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PHOTO BY GINNY AX

# Fairfax Station **CONNECTION** Clifton & Lorton

## EASTER & SPRING FUN

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Free tours of two churches will be offered as an added feature for the Clifton Homes Tour on Friday, May 18. Clifton Baptist Church was built in 1910.

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Photo by Jennifer McCabe

A group of students from Robinson who gathered at the Vienna Metro and traveled to the March together. From left: Corinne Baum, Erin Reno, Alayna Ricard, Ivy Mitchell, Danait Haddish, Lily Brintzinghoffer, Laura Armendaris, Adrianna Ladino, Michael McCabe, Laura Tirpak, Lizzy Lawrence, and Tyler Layton



Photo courtesy of the Office of Del. Eileen Filler-Corn

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) and U.S. Rep Gerry Connolly (D-11) join Robinson students at the March.

# Robinson Students Join 'Awakening'

Michael McCabe, 16, points to a 'great examples of kids in Parkland.'

By Natalia Megas  
The Connection

Before the Parkland teens rose up to speak out against gun violence in the aftermath of the Stoneman Douglas school shooting, Robinson Secondary School sophomore student Michael McCabe observed that students who wanted to make a change "were lost in the noise" and often didn't know how to do it.

But since then, "we have had great examples of kids in Parkland that have been uplifted by other examples, like the urban communities affected by gun violence," said McCabe, 16. "There's a lot more visibility of activists working past the apathy and misunderstanding and paralysis and have been doing important work."

"Now kids realize they can reach out to people and there are events, movements, organizations and volunteer opportunities. This has been an awakening in that sense," he said.

**AFTER THE MARCH** For Our Lives, which took place this past Saturday, McCabe said the sentiment among classmates is: "We're not going to let this go away. A lot of us are really fired up," he said.

McCabe was born in Northern Virginia and moved to Fairfax in second grade. Since he can remember, he's always tried to stay engaged and educated.

"I've always been an avid reader of the news and have had my own political opinions from a pretty young age," he said. When he was seven years old, he recalls making signs and cookies for Obama's campaign volunteers and watching the inauguration.

At 11 years old, he joined his grandmother, also an activist, to Richmond for

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Photo by Bill Bronrott

From left, Rowan Clark, 13, eighth grader at Frost Middle School, Fairfax, and Ellie D'Alessandro, 19, of Fairfax, 2016 graduate of W.T. Woodson High School.

## Tired of Planning an Escape Route

Rowan Clark, 13, eighth grader at Frost Middle School, Fairfax and Ellie D'Alessandro, 19, Of Fairfax, 2016 graduate of W.T. Woodson High School participated in Saturday's March for Our Lives.

Rowan said: "I am tired of having to plan an escape route. As children and young people, it's come to the point where we have to know our laws and read the bills because they have failed us."

Added D'Alessandro: "An AR-15 is meant for war. We shouldn't be able to buy them. There is no reason for civilians to have these military weapons."

—Bill Bronrott

the lobby days.

"I always remember coming home from those [trips] thinking things through and wondering, what else can we lobby for, how does this issue affect me? It got me thinking about the issue of gun violence," he said.

Fast forward to the recent march on gun violence, which McCabe attended with 150 others from Robinson, including those from the group "Students Demand Action" which he is a member, and he is hopeful and emboldened.

"I wasn't sure what to expect going in [to the march]," he said. But "I've been astounded by the emotion and unedited, unabridged truth and the stories that have been coming out in the wake of Parkland and all the media attention. I knew this would be a wildly successful and meaningful event."

**THE MOST INSPIRING PART** of the march for McCabe was seeing Naomi Wadler on stage. Wadler, an Alexandria fifth grader who represents African American girls, spoke at the march about those suffering from gun violence.

McCabe had met her before the march, describing her as "very self-confident and well spoken for an 11-year-old."

"I had no idea she was going to be on stage. I was blown away by her speech," he said. "The fact that Naomi Wadler was up there and she was affected by gun violence, it's incredible that they're in elementary school and they're doing this. That was my favorite part of the whole event."

He found the march's message promising too.

"I was blown away by the intersectionality and the extent to which they were able to uplift the voices of people who had been affected by different forms of gun violence and really convey a broader scope of the issue. I thought that was really neat to see."

Although the conversation around gun violence has been happening for some time, he said he was struck by how well rounded the speakers were and how well the tone was carried.

"It took a really solid balance between the tragedy and the conversation and the media hubbub, and the broader scope of the issues."

What's next for the movement? "It goes back to lawmakers," he said.



# Opinion

## 'Channeling Outrage into Activism'

By Adam P. Ebbin  
State Senator (D-30)

*Ebbin spoke to students at Lewinsville Park in McLean during the walkout on March 14. The students, who attend schools across Northern Virginia, were participating in a rally for gun violence prevention organized by Students Demand Action DMV following a 17-minute National Student Walkout held that morning at 10 a.m. in memory of the 17 who were killed in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Fla.*

I'm Senator Adam Ebbin, and I have an "F" rating from the NRA. Across the country, the gun violence prevention movement is being led by students like you. You are doing more than just wearing an orange ribbon, you are taking action and leading a conversation. You are channeling your outrage into activism.

I've been moved and inspired by the bravery and resilience of the young people in Parkland. Today, we are amplifying their message. With your activism, we can make real progress.

Every day, 96 Americans are killed with a gun.

Every 10 hours a Virginian is killed with a gun.

153,000 students have been exposed to campus shootings since

Columbine.

For decades, the corporate gun lobby has dictated our gun laws.

Elected leaders at the local, state, and national level can make a difference; implore us all to take action. Hold legislators accountable for their voting records.

While Washington is mired in empty expressions of thoughts and prayers, it's time for state legislators to step up.

I have worked for common sense gun laws for years. This year, over 60 bills addressing gun violence were introduced in the Virginia General Assembly, but every one was defeated. Del. Kathleen Murphy [D-34] and I have formed a General Assembly Gun Violence Prevention Caucus, but we need more voices — loud voices, informed and passionate voices, particularly voices like yours. I'm here to amplify your voice, to tell you that you don't have to be a voter yet to shape the debate. Speak up by calling your elected officials.

Engage the community by writing letters to the editor.



Get involved at election time. Register to vote as soon as you are eligible. Stay informed and stay active.

Vote. Repeat until no school in America has to wonder "Who's next?"

Refuse to accept the status quo. Demand an end to gun violence.

The NRA tells us the AR-15 shouldn't be banned.

When a soft nosed bullet leaves the barrel of an AR15, it is travelling at three times the speed of a bullet fired from a handgun. It will break the sound barrier leaving the gun, travelling at 3,000 feet per second, tumbling end over end until it makes contact with its target. When its target is a human body, the bullet enters and exits in less than the time it takes to blink, shredding tissue in a process known as cavitation, killing soft tissue for up to three inches around the entry path, and leaves an exit wound the size of an orange. A high capacity magazine on an AR-15 can unleash 50 of these rounds in less than a minute.

Outfitted with an NRA-supported bump stock this weapon can empty this magazine in a matter of seconds.

Don't let the NRA tell you it shouldn't be banned.

At Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school first responders saw the power of this weapon, the twitch of a finger painting the hallways of their school with blood.

Don't let the NRA tell you it shouldn't be banned.

Don't tell us that kids have a right to carry these into our schools and movie theatres and malls and concerts and unleash the fury of this weapon on Americans.

Don't tell us that anyone has the right to carry a gun that holds 50 rounds and can be modified to fire them in under ten seconds.

Don't tell us we shouldn't be able to stop dangerous individuals from buying AR-15s at a sporting goods store.

Don't let the NRA tell you that thoughts and prayers are enough.

Enough is enough. We're telling the NRA times up, we're telling them no more.

No more fearing the next headline. We're telling the corporate gun lobby we're done with being afraid that when your friends go to school they might not come back. We cannot wait any longer.

The NRA can get out of the way, or they can get run over.

## Cracking Down on Online Predators

### Bipartisan legislation to protect sex trafficking victims.

By Barbara Comstock  
US Rep. (R-10)



For years we have warned of human traffickers preying on our youth at a mall or places where teens may congregate. A predator would approach a young girl — average age 12 or 13 — pretending to be a boyfriend and groom them for sexual exploitation by showering them with gifts or drugs, and then exploit their naivety and traffic them for sex.

The same thing is going on today, only now the predator is using the Internet to reach out and exploit our youth.

Online predators now reach into our homes and target unsuspecting children on computers and social media. Congress investigated this Internet sex trafficking and we came up with landmark, bipartisan legislation that will protect sex trafficking victims who have been targeted by online predators.

I cosponsored the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act, which has now passed the House and Senate. It will give prosecutors, state attorneys general, and sex trafficking victims a clearer path to take legal

action against websites hosting advertisements for prostitutes, which, in reality, often turn out to be young girls and boys who are being illegally trafficked for sex.

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, nearly three-quarters of all reports of online child sex trafficking can be traced back to the website called Backpage.com. In a recent CBS News article, a 14-year old girl who was trafficked on the site said, "They're letting all of this happen on their website. I mean, without Backpage, I would have never been in any of this in the first place."

Her mother continued, "Backpage has a primary purpose and it's to sell sex. Backpage has not done anything to ensure the safety of the kids on there, period."

Congress investigated the practices of Backpage and disclosed that its operators actually helped predators modify their ads to delete references to teenage prostitutes or young victims of human trafficking, and still allowed the ads to run. The Washington Post reported that Backpage used a company in the Philippines to solicit both prostitutes and johns from other websites and created new ads that facilitated trafficking.

It became apparent that current anti-trafficking laws could not be applied to websites like Backpage, which host thousands of exploitive

ads daily — too many of which are children being trafficked by adults. Backpage, time and again, successfully cited the Communications Decency Act, which they argued protected them.

In a 2016 case against Backpage.com, the First Circuit Court of Appeals made clear: "The remedy is through legislation, not litigation." All 50 state Attorneys General joined the call for reform of this legislation to address the use of these sites for trafficking and both the House and the Senate responded on a bipartisan basis. This legislation included backing from many in the technology community such as Facebook's COO Sheryl Sandberg: "Those of us in the United States must recognize that these deplorable acts of buying and selling children for sex don't just happen in other countries. They happen here as well — right under our noses ... we at Facebook support efforts to pass amended legislation in the House." Now our prosecutors will be able to crackdown on online predators.

Every summer, as part of my Young Women's Leadership Program, we provide a session on the problem of human trafficking. We have made it a priority to educate young women about this threat that is online, as well as in their communities. With the passage of this legislation, there will be more tools to stop these unspeakable crimes against our youth.

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## Commentary

### One Major Hurdle Cleared

### Several more to go in Richmond Highway revitalization.

By Dan Storck  
Mt. Vernon District  
Supervisor



Last week, our region took a major step forward in the revitalization of Richmond Highway when it passed the Embark Comprehensive Plan Amendment. This was the next major hurdle in re-imagining and redeveloping the Richmond Highway corridor and moving us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Plan Amendment clears the way for modern, high-density transit oriented development in the corridor to support a bus rapid transit (BRT) system, from the Huntington Metro Station to Fort Belvoir, and ultimately a Yellow Line Metrorail extension.

Over the next decade, we must work through several challenges to stay on this path to revitalizing Richmond Highway. To understand the process and see the results that can come from this type of redevelopment, you only have to look to our north. The signs of growth and redevelopment abound around the I-95/495 intersections, the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and the Huntington Metro Station, where more than 10 years ago the federal, state and county governments made significant infrastructure investments. Today, you can see the many benefits of this public investment and the private investment it has brought, from better traffic flow and new housing to improved parks.

We now begin the next steps in implementing our vision along the Richmond Highway corridor, and that means securing the funding to make it happen. The highway and transit improvements in-

cluded in the Embark Plan are critical to bringing private investment, new housing and development to both sides of the highway. This development, in turn, is critical to the success of BRT, and ultimately Metro,

along the corridor.

The Richmond Highway transportation projects are estimated to cost \$700 million, with less than \$100 million allocated to these projects to date. Securing the additional \$600 million in funding will be a huge challenge and must come from many federal, state, regional, county and local sources. Making matters even more challenging, if the current State budget proposals to fund Metro pass as written, a significant portion of the new Metro funding will come from diverting local and regional transportation funds from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA). With \$377 million in funding for Richmond Highway improvements projected to come from future NVTA allocations, the funding of Embark is in jeopardy.

We need your help advocating now to secure this much needed investment in the revitalization of the Richmond Highway corridor. You can start by contacting the Governor and your state representatives today to tell them to find new funding sources for Metro. Check out our website for more information on contacting your representatives about this important issue. Then, stay tuned as we engage the region in continuing to fight for this critical transportation funding which will bring exciting revitalization to the Richmond Highway corridor.

### Blood Donation Opportunities

Though spring has officially arrived, the American Red Cross blood supply is still recovering from severe winter storms in March.

Donors of all blood types are urged to roll up a sleeve and help save lives.

Volunteer blood donors from across the country are needed to help ensure lifesaving blood products are available for patients this spring. Make an appointment to donate blood by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Upcoming blood donation opportunities in the area, March 20 to April 15

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4/1/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.,  
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Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200  
4/2/2018: 1:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.,  
Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720  
Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200  
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**The Gaffney home.**



**The Healy home.**

Photos by Ginny Ax

## Four Homes to See at Clifton Homes Tour and Silent Auction

**The 46th annual event is set for May 18.**

**T**he Clifton Community Woman's Club is preparing the 46th Annual Clifton Homes Tour and Silent Auction on Friday, May 18. Tour: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Silent Auction: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Clifton Presbyterian Church. Proceeds benefit their 501(c)(3) Charitable Trust and are distributed to local scholarships and charities.

There will be guided tours of four elegant homes in Clifton. Tour a farm house built in 1900 with furniture and antiques specific to Virginia. In another home, see how bold colors and true Williamsburg style combine to create a fun family atmosphere. A third home balances natural elements and 18<sup>th</sup> century proportion. Finally, don't miss the Georgian hilltop manor with Virginia-made furniture, original artwork, and active artist's studio. Free guided tours are offered for two historic churches: Clifton Baptist Church (1910) and Clifton Primitive Baptist Church (1871). Visit Silent Auction, Trinkets and Treasures, and wreath sale at the Clifton Presbyterian Church.

Tour tickets may be purchased in advance at local shops, online at [www.cliftoncwc.org](http://www.cliftoncwc.org), and at the Clifton Presbyterian Church the day of the tour. Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$30 the day of the tour, \$10 for 1 home. Free admission to events at the Clifton Presbyterian Church. Visit [www.cliftoncwc.org](http://www.cliftoncwc.org) or contact Kay at [kaygilbert@cox.net](mailto:kaygilbert@cox.net) for more information.

The four homes on the tour include:

### The Gaffney Home

The Gaffneys' Virginia Colonial Style home sits on an elevated property in Balmoral of Clifton. Laurie and Peter fell in love with Williamsburg, Va. early in their marriage while visiting Kingsmill on the James for a golf trip. The Gaffneys then designed their Balmoral home in keeping with Carter's Grove, a historic home in Williamsburg. Laurie was also inspired by a home in her own collectible Department



**Free tours of two churches will be offered as an added feature for the Clifton Homes Tour on Friday, May 18. Clifton Baptist Church was built in 1910.**



**The Clifton Primitive Baptist Church was built in 1871.**

56 Christmas Village.

Upon your entering the home, Laurie's love of Colonial Williamsburg is evident. Richly saturated paint colors and French reproduction Thibault wallpapers adorn the walls. Carefully selected Williamsburg tiles create the fireplace surround in the elegant living room. The large open family room is the heart of the home and a tasteful blend of Colonial Williamsburg and modern day family life. Laurie has a home-based baking business, Clifton Cupcakes. The generous kitchen with double ovens and ample counter space is home to many tasty creations. A restful seating area with a fireplace off of the kitchen is the perfect spot for a cup of afternoon coffee and a good book. This area provides access to an outside patio with hot tub, dining area, and an outdoor fireplace and seating group.

The fully finished basement houses a custom bar, air hockey, pool table, media area, music room, guest room, and Peter's software business. Always the house where the kids like to go, this space is perfect for family fun and action-packed entertaining.

You can reach the second level by either a front foyer staircase or a back staircase from the kitchen. The master suite is adorned with a dramatic Drexel Heritage bed, chaise lounge and crystal lamps. An open walkway takes you to the adjoining boys' bedrooms and a girl's room with a private bath.

Attention to detail, bold use of color, and a true Williamsburg style make this an elegant family home.

Floral Designs by the Dominion Valley Garden Club

### The Healy Home

The Healys designed and built this impressive Balmoral home in 1997. Tom Healy is a builder and you will appreciate his mastery of classical eighteenth century proportion and detail in the timeless facade. Inside, he and his wife Mary Beth chose architectural ornamentation from the same period, such as large cased openings, Corinthian pilasters, Palladian windows, a

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**The Jackson home.**



Photos by Ginny Ax

**The Mulrooney home.**

## Homes Tour

From Page 6

broad staircase and warm hardwood floors—walnut on the main floor and cherry upstairs.

This is a home built with family gatherings and entertaining in mind. A recent renovation created one open space incorporating the kitchen, casual dining and family room. Here the furnishings are on a large scale, including a farmhouse trestle table with ladder back chairs, the family room with coffered ceiling, stone fireplace and rich leather seating fit for a crowd. The new kitchen will make you swoon. It is as beautiful as it is functional. Soft cream cabinets, a stone accent wall, deluxe appliances, bell jar pendant lights, and a raised fireplace all surround the star of the show which is a huge island topped by a dramatically patterned slab of granite and inset with a hammered copper sink. Nearby, Tom's study is replete with references to his favorite pastimes, most of which have to do with football, skiing and fishing. Pocket doors lead directly to the most inviting home gym, surrounded by three walls of windows overlooking the backyard. Even the couchiest of potatoes would be hard pressed to resist a quick workout here.

Another great family hangout is the lower level which was just renovated this year. There is something for every generation to enjoy with a pool table, air hockey, media room, a portable sauna and a spectacular 1,200 bottle wine room.

On your way out, stop by the pool which is beautifully landscaped for privacy. It includes a stone patio with fire pit, hot tub, built in grill and a charming furnished pool house. This is just one more spot for the Healys to gather for special times with their family and friends.

**PARKING:** On the street. Floral designs by The Clifton Community Woman's Club

## The Jackson Home

The Jacksons' classic Georgian manor commands a hilltop position in Glencairn surrounded by stately trees and sweeping

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lawns. A gracious foyer sets the stage for the rest of the house with its curved staircase, marble floors, exquisite Regency style Maitland-Smith furnishings, and a huge American Rococo giltwood pier mirror made in Philadelphia in 1860 and still housing its original mercury glass. The adjacent cherry paneled library is Scott's domain, surrounded by sentimental references to his family's heritage as Texas cowboys. It's all here—longhorns, found animal skulls, ancestral photos, and a large Frederic Remington reproduction sculpture. The Jacksons also own "Senterfitt Farms" in Madison, Virginia, purveyors of excellent beef to all of us who shop at Wegmans.

Themes echo as you continue through the dining room and beyond. Look for palace Oriental rugs, elegant Maitland-Smith furniture, other wooden pieces crafted by E.A. Clore Sons, their neighbors in Madison, and Blair's whimsical collections—hands, teapots, miniature chairs. She also displays cherished heirlooms such as a delicate dress from her infancy, her mother's cut glass collection in the dining room display cabinet and perfume bottles on her dressing table, a large soup ladle from Lady Bird Johnson, and a magnificent silver tea service which was an engagement gift to her grandparents. All of these riches notwithstanding, the unique treasures of this home are on the walls and come from Blair's own hand. She is a master photographer and quintessential artist. She is the president of the Metropolitan Washington Colored Pencil Society. For most of us, this is the first time we will see this medium extensively exhibited in all of its meticulous and vibrant artistry. Her works adorn each room in abundance, along with pieces by her similarly talented friends. Works by her sister-in-law, Kay Jackson, are in a different style and just as distinctive — oils on wood panels with gold, palladium, and silver leaf. To get a glimpse into the mind and method of an artist, don't miss Blair's studio, housing a large drafting table, thousands of colored pencils and other supplies, and "idea boards" to inspire her work.

**PARKING:** On the street. Floral designs by The Garden Club of Fairfax

## The Mulrooney Home

The Mulrooney Home is located a half mile outside of the historic Clifton. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century this property sat on 140 acres. This house was burned during the Civil War and rebuilt afterwards. The house burned again in 1900 due to a kitchen fire. The 1900 house is a two over two Virginia farm house – two rooms on the first floor and two bedrooms above them. The many handmade bricks found on the property from an earlier structure are used to edge the south facing old well garden.

You feel you are walking into a special place from the past when you walk to the front door up the front brick walkway under the two old silver maples. You enter the home's main parlor which has a wood burning fireplace, the original 1901 heart pine floors and staircase banister. A beautiful antique walnut drop front desk is located to the right of the fireplace. Antique fashion advertising prints for ladies' wear from 1899 to 1901 decorate the wall over the couch. A primitive bench sits outside the small coat closet under the stairs.

An addition with a kitchen, bath, and master bedroom was added in between 1920 and 1950. A large addition for a family room, master bedroom and mudroom was built in 1991. The kitchen was renovated in 2005. Additional upgrades and remodels were done to all the baths in 2014. Attention to detail and traditional design has kept these modern upgrades true to the period of the original home.

The old laundry room in the back now houses two old pieces from the great grandson of Robert E. Lee. This room exits to a charming side porch with a new slate floor. More pieces from the Robert E. Lee family can be found in the family room, a primitive trunk and a painted green chest. Jackie's black and white family photos, an

antique tobacco knife from Richmond, 1935 radio, and miniature oil lamps also adorn the family room. The dining room is furnished with her grandmother's Kittinger set with its handmade needlepoint on the chair seats. It also houses her collection of antique teacups, crystal and paperweights. Colorful handmade Persian rugs can be found throughout the home.

The second story with its original banister and railing also boasts heart pine floors. Jackie restored the trim on the 1850s walnut Lincoln bed in the south guest bedroom. An 1850s "butter print" chest and Victorian frames complement this period room. Four antique German exotic bird prints hang in the upper hallway.

The new master bedroom and master bath have cathedral ceilings. The original master bedroom is now the master bedroom sitting room. A small French inlaid antique side table in the master bedroom is very similar to the one in the opening of the PBS series Downton Abbey. An early American antique dresser from a West Virginia estate sits opposite the bed. The gardens underwent a renaissance from 2005 to 2014 to install deer-resistant foundation plantings including box woods, lamb's ear, English laurels, Goshiki false hollies and spireas to name a few. An abundance of birds including a golden eagle have been spotted. A renovated four-stall barn circa 1940 with tack room and wash room sits at the end of the driveway. Jackie's herb garden is located behind the barn. A regulation size dressage ring is situated on the southeast side of the property. The Mulrooneys do not have horses but use the five acres to rescue and rehabilitate German Shepherds. Additionally, they have set aside 3 acres as a butterfly sanctuary. The milkweed and butterfly bushes bring twelve different species of butterflies in summer.

**PARKING:** A shuttle will run from the Presbyterian Church to this home. The trip is less than five minutes. Please park at the Presbyterian Church or nearby.

Floral Designs by the Rocky Run Garden Club.





## ECHO Yard Sale

Join the hunt for treasures at ECHO's semi-annual yard sale. Toys, fashion accessories, collectibles, and more. Proceeds benefit Ecumenical Community Helping Others in Springfield. Saturday, April 7, 8 a.m.-noon in the Gymnasium of St. Bernadette Catholic Church and School, 7600 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Free admission. Email [cefrazee@verizon.net](mailto:cefrazee@verizon.net).

**Shoppers browse the many tables of goods for sale at an earlier ECHO Yard Sale.**

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## Easter & Spring Fun

# Easter Egg Hunts In the Area

### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 28

**Easter Egg Hunt.** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At Upton Hill Park, Arlington. Children, 2-11 years old, are invited to celebrate spring with coloring, games and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny. Bring an Easter basket to collect eggs, a raincoat if it's sprinkling, and a camera to take photos with the Easter Bunny. Each hunt is \$10 per child, plus a \$3 online service fee. Visit [apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks](http://apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks) for details and to register.

**Easter Egg Hunt.** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At Pohick Bay Park, Lorton. Children, 2-11 years old, are invited to celebrate spring with coloring, games and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny.

Bring an Easter basket to collect eggs, a raincoat if it's sprinkling, and a camera to take photos with the Easter Bunny. Each hunt is \$10 per child, plus a \$3 online service fee. Visit [apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks](http://apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks) for details and to register.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 29

**EGG-Streme Teen Egg Hunt.** 8-10 p.m. at Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Glow-in-the-dark-themed egg hunt begins at dark. Pictures with the Easter Bunny and obstacle course moon bounce. 10-14 years old. Bring a basket and a flashlight. \$5 per hunter. Register at [apm.activecommunities.com/fairfaxcityrecdept/Activity\\_Search/11522](http://apm.activecommunities.com/fairfaxcityrecdept/Activity_Search/11522).

**Easter Egg Hunt.** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At Cameron Run Park, Alexandria. Children, 2-11 years old, are invited to celebrate spring with coloring, games and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny. Bring an Easter basket to collect eggs, a raincoat if it's sprinkling, and a camera to take photos with the Easter Bunny. Each hunt is \$10 per child, plus a \$3 online service fee. visit [apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks](http://apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks) for details and to register.

### THURSDAYSATURDAY/MARCH 29-31

**Baskets and Bunnies Event.** Assist with arts and crafts, help with registration, dress up in the Sunny the Bunny costume, assist with Mini Golf or be a Sunny the Bunny helper at Burke Lake Park. Volunteer on Thursday, March 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. On Friday, March 30, volunteers are needed from 4 to 7 p.m. Helpers will be needed on Saturday, March 31. Sign up for shifts from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Register at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake/baskets-and-bunnies](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake/baskets-and-bunnies)

### THURSDAY/MARCH 29-SUNDAY/APRIL 1

**Fairfax County Parks.** Egg-citing activities are breaking out at parks throughout Fairfax County in March. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2018/psa055](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2018/psa055).

**Hidden Oaks Nature Center** is running a Dinosaur Egg Hunt on March 29, 30, 31 and April 1. Enjoy a dinosaur-themed program and outdoor egg hunt while visiting Dinoland in Nature Playce. The program is for children age 2-8. \$8 per child.

On Saturday, March 31, **Burke Lake Park** is hosting a day of fun called

Baskets and Bunnies. There will be egg hunts, carousel and train rides, crafts and games. \$12 per person in advance; \$16 the day of the event. **Clemyjontri Park** is offering an Easter Egg Hunt, crafts and photo ops with the Easter Bunny for children age 1-9. \$7 per child. Add a carousel ride for \$2. There's also an Egg Hunt that day at **Nottoway Park**. Register at the picnic shelter for egg hunts for children age 1-9. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Schedule: ages 1-2, 10:30 a.m.; ages 3-4, 11 a.m.; ages 5-6, 11:30 a.m.; ages 7-9, 12 p.m. \$10 per child, registration 9:30-11:45 a.m. \$10 per child - cash only at registration.

### FRIDAY/MARCH 30-SUNDAY/APRIL 1

**Easter Egg Hunt.** Friday, 3 p.m.: Saturday, 10:30 a.m., 12:30 and 2:30 p.m.; Sunday, 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Activities include games, crafts, refreshments, and photos with the Easter Bunny. Every participating child will receive an Easter egg. \$12 children, \$5 adults. Call 703-548-1789 or visit [www.leafendallhouse.org](http://www.leafendallhouse.org).

### SATURDAY/MARCH 31

**Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt.** 9-10:30 a.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Enjoy a continental breakfast, a craft or two, and an Easter egg hunt. Bring an Easter basket. Free. Call 703-451-2900 or visit [gracepresby.org](http://gracepresby.org). **Traditional Easter Egg Hunt.** 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Herndon Municipal Center Town Green, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Features craft projects, story time, dance sessions with KinderJam, a petting zoo, coloring mural, potting station and photos with the Easter Bunny. Cost is \$9 per child in advance; \$10 onsite. Visit [herndon-va.gov/recreation](http://herndon-va.gov/recreation), or call 703-435-6800, ext. 2128.

**MCC Spring Fest.** 10 a.m.-noon at St. Luke's School, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Carnival games and arts and crafts projects, soccer demo, roaming duck, bunny and squirrel characters as well as magic tricks by The Amazing Kevin. A parent and child Easter Egg Hunt will be featured. For children ages 3-8. Hosted by McLean Community Center. Visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org), and use Activity No. 4501.318. Call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY-711.

**2018 Community Egg Hunt.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Van Dyck Park, 720 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax. The annual Egg Hunt at Van Dyck park is open and free to the community, thanks to Combined Properties. No registration required. All ages welcome. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/city-calendar](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/city-calendar).

### SUNDAY/APRIL 1

**Easter Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt.** 11 a.m.; 11:30 a.m.; 1 p.m.; 1:30 p.m. at Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Dr., Tysons.

The brunch buffets on both Easter, April 1, and Mother's Day, May 13, occur from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and feature gourmet stations with an array of dishes.

Arrive early as a maximum of 50 participants will hunt in each age group. In addition, the Easter Bunny will be available from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. for photos. Reservations at 703-761-5131 or on OpenTable at [opentable.com/harth](http://opentable.com/harth).

## Between Thwarted Love and Madness

### Virginia Opera presents “Lucia di Lammermoor” at GMU Center for the Arts.

By David Siegel  
The Connection

Virginia Opera concludes its season at the Center for the Arts with the “bel canto” (Italian for “beautiful singing”) “Lucia di Lammermoor.” Set in Scotland, Donizetti’s “Lucia” is the tale of a young woman forced to marry a man she does not love in order to improve her family’s fortunes. As she becomes completely distraught, she imagines what it would be like to have married the man she loves. Then she takes actions that change everything.

Ari Peltó, who conducts the opera, called “Lucia di Lammermoor” the pinnacle; the glorification of the voice and

what it can do.” Describing the opera, Peltó said it was “full of all the things we could love about opera including grand dramatic gestures and a young woman struggling as she tries to save her family from ruin. It is unforgettable.” Virginia Opera’s “Lucia di Lammermoor” will feature Metropolitan Opera soprano Rachele Gilmore in the title role of Lucia. Gilmore described her character as “a woman at her emotional breaking point.” Complementing Gilmore bel canto soprano voice will be tenor Joseph Dennis as Edgardo.

“Lucia” is about a woman growing up in difficult times. All the men in her life are pressuring her to do things as they wanted,” said Gilmore. The opera is full of vocal fireworks and highly dramatic elements, “so the audience will understand and be drawn into and focus on the tragic tale and my character of Lucia.”

In an interview, Gilmore noted that she always wanted to be a singer. She received her Bachelor’s of Music from Indiana University and continued with Graduate studies at Boston University. As an artist, she was a winner in Plácido Domingo’s renown Operalia World



**Soprano Rachele Gilmore (Lucia) in Virginia Opera’s “Lucia di Lammermoor.”**

Opera Contest in Paris.

For director Kyle Lang, “Lucia di Lammermoor” is a cautionary tale of a fragile “heroine of a gothic horror story.

It is warning tale of the destructive power of blind ambition.” “Lucia” is one of the most-per-

### Where and when

Virginia Opera’s “Lucia di Lammermoor” at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances: April 7 at 8 p.m. and April 8 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$110, \$90, \$54. Note: Sung in Italian with English supertitles. Pre-Performance Discussion with Dr. Glenn Winter “Dr. Opera” begins 45 minutes before the performance.

Photos by  
Ben Schill  
Photography  
Courtesy  
Virginia Opera



**Tenor Joseph Dennis (Edgardo) and soprano Rachele Gilmore (Lucia) in Virginia Opera’s “Lucia di Lammermoor.”**

formed operas worldwide with its focus on the beauty of the human voice and enduring romantic themes. “Lucia will be a great production for our company and the audience,” said Russell Allen, President and CEO of the Virginia Opera. Donizetti’s “Lucia di

Lammermoor” is surely to be a compelling performance concluding Virginia’s Opera’s season at the Center for the Arts. And join Dr. Glenn Winters for his “Opera Up Close” pre-curtain talk for his informative, entertaining insights.

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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# Calendar

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

## ONGOING

**Second Saturdays.** 6-9 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. The Second Saturday Art Walk is the perfect time to meet nearly 85 Resident and Associate Artists, creating art in the studios or exhibiting in our galleries. Experience performances of dance, cabaret, comedy, big band, jazz, and theater. Indulge in classes in the art of mixology or cuisines from around the globe. Enjoy art exhibitions in nine galleries of the region's finest sculpture, painting, glass, ceramics, and fiber art works. Visit [www.workhousearts.org/](http://www.workhousearts.org/).

**FUN-Exercise** Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. at 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](mailto:moorefitt@yahoo.com) or 703-499-6133.

**English Conversation Groups** weekly at George Mason, Burke Centre, and Lorton Libraries Practice and improve your English. Day and start times vary. Visit: [va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp](http://va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp)

## MARCH 29-31

**Fairfax County Parks.** Egg-citing activities are breaking out at parks throughout Fairfax County in March. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2018/psa055](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2018/psa055).

**Hidden Oaks Nature Center** is running a Dinosaur Egg Hunt on March 29, 30, 31 and April 1. Enjoy a dinosaur-themed program and outdoor egg hunt while visiting Dinoland in Nature Playce. Program is for children age 2-8. \$8 per child. On Saturday, March 31, **Burke Lake Park** is hosting a day of fun called Baskets and Bunnies. There will be egg hunts, carousel and train rides, crafts and games. \$12 per person in advance; \$16 the day of the event. There's also an Egg Hunt that day at **Nottoway Park**. Register at the picnic shelter for egg hunts for children age 1-9. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Schedule: ages 1-2, 10:30 a.m.; ages 3-4, 11 a.m.; ages 5-6, 11:30 a.m.; ages 7-9, 12 p.m. \$10 per child, registration 9:30-11:45 a.m. \$10 per child – cash only at registration.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 29

### Fact Checking – Effective

**Speaking.** 7-8:30 p.m. at City of Fairfax Regional Library, Meeting Room B, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Hot Topics: News, Blues and How to Defuse. Workshop on media literacy and dialogue skills. Guided by experts from GMU's School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution and FCPL librarians. Visit [librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3783528](http://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3783528).

**EGG-Streme Teen Egg Hunt.** 8-10 p.m. at Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Glow in the dark themed egg hunt begins at dark. Pictures with Easter Bunny and obstacle course moon bounce. 10-14 years old. Bring a basket and a flashlight. \$5 per hunter. Register at [apm.activecommunities.com/fairfaxcityrecdept/Activity\\_Search/11522](http://apm.activecommunities.com/fairfaxcityrecdept/Activity_Search/11522).

**THURSDAYSATURDAY/MARCH 29-31 Volunteer: Baskets and Bunnies at**

**Burke Lake.** Assist with arts and crafts, help with registration, dress up in the Sunny the Bunny costume, assist with Mini Golf or be a Sunny the Bunny helper. Volunteer on Thursday, March 29, Friday, March 30, Saturday, March 31. Sign up for shifts. Register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake/baskets-and-bunnies](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake/baskets-and-bunnies).

## MARCH 30-APRIL 15

**“The Pavilion.”** at The Hub Theatre, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. This play is by turns poetic and comic, romantic and philosophical. Peter returns to his 20-year high-school reunion with dreams of winning back Kari, the girl he left behind. Visit [www.thehubtheatre.org](http://www.thehubtheatre.org).

## SATURDAY/MARCH 31

**Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt.** 9-10:30 a.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Enjoy a continental breakfast, a craft or two, and an Easter egg hunt. Bring an Easter basket. Free. Call 703-451-2900 or visit [gracepresby.org](http://gracepresby.org).

**2018 Community Egg Hunt.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Van Dyck Park, 720 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax. The annual Egg Hunt at Van Dyck park is open and free to the community, thanks to Combined Properties. No registration required. All ages welcome. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/city-calendar](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/city-calendar).

**Art & Lunch.** noon-3 p.m. at Village Gallery, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax, Fairfax Art League at the Village Gallery. Bring lunch and enjoy the company of other artists. Free and open to the public. New members welcome. Visit [www.fairfaxartleague.net](http://www.fairfaxartleague.net) or call 703-587-9481.

## TUESDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 3-29

**Art Exhibit: Pulp Fiction.** Gallery hours in Arches Gallery, Building W-9 of the Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Pulp Fiction showcases work by artist Anne Hollis, exploring mixed media art while focusing on moments in time from mythological stories to real life. Visit [www.workhousearts.org/](http://www.workhousearts.org/).

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 4

**National Walking Day.** 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, 6500 Springfield Mall, Springfield. Enjoy a brisk walk around the mall, while learning how to lower the risk of heart disease and stroke. The American Heart Association is partnering with Sheehy Auto Stores and Springfield Town Center to host this free public walking and wellness event. Registration will start at 10:30. Email [GWRHA@heart.org](mailto:GWRHA@heart.org) or visit [www.facebook.com/events/567199020306840/](http://www.facebook.com/events/567199020306840/).

**GMU Visiting Filmmakers Series, “In Lorton’s Darkroom.”** 7:30 p.m. at GMU’s Johnson Center Cinema, 4477 Aquia Creek Lane, Fairfax. Short documentary screening and discussion with filmmaker Karen Ruckman, producer Emma Pearce, and photographers Calvin Gorham and Michael Moses El. Includes powerful video of Lorton in the mid 1980s, a visit to the prison before it was closed in December 2001, and in-depth interviews over a twelve year period with two men who talk frankly about the horrors of prison life, and how learning to take photographs gave them the discipline and tool for self-discovery. Free. Visit [fams.gmu.edu/events/7499](http://fams.gmu.edu/events/7499) or call 703-993-2768.

## THURSDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 5-8

**Mason Theater Performance.** Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 2 p.m. at George Mason

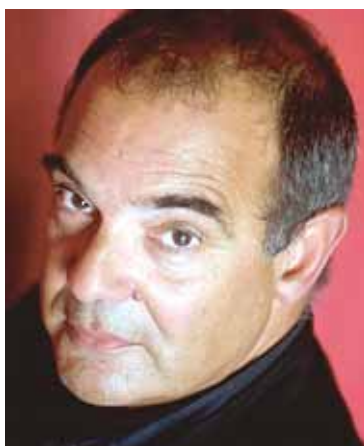


Photo courtesy of Edward Gero

**Directed by Edward Gero (pictured).**

## ‘The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail’

Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee imagine circumstances surrounding 19th Century writer Henry David Thoreau's imprisonment for his refusal to pay a poll tax designed to support an unpopular war in “The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail.” Thursday-Saturday, April 5-8, 8 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, April 7-8, 2 p.m. at George Mason University Harris Theatre, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. \$30 general admission; \$15 students, staff, seniors and groups. Call 703-993-8888 or visit [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

University Harris Theatre, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. “The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail” by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee imagines circumstances surrounding 19th Century writer Henry David Thoreau's imprisonment for his refusal to pay a poll tax designed to support an unpopular war. \$30 general admission; \$15 students, staff, seniors and groups. Call 703-993-8888 or visit [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

## SATURDAY/APRIL 7

**ECHO Yard Sale.** 8 a.m.-noon in the Gymnasium of St. Bernadette Catholic Church and School, 7600 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Join the hunt for treasures at ECHO's semi-annual yard sale. Toys, fashion accessories, collectibles, and more. Proceeds benefit Ecumenical Community Helping Others in Springfield. Free admission. Email [cefrazee@verizon.net](mailto:cefrazee@verizon.net).

**Spring Forward Family Fun Day in Fairfax.** 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. In this celebration of families formed by foster care adoption, and kinship care, children will enjoy a morning of games and activities while parents, caregivers, and older youth participate in workshops. Keynote address “Trauma to Resiliency: Building Stronger Families and Communities.” by Dr. Elizabeth Meeker. To register for this event, [www.FormedFamiliesForward.org](http://www.FormedFamiliesForward.org) or call 703-539-2904.

## SUNDAY/APRIL 8

### T-TRAK Scale Model Train Show.

1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge T-TRAK model train show. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), or call 703-425-9225.

Photos courtesy of Hub Theatre



**Matt Bassett appearing in the Hub’s production of “The Pavilion.”**



**Helen Murray appearing in the Hub’s production of “The Pavilion.”**

# A Play Full of Joy And Regret

## The Hub explores with “The Pavilion.” Is winning back who you left behind possible?

By David Siegel  
The Connection

Celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> season, the Hub Theatre will be re-mounting “The Pavilion,” its inaugural production. “It is so heart-warming to return to where we started with Craig Wright’s ‘The Pavilion,’ a play about community and healing,” said Helen Murray, the Hub’s Artistic Director. “As the Hub has grown we have continually honed our aesthetic. And I get to share the stage with friends and collaborators.”

“The Pavilion” features Hub veteran Nora Achraati, as well as Hub’s associate artistic director Matt Bassett and Helen Murray. It is directed by Kelsey Mesa known to Hub

audiences for directing “The Magi” and “Wish List.” Mesa is associated with The Kennedy Center’s American College Theater Festival. Playwright Craig Wright is also a television producer and writer. Some of his television credits include “Six Feet Under” and “Lost.”

“The Pavilion” has a simple premise that flows into much more including our connections to the universe and love. It is specifically about Peter who returns to his hometown for his twenty-year high-school reunion. He has dreams of winning back Kari, the girl he left

behind, under less than good reasons. As the reunion night progresses, both Peter and Kari are led, through their interactions with a host of characters all played by a virtuosic Narrator. The two come to face the outcomes of their choices from long ago as they try to start back into life with newfound strength and bittersweet determination.

“‘The Pavilion’ is a special re-mount for our tenth Hub season. And I have the chance to challenge myself in a role as a

## Where and When

The Hub Theatre presents “The Pavilion” at The John Swayze Theatre, New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Performances: March 30 to April 15, 2018. Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets \$32 and \$22 (Students and Seniors). Call 703.674.3177 or visit [www.thehubtheatre.org](http://www.thehubtheatre.org). Note: There is construction occurring next to The New School of Northern Virginia parking lot. There is plenty of parking, but be careful of changing lanes.

while having to face his own worst actions,” added Bassett. “Peter is coming back to his hometown to try regain something he gave up a long time ago. He has lived his adult life in professional success as a psychologist, but this occasion has led him to reevaluate the last twenty years and, in his mind, those years have come up short.”

Can Peter and Kari find a way to put things right after so many years? The Hub audience gets to witness what happens in “The Pavilion,” a play full of joy and regret told through beautiful language to savor.



# Angelika Theater Hosts International Film Festival

The NOVA Festival will take place over two weeks, from April 1 to April 14.

By David Siegel  
The Connection

**C**ontinuing its growth as the go-to, locally-curated, high caliber film festival for film lovers and film-makers, the Northern Virginia (NOVA) International Festival returns for its fourth year at the Mosaic's Angelika Film Center.

The NOVA Festival will take place over two weeks, from April 1 to April 14, 2018 with film screenings of nearly 60 films, along with workshops, seminars and networking opportunities. There will be a concluding Festival Black-tie awards ceremony.

"Our NOVA International Film Festival showcases cinema's creative talents from near and far. It offers audiences the opportunity to see films before they are even screened nationally," said Fernando Mico, festival founder and CEO.

NOVA offers filmmakers a competitive setting to screen films with award opportunities

This year's "NOVA Festival Legend Award" recipient and keynote speaker will be Michael Uslan, executive producer of Batman movies.

Coming back home to his Fairfax County roots to screen his film "Trouble is my Business" is Tom Konkle.

He grew up in Springfield and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School. He went on to American University to study media and drama. "Growing up in Springfield, I always dreamed of making films and moving to Hollywood," said Konkle, who lives on the West Coast.

"Now coming back to Fairfax County to screen my film is like coming full-circle in my life's journey. And I will be showing my son around the area."

Asked about a film he saw as a youth that impacted him, Konkle said "Star Wars." It "changed my outlook on life, and what was even possible."

Kohler's "Trouble is my Business" is in the film noir genre. It has "a hard-boiled attitude and a love of language. It is set in a world where people take wrong turns or do stupid things even after being warned by a friend not to do something."

Some NOVA special events include a reception with George Starke, one of the original Washington Redskins HOGS and others

from that famous offensive line. Starke will be at Mosaic's Great Gatherings for a Festival reception and fundraiser for the Redskins Charitable Foundation on April 11, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. A fundraiser for the Autism Society

of Northern Virginia will be held at Sea Pearl on April 12, from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Inviting audiences to the film Festival, Mico said; "Hollywood can truly be found right here in Fairfax County."

## Where and When

Northern Virginia (NOVA) International Film Festival at Angelika Film Center, Mosaic District, 2911 District Ave, Fairfax. Film screenings April 1 to April 14, 2018. Tickets: \$15. Seminars and panel tickets on screen writing, film production and distribution \$25. Black tie Awards evening \$85. All access VIP pass \$200. HOG Heaven Reunion Reception \$60. Fundraiser for Autism Society of Northern Virginia \$50. Detailed information and tickets at: <http://www.novafilmfest.com> or call 703.960-1970.

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# Screened-in Porch, Salute, and Unanimous Curtain Call

## Mount Vernon Planning Commissioner Earl Flanagan given impromptu recognition for service.

By Ken Moore  
The Connection

**M**ark Viani hijacked a Planning Commission case involving a screened-in porch to give an impromptu salute to Mount Vernon District Commissioner Earl Flanagan.

"I wasn't planning on doing this tonight when I came here, but I just thought about it," said Viani. "I just want to take a minute here to acknowledge a lifetime of service that I think has really made us a better world, a better country, a better county, and a better community."

Flanagan has been the Mount Vernon planning commissioner since he was appointed by then District Supervisor Gerry Hyland in December 2006.

Instead of three-minutes of public testimony on Shon and Crystal Moore's application for a screened-in porch in Lorton, Viani, land use attorney, used the allotted time during the public hearing to speak about Flanagan instead.

"I am not speaking to you as an advocate or an attorney tonight. I'm actually just going to speak to you as an individual, speak as a resident of the Mount Vernon District, speak as the co chair of the Mount Vernon



**Earl Flanagan, Mount Vernon District Planning Commissioner.**

Council of Citizens Associations, speak as the president of the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation," said Viani.

"I just want to take a minute here to kind of acknowledge what is happening tonight," he said.

**FLANAGAN** made his last motion involving a Mount Vernon District case at the meeting on March 15. He will attend his last commission meeting on March 22. Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck appointed Walter C. Clarke to replace Flanagan in April.

"I could embarrass Earl with some of the stories about growing up in Chicago and beginning as a childhood star on radio, but instead I'll focus more on the beginning of

**"Therefore, as my last motion as the Mount Vernon planning commissioner, I am prepared to agree with the staff's recommendation."**

**—Earl Flanagan**

his public service as a sergeant with the 71st Infantry Division, as part of Patton's Third Army in the Second World War," said Viani.

He described Flanagan's duties in the war: "Earl operated in that capacity all the way through Northern France, the Battle of Bulge, crossing the Rhine, into Germany, and eventually into Austria. And in the process of those bloody final weeks of the war, he was involved in the liberation of a concentration camp. I'm sure you all know this story, but I think it has to be publicly acknowledged."

"Following the war, Earl had his private practice and then served in the department of HUD as a federal employee dealing with architecture," said Viani. "More locally, he served, obviously, on the Planning Commission. Even more locally, in the Mount Vernon District, a well established history, both on the Mount Vernon Council and the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation and a million other local organizations."

"He even was our 'Person of the Year' back in 2000," said Viani. The Board of Supervisors voted him the Mount Vernon District's

Lord Fairfax in 1999.

"Earl, but for your efforts we live in a much better world," he said. "Thank you very much for your lifetime of service."

Flanagan received a round of applause from all his colleagues on the commission.

"We appreciate those comments," said Chairman Peter Murphy. "As you know, we will be embarrassing Earl further at a Planning Commission Awards Banquet in April. And, also, he is going to be honored by the Federation of Citizens Associations, the news has just been released, for his service to the country, the Commonwealth and the county. Those three 'C's' are very important in Earl's life, and we're all looking forward to both those banquets," said Murphy.

**MURPHY** then addressed Lorton resident Shon Moore, the applicant requesting the screened in porch. "Mr. Moore, is there anything you'd like to rebut from what you've heard?"

"No sir, not at this time," said Moore.

"Smart man," said Murphy.

"With that, Mr. Chairman, I note that there was no opposition testimony," said Flanagan.

"They wouldn't dare," said Murphy.

Flanagan continued: "... but wish to report for the record that the South County Federation does not oppose this application based on the Lorton Station homeowners approval of this application. Therefore, as my last motion as the Mount Vernon planning commissioner, I am prepared to agree with the staff's recommendation and I move that the PC approve FDPA-1996-MV-037-06."

Flanagan's final motion was approved unanimously.

## New Vision

From Page 2

corridor to support a bus rapid transit (BRT) system, from the Huntington Metro Station to Fort Belvoir, and ultimately a Yellow Line Metrorail extension," said Storck. The Woodlawn hub includes historic sites, such as Mount Vernon, Washington's Grist Mill, Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House, and would be a cultural corridor and tourist hub, including a hotel and conference center near the BRT station. The plan also emphasizes important environmental resources.

**ADVOCATES WANT** to ensure details in the plan, such as underground utilities and affordable housing and attention to common areas and green spaces.

"We just want to make sure that the people who work and live in it maintain the diverse ethnic and economic nature of our community. We're very proud of that," said Paden. "I'm proud that I live in a house and on one side is a U.S. citizen from Ghana, on the other side, I have soldiers who work at Fort Belvoir, and

next to them is a family from Bolivia. I think it's a great strength of our area and we don't want to lose it, we don't want to get gentrified."

Chairman Sharon Bulova and the board gave unanimous support for the project.

"This truly is a transformative project and truly is exciting," said Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity

"It's a wonderful, wonderful corridor, it's a corridor full of environmental treasures and a corridor especially full of historic treasures," said Bulova. "And Embark recognizes that and incorporates all those things into the plan. I think this is exciting, I congratu-

late you both," she said to Storck and Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay.

"If you take anything away from this, take the solidarity of the people that testified," said McKay. "This has been a robust effort with a huge amount of community input."

"The number one thing I say we need is action, we need to secure money and we need to get money," said McKay. "Too many times, I've seen communities focus on a perfect plan and lose the opportunity right in front of them. We're not going to let that happen with Route 1."



**Storck**



**McKay**



**Bulova**

## Blood Donation

From Page 5

Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200

4/4/2018: 12:45 p.m. - 8 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200

4/5/2018: 12:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200

4/6/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200

4/7/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200

4/8/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200

4/9/2018: 1:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200

4/10/2018: 10:45 a.m. - 5:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200

4/11/2018: 12:45 p.m. - 8 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200

4/12/2018: 12:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200

4/13/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200

4/14/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200



## Del. Filler-Corn Participates in 'She Suite Summit'

Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) participated in the the final panel of the "She Suite Summit" which also included State Sen. Jennifer McClellan (D-Richmond) and Arlington County Board Chair, Katie Cristol.

The "She Suite Summit" was put on by Velvet Suite, a marketing consulting group and was sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. The day long summit took place in McLean on March 16. The theme of the conference was "Awaken Your Greatness".

Del. Filler-Corn and Sen. McClellan discussed the changes in this year's General Assembly. Filler-Corn focused on the new makeup of the House of Delegates which now includes 12 newly elected women of all ages including two who recently gave birth. They also discussed the challenges of being a female legislator in a predominantly male environment. Chair Cristol gave an additional perspective about her role, not just as a woman, but as a millennial.

"I appreciated the opportunity to share my story with two of my good friends and colleagues," said Filler-Corn. "I am grateful for the women who paved the way before me, and I look forward to the successes of many women elected officials to come," she added.



Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), left, participating in 'She Suite Summit' panel in McLean.

Photo contributed

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## A New Eagle Scout

**Joseph Tirre (207) Passed his Eagle Scout Board of Review at BSA Troop 1131, Burke. Pictured, Eagle Scout Board of Review members: Carol Herrity-Tun, Philip Sternberg, Troop Committee Chair, Karla Tirre (mother), Paul Hoffman, Unit Commissioner, Eagle Scout (207) Joseph Tirre, William Tirre (father), Alan Dunham, C.P. Watkins, Patriot District, Mark Blanchard, Scoutmaster. Not in photo G.C. 'Gary' Black, III.**

**Joseph Tirre is a junior at Robinson Secondary School and attends St. Stephens UMC in Burke. His father is William Tirre and his mother is Karla Tirre.**



Photos courtesy of G.C. 'Gary' Black, III

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**News**

**Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout April 28**  
**Service is free, anonymous and no questions asked.**

By Mercia Hobson  
The Connection

Unused medications in homes can create a safety concern due to accidental ingestion, theft, misuse and abuse. In response, Fairfax County Government announced that in conjunction with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, it is holding Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout: Saturday, April 28, 2018.

Fairfax County reports drug take-back programs are important, "Because they are a safe method for disposing of prescription drugs and are organized and closely monitored by local, state, and federal government agencies. Safe disposal of unused or expired medications prevents drug abuse and misuse, accidental poisoning, and protects the environment."

Residents in Fairfax County can drop off medications at any of eight Fairfax County District Police Stations between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 28, 2018. Pills and liquids will be accepted; no pressurized canisters or needles.

The Drop-off sites are Reston District Station, 12000 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston; Fair Oaks District Station, 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax; Franconia District Station, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria;

Mason District Station, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale; McLean District Station, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean; Mount Vernon District Station, 2511



Photo by Mercia Hobson/The Connection

**Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout: Saturday, April 28, 2018, residents in Fairfax County can drop off medications at any of eight Fairfax County District Police Stations between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Pills and liquids will be accepted; no questions asked.**

Parkers Lane, Alexandria; Sully District Station, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly; and West Springfield District Station, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield.

On their website, Fairfax County recommends that to dispose of syringes, needles and other medical sharps: "Place in (a) plastic container with (a) screw-on top. Mark the container 'residential sharps' and place in the trash."

DEA Diversion Control Program reports the total weight collected on National Take Back Day 2017 was the most ever collected: 900,386 pounds; that's 450 tons from 5,498 sites, beating the previous high of 447 tons from 5,400 sites in 2016.

"Wastewater treatment plants and onsite sewage disposal sys-

tems are not designed to remove these chemicals. As a result, these medications can end up in the environment and eventually in our drinking water."

In addition, DEA states on their website that the majority of prescription drug abusers report in surveys that they got their drugs from friends and family. "Americans understand that cleaning out old prescription drugs from medicine cabinets, kitchen drawers, and bedside tables reduces accidents, thefts, and the misuse and abuse of these medicines, including the opioid painkillers ... Eight out of 10 new heroin users began by abusing prescription painkillers and moved to heroin when they could no longer obtain or afford those painkillers."

**K9 Teams Hold Workshop, Training**

Recently, multiple local agencies with K9 teams from Fairfax County Fire and Rescue (VA-TF1), Fairfax County Police Department (PD), Prince William PD, and George Mason PD came together to train at the K9 Drive Building Workshop. The workshop was taught by Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Assistant Chief (ret) Garrett Dyer at the Perfect Pet Resort in Maryland.

One goal of the workshop was to teach participants how to become a better handler and helper for the working dog. First half of day consisted of lecture and discussion. The rest of the day involved field work with the K9 and handler to help enhance the K9's desire to detect their target odor.

There were also teams from out of the area including K9's from Massachusetts and Virginia Beach. It was a fantastic learning experience for all involved.

—Technician Trish Danula/Fairfax County Fire and Rescue



Photo courtesy of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue  
**The workshop was held at the Perfect Pet Resort in Maryland.**



# Bulletin Board

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.

## 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/MARCH 29-SUNDAY/APRIL 1

**Holy Week Worship at King of Kings Lutheran Church**, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. Maundy Thursday, March 29 - 7 p.m.; Good Friday, March 30 - 12:15 and 7 p.m.; Easter Sunday, April 1 - 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Visit [www.kofk.org](http://www.kofk.org) or contact the church office 703-378-7272.

**Holy Week at Historic Pohick Church**, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Call 703-339-6572 or visit [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org).

- Maundy Thursday, March 29: Maundy Thursday Liturgy and Holy Communion at 7:30 p.m.
- Good Friday, March 30: Good Friday Observance from noon-3 p.m.
- Easter Sunday, April 1: Lighting of the Paschal Candle at 5:30 a.m., Festival Holy Eucharist at 7:45 a.m., 9:15 a.m., and 11:15 a.m.

## SUNDAY/APRIL 1

**Easter Sunday Celebration**. 10:30-noon. Unity Spiritual Center of Springfield, 8136 Old Keene Mill Road, Suite 205, Springfield. Special youth activities including an Easter egg hunt. Visit [unityspiritualcenterofspringfieldva.com](http://unityspiritualcenterofspringfieldva.com).

**Easter Sunday Service**. 6:30 a.m. at Lee Chapel Cemetery (Intersection of Ffx County Pkwy & Lee Chapel Road), Burke. This is an outdoor worship sunrise service. Dress appropriately for the weather. From 1871 to 1951, Lee Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church was the home of worship, study, fellowship, celebration, and remembrance for the people of Burke. The ground remains sacred space. All are welcome. Visit [www.leechapelburke.org](http://www.leechapelburke.org).

**Easter Sunrise Service**. 7-7:45 a.m. at The Circle at George Washington Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Ahnna Lise Stevens-Jennings, director of Youth Ministries, Aldersgate UMC presents "When Morning Meets Our Eyes." Hosted by the Rotary Club of Mount Vernon assisted by Boy Scout Troop 993. Bring a lawn chair. All are welcome. Free. Email [mikej1013@verizon.net](mailto:mikej1013@verizon.net) for more.

## MONDAY/APRIL 2

**Scholarship Deadline**. Scholarship for research of local Civil War history — The Bull Run Civil War Round Table in Centreville, a 501 (3) c organization, offers a \$2,000 scholarship to a public or private high school senior who resides either in Fairfax County. Applicants should plan to attend college in the fall of 2018. Information and application instructions can be found at [bullruncwrt.org](http://bullruncwrt.org).

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 4

**Public Meeting: Richmond Highway Corridor Improvements**. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mt Vernon Road, Alexandria. Join a third public information meeting hosted by Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) about plans to widen Richmond Highway from four to six lanes between Jeff Todd Way to Napper Road. A brief presentation will begin at 7 p.m. Visit [www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/richmond\\_highway.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/richmond_highway.asp).

## THURSDAY/APRIL 5

**Public Meeting: Painting and Restriping**. 7 p.m. in the Springfield Governmental Center, 6140 Rolling Road, West Springfield. The Virginia Department of Transportation and the Fairfax County Department of Transportation will hold a public meeting on 2018 paving and restriping efforts in the Springfield District. Information will be on display in an open house format, with a presentation at 7:15 p.m. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/2018-paving-and-restriping](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/2018-paving-and-restriping).

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. <b>-Werner Heisenberg</b>				

## The Daze Continue To Go Bye



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

You know, if my feet didn't hurt so much, I could almost forget that I have cancer, other than being aware of my upcoming infusion: April 6; my upcoming CT Scan and MRI: April 18; and my upcoming follow-up appointment with my oncologist to discuss the results: April 27.

Nevertheless, the goal is to not think about the fact that I have non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. The kind for which there is no cure; made clear by my oncologist at the initial Team Lourie meeting when he advised me that he "could treat me but that he couldn't cure me." What?! At that surreal moment, what goes in one ear flies out the other.

But here I am, nine years and counting; you bet I'm counting. That's one of the recurring thoughts I have as a multi-year cancer survivor; although, as my friend Frank has said to me: "you're in pretty good condition for the condition you're in."

Other than schedules and my underlying diagnosis (and my original "13 month to two year" prognosis), I regularly consider how long I've lived, one month now into year 10. It's both scary and reassuring: Am I further from the beginning or closer to the end? See. I can't stop thinking about it.

Generally speaking however, I am not bogged down by my diagnosis/circumstances, as anybody who knows me, knows. Nor am I preoccupied with the imminent danger in which my diagnosis places me everyday. And I'm certainly not bemoaning the likely reduction in my life expectancy from what I assumed it would be: mid to late 80s, given how long both my parents lived, to what is logical to believe it will now be: late 60s; considering all the statistics for similarly diagnosed individuals. Typically, one diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer doesn't just live with it (as a chronic-type disease), rather you die because of it.

This column is more for public consumption than it is about private perception. In truth, although a second, minute or hour doesn't go by when I don't think/remember/acknowledge the facts of my case, I am able, most of the time, to keep a smile on my face and not bring a frown to others.

Moreover, I want/need those others to forget that I have cancer as much as it is possible for it to be forgotten. And I want my behavior to be a contributing factor to their forgetting. If I don't start it then there's no reason for them to finish it.

And I'm being selfish in saying so? Absolutely! Because the better vibrations I receive from others, the better I'll feel about myself. And the better I feel about myself, the better and more able I'll be to deal with my disease and all its emotional and physical side- and straight-on effects. Effects which are hardly the stuff with which dreams are made. To invoke and rework a quote from the legendary screen actress Bette Davis: Having cancer is not for sissies.

But it is indiscriminate and projections into the not-to-distant future are frightening: for both males and females, one in three have a "lifetime risk of developing or dying from cancer," according to the U.S. National Cancer Institute's Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Database, based on "data compiled between 2012 and 2014, the most recent available."

So how do you put that in your pipe and not smoke it? If you're unlucky enough to be one of these new "diagnosees," you either roll with the punches or get rolled over instead. The choice is yours, as it was mine.

"Get busy living or get bust dying," as Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) said to "Red," (Morgan Freeman), in the Oscar-nominated "The Shawshank Redemption" (1994). And I try to remind myself of that every day, and every night, too.

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



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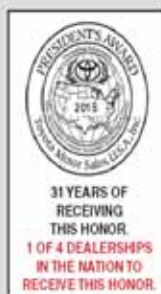
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