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Fairfax Station CONNECTION Clifton & Lorton

Volunteers Lydia Shibru and Mahi Shibru hand out food at the LCAC Food Pantry during Saturday's Hope and Health Festival, sponsored by Lorton Community Action Center, South County Church and the Lorton Community Library.

Hope and Health Festival in Lorton

NEWS, PAGE 4

South County Pitcher Martin Shuts Down Lake Braddock

SPORTS, PAGE 11

Lorton Community Center Jumps a Hurdle

NEWS, PAGE 2

HomeLifeStyle

PAGE 9






Saturday & Sunday, June 2-3



- Springfield 5K & Fun Run
- Craft & Fun Fair
 - Car Show
 - Taste of Springfield
 - Book Sale
 - Cardboard Boat Regatta

For a full list of 2018 events visit SpringfieldDays.com




STAYING SAFE TOGETHER

May 18 is Bike to Work Day.
Here are some safety tips to remember.





Sharrows indicate a shared lane for bicycles and cars. Slow down and watch for bicyclists. Motorists may cross the double yellow line to pass when it is safe to do so.



Bike lanes give bicycles their own space, making it safer to pass. Do not drive or park in a bike lane.



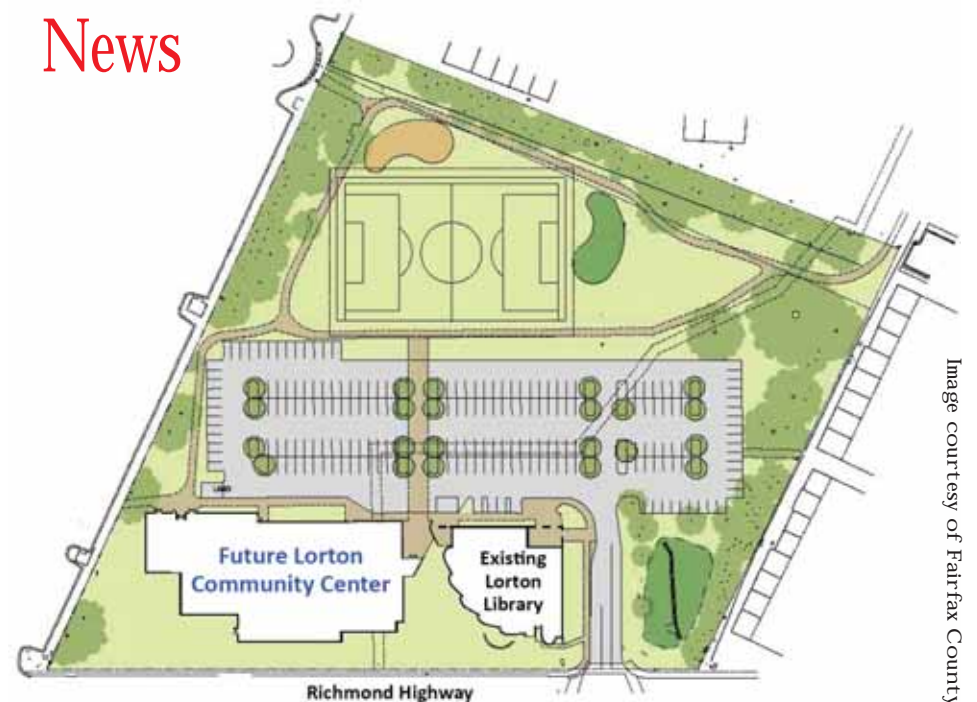
When turning right in a car, merge into the dashed bike lane and turn at the curb. Do not merge across solid bike lane.

Join us for the National Bike Challenge - May 1-31
Bike to Work Day - May 18
fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/bike-walk





News



The Lorton Community Center plans unfolded as a tool for the community.

Lorton Community Center Jumps a Planned Hurdle

Public meeting is part of the process.

By Mike Salmon
The Connection

The public met with officials on Thursday, May 3, to go over plans for a new Lorton Community Center on a spot next to the existing Lorton Community Library along Richmond Highway. The proposed community center, which will include activity rooms and meeting spaces, will bring Lorton one step closer to being a suburban community instead of farmland, rolling hills and a place that used to be associated with a Federal prison that occupied much of the land.

Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mt. Vernon) was at the meeting and looks at the community center as a positive feature for the many school-age children and teenagers that live in Lorton.

"We have kids that need things to do, the recreation center is really our opportunity to provide some for the southern part of Lorton," Storck said.

Over the past several years, the northern section of Lorton on the western side of I-95 has gotten a new school, roads and a fire station, but there have not been many county improvements along Richmond Highway east of I-95. In the area where the

recreation center will be.

Trees will have to come down and land leveled, as typical with most projects, and Storck knows this loss of open space doesn't sit well with everyone. "When they look out the window, it will be a little different," he said. But, of the 150 people at the meeting, 75 percent were in favor of the center. "This location will provide a broad array of services, programs and activities for individuals of all ages and abilities throughout these communities," read the description on the website.

Plans call for a single-story building with gymnasium with a total of approximately 30,000 square feet. The facility will include space for the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) as the Murphey House and trailer currently used by the LCAC will be removed from the site. When complete, the facility will also serve as the new home of the Lorton Senior Center (currently operating in leased space).

Project Timeline

- ❖ Summer 2017 - Spring 2019: Design/Zoning/Permits
- ❖ Summer 2019: Bid the Project
- ❖ Fall 2019: Begin Construction
- ❖ (Anticipated) Early 2022: Occupancy

Area Roundups

Lorton Man Dies in I-395 Crash

At 2:23 p.m., Tuesday, May 8, Virginia State Police responded to the scene of a crash in the southbound lanes of I-395, just north of I-495.

According to police report, an Infiniti sedan was traveling south on I-395 when its driver experienced a medical emergency. The Infiniti struck a southbound 2015 GMC Sierra pickup truck, ran off the road, struck the Jersey wall and then struck a southbound 2004 Chevrolet truck.

A passing citizen began administering CPR on the driver of the Infiniti, Kevin L. Brooks, 44, of Lorton. Despite the immediate, life-saving efforts of the citizen and Fairfax County Fire & EMS, Brooks died at Fairfax Inova Hospital.

None of the other drivers was injured in the crash.

Local Students Join Gun Safety Town Hall

Much unity, some dissention as community discusses the issue.

Andrea Worker
The Connection

U.S. Rep. Gerald E. Connolly's Town Hall meeting at the Providence Community Center on Tuesday evening, May 1, represented a departure from most public forums.

To begin with, the format wasn't the traditional politician updating his constituents, responding to their questions and feedback, then making the rounds and shaking hands. Instead, the congressman shared the speaker's table with four high school students who he credited with "bringing us together this evening for a community discussion on gun safety."

Since the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. on Feb. 14 that left 17 dead and more wounded, students across the nation have organized rallies, school walkouts and marches. They have been demanding gun regulations, other changes in law enforcement and communications, and more resources for mental health awareness and treatment. Groups have formed under banners such as "Enough is Enough," "March for Our Lives," and "Never Again."

"We are more than an interest club. We will push for action," said panelist Michael McCabe, a sophomore at Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax.

In recent weeks, McCabe and many other young activists started contacting their elected officials, asking to be heard. Connolly's office received its fair share of those communications.

"This is really their Town Hall," Connolly said in his opening remarks, adding that he sees real momentum coming from the student movement. "I think it is with their voices, their passion, that we will finally get something done."

Three of the four panelists belong to the group Students Demand Action (SDA) at their respective schools, and the fourth is the president of Youth Initiative for National Action. They were there to pursue "common sense gun legislation."

Ella Wogaman represented the West Springfield High School chapter of Students Demand Action. She is also the social media correspondent for the regional SDA chapter.

"A few months ago, we had a handful of members. I think we just hit 400," Wogaman said. The West Springfield senior says that she and many others are focusing efforts on voter registration and getting people, especially first-time voters to the polls, as the way to "really find our voice and get our issues addressed."

Langston Carter, a home-schooled senior from Woodbridge who has attended public schools, spoke from the viewpoint of students of color.



Local student activists called for a meeting with their congressman, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), who responded with a Town Hall event. Flanking Connolly are, left, Ryan Carney, Madison High School junior, and Michael McCabe, Robinson Secondary School sophomore. On right are Ella Wogaman, West Springfield High School senior and Langston Carter, senior from Woodbridge.

Carter cited studies that show people of color, particularly young African-American males, are significantly more likely to be the victims of gun violence. The mission of Carter's organization is to "encourage the next generation to take action against bigotry and other issues ... to work with political leaders to make a difference."

Ryan Carney highlighted some of the actions that the members of his SDA chapter are taking.

"We've been getting together, organizing phone banks, writing letters, getting the word out wherever we can," said the James Madison High School junior.

It's also no secret where Connolly stands on the issue of gun safety — right alongside them. An active member of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, he says he's proud of the "F" grade he earns each year from the National Rifle Association (NRA), whose headquarters are located in his congressional district. Aside from attending vigils on the NRA's doorstep, recently for Parkland, and annually on the anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre, Connolly attributes his status with the organization to the numerous gun safety laws he has proposed or supported over the years. He also took aim at his "friends across



The Fairfax Council of PTAs, represented by president Beth Tudon, offered assistance and resources to promote voter registration in schools.



Donna Widawski, a former Secret Service agent from Fairfax, supports the efforts of the congressman and the students, but reminded them to "think bigger picture" about school and public safety.



Zachary Schonfeld asked the panelists how they handle negative backlash — something the South Lakes High School senior faced after speaking at an event. "One word," responded U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly. "Fortitude."

the aisle" for their unwillingness to go against the NRA and "even discuss sensible safety measures to protect all of our citizens."

"**WE'RE NOT** talking about taking everyone's guns away," Connolly said, "but I am sick of a 'moment of silence' in Congress after each of these horrific events and no action. More than 150,000 people have lost their lives to gun violence since Newtown and yet in all that time Congress has not taken a single vote to enact [basic gun control measures] ... We couldn't even get a vote to keep guns out of the hands of people who are on the "No Fly List." [A list created by several federal government agen-

cies of persons prohibited from boarding commercial aircraft for travel within, into, or out of U.S. airspace, primarily for suspected terrorist association.]

For Connolly and others, the basics are simple, "no-brainer" pieces of legislation to ban assault weapons, enact universal background checks and close the "gun show loophole."

The current drafts are H.R. 5087 to ban assault weapons, H.R. 4240 to establish universal background checks, and H.R. 1612 to close the gun show loophole.

Of equal importance to advocates is fighting for funds for several initiatives. When one constituent complained that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Photos by
Andrea Worker/
The Connection

(CDC) had been barred from studying the effects of gun violence, Connolly responded that the latest government funding bill did clarify that the CDC was, in fact, empowered to do such research, but that the funds to do so were not approved.

WHEN AUDIENCE members got their turn at the microphone, most offered encouragement and congratulations to the student activists.

Although it seemed that the panel and the audience were closely aligned in their views, there were those in the audience with a differing opinion.

See Town Hall, Page 15



Children make bracelets and necklaces at the craft booth sponsored by Lorton Library (from left): Kholoud Founti, Yasmine Idrissi, Mohammed Founti, and Jannat Founti.



Lorton Library volunteers Matt McClelland and Fiona Zhang.

Photos by Steve Hibbard/The Connection

Hope and Health Festival in Lorton

Sixth annual event sponsored by LCAC, South County Church, and Lorton Library.

Several hundred people turned out for the sixth-annual Hope and Health Festival behind Lorton Library on Saturday, May 5, 2018. The event was sponsored by Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC), South County Church and the Lorton Community Library.

“The goal of the event is to provide health screenings and information to families in the community and to also provide an opportunity for free, fun activities for kids,” said Linda Patterson, Executive Director of LCAC.

The groups that set up booths included the Mason Neck Lions Club, which was doing vision and hearing screenings; the Kaiser Permanente van doing a variety of labs like cholesterol and glucose checks; and INOVA Lorton HealthPlex doing blood pressure screenings. In addition, a variety of county agencies provided information related to SNAP benefits, Medicaid and domestic violence assistance.

The Fairfax County Sheriff’s Department conducted child IDs and Fairfax County Police Department showed off their police cruiser. In addition, the LCAC Food Pantry distributed free produce; the Lorton Library gave out free books, and there were inflatables for the children. The event has grown from 175 visitors six years ago to 400 this year.

According to Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District Supervisor: “Health and fitness are the foundation of any community and the Hagel Circle [neighborhood] in the Lorton area has really blossomed with the amount of additional resources that we’ve spent here on trying to do just that — increasing health and fitness. And this event helps bring all those things together for kids and families to have some fun while also learning good things about health and wellness.”

Sponsor Andy Casper, Pastor, South County Church added: “We’ve been doing this for six years, which is hard to believe, it’s just a great partnership with LCAC and



South County Church volunteers hand out free hotdogs and chips.



Lalni Sharma, a nurse with INOVA HealthPlex of Lorton, takes the blood pressure of Brett Thibodeau.

the Lorton Library. But we really just wanted to provide an event that would provide resources and hope for people. We know that a lot of people get lost and a lot of people

are not only lonely, but they have a lot of needs and so for us to be able to have the opportunity to come out here and care for people, that’s our one goal — to care for



Vimarsh Choudhary, 10, of Lorton, checks out the Fairfax County Police Department cruiser.



Saim Mehmood, 8, a second-grader at Lorton Station Elementary, plays Connect Four.

people and to make sure every person feels like a guest of honor here today.”

— Steve Hibbard

www.ConnectionNewsletters.com

My Mom & Me



Hanging Out at the Park

Tricia Barry and daughter, Hannah Barry, of Fairfax Station, hanging out at the park at South Run Rec Center on March 24, 2018.



With Grandma at National Harbor

Lori Ocampo and granddaughter, Hannah Barry, both of Fairfax Station, pictured in the atrium of the MGM National Harbor on Dec. 9, 2017.

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Opinion

Vote, Vote, Vote

Anyone who was closely watching last November's election in got a demonstration about what difference one vote can make. Control of the Virginia General Assembly came down to a single race that was deemed to be tied, and was decided by a random drawing. Republicans won. Vote. It's so important to vote. Your vote could actually be the deciding vote.

Editorial Your best shot at ensuring you can vote is to vote early. **How To Vote**

Every year is election year in Virginia; mechanics and details of voting require attention to detail. For the primary, you will ask for a Democratic or Republican ballot.

If you want to be sure you get to vote, voting early if you qualify is a good choice. Early voting, called absentee voting in person in Virginia, is already underway for the primary.

There are many valid reasons to vote absentee in Virginia, including working and commuting to and from home for 11 or more hours between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day. Check the Virginia Department of Elections list to see if you are eligible: elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/index.html

There are two ways to vote absentee, in-person and by mail. To do either, you should first check your voter registration status to make sure it is up-to-date. Then you will need to apply for an absentee ballot. If you vote absentee in-person you will fill out the application when you arrive at the location.

Voting absentee by mail? You can now apply for an absentee ballot online with the state's new Citizen Portal. You will need your Social Security Number and information on your Virginia Driver's License to complete the application. Information is also provided on how to apply if you do not have a driver's license.

In Person Absentee Locations, Fairfax

- ❖ Fairfax County Government Center
- ❖ Franconia Governmental Center
- ❖ Lorton Library
- ❖ Mason Governmental Center
- ❖ McLean Governmental Center
- ❖ Mount Vernon Governmental Center
- ❖ North County Governmental Center
- ❖ Providence Community Center
- ❖ Sully Governmental Center
- ❖ West Springfield Governmental Center

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee
703-222-0776 TTY 711
voting@fairfaxcounty.gov
12000 Government Center Parkway Suite 323, Fairfax, VA 22035

Letters to the Editor

Making Summer Camp Affordable

To the Editor:

I read with interest Marilyn Campbell's recent article on the difficulty of affording summer camp. As the director of Traveling Players Ensemble, a summer theatre camp, I've been acutely aware of the issues families face in paying for camp for years. I've seen the enormous difference that summer enrichment programs can make in a kid's life. That's why I

Virginia Voter ID

Virginia has voter identification requirements; plan to bring photo identification with you to vote, whether that is absentee or on Primary Election Day.

Among accepted ID: valid Virginia Driver's License or Identification Card; valid Virginia DMV issued Veteran's ID card; valid U.S. Passport; other government-issued photo identification cards issued by the U.S. Government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth; Tribal enrollment or other tribal ID issued by one of 11 tribes recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia; valid college or university student photo identification card from an institution of higher education located in Virginia; valid student ID issued by a public school or private school in Virginia displaying a photo; employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business.

Any registered voter who does not have one of the required forms of identification can apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo Identification from any general registrar's office in the Commonwealth. Voters applying for the Virginia Voter Photo ID complete the Virginia Voter Photo Identification Card Application, have their picture taken, and sign the digital signature pad. Once the application is processed, the card will be mailed directly to the voter. A voter who does not bring an acceptable photo ID to the polls will be offered a provisional ballot.

Provisional Ballot Process for Voters Who Arrive Without Identification

If you arrive at your polling place on Election Day without an acceptable form of photo identification, don't panic or give up.

You will be given the opportunity to vote a provisional ballot. After completing the provisional ballot, the individual voting will be given written instructions from the election officials on how to submit a copy of his/her identification so that his/her vote can be counted.

A voter will have until noon on the Friday following the election to deliver a copy of the identification to the local electoral board or to appear in person to apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card. Voters may submit a copy of their ID via fax, email, in-person submission, or through USPS or commercial delivery service. Please note that the copy of the ID must be delivered by noon on Friday.

Also by noon on Friday following the elec-

tion, the voter may appear in-person in the office of the general registrar, in the locality in which the provisional ballot was cast, and apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card. At the completion of the application process, the voter may request a Temporary Identification Document. This document may be provided to the electoral board to meet the identification requirement.

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What's on the Ballot for Primary Election June 12?

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY US House of Representatives

District 8

Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
(unopposed in primary)

District 10, Vote for One Winner will Face U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) in November

Lindsey Davis Stover
Jennifer T. Wexton
Paul E. Pelletier
Alison K. Friedman
Dan I. Helmer
Julia E. Biggins

District 11

Gerald Edward Connolly
(incumbent, unopposed in primary)

U.S. Senate

Timothy M. Kaine
(incumbent, unopposed in primary)

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY US House of Representatives

District 10 Vote for One

Shak E. Hill
Barbara J. Comstock (incumbent)

District 11, Jeff A. Dove, Jr. (unopposed)

United States Senate Winner will Face Sen. Tim Kaine (D) in November

Corey A. Stewart (R)
Nick J. Freitas (R)
E. W. Jackson (R)

PRIMARY: TUESDAY, JUNE 12

❖ Deadline to register to vote, or update registration, for the Tuesday, June 12, General Election is Monday, May 21.

❖ Deadline to request an absentee ballot mailed to you is 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 5.

❖ Deadline to request an absentee ballot by appearing in-person is 5 p.m. Saturday, June 9. Absentee in person voting is already underway.

tion, the voter may appear in-person in the office of the general registrar, in the locality in which the provisional ballot was cast, and apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card. At the completion of the application process, the voter may request a Temporary Identification Document. This document may be provided to the electoral board to meet the identification requirement.

term benefit, receiving tens of thousands of dollars in artistic scholarships to attend college.

We hope that we can add our commitment to providing scholarships to the great work that Camp Invention and other summer institutions are doing to provide real, lasting benefits to lower-income children in our community.

Jeanne Harrison

Great Falls
www.travelingplayers.org

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Lorton & Clifton
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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.

THURSDAY/MAY 10

Open House and Public Hearing.

5:30 p.m. at NVTa Office, 3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200, Fairfax. The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority has released 60 candidate projects and related information for its inaugural FY 2018-2023 Six Year Program for public comment. The open house will start at 5:30 p.m. and the public hearing will commence following a 7 p.m. presentation on the six year program. Pre-registration is open for those who would like to speak at the public hearing. Pre-register to speak in one of three ways: e-mail: TheAuthority@TheNoVaAuthority.org; phone: 703-642-4652 or in person on May 10, 2018 from 5:30-7 p.m. Visit www.TheNoVaAuthority.org.

MONDAY/MAY 14

Best Fit Colleges. 7 p.m. at Chantilly High School - Auditorium, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Advice on the college application and admissions process from Rob Franek, editor-in-chief at The Princeton Review. Tips for creating a career path. An interview with a local leader about how they found their best fit college and career. A tour of a green RV from Roadtrip Nation's public television show. Reach out to your school counselor or Mrs. Rivera Compner at immalavecomp@fcps.edu with any questions. Visit goo.gl/xAwgrK.

TUESDAY/MAY 15

REVIVE Trainings. 11:30 a.m. at CSB's Merrifield Center, 8221 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive (Room LL-419/425 Lower Level East), Fairfax. The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) will dispense free Naloxone at upcoming REVIVE trainings. Get trained with the skills and tools to administer Naloxone, a drug that reverses the effects of opioid/heroin overdose. Free, approximately one hour, offered at numerous locations and times. Advance registration is not required. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/community-services-board/news/2018/free-naloxone-revive-trainings.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 16

Activities of Daily Living Success.

1-3 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive #100, Fairfax. Learn tips and tricks for providing hands-on care for eating, dressing, bathing, hygiene and toileting. Classes for Caregivers all sessions are free, and held the third Wednesday of each month. Respite care may be available by request; Lindsey Vajpeyi at 703-204-4664 or visit insightmcc.org.

THURSDAY/MAY 17

Safe Driving While Aging.

9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton. NV Rides will host workshops offering tips and best practices to help older drivers stay on the road safely, and for as long as possible. Free. RSVP requested at Ginac@nvrdes.org or 703 537-3070.

Public Meeting Presentation.

6-8 p.m. at Irving Middle School, 8100 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) is requesting feedback on proposed Fairfax Connector service changes to Routes 171 and 699. Presentation at 7 p.m. Rider feedback is welcomed. Email comments to fairfaxconnector@fairfaxcounty.gov. Call 703-339-7200, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxconnector.com.

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My Mom & Me

Mom's Last Birthday

Jennifer Bolton of
Fairfax Station writes:

"This is a picture of
my mother, Gloria
Rosenthal on her last
birthday, in April 2017,
with her three
children, Lisa
Rosenthal, Allen
Rosenthal, and, my-
self, Jennifer Bolton.

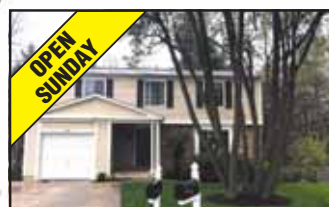
We had recently
learned that she had
terminal pancreatic
cancer. We were each
able to participate in
caring for her over the
next four months until
she passed away. She
was a wonderful
mother and always
cared for us, so we
were grateful for the
opportunity to
care for her."



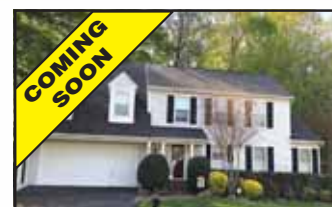
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Springfield \$449,950
West Springfield HS District
Quality brick TH w/ gorgeous
remodeled eat-in kit w/ SS appl,
granite cntrs & glass cabinet doors,
fenced yard w/ deck, fin bsmt w/
recre, den & bath, quality new
carpet, wood floors, spacious MBR
w/ 2 closets & updated BA, newer
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acre, 3.5 gorgeous baths w/ porcelain,
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new carpet, hrdwd flrs, new vinyl
windows, sunny fin bsmt & more.



Springfield \$2,700
West Springfield HS District
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3.5BA, deck, fenced yard, eat-in
kitchen w/ gas cooking, stone
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finished walkout basement, fresh
paint, owner will consider a pet
case by case, avail late May & 1-5
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Ready for Summer

Time to dust-off and spruce up patios for a season of al fresco entertaining.

By Marilyn Campbell

When designing the patio of her McLean home, interior design professor Jean Freeman of Marymount University, relied on the natural surroundings to create a backdrop for her outdoor oasis.

"I have an area in the backyard that has small stones and lounge furniture," she said. "Our backyard is next to Pimmit Run Trail and has lots of trees, some of which I planted. Also, I planted several holly trees so that the area would attract more birds and sometimes the bird chirping gets quite loud and wonderful."

Gentle breezes and mild temperatures are some of the pleasures of spring that beckon many outdoors for parties and family dinners, but turning a winter-worn patio into a space for entertaining can feel daunting. Breathing new life into a landscape dulled by snow and frost or creating an entirely new outdoor space might be easier than it appears.

When considering a patio furniture purchase, avoid the battle against Mother Nature by selecting pieces that can stand up to the elements. "The number one rule in furnishing your patio is to purchase quality furniture," said Anne Walker of Anne Walker Design LLC. "There are a lot of outdoor furnishings that look alike, but they are not all the same. Dedon, based in Germany and Janus et Cie, based in California, make excellent outdoor furnishings that will stand the test of time ... [and] will not fade, warp or degrade even if left outdoors in the elements for years."

Less expensive look-alikes will fall apart after just a few years or months of exposure to the elements, continued Walker. "I can't stress it enough: invest in high-quality outdoor furnishings or you will just be throwing your money away. Buy the best you can afford, and work little by little if need be to complete your outdoor space. You won't be sorry."

When choosing fabrics for that furniture, Todd Martz, co-owner of Home on Cameron in Old Town Alexandria, says, "Accessories like pillows and draperies as well as chairs, sofas and rugs are all available in low maintenance fabrics."

Selecting smaller, easy-to-move pieces of furniture over large sectionals will produce a design plan with versatility. "You'll be happy to have the flexibility to move things around when you entertain or when the sun shifts and you want to get into or away from the direct sun," said Walker.



Photo courtesy of Anne Walker

One design technique that Anne Walker has incorporated into the design of her own patio is choosing smaller, moveable pieces of furniture — like these Dedon Barcelona lounge chairs — over large sectionals to allow for a versatile design plan.

Incorporating potted plants into the landscape design offers versatility. "Mix several sized plants ... very large as well as different types of plants in smaller planters," added Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Proxmire, Inc. "Vary the textures as well as the color of green leaves such as ferns, palms and flowering plants."

Use planters to create architectural features like walls and borders. "The plants will add beautiful visual interest, and the planters are moveable, allowing flexibility in use and design," said Walker.

For those who want to build a stone patio, go for variety, but establish a solid base to avoid costly repairs later. "Combinations of flagstone and brick are elegant and more interesting than use of only one type of materials," said Walker. "Make sure you have a professional set your patio in concrete. It's much less expensive to set the stone in stone dust, but within a year or less the stones will begin to shift and weeds will grow through the gaps."

Lighting matters, says Proxmire, and she suggest that when designing or even sprucing up patio, "Use different sources of light [such as] inside-outdoor lamps, different sizes of lanterns, candlesticks with glass hurricanes," she said. "The candles with batteries are great for using outside because the wind isn't an issue."

Now that summer is on the horizon, Walker has a plan for getting her patio guest-ready. "I will power wash with my personal home power washer, plant a few flowers and boom! Ready to entertain," she said. "We love to entertain on our patio. It's our favorite space."



Photos by Stacy Zarin Goldberg

Kelley Proxmire suggests using plants and planters in a variety of sizes — such as these blue and white ceramic pots to create a light and airy patio space.



Todd Martz of Home on Cameron designed this patio and says that exterior spaces can be treated like an indoor room by using bright, fresh fabrics designed specifically for outdoors.

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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: To the Ends of the Earth. Through May 13, gallery hours at Vulcan Gallery, 1st Floor, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Workhouse Visit www.workhousearts.org.
Farmers Market. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Springfield Town Center. 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. Visit www.facebook.com/SpringfieldFoodworks/.

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. Visit www.workhousearts.org/.

Senior Line Dancing. Mondays, 1 p.m.; Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. at Little River Glen Senior Center, 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5 per 8-week session. Email barbriba@hotmail.com or call 703-524-3739.

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

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. moorefitt@yahoo.com or 703-499-6133. Instructor donation is \$5.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 10-12

"Into the Woods." At West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Door 4, Springfield. Dates/times: Thursday, May 10 at 7 p.m.; Friday, May 11 at 7 p.m.; and Saturday, May 12 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8/students and seniors; \$12/adults. Tickets on sale at www.spartantheatre.com/ticketsales. There will be a Spartan Theatre Homecoming on Saturday, May 12, noon-4 p.m. to give tours of the new space. Visit www.spartantheatre.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 11

Welcome Home Concert 2018. 7 p.m. at Ernst Theater, Northern Virginia Community College - Annandale, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Join Virginia Music Adventures' ensembles: Annandale Jazz Ambassadors, Chapel Square Combo, Wakefield Jazz Workshop, and Jazz Vocal Ensemble. Tickets \$10 for adults, students enter free. Tickets at the door or online at www.vamusicadventures.org/.

Friday Night Campfires. 7:30-9 p.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center is located at 8511 Greeley Boulevard, Springfield. Learn about animals, insects, plants and more. End the evening with s'mores. \$8 per person. Call 703-451-9588 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-pond.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 11-12

Spring Dance Concert. Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 4:30 p.m. at Fairfax Academy Dance Presents Falling Up, a compilation of dances from all genres, inspired by the writings of the great poet Shel Silverstein. Get tickets at fxdance.ticketleap.com/falling-up.

SATURDAY/MAY 12

Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Springfield Town Center. 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. Visit



Photos courtesy of Fairfax Symphony Orchestra
The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra in concert.



Maestro Christopher Zimmerman conducting the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.

Beloved Numbers, Beautiful Voices

Celebrating 60 years, Fairfax Symphony presents its season grand finale.

By David Siegel
 The Connection

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) presents the final concert of its 60th season. The performance will rejoice with acclaimed works by renowned composers and voices to match. Featuring music and song, the FSO intends to provide patrons with an evening filled with soaring melodies, tender duets, and favorite music of broad appeal.

"This special occasion marks an important milestone in our 60-year partnership with our Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Fairfax County Public Schools, our corporate partners and donors, and the entire

community," said Jim McKeever, Fairfax Symphony Board Chair. "Together, we affirm our commitment to musical excellence, innovative music education programs, and a high quality of life for our residents, employees, and visitors."

Musical selections to be played include Verdi's "La Traviata," Puccini's "Tosca," Bizet's "Carmen," and Bernstein's "Candide" and "West Side Story" among others.

When asked about the special evening, Christopher Zimmerman, FSO Conductor said, "This is our culminating concert of the season. It celebrates our 60th and Fairfax County's 275th founding anniversary. And, added to that, we are providing a tribute to the great American musician Leonard

Bernstein. Musically speaking, we at the FSO wanted to have and share a fun affair with our patrons full of soloists, choruses, and virtuosos music for orchestra alone."

Featured with the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra will be internationally renowned tenor Carl Tanner from Falls Church, and soprano Danielle Talamantes. They will be joined by more than 100 voices of the Fairfax Choral Society and Music & Arts Chorus.

"The FSO prides itself on collaborating with tremendous soloists—both young and seasoned alike; as well as other music institutions, and even other art forms," added Zimmerman. "It will be an evening of raw energy; beautiful, uplifting and powerful music; and tunes that everyone knows and loves."

www.facebook.com/SpringfieldFoodworks/.

Eagle Festival. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Mason Neck State Park, 7301 High Point Road, Lorton. Live raptor and reptile shows, 20 environmental organization exhibits, outdoor recreation clinics, boating bonanza, eagle cam, photography exhibit, hay and pony rides, children's activities tent, food trucks, live music. There will be a pre-opening bird walk at 8 a.m. led by Audubon Society Northern Virginia. Park in the picnic area. Visit www.masonneckstateparkfriends.org/.

Fundraiser and Book Fair. At Barnes and Noble Store, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum volunteers will introduce visitors to life in Fairfax Country during the 1800s. Local authors will sign books available for sale. The Museum will receive a percentage of sales for most purchases. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or www.facebook.com/FFXSRR. Call 703-425-9225.

Crafty Night Out. 7-9 p.m. at Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hoes Road, Springfield. Come enjoy hors d'oeuvres and mocktails while personalizing a tote bag or candle. Fundraiser by Girl Scout Troop 1378. \$20 tote bag, \$10 candle, \$25 combo, \$5/hr. babysitting. Email traveltroop1378@gmail.com.

Hoedown for Harmony. 7-10 p.m. at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Come dance in lines, circles, and squares - all proceeds go to the Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County. No experience necessary. Cost over 18 \$25; 13-18 \$15; under 13 free. Call 703-968-2971.

SUNDAY/MAY 13

Model Train Show & Mother's Day Celebration. 1-4 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold an N gauge T-TRAK model train show at the museum. Moms receive a special gift. Museum members and moms, free; adults 16 and over, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR or call 703-425-9225.

Navy Sea Chanters Concert. 4-5:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Final concert of the season with the Navy Band Sea Chanters, the United States Navy's official chorus. Enjoy music ranging from traditional choral music, including sea chanteys and patriotic fare, to Broadway and contemporary music. Free admission. Reception to follow. Childcare provided. Call 703-455-2500 or visit www.standrews.net.

TUESDAY/MAY 15

A Fond Farewell. 3:30-5:30 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive #100, Fairfax. Join Insight for a spring carnival with games, a cake walk, music and Insight friends. The event will also celebrate Joel Bednoski's leadership and wishing him a fond farewell. RSVP at insightmcc.org or to Niki Tindall at 703-204-4664 or niki.tindall@insightmcc.org.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 16

Cub Scout Carnival. 7-8 p.m. at Union Mill Elementary School, 13611 Springstone Drive, Clifton. Games, prizes, and fun. Pack 1860 invites

boy and now girls (K-5th grades) and their families. Come learn about Cub Scouts - now open to boys and girls. Free. Email akela@pack1860.org

THURSDAY/MAY 17

Friday Morning Music Club. Third Thursday Noon-1 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Friday Morning Music Club, Inc. On the third Thursday of the month they host their performances at Old Town Hall. Free and open to the public. Visit www.fmmc.org.

Lunch N' Life. Noon-2 p.m. at Jubilee Christian Church, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. The next Lunch N' Life sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke will feature guest speaker Chap Peterson, Virginia State Senator representing the 34th District. For reservations, call Bea Stephenson at 703-273-5730 by May 11th. \$10.00; checks payable to SCFB. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office (703) 323-4788. See www.scfbva.org

"Heat, Dirt, and Scholarship: Women in Classical Archaeology." 7 p.m. at Braddock District Supervisor's Office, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Dr. Carol Mattusch specializes in courses on Greek and Roman art and archaeology and the rediscovery of classical antiquity. All are welcome. Presented by American Association of University Women. Email deborahdodd55@aol.com or call 703-490-8737 for more.

FRIDAY/MAY 18

Bike to Work Day. Join more than 18,000 area commuters for a free celebration of bicycling as a fun, healthy and environmentally-friendly way to get to work. Starting at

various early morning hours, and some in the afternoon. Morning Bike to Work Day convoys, led by experienced bicycle commuters, will travel throughout the region. All levels of cyclists are welcome to join the convoys. To register, visit www.biketoworkmetrodc.org and be entered for a free bike raffle.

46th Annual Clifton Homes Tour. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Guided tours of four Clifton homes and a silent auction at Clifton Presbyterian Church. Free events include tours of two historic Clifton churches, a silent auction, wreath sale, and Trinkets and Treasures at Clifton Presbyterian Church. Proceeds benefit local scholarships and charities. Tour: \$25-30, Free admission to silent auction. Meets at Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. Visit www.cliftoncwc.org.

Encore Choral Concert. 7:30-9 p.m. at United Christian Parish Reston, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. Combined Encore Chorales from Reston, Fairfax, and Lansdowne Woods sing music from Broadway, the Great American Songbook, and traditional Spirituals. Free and open to the public. Visit www.EncoreCreativity.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 19

World Vision Global 6K for Water. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Community Covenant Church, 7018 Sydenstricker Road, Springfield. Walk or run 6 kilometers to join World Vision in raising money for clean water initiatives. \$50. Visit www.teamworldvision.org/team/Community-Covenant-Springfield.
Touch a Truck. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Red

See Calendar, Page 15

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Sports

South County Pitcher Martin Shuts Down Lake Braddock

Freshman allows one hit, strikes out 12 during 3-1 victory.

By Jon Roetman
The Connection

South County softball coach Gary Dillow recognizes freshman Cara Martin as a cool customer in the pitcher's circle.

But despite being poised beyond her years, the Stallion southpaw experienced nerves during her first meeting with rival Lake Braddock, when South County traveled to Burke on April 20 and came out on the losing end of a 3-1 score.

Eighteen days later, Martin got another shot at Lake Braddock and this time, No. 14 mowed through the Bruins with the skill and focus of a veteran hurler.

With the top seed in the Patriot District tournament on the line, Martin allowed just one hit and struck out 12 while the Stallions defeated the Bruins 3-1 on Tuesday at South County High School.

Martin retired 16 of the final 17 batters she faced, a stretch of dominance interrupted only by a Bruin reaching base via South County error.



Photo by Jon Roetman/The Connection

South County pitcher Cara Martin struck out 12 during the Stallions' 3-1 victory over Lake Braddock on Tuesday.

THE VICTORY earned the Stallions a regular-season split with the Bruins and home field advantage throughout the district tournament.

"I was concerned — they beat us the first time we played them, 3-1 — and with as many young kids as I've got, it was very important for us to win tonight for them to know that they can [beat Lake Braddock]," Dillow said. "I would certainly expect to see them again a week from Friday in our district finals."

When asked about some of the differences between Tuesday's contest and her April

start against Lake Braddock, Martin, one of four freshmen on the South County roster, acknowledged her initial meeting with the Bruins was nerve-wracking.

"I felt a lot more pressure the first time because it was the first game I've ever played against Lake Braddock [and] there's always that rivalry that's going on," Martin said. "It's such an enclosed space (at Lake Braddock's field) — the dugouts aren't as big and the bleachers are like right there, so it all felt like it was pressing in on me. I tried to keep a level head, I tried to keep doing what I needed to do, but it was a little harder to keep your head [straight]."

While things went much smoother for Martin during most of Tuesday's contest, she did have to pitch out of trouble early.

Ellie Mataya led off the game with a double, Lake Braddock's only hit, and the Bruins had runners at first and third with one out but failed to score in the opening frame.

In the second inning, Lake Braddock had batters reach via hit by pitch, base on balls and intentional walk, but Martin limited the Bruins to one unearned run, which scored on a throwing error.

After a fly out to center field ended the top of the second inning, no Lake Braddock batter managed to hit the ball out of the infield against Martin for the remainder of the game.

Dillow said Martin carries herself like her older sister, Rebecca, a four-year starter for

South County who was in the pitcher's circle when the Stallions captured the 2014 6A state championship.

"She doesn't get rattled," Dillow said. "She's just like her sister. Her sister was the same way: you can't tell by looking at her whether we're up five or down five. It's just really impressive."

Martin struck out six in a row during the third and fourth innings.

"She was on today," South County catcher Emma Yates said. "We trust her in the circle."

Along with catching Martin's gem, Yates, who will play at Virginia Tech, also played a key offensive role. The junior led off the bottom of the fourth inning with a single and moved into scoring position when Kyndal Harrison followed with a sacrifice bunt. With two outs, Yates scored the tying run from second base on a Lake Braddock fielding error despite the ball staying in the infield.

"[Yates is], in my opinion, one of the best catchers I've ever seen, defensively," Dillow said. "She's a leadoff [hitter and] she certainly doesn't run like a catcher."

THE PATRIOT DISTRICT TOURNAMENT quarterfinals are scheduled for Friday, May 11, the semifinals are set for May 15 and the championship game will be held May 18.

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Walkers of all different faiths take part in the Fairfax Interfaith Friendship Walk on Sunday, May 6, 2018, which began at Fairfax United Methodist Church in the City of Fairfax.



Pastors from various churches before the Fairfax Interfaith Friendship Walk at the parking lot of Fairfax United Methodist Church in the City of Fairfax.

Interfaith Friendship Walk Held in Fairfax

About 100 people visit eight different communities of faith in the City of Fairfax.

By Steve Hibbard
The Connection

More than 100 people took part in the 3.3-mile Fairfax Interfaith Friendship Walk 2018 on Sunday, May 6, 2018, in the City of Fairfax. The mission of the second-annual walk was to help bring faith communities together to appreciate each other and feel part of the same whole despite their differences.

According to Henry Brinton, Pastor of Fairfax Presbyterian Church: "Last year, a group of clergy, both Christian and Muslim, were meeting together building relationships and we were so concerned about the divisiveness and polarization in our society today that we thought it would be a great idea to get members of our congregations together to walk through the City of Fairfax as a very visible sign of friendship between people of different faiths."

He continued: "We will be walking between eight different communities of faith within the City of Fairfax with representatives of 10 different communities of faith, including a Jewish congregation. We could not walk to each and every house of worship because of the distance involved. But we will have Muslim, Jewish and Christian participants in this Friendship Walk. The goal is to build friendships between neighbors here in the City of Fairfax, people of different faiths and nationalities because we believe that those personal relationships are really the secret to overcoming the divisions in society today."

THE GROUP started at the Fairfax United Methodist Church and visited Christian Science Church, Daniels Run Peace Church, Ezher Mosque, Metropolitan Community Church of Northern Virginia, Truro Anglican Church, Fairfax Presbyterian Church, Fairfax Baptist Church, and ended with the Christ Lutheran Church. At each stop, the group spent five minutes learning about that faith tradition.

"I think the reason why I'm here today is to affirm the diversity of our city and the



City of Fairfax Mayor David Meyer (with bullhorn) addresses the crowd before the walk.

importance of faith communities to contribute to our civic well-being," said David Meyer, Mayor of the City of Fairfax. "Local governments cannot meet all the needs of everyone, and churches, synagogues, mosques play a critical role in community building. They have programs for youth, for seniors, for people in all walks of life and they are essential for us to be a successful vibrant community. This Interfaith Walk is an affirmation that everybody's traditions and commitment to the community is important and that we have a shared vision for the well-being of all our citizens."

Rashid Telbisoglu, Program Director at Rumi Forum, added: "We thought that it would be a good idea to foster good relationships with different parts of the community for a better and peaceful Fairfax. We thought maybe we could organize an inter-

faith walk. And our idea of interfaith is basically engagement. We're not trying to create one religion or anything. But we want to create a friendship environment so it's actually Fairfax Interfaith Friendship Walk, so we want people to learn about each other's faiths and organizations and so that we know our neighbors in the community. That's how we are thinking of achieving a peaceful community."

FAIRFAX RESIDENT Earl Zimmerman, Pastor of Daniels Run Peace Church, added: "We used to have a little plaque in our church lawn called, 'No matter where you're from, we're glad you're a neighbor.' I think this walk just demonstrates that. We're from different faith traditions and we're walking through our city and enjoying each other's company and having a good time. And it

just expresses our wanting to work together to be that kind of community that welcomes everybody."

Paul Collinson-Streng, Pastor of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fairfax, added: "We are just very excited to be here for the second year because it gives us an opportunity to demonstrate friendship with our brothers and sisters from other faith traditions. It's a great time to talk with each other; get to know each other along the road and learn a little bit about each other's faith traditions so it's a great afternoon for sharing."

Herndon resident Jan Ramp of the Christian Science Church of Fairfax added: "Our hope is to embrace the community for one, and to educate other churches as to our faith traditions. And so, we're just looking forward to being with our other church neighbors and all the neighbors here in Fairfax."



Walkers take part in the Fairfax Interfaith Friendship Walk on Sunday, May 6, 2018, which began at Fairfax United Methodist Church in the City of Fairfax.

Photos by Steve Hibbard/The Connection

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Summer Entertainment Series Set to Begin

Summer concerts are an American tradition. In the not-so-distant past, towns and villages across the nation boasted town bands and bandstands in the village square or the park at the center of town. Music was a catalyst, drawing young and old alike to come together as a community. Outdoors, concerts marked a time to relax, share a picnic supper and catch up with friends and neighbors.

The Fairfax County Park Authority has adopted this summer staple to orchestrate a renewed sense of community in Fairfax County. The line-up for the Park Authority includes a wide array of performances from classical to bluegrass and everything in between as well as children's performances, music and dance from around the world, and drive-in movies.

New this year is the Springfield Nights concert series, held on Wednesday evenings at Burke Lake Park.

2018 Summer Entertainment Series offers:

- ❖ Arts in the Parks children's entertainment series
 - ❖ Braddock Nights
 - ❖ Evenings on the Ellipse at the Government Center
 - ❖ Lee District Nights
 - ❖ Hunter Mill Melodies
 - ❖ Mount Vernon Nights
 - ❖ Music at Arrowbrook Centre Park in Dranesville
 - ❖ Nottoway Nights in the Providence District
 - ❖ Spotlight by Starlight in the Mason District
 - ❖ Springfield Nights
 - ❖ Starlight Cinema Drive-in movies in Sully District
- Tens of thousands of Fairfax County families have



Photo courtesy of Fairfax County Park Authority
New this year is the Springfield Nights concert series at Burke Lake Park.

enjoyed these free performances over the years. We hope to see you this summer. Some series offer wine tasting and sales and food trucks. For details on each series go to <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances>.

Most performances are held outdoors and are canceled in the case of inclement weather. Evenings on the Ellipse are held rain or shine. In the event of rain, the performances are moved inside to the Fairfax County Government Center Forum. You may call 703-324-7469 one hour prior to the start of the show for updates.

The free performances and movies are possible thanks to a strong partnership between government, volunteers, business sponsors, individual donors and the Fairfax County Park Foundation.

Schedule at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/arts-in-the-parks

Week in Fairfax

Fairfax City Manager Bob Sisson Announces Retirement

After serving the City of Fairfax for more than 27 years, City Manager Bob Sisson announced his retirement at a special City Council meeting. Sisson's tenure with the city makes him one of the region's longest-serving local government administrators. His retirement will be effective July 1, 2018.

In a statement given to the City Council, Sisson expressed his appreciation to the elected leadership of the city and to his fellow employees. Sisson said, "I'm pleased that I leave the city in good shape financially and operationally with such a bright future ahead."

The city has consistently been ranked in the top 10 places to live in the country, and recognition for the city's livability, safety and services has grown steadily during Sisson's time as city manager. Mayor David Meyer commented following Sisson's announcement that the city had made significant progress during the city manager's tenure. "Bob Sisson has led the city staff through nearly three decades of great change for the City of Fairfax. We've been incredibly fortunate to have Bob as our city manager, and we're very appreciative for his leadership and commitment on behalf of all our citizens."

Mayor Meyer announced that the Mayor and City Council would immediately begin a process to select a new city manager with the aid of an executive search consultant.

A new city manager is expected to be in place during the fall.

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Town Hall

From Page 3

One local resident, describing herself as a supporter of the Second Amendment, challenged Connolly on his views regarding the "hardening" of schools.

"I'm not completely sure what you mean by that," answered Connolly, but he firmly rejected the proposal to arm teachers as a defense against gun violence in the classroom. "Can you imagine that scenario?" Connolly believes that it would be "madness" to put teachers in that position, even with training. "Was that a gunshot? Should I shoot? Who should I shoot? Teachers have a difficult enough role, a major responsibility just to do the job they have."

Langston Carter and Michael McCabe backed Connolly's position, noting that the "hardening of schools" approach to protection can often have a negative impact on students of color.

THINGS TURNED A LITTLE HEATED when the woman got back in line for a second turn at the microphone to "explain just what assault weapons are." Rumblyings from the audience during her comments caused the speaker to angrily assert that "there's all this talk of a conversation, but you don't want to hear an opposite view."

Zachary Schonfeld, a senior at Reston's South Lakes High School, recounted the often hateful and vulgar negative backlash he faced, particularly on social media, after speaking at an event. "How do you handle that?" he asked the panel. Connolly's response — "One word. Fortitude. Keep going. Our opponents are counting on you to quit, to give up. Know that you are making a difference."

Other audience members offered suggestions for improving school safety. Some, like former Secret Service agent Donna Widawski, urged the congressman and the students to keep an eye on the bigger picture. "Sensible gun legislation is critical, but there is more to the story, more to be examined and addressed to prevent all types of violence in schools and in the community at large."

Fairfax County Council of PTAs president Beth Tudon applauded the students' efforts to promote voter registration, offering assistance from her organization and partners like the League of Women Voters.

According to the FCCPTA, fewer than 20 percent of the county's students were registered to vote during the 2016-2017 school year. This year, the numbers registered have almost tripled, but "It's time to make a push," she said. The deadline to register for the June 2018 primaries is May 21.

Calendar

From Page 10

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Still Haven't Seen the Light



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Wow!. I just saved "Up to \$504 **" (not including the two asterisks), and all I did was buy a six pack of LED light bulbs. So it says on the package anyway.

Maybe I should buy another six-pack and save even more money? There are only two problems (just two?) with this plan. First, I don't see a rebate-type form to complete and return and; in lieu there of, neither is there a guarantee, considering my health situation, that I'll even live long enough ("Lasts 13+ Years") to realize the benefit/savings of not spending additional money on light bulbs. (Are they even called light bulbs any more? I don't see it printed on the package anywhere.)

And while I'll definitely enjoy not spending money on light bulbs — or whatever they're called, I won't enjoy wondering if I've now spent money on light bulbs that I don't actually need and/or likely will never even use. I mean, I have previously — because as a country/consumer we've had no other choice, given that the incandescent light bulb ship has sailed — bought replacement light bulbs. I don't remember however, if the bulbs were LED, Halogen, Incandescent, CFL, Fluorescent or who knows what? Literally. Certainly not me.

My only light-bulb-related talent is screwing them into the fixture as I've written about previously. (Do you remember I called myself "Taurus Bulba"? In fact, I may very well have already installed light bulbs that are going to last for years so it's possible there isn't even a need to allocate dollars and sense to bulb inventory — or even to write this column.

I suppose that if I'm serious and/or inclined to shine a light on this problem, I need to get organized, either on my computer or in pen in a notebook (Sort of like how my wife's Italian grandfather, Cesare, did regarding Christmas cards. He had years of notebooks with names listed with boxes alongside, checked or not, for cards sent and/or received) to identify which lights/fixtures have which kind of light bulbs so I'll know whether it's likely I'll actually need to spend money on replacement light bulbs.

If the light bulbs really are going to "Last 13+ years," (as is also printed on the package) then I might not need to buy them any more, for awhile, anyway. As a result, light bulbs will no longer be a regular purchase like toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent, etc. Instead, they will become an irregular purchase like batteries, sponges and the like.

Now, if I really can stop this unnecessary light-bulb-redundancy, I should have a few extra dollars that I can allocate elsewhere on real necessities — like candy, cookies and ice cream.

Having sorted out the light bulb task ahead of me; in addition to saving money, I will have saved time as well. And who wouldn't want to save time and money? Everybody. However, saving it in this excruciatingly boring/mundane manner has limited appeal, I would guess.

But, we're not just saving pennies here; potentially, according to the light bulb's packaging, we are apparently saving hundreds of dollars, and hundreds are worth saving.

Unfortunately, the dollars saved are not exactly in-pocket. They're more dollars which won't be spent out-of-pocket. Not as direct as a rebate, but more like an indirect benefit such as money saved from the installation of energy-efficient windows or placing insulation in your attic.

Either way, it's money not in somebody else's pocket. I just wish the manufacturers could figure out a way to pay me today, especially since I paid them yesterday.

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



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SUMMER CAMP AT KIDDIE COUNTRY

Gear Up For Our Awesome Summer Camp For Awesome Kids!

Loads of both indoor and outdoor play experiences that emphasize summer fun! Swimming in our on-site pool and water play galore! On-going opportunities for exploration, thoughtfully planned learning experiences, facilitation of friendships, and attention to individual interests. Special events include a petting zoo, juggler, Bob Brown Puppets, and more. Arts and crafts, games, and daily music class promise to be "can't wait" highlights. We make sure that FUN is the signature feature of summer at Kiddie Country. Come join us for memory making at its best!

CONTACT US AT 703.644.0066 OR WWW.KIDDIECOUNTRY.COM