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# Fairfax Station

## CONNECTION Clifton & Lorton

# LIBERTY

**A+**  
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The Liberty sign at Liberty Crest Apartments, part of a \$190 million project consisting of 352 residential units called Liberty, which is being built in Lorton on 80 acres at the former Lorton Reformatory.

# Lorton Prison Transformed Into Liberty

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## NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left: Fire Chief Richard Bowers, Battalion Chief Kelly, Battalion Chief Williams, Lt. Marc Davidson, Deputy Chief Duke, and Battalion Chief Hunter.

## Firefighter of the Year

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department has announced that Lt. Marc Davidson, Training Academy, has been selected as recipient of the 2017 Governor's Fire Service Award for Firefighter of the Year. The Governor's Fire Service Awards were established as a formal recognition of excellence in Virginia's Fire Services.

Davidson was recognized for his tireless efforts to enhance a number of certification courses and officer development training in the department. He has written curriculum for several courses and was the driving force behind a con-

tinuing education series titled "Riding The Seat." This series is so popular that fire and rescue personnel from across the region are requesting to attend.

Davidson was also instrumental in gaining delegated authority from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs which allows the department to deliver and certify all training courses delivered at the Academy. The 2017 Governor's Awards will be presented during the Opening Ceremonies of the 2018 Virginia Fire-Rescue Conference on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018. The ceremonies will commence at 8:30 a.m.

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## Northern Virginia's Report Card Unveiled

**“Shape of the Region” Conference reviews area's Opportunity Index and gathers leaders to discuss successes and challenges.**

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Community Foundation for Northern Virginia (CFNOVA), partnering with the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, filled an auditorium on Feb. 15 at Valo Park in Tysons Corner with representatives from nonprofits, public office, academia and business to “unveil a new, dynamic data tool” and to encourage “a deep dive” into the challenges facing the region.

CFNOVA has been connecting donors to community needs throughout Northern Virginia since 1978. In conjunction with its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the foundation commissioned a report from the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis to provide detailed data about the region today, and the changes that have taken place to demographics, economy, education and community and civic life. The result of that research and reporting is the Opportunity Index for Northern Virginia.

The data, like the CFNOVA, encompasses the entire region: Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park, and examines 26 indicators of local social, economic, educational and civic wellbeing. The online report can filter its information by race, ethnicity, age, nativity and jurisdiction, and by date range. According to leadership at the CFNOVA, the Index serves as something of a “report card” for the region, highlighting where progress toward opportunity for all Northern Virginians has been made, and where it would be fair to grade the current state of affairs a “Needs Improvement,” and in some cases disturbingly close to failure.

Kevin DeSanto, chairman of the CFNOVA board of directors commented in his opening remarks that the Index “tells big, important stories about our region.” The conference focused on only two of the most critical — workforce development challenges and opportunities, and the region's growing income inequality — but before the speakers and the panel discussions began, Michael Cassidy, president and CEO of the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis introduced the Index and highlighted several of the findings to “set the stage and provide the background.”

**FORTY-SEVEN PERCENT** of youngsters in Northern Virginia are living with at least one foreign-born parent/guardian — a percentage that is significantly higher than the rest of the state or even of the nation. “That means the region's future depends in part on the ability of the children of immigrants to flourish.”



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

**Attendees at the “Shape of the Region” Conference, hosted by the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia with the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, are introduced to the Opportunity Index – an interactive reporting system offering detailed statistics on the area's social and economic wellbeing.**



**Holly Seibold (left), of Vienna, founder and executive director of nonprofit BRAWS and Lisa Whetzel, executive director of Britepaths, share some “shop talk” before the conference.**

The research indicates that if current trends continue, the Minority-Majority Transition, where people of color will become the majority as a share of the region's population will take place as soon as 2020. In 1980, 85 percent of Northern Virginians identified as Non-Hispanic White. In 2015, from when the most recent figures are available, that number is now 40 percent.

Cassidy gave a demonstration of the Index in action, showing how to maneuver through the site, and how to filter the data. He also challenged the attendees to a “mini-quiz,” asking them to use instant audience survey devices to test their knowledge on some of the collected statistics. In most cases, the majority of the audience missed the mark.

Cassidy was followed at the podium by



**Martha Wilson, VP, C&I relationship manager for EagleBank, asks a question of a conference speaker. Wilson says the event “gave me an idea on how EagleBank might even further enhance their philanthropic corporate culture.”**

Richard Reeves, senior fellow of economic studies and co-director of Center on Children and Families for the Brookings Institution. Speaking on “Economic Mobility and the American Dream,” Reeves congratulated the event organizers for including so many members of the business community, saying that too often business leaders were excluded as being “part of the problem of income equality, when, in fact, they are a major contributor to the solution when brought to the table.”

In a series of slides and charts, Reeves, a British-American, offered proof that for “the bottom 80 percent on the economic scale there has been no real change in income growth or quality” while the top 20 percent are pulling further and further away. “Basically, poor people are staying poor, rich

people are staying rich, and in many cases, getting richer.” Worse, says Reeves, America's class system, most evident in educational opportunities, helps create a self-perpetuating barrier to opportunity for many. Showing a graph that illustrates “College Attendance Rates vs. Parent Income Rank in the U.S.,” Reeves called it “one of the most beautiful and terrifying charts.” As a Brit, Reeves states that he “knows a bit about a class system” and that it does exist in the U.S. — the country where he became a citizen in 2016. “And it's every bit as ruthless as the class system in the U.K. — just less acknowledged.”

The second phase of the conference featured two panels, the first focusing on “Opportunity and Inequality” in the local education system and the second on “Tapping the Workforce Assets in our Own Backyard.” The panelists all acknowledged the challenges being faced in both those arenas, but offered some creative actions that they are taking in their areas of influence, from public education to workforce skill development, and inside major area employers.

One critical necessity that all of the panelists in the Workforce discussion agreed upon was the need to “upskill in place,” as Ken Eisner, senior manager, Worldwide Education Programs Amazon Web Services described it. “It's getting harder and harder to get in [to our region] and with the lack of affordable housing.”

Scott Ralls, president of Northern Virginia Community College agreed that it was imperative to enhance the skills and abilities of the people already in our communities.

**AFTER THE CONFERENCE**, some of the attendees reacted to the event.

Lisa Whetzel, of Fairfax City, is the executive director of nonprofit Britepaths. She admitted that even with her in-depth association with the most vulnerable of the region's populace, some of the data from the Opportunity Index still came as a surprise, “but this is just the kind of information we all need. It's local, granular.”

Whetzel also found the event “inspiring and uplifting. Together we can do things.” Immediately following the conference, Whetzel attended the quarterly meeting of her peers in other nonprofits. “The conference got us going with great conversation and idea exchanges. We will be really looking to see if we have taken a deep enough dive through the equity lens.”

Martha Wilson, of Fairfax, was a representative of the business community at the conference, as a vice president with EagleBank in Tysons Corner. “EagleBank is already a major philanthropic organization, doing quite a lot for the community. It's a major reason why I joined them, but I see that we can do even more if we get the word out about our efforts, especially to our own employees.”

She also has an idea about the internships

SEE REPORT CARD, PAGE 5

# Lorton Town Hall with Scott Surovell and Kathy Tran

Politicians discuss Virginia General Assembly in front of more than a dozen people.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

**M**ore than a dozen people attended a Legislative Town Hall Meeting at South County Middle School in Lorton last Saturday, Feb. 17, 2018, which featured comments by state Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) and freshman Del. Kathy Tran (D-42).

The two legislators updated the audience on the status of their bills in the 60-day session of the General Assembly in Richmond, which ends on March 11, and took questions. Topics included guns, absentee voting, the status of Dominion Energy bill and building an additional nuclear plant reactor, electronic books and technology in schools, K-6 recess, a Blue Line bill for Metro, and voter registration files being secure from the Russia hacking.

“Where we are right now in the legislative process is we just finished cross-over, which means that the House has completely reviewed all of the bills that originated in the House, and the Senate has reviewed and voted on all of the bills that originated in the Senate,” said Tran.

Surovell, who introduced 61 bills, of which 21 cleared the Senate, discussed the status of SB 607, which reduces the penalty for consensual “sexting” between minors to a misdemeanor. “Right now, they say about 30-40 percent of children under

18 are trading naked pictures of themselves with each other. Right now, that’s distribution, manufacturing and possession of child pornography, which is a felony... So, if we start as a misdemeanor it takes the pressure off to call police and involve law enforcement and allows people to deal with it more informally for a childhood mistake kind of things.”

He also discussed the Blue Line Study to determine the feasibility of getting the Blue Line extended from Franconia/Springfield

down to Woodbridge, Potomac Mills, and potentially Quantico. “We did the same thing for the Yellow Line back in 2011, and now if you’ve been reading about the Embark Process in Fairfax County, we’re now six-to-seven years in, and Fairfax County is about to adopt an entirely new Comprehensive Plan for the Route One Corridor to facilitate and get the Yellow Line extended. It took seven years to get just the Comprehensive Plan changed. So, if we’re going to get the Blue Line extended, get some tran-

sit down I-95, which is desperately needed, we need to start that process,” he said.

Tran, who put forward 13 bills and three budget amendments, discussed a few bills, including some around protecting women’s rights focusing on sexual harassment in the workplace. “What the ‘Me-Too Movement’ has shown us is that sexual harassment continues to be very pervasive, whether it’s in our public, personal or work lives,” she said. “One in four women are harassed at work, and that’s a number that is under-reported. Mainly because most people aren’t aware of what constitutes sexual harassment and they are not aware of what their employer’s policies are. So, we had a bill that would have required state contractors to inform their employees and train them on their sexual harassment policies.”

She also had a couple of bills to help veterans transition from the military to the civilian workforce by getting academic credit for their military experience through the four-year public higher-ed institutions.

“Right now, Virginia requires two-year schools to review and consider military training and to award academic credit as appropriate. I want to make sure our veterans and active duty service members have the full range of educational opportunities for their discretion as they determine the best ways to reach their career potential,” she said.



**Del. Kathy Tran (D-42) talks about her legislation at the Virginia General Assembly.**



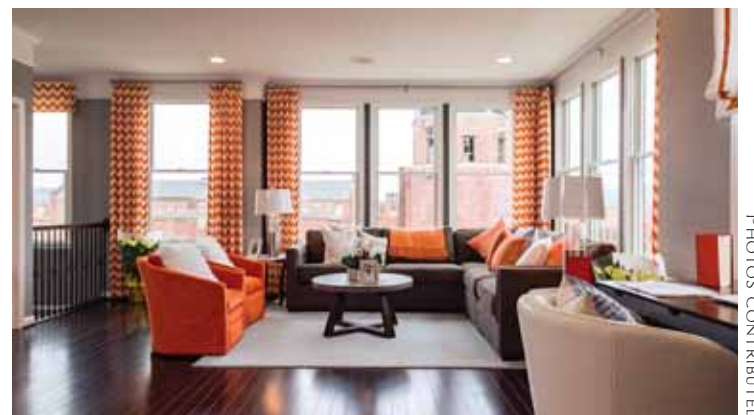
**State Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) talks about his legislation at the Virginia General Assembly.**

## Lorton Prison Transformed Into Liberty

**\$190 million project of 352 residential units being built on 80 acres at the former Lorton Prison complex.**



**A photo of the Quad at Liberty Crest Apartments.**



**One of the Liberty single family homes built by Van Metre Homes.**

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

**A** \$190 million project consisting of 352 residential units called Liberty is being built in Lorton on 80 acres at the former Lorton

Reformatory. The prison’s 40-45 original buildings still remain but they have been completely renovated with new utilities, air conditioning, heating, and plumbing. It’s a public-private partnership between Elm Street Development, The Alexander Company, and

Fairfax County. Elm Street Development of McLean has been working with Supervisor Dan Storck and before him, Gerry Hyland since 2011 on the project. It took about seven years to get the rezoning and site plan approved for the renovation

of the buildings, grading, roads, and utilities, in order for the construction to begin.

“We are trying to create a vibrant, new urban village – a place where people can live, work, and play in an historic setting,” said Jack Perkins, Vice President of Elm

Street Development, who lives in Old Town Alexandria. This development on the National Register of Historic Places offers a mix of housing types for everybody – young families, singles, empty-nesters, as well

SEE HISTORIC. PAGE 8

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

# Report Card Unveiled

FROM PAGE 3

that Reeves discussed during the conference. Reeves noted that employers highly value internships when making hiring decisions, but many less-advantaged youth and young adults cannot afford to take unpaid internships while they struggle to pay for their education and for the basics of daily life. “I have a suggestion on how we can help those young people, and possibly assist some of our area non-profits at the same time.” Wilson plans to get with her management colleagues at EagleBank and try to put her proposal into action.

Holly Seibold of Vienna is the founder and executive director of BRAWS — Bringing Resources to Women’s Shelters and to low income and homeless young women. Seibold found the event motivational. “It was a great event. Right after it was over, I sent an email to Dr. McDade [superintendent of Manassas Park Public Schools and a panelist at the conference] asking if his school district would like to pilot a program where BRAWS would provide free feminine hygiene products in the



**Julien Bois, of Springfield, partner with JustinBradley, had positive feedback for the event.**

restrooms, at no cost to the schools.”

Julien Bois of Springfield, a partner with JustinBradley, a financial executive search, recruiting and interim staffing company, gave the conference a thumbs up, and kudos to speaker Reeves for his “candid responses to my questions.”

As the Commonwealth Institute’s Cassidy reminded the conference attendees, the Opportunity Index wasn’t developed to just tell a static story about the greater community, but rather as a tool that will help engaged citizens shape the future they want to see in Northern Virginia. The Index is available on line and access is free at [www.cfnova.org/opportunityindex](http://www.cfnova.org/opportunityindex).

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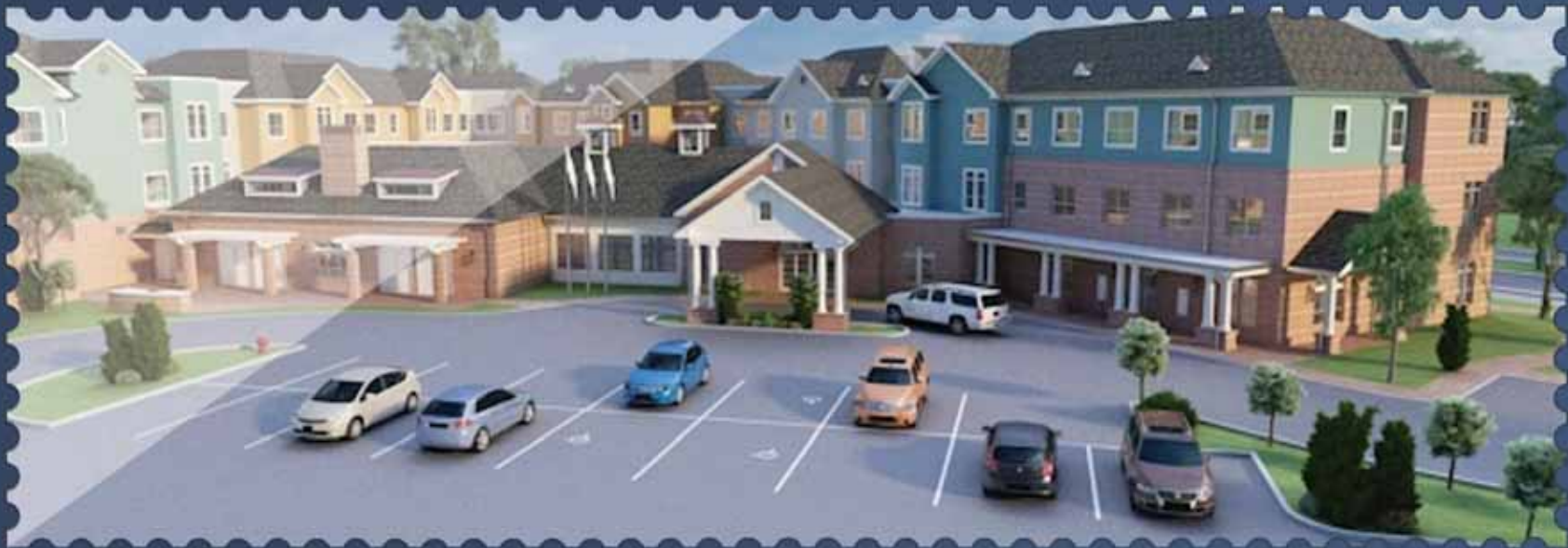
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# OPINION

## Another Assault on Common Sense

Perhaps this time might be different.

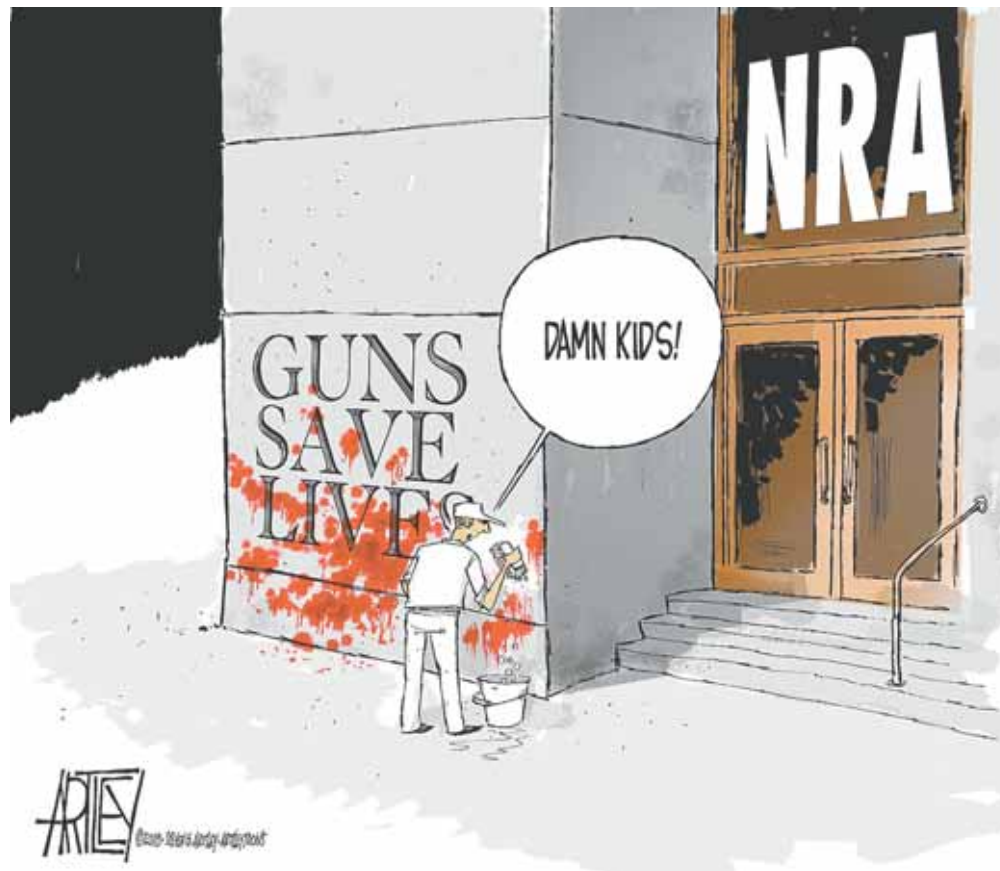
**Y**ou can feel the change in the air. This time the victims — teenagers — are outraged out loud about the deaths and wounding of their fellow students, the terror, horror and trauma that will haunt each of them in different ways for the rest of their lives.

Instant activists from last week's school shooting massacre in Florida, now connected to so many others around the country, know that this was preventable, that mass shootings can be stopped.

**EDITORIAL** Common sense tells them that the shooter, a former classmate, shouldn't have had access to guns of any kind, never mind an assault rifle. Common sense tells them that the absence of the most reasonable safeguards is a failure of elected officials at both the federal and state level. Common sense tells them it's time for real accountability.

Gun control of course will be complicated. No one is trying to take guns away from the millions of Americans who are gun owners, but the mavens of divisiveness, seeking to stoke the ire of gun owners, will tell them that what activists, what Democrats, what moms want is to take their guns away. It's not true. But gun reform is more complicated and runs deeper than donations from the NRA to elected officials.

Anyone with common sense knows that if we don't have systems in place to keep weapons capable of so much carnage in three minutes out of the hands of someone so openly troubled as the teenage shooter in Florida last week, then we are doomed to relive that day in other tragedies, over and over.



“Wash, Rinse, Repeat.”

Demonstrations of hundreds of protesters turned out in multiple places in the last few days. At NRA headquarters in Fairfax, at George Mason High School for a candlelight vigil, in front of the White House.

“I'm with hundreds of Northern Virginians at the NRA headquarters to mourn those lost at Parkland and to demand common sense gun safety measures to protect our children from massacre and violence,” U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly tweeted from the demonstration

there. “As a nation, how can we continue to allow this to happen?”

“I'm with the students calling for gun reform outside the White House,” said U.S. Rep. Don Beyer. “So proud to see America's young people leading the way. Stay mad, and stay focused. ... Don't let anyone tell you that there isn't hope, that we can't fight for change and win. There is and we can.”

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Congress's Failure on Mass Shootings

To the Editor:

Congress sits on its hands while the latest school shooting takes the lives of more innocent children and school personnel.

If members of Congress do not believe in protecting the health, safety and welfare of the American people, why do they hold their office? They swore to defend the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic — “So help me God.”

We need legislation, not hollow platitudes. Congressmen can support the Second Amendment and still support reasonable gun control, such as universal background checks, and controls on automatic weapons and bump stocks.

The vast majority of Americans

— Democrats, Republicans and NRA members alike — all support such policies. But members of Congress are too afraid of the NRA's threats to fund a primary candidate against them lest the Congressmen even talk about any form of gun control.

Congressmen should get wise and relish such a debate, because the voters would support them.

If Congress does not do anything then We The People certainly can. We can exert our own Constitutional power and vote for candidates in the upcoming 2018 election who have the courage to stand up to the NRA.

**Barbara Glakas**  
Herndon

## Terrifying Talk

To the Editor:

I remember having drills in my school when I was young, hiding

under desks in case a nuclear attack was unleashed. I remember wondering if my family would be alright and if they could find me after the bomb, and if my desk would protect me.

And now we have these nervous and easily irritated world leaders who talk so casually about starting a nuclear exchange. Terrifying. Let us hope that cooler heads will prevail. There are no desks big enough to protect us from a nuclear war.

**Meg Wallace**  
Herndon

## Protections Dismantled

To the Editor:

The following open letter was addressed to Our Elected Representative:

It is not hysterical to suggest that every protection the aver-

age American has is being systematically dismantled. The environment, civil liberties, health care, safe infrastructure guarantees, financial oversight — everything of value that we have achieved is being thrown open to the markets, which are not noted for considering anything beyond profit.

Please vote your conscience when it comes to leaving behind a world in which your children can live and prosper. Our futures are in immediate jeopardy. We need to be guided by something other than greed. This is a time for statesmen, not yes men or women.

There is only one America. Please protect what keeps us unique and irreplaceable in the world.

**Lynn Mobley**  
Great Falls

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# NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Fairfax Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary Fashion Show will be held Friday, April 13 at the Waterford at Fair Oaks. Models shown are Paul Meade and Carolina Hurtado

## Fashion Show, Luncheon to Benefit Fairfax Salvation Army

The Fairfax Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary will hold their 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Fashion Show/Luncheon Friday, April 13 at the Waterford at Fair Oaks. Four male and five female models will be showcasing the latest spring fashions from Lord & Taylor at Fair Oaks Mall. There will be a silent auction of more than 100 items to bid on to support the fundraiser. A table featuring jewelry and attic treasures will be set up for guests to purchase. Entertainment will be provided by Kyle Carney, a student majoring in musical theatre at The Catholic University of America where she is a member of The University Honors Program.

The funds raised will support the programs of the Salvation Army in Fairfax County. The fundraiser helps the auxiliary run its annual stocking stuffer program during Christmas and the back-to-school program of donated supplies and backpacks in August.

Funds raised also support the Salvation Army's summer program at Camp Happy Land in Richardsville, Va., where children and young adults from the Fairfax area attend a week-long camp. The funds also help support the after-school program, the music program, and two children's homes in Mexico. Currently there are 38 children enrolled in the Fairfax after-school program.

Tickets for the Fashion Show/Luncheon are \$50. Reservation deadline is April 1. Contact Jo Porter, ticket coordinator, at 703-690-5245 or jporterva@aol.com or Angela Ganey at 703-969-6473 or angela\_ganey@aol.com.

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## NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The townhouse rooftop at Liberty built by Van Metre Homes.

## Historic Setting for Modern Living

FROM PAGE 4

as move-up buyers, said Perkins. He added, "So, to us, it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create something new in an interesting historic setting. We're in Northern Virginia, and there's something intriguing about a prison. We thought it was very exciting and an interesting opportunity to take an historic prison and adaptively reuse it to a new residential, retail office use." It's interesting to note that the final prisoners were transferred out in November 2001.

What's being built are 165 Liberty Crest Apartment units in the historic reformatory buildings. "The Alexander Company is adaptively reusing the historic prison buildings; these are the original buildings from 1913. They're being adapted and made into apartments," said Perkins. In addition, six condos will be incorporated into the Liberty Crest Apartments during Phase 2 of construction; so eventually there will be 171 apartments.

**THE APARTMENTS** consist of one- and two-bedroom units. The one bedrooms have up to 1 1/2 baths and the two-bedrooms have two full baths. Rent for the one-bedrooms begins at \$955 to \$1,600 with various floor plans. The two-bedrooms start at \$1,155 and go up to \$2,400. There are 44 units that are considered affordable housing units; the rest rent at market rate. The apartments are now 2/3 leased and occupied; they opened in May 2017.

There are 157 townhouses slated to be built by Van Metre Homes with 83 in the first phase of construction and the rest in the second phase. Prices start in the high \$500,000s to mid-\$600,000s range. They are three- and four-story townhomes with 2,500

square feet of living space that include three and four bedrooms with two-car garages. All of them offer a rooftop outdoor space and a deck. They've already sold 10-12 units, which are occupied; they went on the market in May 2017. There are 24 single family homes built by Van Metre, starting in the mid-\$800,000s and going up to \$900,000. The two- and three-level homes with two-car garages and private backyards have 3,000 to 4,000 square footage. Six single family homes are now occupied.

The project includes 60,000 square feet of retail at the maximum-security facility, which will be part of the Phase 2 construction slated to begin in fall 2018. "We have the ability to build another 50,000 square feet, so the total commercial use inside the penitentiary is 110,000 square feet. And then there is other commercial space in Phase One, which is about 16,000 square feet in the renovated Old Historic Chapel (built in 1961), and another 8,000 square feet in the Power House Building. Both are zoned for a variety of commercial uses – they could be office, retail, or a church," said Perkins. Both the Chapel and Power House are ready for tenants.

**NEARBY AMENITIES** include the Workhouse Arts Center, Giles Run Meadow Park, the 18-hole Laurel Hill Golf Club, and the Gerry Connolly Cross Country Trail, which intersects the property. On the property itself is a 24-yard lap swimming pool, fitness center, and yoga room. For nearby shopping, there's Lorton Station Shopping Center and the Shoppes of Lorton Valley.

For more information on the Liberty complex, visit the website at [www.thelibertylife.com](http://www.thelibertylife.com).

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# Diving into Black History with Books

Local educators suggest books to read in celebration of African American History Month.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Throughout the year, but more intensely during February, Vincent Intondi, Ph.D., uses literature to teach aspects of African American history that are often overlooked or forgotten.

While slavery and the Civil Rights Movement are two of the most poignant periods of Black history, Intondi, a professor of history and the director of the Institute for Race, Justice, and Community Engagement at Montgomery College, and other educators say reading books about lesser known figures and periods in African American history is one way to paint a complete picture, not only of the history of African Americans, but American history as a whole.

"For example, while we focus on Malcolm X, after spending time with his daughter, Ilyasah, I came to realize just how much his wife Betty did and what she meant to the family. Therefore having a book that focuses on her is important," said Intondi, who is the author of "African Americans Against the Bomb: Nuclear Weapons, Colonialism, and the Black Freedom Movement."

"One could argue that there wouldn't



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

have been a March on Washington were it not for Bayard Rustin, but we don't learn about him because he was gay," continued Intondi. "So part of what's important about these books is not only that they are well written and have amazing illustrations, but because of who they specifically focus on."

Infusing reading with dramatization and memorization, particularly with young children, is a technique that Ana Lado, Ph.D., professor of Education at Marymount University uses in her lessons. "I like to recommend award-winning books or books by

award-winning authors," she said. "I also pick books that can be part of a program [and] can be recited, can be dramatized, can be retold."

"Books that I made students memorize [include] 'I, Too, Am American' and 'My People,' both books of poetry by Langston Hughes; 'I Have a Dream,' [speech by Martin Luther King, Jr. published as a book]; 'Lincoln's Gettysburg Address,' [speech by President Abraham Lincoln published as a book], 'Martin's Big Words: The Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.,' 'Tar Beach' and 'Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky,' [both by Faith Ringgold] and 'If a Bus Could Talk, the Story of Rosa Parks' are book that my youngest students can dramatize," said Lado.

"Underground: Finding the Light to Freedom" by Shane W. Evans is another book that Lado encourages students to read. "This is the absolute easiest way to dramatize the Underground Railroad," she said. "I even use it with students with special needs and beginning English learners."

One quality to look for is books about modern day African American heroes who will likely go down in history. When compiling recommend books for African History

Month displays, Henrik Sundqvist of the Arlington Public Library said, "We try to pick titles which have been published within the last five years."

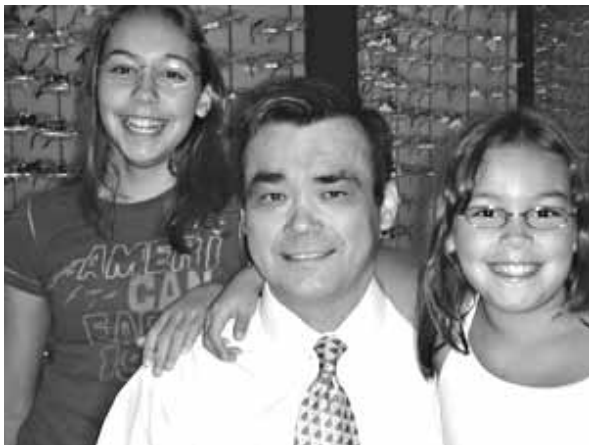
Among the books Arlington County Libraries is recommending are: "Firebird: Ballerina Misty Copeland Shows a Young Girl How to Dance Like a Firebird" by Copeland.

One book that offers a historical perspective and deeper understanding of a current issue, says Intondi, is "The John Carlos Story" by Dave Zirin and John Carlos. "There is arguably no one better to write about sports, race, and politics than Dave Zirin," he said. "The book is great for a wide range of audiences. If one wants to understand Colin Kaepernick and what is happening today in sports then they should read this book."

Using such narratives offers a deeper understanding of America's past and puts current happenings into perspective. "Students can learn and appreciate those who came before them, sacrificed, fought, put themselves on the line and paid with their freedom and lives for equality," said Intondi. "Students will learn that they are part of the long movement for freedom and they too can change the world."

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# CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday.

## ONGOING

**“Uncommon Visions.”** Through Feb. 25, various times at 2905 District Ave., Suite 115 (in the Mosaic District), Fairfax. The Torpedo Factory Artists’ Association (TFAA) presents “Uncommon Visions,” the third exhibition at Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic. This mixed-media show features the work of more than 40 TFAA member artists. Each of the artists, through use of form, color, technique, or materials, aim to guide the audience into unexpected avenues and share their own personal perceptions. Visit [www.torpedofactoryartists.com/event/uncommon-visions/](http://www.torpedofactoryartists.com/event/uncommon-visions/).

**“Mobile Views.”** Through March 4, various times in W-9 in the Arches Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. In her show, “Mobile Views” Kathy Strauss explores the ‘fine art’ of cellphone photography. Visit [www.imagewerks.net](http://www.imagewerks.net) or [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org).

## FRIDAY/FEB. 23

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) or call 703-273-3638 for more.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 24

**Film Screening: “White Like Me.”** 3:30 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. The free movie screening of “White Like Me” will be followed by a local discussion and national online discussion featuring leaders from New Thought centers around the United States. This event is free and open to the public. Visit [whitelikeme.eventbrite.com](http://whitelikeme.eventbrite.com).

## Burke Historical Society Meeting.

3:30-5 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6550 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Guest speakers will be Heather Bollinger and Jeff Clark, who will bring back to life some of the lost towns of Fairfax County. Free. Email [slawski\\_brian@yahoo.com](mailto:slawski_brian@yahoo.com) or visit [www.burkehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.burkehistoricalsociety.org).

**I Remember When... Concert.** 4-5:30 p.m. at Lanier Middle School, 3801 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. Join the Main Street Community Band for a musical stroll down memory lane. \$10 adult/\$5 seniors/students always free. Call 571-336-2322 or visit [www.fairfaxband.org](http://www.fairfaxband.org).

## THURSDAY/MARCH 1

**Orchestra Concert.** 7-8:30 p.m. at South County High School Dale S. Rumberger Performing Arts Center Auditorium, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Come enjoy the South County High School Orchestra’s program of classical and popular music celebrating spring. Free. Email [schsorchestra@gmail.com](mailto:schsorchestra@gmail.com) or visit [www.schsorchestra.org/](http://www.schsorchestra.org/).

## FRIDAY/MARCH 2

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) or call 703-273-3638 for more.



## Hands On Day

The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will hold a Hands On Day with crafts. Admission: museum members and age 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Craft supplies included with admission. Sunday, March 11, 1-4 p.m. at The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) or call 703-425-9225.

## Songwriting Contest Finalists

**Perform.** 7:30 p.m. at Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club, 7719 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. Six songwriters have been chosen as finalists and one will win the \$10,000 Grand Prize and 25 hours of complimentary recording studio time at Innovation Station Music. Three songwriters from the Young Songwriter category (including Skyler Foley of Burke) will also perform live and compete for \$2,500. Tickets will be \$15 and \$20 and available at [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org).

## SATURDAY/MARCH 3

**Historic Sites in Peril.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Meet leaders in Mid-Atlantic archaeology, and learn about their challenges and finds. Speakers from a variety of projects in Virginia and Maryland will discuss sites in peril. Refreshments and lunch included in registration. Registration is \$55; \$45 for Friends of Gunston Hall and Friends of Fairfax Archaeology, \$25 students. Contact Lacey Villiva at [lvilliva@gunstonhall.org](mailto:lvilliva@gunstonhall.org), or 703-550-9220, for more. To register online, visit [bit.ly/2BcZskw](http://bit.ly/2BcZskw).

## MARCH 3-APRIL 1

**Avenue Q.** Fridays-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. at Workhouse Theatre, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The laugh-out-loud musical tells the timeless story of a recent college grad named Princeton, who moves into a shabby New York apartment all the way out on Avenue Q. He soon discovers that, although the residents seem nice, it’s clear that this is not your ordinary neighborhood. \$20-\$35. Visit [www.workhousearts.org/](http://www.workhousearts.org/).

## SUNDAY/MARCH 4

**Longaberger Basket Bingo.** Doors open 1 p.m., bingo begins 2 p.m. at West Springfield High School Cafeteria, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Proceeds support West Springfield Crew. Tickets are \$25 in advance/\$30 at the door if still available. A ticket includes 20 regular games of Bingo, and one door prize ticket. Special games, raffles and concessions also available for purchase (cash or check only). Visit [crewbasketbingo.ticketbud.com/crewbingo](http://crewbasketbingo.ticketbud.com/crewbingo) for tickets.

## MARCH 4-10

**Fairfax City Restaurant Week.** Participating restaurants will offer a \$35 three-course dinner menu, a \$20 three-course lunch/brunch menu, dine-in specials, and additional thematic layers of entertainment. Visit [www.fairfaxcityrestaurantweek.com](http://www.fairfaxcityrestaurantweek.com).

## MONDAY/MARCH 5

**Funday Monday: Mr. Skip.** 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Music, movement, story telling, performances, crafts, and more. Funday Monday is open to children of all ages, however especially for those who haven’t yet started school. Free and open to the public, donations appreciated. Call 703-385-7858 or visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts).

## FRIDAY/MARCH 9

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) or call 703-273-3638 for more.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 10

**Children’s Consignment Sale.** 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Christ Church, 7600 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Come and shop for quality, gently used children’s clothing, toys, infant items, shoes, books, games, DVD’s, videos, furniture and much more. Cash, checks and credit cards. Free admission. Call 703 425-3580 or visit [www.christchurchsale.com](http://www.christchurchsale.com).

**Children’s Book Sale.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fairfax City Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Thousands of gently read books and non-book media organized by categories including picture books, early readers, nonfiction, holiday, chapter books, young adult, etc. \$.25-\$.2. Some specials \$3 and \$4. Plenty of free parking below library; personal check or cash only. Call 703-644-4870 or email [friendsoffairfaxcitylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoffairfaxcitylibrary@gmail.com).



PHOTO BY EVAN SELOW/COURTESY GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
**“The Big Picture” with David Krakauer and the 35mm Orchestra.**

# Music and the Movies

A personal journey of discovering one’s roots.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

## Where & When

David Krakauer and the 35mm Orchestra with “The Big Picture” at the Center for the Arts, George Mason University, 4400 University Ave, Fairfax. Performance Friday, March 2, 2018 at 8 p.m. Tickets \$26, \$37 and \$44. Call 703-993-8888 or visit [www.cfa.gmu.edu](http://www.cfa.gmu.edu)

Since Hollywood added sound to feature films in the late 1920s and then the Oscars added categories for music awards, cinema and music have been well intertwined. And even before sound was added to movies, there was often a pianist who accompanied a silent film to add rich emotions.

In the vein of the long marriage of music and movies, the Center for the Arts will have a performance of notable clarinetist David Krakauer and the 35mm Orchestra as they meld together live music with newly created original evocative animated short films by New York-based video/graphic company “Light of Day.” The evening’s performance pays homage to about a dozen widely-known films. The evening is called “The Big Picture.”

“David Krakauer’s performance give fans of classic cinema the opportunity to gain a whole new experience from beloved songs of classic films,” said Giovanna Chesler, Director and Associate Professor, Film and Video Studies, GMU/College of Visual and Performing Arts

“Live performance using music and media creates a transportative effect, which Krakauer uses to take the audience with him on a journey of personal discovery and cultural exploration,” added Chesler.

The live music to be performed will be from movie musicals such as “Funny Girl,” “Fiddler on the Roof,” and “The

Producers,” as well as dramas and comedies such as “Avalon,” “The Pianist,” and “Life is Beautiful,” to name a few. Composers include John Williams, Marvin Hamlisch, Randy Newman, and Mel Brooks among others.

As Krakauer and his orchestra play, the films will be projected on a large screen behind the performers, so that “The Big Picture” becomes a multimedia storytelling program.

“The Big Picture” pays tribute to Krakauer’s personal discovery of his Eastern European Jewish cultural heritage. But, it is more than that for patrons. Krakauer sees the evening’s film journey as one for all audiences discovering their own roots. “I think this project really speaks about how people across the ages have found ways to survive in the face of adversity. It’s everyone’s struggle,” noted Krakauer.

“In a time when America’s immigration and family unification policy is being challenged, Krakauer’s timely work pays tribute to his family’s own immigration to America. Using classic films with a Jewish connection, he highlights the rich artistic achievements that have come out of the Jewish experience and the immigrant experience,” added Chesler.

# Adult Humor, Songs and Puppets

“Avenue Q” appearing at the Workhouse.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

Winner of multiple Tony Awards, the musical “Avenue Q” is a full-of-heart comic tale about a new resident to an extraordinary neighborhood in the big city. His name is Princeton. He doesn’t have much money, or a job, but he has plenty of dreams. “Avenue Q” expressively tells Princeton’s journey meeting new, very unique friends, including the girl-next-door named Kate Monster. And there are a lot of moxie puppets who are key to the production’s enjoyment. “We are thrilled to present the acclaimed ‘Avenue Q,’ a Sesame Street experience, for an adult audience,” said Ava Spece, President and CEO, Workhouse Arts Center. “And we are pairing ‘Avenue Q’ with a new exhibition featuring the remarkable artwork of Guy Gilchrist; Jim Henson’s original illustrator who drew many familiar characters including Muppet Babies.”

With two dozen songs, some with adult humor, “Avenue Q” has music and lyrics by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx and book by Jeff Whitty. The Workhouse Arts Center’s production of “Avenue Q” is directed by Joseph Wallen with choreography by Mary Payne. The live music is under the direction of Darin Stringer. The Workhouse will be using “Avenue Q” puppets courtesy of Costume World.

“It’s hard to believe that ‘Avenue Q’ debuted in New

## Where & When

Workhouse Arts Center presents “Avenue Q” at W3 Theatre, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Performances March 3 to April 1, 2018. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$20-\$35. Call 703-584-2900 or visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org). Note: Ticket prices may increase, based on demand. Advanced purchase recommended. Limited seating, advance ticket reservations are recommended for this event. Note: Intended for mature audiences due to adult humor, language and situations.

York almost 20 years ago, as it still feels fresh and new – the humor is still relevant and biting (lovingly, of course!). ‘Avenue Q’s’ story is timeless – a scrappy, optimistic young college grad named Princeton, heads to begin life in the big new city,” said Wallen. “Suddenly, he learns that the rosy life he was expecting isn’t quite there. Yet through it all, he finds his starting point in the world.” “Our goal is to have audiences feel like these are our lovable neighbors that live across the street – we know them and we are rooting for them to succeed. Given that no seat is further than 50 feet from the stage, audiences will feel at home on ‘Avenue Q,’” added Wallen. “And there will be live music to add to the experience.”

The “Avenue Q” ensemble includes a number of Workhouse theater veterans including Christopher Rios (Princeton), Casey Fero, Jason Krage, Harrison G. Lee, and James Maxted. Newcomers to Workhouse audiences include Meredith Eib (Kate Monster). Stephanie Rudden, Jonathan Faircloth, Lauren Hayworth, Holly Kelly Ryan Walker and Ruthie Rado. Each has a key role aimed at bringing smiles and laughter to the audience.



PHOTOS BY MEGAN CHRISTENSEN  
COURTESY OF WORKHOUSE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

From left: Casey Fero (character Rod) and Harrison Lee (character Nicky) with “Avenue Q” rehearsal puppets designed/created by Silly Puppets.



Ruthie Rado (character Lucy) with “Avenue Q” rehearsal puppet designed/created by Silly Puppets.

## SCHOOL NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com).

The following residents of Clifton were named to the dean’s list at the College of William & Mary for the fall 2017 semester: **Rachel Anderson, Emily Baker, Tessa Bechert, Aysha Benomran, Christina Joseph, and Cassida Milne.**

**Anna Luczynski**, of Lorton, has been named to the fall 2017 dean’s honor roll at Oklahoma City University.

**Turner James Arndt**, of Fairfax Station, graduated from The University of Alabama with a Bachelor of Science in construction engineering.

**Timothy Dempsey**, of Fairfax Station was named to fall 2017 dean’s list at John Carroll University (University Heights, Ohio).

**Elissa Uithol**, of Fairfax Station, was named to the dean’s honor list for fall semester 2017 at Cedarville University (Ohio).

**Evan Anderson**, of Fairfax Station, made the fall 2017 president’s list at The University of Alabama.

**Reese Cloud**, of Lorton, made the fall 2017 dean’s list at The University of Alabama.

**Samaria Holland**, of Lorton, made the fall 2017 dean’s list at The University of Alabama.

**Tari Leung**, of Lorton, made the fall 2017 dean’s list at The University of Alabama.

**Krishna Dhanyamraju**, of Lorton, majoring in chemistry-biochemistry, was named to the fall 2017 dean’s list at The University of Akron (Ohio).

## Lake Braddock Secondary Band Honored

The Lake Braddock Secondary School band has been selected by the John Philip Sousa Foundation as a recipient of the 2017 Sudler Flag of Honor.

The award is recognized as one of the nation’s highest awards that can be presented to a concert band program.

The Sudler Flag of Honor identifies, recognizes, and honors high school band programs internationally that have demonstrated particularly significant high standards of excellence in concert activities over a period of several years.

Criteria includes evaluation and superior concert ratings at the state, regional, or national levels for the symphonic band; offering students a complete and balanced pro-

gram of musical activities including concert, solo, ensemble, and marching; performances at regional, state, national, and professional meetings of significance; a director who has been in his or her position for at least seven years; and students who have participated in district and all-state honor bands or similar all-area groups.

Bands submit recordings and a portfolio detailing the above criteria to be considered for the award; recipients are selected on the quality and merit of the performance and involvement in the above activities.

A member of the John Philip Sousa executive board will present the flag to the students at the school’s spring concert in May.

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# Gun Debate on Lockdown

Democrats unable to gain traction on reform, despite new numbers in House.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

When lawmakers arrived in Richmond last month, Democrats were hopeful that they would be able to use their new numbers to gain some traction on the gun debate. Now that the session is half over and the nation is reeling from yet another mass shooting, little has been accomplished at the Capitol.

Republicans are still very much in control of the House of Delegates, even if they have a one-vote majority.

Perhaps most significantly, they control the process, which sends all gun bills to a seven-member subcommittee that has six Republicans and one Democrat. All reform efforts died in that subcommittee, including proposals to close the gun show loophole and ban bumpstocks. When Del. Marcus Simon (D-53) introduced a bill to create a new Stop Gun Violence license plate, Republicans amended it to raise money for mental health.

"They were trying to make the point that we don't have a gun violence problem we have a mental health problem," said Simon. "I think that's wrong. We actually have a gun violence problem, and it is in fact about the instrument."

**INSTEAD OF MOVING** forward on gun control, the Republican majority is moving in the other direction — finding ways to increase where people can take guns. Churches, for example. Virginia law prohibits firearms in places of religious worship. After 26 people were killed in a Texas church last year, religious leaders across Virginia began lobbying to change that. State Sen. Ben Chafin (R-38) responded by introducing a bill that would allow guns in churches during worship services.

"Virginia has the archaic law that says you're not supposed to have firearms in the church," Chafin said in a speech on the Sen-



House Republicans killed more than two dozen gun reform bills this year.

## Top Campaign Cash from the NRA

- ❖ \$2,500 to Del. Scott Lingamfelter
- ❖ \$1,500 to House Speaker Kirk Cox
- ❖ \$1,500 to Del. Michael Weibert
- ❖ \$1,000 to Del. Ron Villanueva
- ❖ \$500 to Del. Rob Bell
- ❖ \$500 to Del. Nick Freitas
- ❖ \$500 to House Majority Leader Todd Gilbert
- ❖ \$500 to Del. Tag Greason
- ❖ \$500 to Del. Greg Habeeb
- ❖ \$500 to Del. Tim Hugo
- ❖ \$500 to Del. Jackson Miller
- ❖ \$500 to Del. Joseph Yost

source: Virginia Public Access Project

## Top Campaign Cash from Citizens Defense League

- ❖ \$2,000 to Del. Jeff Campbell
- ❖ \$2,000 to Del. Scott Lingamfelter
- ❖ \$1,500 to Del. Emily Brewer
- ❖ \$1,000 to Del. Rich Anderson
- ❖ \$1,000 to candidate Michael Bartley
- ❖ \$1,000 to Del. Ben Cline
- ❖ \$1,000 to Del. Mark Cole
- ❖ \$1,000 to candidate Graven Craig
- ❖ \$1,000 to Del. Dave LaRock
- ❖ \$1,000 to Del. John McGuire
- ❖ \$1,000 to Del. Will Morefield
- ❖ \$1,000 to Del. Chris Peace
- ❖ \$1,000 to Del. Margaret Ransom
- ❖ \$1,000 to Del. Eddie Whitlock
- ❖ \$1,000 to Del. Tony Wilt

source: Virginia Public Access Project

ate floor. "Even if the faith leaders of the church, even if the people that own the church, even if the people who control the church want to have some members of their church provide protection."

For Republicans, the debate over gun control is a matter of good versus evil. Their solution to the epidemic of gun violence in America is not to restrict who can have guns and where they are allowed. It's to arm what they call the "good guys" who will take down what they call "bad guys." After the

school shooting in Florida, many responded by calling for more guns in the classroom.

"Training and arming a few teachers in each school would make these attackers think twice about ever opening fire," said Prince William County Board of Supervisors Chairman Corey Stewart, a Republican who is challenging U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine. "The only way to stop these mad men is to return fire."

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE** records show big

money on both sides of this debate. Advocates for gun control donated \$2.4 million to candidates in the last election cycle, mostly to the Democratic statewide candidates who were successful. But gun rights groups pumped more than \$160,000 into targeted House of Delegates races that helped Republicans keep control of the chamber and quash reform efforts. Members of the subcommittee that routinely kills gun reform effort were showered with tens of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions.

But money doesn't always win the day.

One race that pro-gun groups targeted was a hotly contested election in Prince William County, where eight-term incumbent Del. Scott Lingamfelter (R-31) trying to hold onto a district with shifting demographics. The NRA gave him \$2,500. The Virginia Citizens Defense League gave him \$2,000. A Portsmouth gun dealer gave him \$10,000. But he ended up losing that race to Democrat Elizabeth Guzman.

"I support the Second Amendment and the right of every citizen to own a gun," said Guzman during the campaign. "However, we need to implement responsible gun laws that protect our communities from gun violence."

Unfortunately for Guzman and advocates for gun control, that agenda was dead on arrival as lawmakers arrived at the Capitol. The Republican majority killed more than two dozen gun safety bills this year — efforts to limit handgun purchases to one a month, proposals to ban high-capacity magazines and laws to keep guns out of the hands of people who present a threat to themselves or others. Republicans are more interested in getting rid of gun-free zones, including schools.

"The idea that we disarm people in the schools, we forbid out teachers and our staff from carrying concealed firearms, is a mistake," said state Sen. Dick Black (R-13) in a Senate floor speech after the Florida shooting.

## Senate Might Torpedo Medicaid Expansion

Democrats still need to flip one more GOP senator to make it happen.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

Usually it's the state Senate that leads on progressive issues, and the House of Delegates kind of drags its feet. Not this year.

Republican leaders in the House of Delegates included revenue from expanding Medicaid in their budget, a sudden shift in support for a program they've been opposing for years. On his way out the door, former Gov. Terry McAuliffe included more than \$400 million in rev-

enue from expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. If Republicans want to oppose expanding health insurance to 400,000 people who live in poverty or with disabilities, they'll have to find money to shore up the state's credit rating and give raises to teachers. "While some of you may continue to be hesitant about expansion," Appropriations Chairman Chris Jones told his colleague, "the fact is that the Affordable Care Act is here to stay."

But that doesn't mean it's a done deal. Senate Republicans might end up torpedoing the deal, or at least engaging in

brinkmanship leading up to the July 1 deadline for passing a budget or facing a government shutdown. So far, the only Republican senator onboard the Medicaid train is state Sen. Emmett Hanger (R-24), co-chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. When asked about which of his colleagues might flip, Hanger said he wasn't sure.

"I wouldn't venture to guess on that right now. I think it'll be a collective kind of thing where you reach a tipping point where it makes sense. So I'm not working on any individuals right now to try to convince them otherwise. I'm just working on a prod-

uct." Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax cannot break ties on budget votes. So Democrats need to peel off one more vote on the other side the aisle. State Sen. Rosalyn Dance (D-16) says she feels confident that will happen, although she doesn't want to name names just yet.

"I'm not giving it up," said Dance. "But I'll tell you what — I'm cautiously optimistic that once both sides have an opportunity to tweak what will be the final product, it won't be just what the House brought out, it will be the House and Senate's product."

2

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# BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

**Child turning 5 years old by Sept.30?** If so, contact your child's school to make arrangements for kindergarten enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together now for parents of incoming kindergartners, and many host an orientation or open house. All kindergarten programs are full-day and located in FCPS elementary schools. Check your school's webpage or contact the school directly for specific enrollment information and dates of orientation or visit [www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration](http://www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration).

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

**The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum** needs volunteer docents on Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. Greet museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits, the Museum and the its railroad and Civil War history. Training and orientation provided. Other volunteer opportunities are gardening, publicity and exhibit planning. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Call Michael at 703-945-7483 for more information.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 22

**Preschool Open House.** 10 a.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Preschool, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. A developmental, Christian preschool offering morning classes for children 2 1/2 to 5 years old. Registration opens to the community on Feb. 26. Free. Call 703-455-8458 or visit [preschool.standrews.net](http://preschool.standrews.net).

**Gentle Yoga.** 12:30-2 p.m. at Sentara Surgery Specialists Comprehensive Breast Center, 8988 Lorton Station Blvd., Suite 103, Lorton. This yoga protocol is facilitated by Pat Fitzsimmons RN, C-IAYT, E-RYT 500, an instructor specifically trained to work with cancer patients. Pat will adapt traditional yoga practices to meet the physiological and psychological needs of cancer patients. No registration required. It is recommended that participants dress comfortably and bring a yoga mat, towel(s), and water. Visit [www.sentara.com](http://www.sentara.com) for more.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 23

**Senior Center Without Walls.** 10 a.m.-noon at the Mott Center, 12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Register for programs at the Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls. Call 703-278-8605 with questions. Visit [scwow.org/2017/12/winter-2018-registration/](http://scwow.org/2017/12/winter-2018-registration/).

## SATURDAY/FEB. 24

**A Talk on Cyber Security.** 10 a.m. at Braddock District Supervisor's Office, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke. "What's Lurking in the Digital World: A Talk on Cyber Security" with Ellen O'Day Sundra. Presented by Springfield-Annandale branch American Association of University Women. Visit [sprann-va.aauw.net](http://sprann-va.aauw.net).

## SUNDAY/FEB. 25

**Redistricting Workshop.** 1-5 p.m. at the Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. This workshop is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area with OneVirginia2021. The speakers will include Brian Cannon, Executive Director, OneVirginia2021; Olga Hernandez, League Redistricting Expert; Del. Ken Plum; Rebecca Green, Election Law Professor at William & Mary Law School; as well as students from the Law School who will bring their maps. For updates visit [www.lwv-fairfax.org/redistricting-forum/](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org/redistricting-forum/) and sign up to attend at [redistrictingvaforum.eventbrite.com](http://redistrictingvaforum.eventbrite.com).

## MONDAYS/FEB. 26-MARCH 26

**Caring for You, Caring for Me.** 1-3 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3955 Pender Drive, Ste. 100, Fairfax. Fairfax County is offering a free Caring for You, Caring for Me for caregivers of older adults. Find out more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults) (under Hot Topics). Call 703-324-7577, TTY 711.

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## His Pillow



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Either it was the programming on CBS we were "demanding," or the recorded programming we were watching from PBS; but for the week it was, repeatedly, and I mean REPEATEDLY, we were subjected to the same commercials over and over again. Torture doesn't begin to describe the excruciating reaction I had every time I saw the same people saying the same words. Instead of turning me on to the product or services, it had quite the opposite effect: it tuned me off. Buy what they were selling? More like good-bye.

Not that I understand the strategy behind television and/or radio advertising/promoting as I have zero experience. But I do have some experience, 21 years in fact, selling newspaper/display advertising. And what knowledge I've gained says advertising frequently in multiple media platforms is the key to success. Picking and choosing results in hitting and missing. But hitting me constantly without missing a beat is hard to take too, and not necessarily managing the consistency desirable for most businesses to thrive. Moreover, bludgeoning me into submission/buying is not creating a positive experience either and one not likely to lead to repeat business.

With respect to this test – of will power, I can't help wondering if there's a tipping point of sorts when the consumer/watcher/listener becomes less interested/more antagonistic to the message and by association, perhaps even less tolerant of the medium. Not that one can, generally speaking, blame the messenger, but when under the constant barrage of repetition, which in this instance I was forced to endure ("on demand" disables the fast-forward function so it forces you to sit and squirm), you want to blame someone, anyone. Too much of a good thing is not, after awhile, a good thing; and I'm being kind in my characterization.

Having seen the same commercial for what seemed like a dozen times, over a condensed period of time, during nearly every commercial break, I can't imagine how I could place my head on this pillow and not see this man from Minnesota, his warehouse staff, and most disturbingly, his presence when I open my medicine cabinet. Sleep? Hardly. More like shock and not awe as I lay my head down to rest. Visions of sugar plum fairies or sheep prancing over a fence I'm accustomed to, but a man with a moustache telling me what he knew he would about my reaction to his pillow, I can't quite abide.

Relax? More like reacts. Presumably if the message, messenger or medium is somehow disturbing in its consumer/market penetration; rather than being clear, concise and effective, all that was hoped to have been gained is lost in the muddle. And precious dollars wasted in the process. I imagine the question becomes: How much is too much, and how much is not enough? (Other than sports and chocolate, I wouldn't know.)

All I know is what my reaction has been to seeing and hearing endless (or so it seemed) repetition: almost visceral. I'm sort of angry and put upon for having had to listen so much to learn so little. And though I can certainly appreciate its context and presumptive strategy, I still can't help feeling like a victim of sorts; the cost of doing business, I suppose. I understand that watching what I want requires watching some of what I don't want; it's a trade. A trade I can balance except when what I don't want to watch has a stronger/more negative impact on me than does the programming I want to watch.

Remember the goal is to capture my attention, not abuse it.

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



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Bright & Sunny 1 level end unit, 1908 sq ft, 1 BR, 1 Den, Liv, Dining, Fam. room off Kitchen, Gas Fpl, Wet Bar, California-style Closet, HDWDS, Scr. Porch, Laundry, 2 car Garage, HVAC & HWH (2013), NEW paint, Rec. Its, Blinds, backs to common area - MOUNTAIN views!



**Burke/Burke Centre**

Updated BEAUTY - WATER VIEW! 4 BR, 2.5 BA, NEW Roof, HVAC & HWH, updated Kit & BAs, Brkfst rm, Fam rm w Fpl, NEW carpet, NEW paint. Walkout LL w Rec rm & Storage. Scr Porch, Deck, drwy parking, cul de sac. Pls call for information.

[www.HeritageHuntHomes.com](http://www.HeritageHuntHomes.com)



**DAVID & VIRGINIA**  
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**ALEXANDRIA \$749,900**

Just blocks away from Fort Belvoir & Wegmans! Over 4,000 SF of refined living space. Tall ceilings on all 3 levels. Huge gourmet kitchen with state of the art SS appliances. 2 story family room, gas fpl, finished basement. SBR, 3 SBA [www.6079PineyWoods.info](http://www.6079PineyWoods.info)



**N. ARLINGTON \$1,149,900**

Premium corner lot only blocks from the Virginia Square Metro. Perfect blend of vintage Ashton Heights architecture with a modern addition. Gorgeous cherry kitchen, tall ceilings, main floor master bedroom. Garage [www.3418NPerishingDrive.info](http://www.3418NPerishingDrive.info)



**David Levent**  
703-338-1388 [davidshomes@lnf.com](mailto:davidshomes@lnf.com)  
Experienced Agent - Amazing Results  
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**Falls Church Rental - \$2800/month**

Great Four Level Split Level Detached Home Inside The Beltway! 4 Bedrooms, 2 Full Ba, 1 Half Ba. Stainless Kit Appliances, Granite Countertops, Hardwood Floors, Lower Level Family Room Walks Out To Spacious Fenced Backyard. Additional Lower Level With Amazing Bar and room perfect for entertaining. 2 Car Garage Home On Nice Cul De Sac. Super Location.



**Fairfax COMING SOON**

Gorgeous 5 Bedroom, 4 Full & 1 Half Bath Colonial Home in Hampton Forest. Totally Remodeled Gourmet Kitchen, New Hardwood Flooring, Finished Walkout Basement. Screened In Rear Porch Overlooking Large Backyard. 1st Level Master Suite. Beautifully Landscaped. Much More. Call For Details.



**DIANE SUNDT**  
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**Judy McGuire**  
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**Kathy O'Donnell**  
703-338-7696  
[Kathy.odonnell@LNF.com](mailto:Kathy.odonnell@LNF.com)



**Fairfax - \$695,000**

Beautiful 4 bed, 3.5 bath home on a quiet cul de sac. Large, bright kitchen opens to the family room or extends out to the deck overlooking the private backyard. Finished walkout basement has an office/bedroom and full bath.



**ELLIE WESTER**  
703-503-1880  
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Lifetime NVAR Top Producer  
Life Member, NVAR Million Dollar Sales Club  
[ellie.wester@longandfooster.com](mailto:ellie.wester@longandfooster.com)



**Fairfax \$724,900**

Newly Listed on Gorgeous Half Acre Over 3500 finished square feet of living space in this lovely open concept home in The Ridges of Glendalough. Four spacious bedrooms plus extensive hardwood flooring and a never ending deck that overlooks the creek and wooded common area. Multiple levels offers so many options for living in this home, Woodson Frost Pyramid and close to George Mason University, shopping, and major employment area.



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

