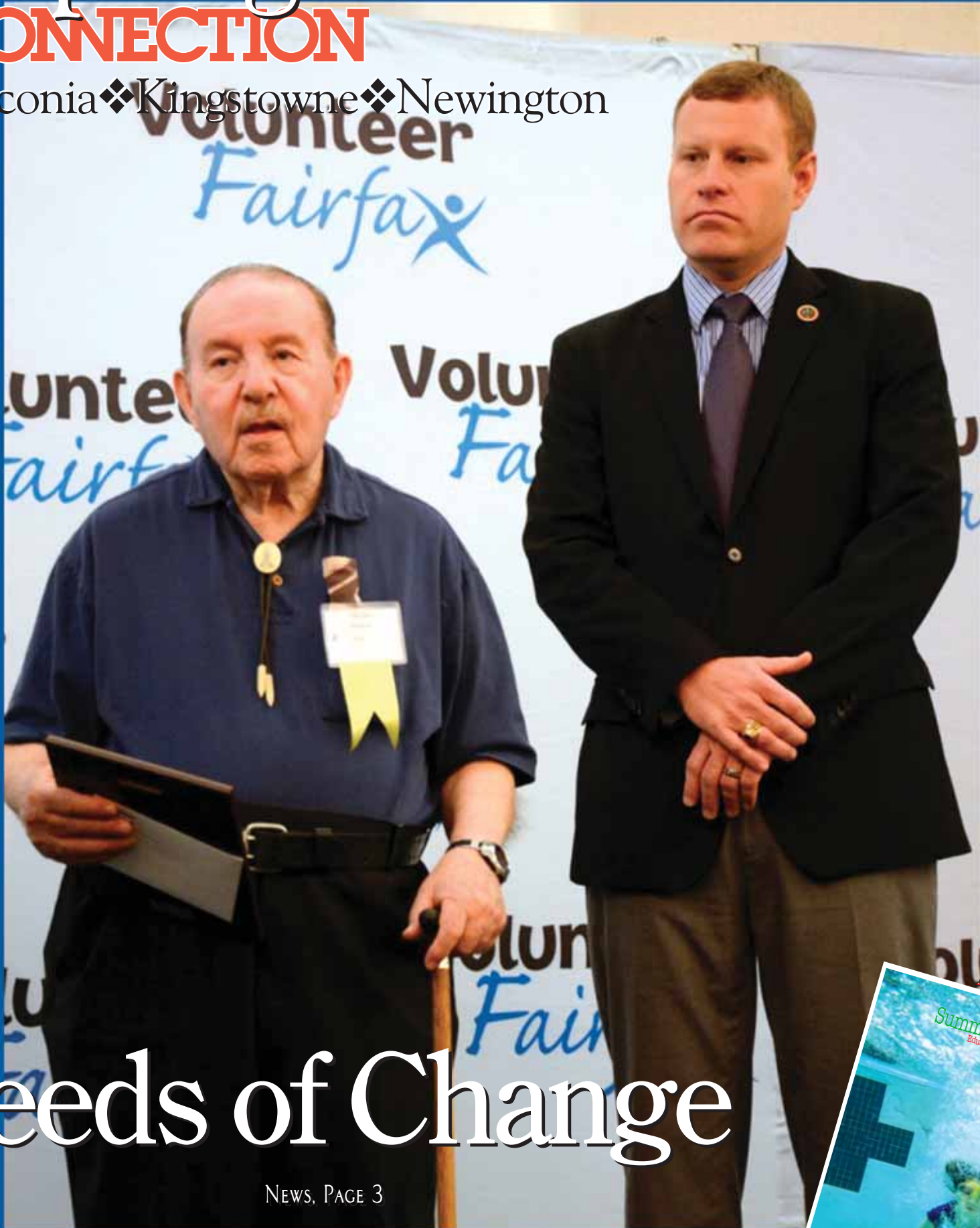




Springfield CONNECTION

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Right, Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) with his district's Community Champion Michel Margosis, a Holocaust survivor, who speaks about his experiences and served as Lee District appointee on the Human Rights Commission for more than a decade.



Seeds of Change

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Board Approves
Budget Mark-Up

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West Springfield Rotary
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4

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NEWS



Members of the Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team receive the Volunteer Fairfax Service award for Fairfax County Government Volunteer Program. There are 27 active CERT teams that have been set up around the county, establishing relationships with local fire and police stations, as well as faith organizations, for emergency situations.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

From left, state Sen. George Barker (D-39) congratulates Community Champions John Pellegrin (Springfield District) and Michel Margosis (Lee District) and the 25th annual Volunteer Fairfax Service Awards.

Seeds of Change

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Volunteer Fairfax honors service award-winners at 25th annual ceremony.

Volunteer Fairfax marked an historic 25th annual Service Awards ceremony April 21 with 193 individual and group nominations. Nominees and award-winners were recognized at the Waterford at Springfield for their hundreds of hours volunteering.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova said the trick of putting people who want to help into action is harnessing them in a given direction. "That is the work of Volunteer Fairfax," Bulova said.

Bulova read a proclamation from the supervisors declaring April 21, 2017 an official day to recognize all volunteers around Fairfax County. "Each one of our 2017 nominees has strengthened the community with their selfless service and we honor them today," Volunteer Fairfax CEO Elise Neil Bengtson said in a statement. "May their service inspire others to join the network of strong community roots."

Senior, family youth and group volunteers were recognized, as well as Community Champions selected by each magisterial district supervisor.

Springfield resident Marie Monsen won the Volunteer Fairfax Lifetime Achievement award.

Monsen co-founded the Interfaith Communities for Dialogue after September 11, 2001 and for years has volunteered with the Annandale Christian Community for Action. Along with Rebuilding Together, they help low-income homeowners in the Annandale, Lincolnia, Bailey's Crossroads and Culmore areas of Fairfax County.

Monsen said giving back was just something she learned from the good values of her Scandinavian immigrant parents, being a child of the 1960s, as well as her faith.

She said she was attracted to the diversity in Fairfax County, and appreciates its tradition of government agencies working together with people. Monsen added it was exhilarating to "see so many people doing so many things."

Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.



Left, Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) with his district's Community Champion David Curtis. As chair of the Truro Homes Association, Curtis spearheaded a restoration project for Turkey Run Stream.



Center, Marie Monsen of Springfield, receives the Volunteer Fairfax Service Lifetime Achievement award. Monsen co-founded the Interfaith Communities for Dialogue after September 11, 2001 and for years has volunteered with the Annandale Christian Community for Action, which, together with Rebuilding Together, helps low-income homeowners in the Annandale, Lincolnia, Bailey's Crossroads and Culmore areas of Fairfax County.



Right, Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) with his district's Community Champion Michel Margosis (left). Margosis is a Holocaust survivor, speaks about his experiences and served as Lee District appointee on the Human Rights Commission for more than a decade.



Right, Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) with his district's Community Champion John Pellegrin (left). Pellegrin has been a volunteer with the Rotary Club of West Springfield for the past 16 years, during the latest of which he put in more than 500 hours with the organization that embodies the slogan "Service above Self."



From left, Sharon Bulova presents the Volunteer Fairfax Service award for Family Volunteer to Shayla and Samantha Young of Springfield. The Youngs volunteer with the Lorton Community Action Center, which serves more than 300 families per week with food and other basic needs, as well as bringing food and other items to donate themselves.



Left, Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova honors Fairfax County Community Champion John Wood. Accepting for Wood was Kim Luckabaugh (right) from the City of Fairfax. Wood owns the 29 Diner, where he hosts community activities and fundraisers, including for domestic violence awareness, the Meals Tax campaign, first responders and local youth.

NEWS

From left, Rotarian Mike Becraft, Ravensworth Elementary School counselor Todd Austin, club president Estela Landeros and Ravensworth principal Roxanne Salata.

PHOTOS BY
TIM PETERSON/
THE CONNECTION



West Springfield Rotary Honors Educators

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Rotary Club members prize the embodiment of the slogan “service above self.” On April 19, members of the Rotary Club of West Springfield recognized three teachers, individuals serving children and young adults, who they and their principals decided have gone well beyond the requirements of the profession in order to help their students succeed.

Todd Austin, a counselor at Ravensworth Elementary School, was the first recognized. His principal Roxanne Salata said Austin was a mentor, teacher and friend to the school’s students.

“He puts children first, above all else,” Salata said.

Dave Thomas, principal of Lake Braddock Secondary School, spoke on two meritorious teacher award-winners — one from his middle school and one from high school.

Thomas said his two teachers “are very similar: They’re kind and patient, and understand what motivates. They make great connections.”

David Wickham teaches seventh grade Social Stud-

ies, now in his 11th year at the school. He also coaches junior varsity soccer at the school.

In living out the Rotarians’ “service above self,” Thomas said Wickham’s “countless hours go above and beyond.”

Eleventh and 12th grade English Special Education teacher at Lake Braddock Jennifer Celko was the final award-winner.

Thomas said their number-one goal as educators is to make sure each student graduates from high school, and in that regard, Celko has one of the hardest jobs in Fairfax County Public Schools.

“My students inspire me every day,” Celko said. “Some work harder than I do, and work jobs themselves, help with younger brothers or sisters.”

Celko told the anecdote of a young female student who, upon receiving her Standards of Learning testing scores results, thanked her teacher for believing in her.

“I can’t imagine not believing in her,” Celko said. “She’s an amazing student.”

The awards ceremony was held at the Springfield Golf and Country Club.

Visit rotaryofwestspringfield.org.



From left, Rotarian Mike Becraft, Lake Braddock Secondary School teacher David Wickham, club president Estela Landeros and Lake Braddock Principal Dave Thomas.



From left, Rotarian Mike Becraft, Lake Braddock Special Education teacher Jennifer Celko, club president Estela Landeros and Lake Braddock principal Dave Thomas.



Delegates Jennifer Boysko (D-86) and Kathleen Murphy (D-34), Peter Everett of Blankingship & Keith and Gregory Brandon with Fairfax County Advisory Social Services Board.

FACETS Brings Together Area Leaders, Addresses Poverty Issues

More than 1,000 people are homeless in Fairfax County. Leaders from around the region gathered to learn more about the issue from FACETS, a nonprofit that opens the doors to people suffering the effects of poverty in Fairfax.



FACETS Board Chair Bob Grimm with Russ Rowzie, Owner of Trimark Corporation



Joe Fay, FACETS Executive Director, with Don Harris of Burke United Methodist Church

Board Approves Budget Mark-Up with 8-2 Vote

Final adoption of the county budget takes place on May 2.

By ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

By an 8-2 vote, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted on Tuesday, April 25, to approve the FY 2018 Budget Mark-up. Although the formal adoption of next year's budget won't take place until May 2, historically the board does not make changes to the package after the mark-up is held.

"I'm pleased that the majority of my colleagues were able to support a budget package that preserves vital county and school programming," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), who chaired the Budget Committee. For the record, McKay read the county's Third Quarter FY 2017 Review, the Mark-Up recommendations, the board's Budget Guidance for FY 2018 and FY 2019, and the FY 2018 - FY 2022 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) before the supervisors discussed each portion of the budget process and cast their votes.

The final draft is a balanced budget. Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) said that while it does not provide for "real tax relief," the budget still represents a "victory for taxpayers" since it holds the property tax rate at the current level of \$1.13 per \$100 of assessed value, although some homeowners will see a slight increase (0.7 percent for the average taxpayer) due to increases in property values.

THE AMENDMENTS to the FY 2018 Advertised Budget that was originally presented by County Executive Ed Long on Feb. 14, restored funding to several human services programs that had been shifted to the "unfunded for 2018" column, including the Insight Memory Care program that provides day care services for county residents suffering from mid-late stage dementia. The Community Readiness and Support Program, under the umbrella of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board,



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Board Chairman Sharon Bulova and Budget Committee Chair Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

was also given a reprieve, and its four staff positions re-instated to continue offering an intensive, low ratio-to-client service to those with a variety of mental health and developmental disability issues.

There was general consensus that finding at least partial funding to launch Phase II of the Diversion First Program, which seeks to provide treatment instead of incarceration for people with mental health or developmental disability issues who come into contact with law enforcement for low-level offenses, was a real achievement in the approved Budget Mark-up. The program succeeded in diverting 375 individuals from potential arrest in its first year.

WHEN THE MOTION to approve the Mark-up was called for, the dissenting votes were cast by supervisors Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) and Kathy Smith (D-Sully).

"This budget will not meet our needs," said Smith, who also questioned whether the budget process was "working the way it should."

Among her concerns is the gap between

the Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) financial ask for FY 2018 and what the county transferred. Smith, who served on

"Looking ahead, the FY 2019 budget will pose new challenges, including potential federal cut backs and sequestration ... As always, Fairfax County will remain vigilant to any future changes that may impact the local budget in the upcoming fiscal year."

— Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County Board Chairman

the School Board before her election to the Board of Supervisors, says the gap will mean even more teacher vacancies and larger classes. The FCPS did receive an additional \$1.7 million during the mark-up process, resulting in an operating transfer increase of 2.79 percent over last year.

Storck thinks "we're making a mistake" with this budget, calling for a plan that focuses more on investments that will grow revenues. Storck said Fairfax County "keeps funding the success of the rest of the state at the expense of our own."

Several of the supervisors commented on the county's limited options for raising revenue, and in a statement released after the meeting, McKay wrote: "We will again have a dialogue with Richmond ... state law limits our revenue sources, we are left with property taxes as our main resource. This is not sustainable."

Further discussion surrounded the proposed Budget Guidance, which serves as a template for the county executive and staff in the development of the next budget and the financial plans for years to come. Included for consideration and for sourcing "fiscally-constrained funding options" are: addressing the growing opioid abuse crisis, tax relief for spouses of first responders killed in the line of duty, the procurement and implementation of a pre-notification 9-1-1 data repository system, further Public Safety staffing, county employee pay and pension review, and how to deal with the looming increases expected for funding the county's commitment to the Metro system.

The motion to adopt the Budget Guidance as written passed unanimously. With one budget not yet officially adopted, the supervisors seemed eager to begin their work on the issues set forth in the Budget Guidance, with Supervisor Penny Gross (D-Mason) asking staff to begin looking for additional meeting time slots in order to tackle the working agenda.

"Looking ahead," said Bulova, "the FY 2019 budget will pose new challenges, including potential federal cut backs and sequestration ... As always, Fairfax County will remain vigilant to any future changes that may impact the local budget in the upcoming fiscal year."

SUMMARIES of the documents discussed and approved at the Budget Mark-up session are available on the county's website, www.fairfaxcounty.gov. The meeting, which was streamed live, is archived and can be watched via the website.

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FAIRFAX

OPINION

Your Summer, Your Child, Your Values

A time for parents to build humanitarian spirits.

BY SHARON STRAUCHS

It's summer. The rigors of homework, youth clubs and team-scheduled Saturdays are over. No more carpools. Now it's your turn to make empowering choices to impact your child's life and eventually the lives of their children.

While our kids are young, the challenge is how to find summer-perfect opportunities that are fun, yet meaningful, and how to get the kids away from their electronic devices. When choosing summer activities, this is your golden opportunity to focus on your specific family values. While swimming lessons, camp-outs, and sports are important, wouldn't it be wonderful to incorporate activities that help your children focus beyond themselves and to the world beyond Northern Virginia?

We educators emphasize that the earlier your child engages in volunteer activities you find important, the more likely children will grow up respecting your family's values. In the D.C. Metro Area, there is a plethora of humanitarian programs for the under-18 age group that will get them into the habit of helping others.

College advisers all know that beyond APs, GPAs, and SAT/ACT scores, colleges today scrutinize applicants' activities, their "resumes," to help determine acceptances and scholarships.

So start now, at a pivotal point in your child's life and witness the hot, summer days of NOVA becoming wondrous as you watch priorities slowly change. We recommend starting at www.VolunteerFairfax.org (Opportunities Just for Youth). Plus, in Virginia, kids have the opportunity to earn service-oriented awards such as the "Diploma Seal of Excellence in Civics" (www.doe.virginia.gov), or "The Prudential Spirit of Community Award," Virginia state-issued civics "diploma" for students in grades 5-12 who complete at least a 50-hour service project.

Where could you possibly begin to invest 50 or more hours, and for what cause? Our family discovered the famous "Meals on Wheels" program, started by former U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf, and delivered meals to senior citizens for our 10-year, part-time family project. (www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org)

For our "foodie" kids who are cooking or gardening enthusiasts, The Food Network

sponsors "No Kid Hungry." Proceeds from bake sales are donated to help end childhood hunger (www.bake.nokidhungry.org) and the Gardening for Good project encourages kids to grow vegetables to donate to senior centers, or help fight senior hunger by sharing a meal. This encourages kids to learn to cook, and helps your family bond with a senior while eating and storytelling. (www.hunger.generationOn.org)

What about our animal-loving children? They can develop a Dog Park Clean-Up plan at their favorite park or socialize with dogs and cats at local shelters with the Puppy and Kitty Love programs. This is great for families who love pets but can't actually own one. (www.GenerationOn.org/parents/resources/projects/animal-welfare).

As always, we parents must insure that activities are safe and the charities are legitimate. The benefits of helping humanitarian organizations while taking advantage of your relaxed summer schedule can create so many powerful, long-lasting memories and family summer traditions. Aesop states, "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

Sharon Strauchs has been Director/Owner of Herndon-based Cortona Academy in Northern Virginia. Visit www.CortonaLearning.com.



PHOTOS BY JOHN NASH

Marsden



State Sen. David Marsden (D-37) addresses more than 140 members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Virginia Economy Is Doing Well, Marsden Says

"In spite of some pockets of economic problems, the Virginia economy is doing well," said state Sen. David Marsden (D-37). Speaking to more than 140 members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), Marsden discussed some of the factors contributing to the state's economic strengths: federal/military-related employment, the Port of Virginia, the Chesapeake Bay, an educated, diverse, and well-trained workforce, agriculture, tourism, and technology.

Marsden's presentation included graphs where he compared the Virginia economy

to national averages. The corridor from Northern Virginia through Richmond to Virginia Beach remains the strongest part of the Virginia economy, although this area is still recovering from the recent recession and federal budget reductions. The educated workforce and growing technology base have helped this corridor fare much better than other parts of the commonwealth.

Some areas Marsden felt needed attention include:

- ❖ Job creation, especially in the coal industry and other depressed areas of the state.
- ❖ A rise in the minimum wage above \$7.50

per hour. For 120,000 Virginians, the minimum wage they earn is simply not enough to make a decent living.

❖ Medicaid expansion, especially in depressed areas. By refusing expansion, the commonwealth has given up \$1.8 billion in federal assistance.

❖ Growing transportation problems that could be alleviated through expanding the transportation fund, improving roadways, devising innovative transportation solutions, and widening of Interstate 66 to include toll lanes.

OLLI member Stephanie Trachtenberg arranged the meeting.

Springfield CONNECTION

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NEWS

Homicide at Little River Glen Retirement Community

Cong Huu Nguyen, 77, was found dead in his apartment at the Little River Glen Senior Retirement Community in Fairfax, Fairfax County Police said.

Nguyen's death was ruled a homicide, with upper body trauma being the official manner of death.

Officers from the West Springfield station responded to the report about Nguyen around 8 a.m. on Thursday, April 20.

Police released the victim's photo, while the investigation into his murder is ongoing.

FCPD asks anyone with information to contact Detective J.D. Long of the Homicide Section at 703-246-



COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE

Cong Huu Nguyen, 77, was found dead in his apartment at the Little River Glen Senior Retirement Community in Fairfax, Fairfax County Police said.

7800 or 703-246-7810, or Crime Solvers electronically by visiting www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text-a-tip by texting "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES(274637)** or by calling 1-866-411-TIPS(8477), or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

— TIM PETERSON

AREA ROUNDUPS

Free Rides on Cinco de Mayo

Beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 5, the 2017 Cinco de Mayo SoberRide program will be in operation, and continue until 4 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday. This service is offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP).

During this nine-hour period, area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code CINCODC in the app's "Promo" section to receive their no cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code.

Infant Toddler Family Day Care to Host International Dinner

Infant Toddler Family Day Care (ITFDC), a non-profit organization providing child care resource and referral services in Northern Virginia, will be hosting the 2017 International Dinner for its network of 120 Early Child Care Educators and 300 families.

The 2017 International Dinner will be held on Saturday, May 6, from 6-8 p.m. at Sydenstricker United Methodist Church (8508 Hooes Road, Springfield).

This event is a tradition for Infant Toddler Family Day Care as the many cultures in the organization are celebrated. ITFDC represents more than 30 countries and 20 languages spoken in their diverse families. Their providers come from countries including Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, India, Poland, Greece, Philippines, Thailand, El Salvador, Bolivia, and Ethiopia. Many have overcome the difficulties of starting life in the U.S. as immigrants. As part of the ITFDC organization, they were given the opportunity to succeed as professional early child care educators.

The event is also an opportunity for families to meet one another. They bring ethnic dishes to share and come dressed in traditional attire. Other activities planned include music and songs for the children as well as a voter registration drive.

For more information about the event, contact Wynne Busman, Executive Director at 703-352-3449 or by email: info@infanttoddler.com.

SCHOOL NOTES

A team representing **Springfield Estates Elementary School** achieved Highest Honors in the recent WordMasters Challenge — a national vocabulary competition involving nearly 150,000 students annually. The fifth grade team scored an impressive 184 points out of a possible 200 in the second of three meets this year, placing sixth in the nation. Competing in the

Gold Division of the WordMasters Challenge, fourth grader **Tyler Webb** and fifth grader **Amy Huynh** each earned a perfect score of 20 on the challenge. Other students from Springfield Estates Elementary School who achieved outstanding results include fourth grader **Isabel Liu** and fifth graders **Kenny Christopher**, **Cordelia Clayton**, **Anastasia Klam** and **Abi Little**.

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Blending Modern with Nostalgic

VCO presents "America's Musical Keepsakes."

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Northern Virginia's own Virginia Chamber Orchestra (VCO) continues to be true to its mission to present fine music performed with highest artistic integrity for the broadest possible audience. The VCO is a professional chamber orchestra with a majority of its musicians from Fairfax County.

Aiming to bring fine music to the broadest possible Northern Virginia audiences, "We have been programming more and more American composers in the past few years, filling a void in the performance repertoire of the region," said David Grandis, music director, VCO. "It would seem legitimate to have an orchestra that showcases the American repertoire, not only for a reason of cultural patriotism and sense of national identity, but also for promoting the ongoing creative minds of this repertoire."

Having recently performed at the GMU Center for the Arts)with the GMUC Symphony Orchestra, VCO will end its current season with a performance at the Annandale Campus, Northern Virginia Com-

munity College. The performance, titled "America's Musical Keepsakes," will showcase the American musical repertoire for reasons including "cultural patriotism and sense of national identity," said Grandis. "America's Musical Keepsakes" will feature works by three celebrated 20th century American composers; Samuel Barber ("Reincarnation"), Aaron Copland ("Old American Songs") and Charles Ives (Symphony #3, "The camp Meeting") along with 21st century contemporary composer, Michael Mauldin ("Petroglyphs for Strings"). "Inspiration from the past is a significant aspect" of all the works that will be performed. The audience will hear music that has been "unfairly neglected," added Grandis.

The VCO will be joined by the Alexandria Choral Society on an arrangement of "Old American Songs" by Copland. "The VCO is extremely happy to collaborate once again with the Alexandria Choral Society because of the excellence of their musical accomplishments thanks to their singers," added Grandis. "Having this choral group joining us was the perfect way to end this season."

The VCO performs regularly at Tysons 1st Stage. Alex Levy, 1st Stage artistic director said, "The VCO believes that Fairfax County should be a home to world class art. We are proud to host the orchestra in our theater and offer the community access to connect with the VCO in their own back yard."

Where & When

Virginia Chamber Orchestra presents "America's Musical Keepsakes" at Ernst Community Cultural Center, Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Performance Sunday, May 7, at 4 p.m. Tickets at door: adults, \$25; seniors, \$20; and groups (10 or more), \$20. Students are admitted free. Tickets online at www.virginiachamberorchestra.org or call 703-758-0179. Parking is free. Complimentary reception will follow.

CALENDAR

Send entertainment 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

"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." 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.

Earth Day Art Exhibit. Various times through May 4 at the City Hall Atrium, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. The City of Fairfax Environmental Sustainability Committee will host the 2017 Earth Day Art Exhibit "Natural Causes! Exploring the impact of nature on daily lives." A mixed media show with subject or materials related to the natural and built environment by local students. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/ for more.

"The Late Wedding." Various times through May 7, 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.

Spotlight on the Arts Festival.

Various times through May 9 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.

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

FUN-Exercise Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. moorefitt@yahoo.com or 703-499-6133.

THURSDAY/APRIL 27

2017 NOVA Student Film Festival.

6-9 p.m. at the Bisdorf Building, Room 196 at the Alexandria Campus, 5000 Dawes Ave. Northern Virginia Community College will present a number of films created by NOVA students. Free. Visit blogs.nvcc.edu/lgebre/ for more.

Screenagers Documentary. 7-9 p.m. at Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Parents and students invited to watch the documentary film "Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age." Ages 10 and older. Visit www.screenagersmovie.com/ for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 28

Beau Soir Ensemble Concert. 8 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The area premiere "Goodbye My Friend," by Marjan Mozetich and an arrangement of Claude Debussy's "Children's Corner." Free. Visit www.beausoir.org for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 29

Run for the Children. 8-11 a.m. at Fairfax County Courthouse Complex, 4110 Chain Bridge Road. The 7th Annual Fairfax CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Run for the Children 8K Race and 3K Run/Walk will be held in historic Fairfax City, starting and ending at the Fairfax Courthouse complex on Chain Bridge Road. Visit www.fairfaxrunforthechildren.com or www.fairfaxcasa.org for more.

History of Pimmit Hills. 8:30 a.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. The story of Fairfax County's first government subsidized housing development. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or call 703-293-6227 for more.

Used Book Sale. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. A wide variety of books, games, puzzles, CDs and DVDs for both adults and children. Email administrator@accotinkuu.org or call 703-503-4579 for more.

Family Fun Day. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. Foster, adoptive and kinship families gather for day of activities and learning at Spring Forward Family Fun Day. Dr. Bruce Thyer, professor at Florida State University and author of Science and Pseudoscience in Social Work discusses "What Really Works and What Doesn't for Tough Kids." visit www.FormedFamiliesForward.org or call 703-539-2904 for more.

Gilbert and Sullivan. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (forum), 8 p.m. start (performance) at the George Mason University Fairfax Campus. Forum participants will meet in the Fenwick Library Main Reading Room, Room 2001. Performances, exhibitions, and a forum as part of a year-long celebration of the work of Gilbert and Sullivan. Email cdevlin6@gmu.edu for more.

Civil War Author. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. "Fairfax Civil War Day" – living history programs, infantry and cannon firings, scholarly talks, music by the 2nd South Carolina String Band, military drills, historic house tours, wagon rides, youth activities, and barbecue. Admission: \$5/adults; \$3/youth, 12 and under. Visit 703-591-0560 for more.

Craft and Vendor Spring Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Burke United Methodist Church, 6200 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke. Jewelry, fashion, home decor, kitchen, garden, gourmet, and more. Free. Visit www.womansclubofspringfield.org for more.

Fairfax Civil War Day. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Historic Blenheim and the Civil

War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Living history programs, infantry and cannon firings, scholarly talks, music by the 2nd South Carolina String Band, military drills, historic house tours, wagon rides, youth activities, and barbecue. \$5/adults; \$3/youth, 12 and under. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov for more.

GMU Student March. 10 a.m. at George Mason University, Alan and Sally Merten Hall, 4441 George Mason Blvd, Fairfax. GMU students will march for climate, jobs and justice with hundreds of thousands of activists in Washington, D.C. For more, contact Kelsey Crane at kelsey.crane@sierraclub.org or 703-438-6246.

Walk to End Sexual Violence. 10:30 a.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Participants can walk in honor of one of the victims who reported a sexual assault in Fairfax County in 2016. Visit www.fairfaxdvcommunity.org/saam for more.

Tea and Tour. 3 p.m. at Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Living history program beginning at 4 p.m. and music will be provided by the Apollo String Quartet. \$35. Email nbsage@aol.com or call 703-339-6572.

U.S. Army Chorus. 5 p.m. at Westwood Baptist Church, 8200 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Beyond the traditional military music and patriotic standards, the repertoire of the Army Chorus covers a broad spectrum which includes pop, Broadway, folk, and classical music. Call 703-455-2743 for more.

Coffee House/Open Mic Night. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Calvary Hill Baptist

activities. Email fourcarlins@verizon.net or call 703-409-1096.

2017 Forgotten Fairfax Programs. 11 a.m. at the Virginia Room, City of Fairfax Regional Library, Room A/B, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Mike Copperthite will speak about his great-great grandfather, Henry Copperthite, founder of the Connecticut Copperthite Pie Co. and owner of the Burke racetrack from 1909 to 1916. Pie will be provided. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/ or call 703-293-6227, ext. 6.

Wilderness Survival Skills. 11 a.m.-noon at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Mark Chapin, the founder of the Mountaineer Wilderness outdoor program in Virginia and West Virginia, an Air Force veteran and graduate of the Wilderness Survival School and Sea Survival School will be sharing his knowledge with teens and adults. \$10. Call 703-323-6600 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burkelakepark/ for more.

Classical Guitarist. 3 p.m. at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. Classical guitarist Charles Mokotoff performs. Visit www.kirkwoodpres.com, or call the church office at 703-451-5320.

Dessert on Broadway. 7 p.m. at the Lake Braddock Little Theater, entrance 14, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Visit lakebraddockss.fcps.edu.

SUNDAY/MAY 7

Emerald City Equestrian. 9:45 a.m. at Laurel Hill Equestrian Arena Dairy Road, Lorton. There is no water on site so bring water and park horse trailers in horse trailer designated parking area. Must have current coggins. \$12 per class or \$100 for

entire day. Visit www.yellowbrickroadfarm.com.

May Week Luncheon. 1-3:30 p.m. at the Hilton Springfield, 6550 Loisdale Road. This year's keynote speaker will be Elaine Nichols, Senior Curator of Culture, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. \$50. Email mayweek@fcacdst.org for more.

MONDAY/MAY 8

Seniors Only Golf Tournament. 8 a.m. at Greendale Golf Course, 6700 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Prizes for first and second place in each division and closest-to-the-pin. \$45. Call 703-971-6170 for more.

FRIDAY/MAY 12

Spring Concert. 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephens United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road. The Maranatha Singers will present "Bon Voyage." Free. Call 703-250-5013 for more.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 17

Chamber Golf Classic. 1 p.m. at Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. Event is the main fundraiser for the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund and will be capped at 120 golfers. Email Info@MtVernon-LeeChamber.org for more.

THURSDAY/MAY 18

Fashion Show and Luncheon. noon-2 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. Proceeds to support support the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke. \$30. Visit www.scfbva.org for more.

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Mantua Remodeled Home Ranked Best in 11 States

Home will be open to the public April 29-30.

BY JOHN BYRD

A remodeled home judged the best-of-category in an 11-state competition will be open to the public Saturday, April 29 and Sunday, April 30 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The house at 9117 Glenbrook Road in the Mantua section of Fairfax is owned by Jack and Marie Torre.

Originally a split-level, Sun Design Remodeling converted the circa 1960s structure into a spacious neo-classical style residence. In March, the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) named the renovation the “best entire house remodeling” (\$250,000- \$500,000 range) in the southeastern U.S., a region that ranges from Florida to the District of Columbia.

The award was conferred in conjunction with NARI’s annual “Contractor of the Year” (COTY) competition.

The Torres, who had purchased the original brick and siding split level in 1984, had been looking for a larger home when a meeting with a Sun Design consultant persuaded them that the original structure could be expanded despite earlier assessments to the contrary.

“We’d been told we couldn’t add-on to the rear because of set-back restrictions,” Jack Torre said. “But the bigger problem was a six-foot roof overhang in front, and the seven steps required to walk from the ground level foyer to the primary living area. Because of this, we thought we were prohibited from enlarging the foyer, or expanding our living space around the kitchen.”

The 3,500-square-foot neo-classical style home now open for viewing showcases the kind of sweeping architectural re-invention that can occur when owners set their sights on longer occupancy.

In fact, as the Torres see it, the former property is no longer merely a house — it’s their “long-term residence,” and one that is substantially more functional than they had ever thought possible.

“The prospect of lifelong occupancy invites people to create a more personalized living space” says Bob Gallagher, president of Sun Design Remodeling. “We find this kind of thinking much more common than in decades past.”

The Torres readily acknowledge the importance of Sun Design’s vision — especially since they had hired architects on two separate occasions to develop plans that proved impossible to implement.

By contrast, the first meeting with Bob Gallagher generated several previously unconsidered options.

At the top of the list, the couple wanted a larger, more functional kitchen — and a



PHOTOS BY GREG HADLEY

Sun Design Remodeling’s conversion of a circa 1960’s split-level into a neoclassical-style residence will be open to the public Saturday, April 29 and Sunday, April 30 from 11a.m.-5 p.m. The home, located at 9117 Glenbrook Road in Fairfax, was judged the best entire house remodel (\$250,000-\$500,000 range) in 11 states by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI). The remodeler added 300 square feet on the left side of the house, introduced a front veranda and elaborated the exterior in a new architectural language.

larger dining room with distinctive formal elements, including a tray ceiling.

Plans also called for:

- ♦ a dedicated family room with a view of the tree-lined backyard, and a spacious powder room;
- ♦ a substantially enlarged gourmet kitchen with butler’s pantry;
- ♦ a new welcoming entrance to home’s primary living area directly from the front door.

“The main structural solution entailed raising the front door to the home’s primary living area,” Gallagher said. “This required extending the front foyer eight feet to get past the roof overhang. We also needed to re-design the front elevation to better rationalize the difference between the grade at ground-level and the home’s main living area — a distance of about seven feet.”

What evolved was not merely a larger foyer, but a more appropriate architectural context for the whole in the form of a spacious, classically-apportioned front verandah that surrounds and presents the front entrance to the home.

The interior makeover revolves around two comparatively modest additions — albeit, enclosed spaces that substantially enlarge the home’s main level.

The 44-square-foot foyer situated on a new front porch is aligned with a front door that opens directly into a center hall — setting up entry into the living room, or kitchen just a few feet beyond.

Meanwhile, the 300 square feet added on the home’s west side houses a formal dining room and an adjacent rear-of-the house sitting area. The room includes a two-sided fireplace also visible in the living room. The enlarged kitchen accommodates a custom-designed banquette, and multiple storage pantries.

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors design and remodeling seminars as well as tours of recently remodeled homes. Headquartered in Burke, Sun Design also maintains an office in McLean. See www.SunDesignInc.com.

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

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SOBER-RIDE FOR CINCO DE MAYO

Free Sober Rides. Friday, May 5, 7 p.m. through Saturday, May 6, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code CINCODC in the app’s “Promo” section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code. Visit www.soberride.com.

APRIL

Coffee for Campers. April is the Month of the Military Child, and to honor our nation’s littlest 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 for more.



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An underwater photograph of a young child in a swimming pool. The child is wearing a purple swimsuit and is surrounded by a large splash of water and bubbles. The pool's tiled edge and a drain are visible in the background.

Summer ²⁰¹⁷ Camps

Education & Activities

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Fighting Summer Brain Drain

Academic camps keep minds engaged when school is out.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Summer often evokes images of pool splashing and backyard barbecuing. For some educators though, warm weather months represent a potential loss of skills acquired during an academic year. Known as “brain drain,” this concept refers to research that shows that, on average, students lose one to three months of learning when they are not engaged in academic activities during summer months. Academic camps can address this loss of academic skills while allowing children to enjoy summer fun.

“... Students have the opportunity to explore a topic in depth, without juggling competing scholastic demands or intramural activities,” said Dr. Janine Dewitt, professor of sociology at Marymount University in Arlington.

For example, campers at Summertime Camp at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School in Alexandria will have an opportunity to choose from a variety of specialized camps ranging from physics and French to zoology and rocket and space science.

“Specialty camps are great ways to try new things, to expand horizons and to challenge yourself,” said Jim Supple, associate dean of students and director of summer programs at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School. “One of the best things about specialty offerings is that there are so many. Children are naturally curious — specialty camps provide a way for children to learn more about their curiosities and interests.”

Campers at 3E (Explore, Enrich, Enjoy) Summer Camp at Marymount University will explore science through nature and electronic gadgets, mathematics through making boats and geodesic domes, language arts through writing stories, and fine arts through creating dramas and cartoons. The camp will be offered during two sessions: July 10-14 and July 17-21 with half and full day options for students ages 6 to 12.

Ana Lado, Ph.D., camp director and a professor at Marymount, says that the goal is to give students a chance to brush up on, gain or maintain academic skills in a relaxed environment. “Campers will be in



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

Academic camps such as this one at Marymount University allow students to maintain academic skills while having fun.

small groups with a low camper to counselor ratio and guided by Marymount University Department of Education faculty, students, and alumni,” she said. “Throughout each week of camp, campers will be able to choose among a variety of projects that pique their interest. Campers will create new social connections, grow academically, and develop physically.

High school students who want an in depth study of globalization can attend Marymount’s D.C. Institute from July 9-12. During the camp, named The Global Village, students will live on campus and earn college credit.

“We will talk about how increasing global connections shape our lives today,” said Dewitt. “Students can expect classroom discussions that focus on a series of central questions followed by field trips to area museums and site visits.”

For parents concerned about balancing the need to maintain academic skills with the need for downtime, Dewitt says that, “Parents can prevent academic burn-out by limiting the number of scheduled activities over the course of the summer, and selecting only those that foster their child’s natural curiosity. Summer courses that allow students the freedom to select different types of learning activities can be both energizing and fun.”



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Nursing Camp for HS Students

Campers will get a real-world view of the nursing profession.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

This summer a group of high school students with an interest in health care as a profession will get a chance to experience the real-world work of nurses when they attend a nursing camp at George Mason University. “Our goal has been to introduce high school students to what nursing is, and what it is not,” said Carol Urban, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor and director, School of Nursing George Mason University. “We find that we have students come to Mason who declare nursing as their major, but have never had any experience with nurses outside of their health care provider’s office or the school nurse. We want to introduce them to nursing as a career, and the many opportunities that exist in nursing beyond working in a hospital.”

The camp will provide small

group projects and hands-on simulation to introduce core concepts of nursing. Nursing faculty hope to expose students to the diverse career paths available to those with a degree in nursing.

Urban says that students will be taught healthcare skills, such as how to take a blood pressure and how to check a pulse. “We will provide ... time in our nursing simulation laboratory where we have our human simulators,” she said. “[Campers] will have observational experiences in a hospital with nurses and will be given an opportunity to talk with nurses we have on our faculty who have been in unique career fields including a forensics nurse, and a researcher who works globally in sub-Saharan Africa.”

The camp will also expose students to new trends in healthcare. “Healthcare delivery is changing and the camp is exposing the students to the changing healthcare climate,” said Christine M. Coussens, Ph.D., associate dean of Community Engagement in the College of Health and Human Services at George

Mason University. “In the newer healthcare models, nurses will have a significant role in how and when healthcare is delivered and they will continue to be leaders for ensuring the health of patients and communities.”

Nursing Camp for High School Students

JULY 10-14, 2017

Cost: \$275

Time: 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Application deadline: May 8

For more information, visit chhs.gmu.edu/nursing/camp/index.cfm

SEE NURSING, PAGE 4

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Introduction To Nursing

FROM PAGE 3

DURING A TYPICAL DAY at the camp, students will spend several hours in the nursing skills laboratory learning basic skills and techniques. “Then they may have some time in our nursing simulation lab, working with a [simulated human] patient and using some of those skills to practice caring for the patient,” said Urban. “On another day, they will spend several hours in one of the local hospitals on a nursing unit, observing the nurses in-action, and learning about what nurses do there. They may also spend some time in one of our Mason and Partners clinics, learning how nurses care for patients in a clinic setting and how valuable educating patients about their health is to improving their health.

Students will also have an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with nurses to gain insights into real world experience. “They’ll have conversations with nurses about their careers and learning what education and experiences they needed for that kind of a job. For example, what does a forensics nurse do?” asked Urban.

Coussens hopes that students will leave the camp knowing the diversity of options that a degree in

nursing can offer. “A degree in nursing opens possibilities for students to work in hospitals, healthcare management positions, policy positions ... globally in clinics and with aid organizations, in forensic roles [and] research institutions,” said Coussens. “There are limitless opportunities. A degree in nursing can open doors because of the clinical license and analytical ability.”

Admission to the nursing camp is competitive because of the limited number of available spots.

“We’ve run this camp before and it has been well-received,” said Urban. “Graduates’ of the camp have said that it really opened their eyes to everything a nurse does, and the great career potential that nurses have. They are amazed at the various opportunities a nurse can have. It also makes them aware that nursing is hard, but rewarding — it isn’t just what you see in the media, it’s real work. But more importantly, they see the passion that nurses have for that work, and the reward of seeing a patient and family member helped by the work that nurses do.”

The camp will run from July 10-14. The cost is \$275. For more information, visit chhs.gmu.edu/nursing/camp/index.cfm.

“Our goal has been to introduce high school students to what nursing is, and what it is not.”

— Carol Urban, Ph.D., R.N.

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