



Fairfax Station

CONNECTION Clifton & Lorton

First Residents Move into Redeveloped Prison

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There was strong attendance at the South County Federation's April 11 meeting to discuss concerns over how the commercial space will be used at the Liberty redevelopment of Lorton Reformatory.



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NEWS

Anti-Semitic Graffiti Painted At Jewish Community Center

The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia (JCCNV) was the target on Tuesday, April 11, of anti-Semitic graffiti. Swastikas and derogatory language were painted on the exterior of the building, marquee, and fence surrounding the playground. The JCC called Fairfax County police and the FBI immediately, and law enforcement is investigating. Police have confirmed that the crime took place overnight while the building was closed. A local powerwash company was called to remove the graffiti Tuesday.

In responding to the heinous act, JCCNV Executive Director Jeff Dannick said, “During Passover, when the Jewish community around the world is celebrating a time of freedom for our people as well as those who are affected by hate today, a crime like this heightens the reason that organizations like

our own exist to bring communities together through messages and actions of peace, acceptance and inclusion. We are disheartened and deeply disturbed by the anti-Semitism our campus has experienced today. We will not be deterred from our mission of being an open and welcoming place for people of all backgrounds as we continue our operations as normal.

“We are grateful to the local and federal law enforcement officials who are working to identify and bring to justice the person or persons who committed this crime. As always, our community’s safety will be our priority as we remain committed to fulfilling our daily mission as a community center.”

The JCCNV plans to continue its current security measures and asks the community to remain alert and vigilant.

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.

Clifton Baptist Church, 7152 Main St. Clifton, is a small Bible-believing church offering worship service on Sunday at 11 a.m., with Bible Study on Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music.

More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.poplc.org.




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- Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
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- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Dakota Connection

Combating Domestic and Sexual Violence

County launches 'Make the Call' campaign.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

"Everyone in this room knows someone who is the victim of domestic violence, whether you know it, or not," said Braddock District Supervisor John Cook. "That's how widespread this problem is." Cook, who is the chair of the Board of Supervisors Public Safety Committee, and recently appointed chair of the Domestic Violence Prevention Council, was speaking at a reception at the Fairfax County Government Center to launch the "Make the Call Campaign."

The year-long initiative was designed by county staff and domestic violence prevention partners to encourage victims, offenders and bystanders to call the county's 24-hour Domestic and Sexual Abuse Hotline at 703-360-7273.

Cook was joined by speakers from sev-

eral county agencies, as well as his board colleagues Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) and Chair Sharon Bulova. Law enforcement was represented by Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid and Deputy Chief of Patrol Erin Schaible of the county police department.

The launch date of the campaign was chosen to coincide with the Board of Supervisors' designation of April as the month for Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse Prevention.

Cook is not concerned that the messages might get mixed by putting the two issues together in one month, because he sees them as often interconnected, and frequently stemming from the same root causes. The departments represented at the launch often work together on individual cases and cross paths almost daily in the performance of their duties. Several of them, like SafeSpot, the child advocacy nonprofit that provides a family-friendly,



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) helps launch the "Make a Call" campaign to encourage use of the 24-7 Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline. Cook is holding the Spanish version of signage that says "Be part of the solution, use my voice for 703-360-7273."

centralized location for the investigation of child abuse and assistance in coordinating services, and CASA, the court appointed special advocates program for abused, neglected and abandoned children and youth as they maneuver through the court system, have formed working collaborations to best serve their clients needs and provide the most coordinated of services.

Hotline operators receive about 240 calls per month. From those calls, about 64 per month seek family abuse protective orders and 13 families are placed in domestic violence shelters. There are about 160 domestic violence related arrests made each month in Fairfax County, and as law enforcement knows, and Cook noted, domestic violence is the leading cause of homicide in the jurisdiction.

"If you are the victim, make the call," said Cook. "If you think you know someone who is being abused, make the call." The hotline is staffed 24-hours a day and "they are the experts," Cook added. "They will know how to help, what to do. Make the call. Maybe you can help save someone's life."

Uncertainty Amid Growth

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

As recovery from the Recession continues, there is still uncertainty around federal spending, and President Donald Trump's proposed budget. Rising interest rates, the northern Virginia housing market and employment patterns in the region were among the presentations at the April 6 Economic Outlook summit hosted by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce and Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation.

Business and community leaders filled the banquet space on the side of the Belle Haven Country Club for the morning meeting, which was guest-moderated by Rebecca Cooper, senior writer for the Washington Business Journal.

Cooper opened citing a number of trends she said are "good news for retail space." She said she's seeing an increase in specialized fitness, such as indoor play spaces and swim schools, as well as more temporary uses like pop-up shops.

When a space hosts something like a popular weekend maker-market, Cooper said "suddenly," that retail area "is the place to be."

Cooper also noted the rise in food businesses mixed into shopping centers. Retailers should be pleased, she said, because eateries increase customers' 'time on premise.'

Dr. Ann Battle Macheras with the Federal

Federal spending, interest rates, employment patterns feature at Mount Vernon-Lee Economic Outlook summit.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The April 6 Economic Outlook summit hosted by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce and Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation also featured (from left) Dr. Gerald L. Gordon, Fairfax County EDA; Jane Gandee, Chamber Chairman; Rebecca Cooper, Washington Business Journal; Ann B. Macharas, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond; Dr. Terry Clower, GMU Center for Regional Analysis; Edythe Kelleher, SFDC executive director; Mark Viani, SFDC Vice President; Scott Stroh III, Chamber President; Robert Stalzer, Fairfax County Deputy Executive; and Dr. Frank Nothaft, CoreLogic.

Reserve Bank of Richmond broke down the modest, yet continued growth in real domestic GDP since 2009 — the average has been 2.1 percent.

One of the biggest drivers, she said, has been Personal Consumption Expenditure.

Productivity and workforce growth are also factors in the moderate growth; Dr. Battle Macheras said Virginia's employment is comparable to the U.S., and both are expected to slow in the next few decades.

Additional speakers included Dr. Terry Clower, with the GMU Center for Regional Analysis; Robert A. Stalzer, Deputy Fairfax County Executive; Dr. Frank Nothaft, Chief Economist with CoreLogic and formerly with

Fannie Mae; and Dr. Gerald Gordon, Fairfax County Economic Development Authority.

Dr. Clower agreed that job growth should continue, albeit moderately, with rebalancing in the contract sector of jobs from Sequestration, a theory he said was "bounce-back equilibrium."

Among the 15 largest job markets in the country, he said, Washington D.C. ranks in the middle in job change from February 2016 to 2017. That's just behind Miami and ahead of Detroit. First in growth over that period was Atlanta, followed by Dallas and Seattle.

Stalzer gave an overview of Fairfax County's \$7.59 billion budget. The FY2018 budget was the subject of three days of pub-

lic hearings the week of the April 6 summit.

The county's tax rate would remain steady, Stalzer said.

Dr. Nothaft, speaking on the housing market, said prices are up in 2017 — five percent in the U.S. and just three to four percent in Fairfax County — as are rents. Mortgage rates are still historically low, he said, but are also increasing.

A 30-year fixed-rate, Dr. Nothaft presented, is forecast to reach 4.6 percent by December this year.

For more information, the speakers offered resources including www.corelogic.com/blog and cra.gmu.edu. Also visit www.mtvernon-leechamber.org and www.sfdc.org.

You can read any of this week's 15 papers digital editions here:

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs



Temporary Limited Access Break on Fairfax County Parkway Fairfax County

Find out about plans for a temporary break in limited access on the Fairfax County Parkway (Route 286). The temporary break is requested to provide a connection for access from Backlick Road to the northbound ramp of the Fairfax County Parkway during the bridge reconstruction over CSX railroad. The proposed break is located just north of Telegraph Road.

Review information at www.virginiadot.org/projects or at VDOT's District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, Virginia 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-2304, 800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Written public comments regarding this proposed temporary limited access break are encouraged and should be sent to Mr. Shahradeh Behboodi, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, at the above address on or prior to **May 1, 2017**.

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State Project No: 0617-029-344, P101, C501, B642
UPC: 110156

News



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

South County Federation president Dale Rumberger and supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) development and land use aide Theodore "Tae" Choi encouraged as many residents as possible to attend "Liberty Day" on May 20 to offer feedback for which type and even specific names of grocery stores, restaurants and other retailers they do, and don't, want to see in the Liberty redevelopment project.

First Residents Move Into Redeveloped Prison

Liberty at Laurel Hill project updates shared at South County Federation.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

On Dec. 7, 2015, elected officials, Fairfax County government staff, developers and involved citizens broke ground on a redevelopment project for the 80-acre Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse area, at the time called Liberty Crest at Laurel Hill.

Sixteen months later, as developer Joseph Alexander, president of the Alexander Company, predicted that day, the first residents are now living in the administration building of what was once the Lorton penal reformatory. The last prisoners were transferred out in 2001.

The project, now just called Liberty, is still scheduled for two phases, including creating 165 apartments by reusing reformatory buildings and constructing 157 townhomes and condominiums. Plans also call for 114,000 square feet of office space and 60,000 square feet of retail space, according to Alexander.

Jack Perkins, vice president of developer Elm Street explained project updates to community members at a South County Federation meeting April 11 at South County High School.

Perkins called the whole project "nothing short of a remarkable transformation."

Van Metre Homes, he said, is working to filling the first 107 townhouse and detached single family home lots. In their recent opening weekend, Van Metre landed two contracts and has 140 appointments scheduled from online registrations.

"It's a major milestone, and a strong showing," Perkins said.

Two commercial buildings on the reformatory

property, the former chapel and power house, should be ready for occupancy by July this year.

There was strong attendance at the Federation's meeting to discuss concerns over how the commercial space will be used. Developers are in the process of searching for an anchor grocery store, as well as "junior anchor" retailers, brewpubs, restaurants and other options. Much of the non-residential work, Perkins said, falls under Phase II, the site plan for which the developers are hoping is approved by Fairfax County by the end of 2017.

That would potentially include two free-standing buildings inside the reformatory's walls that wouldn't start construction until 2018 or 2019.

To raise awareness and interest in the redevelopment community, a "Liberty Day" public event is scheduled for Saturday, May 20, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the prison's old baseball field — renamed "Liberty Green."

South County Federation president Dale Rumberger and supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) development and land use aide Theodore "Tae" Choi encouraged as many residents as possible to attend and offer feedback for which type and even specific names of grocery stores, restaurants and other retailers they do — and don't — want to see at Liberty.

"If you want a certain grocer in there," Choi said, "we need this to be successful. It's up to you, come out, bring people."

Rumberger suggested Elm Street and Alexander be prepared to survey everyone who attends the event, to have interest data to show potential food and retail tenants.

Other concerns from the audience included whether the impact of these new residences on the public school system had been considered.

Perkins said that it had, as part of the initial zoning case. He also said the Cross-County Trail passage in the area of Liberty should re-open in mid-May this year.

For more information, visit www.thelibertylife.com or www.alexandercompany.com/projects/laurelhill.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Bureau of Land Management will be hosting an adoption event for a variety of wild horses and burros at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area in Lorton on April 21 and 22.

Wild Horse and Burro Adoption April 21-22

The Bureau of Land Management will be hosting an adoption event with a variety of wild horses and burros at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area in Lorton on April 21 and 22.

Horse trainer Suzanne Myers and one of her own adopted mustangs will be available to demonstrate techniques for training and "gentling" non-domestic horses.

Adoption applications will be accepted on site beginning Friday at 12 p.m., through Saturday. The horses and burros may be previewed Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Adoptions will take place Friday from 12 to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Bureau of Land Management site is located at 10406 Gunston Road in Lorton.

For more information, call 866-468- 7826 or visit: www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro.

—TIM PETERSON



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Centreville \$349,950 Beautifully Renovated Interior

Model perfect townhome w/ remodeled eat-in kit w/ granite cnts & maple cabinets w/ slide out shelving, deck, fin walkout bsmt, 4BR, 3.5 updated baths, new carpet & HVAC, sunny MBR w/ vaulted clngs, MBA w/ double sinks & big soaking tub, cozy frple, elegant crown molding & more.



Fairfax Station \$799,950 4400+ Sq. Ft. of Luxury

Immac colonial w/ 5BR, 4.5BA, 2 frplcs, fin walkout bsmt, 1/3 acre backing to common area, deck, updated eat-in kit w/ SS appliances, stunning MBA remodel w/ Italian tile, new carpet, fresh paint, oversized garage, many updates, walk to park, Sangster & Lake Braddock schools.



Burke/Longwood Knolls \$699,950 Backs to Peaceful Woods

Sunny open floor plan w/ remodeled kit w/ SS appliances, granite cnts, island & cherry cabinets, fin walkout bsmt w/ full BA w/ jetted tub, dramatic fmlyrm w/ cathedral clng & wet bar, lovely hrdwd flrs on 2 lvs, quality remodeled baths, new vinyl windows & walk to school.



Fairfax Sta/South Run \$799,950 1/2+ Acre on Cul-de-sac

Immac home w/ remodeled kit w/ cherry cabs, granite cnts & gas Thermador range, screened porch w/ skylts + deck, fresh paint, library w/ built-in bookcases, gorgeous remodeled baths w/ skylts, marble & granite, new carpet, hrdwd flrs, fin walkup bsmt w/ bath, built-in bookcases in fmly & more.

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OPINION

Your Award Winning Papers

Richmond Times-Dispatch (daily) and the Mount Vernon Gazette/Local Media Connection (non-daily), win the VPA's highest awards.

Virginia Press Association's highest award, the VPA Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service, went to Local Media Connection/Mount Vernon Gazette for coverage and editorials throughout 2016 relating to police reform in Fairfax County.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch won in the daily category for its series about the death of a mentally ill prisoner, Janycheal Mitchell, in a Portsmouth Jail.

The judges noted, "The Mount Vernon Gazette covered the complex issue of police reform from February through December 2016, sparked by the shooting of an unarmed man by a Fairfax County police officer. ... The Gazette focused community attention on the case, particularly on the efforts of citizens and representatives of law enforcement agencies working together on reforming police practice. This led to the creation and implementation of a Civilian Review Panel to provide oversight of police policy, procedures and activities. ... The approach of the Gazette in this matter provides a good illustration of the positive role a community newspaper can play when it takes an activist approach to issues of importance to its readers." Editor Mary Kimm and reporter Tim Peterson accepted the award.

Virginia Press Association honored its 2016 award winners on Saturday, April 8, 2017 in Richmond at its annual dinner. The Connection papers, including the Alexandria Gazette Packet, garnered more than 35 awards in many categories, including investigative reporting, education coverage, headline writing, photography, column writing, sports writing, obituaries, environmental writing, food writing, graphics, and more.



PHOTO BY ROBIN MOGLE

Local Media Connection writers and photographers won 37 Virginia Press Association awards for work in 2016, including the Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service. Pictured here from left, John Bordner, Mark Mogle, Mary Kimm, Shirley Ruhe, Tim Peterson, Vernon Miles, Eden Brown, Andrea Worker and Jeanne Theismann.

aries, environmental writing, food writing, graphics, and more.

Shirley Ruhe was the top award winner, earning seven different awards including two first place awards, one for investigative reporter for her series on sex trafficking.

Other first place award winners include photographer Mark Mogle, who also won two first places; Bonnie Hobbs for General News for her coverage of the rise and fall of the mayor of the City of Fairfax; Eden Brown for Education writing; Tim Peterson for Public Safety writing

and for Sports writing; Joan Brady for Feature Series on foster care alumni success stories; Jeanne Theismann for headline writing; Alexandra Greeley for food writing. Steven Mauren, editor-in-chief, won first place for Editorial Pages in Alexandria Gazette Packet, along with Mary Kimm, cartoonist Steve Artley, and designers Geovani Flores and Laurence Foong.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

2016 Virginia Award Winners

- ❖ Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service, the association's highest award, went to **Local Media Connection/Mount Vernon Gazette** for coverage and editorials relating to police reform in Fairfax County.
- ❖ **Shirley Ruhe**, 1st Place, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, Arlington, Investigative Series-Sex Trafficking
- ❖ **Mark Mogle**, 1st Place, General News Photo, Wreaths Across America, Arlington Connection
- ❖ **Eden Brown**, 1st Place, Education Writing, Arlington Connection
- ❖ **Shirley Ruhe**, 1st Place, Column Writing, People at Work, Alexandria Gazette Packet,
- ❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, 1st Place, Headline Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ **Steven Mauren, Mary Kimm, Steve Artley, Geovani Flores and Laurence Foong**, 1st Place, Editorial Pages, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ **Mark Mogle**, 1st Place, Picture Story or Essay, "Plaid Tidings," Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ **Tim Peterson**, 1st Place, Public Safety Writing, Burke Connection
- ❖ **Bonnie Hobbs**, 1st Place, General News Writing, Fairfax Mayor Caught in Sex-for-Meth Sting, Fairfax Connection
- ❖ **Joan Brady**, 1st Place, Feature Series or Continuing Story, Great Falls Connection,
- ❖ **Alexandra Greeley**, 1st Place, Personal Service Writing, Food Features, Great Falls Connection
- ❖ **Tim Peterson**, 1st Place, Sports Writing Portfolio, Springfield Connection
- ❖ **John Bordner**, 2nd Place, General News Photo,

- Kluge Farewell, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ **Shirley Ruhe**, 2nd Place, Feature Series, Homelessness, Arlington Connection
- ❖ **Kemal Kurspahic and Staff**, 2nd Place, General Makeup, Fairfax Connection
- ❖ **Marilyn Campbell**, 2nd Place, Personal Service Writing, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- ❖ **Jon Roetman**, 2nd Place, Sports Writing Portfolio, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- ❖ **Shirley Ruhe**, 2nd Place, Column Writing, In the Kitchen, Mount Vernon Gazette
- ❖ **Jean Card, Laurence Foong, Renee Ruggles**, 2nd Place, Informational Graphics, Guide to the Parks, Fairfax Station Connection
- ❖ **Shirley Ruhe**, 2nd Place, Personality or Portrait Photo, Vienna-Oakton Connection
- ❖ **Ken Moore**, 2nd Place, Health, Science & Environmental Writing, Great Falls Connection
- ❖ **Kemal Kurspahic, Andrea Worker, Donald Sweig, Ken Moore, Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong**, 3rd Place, Front Page Design, Reston Connection
- ❖ **Shirley Ruhe**, 3rd Place, Personal Service Writing, Arlington Connection
- ❖ **Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong**, 3rd Place, General Makeup, Arlington Connection
- ❖ **Shirley Ruhe**, 3rd Place, General News Photo, Arlington Connection
- ❖ **Eden Brown**, 3rd Place, General News Writing, Arlington Connection
- ❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, 3rd Place, Personal Service Writing, Obituaries, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ **Steve Artley**, 3rd Place, Illustrations, Editorial



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES

Mary Kimm and Tim Peterson accepted the Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service.

- Cartoon, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ **Vernon Miles**, 3rd Place, Feature Writing Portfolio, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ **Jon Roetman**, 3rd Place, Sports Writing Portfolio, McLean Connection
- ❖ **Jean Card, Laurence Foong, Renee Ruggles**, 3rd Place, Informational Graphics, Guide to the Parks, Mount Vernon Gazette
- ❖ **Tim Peterson**, 3rd Place, General News Writing, Mount Vernon Gazette
- ❖ **Laurence Foong**, 3rd Place, Informational Graphics, Real Estate Map, Great Falls
- ❖ **Mary Kimm**, 3rd Place, Editorial Writing, Great Falls Connection
- ❖ **Ken Moore**, 3rd Place, Education Writing, Great Falls Connection
- ❖ **Ken Moore**, 3rd Place, Feature Writing Portfolio, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection

Fairfax Station,
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CONNECTION

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OPINION

County Ready for Next Phase of Diversion First

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



COMMENTARY

Fairfax County continues to make substantial progress on a program called "Diversion First."

This program provides treatment instead of incarceration for people with mental health issues or developmental disabilities who come into contact with law enforcement for low-level offenses. With Diversion First, an officer can identify a suspect as needing supportive services, and can bring him or her to the Community Services Board (CSB) instead of making an arrest. Instead of making an arrest, officers bringing low-level offenders to the CSB saves the County money, time, and resources. Last year, 375 people were

diverted from arrest into treatment- which represents a huge accomplishment. This is not the only opportunity for diversion, however. The County is now pursuing the next phase of the Diversion First program, with a focus on making diversions after this initial contact with law enforcement.

Imagine you or I were arrested for a low-level crime, such as trespassing or disorderly conduct, on a Saturday night. We may be held until Monday or Tuesday. We could then probably post a bond for a few hundred dollars and be released. People with mental illness or developmental disabilities, however, often have troubled employment histories, and do not have that money. They

are often detained for months awaiting trial.

During this time, the County is paying approximately \$200 per day to hold them, all while their mental state is deteriorating. By their next hearing date, these individuals have often spent as much or more time in jail awaiting their day in court than if they had been found guilty of the original charges, resulting in a release based on "time served." They leave in a worse condition than when they entered. Eighty percent of the time, they will repeat their criminal behavior.

Diversion First breaks this cycle. It provides judges with a treatment alternative at the bonding hearing, when the judge can offer "supervised release" instead of bail. Supervised release requires mandatory treatment, with supervision by a trained probation officer. The person gets treatment and can recover. Then they can be released

from criminal charges later if treatment is successful.

Studies show this treatment alternative can reduce the reoccurrence of criminal activity to as low as 20 percent. That means a 60 percent reduction in crime (from 80 percent to 20) from this population. Literally hundreds of crimes can be prevented each year. With jail costing around \$200 per day, and treatment only a few thousand dollars per year, over time the County will save significant funds.

This program is a win-win. Treatment improves lives. Crime will be reduced. Taxpayers will save long-term money. We must continue the progress of Diversion First by implementing these new avenues for diversion. This will allow the County to direct resources more efficiently, allow the Police to save time, and help people with disabilities improve their lives.

Past Time for Pension Reform in Fairfax County

BY PAT HERRITY
SUPERVISOR (R-SPRINGFIELD)



COMMENTARY

Most of our residents are in complete disbelief when they learn that Fairfax County offers, and continues to offer, a pre-social security supplement benefit — also known as the second pension. County employees that

started working for Fairfax County right out of college can retire from the County as early as age 55. In addition to their regular pension benefits, which are more generous than surrounding jurisdictions, County employees get a second pension benefit that provides the employee a County-paid benefit equal to social security payments until they reach social security age. Unlike actual social security payments, which saw no increase last year, the County's second pension recipients received a guaranteed 3 percent increase. Serious pension reform in Fairfax County is past due and it starts with elimination of the second pension benefit for new employees.

Here are just some of the reasons I believe we need to eliminate the pre-social

security supplement for new general county and school employees:

❖ **This benefit does not help recruit or retain employees.** Compensation plans should be designed to recruit and retain employees — this benefit does neither. The benefit is not

valued as much as salary by the employees we are trying to recruit. Because the benefit is not paid unless you retire, it encourages employees to retire earlier.

❖ **Fairfax County is the only county in Virginia to offer this benefit.**

❖ **It is an expensive benefit that adds 6 percent to the cost of every payroll dollar.** This benefit cost the County \$30M and the school system \$75M in FY 2016.

❖ **The cost of providing this benefit continues to grow and is unsustainable.** As people live longer, the cost of providing this benefit continues to grow and continues to crowd out important County and school programs.

❖ **The cost of this benefit is unpre-**

dictable. Because this is a defined benefit, poor market returns can significantly increase the cost of the benefit.

While pension reform starts with eliminating the pre-social security supplement, we must also address the County's retirement plan and the school system's supplemental pension plan (ERFC). This includes changing the retirement age, eliminating the County's DROP program (allows for retirement payments prior to retirement), reducing the high costs of administering the benefit plans, and investigating the conversion to a hybrid plan like the rest of the counties in Virginia have done. We need to keep our promises to our current employees, but must move our compensation programs into the 21st century for new employees.

Our hard working County employees continue to ask for salary increases to get them to market averages and some of our teachers' salaries are below market averages. Unfortunately, too many of our compensation dollars are going to pension benefits which competes with the ability to fund employee and teacher raises and attract high quality candidates for openings. The cost of benefits for county and school employ-

ees range from 60 percent to 80 percent on top of each payroll dollar, compared to 25 to 35 percent for most private companies. Growing pension liabilities also compete for funds with the high quality services that our residents expect.

I have been working to address the County's overly generous and unsustainable pension costs since 2010. I spoke about the County and school pension issues repeatedly during the meals tax debate as a prime example of where the County needs to get spending prioritized and under control. Largely as a result of the meals tax discussions, several of the County's civic associations and community groups have joined me in the call to reform the County's pension benefit programs.

The goal of these reforms cannot just be to make our pension benefits sustainable and affordable, but to change our total compensation packages so that we can do a better job of attracting, retaining and rewarding a quality workforce. Despite a delay in discussing our pension costs, it appears that the Board is finally prepared to look at pension reform. My hope is that we will implement comprehensive and meaningful reforms.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We'll Miss Our Neighbor Dave Albo

To the Editor:

It felt like a punch in the gut when news of Del. Dave Albo's retirement popped up on my phone. As a long time Republican activist and community volunteer, I have gotten to know Dave over the years, and his style of common sense policies, and straight talk are what stand out. In the age of heavily

vetted policy positions and press releases, Dave was a breath of fresh air. He shoots from the hip, adds in a little humor, and gets his point across to even the most disagreeable. I recall him telling a town hall crowd that if policies can't be explained to a fifth grader, they're probably not worth enacting.

Dave is not just a great Delegate when he is in Richmond, he is a great Delegate the other 11 months of the year too. His constituent services are unparalleled. He is always out in the community attending meetings, sponsoring events, and

listening to what his constituents tell him. No matter who is speaking to him, Dave listens and cares. He is the embodiment of his campaign slogan "Our Neighbor." As the saying goes, all good things must come to an end. We will be sad to see Dave return to life as a private citizen, but he does so after having made the community a better place. Fairfax County and Northern Virginia will surely miss our neighbor, Dave Albo.

Kyle McDaniel
Springfield

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

Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: south@connectionnewspapers.com

Remodeler David Foster (left) talks with a homeowner browsing in the recently-opened Design and Selection Center, which is holding an Open House on April 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Open House will feature three seminars, access to representatives from major home improvement product manufacturers, a raffle and chef-prepared hors d'oeuvres.



Major vendors and manufacturers participating in the Design Center have increased substantially. Options for cabinet facings, plumbing fixtures, surface materials, tile and flooring are part of the permanent display. Foster designers are regularly exposed to new products and materials.

Design Center Educates Homeowners with Remodeling Plans

Open House, April 22, will feature three seminars, industry experts and new showroom.

BY JOHN BYRD

Foster Remodeling Solutions will launch its new 3,270-square-foot Home Design and Selection Center in Lorton with an open house on Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The event will include seminars on a variety of topics ranging from kitchen and bath design to "How to Plan a Successful Remodeling," to steps entailed in introducing "Aging-in-Place" modifications into the home. Seminar presenters are recognized experts in their respective specialties. Representatives from top manufacturers will also be on hand to answer questions about specific products, appliances and emerging technologies. Several manufacturers also will be contributing new products as raffle items.

Visitors can arrive as early as 10 a.m. and browse the newly-expanded Design and Selection Center. Chef-prepared hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served



Three full-size kitchen displays are now on view in the Lorton showroom. The 3,270 square foot Lorton showroom is one of the largest home improvement product expositions in northern Virginia.

throughout the day.

There will be several full-sized kitchen and bathroom designs on view, vignettes featuring cabinets, vanities, flooring and lighting, even a full-sized outdoor courtyard which spotlights break-through materials and styles being applied to roofing and siding.

"Our goal is to make it easy for attendees to find answers to an array of home improvement questions in a single day," said David Foster, who has operated Foster Remodeling Solution for over 34 years. "We encourage attendees to come prepared with ques-

tions, drawings and photos, and to bring interested friends and neighbors. All of the offerings are free and open to the public."

Design and Selection

There are three design consultation rooms that allow homeowners to review in-progress design details of a home improvement on a flat screen television.

"Home improvement is a very dynamic industry," Foster said. "You have to stay ahead of changing technologies and evolving practices. We're expanding methods for



A home laundry with mudroom features has proven popular in northern Virginia homes.

PHOTOS BY
SUZY FOSTER

bringing ideas to homeowners that have already proven successful. ... This Open House will be more of an exposition than we've offered in the past; we're building on what we've learned about local homeowner interests."

The three one-hour seminars will be held at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. so that interested parties can attend all three without conflict.

❖ Design consultant Sean McLarty, a veteran remodeler with 33 years of professional experience, will provide tips on "Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling" at 11 a.m.;

❖ Dory Clemens, a space planning specialist, will conduct a seminar at 1 p.m. on "Aging-In-Place" applications. The session will focus how to assess which modifications to your home are most appropriate for near-term and foreseeable needs;

❖ At 3 p.m., Chris Arnold, whose 25 years of remodeling experience embraces every facet of the industry, will discuss "How to Plan a Successful Remodel," including best options for financing a project.

Interested parties can register for the show room opening and for individual seminars online at www.fosterremodeling.com, or by calling 703-350-1371.

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



The April 22 event will feature three seminars: Kitchen and Bath Design, Aging-in-Place Strategies for the Home and How to Plan a Successful Remodel.



Easter Table Design Ideas

Local tastemakers offer spring table setting and centerpiece ideas.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

The arrival of spring offers fresh inspiration for table setting and home décor, say local designers. “What’s really beautiful about spring is that there is such natural beauty outside,” said Amanda Mertins, co-owner of Patina Polished Living in Old Town Alexandria. “Everything comes to life in spring. It’s all so fresh, you don’t have to do anything too contrived because decorations present themselves naturally with lovely daffodils and hyacinths. Pastel colored eggs are also part of the scene. You can combine the natural elements with the givens like eggs and bunnies.”

“Trim a few branches from a flowering bush or tree,” said Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke, Virginia. “If you have tulips or daffodils, harvest some and make your own bouquet or place single stems in bud vases.”

“You can’t beat the amazing color display that’s going on outside right now,” added Anne M. Walker of Anne Walker Design in Potomac, Maryland.

“The deep magenta blossoms of the Redbud trees combined with the chartreuse color of the budding

tree leaves and new grasses makes my heart skip a beat. Bring these vibrant greens and purples into your house any way you can: fresh flowers, throw pillows, candles. A little touch of coral is welcome now and is a wonderful harbinger of the warmer days ahead.”

For a simple Easter centerpiece start with a tray, advises Thomas. “Cover the bottom with Easter grass or faux moss,” she said. “Place a potted plant or bouquet in the center with decorative Easter eggs nestled in the grass around it. Add a bunny or two and you have a cohesive centerpiece that is easy to move if necessary.”

Small accent pieces can have a big impact on table settings. “Make the table more festive by having place cards at each setting,” said Kelley Proxmire, principal at Kelley Proxmire, Inc. “Make each setting a little bit more special by putting individual small flower arrangements, or perhaps an Easter candy at each place.”

To create a sophisticated display, Walker advises forgoing traditional pastel colors and Easter eggs in lieu of vintage white décor. “[Home accessory stores] will all have decorating treasures, and they should be at deeply discounted prices this week,” she said.

Mertins creates an “Easter tree” decorated with hand-blown, hand-painted eggs. “They’re from Austria and they’re really like works of art,” she said. “You can hang these eggs from budding branches like those in a Forsythia [shrub] with green leaves and buds.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLEY PROXMIRE, INC.

Designer Kelley Proxmire uses individual small flower arrangements to personalize the table setting in this Vienna, Virginia home.

Be a part of our **Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Questions? E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431

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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

Jubilee Christian Center
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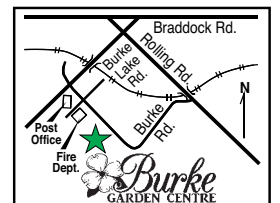
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CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication at noon. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

ONGOING

Easter Bunny in Springfield.

Through April 15, Monday through Saturday: 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, Lower Level, Grand Court, 6500 Springfield Mall, Springfield. Visit the Easter Bunny in the Mad Hatter Garden. Visit springfieldtowncenter.com/ for more.

Easter Bunny in Fairfax. Through April 15, Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Sunday: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Fair Oaks, 11750 Fair Oaks, Fairfax. Adventures in Bunnyville and photos with the Easter Bunny at Fair Oaks. Visit www.shopfairoaksmall.com/ for more.

"Cherry Blossom Kimonos."

Through April 30 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." Visit www.workhousearts.org/event/exhibit-late-bloomers/ for more.

Storytime in the Park.

Through May 30, 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, Fairfax. Visit fairfaxva.gov/parksrec or call 703-385-7858.

Senior Line Dancing 1-2 p.m. Little River Glen Senior Center 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. Cost: \$5. 703-524-3739 barbriba@hotmail.com

Carolina Shag. Wednesdays. 6:30-10 p.m. Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. nvshag.org.

Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe).

Wednesdays. 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (hello) Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. RSVP Naama.Gold@jccnv.org.

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

Stories From Strawberry Park 10-11 a.m. Tuesdays in Mosaic, Strawberry Park, 2910 District Ave., Fairfax. Enjoy a live interactive performance each week. For ages 10 and under. Held outside in Strawberry Park. In inclement weather and October through April, storytime will be held in Angelika Film Center. Visit www.fxva.com/listing/mosaic-district/2326/.

APRIL 14-MAY 7

"The Late Wedding." Various times at the John Swayze Theatre at the New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. A play by Christopher Chen that is both a spy thriller and a sci-fi love story. Visit www.thehubtheatre.org for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 15

Pancakes and Egg Hunt. 8:30 a.m. at St George's United Methodist Church, 4910 Ox Road, Fairfax.



Springfield Town Center hosts a pre-Easter tea party in the mall's grand hall on April 12.



Lilly Brinkley of Franconia has her face painted at the Springfield Town Center pre-Easter tea party.

Ready for Easter at Springfield Town Center

As she attached the grass green pipe cleaner to her two-dimensional wicker Easter basket, Taylor Morgan of Franconia lamented that it wouldn't be able to hold "real Easter eggs." Morgan and her mother Sabrina had just come from having a photo taken with the very Easter Bunny itself, who she said she asked — Santa-style — for a Hatchimal, one of last Christmas' hottest toys.

They sat at one of dozens of tables set up for crafts and coloring, as part of a multidimensional (secular) pre-Easter event hosted on April 12 at Springfield Town Center. The mall's marketing director Kim-



Front, from left, Christopher and Katelynn Johnson, and Gabrielle Martinez, all of Alexandria, meet the Mad Hatter and Alice of "Alice in Wonderland" at the Springfield Town Center pre-Easter event on April 12.

berly Baldy said they had more than 500 people registered in advance, and that was just counting email addresses of parents, not including children.

In addition to the furry photos and crafts, the event tied in an Alice in Wonderland tea party theme as well as face painting. Tea — non-caffeinated, Baldy specified — for the party was supplied by Teavana.

The Mad Hatter, Queen of Hearts and Alice herself roamed and mingled in the grand hall area of Springfield Town Center, while the March Hare was otherwise occupied.

— TIM PETERSON

There will be children activities to go along with the breakfast and egg hunt. Free. Call 571-218-9972.

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. Call 703-281-1767 or register online at unitysilentretreat.eventbrite.com.

APRIL 15-16

Bonsai Show and Demonstration.

9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society (NVBS). Visit nvbs.us or email info@nvbs.us for more.

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.

Spring Drawing Plus Color Class.

6:15-7 p.m. at Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin, drawing and watercolor for children 5-8 years. Visit www.czartlessons.com or call 703-250-6930 for more.

TUESDAY/APRIL 18

Early Fairfax Archaeology. 7:30-9 p.m. at the Fairfax Courthouse, 4000 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Chris

Sperling, Senior Archaeologist, Fairfax County Park Authority discusses "Beginning from a White Oak Tree in Fairfax County" Native American/European exploration and settlements. Visit www.eventbrite.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 19

Civil War Forum. 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax. Bernard Kempinski, writer of articles and books on railroading, will present the Civil War Forum, "Introduction to the Railroads of the Civil War." Visit www.fairfax-station.org for more.

THURSDAY/APRIL 20

Quilt Restoration. 10:15 a.m. at the Fairfax Antique Arts Association, Green Acre Senior Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Presentation and samples provided by Clara Sue Ashley and Chris Young of the Quilt Shop of McLean on the varying processes that can be used with extraordinary results. Members are encouraged to bring in family pieces. Call 703-273-6090 for more.

Artists Talk. 7:30 p.m. at George Mason University, School of Art, Room 1007, 4400 University Drive, MS 2F5, Fairfax. "Radcliffe Bailey: The Great Dismal Swamp," on view from April 21 through Aug. 18. Visit cfa.gmu.edu for more.

APRIL 21-MAY 9

Spotlight on the Arts Festival. Various times at Old Town Hall,

3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The 32nd Annual Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts Festival starts on April 21st with a glittering evening at Old Town Hall celebrating three decades of arts in the City of Fairfax. Opening Gala, is 7 p.m., Saturday, April 29. Visit www.fairfaxspotlight.org for more.

APRIL 21 AND APRIL 22

Wild Horse and Burro Adoption. noon-5 p.m. at Meadowood Special Recreation Area, 10406 Gunston Road, Lorton. Preview animals and submit applications. Animals will be available for \$125 to approved adopters on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit BLM.gov or call 866-468-7826 for more.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

ECHO Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-noon at St. Bernadette Catholic Church Gymnasium, 7600 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Collectibles, accessories and housewares to benefit Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO). Call 703-239-1678 for more.

Earth Day Clean Up. 10 a.m.-noon at Daniels Run Elementary School, 3705 Old Lee Highway. Park at the school and walk over to Daniels Run Trail to help clean the trail, make bird feeders from recycled products, decorate reusable bags, learn about waste reduction. Call 703-385-1695.

Family Fun Challenge. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Van Dyck Park, 3720 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax. GMU Women's basketball team leads activities to promote community through children's

activities, hands on science, face painting, Yoga, inflatables, and family sports challenges. At the event, we will have a Homeless Shelter Party drive to collect small gifts for children and families in need: balls, dolls, books, gift cards, jump ropes, and frisbees. Visit parties2inspire.org/ for more.

"Resilience" in Community. 7-10 p.m. at the Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax. Juried art show with works by local artists for sale, live music by local Latin-Jazz band Batida Diferente, a live charity auction, appetizers, wine and beer tastings. The event supports Britepaths' work to provide services to working families in the Fairfax County area who are struggling to make ends meet. \$45. Visit britepaths.org, email info@britepaths.org or call 703-273-8829.

SUNDAY/APRIL 23

"Peter and the Wolf." 2-4 p.m. at the Stacy C. Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. The Washington Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Jun Kim will perform Sergei Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf" Visit www.fairfaxva.gov for more.

A Film Celebrating Earth Day. 4-6 p.m. at the Stacy C. Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Documentary "The Anthropologist" views anthropology through the lens of a pair of female anthropologists and their daughters. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov for more.

NEWS

Volunteers Needed at Railroad Museum

The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum is seeking volunteers to assist in a variety of projects. Help is needed for the Station's website work as well as assistance with the Station's finances as Treasurer for the Museum. The Museum is always in need of docents for Sunday activities as well as help with hands on work around the Station grounds and building. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. If interested, contact the Station at information@fairfax-station.org. For more information on the Museum activities, visit, www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, 703-425-9225.



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PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother's Day issue.

Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence.

To e-mail digital photos, send to:

editors@connectionnewspapers.com

Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

Fairfax Station Resident Makes National Tour Debut

Jacob Anderson, 11, a resident of Fairfax Station and a student at Metropolitan School of the Arts (MSA) of Alexandria, is making his national tour debut in the U.S. National Tour of "Matilda The Musical." Produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Dodge



Jacob Anderson

ers, the blockbuster musical named TIME Magazine's #1 Show of the Year, is on tour in select U.S. cities, now through June 25. Anderson plays the part of Nigel Hicks in the U.S. National Tour of Matilda the Musical. He's been studying at MSA since 2014.

Visit www.metropolitanarts.org

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Kurren Gill, of Fairfax Station, was among 88 students of the Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine who learned their residency placements during the National Resident Matching Program's "Match Day." Match Day occurred simultaneously at medical colleges around the country in an exciting event in which all fourth-year M.D. students opened their envelopes to learn where they will spend the next three to seven years training in specialties. Gill's residency will be at Thomas Jefferson Univ-PA to train in Otolaryngology in Philadelphia.

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PUBLIC SALE
Fri., April 21, 12 p.m.-4 p.m.
Sat., April 22, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Celebrate Earth Day weekend with a visit to River Farm for our annual plant sale and garden marketplace!

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www.ahsgardening.org/GardenMarket
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Parking is \$5 per car (cash only); free for AHS members (with valid member card, receipt, or current issue of *The American Gardener*). A limited number of garden carts will be available for use; we recommend bringing your own. Leashed pets are welcome.

special thanks to **Mount Vernon Gazette**



PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

Lisa Connors, a spokesperson for the county, left, interviewed Cornerstones CEO Kerrie Wilson, right, on Facebook Live on Wednesday, April 5, outside the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston.



Lisa Connors interviewed OPEH Director Dean Klein on Facebook Live on Wednesday, April 5, outside the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston.

Report: Homeless Population Down 47 Percent

Budget woes threaten progress as the number of homeless people drops below 1,000 for the first time in Fairfax County.

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

The number of homeless people on the streets of Fairfax County reached a record low this year. The Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness counted 964 homeless people in the Fairfax County and Falls Church area on the night of Jan. 25 during its 2017 Homeless Point In Time Count. It is the first time that fewer than 1,000 people were reported homeless during the nine years the county has been collecting the data for the report.

The count covers people who are literally homeless – those who are in shelters, in time-limited transitional housing programs, or unsheltered and living on the street or in vehicles. Of those counted this year, 474 were people in families, including 286 children, and 490 people were single individuals, including 155 older adults ages 55 and over.

The first count in 2008 reported 1,835 homeless people, which means the homeless population during the count has decreased by 47 percent.

The results were announced on Wednesday, April 5, outside the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston by OPEH Director Dean Klein and Kerrie Wilson, CEO of Cornerstones, a nonprofit organization that serves people in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, childcare and other human services.

THE PROGRESS in reducing homelessness in the county was attributed to helping those in need find affordable housing in the area.

“The cost of living here puts housing out of reach for so many people,” Wilson said.

“That is essentially the real problem we have here.”

The Office to Prevent and End Homelessness and its partner organizations take a “housing first” approach to helping those in need. This method first offers permanent, affordable housing as quickly as possible for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Then, supportive services and connections to community-based resources are provided in order to keep people in their housing and avoid returning to homelessness.

“The goal of reducing homelessness has two dispositions,” said a man who was staying at the Embry Rucker Shelter. He requested to remain anonymous. “If you’re a homeowner and don’t like homeless people in your midst, that’s one end of the spectrum,” he said. “The other is a nurturing and caring disposition where people don’t want the homeless to suffer. We’re not all working towards the same goal.”

This philosophy of helping the homeless become self-sufficient is embraced at the Embry Rucker Shelter, which is operated by Cornerstones.

“Nobody should be raised in a homeless

shelter,” Wilson said.

But her organization would rather keep clients in the shelter longer until they can find a housing arrangement that works in order to keep them from slipping back into homelessness.

Her organization, Cornerstones, often relies on shared housing where it matches homeless individuals to be roommates and sets them up with landlords who offer affordable housing arrangements.

These opportunities are few and far in between and will become more challenging in the years to come for its homeless individuals.

“The cost of living here puts housing out of reach for so many people.”

— Kerrie Wilson, Cornerstones

This is because the county has relied on housing resources for its homeless single population in the past from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, according to Klein. But this resource is at risk.

The Trump administration plans to significantly reduce HUD’s funding from \$46.9 billion in 2017 to \$40.7 billion in 2018, a 13.2 percent cut, according to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

“We need more housing,” Klein said. “We recognize that federal housing reductions are looming. We are very concerned about what that may mean and the impact that could have on the progress that we’ve made in the community.”

Klein’s office will also take a hit locally. The Office to Prevent and End Homelessness is set to lose \$200,000 in funding next year in order to balance the county’s fiscal year 2018 budget.

THE DECREASE in OPEH’s advertised fiscal year 2018 budget will prevent it from using motels as a last resort housing options for families with children who are experiencing homelessness when shelters are full or when individuals have medical needs that make a shelter facility inappropriate, according to the county’s advertised budget plan.

“It would really eliminate some of the flexibility needed for our system and providers,” Klein said. “Often times, our shelters are full. With that, we need other flexibility to make sure people and families aren’t living on the streets.”

Still, Klein remains hopeful despite the challenges ahead.

“We saw a significant decrease in the number of homeless families ... we see that our single population continues to be a huge challenge to not only help them to secure employment but also to help them to get housing,” Klein says.

May 22 Community Forum on Policing

The Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, which recommended the creation of an independent police auditor and civilian review panel, also encouraged the Board of Supervisors to set dates for community forums to revisit other commission recommendations and review how far along they are.

The first such forum has been scheduled for May 22 this year, according to an April 4 board matter presented by supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), chair of the board’s public safety committee.

A second forum will be scheduled closer to the fall, to take place in the Mount Vernon area of Fairfax County, Cook said.

The forum will take place in the Fairfax

County Government Center board auditorium, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The Government Center is located at 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax.

More information about the Ad Hoc Commission, including final reports from the subcommittees and full commission, is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission.

—TIM PETERSON

4

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21 Announcements

According to the Lease by and between James Mott Community Assistance (of unit 1057) and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: computers, tables, chairs, ladder, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday April 21, 2017 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

According to the Lease by and between Michael Jordan (of unit 2069) and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: beds, furniture, books, clothes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday April 21, 2017 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

According to the Lease by and between Lina Chovil (of unit 4075) and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: luggage, boxes, tubs, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday April 21, 2017 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, May 1, 2017 commencing at 10:30 AM, at 5801 Rolling Road, Springfield, Virginia 22152, in order to enforce the warehouseman's lien for storage and related services, we will sell by Public Auction the items in the accounts of: Judith Boston, Salim Cadet, William Cammett, TJ Dunlap, Douglas B. Hitt, Daniel Lester, New Vision Engineering Group, Thomas Pauls, Patricia Bradley, Timothy R. Doremus, DJ McMulloch, Donald Munford, Eric Fedewa, Fried & Rosefelt, Lorenzo Parker, and Sam Ponniah.

Those effects are stored with any of the following: Ace Van & Storage Co., Inc.; Boxcart Inc.; Interstate Moving & Storage, Inc.; Interstate Moving Systems, Inc.; Interstate Relocation Services, Inc. dba Ambassador International, Ltd; Ambassador Relocations, Inc.; Ambassador Worldwide Moving, Inc.; or Interstate Van Lines, Inc., at 3901 Ironwood Place, Landover, Maryland; 22455 Powers Court, Sterling, Virginia; or 5801 Rolling Road, Springfield, Virginia. All parties in interest please take notice.

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21 Announcements

Pursuant to Section 50-33, 50-35 and 50-36 of the Code of the City of Fairfax, the City of Fairfax Police Department will be disposing of the below listed unclaimed property, by public auction conducted by an independent auction service, converted to department use or generally disposed of. Any person who feels they have a legal claim, with reasonable proof of ownership, should contact MPO Lynn Coulter of the City of Fairfax Police Department at 703-385-7829 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekdays until close of business Friday, April 28, 2017.
Below is a summary list of all items. For a complete list, please go to the City of Fairfax website: <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/unclaimedproperty>
27 - Assorted Cell Phones
20 - Assorted Electronics
30 - Miscellaneous items
24 - Bicycles

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
CarPool Fair Lakes, LLC trading as CarPool, 12821 Fair Lakes Parkway, Fairfax, Fairfax County, VA 22033-3807. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On; Mixed Beverage Restaurant (seating capacity 151 seating or more) license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Mark R. Handwerger, Managing Member authorizing advertisement. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

Public Hearing

Springfield Community Business Center Commuter Parking Garage
Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
Thursday, April 20, 2017 7:00 p.m.

Key Middle School Cafeteria, 6402 Franconia Road, Springfield, VA*

The Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services will conduct an open forum public hearing on the design of the Springfield Community Business Center (CBC) Commuter Parking Garage project. The proposed project would include 6 parking levels with about 1,100 parking spaces, a bus transit center with 7 bus bays, 12 commuter spaces, and a short term parking area for drop off and pick up. A pedestrian bridge connecting Springfield Plaza to the parking garage is also proposed. Other features include bicycle storage, passenger waiting areas, a community area on the ground floor and on the roof top. Project schedule information will be discussed at the public hearing.

Preview the project information, environmental documents, and preliminary plans prior to the public hearing at the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 449, Fairfax, VA 22035, (tel. 703-324-5800). Please call ahead for staff availability.

Give your written comments at the hearing or submit them by May 4, 2017 to Mr. Deepak Bhinge, Project

* New Location

Manager, Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, at the same address. You may also email your comments to Deepak.Bhinge@fairfaxcounty.gov. Please reference "Springfield CBC Parking Garage Comments" in the subject heading.

Fairfax County ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all county programs, services and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. State Project #0644-029-175, P101, R201, C501; Federal Project #CM-5A01 (742).

ACCESSIBILITY TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: This hearing is being held at a public facility believed to be accessible to persons with disabilities. Any persons with questions on the facility should contact Mr. Deepak Bhinge, Project Manager, Fairfax County Department of Public Works, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 449, Fairfax VA, (tel. 703-324-8770). Persons needing interpreter services for the hearing impaired or those with limited English proficiency must notify Mr. Deepak Bhinge no later than Thursday, April 13, 2017 so appropriate arrangements can be made.

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778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the
Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements
should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the
event.

APRIL

Coffee for Campers. April is the Month of the
Military Child, and to honor our nation's littllest
heroes, the National Military Family Association
is asking if you'll give up your coffee shop coffee
and donate that extra \$5 a day to send a
military kid to Operation Purple Camp. Visit
[www.militaryfamily.org/get-involved/donate/
coffee-for-campers.html](http://www.militaryfamily.org/get-involved/donate/coffee-for-campers.html) for more.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 12

NARFE Chapter Meeting. 12:30-3 p.m. at
Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carleigh
Parkway. National Active and Retired Federal
Employees Association Coach Ed Linz will be the
speaker at the Springfield Chapter 893 meeting.
Call 571-422-0451 for more.

THURSDAY/APRIL 20

Public Hearing. 7 p.m. at Key Middle School
Cafeteria, 6402 Franconia Road, Springfield.
The Fairfax County Department of
Transportation and Department of Public Works
and Environmental Services are conducting a
design public hearing for the Springfield CBC
Commuter Parking Garage. Visit
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/
springfieldgarage.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/springfieldgarage.htm) for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 15

Fibromyalgia Fight Club. 2-4 p.m. at City of
Fairfax Regional Library Meeting Room, 10360
North St., Fairfax. CFS NOVA and Fibromyalgia
Fight Club welcome Linda Tannenbaum, CEO/
President, Open Medicine Foundation, to speak
on research in ending Myalgic
Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
and related diseases. Free. Email
nanczryan@gmail.com, call 703-785-2525 or
visit www.openmedicinefoundation.org for
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MONDAY/APRIL 17

Strategies for Difficult Conversations. 7-8:30
p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library,
Meeting Room A/B, 10360 North Street, Fairfax.
"Improving Family Conversations About Aging
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and with siblings about driving, help at home
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start the conversation and keep it going in a
positive direction. Presented by the Fairfax Area
Agency on Aging. Adults.
Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/.

THURSDAY/APRIL 20

College Preparation Lecture. 7-9 p.m. at
Woodson High School, Room D116A-B, 9525
Main St., Fairfax. "ADHD and Preparing for the
College Experience" lecture by Dr. Jon L. Thomas,
LPC., part of CHADD of Northern Virginia & DC
Chapter's "Understanding ADHD" Lecture Series.
Free. Call 703-655-8095 for more.

TUESDAY/APRIL 25

Autism Awareness Month. 7-8:30 p.m. at Dunn
Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows
Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring.
Glen Finland's memoir, "Next Stop," is a moving
account of a family caring for a child with
special needs. Finland will share her own hard-
won lessons as well as strategies and insights
she has learned about the individual dynamics
of families who have children with special
needs. Register online at bit.ly/2nLCy9s or call
703-204-3941.

THURSDAY/APRIL 27

Autism Awareness Month. 10 a.m.-noon at
Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334
Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn
Loring. Individuals with Autism Spectrum
Disorder and other cognitive disabilities may not
recognize danger, react well in an emergency or
be able to seek help. Attend this workshop to
learn safety risks for individuals with special
needs, proactive steps to reduce the risk of
potential dangers, information on the new
Yellow Dot Program and more. Register online
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Gorgeous water views! Luxury garage townhome features 9' ceilings, gourmet kitchen with granite island and SS appliances. 3 BR, 3.5 BA. Hardwood floors, master suite with 2 walk-in closets, garden tub & separate shower. Robinson HS! Close to VRE!



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Rare find! Contemporary design with over 5K SF of living space, 3 car garage, gourmet kitchen w/ granite, soaring ceilings, heated pool, jetted hot tub, pool table, home gym. Exquisite 5 acre wooded lot with private pond! www.8705MountainValley.info



Sheila Adams
703-503-1895
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Fairfax Club Estates \$634,900

Gorgeous Colonial home backing to parkland. Cul-de-sac location. 4 huge bedrooms. Gleaming hardwood floors in Kitchen, Family Room, Foyer, and steps. New carpeting. New stainless steel appliances. Sheila Adams 703-503-1895



Dana-Jean LaFever & Claudia Callis
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"Working for & Listening to YOU"



Oakton Just Listed \$698,800

Fabulous 4 levels on large, flat, wooded 3/4 acre lot backing to parkland. Updates include windows, roof, new carpet in living, dining rooms, and upstairs bedrooms. Kitchen has 42 in. cabinets & corian countertops. 2 fireplaces, large deck, 2 car garage. Close to shopping, Rt 50, and I66.



Carol L. Manning, Associate Broker
NVAR Multi-Million Dollar Club | NVAR Top Producer
703.517.1828 | Email: ContactCarol@LNF.com

Exceeding Your Expectations is my #1 Priority

2 Fabulous Landmark Mews Properties in Alexandria!
OPEN SUNDAY \$675,000
Outstanding, Close-in Location!

- Rarely Available Spacious End Unit with an **Elevator!**
- 2 Large Master Suites with baths & walk-in closets
- 3rd Bedroom / Office / Loft with storage room
- Private Slate Patio with Landscaping



- 3 BRs; 3 Full & 2 Half BAs
- Main Level with gorgeous hardwood flooring
- Kitchen with granite counters, new stainless steel appliances
- Gas Fireplace
- Walkout Lower Level to Backyard with Patio and New Deck
- 1-Car Garage

Call for Details



Kathy O'Donnell
REALTOR



Let's Work Together

703-338-7696
Kathy.odonnell@LNF.com



Catie, Steve & Associates
Direct: 703-278-9313
Cell: 703-362-2591
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Fairfax \$649,900

Super Star! Drop Dead 4 bedroom/2.5 bath Middelridge Colonial. Sited on a beautiful corner lot, this home comes with a fabulous Sun Room; gleaming hardwood floors, a huge Living Room, a charming Dining Room, Family Room w/gas fireplace, updated baths. A "House Beautiful" kitchen with all the bells & whistles, finished basement & a deck & patio come too! Not to be missed, make this house your home today!



"Committed to Earning the Loyalty of Our Clients by Providing Unparalleled Professionalism and Exceptional Service While Supporting Our Community."

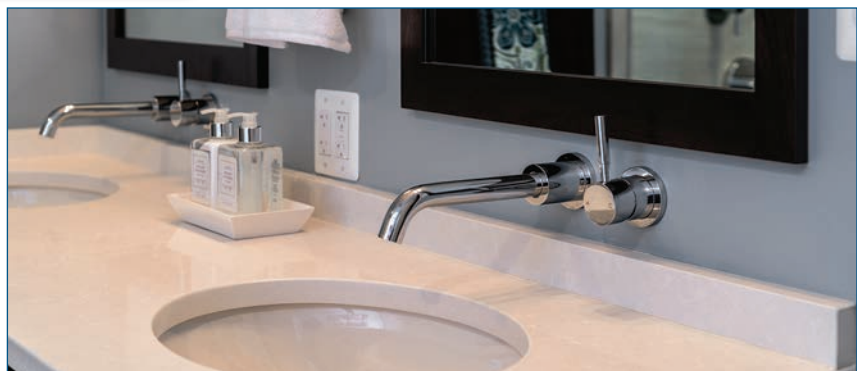


Looking for a Change? Maybe it's time for an Update!
Call Foster Remodeling 703.672.2249



- Kitchen Remodels
- Bathroom Remodels
- Home Additions

- Whole Home Remodels
- Entertainment Areas
- and much more!



Northern Virginia's First Choice for Home Remodeling Services

Are there too many cooks in your kitchen and not enough workspace? Is your bathroom vanity covered with lotions and potions because there's no storage? Maybe it's time for a change! Foster Remodeling Solutions is a full-service Northern Virginia Remodeling and Design firm with over 30 years of experience.

We specialize in additions, kitchens, bathrooms and whole home remodels. We are client focused and committed to providing you with personalized service, upfront communications, and expert design and craftsmanship.

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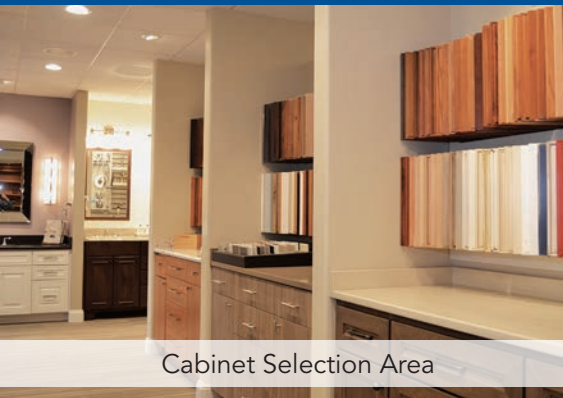
GRAND RE-OPENING OPEN HOUSE

Please Join Us!

7211-H Telegraph Square Dr.
Lorton, VA 22079



**Saturday, April 22nd 2017
10:00am to 5:00pm**



Cabinet Selection Area



Tile and Flooring Selection Room



Outdoor Selection Area

Seminars

We will be providing 3 free educational seminars throughout the day. Our Design Consultants will give you tips and guidelines about remodeling.



11:00am

Sean will be providing you with information and tips for Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling.



1:00pm

Plan for every stage of life, Dory will discuss Aging-In-Place Remodeling.



3:00pm

Are you thinking about remodeling but don't know where to start? Do you need lending options? Come to Chris's seminar on How To Plan a Successful remodel.

Please join Foster Remodeling Solutions at our Open House for our newly remodeled and expanded Design and Selection center.

We now feature custom vignettes. You'll see full kitchens and bathrooms on display as well as an inspiring outdoor area featuring a patio with a deck, windows, and roofing. We also have plenty of the latest materials and products for your home.

Guests will have the opportunity to browse through our showroom, attend seminars and talk to the industry experts.

**Please RSVP to 703.672.2249 or sign up at
FosterRemodeling.com**

- Come see our newly remodeled and expanded Design and Selection Center
- Enjoy some chef prepared hors d'oeuvres
- Win Raffle Prizes
- Attend a Remodeling Seminar
- Q&A with our Design Consultants
- Browse through thousands of products for your home