for victims.

Herring’s page defines hate crimes as those “committed against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender’s bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity.”

In 2015, the site states, there were a reported 155 such crimes in Virginia.

Herring said he wanted every Virginian to know they have rights he is working to protect, and that professionals in his office are there to “defend, keep families safe and seek justice.”

Steven Gordon, Assistant U.S. Attorney, defined harassment in the context of civil rights and federal laws, and encouraged anyone to contact him directly with complaints regarding harassment they’ve seen



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Dr. Mary Ann Panarelli, Fairfax County Public Schools director for Intervention and Prevention Services, said building youth resiliency, helping them to believe in themselves, can prevent a variety of things, including hateful acts against one another.

or experienced.

Giulio Arseni, Supervisory Special Agent, FBI Civil Rights Division, helped explain the difference between hate speech and a hate crime, particularly with regards to the First Amendment.

“Many times you can do nothing about speech,” Arseni said, “Where does it cross the line?”

Speech becomes a hateful act, in the eyes of law he said, “when it shows serious intent to commit violence against another.”

Fairfax County Chief of Police Edwin

Speakers

Speakers at the “United Response to Hate Speech, Bias Incidents and Hate Crimes” included:

- ❖ U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, 11th Congressional District
- ❖ Mark Herring, Attorney General
- ❖ Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
- ❖ Imam Johari Abdul Malik, Dar Al Hijrah Islamic Center
- ❖ Giulio Arseni, Supervisory Special Agent, FBI Civil Rights Division
- ❖ Steven Gordon, Assistant U.S. Attorney
- ❖ Seth Gordon-Lipkin, Education Director, Anti-Defamation League
- ❖ Rev. Dr. Steven Hyde, Ravensworth Baptist Church
- ❖ Rabbi David Kalender, Congregation Olam Tikvah
- ❖ Dr. Mary Ann Panarelli, Fairfax County Public Schools
- ❖ Rev. Carlos Penaloza, Ekklesia Church
- ❖ Col. Ed Roessler Jr., Fairfax County Chief of Police
- ❖ Rev. Lisa Rzepka, John Calvin Presbyterian Church
- ❖ Kenneth Saunders, Director, Fairfax County Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs
- ❖ Rabbi Amy Schwartzman, Temple Rodef Shalom

Roessler said there were 83 hate “events” in the county last year, and 60 in 2015. Most of these, he said, involve graffiti and hate speech.

“Around the country, hate and bias are everywhere, including around this county,” Roessler said, “We will not tolerate this in Fairfax County.”

Roessler urged residents to engage with their local police districts; that FCPD representatives would come out to homeowners’ association meetings, to other local groups, to show they care, take responsibility and investigate any hate events.

Dr. Mary Ann Panarelli, Fairfax County Public Schools director for Intervention and Prevention Services, said building youth resiliency, helping them to believe in themselves, can prevent a variety of things, in-

cluding hateful acts against one another.

Panarelli spoke about the importance of mentors in the community, that “every child needs to have an adult that cares and is trusting,” whether that be a teacher, parent, or community member who reaches out.

The program also included expressions of the Golden Rule from 10 different religions, including Bahá’ism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism.

Religious leaders also discussed exploring community solutions to hate speech and crimes.

More information about bias crime committed in Fairfax County is available through Chief Roessler’s website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/crime/biascrime.htm.

Expand Medicaid Now

Virginia has missed out on \$10 billion, 30,000 jobs and care for 400,000 citizens.

Virginia's General Assembly has refused to accept one of the key provisions of the Affordable Care Act, expansion of Medicaid at almost no cost to Virginia that could have covered 400,000 uninsured Virginians and would have brought more than \$10 billion into the state. It has also cost lives.

Ironically, the failed bill to "repeal and replace" the Affordable Care Act included changes to Medicaid that would have penalized states, like Virginia, that did not expand Medicaid, permanently reducing federal funding.

On Monday, Gov. Terry McAuliffe proposed a budget amendment restoring his authority

to pursue planning for Medicaid expansion in the wake of the failed repeal effort in Congress.

Kansas and North Carolina are taking steps this week to expand Medicaid, hoping to join the 31 other states plus the District of Columbia that have already done so.

More than 140,000 residents of Fairfax County have no health insurance. More than 40,000 residents of Arlington and Alexandria have no health insurance. That's more than 12 percent of the people who live in one of the wealthiest areas in the nation.

A Harvard Medical School study determined that the decision by 25 states to reject the expansion of Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act would result in between 7,115 and 17,104 more deaths than had all states opted in. In Virginia, the number of deaths due to failure to expand Medicaid: between 266 and 987.

From a practical perspective, declining federal money to provide healthcare to uninsured Virginians makes no more sense than declining federal funds for transportation or education.

In Virginia, 102,000 uninsured people with

a mental illness or substance use disorder could qualify for coverage if Medicaid were expanded under the Affordable Care Act.

As Virginia and the rest of the nation wrestles with heroin and opioid addiction, expanding Medicaid would allow for expanding treatment programs. One of the big obstacles to helping people who are fighting addiction is the availability of treatment when it is most needed.

"The time has come for us to bring our taxpayer dollars back to serve the individuals who need them the most," said McAuliffe. "With this amendment, I'm asking the General Assembly to work with me to pursue Medicaid expansion and put this funding to work for our most vulnerable Virginians."

Primaries for candidates for the House of Delegates plus governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general are in June, with all seats on the ballot in November. An important question as voters choose: What is their position on Medicaid expansion? How did incumbents vote?

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Disappointed

To the Editor:

I'm a little late in getting back to this but I was deeply disappointed in the article, "Standing Together Against Hate," by Tim Peterson (Connection, March 9-15).

He summarizes U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly and state Sen. Dick Saslaw being anything but "united" at a gathering to condemn threats against local Jewish community centers. Unless by united, the reporter means they mutually reinforced each other's talking point?

Connolly is described as saying "the 2016 Presidential election represented a sliding back in the history of America. As a consequence hate groups are feeling emboldened." I'm assuming he was blaming the victory of Donald Trump for these threats against the centers.

Saslaw echoed the sentiment and added, "And that it didn't help with Trump encouraging supporters to violently remove protestors from his rallies, offering to pay their legal expenses."

Given a chance to do something that "unites" most people, Connolly and Saslaw displayed rank hack partisanship. Why must everything be politicized, used as an excuse to attack political opponents? Are they incapable of being civil, even to their own constituents who might disagree with

them?

I guess they considered it more important to repeat the meme du jour.

Mr. Connolly surely knows that the locus of anti-Israel activity in the United States is Mr. Connolly's Democratic Party along with liberal groups on campuses.

And Mr. Saslaw is aware that the center of political agitation is the "Resistance" movement in the Democratic party and its allies to the left. It is Trump supporters who are attacked by masked anarchistic "Black Block" professional protesters and agitators. And it is Republican and conservative speakers who are attacked on campuses, as we saw with Charles Murray at Middlebury College recently.

Furthermore, it was the previous (Democrat) administration that set U.S.-Israeli relations back years and buddied up to hostile nations such as Iran. Donald Trump had already met (favorably) with Israeli leaders before the gathering referred to in the article.

Now we learn that the threats may be the work of a mentally disturbed Israeli-American citizen.

Apologies from Connolly and Saslaw? Will they be more circumspect in the future?

One last question, these days reporters are constantly tossing out the word "unsubstantiated" when Donald Trump says something, how about applying the

same filter to some of the wilder claims from Democrats?

Brett Moss
Burke

Trumpcare is Greater Threat Than Russia

To the Editor:

Do we care about Russia? We should. But while the FBI investigates whether Trump's campaign worked with a known enemy to intervene in our elections, I am concerned with a far greater threat to the health of our democracy, the Trump healthcare bill.

As a mom who carries an Epipen for her son, as someone who is familiar with the cost of expensive diagnostic tests and care for rare diseases, as someone who has studied the business of healthcare and practices for wellness, I could argue against the merits of Trumpcare, but I won't. Logic tells us the foundation of the bill is wrong.

The GOP healthcare bill is a terroristic threat to the fundamental power of our nation, the likes of which Putin could have never inflicted upon us. What better way to destroy a nation than physically weaken its people? A nation full of ill people who are financially compromised and emotionally distraught cannot create a strong, safe or independent country.

How malicious. How devious. To promote the bill as increasing health care choice when it will cut health insurance for millions of people. Trumpcare is a greater risk to our security than a foreign agent because it will cripple the source of our success, our people. We, enlisted (wo)men, government workers, technology innovators, doctors, teachers, artists and police officers should all exercise our choice to grant everyone access to health care by rejecting the GOP proposal.

In Northern Virginia we know better. In the districts where representatives have blindly or complicity argued for such a destructive bill, let's remind them that we know better. To the senators who have provided lukewarm support for access to healthcare, let's call them out.

Margaret Gallen
Reston

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.

Send to:
Letters to the Editor
The Connection, 1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Email south@connectionnewspapers.com



Venison Chilli Served

FROM PAGE 2

percent decrease in food pantry usage over this time last year. Around Christmas they were serving about 250 families each week. Then it went down to 230 for a few weeks, now it's around 190-210.

She attributes the change to fear caused by changes in the federal government, including President Donald Trump's two travel bans targeting people from several majority-Muslim countries, as well as increased immigration enforcement activity by ICE.

"Fear is what's winning," Patterson said. Patterson said there is also much uncertainty about how changes from Trump's proposed budget may trickle down to affecting organizations like LCAC. In particular, cuts to housing could put a much greater burden on community members who are making ends meet, but only just.

"These are people doing critical tasks in the community," Patterson said, like school bus drivers, dental technicians, department

store clerks and restaurant workers. "We need to have people doing this work, they need a liveable wage, to afford their housing and provide a better life for their children."

Though the food pantry user numbers are somewhat low, the LCAC leader said they have a high need for dry pasta, pasta sauce, rice and breakfast cereal. These are high-need items they don't receive from grocery stores.

Earlier than normal, Patterson said they've had to reach out to faith communities and local schools asking them to hold spring and summer food drives.

LORTON COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER'S website is www.lortonaction.org. More information about the Fairfax County Deer Management program is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/wildlife/deer-management. Suburban Whitetail Management's website is www.deerdamage.org.

LCAC Hope & Health Festival Returns

There will be various health screenings available, as well as fresh produce giveaways, games and other food on offer. May 20, 2017, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 9520 Richmond Highway in Lorton. More information available at lortonaction.org/event/2017-hope-health-festival.

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FAMILY CONNECTION

Backyard Adventure

Ideas for a spring break family staycation.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

For Katie Wendel, a spring break vacation this year won't mean loading up the car and driving several hundred miles or waiting in long lines at the airport. While the Bethesda mother of five is planning to enjoy some relaxing downtime with her family, she won't venture far from home.

"We're going to be tourists this year and visit the monuments and museums in Washington. We're also going to try to find every avenue in the city that's named after a state," said Wendel. "If you think about it, there's so much to do in this area that we all take for granted. You really don't have to leave the area to feel like you're in another city."

From museum exhibits to adventure centers, a goldmine of family getaways abounds locally. There are even activities for family bonding available without leaving home.

"Ask the kids what they would like to do. Involve them and give [them] a choice. Whatever it is they suggest, come up with a plan to document their adventure so they can share it with grandparents or siblings away at college," said Lois Stover, Ph.D., dean, School of Education and Human Services at Marymount University. "Let them help plan the Metro route or just look at the Metro map and randomly pick a station and explore that area."

"A lot of adults assume that kids want a big trip, but a lot of times a kid will say, 'I want to blow bubbles in the back yard.' It's important for children to have a say in how the family uses its free time," said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College.

Among the recommendations that Stover offers are activities at one's neighborhood library and trips to indoor public swimming pools. For animal-loving families the National Zoo offers beasts ranging from elephants and eagles to tigers and frogs.

"Get outside and take the family to one of the lesser known

national parks, like Prince William, or walk the C&O Canal," said Stover.

There's also Gravelly Point Park near Reagan Wash

"Ask the kids what they would like to do. Involve them and give [them] a choice."

— Dr. Lois Stover,
Marymount University

SEE SPRING BREAK, PAGE 7

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—Colonel Philip (Phil) J. Saulnier, USA, Retired and Judith (Judy) Saulnier, Residents at The Fairfax for 3.5 Years

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FAMILY CONNECTION



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Local national parks like Theodore Roosevelt Island are ideal for family staycations, says Lois Stover, Ph.D. of Marymount University.

Spring Break

FROM PAGE 6

ington National Airport in Arlington, which is ideal for family picnics, games of kickball or simply watching airplanes take off and land.

"If it's warm, do a beach day in the backyard [or] set up an indoor mini-golf course with Nerf balls [or use] Wiffle balls and bats," said Stover. "Have a dance party, a science day. Have a 'Today is Blue, or whatever color works, Day,' so everyone wears blue, all foods are blue, you ride the blue line Metro just to see where it goes, [for example]."

The U.S. Botanic Garden Conservatory on the National Mall is where Stephanie Kleinman is planning to take her twin daughters during spring break.

"The girls call it a museum for plants, and

it's neat to go from the desert to the jungle all within one building," said Kleinman who lives in McLean. "We'll probably check out some of the other museums while we're downtown."

There are times when a staycation can be more relaxing than travel, says Lorente. "If you look at the list of the top 100 stressors in life, taking a vacation is on the list," she said. "A staycation, when done with purpose, can really be good."

Advanced planning is a key to making that time spent together meaningful, advises Lorente. "A lot of times people say they're taking a staycation and they end up doing chores around the house. And everybody is on their electronics," she said.

"But it's really about family bonding and everyone coming together and creating shared experiences as a family."

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.

Congregation Adat Reyim, an independent Jewish congregation, offers services Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and Maariv minyan at 7:30 p.m. Hebrew School is Sundays from 9-11:15 for K-6th graders and Mondays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. for 3rd-6th graders. Adat Reyim is located at 6500 Westbury Oaks Court in Springfield. 703-569-7577 or www.adatreyim.org.

Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive in Burke, worship services are Saturday Coffeehouse at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. www.BurkePresChurch.org.

One God Ministry Church, 4280/4282 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, now has a Web site with news, events, training, conferences, fellowship programs and more. Early Morning Service is at 8 a.m., Sunday School at 10 a.m., Sunday Worship Service at 11 a.m., and Wednesday Bible Study at 7 p.m. Women, Men, and Youth Bible Studies are on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. A Spiritual Gifts

Service is the first Friday of every month at 7 p.m. One God Ministry has ministries for youth, men, women, couples, music and singles. 703-591-6161 or www.onegodministry.org.

Faith Communities in Action meets the first Wednesday of every other month from 2-4 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Rooms 2 and 3, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

The Bahá'ís of Fairfax County Southwest offers "Interfaith Devotions: World Peace and Unity" for the general public on Saturdays. These free devotional gatherings meet at the Pohick Regional Library, Room #1, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke, 22015.

St. Leo the Great in Fairfax hosts "Night of Praise" the first Saturday of each month, featuring praise music and Eucharist adoration at 7 p.m. Located at 3704 Old Lee Highway in Fairfax.

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 8617 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, offers a traditional service on Sundays at 8:15 and 11:15 a.m. and a contemporary service on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. www.stmatthewsumc.org or 703-978-3500.



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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.

ONGOING

"Her Story" Art Exhibition. Through April 2, gallery hours are Mon.-Fri: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun: 12-5 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Show focuses on how women have a role in inspiring and shaping our society. Visit www.workhousearts.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 31

Bingo. 7 p.m. at the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department) 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Benefits the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/ for more.

Dance Gala Concert. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. The Gala Concert is Mason Dance Company's crowning season event featuring "Second to Last," by Alejandro Cerrudo, "Mass," by Robert Battle, "Balance/Imbalance," by Soon Ho Park, and a new work by Susan Shields. \$10-\$25. Call 703-993-8794 or email cdevlin6@gmu.edu.

MARCH 31-APRIL 1

Spring Children's Consignment Sale.

Friday at 9 a.m.-8 p.m. at Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Road. Some items are half price on Saturday. Email CUMC.CCS@gmail.com for more.

Artist Reception. 7-9 p.m. at Village Gallery, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax. The "I Still Dream Of You" paintings encompass the time from 2002 onward and are the artist's attempt to come to grips with the tragedy of losing a child in infancy. The exhibition will run from April 1-29. Visit www.fairfaxartleague.net or call 703-409-5061.

SATURDAY/APRIL 1

Yard Sale. 8 a.m. at Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Proceeds benefit the 2017 City of Fairfax Independence Day Celebration. Donated items may be dropped off at Green Acres on Friday, March 31st between 5-8 p.m. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

2017 Laps for Learning. 8:30 a.m. at Rolling Valley Elementary School, 6703 Barnack Drive, West Springfield. Raise funds, get healthy and support the school PTA. All Rolling Valley students and their siblings are invited to participate. Walk is followed by a health fair,

9:30-11 a.m. Visit www.fcps.edu/RollingValleyES/ for more.

Watershed Clean-Up. 9-11:30 a.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Help remove bottles, cans, tires, and other carelessly dumped debris from local streams. Call 703-451-9588 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

City of Fairfax Fishing Derby. 9:30 a.m. at Ashby Pond Conservation, 9817 Ashby Road, Fairfax. Ashby Pond Conservatory will be stocked with hundreds of trout, bring a fishing rod, bucket, plastic bag and ice. A limited quality of fishing rods will be available on site to borrow. Bait will be supplied. Volunteers will provide instruction, pond education and fish cleaning demonstrations. Fee: \$5 per fisherman. Three 45-minute fishing time slots available. Tickets available on-line and at Sherwood Center, Green Acres Center and City Hall P&R Office starting Monday, February 1, 2017. Call 703-385-7858 to pre-register.

Forgotten Fairfax Lecture. 11 a.m. at City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Forgotten Fairfax Presents Beacon Field and Hybla Valley Airports: A Talk by Anna Marie Hicks and Harry P. Lehman. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or 703-293-6227, ext. 4.

Job Fair for Teens. Noon-2 p.m. at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfair.htm for more.

Kite Festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. A day of kite flying and children's activities, crafts, and guided tours. Kites will be available for purchase in the museum shop. \$10 adults; \$8 children 6-18, complimentary admission for Friends of Gunston Hall. Call 703-550-9220 or email historic@gunstonhall.org.

MONDAY/APRIL 3

Funday Monday. 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. A variety of children's activities and entertainment including music, movement, story telling, performances, crafts, and more. Children of all ages. Free and open to the public, donations are gratefully appreciated. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts for more.

TUESDAY/APRIL 4

Burke Historical Society Research Seminar. 7 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road. Featuring Bob Patrick, former director of the Veterans History Project (VHP) of the Library of Congress. Free. Email slawski_brian@yahoo.com for more.

APRIL 4-MAY 30

Storytime in the Park. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, Fairfax. Visit fairfaxva.gov/parksrec or call 703-385-7858.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

National Walking Day. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, 6500 Springfield Center Drive, Springfield. American Heart Association and Sheehy Auto Stores are hosting a prize-filled walking course at the Springfield Town Center. Visit heart.org/nationalwalkingday for more.

APRIL 5-MAY 10

Adventures in Learning. Each Wednesday, 9:15 a.m.-1 p.m. at United Baptist Church, 7100 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Each Wednesday starts with gentle seated yoga at 9:15. Lectures from healthcare experts from 10:45-11:45. Discussion group 12-1 p.m. \$35 for all six weeks or \$10 each. Call SCAS 703-941-1419 or visit at shepherdscenter-annandale.org.

APRIL 5-30

"Cherry Blossom Kimonos."

Various times at the Workhouse Arts Center, Building 9, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The kimonos show is part of a campus-wide celebration of cherry blossom events in the region, titled "Late Bloomers." The artists will be on hand to talk about their work at the gallery reception in the Arches Gallery in building W9 on Saturday April 8, 6-9 p.m. featuring light appetizers. The reception is free and open to the public. Visit www.workhousearts.org/event/exhibit-late-bloomers/ for more.

THURSDAY/APRIL 6

EGG-STREME Night Egg Hunt. 7 p.m. at the Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Bring a flashlight and a bag/basket to collect eggs. Visit with the Easter Bunny beginning at 7 p.m. Visit fairfaxva.gov/parksrec or call 703-385-7858.

FRIDAY/APRIL 7

Bingo. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Call 703-273-3638 or visit www.fairfaxvfd.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 8

Easter Egg Hunt. 9 a.m.-noon at

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP



Messiah United Methodist Church
6215 Rolling Road, Springfield
703-569-9862 www.messiahumc.org

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

April 9 - worship at 8:15, 9:30, and 11:00 am
April 13 - Holy Thursday service at 7:30 pm
April 14 - Good Friday service at 7:30 pm
April 15 - Easter Egg Hunt at 10 am
April 16 - Easter Sunday worship at 8:00, 9:30, and 11 am
Servicio de Alabanza y Resurrección a las 11 am



5690 Oak Leather Drive
Burke, VA 22015
703-764-0456
www.BurkePresChurch.org

Easter Services
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Holy Week worship also will include Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services at 7:30 p.m. Join us!

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Sunday School 10:10 AM
Sun. Evening - Realtime Worship & Youth 6 PM
Family Night - Wednesday 7:15 PM
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Visit our Website: www.jccag.org
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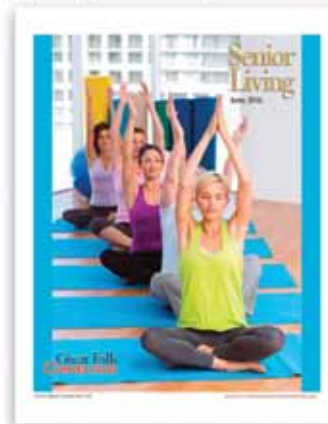
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Del. Eileen Filler-Corn addresses the audience prior to the screening of the documentary.



More than 200 people attended the Richmond screening.

Filler-Corn Addresses Audience at Screening

Last Thursday, Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) joined a crowd of more than 200 at the Richmond screening of “My Kid is Not Crazy,” a documentary following the lives of six children affected by either Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) or Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS).

PANS occurs when an infectious trigger, environmental factors, and other possible triggers create a misdirected immune response, resulting in inflammation on a child’s brain. PANDAS specifically occurs when the infectious trigger is streptococcus bacteria (which causes strep throat). The event was sponsored by the PANS Research and Advocacy Institute. The crowd included many physicians and family members of children inflicted with PANS/PANDAS.

The delegate from Springfield only recently learned of PANS/PANDAS herself after a local activist reached out to her about her son’s condition. The Founder and President of PRAI contacted Filler-Corn in the

fall, explaining her idea for legislation. Filler-Corn introduced HB 2404 and along with the support of PRAI and advocacy of many parents, the bill passed this session.

The bill will create an advisory council on PANDAS and PANS and will advise the Commissioner of Health on research, diagnosis, treatment, and education relating to these identified disorders and syndrome. “Some of the best ideas for legislation comes from members of our community,” said Filler-Corn. Gov. Terry McAuliffe has since signed HB 2404 into law.

Filler-Corn was at the screening addressing the large crowd prior to the screening of the documentary and she shared prepared greetings from the Governor. “PANS/PANDAS is not a new disease. The main issue is diagnosing it, as so many parents and physicians...can attest,” wrote McAuliffe. “It is our shared hope that efforts to raise awareness about PANS/PANDAS will decrease the often lengthy period before a child is diagnosed and contribute to one day finding a cure.”

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Email markarenin@verizon.net.

Write in Cursive. 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. “Hands-on” workshop that helps children ages 8 to 12 learn to write in cursive. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or call 703-293-6227, ext. 6.

Unneeded Items Auction. 6-9 p.m. at Knights of Columbus Hall, (behind St. Leo the Great Church), 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Proceeds to fraternal and charity fund-raising organization that supports Alzheimer’s, Cooley’s Anemia, and Cancer research. Email Joe.lamarca@italianheritagelodge.org or call 703-475-6962 for more.

APRIL 8-9

7 Fingers of the Hand. Saturday, April 8 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and on Sunday, April 9 at 4 p.m. in the George Mason University’s Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax.

Production of Cuisine & Confessions. Visit cfa.gmu.edu.

SUNDAY/APRIL 9

Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge T-TRAK model train show. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

NPR Author. 2 p.m. at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. National Public Radio News correspondent and author Tom Gjelton will discuss his book, “Nation of Nations: A Great American Immigration Story,” a study of several immigrant families in Fairfax County and the challenges and upheavals the new arrivals and their communities faced. Call 703-385-8414 for more.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 12

Springfield Christian Women’s Connection Luncheon. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Springfield Golf and Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill

BULLETIN BOARD

Send civic/community notes to the Connection at connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication.

THURSDAY/MARCH 30

Nomination Deadline. These awards recognize dedicated community service done by our youth and encourage them to continue to be active in their communities, sponsored by Eagle Bank. Cash prizes will be awarded in the tiered amounts of \$100 for elementary school students, \$200 for middle school students, and \$300 for high school students. Email NSCAServiceAwards@gmail.com for more.

FRIDAY/MARCH 31

Scholarship Application Deadline. The Springfield/South County (SYC) Board of Directors are sponsoring the George Angulo Scholarship Award. The \$1,000 college scholarship will be awarded annually to an area high school senior with a history of volunteer service. Visit www.sycva.com for more.

Senior Safety Summit. 9 a.m.-noon at the Braddock District Governmental Center, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Braddock District Supervisor John C. Cook invites the public to attend a health and safety summit for seniors. Contact Braddock District Supervisor John C. Cook’s Office at 703-425-9300 or Battalion Chief Willie F. Bailey, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department at 703-246-3801.

SATURDAY/APRIL 1.

Civil War Scholarship Deadline. Scholarship to be given for research of local Civil War history. The Bull Run Civil War Roundtable in Centreville offers a \$1500 scholarship to a public or private high school senior who resides in Fairfax, Fairfax City, Prince William County, Manassas City, or Manassas Park and will attend college in the fall of 2017. Information and application instructions can be found at bullrunccwr.org.

Special Education Conference 2017. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. The latest research, strategies, and trends in the education of students with disabilities. Over 60 workshops to choose from and over 80 exhibitors to see. Translators available. Register: www.fcps.edu/node/33238 or call 703-204-3941 for more.

Teen Job Fair. noon-2 p.m. at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road. Co-sponsored by West Springfield High School Student Government Association and Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce. Call 571-423-1086.

Road, Springfield. Annual charitable fundraiser with a cake auction. Reservations call 703-922-6438 or e-mail SpringWmConn@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 15

Holy Saturday Silent Retreat. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Free. Spend a day in noble silence, meditating and creating a space to be still and listen. Our day will be spent alternating between sitting and walking meditation with some periods of stretching. Only a small fraction of meditation practices will be guided. Call 703-281-1767 or register online at unitysilentretreat.eventbrite.com.

APRIL 18-JUNE 10

Spring Art Lessons for Youth Classes. 5:15-6:15 p.m. at Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin drawing and watercolor for children 8 and older. Visit www.czartlessons.com or call 703-250-6930 for more.



Now Open Saturdays 8 AM to 1 PM
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703-337-4401



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- Roto-Stop® Blade Stop System – Stops the blade, not the engine!
- MicroCut® Twin Blade System for superior mulching and bagging
- Adjustable Smart Drive provides variable speed control under all mowing conditions
- Honda's Premium Residential GCV160 Engine

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- Electric Start with automotive-style key start!
- MicroCut® Twin Blade System for superior mulching and bagging
- Adjustable Smart Drive provides variable speed control under all mowing conditions
- Honda's Premium Residential GCV160 Engine



*Minimum Advertised Price. **Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. †The Honda One Year Extended Warranty Event offer is good on all Honda HRS, HRR and HRX Series purchased March 1st through May 31st, 2017. See your Authorized Honda Power Equipment Dealer for full details. ‡Lifetime Deck Warranty applies to any new HRX Series mower. Deck warranty is valid for the original purchaser and non-commercial use only. For additional warranty details, see your local Honda Power Equipment Dealer or visit our website at powerequipment.honda.com. Please read the owner's manual before operating your Honda Power Equipment and never use in a closed or partly enclosed area where you could be exposed to odorless, poisonous carbon monoxide. Connection of a generator to house power requires a transfer device to avoid possible injury to power company personnel. Consult a qualified electrician. © 2017 American Honda Motor Co., Inc.