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Fairfax Station **CONNECTION** Clifton & Lorton



Celebrating Easter At Burke Lake

Local Irish Dancers
Perform at the White House

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McAuliffe Leads Trump
Tax Town Hall Meeting

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NEWS, PAGE 11

Laura Mowery handles a chick
born at Frying Pan Park in Herndon
at the Easter event at Burke Lake.

OPINION

Legislators: County Has Authority To Ban Loaded Rifles on Road

The following letter to all members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors from members of the General Assembly from Fairfax, urges common sense action on guns; the state legislators say Fairfax County has the authority to ban loaded shotguns and rifles on the roads.

Dear Madam Chairman and Hon. Supervisors: Section 15.2-915.2 of the Code of Virginia gives all local governments in Virginia the authority to ban loaded shotguns and loaded rifles on public highways.

§ 15.2-915.2. Regulation of transportation of a loaded rifle or shotgun.

The governing body of any county or city may by ordinance make it unlawful for any person to transport, possess or carry a loaded shotgun or loaded rifle in any vehicle on any public street, road, or highway within such locality.

A similar ordinance has been enacted in the counties of Fauquier, Loudoun, Madison, Albemarle, Chesterfield, Clarke, James City, King George, New Kent, Northumberland, Surry, Warren and the cities of Alexandria, Fredericksburg, Petersburg, Richmond,

Roanoke, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg.

We, members of the Virginia General Assembly representing Fairfax County, do not believe that there is a need for loaded shotguns or loaded rifles on Fairfax County's public roads. High emotions that come with traffic congestion in our region have led to instances where firearms have been discharged in incidents of road rage. Requiring that shotguns and rifles are not loaded at the beginning of a trip will help to reduce the potential for such split-second, life-changing decisions to occur in a moment of anger. Such an ordinance will also help to protect the driver and passengers, including children, as well as law enforcement from the accidental discharge of one of these weapons. For example, in 2006, Virginia State Trooper Kevin C. Manion was killed after a loaded rifle went off during a wreck cleanup in Clark County.

We recognize that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors considered this issue in 2015.

However given recent events, we believe that it is important at this time for all our localities

to use their existing authority to foster gun safety and protect the driving public.

We hereby ask that you initiate the processes necessary to change Fairfax County's ordinances to prohibit the transportation of loaded shotguns and loaded rifles to the fullest extent possible under Virginia Law.

We look forward to working with you on this important initiative.

Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36)
Sen. Richard Saslaw (D-35)
Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31)
Sen. David Marsden (D-37)
Sen. Jennifer Wexton (D-33)
Sen. George Barker (D-39)
Del. Kaye Kory (D-38)
Del. Mark Keam (D-35)
Del. Rip Sullivan (D-48)
Del. Ken Plum (D-36)
Del. Alfonso Lopez (D-49)
Del. David Bulova (D-37)
Del. Karrie K. Delaney (D-67)
Del. Paul Krizek (D-44)
Del. Jennifer Boysko (D-86)

March for Your Cause

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
 STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

Our Founding Fathers were brilliant individuals. Not only did they craft a new form of government with the United States Constitution, but they established a government of "we the people" leaving behind monarchies and special privileges. While it created "a more perfect union," it included within its structure mechanisms upon which the union could be further perfected.

While it did take a civil war to bring about the most needed reform that had been debated at the Constitutional Convention and not settled but compromised away, many other reforms and perfectations have taken place through constitutional amendments, laws

and judicial decisions.

With the massive changes that have taken place in our nation's history, particularly in civil rights, it is amazing that there have been so few changes to our basic structure of government. Building on the ideals of Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence that all persons have inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, the Constitution and its provisions created a way to realize these goals that ensures America's greatness is not in its past but in its future.

Most often mentioned in the guarantees that propel our country into future greatness are the freedoms of speech, press and religion. Less discussed in the past but now seen as a critically impor-



tant right to maintain our free government is the freedom to assemble. If freedoms are to be maintained in the future, it may be our right to assemble that will ensure it happens.

It is somewhat ironic that at a time

when the internet enables advocacy blitzes to fill the electronic mail boxes of public officials to support a cause that the crowds of people filling the streets in various marches may be our greatest safeguard. Many feel it is not enough to simply send a letter or brochure or give or listen to a speech; we need to visibly show the depth and breadth of our cause by assembling supporters by the thousands in the heat, cold, rain or sunshine.

I participate in marches in our

Nation's Capital as well as our State Capital to show support for equality in our society and for an end to gun violence. I find the marches inspirational because of the worthiness of the cause and the wonderful people I meet who have such strong dedication and conviction that they will take part however inconvenient. If you have not taken part in a march, I encourage you to do so. After all, assembling together to support our rights is part of what the Founding Fathers had in mind when they included the right to assemble in our Bill of Rights. The other important day to be sure to exercise your right to assemble is on election day when you have an opportunity to express your right as a citizen. It amplifies your voice when you assemble with others to vote for the persons who most clearly are representing your views on issues.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Enjoy School Libraries

April is School Library Month and a great time to consider all the amazing things a school library achieves for students and the school community. The American Association of School Librarians has dubbed this year's theme "Making Connections," which is a very appropriate theme. All of

schools in Burke are lucky to have certified librarians, which studies show increase reading test scores, overall higher test scores and encourage a love of reading and learning that continues throughout life.

School libraries have much more than books; most have labs where students create, investigate and collaborate on learning projects. In addition to assisting students, the school librarian is a treasured

resource for all classroom teachers in the school. The connections the school librarian makes, and encourages students to make with learning, their community, the world and reading, impact learners as they go on to become life-long learners and productive members of our community.

You can support the American Association of School Librarians and School Library Month by sharing your connections with your

local school. Offer to be a guest reader or to share how reading or librarians influenced your life and career.

Contact your local school today and connect as school librarians help make connections with students, teachers, community and the world.

Alyssa Lingler
 Burke

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McAuliffe Leads Trump Tax Town Hall Meeting

Panelists offered explanations of how Trump's new tax law will affect Americans.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe headlined a Trump Tax Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, March 27, 2018, in front of George Mason University students with a panel of four local business leaders. The panelists offered explanations of how Trump's new tax law will affect Americans and what they can do about it. McAuliffe, the former Democratic National Committee Chairman, is now a visiting professor at GMU's Schar School for Policy and Government. He also ran Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign.

McAuliffe said it's the consequences of tax cuts that are the most damaging. "It's going to really wreak havoc on health care, wreak havoc on education, going to affect Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security," he said. "This was the worst piece of legislation I have ever seen passed by Congress and signed into law by the President. It is going to cripple our government going down the road. It is going to starve our vital resources and instead of investing in our future, it's going to hurt our future."

He added: "What they (Congress) did was they rushed this at the end of the day in the middle of the night because they had no legislative successes. Trump had been finishing up a year in office with nothing to show for it. So, this was a political play. But I'll make the argument they are going to pay a political price for this."

Kara Kline, president of the George Mason Democrats, who opened the talks, said: "The Trump tax will be a disaster nationwide. The tax plan recently passed by Congress will cut taxes for our country's wealthiest individuals and corporations while simultaneously ignoring those who need help the most."

She continued: "Instead of helping those of us who are trying to afford an education, Congress is looking out for the millionaires and billionaires of this country and that is wrong. This tax plan raises taxes on 100 million American families, which equals more than half of our entire country. Yet, somehow the top 0.1 percent will receive tax cuts of \$150,000 a year, and that doesn't sound fair to me."



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

The panelists for the Trump Tax Town Hall Meeting included (from left): Nicole Gill, Tax March Executive Director; former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe; Muneer Baig, SYSUSA Small Business owner; Anna Chu, National Women's Law Center; and Emanuel Nieves, Prosperity Now Senior Policy Manager.



Former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe



Nicole Gill, moderator and Tax March Executive Director.



Marta Connor of Clifton



Anna Chu, National Women's Law Center



Muneer Baig, SYSUSA Small Business owner



Emmanuel Nieves, Prosperity Now Senior Policy Manager

MODERATOR Nicole Gill, Executive Director of Tax March, said one of the ways the Trump tax harms families is by taking away their health care. She said the Congressional Budget Office estimates that 13 million Americans will lose health care as a result of the tax bill.

Marta Connor of Clifton, whose daughter Caroline, 8, has Rett Syndrome, a neurological condition that requires around-

the-clock care thru Medicaid, added: "She can't walk, talk, or use hands and also has seizures. Her condition requires hours of daily treatments and interventions and costs several hundred thousand dollars per year."

She continued: "The Trump tax bill hurts the Affordable Care Act. The plan was to cut Medicaid to finance the \$1.5 trillion Trump tax bill. So, let me be clear — Republican members of Congress are taking

"This was the worst piece of legislation I have ever seen passed by Congress and signed into law by the President. It is going to cripple our government going down the road."

— Former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe

away my daughter's lifeline in order to give tax cuts to big corporations and millionaires. Now, how is that fair?"

Anna Chu, Vice President for Strategy and Policy for the National Women's Law Center, said that by the year 2027, actually 83 percent of the benefits from this bill would go to the very top earners in the U.S., and at the same time, they're increasing the deficit by \$1.5 trillion.

Calling the bill a "trickle-down nightmare," Chu said: "I'm going to posit that what workers actually need and what families need is a wage increase. Our bills are going up every year. Our rent is going up every year. College tuition is going up. I have a kid and childcare is extremely expensive. And that's going up every single year. So, what we need to feel secure is the promise of a wage increase that we will get year after year after year."

Muneer Baig, SYSUSA Small Business owner, added: "Who is benefiting from this [tax bill]? It's not me. ... The system that we are creating out of this tax bill is not helping the middle class. It's not helping the small businesses. It is slowly killing the middle class and small businesses."

TAKING A QUESTION from the audience on "What specific actions can people do now to change or repeal the Trump tax as it's written?" Emmanuel Nieves, Prosperity Now Senior Policy Manager, said: "Attending events like this is one thing; being parts of organizations like Tax March — like the Trump Tax repeal campaign. Holding your elected officials accountable; going to Town Halls. ... And showing up at the polls in November."

Added Chu: "I think the members of Congress need to hear from us. They need to hear from you that this is an issue that you care about — that you want them to care about. So, call your member of the House; call your Senators to keep on fighting. Keep calling and 'Remember in November.'"



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News



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Canines Trained for Rope Operations

Units from Fire and Rescue Station 14, Burke, A-Shift recently assisted K9 handlers from Virginia Task Force -1 and the Prince William Police Department on a drill regarding rope operations. It is important to expose the canines to heights so that during actual deployments the K9 team is familiar with how to work during this type of operation. All the canines end the training with a fun "find" on the rubble pile.

—TRISH DANULA

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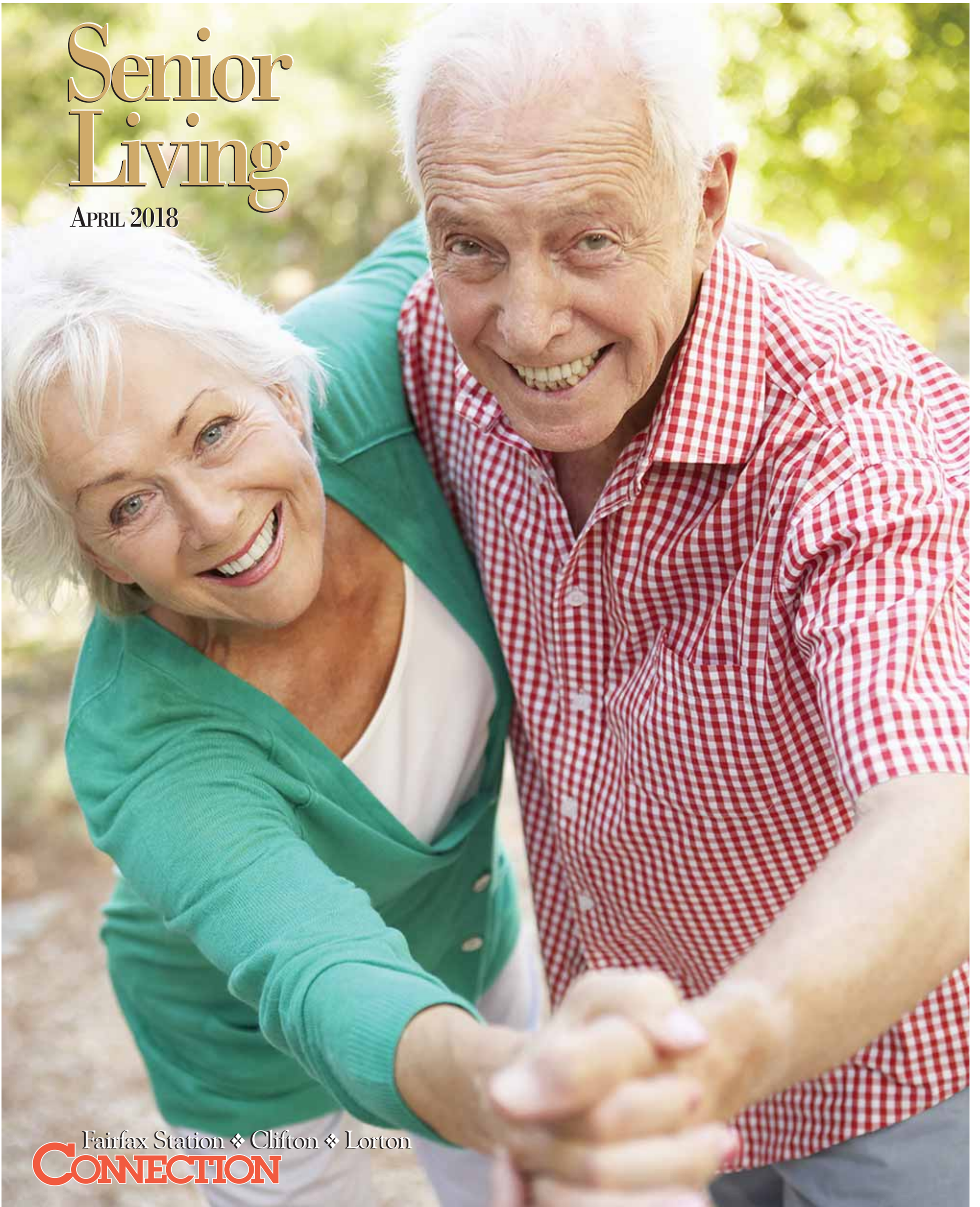
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Senior Living

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Senior Living

Preparing for Senior Olympics Is a Way of Life for Some

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

It may seem like a long time until September when the 36th year of the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NVSO) kicks off.

But not for 83-year-old Chuck Toftoy from Arlington, who often enters 20 events, and says he practices all year long.

Opening ceremonies for this year's events are scheduled for Sept. 15 at 9 a.m. at Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington, and the competition is scheduled to end on Sept. 26.

The NVSO began in 1982 with about 80 people competing; last year there were 752 competitors signed up for one or more of the 70 events offered. The events ranged from tennis, baseball throw, bocce, orienteering, swimming and diving, golf, corn hole toss, volleyball, and pickleball.

Three new sports have been

added to the competition this year including canasta, croquet and beach ball wallyball. Herb Levitan, a member of the NVSO Board, explains beach ball wallyball is like volleyball but played on a racquetball court with a beachball which is bigger and softer than a volleyball. Levitan is currently preparing for the Virginia senior games coming up soon where he swims four freestyle events.

Alease Brooks, 85, has been competing for 14 years and participated in 13 different sports in 2017. But her favorite is pickleball. Her children have bought her T-shirts in different colors for her games and often come to watch her and cheer her on.

Toftoy says this year he plans to reduce the number of sports he enters so that he can concentrate on pickleball since he plans to enter singles, doubles and mixed competition this year.

Last year, 93-year old Henry Coletto from Oakton was one of

19 bocce competitors. But for the last several years he has been guaranteed a win because there was no one else in his age group competing.

Last year's oldest competitor was 101 years old with her sport of choice was duplicate bridge.

Seniors participate for many reasons — some because they like to stay busy and fit, others because they are returning to a high school or college sport, some because they like the community of friends they see every year and others because they still "like to dream big."

This year's games are expected to be held in 29 venues including community centers, parks, high schools and other locations across Northern Virginia.

Registration for this year's NVSO will open June 1. This year NVSO is hoping to bring back the 5k run and looking for an event director for that event. Those interested in volunteering can call 703-403-5360.



Kim Aderman competes in last year's diving match.



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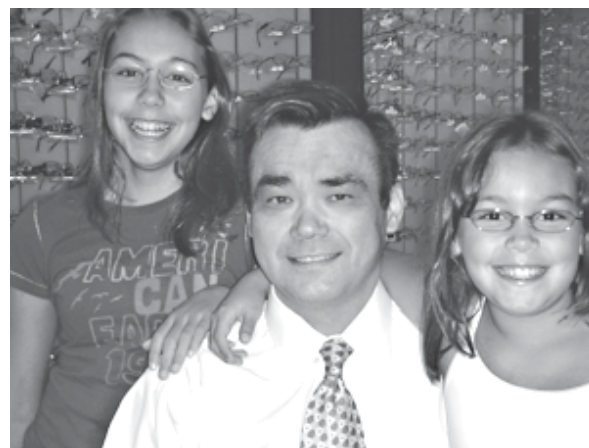


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Senior Living

Senior Citizens Council

The Fairfax County Senior Citizens Council is a countywide network for older adults. It connects all organizations, clubs and associations in Fairfax County that serve the needs and interests of older adults and expands opportunities for engagement and information sharing to help older adults throughout the county have broader access to all that life in Fairfax has to offer.

It doesn't matter whether you're a government agency, non-profit organization, a church group or even a social club, the Senior Citizens Council is for all organizations serving older adults in Fairfax County!

Organizations simply select one of their participants to serve as their representative on the council to collect and share information to bring back to their organization.

The Senior Citizens Council meets on a monthly basis in each of the four Human Services Regions. Meetings feature keynote speakers on a variety of topics

of interest to the council such as everyday living, health and wellness, transportation and others.

Council meetings also provide an opportunity for participating organizations to share information about their activities and events with other local groups.

In addition, the council also sponsors three highly popular countywide events each year:

❖ The Older Adults Volunteer Recognition Luncheon recognizes the outstanding work of senior volunteers throughout the county. The event is held annually in May.

❖ The Kick-Off Breakfast is held each September. It's a great opportunity to reconnect over a wonderful catered breakfast after the summer.

❖ The Holiday Luncheon is the council's annual holiday celebration with food, entertainment and fun. Held each December, participants have all of the same networking and sharing opportunities with a little something extra for the holidays.

Virginia Historic Garden Tour

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, April 24, 2018, as the Garden Club of Fairfax invites you to this year's Historic Garden Week Tour in Great Falls, McLean and Vienna.

Experience 250 years of history in the once agricultural hills of northern Fairfax County. Near the village of Great Falls is the William Gunnell home built in 1750 as a hunting lodge for Lord Fairfax.

Advance Tickets: \$40 per person www.vagardenweek.org or by mail before April 17. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope and check made out to The Garden Club of Fairfax to Marty Whipple, 11508 Yates Ford Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039. (703) 978-4130 or Fairfax@vagardenweek.org for questions. \$50 day of tour.

This tour will be one of thirty statewide tours held April 21-28, 2018 featuring nearly 200 of Virginia's most picturesque gardens and private homes. Proceeds from this celebrated event fund the restoration and preservation of more than 40 of Virginia's historic public gardens and landscapes, a research fellowship program, and a new partnership with the Virginia State Parks.



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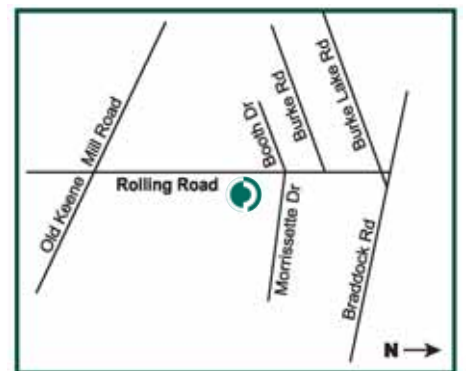
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Senior Living Calendar

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

FRIDAY/APRIL 6

Coffee Social at Tallwood, Osher Lifelong Learning Center. at 10 a.m. at Tallwood Campus, 4210 Roberts Road, Fairfax. Welcome new members, make new friends and kick-off spring term in Fairfax with coffee, refreshments and friendly conversation. The event will include a quick presentation. For more information or to register, visit bit.ly/2H8AZy1

FRIDAY & MONDAY/APRIL 6 & 9

AARP Smart Drivers Classes. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Oakton United Methodist Church, 2951 Chain Bridge Road, Oakton. A refresher course for drivers age 50 and older. \$15 AARP members, \$20 for non-members payable on the first day of class. Visit www.scov.org/files/2018_04_aarp_smart_driver_flyer.pdf. Call instructor David Young to register at 703-591-1847.

SATURDAY/APRIL 7

Living with Alzheimer's: For Middle-Stage Caregivers. 10 a.m.-noon at Ravensworth Baptist Church, 5100 Ravensworth Road, Annandale. Part one of three-part series. Join the Alzheimer's Association for this free three-part series and hear caregivers and professionals discuss helpful strategies to provide safe, effective and comfortable care in the middle stage of Alzheimer's. For more information and to register, call 800-272-3900.

MONDAYS/APRIL 9-MAY 14

Adventures 'N Learning. 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Join the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax every Monday for 6 weeks. Start with gentle exercise, followed by speakers on topics such as health, history, community, personal development, finance, and more. Afternoon breakouts are book club, bridge or canasta. Bring a brown bag lunch. \$30. Register at 703-426-2824, or visit www.scfbva.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 10

Dementia Caregiver Support Groups. Noon-1:30 p.m. Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke sponsors a monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for caregivers to learn and to share with others experiencing similar challenges. Before attending, contact the facilitator, Eileen Thompson at 703-451-8626 or Eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 12

Adventures in Learning Open House. 10 a.m.-noon at UUCF, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Bounce into Spring with a new revved up brain. Cost is \$45. Classes begin April 19-June 14 (no class May 3). Visit www.scov.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 14

Community Shredding Event. 8 a.m.-noon at I-95 Landfill, 9850 Furnace Road, Lorton. Shred event is open to Fairfax County residents along with residents of the towns and cities. Documents from businesses will not be accepted. All cars must be in line by noon. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/secure-document-shredding-event.

Living with Alzheimer's: For Middle-Stage Caregivers. 10 a.m.-noon at Ravensworth Baptist Church, 5100 Ravensworth Road, Annandale. Part two of three-part series. Join the Alzheimer's Association for this free three-part series and hear caregivers and

professionals discuss helpful strategies to provide safe, effective and comfortable care in the middle stage of Alzheimer's. For more information and to register, call 800-272-3900.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 18

Legal and Financial Considerations for Dementia. 1-3 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Many people are unprepared to deal with the legal and financial consequences of dementia. Learn about legal documents, resources to help cover future care costs, and where to turn for assistance. Contact Lindsey Vajpeyi, lindsey.vajpeyi@insightmcc.org, 703-204-4664 or visit InsightMCC.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 19

"Behind My Wings." 7:30 p.m. at Amphora Restaurant, 377 Maple Ave. West, Vienna. Sponsored by Chapter 227 Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. BJ Elliott will discuss her stewardess service on commercial flights (aka Freedom Bird) that transported troops to and from Vietnam. Free. Call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or visit the web page at www.vva227.org.

Caregivers Support Group. 10-11:30 a.m. at UUCF Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. For caregivers to adult family members with dementia. First and third Thursdays of every month. Hosted by Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, scov.org. Contact facilitator Jack Tarr at 703-821-6838 or jtarr5@verizon.net.

FRIDAY/APRIL 20

Ms. Virginia Senior America Pageant Orientation. Meeting held in Falls Church. Free orientation for senior women interested in joining the program. Presentation will explain how to enroll and prepare for the pageant. The pageant will be held in Falls Church on July 7, 2018. Contact Rebecca Tebbs Nunn at 804-435-3704.

TUESDAY/APRIL 24

Home & Garden Tour. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tour four homes and gardens in Great Falls, Vienna and McLean - from a "quilt garden" at a 1750 home to a garden and cottage designed for retirement. Advance tickets are \$40 by April 17; tickets on day of tour are \$50 at Meadowlark Gardens. Tickets sold at four homes and the Great Falls Library. Contact Garden Club of Fairfax at fairfax@vagardenweek.org. Visit www.vagardenweek.org.

Social Security - Know Your Options to Maximize Your Benefits. 12:30-2 p.m. at 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Learn strategies that you can use to potentially maximize your benefit. Presented by Sarah Graham. One lesson for 1 hour, 30 minutes. Cost is \$7/\$5 MCC district residents.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 25

A Matter of Balance. 10 a.m.-noon at Oakton Church of the Brethren, Fellowship Hall, 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. An award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels. Meets for eight weeks. Free. Class size limited to 14 participants. To register, contact Casey Tarr at 703-850-4131 or eileentarr1@verizon.

Senior Movie Day. 10 a.m. at Bow Tie Cinemas, Reston Town Center, Reston. Featured movie is "Murder on the Orient Express." Refreshments and door prizes provided prior to movie. Free to 55-plus. Email: Ashleigh@reston.org; call 703-435-6577 or visit www.reston.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 28

Scam Jam and Shred Event. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Fairfax County Government

Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Free fraud fighting event. AARP Virginia and Fairfax County Government's Silver Shield task force are bringing together top experts and law enforcement officials to present at a free informational Scam Jam. Shred truck will be on-site from 8 a.m.-noon. Documents will be shredded on-site free of charge. No quantity limit. No plastics or electronics. Light refreshments and lunch will be served. Registration is required at aarp.cvent.com/OSSFairfax or call 1-877-926-8300.

Living with Alzheimer's: For Middle-Stage Caregivers. 10 a.m.-noon at Ravensworth Baptist Church, 5100 Ravensworth Road, Annandale. Part three of three-part series. Join the Alzheimer's Association for this free three-part series and hear caregivers and professionals discuss helpful strategies to provide safe, effective and comfortable care in the middle stage of Alzheimer's. For more information and to register, call 800-272-3900.

Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at all Fairfax County Police Stations. Drop off medications (pills or liquids only). Disposal is free, convenient, confidential, and safe handling of unused or expired medications. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/community-services-board/.

ONGOING

Burke Lake Seniors Golf League seeks members. Interested golfers are invited to join the Burke Lake Seniors Golf League. Must be 55 and older, enjoy playing golf, meeting new people and having an all-around good time. Reserved tee times on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Par 3 Burke Lake Golf Course on Ox Road. Annual dues for the season - April 1 through October 31 - are \$20 plus green fees. Call Charlie Ryan 703-690-4227.

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke sponsors a monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, noon-1:30 p.m., for caregivers to learn and to share with others experiencing similar challenges. Before attending, contact the facilitator, Eileen Thompson at 703-451-8626 or eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Volunteers Needed. PRS is looking for empathetic and caring volunteers to make phone calls to older adults who may be feeling socially isolated. The commitment is one 3-hour shift per week for one year. Located in Arlington. Ages 21 & up. Intensive training provided. Learn more and apply: prsinc.org/caring-volunteering/. Questions? Email lpadgett@prsinc.org.

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/lcombudsman/

Fairfax County needs volunteers to **drive older adults** to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Senior Living Senior Centers Without Walls

The Senior Center Without Walls program in Fairfax County is a public/private partnership that brings local government together with residents, businesses and houses of worship to provide all the benefits in programming and activities for older adults in communities where a senior center facility is not located. The Senior Center Without Walls program currently serves older adults in the Burke/West Springfield and Great Falls communities.

Each Senior Center Without Walls program is a community/volunteer-run program with support from the Neighborhood and Community Services.

Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls

- ❖ Programming focuses primarily on exercise and fitness for older adults, including Tai Chi and Zumba classes.

- ❖ For information about registration and programming, call 703-250-9181, TTY 711 or Email burkewestspringfieldcwow@fairfaxcounty.gov

@fairfaxcounty.gov.

- ❖ For activity details and schedules, visit the community-based website at www.scwow.org.

Great Falls Senior Center Without Walls

- ❖ Programming focuses primarily on social gatherings and continuing education for older adults, including technology workshops, trips, current events discussions and guest speakers/lecturers on a variety of topics.

- ❖ For information about registration and programming, please call 703-787-4962, TTY 711.

- ❖ For activity details and schedules, visit the community-based website at www.gfseniors.org.

If you are interested in volunteering to support the Senior Centers Without Walls program, please contact us:

- ❖ Burke/West Springfield Center Without Walls: Call 703-250-9181, TTY 711; or Email us at burkewestspringfieldcwow@fairfaxcounty.gov

- ❖ Great Falls Senior Center Without Walls: Call 703-787-4962, TTY 711

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Saturday, April 7, 12-4pm in Arlington

Come see how redesigning existing and adding space created better function, flow, and light in these homes. Showcasing both a kitchen addition with master bath to age in place and a MAIN-LEVEL transformation, this is a remodeled home tour you can't miss!



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Group Lunches at Senior Centers

Senior Centers offer prepared lunches for participants and guests. Reservations must be made at least one day in advance at the center where you want to be served. The cost of lunch for all guests and for participants ages 50 to 59 is \$8.50 per meal. The suggested meal donation (between \$2 and \$6) for participants ages 60 and over is based on a sliding scale depending on individual income

SENIOR CENTER LOCATIONS

Herndon Senior Center

Address: 873 Grace Street, Herndon, VA 20170
Phone: 703-464-6200, TTY 711
Operating Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 AM to 8 PM; Friday and Saturday, 9 AM to 4 PM

Hollin Hall Senior Center

Address: 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria, VA 22308
Phone: 703-765-4573, TTY 711
Operating Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM

James Lee Senior Center

Address: 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church, VA 22041
Phone: 703-534-3387, TTY 711

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM

Kingstowne Center for Active Adults
Address: 6488 Landsdowne Center, Alexandria, VA 22315

Phone: 703-339-7676, TTY 711
Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM

Lewinsville Senior Center
(temporarily relocated to Lewinsville

Retirement Residences - see <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/lewinville-senior-center> for details
1515 Great Falls Street, McLean, VA 22101

Phone: 703-442-9075, TTY 711

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM

Lincolnia Senior Center

Address: 4710 North Chambliss Street, Alexandria, VA 22312
Phone: 703-914-0330, TTY 711

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM

Little River Glen Senior Center

Address: 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax, VA 22032
Phone: 703-503-8703, TTY 711

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 to 4 PM

Lorton Senior Center

Address: 7722 Gunston Plaza, Lorton, VA 22079
Phone: 703-550-7195, TTY 711

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 to 4 PM

Pimmit Hills Senior Center

Address: 7510 Lisle Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22043
Phone: 703-734-3338, TTY 711

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM

Providence Senior Center

Address: 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax VA 22031
Phone: 703-865-0520, TTY 711

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM

South County Senior Center

Address: 8350 Richmond Highway, Suite 325, Alexandria, VA 22309
Phone: 703-704-6216, TTY 711

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM

Sully Senior Center

Address: 14426 Albemarle Point Place, Chantilly, VA 20151
Phone: 703-322-4475, TTY 711

Operating Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM

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Master Suite Enables Aging-in-Place

Solution addresses long-term needs arising from spouse's health.

BY JOHN BYRD

Fred and Liz Saalfeld had occupied their four-bedroom 2,800-square-foot Colonial in Springfield for nearly five decades when the unexpected caused them to reconsider basic housing needs. Without warning, Liz Saalfeld suffered a heart attack. Her mobility — previously hampered by arthritis — now became seriously compromised.

Looking ahead, a wheelchair-access plan also now seemed prudent to Fred Saalfeld, who increasingly relied a pair of canes to get around.

The proposed retrofit was a tall order, however. The master bedroom was on the second floor; the laundry room in the basement. There was an open carport, but no extra storage space. The master bathroom was just too narrow for a wheelchair — assuming there was a way to mount the stairs.

Equally relevant, the home's surrounding landscaping was undeveloped, with a steep hill in the backyard. There were places to sit, but no quiet places to stretch out and relax.

Acting decisively, Saalfeld sought fresh ideas from local remodelers — eventually deciding on Michael Nash Kitchens and Homes who had previously remodeled his kitchen.

"Michael Nash was very responsive to our needs, and really understood Aging-In-Place considerations," Saalfeld said.

Part of that responsiveness arose from Sonny Nazemian, Michael Nash's founder and president, and a Universal Design Certified Remodeler (UDCR), who commenced drafting design ideas with the Saalfelds on the first meeting.

"Aging-in-place (AIP) is becoming one of the high-demand remodeling services segments," Nazemian said. "But it's a specialty area — and requires staying on top of ever-evolving ADA (American with Disabilities Act) regulations, and strict building codes."

From the first, Nazemian pictured an addition extending from the rear elevation. The Saalfeld would gain expanded sleeping quarters and each spouse would have their own walk-in closet. A wheelchair-friendly bathroom replete with in-shower bench, grab bars and hand-held body spray nozzles would be specially designed. The laundry room would be moved to the



The Saalfelds added a wheelchair friendly master suite to the four bedroom colonial they had occupied for over 50 years. The 1,200-square-foot addition extends from the old rear elevation into a formerly hilly backyard. The new addition includes a laundry, a spacious ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) master suite with "his" and "her" wardrobe closets. The French doors access a flagstone patio, and newly landscaped grounds surrounded by a privacy fence. The addition also has a dedicated HVAC system

first floor

At 1,200 square feet, the new master suite addition features a 14-foot cathedral ceiling and double French doors that segue to a flagstone patio. To create the needed 28' x 42' footprint, Nazemian excavated down three feet from the existing surface, removed six metric tons of earth and — to achieve the necessary compaction — planted a grove of Tock's shrubbery.

To control water runoff, designers introduced a French drain and swell linked to an infiltration trench.

With the foundation issues resolved, attention turned to the new addition's space plan and design. Exterior brick cladding was matched to the home's original masonry

creating a seamless enlargement of the existing house. Interior floors were, likewise, milled and finished to blend with the hardwood floors in the existing structure.

"The interior style is very consistent throughout," Saalfeld said. "It's very much one house."

To ensure natural light and comfort, Nazemian specified low-E, double Argon-filled glass for all windows including a pair of double French doors that lead to the patio. A smaller louvered door was created for the family's Irish setter who exercises in a side yard.

A new split-system HVAC unit was installed to provide the new addition with dedicated heat and air control. The solution proved to be a money-saver, since it concentrates temperature requirements



The shower is equipped with grab bars, a bench and hand-held nozzles — all of which Fred Saalfeld uses in his daily bathing routine.

in rooms where the couple spend most of their time.

The master bathroom (at 200 square feet) is a masterpiece of efficiency and warmth. The door from the bedroom is 32" wide with the 90 degree swing radius required by the ADA-regulations — yet the interior design is soft and earthy, porcelain tiling offset by walnut cabinet facings and a granite-topped vanity.

Best yet, a series of well-defined walkways link garden focal points with a mid-yard gazebo. Surrounded by a privacy fence, the grounds are a nicely protected Eden, perfect for quiet enjoyment.

For more information, call 703-641-9800 or visit MichaelNashKitchens.com

John Byrd has been writing about home improvement for 30 years. He can be reached at 703-715-8006, www.HomeFrontsNews.com or byrdmatx@gmail.com. Send photos of interesting remodeling projects to: b2b@homefrontsnews.com.



With a pair of walk-in wardrobe closets on the left, and access to a first level laundry and master bedroom on the right, the access corridor from the main house is spacious. The French doors open into the dining room. Michael Nash matched the original hardwood flooring to create a seamless unity between the old house and the new addition.



The louvered door on the right is for the family's Irish setter, who exercises in the side yard. All doors are at least 32 inches wide and have a 90 degree clearing width.

The Burke Lake Train Station is packed for Easter fun.

PHOTOS BY
MIKE SALMON/
THE CONNECTION



Easter Bunny Mania Takes over at Burke Lake

Sunny Saturday brings out the springtime fun.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The train station at Burke Lake Park was the place to be on Saturday, March 31, as Kevin Bajlanpour took his place on the engine of the "C.P. Huntington," a 1/3 size replica of an 1863 train. All seats were filled with children and parents enjoying a pre-Easter ride.

"Learning the track, that's the trick," said Bajlanpour. He was referring to the hills and curves on the course at Burke Lake.

Rachel Torcivia waved at her nieces as they pulled out of the station.

"They've been talking about the Easter Bunny the last three days," she said.

The event at Burke Lake had train rides, a bunny photo booth, merry-go-round and egg dying to celebrate the holiday. Certain booths highlighted animals from the area, including a garter snake that



The Easter magician performs card tricks.

can be found at Burke Lake during the warmer months. Max Galuten, 4, eyed one in an aquarium with his father Alex. "He likes it if it's inside the box," his father said.

Farming was the topic in the Frying Pan Park tent, where Laura Mowery was handling the chicks they had raised from Frying Pan, which is located in Herndon. "We promote education about agricultural programs, present and past," she said. Frying Pan Park has a farm that's fashioned from a depression-era farm of the 1930s to teach what farming was like back then. Around here, farming is becoming scarce with the development and scarcity of open space.

"It's a dying art," Mowery said.



Brooklyn Rains and Maggie Deboard, therapeutic recreation majors from George Mason University, hand out bunny ears to all that want to wear them.

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CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Art Exhibit: Pulp Fiction. Through April 29, 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/.

Art Exhibit: This and That. Through May 7, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily at The Artists' Undertaking Gallery, 309 Mill St. in Historic Occoquan. "This and That." an art features copper work by Anne Jordan of Fairfax; oil paintings by Steve Myles of Reston; and turned wood by Greg Wandless of Fairfax. Meet the artists, Saturday, April 14, 1-5 p.m. Call 703-494-0584 or visit www.theartistsundertaking.com.

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/.

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

FRIDAY/APRIL 6

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 or call 703-273-3638 for more.

APRIL 6-21

"The Front Page." Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at The James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Set in a Chicago press room in the 1920s, reporter Hildy Johnson wants to break away from journalism and get married. All that changes when an escaped convict, Earl Williams, breaks out of jail and suddenly falls into the reporter's hands. Fast-paced and filled with crisp dialog and sharp humor, this classic comedy packs a wallop of nostalgic Americana. Visit www.providenceplayers.org for tickets.

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 cefrabee@verizon.net.

Spring Cleaning in the Parks. 9-11:30 a.m. at 10 different Fairfax County parks: Cub Run REC, Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Hidden Oaks Nature Center at Roundtree

Park, Hidden Pond Nature Center, Huntley Meadows Park, Lake Accotink Park, Lake Fairfax Park, Riverbend Park, Scott's Run Nature Preserve, and Sully Historic Site. More than 750 volunteers will join the Fairfax County Park Authority and The Nature Conservancy for annual "spring cleaning" efforts to kickoff Earth Month. The volunteers will remove trash and debris, while also assisting scientists and conservationists by recording data about what they remove. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/.

Fairfax City Fishing Derby. 9:30, 10:15 and 11 a.m. at Ashby Pond Conservation, 9817 Ashby Road, Fairfax. Bring a fishing rod, bucket, plastic bag and ice. A limited quantity of fishing rods will be on site to borrow. Bait will be supplied. \$5 per participant. Pre-registration required at www.fairfaxva.gov/specialevents or in person at Sherwood Center, Green Acres Center and City Hall P&R Office. For more information email parksrec@fairfaxva.gov.

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 personal development training sessions and workshops. Keynote address "Trauma to Resiliency: Building Stronger Families and Communities." will be presented by Dr. Elizabeth Meeker. To register for this event, visit www.FormedFamiliesForward.org or call 703-539-2904.

Rose Care Seminar. 10 a.m.-noon at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Award-winning Consulting Rosarian Pam Powers shares the basics about rose selection, how to plant and grow beautiful blooms from May to November. Free. Light refreshments. Door prizes. Hosted by Arlington Rose Foundation. Call 703-371-9351 for more.

Mosaic Harmony Community Concert. 7 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Includes selections from Mosaic Harmony, World Children's Choir and The Washington International Chorus. Tickets \$18/adults; \$12/children. Visit mosaicharmony.org.

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, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

Rock Creek Trio Concert. 4-5 p.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Enjoy a violin, cello, and piano trio playing dramatic and colorful music by Beethoven and Ravel. Reception to follow. Childcare provided. Free admission. Call 703-455-2500 or visit www.standrews.net.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 12-15

"Follow Your Heart." At EagleBank Arena, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Disney On Ice presents "Follow Your Heart" is an ice skating extravaganza featuring Disney-Pixar's Finding Dory, Disney-Pixar's Inside Out, Disney's Frozen and other beloved Disney stories. Tickets start at \$15. All seats are reserved, and tickets are available at 800-745-3000, www.ticketmaster.com.

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News



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY JOYCE N. BOGHOSIAN

President Donald J. Trump, First Lady Melania Trump and Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar pose for photos with dancers from the McGrath Academy of Irish Dance in the Blue Room at the White House, Thursday, March 15, 2018, in Washington, D.C.

Local Irish Dancers Perform at the White House, Kennedy Center

Local Irish Dancers kick it up at The White House and The Kennedy Center in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. As the President's guests entered the East Wing of The White House, Irish melodies echoed throughout the hall while rhythmic sounds of multiple shoes hitting the stage at precisely the same time, multiple times per second, greeted them. Dancers performed for members of the President's Cabinet such as Housing and Urban Development Secretary, Ben Carson. They posed for photos with White House Chief of Staff, General Kelly and with the President and First Lady, the Vice President and Mrs. Pence and the Prime Minister of Ireland Leo Varadkar. After having their picture taken, the President spontaneously asked if there was something they could show him. The dancers responded with a short treble reel step that ended up on the President's tweet. Dinner in the state dining room was enjoyed by these lucky dancers as they listened to the President's remarks and witnessed the annual Shamrock Ceremony.

With little time to rest, the following week dancers taught a basic Irish Step Dance master class followed by a performance on the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage which was live streamed and saw over 14,000 views. Dancers from West Springfield High School, Sangster Elementary and South County High School, to name a few, returned to the Kennedy Center after dancing at their 100 Year Ireland Celebration a few years ago and were able to share their



COURTESY PHOTO

Dancers from the McGrath Academy of Irish Dance pictured at the Kennedy Center.

love for Irish Dance by welcoming both children and adults on stage and teaching them the steps to a simple reel. Class was followed by an energetic and entertaining performance which can be viewed online at the Kennedy Center website. Dancers from the McGrath school compete in Regional, National, and World Level Competitions and perform at venues such as Union Station, hotels, weddings, pubs at National Harbor and in Fairfax and Georgetown, multiple parades, festivals, schools, senior centers and television. Classes are offered in Falls Church, Fairfax, Manassas and other locations throughout Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland. For more information, visit our <http://mcgrathirishdance.com/>

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BULLETIN

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

PARENTS HELPING PARENTS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

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.

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/APRIL 5

Autism 101: An Introduction to Understanding Autism. 10-11:30 a.m. at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. Join the **Autism Society of Northern Virginia** to learn accurate, important, basic information at this workshop highlighting Autism Acceptance Month. Open to all who want to learn more about autism. Visit www.fcps.edu/node/28279.

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.

APRIL 5-MAY 24

Neighborhood College Returns. The eight-week course teaches how the county works and how you can make it work for your community. Course sessions include "Code Compliance and Zoning," "Family Services and Mental Health," "Police and Emergency Management," "Storm Water Management and Solid Waste Management." Opportunity to ask County staff questions and hear how they make our county run. Classes will be held Thursday evenings at a location to be determined. Contact Ann Sharp at 703-425-9300 or ann.sharp@fairfaxcounty.gov to register.

FRIDAY/APRIL 6

Strategies to Support Elementary School Students. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. A Closer Look at Stress and Anxiety: Strategies to Support Elementary School Students will explore strategies and resources to support children experiencing stress and anxiety in elementary school. Highlights will include recognizing and validating a child's worry, managing anxiety in the school setting, helping a child remain calm, and using stress reduction tools. Visit www.fcps.edu/node/28279.

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Label Me Presumptuous



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I have not been collecting return-address labels for years. I have however, been receiving them for years. Either as thank you's for charitable contributions made or as inducements for charitable contributions yet to be made. Regardless of the reason, I have had an ample supply until recently. And they have served me well as both a reminder of what I have and have not done. And over time, they have most definitely served their purpose. Amazingly though, the pages of return-address labels in inventory has been shrinking of late. Due to some combination of my lack of charitableness as well as a reduction in the numbers of unsolicited charitable quid pro quos (there may be a relationship there).

Let me be clear: I am under no delusion or pressure to respond to these letters/requests for money. Just because I receive them doesn't mean I must adhere to them. They're hardly a subpoena nor are they payment for services rendered. They are merely a pre-approach-type solicitation mailed to me at my home offering goods (the labels) for services (my contribution) not yet rendered. Opening an envelope and reading its contents doesn't make me a partner in their pursuit of my dollars.

But what exactly is the protocol here? Certainly I can understand keeping and/or using the return-address labels if I make a contribution, but what if I don't make a contribution? Do I have to throw these perfectly good return-address labels away? Don't some of these labels, by their design/content – and ultimately by their use by yours truly, indirectly support the original sender's cause? Isn't their use some kind of tacit paying-it-forward-type approval/contribution on my part? I realize money and/or in-kind contributions likely help more, but is there use by a non-contributor not abuse at all? After all, I'm sort of passing the word/keeping their chain going, aren't I?

If all is fair in love and war, certainly there's a little wiggle room in the world of mailing unsolicited inducements to unsuspecting recipients? I mean, I'm not asking for trouble here, am I? I'm merely asking for some understanding and clarification. If what was sent to me – not at my request and not as part of a phone conversation securing a commitment, was not my doing, then why am I responsible for it being done?

Obviously the labels are a convenience for me, and that is worth some amount of money and time that now I'm not having to spend. Still, it feels like an intrusion of sorts, a method to their madness – presumably, but to me a presumption, nevertheless. And that's just a few letters away from an assumption, and you all know what is said about assuming?

I suppose if you cast a wide enough net you're going to catch a few contributors who don't find anything fishy about this direct mail process and who feel compelled to respond favorably – so to speak, because a good deed has been for them. And if a good deed (or a "solid," to quote Detective Andy Sipowicz/Dennis Franz from NYPD Blue) deserves another then contributions will be made and address labels will be affixed.

But after years of receiving these return-address-labels-masquerading-as-solicitations-for-contributions – to a variety of charities, some more well known than others, I don't feel the least bit stuck in my decision to use these return address labels as I see fit. In a way, I am the beneficiary of their largess and in turn, they are the beneficiary of my non-cash contribution. It's sort of a win-win. But I don't suppose that was their intention. I suppose they wanted more, not less.

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



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